

GOOD MORNING, MY NAME IS EASTON KONN, AND ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2011, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE FACULTY, THE STAFF, THE ADMINISTRATION, THE PARENTS, THE FAMILY, THE FRIENDS, AND ALSO THE TWO PEOPLE WHO PAID ME IN ADVANCE TO MENTION THEIR NAMES IN THIS SPEECH- MORGAN PALUMBO, AND MR. BADILLA.

PARENTS, DO YOU REMEMBER OUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL? IT WAS ROUGHLY 13 YEARS AGO WHEN YOU WALKED US INTO GRADE SCHOOL FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, HOLDING OUR HANDS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. AND I KNOW WHAT YOU ALL WERE THINKING... 13 YEARS OF PRIVATE SCHOOL EDUCATION??? FOR WHAT THIS IS GONNA COST ME, MY KID BETTER BE GOING TO HARVARD!

BUT FOR US, 13 YEARS AGO, AT THAT INNOCENT AGE, OUR PRIORITIES WERE CONSUMED BY THE MORE SIMPLISTIC THINGS- HOW TO FINGER-PAINT, PLAYING IN THE SANDBOX, GETTING ALL THAT ELMER'S GLUE OFF OUR HANDS. WOW. WE HAVE TRULY BEEN THROUGH QUITE A JOURNEY; NOT JUST THE PAST 4 YEARS, BUT THROUGHOUT OUR ENTIRE LIVES.

WALKING THROUGH THE DOORS OF CRESPI FOR THE FIRST TIME WAS REMINISCENT OF THAT FIRST SCHOOL DAY 13 YEARS AGO. I FOUND MYSELF ONCE AGAIN UNCERTAIN OF MY FUTURE. MY MOM ALWAYS TOLD ME - "FIRST IMPRESSIONS MAKE A LASTING IMPACT." AND MR. SWANEY WASTED NO TIME MAKING HIS IMPRESSION FELT AMONG MY 1ST PERIOD CLASS.

I SAT AT MY DESK TERRIFIED OF THIS COLOSSAL TEACHER. AT FIRST GLANCE, HE LOOKED LIKE ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER AFTER A P90 X WORKOUT PLAN.

I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "GOSH, ARE ALL TEACHER'S AT CRESPI THIS PHYSICALLY INTIMIDATING?" THEN I SAW COACH VOLMER, AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF... "THANK GOODNESS, AT LEAST THERE IS ONE TEACHER AT THIS SCHOOL WHO'S NOT BUFF.

MY LEARNING PROCESS THROUGHOUT THE PAST FOUR YEARS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THIS ADVANTAGEOUS IF NOT FOR THE OVERLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS AT CRESPI, WHO HAVE AIDED ME IN MATURING AND DEVELOPING INTELLECTUALLY ON A DAILY BASIS. I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY GRATITUDE TO ALL OF THE TEACHERS HERE AT

CRESPI, BECAUSE LIKE THE PILLARS WHICH SUPPORT THE COLLESEUM, YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED OUR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

IT'S NO SECRET THAT THE SALARIES OF PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE LOW. I'M SURE THAT MANY OF THE TEACHERS HERE ARE QUALIFIED ENOUGH TO FIND A HIGHER PAYING JOB, AND IT'S ADMIRABLE THAT THEY STILL WAKE UP EVERYDAY AND MAKE THE DECISION TO BE A TEACHER. BUT LET'S BE HONEST, HOW MANY OF YOU ARE SECRETELY WRITING A SCREENPLAY?

SHOW OF HAND, COMON PUT EM UP TEACHERS! MR. SUPPAN IM SURE YOU'RE WRITING HANGOVER 3 AS WE SPEAK. BUT SERIOUSLY, I AM THE VOICE FOR EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM WHEN I SAY YOUR EFFORTS AS EDUCATORS HAVE NOT GONE UNNOTICED AND THEY MOST DEFINITELY HAVE NOT GONE UNAPPRECIATED.

MR. KNABENSHUE, WE LOVE YOU AS A TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR, AND WE'LL TRULY MISS YOU NEXT YEAR. MS. REZZO, MS. WATSON, AND MS. LONG, I SPEAK FOR MY ENTIRE CLASS WHEN I SAY WE CONSIDER YOU OUR SECOND MOTHERS

AWAY FROM HOME, AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVING PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES.

OH, AND HOW COULD I FORGET... MR. NEVIS. MR. NEVIS, THROUGH YOUR DEDICATED WORK HERE AT CRESPI, YOU HAVE TAUGHT US HOW TO WEAR A BELT TO KEEP OUR PANTS FROM FALLING DOWN, AND ALSO, HOW TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BY PICKING UP TRASH ON SATURDAY DETENTIONS.

