

Bobcat to Bobcat

If I only knew then
what I know now...



A project of the Ohio University Alumni Association and Senior Class Council

Senior Class Council

After dedicating four (or five) years of our lives to Ohio University in the pursuit of friendships, fun, and knowledge, we must now prepare to leave the comforts of Athens and enter the so-called real world. Though we'll be some of the first to tell you, at many moments, college life was certainly real.

As we begin this next phase, we can all take comfort in the fact that this isn't new – it's just new to us. To date, over 183,000 individuals have graduated from Ohio University and made the transition from student to alumna.

Bobcat to Bobcat, If I Only Knew Then What I Know Now is a compilation of advice alumni wished to share with us, the Class of 2006. For some of these alumni graduation was a half century ago, for others it was just last spring. Nonetheless, they offer the enclosed advice in the hope that we can learn from it, and that it will help with our transition from Ohio University to post-college life.

Even though we are leaving college a whole new chapter of our lives is beginning. Hopefully, many of us will find support, comfort, and memories of OU in the following pages, and possibly also some wonderful advice to help with our (near) future endeavors!

We are graduating from a great university and the value of our degree will help open many doors for us. As alumni we must work to protect the integrity of the Ohio University diploma.

Good Luck and Congratulations to the graduating class of 2006!



Dear Members of the Class of 2006,

Congratulations on this important milestone in your personal and professional life!

I remember the emotions I experienced – fear, hope, and excitement – when I graduated from Ohio University. The comfortable home I had known for four years was now replaced with a new life that required me to make adult decisions about issues such as employment, health benefits, and even retirement.

To be sure, as a graduate of Ohio University, you have all the tools to achieve your dreams. Remember to have faith in your education and more importantly faith in yourself. Best wishes to you in your future endeavors!

Cordially,

Dr. Roderick J. McDavis, BSED '70, Social Studies
1971 MS, University of Dayton
1974 PhD, University of Toledo
President, Ohio University

One day I was out walking my first child in her stroller, and I saw an elderly man watching us intensely as he sat on a bench by the side of the road. As we passed by, he nodded at me and said, "You're happier now than you know." It seemed a strange thing to say, but over the years I have come to realize that he was sharing the wisdom of the ages with me. As time passes and our lives change, we often forget to appreciate each stage of life. Too frequently we are busy living in the future, and the present passes us by.

Congratulations, Class of 2006! I appreciate having been with you during this part of your life, and hope to be a part of your happy future.

Dr. Kathy Krendl
BA, Lawrence University
MA, The Ohio State University
PhD, University of Michigan
Provost, Ohio University

Everyday I get up and think about the alumni of Ohio University—all 183,000 of 'em. Sometimes I refer to them as the "former students." In other instances I use the term "graduates." Whatever the case, colleges and universities are better and stronger because of the love, passion, and devotion of individuals who think of the institution as alma mater—Latin for "fostering mother." We, the alumni, are one of Ohio University's most valuable resources. With that fact in mind, we are reminded of the important responsibility of staying connected with all that makes our school an amazing place.

When I was asked to share some points of wisdom with the 5,000 or so new Bobcats, the following ideas came to mind. My mentor shared them with me, and I am compelled to share them with you. Enjoy.

Throughout life take calculated risks. Otherwise life will be a big ol' bore and you won't leave any form of legacy to the world. From my perspective that's an obligation of being human and definitely one of being an American.

You have to laugh a little and cry a little. Unless, of course, the laughing and crying becomes uncontrollable. Then I suggest you see a professional.

Make a positive difference in as many lives as possible, even if you are the only one who gives a darn about the person or the cause they represent. Life is short, but made richer when you do the right thing for another human being.

Never be afraid to fall in love, to be in love, or more difficult, to fall out of love. Loving another is an obligation to yourself, and more beautifully an obligation to another. Now, I suggest keeping the falling out of love part to a minimum. It's painful and can embitter you over time if it happens too frequently!

Finally, be true to your school (that's OU, in case you were wondering). In my opinion, being true and staying connected to OU is not an option for OHIO alumni. You absolutely must stay connected to your friends, your program buddies, your mentors and anyone you remotely cared about during your time in Athens. If you don't, I promise bad things will happen to you, like not having anyone to talk to about OU, or not having friends with whom you can return to Homecoming when you're old and gray. Now wouldn't that be a bummer!

Hey, have a great life and call us when you're back to visit!

Ralph Amos, MPA '04, PolS Pub Adm
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Once you're out of college don't feel rushed to do anything right away. There are plenty of options and plenty of time to do anything you'd like to. Remember this: once you have a full time job you're not going to have a chance to travel to Europe or be a ski instructor in Colorado or take a three week post graduation trip with your friends or anything else that in 20 years you will wish you WOULD HAVE done. Do it now. Best of luck in the future and don't ever forget the great times at Ohio U.

Justin Feldkamp, BSJ '05, Radio-TV News
Sports Anchor

See the world, take advantage of opportunities and experiences at the time in your life when you have no major responsibilities, never carry a large balance on a credit card, start a savings account and contribute to it regularly, always send a thank you note no matter what the gift or favor, pay attention to what your gut is telling you as it is usually right and as hard as it may sometimes be, always always take the high road.

