Final Reflections

I thought it would be worthwhile writing a short memoir to you, considering the class, as a whole, decided to forego the paper in favor of a more creative outlet. I’m sure you would still appreciate something in writing, and so here are some of my final thoughts on what I’ve learned.

The lyrics of the Red Dog Willie Band really hit home with me.

I’ve been living on an island.
I’ve been there awhile.
It’s a place you might have heard of.
A place called Someday Isle.

I think we all begin our lives on Someday Isle. As kids we hope and dream and rant about what we will someday be, what we will someday do. And as kids there is nothing wrong with that. It’s even commendable. We don’t yet have the capacity to turn aspirations into actions.

As we grow older, however, we no longer have an excuse. We now have the capacity to get off Someday Isle. Sadly, so many of us stay on the island where we began. It’s our comfort zone. We know what to expect on Someday Isle, because we’ve been there all our lives. But as time passes, our comfort zone becomes a pit of discomfort. You can only say, “someday I’ll do this” or “someday I’ll do that” for so long. Soon you know that there isn’t any time left to fulfill your dreams. You’ve wasted it all away talking it up on this cursed island. And while you may die in a relatively peaceful manner, you could be slightly agonized by never finding out what lies out beyond the horizon, outside the perimeters of Someday Isle.

You have to get off of Someday Isle while you are still young. It’s hard to do, because it is scary. You’re not sure what the “great unknown” contains. No boat will come pick you up and deliver you safely to your destination. No helicopter will land on the island and welcome you onboard. You have to find your own way off Someday Isle. It’s not always easy, and there is surely a risk you must take. However, if you don’t get off the first time, you can learn from your mistakes and try again. Unlike most oceans, the sea that surrounds Someday Isle allows for second chances. Hopefully, you will discover comrades on the island with similar aspirations. You can build a relationship and work together to reach “elsewhere”. This way will truly be easier on the both of you. If you do ever get off Someday Isle successfully, you should find that the rest of the world is far more beautiful and gratifying than you once thought possible. You can live freely and comfortably with no regrets. You can live with confidence and a sense of accomplishment that your shelter back home on Someday Isle deprived you of.
At this point in my life, I believe I am still on Someday Isle. After experiencing your class, I have decided I don’t want to be there anymore. While I know it will take a lot of work, I have learned some major lessons that will help me escape this dreaded place.

1. I’ve always been successful and creative in my work, but I have also been fearful and unwilling to take risks. I have to throw caution to the wind and allow myself to endure some embarrassment and failure. If I stay on Someday Isle it will be even hard to endure the pain of wondering, “what could have been.”

2. Think radically in everything you do. You shouldn’t be radical in just your marketing efforts or, more generally, your career efforts, but you should seek the “Holy Grail” in everything you do. When you take a shower in the morning, you have five to ten minutes of inactive brainpower. Use this power to try and discover how you can make taking a shower easier or more enjoyable. Or on a grander scale, think how you could revolutionize how the world takes showers.

3. Leverage resources. I’m not as fortunate as some of the students here at Miami are. My father doesn’t have his own business, I’m not swimming in excess funds, and I don’t have any natural talents that are going to make me an overnight success. I have to work with what I have. But, lets be honest, I have a lot. Squeeze every ounce of juice out of every lemon and find new uses for what seems like junk at first glance. If this class taught me one thing, it’s that you can get just as much accomplished as the next guy, with half the money, if you leverage your resources.

I could continue this list forever, but these were the main points that I really think are important to me. They will be essential in my quest to get the hell off Someday Isle. I have learned more about what is truly important in business and more about myself from this class than just about any other class I have ever taken. Thank you for the opportunity and for the passion you bring to your profession. You have preached that we should “be remarkable” in what we do, and have led by example by being remarkable in what you do. Have a nice summer. Peace.