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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - BALTIMORE

SCHOOL OF NURSING GRADUATION CEREMONY

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>> ALL GRADUATING STUDENTS, PLEASE RISE AS FACULTY MEMBERS AND THE PLATFORM PARTY ENTER.

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

>> OH, SAY, CAN YOU SEE, BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT

WHAT SO PROUDLY WE HAIL'D AT THE TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING?

WHOSE BROAD STRIPES AND BRIGHT STARS, THRO' THE PERILOUS FIGHT

O'ER THE RAMPARTS WE WATCH'D, WERE SO GALLANTLY STREAMING?

AND THE ROCKETS' RED GLARE, THE BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR

GAVE PROOF THRO' THE NIGHT THAT OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE.

O SAY, DOES THAT STAR‑SPANGLED BANNER YET WAVE

O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE?

>> WE ASK THAT VETERANS AND ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY OR UNIFORMED SERVICES REMAIN STANDING; OTHERS PLEASE BE SEATED.

PLEASE WELCOME DR. JANE KIRSCHLING, DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, SCHOOL OF NURSING.

>> TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SERVED, OR ARE CURRENTLY SERVING, IN THE ARMED FORCES AND UNIFORMED SERVICES THANK YOU FOR YOUR BRAVERY, HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SERVICE.

THANK YOU, ROBERT CHRISTIAN AND DEANNA DICELLO, GRADUATES OF OUR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING, FOR SHARING YOUR BEAUTIFUL VOICES IN HONORING OUR COUNTRY.

BEFORE WE BEGIN, I RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT YOU SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR SEATS DURING THE CEREMONY.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF, I ASK THAT YOU JOIN ME IN EXTENDING OUR CONGRATULATIONS FOR A JOB WELL DONE TO ALL GRADUATING STUDENTS! GRADUATES ‑ PLEASE STAND SO WE CAN HONOR YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS WITH A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

GRADUATES, I'D LIKE YOU TO PLEASE REMAIN STANDING. WHILE YOU MOST ASSUREDLY DESERVE THE AWARDS WE BESTOW UPON YOU TODAY, YOU MUST ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU DID NOT REACH THIS MOMENT ALONE. THROUGHOUT THIS JOURNEY, YOU RELIED ON THE SUPPORT, ENCOURAGEMENT AND SACRIFICES, OF YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND CLASSMATES WHO GAVE YOU THE CONFIDENCE TO PERSEVERE, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU WERE SLEEP DEPRIVED, JUGGLING MANY RESPONSIBILITIES AND DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD MAKE IT. SO, GRADUATES PLEASE TURN AND THANK THOSE WHO SUPPORTED YOU IN YOUR JOURNEY TO BE HERE TODAY.

ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING COMMUNITY, I WANT TO ALSO WELCOME AND THANK FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND ALUMNI FOR JOINING US ON THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION. YOU MAY NOW BE SEATED.

TO THOSE OF YOU RECEIVING YOUR FIRST DEGREE IN NURSING, WE OFFER VERY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS. YOU BEGIN YOUR CAREERS AT A TIME WHEN NURSING PRESENTS UNPARALLELED POSSIBILITIES ‑ NO OTHER PROFESSION OFFERS SUCH A DIVERSE RANGE OF CAREER PATHS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT.

TO THE REGISTERED NURSES WHO RETURNED TO COMPLETE YOUR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE ‑ THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY.

TO THE MASTERS AND DOCTORAL GRADUATES, YOUR EXPANDED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS EXTEND YOUR PROFESSIONAL TOOLKIT ‑ AND I KNOW YOU WILL CONTINUE TO TRULY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORK YOU DO.

VERY FEW PROFESSIONS AFFORD YOU THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING AS SIGNIFICANT AN IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES AS NURSING DOES. ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL, I HOPE YOU WILL BE AS HAPPY AND FULFILLED IN YOUR NURSING CAREERS AS I HAVE BEEN.

