



Chancellor's Remarks – Commencement, May 9, 2015

"This is a glorious day of celebration

- for you, our graduates,
- for your families and friends,
- and for this University.

To each graduate, I offer my heart-felt congratulations. This is your day.

Your achievement was earned through hard work, perseverance, and, undoubtedly, a little bit of luck.

These past few weeks, you have looked back on your college days . . . and nights . . . recalling good friends, and favorite classes.

You have reflected on the many changes in your lives and your world since Frog Camp.

It has been a remarkable journey, one that deserves pause for retrospection.

Think about it...

Many in this class traveled abroad to study –and expanded your perspective with a global educational experience.

Others went on a 5-day Civil Rights Tour, bringing historic events and headlines to life.

Many of you held internships.

Worked on campus.

Played on a team.

Started a student organization.

Decided to be more "green."

Made a video.

Wrote a poem.

Learned to dance.

Who knew "learning to change the world" could be so much fun?!!!

It has been a good time to be a Horned Frog.

We hope that you found your TCU family and the campus felt like home.

There were plenty of distractions along the way.

Since you first came to TCU,

- Your college career began with entering the Big 12 and ends with TCU as co-champions of the Big 12 championship and winner of the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl.
- TCU baseball made a grand appearance in the College World Series. The national spotlight on TCU baseball did not fade in Omaha, however, as we watched one of our pitchers--Brandon Finnegan--play for the Kansas City Royals last fall in the World Series.
- TCU continues to turn heads by posting nationally ranked teams in rifle, tennis, and track.
- 1 billion plus Candy Crush games have been downloaded.
- Taylor Swift has gone from country to pop, and there have been more than 700 million views of Taylor Swift's "Shake it Off" on YouTube.
- And an uncountable number of "Harlem Shake" videos.
- Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have been joined by new applications--Snapchat and Vine technology, inspiring creativity and providing additional ways to express ourselves.

Oprah said goodbye to her daily show. And Jay Leno gave way to Jimmy Fallon as the new 'Tonight Show' host.

Pope Benedict was replaced by Pope Francis.

Prince George of Cambridge and his little sister Princess Charlotte of Cambridge arrived on the London scene.

Apple introduced the iPad, and several new iPhones to keep us on our toes with the latest technology.

Netflix became the new way to view the latest movies--best viewed on one's iPad.

Pinterest grew from 5,000 followers to over 17 million in less than two years.

PBS made a comeback in TV viewership with the success of "Downton Abbey."

And while some were viewing PBS, others followed "Game of Thrones" and "House of Cards."

Indeed, the landscape of popular culture was changing, and so was the campus during the past four years.

Erma Lowe Hall – the Dance Building—was renovated.

During your time on campus we opened Marion and P.E. Clark Halls in the Worth Hills area. Last fall we dedicated another residence hall in that same area named for Marlene Moss Hays.

Simultaneously, efforts have been directed on the development of the Intellectual Commons.

Last fall, we opened the new Rees-Jones Hall which features cutting edge educational tools and approaches within an innovative learning setting. It has become a new favorite place for students to study and gather for team meetings.

The extreme makeover of the Mary Coats Burnett Library façade presents a new classic look to campus on the west side of the building. The library had not been touched since the 1980s. When the library is complete it will connect to the Rees-Jones Building on the east side.

The renovated Annie Richardson Bass Building provided a fresh, new look for our nursing programs and greatly enhanced spaces for the Department of Social Work and College of Science & Engineering's Department of Nutritional Sciences.

These new learning environments enable TCU students to sharpen both their practical and academic skills and effectively prepare them for leadership in their chosen fields.

And I haven't even mentioned the beautiful upgrade to the Amon G. Carter Stadium. You have enjoyed some Big 12 excitement in this state-of-the-art athletic facility. Speaking of athletics, construction is underway for the renovation of the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum...hence, that is why commencement was moved from campus to the downtown convention center.

It pleased me to see a senior communication studies major quoted as saying (as reported just last week in the Skiff x360): "The buildings that have been completed have made a big impact on my time at TCU."

TCU's progress has been part of the larger vision for students to have the best places to live, to study, and to interact with others.

I am certain that a number of you will be taking pictures today at special places all around your beautiful campus.

As the campus has grown, so too has the reputation of the University.

- TCU has been recognized as "One of the Best Colleges in the West" by the Princeton Review.
- We were rated as a "Great place to work" for the past four years by the Chronicle of Higher Education.
- Our position has been elevated to No. 76 in the 2014-15 US News & World Report rankings of national universities. This is a significant jump of 37 points over six years.

A recent alumni survey confirmed that the TCU diploma is well respected and valued, with nearly 92% of graduates responding that the Horned Frog experience was worth it.

TCU has grown in numbers, opportunities, and impact.

Our faculty members continue to earn distinction in their fields.

We are raising the academic profile and reputation of TCU – and you are helping us.

The members of the Class of 2015 have added to the stature of TCU.

- From Fulbright Scholars to our nationally recognized athletes
- to those who have given thousands of hours of community service –
- all bring honor to TCU.

I can't wait to see what you accomplish.

- Some of you are continuing your education in graduate or professional school.
- Some are joining Teach for America and other service programs before launching into a career or another degree.
- I know that some of you are still in the job search.

No matter your current status, you are equipped with knowledge and experiences that will serve you well as you embark on the next chapter in your life. I am confident that TCU graduates will perform well.

Just as the graduates have spent time this week looking back on their college experience, so, too, have families marked this milestone by recalling the journey that brought you here.

- To them, it started that first day of school when they sent you off to kindergarten with an Elmo lunch box and new crayons.
- They recall your driver's test, prom, choosing a college, bringing you to campus and moving you into your room.
- And now, helping you move out.

The journey to this day was not made alone.

I congratulate the family members and friends who have stood by these graduates, supported them, maybe nagged them a little, and today celebrate with them. I know you are proud . . . and relieved. Thank you for being part of the extended TCU family. I will not say "goodbye."

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

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

I am so proud of each of you.

Thank you for choosing Texas Christian University.

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.

Godspeed on your way."