

Commencement Remarks 2013

Linda Lacey '73 , KSC Alumni Association, President

Good afternoon Senator Shaheen, President Kahn, distinguished guests, parents, friends, fellow alumni and most of all the graduating class of 2013. You made it! You earned it!

As President of the Alumni Association I had the honor of welcoming incoming students at Convocation at the beginning of the school year and now have the honor of saying a few words to you, the graduating class.

I am sure there a lot of mixed feelings being felt today....for some, a sense of relief, others a sense of sadness, apprehension, or, excitement for the future. It may seem like the end, but, it is just the beginning. I know.

I was there once myself and what I found out was that my relationship to the college did not end at Commencement. Of course, in those days we had "snail mail" and regular telephones, not even a fax machine....so, communication took a lot longer! Today, there are limitless opportunities to keep connected....e-mail, texting, Skype, and social media platforms, such as Linked In or Facebook.

Remember the connections you have made with faculty, staff and friends, keep them active....they may all play a part in your future. You are now alumni of Keene State (and there are over 32,000 of us worldwide) and our hope is that you will continue to give back in some way by attending events to show support, by mentoring a student, by sharing your experiences in a classroom or continue to support your class gift fund.

Use the Alumni Association as a portal through which you stay connected to this vast network of relationships. Our contributions to the college do not end when we graduate...they are what keep Keene State vibrant, prestigious and relevant to the times and what makes your diploma that much more valuable.

Again, congratulations and good fortune to all and welcome to the community of the Keene State Alumni Association!