

Graduate Speech – Adrian Sardelic

Federation Business School

3.30pm, Thursday 7 May, 2015

Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today I would like to thank you all for coming and for all the help you have given throughout our time at university.

I remember the first day of orientation being told the endless opportunities that can come from you completing a bachelor degree. *Being young I thought that these “opportunities” that they were talking of, would be the big dollars that I would be earning a few years after the end of my degree.* We were taught about the life triangle, and how we should manage it, for those who don't know or cannot recall it is a triangle with the 3 corners; work, study and a social. We were told if you want to do well at University you need to find a way to balance out this triangle to best suit you. Because the saying *P's get degrees* sure wasn't going to work. During my time at university I tried to balance out this model as best as I could, I moved away from home, worked 5 jobs during the years, attend university games multiple times, was sent on a student leadership forum, was apart of the mentor program, went to Austria on an exchange program, complete an internship in the United States and travel for 300 odd days and be here today to graduate 3 years after commencement. It seems everyone has balanced their own life triangle pretty well otherwise no one would be here today.

After looking back and thinking about what opportunities means now, I find it doesn't all have to do with money. Opportunities can come in any shape form and size and it all depends on the person, how much a person is willing to work for it, when will they give up, or what they will risk to take it.

Throughout our life we will have an abundance of opportunities that will be offered to us each and ever day. There are many ways that one can take advantage of the many opportunities that life throws at us, and there is no right or wrong way to do this. All I want you to remember is that sometimes, not thinking about the end outcome is the best way to approach it.

I also found that surrounding yourself by those who only want the best for you and are willing to help in anyway to achieve what you want helps to make the decision easier, as well as to listen to those who have had similar experience, or even those who don't, and just try not to think about the negatives that could come, or the negatives that have come from opportunities taken in the past. If you have something that you really want to do then do it, if someone is telling you to do something their way, then stop and think for a little bit before you act, at the end of the day it is only advice, it is your life do what you want to do. If you have the support, then when you make the mistakes they will always be there to pick you back up in good times and in bad.

To my fellow graduates;

On behalf of all graduates here today I would like to thank Federation University for preparing us to get out into the world, ready to make the most of the opportunities that are presented to us, and with the skills and the knowledge to have confidence in our decisions and the courage to learn from our mistakes.

Follow the dreams that you dream, do the things that you want to do, live the life that you want to live.

“Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions.”

Thank you and all the best for the future.