



Keynotes

Summer 2013

KEYNOTES

Keyport
Public
Schools



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Summer 2013
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Dawn Racioppi



Graduation Issue

Valedictorian

Iris Escobar

Q: How do you feel about this great achievement?

A: I am very proud of myself for accomplishing everything I have achieved in the past four years. It is very rewarding to think that all the hard work I've put in throughout High School has finally paid off.

Q: How do your friends and family feel about you being the valedictorian?

A: My family is very proud of me. Only a few members of my family have graduated High School and it just goes to show that it doesn't matter where you come from, if you work hard you can achieve anything and they like to say that I'm living proof of that presumption. My friends are also extremely happy for me; I know they are very proud.

Q: Was this a goal for you? Or did this all come just naturally?

A: It's funny because I honestly did not expect to be the valedictorian of my graduating class. I came into high school with the mindset that all I was concerned about was doing my work, passing my tests, and making a good impression on my teachers. I didn't have a "particular" goal in regards to earning a certain spot in the class ranks. However, when I was told that I was number one at the end of junior year, I made it imperative not to lose my spot. So in a way it did come naturally. I remember being in the same situation five years ago when I was graduating seventh grade as the valedictorian of my graduating class as well. Sometimes I just surprise myself... And in good way.

Q: Were there any push factors that made you want to work your hardest?

A: Yes there were. I never had the support that most kids had when they were younger. I grew up with parents who were brought up in a country with poor values on education and women in general -- my parents never even graduated from grade school. I had many issues at home that were beyond my control but despite all the adversities and lack of support I've endured throughout the years it made me all the more determined to work hard during my years of schooling. I wanted to prove something to people. You don't need anyone's support to succeed; all you need to do is push yourself and show them how you did it without their help. Also, many students take their education for granted; little do they know that they wouldn't have the same opportunity in other countries and regions where public education is not free. The fact that I have free access to enroll in school encourages me to take full advantage of it. That being, I'm going to make the most of it.

Q: What are your plans after KHS? What about after college? Do you know, or at least have an idea, of what you'd like to major in?

A: Currently, I am going to attend Ramapo College of New Jersey as a Biochemistry major. I am going to be enrolled as an EOF student which means I will be attending their summer program in June all the way to August. In college I plan to do the same as I did in High School; to work hard and succeed in everything I do. However after college, I'm not too sure about what lies next. I have an idea regarding what I'd like to do as a career and that's working in a lab making medicine and doing research for the latest medical discovery. I also plan to earn my masters and Ph.D. Other than that, I'm just going with the flow and seeing where life takes me.

Q: What are your hobbies outside of school?

A: Outside of school, my life is practically taken over by McDonald's. But when I'm not at work I try to find time to go out for runs. I love to go out, I love sleeping and eating, I love music, I love to dance and make a fool out of myself, and overall I just like to make the most of what I'm doing. I don't have any specific hobbies that are worth noting, but one thing's for sure, I do like to have fun.

Q: What would you like to say to the KHS students you leave behind as you graduate?

A: One thing I'd like to tell my fellow KHS students is to not take their education for granted. There's so many people out there that aren't as fortunate as us to have a free education. So don't slack off. Also, a lot of people look down on Keyport thinking that our school doesn't provide a sufficient education for the students, but I'd like to say that that is certainly not true. Keyport has many great teachers and just because our school is small and doesn't have some of the things other schools have doesn't mean that you can't achieve great things at this school. I'm going to attend college soon and I plan to do great things with my life and I didn't have to attend a fancy school to accomplish these things. It's not the teachers or school's fault if students aren't doing well. It's up to the students to take responsibility for themselves to be successful in school. Nothing is just going to be handed to you, you have to work for it.



Summer



Salutatorian Connor Hubler

Q: How do you feel about this great achievement?

A: I feel like all of my hard work in high school has paid off in the end. Obviously there was still room for improvement, but I feel like I performed to the best of my ability and being named the salutatorian showcases everything that I have done over not just the past four years, but over the past 13 years of formal schooling.

Q: How do your friends and family feel about you being the salutatorian?

A: My family is extremely proud of my achievement and they see it as a testament to who I am as a student and as a person. My friends, however, have officially labeled me a “try-hard” as a joke, but they are in fact proud of me and congratulatory.

Q: Was this a goal for you? Or did this all just come naturally?

A: My overall goal at the beginning of high school is far different than what it is now. At the beginning of high school, I will admit, I wasn't the most driven individual. My goal was more or less to graduate in a decent position. After taking the PSATs freshman year, however, everything changed. When I got my scores back and found out how well I tested, I realized that I needed to maximize my potential. From that point on, I tried my best in order to get to number one in the class, but my freshman year presented JUST too much of a hurdle. So while I didn't quite achieve my ultimate goal, I finished much better than my initial anticipation. As they say, “Shoot for the moon. If you miss, you'll land among the stars.” I like to think of being salutatorian as landing on some stars awfully close to the moon.

Q: Were there any push factors that made you want to work your hardest?

