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Publisher and Editor.....

Milele Chikasa Anana

Photographers.....Milele Chikasa Anana, submitted photos

Calendar....Howard Landsman, Dana Warren

Contributing writers.... Lisa Speckman, Fabu Carter, Cheryl Knox, Erica Young

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Positive news with an art attitude

Events for calendar are welcome if received by the 15th of each month. The publisher would like for you to send articles about your event, about your achievement or your child's. Please call her in the newsroom at 242-1400. UMOJA will be pleased to have photos and short news articles of events that mean something to you.

from the publisher

Not the end of the journey...

We found an interesting, ego-pumping quote that reads "it took, 2,017 years to get a class this great." Of course, that would apply to any class, but what its ultimate meaning is that this class is unique. For the seven high schools whose graduates we feature, I find that to be true.

They are energetic, ambitious and focused. They are seeking career opportunities in science and technology just newly developed. They are looking at the world poised on the brink of war and peace. They have a unique mix of race, ethnicity and cultures never before experienced. These graduates can determine a different future than the hateful history we have given them.

Because of this uniqueness, I offer some advice to students in the class of 2017 from my 83 year perspective, although I have not been asked to do so.

First, take time to breathe after graduation. You will be working the rest of your life until retirement. For a short while after graduation, be adventurous. Go somewhere you have longed to go, be it a road trip, a mountain climb, a cruise or flying to the east or west coast to visit relatives or friends. Do something that you have not done. Take a risk.

In all likelihood, you can be idle or without a job for 2-3 months and nobody will look at you crazy. You'll never have these 2-3 months again.

Second, realize the sobriety of this milestone. This is, by far,

the biggest transition in your life's journey because you are moving from a guardianship to self-sufficiency. For some, it will be abrupt and others more gradual. But this milestone means you're giving up your dependency. You can vote, you can choose whom you will live with; you can choose what you do everyday; you can choose your own friends and how long to hang out with them; you can make all your decisions, by yourself, alone. Not such a good idea, but you can.

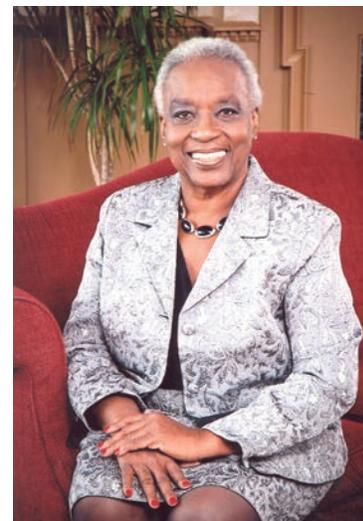
As you pursue your independent interests, keep close to family. Families are messy. We have our ups and downs. We do things and say things to family that we would never do to others. We experience child-births together, sickness, illness, chronic pain and death together, marriages and more graduation. We live with one another unexpectedly as fully grown adults. We travel together. Finally we dig into our common history as we come to realize its importance and how someone unknown to us has made sacrifices for us. Keep connected to the family you know and reach out to get to know, in person, those you don't know.

Realize that you will never be done with school. No matter how many degrees you acquire, there will always be room for more learning. Although the Ph.D is often called a terminal degree, there is no terminal learning. The smart phones that are so integrated into your present life will be collector's antiques in 25 years. The campus will not look the same at your 25th reunion. Your teach-

ers and professors will have retired. You will live in a house completely different than the one you grew up in. Keep in mind that you need to keep learning, formally and informally, for the rest of your life as life is certain to change.

Finally, keep close to God, if you already are in a spiritual bond. Get close, if you're not. There will be times when you question the validity of the Power. That's fine. Just keep rooted in a value system that will help you navigate life. It's the values that keep you rooted, not the material things.

Re-read this in 20 years, perhaps 40 years, and see where the truth is.



Milele Chikasa Anana, Publisher

