



## Jacob Chang Convocation speech

Good morning Buckeyes!

Three years ago, I had just left my home in Nanjing, China, and flew 10,000 miles over the Pacific Ocean to this beautiful city by myself as an international student. Like many of you, I was both excited and nervous about starting my journey at Ohio State. Sitting like you are now as a new Buckeye, I would never have dreamed that I will have the privilege of serving as your Undergraduate Student Body President this year.

Since day one of my journey here, many have asked me the same question: why Ohio State? When I reflect on this question every year, I always have a different answer. As a freshman, I would tell you it's because OSU is a world-renowned academic institution. As a sophomore, I would tell you it's because the heart-felt Buckeye traditions. As a junior, I would tell you it's because the life-long friendships you will foster here. And now I will tell you it's because the transformational experience that taught me who I am and who I want to be.

As you embark on your undergraduate career, please promise yourself that you will cherish every moment of your experience here. Grab dinner with a new



person, lead a student organization, hug that friend who is always there for you, switch to the major you always wanted, walk past the oval listening to the bell ringing... All these moments of experience will piece together and become a part of you that you will take away when you receive your degree. Savor it and do not leave any regret.

One aspect of your experience at Ohio State is to participate in the meaningful traditions of our university. As we conclude this morning's Convocation, we want to formally introduce you to one of them, one that connects new students and alumni alike – the singing of our alma mater, Carmen Ohio.

In 1902, football player and men's glee club member Fred Cornell penned the lyrics after one of the Buckeyes' saddest hours: an 86-to-nothing loss to "that team up north." His words were first performed by the men's glee club in 1903. Three years later, in 1906, before the Ohio State-Michigan game, *The Lantern* published Cornell's Carmen Ohio, inspiring an overwhelmingly positive response. For more than a century, this melody has echoed in the heart of every Buckeye.



At this time, I invite you to first listen once to the Ohio State men's glee club's rendition of our alma mater, and then please stand and join in for the second round. The lyrics will be on the screen behind me.

(Continue after the alma mater. . .)

Thank you to the Ohio State Men's Glee Club! Please be seated.

Alongside our meaningful traditions, there are nearly 1400 student organizations on campus that you can get involved with. Undergraduate Student Government is one of them. Representing all 53,000 undergraduate students, USG is committed to creating a more accessible and affordable campus, to prioritizing justice and equity for marginalized students in all the work that we do, and to ensuring that Ohio State students feel empowered to advocate for themselves and create positive change within their own avenues. At Ohio State, you have the potential to become a student leader who intentionally creates, empowers, and paves the path for those who come after you. To conclude, let your failures become your stepping stones, let your heart guide your decisions, and let your dreams define your bounds.



Once again, congratulations and good luck!

At this time, I would like to invite the deans and faculty and platform guests to exit through the gate to my left. My fellow students, thank you for your attention this morning! Have a great first day of classes tomorrow! Go Bucks!