

Vice Chancellor, Pro Chancellor, distinguished guests, graduands, families and friends.

I join with the Pro Chancellor in acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

Well, congratulations graduands, congratulations families and congratulations University of South Australia.

I too was a graduate of the predecessor of the University, the South Australian Institute of Technology. I would like to think that it was not so long ago that I sat where you are today, right here in the Festival Theatre. My seat was to my right and about 2/3rds of the way up the stalls. I was here with family and remember it was an exciting event. I'm delighted today to be here and to be able to briefly address you.

Possibly like some of you today, I had, short of wanting to practice law, no particular ideas about what I wanted to do, which turned out to be 'OK', because even if I had some idea, I couldn't then have envisaged the things I have done and am doing in my career.

I am probably an exception for my generation and perhaps a better fit for yours, as I have since my graduation had multiple roles in the private and public sectors, including the practice of law, the leadership of law firms and national business units, the establishment of a firm office in Sydney, and being the Regional Commissioner of ASIC for South Australia. My message is that anything is possible. For you that might be in your discipline, in a leadership role, in the private or the public sector and in South Australia or beyond.

But today is not about my story, it is about yours and the story that you have started to write. If I may, I'd like to contribute to what I would suggest as 4 potential chapters of that story.

Chapter one starts today. Celebrate and savour this moment. You've worked hard to get here. This is an achievement. In the busy worlds you are entering the temptation will be to dwell on solving problems and completing tasks. You will face what has been called the 'tyranny of the urgent'. This will leave little time to celebrate success. Make today the beginning of a lifelong practice of doing exactly that.

I recently finished running for ASIC a case which was very significant in the context of clarifying director's duties in Australia. ASIC was successful. I worked closely on the matter with one of ASIC's Commissioners. We did celebrate the success. Why am I telling you this? It is because sadly that Commissioner passed away several weeks ago. Had we not celebrated, or postponed doing so, it would have been an opportunity forever lost. Celebrate your successes.

Chapter two is about responsibilities. You may not appreciate it yet, but you hold a position of privilege in society. One that the bulk of the population can only aspire to. With it comes some responsibilities, amongst those are responsibilities:

- to yourself, to build on the skills you have acquired and maximise your potential;
- to family and friends who have supported you and who might one day need your support;
- to your professions, and for the lawyers, to the Court; and
- to your communities, be they local, national or international.

Consider how you might discharge your responsibilities and wisely use what you are awarded today to do so.

Chapter 3: energy. Work towards finding a role that you have a passion for and enjoy.

It may not happen in your first role, your second or even your third role, but you should work towards it. These roles will themselves help you to ascertain what you are passionate about. An analogy for this, which is not mine, but which illustrates what's involved in launching a career, is that it is like a jet taking off. It uses a lot of fuel and energy to ascend into the sky and set its course but then, when it reaches cruising altitude, less fuel and energy are needed to maintain course.

If you can find a role and work that you truly enjoy it will be a gift because it won't then feel like work at all. Your enjoyment of what you do will be like the illusive perpetual energy machine, it will keep you energised to keep engaging in your work with passion and at a level which will surely give you an edge in whatever you do.

Finally chapter 4: dream. Dream about what might be. Whether it is for yourself, your career, your discipline or profession, or your community.

To persist with the aircraft analogy just a little longer, your qualifications are like boarding passes on a dreamliner. You can apply your newly honed ability to think to anything you wish to and to take you anywhere in your careers you would like to go. My guess is that many of the roles you might in the future fill, or in fact create, may not today exist and dreaming will help you get there.

You are in a position to influence people and outcomes and yours, and perhaps others, destinies. Do this justice. Actually set aside some time every so often to just dream of what might be.

Starting today, I encourage you to commence a lifetime of:

- celebrating your successes;
- rising to your responsibilities;
- pursuing roles about which you are passionate; and
- dreaming about what might be.

On that note I'll finish as I started: hearty congratulations to all.

Thank you for your attention and the opportunity to address you today.