for my engineering students at the University of Alabama, Birmingham by Professor Kenneth A. Kuhn November 2, 2008, additions: Dec. 6, 2008

I would never be asked to give a commencement address. For one reason, I do not believe in the bullshit of political correctness. Which is more useful to you, niceties that are not true or unpleasantness that is? If I ever were asked to give an address, this is what I would say.

Let me begin with congratulations, you made it! The effort you put forth will repay you many times over during your life. You will never regret going to college. You are now on your way to building your American dream.

You will discover over the next few years that what you learned in school is not even the tip of the proverbial iceberg of knowledge. You have much more to learn. The onset of real knowledge is when you finally learn enough to realize how ignorant you are. You *should* strive to realize your ignorance – for then you are on the verge of becoming truly knowledgeable. Afterwards, life becomes very rich and rewarding. I speak from personal experience.

It is customary for the person delivering a commencement address to offer a lot of sage advice from years of practical experience. I will certainly do that but not in the traditional way. In addition to practical knowledge and wisdom, I am going to reveal certain forbidden knowledge. If the powers behind our government knew I was going to say these things they would probably have had me silenced before I could make you aware of the truths you must live with. Because of prior religious and political brainwashing (those are essentially the same) you may feel compelled to disagree with a lot of what I will say. Be aware that a common tactic to derail some of the concepts that I will present is to charge that I am covertly preaching racial or ethnic class separation or discrimination. With carefully selected "facts" that charge can always be "proven". I say bogus – we are all Americans and all of us came from somewhere else in the world. If we do not work in unison then we are surely doomed. Such tactics have kept us in a state of division that has successfully enabled the powers to remain safely in control while we are diverted arguing about the wrong things. I challenge you to escape from the trap of thought control and think for yourself. Then you will observe that although what I say is ugly, it is the truth – something you should always quest for. No amount of pretty lies or political correctness will ever be of use to you. I am not here to entertain you – I am here to inform you.

You are just beginning life. I have lived quite a while and have observed many things. I can tell you that much of life as you think you know it is a myth. If you believe that the government of the United States operates by the original Constitution and by the intent of its founders you are in for a rude awakening. There was a time when as President Lincoln said, we had government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Sadly, that great concept is dead today having been replaced with government by the party, for

its members, and jabbed to the people. Jesse Ventura, the well known out spoken wrestler and former governor, has commented that in the United States you have one more choice at the polls than in former communist Russia. I am not sure he is right. Regardless of who you vote for, the party, whether you call it Demopublicans or Republicrats, wins. In a joint conspiracy these groups have usurped the power of the people to choose government, and they have formed systems to stifle any credible third party competition. That is not per our Constitution. George Washington was opposed to political parties in the belief that they would divide the country. History has proven him right. My wish is for a revolution to overthrow the party and restore our Constitution. It will be your mission in life to fight this revolution.

Would it come as a shock to you if I said that we live in the USSR – United States Socialist Republic? Be proud that you prevailed in school in spite of our corrupt socialist government making it hard for you in the name of "helping" you! All of the government help doled out over the years has increased your education expense and expenses of life and has by intention put many of you in significant debt – be sure to thank your politicians for their "help". The government is in cahoots with the debt mongers and serves them, not you. They all become rich in the process. You may think that you elect our government – and you do – except that you elect those chosen by the debt mongers.

You worked hard so that you can earn a big salary – that is capitalism. Your net income after taxes and expenses will only be modest – that is socialism. Although capitalism is not dead in the United States you must keep in mind that the United States is now a socialist republic and your vote as a real taxpayer is a minority one. That means that people who did not work as hard as you are entitled to a standard of living approaching yours – paid for by you. They are credited with considerable sacrifice to provide many benefits to you if you are gullible enough to believe that. Therefore, you owe them a lot. That is what we call fair in modern times. Karl Marx, the champion of a free living said, "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs" – needs being a politically correct version of laziness. *That* is egality! Egality is commonly and erroneously interpreted as equal sharing regardless of work. The correct interpretation is equal sharing for *equal* work. Economic justice, economic democracy, economic freedom, and social justice are just a few of the various nice sounding but deceptive terms that describe the concept of living as a parasite. A common theme is, "To whom much is given, much is expected" (Luke 12:48). But the translation of this is highly corrupted. Those who have worked hard, stayed out of trouble, made wise investments, and have been assets to society are classified as those "to whom much is given." Those who have been lazy, caused trouble, squandered their money, and have been drags on society feel entitled to receive the "much is expected" from the first group. The truth is that it is the second group that has been given much and much is expected from them but they never deliver. Do not fall victim to these crafty misinterpretations. It is an irrefutable fact that the first group, of which you are going to be a member, has been making life better and better for the second group for many years. If you do not believe that then show me the great accomplishments of the second group. Being a member of the first group you should take offense and fight back when referred to as "to whom much is given." Contrary to what is often said it is another irrefutable fact that the poor are **not** getting

