Fairfield University undergraduate commencement address May 23, 2010

Deli e ed b Fai eld al mn D. Kathe ine N. La , '78, exec ti e ice e ident of Ha a d Uni e it, whe e he o e ee all nancial, adminit ati e, h man e o ce, and ca ital lanning f nction a well a the adminit ati e a ect of info mation technolog fo the ni e it.

President Von Ar , distinguished guests, parents, friends and most important all of ou the Class of 2010 I am honored to be here toda to celebrate this important time in our life graduation da .

I have often heard friends who have returned to their alma maters after decades awa sa ing something to the effect of, _I feel as though I stepped into a time machine.¹ Well, having spent the last da or so wandering around this once familiar campus and now looking out at ou the class of 2010 I nall understand what the were talking about. But m time machine has not transported me to the past, it's taken me back to the future and brought me to a time and place virtuall unrecognizable when I think about m class of 1978.

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reform our health care s stem, or entering public service. To put it as directl as I can - the world needs ou; the problems facing us are too comple and too persistent to not have as man smart and talented minds as possible tackling them.

Not too long ago ou helped elect our nation's rst African American President on a message of hope and change it is in the spirit of that message, I ask ou to bring hope and change to the world. It ma be that when ou rst stepped foot on this campus four ears ago, ou had e pectations for a career in a certain eld, which because of the Great Recession, is no longer viable. Instead of being disappointed, see this as an opportunit our permission slip, as it were to chart a new course. Embrace it, run with it, give it all ou've got.

I'm often reminded of a chat I had on the eve of m Fair eld graduation with Father James Murph -- the then Chair of Histor which was m eld of stud. While I knew I was going to law school the following fall, I wasn't sure what life had in store for me after that. Father Murph promised -- somewhat to m surprise -- that I would have a wonderful and varied career but with that promise he challenged me to avoid the temptation to revert to the comfortable, the eas , the familiar. _Never shrink from the unknown, the untried, he said - _take it on and incredible things will happen. He also encouraged me to alwa s keep m ears open along the wa , smainformer methods ing_Y0e hit NCh Eweapph EB6 her of Bopg D albbs wr E 28

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