

Salutatorian Address

Good evening, board members, administrators, faculty, family, and friends. Today we, the class of 2009 graduate and embark on a new journey. Throughout the years, we have shared memories, germs and more importantly the beginning of our future. We stand here today, products of our environment, resilient, smart, and motivated. Rice has truly taught me much, like the value of friendship, and a respect for my history. It has personally been a source of my strength and has changed my life and those around me for the better.

As Rice men, we can never forget what R. I. C. E. stands for, responsibility, integrity, courage, and empowerment. These have been embedded in us over these four years and have undoubtedly helped in each of our lives. As we leave here, it is our duty to share this message with everyone we meet and then we have truly made the world a better place.

Goliath was a nine-foot-tall soldier from Gath. He bragged that he could beat any Israelite soldier who would fight him. However, all the Israelite soldiers were afraid to fight him. David was a young shepherd boy who believed in God. He said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine". David took his sling and five smooth stones from the brook. Then he went to fight Goliath. David threw a stone with his sling at Goliath.

It hit Goliath in the forehead and the giant fell face down. Without a sword in his hand, he struck down the giant and killed him. David believed in God, and God helped him win over the giant. We are David, and the world is Goliath. No, I'm not saying we need to leave these doors and attempt to destroy the world, but rather to conquer it. Stand tall, because if you are doing the right thing God will always be on your side.

In conclusion, I want to say, please graduates; do what make you happy. Don't let anyone pressure you to do otherwise. Also, love everything you do, and always do it wholeheartedly. And last, always be brave and never let fear stop you from achieving your goals. We must always have the courage to look back at ourselves and identify the mistakes we have made. Only then can we truly move forward as individuals.

Dr. Theodore Seuss Geisel, once said "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own, and you know what you know. You are the guys who'll decide where to go."