



Office of the President

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**President Nariman Farvardin**  
**152<sup>nd</sup> Commencement Address**  
**Undergraduate Ceremony**  
**May 22, 2024**

Class of 2024, today marks a momentous occasion, as we gather to celebrate your graduation.

It is important to recognize that for many of you, this ceremony represents the first time you are graduating in person, surrounded by classmates, professors, friends and family. I am honored and filled with pride and joy to – at long last – share this experience with you. Congratulations!

Let us also acknowledge the unique journey that has brought you to this day. For many of you, your higher education experience began amidst the unprecedented disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic. This unforeseen challenge undoubtedly altered the trajectory of your time at Stevens.

Yet, despite the obstacles you faced, you persevered. Your ability to adapt and overcome speaks volumes about your resilience and determination.

As you stand on the cusp of a new chapter in your lives, I encourage you to reflect on the lessons you have learned during your time at Stevens. Embrace the spirit of disruption that has defined your college experience. Use it as a catalyst for growth, both personally and professionally.

Disruption is not merely about shaking things up for the sake of it. It is about challenging the status quo, pushing boundaries and embracing innovation. It is about having the courage to step outside your comfort zone and pursue new opportunities.

We have seen firsthand how disruption can lead to transformative change. From the tech industry to the world of art and beyond, disruptors have paved the way for progress and innovation. Take, for example, Marques Brownlee, our esteemed commencement speaker.



Through his groundbreaking work in the field of technology, he has revolutionized the way we think about technology and has become a leader in his field.

But disruption is not just about individual success. Disruptive people and disruptive approaches can change the world. Armed with your education and experiences, you have the opportunity to make a real difference on a global scale. Whether it is developing new artificial intelligence algorithms, pioneering new technologies that improve health or following your passion as an entrepreneur, you have the power to shape the future. Do not hesitate to be a disruptor.

Before I conclude, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the families and friends who have supported our graduates throughout their journeys. Today, we also celebrate your role in this achievement.

To the Class of 2024, you are among the most resilient of classes in Stevens' 154-year history. As you embark on the next phase of your journey, remember the lessons you have learned here. Embrace disruption, challenge the status quo and continue to inspire us. Remember, too, that no matter where life takes you, you will always be a part of the Stevens family and always have a home in Hoboken.

May the future hold boundless opportunities for each and every one of you. Come back and visit us often. Congratulations again.