Wendi S. Berger, BSC '88, Telecommunications
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It's easy to spot the freshmen and newcomers to the Ohio University campus; they instinctively look both ways when crossing Court Street, a one-way street. Twenty-five years later when visiting campus I still look both ways, a good general rule of thumb. There are always two ways to look at any issue, philosophy or argument. Robert Frost, the great American poet, when visiting Ohio University's campus in 1938 said that "college was a place where we lose our little-mindedness." In life always look both ways, and keep an open mind.

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As you look for your first job, make sure you do research on your industry and the companies that you are pursuing. There can be a lot of differences in pay and benefits even within the same industry.

Emily Wyler, BS '01, Environmental Biology
Foreman Specialist

Don't be afraid to chase your dreams no matter how much it may cost. Think outside of the box and do not be afraid to NOT conform. Be yourself! Do what is right for you and always move forward. Remember, sometimes you need to take a step back in order to move forward. Always remember where you are from and stay in contact with your friends from "Old Ohio."

Shawn Wears, BSSP '02, Sport Management
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Be patient in your career and personal life. Don't enter the workforce or relationships with the goal of being at a certain level before age 30. Instead, focus on what interests you, work hard, continue to learn and absorb as much information as you can and good things will come. Also be prepared for events in your life to not always go as scripted. But if you stick to your goals things will work out in the long run.

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1. Have only one credit card and pay off the balance in full every month. If you can't afford it, don't buy it. Save up for it.
 2. Start your IRA now. No matter how small put something into it through automatic deductions each pay check. Diversify, diversify, diversify your investments in your IRA.
 3. Eat a balanced diet with all major food groups, keep active, and exercise. You're young now so you can cheat and get away with it, but you won't always be young. Be good to your body now and it will be better to you later. Abuse it now and you'll pay for it later.
 4. Develop a habit of regularly doing something for charity. Do some good for those in need; you won't regret it.

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Plan as if you will live forever, but live as if you will die tomorrow.

Jerry Brumbaugh, BSCE '60
Retired
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Follow your passion (earn a salary in a career in which you would volunteer), EACH DAY is an opportunity to learn something new, remain filled with anticipation to the open doors that face you, embrace life and be grateful for everything that you have (versus wanting what you don't have), relax, maintain friends you can trust, always be honest (with tact even when it is awkward), confront conflict with kindness, be forgiving, offer donations to a respectable organization, remember your teachers, newspaper carrier, mail carrier, and others that have served you, respect the elderly, give everyone the benefit of the doubt (you have not walked in their shoes), one's trash is truly another's treasure, give "stuff" away for free, take a lot of pictures, say a daily prayer (include a thank you), and read to a child ;-)
Good luck ;-)

Talea McGinnis, BSED '02, Early Childhood
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Get some work experience before pursuing an advanced degree. In my case it helped me focus in on a field that I wanted to pursue as a career. In this way employers will see that you have both educational and real life work experiences.

Ellen Friedman Ruble AB '81, History
Senior Marketing Manager, Blue Cross and Blue Shield
*Now retired housewife with four kids.

Don't take the best paying job. Take the job that you will enjoy the most. Money is nothing if you don't have the time or means to enjoy it.

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Travel the world now while you can stay at hostels or other inexpensive places. Now I'm so busy and have family responsibilities making it difficult and much more expensive to travel. After graduation I wish I would have traveled to Europe, bought a Eurail Pass and slept on trains and in hostels. Live, learn, and teach others.

Bill Brodd, BSME '83
Technical Program Manager
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Always have a plan, but understand that the plan will change. Networking never ends. Keep in touch with both the faculty and classmates that you know and trust now. That is only the tip of the network iceberg. If you don't already have a job consider serving your country in some fashion. The military and government are always looking for solid citizens to contribute to our freedom. It's a great start to the rest of your life. Plan on continuing your education right away. A graduate degree means more income in most jobs. The further you get down the road of life the harder it gets to participate in a graduate program.

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Take pride in everything you do. If you can't do the little things well you won't get to take on bigger responsibilities. AND – don't develop a Starbucks habit!

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Education is a never ending circle; embrace every opportunity. Treat triumph and loss as a personal or professional growth experience. As Ginger Rogers so eloquently states, "The only way to enjoy anything in this life is to earn it first."

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Networking and keeping a good and loyal group of friends that you intend to stay close to into the future is critical. You need people who will tell you the truth about yourselves when it is needed. Reality checks are great but sometimes hard to come by. College is where I met most of the people that I call 30 years later when I need to have a serious talk. These friends are the beginning of a network, and the world of the future will absolutely require you to have a constantly increasing and maintained network of people. You also need to be willing to be in other people's networks and help nurture younger business and professional contacts. Your rolodex has never been so important to you.

Charles DeBrosse, BS '75, Chemistry
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Remember to always persevere. Nothing of worth comes without hard work. Nothing is handed to you anymore. Nonetheless, remember to be yourself, don't sweat the small stuff, and have fun!

