

# Commencement Prayer

Graduate Ceremony  
May 9, 2009, 2:30 pm

Oh God, on this beautiful spring day we gather to honor these who have completed their degrees, and who will soon embark on the next stage of life's journey.

We are thankful for the University of Georgia, the administrators led by Dr. Adams and the faculty who have mentored and taught these graduates during their education.

We are thankful for the family and friends gathered here today in support of these graduates.

This afternoon we reflect back with thanks on the lessons learned while at this remarkable institution:

We offer thanks for the many professors who have not only taught information, but also a love for learning, both in and out of the classroom.

We offer thanks for our colleagues who not only made pursuing further education fun, but also helped to mold these graduates into the scholars they have become.

As poetically stated in our alma mater, this morning these graduates

"Take their rightful place  
Side by side into the future  
Equal dreams embrace"

As these men and women pursue their dreams, may each continue to seek knowledge, pursue truth, and have a desire for justice for all people.

Temper all of their pursuits with love and compassion.

God give these graduates a global perspective. May their sights be set not only on advancing their own needs and desires, but the needs of all peoples with whom we share this ever-shrinking planet.

In these uncertain economic times, we ask for your guidance, Oh God, as these men and women continue or begin careers. May their places of employment be such that their gifts are appreciated and nurtured, so that each will thrive and bloom to his or her fullest potential!

God, as these men and women leave this place as alumni, guide and protect them, and keep them safe for many good days ahead. Bring them back to this hallowed

ground of learning in future days to celebrate the long and healthy journey that began here.

God bless these graduates, and God bless the University of Georgia.

Amen.