“Your generation’s opportunities are greater than any generation’s in modern history.” Google’s executive chairman, Eric E. Schmidt, told the graduating seniors at BU’s 139th Commencement ceremony on May 20 at Nickerson Field. “You can write the code for all of us.” Schmidt, who offered his advice to a crowd of 20,000 after receiving an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, encouraged the Class of 2012 to be innovative and entrepreneurial, and to say yes to opportunities in life. “Yes is a tiny word that can do very big things,” he said. “Yes lets you stand out in a crowd.”
“You have the heart. And the future will not beat without you.”

Eric E. Schmidt (Hon.’12) (left) urged graduates to turn off electronic devices for at least an hour a day. “Life is not about your friend count,” he said. “It’s about the friends you count on.”