Professor Gino Dilorio, Commencement Speaker

“Let’s face it, I’m the only thing standing between you and a gin and tonic.

Come to think of it, you’re the only thing standing between me and a gin and tonic.

So believe me when I say, I’ll be brief.

At commencement there’s often a lot of talk about passion.

All you gotta do is find your passion

If you find your passion, you’ll never work a day in your life.

Here’s the bad news, most of us will never find our passion.
We’ll never find that one thing that keeps us up at night and gets us up early in the morning.

I know what it’s like. You’ve been sitting there for hours and it seems like everybody has their passion and they’re ready to take on the world.

The person to the right of you is passionate about a school they want to open on the North Pole for under-privileged children.

And the person to the left of you has some new dating app they’re passionate about. And it’s for people who never want to meet each other. And next week, they’re going on Shark Tank.

And you’re sitting there with a TO DO list that says three things: Clean my room, get a job, find my passion.

So the bad news is, most of us will never find our passion.
The good news is. It’s okay.

In fact, I would venture to say that the world spins forward on a lot of good deeds done by people who never found one passion, except the passion to be alive.

The passion it takes to do small, good things that nobody ever hears about. Difficult, heroic things. Like standing up for a friend when everybody has abandoned them, loving somebody even when they don’t love you back, fighting with all your might for a hopeless cause, doing the right thing without expectation of ever being rewarded or even recognized.

Doing the right thing because it’s the right thing to do.

So I hope you find your passion. And I hope you do great things. I hope you get that Nobel Prize, Pulitzer Prize, and Guggenheim. I hope one
day, your picture is on the front page of the *New York Times*, or *Clark News*, and anything in between.

But I also hope you do a lot of those small good things. That only you know about.

That is true heroism.

And that kind of heroism is something to be passionate about.

On behalf of the Clark faculty, I want to congratulate you for all your accomplishments.

It has been a privilege to work with you over these past four years.

Please don’t forget us.

We promise, we’ll never forget you.
Good bye and good luck!