Jordan Bigio, BA '02, Psychology
Project Coordinator

Be very proactive in establishing your social and professional networks. It's very fun and easy to always schedule things to do in your free time with just your friends, but this will significantly limit your personal development. Developing deep formal and informal networks is key for your professional development, and you will benefit from having a diverse group of people to turn to when you are seeking advice.

Brian P. Moore, BBA '92, Finance
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My advice is to be humble and to not expect the first years out of college to be easy ones. It takes time to build a career, so don't be disappointed if your first or second job isn't everything you had hoped it would be. Remember, you have just begun your journey. Also keep close with your college friends - you will need each other more than ever after graduation.

Jennifer Carlson Randolph, BSC '95, INCO – Political Communications
National Closing Coordinator for a Commercial Title Agency

Here are some pieces of advice I would like to share:

When you land your first job in your career field, be totally dedicated to it.

Get to know everybody you work with well.

Do the best job you can on each project.

Find out who are the highly respected people in your company and career field and seek them out for advice.

Never miss a day of work unless you are half dead.

Always go to company functions to network with people. Networking is the key to success in any field.

Find out what skills in your career field are in high demand and find someone who can teach them to you.

Always be receptive to constructive criticism.

Don't be afraid to move away for a job.

You have to go to where the opportunity is. I have done a lot of traveling after college, and because of that, I have been very successful.

Definitely keep in contact with college friends and professors after you have graduated because they know you and can give you excellent advice.

It is very important to write down your goals and to picture where you are going to be in 5, 10, and 15 years.

Develop very good oral and written communication skills. These skills are very important.

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Always seek alternatives. The world needs them, and you always have a choice
so listen to your heart as well as your mind on some things. In general, the word
“cool” is hard to learn or to be, so maintain a peaceful place of harmony with your
source or the earth, and have a perspective that really means something to the
next generation. Do not take yourself too seriously. Make time for self expression, not
ulcers. Meditate, and free your mind with careful moderation and daily balance.
Communication is everything. Know, join, be, or elect lawmakers who can solve what
the world must face together because politicians and organized crime are strange
bed-fellows and good leadership is hard to come by. Exercise good taste and
develop or support a solid vision for mankind in your work.

James F. King, BFA '67
Architect
Cleveland, Ohio

My advice to new teachers is to use the experienced teachers as mentors.
Their years of experience have given them not only a vast reservoir
of classroom materials and techniques that work, but a sense for how to
communicate effectively with students, parents, and administrators to
reach your goals. Above all, hang out with those teachers who maintain a
positive, can-do attitude. One more thing: Don't be the first one to leave
the building after school!

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Use your head when scrutinizing world events and affairs, and leave the heart for
love. Employ reason not emotion. As I have grown older, and hopefully a tad wiser,
I have learned that the world is divided into two primary camps: those who allow
their emotions to dictate their views, and those who are guided by reason. When
addressing serious issues reason must trump emotion. This nation is the greatest nation
on the planet and the opportunity for success is there for anyone with ambition and
desire. More important than the specific degree is the quality of character that the
person brings to the table.

John Rush, AB '74
VP/Sales and New Business Development
Cincinnati, Ohio
*Married for almost 30 years to OU '74 grad Virginia Peck (now Rush)
with 3 sons

Worry less and take more risks with work. Be proactive, not reactive.

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Follow your heart wherever it leads you, make wise decisions along the way,
and stick with your goals however long they may take to find fruition.

Melanie (Meg) Grinnell, BSJ '78, Advertising
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Get ready to enjoy the ride known as “the real world.” Never give up on your goals
and dreams, but be prepared to find new meaning in the virtue of patience. Be
patient especially when it comes to landing the ideal job that you enjoy enough to
call anything but “work,” and a family to share your day with when you come home
at night.

If you've chosen the path of sports journalism or communications, as I did, then
take my previous statement and extend any reasonable time table that you have
planned out in your mind to at least twice its original size. There is the possibility that
you will still be looking for a “real job” three years after you graduate. But hopefully
by then you will find happiness in the most unpredictable places, such as the unpaid
and seasonal internships that you continue to attend to keep your foot in the door
for whenever the “real job” becomes available (despite the paying job that always
seems to get in the way of your internship(s) schedules).

Good luck and go Bobcats!

Brian Silverman, BSJ '03, News Writing
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Travel as much as you can before you settle down. Once you get in the workforce it's hard to make time for yourself. Have fun and don't feel that you have to start a career as soon as you graduate. Later in life you may regret not taking advantage of your time.

David Hartogs, BA '97, Political Science
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Save as much money as possible right away! At first the paycheck is great and money is flowing, but once you settle down and make a home for yourself, the expenses are unbelievable.

Nicole Hayes, BSJ '02, Public Relations
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While goals are very valuable (5 and 10 year plans) make sure to not adhere to them so strongly that you overlook other opportunities. My career has had little to do with my degree so don't be painted into a box based on your degree or limited experiences.

Greg Scharer, BS '94, Family Studies
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Try to keep in contact with the friends you made during those fun-filled years at Ohio University. As you get older, you'll be glad you did.

