

Graduate Commencement 2013

- June 16, 2013

- Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J.

Welcome to the Graduate Commencement Ceremony of the 2012-13 Academic Year. This event is in fact the very last moment of that whole academic year! It is great to arrive at a ceremony which celebrates you who are receiving graduate degrees, because it allows for a special focus on your level of education and your careers and service. The most important remarks of this ceremony will be made in just a moment by your commencement speaker, Dr. John Koster, who is much more qualified than I to speak to you because of his long and extraordinary professional career and service.

I want to say just a word about what you can expect your alma mater, your Seattle University, to be in the future, how you will be proud of it, and why its ever greater reputation will enhance the significance and value of the graduate degree you receive today.

Essentially look for this university to take its rightful place as the independent, Jesuit-inspired university at the heart of this exciting metropolitan area. Seattle U. will increasingly be and be seen as a pride point as a great independent university growing with, serving, and linked to the future of this city and region. When people say "Seattle" and think "university", they will no longer have in mind only one great public university but also a great independent university with all that we will bring of mission, value, adaptability, person-centered education, spirituality, and service to the common good. We will be private in our education, but public in our purpose.

Expect also that your Seattle University will not only be much more visible and better known, not only regionally, but nationally, but also will be much more connected and partnered and sharing mutual benefits with the corporations, institutions, foundations, global enterprises, medical centers, cultural venues, social services, religious centers, and civic enterprises of the city and region. These increased alliances will both greatly enrich our education and will allow us to be of greater service to the most important enterprises which define Seattle and its region.

Finally look to your Seattle University increasingly to be a primary forum of the region for education in and discussion of issues which are germane to our mission: issues of justice, of ethics and morality, of interreligious dialogue, of the interplay of science and religion, of environmental justice and sustainability, of non-profit service and leadership, of public education and community engagement, of immigration, peace and war, poverty and homelessness. We have that mission and we seek to be that forum.

So as you graduate today, we do not just send you forth but also ask you to stay close and to continue to be part of the increasingly prominent, purposeful, and proud university you have experienced and contributed to these past years. Go along with us; grow along with us. Thanks and congratulations on your great accomplishment which we now celebrate.