Thank you all so much for being here. I know I can speak for everyone when I say it is an honor to have you all here celebrating with us today.

Graduation, like many significant life events, is a time for reflection, excitement and curiosity about what the future holds. It is still hard to believe how fast these past 4 years have come and gone—and that we leave today as graduates, ready to take on anything and everything the world has to offer. For some of the graduates, a job or internship awaits. These students will hit the ground running, trying to disguise their nerves as excitement all while working their way up from that entry-level position. Others, like myself, will move forward with more ambiguity than we know what to do with, searching until that perfect job comes along. I never thought I would be standing before our graduating class—without a job offer in place—and find myself more eager than nervous about the uncertainties that lie ahead. This eagerness, I know comes from the time and classes I’ve taken within the communications department.

As we all have learned, the only constant we can expect to see in communication studies is change. One of the most special things about the degree we chose is the constant evolution of the industry. What is considered the next big thing today will be a distant memory in the future. Our world is constantly changing and luckily for us, the University of Michigan has not only taught us how to cope, but how to thrive in it.

Whether it’s giving us the knowledge to implement new strategies and technologies in marketing or pr campaigns, or giving us the skills to stay ahead of the ever-changing industry—we cannot move forward without thanking the professors who have guided, taught and mentored us along the way. Thank you on behalf of all graduating seniors. Well we may have gripped about the papers and exams, it was their expert advice and challenging curriculum that excelled our education and taught us the value of learning. With your support we know the education you have provided will carry us through our jobs and future endeavors.

And the thanking doesn’t stop there. To the parents, guardians and loved ones celebrating with us here today, thank you. It is your everlasting support, devotion and love that powered us through these last 4 years and will continue to provide support well into our future endeavors. You knew we could do it since day 1 and when we called crying and upset explaining the amount of studying and papers that
we had to complete by tomorrow, you reassured us of just how special and smart we are and that with a little perseverance we can do anything. Well... as usual, you were right, we managed to survive college but know all too well that without you it would have been a lot more difficult. Thank you cannot be said enough. And whether we know where we’ll be in 5 years or not, with you by our sides, the future doesn’t look quite so scary.

So graduates--if you can believe it--the time as come. It’s time to apply the things you’ve learned about the communications industry and use this knowledge to continually propel yourself into bigger and better adventures. Never forget to have confidence in your education and to always embrace the changes as they come at you. SO keep in mind as you walk across the stage today, this is just the beginning. You’ve prepared your whole life for the challenges and opportunities that await you in the real world. And always remember, no matter where you end up, or wherever you go—go blue!