MANY OF OUR GRADUATES HAVE RECEIVED RECOGNITION ON THE BASIS OF SCHOLARSHIP, PARTICIPATION, AND LEADERSHIP IN ACADEMIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL. THESE PRESTIGIOUS HONORS INCLUDE LATIN HONORS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED A GPA OF 3.5 OR HIGHER; INDUCTEES INTO SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING; PHI KAPPA PHI HONOR SOCIETY; AND THE CONWAY SCHOLARS. DESCRIPTIONS OF AWARDS AND A LIST OF AWARDEES ARE DETAILED IN THE GRADUATION PROGRAM. WILL THE GRADUATES WHO HAVE RECEIVED ONE OR MORE OF THESE HONORS PLEASE RISE AND BE RECOGNIZED?

TO EACH OF YOU, CONGRATULATIONS. PLEASE BE SEATED.

ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING AND THE DAISY FOUNDATION, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THIS YEAR'S WINNERS OF THE DAISY IN TRAINING AWARD. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO CYNTHIA SWEENEY, AN ALUMNUS, FOR HER PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FOR THIS AWARD.

NOMINATIONS FOR THIS AWARD COME FROM FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS OR PRECEPTORS IN RECOGNITION OF TWO GRADUATING BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATE EMPATHIC CARE AND SERVICE TO PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE AWARD IS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF PATRICK BARNES FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL CARE THAT HIS NURSES PROVIDED DURING HIS EIGHT WEEK ILLNESS. A DESCRIPTION OF THIS INTERNATIONAL AWARD IS PROVIDED IN THE CONVOCATION PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE ORIGINS OF THE STATUE THAT EACH RECIPIENT IS RECEIVING.

I ASK THAT THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS, JULIE FACTOR AND JACOB RODRIGUEZ, TO JOIN ME ON THE STAGE.

>> JULIE FACTOR, A STUDENT ON THE BALTIMORE CAMPUS, WAS NOMINATED BY HER SENIOR PRACTICUM PRECEPTOR, NATALIE DECKER, AN ER NURSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL CENTER. DURING HER TIME IN THE ER, MS. FACTOR WAS A MODEL STUDENT NURSE. IN PARTICULAR HER PRECEPTOR WROTE "JULIE DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF PROVIDING PATIENT/FAMILY CENTERED CARE AND EXHIBITED A CALM DEMEANOR THAT PATIENTS, FAMILIES, AND COLLEAGUES APPRECIATED".

JACOB RODRIGUEZ, A GRADUATE FROM THE SHADY GROVE CAMPUS, WAS NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DR. ANN HOFFMAN. IT WAS MR. RODRIGUEZ'S ADVOCACY OF PATIENT NEEDS THAT MOVED DR. HOFFMAN TO NOMINATE HIM SPECIFICALLY FOR " HIS ACUTE AWARENESS OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DISPARITIES." SHE FURTHER NOTED MR. RODRIQUEZ GAINED THROUGH HIS VARIED EXPERIENCES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSERS TO PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE IN GUATEMALA DURING A GLOBAL HEALTH COURSE THE "ABILITY TO FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL PATIENTS AS WELL AS SEE THE BIG PICTURE IN HEALTH CARE".

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH!

AND WE WILL GET A PICTURE.

>> I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE LAUREN DALY PRESIDENT OF THE NURSING STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING CLASS OF 2019, TO PRESENT THE CLASS GIFT.

>> DEAN KIRSCHLING, ON BEHALF OF THE CLASS OF 2019, I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS GIFT OF

$1,265 FOR THE CLASS OF 2019 SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

T IS OUR HONOR TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO FUTURE STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF NURSING.

>> ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING, I THANK THE BSN GRADUATES FOR THIS GENEROUS GIFT THAT WILL PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT FOR A DESERVING NURSING STUDENT NEXT YEAR. AS A REMINDER TO GRADUATES THERE IS STILL TIME TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS GIFT! EACH YEAR I MATCH THIS GIFT UP TO

$1,000, THIS MORNING I THOUGHT WE WOULD SHOOT FOR $2,000.

