

Deputy Chancellor, Members of the University, fellow graduates, guests...mom and dad,

The university experience can be described as a metamorphosis. As university students we change over the course of these years, we start as nothing, with little knowledge and high hopes and as students we eventually blossom into something. This metamorphosis is attributed to the friendships we make, the inspirational advice we receive, the influential lecturers and peers we meet, and the invaluable knowledge we gain.

Not only has Macquarie University provided these experiences, it has played a critical and unforgettable part in all our lives. This environment in which we were so immersed, not only provided us with enormous academic foundation and scope, but also great social and cultural experiences. This environment allowed me to assert my individuality and differences while appreciating other's individuality and differences to the same extent. It has broadened my knowledge and increased my tolerance and acceptance of others.

The variety of academic and social opportunities provided to all students is a credit to this establishment and is not to be taken for granted. These opportunities allowed me to grow and metamorphosise into the "something" I am today. The sporting activities, parties, academic and religious forums, clubs, facilities and individuals truly make Macquarie University a unique and great place to study.

On behalf of the graduating students here today I would like to reflect on and share with you the hard work, persistence, dedication, late nights and challenges we all faced to reach this milestone in our lives. Obtaining a degree is an outstanding achievement and entails a lot of effort. Over the past few years we have all been faced with stressful deadlines, exams, assessments and pressure to achieve. Sitting here to today, we can all look back and see how worth it, it has all been- you have a degree, the world is at your feet, not only are you academically educated but socially educated. It is a great achievement, one which we can be proud of.

This achievement would not have been possible without the many people who truly made the last 4 years exciting, challenging and truly unforgettable. To the lecturers and tutors thanks for the time, effort and patience that you provide to us, the additional assistance when you really didn't have to and the truly dedicated attitude that you brought to every lecture and tutorial. To our family and friends thanks for all your support encouragement and memories.

I feel that the university experience has prepared me and my fellow graduates for the paths that we will choose and the directions we will follow. The lessons I have learned, I will cherish and apply to my everyday life, and the skills I have attained will not be wasted. I congratulate all the students here today on their graduation, admire their dedication and persistence to achieve what they have achieved and wish them well. I would like to leave you with a quick thought from Dr Sues, his own perspective on the whole metamorphosis process.

“ You have brains in your head, You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You’re on your own and you know what you know. You are the guy who decides where you go”.

Thank you