

## **December 2020 commencement**

### **Welcome**

Good Morning. My name is Srinath Ekkad, Head of the department of Mechanical and Aerospace engineering.

On behalf of North Carolina State University, the College of Engineering, and the department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering I would like to extend a warm welcome to graduates, parents, grandparents, spouses, family and friends.

Thank you for joining us for our December 2020 Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Diploma Award Ceremony. This is a joyous occasion and a time of celebration for all. This is a unique ceremony that we hope that we never have to repeat again.

## **Introduction**

Before we begin our program I would like to introduce a number of individuals who have been instrumental in organizing this event.

I would like to give special thanks to Iyana Porter, Graduate Program Assistant, Emma Munson, Undergraduate Program Assistant, Brianna Goins, Public Relations Coordinator, Ms. Cheryl Tran, Director of Undergraduate Advising Office for their tireless effort in organizing this event.

Let me acknowledge the undergraduate office (Cheryl Tran, Dr. Felix Ewere, Emma Munson) for their tireless effort to ensure that the students have the right advice and help to complete their degrees. The graduate office (Iyana Porter, Summer Fulcher, and Dr. Kara Peters) have also putting in great effort on behalf of our graduate students. I also want to thank them.

This is a unique year. Something that we hope to see in the rearview mirror soon. But it has also taught us a lot of lessons. It has taught us resilience, helped us understand our emotions better, be it empathy, fear, determination, or anything else we felt this year. We continued to move ahead and doing things that matter. I am very proud of the graduating class both in Spring 2020 and this Summer/Fall 2020. You all have a lot to be proud for. The Spring 2020 class was thrust into this in the middle of March and had to adjust to not only graduation but also life after graduation in the middle of a pandemic. The Fall class has survived

another full semester to graduate this December. The prognosis for normalcy looks promising. Fingers crossed. I hope all the graduates take these lessons learned and help build a better world and serve their communities the best they can and make MAE department and NC State proud of your accomplishments in the future. I look forward to interacting with our graduates and please remember to come visit and tell us your stories. Finally, I want to thank the MAE faculty who have managed to pivot into online classes and a new paradigm in teaching virtually. They have done a tremendous job as the students will acknowledge given the enormous effort to record classes and evaluating students virtually. I commend our MAE faculty for rising up to the occasion and providing the high quality education even during these times that one comes to expect from NC State.

Today we will honor Spring/Summer/Fall 2020 graduates. We are graduating a total of 21 PhD students of which Spring 2020 has 2 PhD AE and 3 PhD ME students; In Summer 2020, we had 1 PhD AE and 6 PhD ME students and in Fall 2020, we had 9 PhD ME students graduating. We are also graduating 98 MS students of which in Spring, we have 6 MS AE and 42 MS ME; In Summer, we have 3 MS AE and 9 MS ME; and in Fall 2020, we have 9 MS AE and 29 MS ME students. In our Undergraduate program, we are graduating 350 students. In Spring 2020, we had 61 AE and 190 ME students; In summer, we had 2 AE and 12 ME students, and in Fall 2020, we have 10 AE and 75 ME students. My congratulations to all our graduates.

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

Introduction of Graduate Student Speaker

Introduction of Undergraduate Student Speaker

Introduction of Dr. Kara Peters

Introduction of Ms. Cheryl Tran

## **Presentation of Graduated Class**

**I now present the graduating class of May 2020 and December 2020. Congratulations to all of you.**

On behalf of the MAE faculty – congratulations and welcome to the NC State family of alumni – from this point on we are forever connected!

You have worked hard to achieve your degree and we want to acknowledge your efforts and celebrate this event with you.

**This is a well-deserved recognition of your accomplishments. Please be seated.**

## **Closing remarks**

As I mentioned earlier, you and NC State are forever connected – we are partners in that your success enhances our reputation and our reputation and successes enhance your success. If we were a corporation, you would be our product and we would love to see our product be successful. As such, we each have a responsibility to do our best. I call on you today to stay connected to the department - as all strong departments have strong ties with their alumni. We need your support and help to keep moving forward and training the next generation of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineers.

We value your input and encourage you to support “**your**” department. In addition, we regularly post our success stories on our departmental web site and in our departmental newsletter. Please send us your stories, visit this web site regularly and stay connected.

My personal advice for all of you is to stay positive. You will be able to achieve a lot more in your life with positivity especially when things are tough. You have the backing of a strong foundation from here that will serve you well. Remember to strive hard and not take anything for granted.

Let me close by asking you, on this day of celebration, to recognize the deep pride that your parents, family and friends feel for you. Please

thank your parents and family for their support and for their encouragement in helping you reach this day. The MAE faculty, staff and students join me in thanking you all for the immense support you have provided for our graduates.

Once again, ....Congratulations!... good luck in your life pursuits .... and please contact us periodically to let us know how you are doing. Let's give our December 2020 graduates another round of applause.

Thank you, this concludes the **December 2020** MAE diploma award ceremony.

Thank you, ....