LAST MAY THE FACULTY JOINED TOGETHER AND BY 5 PM THEY HAD RAISED AN ADDITIONAL $2,231. SO, THE CHALLENGE IS ON FOR THE NURSING FACULTY AND OTHERS.

>> FOR FACULTY, GRADUATION IS ALWAYS AN EXCITING TIME, BECAUSE STUDENTS' SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS.

TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK OF OUR FACULTY, THE FACULTY COUNCIL AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CREATED THE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS. STUDENTS NOMINATE FACULTY MEMBERS FOR INNOVATIVE LEARNING APPROACHES, PROMOTING DIVERSITY, AND ENCOURAGING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION. A STUDENT COMMITTEE CONVENES TO DETERMINE THE RECIPIENTS. IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS FOR THIS YEAR: DR. AMY DANIELS FOR THE EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AWARD AND DR. LORI EDWARDS IS RECEIVING THE EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE TEACHING AWARD. WILL BOTH WINNERS JOIN ME ON THE STAGE TO RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS? PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING DRS. DANIELS AND EDWARDS.

>> NOW I ASK ALL FACULTY MEMBERS TO STAND SO WE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AS SUPERB MENTORS, EDUCATORS, AND RESEARCHERS. THEY ARE THE REASON WE HAVE SO MANY GRADUATES HERE TODAY.

PLEASE STAND SO WE CAN RECOGNIZE YOU.

>> THE SCHOOL OF NURSING COMMUNITY INCLUDES MANY PROFESSIONAL STAFF. I ASK ALL SCHOOL OF NURSING STAFF TO PLEASE STAND AND WAVE SO WE CAN THANK THEM FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHOOL'S SUCCESS AND FOR MAKING GRADUATION A MEMORABLE EVENT FOR GRADUATES AND GUESTS.

SO GIVE A WAIVE.

AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE JOINED US TO CELEBRATE THIS OCCASION:

THANK YOU TO DR. MEG JOHANTGEN ON FOR CARRYING THE MACE TODAY. DR. JOHANTGEN IS STEPPING DOWN FROM HER POSITION AS ASSOCIATE DEAN OF PHD PROGRAM. DURING HER 19 YEARS HERE SHE HAS PASSIONATELY MENTORED PHD STUDENTS AND DEVELOPED NURSING RESEARCHERS. IN RECOGNITION OF HER SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SHE WAS ASKED TO CARRY THE MACE.

DR. PETER MURRAY, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OF UMB IS HERE WITH US TODAY. DR. MURRAY OVERSEES ALL ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AS WELL AS THE CAMPUS NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE. IT'S A TOUGH JOB TO SIMULTANEOUSLY KEEP PACE WITH EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, MEET USER NEEDS, AND PROTECT THE SYSTEM. SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT AND WE THANK YOU FOR PERFORMING SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

LISA ROAN AND CHIEF NURSING OFFICER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL CENTER.

LAST MAY SHE WAS AWARDED THE DEAN'S MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE FOR HER MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING.

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU WITH US TODAY.

EACH YEAR I AWARD THE DEAN'S MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE. THIS AWARD WAS CREATED AS A WAY TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED AN EXCEPTIONAL COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND ITS MISSION. IT HONORS AN INDIVIDUAL EXTERNAL TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND WHO HAS NOT ONLY ADVANCED THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL, BUT ALSO SUPPORTED THE WORK OF THE DEAN.

THE MEDAL WAS DESIGNED AND HANDCRAFTED BY DR. BRUCE JARRELL, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, PROVOST, AND DEAN OF THE GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE AND A MEMBER OF THE BLACKSMITH GUILD OF CENTRAL MARYLAND. THE SYMBOL OF THIS AWARD ‑ A BRONZE MEDAL FEATURING THE BOWL OF HYGEIA ‑ THE GREEK GODDESS OF HEALTH ‑ IS THE SAME IMAGERY FOUND ON THE SCHOOL OF NURSING PIN.

SO, AT THIS POINT, IT IS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE TO PRESENT THE 2019 DEAN'S MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO MR. JOHN BING.