poorer – they are gaining wealth instead thanks to the hard work of people like you. If you do not believe that then some comparative history will show that the poor of today enjoy affordable amenities that were expensive luxuries for the rich only a few years ago – and that process has been continuing for a long time. You commonly hear the phrase concerning the haves and the have-nots. It has been pointed out that the real difference is between the doers and the do-nots. Because you work hard you are classified as the fortunate ones who happen to have money – money you do not deserve. Because others did not work hard they are classified as the unfortunate ones who happen to not have money – money they do deserve. The socialists want to take your money via taxes or high prices and hand it to the second group in order to buy their vote so that the socialists remain in control of the government and enrich themselves in the process. Notice that in my presentation of this that I have included the language socialists forbid as I am not duped by their corruption. You should not be either. Open your mind to reality and close it to the propaganda that has become an accepted part of our society.

The original American spirit that built this country was that I as an individual could make a positive difference and build my American dream without assistance or burden from the government. Those days are gone, probably forever unless you fight the revolution to reinstate that great concept. Under the socialist government we now have the concept is that I as an individual am nobody. I can not accomplish anything without significant assistance from the government. It is wrong for me to claim any victories or successes in life as none of those are possible without government assistance. Therefore, any accolades that I might think I am due for any efforts I put forth must go to the great socialist government that "helps" me. Anything I might think I accomplish is only a manifestation of the success of socialism. I could not have done anything without socialism. I must not think in terms of the American dream. That was an evil concept of the past whereby people worked to better themselves without proper socialist assistance. My life must be dedicated to serving the great socialist party members who give all things to us. This is going to take some getting used to for there was once a famous speech by Dr. King where a theme was, "I am somebody!" That statement was right then and before our government had completed the transition to socialism. Today that statement is wrong. You have the power to make that statement right again for yourself and future generations if only you will. Do what you can to end the scourge of socialism. Many of you have probably been the victims.

Under the guise of "helping you" the socialist party using the authority of government and in conspiracy with various financial moguls has created a system to drive as many people as possible into as much debt as possible in order to make immense profit. Many of you are probably victims of this scheme as you have considerable school loan debt. As a point of perspective, it was not many years ago that students graduated from college with little if any debt. You need to ask what has happened.

Now that you have graduated the same sleazebags will now attempt to sucker you into more debt with "easy credit terms" to purchase a fancy new car, a new luxury home, and new gadgets you are made to feel you must have. The end result is that all of the money you could have saved and invested in a very secure and prosperous future for you and

your family to be is transferred to people who view you as slave labor producing easy money for the debt mongers. You have the power to resist this. You must use your power not only for the good of yourself but also for the good of the country.

At some point in your life it will become your duty to rebel against "big brother" who monitors and tries to manipulate your every move and thought. Much of the technology you enjoy will find its way into sinister purposes by the government to keep track of your every action so that any tendency you might have to revolt can be quickly squelched. You know about computers. Use that knowledge to sabotage big brother computers and free us all from enslavement.

There are groups of puppeteers behind our government. Your elected officials are their puppets. It will be your burden to overthrow the shadow government that has usurped our Constitution for its own profit. This could become the bloodiest fight in the history of human kind. If it is not fought by you then your children will be enslaved by this system. Your forefathers bought your freedom with a lot of blood. Sadly, you will have to spend a lot of blood for the freedom of your children and grandchildren. The only way that has ever been found to purchase freedom is with blood. Freedom has to be bought over and over again. If we could ever learn from history then that awful cycle could end.

Try to avoid falling into the very tempting trap of using debt to jump into the so-called good life. Be aware that the financial system is craftily designed to trap you in the name of "helping" you. Among the first things you are tempted to do after securing a job is to celebrate by purchasing a fancy car and living in an upscale apartment with lots of expensive amenities. But no matter – you are making lots of money – so you think. After the sacrifice you made to attend college it is natural to feel that you have earned it. However, doing such is one of the biggest mistakes you can make in life. You should only buy a car if it is an absolute necessity and then only buy the cheapest suitable used car. If you have a sound financial plan then in a few short years you can buy a decent new car for cash and every new car thereafter for cash. You should live in the cheapest location you can stand for the first few years. The savings will enable you to buy a nice house in a good area with a substantial down payment which will lower your mortgage costs thus enabling you to have more in life. It is important to live frugally and save and invest the money you would have wasted on frill. The return on those savings in a few years will enable you to enjoy a long and prosperous life *without* debt. This enables you to live a life free of control by the debt mongers who conspire to get you in a life long debt trap for their immense profit – you get to be a slave and work hard all your life to pay off debt in order for them, instead of you, to enjoy life's riches.