Dick Belsky, BSJ '67
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Treat everyone (subordinates and supervisors alike) with respect. Project your professionalism for the position you aspire to have, not the one you currently have. Whatever your field be flexible yet focused on timely results.

Remember to be friendly and have fun.

Lourdes West, BS '79, Computer Science
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What you have learned in college, what you will experience in the future, who you are, and what you value make you uniquely qualified to do things that you may not have even imagined yet. Don't let your major, the expectations of your friends and family, or your current goals close you off from those possibilities.

Nicole Vander Does, AB '98, Theater
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Don't be afraid to try something new or change an aspect of your life if you are unhappy. Life is too short to spend it doing something you don't like.

Chris Mears, BSC '03, Communications Management
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Give Back!

Michael Worley, BSSE '95, Aquatic Management
MSPE '96, Athletics Administration
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Don't put off traveling or adventure until you are stable or "ready." Even if you have student loans try to integrate your desire to experience new things in new places into your job search. You can waste a lot of time saving up money and "preparing" for adventure. You've just spent four (or more...) years preparing. Get on the bus.

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Congrats and good luck! Here are two bits of advice. First, you are used to being broke college kids, so don't go out and max out all your credit cards the first decent paying job you get. If you already have debt, i.e., student loans, credit cards, etc., work on paying it off. Ten years from now (and it will fly by) you will be so far ahead if are not burdened by debt and if you know how to live within your means.

Jennifer Brabb, BSED '94, Elementary Education
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My advice to all Bobcats is to take the time to breathe - If only for a moment. Take the time to stop, reflect and reevaluate where you are, where you came from, and where you are going in your life. Take the time to stop, breathe, and think. It is amazing how much perspective can be brought to an issue that is occurring or a decision that needs to be made. Just breathe.

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Stay mentally fit and flexible. You will encounter many obstacles and challenges. Make sure that your mind will be able to handle the mental gymnastics!

Lynz Keys, BSSP '05, Sport Management
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Start your social and professional networking early. Networking will prove invaluable to one's personal and professional development. Do it early. It can not only start your career, but also build on it. Person to person networking and company to company networking can become one of your most important marketing strategies. If I only knew then what I know now!

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Stay connected with OU and your on-campus groups. Through the coming years these associations will prove increasingly more valuable, both professionally and personally. Become very aware of age differences and the expectations of those ages. For example, if someone is old enough to be your parent or grandparent, "sir" and "ma'am" will get you a damn site further than "guys" when dealing with them.

David B. Bates, AB '55, History
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Even though you'll still have that OU party spirit at heart, your body gets older and you can't pull the all-nighters and the "shuffles" and go to work the next day without any side effects. Don't get shocked when one day you realize you can't do it anymore and you wish you were still at OU!

Mika (Ogawara) Toreki, BSJ '02, Radio-TV News
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In this hyper-changing business environment remember job security is no longer guaranteed. Instead of this becoming a fear, you must realize by switching jobs every few years you can make large leaps in salary advancement. The glass is always half full if you want it to be!

James Davis IV, BBA '02, Management Information Systems
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Despite what you may hear or read about the current job market, opportunity is everywhere and your ability to be successful is limited only by your imagination and energy. Technology has made it possible for anyone to start their own business doing the most unimaginable things. If a career in the corporate world is where you are headed seek out strategic relationships and develop your skills as a team leader. Best wishes for success in your new adventures.

Walter G. Johnson, BBA '71
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Be sure to set your watch to the same time as your boss's.

Aaron Watkins, BFA '81, Theater
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Follow your passion and you will enjoy your chosen profession. Don't be afraid to try a new career if you find yourself in one that doesn't excite you. You can always go to graduate or professional school for more training. Wake up every morning thinking of ways you can make someone else look good and add value for your employer. Success will come your way. Good luck and have fun!

George Hersch, BSJ '71, Journalism
1981 MA, Central Michigan State University
Healthcare supply chain management

Take time to travel during your last school year and over summer. If you need help financially, tell your parents you are prospecting cities you would be interested in moving to or working in. Plus, after you get a job, there is no such thing as a spring break or winter break, so travel as much as you can beforehand. Look at it from this perspective: You have a whole life of working ahead of you, so why not take some time to enjoy yourself before it kicks in! Be open to taking risks.

Amanda Murphy, BBA '05, Marketing
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Don't take life too seriously right out of the gate. You'll make a ton of mistakes when you first get out of school. Trust me, you'll regroup and learn from them. "Take time to enjoy the ride!!!"

Joseph ScUrlock, BSC '94, INCO-Organizational Communications
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You don't need to be in such a hurry to join the real world after graduation. It will still be there in six months (or a year, or more). Take some time to make the transition away from school. You will then appreciate what you've already accomplished and have a clearer picture of where you want to go.

Rick Shimko, MBA '04, Business Administration

My best advice would be to take a chance and explore new venues, whether they be moving to a different locale from where you currently live, taking a different type of job, or just doing something you always wanted to do. Don't be afraid. Once the diploma is in your hands, continue to learn; start towards your Master's now, don't wait. If you do the odds are significant that you will never complete it. But whatever you choose do it with a passion. No one was ever a success by being in the shy.

