

Remarks of 2008 Class President Keith Taverna
Worcester State College Commencement
DCU Center, Worcester
May 18, 2008

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the Class of 2008 I would like to welcome faculty, family, friends, loved ones and of course my fellow classmates and as of about an hour from now, college graduates! On behalf of my classmates I wish to extend thanks to parents, grandparents, spouses, relatives and faculty for their support throughout our college careers. After sitting through several graduations I know that on this exciting day you are hoping that the speakers keep it short. Mine is 23 sentences and you have already heard 4 of them.

Many of us were born in the 1980's...in fact many 1986...this was not necessarily the best year ever. This was the year that our beloved Red Sox lost the World Series when that infamous ball went through Bill Buckner's legs...this was surely a sad day (even though I was only 5 months old, I am sure I cried). Even for those of us born before 1986 we all have our stories of Red Sox pain such as Bucky Dent's 3 run homer in 1976. For some of us, even these stories from before we were born still cause us pain...But we have also experienced many moments of hope and elation thanks to the Red Sox. Since that infamous play in 1986 the Red Sox have persevered and won two World Championships, I didn't think I would ever see one. We've seen the Sox go down 3 games to none and lose 19-8 to come back and beat the Yankees in that series and then go on to sweep the Cardinals to win the World Series (and come on be honest, who else skipped class to go to the parade?) We've also seen them lose in a game 7 to the Yankees on a homerun in the 11th inning by Aaron Boone

Like the Red Sox, many of us have gone through ups and downs throughout our life and college careers. Some days seem great and then the next day it seems as if nothing will ever go right. Some of us are here because its what you "do" after high school or our parents told us to. Some of us are here full time, some are here while working and raising a family, we all come from many different backgrounds and had to overcome different challenges. But as we sit here today we can see that we have all persevered. We stuck through the bad and tried to make the best of it.

As we continue on our journey in life, we will be going separate ways. Some of us are going on to graduate school and some getting a job or continuing our careers. Through the course of our last 4 years at Worcester State...or 5 or 6 or 7 for some of us, we have made some life long friends. As time goes on we may drift away from some of these people but we will always have the memories we made. From orientation as freshman, to memorable trips on spring break, to parties on Thursday nights, to our Senior trips, to sitting here today at graduation. Today marks a huge accomplishment for all of us and I want to say Congratulations to each and every one of you.

As I leave I would like to leave you with the two quotes.

The first is from a Kenny Chesney Song, “Don’t Blink – Life Goes Faster Than You Think” this has been the theme for the Senior Class all year and is something we should all remember, life goes by too fast, so make sure you stop and enjoy it.

The second is something my mom has always told me growing up and something I want to pass along to all of you. “Dream Big My Friend, Your Opportunities Are Endless.”