

Huntington High School's 150th Commencement

Rebecca Deegan's Introduction of Salutatorian Michelle Byrne

This next speaker is someone very close to my heart. She is without a doubt recognized for her intelligence and dedication to her schoolwork. However, anyone that has gone to school with this girl the past few years will be able to tell you that nobody could be as devoted to their friends, their family, and especially their heritage as she is.

She has been involved with Irish Step dancing her whole life; at times it has been her whole life. It is well understood that she is never to be bothered during March, when her busy schedule prevents her from doing anything but attending her "Feshes" or recitals. Too many times during this month, the suggestion of plans for a Friday night will receive a response of, "Are you kidding me?! I'm going to sleep. I have a fesh tomorrow!" However, despite how annoyed she sometimes seems to be with the whole ordeal, her friends know that she would not be able to live without this chaotic activity.

What is most incredible is that she is somehow able to balance her dancing with her schoolwork, though these are both activities that require one's full attention. How she is able to put such incredible energy into everything she sets out to do is very impressive; I imagine she doesn't sleep much. However, her devotion, work ethic, and of course pride in herself and her heritage, are noticed and admired by all. Also noticed is her ever-present loyalty and compassion toward her friends and classmates. Her infectious

laughter can be heard throughout the hallways, and is enough to brighten the mood of anyone having a bad day.

I am fortunate enough to call her one of my best friends, with the knowledge that her busy schedule will never prevent her from helping a person in need. Cornell University will be extremely lucky to have her, and she will be sorely missed by the Class of 2011 and all of Huntington High School. Please give a very warm welcome to our salutatorian, Michelle Byrne.