



[Coming soon]

Grace Kim

B.A in French

Commencement Speech

Welcome 2011 graduates, faculty, and loved ones! I want to thank you all for joining our celebration, bright and early this Saturday morning!

My name is Grace Kim and I am graduating today with a BA in French. Since I began my journey at Cal State Fullerton, two subjects have caught my interest, French and Teaching. After spending 2 years in Paris teaching high school students, I have decided to pursue my teaching credential next fall.

My fellow graduates:

In today's economy, language learning has become somewhat of a luxury. It is considered an "abstract" topic to study, but I believe, and I'm sure you agree with me, that learning a foreign language is a necessity! It is not solely a means of

communication but a means of discovering the world and who you are.

I would like to share some words of wisdom that I recently came across. "You live a new life for every language you speak". This proverb touched me because it showed me how my own life has been affected and influenced by the languages that I speak. My passion for language has opened so many doors in the past and it will continue to do so. For example, the two years I spent in Paris rekindled my love for teaching and influenced my decision to become a high school teacher. My love for Portuguese and Brazilian culture has opened up opportunities for me to serve with a Christian organization in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In the future, I hope to teach in Korea and explore my heritage and my native language on a deeper level.

I hope you will be encouraged in the pursuit of your future careers. I hope that we will find jobs that make use of the skills that we have acquired here and that continue to grow our love for languages. I have been blessed with the opportunity to continue my education with the credential program and I cannot wait to be in the classroom! In any profession you choose, I hope that you, too, will find this same joy and purpose.

So I commend you and congratulate you, Class of 2011, for completing a degree in foreign language! Thank you.