

**The American College of Greece
Honorary Doctorate
Deree College Commencement
Saturday, June 29, 2019**

- **THANK YOU, DAVID.**

- **I AM VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE THIS HONORARY DOCTORATE.**

- **I AM ALSO DELIGHTED TO CELEBRATE WITH ALL OF THE GRADUATES AND YOUR FAMILIES – CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU.**

- **IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY WHEN I WAS IN YOUR SHOES. I, LIKE MANY OF YOU, WAS THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE AND I REMEMBER THE FEELINGS OF ELATION, AS WELL AS TERROR. TERROR BECAUSE I THOUGHT I HAD LANDED A JOB, BUT WASN'T SURE AND THE JOB MARKET WAS SOFT LIKE IT IS HERE TODAY IN GREECE.**

- **REMEMBER THERE IS ALWAYS OPPORTUNITY – EVEN IN DIFFICULT TIMES.**

- **IMAGINE CREATING THE NEXT HOT NEW APP FOR APPLE OR, BETTER YET, THE NEXT FACEBOOK.**

- **ONE OF MY PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENTS IS OPENING TWO GREEK RESTAURANTS IN THE BAY AREA TO GIVE OUR COMMUNITY THE OPPORTUNITY TO TASTE THE INCREDIBLE FOOD THAT COMES FROM OUR CULTURE.**

- **THERE IS ONE INGREDIENT THAT IS NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS AND THAT IS STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, BOTH CONFUCIUS AND ARISTOTLE, IN THEIR OWN WAY, SAID “EXCELLENCE IS A HABIT, IT IS WHAT WE REPEATEDLY DO THAT SETS US APART.” IT HELPS IF YOU LOVE WHAT YOU DO.**

- **SO, FOR YOU TO SUCCEED IN WHATEVER ENDEAVOR YOU PURSUE, YOU MUST TAKE THAT TO HEART AND BE THE BEST THAT THERE IS IN THE FIELD.**

- **BEST OF LUCK TO ALL OF YOU AND DON’T FORGET TO GIVE BACK.**