THOSE ARE THE CERTIFIED AND REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST STUDENTS.

HE HAS SUPPORTED THE NEXT GENERATION OF NURSE ANESTHETIST WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON NURSES OF COLOR.

JOHN, WOULD YOU PLEASE JOIN ME HERE AT THE PODIUM.

MR. BING WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OUR NATIONALLY RANKED TOP 10 CERTIFIED NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND. HE PERSONALLY SOLICITED SUPPORT FROM STATE LEGISLATURES AND SECURED GRANT FUNDING TO FINANCE THE START OF PROGRAM.

HE FOSTERS THE DIVERSIFICATION OF NURSE ANESTHESIA DEGREE PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

HIS MENTORSHIP OF PROSPECTIVE NURSE ANESTHESIA APPLICANTS HAS RESULTED IN THEM BEING ADMITTED TO THE 52 OF THE 121 NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES.

GLOBALLY HE HAS GIVEN BACK BY PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE TO MORE THAN 1,000 CENTRAL AMERICAN FAMILIES WHOSE CHILDREN WERE BORN WITH A CLEFT LIP OR PALLET.

PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSIFYING THE WORK FORCE AND IS THE PAST CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS.

SO THE MEDAL.

>> WHEN YOU GIVE JOHN BING SOME BLING, YOU GOT TO GET IT ON RIGHT.

JOHN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS?

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS AWARD.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU KNOW, BUT SHE IS ‑‑ SHE IS A GREAT ‑‑ NOT ONLY A GREAT DEAN BUT A GREAT PERSON.

AND THE STORY BEHIND MYSELF AND THE DEAN IS THAT IF YOU MISSED A MEETING SHE WILL GIVE YOU AN AWARD.

I'VE GOTTEN THREE AWARDS WITHOUT BEING THERE.

SO WHEN SHE CALLS YOU ON THE PHONE OR E‑MAILS YOU, OR SEND A MESSENGER TO YOUR HOUSE, PLEASE DISREGARD THAT BECAUSE SHE WILL HAVE YOU UP THERE SPEAKING.

TODAY I WAS COMING UP FROM WASHINGTON, I WAS DOING SOME ANESTHESIA THIS MORNING.

LET ME FIND OUT WHAT I'M GETTING AN AWARD.

I LOOK AT THIS AS A PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE DEAN ‑‑ WE TALKED ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT I'VE DONE AND I DO THIS BECAUSE IT'S PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

IT'S NOT BECAUSE I NEED A PAT ON THE BACK.

I'M WAY PASSED THAT IN MY LIFE.

SO WHEN PEOPLE GIVE YOU AWARDS IT'S ONE OR TWO THINGS ARE HAPPENING.

EITHER YOU ARE OLD OR DYING.

SO AFTER AN EXTENSIVE HISTORY AND PHYSICAL AND SAW I WASN'T DYING, LET ME GO AHEAD AND ENJOY THE FRUITS OF MY LABOR, BUT NOT ONLY MY LABOR BUT THE LABOR OF PEOPLE WHO HAD COME BEFORE ME.

THERE IS A QUOTE THAT SAYS YOU HAVE NOT DRANK FROM THE WELL YOU DIG.

YOU DID NOT DIG FROM THE WELL YOU DID NOT DRINK AND ALSO FROM THE VINEYARDS THAT YOU DID NOT PLANT.

LONG BEFORE I WAS A NURSE ANESTHETIST, PEOPLE BEFORE ME GAVE ME THE SAME OPPORTUNITY THAT I TRY TO GIVE.

AND THEN ABOUT THREE MONTHS EARLIER THE DEAN CALLED ME AGAIN AND SHE SAID, WELL ‑‑ ACTUALLY, TWO YEARS AGO.

JOHN, I WANT YOU TO APPLY FOR THIS FAN AWARD.

I DIDN'T KNOW.

WHAT IS A FAN AWARD.

I CALLED THE DOCTOR WHO IS A FRIEND OF MINE.

JOE, EXPLAIN THIS FAN AWARD AND HE EXPLAINED.

