

University of South Australia graduation speech 2018

Thank you Pro Chancellor Carr, Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd, members of the university council, doctors, professors, fellows of the university, senior management, graduands, ladies and gentlemen, Thank you for this great honour and privilege to say a few words.

I see before me all these faces brimming with excitement about the promise of tomorrow. It is a wonderful sight to behold. The university staff have lectured you, tutored you, encouraged you, supported you, sometimes even cajoled you, but most importantly, given you the building blocks, to face new challenges. This is indeed a magical moment for you and also for your family. They will be so very proud of you. Congratulations.

Really savour today. You've earned it. Take lots of photos. The gown and the hat identify you as triumphant. For today, it's good to shed tears of joy and maybe even heave a huge a sigh of relief.

Some of you may have started work in your chosen field. Good for you. For the rest of you, do not feel you have to rush for tomorrow. Make your tomorrow work for you. Think carefully, how you will spend it. I spent mine with the attitude that I had

nothing to lose and every thing to gain the day I applied for my very first job. I still hold that attitude today as it serves me well.

When your tomorrow comes, accept the fact that you will have to keep learning, keep adapting to stay relevant. A wise person once said; be not afraid of going slowly, be afraid of standing still.

Engage with other disciplines, collaborate. Elsa Schiaparelli the legendary fashion designer also had nothing to lose when as a single mother, she started her business in Paris in the late twenties. She sought out and collaborated with artists and designers like Man Ray, Jean Cocteau, Salvador Dali, Alberto Giacometti and Jean Michel Frank, all important names today. By choosing her collaborators astutely, she was able to learn, engage, make connections, stay one step ahead of her arch rival Coco Chanel who didn't choose so wisely.

By collaborating with other disciplines your world gets bigger. Life and work gets much more exciting.

When your tomorrow comes, serve your client and your community with humility, spirit, and gratitude. But also importantly imbue your service with real conviction, with emotion and love of your craft. Hone your craft. These values will endure long after the technology has changed.

As artists, designers, planners and architects you have the power to shape how we think, how we tell our story, shape our physical environment, influence the way we live our daily lives. It is a huge responsibility. Respond to this with courage, care and kindness for the greater good of your community, not with rapacity and self importance. Try to perceive without prejudice. Be gracious.

When things get tough with a project, create beauty and solace in one small area and let that comfort you. Bite your tongue and wait for tomorrow. Soon these small beautiful little areas will be noticed and give you greater voice. It is a price you pay, but it will eventually give you greater freedom to have your say. When that time comes, say what you have to say with grace .

For today, I congratulate you. When your tomorrow comes, don't forget the beauty of today.