

# THE BERKELEY FANFARE

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# Commencement 2018



## The Fanfare 2018-2019

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# Farewell Column: Edmund Charts Path to a Greater Future

By Emma Edmund  
2017-2018 Co-Editor-in-Chief

### Journalists have not been loved.

In 1971, the government tried to prevent The New York Times from publishing the Pentagon Papers, only to be finally stopped by the Supreme Court. In the early 2000s, the Boston Globe faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles in its investigative reporting on the Catholic Church, yet the paper went on to publish several pieces on priest abuse. Today, top government officials attack major news outlets daily as “fake” and a “stain on America.” But the papers persist in publishing their stories.

Time after time, journalists have defeated adversaries in their quest to report news. In addition to the stories above—and against odds that threatened not just their livelihood, but sometimes, also, their very lives—journalists have published articles about Watergate, NSA surveillance, foreign wars and Russian interference in American elections. Through their courage, journalists have created an effective media system that updates citizens instantly with every change in the news cycle, fulfilling their role as the Fourth Estate and keeping would-be abusers of power and trust in check.

In our own small way, the budding journalists of The Fanfare have witnessed and even participated in these forces shaping modern journalism. Berkeley itself is responding to the increased accessibility to breaking news. Students have gradually reached out of their Berkeley bubble and exposed themselves to the events riveting the nation, from gun control debates in the wake of mass school shootings to predictions about the 2018 midterms.

The Fanfare now finds itself at a critical turning point, with students looking for school news but also insights on national events that make waves in Tampa Bay. The Fanfare’s past has prepared its current staff for forces shaping media today, and with a few extra steps, the paper can build its relevance and importance in the Berkeley community.

### Speak Immediately

“Journalism can never be silent: that is its greatest virtue and its greatest fault. It must speak, and speak immediately, while the echoes of wonder, the claims of triumph and the signs of horror are still in the air.”

-Henry Anatole Grunwald, former editor-in-chief of Time, Inc.

The Fanfare has come a long way from its beginnings. In the not-so-distant past, Berkeley’s administration approved every

article. Now we publish without prior restraint (for the most part), and we have even begun writing opinion pieces in the form of reviews.

What we have yet to accomplish, however, is publishing news articles in a timely fashion. We have the capacity to write stories and have them published within 24 hours of an event. With a little extra work, writers and editors can make this goal The Fanfare’s norm.

We are evermore connected to the world around us, and we as a newspaper should strive to use that technology to bring the news to our audience where they want to be met. We have



Emma Edmund

### EVIDENCE OF EMMA: As Co-Editor-in-Chief, Edmund emphasized the importance of strong journalistic morals.

already begun this process. Our Humans of Berkeley campaign brought national news to the Berkeley community by focusing on students’ reactions and opinions. Our Live Scoreboard on The Fanfare website has up-to-date information on Berkeley sporting events. Our Snapchat stories present insider information on events as they happen.

For all we’ve accomplished in the past few years, however, we still must work to find our footing in today’s fast-paced world. The Fanfare must search out news and speak immediately about it. As reporters, we must keep up with the pace of events, and stay in pace with, and ideally ahead of, our audience’s short attention span.

With the talent at Berkeley, we have the potential to be great, to explain and analyze the events around us and to erase lapses of silence. We just need to speak up and speak quicker.

### No Higher Law

“There can be no higher law in journalism than to tell the truth and to shame the devil.”

-Walter Lippmann, American writer and journalist

Many argue that journalists should remain objective, unbiased and free from the prejudices that often plague modern society. Without a doubt, journalists should work hard to keep their personal biases from interfering with their work. But if a journalist must favor something, she ought to favor truth.

The Fanfare has created a culture with the pursuit of truth at its core. In all that we have done and in all that what we will continue to do, truth should motivate our actions.

In some cases, truth will be hard to swallow, or unfavorable to look at. It is not journalists’ role to shield our audience from an undesirable truth. Rather, our job is to shine a spotlight on truth, even—and especially—when it is hard to look at.

### First Rough Draft of History

“Journalism is the first rough draft of history.”

-Philip Graham, former publisher of the Washington Post

Working on a student paper may not seem like much, but it truly is a weighty responsibility. As a member of the student paper, you form a family with your fellow staffers, and you take care of a carefully-maintained institution.

I have been honored to be a part of The Fanfare, and I have considered many of my fellow staffers akin to family. Together, we have focused on building up our paper and strengthening its foundations.

Now, however, that foundation is built, and it’s time to take the paper up a level. Our staff has started the process of breaking news, and with continued focus and growth, our writers will find they can be original drafters of history.

My parting wish for my fellow Fanfare staff: do not be afraid to cover those news stories. Dive head first into investigative research. Although it may seem daunting, it is one way to live Berkeley’s motto: it is one way you can make a positive difference in the world.

To my sponsors, thank you for pushing the paper to realize its full potential. We could not have come this far without you.

To my fellow editors, thank you for acting as The Fanfare’s strong foundation. I hope you continue to expand The Fanfare’s boundaries—and teach writers AP Style!

