

Dear Denis-

The students are still talking about your presentation and going out of their way to tell me how much they enjoyed it. You done good!

It was great to meet you!

Warm regards,

David

**PROFESSOR DAVID NORTHRUP PhD – BOSTON COLLEGE**

Hello Denis,

I was in the audience when you spoke at Boston College. I watched the documentary a few days before you spoke as we've been studying Polo and the Mongol Empire in my Globalization class. I want to personally tell you that your story is truly inspiring: two guys living their dream and going on an amazing journey for the sake of history. I think your idea of a show "In the Footsteps Of..." is a great idea and would love to see it, especially with your amazing still photography (the trek of the first African in the Americas would be amazing to document!)

I can't wait to buy your book and wish you, Francis, and your family the best of luck in all your future endeavors. On behalf of history fanatics everywhere, thank you for doing the incredible.

Sincerely,

**David Soares**

**Boston College 2014**

P.S. That is a badass profile picture!

As co-chairman of the Explorers' Club public lectures committee, I've had an opportunity to view and review many films, lectures, and scientific presentations regarding exploration and the field sciences. Over my thirty years of being involved in Archeology and Paleontology, a single lecture and film that most stands out in that entire thirty years is the adventure of Denis and Francis replicating Marco Polo's journey... I have found these two men to be highly ethical, generous of spirit, contagious in their enthusiasm to young people for the pursuit of exploration. I would certainly endorse and recommend to anyone willing to advance and promote any derivative lectures, films, or books that might emerge from this project."

**Ronald K. Brandes**

Francis and Denis truly are explorers! Their epic journey following in the footsteps of Marco Polo is an engrossing tale. The Chicago/Great Lakes Chapter of the Explorers Club invited them to speak to the chapter and their presentation was one of the best we have ever had. I highly recommend them as speakers for special events for any organization.

**James Westerman**

**Chapter Chair Chicago/Great Lakes Chapter of the Explorers Club**

An amazing experience to watch. Thank you. And a pleasure to meet both of you on Friday at Dobbs Ferry HS. The story is amazing. Your video enthralling. It was magical to watch. So were the students, and they asked some great questions. The photography was beautiful. I am honored to have had the chance to meet you. Not often people step so outside their comfort zones. Thank you both.

**L Stein**

What an absolute gift! We had the pleasure to meet Denis in Houston and were able to talk with him prior to viewing the movie and reading the book. My husband, two children, and I were spellbound by their magnificent journey and beautiful message. Thank you.

**Daniette**

I just saw your documentary on pbs. I was so moved how both of you traveled the same way as Marco Polo did. I have always wanted to travel and visit different cultures. Though I have been to Egypt and back to my own county Pakistan, I would love to take my family on a journey like yours. I would like say THANK YOU! for showing the world there are wonderful and kind people in this world. I cannot say in words what your film has done for me about this beautiful world full of different cultures and what we need to learn. Thank you again.

**Shafiqur Rahman**

I am absolutely amazed at how inspired I was by this documentary. "I will sell all of my worldly possessions for travel". That little sentence means so much to me. I have recently returned from my first trip to Europe and my travel buddies would not stop raving about these two crazy guys from Queens and their amazing journey. My pal sent me the link and I watched the documentary three times in the first two days. I have been talking about "breaking out of the matrix" for a while and watching Dennis and Francis take that to the next level is amazing. There is so much to see in this world, but they also helped me realize to appreciate what you have in your own backyard. I have been a walking commercial for these guys since I discovered their journey. I will be searching the site continuously for any speaking engagements in the New York area. Again guys Thank-you.

**Steve D**

I just showed this to my classes...got to watch it 5 times in the last two days. Fantastic job-I'd love a copy when it comes out on DVD!

**Kat – College professor**

You know it's good when you have to stop it 2/3 of the way through because class is ending, and one of the kids begs, "Nooooo... don't stop it! Can't we skip next hour???"

**Annikki**

Denis, stumbled across this feature after returning from a college algebra class. This is the most amazing journey that you have documented and lived.

**Cindy Philipp**

Beautiful and stunning. Inspirational.

**Ben Weber – College student**

After watching this incredible documentary and listening to Denis make a compelling presentation at my high school, it truly encouraged me to further my knowledge on Marco Polo and the Silk Road. After watching all the macabre scenes in the documentary, I realized for the first time how blessed me and my peers are ... Thank you for such a fascinating presentation at my school!

**Lyla**

Your presentation at Bronxville High School on Wednesday was in the words of my students "the best presentation ever!" You truly inspired all my students to learn more about other cultures, the history of Marco Polo and the silk road. Your passion, perseverance and love of history moved each and every student. Thank you for a truly extraordinary experience.

