

On behalf of the Class of 2005, I thank you all for coming to this special event in our lives. Over the years, this class has become *more* than just friends; we have become brothers and sisters. While at Richard Winn, we have made fond memories that we must now tuck away in our hearts as we leave tonight and go separate ways. We are all unique in our own way and have our own song to sing; therefore tonight, I will share with you what song I think describes each one of my fellow classmates.

The country hit "Too Much Fun" by Tracy Byrd describes **Paul Caldwell** completely. Paul is a simple, care-free guy who loves hanging out with the boys whenever he can. Paul, a.k.a. Fish, has always been the laid-back type, but if you want to see him get *really* rowed up, just disagree with him about something. One of Paul's best friends that he has been with since he was five is **Will Coleman**, definitely the ladies' man of the class.

"Should've Been a Cowboy" by Toby Keith is Will's particular song. Will is a full-blooded country boy, so it must be that southern charm that has the ladies after him. Some people claim Will is the craziest guy in our class, and he knows *exactly* what to do to have a good time. Over the years, Will has caused a lot of trouble in the backwoods of Blair with the guys.

One of the guys Will has made many memories with over the years out in Blair is **Wade Coleman**, his cousin. When Kenny Chesney wrote "Back Where I Come From", it's hard to believe that he wasn't writing about Wade. He has been a student at Richard Winn since he was four, and he is definitely a boy who loves the country life. During football and baseball seasons, Wade could be found on the fields, but when basketball season rolled around, he was at the head of the Student Section, leading the way. Wade loves the small town life, but I'm sure he'll come to appreciate Charleston next year when he attends The Citadel—just don't ask Mrs. Tant her opinion on it.

Hyatte Kelsey, who came to us from Chester High this past year, will also be attending The Citadel next year along with Wade. Hyatte definitely would take the theme song from the Dukes of Hazzard since he is without a doubt one of the country guys in the class. Hyatte always had a story to tell about one of his fishing or hunting trips he took with some of the good ole' boys from Chester. Even though this was Hyatte's first year, he had no problem fitting in, and we are glad he could join us— I know Frances is at ast.

Hyatte wasn't the only new guy to join us from Chester High this past year; we also got the pleasure of getting **Ben Nunnery**. Ben's song is "Thank God I'm a Country Boy" because it's clear to everyone by the accent that he definitely is one. He loves to hunt and fish just like the rest of them, and it was a regular occurrence to hear him talking about it during class with Adam and Hyatte. We're glad Ben decided to come spend his last year with us, and I'm sure Ben is also glad that he did because he got to meet Felicia Harris.

Felicia Harris is the youngin' of the class, so her song is "Young" by Kenny Chesney. Even though she may be the youngest, Felicia was more like the mama of the class because she was *always* making sure things were okay and organized. Since she was nicknamed the Enthusiast by the class, it is clear that she is a person with a lot of enthusiasm towards everything she does. Felicia plans to become a teacher, so her upbeat personality will definitely come in handy in the future.

Another girl in our class who always has a smile on her face is **Rachel Goldin**, our Homecoming queen. Rachel is definitely the "Big Star" of the class, which is why she gets this particular hit by Kenny Chesney. Rachel has graced the school with her great singing abilities on numerous occasions, and I know her voice will be missed deeply next year at football games and talent shows. Rachel has also shined like a "big star" this past year since *some* people *loved* to talk about *everything* she did.

Rachel wasn't the only singer of the class, however; every time someone would hum a tune, **Andrew Kinard** always had to join in no matter what type it was, country or rap. Andrew is the romantic one of the class. That is why he gets "Starry, Starry Night" by Don McLean, which was a song played many times in Mrs. Nick's Fine Arts class. Because Andrew is the poet of the class, he would always write sweet poems from time to time, and he knew exactly how to sweep the ladies off their feet when Valentine's Day came around.



Another one who could sweep the ladies off their feet was the charming **Josh Wilkes**. Josh was the "girl watcher" of our class, so that is why his song is that popular oldie. Due to his charming personality, Josh has had many girlfriends over the years. Josh left us for a few years to attend Ridge View; however, we are glad he decided to come back and spend his remaining year with us. Josh is one of the comedians in our class, and when he was around his best friend, Ry, you were *bound* to get a good laugh.

