

Sunday Review

# Matthew Ferguson

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By KATE MURPHY SEPT. 3, 2011

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For Labor Day weekend, we asked Matthew Ferguson, chief executive of CareerBuilder.com, one of the largest employment sites, what he finds interesting.

**READING** “My Life and Work” by Henry Ford. His principles are as relevant today as they were 100 years ago. The book reads like anything you’d find in the Harvard Business Review. Ford not only created an industry, he developed modern manufacturing. Through his constant push for efficiency he was able to charge less for his automobiles and pay his employees more. It was important to him for his employees to be able to afford the product.

“Washington: A Life,” by Ron Chernow reminded me that the Republic probably would not have survived the first decade without Washington’s leadership. He resigned his commission as a general and then refused to serve more than two terms as president. He also refused to take a salary as president and had a true generosity of spirit when dealing with ordinary Americans who came to visit him at Mount Vernon. If we had a leader with higher personal ambitions after the Revolution, we might have ended up a dictatorship.

**WATCHING** When Steve Jobs announced his resignation, I again watched his 2005 commencement address at Stanford on YouTube. I showed it to employees at our annual meeting this year also. Part of the message is to continually evaluate your work and personal life and to make sure you love what you are doing or make changes. Life is short.

**FOLLOWING** Mohamed El-Erian from Pimco. I have followed his insights online very closely over the last several years. He’s on CNBC a lot so you can find a lot of his commentary on their Web site. He has the ability to take complex global financial situations and break them down so you know what’s not important and what you should watch for in the coming months.

**WEARING** I have this new pair of Nike Air Rate golf shoes. They are gray and have great ventilation with soft spikes and are the most comfortable shoes for walking. I’m sort of a traditionalist; I think golf is a game that should be played walking the course.

**EATING** Antica Pesa is a restaurant my wife and I discovered in downtown Rome. Our favorite dish there is fusilli trafilati in oro con broccoletti e salsiccia di Monte San Biagio, which is the best broccoli and sausage pasta I’ve ever tasted. At home, I try to eat healthy but I’m not all that successful. I drink a lot of Diet Coke.

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