

## Karbank Alumni Commencement Remark

May 17, 2009

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of Boston University's more than **280,000 alumni**, **congratulations** to the **undergraduate and graduate class of 2009!** As alumni, we know that a Boston University degree is not easily won or granted, but **earned** through **hard work**. It's what makes a Boston University degree **meaningful** and **respected**.

Most of you will recall the one word advice given to Dustin Hoffman's character in Mike Nichols' film The Graduate: **Plastics!** Good **advice?** I don't know, but it made for a great punchline for many a joke over the years.

But here's an **enormously potent word for you** in 2009: **Connections!** ...Connections with **people**, connections of the **mind** and connections of the **heart**.

With Boston University, you will have **all** these connections. They **don't expire** with your graduation. **In fact**, they have **no time limit**.

As newly minted BU alumni, your connections can benefit you when you meet fellow alumni any place in the world.

You'll find a curious and **powerful bond** with them, a sort of **instant credibility** and **familiarity**.

**Take advantage** of those connections. When looking for a **job**, find alumni in your field of interest through BU's alumni web site and **contact** them. As you advance in your profession, become **mentors for BU students interested in your field**.

But your BU **connections** should extend **well beyond** your professional pursuits.

Remain connected and **extend your curiosity** through "**Best of BU**" alumni lectures, concerts, films, affinity groups, symposia and exhibitions, both in **Boston** and in BU **road-show** events in other **cities** and **countries**. Many such events are accessible through **podcasts** or **interactive discussions** on the BU alumni website.

Here's a sampling of some of the recent events for alumni: "Conservation of Endangered Species", "The History of the Celtics and the Red Sox", "Forgiveness", "The Economics of Green Construction", "The Films of Alfred Hitchcock", and one of my favorites, "Why **Not** Drinking **Wine** Can be **Hazardous to Your Health**". The alumni who attended those events simply wanted to **learn** and to **meet** with **fellow alumni**.

In your home town, make yourself known as a **proud graduate** of Boston University. **Connect** with your local

alumni group, **participate** in alumni community service projects, and **encourage promising students** to apply to BU.

By all means, **return** to the BU campus for **Alumni Weekend** held annually in the Fall. When here, you'll see what's **changed** and what **hasn't**, how **you've changed** and how **you remain connected** to this **place, these people.....**and of course to the **National Hockey Champion Terriers!**

As you can, **provide financial support** to BU. Join **those of us who do so** because we **feel** the **strong connections** with Boston University.

But most of all, keep your **connections** with your **friends**, your **professors** and with the **ideas and experiences** that **impacted** you while at BU.

As time goes by, you'll find that those connections will provide you with a **deep reservoir of appreciation**.

**So graduates, and now fellow Boston University alumni, congratulations and best of luck! You make your fellow alumni very proud!**