



14th August 2020

I have been receiving lots of inspirational email from faculty staff and students, with scriptures, poems and quotes. This one in particular stood out to me this week, as we hosted our New Student Orientation, Advisement and Registration (NSO), “Even the smallest victory is never to be taken for granted. Each victory must be applauded...” These wise words, again from Audre Lorde, reminded me that this year’s NSO was an historic event for the university – it was the first time we held everything online! The student who sent it, also added “I am looking forward to a successful FALL semester, no matter the form it arrives in.” I cannot express how much that simple line encouraged me.

We often find ourselves in situations or positions where we need that extra boost of encouragement. We all need cheerleaders on the sidelines, telling us that we can achieve and succeed, that there is no impossible task. Today I want you to look for the cheerleaders in your lives and celebrate them; without them we may not be where we are today. I also want you to become someone’s cheerleader. Find a colleague, student or friend and share a few encouraging words. Let them know that you see the hard work they are putting in, and that it is not for granted. Tell them that they are doing a great job.

To our students, especially our first year students, I want to applaud you for joining us on this new virtual academic journey, and let you know that we will be successful together. To faculty, I want to say that this will be our best year yet. The Spring 2020 semester was a time for us to learn and now we can flourish in our virtual classrooms. To staff, those working from home and visiting campus for essential services, you are doing an excellent job and have made sure that things at UB keep on ticking. I am proud to work with all of you.

Please continue to send inspiring quotes or scriptures to presidentsoffice@ub.edu.bs. I have been inspired by those shared so far; and, I thank each of you who took the time to write an email with encouraging and inspiring words. Please stay safe and be encouraged.

Rodney D. Smith, Ed.D.

