Thank you so much, Dr. Qubein, Trustees, everyone so important, especially professors. I admire teaching so much.

Nowadays it seems like we have a computer in our life in almost everything we do, almost every product we own. And, of course, these products now and then fail because they have software that's written by humans. Every time that happens, you turn off the power, you turn it back on, it works again. And whenever that happens, I always turn to my wife and I say, “They should kill the people who brought us these computers.”

I learned a little bit about discrimination while I was here. I understand that the voice recognition system of our Apple iPhone called Siri doesn't handle southern accents very well.

You know, education was a strong ideal of mine. My father told me, like other parents do, that, oh, “You're the future of the world, education's going to get you a job so you can buy a home and have a family and a car and all these great things.” But really what got to me more was that it's lesser said that we of our generation have left a lot of problems in the world. We've messed things up a lot. We haven't fixed enough, been able to solve a lot of the major world problems. And that's up to you. We're hoping that you can come along and fix what we haven't figured out the way to do yet. I told my father when I was young that I had two ideals: To be an engineer, like him, and second, to be a fifth grade teacher because education was such an important part and asset of our lives.

I actually did go back, secretly, after Apple was successful, I went back and actually did teach elementary school for eight years because I wanted to. No press, it was all secret, I didn't want press around young students. And it was important to learn how to use the modern technology and how to apply it to all of our learning life. Now it's commonplace, back then it was not. As I wander here around High Point, I think of this Apple ideal that we have which is the way something looks on the outside represents how good it is on the inside. And driving around this campus, I was just in awe and I said if I had seen this place back when I went to college, although it wasn't the same then, if I had seen that, this is where I would have wanted to go. In fact, in my life I had 800s on all the math and science entrance exams, I could design any computer in two days out of high school back before computers were known and you would think oh, you should go to a great technical university, MIT, CIT, IIT, you know, some great place like that, and I wandered onto a campus one day and it snowed and I fell in love with it. And I didn't want to apply to any other place and my parents let me follow my heart. They didn't say you have to follow a certain line. Who you are and what you are is going to get you where you get. The beauty of that campus struck me. The beauty of this campus strikes me the same way. If I had seen this when my kids were going to college, I would have said, please consider High Point. I think a lot of it. And we owe a lot to the people that have been here before and have great loyalty and want to give back and contribute to build these great buildings, the great facilities, the things that make your life so nice.
It's an example of how you will want to live and how you'll want to inspire people when it comes your time.

Commencements are very important to me. After Apple -- during Apple's time I had an airplane crash and five weeks later I came out of amnesia and I phoned Steve Jobs, and I said you know what, the Macintosh team has all these great creative people, they'll be fine without me. This is my last chance to go back to college for one last year and earn my own degree. People ask, what was the proudest day of your life? And I always say it was my graduation day. So commencements are very important to me. I don't like to go to hospitals, weddings, funerals, a lot of other, you know, social activities, but I always try to go to commencements. If it's a student of mine that's graduating from college, I try to go. That's one of the most important things to me. It represents four of the best years of your life for most of us. And the funny thing is, you know, when I think of college, I think it's going to be, you're going to achieve as much no matter where you go. So if it's going to be the best four years of your life, pick a place where you'll feel comfortable, other people will be like you, have personalities like you, and you'll have the most fun possible.

Now, the purpose of a good education isn't necessarily the content you've learned. You have actually learned how to learn here. You have learned how to go through long projects of learning to get completion of goals and projects and that's what's going to really apply to your life. So that's why the four years is so important an experience.

One thing you've learned in your education is that quality and excellence matter. Especially when you look around this university and how things look making them as fine as you would want, this would be my own, how beautiful would I want it to be. When you create things, whether it's a written report, a homework study, or this and that, you put yourself toward the areas you're passionate about and you give them very much attention. For me, it was computers. I would go to the campus bookstore, I would buy every manual and book I could on computers. I would read some of the textbooks halfway through the book answering every single question before class started on Monday. It was that much -- you know, you do in life what you love.

