

DAPHNE SKINNARD - GRADUATION CEREMONY SPEECH TRANSCRIPT

FELLOWSHIP AWARD ACCEPTANCE SPEECH GIVEN AT THE 2013 FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY GRADUATION CEREMONY

Transcript

"I was of course a child prodigy when I came here, just in case you're trying to guess. First of all an enormous thank you and my speech is this one. My father was a man of many letters, I happen to be on the receiving end of many of those. One in particular is relevant to today, the rest are about unsuitable boyfriends, treating home like a hotel, and how late nights will give me bags under my eyes. But there was one piece of correspondence that I found recently that was written to me on the day that I left home for Falmouth, and so my acceptance and thank you to you is in a form of a letter to my father, who sadly isn't here today.

Do you remember the journey? The car sagged heavily as we loaded everything but the kitchen sink into the boot for the 66-mile trip. We spent it in silence with tears running down our faces. You were watching one of your little chicks leave the nest. I on the other hand was entering the world of student life in a place with colleges that had a great reputation for art and journalism, pubs, a dockyard and boat builders! Although your words of guidance and advice fell on deaf ears then, I can look back now and realise how wise you were. You insisted I should listen, make the most of the opportunity, work hard, and avoid an overdraft. Two out of four isn't bad really? After months of studying public administration, law, typing, shorthand, recording vox pops - we ran out of voices then, and so we started putting on voices ourselves and used to interview each other - plus interviewing skills. You watched as I tried to launch my media career in the South West. It wasn't as easy as I thought it would be but, as I measured men's suits for Austin Reed in between outside broadcasts for the local commercial station, you continued to encourage and support me and told me never to give up. I was one of the many lucky ones. The course provided me with a brilliant set of skills for a career and I have never looked back until now. So thank you for pointing me in the direction of the course and for believing in me. None of this would have been possible without Falmouth.

Of course my father isn't the only one I want to thank today. I need to thank my mother who's here today and to an enormous amount of people who have helped me along the way. And although you were very kindly and generously clapping me for being in charge of the campaigns, a lot of you helped me along the way, and so it's not just me.

The largest thanks of course must go to you for bestowing this honour on me. This is the ceremony that I didn't have. I really never expected it and receiving this award has given me an immense amount of pride. Congratulations to you as you all step out in the world of work, some of you I know already are there. Be confident in the knowledge your start has come from a very strong foundation, the reputation of the courses here are known worldwide, and be proud of your achievements.

One piece of advice though. Now that you've graduated I'm sure that you've got a favourite pair of jeans. This is the source of all happiness because keep them, and when you are 45 and you can still fit into them you will rejoice! Ladies and gentleman, once again, very many thanks and congratulations to you all. It's wonderful to be here and I am incredibly humbled by this award. Thank you very much."