

**Commencement 2008  
Matthew Bell**



**Good afternoon family, friends, faculty, distinguished guests, and graduates. I stand here today with the honor and privilege of welcoming you to the 2008 School of Engineering and Applied Sciences commencement ceremony. On this very important day we celebrate the journey each one of us took to get here.**

**This journey through the engineering program here at UB is not an easy one: first off you need to be smart to get in, tenacious and hard working to get through the thousands of hours of courses, homework, projects, presentations, and exams; and after all this, those of us left standing have finally reached this moment of graduation which once seemed so far away, a few years ago. You should be proud of what you have accomplished over the past 4 or more years. The collective effort put in to graduate with a degree in engineering or computer science is highly respectable and says a lot about ones character.**

**Throughout our time here at UB we have developed the necessary skills and the appropriate mindset to go out, explore the world, and to make a difference. Whether we are performing research to cure cancer, develop structures to withstand earthquakes, or develop new applications utilizing nanostructured systems; UB engineers and scientists are positioned at the forefront ready to solve the problems of our generation.**

**But don't worry... We have studied the right disciplines for our times... We have been provided with the best toolkit for the twenty-first century to face such challenges, and we owe a great dept of gratitude to so many who will not be walking across the stage with us.**

**First off, I would like to thank the families and friends who have provided never-ending support, encouragement, and would simply just not let us quit. I would also like to thank the faculty. They have shared with us their vast knowledge and expertise, which will help us become successful in our future endeavors. And last but not least, I would like to thank my fellow graduates: we have been through a lot. We have been competitors for the only A grade in some courses, teammates on endless semester long projects, and partners in a multi-year research program. We have stuck together through the good times and the bad, and we have finally made it!!!**

**Congratulation class of 2008, and best of luck to all the engineers and scientists here today as you embark on the next leg of your journey.**