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Graduation Speech
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Good Morning Class of 2017....what a day... I can't tell you how excited and humbled I am to be here with you today. As I look out over this great audience, I am reminded that 30 years ago, I was in your place, out there, Graduating from the University of Tampa.

I have to say, it is a little surreal to be here now, not sure I would of pictured this back then and I guarantee you most of my professors would not of pictured this...., you see I was just an average student with middle of the road grades, and although I had goals and aspirations, I was still not sure exactly what I wanted to do or what life had in store for me.

bad flashback for a guy who spent more time at the Rathskeller than the Library.

I have great memories and had great experiences here at UT. Not only did we get a great education, but we had a little fun along the way and made some great friends.....I know you did as well.....you know my generation is just very thankful we didn't have iPhones, Snapchat and Instagram back then.

I thought this morning I would share with you some of the things I have observed and lessons I have learned in the 30 years since I graduated from UT, in that I hope, no matter what your goals or aspirations are, that the observations I have learned will help you as you begin and continue your

But like most assets, it is how you put it to use and how you operate it that will determine its ultimate value. So let me share with you 3 observations that I believe will help you get full value of this degree you have earned today.

First, while this degree is a lifetime asset, the most important asset you have, that is even more sustaining than this degree is your Personal Character. This may not always get talked about in various settings, but your character is what will define your life. Traits like Integrity, Honesty, Treating people with respect and civility, doing the right thing the right way will be your greatest asset you will ever have. It will sustain through all cycles of life, both Professionally and Personally.

The second observation I can share with you is to search out and to

stages of my life....my goals are different now than when I was in my

your goals and pursuits are. By your presence here today, and you earning your degree, you have already proven you have the drive and commitment....just recognize it doesn't stop here, but rather starts here and there is a large beautiful universe to pursue.

So I offer my heartfelt congratulations to you, and know that I share the pride, joy and excitement of everyone here today supporting you. I look forward to witnessing and hearing great things that will come out of this class of 2017.

Most importantly, I look forward to seeing you, yes you, the one out there who is not the obvious one, do incredible things with your life, and you don't know it now, but in 20 or 30 years you will be here, passing