



Dr. Osmond Martinez

20th Convocation Exercises Keynote Address - July 16, 2023

Good Morning Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, and graduates of Galen University, I stand before you today with immense pride and gratitude as I have had the privilege of being part of your journey to success during my time as a professor of economics at Galen. I am truly honored to witness this momentous occasion as you, the graduands, prepare to embark on the next chapter of your lives.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the invaluable support and guidance I received from our esteemed Provost, Dr. Cynthia Eve Aird, and our esteemed Dean in the Faculty of Business and Entrepreneurship, Dr. Sylvia Cattouse. They have been instrumental in my professional development, supporting and inspiring me while completing my Ph.D. Their mentorship has significantly shaped who I am today, and I am forever grateful for their guidance. This graduation ceremony is a testament to your hard work, dedication, and determination. Each of you has overcome numerous challenges and persevered through difficult times to reach this milestone. Your achievements are not only a reflection of your academic excellence but also a demonstration of your resilience in the face of adversity.

Today, as you stand here on the brink of a new chapter in your lives, I want to acknowledge your extraordinary journey to reach this milestone. Each of you embodies the spirit of a true Galen eagle, possessing the keen vision and the determination and resilience to soar high above life's challenges.

The past few years have been unprecedented, with the world grappling with the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. You, the graduands, have had to face these challenges head-on, with limited support and in the face of overwhelming uncertainty. The pandemic has touched every aspect of our lives, from our social interactions to our economic well-being, physical health, and emotional stability.

Many of you have faced financial hardships as the pandemic affected jobs and incomes, not just for you but also for your parents and family members. The struggle to make ends meet while pursuing your education has been nothing short of heroic. But despite these obstacles, you remained steadfast in your pursuit of knowledge and growth, and for that, you deserve immense recognition and admiration.

In addition to the pandemic's impact, you have faced the global disruption of supply chains, stubborn inflation, geopolitical tensions, and even the ravages of natural disasters like Hurricane Lisa. Through it all, you have shown resilience and strength, proving yourselves to be exceptional individuals capable of overcoming adversity.

As you move forward from this point, never forget the hardships you endured and the challenges you conquered. Carry the lessons of this time with you, for they will be valuable guides in your future endeavors. The clear vision you possess to be here today will continue to guide you in setting high standards for yourself and working tirelessly to achieve your aspirations.

Just like eagles, you have the ability to see beyond the surface and perceive hidden opportunities, even in the most difficult situations. Embrace this vision, and let it lead you towards making positive impacts in the lives of others and the world around you.

As you embark on your respective paths, remember that the journey may not always be smooth, but the trials you face will only strengthen your wings. Have faith in your abilities, trust in your vision, and continue to soar with the same determination and passion that brought you to this moment.

The advancements in today's science and technology are truly extraordinary, surpassing our wildest imaginations. Planet Earth now possesses technology that was once inconceivable, with solutions for nearly everything we can conceive. However, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the most effective methods devised by the world's best scientists to combat the virus were surprisingly simple: wearing masks, maintaining hand hygiene, and practicing social distancing.

Reflecting on these methods and their effectiveness, I realized that my presentation should focus on fundamental principles of life. Allow me to share two essential steps that I firmly believe have contributed significantly to my current position and accomplishments.

1. Prioritize putting God first in your life, for everything you see in me today is a result of His grace. I was born into a world of scarcity, where dreams often seemed out of reach and opportunities were rare. Growing up in poverty, I faced numerous hardships, struggling to meet even the most basic needs. However, in the midst of darkness, I found a guiding light - an unwavering faith in God's grace and the belief that through His divine intervention, anything is possible.

As I progressed in my career, I witnessed the transformative power of God's grace firsthand. I saw individuals from underprivileged backgrounds rise to influential positions and use their newfound influence to empower others. It is through God's grace that we were able to create a ripple effect of positive change, breaking the cycle of poverty and igniting hope in the hearts of those most in need.

My story is a testament to the fact that God's grace knows no bounds. It is available to all who seek it, regardless of their background, status, or the challenges they face. This force transcends societal boundaries and empowers us to overcome our limitations. Embrace this faith, and you will find the strength to navigate life's obstacles and achieve greatness.

2. Don't Waste Time

In Belize, life expectancy is estimated at 72.85 years, or roughly 700,000 hours. Each one of us is blessed with a finite amount of time on this earth – a precious resource that, once spent, can never be replenished or regained. Every passing hour is irreplaceable, making how we choose to invest this currency of time critical in shaping the legacy we leave behind and the impact we have on others.

Within each hour lies an opportunity – a chance to learn, grow, and make a lasting difference. We must seize these moments with intentionality and purpose. Let us place importance on our relationships, nurturing connections with loved ones, and building bridges of understanding and compassion. Investing in our personal growth by expanding our knowledge, honing our skills, and pursuing our passions will enrich not only our lives but also the lives of those around us. Furthermore, dedicating our time to causes greater than self-interest, be it alleviating suffering, promoting justice, or fostering equality, can lead to positive change in our communities and beyond.

However, it is essential to strike a balance in managing our time. Productivity and achievements are vital, but so is taking time for rest, reflection, and self-care. By tending to our physical, mental, and emotional well-being, we can show up more fully in our lives and better serve others. The power to transform our lives, communities, our beautiful nation, and indeed, our world lies within the hours we have been given. It is within our grasp to shape our destinies and leave behind a legacy that resonates through the corridors of time. So, let us make the most of each hour, cherishing the gift of time and positively impacting the world around us.

Excellencies, esteemed guests, and fellow attendees,

In conclusion, I stand humbled and privileged to have spoken before you today. This momentous occasion marks not only the celebration of your achievements, dear graduates, but also the 20th anniversary of Galen University. Let us all extend our heartfelt congratulations to Galen for its dedication to nurturing excellence and fostering growth in the hearts and minds of its students. As we look to the future, I am filled with unwavering confidence that Galen University will continue to shine as a beacon of knowledge and enlightenment. The legacy of producing high-quality students like you will undoubtedly persist, leaving an indelible mark on Belize's transformation and multidimensional development.

Your time at Galen has equipped you with the tools and skills to make a meaningful impact on your chosen paths. Remember the wisdom you have acquired and the friendships you have forged during your journey here. As you step out into the world, let the spirit of Galen, resilience and purpose, guide you toward achieving your dreams and making a positive difference in society.

The world awaits the contributions of exceptional individuals like you, who possess the vision, determination, and compassion to shape a brighter future. As Galen Eagles, I have no doubt that each of you will soar to new heights, touching countless lives and inspiring generations to come. May you continue to embody the principles of excellence instilled within you, and may your achievements be a testament to the transformative power of education. Embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and may you find fulfillment in every endeavor you pursue.

Congratulations, Galen Eagles of 2023! The world is at your feet, and I have every confidence that you will make it a better place. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this special moment, and

Thank you all, and may your journey be nothing short of remarkable.