

## Graduation Speech

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Welcome Members of the Maine State Legislature, Chancellor Page, President Schott, Board of Trustee Member, Board of Visitor Chair, Guest Speaker Duke Albanese, platform party, graduates, family and friends.

Well...we did it guys! We survived our last finals week and we finished our degrees.

To all of our instructors, families, friends, and classmates. Thank you for your support throughout our time at UMPI

In preparing for this speech I thought long and hard about what topic to speak on today. One friend had suggested that I speak on growth in college, however I decided that at a mere 5'3" I may not be qualified to speak on that subject. I have survived college through making lists.

So today I decided that it would only be appropriate that I share a list with all of you. This is the Top 10 list of things I have learned at UMPI:

10. I have learned who my true friends are
9. Don't let life just pass you by, it's easy to get stuck in a routine, but go out and enjoy every moment
8. How to live on a college income, and if you didn't learn that lesson, you will likely learn about credit card debt very soon.
7. Google was hands down one of the best things ever created
6. Never stop asking questions
5. It's impossible to make everybody happy, make sure you do what makes you happy (as long as it's legal)
4. Make sure you have a healthy work; life balance or you're going to get burnt out
3. The faculty and staff on this campus are fun, caring, and inspiring individuals that want to see us soar. – That being said... I also
2. **Learned that professors aren't ALWAYS right, I can't tell you how many times in the last four years I have heard "you can't do this the night before it's due" but yet, here I stand.**
1. Most importantly I have learned how to fly like an owl

We are owls- sneaky little buggers that blend into our surroundings, but we have a keen ability to see things in the distance, these are our goals. And when the opportunity presents itself we need to swoop in and get the job done. Being that owls are far-sighted creatures they can't really see things that are right in front of them. That means, as owls, we sometimes need to take a step back to see the opportunities that may be right in front of us.

I will truly miss this university and all that it has offered in the last four years

I see so much potential looking around this gymnasium, I hope that each and every one of you will reach your potential after graduating.

Just remember that no matter where your wings take you....your flight began here.

Owl- just remind you that no matter whooooo- you are if you think this graduation is a HOOT (get it..cuz owls...) post on social media with the hashtag \*insert hashtag sign\* umpigrad15

Thank you very much!