Dame stands for more than the physical—it is you, your inner beauty, and the virtues that unite us as a family. No other place can replicate that character. We are Notre Dame.

These virtues build the Notre Dame community and are necessary for flourishing work in family life and in civil society. The virtues described here refer to you both as a class as well as individuals. By taking these excellences with you, you will impact the world for good.

Congratulations on your remarkable accomplishments.

Yours in Notre Dame,

Gregory Crawford
William K. Warren Foundation Dean
College of Science
VIRTUES.

4. Accountability
6. Ambition
8. Authenticity
10. Beauty
12. Bravery
14. Compassion
16. Courage
18. Dedication
20. Determination
22. Discernment
24. Empathy
26. Faith
28. Forbearance
30. Fortitude
32. Grace
34. Gratitude
36. Grit
38. Huility
40. Humor
42. Integrity
44. Justice
46. Loyalty
48. Magnanimity
50. Openness
52. Optimism
54. Patience
56. Perseverance
58. Purposefulness
60. Respect
70. Vitality
62. Simplicity
72. Zeal
46. Loyalty
68. Wonder
Your accountability is demonstrated in your success as a science graduate. You have learned to pose a meaningful hypothesis, investigate with rigor, and report with honesty and clarity. You have learned to act with prudence to fulfill this obligation. You fear no challenges because you have acted well in your classes, labs, and life.

May you continue to live in such a responsible and productive way.
Ambition.

Your ambition drove you to pursue one of the most difficult majors on campus. You wanted to learn, discover, and impact the world by finding solutions to our biggest challenges. You aimed high and made sacrifices to reach those goals. You will set new goals in learning and in life to build upon the success that you have achieved.

May your ambition be always for good and always be fulfilled.
AUTHENTICITY.

Your authenticity wins trust from those around you who know you will not obscure the truth. You are sincere in your words and in your life. Trust is vital for every relationship in every field. Science especially depends on public trust for support, implementation of discovery, and advancement.

May you remain authentic.
Your inner beauty, harmony, justice, and peace reflects the beauty you have seen in the natural world. Science reveals interdependence, agile adaptation, and flourishing. These characteristics are not always on the surface. You have probed deeply and seen the beauty in science.

May you always reflect that beauty.
Your bravery resulted in the prize—a science degree from Notre Dame. You endured, and no opposition could stand against you. You looked beyond the limits, where none had gone before, to see the future and report new knowledge. Unafraid of challenges, you have had the strength to solve problems and improve the quality of life around the world.

May you always succeed with such heroic bravery.
Your compassion led you into science. Your desire to learn and grow will help benefit others and heal the suffering around the world. The person driven by compassion sets high goals and continually perseveres to achieve them, as you have done by completing this degree.

May you continue to seek good for all those in need.
Your courage throughout your time in Notre Dame Science has prepared you for the tests you will face in the future. Practicing all of your virtues will call for courage. You must be honest. You must be prudent. You must be fair. You must be humble. You must act according to what you know to be right.

May courage sustain you, no matter the cost.
DEDICATION.

Your dedication to science has brought you to the point where challenges have been met and overcome. This dedication is more than a degree—it is a commitment to staying focused on goals until they are achieved. You have demonstrated this virtue through your expertise.

May this dedication continue to drive you to excellence.
Your determination kept you from listening to voices that said “no,” whether in your own doubting mind or in discouragement from others. You faced the daunting challenge of completing a science degree. You knew what you wanted. You had what you needed to achieve it—your own intelligence and the community of colleagues and faculty. You listened only to your heart that said “yes.”

May determination keep driving you toward all of your worthy goals.
DISCERNMENT.

Your discernment leads to wise decisions even when you are faced with difficult choices. You have learned in science to demand evidence, to hypothesize and test, to consider unexpected possibilities, to accept the clear conclusions, and to act effectively. This prudent approach is vital in every area of life.

May you continually exercise it and choose well.
Your empathy has grown in your years at Notre Dame, where concern for others’ dignity and good is at the heart of our community. You fight injustice when you see victims. You fight for healing when you see suffering. You fight for the voiceless when you see neglect.

May this shared feeling keep inspiring you to serve.
Your faith is at the heart of Notre Dame and welcomes all who look beyond themselves, to defend each person’s dignity and seek the common good. You have devoted yourself to solidarity and peace. While with us on campus, you have participated in our mission. Now, you carry it into the world as a member of the Notre Dame family.

May your own faith inspire your service throughout your life.
FORBEARANCE.

Your forbearance empowers you to collaborate and to hear and respect the different opinions of others without insisting on your own way. Your eye is fixed on the goal, and you will not be distracted. You are excited, but you temper your emotions for the sake of including team members.

