



THE PLAIN DEALER

Class of '08, listen up The school of life

Prominent Northeast Ohioans offer advice to Class of 2008

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Plain Dealer Reporter

Just because you're getting your college degree doesn't mean you're anywhere near finished learning, new graduate.

On the contrary, everyone from your first boss to a quirky co-worker is going to teach you lessons you would never learn on campus.

Here, then, are some nuggets of wisdom from some of Greater Cleveland's most notable people and business leaders. Sharpen your pencils and listen up:

Virginia Albanese, president and chief executive officer of FedEx Custom Critical, which provides expedited shipping:

"Work as hard as you can - it will pay off," Albanese said.

"Think about how your actions today affect your overall career plan, and find at least one mentor to guide you along the way. Learn from their experiences as you create your own."

Thomas Zenty III, president and CEO of University Hospitals:

Keep in mind that you may have as many as 15 jobs during your career, so "be prepared to take calculated and intelligent risks," he advised.

"Find an organization that has a strong mission statement and values that resonate with your beliefs. Work diligently and be a team player. Be prepared to be the best that you can be."

Zenty still seeks the advice of a woman in her 90s whom he met and admired early in his career. "Always find a mentor," he said, "someone whom you have a tremendous amount of pride in and respect for."

Warren Anderson, president of Anderson-DuBose Co. of Solon, which supplies more than 270 McDonald's restaurants and is the largest black-owned business in Ohio:

"They should know that the destination that they may want to reach changes over time, and the path turns and weaves and bobs, and the destination itself may change, so they should really be open to new experiences and learn as much as they can when given opportunities," he said.

"I heard a quote somewhere and I'm not sure who said it, but, 'They should be smart enough and old enough to know better, but in some cases be bold enough and young enough not to care, and go for it.' "

Tom Heinen, co-president of Heinen's Fine Foods, based in Warrensville Heights:

"Identify what you're most passionate about and pursue it in your life and your career."

"I'm passionate about the people side of the business - and good food. I'm passionate about trying to get the best meat and perpetuating my grandfather's legacy." Company founder Joseph Heinen was a butcher.

"Barbara R. Snyder, president of Case Western Reserve University:

Never settle. Aim for excellence in all that you do and help others to do the same."

Mike Brown, head coach of the Cavaliers:

"Leave your excuses behind, and never stop learning."

Kerin Lyn Kaminski, co-founder of law firm Giffen & Kaminski LLC:

"Do what you love, and the money will follow," said Kaminski, immediate past president of the 5,000-member Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.

"You spend so much time working that there's no sense doing something you don't enjoy. Stick with the winners and learn from them."

Baiju Shah, president and CEO of BioEnterprise Corp.:

"The twin forces driving the future economy are technologies . . . and globalization.

"Graduates need to understand these forces, stay current and leverage both in their careers."

Shelley Roth, president of Pierre's Ice Cream Co.:

"When all else fails, eat ice cream."

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