Scholarships
Commencement Address
by Dr. Emily Graves, V’99

May 17th. We have thought about this day for weeks — even years in some cases. Over the past few weeks, we have been celebrating, but we have also been interviewing, working, planning our moves to various places, renting new places, buying new homes, buying cars, selling cars... the list goes on. At the same time, many of us have become weary of entering the REAL world of veterinary medicine. Doubts and anxieties abound. DO WE ACTUALLY KNOW ENOUGH? The national and state veterinary boards think so. Our fellow colleagues at both hospitals think so. So should we.

To my classmates, consider the astounding volume of information we have studied. I will list only a few for all of you: We have learned the difference between granulation and granulomatous. We know the difference between first and second intention healing. We know how to properly place a bone screw in lag fashion. When palpating a mare, we can now tell the difference between a fecal ball and an ovary. We have observed the seemingly endless number of techniques to repair a torn cranial cruciate ligament. We understand the difference between lavage and gavage. We know the meaning of countless acronyms, including OCD, LSA, PIE, EIPH, HIE, OSA, and of course the NBE AND CCT. Finally, we have realized the phrase, “it is NOT uncommon,” actually does have a use.

Remember this — and know that each one of us has accomplished a great deal. And remember our education continues from here.

As an incoming student, I marveled at the variety of people's backgrounds. If you ask enough of us, you will realize that we have done it all. We followed many paths to this point; we will undoubtedly take many different roads through our professional careers. During our time together, I learned that we also have some very important qualities in common. First, we all have a considerable support network of family, friends, significant others, and of course, our pets. We sincerely thank you all for being there. Second, we share a strong desire to be successful. Success means something different to each one of us because our priorities and motivators are unique; but that common desire helped all of us make it here today.

In closing, I wish success to all of my classmates — however you choose to define it. Thanks for an incredible four years. Thank you also to our faculty and staff members who have helped us achieve our goal of becoming veterinarians. Continued success to all of you.

Lastly, I want to share a poem about success. I dedicate this to my mom. Thank you, Mom, for sharing these words with me.

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Success
by Ralph Waldo Emerson

How do you measure success?
To laugh often and much.
To win the respect of intelligent people.
And the affection of children.
To earn the appreciation of honest critics.
And endure the betrayal of false friends.
To appreciate beauty.
To find the best in others.
To leave the world a bit better.
Whether by a healthy child,
A redeemed social condition.
Or a job well done.
To know even one other life
That has breathed because you lived.
That is to have succeeded.