

## Graduation Address. ISM 2009

"The things you love to do within the world around you".

Dignitaries, Ladies, Gentlemen, teachers;  
and, last but not least to the Students of the Class of 2009, this is your  
celebration so welcome to you all.

It's been thirty plus years since I graduated from ISM;  
I cannot even remember my grades but,  
I'm pretty sure they were nothing to write home about.  
I hope you, the graduating class, all also enjoyed this time in your lives as I  
did with my friends, although I hope the grades you all take home are better  
than mine were.

Before I go any further I should take care of some formalities I consider  
important:

Would the ladies and gentlemen of the graduating class of 2009 stand up,  
please?

This is a celebration of your achievement!

Family and friends who have cared about your education are here today to  
celebrate with you. This is somewhat of a graduation for them too so would  
you please give them a big round of applause.

Would Members of the Board, CEO, principal, teachers, administrators and  
support staff of ISM all stand so we may see you, please.

Teaching is an honorable pursuit, a fundamental aspect of our lives enabling  
people to make choices, to compete and even better, cooperate as members  
of societies. It is a vocation often inadequately recognized.  
So, would everyone please join me in a round of applause for their effort and  
commitment.

When the class of 1978 graduated, I had no clue about where I was headed, absolutely none; In fact I don't think any of us did.

Tanzania was on the brink of war with Uganda. The variables facing us as graduates were very different than they are now and opportunities were not very promising.

I spent a lot of time trying to pinpoint direction, a career I thought would enable independence and success. Success in my eyes revolved around making money, lots and lots of money.

In reality, while sitting on the Kishari roof during study hall, we used to laugh about the slim chance of even making a living.

I did not understand that this comic goal revolving around money missed the point and had nothing to do with the journey, and it was the journey that should have been the focus.

I know now that life is not about the destination but rather that journey even if only for the reason that time passes so quickly; so live every day as though it could be your last.

The path to success is not solely about personal gain while ignoring the world around; at least I don't think it is in this day and age when over half the world's population have no choices and earn less than \$2 a day; when plant and animal species are becoming extinct on a daily basis as a result of excessive consumption by the humans of this planet; us, that is, in case you thought I was talking about somebody else.

It wasn't until I'd graduated from College that I understood just what I really wanted to do and ironically it had little to do with what I'd just studied.

It is clear though, most importantly, that an education gave me the tools to make the choices and decisions about my future.

If there is anything to be said for my time since graduating at ISM it's that I've been very fortunate to be able to earn a living doing the things I love.

I've been referred to as the "bush taxi driver," but in my way I know that I share my knowledge of Tanzania and this continent bringing awareness of what is on offer, sometimes in terms of hope for a brighter future.

For you the class of 2009: I do believe that opportunities and indeed, the world today are very different.

Graduating today is neither the beginning nor the end, nor is it the day you have to decide on your future.

Your world is connected by the internet as an expanding communication medium. The world you are stepping into is experiencing the fastest increase ever seen in the number of non-governmental organizations that exist to channel the energy of a conscientious generation towards the spread of good will to humanity.

Today's world has the most proactive global concern for social, environmental and climate welfare ever witnessed.

It has been said that;

"The graduates of today are private citizens of an inter-dependent planet who have the power, the amazing opportunity if not responsibility to do public good while making the world a place of partners rather than adversaries".\*

These are no longer just sentiments of so called "do-gooders," These are not even just fashionable sentiments but, these are serious considerations voiced by global leaders and, more importantly yourselves.

It is the most admirable and exciting exhibition of your generation's potential and intent to impact our planet in ways that preceding generations should have.

So, remember to include the world around you in what you do but I assure you, that if you're planning to work at a career day in day out which will dictate your lifestyle whatever it may be then you want to be sure you are doing something you love.

Don't ever forget it;

because you will achieve no greater satisfaction, self esteem and success than when you are doing something you love. Of course, it is possible even

likely that such success will then come with your preferred standard of living.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Would you please give a standing ovation, in fact bring the house down in recognition of the achievement our daughters, sons, friends and students.

I give you The Class of 2009.

Francesco Pierre-Nina.

\*- Bill Clinton