And to The Fanfare, thank you for an amazing three years. You have shown me the power of writing, and, most importantly, the power of the news.



Emma Edmund

**CHEERING HERSELF ON:** Always willing to take risks, Edmund created a travel column, a student advice column and wrote articles for The Fanfare while also editing the works of others.



# Commencement 2018

June 8th, 2018

## Book Awards

### English

English 9: Catherine Touchton  
English 10: Claire Armstrong  
English 11: Juliana Arcaro  
Honors English 11: Jalen Li  
English 12: Sarah Haire  
Honors English 12: Seanna Mohan  
AP English Language: Emma Edmund  
AP English Literature: Emma Edmund  
Understanding Modern Man: Alexander Feliciano

### Foreign Languages

Chinese II: Tucker Hurst  
Chinese II: Anthony Broome  
Honors Chinese II: Aashka Chavda  
Chinese III: Victoria Grills  
Honors Chinese III: Vicki Freedman  
Honors Chinese IV: Annabelle Derrick  
Honors Chinese IV: Aimee Laxer  
Honors Chinese V: Paul Engel-Penaloza  
AP Chinese: Brayden Jenkins  
French I: Sofia Peña  
French II: Abigail Forman  
Honors French II: Macy Maiocco  
French III: Marissa Streng  
Honors French III: Oliver Pigeon  
Honors French IV: Caroline Babin  
Honors French V: John Patrick  
Latin I: Sarina Patel  
Latin II: Dawson Geller  
Honors Latin II: Christopher Dieffenthaler  
Latin III: Seanna Mohan  
Honors Latin III: Charlotte Graham  
Honors Latin IV: Allison Dil  
Honors Latin V: Eli Siegman  
AP Latin: Benjamin Graham  
Spanish I: Isabella Malmqvist  
Spanish II: Alyssa Williams  
Honors Spanish II: Lila Patterson  
Spanish III: Alexandra Park  
Honors Spanish III: Sarah Hanna  
Spanish IV: Robert Heyck  
Honors Spanish IV: Dylan Sunjic  
Honors Spanish IV: Emma Edmund  
Honors Spanish V: Madeleine Glew  
Honors Spanish Seminar: Krishna Menon  
AP Spanish Language: Anuksha Wickramasinghe

### Mathematics

Geometry: Antoine van Veen  
Honors Geometry: Aubrey Rahaim  
Algebra II: Leila-Anais Pyrczak  
Honors Algebra II: Catherine Touchton  
Honors Accelerated Algebra II: Michael Cui  
Precalculus: Adair Nguyen  
Precalculus: Elizabeth Sage  
Honors Precalculus: Claire Armstrong  
Honors Accelerated Precalculus with AP  
Calculus AB: Robert Heyck  
Introduction to Calculus: Madeline Valenzuela  
Honors Calculus: Alexandra Park  
AP Calculus AB: Lindsey Marian  
AP Calculus BC: Batia Friedman-Shaw  
Honors Statistics: Arjun Gandhi  
AP Statistics: Lindsey Marian  
Multivariable Calculus: Carlos Antonio Leche  
Honors Math Seminar: Ryan Whelan

### Physical Education

Athletic Conditioning- Female: Katherine Hoover  
Athletic Conditioning- Male: Alexander Romanowski  
Athletic Training: Samantha Schimmel  
Basic Physical Education: Travis Monken

## Honors Night Awards and Accolades

Golf and Bowling: Faizan Sagheer  
Outdoor Adventure: Leila-Anais Pyrczak  
Personal Fitness and Health: Dante Des Rosier  
Power Fitness: Clara Jergins

### Science

Biology: Matthew Thomas  
Honors Biology: Vicki Freedman  
Honors Biology: Robert Heyck  
AP Biology: Jalen Li  
Physics: Teryn Terenzi  
Honors Physics: Jacqueline Hennecke  
Honors Physics Engineering: Lila Patterson  
AP Physics I: Robert Heyck  
AP Physics II: Matthew Heyck  
AP Physics C: Jalen Li  
Chemistry: Isabella Schlact  
Honors Chemistry: Jalen Li  
AP Chemistry: Carlos Antonio Leche  
Anatomy and Physiology: Karina Shah  
AP Environmental Science: Anders Douglas  
Astronomy: Erika Kudryk  
Honors Engineering Design: Julianna Reale  
Honors Organic Chemistry: Batia Friedman-Shaw  
Meteorology: Alex Nucci  
Microbes and Man I: Sophie Moss  
Microbes and Man II: Olivia Hair  
Microbes and Man II: Eleni Psaltis  
Microbiology: Isabella Diaco  
Quantum Mechanics: Batia Friedman-Shaw

