

**President Address
General Student Meeting
Fall 2026**

Good morning:

On behalf of our chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Ms. Nazik Rafik Hariri, I welcome you all to our general Student meeting for this academic year.

My friends, the world we live in today has changed so much since I was a student your age.

I am here to talk about selected changes that directly affect your placement upon graduation.

First Change:

Enrollment Demographics

According to the National Center for Education Statistics

- Female 58% and Male 42.
- Graduate School: 61% female and 39% male.
- Master's Degrees: 62% earned by women, 38% by men.
- Doctoral/Ph.D. Degrees: 59.9% earned by women, 40.1% by men

- For male students, expect that your boss will be a female.
Mary T. Barra, General Motors
Jane Fraser, Citigroup
Priscilla Almodovar, Fannie Mae
Carol B. Tomé, United Parcel Service
Corie Barry, Best Buy
Phebe N. Novakovic, General Dynamics
Kathy J. Warden, Northrop
Lynn J. Good, Duke Energy

- For female students, make sure to differentiate yourself to get ahead. **The competition is intensifying.**

Second Change:

Mastery of new skill sets

- Best placement practices from previous years are no longer valid for today's job market.
- A college degree is just a door opener. It is **BASKET of Skills** that get you placed.
- It takes 3-6 months for a young college graduate to land a job.
- He/she quits in 3 months.
- **Ask him why, and he will tell you:**
- **Toxic workplace; they did not understand me,**
- **Or they have formed a wrong opinion or conclusion about me.**

Go to the library and grab any management textbook written between 1940 and 1980 you will read about;

- **Technical skills:**
- **Command and Control:** Taylor, Fayol, Weber, *Trust, empowerment, leadership.*
- **Task Supervision:**
- **Communication:** top-down communication.
- **Physical endurance.**
- Today, to get placed, you need more than just your college degree.
- **AI and Digital Literacy:**
- **Quantitative skills:** Financial acumen, balancing the books
- **Problem-solving skills:** 70% routine decisions, 15% non-routine decisions. 5-15% require intensive thinking prior to decision-making.
- **Communication:** Horizontal and multi-directional
- **Teamwork: The interview is with the boss. Today, at McKinsey or Booze Allen,** you will be interviewed with up to 30 different people before a hiring decision is made.

- **Emotional Intelligence:** *(Insert here my personal experience at OSU and failing my first job interview)* Go apologize.
- **Critical Thinking:** You need to solve complex problems instead of doing repetitive tasks.

Let's do a quick exercise:

Identify a student and ask him/her the following 3 YES or No Questions:

- Would you report your brother to the police for doing something illegal, unethical, or morally wrong? **YES or NO.**
Doing the right thing requires difficult choices.
- You do not have the money (you are broke); you need medicine to save the life of a sick parent. Would you rob a drugstore to bring the medicine home: YES or NO?
I will talk to the pharmacist; I will launch a GoFundMe campaign, etc.
- A young couple was on their honeymoon on a remote island when the husband got sick. The wife rushed him to the hospital. You are the attending physician. The young man is healthy, and his organs match the dying patients at your hospital. Would you harvest the organs of a foreign tourist to save the lives of five locals? **YES or No?**
I am a sworn physician to save lives; I cannot be otherwise.
- You are holding a cup of coffee; someone bumps into you, and you spill the coffee.

Why did you spill the coffee?

Everybody said Because he bumped into me.

No, you spilled the coffee because there was coffee in the cup.

Had there been water in the cup, you would have spilled the water.

Whatever you are carrying, you will spill out.

If you are carrying:

Compassion, kindness, love, empathy- that is what would spill out of you

If you are carrying:

Anger, fear, hatred, jealousy- that is what will spill out of you.

The first tool for survival is knowing what is on the inside.

Listen carefully;

- A cow drinks water and produces Milk
- A snake drinks water and produces venom
- What is on the inside matters the most.

My message is about career placement and workplace integration.

Listen to this:

- A mouse takes 120 breaths per minute; the avg. life span of a mouse is 3 years.
- A horse takes 20 breaths per minute; the avg. life span of a horse is 30 years.
- As an adult individual, you take 20 breaths per minute; your avg. career lifespan is 40 years.
- A turtle takes 3 breaths per minute; the avg. life span of a turtle is over 100 years

If you want to extend the number of working years,

Slow down, take a deep breath, relax inhale..... Exhale

Think about this.

- Fish swim, yet fish never take swimming lessons.
- Birds fly, yet birds never attend flight school.
- Seeds become trees, yet seeds never attended gardening classes.

- The ability to swim, to fly, to grow is already built in.

The same principle applies to you.

Success is already built in.

When you do what you are supposed to do, success becomes natural.

What are you supposed to be doing?

- Acquire the right skill sets
- Exhibit the best work ethic
- You will do well in life.

- Success is not about working harder; it is about working smarter.
- It is about alignment and stepping into it.

- If you want growth, you should embrace discomfort.

Badek tinjah bdoun ma tedrous?

- If you want results without daring, **there is no alignment.**

How to achieve optimal alignment?

I will share with you the following TWO interview scenarios.

One is from Google, and the other is from Cisco and Amazon.

This scenario is likely a "stress test" or a "character test."

Scenario 1:

During a job interview, the manager spills coffee, takes off his tie, and asks the interviewee to wipe the floor and his shoes.

The manager is checking how you handle pressure, disrespect, or menial tasks.

In corporate culture, companies use these situational tactics to gauge whether a candidate is entitled or has a strong team-first attitude.

How to Handle This Situation:

- You gracefully decline: Politely say, "I am here to interview for a tech position, not a janitorial one."
- Quickly grab paper towels to wipe
- Or à la Lebanese, you curse them all, and you walk out.

Why do Managers Use "Coffee Tests"?

- Ego Check: Some executives judge whether a job seeker thinks a task is "beneath" them.
- Measure performance under pressure: It measures how you handle the unexpected.
- **Scale toxic personality:**
- **The Pratfall Effect:** to measure if you are likable.

Scenario 2:

You walk with the interviewer to the lounge

You grab a cup of coffee, and you drink your coffee

If you were to take the cup and put it in the dishwasher, you get the job; if not, YOU DO NOT GET THE JOB.

Jim Collins, in his book "Good to Great"

To build your empire,

You've got to get the right people on the bus.

The wrong people off the bus

It is all about integration and skill sets.

May God bless you all.

Learn and make the most of your journey at RHU.