

SO, it's been 12 years that I have sat in those seats  
looking up at this podium,  
and 12 years that I have anticipated this moment.  
I have known the day would surely arrive and I would have  
to overcome my nerves and speak to those who have meant  
the most to me, but all of a sudden it's a reality. So,  
bare with me as I stumble through this, but here it goes  
for the CLASS OF 2006 I love you all with every breath.

We are quilts that are built with patches  
and broken with time,  
we are tortured by the same needle that creates us and  
then we are mended with thread that is sown with patients.

We are a collaboration of thought, work and laughter,  
we are made up of more than just happily ever after.

Past experience and life exposure is what we come to  
know as self,  
respect it or reject it  
we are sometimes who wished not upon.

Now, you're probably thinking, "Where is this going?"  
and I'd tell you  
but I'm still unsure.

That's partly the beauty of it all.

All that I can say with certainty  
is that we approach life with the hopes of being all  
we set out to be  
but we most likely end up somewhere in between,  
and that's okay with me, it just means I make my goals  
ahead of me  
and let the paths I choose decide for me.  
Accepting what life has in store  
hoping it never lets me think that I deserved more.

As it's been said, "the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

I was six when I took my first steps in Kino.

My feet lead forward and my footprints followed, while my shoe size grew- I did too, each step forward brought more laughter, more tears- more growth.

I am a product of those I stand before. I am who I am, and it is all of you who have made it possible for me to be proud of that person.

To Kino and its community:

I am thankful beyond words for Kino and the environment it provides. It is because of Kino and its supportive qualities that I have had the confidence to go places so unfamiliar and seemingly beyond grasp. For me, Kino is the reason that I feel I've lead a successful learning career so far.

This is a place that not only supports but encourages the idea of conceptual thought being implemented in reality.

To explore, create and reflect. Introspection and self direction are just two of the characteristics instilled within Kino students, both of which have effected me greatly.

I feel that a missing part of most school systems today is,

the pursuit of knowledge rather than outcome. Each individual offers so many unique things, why is it we are constantly being required to fit inside the *same* box; perhaps it is not the box that is the problem but rather because they don't come in different shapes and sizes.

This is something that Kino has contrasted and subsequently influenced in my education along with a multitude of others. There is no question that Kino has prepared me for what's to come, I am excited and comfortable with any questions of what my future holds.

For all this- I thank my Nana, Aldine von Isser without her I wouldn't have had the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful school.

Also to my Mama and Dan Dan, Emeline and Jay Angevine, thank you for bailing me out when I needed help, you both have been there through the late nights of cleaning up essays or preparing projects,

including my most recent, my SENIOR Project...:-)

Nana, Mama, Dan Dan- You have all been mentors to me and a loving light in my life, thank you for everything.

It'd be impossible to name everyone I'm thankful for, we'd be here all night! But do know I appreciate the role each and every one of you have played in my life.

To my friends and my fellow seniors, you have been the most amazing support system and the origin of my fondest memories, it goes without saying that my school career would not have been the same without the influence of each and every one of you. I LOVE YOU M.A.L.T.

To my wonderful boyfriend, Juan, thank you for all your love and support.

To my teachers, I appreciate your constant willingness to see things through and the sincere interest you show in me and my learning. Being able to have mutual conversations and just share different opinions has been so valuable to me. The effect you each have had on me is unparalleled and I will never forget any of you. Special thanks to Ed Davis, Judy Stewart and Felice Espinoza, for all your advice and support throughout this past year.

Last but most certainly not least, my parents, Kent and Janice, you are my idols, I admire you to no end and will forever be grateful for you. You have respected me as an individual and supported me with my every action. You have always been understanding and am so thankful for that.

You have overcome what sometimes seemed insurmountable and never once did I doubt the love you have always shown me.

.....

My senior project spoke about layers, and...  
the idea behind layers is not to become one but rather to  
support what's to come.

There are layers everywhere, thank you all for being a  
layer of me and to help support who I am yet to be.

# *Homeroom Affirmations*

*May 2006*

*Tana von Isser*

*We will remember and miss:*

*"Your F1 Racer Alter Ego"*

*How no matter what you're doing, you always have*

*time for others*

*Your Kindness*

*Your generosity*

*Your sweetness*

*How fun you are to go on hikes with*

*Your ability to cheer people up*

*Your patience*

*Your sense of humor*

*Your "Chiricahua Trip Dance"*

*Your incredible skills as a videographer*

*Your eye for photography*

*Your ability to go from serious and mature to silly*

*and goofy in two seconds*

*Your happiness*

*Your creativity*

*Your colorful fashion sense*

*Your sincere caring for others*

*Your ability to stay cool, calm, and collected*

*How down to earth you are*

*Your grace*

## Tana's Speech

Tana is one of the last students here at Kino who was a student with me when I attended years ago. Ten years ago she had beautiful blond hair she used to let me braid, long eyelashes that were the envy of every high school girl and the sweetest disposition of any child I have ever met in my life. She was shy and quiet, content to watch others while she played by herself. Every gesture, from where she placed her feet when she walked, to the extension of her hand while getting snack, seemed to be done with the utmost thoughtfulness, the utmost consideration, the utmost tenderness and respect for everything around her. Ten years later her hair is still blond (most of the time), her lashes still long (which I still envy), and her disposition as lovely and sweet as it ever was. But don't be fooled, Tana is also tough, confident, passionate, and full of fire- no need to look any further than her senior project, or her love of driving fast for that matter. There is a belief in Mexico that certain people are born with El Dueno- the grace bestowed upon us by the universe before we have taken our human form. It is a remnant of the origin of creativity. It is the beauty of existence in its purest form, a little piece of our divine selves, untouched and benevolent. Tana- you have El Dueno, and as a result you are Grace- epitomized, in all its forms: virtue, beauty, compassion, inspiration, humility, honor, ease. For two years now you have inspired me- walking your path with quiet perseverance no matter how difficult- always kind, never a harsh word no matter how bad your day is, always an open heart. You are true to yourself, true to those you love and ultimately always forgiving. You walk your path with grace and in so doing you have bestowed your grace upon each and every one of our hearts. I know you will continue to awe and

inspire all those who meet you with both your art and your soul. And ...they will be lucky- please never forget that.

Tana your homeroom wanted to give you a retro lunch box. As a result, I decided to give you a vintage Rosy the Riveter lunch box I bought on my first Kino trip seventeen years ago. I found it in San Francisco and have brought it with me to every dorm room, every apartment and every home I have ever lived in since I was eleven years old. May you keep it with you always and know that you are never alone no matter what life brings- know the wealth of love this family holds for you now and always. And understand that we are never alone when we are loved. In addition, here is a ring with a question mark on it, to encourage you to never stop questioning, as you know the real pursuit of knowledge lies within us. Just like you have done for many of us with your "Survival Kits", each homeroom member has also given you a symbol for the gifts they would like you to take forth in your life. I love you. Thank you for being in my life. I will miss you. Congratulations Tana.

Your ability to see things as a videographer  
Your talent for photography  
Your ability to put a serious and mature face on  
and grin in two seconds  
Your happiness  
Your creativity  
Your colorful fashion sense  
Your sincere caring for others  
Your ability to stay cool, calm, and collected  
How down to earth you are  
Your grace