

Huntington High School's 150th Commencement

Danielle Cerezo's Introduction of Valedictorian Carolyn Fante

Thank you, Jonah for the wonderful introduction.

Carolyn Fante, widely known as Carrie, came to Huntington in her freshman year. From there, she quickly proved herself to be of impressive scholarship material. She rose to the top, competing against the brightest of Huntington High School. But I'm sure you are all aware of her incredible academic achievements. I'm here to tell you about the Carrie I know.

When Carrie first moved to Huntington, I'm sure she was apprehensive. But not once did she miss an opportunity to meet new people. She tried out for the soccer team and joined several clubs. She played an integral role in the volunteer community, serving dinners at HHHI every week, helping to run a prom for the older citizens of Huntington and participating in any and every student government event--even though she was never an officer. Carrie joined the school newspaper, rising to become managing editor and eventually one of two editors-in-chief. She served as the president of the National Honor Society, essentially "running the show" for the prestigious organization. She is also a member of four other honor societies and countless clubs, contributing her dedication, enthusiasm, and ambition to each.

In the four years I have known her, Carrie has been a constant support. Through her presence at school plays, sports games, school events and outside activities, she has given both her close friends and her acquaintances

encouragement. She is always willing to help with a tough science lab or homework question. It is a testament to her character that she would help explain a concept that she had learned three years ago.

Although her grades and club memberships may give this illusion, Carrie is not a slave to her education. She is good company, an excellent book recommender, and an incredible friend. She is willing to go to great lengths, both literally and figuratively, to see the performance of one of her friends. And we always have a great time. Carrie is a wonderful person to be around. She is constantly happy, bringing sunlight to any situation. I am so blessed to count her as one of my best friends.

Though the days of AP Lit reflections, physics labs and economics graphs may be over for some of us, our lives still go on. We will soon part ways, each going to his or her respective colleges. Though I will dearly miss the Class of 2011, I know that everyone who has been a part of this section in our lives will go on to do extraordinary things.

And now I am sure you are all eager to hear from the remarkable young woman you have heard so much about. Please join me in welcoming the 2011 valedictorian, Carolyn Fante.