

Welcome faculty, family, friends, and fellow students. I am very excited about having been given this opportunity to speak tonight. First of all it's an honor to say a few words at this commencement. Becoming an architect has always been a dream of mine, however when I started that dream I had reservations about, about pretty much everything. Thoughts of my disability preventing me almost took over. I thought to myself, can I complete such a physically demanding program, or will I be able to keep up with my fellow classmates? For example, once I started my classes I was soon relieved of my fears. Coming to the School of Architecture I have been able to grow both socially and academically. My confidence grew so much that I was able to do a study abroad program in the Czech Republic. Meeting other students has greatly contributed to my success, I couldn't have finished without them. I am truly grateful to my classmates for being inclusive and good friends. I also wanted to acknowledge the department's professors and staff for their confidence in me, and providing me with their full support. My one piece of advice to everyone is that anyone can persevere in their goals and dreams, only doubt is a disability. –

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