Ry Foster is the most energetic person in our class, and he is always having a good time so Pink wrote a song for him when she released "Get this Party Started". Every class has a class clown, and Ry Foster is definitely ours. Ry's crazy personality has caused him to be well-liked throughout the school, and I know he will be *deeply* missed next year. Even though Ry knew just how to gross us out at times, we all learned to put up with it because it was Ry after all. One person that has put up with Ry well over the past few years is Brenton, who will be rooming with him next year at Francis Marion.

Brenton Lyles is the nice guy in our class, and because the guys loved to hang out at his house on the weekends, the song that describes him is "All My Rowdy Friends (are coming over tonight)" by Hank Williams, Jr. Not only did the guys love him, but he was also loved by many of the girls because he was always there to listen to their problems. I don't know though; maybe it was his broad knowledge of useless facts that impressed the ladies the most.

Maybe Brenton could be nice and share some of his knowledge with **Brice Porter**, since she made it clear in Economics that she did not know what mowing the *lawn* meant. Brice may not have known this little fact, but she does know how to play a sport, and if you have ever gone to a girls' sporting event at RWA, I guarantee that you saw Brice on the field or court showing off her skills. Therefore, "I Wanna Do It All" by Terri Clark is Brice's special tune that describes her. Brice was involved in *many* activities at Richard Winn, and she was even our Prom Queen for this year. She doesn't meet a stranger, and she was always seen talking to people in the halls, especially Adam Truesdale.

Adam Truesdale is also one of the boys we were lucky to get from Chester. Adam is care-free and loves the outdoors, so Brad Paisley's popular tune of "I'm Gonna Miss her" is his song. It is clear that he would choose a chance to go fishing on a nice, warm day over pretty much *anything*. Adam has a funny personality, and many times in class he had us laughing at his goofy remarks and facial expressions.

Just like Adam, **Blake Cook** is another country boy found in our class. Over the years, Blake has amazed us with his artistic ability, and I know he will go far with this talent. Therefore, I am giving him the title of "I'm Gonna Be Somebody" by Travis Tritt. Blake was one of the shyest guys of the class, but you can tell we all loved him because we voted him Prom King this past month. When I speak of Blake, Lindsay Parris's name comes straight to mind, since after all they *are* the *cutest* couple of the class.

Lindsay Parris is the sweet southern girl of our class, so the old beach tune of "Carolina Girls, Best in the World" reminds me of her. She may be a Clemson fan, but this song describes her because she has always been sweet and caring to others in the class. Lindsay has *never* let *anything* get in the way of what she wants, so I know she will go far in life. Winthrop better watch out for this little red-headed firecracker.

Lindsay may be going to college close to home; however, **Jessica Sink** is jetting off far away to be a Texas Longhorn. Jet, as she is called by many, is definitely the girly one of the class, since she is always up on the latest fashion trends and is continuously reapplying her Mac lip gloss; therefore, "Pink", by Aerosmith, is without a doubt the song for her. A recent hit by Gretchen Wilson *may* be more appropriate for Jet; however, I think I'll stick to "Pink." Jet is definitely the blonde of our class, and she has had many blonde moments over the years; however, they are what make class fun, and we love her for that.

Jet may be heading out to Texas, but **Brad Good** has her beat distance-wise, since he plans on going all the way to Phoenix, Arizona for college. Everyone knows that Brad's car is definitely his passion in life right now, so "Speed", by Montgomery Gentry, is his song. Some people may not believe this, but Brad has helped the community out a *lot* lately. Now we don't have to worry about getting hit by his Camaro while we travel down the road because he *finally* stops at stop signs, and he has even become a dedicated volunteer fireman.

It is true that Brad has a nice car, but one who just received a *brand new* convertible is **Katie Robinson**. Katie has always dreamed of traveling to bigger places, so Kelly Clarkson described Katie to a T in her hit, "Breakaway". Some may claim Katie is the quiet, nice type, but you just haven't seen her get mad at Andrew when he asks for a piece

of paper or pencil on a bad day. Katie may be petite and soft-voiced, but you have to remember big things *do* come in *small* packages.

