

# Cedarville Commencement Speakers Encourage Graduates To Welcome Change

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formed, the memories we've made, have all helped to make us the people we are today," she said. "What we don't know is what people will throw at us next, and how that will continue to shape us into the people we will become. We just have to be open to all that will be."

Salutatorian Kristen Duman described her transition from a larger city to the small community of Clark Township, when her family moved here and she was in the eighth grade.

"When I first heard I was moving to Cedarville, I thought my life was over," she said. "But in the reality, it was only the beginning."

One of her first experiences in moving from a Class A to a Class D school was when she was welcomed by almost her entire class at a "Meet the Trojans" barbecue at the beginning of the school year. She went on to receive a well-rounded education, she said, that has prepared her for the future and allowed her to participate in athletics, music, drama, various organizations, "and other activities I would normally not have been able to participate in at a larger school."

An education is what you make

of it, and "the one life lesson I learned that sticks out most to me is, if opportunity doesn't knock, build a door," she said.

Calling on the timeless words of Dr. Seuss's "Oh, the Places You'll Go," she told her classmates, "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 guy who'll decide where to go."

In another emotional address, Superintendent Rod Goehmann connected the words of the David Downes song "One World" to the Declaration of Independence and Les Cheneaux Community Schools' mission statement.

"We're all a part of one world. We all can share the same dream. And if you just reach out to me. Then you will find deep down inside. I'm just like you," are the lyrics he read, tying them to the Declaration's statement that "all men are created equal," and are endowed with the rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Those who support these ideals pledged themselves to protecting those rights for themselves and others, just like Les Cheneaux

Community Schools has pledged itself through its mission statement to provide a safe and orderly environment, improved communication between the people providing students with a home and education, and ultimately the goal of producing self-sufficient individuals, he said.

"I think if I compare the three statements, they all pretty much say the same thing," he said. "We all want the best for our kids, and we have a small, rural community that's providing a quality education for our students. There is a quiet, yet

tenacious quality of small, rural schools."

He thanked everyone for their roles in what he called a highly successful school year.

High School Principal Randy Schaedig gave the audience a description of the graduating senior class, noting that out of 34 graduates, 23 started kindergarten 13 years ago in Cedarville. Half the class qualified for the Michigan Promise grant before entering their freshman college year. The \$4,000 grant is pledged to students who

successfully complete all sections of the Michigan Education Assessment Program test. Those who did not qualify now for the grant may be eligible for it after completing two years of post-secondary education, Mr. Schaedig said.

Seventy five percent of the class is registered to pursue a post secondary education at places like University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Northern Michigan University, cosmetology school, and Aquinas, Hope, Baker, and Alpena colleges. One student

will play football at St. Norbert College in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and another will play volleyball for Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie. Seven of the students qualified for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Principal's Award, and 19 wore honor cords to signify a 3.0 or better grade point average.

The class set two academic records, Mr. Schaedig said, with three students scoring higher than 30 on their American College Tests,

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Cedarville seniors (from left) Carly Yaste and Jamie Hurban prepare to march to commencement ceremonies Sunday, May 27.



Julie McGreevy (from left) congratulates Kevin Leach and Aaron Sherlund outside the gymnasium in Cedarville before the boys participate in commencement ceremonies Sunday, May 27.

# Congratulations Cedarville Class of 2007



Justin Baker	Nicholas Benko	Rebecca Bickham	Charlene Brisette	Robert Coady	Courtney Cruickshank	Joseph Currie
Thomas Dowdell	Ashley Dresbach	Kristen Duman	Dale Dunn	James Eberts	Kathleen Eberts	Emily Feldhake
Keith Foster	Rebecca Gregg	Kara Griffin	Leigh Ann Hamel	Mathew Hansen	Olivia Huffman	Jamie Hurban
Kevin Leach	Lindsay McLeod	Rhianna Milligan	Justin Moss	Alex Paquin	Elizabeth Patrick	Michael Pollard
Angela Rickley	Aaron Sherlund	Jordan Sweeney	Peter Treleven	Austin Walker	Amy Winberg	Carly Yaste

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