REFLECTIONS on...
by Prof. Michael Posner
Villanova University
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
Graduate Recognition Ceremony
May 12, 2021

...Last Year
An Unexpected Journey in Statistics
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nJH8dEWVzY
Looking Ahead
Looking Behind

...Jobs
- #1 on Best Business Jobs in 2020 (US News and World Report)
- and top six on their list of Best Jobs every year since 2017
- Statistician
- #1 on Best Business Jobs
- Statistics is the science of using data to make decisions. This is relevant in almost all fields of work and there are many opportunities for employment.
- Hobbit
- Ranked by Fortune as the top graduate degree based on salary, growth and job satisfaction.
- Jobs in statistics are expected to grow faster than average for all occupations.
...the “Right” Path

It’s not about making the right decision, it’s about making the decision right.
--- Ellen Langer

...Applications

My favorite part about being a statistician is that I get to play in everyone else’s backyard.
--- John Tukey

...Villanova

What you know, you know, what you don’t know, you don’t know. This is true wisdom.
--- Confucius

...Veritas

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
...Caritas

- The Caritas Commitment (COVID)
- Data Science / Statistics for Social Good
- Complete and honest reporting

...Unitas

- Build your network
- Leverage your connections
- Don’t forget about your professors
- Join a professional organizations (while discounted)

...Teachers

- Curiosity and engagement are infectious
- You desire simplicity and accept complexity (sometimes)
- Learning works better in partnership (with me and each other)
- You are willing to laugh at jokes, cartoons, videos, songs, etc.
  - ...even though 120% of them aren’t that funny
- Patience and kindness are virtues...and are two-way streets
- We come from different backgrounds and bring different assumptions
  - ...which make our conversations richer
  - ...and our data analyses more robust
...Bad News
You are not done yet!
If you would attain to what you are not yet, you must always be displeased by what you are. For where you are pleased with yourself there you have remained.
Keep adding, keep walking, keep advancing.
--- St. Augustine

...Worse News
Your work ("tests") matters more and
The answers to your problems are never found in the back of the book

...the Future
...but the results will be novel as you gain knowledge or make decisions that will change the world.
I feel confident leaving the future in your hands...

Congratulations,
Mathematics and Statistics Graduate Students Class of 2021
It has been an honor to participate and bear witness to your learning and growth.

Best Wishes and Stay in Touch,
Prof. Michael Posner
michael.posner@villanova.edu
homepage.villanova.edu/michael.posner