

**Commencement Speech by SGH Alumni Association Vice-President
Prof. Krzysztof Falkowski**

Your Magnificence the Rector, Mr Vice Rector, Mrs Dean, Mr Dean, Ladies and Gentlemen and, last but not least, you – dear newly promoted graduates of the Warsaw School of Economics!

As an academic teacher, research worker and deputy chair of the SGH Graduates Association, I would like to heartily congratulate all new graduates on completing their studies and obtaining diplomas of the Warsaw School of Economics. I am deeply convinced that the time you spent at this University, the knowledge you gained and the friends you made here will prove to be invaluable in your future professional and private lives. I believe that you will keep the SGH in grateful memory and I strongly hope that you will maintain your bonds with the university and its graduates, which I strongly encourage you to do. I am convinced that the best way to do it is to engage in the activity of the SGH Graduates Association.

The SGH Graduates Association, which I have the honour to represent, is the oldest graduates organisation at our university. It is also one of the oldest university graduates associations in Poland. It was founded in 1912, which means that in two years time, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation and uninterrupted operation. The first members of the Association were graduates of August Zieliński's Private Economics Courses for Men, then of the Higher School of Economics, then of the Warsaw School of Economics, then of the Central School of Planning and Statistics, and finally, once again, of the Warsaw School of Economics. We are proud of that and we want to continue our traditions and activities. We want our Association to serve as a platform for meetings, discussions and interesting projects, and, last but not least, we want to enable all SGH graduates to nurture their bonds with one another. This is an ambitious and not easy task, especially in today's world, where the sense of belonging to a community often loses to particular individualism. That is why we care so much about young people, about you, the new graduates of the SGH. We count on your energy, your ideas, your engagement and your perception of the world around us. I would like to welcome all of you who have graduated from the university this year to join our Association. Please, visit the Association's website and Facebook profile for detailed information on becoming our member.

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is a reason why I am here with you today. Our Association has decided to award for the second time the best graduates of Bachelor's and Master's studies at the SGH. In appreciation of the excellent academic results of distinguished graduates (in the case of Bachelor's studies, these are students who have graduated with honours, and for Master's studies – students who have graduated with honours as well as laureates and finalists of the Dean of Master's Studies competition), the Association has decided to award them with a letter of congratulations and one year of free membership. I would like to warmly congratulate all the distinguished and awarded graduates!