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Columbia College Chicago

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**"The future belongs to those who
believe in the beauty of their dreams."**

-ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Graduates of 1999

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Erika Yvette Rufus	Kenneth J. Seng	Jered Mathew Solan	Wiphawee Suntivutimettee
Mathias J. Rush	Steven Sepulveda	Sumontha Mon Somboontham	Stella Svistunov
Yaanis Rutmans	Derry D'Wayne Sexton	John S. Sopron	Gerald Roderick Swanson
Suzette Jean Ryan	Khaled W. Shaar	Danielle Marie Soucek	Tareq Aziz Sweis
Patrycja Rynduch	Kelly Shaba	Charles Edward Soukup	Nicole Renee Sylvester
Eugene Steven Saban	Payal J. Shah	Brian Neil Soule	Deidre Lynn Syvertson
Busaba Saenprasert	Galina Shalman	Aimee Caroline Spana	Kevin John Szaflik
Jeannine Elizabeth Salemi	Joseph P. Shampunvet	Kimberly Florice Sparks	Phillip Francis Szczytowski
Oreste Marcellus Salerni	Julie Elizabeth Shannon	Woodric D. Spencer	Midori Tamate
Jose Luis Sanchez	Tilana Ree Shelly	Michelle Ann Spidale	Roger Keith Tatum

Carlecia Deondria Taylor	Yuko Uemura	G. M Washington	Kelly M. Woyan
Catherine McCormick Taylor	Michael Ufnal	Vincent Jose' Wasseluk	Jillian Graham Wright
Janielle Marie Taylor	Michael Jerome Ullegue	John Anthony Waupsh	Pei-Feng Wu
Matthew Cooper Taylor	Brent Allen Underwood	William James Weber	Anli(Lily) Xie
Ravi L. Taylor	Sowa Karolina Unora	Darryl Danelle Weddington	Wataru Yamamoto
Andrea Lynn Tepp	Benjawan Uraipraivan	Amy Lynn Wegmann	Kyung-Hwa Yang
Miki Terajima	Jeffrey Scott Urban	Craig Matthias Wehr	Erick C. Yates
Arm Theinpong	Andrew Linas Utz	Kristen T. Weitzel	Turan Anthoni Yon
Simone Katja Thiessen	Michael D. Vail	Lisa Marie Wells	Eunhyun Ennie Yoo
Adam Christopher Thomas	Nicole Marie Valverde	Stephanie Ann Wells	Susan Yoo
Elaine R. Thomas	Kent Alan Van Der Kolk	Michael Anthony Wernik	Tae Sup Yoo
Nicole C. Thomas	Jennifer Ann Van Nuffelen	Kevin Matthew West	George Yoon
Shelia Maria Thomas	Bruno James VanderVelde	Natalie Ann Marie West	Glenn Joseph Yotti
David Aaron Thomason	Carol Ruth Vanselow	Scot Alan Westwater	Darryl Allen Young
Michelle Lynn Thomlison	Maria Magdalena Vargas	Hilton Christopher Wharff	Jennifer L. Zaboth
Adriane Yvette Thompson	Veronica Vargas	Eric Shawn Wheeler	Mariusz Zaleski
Jequana Na-Tae Thompson	Asimina Vasalou	Monet Gabrielle Whitaker	Marina Zavali
Judith Kathleen Thompson	Mario Vasquez	Courtney Diane White	Rob David Zellner
Y'lonn Nikole Thompson	Anthony John Vasto	Jennifer Lynn White	Kathy Zeman
Noelle Christine Thouvenin	Wanda Charisse Vazquez	Tabitha NaTasha White	Keith F. Zerbian
Juanita Timm	Esmeralda Vega	Simbryt Charee Whittington	Katrina Zethmayr
Ryan Christopher Tippit	Matthew Terry Vejvoda	Dawnyle Monique Willard	Annie Yam Mei Zheng
Gwendolyn Paige Toczek	Jasmina Velickovic	Claude Stanton Willey	Jan Zhou
Nickolay Andreev Todorov	Thomas Vencill	Kirsten A. Willford	Nezar Ibrahim Ziad
Beverly C. Tomek	Libertine Cuya Venezuela	Dawn Williams	Amanda Catherine Zolper
John M. Tondelli	Allison Elizabeth Verderber	Elson Clinton Williams	Christopher George Zozaski
Christy Yolanda Toney	Audie Thomas Vergara	Larissa Dianne Williams	Dominic Angelo Zuccherro
Christina Wingyee Tong	Timothy Michael Vitek	LaToya Sha'Ree Williams	
Chonchai Tongpaatoon	Larisa Beth Vlcek	Monica Selean Williams	
Horace Toombs	David Paul Voderberg	Alexis Wilson	
Miguel A. Torres	Jennifer Marie Vogel	Bobbi Gene Wilson	
Reynaldo Vance Torres	Deborah Leigh Vogt	Darnell Stacey Wilson	
Rolando Arce Torres	Hilary Rae Vonesh	Gwendolyn Denise Wilson	
Sergio Torres	Philip A. Vuco	Lorene E. Wilson	
Tselanie Townsend	Charlotte Wager	Tonya Latrice Wilson	
Leon T. Triplett	Cynthia A. Wagner	Michael Allen Wing	
Christian Wayne Trokey	Carl John Walanski	Elizabeth Rose Winter	
Corey Marce Trotter	Colleen Ann Walker	Ray Robert Wise	
Haido Tsolakidou	Timothy Ryan Walker	Carl John Wisniewski	
Benjamin Joseph Turcotte	Matthew Grant Walsh	Richard Alan Witzig	
Alonzo C. Turner	Patrick Michael Walsh	Steven James Wojtczak	
Denise Louise Turner	Aerie Kaye Walton	Cheryl Ann Wojton	
Kimberly Dawne Turner	Dana Anne Wandtke	Sivaluxana Wongwattanasilpa	
Sheila Renee Turner	Chen-I Daniel Wang	Roberta Elizabeth Woods	
Lora Lynn Tusinski	Stephen James Wansley	Allison Lucille Worley	
Thelma Adora Tyrell	Amber Linea Washington	Christine Lynn Worley	

