

"Because I knew you,  
I've been changed for good."

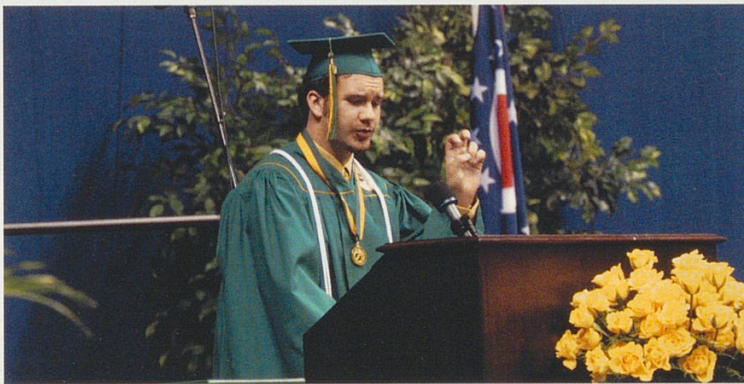
By: Tyler Grimm and Sam Pollak

The day of graduation at the Cintas Center was looked forward to with much anticipation, but when graduation arrived, there were many tears seen from everyone. The Commencement began with a welcome speech delivered by senior **Blair Bailey** and a congratulatory speech by superintendent **Dr. Adrienne James**. Senior class president **Shelli Coppoolse** led the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, and acceptance of diplomas, and gave her own words of wisdom. Student Council Executive President **Kyle Battle, 12**, also spoke of the past, present, and future, using an analogy to Wheel of Fortune and merging with Fort Minor's "Remember the Name." Senior **Cory Gross** also delivered a very theatrical speech to honor the graduates.

**Dr. James** also had the honor of presenting the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award to Rear Admiral **Mark Kenny** who graduated in 1972. **Kenny** was joined by many of his friends and family members, as well as former classmates who were also celebrating their own graduating children. **Kenny** was given the award in honor of his many accomplishments in the United States Navy. As part of his acceptance of the award, **Kenny** shared a few of his thoughts with the graduates and wished them all success.

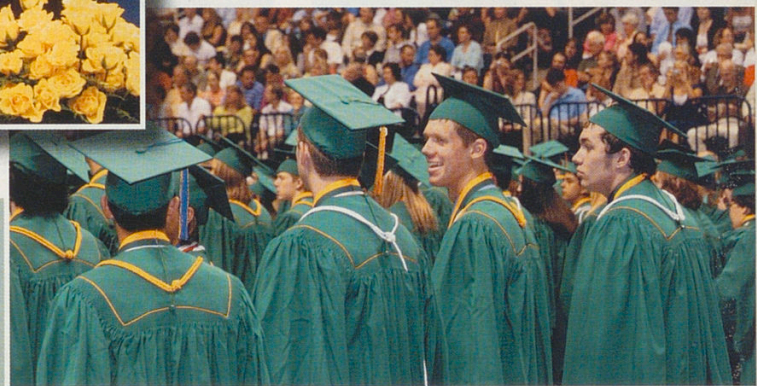
Music for the processional, the recessional, and the National Anthem was provided by members of the band. Also, The graduation choir sang the "Song of Farewell," as is traditionally done at the graduation ceremony. Seniors **Hilary Fingerman** and **Rachel Schneider** sang "In My Life" by the Beatles with vocal, guitar, and harmonica accompaniment by senior **Daniel Zimmer**. **Fingerman** and **Schneider** also closed the ceremony with "For Good" from the Broadway musical *Wicked* and were joined by **Sarah McGrath, 12**, and **Maria Thomas, 12**, who performed the song in American Sign Language.

The ceremony took just over two hours, but after 13 years of hard work, nothing could compare to the great honor felt by the seniors as they received their diplomas and officially began the next chapters of their lives.



Seniors wait their turn to be called to receive their diplomas. Those graduates who wore white cords graduated with honors and a 3.0 to 3.59 GPA. Those students who wore gold cords graduated with high honors and a 3.6 or higher GPA.

**Cory Gross, 12**, delivers his thoughts to his fellow graduates. He spoke about looking to the future, and he stressed the importance of each graduate remembering his or her classmates. He also proposed that each graduating senior come back to visit his or her teachers in the future to thank them for teaching the graduates so much over the years.



Graduates **Daniel Zimmer**, **Hilary Fingerman**, and **Rachel Schneider** perform "In My Life" by The Beatles. **Fingerman** and **Schneider** also performed "For Good" from *Wicked*. For that song, they were joined by fellow graduates **Sarah McGrath** and **Maria Thomas** who performed the song in American Sign Language.