May such forbearance influence your relationships and your goals.
Your fortitude mirrors the Jordan Hall of Science—it towers on a firm foundation and reaches for the sky. Its wide doors are open for all who enter to learn. Inside, the learning and research are for a cause—to heal and elevate the human community. You have excelled in that enterprise with us.

May you stand strong in that shared cause.
GRACE.

Your grace enhances beauty wherever you may be. Your peaceful confidence and kind approach inspire a calm and generous response from others who can sense your inner strength, though you do not call attention to yourself. This grace is part of Notre Dame’s community.

May you demonstrate it wherever you go.
GRATITUDE.

Your gratitude shows humility—your great accomplishments were not attained alone. Your family, friends, faculty, classmates, and many others boosted your success. When you thank them for their part in what you have done, you complement their generosity with your own.

May your gratitude grow along with your achievements.
Your grit reveals your passion and your perseverance. Your determination is fueled by your desire to do good. The pressures of your demanding chosen field could not crush you but instead revealed your strength. You endured long days and nights of study, and now you reap the reward of all that work.

May your grit apply to every challenge you face.
Your humility has helped you learn and grow. At Notre Dame, working with role models who modestly seek to serve others, you have been served and have served on campus, in the community, and around the globe. Where people are in need, you have given selflessly.

May you continue to impact the world for good through humility.
Your humor is a virtue that empowers the community. You will advance and flourish with joy and friendliness. In difficult moments, humor eases stress and lightheartedly interrupts mundane routine. A team that shares this mutual delight is energized for effective collaboration.

May you spread such happiness wherever you go.
InnGRITY.

Your integrity is strengthened by your participation in science. Your work depends on honesty, transparency, and reliability. As scientists, we trust each other and the public trusts us. You are truthful and accurate. This virtue makes the community flourish and creates confident teams for learning and discovery.

May integrity mark all of your interactions.
Your justice is upheld in this community. In our relating to each other and in our hope for the whole world, we seek to uphold real fairness to meet the needs of all. We believe that the long arc of history bends toward justice. You will be faced with difficult choices in your life.

May this virtue help you act with confidence and peace.
Your loyalty to ideals, classmates, and your alma mater has deepened. Together, we are filled with this loyalty, proudly expressed through “God, Country, Notre Dame.” Loyalty is about the past, present, and the future. The relationships you have established here will stay with you.

May you give and receive this loyalty in every circumstance.
MAGNANIMITY.

Your magnanimity exhibits the breadth of your virtues. Your great-hearted attitude and actions draw on your generosity, kindness, charity, and respect for others. This noble spirit is a chief characteristic of Notre Dame, reflecting our commitment to common good, solidarity, and selfless service.

May you live out these virtues of Notre Dame.
OPENNESS.

You openly embrace the world. You show each person respect, as well as hear and understand their thoughts, faith, and hopes. You share ideas with transparency and grace. This openness has helped you succeed in group work and enjoy the creativity that comes with diversity.

May your openness advance the peace and well-being of the world.
Your optimism was obvious when you enrolled in science. You knew that you could achieve mastery in this challenging field. You can envision the possibilities for the future, and you can set new goals with great confidence. You have proved your abilities here.

May you face every challenge with this same well-founded hope.
Your patience has been rewarded in many ways. You were not seeking quick gratification when you signed up for science. You worked your way through problems with attention, imagination, and diligence. You accepted setbacks as part of the process and endured to the end—Commencement.

May patience always bring you rewards.
PERSEVERENCE.

Your perseverance kept you on course. Obstacles could not deter you. You met new challenges with strength. Mastering them has made you stronger and more resilient. You would not give up, and, because of this perseverance, now receive the success that unyielding virtue brings.

May you always persevere in this way.
PURPOSEFULNESS.

Your purposefulness contributed to your success and to those you have inspired. A clear and lofty vision of possibility accelerates progress for you and your team. When the purpose is to impact the world for good, the satisfaction of success is even sweeter.

May you always find such purpose in all of your pursuits.
Your respect extends to others and to the natural world. Your defense of life and dignity demonstrates this respect. In science, you have gained respect for the vastness, complexity, beauty, and subtlety of the universe. Your respect for leaders and collaborators advances greater creativity, solidarity, and success.

May you give and receive respect in every encounter.
SIMPPLICITY.

Your simplicity empowers you to deal with the complex worlds of nature and humanity alike. As a scientist you value the solution's elegant simplicity. You are able to find the patterns and the terms that unify and make accessible what was mysterious and opaque.

May simple beauty shine through your complex life.
Your trust in others and their trust in you accelerates the progress of your team. This trustworthiness, based on mutual respect, enables interdisciplinary collaboration. Learning is shared across boundaries in order to find creative solutions and success.

