|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Peter K. Scaturro: | As a two-time Columbia University graduate, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce a man who is recognized as being among Columbia's most distinguished graduates. |
|  | Now, Rocco and I had a chance to sit next to each other at dinner, and interestingly enough, Rocco Commisso and I overlapped in several areas. Our high schools actually competed against each other, mine in Queens, New York, and Rocco's in the Bronx, right. |
|  | We both have two degrees from Columbia. Both our undergraduate degrees are in industrial engineering, but as I kept speaking with Rocco about some of the things he's done and also getting to know a little bit more about the size of his business, it became clear that once we got to our balance sheets, the similarities ended quickly. I came to the conclusion that financial services is pretty good, but cable's a lot better. |
|  | Rocco is the Chairman and CEO of Mediacom Communications Corporation, a company he founded in 1995 to acquire and reinvigorate cable systems in the nation's underserved smaller communities. In 2000, he directed a successful initial public offering for Mediacom, paving a way for the company's dramatic growth into the nation's fifth largest cable television provider, serving almost 1.4 million customers in 22 states. He then took the company private in 2011, and now Mediacom with annual revenues in excess of 1.8 billion is wholly owned by Mr. Commisso and his family. |
|  | Born in Calabria, Italy, Rocco immigrated to the United States at age 12. He graduated from Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx in 1967. He attended Columbia where he earned both a BS degree and an MBA from the Graduate School of Business. In 2004, on the 250th anniversary of Columbia's founding, the school newspaper, the Daily Spectator, listed Mr. Commisso among Columbia's 250 greatest undergraduates of all time. Now, just to put this in perspective a little bit, Alexander Hamilton also made the list, but a young Barack Obama did not. |
|  | Mr. Commisso has poured significant personal and corporate resources into funding educational opportunities for young people through Mediacom's World Class Scholars Program, the September 11th Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the Entrepreneur of Tomorrow Award. He has provided college scholarships to more than 1,500 students nationwide. |
|  | In 2014, he established the Rocco B. Commisso American Dream Fund at Mount Saint Michael's Academy to ensure the school continue to recruit and educate deserving young men for generations to come. Rocco, please join me on the podium to receive the Foreign Policy Association medal. |