

Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, university staff and guests. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today, I would like to say thank you for all of the time and dedication spent by this administration to enable us to leave here today as graduates.

I would also like to thank the partners, families and friends of all the graduates here today for their help and support throughout our years of study.

We were a group of students. Now we are fully qualified within our chosen field of study. For myself it is teaching. Some of my classmates are now teaching full time in classrooms, some working as Casual Relief Teachers and others have travelled overseas to the UK to fulfil their dreams.

Our journey of tertiary study coming to an end. However, each of us started this journey in a different place, both mentally and physically. Upon looking back at what brought us to this day, each of us has a different story.

Personally I'll never forget getting accepted into university in 2012. There I was, shocked and jumping around the living room of my house, knowing that after gaining my Bachelor of Education I would be fulfilling my ultimate dream. The start of our degree was just as exciting as it was to celebrate our last day at MIT together, as the class of 2015. The experience of having small classes, lecturers who were able to get to know you, and of course all of these great people sitting in front of you, just made mine and I'm sure everybody else's, university experience unforgettable.

Throughout our years at university, we encountered many changes and challenges. I know that all of us have made great memories and formed great friendships over the years we studied. There were ups and downs of attending a small campus. We didn't get the famous uni parties, however that never stopped us from socialising. My year level were known as "that year level". Saying that we were talkative is probably an understatement. I remember the times where we had the occasional elective with students from other years, who would say, "oh yes, our lecturers tell us about how much you all talk", which we thought was quite humorous. Prior to attending university, I had never heard, watched or witnessed a group of adults argue over the smallest things in a classroom, but that has since changed. I honestly could not tell you how many times our tutorials would end in debates, especially in ethics. But here we are sitting in front of you, fully qualified and still very talkative and opinionated.

Personally, I would not change my university experience for any other. To look at my fellow graduates and say we all did this together is a huge accomplishment. Here I stand a fully qualified teacher, teaching grade 2 at an amazing school. This is the moment we have all been waiting for. So here we are, the graduating class of 2015. Congratulations to everyone and I am sure we are all looking forward to seeing where we end up in the not so distant future.

I will leave you with one more comment for the teachers here today. Remember winding the clock forward now isn't going to make class time go any quicker.