



FTPD-Issue 18

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Recently, I have heard lots of people saying that February is the official start of 2021 for them; apparently January had too much 2020 in it. While this sentiment makes for a few good memes and laughs, to me it signals a lack of preparation. As a university president, one of the greatest tools in my tool-kit is being well prepared. I not only have to prepare for what I know is coming, I also have to prepare for quick changes in plans and unforeseen circumstances. Being prepared has made me a better leader.

Christian pastor, motivational speaker and author Robert H. Schuller said “Spectacular achievement is always preceded by unspectacular preparation.” If we want to be successful, it is essential that we take the time to prepare for success. And while preparation can be seen as the boring part of a given task, it is the part that can ensure smooth execution. Sometimes the stars do align and we are lucky, but it is truly the hours we spend behind the scenes, planning and putting things in place, that lead to success. Students at UB know this better than anyone. Research, reading widely and experimentation are all ways in which they prepare for classes, write papers and sit exams. It is only through this preparation that they are able to pass exams and attain their degrees.

After the curve ball thrown at us all in 2020, 2021 is a time to flourish, even as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Let us plan and prepare ourselves for success; we cannot achieve our goals without it. Constant vigilance and preparation are key to success. I am reading a book entitled “*How University Boards Work*” by Robert A. Scott. It is an excellent “Guide for Trustees, Officers, and Leaders in Higher Education”. I have recommended it to trustees and senior administrators. I am also reading “*Leadership in Turbulent Times*” by Doris Kearns Goodwin. How are you preparing for the new norm?

I challenge you to write down your goals and the ways in which you mean to achieve them. Preparation really is key, and as Oprah Winfrey says, “...luck is preparation meeting opportunity”.

Please continue to spread joy and send inspiring quotes or scriptures to presidentsoffice@ub.edu.bs. Please stay safe and be encouraged.

