

Good Evening to Everyone,

Dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen.

It's a great opportunity to come here and speak on this auspicious occasion. For this, I would like to thank my classmates from the bottom of my heart for providing me this wonderful opportunity to represent the class of Project Management. Thank you guys! Thank you.

To start with, I am sure learning project management during this semester will be one of the turning points in our careers. It was an excellent program. I would thank BU global for an excellent curriculum design by combining good courses into one package, which gave us almost all aspects of project management. In just one very intense semester we are now quipped with the knowledge of project management and ready to apply it in our present careers or start a career in project management. It would have been rather difficult for most students to take these courses in single semester. It is really an excellent program.

I would like to talk about our classes on project management. I would say, we have been lucky to have such learned, knowledgeable faculty, who shared with us their vast knowledge and more over their length of experience in the related field of project management. We were enlightened by Risk Matrix and cost analysis by Professor Scott; team-building process and leadership styles by Professor Marcus; WBS, network diagram, and much more from Professor Warburton; and international project management by Professor Cirignano. We are looking forward to the PMP preparation class by Professor Kanabar. I am sure that this knowledge on project management will help some of us in attaining our PMP certification and all of us in accomplishing a successful career. Our final team projects, guided by faculty, was also an excellent experience in preparing us for the future. On behalf of the class of Project Management, I would like to thank all professors for their able guidance, great lectures, and words of wisdom during the class and course.

Our special thanks to Professor Chee, who was always there to help and guide us on our various concerns on internship and OPT. I will never forget his words that he was there for us 24/7. Having such a dedicated guide helped us feel comfortable and free of worries, as we knew that we had someone to rely on during our troubled times. All our problems were taken care of excellently.

When I was reviewing our course, a question came to me. Did we learn project management only? I strongly feel... no.

I would like to recapitulate the interesting “hat theory” mentioned by Marcus to differentiate and manage people. Well, for myself, I still have to figure out which hat I put on.

Professor Warburton’s discussion boards were pretty challenging initially, but got very interesting later on. These discussions enhanced our capacity of thinking outside the box and doing independent research. Most of us relied heavily on Internet materials instead of project management journals, still the learning was huge. We got a hand on doing research. It was interesting to learn project management from history, be it the Mr. M case or the Cassandra case.

In classes by Professor Cirignano, besides learning international project management we learned how to make good PowerPoint presentations, as we had to provide a large number of presentations and team assignments as a part of the course. Each of us had to present so many times in the class that it enhanced our presentation skills. That’s why today I am in front of you. So many team exercises during the course led us to a practical experience in working as a group and working in teams. These learning experiences we will utilize to develop our career irrespective of the nature of our professions. These team exercises helped us in bonding with each other. I would like to thank the professors for these bonuses to us.

Now I would like to talk about the classmates. I thought the Hubert Humphrey fellowship program, to which also I am associated, was the best example of diversity at BU. But after seeing our BU global class, I have to think again. What a wonderful diversity we have in our class!! We are 12 students from 10 different countries. Is that not wonderful? I can say, this diversity in our class made the

learning process faster. The knowledge sharing was deeper and broader. Project Management says, global project managers have to learn the cultures. I can see many global project managers in the making. We learnt a lot of cultural issues from each other.

Well, there is a saying, “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” We agree. We too played... and had fun. I hope our class will never forget the group outing together at Fenway or Kenmore. Specially on Red Sox game day. It made our bonds stronger. It helped us to become a family here. Those moments were fabulous and unforgettable. You all are wonderful people. I am happy to share that now I have 11 more international friends from 4 different continents. Our fun time has not ended yet and we are excited about our upcoming Salsa party. I am sure with such a close bonding, we will remain in touch for the rest of our lives.

After this graduation, we are all heading for a new life, as better people, with more skills to shape a better future for us. I wish everybody the best of luck.

Finally, on behalf of the class, I would like to thank Boston University’s BU Global for providing such a great opportunity. I would like to express my heartfelt thank you again to our faculty, Yvette, Neus, Kate, administration staff, and supporting staff at BU Global for helping us achieve our goals, for guiding us in the right direction so that we are able to attend this reception and graduation ceremony. Thank you everybody, thank you very much. By the way, thanks for this good food, and a wonderful party.

- Ashutosh Sharma Sapkota