

July 24, 2014

Dear Arts and Letters Seniors,

First, congratulations on rising to a senior in the College of Arts and Letters Class of 2015. It is an accomplishment of which you should be proud.

I am writing to encourage you to make the most of the time you still have at Notre Dame. Graduation is not far away, but you can use these next months to make progress toward your post-graduation goals.

If students in Arts and Letters make one mistake about career planning, it is not in choosing a major. *Any* course of study you truly find fascinating and pursue with passion helps you hone the analytical, creative, and communications skills that lead to success after graduation.

The mistake, rather, is when you don't connect your coursework with the many other experiences and opportunities available to you as a student. So, as you begin your countdown to commencement—and the countdown has started—consider seriously the following five pieces of advice.

5. Take advantage of your professors and advisers.

They can do more than help you decide what classes to take in your final year. They can also suggest additional research or service work that match your academic strengths and interests and can help round out your resume. Additionally, they are a vital source of advice on how to get into the best graduate and professional schools.

Faculty in the College's [academic departments](#) and [Office for Undergraduate Studies](#) all hold office hours. Visit them. Talk to them. Regularly.

4. Employ The Career Center.

Investigating possible careers and preparing for that first job after graduation take more time than you might think, from self-assessments and industry research to resume writing, practice interviews, and career-event networking. [The Career Center's](#) experts have made it their career to help you with yours and have many excellent ideas and resources to share.

If you haven't seen them yet, go now. Visit careercenter.nd.edu, or stop by Flanner Hall. Meet with The Career Center staff in the LaFortune Student Center September 2, and mark your calendar for the Career Fair on September 10.

3. Engage the Center for Social Concerns.

Investing your time and talents in service work after graduation can make a real difference in your life, both personally and professionally. The staff at the [Center for Social Concerns](#) is ready to help you explore possibilities.

Visit socialconcerns.nd.edu, or go to Geddes Hall.

2. Visit academic centers and institutes.

The [Kellogg Institute for International Studies](#), [Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies](#), [Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies](#), [Nanovic Institute for European Studies](#), [Medieval Institute](#), [Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies](#), [Institute for Latino Studies](#), [Institute for Educational Initiatives](#), and many other centers and institutes do more than serve faculty and graduate students. In addition to speakers, film series, and other events, they also assist undergraduates with research and service projects.

Contact the adviser for your major or the [Office for Undergraduate Studies](#) for more information.

1. Use CUSE.

The faculty in the [Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement](#) can help you with current research—and help you apply for prestigious post-baccalaureate fellowships and scholarships, such as the Fulbright, Marshall, and Rhodes.

For more information and assistance creating compelling applications, check out cuse.nd.edu.

What are your plans?

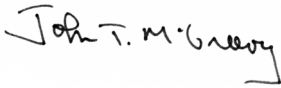
The Career Center statistics show that Arts and Letters alumni meet with immediate success after graduation no matter which path they choose. In the Class of 2013, for example, 46% went into the professional workforce, 31% enrolled in graduate or professional school, 19% chose to engage in service programs or pursue independent projects, and 1% joined the military. (Yes, these numbers mean only 3% of 2013 Arts and Letters graduates were still looking for work six months after graduating, despite the tough economy.)

As an alumnus of the College of Arts and Letters Class of 1986, I know firsthand how the opportunities for our graduates have expanded—in professional and graduate schools, service, and the paid labor force—over the past 28 years. The trick is to take advantage of them.

As a dean, I'll offer just one more piece of advice: Seize these opportunities. Call, visit, and email the people and offices on this list, and begin thinking about life after Notre Dame.

I know that with planning and preparation on your part, you will achieve your highest aspirations.

Sincerely,



John T. McGreevy

I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean
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A copy of this letter is available online at al.nd.edu/undergraduate-students.