

Valedictorian Speech for Ceremony C10 - 12 July 2026 Sunday (2:30pm)

Sim Jun Hong

Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Engineering) with Honours

Good afternoon,

Professor Teo Kie Leong, Dean, College of Design and Engineering;
Mr Andy C Lee, Managing Director, Singapore, Alibaba Cloud;
Distinguished Guests, Fellow Graduates, Parents and Friends;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an incredible honor to stand before you today.

When we first stepped onto this campus, we knew we were signing up for a challenge. We came here to learn how to build, how to analyze, and how to solve problems that don't have easy answers. For us in Computer Engineering, that meant balancing the unforgiving realities of hardware, with the boundless possibilities of software.

We have all shared that uniquely demanding NUS experience, united by our own versions of the 3 AM struggle. Our late nights were spent staring at a monitor, trying to hunt down a seemingly impossible segmentation fault, or sitting in the lab hoping our breadboard wires wouldn't suddenly come loose right before grading. At the time, those moments felt frustrating and exhausting. But looking back, they were never really about the hardware or the software.

Those moments taught us resilience.

They taught us how to remain calm when the solution was not obvious. They taught us how to break down complex problems into manageable pieces. They taught us that failure is not the end of the process, but often part of the process itself.

Crucially, this journey wasn't just about what we built; it was about who we built it with. We survived the brutal project deadlines, the endless nights of debugging, and the chaos of last-minute submissions, only because we faced these challenges together.

Each of us brings different strengths, experiences, and aspirations, but together we have formed something greater than the sum of our parts. By relying on each other, we became more than just classmates. We learned that collaboration is not simply dividing tasks among team members. It is learning how to listen, how to communicate, and how to support one another. In an era increasingly shaped by technology, these human qualities remain some of the most

important skills we possess. We leave here today not just as individual graduates, but as a deeply connected network of innovators.

As we step out of these halls today, the world is moving faster than ever. The systems are getting more complex, and the global challenges are steeper. But we have been trained to be problem solvers. Whether we go on to design next-generation hardware, or engineer complex software systems, we are ready to build solutions that matter.

To all the people who have inspired, taught, and supported us through our journey, thank you.

To our professors, thank you for pushing us beyond what we thought were our absolute limits.

To our families and friends, thank you for your unwavering patience and encouragement. Your support carried us through every success and setback.

And to the Class of 2026:

Today marks the end of one chapter, but it is also the beginning of another. The degrees we receive today are not simply recognition of what we have accomplished. They are a reminder of what we are capable of accomplishing in the future. Years from now, the projects and assignments may fade from memory. But the resilience we developed, and the friendships we forged, will remain.

Congratulations, Class of 2026. Let's go out there and build the future. Thank you.