Commencement Speech to Undergraduates

May 17, 2008

The 89th commencement exercises at Babson College. This is the day you've been waiting for—and the entire Babson community shares your excitement.

As President for the past seven years, I can say with confidence that you're graduating at the best time in Babson's history. Your school has been ranked in leading surveys as #1 in entrepreneurship for the past 11 years; in these surveys, your faculty has been rated A+, and last year Babson was named by Newsweek as the hottest business school in America. Internationally, Babson's reputation continues to grow dramatically. That means the value of your degree in the marketplace is greater than ever before.

I'm very proud of what we've accomplished in the last 7 years. In addition to our great academic reputation, you've partnered with me and my Administration to improve the quality of student life here. You've worked hard to make the campus environment more exciting and together we've been able to provide a richer life experience.

The Upper Quad Improvement Project is a terrific example of what I mean. Many of you were at the dedication ceremony yesterday.

Last fall the leadership of the Student Government Association came to the Administration and proposed that we transform the upper campus into an area where students could relax and socialize together outdoors. The SGA contributed $50,000 for the project from its own budget and a high percentage of this class has contributed to the project through the senior class gift. A group of 30 alumni who graduated in the last decade have raised most of the rest of the funding... Continued on Page 5
Class of 2008

Heartfelt congratulations to each of you, as you celebrate the culmination of your hard work and perseverance.

May you look back with fond memories and remember that you will always have a family here at Babson.

As you move forward and begin the next phase of your lives, I hope you will enjoy the journey.

My sincere good wishes to each of you,

Pamela A. Solomon
Class Dean, Class of 2008

The Free Press would like to thank the following seniors who have contributed to this paper over the past four years:

Dave Barner
Jalila Bouchareb
Ed Chiu
Sullen Kawakami
Carla Ni
William Pearce
Patrick McNamara
Daina Ruback
Ian So
Herbie Wiesburgh
Vanessa Williams

Congratulations!

Michael Martahus
Babson '08

You did it and we’re so proud of you!!

Love,
Mom, Dad & Mandy

New diploma, new job, new ride, WTG!!
Congratulations to the Class of 2008

Babson Free Press
Congratulations to you for all your hard work and determination. Best of luck to you in your future endeavors. We are very proud of you. Love, Mom and Dad
Dear Mike:

Whatever you do,
Whether near or far,
We know you’ll be great.
You already are.
S Boynton

I was intended for some great purpose.
Nat Turner (1800-1831)
American Cleric

Congratulations for reaching and achieving a major academic milestone from Babson College. We are proud of you. Rest but don’t stop: we look forward to the next milestone from grad school in the next two years. (smile)
Luke 6:38

Love,
Mom, Dad, Camille, Mom Mom, and Family

Tommy -
I'm looking forward to having you home.
I'll cook for you! 😊
Mom

Brohay, you’re an inspiration to me.
Joey

Tom,
Good luck and best wishes in your career at LaGrasso Bros.
Catherine
Congratulations Peter!

Peter William Rogers

With extraordinary pride;

Filled with love and joy;

Overflowing with emotion;

We celebrate your growth, development, success and achievements.

Outstanding!

Love,

Mom, Dad and Emma
the funds for the
project—and it will be fin-
ished when students re-
turn in August.
So, while Babson al-
ways has been a place to
get a terrific business
education, now it’s a
much more fun place to
go to school.
On behalf of all
undergrads, I’d like to
thank you for providing
this leadership.
If you’re feeling any-
thing like I did when I
graduated from Babson
in 1966, you have mixed
emotions today. You
won’t see the friends
you’ve made every day
and you’ll no longer be
part of campus life.
You’re finished with this
phase of your education
and there’s the prospect
of incredible careers be-
fore you.
But the truth is, you’re
never done with learn-
ing. You’re just begin-
ning the next stage in a
lifetime of learning. In
fact, one of the hardest
things for senior manag-
ers and executives to ac-
knowledge is that they
always have to keep
learning.
There’s an old-fash-
ioned idea that once
you’re in a top manage-
ment position, you’re
practically invulnerable.
That’s not the way it
works anymore. Even
though you may be in
charge of an organiza-
tion or a large chunk of it,
you don’t really control it
and you still have to earn
your credibility. To be a
successful leader, you
have to keep learning
and keep stretching your
self.
I can tell you that from
my own experience. I
came here from a very
successful career in Wall
Street. I had a lot to
learn when I first arrived,
as President. I knew
Babson well after being a
volunteer for over 30
years, but the“command
and control” environ-
ment of Wall Street is
very different from the
much more consensus-
oriented culture on a col-
lege campus.
I had to learn, just as
you’re going to have to
learn, how to adapt to dif-
ferent environments and
figure out what to do to be
successful.
One of the things you
will learn again and
again is how important
the people around you
are to everything you’re
trying to accomplish.
The world of business is
all about people. It’s not
about another course in
marketing, accounting,
or finance. It’s about how
to motivate people and
work well with them.
And, nothing will affect
the quality of your lives
more than the people you
surround yourself with.
Without realizing it,
you’ve already begun to
create a global network
of contacts through friend-
ships, classroom projects,
internships, and an ar-
ray of campus experi-
ences. These relations-
ships will prove more im-
portant than you may re-
alyze—and some will last
the rest of your lives.
This is also true of fac-
ulty. Ask anybody what
Babson is known for, and
they’ll say we have one of
the best teaching facul-
ties in the world. It’s
unique in its accessibility
and closeness to students.
That’s a credential any
school would be proud
of—and our faculty prove
it year-in and year-out.
They’ve provided you
with invaluable life-
changing preparation—
and in ways you don’t
even know yet.
Maybe five years from
now you’ll be in a meet-
ing or tackling a business
problem and you’ll re-
member something a fac-
ulty member shared with
you—an experience or a
case study. Or you may
be faced with career
choices or decisions and
wish you could turn
again to a professor—or
perhaps a staff mem-
ber—whose advice had
been helpful. When that
happens, pick up the
phone or send an email to
that faculty or staff mem-
ber and re-connect.
Speaking of relation-
ships, you never could
have accomplished what
you have without some
very special people. This
is a great time for you to
say thanks to those who

