

June 16, 2014

GEORGE PYNE

President, IMG Sports & Entertainment

My advice for 2014 graduates is to follow your passion and to work hard. Following your passion will allow you to enjoy your career, and there is no substitute for hard work. I have had the privilege of working for some great business leaders: John Portman, Bill France and Ted Forstmann. Each loved what he did, nobody outworked these executives, and their success is legendary. One other piece of advice is to remember that everybody fails. You learn your best lessons when you aim high and fail. Successful business leaders pick themselves up, and go back out and compete. Everybody gets knocked down; the winners get back up and keep moving forward. As long as human beings are making decisions that influence your future, how you treat people matters. People help those who they like, so work to build strong relationships with your colleagues. In the end, if you have a passion for what you do, work hard, are not afraid of failure, and treat others how you would like to be treated, you will be successful. If you live by these attributes and are faced with a sound option requiring you to bet on yourself, always take the bet.

<http://www.sportsbusinessdaily.com/Journal/Issues/2014/06/16/Opinion/From-the-Executive-Editor.aspx?hl=george%20pyne&sc=0>