

Hello, and thank you all. As they said, my name is Richard Fromm and I'm the MA student speaker. I would tell you more about myself, but I'm afraid that if I give you my resume, Rachel Garson Taylor, our career counselor, will ask me to reword my bullets.

I was asked to speak a little about the CPU experience, and most importantly, to keep it clean. So, I was very careful this morning not to spill any coffee on my shirt. (And I also packed another shirt.)

We may have only taken 4 classes together, but we all shared some common experiences. We all did group work. Well, maybe not all of us did the work, but we were all assigned to groups.

Most of the MA seniors are Engineers, so many of us have reluctantly made the arduous winter expedition from Tech to 555 Clark. When we did make that trek, we learned something. We learned about competition, RFM analysis, and Little's Law. But, perhaps the biggest thing we all learned in the program was the value of compounding interest. The FE's over there took finance too – they know what I'm talking about. Start saving yesterday, guys.

But, on top of the many things we learned in our classes, we built a community. If you take anything away from your experience, here at Northwestern and in the CPU program, let it be this: you are not alone.

The years to come will undoubtedly include some of the hardest you will face in life. I mean, my roommate Alex, over there, is moving to Orlando, so you know that's gonna be tough. Life will be full of challenges. But, no matter the challenges you come across, you never have to face them alone. The people in this room are evidence of that.

For many of us, this is our first "graduation ceremony" of the weekend. As you look ahead at the days to come, at commencement and at convocation, remember to enjoy them. Use this time to say thanks to everyone who got you here. Thank your family. Thank your friends. Thank your professors, your administrators, your mentors, your bosses. Thank your dog, if you have one! They all helped you get to where you are today.

But, most importantly, thank yourself. Because all of the people sitting here today, and all of the other people in your life, may have laid the path for you, but you walked it. Congratulations, Class of 2015!