While you are in this enhanced period of frugality you should spend a lot of time studying and understanding how money and markets work. You should learn how to make wise investments. While Wall Street can be a gambling casino for idiots it is also an institution to make real money the safe and conservative way over time with virtually no risk. That method is only available to those to study. The easy way is to pay fee after fee after fee to professionals who will do the work for you and make a lot of money for

themselves while letting you make just enough to think positively of the process. The best money is that which you make yourself.

Understand the difference between the two kinds of debt, good debt and bad debt. Good debt enables you to gain in life. Examples would include borrowing money for education, buying an affordable house, or investing in yourself. The key is that the amount of debt is easily manageable and is used for real improvements. Bad debt causes you to get behind in life. Examples would include using debt for buying frivolous nonnecessities, buying a fancy car, or buying too expensive a house. Bad debt is often too high to be manageable and keeps one in a trap – as intended.

Be very wary of religion. It is great to believe in a higher order but understand that all religions are man-made based on some interpretation of something. That does not mean that there is no deity, or Creator, or whatever title you want to use. It just means that all mechanisms for relating are created by human kind. Frequently, the most important characteristics of any of them are obedience to the hierarchy and cash flow from you to them. Do not forget that the purpose of a religious belief is to serve a higher order, not a man-made system claiming to be a surrogate for that order. Obedience can become stifling or even a form of slavery if carried too far. The cash flow is not necessarily bad in of itself as it takes money to accomplish good things but it is a common site to see a very wealthy organization with high pay to the hierarchy and luxurious buildings. Be very suspicious of what good that is accomplishing. Consider practicing a private religion that directly relates to Nature and omits the hierarchy. You can do a lot of good as an individual.

Be wary of the government trying to help you with tax credits, tax deductions, incentive money, tax cuts, etc. In most cases you have no real choice but to accept these but you must understand that you and society pay a high price for these "benefits". Assuming they exist, strive towards politicians who do not use these as bait to lure you into the debt trap and government dependency trap. This generally means avoiding traditional Republicans and Democrats in favor of struggling third parties. You are always free to vote as you are manipulated.

Marriage today is becoming obsolete. Even the classical definition is being corrupted. This should not necessarily be viewed as a problem. The decline represents realities today that did not exist years ago. In today's highly mobile world it no longer makes sense to confine oneself to one person or to one place. You can and should have companions – even long term – possibly for life. But everyone needs the freedom to move on to a perceived better situation or to escape an unpleasant situation without the constraints of law requiring lawyers to be enriched in the process. Two (or more) companions in life should not need a written contract to hold them together. There is a popular saying, "If you love something, set it free. If it comes back to you, it's yours. If it doesn't, it never was." If not then be glad that you care enough so that someone you love is not in bondage. Think about it. The only true love in life is that which comes naturally and freely rather than being forced by contract. So I recommend that you consider delaying marriage until you are absolutely sure – maybe never. There is really no point

in marrying prior to the age of thirty. Having children should be delayed you are really settled and ready – this would also typically be after the age of thirty.

Having children too soon is a sure way to accrue high debt and a lower overall standard of living for yourself and you children. Live first and get a grasp on life. Save money and become stable. That will be a valuable asset to your children. If you want the best for your children then wait until you are really ready before having them. Life is not that short. Do not fall into the trap of having more children than your income can support. Be aware that various religions and government programs encourage that for the purpose of keeping you dependent on charity and "free" money from the government and thus under their control rather than advancing to the level of independence that you could otherwise achieve.

One might argue that it is necessary to spend a lot of money on a nice car and nice domicile, etc. to attract a spouse. It is true that spending money will attract someone who will expect you to continue to spend money to enrich their life. You do not want the person that spending money will attract. Let others be attracted to the real you and yourself attracted to the real them, for that is what makes for a secure and lasting relationship. False impressions only lead to misery and the enrichment of lawyers.

Be wary of the press. You have a duty to stay informed but be careful where your information comes from. If you obtain your news from organizations that cater to narrow segments of the population then you will be misinformed and basically know less than nothing about what is going on. Even a lot of the mainstream press gets the story wrong, not necessarily by intention but because of general ignorance and gullibility to propaganda. Be wary of those who would try to manipulate you. Think for yourself. One important lesson I learned in my youth was to check out news stories. I often found that they were wrong – not necessarily because of an intended slant but because the reporters just did not know the truth – they were operating on the assumed "truths" or propaganda from before.