UH‑HUH, UH‑HUH.

I'M A CAPITALIST WITH A CONSCIENCE AND I WAS LOOKING AT IT AND SAY WHAT WILL THIS COST ME?

ABOUT $1,500.

I'M GOING TO TELL THE DEAN THIS IS NOT SOMETHING I'M INTERESTED IN RIGHT NOW.

SO THE NEXT YEAR SHE CALLS ME UP AND WE TALKED ABOUT THE FAN AWARD AND I SAID, I WILL GO THROUGH WITH IT.

AND WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT THE DOCTOR IS GOING THROUGH SOME FAMILY HEALTH ISSUES SO SHE WOULD CALL ME ON A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY AND WE WOULD GO THROUGH THE AWARD AND FOR THE MOST PART SHE DID MOST OF THE APPLICATION BECAUSE I WASN'T INTERESTED IN DOING ALL OF THE APPLICATION.

I'M NOT THAT INTERESTED IN THAT AWARD.

SO SHE FINISHED IT AND I SAID, MAN, BOY, YOU JUICED UP MY CV LIKE I WAS A SUPER STUDENT AND THAT'S THE PERSON SHE IS.

SHE IS ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE.

AS MUCH AS WE TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE, YOU HAVE AN ABSOLUTELY AWESOME DEAN.

ABSOLUTELY.

AND AGAIN, SHE EMBARRASSED ME WITH MAKING ME COME UP AND SPEAK AND I WILL DO THE SAME THING TO HER.

TO THE STUDENTS OF 2019, BECAUSE I'M OUT IN THE FIELD DOING ANESTHESIA AND NURSING, THERE IS NOT BEEN A BETTER TIME TO BE A NURSE AND APR IN HISTORY OF NURSING.

NOW BESIDES THE STUDENT LOANS WHICH YOU WILL EVENTUALLY PAY IN THE YEAR 20350 ‑‑ 2050 OR SO, THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

MY POINT IS RIGHT HERE IS THAT THE PEOPLE THAT CAME BEFORE YOU NOT ONLY YOUR PARENTS, THE LOVED ONES THAT STOOD AS YOU ARE GETTING THROUGH THIS PSYCHOTIC EPISODE OF STUDYING EVERY DAY AND EVERY NIGHT AND WE HAD TO TALK SOME OF YOU OFF THE EDGE AND OFF THE CLIFF MANY TIMES, THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO GIVE BACK TO NOT ONLY THE UNIVERSITY BUT TO MANKIND.

YOU ‑‑ UNIVERSITY BUT TO MANKIND.

YOU ARE THE BRIDGE BETWEEN SICKNESS AND HEALTH.

WE ARE DEPENDING ON YOU NOT ONLY TO BE GREAT NURSES BUT TO MAKE SURE AS YOU GO, YOUR JOURNEY IS 30, 40, 50 YEARS OR SO THAT YOU GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.

THAT BEING SAID, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> WE HAVE A TERM FOR THAT.

YOU HAVE NOW BEEN BING‑ED.

IT'S WITH GREAT PLEASURE I NOW INTRODUCE.

>> IT IS NOW MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE DR. ANN MADDEN, A GRADUATE OF THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE CERTIFIED NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM, WHO WILL DELIVER REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATING CLASS.

>> SUCCESS, EXHAUSTION, HAPPINESS, RELIEF, GRATITUDE, VIGILANCE, DETERMINATION, PRIDE; THINGS YOU MAY BE FEELING AS I STAND BEFORE YOU. THESE WORDS MAY NOT DEFINE THE JOURNEY YOU HAVE ALL JUST ENDEAVORED, BUT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENTIAL ON GETTING YOU TO THESE SEATS TODAY. TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR ACADEMIC CAREER. WHAT WORDS WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE? COULD YOU DEFINE, WITH JUST TWO WORDS, WHAT YOUR PERSONAL JOURNEY FELT LIKE, AND THE IMPACT IT HAD? WHAT WORDS CAPTURE THE FEELING OR ATTITUDE THAT YOU WANT TO TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR TIME HERE? FOR ME, THOSE TWO WORDS ARE VIGILANCE AND GRATITUDE.

