



Commencement Ceremony C9
Valedictorian: Ms Chang Huan Ying
BSc (Pharmacy), Honours with Highest Distinction

Mr Phillip Tan, NUS Trustee;

Ms Christina Lim, Founder and CEO, Ocean Health Pte Ltd;

Distinguished Guests;

Fellow Graduates;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very good evening to all. I am greatly humbled and honoured to be standing here to address everyone on the behalf of the graduating class of 2016. A few years ago, we entered the university, scared and unsure of what the future will be like. Today, we leave the university, still scared and unsure of what the future will be like, but the difference is, we all leave proudly with a scroll in hand. This scroll did not come easy, so, congratulations, class of 2016! We have emerged triumphant from 20 years of formal education, and the time has come for us to enter the working world, and to become real adults. Congratulations also to the proud parents in this hall! You have emerged triumphant from 20 years of school fee payments, and the time has come for you to get back the money you have invested all these years.

Jokes aside, I believe I speak for the class of 2016 when I say that we are very thankful to have had the opportunity to study in Singapore's, no, Asia's top university, no matter in the department of Pharmacy or Statistics. Now that we are finally leaving, it is timely, my fellow graduates, to reminisce about all the things that we are appreciative of and thankful for. We are thankful and privileged to have a huge campus that allows us to get ample exercise as we walk from one lecture theatre to another. We are thankful for the continuous improvements made to the NUS shuttle bus service to get us to UTown by 8 am, although we will always rate the service as 'unsatisfactory' in the welfare surveys. We are thankful to our dedicated professors and lecturers, such as Dr Esther Woon with her beloved True/False quizzes, Prof Joyce Lee with her favourite *yong tau foo*, Dr Perry Lim with his famous

mantra, 'When p is low, H_0 must go', and many other wonderful faculty members whom I will unfortunately not be able to mention within the 5 minutes allocated. We are also thankful to our devoted non-academic staff such as the very friendly Ms Mei Yin, who gave us chocolates at the end of the Microbiology lab sessions. If you do not recall this, it probably means that you did not turn up to clear your petri dishes. We are also thankful to our family, especially our parents, for always encouraging and supporting us. We hope we have done you proud.

Most importantly, my fellow batch mates, we are thankful to have one another throughout this journey, especially those who have sacrificed their time to make our lives in Pharmacy easier, such as, our class representative and class giving champion Kian Hong, our class treasurer Germaine, our batch's NUS Pharmaceutical Society president as well as class giving champion Ming Tjong, and for those who did FYP, our FYP giraffe Janice. For me, I am also grateful to have my OG mates from Cerberus who have filled my university years with laughter. We will not remember the Noyes–Whitney equation or the critical point of water, okay, maybe some of you still do, but what we will all definitely keep in our hearts are the memories that we have shared all these years as a cohort. Of course, we have had some less-than-happy memories, for instance when we found out that anything can potentially be examinable in the practical test of a particular module. However, what truly matters is that we had experienced these together as a class, as a 'Pharmily', and we should be thankful for that. Now, while we are all gathered again to celebrate our achievements, it is regrettable that we are missing a dear friend today. Andy was thoughtful, patient, and always ready with a smile. I am grateful to have gotten to know him through a group project, and to have learnt from him. I hope we can all learn from his kind personality and positive attitude. Andy will be sorely missed by all of us.

Before I end my speech, I will like to share a quote from Eric Hoffer, an American moral and social philosopher, partly because it was difficult to find quotes from famous pharmacists. He said 'The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings'. Hence, as we all enter the workforce, do not be disheartened by the hardships that we will face in future. Instead, be thankful that you have the skills to help others, and put those skills into good use. Thank you.