You learn the methods to achieve goals and then what you're taught is less important than being motivated to want to learn and to want to continue learning as you progress through your careers. One of the things you learn to think is how to build things from atoms. Atoms are starting points. School gives you a lot of these starting points. Mathematic principles, physics principles, writing principles, grammar, other languages. You can combine those to create larger projects. You will be a builder. Don't be afraid to build. You don't have to get everything out of a book the way it was done in the book, the way someone else did it. You're now at the point where you'll think for yourself and you'll start writing your own book as you create things.

A lot of you are thinking, “What's the future for me?” I was one of the lucky people that didn't have to. I was so advanced in electronics I'd always have an easy job. I never really wondered, “What am I going to do? Where is it, you know, how am I going to have my home and my family?”
Well, I decided that, you know, what's important in life? Is it having a degree? Is it having money? Is it having awards? What's really important is what makes you happy. If those things make you happy, good. But happiness is the ideal of life. The day you die, if somebody was every day working so hard to get something going straight and you were out there just smiling, laughing with friends, telling jokes in a restaurant, that to me, is the person I wanted to be when I die.

I came up with formulas. One of them was H = F cubed. Happiness equals the three Fs of friends, fun, and family. I'm sorry, food, friends and fun. Food -- well, I added family because it's part of friends. But food is the necessities of life. Fun is entertainment and it should always be a part of life. Don't ever go through being unhappy. And friends, the social network and the other people are very important. I said this once at my high school and a kid started laughing and I realized there might be other Fs. So you think, you know, what are you? Now you are a graduate in a certain curriculum. You have learned certain things. Does that represent what you are, the person? No, it's really what you are inside, your values. The type of person you are. The apex of all good is honesty. You should always be honest about yourself. Don't hide things or you get two little guys in your own head. One of the guys is telling the world, "Here's what I am" and the other is what I really am.

You should be very true to your young ideals. You think very well right now. You're at the highest state of your mental and physical energy that you'll ever be, and you can -- and you are good at thinking. And when you grow up, oh, my gosh, “I'm going to have to become a different person? When I'm successful in business, when I'm an adult I have to think about the world in different ways.” No. Trust your youthful thinking and try to stick with it. If you believe you're a good person, know yourself and don't let your successes in life that you'll encounter, don't let those change who you are.

I've seen a lot of people that, boy, they just all of a sudden, the only thing in the world meant to grab more money and more power. And it doesn't have to be your goal. Do things to enlighten the world, to help the world and the benefits will come from that. So remember your values and think about them strongly, what's important to you. How good am I going to be and especially care about others that don't have. That's one of the jobs of the educators. An educator that cares wants to give you information that's going to help you get through your life.

How far you go in life in a company in a job usually depends on how well liked you are. Try to be friendly to people. You don't have to argue. You know what? If you think differently than someone else, there's nothing that says I have to argue with you. That's a form of unhappiness. Another formula, happy equals smiles minus frowns. S minus F.

So you can actually walk away and say you know what, I believe in my own thinking. My thinking is right from my perspective. Another person can think a different way from their perspective and they're just fine, they're good people too. Accepting of different people that are different ways.

From the time we're young we're taught, you know, oh, my gosh, you've got to support your team, got to support your school. My school, right or wrong. My athletic team, right and wrong. And we're taught this and it's easy to transfer that into my country right or wrong without actually using your brain
to think out issues. And really, I don't want to be that way very much. It's like I love sports, it's entertainment, I love my school, it did a lot for me, but it's not like I'm going to say everyone who's not my way, everyone who uses a different smart phone, everyone who uses a different computer, they're bad. They're dumb. They're not smart. No. They're just coming from their own perspective.