GRATITUDE, OR READINESS TO SHOW APPRECIATION AND TO RETURN KINDNESS. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT WE WERE CHOSEN TO BE A PART OF AN ELITE ACADEMIC PROGRAM BY THE FACULTY AND STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT WE ENCOUNTERED OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE PATIENTS THAT TRUSTED US TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE.

VIGILANCE, KEEPING CAREFUL WATCH FOR POSSIBLE DANGER OR DIFFICULTIES. WE HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO PREPARE FOR CLINICAL DAYS, ENDLESS STUDYING, EXAMS, LABS AND SIMULATIONS. WE ENDURED DIFFICULT CLASSES AND CONQUERED CHALLENGING CONCEPTS AND SKILLS BECAUSE CARING FOR A PATIENT COMES WITH GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. THE LIFE OF ANOTHER IS IN YOUR HANDS; YOUR DECISIONS WILL IMPACT THEIR HEALTH OUTCOMES. PATIENTS TRUST US TO KNOW AND DO THE RIGHT THING AND WE SHOULDN'T GIVE THEM ANYTHING LESS THAN OUR BEST. IN ORDER TO BE THE BEST WE MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND WE MUST BE VIGILANT.

MOVING FORWARD I ASK THAT ALL OF YOU CARRY THESE WORDS WITH YOU; VIGILANCE AND GRATITUDE. AS NURSES, IT IS OUR VIGILANCE THAT WILL PREVENT CATASTROPHIC EVENTS FROM HAPPENING. OUR VIGILANCE WILL ENSURE DELIVERY OF THE SAFEST HEALTH CARE TO ALL PATIENTS. SHOWING GRATITUDE FOR OUR PATIENTS WILL RETURN KINDNESS. THE EDUCATION WE HAVE ALL RECEIVED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HAS GIVEN US A FOUNDATION TO BE SOME OF THE BEST HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE COUNTRY. YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION HAS GOTTEN YOU THIS FAR, LET VIGILANCE AND GRATITUDE CARRY YOU THROUGH THE REST OF YOUR CAREER. NURSES ARE THE EYES, EARS AND HEARTS OF HEALTHCARE AND WHICHEVER SPECIALTY YOU HAVE CHOSEN, YOUR PATIENTS ARE LUCKY TO HAVE YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS. CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS. BE PROUD. BE KIND. BE GRATEFUL. BE VIGILANT.

THANK YOU.

>> DR. MADDEN, THANK YOU FOR AFTERNOON, I AM DR. VERONICA GUTCHELL. AS CHAIR OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL IT IS MY DUTY TO BEGIN THE PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES.

>> HOODING SYMBOLIZES THE COMPLETION OF ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE. DEAN KIRSCHLING, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE GRADUATES OF THE PHD PROGRAM. DR. MEG JOHANTGEN, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE PHD PROGRAM WILL DISTRIBUTE ALUMNI GIFTS TO THE GRADUATES. ADVISORS OF THE PHD GRADUATES PLEASE COME FORWARD TO HOOD THE CANDIDATES AS YOUR ADVISEES' NAMES ARE CALLED. MR. LARRY FILLIAN, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES, WILL ANNOUNCE THE GRADUATES.

[NAMES]

>> DEAN KIRSCHLING, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE GRADUATES OF THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM. WILL THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE GRADUATES PLEASE RISE AND PROCEED TO THE TOP OF THE STAIRS ON THE RIGHT OF THE STAGE?