May your trustworthiness inspire such cooperation.
Your wisdom has empowered your success in science. It means much more than intelligence and test scores. You have faced volumes of data and information far greater than those in previous generations. You have learned to understand and choose wisely, to gain the benefit of such vast knowledge.

May wisdom guide your path in all that you do.
Your wonder is the beginning of your wisdom. Your wonder at the natural world led you to science. The more you learn, the greater your wonder and creativity. As you discover new things, connections, knowledge, and ways of understanding, great possibilities will emerge for you.

May you maintain this sense of joyful wonder in all you do.
Your vitality is a virtue that brings energy to your work, not only for yourself but for all who know you. You exert more than necessary because you are excited and enlivened by the possibilities of discovery, of new knowledge, and of seeing the future. You are full of hope and will have a flourishing life.

May enthusiasm continue to animate you.
Your zeal found expression across campus and in the community. This type of zeal boosts each project’s chances for success. Your passion for projects, which benefit others, has elevated your own activity and been inspirational. Such passion is not limited to youth, or any age.

May your zeal empower you to achieve your goals.
21st-Century Competencies.

74. DIVERSITY
78. DYNAMISM
80. ECUMENISM
82. ENTREPRENEURSHIP
84. GLOBALIZATION
86. INNOVATION
88. SERVANT LEADERSHIP
You will encounter people of different backgrounds, races, ethnicities, nationalities, and perspectives. Your respect, openness, and authenticity will enable you to engage with trust and solidarity. The inclusion of new insights will foster creative and innovative environments.

May diversity broaden your vision and impact.
Dynamism.

You will need dynamism in a world of constant change—as it evolves in organic and innovative ways. Your virtues of vitality, optimism, and zeal make you an important contributor to that world. You have learned to adapt, to embrace possibility, and to expect that the future be different.

May you experience many positive transformations.
You will encounter people of diverse faiths and beliefs, sincere colleagues who are Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, atheist, agnostic, those of diverse faiths, and those of no faith. Your virtues of faith, grace, and forbearance will enable your mission and service to bring justice and healing—the common good sought by people of good will.

May your experiences deepen your devotion.
Entrepreneurship.

You will encounter entrepreneurship that translates discovery and innovation to benefit the whole society. Your purposefulness, perseverance, and ambition equip you to seize opportunities and face challenges of introducing change in a complex environment through innovation cooperation, and collaboration.

May your leadership in entrepreneurship enrich the global community.
You will encounter a connected, interdependent world of partnerships, markets, problems, and opportunities. Your ambition, compassion, and justice will enable you to see the full scope of the issues at stake—not only economics but equality, dignity, and freedom for the whole human community on Earth.

May your experience of globalization bring satisfaction.
Innovation.

You will encounter innovation as you solve problems in new, unexpected ways. Your virtues of wonder, wisdom, and grit will lead you to new creations and combinations that address and uplift the whole community. In science, you have seen the future firsthand.

May experiences of innovation bring you joy.
Servant Leadership.

You will find a world in need of servant leadership as well as collaborative participation. Your virtues of empathy, humility, and altruism equip you to provide such leadership. You recognize the gifts and needs of others. Affirm them and value their success as your own.

May servant leadership elevate you and others.
O Lord, you have ennobled human beings with the ability to perceive your own beauty in the things you have made and to reflect that beauty in the excellence of our character, our choices, and our actions.

You have surrounded us at Notre Dame with the beauty of nature and the beautiful work of human hands—the candlelit Grotto, the house that Rockne built, the Jordan Hall of Science. More than that, you have surrounded us with the beauty of magnanimous students, colleagues, alumni, and friends who live the vision and pursue the mission every day, especially those who have achieved their goals in the College of Science and are graduating.

Give us gratitude for the beautiful community that you have created here and strengthen us in the virtues that make that beauty shine even more brightly and the virtues we see in each other and the whole Notre Dame family. May our graduates demonstrate that beauty as they go forth, now and in the future. Let us be Notre Dame.

Amen.

Prayer for the Class of 2015
You transformed Notre Dame with your virtues and were a powerful force for the common good. Your courage taught us to stand for truth and justice, as you showed us how to meet challenges with grace. Your humility taught us to work in diligent service, as you strived to affirm the dignity of all people. Your compassion taught us the value of sacrifice, for you championed those who were powerless. Your humor taught us the joy, pleasure, and beauty of a rich and fulfilled life well lived. Your love of science accelerated our ability to elevate well-being around the world. Your devotion to Our Lady inspires us to advance the mission and vision of Notre Dame.

In memory of

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.
1917–2015