### Social Sciences and Religion

World History: Charlotte Graham  
AP European History: Edward Kuperman  
U.S. Government and Economics: Jackson Baker  
Honors U.S. Government and Economics: Anuksha Wickramasinghe  
AP Economics: Sarah Sbar  
AP Macroeconomics: Samir Rajani  
AP Government: Adair Nguyen  
AP U.S. Government and Politics: Emma Edmund  
U.S. History: Alex Schimmel  
Honors U.S. History: Carlos Antonio Leche  
Honors U.S. History: Ornella Pigeon  
AP U.S. History: Benjamin Graham  
Honors Psychology: Rachel Gasser  
AP Psychology: Samantha Schimmel  
Honors International Relations: Isabella Diaco  
Contemporary Global Issues- Europe: Emma Edmund  
Contemporary Global Issues- Former Soviet Republics: Justin Kuhn  
Cultural History: Taylor Reyes  
Anthropology: Karina Barcenas  
Sociology: Madeleine Glew  
World Religions: Sarah Hanna  
Ethics: Emma Edmund  
Ethics: Batia Friedman-Shaw

### Technology

AP Computer Science A: Samir Rajani  
AP Computer Science Principles: Justin Rudolph

### Visual and Performing Arts

Advanced Art: Leila-Anais Pyrczak  
Bagpipes: Mary Schneider  
Advanced Theatre Ensemble: McKenna Ebert  
AP Music Theory: Batia Friedman-Shaw  
Beginning Guitar: Elyssa Wider  
Cantabella: Zoe Carovano

Ceramics: Marissa Streng  
Ceramics II: Alexandra Politowicz  
Concert Band: Mia Keller  
D&T Theatre: Noah Beckwith  
Digital Design: Rachel Glew  
Digital Design: Catherine Touchton  
Digital Design II: Michael Maddalon  
Digital Photography: George Gramling  
Film Production: Charvi Sharma  
Intermediate Art: Makenzy Martin  
Media: Kate Miller  
Performance I: Annaliese Donaldson-Pham  
Performance II: Jacob Bennett  
Singers: JillyAnne Kent  
Strings: Albert Chang

### University Awards

Brandeis University Book Award: Melinda Lu  
Columbia University Book Award: Alex Romanowski  
Dartmouth College Book Award: Dev Kapadia  
George Washington Book Award: Morgan Palermo  
Harvard Prize Book Program: Ben Graham  
Hollins Creative Writing Book Award: Emma Righter  
Princeton Book Award: Jalen Li  
Randolph College Book Award: Adam Hutchinson  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal Mathematics and Science Award: Sneha Patel  
Rhode Island School of Design: Alicia Rose  
Rhodes College Book Award: Neha Shete  
Sewanee Award for Excellence in Writing: Isabella Schlact  
Smith College Award: Alexandra Park  
St. Lawrence University: Madeline Saft  
Tulane University Book Award: Melissa Miller  
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Award: Cameron Gunn  
University of Rochester- Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award: Austin Cahn  
University of Rochester- Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award: Iris Casey  
University of Rochester- George Eastman Young Leaders Award: Emily-Elizabeth Grams  
University of Rochester- Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology: Alex Tingiris  
University of Virginia: Jacob Bennett  
Wake Forest University Award: Madeline Valenzuela  
Washington and Lee University Award: Zion Carter  
Washington College- Leadership and Community Service: Allison Dil  
Washington College- Environmental Stewardship: Evan Navori  
Wellesley College Award: Nadine El-Kasri

### Special Awards

Anne Frank Humanitarian Award: Madeline Saft  
Baker-Aye Award: Samir Rajani  
Betty-Bruce Hoover Award: Isabella Diaco  
Edgar T. McCleary Award: Chris Cook  
Headmaster's Trophy: Justin Kuhn  
Sylvia Richardson Young Woman of Promise: Isabella Schlact  
Carol Kennedy Pro Communitate Award: Community Service Council

### Ten Year Faculty

Lisa Cascio, Meghan Campagna, Corey Estes, Meghan Farrell, Tamarah Henderson, Derek Lucas, Suzanne Marfise, Cathy Michiels, Melaney O'Carroll, Melanie Reader, Karin Reyes, Paula Tevnan

### Other Awards

#### Top Scholars

Grade 9: Lila Patterson  
Grade 10: Robert Heyck  
Grade 11: Jalen Li  
Grade 12: Samir Rajani

#### Awards for Effort

Grade 9: Samir Saeed  
Grade 10: Dylan Sunjic  
Grade 11: Jalen Li  
Grade 12: Emma Edmund  
Grade 12: John Patrick

#### Headmaster's Service

Anuj Bhatia, Shyam Dewan, Kaden Quinn, Samantha Schimmel

#### National Merit Finalists

Andre Armero, Emma Edmund, Krishna Menon, John Patrick, Jackson Phifer, Samir Rajani, Prashanth Ramireddy, Sarah Sbar, Carson Weekley, Ryan Whelan

#### National Merit Commended

Anuj Bhatia, Shyam Dewan, Isabella Diaco, Garrett Distasio, Batia Friedman-Shaw, William Governale, Erika Kudryk, Carlos Antonio Leche, Kaylah Lue, Kevin Ren, Samantha Schimmel, Maxwell St. John

