



## Sam H. Muhaidly

Undergraduate, History

*Sam H. Muhaidly is graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in History with the plans to pursue graduate work in modern European history. Sam graduated Summa Cum Laude and has been on the Dean's List each of his college semesters. He has been an active member on campus with involvement in The History Student Association, Phi Alpha Theta, Patrons of the Library, Phi Beta Delta, and Phi Kappa Phi. Sam's service also extends to the community including memberships with Greenpeace, the World Wildlife Fund, and the ALS Association. He is the recipient of the Warren Beck Outstanding History Student award and the CSUF Alumni Association's Outstanding Senior Award and is currently completing his single-subject teaching credential in social science.*

Good morning fellow graduates, faculty, family, and friends!

First let me say what an honor it is to be standing before you today and how grateful I am to be able to share my experiences at Cal State Fullerton with all of you. However, I must admit that when I first sat down to write this speech, my initial feelings of excitement were stifled when I realized that I was at a loss for an introduction. I knew I wanted to begin with some humor, so I asked my sister her opinion of my starting with a joke. She replied, "Don't do it, history is *NOT* funny." I retorted by asking her if she was aware of how the Roman Empire was divided when it fell? She looked at me quizzically and asked, "How?" I then informed her that "it was cut in half, by a pair, of *Caesars*." Needless to say, she still thinks history is not funny.

All joking, aside I would first and foremost like to offer my congratulations to the class of 2009 for successfully reaching an incredible life-goal. You have all worked extremely hard to attain this degree and through your determination and resolve you have achieved something truly great. In fact, by walking across this stage today, each of you accomplish something that fewer than 30% of the United States' three hundred and fifty million citizens have done, and for this, I offer my sincere congratulations on a job well done.

For me, as a history major at CSUF, when reflecting on my two years here as an undergraduate, what stands out in my mind are memories of my upper division classes and the incredible professors I met there. These individuals have been unwaveringly supportive of my educational needs and seem to truly value cultivating the academic knowledge and skills of us young scholars. Because of them, during my time here, each class I have taken has broadened my perspective, challenged my abilities, and shaped who I am today.

I believe that my fellow history majors will agree with me in saying that, thanks to the efforts of our professors, we have emerged from our undergraduate years more able, confident, and prepared for what lies ahead than ever thought possible.

Personally, I would like to take a moment to thank Dr. Rostam for her guidance and support, Dr. Sargeant for pushing me to new limits and having confidence in my ability to succeed, and, on behalf of me and all the 2009 graduates, the entire CSUF history department faculty for refining our abilities, broadening our minds, and challenging us to do our best.

Yet, as each of us know, getting through these past four or more years has not only taken the guidance of our educators, but the support of our friends, family, and class mates. These individuals have been many things to us: A sounding wall for our ideas, an outlet to vent our frustrations, a support system for when we needed encouragement, and even much needed source of revenue. Quickly I would personally like to thank my mother, Suzanne, sister, Nadia, and girlfriend, Lauren, for their constant encouragement, my friends, for reminding me to have fun in life, and you, my classmates, who have made my time here richer and more fulfilling through our shared trials and experiences.

In conclusion, I would again, like to offer my congratulations to the class of 2009 and thanks, on behalf of all the graduates, to the people who have helped us achieve this incredible goal. For some of you, this is the end of the road, the last step in your formal education. For others, this merely marks the beginning of your journey into higher academics. Yet, no matter what path you find yourself on, I wish all the graduates the best of luck as you adventure out into the world of careers, family, education, and whatever else life has in store. And graduates, I leave you with this challenge, to never forget what you have learned here and to use your education to truly make a difference in the world.

Thank you again, and congratulations class of 2009!