

Good morning, fellow classmates, and congratulations! None of us I am sure can claim that getting here was an easy task, but I hope you all will agree that where we have come is worth the effort. The past four years seem all too short in retrospect, but so much has happened in that time. Whether it was cheering our Women's basketball team on to victory or being booted from our dorms to make way for freshmen, we have shared much in common, even though you may not know everyone sitting around you right now whom you shared it with. We have made friends, played games, and oh how we've learned and grown. The question is now, as we cross this stage, what do we do with what college has given us once we have left the halls of Maryland behind?

Our good friend Spiderman reminds us that with great power comes great responsibility. The knowledge we have received here over the years, both in our classes and from our peers, represents a very great power indeed. All the greater, then, is our responsibility to use our powers for good and not to let them rot behind cubicle walls. Our world is not well today, and many of its ills spring from ignorance and misunderstanding. But we all know better. We have been given the gift of a fine college education and go into the wider world as well-informed citizens. It is our duty to keep our minds open along whichever path we may be treading, and to assist others in comprehending the complexities of this world.

We ~~are~~<sup>are</sup> all here scientists, and to be a scientist is to be a problem solver. Now I know it's tempting to think that we handed in the last of our problem sets over a week ago, but still ahead are problems more challenging, more relevant, and

ultimately more rewarding. As scientists we live for these challenges, and who better to tackle them than us? We who have proved Ruffini's Theorem, or who have mastered Dijkstra's algorithm; those of us who can recall the story of the Earth and foretell the death of the stars. Just think for a minute, right here and right now, of how spectacular the world of CMPS is. Sure, multi-threading is a pain, but where would Google be without it? Computers are at this very moment revolutionizing entertainment, the economy, natural sciences, and are even pioneering new ground in civil rights. And fellow physicists, how bold are we to claim an understanding of how entire galaxies evolve over our heads? And yet with four years of math under our belts it is questions of exactly such grandeur that we are prepared to tackle. Geologists, take in your mind the fossils you've toiled over and imagine such magnificent creatures as Allosaurus and Deinonychus stalking their prey in our midst!

In all the detail and rigor required by our classes we may have forgotten the wonder of these things that brought us to science in the first place. But to forget that wonder would do our education harm beyond any lack of studying. Hold on to the thrill of discovery, the joy of accomplishment, and pass these on to those around you. Whatever your individual occupation, seek out opportunities to be someone's inspiration. For that is the duty of those given the gift of knowledge. Let it guide all of your actions, but do not hoard it. Rather, pass on what you have learned; share the cup with a world who thirsts.

Today our paths diverge more than at any previous time in our lives. Some

have already found jobs and are sure to hold successful careers. Others like me are loath to leave college and have chosen grad school as a way of postponing the real world just a wee bit longer. Many will be journeying far beyond Maryland in the coming months, but whatever your route, you will be spreading the light of knowledge (and a little Terp pride) to new audiences with every passing day.

And so we come to my conclusion, and I can state it in no better words than those of the hobbit Mr. Bilbo Baggins:

*The Road goes ever on and on*

*Down from the door where it began.*

*Now far ahead the Road has gone,*

*And I must follow, if I can*

*Pursuing it with eager feet,*

*Until it joins some larger way*

*Where many paths and errands meet.*

*And whither then? I cannot say.*

Thank you, and congratulations once again!