

This is where I come from. This is what has made me whatever it is that I am. And I tell you this and I will tell you some of what I've learned along the way in hopes of encouraging those of you who on this very happy

There's a lot of wisdom there; indeed, doesn't it seem to very sweetly
integrate living and learni

rockcutter who, on the 101st blow with the hammer, finally split the rock in two. Some would say it was the 101st blow that did it. No. It was the 100 blows before that one which made success on the 101st possible.

Determination. Hard work. Essential if you are to succeed, whether that be as society defines success or quite simply as making someone or something a

learn from the trying. Samuel Beckett said, “No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.” Or, in the words of the wonderful Scottish proverb, “I am wounded but I am not slain. I shall lay me down a

heart of what you

spoons longer than their arms, but are happy and obviously well fed. “What, Lord, is the difference?” asked the man. “Why are they so happy?” The Lord smiled. “They’re feeding each other.”

I return to where I began. My parents lovingly gave me both roots and wings, the roots which keep me committed to family and faith, and the wings that have, after these many years, brought me here to congratulate you on this very special day. God bless you. God bless Fairfield University.