#### National Hispanic Recognition

Andre Armero, Madison Gadea

#### Headmaster's Scholars

Nathalie Adams, Andre Armero, Karina Barcenas, Samuel Bennett, Anuj Bhatia, Katie Crino, Shyam Dewan, Isabella Diaco, Garrett Distasio, Anders Douglas, McKenna Ebert, Emma Edmund, Alexa Fannon, Batia Friedman-Shaw, Arjun Gandhi, Madeleine Glew, William Governale, Ethan Hinds, Katherine Hoover, Erika Kudryk, Justin Kuhn, Carlos Antonio Leche, Kaylah Lue, Lindsey Marian, Grace McDonell, Caroline Merrill, John Patrick, Jackson Phifer, Emme Pogue, Samir Rajani, Prashanth Ramireddy, Kevin Ren, Anna Roman, Makayla Rutski, Michael Saba, Sarah Sbar, Samantha Schimmel, Eli Siegman, Maxwell St. John, Rhea Thielbar, Kellyn Trowse, Carson Weekley, Brian Wexler, Ryan Whelan, Tristan Yang

#### Declan Farmer Community Athlete Award

Grace McDonell



## Torkilsen Encourages Diversity of Ideas, People, Experiences

By **Tim Torkilsen**

Director of Global Scholars Program, History, Upper Division

What an honor it is to be here today addressing the class of 2018. Having taught some of you over the years and specifically teaching two sections of an AP Government class that was made up almost entirely seniors, I feel like I have gotten to know your class pretty well. Through this, I have also concluded that we have one thing very much in common especially over the past 9 months. You see, I am just finishing my 16th year here at Berkeley, a few years longer than you lifers in the audience. I've noticed during this past year some subtle changes that began in August and as the year progressed these subtle changes became more pronounced building like a crescendo to the present day. Maybe some of you know what I am talking about? Initially, my work-ethic began to diminish, the quality of my work suffered, I stopped meeting deadlines, and have recently started taking extended naps in my office. I seemed to have lost my motivation. Maybe some of you can relate. I believe I have developed a full-blown case of senioritis. Some of the kids in the audience might think it is more of a senior citizen issue, but I'm sticking with senioritis. So let me apologize in advance for this speech, as my senioritis has reached epic proportions. To show just how bad it has gotten, take a look at the notes I am using here tonight:

**Page 1: Senioritis**

**Page 2: Apologize**

**Page 3: Profusely**

In all seriousness, though, it is a great honor to be speaking to you this evening. From nearly all of my interactions with your class I have come to know some truly remarkable young men and women. Suffice it to say, and I think I speak for all the educators in the room here tonight, that we enjoy being around young people. Having now done this work for the past 20 years, I have a vantage point that I believe gives me a degree of expertise on the youth of today. My conclusion is that the current generation of young people are simply outstanding. Here are some general observations about your generation that I have made in recent years:

1. You are accepting of people who are different than yourselves.

2. You have a strong sense of the challenges that our planet faces, but remain hopeful about the future.

3. You believe in social justice and social responsibility.

4. You aspire to use the tools at your disposal to touch the lives of others and to lift people to new heights.

In essence, I believe that you are part of a great generation of people that we all have high hopes for.

**Page 4: Cool Cats**

As a history major in college and a history teacher by trade, I often look to the past for truth and meaning. Unfortunately, the historical record really doesn't reinforce my beliefs about young people today. What history tells me is that the younger generations have been ruining the world since forever. I hope that

you will indulge me for the next few minutes as I take you on a journey through time to illustrate this point.

We'll begin in the 8th century B.C.E. with a quote from the Greek poet and scholar Hesiod: "I see no hope for the future of our people if they are dependent on the frivolous youth of today, for certainly all youth are reckless beyond words. When I was young, we were taught to be discreet and respectful of elders, but the present youth are exceedingly disrespectful and impatient of restraint."

Socrates in the 5th century B.C.E. said, "The children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love to chatter in place of exercise."

Jumping way ahead for the sake of time to the 17th century. This is one of my favorites. The author Thomas Barnes states, "Youth were never more saucy, yea never more savagely saucy... the ancient are scorned, the honorable are contemned, the magistrate is not dreaded."



Charvi Sharma

**TORKILSEN INSPIRES: Torkilsen gives seniors life lessons, hoping to inspire the Class of 2018 as they move on to the next stage of life.**

Again progressing ahead to the late 20th century with a quote about my generation, Generation X, from the Washington Post in 1993: "What really distinguishes this generation from those before it, is that it's the first generation in American history to live so well and complain so bitterly about it."

Finally, a quote about your generation, what some are calling generation Z: "Generation Z has the distinction for the first time in the past 2700 years to be welcomed into society with no criticism whatsoever."

That last quote is from the world class educator, guitar playing maestro, brilliant thinker, and Berkeley Lights on the Lawn superstar. I think you know who I am talking about here... Mr. Carlo Dinota!

**Page 5: Quotes from Old Guys**

Is anyone else amazed at how scripted this speech sounds and how vague and brief my notes are?

Of course, that last quote is untrue. Your generation will face similar critiques to those who have preceded you. There are so many more examples of these types of critiques that I couldn't include here as it would have taken all my limited time. If even a fraction of these quotes rang true, it is safe to say that the world would be in a much worse place than where we find ourselves today.