Bill Rustic, BBA '68
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Cherish what time you have left, but be excited for what awaits you. Goodfella's Pizza, 2 p.m. naps, and walks along the Hocking are absent in the "real world," but this world brings many other great pleasures, such as beginning your profession and financial independence. Don't lament graduation. Your memories will tide you over, at least until Homecoming!

Jess Hartmann, BA '04, English
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If you are trying to decide if you can make it in New York City, just remember: NYC is filled with thousands of poor, indebted recent grads just like you. Come join us. Make great things happen here.

Tim Losie, BA '00, Economics
Underwriter, NYC, NY

Choose the lowest payment option on your student loans. The first bill comes at Christmas-time and you won't regret it. Cut up all your credit cards and learn to love a 10 p.m. bedtime. Don't be afraid to get out there and live by yourself for a year. Buy GAP insurance when you buy your first car. You never know when someone is going to come along and total it for you.

Megan Doyle, BSED '05, Integrated Social Studies
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If you would like to move to a brand new city after you graduate, figure out a way to get there and go. Whether you find a new place to call home or you end up leaving after a few months, you will be proud of yourself for attempting it, you will learn from the experience, and you won't ever spend a day wondering what it might have been like to live in New York, San Francisco, Key West, or wherever. You'll know because you lived it!

Emily Morris, BSC '99, INCO-Organizational Communications
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When looking for a job, pursue the jobs that you are genuinely interested in versus those you may be qualified for. There is a difference. To be happy at your work day to day you need to have a genuine interest in the industry, the product, etc. Ultimately your passion will show. You'll do better in that job and have more longevity than other employees.

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Don't be afraid to go out on a limb and try something new and different. Be willing to move to a different part of the country. If you are not successful, learn from your experience and venture into another experience. Be your own person and insist other people respect you. Good luck as you enter the real world.

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All I needed to know about life, I learned while tripping on the bricks in Athens. Wait in line (Be patient). Tip (Be appreciative and have a work ethic). Bring your dad along even if it is not Dad's Weekend, and call your mom, she worries (Respect your parents). Cafeteria trays make great sleds (Be resourceful). Party with your siblings (Family comes first). Stay for the halftime show (Appreciate the arts). The best burritos are from a buggy (Support mom and pop restaurants, not chains). Climb that hill (Gain perspective).

Dr. Amy Good, BSED '93, Elementary Education
MED '97, Educational Administration
2003 PhD, University of Virginia

Identify the company that you want to work for and then be willing to start in an entry-level position if it is offered. Don't pass over an entry-level job because you feel that it is below you. Be realistic and informed that there are thousands of recent college graduates out there competing for these positions. It's essential that you get out there and begin to accrue some real-world work experience. Take every opportunity to make contacts, improve your skills, and learn. Over time this experience will add up and enable you to successively fill better positions. If you want to be a success then expect to work hard, put in your time, and pay your dues. It will pay off in the end.

John Graves, AB '93, History
Manager, Strategic Business Development Agentrics, LLC
625 N. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314

Make sure that work does not come first in your life; your first priorities should be your health, family, and friends. To do this, don't be afraid to take a vacation, personal day, or to call in sick whenever you need it. The world will not end because you miss two weeks of work. Trust me, when you get back into the office the same people will be holding the same meetings about the same things. Work will always be there, awesome opportunities and those people who are close to you will not. So accept those tickets to the game, book a flight to Europe, be on time for your kid's first soccer game, whatever it is, make that your priority.

Scott Evans, BSC '98, TCOM-Video
Film/Video Producer/Editor
Dallas, TX
sevans9398@hotmail.com

Backpack through Europe for a year. It may set you back a year in your long-term career goals, but you have the rest of your life to develop a career—what's one less year? The experience is well worth it!

Nicole Perrault, BBA '99, Finance
Commercial Real Estate Lawyer
Nicole.Perrault@KutakRock.com

Remember that you are not in charge—yet. The generation that IS in charge expects you to dress conservatively, use proper grammar as you speak and write, spell correctly, be respectful to elders, and BE ON TIME!

Dr. William H. Henry Jr., AB '48, Economics

Sometimes you need to let fate guide you. Do all that you can do to prepare for getting a job, but don't stress out. Everything will work out the way it is supposed to!

Lauren Hardgrove, BSED '05, Life Science
Meigs High School Biology Teacher

You must eat at all your favorite restaurants one more time before you leave; most are not to be found anywhere else. My personal favorites that I crave and that you must try before you leave are Lui Lui (Thai Chicken Pasta and General Tso's are to die for!) and Bagel Street Deli (I can't find steamed bagels anywhere!). Good Luck and no matter what you think now, you will want to go back to Athens for a visit.

Marisa (Johannes) Evans, BBA '99, Accounting
Lansing, MI
marisaliann@hotmail.com

Open a ROTH IRA immediately and contribute to it every month, no matter how little. The principle of compound interest can only benefit you in saving towards retirement. The benefit of choosing a ROTH IRA is that while it is money that has already been taxed in your paycheck when you deposit it, you will not pay taxes on it when you start withdrawing when you retire.

