

The University of Toledo Fall Commencement
Saturday, December 20, 2014
10 a.m. Ceremony

That's the kind of headfake that can erode your confidence—if you let it. Don't.

It's nice to have a vision, but it's no guarantee. And too often the single-minded pursuit of a goal can blind us to other opportunities. Don't let some notion of a goal get in the way of enjoying the journey. Few career paths are a straightline.

I didn't set out to be a CEO or a father of 8, for that matter. I *did* intend to learn everything that I could from every experience I had. And that has opened doors I never could have imagined.

As for my classmate I don't know where that guy is today, but it's not the Oval office. (Who knows, maybe he found a better job along the way.)

My advice—relax. If you learn something every day and make yourself valuable to others, that's enough of a plan for now.

Head Fake #2: A good way to track your progress is to compare yourself to others

We all know this one. And we fall for it anyway. I think it's even harder today. Social media makes it feel like the world is full of people who are richer, better looking, and luckier than you are. The bad news is...it's true. No matter who you are, somebody will always have more. Somebody will always be better at something. Have a life that seems more exciting than yours. So...get over it. Why waste any more of your own life comparing yourself to others? Why sit by and *watch* someone else's life instead of *living* your own?

The good news is, once you stop trying so hard to be someone else, you get a lot better at being yourself.

When my wife and I were in our late 20's, we were living in Manhattan. We had two incomes, an apartment on the Upper East Side, and no kids. Some would consider that "living the dream."

But it wasn't *our* dream. We decided to leave our jobs in New York and move to Toledo.

Most of our friends couldn't even locate Toledo on a map, much less understand why we would want to move here to pursue our dreams.

And that's okay. We weren't doing it to impress anyone. We were doing it because it made sense for us.

If

