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Firstly, I want to thank everyone for coming and joining us in this happy and accomplishing event. It is with gratitude to G-d for allowing us to be here today and coming thus far.

From good times to bad times we have come a long way as a class and as growing professionals. I'm sure everyone could agree that nothing worth doing in life comes easy. Although initially it seemed as though it *was* easy from our first steps in doing basket weaving, crocheting, and artwork, we grew to understand the true, and underlying meaning of what occupational therapy really is and the impact it has on humanity.

That journey, however, was tough and challenging. From our endless studying to the long commutes, to juggling other roles of our lives with academics, we have sacrificed and dedicated our time to become who we are today. Although our journey was not easy, our determination kept us anchored. Despite our challenges, our memories of laughter added flavor and enrichment to our experience. I'm sure we'll never forget trying to act out schizophrenic or bipolar at the groups we had to run in Diana's psychosocial class. Or making splints that would make the patients contracture even worse! But we learn and it is through these experiences that we grow.

We are proud of having chosen *this* profession to pursue and even prouder to have achieved it. I think each of us chose this profession from our inner drive to help and give and make the lives of others a meaningful experience. Each of us has a unique trait that

can contribute vastly to the profession and it is that part of us together with our intrinsic motivation as well as our will to succeed that will make a difference.

Touro College has instilled in us not only an abundance of knowledge but the seeds that will let *us* and our profession grow. “Be creative...make it meaningful...” as our professors would say-- may have sounded annoying, but it is the very essence of who we are and what keeps us alive, unique, and integral to society. With the small classrooms, individualized attention, accommodation and respect of all cultures and backgrounds, and caring faculty, that Touro College has set the environment of, we have come to develop close relationships with our mentors and peers that instilled in us a sense of trust, support, and competence.

Occupational therapy is a profession that is beneficial to all people of various disabilities, age, background and culture and is aimed at improving independence and quality of life. With the multicultural society that we live in today, and the unfortunate rise of various diseases and people with disabilities, and with the benefit of our industrious society, in developing various assistive technologies, we can only be an asset to the world. We have the power to grow, expand, and most importantly influence and improve the lives of those affected.

We are ready to embark on our journey as we know this is just the beginning. Our real education starts and should never cease to end from our first steps into our career. With our individual attributes and the tools and values that Touro College has equipped us with, we are the key to the future and can open many doors.

On behalf of the class, I would like to thank our families, friends, faculty, and staff for their endless support and being apart of our accomplishment.