Rob Walter, AB '90, Political Science, MA '92
Education non-profit
Arlington, VA
oubobcat33@hotmail.com

It's really not about the money. It's about the people in your life and you getting to be fully you.

Ellen Tait, BA '02, Spanish
Santiago, Chile
English Teacher

The key to succeeding is recognizing the opportunity and then executing faster than your competition.

Greg Svitak, BBA '97, Management Information Systems
Solution Analyst
Office of the CTO, Hyland Software, Inc.
gregory.svitak@onbase.com

Graduation is just the beginning of your education. Years will start to pass very quickly when you don't have convenient names for them like freshman and sophomore. Don't lose your enthusiasm; it may be your only currency for a little while. If you're thinking about moving to a new place or seeing the world this is the easiest time to do it.

Todd Vura, BSJ '98, Public Relations
Marketing Manager, Cleveland, Ohio
toddvura@yahoo.com

Travel and see the world! Don't be so concerned with starting a big career right out of school. Find a JOB, but don't be so focused on CAREER right away. Allow yourself time to see different states, different areas of the country, and world. Use these experiences to find that special place you always wanted to be. You can go pretty far on limited funds. Once you get settled into career and life, traveling is more difficult. Relax, have fun - enjoy life! Allow yourself the time to figure things out without the pressure of career or feeling you have to find your path right away. Good luck Class of 2006!

Maggie Moran, BSC '02, TCOM-Video
Producer/Writer
Los Angeles, CA
Chicago, IL
magpie_06@yahoo.com

Money isn't everything. Spend more time developing relationships. They can last for eternity.

Katherine (Evans) Hall, BS '94, Bios Nutri
Administrative Assistant at church
ougirl94@comcast.net

Enjoy the journey. Don't get hung up on every step you take and every turn you make or don't make. Focus on your goals and the people and places you encounter on your way there. That's what this life is about.

Dr. Tom Cammilleri, DO '89, Osteopathic Medicine
Family Physician
Hampstead, NH
drtomc@comcast.net

Kee an open mind regarding your career. Just when you think you are “settling in,” remember to keep an open mind. Your talents will be valuable in areas that you have not yet considered.

Steven J. Krechmer, BSJ '74, Journalism
Vice President of Operations, Control Solutions, Inc.
skrechmer@axicode.com

Stay committed. When a brick wall pops up (they always do) keep knocking at it. Don't give up. You will eventually knock it down. Ultimately the more challenging the journey was the more fulfilling the outcome will be.

Stuart Sobol, BSC '81, Communications
Entertainment Manager
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Enjoy your final months at OU. Once you graduate everything changes and you become a responsible person, whether you want to be or not.

Dan Crandall, BSSE '97, Sport Management
Event Planner
Hermes Sports & Events
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dan@hermescleveland.com

Think logically and sell yourself clearly. Create your own luck. Keep learning, keep your mind open, and always ask "Why not?"

Jerry Roberts, AB '72
Business Economist, Chicago
JRoberts@cme.com

Do not be in a hurry! If the opportunity is present for you to get a Master's degree, a second major, or advanced study in your field, then take the time, especially if financial help is available! It is easier to do it now than later! The extra time may just give you a clearer focus on your life goals!

John E. Edwards, AB '67, Psychology
jeminister@hotmail.com

Don't ever paint a room in your house the colors of the Burrito Buggy.

Jim Harris, BBA '04, Marketing
www.manassehrecords.com

Churchill once said, "Never, never, never, never give up." I say, never forget OU. Keep all your memories of Athens close, along with the incredible friends you've made during the past four years.

Laura Denton, BA '05, Criminology
Staff assistant at a lobbying firm in Washington, D.C.
510 S. Highland St, Arlington, VA 22204
laurakdenton@yahoo.com

I have been the recipient of about 9 layoffs in my career. My advice is succinct: Find your passion and don't let anyone stand in your way. But when you do follow this tract understand that you MAY have to sacrifice to achieve happiness. My phone and address are always open to anyone from Ohio U.

Cliff Ancier, BSC '75, Radio-Tv
PT Territory Sales Representative
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New Hope, MN 55427
mnnj@comcast.net

Strongly consider working in a city or area other than where you grew up. There is nothing wrong with returning to your roots, but if you try working and living in a different environment you will benefit from having a broader perspective. Even if you "hate" living in a strange place, you are still young and can always leave and you'll benefit from having had the experience. Happy job hunting and happy career!

Mike Johnson, BSJ '67, Journalism
Vice President - Communications
Retired, Timken Company
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bleedgreen67@msn.com

Follow your dreams and your passion. Determine what you love to do and then base your career decisions on that passion. Let your career determine your job, not your job determine your career. Have faith in yourself and be confident in all that you do.

Damon Scott, BSC '89, Inco
Community Development Manager
San Francisco, CA

Success after college will less often be measured by your ability to outperform your peers than by your capacity to motivate and mobilize them.

