

Thank you Kirk, Tom and Floyd and the entire Bishop DuBourg family. This is a tremendous honor. I am indeed humbled by this award and I pray I can continue to be a worthy ambassador for Bishop DuBourg as we go forward.

First of all I want to say Congratulations to the Class of 2007 for a job well done. You should all be extremely proud of your accomplishment.

Bishop DuBourg has had a tremendous impact on my life.

In a word “PHENOMINAL”...I couldn’t have asked for a better foundation than the education I received here at Bishop DuBourg. I have never had a day I wasn’t proud to say I got my roots and my core values from our alma matre . . . sounds good doesn’t it “Our Alma Matre.”

As stated in my bio I am responsible for all Brewing Engineering for Anheuser-Busch. I am an Engineer and there are a lot of engineer jokes...an Engineer by definition is a person who has no life and can prove it mathematically. For the past 30 years at Anheuser-Busch I have had projects ranging from the glamorous job of remodeling a janitor’s closet to leading the entire Brewing Engineering design for new Breweries around the world.

Rather than dwell on my career I would like to take just a few moments and share with you some traits I have seen in the most successful people I know ...Let’s call these food for thought as you go forward.

First of all, successful people are passionate.

It is extremely important to determine what you are passionate about...what makes you tick and then devote every ounce of your energy toward that goal. This means you’ll have to get up and get going...sleep is over-rated. The hardest task you’ll face every morning is putting your two feet on the floor and get up and say its game time.

It is important to find a career you love, that you are indeed passionate about and...once you do you will never have to work a day in your life. You’ll be going to fun not work every day. So, find your passion and be the best you can be in that field.

Successful people also have excellent attitudes.

No matter where you go from here...the military, trade school, college or directly to work, wherever...what really matters is your energy, your attitude and your enthusiasm. These are not things that can be taught. You must develop these yourself and come to the working world fully armed with these attributes. These qualities separate the winners from the non-medalists. At Anheuser-Busch for example we can teach you how to build and run a Brewery, but we can’t teach you to have a good attitude. Have a can do attitude. Don’t ever use the word can’t unless it is followed by the word miss.

I want to tell you about a shoe shine guy I ran into at the airport...most uplifting shoeshine I have ever had.

The point of the story is he proved to me you can be enthusiastic in any endeavor you undertake.

Successful people also work hard.

For those of you pursuing higher education be advised that grades do matter. One alarming statistic is that 25% of the population in China with above average IQ's out-number the total population of North America. Who do you think is going to be your competition in the future? Grades do matter.

Also experience related to your field of interest is essential. Career related summer internships and co-op programs are out there. Get hungry...go find them...you would be amazed at the experience we see applicants bringing to the job market. If you are applying for an Engineering job for example, and have only worked in the fast food industry you are at a tremendous disadvantage. Experienced applicants get the best jobs.

J. Paul Getty oil tycoon summarized it best...

“The best formula for success is to rise early, (put those two feet on the floor), work hard, work late and, most importantly, strike oil.”

Keep drilling until you find your oil.

Successful people also give back.

Get involved in your schools, churches and communities...volunteer...keep God foremost in your life...It has been said...no one on their death bed ever wished they had spent more time at the office. I have a suggestion...as a gift of the Class of 2007 wouldn't it be terrific if each one of us here today in the Cathedral committed to doing some extra act of kindness each day...pick up a piece of trash, hold a door, don't talk badly about someone, don't honk at the guy that cuts you off, plant shade trees under-which you never plan on sitting...the list is endless.

If each of us did just two small acts every day in the course of one year we would have close to a one million acts of charity from this group alone. (Trust me I am an engineer, I have no life and I have done the math.)

Finally successful people take calculated risks. So take calculated risks...but not risks with reckless abandon...don't be afraid of failure...you can not get to second base with our foot on first. We all have and will fail...the successful ones are the ones that learn from their failures and don't look back...Remember you can't go forward if you keep looking at your failures in your rear-view mirror. Don't be afraid of calculated risks.

So, in closing Bishop DuBourg has prepared you well for the future. Your instructors and mentors have given you a compass, not a map...chart your own course. Our school has a 50+ year track record of successful graduates. You have graduates in the toughest jobs in the industry to serve as your role models. I pray your names should be among theirs in the future. And most importantly, don't forget to thank the many people responsible for your success.

These are the best years of your life...this is the beginning of chapter one. Go Get 'Em Class of 2007 and make us proud.

It's a great day to be a Cavalier.