

Good afternoon President Raveche, Provost Korfiatis, trustees, administrators, faculty members, alumni, fellow students, and other distinguished guests. Please join me in welcoming the newest members of the close-knit community that is Stevens Institute of Technology. Welcome to Stevens, Class of 2013! You are not only members of the largest entering class, but the first class to mark the beginning of the next 100 years of the Stevens Honor System.

Every year new students pass through the main castle gates in hopes of achieving degrees in engineering, sciences, or liberal arts. While here taking in the scenic views of the campus, enjoying the Greek life, athletics, and organizations on campus, they unknowingly confront two qualities--honor and integrity. Many leave these qualities in hand ready to do battle with the outside world, whether it is in industry or graduate school. However, they most likely are not able to pinpoint the exact moment that they gained these qualities. That is because they develop gradually. Every lecture and recitation attended, every assignment turned in, and every social encounter allow for these characteristics to grow into fruitful plants, which will one day supply you with wealth and support needed to reach your aspirations.

I remember when I began developing these qualities. It was during my second Mechanics exam, which was administered in B118. I will never forget this day. During the exam, I rose out of my seat with exam in hand and walked to the professor, who was sitting up front. I quietly asked the professor, "May I use the restroom?" The professor with a look on her face as if I asked an absurd question said yes. I left my exam face down on her desk and I turned around to make my way towards the exit. Immediately, the professor stopped me. "Sir! Take your exam and leave it on your desk. I trust you and the other students not to cheat." This moment was drastically

different than those in high school, where teachers suspected cheating. In many high schools, students are assumed guilty until proven otherwise. However, here at Stevens, this is not the case. There is a trust between faculty members, students, and administrators. If there was not any trust, do you think administrators would give purely student-run organizations' budgets of \$3,000, \$5,000 or, even, \$11,000? These figures were the budgets for Stevens' organizations in past semesters. The Stevens Honor System has provided this type of environment; one that is filled with honor, integrity, trust, and responsibility.

Some fail to see that this system contains flaws and that it is not a hundred percent efficient. However, I do. That is why I am here standing before you, Class of 2013, to ask you to help the Stevens community make its honor system one hundred percent successful. This is the opportunity of a lifetime because you are not only affecting yourself, your friends, your entering class, and the community of Stevens. You are affecting the legacy that thousands of people, who sat in your seats today, developed and maintained. You are affecting the future yet to come, whether it is next year, ten years, or another hundred years down the line. Make your positive mark by being an active member of the Stevens community and an active participant of the Stevens Honor System.

At this time, I ask the Class of 2013 to rise so you can be formally inducted into the Stevens Honor System. You will find the Induction pledge on the back of your program. Please repeat after me.

“I swear that I will conduct myself with the utmost honesty, honor, and integrity in all my academic endeavors. I also swear that I will uphold the principles of the Stevens Honor System, and the policies set forth by the Steven Honor Board.”

Congratulations, you may be seated.

To everyone that sits in this room, I ask one thing from you as you leave this room and return to your daily lives. Think about honor and integrity. Understand the ins and outs, the tops and bottoms of these words. Believe in these words. Then, live them! Only then, can you truly have the power to pass honor and integrity on to those around you.