Mechanical and Aerospace Dept
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Fall Commencement Alumna Speaker

Dec 4, 2020 | 10:00 EST (virtual)
https://www.mae.ncsu.edu/event/mae-virtual-commencement/
Preparing For The Unknown

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Plan vs. Actual

Unknown Factors

- Birth
- Develop and Explore
- Young Adult Identity
- College/Vocation/Military
- Career/Purpose
- Higher Education/Upskill
- Thrive/Marriage/Family
- Midlife Crisis
- Retirement
- Age with grace
- Natural Death

Plan

Actual

Start

End

Unexpected Income/promotion

Early retirement

Successful Invention

Divided Nation

Pandemic

Economic Downturn

Social Inequalities
Things don’t always go as planned.

Preparing For the Unknown
1) Fuel Yourself with Inspiration and Wisdom

• Seek Faith, Higher Power
• Mentors/ Iron Sharpeners
• Positive Influences
• Motivating Thoughts
• Personal Montra
• Work on your higher purposes
• Admire success and strength in others
• Find your light in darkness
2) Study intensively and be intentional

- Be structured and strategic in your concentration
- Think intentionally and use your time wisely
- Anticipate what could go wrong and mitigate it
- Assess risk, failure modes, impact vs. effort
- Bounce back quickly, adjust, adapt, aim with clarity
3) Compliment intelligence with insight and innovation

**Learn**
- Learn from those who have gone before you when possible.

**Document**
- Document your own steps for retrospective thinking.

**Analyze**
- Analyze and make data-driven and informed decisions.

**Be Current**
- Stay relevant. Use vetted and reliable sources for innovative thinking.
Summary: How do I prepare for the unknown?

- Stay Inspired
- Possess Intensive and Intentional Focus
- Be Intelligent, Insightful and Innovative
Inspirational Thoughts and Wisdom

• Finish the race – Raymond Arnold, Jr
• Homework is never done – Mary Arnold
• Never ever give up – Jim Valvano
• Don’t count the days, make the days count – Mohammad Ali
• Be the change you want to see – Mahatma Gandhi
• Judge me by the content of my character, not the color of my skin – MLK Jr
• Don’t be afraid to explore the unknown – Dr. Ronald McNair
• Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger- Bible- James 1:19
• To him/her who is given much, much is required – Bible – Luke 12:48
• Genius awaits you and brilliance beckons – Jeronicus Jangle (😊)
Life is calling. Accept it!

Don’t be Afraid to Explore the Unknown – Dr. Ronald McNair
Don’t live to work, work to live!
– Dr. Toni
Keep track with your pack!

Antonia(Toni) Arnold-McFarland