

Thomas W. Krise

## 2018 Fanuchanan Commencement remarks

Buenas yan Hafa Adai hamyu todos. Welcome to this happy celebration of achievement! Congratulations to the graduates of the Fanuchanan Semester 2018, and a warm welcome to your family and friends who helped you on your journey!

As we celebrate the graduation of this class, we also honor and renew our commitment to University of Guam mission of Ina—Deskubre—Setbe—To Enlighten, To Discover, and To Serve. Our enlightenment begins with the 4000 years of CHamoru culture in this island of Guam and our other cultures of the Western Pacific, and from nearly 1000 years of European-style universities, and from nearly 500 years of welcoming people and cultures from the world over, and from more than 100 years of being American, and from more than 65 years of this institution, where we teach and learn to discover new knowledge and share that with our communities, and where we practice how to serve others for the betterment of us all. Today's ceremony—with our academic gowns and formal processions—symbolizes your place in all of this history and calls on you to continue To Enlighten, To Discover, and To Serve.

Today is also a celebration of the hard work and dedication of the more than nine hundred members of the faculty, staff, and administration of UOG. As I have learned more and more about this great institution, I continue to be impressed by the love and care that our employees give to this University. I thank all of the graduates for learning with us, for challenging us to think in new and different ways, and for your commitment to making the world a better place for all of us and for those who come after us.

Most of you in the audience are here today to celebrate the achievement of a graduate who means a great deal to you. Many of you are uncles, aunts, brother, sisters, or close friends of a graduate. There is one very special group of guests, however, that should be acknowledged this morning. The parents, guardians, and spouses of these graduates have provided encouragement at the most important times, praise when it is deserved, continuous love and support, and, occasionally, money when it was needed. If you are a parent, a guardian, or a spouse of one of today's graduates, please stand and let us thank you for supporting them.

Now, I would like to ask our graduates to reach out to family or friends who can't be with us today. Please take out your phones—I know you all have them!—and take a selfie and send it to someone you're grateful to who can't be here today.

President Robert Underwood sends you all congratulations on your achievement today. He was honored to preside over most of your time as students here at UOG. I'd like to close my remarks today by quoting President Underwood's closing pledge from his final commencement as president last May:

He said,

“We have a CHamoru tradition to protect; we have a multicultural society to strengthen; we have a service to provide; we have patients to attend to; we have students to inspire; we have islands and sea to take care of; we have a business to build; we have families to love, and we will do all of these things in the spirit of fairness and social justice and ethical standards that speak to all of us not just as holders of degrees, but as educated Tritons ready to engage the world, ready to shape the future, holding the *Fisga* and always ready to say Biba UOG, Biba UOG.