

Graduate Speaker



GRADUATION DAY EDUCATION, ARTS AND HUMANITIES

MAY 26, 2016

Presented by
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Graduation Day

Education, Arts and Humanities

Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today, we would like to extend our sincere thank you for your endless support and efforts in helping us get here to this moment today. There is no doubt that without you, and your dedication to our individual success many of us wouldn't be here today celebrating this life changing moment.

I have been asked to represent all of the graduates from the entire Education, Arts, Humanities and TAFE departments today, this is of course a huge honor for me. There is a vast cohort of students graduating today from multiple courses and disciplines. Not only are many of us graduating from many different course areas, we have students today graduating that have studied in various Federation University campus locations including Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

I find myself in this situation stopping to think back on my own personal journey as a mature age student with Federation University. I began my journey here in 2011 as a part time bachelor of fine arts student. As a woman in my mid 30's I am in that stage in my life where I have financial commitments such as a mortgage to pay and a family. For me to attend University was a huge endeavor and I knew I would be making a huge commitment. I had spent over a decade dreaming about studying visual art at Uni and was delighted to be here.

University is certainly full of challenges, learning and revelations. On my first day our course content was explained and the lecturer told us about how we had to do individual performance art pieces that would be filmed! I

nearly died, I broke out in a cold sweat and instantly thought about dropping out. I knew I couldn't though, as I had told everyone I knew that I was starting University. I got through it of course, like many other challenges that were way outside of my comfort zone.

As a mature age student studying part time, one of my many revelations came about when a 20-year-old fellow student, was sitting next to me in Digital Art and exclaimed to me: "Wow Tas I didn't know old people could be so cool". She had a revelation and I had a revelation. I had no idea that I was old! This young lady and I are terrific friends and have both gone on to study our Masters together. Although, I'm pretty sure she now knows that I'm not actually cool.

I have personally found a great sense of achievement from finishing this Bachelor course. I feel this is because I distinctly remember the social sacrifices, the dedication that it took for myself and my fellow students to get here today.

If luck is created from hard work and preparation, then every graduate here has proven to themselves that they possess the skills to create their own luck.

On that note, I wish you all the very best of luck with your future endeavors.