

Will Snodgrass Valedictory Speech

Deputy Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, university staff and family guests. On behalf of all of the graduates here today I would like to thank you for being here to celebrate with us in this momentous occasion. In this crowd, I see family, friends, mentors and colleagues who have helped us towards this moment. These are the people who have enriched our lives and academic journeys, so on behalf of all of us graduating here today, thank you and we hope we have made you all proud.

For many of you graduates, your time here at Federation University has spanned over several years. I myself was only here for one year completing what I now consider to be the most challenging and valuable academic year of my life. Although my time at Federation may have been shorter than most, in this single year I have established more lifelong friendships, found more mentors, and achieved more than I ever could have imagined.

I would like to further express my gratitude to the staff of Federation University. The combined efforts of the tutors, lecturers, supervisors and mentors I have encountered at Federation University has been unparalleled. I hope that all of you here today have shared this experience and profited off of their guidance, patience, wisdom and most importantly good humor. I would also like to personally thank my supervisor, Dr Loch Forsyth, for his exceptional teaching commitment to myself and other students. It is rare to find a mentor whose enthusiasm and passion for teaching inspires you to strive for academic success and personal growth. I hope to one day become an outstanding psychologist based off his example.

In writing this speech, I was also able to reflect on the some of the challenges of the past year including the cold morning drives to university, the restless nights of study, and the stress of not knowing what was ahead. For many of you, today represents a transition into the workforce and the beginning of bright careers. Some of you who are committed and perhaps foolish as I am have moved on to complete another few years of study in your respective fields. Regardless of your journey, it is my hope that you are all confident in your preparation and humble in your victories or defeats.

To make sure I cover all the valedictorian clichés, I would like to end my thanks with a quote that imparts some life wisdom. So I say to you that although success is getting what you want, happiness is wanting what you get.

Thank you.