Good evening and welcome to Dr. Bogner, Dr. Collins, members of the board of trustees, administrators, faculty, and family and friends with us tonight, and especially to you, the class of 2010.

Four years ago, I never would have imagined that I would have the privilege to be standing here in front of you today. The idea of making this speech was certainly daunting. Writing a research paper or memorizing facts for a test comes much easier to me than delivering a speech to my entire graduating class. However, difficult this task may have seemed, I am still honored to be able to speak as part of the Class of 2010.

I know I’m not just speaking for myself when I say that I am happy to be finished with finals and papers. There is both a sense of relief and accomplishment knowing that all of our hard work has finally culminated in this moment. We represent many different majors and various fields of study, but all have something in common—our commitment to reaching this common goal, to be here today, to graduate. Today each of us should feel empowered because the degrees we receive, and the information we have learned, will be ours forever.

The Molloy culture is unique from that of other colleges and universities. We represent a variety of cultures, but the vast majority of us have called Long Island our home for most of our lives. Although, we do not boast to have students from every state or even from many other countries, our diversity lies in our range of ages. Some of us have come to Molloy straight out of high school, others had originally gone away to
school then transferred to be closer to home, and others still are embarking on their collegiate journey later in life. This gives the Molloy community a dynamic that many other schools lack and has made our college experience more rewarding.

Despite the different paths that brought us here, we all have had some things in common. We have all had to achieve a balance between school and our other obligations. It has not always been easy and there were times when our perseverance was tested and our ambition waivered. We have been tested as individuals and have met our challenges head on. Some of us worked full time and attended night class, others juggled work and school while raising a family, others still balanced academics and athletics. We have all dealt with traffic on the Southern State Parkway, late nights cramming for exams, and countless hours of clinical, student teaching, and unpaid internships. I fully understand rushing from clinical all day, then to practice, then to work, getting home in time to go to sleep and do it all over again tomorrow. We have all had to achieve a balance in our lives and have made sacrifices to do so. We are now finally realizing the success that has come out of our sacrifices. It is a testament to our character that we are finishing school—moving on as professionals in our fields.

Whether you are entering the work force, continuing on to graduate school, or anything else, each of us is in a different place today than we were when they entered Molloy. The college experience is more than just sitting in a classroom. The relationships we have made and friendships we have built have shaped us into who we are today. This does not just apply to those of us who entered Molloy as eighteen year old kids. In life we are constantly growing and finding ourselves. Molloy has provided
an environment where we could strive for excellence, not just as students but as human beings. I see the type of person I want to embody in so many of my Molloy friends.

My family also has a strong history with Molloy. My aunt, the first to attend Molloy graduated in 1970, mother was a member of the graduating class of 1979, my godmother, a member of the class of 1984, my older sister was in our shoes a year ago and my younger sister is currently a sophomore. Each of my family members is proud of the education they have received and found their college experience rewarding. I feel a strong tie to Molloy’s athletics program as well as academics. I am a four year member of the basketball team and have been proud to wear my Molloy uniform each game. Through athletics, I have learned a new sense of determination and commitment. Being able to represent a school I am proud of has only made our team’s successes that much sweeter. Through athletics and academics, I have learned and grown so much during my four years here. I am grateful for my experiences and I hope each of you feel the same.

We all have people to thank as we reflect on our college years. There are many people who have helped us to get to where we are today. Our families and friends who have understood our commitment and supported us, our professors who have pushed us to be our best, and each other, who have united in our mutual struggles and successes.

Graduating is a great accomplishment, but it is only the beginning. We have taken a step forward in our personal development, but have yet to truly make our mark on the world. We will realize the magnitude of our degrees when we start impacting the lives of others. We will reap the rewards of our education in more ways than we can imagine now. There is so much left to be accomplished. We all have reason to feel proud today, but our true tests lie in the future. Our possibilities are endless.
Molloy has provided a solid foundation, but our journey is just beginning. At this time I would like to quote the brilliant Dr. Suess, because you never get too old for Dr. Suess. “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go.” Our lives are what we choose to make them. Wherever each of us goes from here, Molloy has provided us the tools to reach our potential and I hope each of you does just that. I wish you the best of luck and congratulations Class of 2010.