Rocco J. Hindman, BFA '94, Film
Talent Agent
Sherman Oaks, CA

Never opt against your beliefs. There are sometimes decisions or choices to make that might be tough. One choice might be easier or better for your career. But I have experienced that in the long run you are always better off choosing the right way, not the easiest or the one with maximum profit!

Hugo Straumann, MS '86, Ind-Sys-Engr
Swisscom Innovations, Security Consultant
Gartenstrasse 7, 4653 Obergoesgen, Switzerland
hugo.straumann@bluewin.ch

To be successful in life, both personally and professionally, it's as important to know where you've come from as where you are going. More important than either, however, is to live in the moment. Without the present, what's the point of the past or the future?

Jamie Stutz, BFA '96, Production Design
Project Manager
Orlando, FL

Success in every part of your life is about recognizing a break when you get one and having the sense, talent and luck to take advantage of it. Have fun. Be kind.

David Hackel, BSC '71, Radio-Tv
Writer/Producer

Don't settle for less or accept a position (or assignment) because you stumble into that "dream" job. Forget the "job" and find out why you matter. Stay true to yourself and committed to your family. The biggest mistake I see people make is achieving those goals that are set too low rather than missing ones that are set too high.

Charles Crews, BSIS '93, Ind-Sys-Engr
Senior Operations Director, Fortune 500 Energy Company
Columbus, Ohio
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Don't take a job for money; look for a job to make you happy. Many of you will go through a lot of jobs following graduation before you find the right one. Keep hunting for happiness, it is more than worth it.

Heather Fuller, BSC '98, INCO-Communications in Human Services
Customer Service Manager
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ha_fuller@yahoo.com

Keept track of all your addresses, employer's addresses, and close contacts back to when you were 16. You never know how much information your next employer will ask for, i.e. a federal job for an investigation background.

Steve Buhr, BS '95, Computer Science
Software Engineer

Your relationship with others is your most important legacy. In the end it will not matter how much money you made, what kind of car you drove or the highest achievement you accomplished in life. The most important footprint we leave is our memory with others.

Quentin Derryberry III, MA '00, Latin America
Assistant Director, Outreach and Engagement, Alumni Relations

Keept an open mind. Try not to practice contempt prior to investigation. You may miss some valuable lessons and opportunities by so doing.

Dave Scott BSED '59, Biology, MED '60
1 Jefferson Pkwy Apt. 3, Lake Oswego, OR 97035
davesc3436@yahoo.com

Take some time off before you start your real job. Enjoy it because you will never have that time off again! Find a job you love because you have to get up and go to it every week day (sometimes the weekends, too). I always heard college was the best time of your life and I never really realized it until I graduated.

Allison (Thomas) Fillmore, BSSE '98, Sport Management
Atlanta Falcons/Georgia Force Ticket Sales Manager
allison_fillmore@hotmail.com

Make time to keep in touch with people from your past and present. You never know where each person's career and future will lead and you may find great resources in your friends.

Thanos Zyngas, BSJ '93, Public Relations
MED '96, College Student Personnel
Director, University of St. Thomas-Bernardi Campus
Rome, Italy
Lungotevere delle Armi 16, 00195 Rome, Italy
tjzyngas@stthomas.edu

Make personal happiness priority number one when deciding what kind of life to pursue.

Emmanuel Anastacio Reyes, MA '83, Film
Artist

If you think college went by fast, you ain't seen nothing yet! So my advice is this:

- 1) Don't confuse your work with your life.
- 2) When bad things happen, remind yourself "this too shall pass."
- 3) Pray.

Joan Considine Johnson, BSC '81, Radio-TV
TV writer/producer, Moorpark, CA

Don't feel guilty about going out instead of studying. It really is all about who you know, not what you know.

Christine Mersch, BSJ '02, Journalism-Vananda
Author, Freelance Writer
Christinemersch@yahoo.com

Nothing great has ever been achieved without passion. Find your passion in life and success and happiness will follow.

Paul Roetzer, BSJ '00, Public Relations
President, PR 20/20
Cleveland, OH

Take pictures of all your friends and write on the back who they are. You think you will never forget a face or a name but you could be wrong! Trust me. Take pictures of campus. Take pictures of everything special to you and mount them in a special book. Twenty years from now they will be a warm reminder of your life at this moment in time. Life will no longer be measured in quarters.

Tom Ryan, BSC '87, Radio-TV
Marketing and PR
621 Partridge Rd, Heath, OH 43055

In all facets of life it is certainly nice to be important, but always remember that it is much more important to be nice.

Don Bethel, BBA '83, Management
President, R.D. Bethel Agency, Inc.
Mayor, Village of Cadiz, Ohio
cadizmayor@aol.com

Don't be afraid to take chances. Some of the most rewarding experiences you will have (both personally and professionally) will come as a result of putting yourself in the most vulnerable of positions.

D.R. Robinson II, BBA '94, Business
Financial Advisor/ Business Owner
Robinson Financial Group
Daniel.robinson@lpl.com

My advice goes to all of those who do not have jobs waiting on them after they walk on the stage. From personal experience, I can tell you that sometimes you have to go through a lot of hardship and struggle to accomplish your goals. For some this means working in a retail or factory job. For others it means having no job at all and having to mooch off of your parents for a few months or longer. In my case it was months. Congratulate your friends on their success, but take pause in your own. You have graduated. You have a degree. This is something millions would give anything to have. Use your classroom and world experience to get to where you want to be.

