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Commencement Advice

This year's graduates are treated to inspiring words from some of America's best and brightest.

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The second man to ever set foot on the moon, Dr. Buzz Aldrin, spoke to graduates of High Point University in High Point, North Carolina.

In the years since his Apollo adventure, he has played an integral role in major NASA developments and has recently completed a memoir entitled, *Magnificent Desolation*.

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Create the Lifestyle You Want by Giving, Saving, and Spending Smart

ELLIE KAY
Author of Family Financial Expert

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An enormous transformation has occurred in the last half century. The world has become faster, louder and less patient. There's an obsession with speed, a loss of silence, of privacy and a sense of overload. While the rate of information becomes indigestible, the virtual world of television, computers and i-phones too often substitutes for real experience. There's a mounting

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compulsion to consume material things, a sense of urgency, a vague fear of not keeping up with the world.

What gets lost in all this is something of our inner selves—that part of us that imagines, that dreams, that explores, that is constantly questioning who we are and what is important to us, that part of us that's aware of the choices we have. Pollution of the soul is no less perilous than pollution of the Earth.

Perhaps this "best and worst of times" foreshadows some fork in the road. But my belief is that humanity as a whole has the inherent wisdom to choose life. Again and again, we abide calamity, gather the pieces, and set out once more on our unyielding journey—an imperfect people of irrepressible spirit, of mathematics and music, of love and wonder, who dare to dream of reaching the stars.

"Come, my friends!" cried Tennyson's Ulysses. "'Tis not too late to seek a newer world, to sail beyond the sunset, and the baths of all the western stars!" Like Ulysses and Columbus, or pioneers on the vast prairie, or the voyages of Apollo, may you each have the courage to risk the abyss—to set sail for the edge and find, instead, new worlds beyond imagination. As explorers in mind and spirit, may you sail, as the poet said,

out beyond a billion suns,
 across the vast sea of the soul
 in search of the ineffable center,
 the mirror lake in the soft green meadow,
 the glint in the eye of God.

(Photo: Getty Images)

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