

Teresa Chen

Managerial Analytics Certificate

Class of 2013 – Graduation Speech

Good afternoon Kellogg Certificate Class of 2013, family, and friends. Graduation is a time to celebrate the last four years, to be a bit sad about parting separate ways, but it is also our last time to have some fun together and be a bit silly. I wanted to share not just my experience, but also bits and pieces of everyone else in the program and their experiences. So I typed an email and offered some cookies, and here's what I got.

One of our fellow classmates wanted our families and friends to know that although the certificate curriculum might sound intense, in reality, we played games in Pricing, sketched pictures in Supply Chain, and played with statistical programs in Customer Analytics. There was that one time when someone lost \$40 in a bargaining game by writing down a terrible strategy, the time when our professor determined the order of our presentations with trivia questions, and the time when we feared the possibility of failing Finance even though the final exam was open book, open notes, and open computer.

All of our professors know us by name, which is a pretty big deal in college. They never fail to let us know we are just as smart as their Kellogg MBA students. In the midst of powerpoint slides, case studies, and problem sets, they share with us what they watch on Netflix, what sports they follow, and even the places, governor, and weather they had to give up to be at Northwestern.

Someone else mentioned that the certificate program was the first time she was forced to trust people. Let me explain. Group work is a huge part of all of our classes, and we got an opportunity to work with people outside of our own majors, and we learned to

depend on each other and be okay with making assumptions in ambiguous situations. We spend hours at 555 Clark and ordered a lot of take-outs and safe rides.

Let's not forget about our times outside of the classroom. Ranging from bowling trips, pizza parties, all the way to our end of the year celebration.

All of us especially want to thank Rachel, Janelle and Carol for their support in the last two years. Without them, this program would not be possible. I know that after a long night of crunching numbers and cranking out cases, I can always count on the endless supply of candy and more importantly, coffee in Janelle and Carol's offices. Their doors are always open, and I can expect to see them at all of our events and social outings. I am most definitely going to miss those CPU Wednesday Newsletters -- Rachel's career corner with baby Bennet giving us advice about the do's and don'ts in life. I don't know about all of you, but without Rachel, I definitely would not have a job.

This is the first of our many graduation events for most of us. For those of you who attended Last Lecture during Senior Week, we heard from Renee that our happiness is not dependent on how much money we make, how successful we are, or even how attractive some of us look. Instead, it is our close relationships that matter the most, and I hope we keep in touch as we continue on living in an unfamiliar city, working at places we love, or attending graduate school.

Some asked me to be inspirational, but most asked that my speech be funny. So I hope I lived up to expectations and accommodated all requests. Class of 2013, be proud of your accomplishments in the last four years - know that we expect no less from all of you for the years to come. Congratulations.