

VANIER

C É G E P / C O L L E G E

My choice. My future.

2007 - 2008 Graduation
Valedictorian: Teresa Maria Julian, Liberal Arts

Parents, friends, teachers, administrators and staff, on behalf of the graduating class of 2008, thank you for taking the time to be with us tonight. Without your patience, support and guidance over these years, we would not have made it where we are.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said:

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

We are the future, a culmination of both the past and present. It is our dreams, our hopes and ambitions that will open the doors to endless possibilities. Deep within each of us, is a longing for something more than what we are. It is a passion, a fear and a hope in the individuals that we can become. What is a dream if nothing but the forward movement of our silent passions? It is left up to us to voice our thoughts, to make real the surreal and move us into the future, no matter what that may be.

Cegep was the transition allowing us to search for what it is we desire. This turning of a page in each of our books is not a step that need be taken alone. We were each drawn fervently in our respective directions, whether intentionally or not, to our passion. Some of us found it in the music we composed, the championships we fought for with our fellow cheetahs, in religion, song, in fighting for social justice, in representing our student body and for many of us, it was found in the friendships we made. These friendships are the kind where our friends became the family we chose. They are the ones who laughed and cried with us, smiled and shed tears, understood those jokes which left everyone else utterly confused, but above all, they are the ones who loved and lost with us. For others, our desires remain a mystery, a veil to unfold. This is not a roadblock but rather an obstacle for us to overcome. Look to each of your sides at this moment, and see inscribed on the faces of those around you the similar fears, hopes, longings, and pride in yourselves at having made it this far, never alone.

Vanier became a home to many and for some; it is the beginning of a long journey. We part now to go our separate ways... to each his/her own and yet, there will always be those who were with us in the beginning, and will follow through with us until the very end. These individuals are your family and your lifelong friends. As you follow the passion that has developed in you, do not forget who these people are and what they have done for you. Remember your successes and your failures. Learn from your mistakes and ask for guidance in times where you would rather keep to yourself. Do not falter in reaching for the stars. Be who you want to be, be all that you can be and continue along the path you know will guide you to your dreams. Believe in them, and you can accomplish the impossible.

Thank you and good luck graduates of 2008.

