

## Convocation Invocation 2021

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Class of 2025 As you endeavor to start this new season of your life may you be surrounded by joy, gratitude, and hope for the next four years.

May you enter this chapter of your life with hearts and minds open to a whole new set of possibilities. Open and willing to go on roads not traveled before, excited for the possibilities of finding new partners who will walk with you for this next stage.

May you receive the fruit of your labor. May you encounter new challenges and new solutions in this brand-new setting in your life. May you be blessed with the gift of being here; being fully here. Of being; not doing, not producing, not yearning, just being. Anchor yourselves on the truthfulness of the present moment. As tempting as it is to relive the past, and as exciting as it can be to live in the future, encourage yourself to be present in the now. May you live in this moment with a full abandonment of the past and the future. May your time here, be full of now-ness, this-ness and a commitment to living fully aware of the great opportunities enfolding you.

May you be surrounded by the changing seasons. May you find enough silence and solitude to listen to the sounds of the quad; the wind rushing through the trees on a crisp fall evening; the coming and going of the cold water in the Gulf of Maine; the whispering sounds of the summer breeze, the crackling of branches after a snowstorm, and the songs of birds when the snow has finally melted.

May your journey here with us be marked with moments full of joy. May you be filled with the laughter of your friends, roommates, professors, and loved ones. May you be filled with music, and art and poetry. May you find yourselves discovering new passions, new aspirations, new emotional landscapes, new words, new songs.

Have full confidence in the uncertainty that will accompany you for the next four years. Welcome questions; welcome challenges; welcome the unknown—for it is all an important part of the journey of life and learning. Know that you will make mistakes, and know that you will change your mind. Things you thought you knew for certain will suddenly seem more complicated. During these times and more, extend yourselves patience and grace to accept all of who you are and all of who you're becoming. May joy, gratitude, and hope be with you wherever you go.