

2017 Baccalaureate Litany of Thanks – Cornell College

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Members of the graduating class would like to give thanks for the people and life experiences which brought us to this day. We've strung these statements together into one litany of thanks. It goes like this:

Big thanks to my dad for taking me to random and sometimes questionable restaurants he found on GroupOn. And big thanks to Mom for holding the phone while I facetimed my dog Cassie.

Thank you Mom for your constant encouragement from 1,500 miles away. Dad, roommates, and best friends: Thank you for your constant support and being there through every bump in the road. Thank you also to my coach. And to Professors Barbara Christie-Pope and Craig Tepper who taught me that there is no such thing as too many questions. Most of the time...

Thank you Cornell for all of the great memories and opportunities...Homecoming king will look great on a medical school application, right?

To my friends who have given me memories I will cherish forever; to my professors who pushed me to grow as an intellectual; to my teammates whom I battled with on the field for four years and will never forget. Also to Organic Chemistry for helping me become an expert at drawing hexagons, thank you.

8 more years! 8 more years!...Take that Van Wilder...

Thank you, also, to all the people who have been with me through this journey.

Shouts go out to The Health Center. The Toilet Paper is some of the best bathroom reading ever. I'm going to need PDF scans of those after I graduate.

To all the dogs I've pet on campus these last four years; thanks for the tail wags! And Jill Hopper: Thank you for understanding I really wasn't trying to break that door with my foot.

Thanks to Meg and Kerry in the education department for helping me discover my passion and bring it to life.

Thank you everyone in Norton Geology. You are great company, even at 3 in the morning.

Thank you Craig Tepper for being the best advisor and professor a student could ask for and for never giving up on me. Thank you to my real friends for showing me tough

love and rescuing me every time I felt lost. And to my parents , thank you for keeping me financially stable (tuition is no joke) . Thank you mom for being my rock through the ups and the downs. I love you all!!

To Dan, my parents, and innumerable chocolate bars: your unwavering support made this possible. Thank you. Also to the Chemistry Department: It was with your guidance that I found my current path, and I am grateful.

Thank you to my family in Colorado and my cross-country family here at Cornell. Knowing that I have a home waiting for me in both places makes it easier to leave Cornell in the spring and easier to leave Colorado in the fall. Even when we don't see each other for a while, I know that you are always, and will always, be with me.

Where would I be without my eccentric science professors? Well, let's see...patient, sane, less irritable, and a whole lot less entertained!

Thanks for pulling me out of my comfort zone to help me learn how to be a good scientist!

My eternal gratitude goes out to the brothers of Sigma Kappa Psi. Thank you for being there for me and always challenging me to do better.

Thank you to my parents for supporting me through all the tough classes, always having a minute to talk (or an hour), getting me through all the hard life lessons, and, of course, for rescuing my beloved car Scooter from a bridge in Iowa ...and driving it ALL THE WAY BACK to Colorado. I love you both, and couldn't have done this without you.

To Jai, after taking a 4 hour, 6 hour, and 8 hour test. I'm still not going to take the MCAT. All the same, thank you Jai, Tepper, and the rest of the biology department for your dedication to every student and making my Cornell experience special!

Thanks to my family for always supporting me, to my friends for all the adventures, and the faculty and staff who made these three years possible. A special shout to to my mom for always sending me photos of my dogs during 4th week, and to Ben for the hot chocolate and chicken tenders.

I'd like to thank my mom for giving birth to me on this day 22 years ago so it would fall on my graduation weekend. Happy Birthday to me!

To my friends and family back in Oregon, because we were all hipsters before it was cool (It makes a nice book-ends thing for my time at college because it's the same joke I told at New Student Orientation when we were asked to share stereotypes of a group we belong to.).

Thanks to the Sociology Department for helping me find joy in reading Durkheim's dissertation, and for teaching me to believe in myself. Thanks to Mom and Dad for taking calls at all hours of the night, reminding me that I'm stronger than I think, and showing me unwavering love.

Thank you to the Education Department, for showing me a balance; that there is organization, and that there is chaos, and that together they both create beauty. You have all touched my life in an unforgettable way that I can only hope to give back to my future students.

Thank you Cornell for taking away my sanity. I probably didn't need it in the real world anyway.

I'm thankful for all the people and opportunities Cornell has given me! God is love!"

Senior year on the block plan: Feeling 5 different extreme emotions of stress, frustration, anger, being overwhelmed, and more stress--all in the span of two days. Thank you to my parents Willis and Diane, my wonderful siblings, my amazing partner, Brandon, BACO family and Delphi sisters for keeping me sane during this time.

[Arturo Castillo message to parents in Spanish.]

Thank you all. I wouldn't be where I am now without you.