The question that begs to be answered here is why previous generations are so critical of their descendants? I hope that some of the answers to this question can provide some useful advice that you can take with you to college and beyond.

The first answer I will posit here is that young people are more open to new ideas, thoughts and experiences, and even try to distinguish themselves by embracing these new things. Neuroscientists have a name for this phenomenon, they call it one's "adventure window."

Music is a great example of this. Your adventure window for music opens between the ages of 14-21 and typically closes in your mid-30s. All one needs to do to see this idea in action

is surf through the local broadcast radio stations here in Tampa. Various stations cater to different demographic groups. From the "oldies," stations to "classic rock," to "country," to "hip hop." My experience has been that those stations catering to the older demographic groups play the same songs over and over again day after day. Musicians know this to be true as well, and can often exact high ticket prices from older adults who have heard their songs hundreds of times throughout their lives. I recently spent a small fortune to see Elton John on his final tour, even though he hasn't had a new hit since the late 1990s.

On a recent trip to Cleveland, Ohio I was able to visit the rock 'n' roll hall of fame. They had an entire exhibit on how rock music has been maligned over the years by previous generations. One quote that was emblazoned on the wall at the rock hall was from the John Birch Society, it read, "The Beatles have loosed a veritable flood of musical trash on a generation of young Americans. Parents have been shocked to see their daughters, charged in a state of hypnotic frenzy, clutching at the long-haired snobs who twang, screech and thump in a mixture of unrelated noise."

This phenomenon transcends just music, bringing generational criticisms from what some older people view as the strange new habits of the youth. These strange new habits are often misunderstood by older generations leading to an increased level of anxiety about the future. Which leads me to my first piece of advice for you tonight, don't let fear of the unknown hold you back. Curiosity and knowledge will conquer fear. The opportunities that you will have to try new things in the next few years will be exponentially greater than what you currently enjoy. Take a class in a subject that you have never thought to study, travel abroad, study abroad and take advantage of the student life office on your campus, to help expand your horizons to

places you never thought you would go. In short, keep your adventure window open for as long as you can.

A second issue that I have been exploring pertaining to generational criticism is what University of New Hampshire sociologist David Finklehor calls "juvenileia." This idea, according to Finkelhor, is an exaggerated anxiety about the influence of social change on children and youth. Much of his work pertains to the influence that modern technology and the internet play in criticisms targeting young people today. He breaks his ideas down into two subcategories, the first being fear of the youth, while the second, which I will speak about here is fear for the youth.

Your parents have invested heavily in each of you with their time, emotions and untold amounts of money. At the same time society exposes you to many contrasting beliefs and values on a regular basis through avenues such as the internet. It seems natural that parents might be somewhat anxious about the impact of these influences on their own children. We, as adults, often forget that similar criticisms were directed at us when we were young by our elders. At the time, we may have scoffed at those criticisms as being from a previous generation who were simply too rigid or just out of touch with the modern world. Interestingly, we now find ourselves viewing the next generation as being wild, out of control or developing habits that we perceive as dangerous or counter-productive.

This line of thinking leads me to the conclusion that most generations feel the previous and subsequent generations are somehow wrong, and that they alone are the only ones who have gotten it right. It is an easy trap to fall into, thinking you are right and others are wrong. This transcends generational discussions to other aspects of life such as culture, politics, religion etc. Instead of right versus wrong, maybe we should be seeking understanding from those whose beliefs differ from our own. In the years to come I would encourage you to embrace the diversity of ideas, people and experiences that you will be exposed to. Making a point to understand the perspectives of others will undoubtedly help you to grow in your beliefs and values. My final line of reasoning pertaining to these generational critiques pulls from the field of Psychology. The concept is known as Fundamental Attribution Error.

**See TORKILSEN, Page 5**



Catherine Amburgey

**GLEW GIRLS: Rachel Glew '21 (right) supports her sister, Maddie Glew '18 (left), at the Baccalaureate dinner.**



## Adams Reassures the Seniors that It is Okay Not to Have a Plan

By Allison Casper Adams '87  
Berkeley Alumna, Class of 1987

Thank you Headmaster Seivold for the invitation to be here. I am truly honored. To the Class of 2018: All of you have worked hard to get to this point and I am proud to be a part of it.

A few months ago, I was minding my own business when out of the blue, I got a voice mail message from Joe Seivold to "please call me back." Now, maybe it's because I'm a Berkeley Graduate, but when the Berkeley Headmaster leaves you a message, even 30 something years after graduation, your initial thought might be, "I must be in trouble."

By the way, it didn't even cross my mind that it could be my daughter Adelaide who was in trouble. Because that would never happen. When the initial fear wore off, I realized why he was calling, and then I really freaked out! The Baccalaureate Speech. Much, much worse than being in trouble!

My immediate reaction was, quick come up with an excuse! Maybe it is not too late to plan that trip to Russia for the month of May! I was flooded with fear and self doubt. I am not qualified to speak. What if I embarrass my daughters? That's a given. What if I hyperventilate while standing on stage because I am so scared? There clearly must be a better option! In fact, all that fear and self doubt is similar to what I was having when I was sitting in your seat back in 1987, at my Baccalaureate.

