• Good afternoon.

• Now that you’ve had your lunch and had a chance to get to know one another a little better, I want to have a serious talk with you about your future.

• I bet you hear that a lot.

• When I had my serious talk to my parents about my future my life was straightforward.

• I would go to university in Dublin near my home to save money on bus fares and lunch,

• I would be a scientist because I was a Star Trek fanatic and loved science and science fiction,

• and I would live my days as a researcher and maybe become something of an expert on computer-aided drug design.
• How did I end up here, on the other wide of the world, leading a major university with 34,000 students and 3000 staff?

• The quick answer to that is, I took opportunities whenever they were offered

• And I hope you learn to do the same.

• So my opportunities, and yours, have brought us to this same place on Friday 13th March.

• Just in case you’re interested, the fear of Friday the 13th is called paraskevidekatriaphobia, (PARRA SKIVVY THECK-ATRIA PHOVIA)

• It’s from the Greek words paraskevi (PARRA SKIVVY), meaning Friday, and dekatreís (THECK ATRIA), which means thirteen.

• So you can see an enormous amount of intellectual vigor went into explaining that phobia.
• How much easier would it have been to call it Fridaythirteenphobia?

• Anyway, before we start talking about your leadership, I want to talk to you about some great leaders you may not have heard about.

• Rosie Batty reached through her own pain to take a stance against domestic violence when she fronted the media the day after her son was killed by his father.

• While her grief torn face spoke of her own agony, her first thought was to try to protect other families from facing the same tragedy.

• I’m sure that given the choice, Rosie Batty would prefer an anonymous life with her boy in her house on the outskirts of Melbourne.
• Instead, she became Australian of the Year, a national leader, a role model, and a powerful voice calling for an end to domestic violence.

• She is bold and courageous. She is authentic. And she will inspire change because change is desperately needed in that area that wrought so much destruction in her own life.

• Another authentic leader is Jack Manning Bancroft, the man who, as a 19 year old uni student, founded the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience – known as AIME

• Jack reached into his own history of limited opportunity to make sure that more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students complete their schooling successfully and head off to university.
• AIME’s goal - and our goal - is to bring 10,000 students a year into the program by 2018 and give what Jack describes as ‘one of the biggest practical whacks at closing the gap in Australian history’.

• What makes these two so special is their focus on empowering other people,

• Because true leadership has nothing to do with creating dynasties or exercising power over other people.

• It’s do with giving power to other people so that they can make the changes that are needed.

• The ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu put it this way: “When the best leaders’ work is done, people say ‘we did it ourselves’”

• Last year UniSA conferred honorary doctorates – the highest award we can offer - on a number of leaders
• people who have seen the need for change and have done something about it.

• Vint Cerf is one.

• Vint Cerf put his exceptional technological talents to work to create a global community.

• He helped lay the foundations for the internet as we know it more than 30 years ago.

• Vint developed TCP/IP, - which is the basic communications language that allows data to flow from computer to computer across the internet.

• Now Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist at Google, he is still leading modern thought on how technology will make future society better.
• His visions encompasses things like artificial intelligence, environmentalism, the advent of Internet Protocol version 6 and the transformation of the television industry and its delivery model.

• And he’s still an advocate for a truly free internet, regularly speaking out in the face of government demands to limit free speech and connection.

• Dr Jane Goodall is another leader we treasure.

• She is a world-renowned primatologist, ethologist, anthropologist, humanitarian, conservationist and UN Messenger of Peace.

• Her work revolves around inspiring action on behalf of endangered species, particularly chimpanzees, and encouraging people to do their part to make the world a better place for people, animals, and the environment.

PAUSE
• True leaders are not necessarily celebrities,

• they’re generally more focused on creating space for others to occupy,

• So be careful who you put your faith in.

• We are all leaders in one way and other and we have gathered here at this spectacular campus to talk about leadership.

• You are all school leaders, captains and vice captains of some of Australia’s best schools.

• so people already look up to you.

• They expect you to have the answers.

• If you are now a leader, plan on being a great one.
• Be a good communicator. Be enthusiastic. Take responsibility. Be bold and courageous and embrace change.

• Above all else you need to be authentic. You need the confidence of the people who look up to you and you need to be comfortable in that leadership space. That means that you have to be confident that you’re the right choice to lead and that you have a valid goal in common with your team.

• Great leaders have three traits:
  o Energy
  o Resilience
  o And the determination to make positive changes to the world around them.

