

Governor General, Her Excellency the Most Honourable Cynthia Pratt,  
Prime Minister the Honourable Philip Davis,  
Minister of Education the Honourable Glenys Hanna-Martin and other Government Ministers,  
Leader of the Opposition the Honourable Michael Pintard,  
Former Governor General Dame Marguerite Pindling,  
Former Prime Ministers the Most Honourables Perry Christie, and Hubert Minnis,  
Distinguished Members of Parliament,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps and the Honorary Consular Corps,  
Reverend Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Chair of the Board of Trustees, Ms. Allyson Maynard-Gibson, K.C.,  
Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Gadville Macdonald,  
Members of the Board of Trustees,  
Former members of the Board of Trustees and College Council,  
Chair of the Academic Senate, Dr. Walteria Tucker-Rolle and members of Senate,  
President of the Student Government Association, Ms. Chante Deal and members of her executive team,  
Former Presidents Drs. Rodney Smith and Earla Carey-Baines,  
Union Presidents Mr. Kimsley Ferguson, Mr. Leslie Munnings, Mr. Daniel Thompson, and members of their executive teams,  
Former Union Presidents,  
Executive Vice President, Dr. Ian Strachan,  
Vice President Academic Affairs, Provost, Dr. Maria Woodside-Oriakhi,  
Other members of the Executive Leadership Team,  
Faculty, staff, students,  
Friends, donors, and specially invited guests.

Good morning.

It is an honour and a deep pleasure, to welcome you home today, on behalf of University of The Bahamas' faculty, students and staff. Welcome to your university, a university built by the nation, to build the nation. I hope you are pleased with what we have done over the past fifty years, and that you judge us to be fitting shepherds of so lofty a mission.

More than 20,000 students have come to us with dreams and aspirations. Thousands still do, every year. Hundreds of faculty members and staff have served our mission. All of them form part of our community. These men and women have spread their influence, and created opportunities for economic, social, and cultural development across the nation and beyond our shores. As someone who remembers many of them, I am well placed to testify to their talent, courage, perseverance, and success, and I honour them.

The UB community has wings, and it has flown across the nation. Settling both here at Oakes Field, and on our about to be rebuilt Northern campus in Freeport, its presence permeates the very fabric of the country. The UB brand is present across fields as varied as nursing, education, public service, finance, religion, tourism, business, and culture, among others.

REMARKS: LAUNCH EVENT, UB 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – 29th January 2024 11AM  
ACTING PRESIDENT JANYNE HODDER

We take special pride today in announcing our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Honorary Alumni Cabinet, largely composed from a sample of those who have received the Alumni Award over the years. Stars every one of them.

- Co-Chairs, Ms. Carmen Butler and Mr. Lars Minns
- Ms. Vernice Walkine
- Mr. Larry Gibson
- Mr. Anthony Ferguson
- Ms. Sonia Cox Hamilton
- Bishop Neil Ellis
- Ms. Candia Dames

Thank you for serving as our ambassadors throughout this anniversary year.

It is said that the best life is a life with purpose.

As someone who remembers our earliest days, I recall rushing to write new curriculum, teaching in classrooms without air conditioning, washing the ink stains from the mimeograph machine from my hands, competing with colleagues for the limited card stock to make visual aids for my class.

Through it all, I found purpose here, as did my colleagues and our students. We complained at times, when the roof leaked or the power went out, and, sometimes, we still do. But we never stopped believing in our purpose; and we still do.

It is a purpose we could not achieve without you, without your support, your faith in us, and the way you have of setting high standards and demanding that we reach them.

Whenever the challenges seem daunting, I am reminded that we are building on the work of those who came before us, and that we are building for those who will come after, and I take joy in being part of this community and pride in serving it.

Welcome home.

I now invite to the podium, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Allyson Maynard-Gibson, K.C., a woman singularly driven by purpose and eminently talented at driving purpose wherever she goes.