

Thank you President Thrasher for the kind words and introduction and thank you for your preeminent leadership in guiding our institution. It is a pleasure to be here. My name is Evan Steinberg and I have the honor of serving as the current Student Body President at Florida State University. Thank you to all who have traveled West of the Suwannee River, to the oldest continuous site of higher education in the state of Florida and welcome to Florida State University. Graduates, treasure the individuals who have led you to this point of time. Treasure those who have opened doors for you, and those who have supported you through opportunity and encouragement. Please give them a round of applause.

I am thrilled to be here with the graduates of the Dedman School of Hospitality, Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship, College of Business and College of Fine Arts.

It is an exciting time at Florida State University, and I want to recognize the 137 graduates of the Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship. It is exciting to be here as students as innovative as her graduate from the Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship and make FSU History as the first graduating class from the school.

At this pivotal point in time, as this chapter of your life comes to a close, as you reflect on the journey that has led you to this point in time. Through the ebbs and flows, through the trials and triumph, take a moment to reflect. to reflect on your unique journey high over towering pines. Upon reflection, What exemplifies the life of a student at Florida State University? What exemplifies your experience.

Is it walking through Legacy Walk, under the majestic southern live oaks and Spanish moss as the sun sets, is it finding a sparkle of glitter hours after taking a picture with the Garnet & Gold Guys, will it be the soft and sweet greeting of our institution's very own Ms. Killings, the beat of the Spirit Drum in front of the Unconquered State with the shadow of Doak Campbell Stadium manifesting below, the cold mist saturating the air around you from Westcott Fountain, is it the never ending cyclical battle that is finding a parking spot at FSU, or the tremors in the stadium as Osecola & Renegade pierces the evergreen Bobby Bowden Field inscribed with Florida State. What experiences will encapsulate your journey and encapsulate the knowledge illuminated by our institution.

When asked, what exemplifies the life of a student at Florida State University. We will all collectively reminiscence on our favorite memories, but we will all treasure different moments. Every student has a unique path, and all of us have unique experiences that have created the foundation of our time here. What creates a spirit of belonging, a sense of Seminole Pride, a sentiment of love for Garnet & Gold, is the capability no matter where you will be, the ability to pave your way home, back to Florida State University. As you all begin the next chapter of your life, and leave this place we hold so near and dear, you might struggle to find a spirit of belonging, a sense of Seminole Pride, a sentiment of love for Garnet & Gold. However, we are exemplified by this intangible feeling of home, and it is , in fact, just that, intangible.

Our sense of home, goes beyond the brick & mortar of our institution. The friendships you have created during your time at Florida State University, will always be cherished, they will continue to flourish beyond the gates of our university.

Although strengthened through the traditions of your alma mater, the sense of home will always be with you and fellow alumni, It extends to our Alumni Association Seminole Clubs from the Snow capped Rocky Mountains, all the way to the stone beaches of Maine. When you start this next chapter of your life, you will always find alumni with a sense of Seminole Pride and a sentiment of love for Garnet & Gold. So as you leave our glorious institution, connect with them, reminisce on the memories you created here, cherish and remember the sense of home you experienced. I am proud today, proud to call so many of you my friends, and family. However, I am also ecstatic for my Social Media feed to be free of graduation pictures, and back to the regularly scheduled programming.

I ask you as you begin this next chapter, to reflect on your time at Florida State University, to recall the gothic spires and sabal palms, to recall a time a member of our community opened a door for you, to ingrain upon yourself the words mounted above the entrance to Dodd Hall “The half of knowledge, is to know where to find knowledge.” To act upon this, to be an illuminator of knowledge, and to open the door for the next generation. To pave your way back home, to Florida State University. Students Today. Alumni Tomorrow. In Seminole Pride Forever.