

Remarks
Theodora Tatsi, Class of 2025

I would like to welcome you all and thank you for being here today.

Before I start with the typical inspirational speech, I would like us to take a moment to appreciate those who made our graduation possible.

To the administration: Even though we've had our ups and downs, I truly appreciate your work and commitment.

To our professors: Thank you for challenging us, guiding us, and helping us grow.

To the staff—Campus Safety, the Chartwells employees, Facilities, and the many behind-the-scenes workers who make Trinity feel like home: Thank you.

And finally, to our families, our friends, and our loved ones: You've been our constant support. I am talking about all of you who are here today and also those who are sending their love and support from afar.

Last, I want to take a moment to remember those we've lost. I didn't know Ryan personally, but I know her presence is missed today.

Now, I'd like to turn my attention to the Trinity Class of 2025.

You've probably heard this a hundred times, but let me say it one more time: We are lucky.

That's because we had the opportunity of laying our foundation at a place like Trinity. We're walking away with more than just a degree—we carry with us an exceptional education, lifelong friendships, a powerful network, and a name that holds weight.

The question is: What will we do with it?

I know you're scared. I am, too.

When I arrived here, I had no idea who I'd become—and honestly, I still don't. But I've learned that being lost isn't failure; it's freedom.

Being lost means we're still searching, still growing, still open to change.

While you discover who you are and who you want to be, I urge you to remember the three things Trinity promised us:

That we would be bold—that we would use our voice, take risks, and speak out when it matters.

That we would be independent thinkers—that we'd question what we see, challenge what we're told, and trust our own minds.

And that we would live transformative lives—not just successful ones, but lives that leave the

world better than we found it.

While each of us will take a different path after today, I hope we all carry that vision with us. Because a Trinity education isn't just a personal achievement, it's a responsibility. We are walking away with an obligation to use that privilege in a way that matters.

Yeah, I know, nobody wants to hear about responsibilities and obligations on graduation day, but the reality is that privilege that is not used in a meaningful way is privilege that is wasted.

Our degrees hold power. Our education holds power. Our Trinity experience holds power. And the world needs us to use that power in a meaningful way. The world needs us, and our institution, to use our voices to do right.

If all we do is use this privilege to succeed on our own, then we've missed the point. Let's use it to build, open doors, and create space for those who come after us and for those who were never given a seat at the table.

I want to leave you with something I once heard from the president of Wesleyan, Michael S. Roth—yes, Wesleyan.

And yes, I think I've earned the right to quote him, considering what happened at the basketball NESCACs and the Final Four.

Speaking of which, let's take a moment to appreciate our men's basketball and women's squash teams for making us national champions!

Well, anyways, back to the president of Wesleyan. He said something like, "If your years in undergrad are the best years of your life, then you did it wrong." I know that might sound depressing, but trust me, it is not.

I am telling you this to remind you that although it seems like your fun years might be over, they are actually just beginning.

So, wherever you go from here—whether it's law school, grad school, the workforce, a gap year, or just back at your parents' house—I hope you choose to live with intention.

Because our generation isn't stepping into an easy world; we're stepping into a world that desperately needs fixing.

A world that needs courage and needs people who don't just chase success but fight for justice.

And remember: Our Trinity education does not end here; here is when it begins.

I couldn't end this speech without addressing my fellow international students. Whether you choose to stay in the United States or not, I want you to leave here knowing that you are an asset, not an inconvenience.

And with that, congratulations, Trinity Class of 2025. Let's go make something beautiful!