



Juliette Marie Dumont

B.A. Liberal Studies

Juliette Marie Dumont will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. She is a member of the Liberal Studies Honor Society as well as the Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society. Currently employed as an instructional assistant, she works with students with special needs, and has received recognition and praise for the many accomplishments of her students. She has participated in several programs which promote social awareness of children with Autism and other disabilities. Also, passionate about the arts as well as history, she is currently finishing work on a fiction novel, the first in a series, which she hopes to have published later this year. Her goal is to continue her education and obtain a credential in Special Education, as well as pursue a career in writing.

Commencement Speech

Many of you know me from our various classes, and are probably thinking: geez, this woman just can't seem to resist the urge to speak! And my family members out there – are probably nodding in agreement. But I have say, that after accepting the great honor of speaking to you today, I immediately sat down and tried to think of how to sum up my experience in the Liberal Studies program and found that I was uncharacteristically at a loss for words. Other than - "Yay, we did it, now let's go have a drink"- I was completely stumped.

So, I decided to ask some of you, my fellow graduates, what you would remember most about our Liberal Studies courses. I got several answers, ranging from our *fantastic professors* and *wonderful friends*, to the movie *The Matrix* and *beer pong*. But I have to say, that hands down, the most popular answer was – and I quote - "God, 302A and B totally sucked".

Truly, those of us headed into careers as elementary school teachers have at some point wondered why we were spending so much time learning about ancient philosophers like Plato

and Aristotle. We may have even secretly wished we had taken the “blue pill” and went with a CHAD major instead. However, one of our professors has been quoted as saying “we teach you about Plato and Aristotle because they were great teachers, so that one day you can be great like them.” I’m certain I speak for each of us in saying to you - our great liberal studies professors – we will be great teachers because we have learned *from* great teachers. You will always have our unwavering respect and gratitude.

The truth is that this has been a hard but rewarding journey for each of us respectively. I personally would like to thank my family both present and absent for their love and support over the years, without whom – I would certainly not be standing here today.

As much as we all may have complained about examinations, presentations and yes 302A and B, we now know that every moment was worth it. It is an accomplishment that we should rightly take pride in. Today we celebrate this milestone in our lives not as an ending, but as a real beginning. Because wherever we choose to go next, with the breadth of information that we have gained from our Liberal Studies major, we will definitely be prepared.

Congratulations Class of 2011.

Yay! We did it! Now let’s go have a drink!