Commencement 2015

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS
BY DENVER SADZIWA, CLASS OF 2015 VALEDICTORIAN
MAY 9, 2015

Good Morning... greetings from Harare, Zimbabwe- to our elite college
President, his excellency Johnnie B. Watson, the Board of Trustees, esteemed
guests, faculty, staff, parents, my fellow graduates, comrades and friends:

The journey that started by a single step a few years ago is finally winding down
to an inevitable end. In my native tongue, Shona, is a proverb which says,
“chinobhururuka chinomhara”, which translates to everything that flies will
eventually land at some point. As we come to an end of our stint at the LeMoyne
Owen College, let us all remember to thank God, our creator, for His great
mercies and love, our venerable faculty and staff for their sheer dedication to
academic excellence, their leadership, community engagement, and service.
These great men and women of valor have expended their precious time and
efforts investing in us, the leaders of TODAY not tomorrow- helping us to prepare and shape our lives for a better future. We will forever be indebted to them and this great institution, LeMoyne-Owen College, which has now become our prestigious alma mater as of this day.

We are the leaders of TODAY and not tomorrow because there is an urgent need for us in the communities that we hail from: be it just around the corner in South Memphis, or in Durban – KwaZulu Natal in the rainbow nation of South Africa where numerous foreigners were killed a few weeks ago in a series of xenophobic attacks, on the streets of Baltimore, Maryland, where the cries for justice are just as loud as they were in 1968, or be it in my hometown of Harare, Zimbabwe, where the unemployment rate is hovering at estimated 95%.

(SELAH).

Ladies and gentlemen…. our greatest challenge is no longer that fierce Capstone paper or that hard to solve differential equation; our challenges are right there around us embedded in the communities where we live. Our challenges are right there when we switch our television sets on CNN: seeing the multitudes being killed in the name of various religions, and witnessing esteemed scientists and some of our beloved politicians who are still in doubt and denial of the problem of
climate change. These ladies and gentlemen are our new challenges, and we must be cognizant of them as we celebrate our great achievements today.

Class of 2015, I am deeply contrite, and I did not mean to burden your hearts with sorrow on this great day or cut our celebrations short, but the WORLD needs us TODAY more than ever.

To paraphrase the words of Dr. Seuss, “We have brains in our heads, we have feet in our shoes. We can steer ourselves any direction we choose. We are on our own. And we know what we know. And we are the ones who will decide where to go…”

Ladies and gentlemen we are the masters of our own destiny, let us embrace it!!!

May God bless us all, and may He open the doors of opportunities and may He grant the righteous wishes of our hearts.

Denver Tatenda Sadziwa is my name, and I Thank You for your undivided attention!!!