



Good evening, dear graduates, professors, guests and mum.

The very special day has come. Yes, it took us long to get to it, but what an interesting journey it was! At times it was difficult, at times it made us be creative, resourceful and ingenious but it never made us bored. I know, during this journey many of you discovered new talents and uncanny abilities previously hidden inside. So did I.

While writing this speech I was thinking of a lot of things. Education. Opportunities. Goals. Closed people. Our professors. And of course, our famous University. I think we all are fortunate to be graduates of VUB. Above all things, I would like to thank our professors for breakthrough knowledge and challenging tasks which encouraged us to evolve into international persons who are able to contribute to the world's development and progress. For your enthusiasm and dedication. For invaluable advice you gave us on the way to Science. I want to share one of those advice.

When fulfilling my assignment I was told to collect materials, then go to a quiet and comfortable place and read materials. That is not all. Then I needed ... and I am quoting here... “to go for a long walk in the woods to think.” The professor recommended to walk 2 times 4 hours. “It will keep you healthy. You can appreciate the beautiful woods just outside the ULB library and you will be able to develop your own analysis further. Enjoy. Take an umbrella”. **здесь можно смело смотреть в бумажку, вы цитируете**

And you know what, it really worked! It drove and taught me to be attentive and focused. Knowledge ARE important but knowledge of ways how to implement knowledge is of no less importance. **В этом предложении интонационное ударение на ARE, со смыслом – действительно, безусловно, несомненно.**

So, I advise everybody to walk, hang out and relax as much as possible.

Find your own woods, area of INSPIRATION and enjoy it! **уже серьезно и с экспрессией**

We were not alone on this journey. Our closed people were with us. I am happy that my mother is with me today. **машем мамуле** Mom, thank you for all your support and your faith in me. You have never doubted that I

would receive brilliant education in one of the world's best universities.

**краткая пауза, улыбка счастья** Today I did.

My dear fellow-students! This is the last time we gathered all together... Such a bittersweet moment. I am sure the distance and time will not make us apart, we will keep in touch through all social nets and meet each other at different diplomatic conferences and negotiations. Having graduated from the Academy, we know that international negotiations basically are meetings where parties come to an agreement on the date of the next negotiations.

**далее серьезно** Now it is our power and responsibility to lead the world to peace and prosperity. Economic diplomacy is not about only your national interests and increasing of competitiveness. It is about how to make the world free, equal and livable place for ALL nations. And that is where goals and principles of both diplomacy and education come together.

Be courage, brave, strong and open-minded. Always believe in yourself!

**Vivat Academia!** (Long live the Academy!)