

Convocation Remarks

Polytechnic President Jerry MacArthur Hultin

August 30, 2010

Thank you to Dianne Rekow.

Welcome to faculty, staff, administrators and trustees of Polytechnic, and our special guest, President of the Borough of Brooklyn, the Honorable Marty Markowitz.

Welcome to new and returning students, both undergraduates and graduate students.

Let me talk about Then, Now, and Next — the past, present and future at Polytechnic.

Then

Walking the halls of Polytechnic — faculty, students and alumni who have changed the world

- Brooklyn Bridge cable
- Panama Canal locks
- Microwave and radar — Ernst Weber
- Polymers and artificial rubber — Herman Mark
- Mass production of penicillin — Jasper Kane
- Integrated chip and the world's most successful venture capital firm — Gene Kleiner
- Off-shore oil ports — Paul Soros
- Construction engineering around the world — Joe Jacobs
- The VCR, telephoto lens, Teflon, cellphones,
- And today's pop culture mega-star — Lady Gaga
- She rushed through the NYU's Tisch School so fast, she forgot to get her degree

Now

What are your ambitions? What drives you forward? What do you hope to change in the world, what is your invention, or innovation?

Perhaps you want to:

- Create new ways to use computers, cell phones, and the Internet
- Discover and engineer new cures and medical procedures
- Build intelligent cities here in the US and around the world

In every case, you will find “walking Polytechnic's halls” fellow students and gifted faculty who share your passion and will join with you in realizing your ambitions.

Let me name a few:

- Faster, more powerful computer chips — Jonathan Chao and the Chudnovsky brothers, David and Gregory
- Protecting the info sphere with cyber-security — Nasir Memon

- Advancing the smart grid — Farshad Khorrami
- Developing the next generation of wireless video — Yao Wang
- Putting science and technology in perspective — the award winning Myles Jackson
- Advancing diagnostic technologies for medical cures — Rastilav Levicky
- Inventing industrial chemicals from natural products — Richard Gross
- Creating a terahertz generator — Erich Kunhardt and Hong Liang Cui

You saw a great proof of the brilliance of your fellow students, this morning — Poly undergraduate students explaining their summer research projects. Next year, that can be you.

We will encourage and help you learn to be innovative, inventive and entrepreneurial. Our faculty will teach you to understand and use science, mathematics, technology and engineering to meet the needs of the 21st century.

We will challenge you to invent and innovate in competitions with cash prizes — this year a Polytechnic team was one of five finalists for NYU's \$100,000 business competition — and we will invite you to work in our new business incubators, offer you support from our angel fund, and introduce you — if your concept is strong enough — to the best venture capitalists in NYC.

As a member of the New York University family, you have access to NYU's fabulous library, student activities, health center, and courses.

You can — if you set your mind to it — study abroad at one of NYU's 14 global sites. And without leaving campus, you will have access to fellow students from over twenty states and countries around the world, including China, India, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, the Ukraine, Russia, and more.

This afternoon, if you are a freshman, you'll join me and NYU President John Sexton — and new students from all of NYU — at NYU's Radio City Music Hall student welcome.

Next spring, our graduates will be with fellow graduating seniors from all 15 of NYU's schools — at Yankee Stadium.

Next — Your future life

You — and your fellow Polytechnic classmates — will live through some of the most exciting and challenging years on earth.

- Cities — more will be built in China and India than ever before in history
- Population — in less than decades, the world will grow from 6 to 9 billion people
- Energy — you will invent new sources of power and new ways to reduce our power demand
- Environment — you will find ways to cool the planet, or be busy building seawalls around New York City
- Health care — you will help tame the cost of health care in the United States and invent new ways to deliver quality healthcare to people in villages and towns across Africa, South America, India, and China

- Information technology and security — you will use massive data, increase bandwidth, build faster chips, and protect privacy
 - Here's today's challenge from IBM to create a Smarter Planet
 - And now the head of IBM's global research, Paul Horn, is the head of NYU's global research

In getting ready for these challenges, don't feel that you are alone.

- You will have the brain-power of our faculty supporting your intellectual growth
- You will have access to the research facilities where our faculty are discovering and inventing the future
- You will have student services and staff to help you maximize your learning
- You will have access to our incubators, angel funds, global connections and Polytechnic alumni in building your career
- And I hope you will have the encouragement of your family, seeing you through tough days and celebrating your achievements
- And you will do all of this while studying in the part of New York City that young people find most exciting — Brooklyn

So remember these three things as you start your education at Polytechnic:

- Then — Polytechnic graduates and faculty have changed the world
- Now — Polytechnic will give you the education and support to realize your ambitions
- Next — Using your Polytechnic education and skills, you will have the opportunity to create a world of new solutions

No one understands the power and vibrancy of Brooklyn better than the man I am about to introduce to you.

His name is Marty Markowitz — he's the President of the Borough of Brooklyn — and if Brooklyn were a city, not a Borough, President Markowitz would be Mayor the 4th largest city in the United States.

But large is one thing — exciting is in a league of its own.

And the reason Brooklyn is exciting is because President Markowitz encouraged and promoted

- Brooklyn's culture — hip, hot, bold, and brash
- Brooklyn's diversity — racial, ethnic, religious, multi-lingual diversity in our classrooms, hallways, and dormitories
- Brooklyn's dynamism — new neighborhoods, new buildings, new businesses, new schools, and new parks

To welcome you to this hip, diverse, dynamic town called Brooklyn, let me introduce my friend, Brooklyn's true leader, Marty Markowitz.