A: There certainly were some push factors. I knew that class rank had a huge effect when it came to applying to colleges, so I knew I had to do my best. I also knew that graduating with such a rank would make my family proud, so that was a personal goal. Scholarships were also a huge consideration, as it is incredibly tough to pay for college in an economy like this. Lastly, I had a little bit of a selfish goal, and that was to beat my oldest brother in his graduating class. I believe he was number six, so I'm happy to say I achieved that goal.

Q: What are your plans for after KHS? What about college? Do you know, or at least have an idea, what you'd like to major in?

A: In the fall, I will be attending TCNJ, where I will be majoring in Business. I have yet to decide my particular major within Business, but I believe it will work out to be Marketing. Also, I will be minoring in Spanish, as bilingual employees have been increasingly in demand in recent years. Ideally, I would have liked to major in History or almost any Social Science, but the job market for those jobs is too small and I feel as if I would just be digging myself a hole, so I'm choosing to major in Business, as a host of possibilities are out there.

Q: What are your hobbies outside of school?

A: My outside of school hobbies include mainly sports and music, which I plan to continue after high school. I'm going to try my hand at college volleyball next year and I also plan to further my skill and appreciation for music, particularly guitar. I have also written occasional pieces for websites and such in recent years and I am likely to continue writing after high school, more as a hobby than as a necessity.

Q: What would you like to say to the KHS students you leave behind as you graduate?

A: Don't slack off, as when the time comes, you're going to wish you had tried your hardest. My freshman year came back to bite me a bit, and I now regret it. Also, respect and listen to your teachers. A lot of what they say may seem useless or like common sense, but they are teaching you and helping to make you the best person and student you can possibly be. When someone tells you that taking a certain teacher is hard, that should be more of a reason to take the class, as you are not only challenging yourself and making yourself a stronger individual, but you are likely to learn more in that hard class than you would in a really easy one. Additionally, enjoy your years at KHS. It's a much better school than people give it credit for, many of our top students could compete with top students from other schools. So while you may hear a lot of people say Keyport isn't a good school, that's right, because it's a GREAT school if you take advantage of the opportunities in front of you. Lastly, one again, enjoy your time here, because it'll be over quicker than you think, and you very well may leave wishing you had just a little bit more time, and wishing you had done things differently.



Summer



Keyport High School Graduates

Giovanni Francesco Accardi
 Al-Quran J. Agurs
 Tyler Robert Alvarez
 Jennifer Lynn Andryshak
 Gregory John Armstrong
 Steven Ayala
 Donald J. Bailey
 Bridget Ellen Ball
 Tyler Evan Bartlett
 David Michael Bauer
 Sandibel Betancourt
 Andrew J. Blozen
 Tyler J. Borza
 Ljuboslav Boskic
 Holly Faith Bouchard
 Brianna Michael Boyce
 Nicholas William Breese
 Ryan Burke
 Taffy Zazerath Camacho
 James Joseph Carroll
 Anthony Martin Cavallo
 Caitlyn Ann Caverly
 Antoinette Cea
 Alexa Jean Chandler
 Kayla Monet' Cheatum
 Max Christian Clark
 Garry A. Coleman
 Courtney Irene Connolly
 Martin de Jesus Cortes
 Samantha Marie Cortez
 Karina L. Cruz
 Nicholas Fred Davila
 Christopher Deily
 Caitlyn Denise Dellapietro
 Angel Luis Delvalle

Christopher Thomas Devino
 Robert R. DiGiovanni
 Shannon Loretta Duffy
 Matthew William Eltringham
 Iris Escobar
 Kevin Joseph Fox
 Anay Franco
 Andrew Augustin Gonzalez
 Anita J. Gordon
 Frank Frederick Gregory Gordon
 Brianna M. Graham
 Brandon Richard Gress
 Corey Justin Grossman
 Nicholas Michael Gunsauls
 Isabella Hansen
 Stephanie Jordan Heyer
 Robert Douglas Hiis
 Connor Matthew Hubler
 Taylor M. Killian
 Andrew James Kopacz
 Steven Frank Lauria
 Justin J. Lewis
 Cori F. Lichter
 Rosa Lopez
 Kacie Lynn Magee
 Emmanuel Martinez
 Louis Y. Nellis
 Jenna Marie Nicholl
 Dana Brizett' Norflett
 John Vincent Olsen
 Dennis Pereira
 Ariana Marie Pineiro
 Jessica Susan Polonsky
 Bryan Alexander Prevost
 Joseph Prevost

Joshua P. Prevost
 Stephen James Prevost
 Alyssa Marie Richards
 Alexander Rivera
 Cynthia Lynn Rivera
 Rocio G. Rivera
 Jahbare Xavier Robinson
 Joey Keith Robles
 Corey R. Romanetz
 Meghan Saporita
 Mario J. Severino
 Richard N. Shevlin
 Bryan S. Silva
 Crystal Lynn Smith
 Jared Michael Smith
 Nicholas John Smutz
 Thomas Andrew Sommers
 Kiersten Licet Steele
 Ian Robert Strang
 Patricia Susan Sweat
 Eric J. Sweeney
 Cheyenne Rain Tango
 Jacob Thiringer
 Connor Patrick Thomson
 Angelina Tornetto
 Erin Elizabeth Uptegrove
 Aaron Mario Vallaster
 Ilya Venediktov
 Amanda Rachel Waller
 Sarah Gail Walling
 Cheyenne Kodie Welch
 Amanda Nicole Wilson
 Jared Royce Woodhead
 Bryan J. Zakutansky

