

## **Baccalaureate 2018 Senior Class Litany of Thanks**

Readers: Baltazar Mosqueda Lara, Oriana Henney

Guitarist: Cynthia Valenzuela

**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.**

For parents who trusted me and my decisions in this journey. For advisors, staff, and professors who have never given up on me and picked me up when I was down.

Thank you to the ArtBox for your constant support and ridiculous antics. For Craig Teague and Craig Tepper for believing in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. For Mark and Karen (aka my parents) for sending kitten pictures when I needed them most - I love you!"

For Melinda Green, Jai Shanata and so many other professors who expected more from us and pushed us to be our best. For Brandi Shanata's listening to students and what they need both in and outside of class. For Pfeiffer 3 and all of our wild adventures, you all have helped me become the person I am today (for better or for worse!).

Having to explain Cornell's block-plan every time I wanted to talk about my education? Thank you Cornell. Elevator pitches are second nature now.

As for those who said I couldn't graduate within one year at Cornell? In the words of Chris Brown: "Look at Me Now!" #FirstYearSeniorProbs

For mothers who gave encouragement and hugs from thousands of miles away ... for friends who provided food delivery service in times of need ... For Maureen's punny mail and for always being prepared with a bag of tissues, a hairbrush, and some floss. You saved us all.

For friends who stayed up late to cry over papers, midterms, boys, and the musical "Rent." For Dean Dieker and that triangle solo; and for everyone who helped me learn just because you are quiet doesn't mean you're not powerful— Thank you.

For Craig, Christine, Pearce, Linda, Tom, Kyle, Bailey, Laurel, Amy as well as Aparna, Misha and every person who believed in me: You made an impact on me for life.

For the love of my life: you put up with the block plan when it left me with little time for us. For Craig Tepper for being a good friend and guide through these four years. For Nurse Nancy who calmed me through all my health crises. And for Stephanie Abresch's renewing energy work and friendship.

Thank you tree I threw up next to outside of West Science that one day. You provided me stability. You are my rock.

Thank you Dows Three for never letting anybody mess with me.

Thank you Father Cathy and Gwen for holding all of our hearts, all of our troubles, and all of our worries, and helping us through some of the hardest moments of our Cornell career and of our lives.

To my only three friends here, you know who you are, and I love you guys. For Kaci's handmade Valentine's Day door decs in Dows; for all seniors who were RA's: It is the hardest job you will ever have and we are grateful for all you did.

Facilities Services—Thank you! Especially Johnny O for making dreams come true; for Gary who saved Olin 4 from the great 115 degree steamy hot flood of 2016; and for Curt and Gary who not only keep campus beautiful but also talk with us on the Ped Mall.

Thank you wrestling coaches and friends for making these last four years money well spent. For professors who guided me; for the Ultimate Frisbee team for enriching my social experience; and my family for their support.

Thank you Taco Bell, for keeping the lobby open till midnight; for theatre majors who needed Doritos Locos Tacos to laugh into, or cry into, or stare into unfeelingly, or clench angrily into a gross Doritos and savory beef mush, or to scream into—thank you for dealing with all of our drama so Cornell didn't have to.

To Tar 314, Olin 129, Clock 235, and most importantly Olin 305 for the great memories, write-ups and turn-ups. 'Twas a lit time.

To my beautiful Phi Lambs who remained a constant source of love and support for four years; To my best friends Noah and Jamie who accepted my weirdness and responded with their own; to my incredible mom and wonderful brother for giving me inspiration and comfort every day; And of course to my dad, whose strength and love have guided me for 22 years. I love you and miss you every day dad, and I hope I make you proud.

Though Cornell is a safe campus, thank you Campus Safety for helping us in times of need. For Thomas and Gary who looked out for us, and found balance between what is right and what's best for students. Thank you also for spending Thanksgiving with us.

Person 1: What school do you go to?

Student: Cornell College

Person 1: \*looks impressed\*

Student: No, the other Cornell. The original Cornell. In Iowa. The school where faculty and staff know you personally and help you flourish.

A huge thanks to my mom and dad for reminding me the value of the little things; to Kyle for everything throughout the last five years; and a never-ending debt of gratitude to the most supportive family made through Cornell.

For challenges I've already faced and learned to embrace ... For Amy Gullen and Laura Farmer, Pam Perry and Drew Shradel, Catherine Quehl-Engel and Christina Penn-Goetsch as well as Devan Baty and Michelle Herder. Thanks also for parents for coming to visit and buying dinner. And for Jai keeping me busy with work even when I'm not in his class.

To Angie aka ABP: who knew my Cornell BFF would have been you? Thanks for being the best! To Res Life, Judy, Steven, Jill, and Dan: thanks for showing me a different side of Cornell and getting me involved in the community. To my bosses at Zamora's: It's been a wild ride and I'm glad we went through it together! Thank you Rebecca Sullens for never letting Brittney be forgotten as well as never letting us forget that we have endless opportunities out there! Susie and Susan: thanks for bringing joy to my day even when there's an empty mailbox!

To all the homies at Taco Bell who welcomed us late at night with open arms and countless quesaritos ... For professors who mentored and showed me more patience than I probably deserved ... For parents for making this all possible. For my coach riding with me through all the L's and celebrating the occasional W.

To Rick Elliot & Co. for servicing the Cornell wrestlers at all hours of the day:  
#Elliot'sUptownFitnessCenter #AlwaysHydrated #MikeDuroeTough

For Jake, Jeff, Parker, Elena, and my parents for listening to my insane ramblings about 300 level finance, the inner workings of which still periodically mystify me. I also wanted to give a special thanks to my close friend Caffeine—I couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you mommy for solving all my problems even when they weren't really problems, or when they weren't fixable, or when it was 2 a.m. and you had to get up at 6 for work.

Thanks to Dows 3, who gave me a crash course in the craziness of college life; for the sweetest suitemates one could ask for; and friends who made me laugh even when I felt like I was drowning.

Thank you Katie Steiber: Your honesty and beautiful amazing soul brings joy, laughter, and happiness to many.

I came for the purple; I stayed for the curriculum.

I'm grateful for One Course At A Time. It's a great way to learn and know when I can nap.

I was told there was nothing but corn in Iowa. That's not true! There are also soy beans!

To my friends that had random dance parties with me, teammates who joined me in creating art with our bodies by running, and a special person who reminded me to be present and enjoy the Now. Time flies and it sure did at Cornell

From a hilltop, to a home. From confusion, into focus. From opportunity, into success. I am here, standing resolute with my future ahead, and with family, friends and professors at my back.