Time to kick your heels up and
celebrate! Congratulations on
all you have achieved Katelyn
Barney. We are all so proud of
you!
♥ All of our love, ♥
Mom, Dad, Erica, Mike, Mel,
and Andy

Congrats Jung, #11
Love,
Mom, Dad & Matt

Congratulations Marie!
We are so proud of you
and all of your
accomplishments.
You are one of the greatest
joys of our life and we love
you so much.
Love, Dad, Mom, Matt and Brian

Congratulations Callie Pilling!!
Our very special young lady,
Best wishes and much success as you
begin your new journey!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Mariee, and Bridgette

We’re so proud of you!

Continued on Page 14
Dave,
Congratulations on 4 great years at Babson.
We are very proud of you and love you very much.

Dad, Mom,
Zachary and Avery
"...Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -
I took the less traveled by.
And that has made all the difference."

Jonathan J. Gabriel, Class of 2008

J:
We are so proud of your persistence, tenacity, the fine young man you have become, and the road you continue to travel.

Love,
Dad, Mom, Carrie & Lauren

TO ALISHA BLISCHOK
YOU IMAGINED IT
YOU ACHIEVED IT
A LIFE'S MILESTONE ACHIEVED
A NEW LIFE BEGINS
AS YOU PURSUE YOUR DREAMS
LET YOUR DREAMS BE AS BRIGHT AS STARS
A BOLD FUTURE OPENS
CONGRATULATIONS!!!
MOM AND DAD

"Congratulations on your graduation Martaza! May you achieve success beyond your greatest aspirations. We're proud of you!"

PHOTO: ZOE RINFOLD

CONGRATULATIONS RILEY!
YOU STUCK THE LANDING! LOL M&D

Keep Being

The Brand

You

Joel, I'm proud of you. Pog
CONGRATULATIONS
AND
BEST WISHES

ABRAHAM SHARONI
AND THE CLASS OF 2008

NANA
AND
ROBERTA

AVI,
BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAMS
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
AND ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT WE BELIEVE IN YOU
WITH LOVE ALWAYS AND BEST WISHES:
MOM, DAD, SARI, AND BRETT

GREG,
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT.
WE COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD!
MAY THE ROAD AHEAD BE FILLED WITH ADVENTURE AND FULFILLMENT.
LYTM,
MOM, DAD, MORGAN AND JENNY

BABSON COLLEGE RADIO
http://radio.babson.edu

Congratulations Wendell,

We are so proud of all you have achieved at Babson! Your future is full of promise, so continue to dream and strive for excellence. Enjoy life, achieve success, and find your happiness!

Love always,
Mom and Dad
Congratulations – we are so proud!! Soon you will enter the “real world”… be sure to have fun and keep everyone laughing. SFS will not be the same without you!

~SFS

Barner

Congratulations on your graduation. We are all so proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Jenny and Paul.

You have done so much during your four years at Babson - including keeping this paper alive. Good luck out there!

We love you!

