

**Farewell given by  
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Faculty, friends, family...classmates

I'd like to pay tribute to this proud occasion by wishing everyone congratulations. If there were any more appropriate time to wish you farewell, this is it. We have spent the last four, five or more years together and our group work and teamwork was an important factor to getting through school and being here today.

It is with great satisfaction when I say, "Look to your left and look to your right; they have made it and so have you." Today is a celebration of our perseverance, a triumph of our individual accomplishments. However, not to be forgotten is the hard work put into helping each other out. We are comrades and colleagues for we enter the profession together. [pause] The engineering profession, like others, requires an education to be a member. This university is an integral part of the community, certainly no less the school of engineering. How fitting that we came here, to such a place, to get our education, the foundation of our trade. That will be something we take with us from this institution, living and working in a culturally diverse and academic rich environment.

Today is a turning point in our careers, that's certainly an understatement. We arrive students and leave graduates, prepared to join our predecessors in a profession of great responsibility. For our profession is unique among others in that while we do help people, unlike other professions, we impact society on a broader scale and that is very special. Engineers are largely responsible for the safety of the public. Our products and services will allow society to advance on a technological scale never before imagined. Our professors understand the impact we could have and would address this issue on a note of caution with a touch of humor by emphasizing we learn not only for the intrinsic value of self-gratification but also let the safety of others be further motivation. After all, they would say, I might be subject to one of your designs and I sure don't want to get hurt.

The great Prime Minister Winston Churchill said, when asked, that courage is the most important virtue, for with it every other virtue is possible. It may be difficult but we need courage to speak out when necessary for it is our duty to do so. May we be good engineers by serving our profession proudly, whether in the boardroom

or basement, library or laboratory. Ethical responsibilities give much credibility to our profession, one made strong by regulation: self-regulation.

This is the end of school at least for now. The keyboards are silent and the pencil is still. So it's farewell to the library and computer lab, our home away from home; farewell to the campus, this landmark of opportunity; and farewell to the commute, whether it was a walk across campus or a drive onto campus. Goodbye to classes at least for the time being...hello to what comes next.

College was what we made of it and this principle of adapting and working will follow us from college. The past is our prologue yet we have the ability to change -as we had the opportunity to change entering college, so too do we have a clean slate to start our professional lives. That was a wonderful part of our experience here, not only the successes but the failures were often just as educational.

Albert Einstein once said that 'today's problems cannot be solved by the way we thought when we created them.' No doubt about it, entirely true and relevant to any time period. He may have been referring to sub-atomic particles but the lesson is worth some thought. Push the envelope and question everything.

May you fare well in your future endeavors. This is the end of one thing and the beginning of another, a major accomplishment toward our life's goals. When we leave here this afternoon, whether you casually stroll out to soak in the atmosphere or tuck and run, look to your left and look to your right; they have made it and so have you. Thank you, and farewell.