Sung Duk Ahn	Elena Diadenko	Alice P Klusak	Cherie A. Richardson
Alfega Alcaraz	Zoila M. Diaz	Elyn M. Koentopp	Rogelio Rincon
Jennifer Anthony	Bernard E. Dixon	Amy E. Kohler	Neysa Rivera
Gloria Arango	Allyson Deidre Dowdy	Jennifer A. Kott	Armando Rodriguez
Myriam Y. Ariza	Joseph J. Drosset	Irina Kruk	Eneyda Rodriguez
Oscar Audiffred	Jason Antone Dutka	Andrea B Kuelling	Hernan E. Rodriguez
Cynthia Anita Avino	Julie D. Engel	Nicole Marie Kupper	Olimpia Rodriguez
Lawrence Balark	Valerie J. Ewing	Kathryn H Lang	Jessica L Rogers
Marco S Benassi	Christine Fabian	Jih-Chiun Lee	Hyun-Jin Roh
Ronit S Bezalel	Veronica Ann Falls	Nicole A. Levine	Daveda Russell
Gabrielle A Biernat	Adam T. Fisher	Natasch M. Lindsey	Susan Russell
Jennifer Bird	Eric A. Fleischer	Awilda Lopez	Nattamart Samatasoraboot
Shauna Ann Blue	Steven Jerome Foley	Jennifer Maillis	Terri A. Sash
Jeanine M Bockman	Kimberly J. Fornek	Sakuntala Malarat	Anthony R. Scala
Darryl M Bonaparte	Michele Ann Friske	Caroline G Manalo	Jan C Shimek III
LaTarsha D. Bradford-Barber	Michael W Frolichstein	Jennifer Manning	Solome Skaff
Felicia A Bradley	Lizzette Garcia	Kristina M Maratea	Emily Erin Smith
Amy Brakarsh	Mercida B Garcia	Michelle McDonald	Sabatino Stefanile
E. Alden Brigham	Jodi L Gedansky	James C. McDowell	Frances E. Stocker-Burton
Shanieka D Brooks	Barbara Georgouses	David Francis McQuillen	Varank Subanarat
Patricia Buckley	Amy Elizabeth Gilman	James R. Meyer	Monica Marie Sullivan
Amy B. Butterer	Martin Golaszewski	Wendy S Meyer-Gonzalez	Leif Erik Tellmann
Julie A. Caffey	Kathleen Patricee Gomez	Christine Burks Mitchell	John N Thale
Dorsey Calhoun	Christine L. Gonzalez	Ruth R Mitchell	Jon Jeffrey Tichota
Cristin Carole	Theresa Gordon	Scott A. Moore	Tiffany C. Townsend
Sylvia Carrera	Carol R. Gregg	Julio E. Mora	Jacquelynn Marie Twaite
Manuela Casas-Trejo	Gina J. Grillo	Heidi Evita Morris	Antonia Vazquez
Evelyn Castenada	Terren J Grimble	D'andrea Lanel Mosely	Eduardo R. Vilaro
Katherine S. Chan-Lam	Martin J. Grochala	Cynthia Candido Nambo	Veronique Volckaert-Thomas
Guo Chen	Waclawa Gurda	Jennifer Diane Neavolls	Sherri A. Walker
Gabriela E Chong-Hinojosa	Deborah K. Hill	Angelica Nyberg	Myles W Wallace
Karen M Christopher	Tracy W. Ho	Joseph Omoremi	Lorna Y Ware
Tze-Fang Chuang	Jeffrey Hoffman	Gwendolyn Owens	Susan F. Wentz
Maria Cieslak	Edmond Randolph Holmes	Francis A Panion	Mollie L West
Stephanie Ann Clausell	Sandra A. Holt	Hyunseon Park	Anne Wheat
Gabriel S. Coleman	So-Young Hong	Laurel T Parker	Lisa Renee' Williams
Kimberly A Cooper	Dorothy Ann Horton-Jackson	Margaret A. Pasquesi	Laura K. Wolf
Lauri Ann Coup	Crystal L House	Emilia Pena	Jadwiga Wroblewska
Carmen I Cruz	Jerome John Huey	Dia J Penning	Michiko Yamori
Kevin Cunningham	Veronica Hurtado	Theresa Pham	Grace Yun
Darlene L Curcio-Elsbury	Miroslav T. Ilic	Martha Pino	Sam Zabadne
Jacquelyn Dace	Julianne M. Jackson	Dara A. Pressley	Maria Zarco
Colleen M Dahlberg	Lisa A. Jensen	Gary Martin Prusaitis	Linda I. Zayas
Francesca G Danforth	Douglas R. Jones	Evelyn M. Randle	
Stefanie Davis	Natasa Jovicic	Siraprapa Ratanavit	
Carole Vanessa Davis-Dorsey	Myisha Akilah Kanei-Banks	Marilyn Reddy	
David De Santiago	Chongkolnee Kemachuntree	Lisbeth Reich	
	Jackie L King, Jr.	Adriana Resendez	

Congratulate your 1999 Graduate

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Special Thanks to Omar Castillo for his help with this section
Background Photographs by Robert Kusel

Leon, Bruno, Patrick, Lawrence, Danielle, Rob and Mark:

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a miracle."
- Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

"Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school.
But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."
- Muhammad Ali

"The truth is more important than the facts."
- Frank Lloyd Wright (1868-1959)

Congratulations and the best to you in the real world. - Jim and Omar

Congratulations to Columbia College 1999 graduates.

*Best wishes for a bright,
successssful future.*

Dr. Lya Dym Rosenblum
Vice-President of the Graduate School
Columbia College
Chicago



Congratulations and Best Wishes to:

*Casey Block, Anthony Disano,
Janet Fremarek, Erin Jensen,
Kevin Kehoe, Barbara Knox, Melanie
Mark, Shaun Pauling, Abrar Qureshi,
Terri Richardson, Julia Shuster,
Shellie Slove, Jennifer Strauss,
Laura Streske and John Wauph.*

*Remember to reach high! The best is always kept upon
life's topmost shelves, but not beyond our reach if we will
reach beyond ourselves!*

With sincere thanks and admiration for your unique gifts!

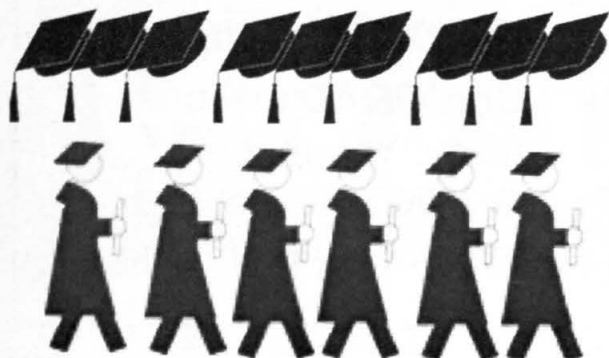
Heather Davis
Marketing Communications
Columbia College Chicago

**Miguel A. Sanchez**

Your outstanding ability, determination and motivation brought you to this joyous occasion. Congratulations Miguel. Love, your family.

**Judith Thompson**

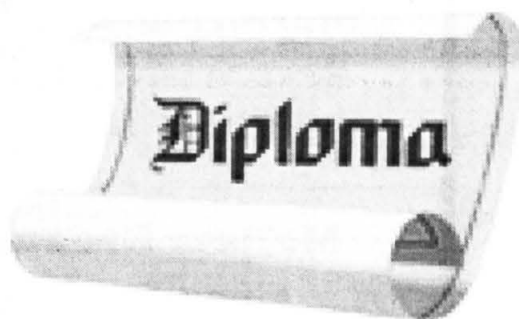
HERE I AM, I MADE IT!!!

**Meraiah Guerra**

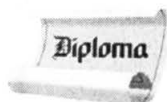
You've come a long way,
We're really proud.
Love and Best Wishes,
Mom & Jerry

**Christina Paul**

Florence, Italy --
Art Inspires Imagination.
Congratulations,
Christina!! Love, Mom and
Dad.



Congratulations to The Columbia College Class of 1999! The world is yours, and is in your hands.
Best Wishes....
Wade Roberts, Television/Fiction Writing Dept.

Danery Barraza

I'm so proud of what you have accomplished, also the fact that you never gave up. It's an honor to say congratulations to a very special woman.
your love.... Henry.

**Congratulations Dani Linn!**

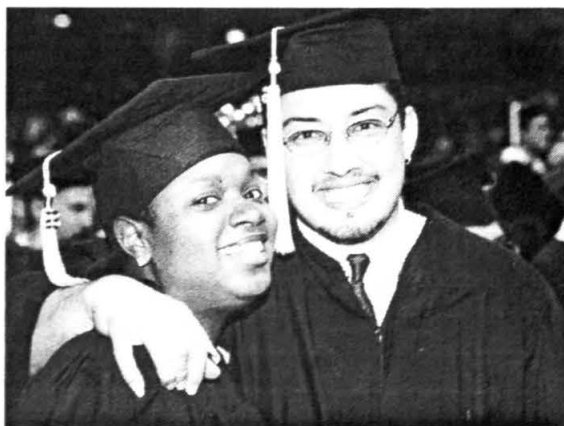
Better late than never - but that 4.0 every semester is worth waiting for.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Tiff

P.S. We'll all miss that thrilling 50 mph morning race to the train.

**Roberto Sanchez**

Roberto, congratulations
We're very proud. We wish
you the best. Good Luck.
El mundo esta en tus
manos.





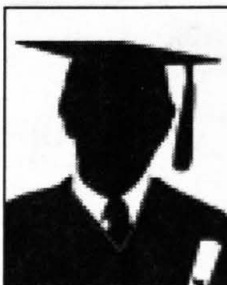
Amanda Egeland

Mandy, you have worked hard and achieved your goal. You can do anything. We are so proud of you!! Love... Mom and Dad



Nicole McClearn

We couldn't be prouder of you and your accomplishments these past four years. May you go far with your dreams and aspirations. Love, Mom & Dad



Andrew Fischhoff

Con"**GRAD**"ulations, Andy! You made a **SOUND** choice! Best of luck! Love, Mom and Dad

Congratulations and
Best Wishes for a
wonderful future to:

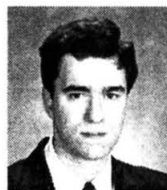
Melissa Breault
Gina Leyba
Libby Venezuela

*The Staff and Faculty of the Journalism Dept.
Columbia College Chicago*



LaWanda E. Bryant

You've completed your first milestone on the road to success. Look back only to remeber how far you've come. Mom & Dad



Congratulations, **Kevin Szafllick** on your graduation and being on the Dean's List. Good Luck!! Love, Mom, Dad and Monica

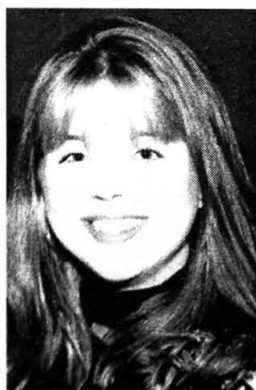


STEPHANIE ASKEW

BELIEVEIMAGINE
ENIGAMIEVEILEB
333.333.444!



Congratulations to all graduates in
the Department of
Educational Studies!!
- The faculty and staff



Laura Streske

Remembering the special child you were. Honoring the achievements of the person you are. Anticipating the success that lies ahead, and so very proud of the young woman you have become.





Tracey Adams

Congratulations Tracey. Everyone is so proud of you. Love, Mom & Dad.



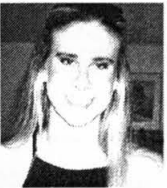
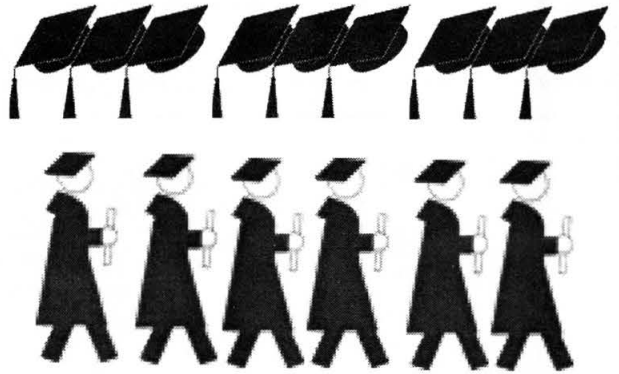
Tracey Begich

Congratulations !!! Good Luck !!!
We are very proud of you !!! Love
You. Mom, Dad and Derek



Jonathon Rowe

We're Proud of you, Son!!
Best of luck at Hewitt
Associates!!
Con "GRAD" ulations!



Beth Korczynski

Congrats Beth! We're so proud of you! We always knew you would do it. Never stop believing in yourself. Love, Mom & Dad



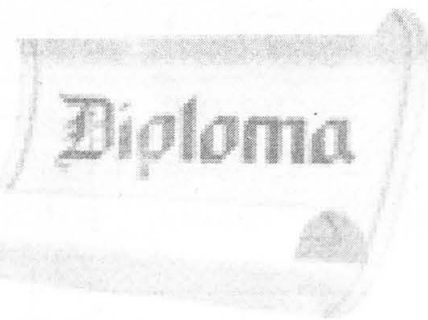
Marc Sullivan

Dear Marc,
Congratulations on your graduation. We're very proud of your efforts and wish you God's blessings on your new career.



Amanda Snyder

Congratulations Boo Boo
You've come a long way since
QUAD... DRUPLE!!
Love, Mom



J Your
E family
S and
S friends
I are
C VERY
A PROUD
L of
E YOU!!
X



Aurora Aguilar

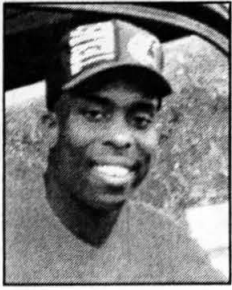
Dear Aurora, I am grateful to Tom, Pat, Faye, Enrique and above all, God, that you have accomplished so much. Congratulations we are all so proud, Mom.



Tiffany Poetsch

Congratulations Tiffany - How proud we are of your college achievement. Your father and I will treasure the years we had together observing your growth and maturity into a fine young lady. Now onto a Master's degree, but most important, the start of a new beginning - your independence. So many accomplishments yet to be achieved - The future is wide open for you. We're looking forward to your many successes. Love, Mom & Dad.





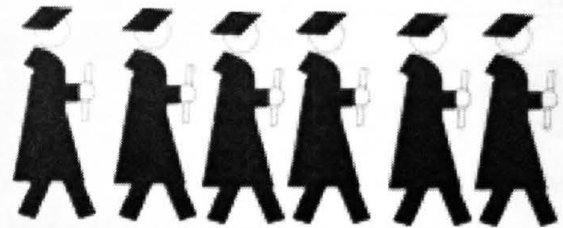
Gordon Meighan

Congratulations, Gordon!
You are the best. Your success
defied logic. Thank God!
Rap that one Baby!
Love & Blessings Always!
From your Mom, Jeanette.



Elke Oberg

Dear Elke, I am very proud of you. Your
accomplishments, studying in your
second language amazes and inspires
me. I love you very much. Bill



Diploma



Congratulations, Terri Osness

You've only just begun!!
Best wishes from
your family.



Libertine Venezuela

Well, you've finally made it! Even though you've gone through
some rough times over the years, I've always believed that you
could get through anything. It's like it was yesterday that you
were my little girl making your way down the aisle in your paper
graduation hat, leaving your kindergarten days behind. Now you
are about to face the real world with new
obstacles. I knew you could do it, Congratulations!!



Jason Johnson

Congratulations!! You've finally
reached the beginning of your goal.
The world is yours. We are so proud of
you. Love, Mom, Dad and the Guys.



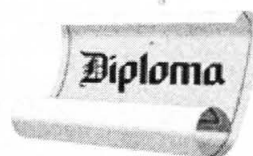
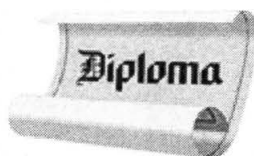
Yeah!!

Vicky DiFilippo!! You're the
best!! Best of Luck and Love...
Mom, Dad and Tony

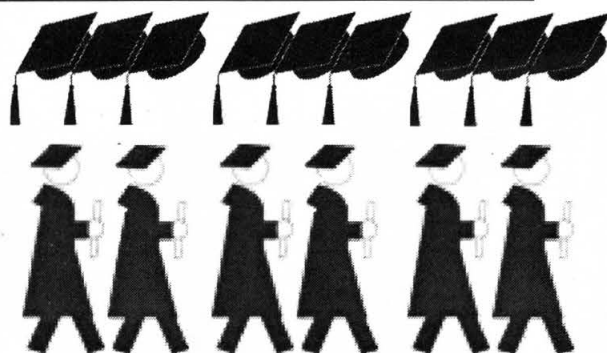
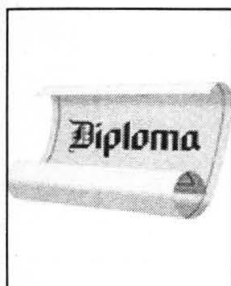
Robert E. Crump (The Crumpster)

From all of us at Zevnik Horton
Guibord et al. Our heartfelt
Appreciation and Love goes out to you
on this very special day. May the Good
Lord Bless you with all you desire.

GODSPEED

**Brian Robinson**

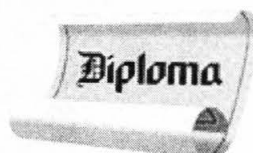
Congratulations! We're so
proud of you! Continue to
follow your dreams. Love
You... Mom, Veronica, Ev,
Lisa, the kids and Dad

**Jason Catlour**

Congratulations, Jason!
You did it! We are so proud
of you! Good Luck! Love,
Mom, Dad, Michele & Cody

**Jamie Jablonski**

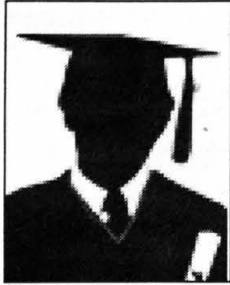
Congratulations to a sweet and
sensible young lady. We wish you
the best of luck in all of your
endeavors. May God bless you
always. Love Mom & Dad.



Hats off to you **Jeff Guziak !!**

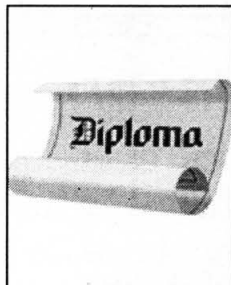
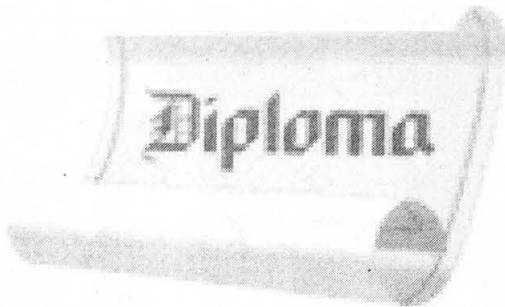
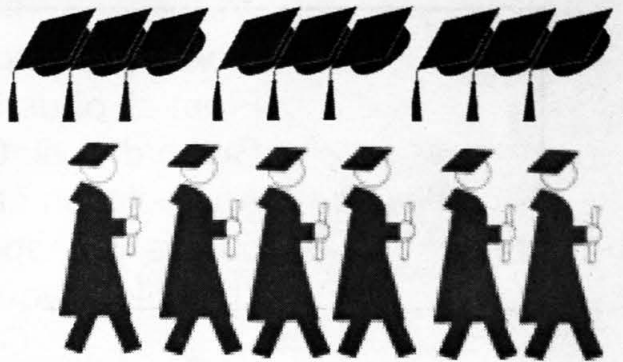


Here's to your future in the filmmaking
community. Wishing you the best as you begin
your cinematography fellowship at the Center
for Advanced Film and Television Studies,
American Film Institute (AFI), in Los Angeles.



Kenneth Edmunds

Congratulations to our son, Kenneth Edmunds. You have made your family so proud. May God keep his hands on you and may you go as far as your dreams take you. Love, Mom & Dad

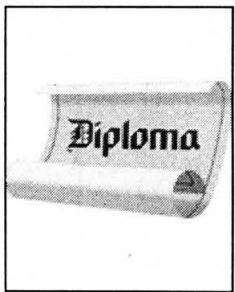


Kevin Bruce

Congratulations! We're so proud of your hard work, determination, and perseverance. You're the best! Love and Happiness... Mom, Family & Friends

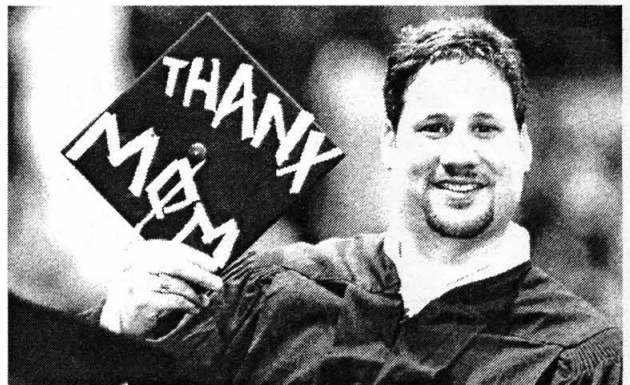
Matthew Mascheri

Congratulations, Matthew!! Now turn on that light sabre, reach for the stars, climb every mountain, swim every sea, pray every day and continue your journey, for the best is yet to be! Love, Steven, Jason, Dad and Mom



Terri Richardson

Terri, congratulations on your tremendous achievement. We're very proud of you. Love Mom & Dad



Christine A. Starr

Congratulations on your accomplishments. Wishing you happiness & success always. We're very proud of you - Love from Mom & Dad



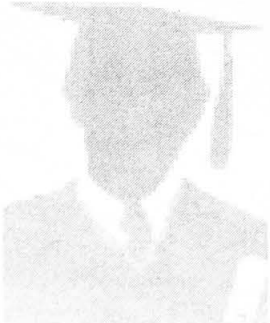
Aron Kamm

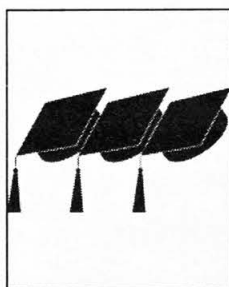
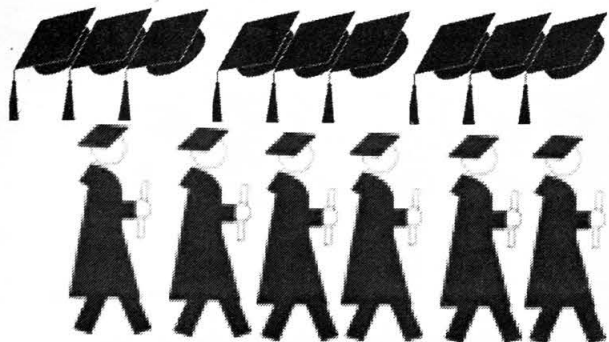
The Kamm Family wishes Aron a life of good health, happiness and success. Mazel Tov On your Graduation.



Nicole Sylvester

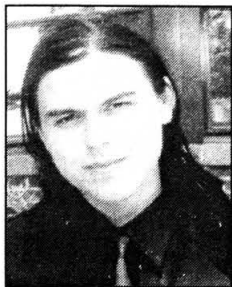
Congratulations! It was a long and hard road, and we are very proud of your accomplishment. Wishing you much success in your future endeavors. Love, Mom & Dad.





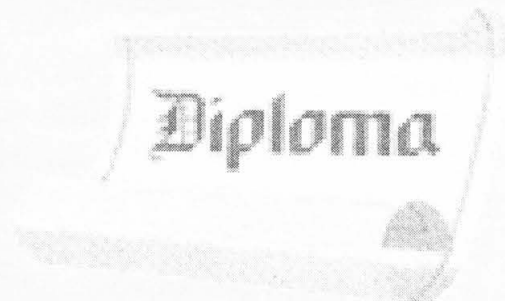
Baneatha J. Lewis

Congratulations to a wonderful daughter who has set goals and obtained them. With God's help and your tenacity you will succeed. Love, Mom and Dad.

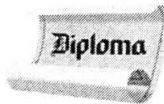


Anthony D. Lazzaro

Son, this is but one step in your journey of life. Follow your dreams, heart and passions. I'll always be able to say with pride, this is my son!!



Deidre Kaniewski

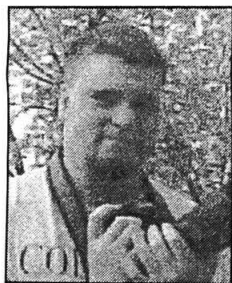


Your quest is over, the path once taken has led to this... your graduation!! All of our Love!



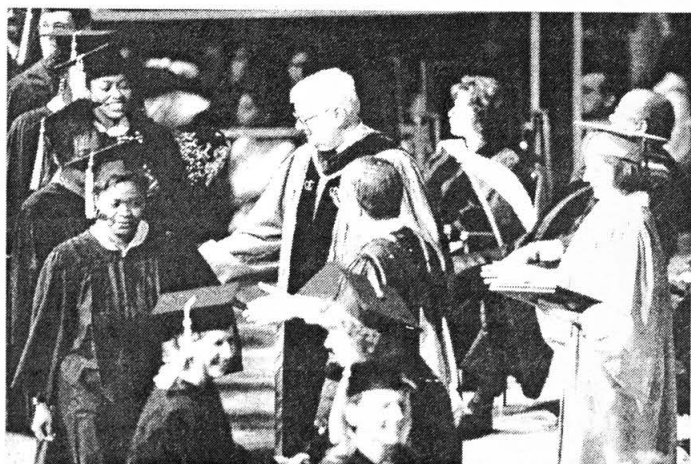
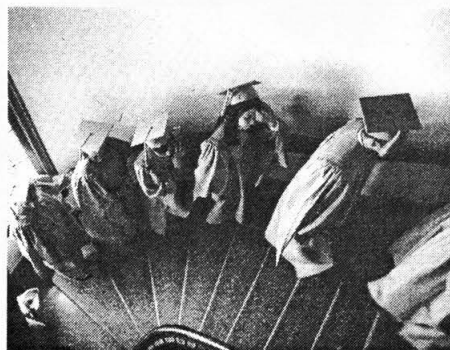
Julene Schmeisser

Congratulations!! We are so proud of you. Love always, Carl, Austin, Gretchen, Mom, Dad, Mums & Steve



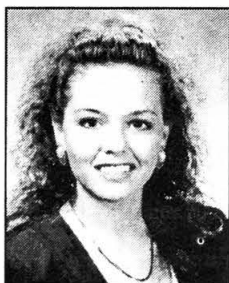
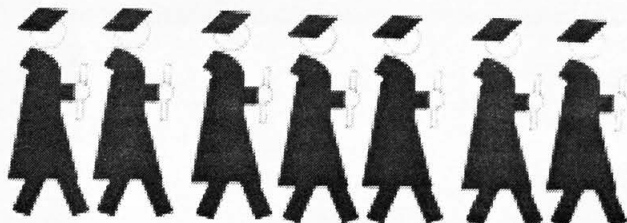
Brian Hurley

"Photographer"
We are very proud of you! Congratulations! Love, Mom, Dad & Susan.



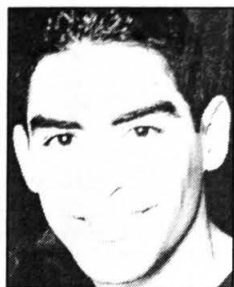
Imely Correa-Alvarez

Congratulations, you finally made it! All your efforts paid off. Be proud: smile you now have a college degree! We love you always... Crystal and Paul



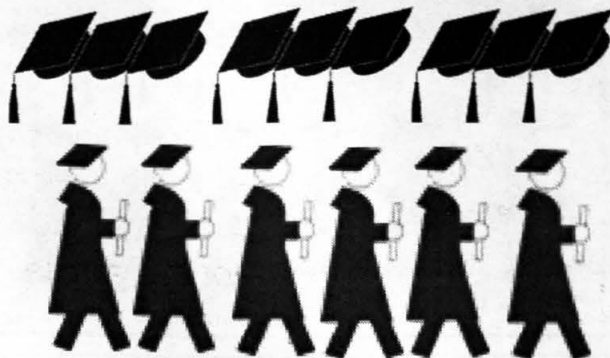
Carla Cahill

Carla, you did it! You've made me proud. Go forth and enjoy life. Love you, Mom.

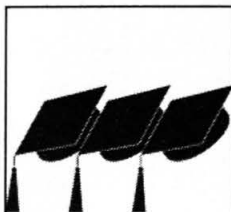


Joe Nunez-Beile

Joey, we love you and are very proud of you. May you reach all your life's goals. Mom, Dad, Christina, Elisa & Duke.



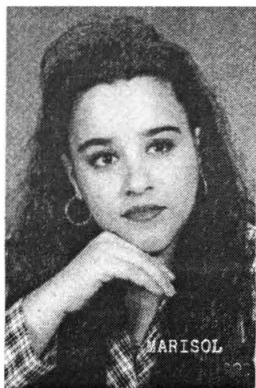
Diploma



Siyubonga Sitho

HALALA BONGIWE!!

The road had been rough, but you have prevailed! We are all very proud of you.



Marisol Ramos

No words can describe the warm memories, the pride, the joy and the gratitude, too, that comes from having a daughter to love and cherish forever.... like you!

Congratulations.. Love, Mom and Dad



Jason Minyo

Congratulations! It has been a long journey, but you have finished strong. We are very proud of you and happy that you can now pursue your life's passion... Love, Mom & Dad

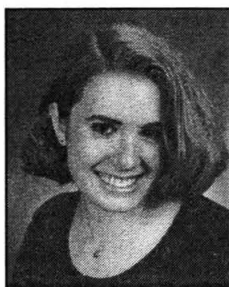
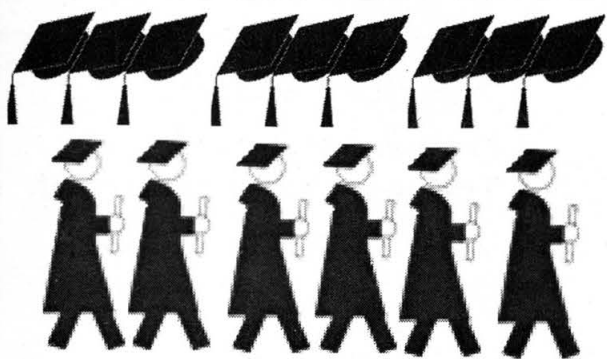
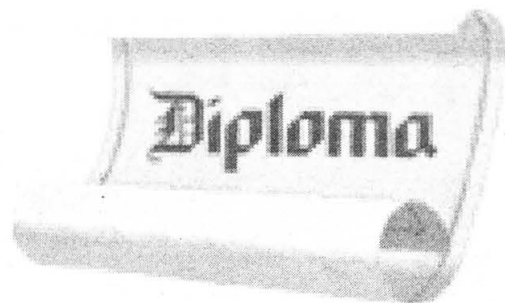
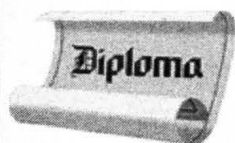


Karen Meinhold

Congratulations on a job well-done. Continue to develop your special talents; enjoy your accomplishments and follow your dreams! Love, Mom & Dad

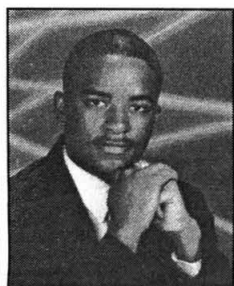
*Danery Barraza**"Congratulations"*

Dear Danery, We are happy for you, and we wish you success. Estamos muy felices por ti. Amor tu Familia.

*Julie Shannon*

Julie, Your talent and creativity has always made us happy and proud. Now your college career has done the same.

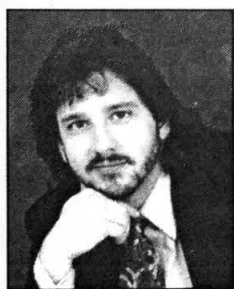
All of our love, Mom & Dad.

*Justin Breaux*

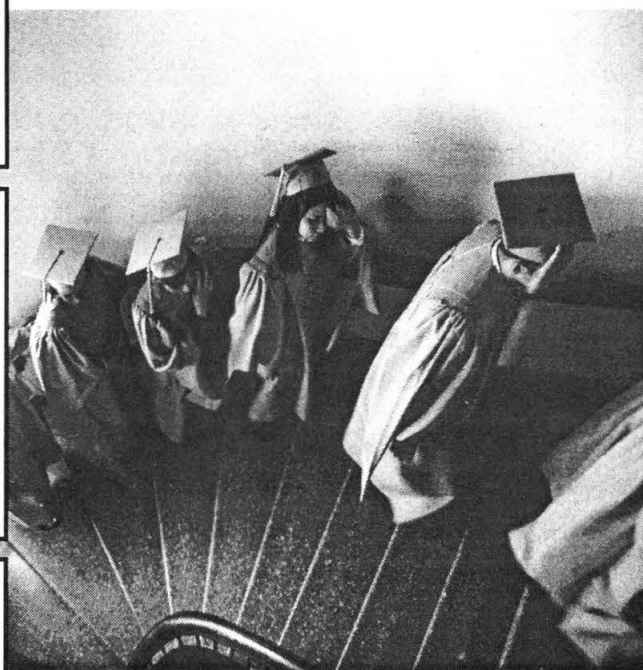
Congratulations on a job well-done. Hours of sacrifice have finally paid off. We are so very proud of you and wish you all the best for the future.

*Kristen Doss*

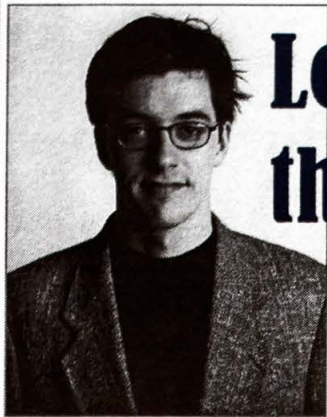
Congrats, Kristen! God Bless You! We Love You! Mom, Dad, Doug, Della, Darrin, Carol, Deven, Heidi, Jenna, Kristen, Ryan, Will, Bekah, Jessica, and Maddie

*John Hennessey*

Congratulations Son. We're very proud of you. Good Luck in everything you do. Love, Mom and Dad

*JeTaun Rowe*

To our special graduate. A daughter to be proud of. Love, Mom and Brother.



Letter from the Editor

The 1998-1999 school year has been a pivotal one for Columbia. What other college can claim such tremendous growth, an updated appearance, and a favorable outlook for re-accreditation all in the same year?

The *Chronicle* had its hands full trying to keep up with it all.

So, what happened?

In April, the preliminary results of the North Central Association's visit to the school almost assure Columbia's full re-accreditation later this year.

Three buildings in the area were purchased by the college, and in a remarkable chain of events, another was donated.

The first ever part-time faculty union in the country was able to broker a friendly labor agreement through an unorthodox yet effective method of bargaining, assuring a more satisfied teaching staff.

Much-needed renovations were made to the weathered, dingy elevators, the Underground Cafe, and the exteriors of the main campus buildings.

Daring new initiatives and student programs, including course-number changes, student-oriented workshops, and a U-Pass agreement with the Chicago Transit Authority, were instituted. A relatively comfortable Student Center was established with an even more ambitious one in the works, and new majors in poetry, digital media technology, and product design were created.

Columbia took on some of its gravest problems and, by all appearances, conquered them. The school dispatched a quick, tidy clean-up and restoration of the Museum of Contemporary Photography after a wayward spark set it ablaze in March. The school coordinated an evaluation of its often maligned bookstore, and it nourished the fledgling Student Union Movement--a much-needed organization kindled by a few upstart undergrads to give the student body a credible voice and invoke a more campus-like setting.

Columbia College, which prides itself on being delightfully left of center (and rightly so), still needs work to create that "campus-like setting." To that end it has, by most respects, taken a profound step in the right direction this year.

Encompassing all the aesthetic, structural and administrative changes throughout these last 10 months, the college seems to have outdone itself in what is and should be its ultimate goal: to foster and produce some of the most dynamic, thought-provoking professionals in every arts and communications field, from dance to sculpture to fiction, in the nation.

Yes, this reads like a shameless endorsement of Columbia, but despite some of its nagging drawbacks, Columbia is still at the top of the heap in Illinois when it comes to teaching the skills for future success.

It is often remarked that college newspapers are the places where students are supposed to make their mistakes

before heading out into the unforgiving real world of journalism. We certainly made our mistakes this semester. In spite of that, we always did our best with the time and the resources we had. The fact that the *Chronicle* cleaned house in the awards department at the Illinois College Press Association convention earlier this year speaks for itself.

My predecessor, James Boozer, who stepped down from the editor's post in February, laid the groundwork for what the *Chronicle* came to be over the remainder of the school year--a clean, readable, relevant news source for Columbia students.

He and I were blessed with a dedicated staff of editors and reporters, most of whom were not averse to put in extra time and effort, often staying late many a Friday night. To be boastful, it wasn't rare for James or myself to toil for up to 50 hours a week on what is, to many people, a thankless job.

To us, though, the sight of our paper on newsstands, being picked up by students and faculty every Monday was worth it. Tuesday, it was back to work on the next issue, to iron out the kinks from the week before and somehow find a way to do it all over again, having to re-invent the wheel, so to speak, on more than one occasion.

In the end, I have received wonderful compliments from all sides on the state of the newspaper this year, and I owe these commendations to my staff and to the *Chronicle's* faculty adviser, Jim Sulski, who kept us in the right direction and often pointed out those crucial things that often were right beneath our untrained, far-gazing eyes. Business Manager Chris Richert also deserves special mention for taking exquisite care of the myriad financial and logistical challenges of running a newspaper, making James' and my stressful job that much easier.

In retrospect, working at the *Chronicle* was, amazingly, fun. I will miss even the most trivial aspects of it tremendously.

Hopefully, next year's staff will emphasize the importance of reporting campus-related news as I have tirelessly tried to do this past semester. Only by focusing on the student body itself does a newspaper at such a diverse school gain any credibility, and I'm certain the *Chronicle* has succeeded in doing more of that in 1999. Beyond 2000, the school will be a very dynamic place, and the need for student-related news is even more pressing.

And as the college does its part to assist the student body, the student body needs to do its part to become more involved in campus affairs, and to selflessly create a more useful, creative establishment for future students. Many times, students are understandably apt to be short-sighted in this respect. Like the students, Columbia College is still learning, sometimes with less than desirable results.

Finally, I implore all the present and future students of Columbia to realize that the city they go to school in is arguably the greatest metropolis in the world. Chicago is a bottomless well of resources, and no student should shy away from taking advantage of it.

That said, I congratulate those of us who are graduating this week; for many of us, our professional paths are likely to cross in the future. Let's not forget what we've done and where we've come from.

Bruno J. VanderVelde
Editor-in-Chief