The Babson Free Press
Dan Cowan's '08 Commencement Address to the Class of 2008

Family, friends, surrounded by Ivy trustees, faculty, staff, Leaguers and then classmates and for the last time...President Barefoot. When I sat down to write this speech to try and sum up our 4 years here, writing the name President Barefoot for the last time, sparked some inspiration. It's only fitting that our class graduates as Babson is making a significant change. During our time, it seems that we dealt with change regularly. When we were 1st Years, there was no Map Hill, Facebook was just getting started, there was no Friday Pub, and no late night dining. HOWEVER we had Friday FME and IME 1/2/3, and of course...the world changed when the Red Sox won it all!

However, throughout all of this change, one thing was constant: we were learning, struggling, succeeding, and growing together. When you're at a school like Babson you just don't struggle by yourself on your work, whether its accounting, finance, marketing, or rhetoric...you struggle with your ENTIRE class. In a way, this was our own type of bonding.

"I hate FME...who needs IME...liberal arts? I thought I was coming to a business school." However, as we progressed, we grew to learn the importance of all of these specific skills and tools that Babson was providing us. And when it came to internships and jobs, we saw how these skills differentiated us from the rest of the field. Many times over this past year I've heard friends and classmates talk about interviews, and how they'd be many great times with:

out you: Thank you always for your guidance and support. To the family and friends gathered with us today, thank you for being the backbone that supported us in whatever way it may have been to help us reach for our dreams, and more importantly to get the chance to achieve them. To President Barefoot, thank you for your time at leading Babson College and for continuing our tradition of excellence, not only in the workplace but also in the PHIL-AN-THRO-PIC world. And to President-elect Schlesinger, all of us here today look forward to hearing about the great strides you will make with Babson, to further our name and our quality. Good luck. Finally, to my classmates. Unfortunately for us in the real world there aren't too many nights of $1 drafts at the Pub, Knight Parties, or hour long Trim Sits; but I know there are a lot more exciting things waiting for all of us out there. Bigger and better things. It has been a pleasure and an honor to spend these last 4 years of my life with you. I look forward to hearing about all of our accomplishments in the years to come. As we helped to change Babson for the better...let's help to change the World. Good luck and congratulations Class of 2008!

"Long live the Free Press!"

The Free Press would like to thank Seth Hayward for creating our facebook application. Check it out at www.facebook.com
Thanks to STAND's graduating members! The Babson Student Anti-genocide Coalition appreciates all the work you've done! Don't forget about the cause. Never lie down where they want you to. Stand up, Stand strong, Stand tough!

Congratualtions Seniors!

Ashleigh Alvino
Alisha Blischok
Jolanta Brodka
Jenny Estevez
Katrina Fludd
Caroline Gaulin
Suellen Kawakami
Allison Lamere
Amy Parison
Jana Zislis
The Babson Free Press would like to congratulate the future President of the United States of America. Whoever he may be... we’re not biased.

Photo courtesy of Munoz Family @ Flickr.com

The Free Press would like to thank:

Wendy Silverman, Gene Begin, Dennis Hanno, Rob Major, Pam Solomon, Jennie Erdle, Academic Services, Seth Hayward, Student Government Association, MediaMate, Harvard Crimson, the Free Press staff amid writers, facilities, ITSD, and the Babson College Community for helping the Free Press to be what it is today.

Thanks for all your help!
Learn outside the lecture hall.

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Newton
300 Needham St.
[across from Marshalls]
617-559-1575
BenEBiz

Congratulations on your graduation!

We're very proud of you and all of your accomplishments.

We will cherish all the memories and look forward to celebrating your achievements in the future.

Follow your dreams.

Your talent and determination will take you far.

Love.

Mom, Dad, and Matt

CONTRATULATIONS DAN COWAN

Dan, we are so very proud of your many and varied accomplishments, most notably during your four years at Babson.

Your accomplishments speak for themselves of your commitment, dedication, desire, ability and most importantly your character; the very essence of who you are as a person. Always remember we are proud of your achievements, but we are most proud of the amazing young man who stands before us and we are privileged to call "son", "brother".

In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you." Daniel, you have achieved so much in your young life and so much lies ahead...but it truly is what lies within you - the ability to stay true to your values, to live with integrity and honesty - that will guide you and define your destiny...it's your story to write, the next chapter starts today.

God bless you on your journey with good health, great joy, faithful friends, limitless love, unyielding courage, peace and wisdom.

With all our love and pride, Mom, Dad and Greg

Babson Highlights

Track and Field Team - All 4 Years
Track Captain - 3 Years
Track - Men's Team 2-Time MVP
2nd Team All Newmac
3-Time All-New England
All-ECAC
Academic All-American 2007
110 High Hurdle Record Holder
4 x 1 Team Record Holder
Peer Mentor
Admission Intern
AAP Coordinator
Michael J. Conlon Award 2008
Commencement Speaker 2008