

2017 CORNELL COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

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I'm Cassidy Kelly, majoring in Economics and Business, Class of 2017.

I'm not so sure I'm good at being, whatever I'm supposed to be for this, so just try to laugh at my jokes and if you are unsure when they are happening I'll just raise my hand. My friend Anna said I have to let you know that I'm funny so you can understand what is about to happen. If it goes bad, blame her, like I usually do for most things in things in my life. But don't worry if it really goes bad, I'll fake my appendix bursting and just roll off the stage. I'd like to start with Happy Mother's Day to all the moms that were lucky to be here and I'm super sorry to those who unfortunately can't hear this awesome speech.

I've written a million different things and gotten help by a lot of strangers but it didn't occur to me that this speech is published on the school website. So I'm going to try to be on my best behavior this morning. Emphasis on try.

So, what was so worthwhile? What is about the experiences over these past four years that can be touched upon during this speech and is also appropriate?

I can't recall exact moments but rather just an overall feeling the school has provided these last four years that made this chapter in our lives so worthwhile. The atmosphere and positivity here is like nowhere else.

At a place like this it isn't always easy to maintain a standard sleep schedule, a social life, or all your Netflix shows... but there was always someone who cared to lift you up whether it was your teachers, peers, or the daily specials at Scorz – especially the wing special on Monday. And that's what I loved so much about my time here and it doesn't hurt that's some people think I went to an Ivy League. We all have become better through the friendships and the support we were able to receive at this institution.

Something that strikes me about this group of people I look out to today is the tremendous amount of understanding each individual has for one another. All the those times we saw each other at 2am in the library but then four days later at the same time asleep on a toilet, uncovering ones mistakes and keeping an open mind, trying to solve homework that ended a lot like the investigation on the zodiac killer, and Andy Dodson trying to burn down a campus dorm with a packet of Ramen and allowing him to continue in microwave usage. Not only have we grown in intellect, but wisdom as well.

And while I'd like to have a message because they say that is the main thing for every commencement speech, the message is it is up to you to create the life you want.



Reminisce on your own times here and realize the importance of friendships, hard work, and responsibilities. Set goals and let those achievements bring you to new opportunities with an open mind. For reference, Elle Woods got a law degree trying to win back her ex-boyfriend. So go out there and be eager and outrageous because life is that much enjoyable when you're chasing dreams. There's a lot of things we technically think we shouldn't be able to do but take one look at me, I'm up here giving a commencement speech and I won the Go Pro.

Let the block plan teach you a lesson of how quickly it is that life progresses. Sometimes it will be hard and other times a breeze, but each requires work, no matter how easy.

Last but not least I would like to express thanks to those who make and continue to make Cornell a great place to be. Especially those who encouraged and just said they were generally excited to hear me speak, today. I couldn't have done this speech or these last four years without the support.

Thank You.