This girl with incredibly big hair and equally large shoulder pads had no idea what the future would look like. Other than a plan to decorate my dorm room in a very pink, very 80's, floral Ralph Lauren pattern, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. The first thing I wanted to share is ... it is totally okay if you don't have a plan right now either. You don't need to know your final destination at this moment to be successful later. And if you are scared, like I was about getting up here today, that is okay too. I could not have predicted in 1987 that I would ever go to law school, or that after graduating from law school, while all of my friends were wearing stylish suits and heels, taking jobs in New York and Dallas, that I would be in Brandon in a blue uniform with black tennis shoes and a nametag that said "Allison A." Nine Years after graduating from Berkeley with two degrees and after being sworn into the Florida Bar I was starting my career on fries at McDonald's. And I was scared to death. Now working at McDonald's might not sound like an intimidating job. Fifteen year olds work there all the time, I get it. But I promise you, it can be scary. Serving hundreds of people steaming hot coffee while try-

ing to put their egg McMuffin in a bag, with a napkin folded properly and hang it out the window in 30 seconds or less is scary. Shake Machines explode, and that is scary. Trying to do the math and give back the correct change while someone is staring at you from across the counter is scary. Toilets back up, air conditioners break and freezers go out. All scary. And sometimes it is humiliating. One day while I was trying to control the somewhat "organized chaos" that usually happens on a typical Saturday at the Brandon McDonald's, in walks someone many of you know: Mr. Cook, who was my physics teacher in 1986.

We have a moment, we lock eyes and I'm not sure which one of us was more horrified! Me, because the restaurant was a disaster and I clearly was responsible for this mess, or Mr. Cook, because ten years later, a Berkeley grad was failing miserably at running a McDonald's! Which brings me to my second point: we all need our McDonald's moments in life.

You don't need to physically work at the golden arches to have them. These are the out of your comfort zone jobs, the scary stuff, the challenging new experiences ... the things that you'd rather reply "no way," "unavailable," "going to Russia."

But I promise if you push through your initial fear, and accept those challenges what you gain will be invaluable. And you will be better for it. All the scary stuff gets easier and believe it or not, can really be fun. I loved working at McDonald's. And sometimes the smallest most ridiculous things you don't have any patience for and certainly don't want to do, really do matter. For example, the two pickles should not touch on a double cheeseburger. Sounds crazy, but millions of dollars have been spent and thousands of hours

***"Be willing to hear different perspectives."***

debating proper taste profiles for pickle placement, because it makes a difference.

I had to learn how to do 100s of jobs at McDonald's. And many of them all at the same time. Many I thought were ridiculous and others were tedious. I am sure you will all feel the same way at some point, whether it is in college or your first job after you graduate. But all of your McDonald's moments, where you feel like you are one person juggling five things at once, you're making mistakes and doing stuff you don't really want to do, with shake machines exploding in the background, will help you grow in ways

you never imagined. They will become the solid building blocks that will guide you later in life. I speak from experience. You have no idea how many times I have had to use what I learned at McDonald's from twenty-five years ago to avert a crisis.

Now many of you have been to the Oxford Exchange. I know that because I've seen all of your posts on Instagram. For those of you who haven't been, it would seem at first glance that it is a far cry from a McDonald's. Oxford Exchange is a bookstore, a retail store, a co working space and a sit down restaurant with no drive-thru all in one place. I had absolutely no clue what I was doing when we opened. The restaurant was totally different. I had no idea what to do with a retail store. I knew nothing about tip sharing and espresso machines, or Open Table, I could go on and on. Everything about Oxford Exchange was new. And everyday felt like that Saturday at McDonald's when Mr. Cook walked in and I was failing miserably. We had probably been open for about a month and everything that could go wrong had gone wrong. I was exhausted and questioning if this whole Oxford Exchange thing really a good idea. And was I going to ever get it right. I was scared. And then one day the registers went down, the air conditioning went out ... and the toilets backed up and if we had a shake machine I am confident it would have exploded! But suddenly, I knew what to do! I was mentally transported back in time to being a store manager.

And guess what? I had a plan because yes, I had dealt with all of that and more. My experiences gave me the foundation to handle anything from building break downs to customer crisis.

This brings me to my third and final point.

We have a lot of smart people in this room ... you all know who you are.

But for those of you who don't always feel that way ... I want you to take comfort knowing even if you don't always feel like the smartest person in the room, it's ok.

I am never the smartest in the room. And I am confident that my English teachers at Berkeley would have put me in the category of "least likely to own a bookstore" when I graduated. Least likely to give speeches? Check that box too.



Charvi Sharma

**GO WITH THE FLOW: Baccalaureate speaker Allison Casper Adams encourages graduates to believe in their capabilities and roll with the punches that life deals them.**

One thing I truly love about owning a bookstore is that I get a chance to talk to a lot of amazing authors. I am fascinated with authors, and I always ask them, "How do you do it? You must have a secret to share about how you write an entire novel when I struggle to compose a proper email." And everyone from Paula Hawkins, who Wrote The Girl on The Train, to Children's Book Writers say one thing.

