



LCCS Class of 2010 Salutatorian **Philip Lillemon Watson**, son of Kimberle Watson, will attend Duke University majoring in Art History

Salutatorian Graduation Speech

I'd like to thank a few people first off. First, I'd like to thank God for always being there and sustaining me (and really, all of us) and allowing everything that has happened in my life to happen. I wouldn't change a thing.

Next, I would like to thank my mom. Aside from the obvious reasons, she's always been there for me. She's pretty much awesome in general, and I couldn't have asked for a better parent. I'd also like to thank my grandparents (for loving me and being there for me always), teachers (for teaching us and putting up with us and believing in us, believing that we're all worth it), and my friends for always being friends and always being there. To be honest, I really wanted to thank everyone individually here, but it definitely would make me run over my allotted time by a ridiculous amount, so if you have been in my life at all, please know that those thanks were for you.

When I began writing this speech, I had so many things that I wanted to cram into it. I wanted to deeply move everybody and share what I'm feeling now and I also wanted to share some of my thoughts on the future and all of that. But then I began to write, and I realized that I wanted to talk about something that was more important than that. When I think about all we've been through as a class, good and bad, I think I should talk about something that is far more long-lasting and important than some corny stock graduation speech. This whole "moving on" business has had me contemplating friendships mainly, and the general flow of life.

They say that friendship is one of the things in life that has no value for survival, but rather it is what gives value to survival. I have certainly seen this proven true. My time spent here has made me who I am, and I am eternally grateful that that time has been spent in such wonderful company. I would consider myself blessed to find such great friends as these as I move on. But the thing about great friends is that even though you separate, they're never really lost. It's a comforting thought.

And as I think back through all the things we've done and all the things we've been through as a class, I can't help but feel that strange feeling I talked about earlier, a mix of nostalgia and some other indefinite emotion. It's quite a feeling, leaving a place where you've stored 12 years of memories and growth and emotions, going into this "brave new world,/That has such people in't."

I like to think of our time here at Lake Country as flowers in this garden we call life. You take care of them and enjoy them, but you accept their ending, because you know that there is a plan for everything and something even better will be sown there at the next opportunity. You let them go away, because when they do, they allow even more wonderful things to grow and flourish there.

So that's what we're doing now. We're accepting the end of our time here, and moving on, toward better, brighter things. But I will certainly miss all of you. We may not constantly be together anymore, but I do know this: I will keep all of you in my heart, and I won't forget even one of you. You are all like a family to me, and I love you all. Thank you.



LCCS Class of 2010 Valedictorian

Thomas Benjamin Yee, son of Christina and Wayne Yee, will attend Pepperdine University majoring in Creative Writing and Music Composition

Valedictorian Graduation Speech

When I was contemplating what I would say for this speech, I realized early on that I wasn't going to write a fancy-sounding, inspirational speech, because that's not me. None of that "as we spread our wings into the next stage of our lives" or other philosophical stuff. Instead, I thought I would take this time to use it as a tribute to Lake Country Christian School, to explain the impact that the school and all of the people involved in it have had on my life, and why I am proud to have had the honor of being part of this great mission.

First, Lake Country offers so many different opportunities, especially extracurricular opportunities, for students to be involved in. In other schools, participating in so many different activities is often difficult, often forcing students to focus on one or two activities alone, but here at Lake Country we are encouraged to do as many things as possible, whether they be one of the many sports, drama and fine arts, music, or even chess. It is not uncommon to see, for example, an actor walking into rehearsal coming straight from a football practice. This diversity of activities has allowed me to become well-rounded in a number of different areas, and let me get to know many different groups of people while doing these various activities.

Second, the people at Lake Country really care about each student as a person---not only the faculty, but even fellow students as well. You aren't simply another nameless face in the crowd here- the teachers and administrators genuinely care for your well-being, desiring to help you succeed not only in the classroom but also in any of your life's endeavors as well. As for the students, I think it could be said for the most part that we all love each other much more than you could expect to see anywhere else, and have developed an awesome dynamic with each other that is quite entertaining.

And finally, the most important reason of them all, the school, its administrators, and its faculty have set at the heart of the school's mission the desire to instill in each of its students a firm faith and knowledge of Christianity. This firm foundation of Christian belief that we have hopefully gained here will guide us in the years to come, and each of us has grown much closer in our relationship to God over the years that we have been here, a relationship which will hopefully only continue to grow from here on out. I am extremely grateful to the school for obeying God's call and establishing a place where God's Word can be explored without fear and each student can mature on his or her spiritual walk.

Now I couldn't possibly step down from here without thanking all those people without whom I would not be standing here today. I would like to thank the teachers, mentors, and other

adults in my life for instructing me, giving me wise advice, and being role models to look up to and imitate. I would like to thank my friends for all the fun and crazy times we have had, and still will have, and also thank the Senior class of 2010, the best and most fun class anyone could possibly hope for. I thank my older brother Caleb for always being a great Godly older brother and just all around always being cool. And, of course, I give the largest thanks of all to my parents, Wayne and Christina Yee, for providing for me, guiding me, setting firm Christian examples for me to follow, helping me out when I screw up, and putting up with me for all these years.

Thank you very much for listening, and may God bless America, Lake Country Christian School, and each and every one of y'all.