

Hello! Thank you again for coming to celebrate the Biology and Marine Biology Class of 2024! This is a special time when we reminisce on our years at the UO and look forward towards the future.

Taking a trip down memory lane, I remember being scared of the uncertainties of being away from home for the first time, especially during an unprecedented time of social distancing and Zoom everything. I was terrified of meeting the academic rigor of university, building a new community, and feeling a bit lost. Fortunately, those worries were quickly put to rest. These last four years, I've learned so much, made lifelong friends, found comfort in discovering myself, and made new memories within the sunny stands of Autzen, countless long, long labs in Klamath hall, and hours of cramming at the science library. I'm sure these experiences resonate with you all too.

Now, as we finish our time at the UO and look ahead towards the next journey in life, new worries arise. But I know wherever life takes our class, we are prepared and will succeed. We've been through so many ups and downs together. We've lived through a global pandemic and adapted to remote learning. We challenged ourselves academically and socially, and we even survived Bio 212 (which is, by the way, still the hardest class I've ever taken. There's no contest. I'm sure some of you can agree).

We are tenacious, and we take advantage of opportunities that come our way. We are patient, caring, passionate, flexible, smart, the list goes on and on. I know our class of 2024 will be successful and impactful because we are such an astoundingly hardworking and resilient group. I can't wait to see what you all will accomplish as future medical providers, researchers, biologists, or other endeavors you seek.

If you know me, you know I love saying thank you. So, I would like to take one final moment to say some thank you's. Firstly, thank you to my family. Con cảm ơn ba mẹ, ông bà, đã ủng hộ con, để con được thành công ngày hôm nay.

Also, thank you to the friends and family who are supporting all of us, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to our stellar faculty and staff who have guided us along the way.

And last but not least, thank you to you all, the Class of 2024. It's been an honor to be your classmate and friend, you all are so amazing. I've learned so much from you and have become a better person in your presence. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement and good luck on all of your future endeavors! Sco ducks!