One person who has *gotten* to know Katie well over the past few years is **Corey Sims**. Corey is *definitely* the worker of the class so Brooks and Dunn wrote a song for him when they wrote "Hard Working Man". It is good to see that Corey could make it down the aisle tonight without Coach Porter grabbing him and asking him to do a favor. The school will definitely miss Corey's hard work next year, but most importantly, everyone will miss seeing Corey in the "Yota" that he loves *so* much.

Another guy who loves his truck as much as Corey does is **Jai Swearingen**. Jai loves his truck so much that he even posed with it for his senior pictures, so "Mud on the Tires", by Brad Paisley, is his tune. Jai has always been the quiet one of the class, but we were glad to see him come out of his shell a little this past year. Jai sure knows how to complain though, and if you want to see him at his best, just come visit Mrs. Wilder's English class.

The person who was always there to keep Jai straight was **Coley Ray**. Coley loves to fish and is a true southern gal, so what else would be her song but "Redneck Woman" by Gretchen Wilson. Coley is a tough girl who is *very* outspoken; however, she has helped the class out a *lot* over the past two years since her mom was one of our sponsors. Coley will be headed to Columbia College in the fall so she won't be venturing too far from the lake that she loves *so* much.

Another one headed to Columbia for college is **Kyle McDaniel**. Kyle loves fast cars and has a hot temper at times so Ludacris' "Act a Foot" from 2 Fast 2 Furious is his special tune. It may be true that Kyle can become angry at times; however, he's a good person at heart since he was always *trying* to help out around the school. I guess he was trying to help burn up the school when he decided to stick a piece of metal in an electrical outlet in the 5th grade. Kyle has a thing about messing with fire, I do believe.

Kyle was not alone when he decided to have a little science experiment in 5th grade; **Holly Twitty**, our valedictorian, was right by his side. Those of you who attended Prom will understand exactly why Holly's song is the theme song from **Footloose**. Holly showed her individuality that night when she decided to hit the dance floor *all* by herself and danced like *no one* was watching. Also, Holly has never cared about what people thought of her sense of style; she loved her baggy jeans, shoes with flames on them, and black tips on her hair that we miss *so* much.

Another person in our class who isn't afraid to be himself is **Caleb Lynch**. The thing we love about Caleb the most is his ability to not care about what others think; therefore, the popular hit by Gavin DeGraw, "I Don't Wanna Be Anything" is Caleb's melody. Caleb always had his own sense of style, whether it was the jeans he wore or how he fixed his hair. He will definitely *not* be forgotten.

Another person who will not be forgotten and actually received the Most Unforgettable Superlative was **Michelle Jones**. Michelle is the tough girl from Chester who can hang with the boys so her song has to be "Bad to the Bone." She is a very funny girl once you get to know her, but watch out because you never know *what* will come out of her mouth. Michelle's crazy, loud mouth will surely be missed.

As for myself, my song for tonight is Kenny Chesney's hit "I Go Back." It's clear why, since tonight I have reflected on all our past experiences here at RWA by using song titles. We will always have the memories to look back on; however, now it's time to look ahead and move forward into the next chapters of our lives.

As you all can tell, each one of us is special in our own way and has brought something different to the class as a whole. Hopefully, whenever we are at the beach this summer or on campus next year at college, we will hear our songs on the radio, and it will bring each of us back to our times at Richard Winn. This evening we will all be stepping out into the real world no longer with this support system that we have had for so many years.

So tonight I will leave you with a few lyrics from "I Hope You Dance" by LeAnn Womack. "I hope you never lose your sense of wonder. You get your fill to eat, but you always keep that hunger. May you never take one single breath for granted. God forbid love ever leave you empty handed. I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean. Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens. Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance. And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance—*I hope you dance.*"

Courtney Collins

Be all of your confidence—believe in how strong you are. Make things happen. Know you're trusted, supported, and loved.