



National University of Singapore Commencement 2009

9 July, 10:00am
University Cultural Centre

GOH Pei Qi Dilys
BSc (Pharmacy) First Class Hons

NUS Trustee Mr Edward D'Silva, Professor Leo Tan Wee Hin, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to you. It is my great honour and privilege to address you on behalf of the graduating class of 2009.

Today our degrees are conferred upon us; this is a significant milestone in our lives. To my fellow graduates, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations for having matured into who you are today through the long journey of education and character building. The past four years seemed to have gone by in the blink of an eye but it had been an extremely splendid experience. It is ever so exciting to be engaged in the interesting practical sessions, challenging to stay awake in the numerous lectures, and to our pharmacy class, who will ever forget the Pharmacy counseling sessions, where the integration of soft skills, pharmacy law and core clinical knowledge were brought to life. The honours year projects were excellent tests of tenacity amidst the process of trying and retrying of experiments, the numerous surveys and statistical analyses in addition to the rushing of the final year reports and the strong oral defenses put up in the face of our examiners' questions. The opportunities for overseas exchange programs and the engagement in the diverse extracurricular activities have taught us skills that have extended far beyond our classroom. In addition to the invaluable friendships forged across nationalities and the abundance of unforgettable experiences, we learnt how to manage our time well to maintain that delicate work-life balance. As we reflect on our past, we cannot deny that the rigorous training that we have received here at NUS did form an integral part of our character education which have helped to propel our growth into competent members of tomorrow's workforce.

As we bask in the glory of the present moment, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who have made this day possible for us. To our professors, thank you for planting the seeds from which our thoughts have grown, for opening up our hearts and minds to a multitude of perspectives. You believed that the raw stones in your hands have the potential of being polished into unique diamonds. For your strong faith in us, your tireless efforts and encouragement, you have provided us with that guiding light through our dark tunnels. To our faculty administrative staff and

the commencement organizing committee, your unyielding support and efficiency are great help that we could not have done without. To our family, a big thank you for your selfless sacrifices, outstanding dedication and commitment in bringing us up and your constant decision to place us as the greatest priority in your lives. You are the ones who readily love and trust us, who persistently believe in our potential to succeed, and who are constantly here for us regardless of whom we may become. To our friends, we started out as familiar strangers. Over the past four years, strong friendships were forged which bonded us together as one united class. As an example, the Pharmacy class spirit was showcased once again with the Pharmacy NUS Commencement Class run. We raised close to \$5000 for our juniors who may be financially less fortunate than us, which far surpassed our humble target of \$2009. Though in midst of the examination preparations, much commitment and spontaneity were continuously displayed in the organization of this meaningful event, with the active participation of the entire department. I am indeed proud to be part of this dynamic and heartwarming Pharmacy which holds many fond memories for us.

As we conclude this long academic journey, our lifelong learning journey has but just begun. As we pursue our virgin trek into the dynamic working world, let us look upon all circumstances, whether they are good or bad, as opportunities to learn and to embrace all the challenges that lie ahead of us. Let us always trust that everything that happens to us has within it the seed of something better and always learn the lessons that life teaches us. May all of us have the courage and perseverance to take action to fulfil our dreams and to live our own lives.

The world-class education that we received here at NUS has positioned us well to meet the challenges and long term trends of the working world. We must take the responsibility to welcome fresh prospects and new hurdles with enthusiasm and optimism. As we embark on the exciting paths in our lives, let us share a common vision of making a difference in our own specialized fields, reciprocating to our society what it has given us in our own unique ways. For the enlightenment and kindness that others have bestowed upon us, let us learn to pay it forward and be selfless in providing guidance to others. As quoted from the book *Discover your destiny*, "Success is fine, but significance is the real name".

Today, our delightful time here as students of NUS has to come to an end, but our memories have not. Let the spirit that we have nurtured over the years keep us bonded as one strong-knitted community for many years to come. May all of us attain our own milestones in life, to keep up the good name of NUS as well as for our own personal growth, and may all of us reach out for our own rainbow at the end of our journey. I wish all of you great success in your future endeavours. Thank you.