PROJECT FACULTY SPEND THREE SEMESTERS MENTORING DNP STUDENTS TO THE COMPLETION OF THE DOCTORATE PROJECT AND JOURNAL PAPER. AS YOUR GRADUATES CROSS THE STAGE WE ASK THAT PROJECT FACULTY STAND IN RECOGNITION OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN STUDENT AND FACULTY TO ACHIEVE THIS MOMENT. SPECIALTY DIRECTORS, PLEASE JOIN DEAN KIRSCHLING FOR PICTURES WHEN YOUR SPECIALTY IS ANNOUNCED. MR. JOHN BING WILL DISTRIBUTE THE ALUMNI GIFT TO THE NURSE ANESTHESIA GRADUATES. DR. MARGARET HAMMERSLA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DNP PROGRAM WILL HOOD CANDIDATES. DR. SHANNON IDZIK, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE DNP PROGRAM, WILL ANNOUNCE GRADUATES.

PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

NEONATAL NURSE PRACTITIONER

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

>> WE WILL NOW CONDUCT THE RECOGNITION OF MASTER'S, POST‑MASTER'S, AND CERTIFICATE GRADUATES. AS YOUR SPECIALTY IS CALLED, GRADUATES PLEASE MOVE TO THE STAIRS ON THE RIGHT OF THE STAGE. DR. GAIL LEMAIRE, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR THE MASTER'S PROGRAMS, WILL HAND THE ALUMNI GIFT TO GRADUATES AS THEY EXIT THE STAGE. SPECIALTY DIRECTORS PLEASE COME FORWARD WHEN YOUR SPECIALTY IS CALLED.

AND JOIN THE DEAN FOR A PICTURE WITH THE GRADUATES.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

>> AT THIS TIME WE WILL CONDUCT THE PINNING OF THE CLINICAL NURSE LEADER GRADUATES. PRESENTATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING PIN SIGNIFIES THAT THE RECIPIENT HAS COMPLETED THE REQUISITE PREPARATION LEADING TO ENTRY INTO THE NURSING PROFESSION. THOUGH GRADUATES OF THE CLINICAL NURSE LEADER OPTION RECEIVE A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE THEY ARE NEW TO THE PROFESSION. TODAY WE PIN THEM IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER THAT SIGNIFIES THE COMPLETION OF THEIR FIRST DEGREE IN NURSING.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND PIN, DESIGNED BY TIFFANY & CO., ORIGINATED WITH THE CLASS OF 1894 AND BEARS THE OFFICIAL INSIGNIA OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING. IT SERVES AS A HISTORIC LINK TO THE PROUD AND DISTINGUISHED HERITAGE OF THE SCHOOL. ALL PINS ARE PRESENTED ON A RED STOLE.

DEAN KIRSCHLING WILL GREET STUDENTS AND PINNERS. THE SPECIALTY DIRECTOR, DR. SHERRIE LESSANS, WILL DISTRIBUTE THE ALUMNI GIFT. CLINICAL NURSE LEADER GRADUATES AND THEIR PINNERS PLEASE COME TO THE STAGE.

>> PINNERS, YOU MAY PIN YOUR GRADUATES.

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>> GRADUATES OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING ARE PINNED AS NEW ENTRANTS INTO THE PROFESSION OF NURSING. THOSE BSN GRADUATES WHO ARE ALREADY REGISTERED NURSES WILL ALSO RECEIVE A UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING PIN TODAY.

REMEMBER TO ALWAYS WEAR YOUR PIN WITH PRIDE KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE EARNED YOUR PLACE IN THE DISTINGUISHED HERITAGE OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING. DEAN KIRSCHLING WILL GREET STUDENTS AND PINNERS. DR. NINA TROCKY, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM, WILL DISTRIBUTE ALUMNI GIFTS. DR. JANA GOODWIN, DIRECTOR OF THE BSN PROGRAM, WILL READ THE GRADUATES NAMES. BSN GRADUATES AND THEIR PINNERS PLEASE COME TO THE STAGE.

>> PINNERS, YOU MAY PIN YOUR GRADUATES.

>> PINNERS, PLEASE PIN YOUR GRADUATES.

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>> PINNERS, PLEASE PIN YOUR GRADUATE.

>> CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES. ONCE ALL BSN GRADUATES HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR SEATS DR. GUTCHELL WILL LEAD THE READING OF THE PROFESSIONAL NURSING PLEDGE.

