

Hi! Wow, I am not normally a nervous person, but this is by far the largest group of people I've ever spoken to and my first ever graduation speech, so bear with me on any verbal miscues here. Luckily for me, it is significantly less intimidating when half your audience is wearing the same ridiculous floppy hat you are.

As I sat down to write this speech, I realized that speeches normally give advice, and I'm certainly in no position to do that. So instead, I'm going to talk about what I know best at this point in my life: the BU Law experience.

I can't believe that it was three years ago now that we all embarked on this journey together. If my math is correct, that is about 6 finals periods, 3 law proms, 67 times on call, over 100 cups of free coffee, roughly 400 law school cookies and nearly 17,000 total minutes spent waiting for elevators in the law tower.

Looking back, I realize how different law school is for everyone. It is a unique and wonderful, and terrible and ridiculous, and rewarding and powerful experience. But, no matter the differences for each of us, it is a common experience for the Class of 2008 and it draws us all together.

I think the best way to reflect on this common experience is to look back and consider what law school has given to us, and, in particular, what BU law has given to us. BU law has given me, and I'm sure all of you, many important and valuable things.

To start, BU Law has given all of us friends for life. I'm amazed that even as a third year student I meet new and interesting classmates at the law school all the time. We all share a bond that cannot easily be replicated. We have gone through not only classes together, but ski trips and weekend getaways; socials and birthday celebrations; snow football games and Friday basketball games; all of it together. I still remember the people I met the first day of orientation here. I remember sitting out in the plaza for the orientation BBQ and sharing the first of many stories we would share together. This is a diverse, unique, and brilliant group of people; and I am continually humbled that I am lucky enough to call them my friends.

BU Law has also given us meaningful personal experiences in the law. Whether it is *pro bono* work, or a clinic, or journal work, or moot court, or a public service trip to New Orleans, every one of us has had meaningful and powerful experiences in the law through our time at Boston University.

Most importantly, BU Law has given us an invaluable education. We have far and away the best professors in the country. Their dedication to students is unwavering. Their policy of making teaching and students their highest priority has exponentially increased our educational experience. And, not to mention, their awkward social tendencies provide us constant entertainment. So, with that said, please give a big round of applause for the absolute best law school faculty in the country...

In fact, let me tell you about what some of our renowned faculty have taught the class of 2008. Prof. Maclin has taught us how to vigorously defend any position and pursue an argument to its fullest extent. Prof. Walker has given us the ability to analyze incredibly complex issues in a simple and methodical way. Prof. Pettit shows us how to use humor, and some self-humiliation, to make everyone feel comfortable enough to discuss very difficult concepts without any fear of embarrassment. These professors have given us innumerable things and I think we are all proud to count them as our educators, our mentors, and our friends.

And it isn't just the people we see in class every day that teach us, it is the entire BU Law community. Dean O'Rourke has shown us how to juggle countless tasks and figure out exactly which needs the most attention at a particular point in time. Dean Marx has made us all feel comfortable, cared about, and at home in the most stressful of environments. Maura Kelly has instilled in us passion and an unwavering desire to pursue whatever we love most in life. These are all people that have shaped the person I am today and I thank them for that.

BU Law has given all of us very unique, important, and meaningful things. I can honestly say that BU Law has given me the best 3 years of my life and I hope many of you can say the same. Our unique experiences distinguish each and every one of us, but our common experience here will always bring us

together. Learning the law together. Going through the good days and the bad days together. Taking our first finals ... and briefing moot court... and stressing about grades. Making endless jokes about the law that are not in any way funny to any other group of people. Going to legal follies... and law prom ... and bar review. Doing all of these things together.

It doesn't matter if you are working for the government or a non-profit or a law firm or going back to a previous career, I guarantee you that your experience at BU law will help you succeed. I know this because I have seen all of you go through it and been lucky enough to experience it with you.

I have never before felt so privileged to be part of such a unique and special community, and such a unique and special experience. I see in front of me today a group that includes some of the most intelligent, most charismatic, most interesting, most hard-working, and even, surprisingly, most fun people I have ever met in my life. It has been an honor getting to know all of you.

As I said before, I am certainly not the person to stand up here and impart advice on you, there are plenty of others here who are much more qualified to give advice and will do a far better job. I am here because I know most of you and want to express my complete and unwavering faith in your ability to not only succeed, but to thrive and prosper in whatever you choose to do. I know from our common experience here you have the tools to do it. I know from our time spent together you have the passion and desire. I know I will spend the rest of my life hearing about your successes and I look forward to it more than anything.

I just want to finish by thanking all of our families, the professors, the administration, and the rest of BU law, and, most importantly, the class of 2008, for contributing to my experience and to our experience together. I wish you all the best and can't wait to hear about your accomplishments for years to come. Thank you.