Time now that as you have graduated, you're going to encounter other people that are younger than yourself that need advice. You're going to become a teacher. One of the jobs of a teacher is not to necessarily say things that are correct but to hear it as the person hearing it is hearing it and know that it makes sense. Sort of as a good communicator, you have to have two minds in the same mind. One that knows the subject you're trying to tell and one that's hearing it and make sure your words are understood. A lot of times poor communication is not understood well.

Our purpose in starting Apple Computer was to empower individuals of the world to be able to do more than they could do without this sort of technology. No, we didn't know what today was going to be like, where it was going to lead at the end. But our initial computers were open and that meant that everyone who saw the computer could learn what computers were about, they could start designing hardware and programs that made these computers do things and eventually they wound up doing such important things that the small computers could do some tasks bigger than the huge computers. We didn't predict it. We built a platform and on that platform came surprises that turned this industry so valuable in our lives. The sort of machines that we have today were evolutions of really early, early low-level atomic atoms as I call them developed by chemists and physicists. How to make a certain kind of chip that could make a little phone you hold in your pocket go all day. Little chips that could make a smart computer in your hand. It's like there were new technologies. Screens that you could touch with your hand and move things the way humans move things.

One of the things you should always note is that if you do the things the way everyone else has always done them, you're one of the followers. You're one of a million people that could do the same as you because they've had the same education. You want to be a leader. Try to think new ways to solve the old problems. Very often we look at something we have and say, “I could make it better.” That's innovation. But you know what? Sometimes we say, “I could do something totally different that makes life a lot easier for people,” and that's true invention.

It's important to dream. It's important to -- like when you're half-awake or half asleep, let your mind wander into a few idea areas and don't say, oh, my gosh, these are just dreams. Sometimes you can make them real. A lot of my best ideas came to me in that kind of a state and I would sort of get thinking about something like the old color television that took $1000 to generate. And then I'd say, “What if I did this little thing with a digital chip that cost one dollar?” It's not in any books. None of this mathematics or technology is in any books but the color television would think it's color. And that was really the start of a big company.

Don't waste your youth. As I mentioned before, you're at the peak of your intellectual and your physical energy. You have the time to work on a few ideals and dreams for the future. You know, give yourself a lot of time. Get a job because you need an apartment and then come home, you know, to
your apartment. And you know what, if you have a lot of free time and you're not going out and partying every night, that's when you can work and build things that are really going to get you through life; and have a huge impact on the world; and make you feel proud about yourself that you did something useful.

If something's worth doing, try to do it well. I used to try to compete with myself and maybe design a computer and design it over and over and over, trying to think of better ways to do it. Better parts, easier to build, more reliable, those sorts of things.

It turns out that I got very good at it, but I came up with techniques that were in my head, not in any book. Those are where you can be -- you can think of yourself as trying to be better than anyone else in the world. Whatever your job is, you can do it well. And then think, “Is there something else I could add a little more than everybody else that does the job well?” That's a good quality in life.

Also, have loyalty. The institutions like schools and companies you work for and the people that helped you get to where you go in life, try to remember them. Be loyal. Come back and give back to those things that were important to you. That's what I did in my life. And you know what, not only pay them back like your parents, a lot of your parents have done for you to create this fine university and help you go to school, you know, and my parents helped pay my way through school, but also pay forward.

You know what, I've had a lot of times in my life when I ran into young people in need because that was one of my -- the important things to me in life, and maybe all they needed was to go back and try college again but they needed some money. And I would give them money because I have lots of money. It didn't mean a lot to give money, it meant the caring. But I would never tell them pay me back. Because then they might be ashamed that they never paid me back and never talk to me again.

What I would say is, when you're successful and if you ever have enough funds and you run into young people that have needs, please, do the same thing for them. Help them, mentor them, give them support, give them money if they need it, and that's the way you pay me back. When the movie “Pay It Forward” came out, everybody said, “Hey, that's Woz.” One thing about life, I'll finish up, change is certain. It's unbelievable how fast change is occurring in this digital era. Change is certain and you could be a part of it.

Thank you very much.