Well, that’s it.

I’ve graduated.

Fifty-three blog entries later and I’ll now be out of your hair.

I have been at UMass for four years now and, now that I am gone, I truly do feel like I deserve the title “senior.” Not because of rank or anything, but because I’m no longer going to be considered a student and the real world is about to slap me in the face with one of the biggest wake-up calls of my life.

I love UMass, and I wish with all my heart that it was not time for me to go.

However, it is. I’ve had my chance to enjoy what this amazing school had to offer me, and I can only hope that others will feel the same way that I did.

I only have a few more words of advice for you guys who are still around. Not from my father or my mother. These are from me and me alone.

I want you who are still at UMass to enjoy what time you have. Maybe you won’t love classes the way that I did, but this lifestyle will never come again for most of us. Exams and papers and lectures may seem daunting now, but that is perfect liberty compared to the responsibilities that come with adulthood. Also, enjoy that climb up the Hill. The sunsets from the top by themselves make the trek worthwhile and the scenery on the way is pleasant and lush.

Also, we could all do with a bit of exercise.

To those who have been accepted to UMass and are about to join my now alma mater, I envy you. Go wild, as I’m sure you want to. Temper that with a mind to your own safety
and academics, of course, but enjoy your newfound freedom before you have to take harder classes.

To rising sophomores, I hope that your second year at UMass is as euphoric as mine was. That was, so far, the best year of my life, and I hope that others can share in that as well. There’s no place like the Butterfield dorm if you’re an artist of any sort. For most everyone else, this is the last year you have before things get difficult in the classroom, but it will be the year that you can spend with those friends you have made and will make in the fall.

Upcoming juniors: Buckle up, ‘cause this is gonna be a bumpy ride.

For our burgeoning seniors, do whatever you can to savor every day at UMass during your final year. Each class that you go to may seem tedious, but it is a gift. Unless you’ve got a dull professor or are in a subject you hate, that is. Otherwise, spend time with the friends who matter rather than those who are easy to get ahold of. If there is someone who’s been with you through thick and thin, find the time to hang out with them because you never know when you will see them again after graduation. Enjoy those last sunsets, stuff yourself at Hamp, and, when the weather is nice, you might want to take a moment to just meander through campus and remember what has passed or savor being in the moment.

To my fellow graduates, from what I’ve heard, these next couple of years are going to be rough, but it gets much better. At least, that’s what my TA’s, friends, and family have been telling me.

For those of you who have been reading this blog, thank you for your patience and support. I might not have always had the time (or the memory capacity) to post each and every week, but this blog has meant something to me. Thank you also to the Commonwealth Honors College for making this possible and putting up with my posts each week.

I wish you all the best and look forward to when our paths cross again some day.

Love,

The Old Man

The Last Song: I know it’s a cliché, but it’s a good one. “Time To Say Goodbye” by Andrea Bocelli (featuring Sarah Brightman) feels right, from the sorrowful moments to the powerful finish that reminds us that a goodbye is not the end.

Also, these fountains are pretty cool.

Blog Column:
Love, The Old Man

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