

Thank you \_\_\_\_\_.

Good morning, Board of Trustees, President Scott, Provost Welsh, members of Senior Staff, distinguished guests, honorary degree recipients, faculty, friends, family, class of 1957 and class of 2007 graduates. It is my esteemed honor and pleasure to stand before you today and address you on this auspicious occasion: our Commencement Ceremony.

In preparation for these remarks, I truly reflected on what things mean the most to me and how Adelphi has enhanced those elements of my life. I certainly value knowledge and education; the ability to think, to reason and to understand that the search for truth is what is most important to one's development, growth and success.

We have all read and highlighted many textbooks, spent many sleepless nights writing countless papers and studied for a plethora of midterms and finals. The ability to pass those tests, write those papers and read those books may be the reason that we have the privilege to be here today: to walk across this stage, to wear our cap and gown and participate in a ceremony that will culminate and bring our years at Adelphi full circle. Logistically this is all true—we passed our courses and we have met the requirements. But my experiences inside and outside of the classroom at Adelphi University have shown me that the fruits of one's education should not be measured merely by one's Grade Point Average.

Today we are graduating from college, a university; an institution of higher, academic learning that has fostered our minds into sponges that are ready to soak up any, and all of the knowledge that can come our way.

I ask you, however, to truly think about what we have learned in our classes. Yes, facts are helpful and are the very foundations of our education; but, our intelligence exists in the fact that we, because of Adelphi, have the ability to consider what is and is not true. We have learned that we must find truth through discovery and exploration and we cannot rely on others to show it

to us. Truth cannot be something that is black and white; it is not something that is easily understandable and comprehensible. It is thought provoking, scary, intense and life altering. Further, in the pursuit of truth, one has the ability to think and expand the definitions of the things we have already come to know. It is finding the place within where you think that your intellect cannot be pushed any further and then suddenly you break through your own self imposed boundaries.

And although this process, this search for truth, can be overwhelming, Adelphi has pushed us to seek it. We are not afraid of truth and we are not hiding from it. Instead, our education has made us thirsty for that which is true; we want it, need it and desire it because, as the motto of our soon to be Alma Mater reads, “The Truth Shall Make Us Free.”

Freedom and truth, thus, go hand in hand and the diploma that each of us will receive today is a symbol that we have the ability to achieve and understand these mystical and often hard to explain ideals of the human condition. They will not be handed to us on a silver platter and they are not even something which is guaranteed. Instead, our quest for freedom and truth will be a long and difficult one.

But, we, the graduates of the class of 2007, have a one up on everyone else who might be on this journey as well. Adelphi has equipped us the proper tools and they lie within us. They are our vast knowledge, our incredible determination, leadership skills, wit, intelligence, understanding—our tools are the fire in our belly, the fire in our heart and most importantly in our mind. We are bursting at the seams to get out into the world and find our place in it and after today we will!

Thus, today, our commencement day, is not merely an end. But it is truly, and most prominently, a beginning. However, even as we embark upon this next step of our lives, I ask that you always relish in the memories that Adelphi has created for you.

Remember that Freshmen Orientation in August 2003 was the start of our lives as college students. And since that time

we have had many sleepless nights slaving over computers in Club Swirbul with an energy drink in our hand. And when we finally did get a chance to sleep, fire alarms triggered by hairspray or blow dryers woke up residential students at three o'clock in the morning. DiCarlo's was always good for amazing pasta and Tuesday night pong. The best way to procrastinate will always be by stalking on facebook or myspace. And who can forget (or remember) the crazy Thursday nights at Tabu, Bogarts or Dublin that ended with a pit stop at Cherry Valley or A & S Bagels and then turned into class on Friday morning. Our cheese sculpture is gone, along with Cabo Caliente, the Tennis Courts and Stiles Field, but, despite these losses, we still have the bunnies and the flooded Lake Adelphi after a big rain storm.

But the things that Adelphi has gained are even more important: the Underground Café, the Fine Arts Building and the soon to be completed Centers for Sports and Performing Arts; all of which are the products of our Construction Plan that will continue to enhance our campus over the next few years. And of course, who can forget the addition of the baby Buddha statues to the side of Blodgett hall that were kept warm this winter by their cozy hats.

Over these past four years, the Greek Life population has nearly doubled in size and so did the number of dedicated and hardworking Senators on the Student Government Association. Campus clubs and leadership organizations also thrived as they successfully put on numerous events, such as: Homecoming, Midnight Madness, the Mock Gay Marriage Ceremony, Halloween Parties, Fashion Shows, International Night, Open Mic Nights, Dragged Out and the Block Parties, just to name a few. We have seen musical performances sponsored by the Student Activities Board from artists such as, Vanessa Carlton, Nina Sky, Fat Joe, Lit, Method Man and New Found Glory. And this year, the Class of 2007 Executive Board held their annual trip to Six Flags and Fright Fest, the Super Bowl Party and Senior Night at Dave and

Busters. And also, only two nights ago, we had an elegant and amazing formal at the Westbury Manor.

Adelphi has become our home away from home, where we may or may not be able to find parking. Our snow days start at 3:40 in the afternoon and we must depend on Lackmann for food. We have created many memories and participated in many crazy random college student activities, like playing soccer in the quad at one o'clock in the morning or planning birthday scavenger hunts in the dorms as a surprise for a friend's birthday.

We must, however, combine our social and leadership experiences with our academic endeavors. A conglomeration of all of our Adelphi experiences will be utilized to show the world that we, the Adelphi University Graduating Class of 2007, are strong, thoughtful, intelligent and hardworking and we are ready for anything the world throws our way.

Adlai Stevenson, in a commencement address to other college graduates, said, "When you leave here, don't forget why you came." I leave you with these words. Our years at Adelphi have helped cultivate us into mature, knowledgeable and prepared individuals. When we leave our commencement ceremony today; after the parties, lunches and congratulations, remember your goals. Remember that we have the ability to use our education to find truth and freedom. We all came to college in order to learn and achieve something and now that we are done- let us go forth and achieve it!

Thank you and once again, Class of 2007,  
congratulations and best of luck!