Good evening everyone! I have had the honor and privilege of serving as the President of the Class of 2011 for the past four years.

As I was preparing this speech, I kept thinking of how this was the 140th year of the University. 140 years of rich tradition, dramatic growth and continued excellence. I began to ask myself how we, the Class of 2011, stand out against this dynamic history.

We are a group of motivated, driven, passionate individuals that together have not only added to Virginia Tech’s unique history, but have left a definite legacy over our tenure on campus. There are four distinct features that make our class unique.

First, we were the first class to enter Virginia Tech following the tragedy of April 16, 2007. We remember watching the Virginia Tech community come together and saw the strong sense of resiliency and support within the Hokie Nation before ever stepping foot on campus.

Second, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Virginia Tech class ring.
Third, we were the first class to unveil our class gift while still being students. This past September, we unveiled the Centennial Ring that proudly sits in Squires Student Center.

Fourth, we learned and understood the value of service and the meaning of Ut-Prosim. We walked all night on the Drillfield to help our Relay for Life become the world’s largest Collegiate Relay for 3 straight years and we shouldered rakes, shovels and provided elbow grease to make The Big Event the second largest service event of its kind in the country. Just last month, we saw both organizations celebrate 10 years of service.

I share these four factors because the diploma we will receive tomorrow represents much more than academic achievement. It represents hard work, service, sacrifice, friendship, and most of all, that we are now proud alumni of the Class of 2011 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.
Chances are you will not remember much from this weekend’s ceremonies, but I am confident that you will remember the people you lived around freshman year, the organizations you were a part of, and the feeling of excitement when “Enter Sandman” begins to play here in Lane Stadium.

I wish you all the best success in life. Never forget the good times you had here and look forward to the many more you are about to make. We each have left our legacy at Virginia Tech in one way or another and I hope each of you will always be proud to have been part of the Class of 2011. Thank you!