Jason Conley, BA '05, Public Administration
Disability Claims Adjudicator, State of Ohio

Let accidental occurrences in college bring you to choices you may not have made on your own. I was a theater major, but after finishing school have made my living as a musician. The reason is because a faculty member gave me some opportunities to perform in that way. I went with it and it became my career. Don't be afraid to let your plans be altered.

Larry Siegel, AB '74, Writing
Musician, songwriter, producer
23 Clinton Ave, Tappan, NY
larro@aol.com

Give back to your community. Whether it is through volunteering at a charitable agency, a service club, or your church, make sure that you help those who are least able to help themselves. This is what gives us a purpose in life.

Michael D. Humphrey, BCJ '87, Criminal Justice
MSHCS '03, Child Development
Executive Director
United Way of Guernsey and Noble Counties
918 Wheeling Avenue, Suite One
Cambridge, Ohio 43725
hakimike@yahoo.com

Life is a marathon, not a sprint. If that first job doesn't work out and instead leaves you feeling frustrated and disillusioned, hang in there because things will get better. Don't be too quick to abandon your dreams for that desired "career." (By the way, that message of patience also holds true for things like love, family, and finding a true "home" or a physical place where you belong).

Reed Liming, BGS '79, General Studies
Planning Division Director
City of Santa Fe
P.O. Box 909, 200 Lincoln Avenue
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0909

Start saving money right away, even if it's only a few dollars each paycheck. Never pass up an opportunity to try something new. Never settle for less than what you want just because it's the easy thing to do. Keep in touch with your college friends.

Christine Oths Masson, BSC '82, Radio-TV
Director, Traffic Services, Maryland Public Television

Don't sell yourself short. Don't give anyone complete control of your talents or your future. Remember that you are valuable to your future employer or your future clients; otherwise, they wouldn't be considering you for work. Don't give away the store to get in the door. Let them use your talents, but don't let them own them. Also, remember that it's not about the money, it's about your life and how you want to live it. Make sure there's some creative freedom in the position you plan to fill.

Paul Burd, BSJ '79, Magazine Journalism
Freelance commercial and editorial photographer and publisher
Yorkville, IL

Never forget what Ohio University has done and can still do for you. Even after graduation, your professors, classmates, and friends will still be there for you for advice, guidance, or just a good time. We cherish the contacts and friendships we developed at Ohio (most importantly ours—we met and fell in love at OU!)

Lindsey (Elling) Thompson, BSJ '05, Public Relations
lindseythompson@yahoo.com
Matthew Thompson, BSSP '05, Sport Management
matthewthompson217@yahoo.com

As you transition to this next stage in your lives, I hope that you will allow yourselves to consider all options career-wise. Please don't confine yourselves to the perfect job in the perfect location as you may fail to discover a position that ultimately leads to exciting opportunities for future employment. Recognize that the first job may not exactly fit your specification, but it can open doors for you in the future. Best Wishes!

Paul Kulik, AB '71, Political Science
1974 MS, University of Akron
1991 PhD, The Ohio State University
Franklin County Educational Service Center
1717 Alum Creek Dr., Columbus, Ohio, 43212
kulikp@fcesc.org

This will be another phase of your life. Be smart, adventurous, and take risks. Strengthen yourself spiritually. It will take you all the way.

Ahmad Ainuddin Nuruddin, BS '82, Microbiology
MS '85, Environmental Studies
Deputy Director, Rainforest Academy, University Putra Malaysia

*Bobcat
to
Bobcat*



Congratulations to our fellow seniors!

Good luck with all of your future adventures!

Your 2006 Senior Class Council

Trischa Snyder

Caren Baginski

Ross Righter

Natalie Pavalko

Ashley Jackson

Ryan Palma

Jenny West

Cara Finnegan

Kelly Ely

Zach Blasing

Roger Anderson

Kimberly Frye

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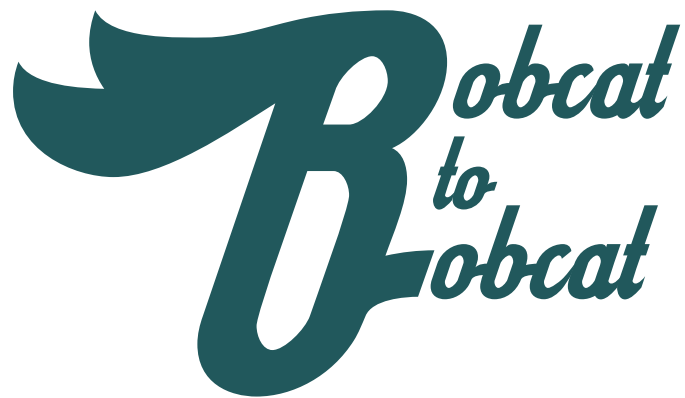
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So depart that daily thou mayest
better serve thy fellowmen thy
country and thy God.



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