

Graduation Response by Sue Trainor

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests, I feel very honoured to be speaking on behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today...

I'll open by saying that I am currently experiencing tachycardia, tachypnea, and diaphoresis. In lay terms, my heart is racing, I am hyperventilating and I am sweating profusely. Please bear with me.

When I told my family that I wanted to go to University, I may as well have told them I was joining the circus! In retrospect that was quite apt because it was like learning to juggle, while riding a unicycle, on a tightrope.

As a mature aged student, I learnt to juggle early morning lectures with the school bus run, after school sport with placement and lit reviews with grade six homework. And I know the younger graduates had to learn to juggle too. They had to juggle minimal income with living away from home for the first time, and how to get to that early Thursday morning tute after Wednesday night pub night.

So I would like to thank the people that helped us to learn these circus skills. Firstly I must thank the lecturers and sessional teachers, I shall call them the Ringmasters. These people gave us guidance and provided the tools and support we needed so we could teach ourselves how to juggle. Thank you.

Next I must thank my fellow graduates. You are all such amazing individuals, and I feel honoured to be one of you. You are so talented, if this really was the circus you would definitely be the trapeze artists flying high, except for maybe a couple of you, who would be clowns.

And finally, I must thank our families/friends for their support throughout this circus show. You are the safety net underneath the tightrope, always ready to catch us when we fall and bounce us back up. On behalf of all the graduates here today, I thank you!

I would like to finish with a quote by an anonymous writer...

“Behind you, all your memories

Before you, all your dreams

Around you, all who love you

Within you, all you need”