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92nd Commencement Class President's Address

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Alexandra Felfle '10, Senior Class President
92nd Commencement
May 23, 2010

Welcome. 2,748 miles. This is the distance between Colombia, South America and New London, Connecticut. I decided to travel this distance to arrive to my dream destination: Connecticut College.

Those feelings had no easy metaphor. It took a lot of courage to get on that plane. To leave everything I had known, the country and the family that had seen me grow. As the plane took off down the runway and I settled into the comfort of vibrating engines, part of me chose to live in the present and leave the past behind, from then on.

I was surprised at how easy living in the present was at Connecticut College. Enjoying the company of each and every one of my friends that I met. Being rightly impressed by the incredible and smart and motivated professors. Being taken care of by the staff. And being taught how to be persistent by the administration. How can I forget my parents and my sister who led me here: Mami, Papi y Fadia: No existen las palabras para agradecerles por todo lo que me han enseñado, a persistir y a creer en mis sueños. Tengo la familia mas hermosa del mundo y nadie jamás me podrá quitar eso. Fadia quiero que creas en ti y en tus sueños, no dudes, solo persiste. Y para una de las familias mas unidas y hermosas que conozco, gracias familia Manent. Gracias Cristina por ser otra hermana para mi. Y gracias Carmen por creer que en este día seria justamente yo la que daría este discurso. Y al profesor que me inspiro a dar lo mejor de mi, Alex, gracias por creer en mi en todo momento. Jamás dejare de ser tu estudiante.

Now back to English.

And how to forget the families that have provided me with a home away from home and have raised the most incredible friends that surround me:

To the loving family that raised the best roommate I could ever have, thank you, Hutchins family. Thanks to the Dufek family that has always believed in me, the Markin family who has always been there to cheer me up, to Maureen and Mike that have always made me smile, and to the Romanow family that has always welcomed me into their loving home. And of course the Friedrichs, Bailey and Cooper-Mullin families.

So what did I expect from Connecticut College? I expected to be intellectually challenged and enlightened. What I had not anticipated was how Connecticut College would completely change my life and who I was. Most important were going to be the people here that would leave an imprint on my life forever. That would change me, and shape me in ways I did not believe possible. Connecticut College brought LIGHT into my life.

The purpose of light is to illuminate, to open people's eyes, to motivate them and capture them, to reveal the wonders that surround them. The purpose of light is to be able to SEE.

Today I stand here hoping to motivate you to start looking for your own light. It is not an easy task that I am embarking on, but here it goes:

Class of 2010, I want all of you to live in the NOW. Not the yesterday and not the tomorrow, but the NOW! But living the now is not just being present. It means being aware. It means being driven and above all things it means being committed. As Henry Miller put it, “The aim of life is to live, and to live means to be aware, joyously, drunkenly, serenely, divinely, aware.”

My dearest camels, I want you to be committed. Committed to your life. Committed to your family. Committed to changing the world. Committed to finding love. Whatever it is that you choose, I want you to be passionate about it. I want you all to follow through and persist, because character is destiny.

We become what we have within ourselves to become and what we allow ourselves to experience. The transformation born of insight and experience only occurs through learning. Therein lies the power for us to become who we want to become.

So my dearest seniors, face life as you find it—be defiantly committed to it. No one can know what life whittles down to in the end, but if you live it with conviction and awareness, you know you have done well.

If you are concerned and scared about the future and what comes next, don't be; embrace the uncertainty. Allow the unknown to lead you places. Be committed to living the now and exercise your heart and your mind to create your own path. A path that reflects your ideals and your dreams.

If you ever find yourself lost, simply stop, and take a deep breath and start over. Retrace your steps and go back to the place that reminds you of who you are really are. And then, just then, you will find your way again.

Class of 2010, thank you for the friendships that I will always keep in my heart. The stories of our lives are beautiful, and they have been woven together now for some time. Now that these stories are diverging, my greatest wish would be to follow each one of them as their paths go to wonderful places. I have no doubt I will meet them again some day.... Thank you!