"Members of the Class of 2006, you have studied and you have prepared yourself."

"Tonight I challenge you to pause and reflect upon the direction your life will take in the forthcoming years. I challenge you to set your goals high and have a definite purpose in life. Make up your mind about what you desire in life. Decide to get just that and nothing less — without substitutes. And take possession of one of the most priceless of all assets available to human beings — a definite purpose.

"Because, it is within these walls of the University of Pretoria that you have inevitably spent a minimum of four tumultuous years of learning the ins and outs of not only engineering, but of human nature, simply by observing your environment, forging lasting friendships and clashing during heated debates in class. We learn to listen to each other and in so doing get a clearer understanding of the world beyond the University of Pretoria, and beyond the individual towns and suburbs we represent.

"So you see, all of us have consciously or indirectly helped each other evolve by taking part in this particular human experience and by sharing our own experience with the person sitting alongside or in front of us. So, rest assured that each student leaving this Department of the University of Pretoria is that much richer or better equipped, simply by having shared unique experiences with any number of people represented here today.

"Once you leave the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering of the University of Pretoria with a sense of finality, take the colour and character of excellence that you have developed as students of this department to the rest of the world."

Prof. Josua Meyer addressing the Class of 2006 in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering during their valediction ceremony on 15 November 2006

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→ Prof. Josua P. Meyer, Head: Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering and Chair: School of Engineering, University of Pretoria.