



SACUA

SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SACUA Address to the Class of 2016

Thank you, Martha. My name is Silke Weineck. I am a Professor of German and Comparative Literature, and the Chair of the Faculty Senate. Warm greetings to everybody on this chilly yet glorious day.

Dear graduates: I am here to tell you, on behalf of all of your professors, how very proud we are of you, and how much we'll be rooting for you, wherever your plans will lead you, wherever the winds of chance will carry you.

Before I say goodbye, I want to ask you a question –if you know the answer, feel free to shout it out loud. Ready? --- Who's got it better than us?

That's right. Nobody. You are graduating from one of the finest public universities in the world. And if we faculty have done our job, we have taught you two things above all: to *think* and to *care*. So I want you to go out there and to think hard and to care hard, on behalf of all of those who have it worse than us. Because to think and to care and to *act* with thought and care is to carry forward the spirit of this remarkable place in which you have been immersed these past years.

I will leave you with the words of the great German writer Bertolt Brecht, the words I like to think of as every university's secret motto: "Thinking is one of the greatest pleasures of the human race."

So go party. Then go think. Then do. And go blue.

Watch the commencement ceremony at

<http://ummedia05.miserver.it.umich.edu/itscomm/springCommencement/its.html>

