For the past few months, you've probably had friends and family ask you how excited you are about finally graduating. And there is a lot to be excited about.

You've reached the end of an important stage of your life, and there are many opportunities ahead of you. You've worked hard, and you've accomplished something impressive. You should all feel proud and excited for your future. However, if you're anything like me, you're also terrified.

Throughout college, the question of "what do I do next?" has always had an easy answer. After you finish problem number 18, you move on to problems number 19 and number 20. Now you've got a million people asking you "What are you going to do now?"

You try to hide the panic in your eyes and choke down every moment of self-doubt you've had in the past four years as you squeak out: "I'm not sure yet, but I'm working on it." There are a lot of options for the future out there, and, secretly, you worry whether or not you're going to make it.

Well, I can't say this with any authority, but I like to think that we're going to be just fine. Four years of school have provided us with a wide variety of tools to solve problems we don't even know exist yet. College is a bit like the trunk full of old trinkets and memorabilia you keep in your closet. It's full of junk that you wanted to keep, even if you don't know why it's useful.

You may have thought "Why am I even taking this class? I'll never use this in my career." If it was a math class, you probably thought that on a weekly basis. But when the time arises that you need that information, you'll be glad you have it. All of the things you've learned here, all the people you've met and the experiences you've had in and outside of the classroom, these are the things in your trunk; the things that might seem worthless but are invaluable in the right moment.

Your freshman-year roommate who woke up screaming in the middle of the night because he thought he saw an alien? He might just be the guy to help you land your dream job. The jazz history class you took to satisfy your humanities requirement? Might help you impress your future spouse at a party. And the year you shared a kitchen with five other guys in a 10 West apartment? That's adequate preparation for a career in hazardous waste management.

Because the truth is, there is no way to tell what the future holds for us. You might enjoy a long and fruitful career in your field of study. More than likely, you'll end up doing something completely and totally different. But no matter what you do in your career and in your life, you will have that trunk full of education, experiences and skills to take with
you and be successful in whatever you do. You have an endless array of opportunities ahead of you.

And so I ask you, Suffolk University Class of 2011, what are you going to do with all that junk, all that junk inside your trunk?