

**FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT**

GRADUATE CEREMONY

**May 17, 2009
3:00 p.m.**

Valedictory Speaker

Robert J. Morton, Jr.

To the parents, family, and friends of the graduates, as well as the faculty, administration, and friends of Fairfield University, an

For those in the graduate programs offered in the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineeri

my peers and leave today as my friends. As St. Ignatius implored his fellow Jesuits, I am ready to “go set the world aflame.” I am certain you all feel the same.

But what of this world we are entering? Many contend that these are uncertain times; I contend that these times are more certain than not. It is certain that people like ourselves are needed now more than ever. Upon close examination of the Fairfield graduate programs, one will find the answer to our nation’s economic troubles. Our economy, long held to be the global gold standard, has crumbled due to the weight of greed, entitlement, and excess. Graduates from the Dolan School of Business are receiving degrees today that are rooted in ethics and morality that will transcend the classroom into the workplace. Fairfield business graduates have not solely been taught the debits and credits of accounting, nor just the importance of a well diversified portfolio; rather, students have had discussions about the consequences of potential actions taken in ethical situations – not only for them, but for all those affected by their decisions. The debate of how to apply Christian, and specifically Ignatian, teaching in the business disciplines has long been discussed in academia. The faculty of the Dolan School of Business have certainly achieved this goal by producing well-rounded professionals who understand the impact of their decisions on their fellow man.

For those graduates of the School of Engineering and the College of Arts & Sciences, your role in our future is crucial. Now more than ever do we need fresh minds and new ideas. It has become painfully apparent that the way things have been done is no longer acceptable, and the time to act is now. Environmental initiatives have taken on a new and long overdue priority; this country is in need of talented scientists and engineers to forge ahead in search of renewable energy resources

It is possible that graduate education exemplifies that motto more than does the education of our undergraduate counterparts. There is no doubt that we

No matter from what school you are graduating, we all have a monumental challenge in front of us. This nation has not seen times like these since the Great Depression. All of us have been touched in some way by recent economic events, some more profoundly than others; but if there is one thing that I have learned in the rather short amount of time I have lived thus far, it is that nothing is worth enduring if you are not willing to learn from it. We will recover, and we will be better for it. Look not at these times as a stum