**Christina Reidel**

After being stunned by this wonderful movie, I was lucky enough to ... enjoy a small setting discussion, and I was struck by how humble and relatable Denis and Francis are. They really are two regular guys with big hearts (and a great sense of humor!) who dared to dream the impossible dream.

**Alexa – High School Student**

I was absolutely awed the first time I viewed the documentary, and was ecstatic to have the privilege of sitting down with Denis in my high school Global Seminar class this past week. Not only were Denis and Francis' experiences on their journey fascinating, but their urgency for my classmates and me to achieve our dreams was inspiring. Thank you!

**Melissa – High School student**

This film was absolutely incredible. The story and journey were both remarkable and admirable, and never ceased to amaze me. Denis and Francis are two truly incredible people, and their film should be seen by everyone; their book should be widely read and appreciated. I am still in awe of the cultural feat they have accomplished. They are the definition of “global citizens.”

**Paige – student**

This is by far THE BEST, most inspiring, most interesting and most honest film ever made!! It is so refreshing to see that some people are so determined to follow their dreams and the most inspiring part is that their dream is NOT the American dream of materialism: large house with double garage. Way to go! You guys are real amazing, and real example for everyone. They should make this film mandatory in every school of America!! GOOD JOB! THANK YOU SO MUCH! I happen to have seen that film and think about it every day...

**Daniele Sullivan**

I just shared this with all my friends. Absolutely loved it. No words!

**Aditya**

One of the best things I have seen.

**Jim McPherson**

This is a great resource for our world history class. Inspiring, informative, and entertaining as well – what a wonderful documentary and book! I love the message at the end about getting out in the world and meeting people before you judge them. Thank you so much for making this available online!

**K Aki**

I was riveted to the screen, wondering how you can navigate through the cultural differences and mistrust of foreigners. I still can't believe your fortune and good Karma. We all should have such conviction to chase our dreams

**Kris Balch**

I just wanted to say thank you for reminding me that “you” gotta believe in something and put your all into it. I'm a Science teacher .... And after seeing the documentary, I remembered why I became a teacher in the first place. I have a renewed sense of purpose, thanks to your accomplishment. Thank you.

**Sandra Salazar**

...This is how history should be taught. America, where individuals are permitted and do great things! What you did was great; sharing it, truly a gift! thank you!

**Bruce Spivey**

The film is amazing. I have been showing it to my 9th grade students after we have just studied a unit on Marco Polo and China. The students and myself have really enjoyed the film. I hope the film inspires them to travel and see the world.

**Brian**

Its more than inspiring! It's monumental!

**William A Verdone – History professor and Author**

...It should be the " Must Film " for all students ! of history , culture , art and life !

**Ellen Federice**

That was spectacular!! A vicarious, thrilling, moving, magnificent film. I will watch it over and over as I felt as melancholy as you did when it ended

**Barbara Rondon**

ABSOLUTELY stunned. Bes thing seen on TV in at least 20 years ... Amazed ... speechless ... brilliant.

**Don Reed**

Never was I more transfixed. This film so well made, story telling at its best, it had me hypnotized from start to finish.

**Harve Kaye**

A NYC viewing plus listening to the author afterwards ... priceless

**Anil Sethi**

... Denis visited the Great Neck Camera Club and for nearly 2 hours we were treated to wonderful stories and stunning images collected on their journey.

We sincerely thank him for bringing their incredible achievement "up close and (very) personal"!

It is now a memory we will cherish for a very long time.

**John Bruno**

Kudos to Francis and Denis! The presentation at the Geographical Society in Philadelphia thrilled our audience of over 400 people. Their stunning images and engrossing narrative made retracing the route of Marco Polo a memorable event for all. Many people commented that it was one of the best programs we have ever presented. Thanks Denis for joining us and for publishing the excellent book and television documentary!

**Ted Burkett, President Geographical Society of Philadelphia**

Thank you for bringing to life this expansive, yet little understood, part of the world. Your story is authentic and real, and connected our audience (two sold out presentations) to the power of following one's passion. We extend our appreciation and gratitude for spending time with us...on our 3rd anniversary.

**Michael Gilroy, Owner Frontier | Brunswick, Maine**

The power of storytelling was brought full force in your film and presentation... Your journey is of immense inspiration to all of us. Many, MANY thanks.

**Katie McCormick**

My social studies teacher made us watch this video. I loved it! ..

**Danielle**

I have recently watched this documentary in class, and it was definitely a wonderful experience. Best ever!

**Virtue S**