

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

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Good Morning everyone! I am honored to be here today representing so many talented individuals. I think I speak for every student in here when I say that I feel truly blessed to have worked with such inspiring and intelligent professors here at Cal State Fullerton. The professors in the American Studies department, through their unique and inspiring insights, helped us to see our world in a new light every time we went to class. We took classes about the American Character, pop culture, white-collar work, nature and Hollywood to name a few. We discussed the hegemony of Disney movies and the discourse surrounding masculinity. We learned the importance of looking at not only the politics of the Cold War, but also at baseball, Coca Cola and rock n' roll. Our history and culture are rich and complex, and American Studies gave us the tools it takes to delve into those complexities and come out with fresh, new understandings. For this, I thank all of our truly inspiring professors from the bottom of my heart!

I think I speak for all my fellow students again when I say there are A LOT of people that I couldn't have made it this far without. Our families, friends and all the people that loved and supported us through our years as students deserve a huge thank you! I'd like to thank my Mom and Dad, whose encouragement, love and support has gotten me to where I am today. (And who patiently listened to a lot of talk about the frontier and the American character at the dinner table). Also, my sister, who has (thankfully) reminded me to breathe and provided endless support countless times over the past few years. Thank you to my Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and cousins who have lovingly and humorously supported me my whole life. And of course, to my loving and wonderful friends, the support system I couldn't do without. And to the friends and families of all of my fellow students, thank you for all that you do for us! We are so lucky to have people like you in our lives and are happy to spend this important day with all of you!

Lastly, to us! We made it. Through all those finals weeks we thought we couldn't survive, through all those times it felt like we were single-handedly keeping Starbucks in business, we made it, and we are coming out of Cal State Fullerton excited and ready for some of the best years of our lives. We've had some great discussions both inside and out of EC-11, and I am so grateful to have worked with so many bright, fun and awesome people in this department. Congratulations, class of 2011, we did it! Thank you.