

>> INTRODUCTION: Following is the voice of Julie Damder, interpreter for RIT Student Government President Lizzie Sorkin during Sorkin's 2007 RIT Academic Convocation speech on May 25th. Sorkin is introduced by RIT Vice President for Academic Affairs Katherine "Kit" Mayberry.

>> KATHERINE MAYBERRY: It is my pleasure to introduce Ms. Lizzie Sorkin, outgoing President of Student Government.

Lizzie has been a dedicated and energetic leader, tireless in her efforts to make the voice of the students heard at all levels of the university.

She has proven herself to be highly principled leader with a sophisticated understanding of complex issues.

We thank her for her work and Wish her all the best in the future.

Lizzie?

[Applause]

>> LIZZIE SORKIN: I spoke at freshmen convocation earlier this year and I told them about how I first got goose bumps when I started here.

Now, as I leave, I've got them again.

For many of us, we came to RIT because of the academic programs.

For others, it was the community we found that made us feel we belonged.

And sometimes it was not for any specific reason, but rather because it was a college nearby.

Since we arrived, our perspective of RIT has changed.

For a stranger, RIT is just a place with a bunch of bricks and lots of snow.

But today, we all know that's not true.

With the friendships, experiences we've had, and bridges we've built here, we've become a different person than when we first arrived here.

Because of our experiences connected to RIT, it's become a place more than just a bunch of bricks and snow.

We have contributed to this campus in many different ways.

Whether it was by working on a group proposal for class; joining a research team; winning an intramural soccer game; playing with Margaret's House children; and even just being a great student.

As individuals, our priorities differ from each other, making this campus a unique place.

Earlier this week I was walking to class to take my very last final, and I was thinking to myself... where else can I find orange and brown ID cards; a paw in the Student Development Center; corner crew for our D1 Hockey team? Is there another university that allows engineers and artists to work together, or has the Sentinel, bricks on the quarter mile, or a knitted sweater for our tiger statue outside the bookstore?

We have shaped this place to fit our community, to showcase our orange and brown colors and make this campus a spirited community of warmth and harmony.

None of it would be possible without your dedication.

Because of your contribution of feedback, ideas, and perhaps even complaints – it has resulted in an evolving change.

Ten years ago, when there were no Spirit Fridays, you'd hardly saw anyone wear an RIT shirt on the quarter mile, now that mentality has shifted.

RIT has gone through an internal change as well as a physical change.

From inaugurating the Field House, an improving CO-OP experience, better orientation

programs, or to finally closing RIT for one day due to an ice storm!

[Applause]

Through you we clearly see evidence that a real college experience is from the classroom to the SAU to the residence hall to the turf field.

Each and every one of us identifies with RIT in our own unique way.

This morning, all of us identify with RIT together as the senior class of 2007.

[Applause]

As we leave RIT, we will never look at orange and brown the same way again.

Thank you and don't get lost.

[Applause]

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CONVOCATION

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