

REMARKS FROM ANNE POWELL, PhD
2010 OHSU School of Medicine Hooding Ceremony
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall
June 1, 2010

Congratulations to my fellow classmates of the class of 2010. It is an honor to speak to you about our collective achievement - an achievement that is rooted in our experiences and our education.

In 1625, the scholar and philosopher Sir Francis Bacon wrote "A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds."

With the wisdom we hold as graduates, we are now more equipped than ever to do just this - taking an active role in our future, rather than a passive one. Uncovering possibilities, rather than waiting for them to present themselves. Seeking ways to change our lives and the world around us, rather than waiting for change to come upon us.

To some of us, this day passes and may mean moving on to a fellowship, to others it may mean entering into the workplace and yes, to some of us... this transition is simply a bridge to even more education. While these paths all are divergent, what is true for all of us is that life beyond today holds opportunity.

Our education has given us tools to create these opportunities for ourselves and I am certain that many of us will foster advances in medicine, science or engineering. But our own scientific proficiency will not be enough.

Thomas Henry Huxley once said, "Act decidedly and take the consequences. No good is ever come by hesitation."

So in creating opportunities for ourselves, let us rest on the confidence in our education and synthesize this together with our ethics, and proceed forward boldly.



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Finally, I urge you. When you leave here, don't forget why you came. Take a moment.

Think about the real reasons behind the pursuit of the degree you now hold. At the beginning of this path there was a reason for following it. For scientists, this may be the excitement of living a life with more questions than answers.

For those serving the public in the medical realm, whether in the clinic, through technology or in policy, this may be to have a direct impact on improving people's lives. Regardless, today we stand at the end of this road and let us not forget why we chose this road in the first place.

If we always remember our motivation that brought us here, we cannot be swayed from our course. We can proceed forward with unrelenting momentum and will see the many chances to create opportunities for ourselves.

I offer you all my congratulations and wish you success in your chosen careers.



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