ALL BSN AND CNL GRADUATES WHO HAVE BEEN PINNED, PLEASE RISE AND JOIN IN RECITING THE PROFESSIONAL NURSING PLEDGE PRINTED ON THE BACK OF YOUR PROGRAM.

>> WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES I AM UNDERTAKING, I PROMISE TO CARE FOR MY PATIENTS WITH ALL THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND UNDERSTANDING I POSSESS, SPARING NO EFFORT TO CONSERVE MEANINGFUL LIFE, TO ALLEVIATE SUFFERING, AND TO PROMOTE HEALTH. I WILL ALWAYS KEEP MY PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, COLLABORATE AS A MEMBER OF THE HEALTH CARE TEAM, AND STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL‑BEING OF ALL THOSE I SERVE.

WELL DONE GRADUATES, YOU MAY BE SEATED.

NOW WE WILL HEAR BRIEF REMARKS FROM THE DR. CARMEL MCCOMISKEY, PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING'S ALUMNI COUNCIL.

>> AS A PROUD GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING AND PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, I AM HONORED TO COMMEND YOU ON REACHING THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN YOUR ACADEMIC CAREER. CONGRATULATIONS! AND WELCOME TO UMSON'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

AS A NEW GRADUATE, YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION. WE HAVE AN ACTIVE ORGANIZATION THAT SERVES AS A VALUABLE RESOURCE TO OUR GRADUATES AND CURRENT STUDENTS. PLEASE VISIT THE ALUMNI WEB PAGE TO UPDATE YOUR HOME AND WORK CONTACT INFORMATION, AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MANY BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR YOU AS ALUMNI.

I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW HOW VERY PROUD I AM OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR GRADUATES. I HOPE THAT TODAY IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS.

>> THANK YOU, DR. MCCOMISKEY FOR BEING WITH US TODAY AND FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

AS WE BRING THIS SPRING CONVOCATION TO A CLOSE, I WOULD LIKE TO ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATES ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THIS CEREMONY CREATES A LASTING MEMORY OF YOUR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING.

WE FIND OURSELVES CONFRONTED WITH GREAT CHALLENGES IN THE HEALTH CARE ARENA. EACH OF YOU WILL BE OBLIGED TO CONFRONT THESE CHALLENGES IN SOME FASHION DURING YOUR CAREERS, AND I CAN ONLY URGE YOU TO MEET THEM WITH THE SAME COMMITMENT TO PATIENT CARE AND TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES THAT INSPIRES YOUR PASSION FOR NURSING ITSELF.

AS THE LINCHPINS OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, YOU, MORE THAN ANY OTHER PROVIDER, BEAR THE BURDEN OF SAFEGUARDING PATIENT WELFARE BY PROVIDING HIGHLY‑SKILLED CARE, EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE ROLE OF NURSES, AND ADVOCATING FOR GREATER SUPPORT FROM POLICYMAKERS.

TODAY, WE LAUNCH YOU OUT INTO THE WORLD WITH A MISSION TO DO GOOD, ENDOWED WITH THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE. WE WISH YOU SUCCESS! MAKE NO MISTAKE: YOU HOLD OUR FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS!

YOUR GRADUATION IS NOT THE END OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR SCHOOL, BUT RATHER THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PHASE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT ALUMNI AND SCHOOL EVENTS, AND CONTINUING TO WORK WITH YOU IN SOME CAPACITY, WHETHER AS FELLOW ADVOCATES, AS PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES, OR AS EDUCATORS.

TO THE GRADUATES, I FORMALLY TIP MY HAT TO EACH OF YOU WITH HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR HARD‑EARNED AND WELL‑DESERVED DEGREES!

>> ALL GUESTS PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR SEATS UNTIL THE PLATFORM PARTY, FACULTY, AND GRADUATES HAVE LEFT THE ARENA. GRADUATES WILL MEET FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE ARENA LOBBY. THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES.

ALL GRADUATING STUDENTS PLEASE RISE AS FACULTY MEMBERS AND THE PLATFORM PARTY EXIT.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES.