

Katherine Grow

## Graduation Speech Submission

My heart is filled with many emotions today. Joy, that today is the day that everything I've worked for is finally here, sadness that I will have to leave many of the friendships and bonds with professors and peers, relief that I worked hard enough and I was able to make it to this day, and pride for my future and goals to make a change. Most of all, I am excited and honored to a part of such an amazing department at UCSC. I am so thankful for all those in this department who helped me get to where I am today. This past year, I was accepted into Teach For America as a 2013 corps member and I will be teaching in Detroit for at least the next two years.

As I think back on what I've learned from this program, history has become more than just the study of the past. It is a study of where we came from. It is a study of how people have moved and shaped this world. It is a study of the long drawn inequalities that we still battle today. It is a study of past lives and past peoples that we have particularly interest or tie to. It is a study of how the ebbs and flows of each independent nation interacting with each other. But most of all, this subject gives us an insight to the study of ourselves, as individuals and drives our passion towards this subject in an ever-changing world today.

Throughout my years in this department I have had the privilege to study under many great minds that have not only taught me how to examine the past but have provided me the tools to better serve the future. I want to especially thank Professor Anthony for guiding my academic career and giving me insight into a vast history that many people have ignored. A history I hope to help shape and bring a new significance to in the coming years. It is through these awesome educators in this department that we are driven to become better students, graduates, and people in this world.

And finally, congratulations to the class of 2013! I thank my peers for making me feel bad on the days that I couldn't complete the required reading and making me look a like a fool. And I apologize to those of you that I might of done that to as well. But really thank you to my hardworking peers who provided the knowledge and observations to foster intellectual classroom discussions, who challenged our professors and made us all see a subject in many different aspects. History is not about one clear picture of the past but it is about many people coming together to paint a colorful portrayal of where we came from. Good luck to everyone in their future career choices and your fight to make your dreams a reality!

Thank you all for a wonderful couple of years at UCSC, it really has been my pleasure. Congratulations class of 2013!