



**Chancellor's Remarks**  
**Commencement**  
**May 10, 2014**

Good morning. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Texas Christian University's spring commencement. To each graduate, I offer my warmest congratulations. This day belongs to you. The degree you have earned is not only recognition of your accomplishments. It is also a symbol of your commitment to make this a better world for us all.

And to the family, friends, faculty and staff members here today — thank you for sharing in this grand occasion.

As the person offering this commencement message, I'm told it is my duty to pass on some memorable advice — words that will stay with you for a lifetime. But to be honest — I recall very few of the words delivered when I received my undergraduate degree. So if you remember what's said this morning — even for a day or two — I'll be delighted. But I hope you will *always* remember what you *feel* here today.

Yours was one of the most selective classes ever admitted to TCU. You shared bikes and Zipcars and concern for the environment. You witnessed the construction of Rees-Jones Hall and the deconstruction of the library. You cheered the Horned Frogs to a Rose Bowl championship and Big 12 victories. You are making history today as the *first class ever* to claim your diplomas at the “new” Amon G. Carter Stadium.

From holding a candle at the Chancellor's Assembly to solving complex problems in class and out... studying abroad... and completing vital internships, you have made us proud.

Our world is a rapidly changing one, where so much is disposable. Few things last. But there is something that can't be taken away from you. That is your degree and your relationship with your University and your fellow Horned Frogs.

Now that you are college graduates, you will be moving into “The Real World,” a place where there is no spring break. To make things easier for you in your “Real World” freshman year, I'd like to share some suggestions that appeared in the *Peoria Journal Star*, written by two of my favorite authors, Terry Bibb and Wes Smith. Even though these words of advice were offered more than 30 years ago, I think they are still worthy of your consideration — and I hope they will remind you that for decades, college graduates have faced the same challenges as you do now in the transition to “The Real World.”

Here goes. And don't worry about taking notes.

According to Bibb and Smith, things will be a bit different from now on. But you can avoid a few bumps by remembering:

- Cars require oil, batteries, antifreeze and insurance.

- Never grocery shop on an empty stomach.
- You are now old enough to tip.
- Beware the purchase that requires nothing down and no interest until 2020.
- Landlords require a security deposit. It's safe to assume you'll never see that money again.
- Most babies and student loan payments come due in about nine months.
- As your friends begin buying lawnmowers and having children, learn to feign interest in both.
- Your parents' good name is theirs. You're a big kid now. Your credit rating is your own.
- Save up to buy quality everything. Good stuff lasts.
- Unlike during your student days, never wear flip-flops after the temperature drops below freezing.
- Never borrow money from anyone, especially a friend you want to keep.
- Never lend money to anyone, especially a friend you want to keep.

And finally, if you remember just one thing today, remember this: You get what you give. Be a little more charitable in all you do, and you will reap a lifetime of close family ties and good, lifelong friends

I will not say "goodbye."

I offer you "best wishes" and "sincere congratulations."

And I say with great seriousness: "Don't be a stranger." I plan to be here for many years, and I hope to see you — and your children — often.

Thank you for choosing Texas Christian University.

Thank you for putting up with the construction as we work to make the TCU experience even better.

It has been our privilege to have you on our campus.

We will continue to work hard to make you proud, and increase the value of your TCU diploma.

And Godspeed on your way in "The Real World."