MY FELLOW CLASSMATES- COLLEGE WILL DISPERSE US FAR AROUND THE COUNTRY. YET, NEVER FORGET, I WILL ALWAYS CARRY A PART OF YOU WITH ME. ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON ONCE SAID, "SO LONG AS WE ARE LOVED BY OTHERS I SHOULD SAY THAT WE ARE ALMOST INDISPENSABLE; AND NO MAN IS USELESS WHILE HE HAS A FRIEND."

I CONSIDER MYSELF BLESSED TO BE ABLE TO CALL MANY OF YOU MY FRIENDS, AND EVEN MORE HONORED TO CALL EACH OF YOU MY CRESPI BROTHERS. I HAVE SO MANY MEMORIES WITH ALL OF YOU. I REMEMBER CHEERING IN THE NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL BLEACHERS AS WE SCORED A WINNING TOUCHDOWN WITH NO TIME LEFT ON THE CLOCK; I REMEMBER THE INTRAMURAL SPORTS LIKE DODGE-BALL AND

ULTIMATE FRISBEE. I REMEMBER WATCHING MY BEST FRIEND WIN A CIF CHAMPIONSHIP IN BASKETBALL. I REMEMBER THE BUS RIDE UP TO KAIROS, AND HOW ANNOYED I WAS THAT I WAS GOING TO WASTE MY WEEKEND ON A SPIRITUAL RETREAT. THEN, I REMEMBER THE BUS RIDE DOWN FROM KAIROS, THINKING TO MYSELF THIS IS THE BEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO US AS A CLASS.

I REMEMBER THE GRAD PARY AT THE KEY CLUB. AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I REMEMBER HOW WE HAD TO STUDY FOR THE SAT, WHICH COVERED NUMEROUS TOPICS. ALL OF WHICH TOOK WEEKS TO STUDY FOR...NONE OF WHICH ARE EVER MENTIONED AGAIN IN YOUR LIFE. BUT, REST ASSURED, IF A DAY EVER COMES WHERE YOU HAVE TO FIND THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF AN OCTAGON IN ORDER TO SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE, YOU'LL BE SUCCESSFUL.

CRESPI IS ONE OF THOSE SCHOOLS THAT CAN BE REALLY HARD TO UNDERSTAND UNLESS YOU ACTUALLY GO HERE. I GET THIS QUESTION ALL THE TIME, "HOW DO YOU GO TO A SCHOOL WITH NO GIRLS?" BUT IT'S NOT JUST A SCHOOL WITH NO GIRLS, IT'S MUCH MORE THAN THAT. PLEASE DON'T ASK ME

"HOW IS IT MUCH MORE THAN THAT?" BECAUSE I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT TO YOU, AND EVEN IF I TRY TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU, YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND UNLESS YOU ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN A STUDENT HERE. THERE IS A BOND THAT DEVELOPS AMONG THE GUYS AT CRESPI, WHICH CANNOT BE REPLICATED ANYWHERE ELSE, AND THIS IS PRECISELY THE REASON WE HAVE GROWN SO CLOSE. AND AS FOR GIRLS, DON'T WORRY, THE SENIOR CLASS FOUND THEM. ESPECIALLY YOU, MARC PERALEZ, I THINK YOU FOUND MORE THAN YOUR SHARE.

NOW THAT HIGH SCHOOL HAS ENDED, YOU MIGHT ASK US "WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH OUR LIVES?" OUR ANSWERS TO THAT QUESTION WILL BE AS UNIQUE AS THEY ARE GALVANIZING. YET, REST ASSURED CRESPI, THAT OUR FUTURES ARE BRIGHT. A POSTCARD ON MY GRANDMOTHER'S FRIDGE READS, "PEOPLE THINK LIFE ENDS TOO SOON, WHEN THE REAL PROBLEM IS PEOPLE WAIT TOO LONG TO BEGIN IT." YOU ASK US, "WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH OUR LIVES," AS IF THEY JUST HAVE STARTED. ACTUALLY, WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN LIVING OUR LIVES, AS CRESPI MEN, STRIVING TO PRACTICE THE MORAL VALUES THAT THIS SCHOOL HAS

BESTOWED UPON US. CRESPI, YOU HAVE TAUGHT US WELL.
IT'S NOT RED BULL THAT GIVES US WINGS, BUT RATHER THE
HIGH SCHOOL WHICH SHAPES OUR EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION. BUT THE RED BULL DID HELP US CRAM FOR
FINALS DURING THOSE LATE STUDY NIGHTS. I'M DIGRESSING.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, LIKE AN INFANT BIRD WHO HAS
LEARNED TO FLY, OUR WINGS HAVE BEEN MADE STRONG, AND
THE SENIOR CLASS IS READY TO LEAVE CRESPI'S NEST. I
ASSURE YOU, WE WILL SOAR.

THANK YOU.