

Student Speaker 2010

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Delivered on June 30, 2010 at the Barcelona GSE graduation ceremony.

Good afternoon my dear colleges, good afternoon directors, professors and guests.

It is a great honor to give the final speech in representation of my classmates, in representation of my friends, my brothers with whom I have shared these amazing months.

When I started writing this speech, I thought of giving an advise for the near future, something like: keep on working hard in this crazy world, strive for your goals, don't let any person or any institution stop you from dreaming, keep looking for knowledge, keep on materializing your ideas...

But then I realized that you don't need this advice, you have been already doing so; a proof of that is that we are all here to celebrate the successful ending of our graduate programs. Successful in every sense, not only because we approved all our courses, but also because we managed to work together as a group in those tough moments. So I will leave the advices for older people, more experienced people... like Alfonso for example.

Then I thought, ok, no advices Fredy, talk to them about something important, something of the concern of everybody... and after profoundly meditating for 2 seconds I had the answer...the world cup!...can't fail...

So I prepared in a piece of paper my forecasts, I was ready to tell you why and how Mexico was going to win world cup. I was very excited, and suddenly, something that I am sure nobody in this world was expecting, Argentina wins to Mexico, and my forecast was destroyed.

And there I was, very sad, sited in my chair, thinking on something to write. I imagined myself standing here, looking at your faces, as right now, and a smile came to my face. I was remembering all the great moments we had together in these months.

I remembered the first time we all met al 2-13, people from all around the world. Many different faces, many different languages. I wasn't able to perfectly understood

British or Australian accent. I thought, don't worry Fredy, It's the first day, and for sure it's the music, its very loud inside the bar. I was totally wrong, I will never understand Hugo or James at the first time. I'm sure most of you learned Spanish, but have the same feeling about Uruguayan or Argentinean accent.

I remembered the first courses, statistics and math's. It wasn't easy to follow 4 hours of continuous axioms and proofs, but break were a good moment for getting to know each other. During the breaks, the first day one could hear "its very interesting the class no?...amazing how A intersects B". The second day one could here "where were you from...ahh Mexico, nice, I love nachos!". By the third day we knew each other pretty well, and the comments were "dude, I found 3€ mojitos at barceloneta, see you there".

Then I remembered the first term courses beginning at the end of September. We started knowing the university, finding our study groups, our favorite table at the library for working in the 347 problem sets.

At some point economics people discovered a new place for studying, the famous "despachitos", 161, 165, 167 and 169. How many hours did we studied there?..., a lot, but not all of the time there was solving exercises.

There was always time for sharing our points of view of many different topics, of our backgrounds, of politics in our countries, of our ideas for the future, of how beautiful was the girl you saw at the cafeteria, of the delicious restaurant you founded in a hidden street at the Gotico.

But to be honest, I was always very jealous about the ITFD and Finance people, your despachitos, your offices, were the sunny benches at the courtyard. Every time I came down for buying a coffee, there you were, working hard, wearing sunglasse, short pants, and sandals. Never losing the style.

And at the end, almost every Friday, and why not some Monday and Tuesday, we met for the traditional Beer Seminar. Some beers, some ideas, some jokes, then a plan for the rest of the night, maybe dinner, maybe Nasty Mondays, maybe a black eye, who knows.

In any case: offices, sunny benches, the library, a party or a walking in Barcelona, we were always willing to understand, willing to expanding our minds. I think we made it, in fact I think we expand more than our minds, some of us managed to expand our sexy belly, and taking into account time and monetary constraints, I think this deserves an extra point in the optimization class.

And I kept on remembering our graduate school experiences: the endless afternoons of studying, the pressure of the exams, the party after the exams, the trip to Andorra, the days at the beach, the soccer matches we played, the goodbye party at sal-café, the continuation at opium...

So after all these memories I started writing this speech with conflicting feelings. On one hand so happy of finishing the master, of having the opportunity to meet great people, of living in a beautiful city, of sharing with you friendship, ideas, love. And on the other hand so sad, because I'm gonna miss this, I'm gonna miss you.

In some days we will be physically separated by thousands of kilometers, but I will take you in my heart and in my mind back to Mexico, with the firm confidence that we will be in many different places, with our own philosophy, with our own ideas and projects, but united by a common goal, smiling, because a smile is the proof that we are walking in the correct way.

Thank you for all these moments, I love you very much, I will miss you very much.