Try to avoid becoming addicted to entertainment. Some entertainment is fine and good. But it is a sad truth that many people fall into a rut of going to work, coming home and watching entertainment until late, then going to bed only to repeat this day after day after day. The result is that the mind stagnates and the person becomes incapable of any indepth thought. Such people are perfect sheep that can be easily manipulated by the system. I wonder if that is the reason that entertainment is so prevalent. You are entertained while others get rich off of what you paid for it. Note that there is no difference between watching sports excessively and watching other forms of entertainment excessively. Anything carried to excess is bad. Get a life. Be somebody. Do something.

One of the things that makes life rich is to have at least one intellectual pursuit that is the focus of your private life. There is much more to life than just working and surviving. Intellectual pursuits expand the mind and make you more aware of important details in the world around you. An old TV commercial ended with an important thought, "A mind

is a terrible thing to waste." Preferably there is little if any money to be made via your pursuits for it is important that you do them for enjoyment rather than for money. Everyone needs some escape from the slavery of money. From my own experience my life is quite rich because of my various pursuits in writing music, studying economics, preserving technical history, and taking care of my cats among numerous others. I maintain a web site where people all over the world come to obtain free information about a subject they were looking for. That is fine for I use other people's web sites for information that I need. We all share information and are better off for it. Knowledge is one thing you can give away and still keep. It is not about money. Everybody should find their own set of pursuits. A great feature of these pursuits is that you are the boss – there is no one to tell you what or how to do something. You are free to use your own mind. These pursuits give you a means to escape the crazy world around us and enjoy a private sane world to recuperate. The little people use various drugs to escape and are worse off for it. The big people use their minds to escape and are better off for it.

When it comes time to buy a house, be sure to study the market carefully. There are a lot of unscrupulous people in the real-estate and financial worlds that will capitalize on any ignorance on your part to maximize their personal financial gain in the transaction. You are not a customer or a client. You are a source of money. There are plenty of good people in these fields and you should learn how to find them. It is very important to buy into a good area that is not near apartments, slums, or other negatives. It is much better to own a real house on a real lot rather than a townhome or condo. You have more control and are not at the mercy of your neighbors. It is generally better to buy into an older area that does not have a neighborhood association. Although those can work well for some they are another level of government that takes your money in exchange for constraining what you can do.

Your best bet in life is to escape the Birmingham, Alabama area for it is in perpetual decline. The magic of the city has been displaced by a new racist system even more corrupt than the previous racist system and is dedicated to keeping charlatans in power. The result has been an exodus of people who could have been assets in growth and harmony. If it were not for UAB, the largest industry in Birmingham would either be the disbursement of welfare checks or dope dealing – I am just not sure which. If family reasons compel you to work in the area then I recommend that you do not buy a house in Jefferson County. Live in any of the surrounding counties – except southern Tuscaloosa which faces similar problems for the same reasons. Except for widely scattered pockets of civilization, Jefferson County is a vast welfare wasteland that is in a long term decline as the civilized population moves out or dies of old age. The Southeast in general is also in decline. Consider the broad Midwestern region and Texas in particular as that area seems to be about the least worst. There are those who are trying to reverse this but they are destined to fail. Discussions are required to be politically correct, not right. Nothing good can be done until moronic political correctness can be discarded. Birmingham is in the seventh congressional district which was set up to be an exclusive poor district that would vote only for Democrats. Who but poor people would want to live there? This districting concept is unconstitutional but political correctness supersedes our Constitution – believe it or not. That is one of the major problems of today. We must

strive to replace political correctness (which by the way is always wrong, by definition – no exceptions – none) with acceptance of reality. Correcting an unpleasant reality begins with recognizing it rather than masking it with moronic political concepts.

Be friends with all and strive for a unified country where everyone can live their culture privately as well as live in a diverse public community of harmony. The adage, "make love, not war" is always preferable. There is a quote from Jimi Hendrix, "When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace."

Has what I have said made you mad? For the sake of our future I hope so. Please understand that it is not personal. You are not the problem. You are the potential solution if only you will act.

In closing, go forth and build your American dream and restore greatness to this country. But do not be gullible for the many popular sucker schemes that purport to accomplish that. Do your own research and study and know the real truths rather than the pseudo truths many would tell you in their conspiracy to manipulate your thought. The truth will set you free. Lies will continue to enslave you. Do not allow the American dream to become the American nightmare. It is almost too late, so you will have to act soon.