

1. **Hello** + welcome
 2. My **name** is Nate Derbinsky - I'm a **teaching professor** and I've been on the faculty at Northeastern for **nearly 9 years**.
 3. I **teach** across our curricula (from **CS1 to grad-level ML**) and **research neuro-symbolic AI systems**.
 4. For the past few years, I've spent much of my time as an **Associate Dean** at Khoury, building our **teaching faculty & academic programs** across the **global network**.
 - a. I was **proud** last year to celebrate the **first graduating class** of **master's** students at our **Arlington** campus, and to see **Miami's** just next month!
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5. But recently I **stepped away** from the Dean's office so that I could spend more time **focusing on AI** and the effects it has for the **mission of a university**, including our **students** and **society** more broadly.
 6. And so when I was asked to **welcome** you to this event, I took the **opportunity** to think about what it means to be a **fully engaged computing alumni** in the **age of AI**.
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7. I'm hopeful that AI will empower you to be true **lifelong learners**.
 8. Taking myself as an example, my **PhD thesis** involved developing algorithms for scalable agents that autonomously accumulated and used memories in their decision-making... a **decade before** ChatGPT, and before Silicon Valley discovered agentic systems.
 9. And yet these days I feel I'm getting to **re-live the life of a student**: playfully struggling to **absorb new ideas**, new platforms, and new application domains.
 10. AI is both my **area of interest**, as well as increasingly a **tool** with which to **interactively tackle complex ideas + learn** more effectively **by doing**.
 11. I hope you too can take advantage of this new age to remain **ever-curious**, and **ever-growing** as a computing professional.
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12. I also think AI will **enhance** your potential for **positive impact** with computing.
 13. I've spent much of my career trying to **lower barriers** to engaging with computing
 - a. And indeed, the **Align** program was a major reason I joined Northeastern.
 14. So while I celebrate how **vibe coding democratizes access** to our field, I see that **Khoury alumni** are **super-charged** to effectively **harness AI** to more rapidly develop powerful systems & products.
 15. I first saw this potential while **founding a company** nearly 30 years ago: as a **teenager** I built apps to **train doctors, mentor students, & feed the hungry**.
 - a. And I am now building a **startup** that leverages neuro-symbolic research to deploy **trustworthy agents for multiple mission-critical sectors**.
 16. I hope that each of you finds ways to use **CS for good**, with **AI as an accelerant**.
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17. But I also see that AI is **evolving quickly**, and fast change is a source of **stress**.
 18. Over the last year I've attended multiple conferences where **University leaders** are facing **existential questions** around AI: they are thinking deeply about higher education value & delivery, even as AI accelerates discovery.
 19. And recently I delivered my **last week** of class to 1st year Khoury students, and their concerns swirled around **not only upcoming exams**, but more broadly around **jobs**, and **what it means to be a computer scientist** in this age of Claude Code.
 20. I have my **bets** for how **GenAI** will evolve, but think it's increasingly important that we **support** our families and **communities** during this time of turbulent change.
 21. I hope that as alumni you **support each other** and the **next generation**, please...
 - a. **Find ways to strengthen bonds with your peers**: make sure to **answer calls**, emails, and LinkedIn messages as sectors re-invent themselves.
 - b. And consider what you can offer today's nervous students, such as developing **co-ops or practica** at your firms; providing **interview prep; tech talks** in classes/clubs; or even just friendly **messages of support**.
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22. In closing, I want to **thank you** inviting me to be a part of this wonderful event.

23. While **AI is swirling the world** around us, I find **comfort in this gathering** of computing professionals that is staying **curious**, building for **positive impact**, and **supporting each other**.

24. I'm happy to talk & answer questions here, but please feel free to reach out if we can help you make a **stronger Khoury network**.

25. Thank you!!