• What we, as a university must do, is to help focus that energy, build that resilience and, with any luck, make sure students’ values are good ones.
• But the EQ - the emotional intelligence - required of great leaders is something you cannot teach. You cannot add it to a fully grown person.

• So what do leaders have to be born with, that they cannot learn?

• Perhaps the most fundamental requirement is raw energy.

• Leaders, like elite athletes, performers or anyone else at the top of their field, have to have energy.

• Another important characteristic that good leaders must develop is the ability to persist in the face of disappointment and failure.

• My countryman, the poet and playwright Samuel Beckett said: Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.
• All that trying and failing and trying again will cost vast reserves of energy, and without that energy, with all the good will in the world, leadership is doomed – it won’t even get started.

• At UniSA we celebrate people who look at what is and say ‘not good enough’; people who look for better ways of being, better ways of doing things.

• And that’s who I hope you are, and will continue to be.

• Now I also want to say to you that this is the time to think more deeply about your own ideas and the legacy your life might leave to others.

• When we talk about new ideas, we often think about technology and invention of new gadgets.
• You probably know no-one without a smart phone. And those who are looking at their screens and secretly tweeting right now - I'm talking to you at the back - I'm here, live in front of you in 3D.

• We all have them, and iPads and laptops and iPods

• And we have access to information and entertainment any time we want it.

• We are told that there are nearly one and a half billion active users of Facebook;

• 330 million people on Twitter;

• YouTube gets 4 billion views every day

• But think about this - there are still 3 billion people in the world living on less than $2.50 per day;
• More than 1.3 billion live on less than $1.25 per day - that's extreme poverty.

• Hunger is the world's number 1 cause of death. It kills more than HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis combined.

• It is estimated that nearly one billion people cannot read - and a lot more than you'd like to think live here in Australia.

• And as Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, said in a recent speech:

  • 'Even democracy begins to fray at the edges once political battles separate the haves from the have nots'.

• Hunger and poverty are old problems and their possible impact on democracy is alarming.
• But hunger and poverty can be solved. We just need new thinking and creativity to help solve them.

• And the will to do something about it.

• That’s where your leadership skills are important.

• You can do something about it and convince others to join you.

• There is enough food in the world to feed everyone. No special scientific breakthroughs are needed.

• In fact, the United Nations estimates that it would only take about $58 billion annually to offer basic education, clean water and sanitation, reproductive health, and basic health and nutrition to every person in every developing country.

• It would take just $30 billion annually to eradicate world hunger.
• These are small amounts of money when you consider the US Defence Budget runs at around $750 billion a year.

• What's also needed is for people like you – leaders like you - to want to change and challenge our status quo,

• and to be part of the new thinking that will give us new ways to make change happen.

• Leadership, creativity, combined with knowledge, joined with political will, can help us solve these sorts of problems.

• Our challenge is to find new creative solutions.

• To do that I urge you to open your minds to ideas and opportunity and to find new ways of thinking.

• Nobody expects you to solve all the world’s problems
• But you can start on a small scale.

• Learn to care for and mentor younger students;

• look out for those having a hard time;

• help us help Jack Manning-Bancroft close the gap in Aboriginal education; and

• don’t be afraid to fix other things that you see are wrong.

• And always ask why. Do not do because it has always been done; question, challenge and lead people to join you in your efforts.

PAUSE
• For those of you who now move to University education – and I look forward to seeing some of you on one of our campuses - look for it to instil a passion in you for lifelong learning,

  o the capacity for critical thinking,
  o the creativity for complex problem solving and
  o the awareness to develop a truly global perspective.

• Take the opportunities that come your way and open your mind and your heart to difference, to challenge and to the unfamiliar

• Challenge your own worldview by accepting that others also have legitimate claims to different ideas and ideologies.

• And who knows where you can end up, professionally and intellectually and geographically.
• Just like me.

• You might even move to Dublin and become an expert on computer-aided drug design.

• There might be an opening at Trinity College.

PAUSE

• It was Abraham Lincoln who said: The best way to predict your future is to create it.

• Be good people. Be authentic. Take responsibility. Be bold and courageous and embrace change.

• The rest will take care of itself.

• It has been an honour for me to have been invited to speak with you today.

• I wish you all the success in the world as you embark on your intellectual and personal adventures.
• I wish you a future filled with challenge, change, and creativity,

• and all the happiness and value those qualities bring.

• Thank you.