

Kellogg Certificate Program for Undergraduates Celebration
June 14th, 2012
Alexandra Baleanu, Financial Economics Certificate
“Old Friends, New Beginnings”

Thank you Professor Lariviere for your kind words.

Dear CPU classmates, congratulations on graduating and on your incredible achievements! Completing the Kellogg Certificate Program is just one of them, but it has definitely not been a trivial task. It took hard work and commitment just to get through prerequisite classes and many more hours spent in the basement of 555 Clark to write up neverending problem sets or study for exams.

Now that we have all successfully completed this chapter, we have proved once again we are up for any challenge. But, we did not get here alone. Our success was a function of both our hard work, as well as the support of those around us. Just imagine how different these past years would have been if Jimmy John's would not have God speed delivery service at late night hours. Thank you Jimmy John's.

Thank you parents, families and friends for your unconditional love and support. It is reassuring to know that we will always be special in your eyes, regardless of where we fall under the Bell curve.

Thank you Carol and Janelle for easing our 9 am classes with huge supplies of candy, for bringing us together at pizza parties and receptions, for writing a newsletter that is filled with humor and useful tips. But most of all, thank you for still thinking highly of us even after having to instruct us for an entire quarter on how to properly print double sided pages.

Thank you Abra, Rachel and Susan for your constant support, endless emails about new job openings and good case interview practices.

Thank you professors for your patience and dedication. For being accommodating of our needs, even if it meant giving 5 different final exams. For challenging us with new problems and case studies, but also boosting our egos by comparing our midterm results to those of MBA students. Thank you for equipping us with the knowledge we need to thrive in our new jobs and life in general. We can now use the Black Scholes formula to compute the option value of our life decisions. Also, thank you for stirring heated discussions on essential matters that almost divided the class in two schools of thought: those who thought Dimitris' pink shoelaces matched his brown pants and those who disagreed.

But most of all, thank you fellow CPU students. It has been a pleasure to learn from you. In a class of triple majors, accomplished athletes, members of honors societies, 4.0 math majors and winners of trading competitions, you have to strive for perfection, learn how to manage your time and be efficient. Thank you for challenging each other to be at our best.

As we are about to start our “real lives” as bankers, consultants, traders, or graduate students, I am certain we will hold ourselves to the highest standards and deliver excellent results. But let’s keep in mind that no matter how smart or capable we think we are, there will be challenges we cannot face alone. My wish for you as we part ways is to have new beginnings that are filled with caring mentors, guides, friends, collaborators and colleagues like you.

We are fortunate enough to be part of a global network of incredibly talented people that we should stay in touch with. Take the time we have left to say your goodbyes to dear friends, roommates or co-workers, but make sure you say your hellos to those you have not yet had the chance to meet.

Congratulations and joyful new beginnings!