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| Having gotten around a bit over the last few years, I am more convinced than ever … |
| Not only is it where I met my husband, but it's where I met the people, took courses, - |
| - and championed the causes that ultimately led me to make my career in international affairs. |
| Once you've learned to study in a bathing suit on the grass with muscled men throwing Frisbees over your head, you can accomplish almost anything. |
| commencement speech |
| hold on to this jubilant moment |
| Nurture the friendships you have made here. |
| … can sustain you as you face … |
| a world changing at a furious pace |
|  |
| In 1986, when I graduated, the Soviet Union was bristling with 45,000 nuclear weapons, and Berlin Wall was impenetrable. |
| Nelson Mandela was clocking his 23rd year in prison in apartheid South Africa. |
| Japan was the daunting economic powerhouse, and China's share of global GDP was 2 percent. |
| We've seen amazing technological advances. |
| Twenty-four-hour cable news was in its infancy. |
| In 1986, 8% of the US population was Hispanic. |
| … and number of women and Latinos has tripled. |
|  |

So much change has transpired just in my adult lifetime, and you will see so much more in yours.

Technology and trade helped transform a bipolar world into the deeply interconnected global community of the 21st century.

Fundamental inequalities.

… while billions are condemned to conflict, poverty, and repression.

These massive disparities erode our common security and corrode our common humanity.

We cannot afford to live in contempt of each other’s welfare.

When a country is wrecked by war or weakened by want, its people suffer first.

But poor and fragile states can incubate threats that spread far beyond their borders---

--- terrorism, pandemic disease, nuclear proliferation, criminal networks, climate change, genocide, and more.

… to lift up the most vulnerable and to serve those with the least, …

For me, for so many reasons, this is a personal as well as professional imperative.

war-ravaged Angola in 1995

He was one face in a friendly mob of destitute little kids who greeted our delegation at a dusty camp for internally displaced persons in the middle of nowhere.

displaced person

in the middle of nowhere

He was perhaps 3 or 4 years old, with pencil-thin legs and a distended belly, and only a torn T-shirt to wear.

pencil thin legs

a distended belly

a torn T-shirt to wear

the most amazingly infectious smile

The joy on his face remains etched in my mind to this day.

But he could well have become one the 9 million children under the age of 5 who die each year, mostly from preventable and treatable afflictions.