I schedule time and write for hours That's it. They work really hard. They are told no all the time.

People correct their work. They change their sentences and sometimes kill major characters in their books

Imagine how smart A New York Times Best Selling author feels right after that happens!

We all go through those moments of self-doubt when we might not feel so smart.

Just don't let them linger ... let them go and move on. And keep working hard.

I could have never imagined my journey that began at McDonald's would have led to the creation of a beautiful place that has received countless accolades and so much attention.

What I received here at Berkeley, along with many, many McDonald's moments, ... gave me a solid foundation to create something bigger.

If you don't have a detailed plan of what your future looks like right now, it's OK. Embrace those scary uncomfortable McDonald's moments, and take pride in what you do. One of my favorite quotes is from William James,

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

Because it does matter if the pickles are touching. And what you do today, or tomorrow may not be glamorous right now but it will make a difference one day. Be proud of what you are doing because we are always learning and growing.

Finally, you don't have to be the smartest person in the room. You truly don't have to be an expert or always the best & brightest to create something special. You just have to go out there and do it no matter how scary it is.

I am confident that your time here at Berkeley has given you the foundation that you will need to be successful. Keep accepting the things that challenge you and learning from those moments.

I've always loved the motto: "Berkeley puts people in the world who make a Positive Difference".

Delta airlines would agree: The world is a better place with you out in it: Delta

And always, always remember, you can join prestigious alumni like Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, who certainly had his McDonald's moments ... actually working at McDonald's.

We're always hiring! Best of luck to you!

## Torkilsen Encourages Graduates to Take Risks

By Tim Torkilsen (cont.)

Fundamental attribution error goes something like this, I'm driving erratically in traffic and cutting people off because I am late for a meeting, or my wife is in labor, or some other situational event. I may politely wave to the person who I have cut off, but don't feel too badly about my actions because the situation warranted my behavior. Though, when someone else is driving erratically and cuts me off it is clearly because they are a jerk. When I apply the behavior to me it is situational, and when I apply it to others it becomes intrinsic to who they are as a person. Clearly, this is flawed logic.

Applying this theory back to my explanation of generational criticism it may look more like this. My generation inher-

ited this or that problem from those who came before while the younger generations are inherently narcissistic, or lazy, or dare I say saucy.

My third and final piece of advice to you this evening is to always assume the best. You never really know at first what is going on in a person's life to make them behave in a certain way. You may find, over time, that certain people or groups of people are not who you would like to spend your time with and that is perfectly fine. If you initially always try to assume the best you never know who you will meet or how that person may influence your life.

To recap:

**Page 6: Keep Your Adventure Window Open**

**Page 7: Embrace Diversity**

**Page 8: Assume The Best**

As I move toward concluding my remarks here this evening, I can see how you might be thinking that my positive outlook on the youth of today is as much of a generalization as those who lay criticisms against them. As a matter of fact, I sincerely hope that one thing that Berkeley has taught you is to question what you hear and to seek out your own understandings of the world. To the Berkeley class of 2018 I give you this charge: Prove me right. Prove that you are an empathetic generation who cares about and cares for others. That you are engaged in making the world a better place through your thoughts and actions. That historians will look back at your lives when we are all gone and conclude that you did it right. Berkeley has given you the tools you need to do great things and I very much look forward to hearing about them in the years to come.



## Barker Reminisces on Berkeley's Past and Its Future

By **Jim Barker '83**

*Berkeley Alumnus, Class of 1983*

Class of 2018, let me begin with hearty congratulations from me, your commencement speaker!

Ordinarily, I would begin by thanking you profusely for inviting me to orate here today, but I know you had nothing at all to do with it. In fact, I even know what you and your parents are thinking. And I'll repeat the unexpurgated part:



Catherine Amburgey

**CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: Barker advises to expand horizons and positively influence the lives of others.**

“This is the best they could do? Seriously? Hard work, monetary sacrifice and the crescendo of my high school experience yields ...Jim Barker, Communications Lawyer from DC?”

That, friends, is between you and Headmaster Seivold. For now, please assume vacant stares for 10 minutes, think about the beach, I'll do my best and we'll get through all of this just fine.

In all seriousness, though, let me emphasize that it is simply a great pleasure and an honor to return here to Tampa, my home town, and more particularly to Berkeley, a truly special institution.

Many in my graduating class, 1983, were the last kids that remembered going to school at the old Davis Islands Hotel campus – we moved to this campus in our eighth grade year. And boy do I love what you've done with the place! When we arrived at Kelly Road, we had Serv-o-Mation vending machines, a big mound and a first-rate, unforgettable faculty, including a wonderful teacher named Ms. Arcuri.