College Acceptances

Army
 Berkeley College
 Brookdale Community College
 Caldwell College
 Castleton State College
 The Catholic University of America
 Farleigh Dickinson University
 HVAC in NYC
 Kean University
 Lincoln Technical Institute

Louisiana State University
 Marines/Army
 Middlesex County College
 Monmouth University
 Montclair State University
 Moravian College
 Navy
 Philadelphia University
 Ramapo College
 Rutgers University

Saint Leo University
 School of Visual Arts
 Seton Hall University
 The College of New Jersey
 University of Nevada
 University of New Haven
 William Patterson University
 Yorktown Business Institute



Summer



SENIOR AWARDS

American Association of University Women Award
Robert Buhler Memorial Scholarship
Charles Prager Memorial Scholarship
Marjorie Conway Community Service Award of
Community Church of Keyport
Congressman Frank Pallone Scholarship
Dino Lambros Memorial Scholarship
Drew Capichana Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth Walling Award
Fritz Goosemen Writing Award
Ira DeShields Memorial Award/"Unsung Hero"
Jane M. Jones Award
Juracky Memorial Scholarship
Keyport Education Association Scholarship
Keyport Education Foundation Scholarship
Keyport Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Award
Keyport Civic League Scholarship
Keyport Democratic Club Award
Keyport Fire Department Award
Keyport First Aid Award
Keyport Indians Pop Warner Award
Keyport PBA Scholarship
Keyport Recreation Award
Kiwanis Club of Keyport Award
Leon & Norinne Schanck Memorial Award (KHS Class of 1937)
Marine Corps Awards
Mayor of Keyport Award
Mayor & Council of Union Beach Awards
Monmouth County Guidance Directors Association Scholarship
Ray A. Kroc Youth Achievement Award
Red Raider Parent Club Award
Rotary Club of Hazlet Scholarship
Rufino Ramos Scholarship Fund
Union Beach Drug Alliance
Union Beach Recreation Scholarship
US Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award Program
Will Hayes Scholarship



Summer



Principal's Honor Roll

-Bridget Ball
Holly Bouchard
Caitlyn Caverly
Brandon Gress
Isabella Hansen
Connor Hubler
Jacob Thiringer

-Class of 2013 Salutatorian-
Connor Hubler

-Class of 2013 Valedictorian-
Iris Escobar

High Honor Roll

David Bauer
Nicholas Breese
Alexa Chandler
Kayla Cheatum
Karina Cruz
Shannon Duffy
Iris Escobar
Andrew Kopacz
Cori Lichter
Jenna Nicholl
Mario Severino
Angelina Tornetto
Erin Uptegrove
Ilya Venediktov

Honor Roll

Steven Ayala
Antoinette Cea
Courtney Connolly
Kevin Fox
Anay Franco
Nicholas Gunsauls
Joshua Prevost
Crystal Smith
Kiersten Steele
Cheyenne Tango
Connor Thomson
Bryan Zakutansky





Summer



Student of the Month

David Bauer
Taffy Camacho
Garry Coleman
Courtney Connolly
Shannon Duffy
Brienne Graham
Brandon Gress
Erin Uptegrove

Red Raider Parent Club Department Award Winners

Jennifer Andryshak
Steven Ayala
Bridget Ball
David Bauer
Nick Breese
Caitlyn Caverly
Alexa Chandler
Kevin Fox
Stephanie Heyer
Connor Hubler
Andrew Kopacz
Rosa Lopez
Jenna Nicholl
Bryan Prevost
Bryan Silva
Crystal Smith
Cheyenne Tango
Connor Thomson
Angelina Tornetto
Erin Uptegrove
Ilya Venediktov
Amanda Wilson

Class of 2013



Summer



A **Huge** Thank You

KEYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**370 BROAD STREET
KEYPORT, NEW JERSEY**

High School Administration

Mr. Michael Waters, Principal
Mr. Erik Mammano, Vice Principal

Central School Administration

Mr. Anthony Rapolla, Principal
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Vice Principal

District Administration

Lisa Savoia, Superintendent
Edward McManus, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Melissa Jones, Director of Curriculum
Anthony DePasquale, Director of Guidance
Denise Cleveland, Director of Pupil Personnel
Laura Godlesky, Supervisor of Language Arts

Board Of Education

Elena Malinconico, President
Evelyn King-Cote, Vice-President
Joseph Biagianti, Alexandra Burke, Isaiah G. Cooper
Peter Henning, Patricia Knudsen, Rose Lloyd, Ann Panzarelli
Desiree Durkin (U. B. Representative)