

Graduation Speech

Deputy Chancellor, Vice- Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, university staff and to everyone. On behalf of all graduates across the board accepting awards today and those who graduated but could not be present today, I am honoured and feel privileged to speak on your behalf. They say if at first you don't succeed, then skydiving is not for you. This is our time and here we are both feet on the ground after jumping. Each of us having our own unique journey on the way.

We come from near and far with Federation University offering courses, on campus, distance education and extending to overseas locations such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia. Today I see a room full of mixed emotions, elation that we have succeeded, sadness that this chapter in our lives is closing and togetherness, as family, friends and other important people in our lives come together to help us celebrate, to these people we say thank you. Thank you for your unconditional support and guidance through what can be only described as life changing.

Let me share a brief encounter of my experience. Juggling work, 2 children, a husband, a sick parent and an operation due to ill health meant many late nights, and times of feeling pure exhaustion. Me dragging a laptop to every function or event I attended and of course buying a new laptop when my first felt as overwhelmed as I did. Through all this, lifetime friendships developed, support and admiration for lecturers and fellow students who all had their own experiences both in personal lives and professional growth. Today I encourage all of you to think about your journey and the lessons that define who we are. No matter what life brings you, you are a product of each experience you encounter in life, next time your standing of the edge of life choices, just jump, because without jumping you will never find your wings. To the class of 2018, congratulations, we made it. Thank you.

Courtney Yates