You still have the mound, and a first-rate unforgettable faculty, and, I found out, your own Ms. Arcuri, the daughter of our Mrs. Arcuri (and whom I had the pleasure of meeting on my tour with my rock star tour guide Sarah Munger – thank you Sarah!). But you've also got multiple sports fields, two gyms, beautiful theaters, recital and performance spaces, state-of-the-art labs, charging stations for your electronics, a Bell Tower and even a Pirate Ship playground for the little ones.

My class at Berkeley was about half the size of yours; it was an amazing and talented group of people that, to a person,

were given every opportunity by this place to thrive. I remember that the faculty actually created math classes for several folks that placed out of Calculus BC, some taught by Thom Morris, whom we honored yesterday. We had state champions in sports; thespians, artists, and writers; and many others who were just quietly terrific, interesting and well-rounded.

I don't know what everyone is up to now, but I do hope that this amazing amalgam of academics, athletics, humanities, community service and facilities is and will remain as special to you as it is to me. I promise you that you will never forget it in the sense that probably matters most. I was fortunate to have had an amazing social experience at Berkeley – I made some of my most meaningful and enduring friendships in life here. But even if you had a more challenging experience here socially, you will never, ever regret your Berkeley education. More on that later.

So, as I was contemplating my remarks to you today, I was captivated by the notion that you would be the first graduating high school class to have lived virtually your entire lives in the new millennium. I actually started some background reading on “millennials,” wanting to better understand your habits and characteristics.

In so doing, I stumbled into an astonishing revelation, at least for me: You are not millennials. Indeed, as of March of this year, the Pew Research Center has no idea what you are.

According to Pew, anyone born from 1997 onward will be part of a “new generation.” Pew says: “[W]e look forward to watching as conversations among researchers, the media and the public help a name for this generation take shape. In the meantime, we will simply call them “post-Millennials” until a common nomenclature takes hold.”

Actually, three years ago, MTV surveyed 1,000 members of your

generation – you would have been freshmen at the time - and asked them (you) to self-designate a naming convention for your generation. I won't bore you with all of the candidate names, but these survey recipients ultimately chose “The Founders.” As summed up by Atlantic Monthly reporting on this survey:

As the children of indulgent baby boomers, Millennials are classified as “dreamers” who live to disrupt and challenge established norms. The Founders, by contrast, are “pragmatists” who will navigate a tougher world defined by 9/11, the financial crisis and gender fluidity. Previous generations had to worry about getting into college and finding a job, but the next one is tasked with cleaning up their mess.

Now, I think this is one of the silliest exercises I've ever heard of. As an aside, I'm surprised and delighted that MTV still exists – have any of you ever heard of it? It was a cable channel that started when I was in high school and is now a Trivial Pursuit question. They used to play music videos. Before YouTube.

Anyway, as the father of a rising knucklehead freshman, I think it's a dumb exercise to ask a bunch of high school freshmen anything of substance.

But more to the point, the idea of asking you at age 14 or 15, or now 17 or 18, to definitively self-classify who you are and what you want is absurd. Same goes for extrapolating any broad conclusions at this point. As [the] Atlantic concluded, and I agree, “[I] et them at least reach voting age before we start wrapping them up in a shiny generational package.”

So I am not going to call you Founders. Since I have the floor, I could suggest that, for now, we call you “Barkerians.” Self-serving, I admit. But it has a nice ring. I won't don't do that either, though.

Anyway, some of the big-picture factual underpinnings that accompany these characterization exercises aren't wrong. I have spent almost half of my life considering legal and regulatory issues around technology and telecommunications, and ob-

serving the remarkable degree that, in Pew terms, these phenomena can indeed be “generation shaping.”

In this regard, it is absolutely true that all of you are unique in that you have come of age in a time of ubiquitous connectivity. You were about 10 years old when the iPhone launched in 2007. High-speed broadband, WiFi, social media, atomized entertainment options that you can dial up on demand – these are not innovations to which you have adapted, as was the case with Millennials, GenXers and Boomers. On the contrary, you've always taken them as a given as operating parameters out of the box. And the implications of the disruptive real-world issues and problems that are just now starting to emerge as a consequence of this crazy digital environment will be yours to address.

Indeed, the stuff of science fiction in the 20th century is already here now or in the offing – things like universal mobile connectivity and the internet of things, self-driving vehicles and designer genetics, space tourism and artificial intelligence. And we've reached a tipping point where these technologies are barreling forward exponentially.

Many of you are familiar with Moore's Law, which is not a law of physics, but really just an observation by Intel's co-founder, Gordon Moore, in a 1965 article about the output of the computer industry's engineers and scientists: computing power appears to double every two years. The exponential growth embodied in Moore's Law can be generalized more widely to all digital technology today. And it explains why you are all are on the cusp of an information revolution that really does not have an historical parallel.

For example, on the AI front, Silicon Valley inventor and futurist Ray Kurzweil, wiremarkable precision (or chutzpa) has predicted that the first truly intelligent machine will be built by the late 2020's, and that the singularity – the point at which sentient, intelligent machines vault past their human creators -- will occur around 2045.

**See Barker, Page 7**



Isabella Schiact

**PLAYING PROUDLY: John Patrick '18 plays “Reflective Mood” by Sammy Nestico at the Commencement ceremony.**