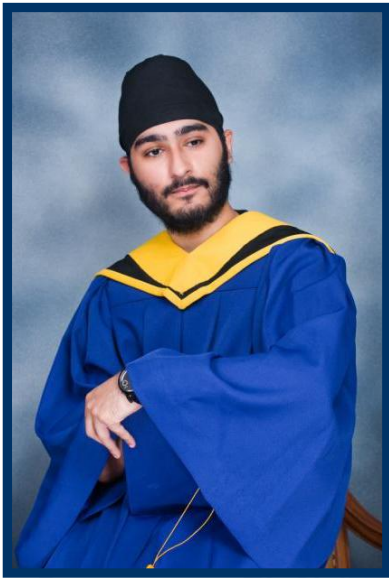




Changing the world, one student at a time...

Wells International School



Written and delivered by the Class of 2011's valedictorian, Surachaet "Nick" Charaschanya. Nick was offered the US \$36,000 Presidential Scholarship by Colorado State University, where he is now enrolled.

Good evening respected guests, staff, family, friends and fellow graduates. I am truly honored to be standing here today representing the graduating class of 2011. On behalf of the graduates, I would like to thank you for joining us on this memorable occasion.

It was only three days ago when I was asked to write this speech and present it to this crowd of over 200 people. I felt both honored and distraught at such a task, for I did not know what to write or how to write it. Then after spending two nights contemplating, memories finally struck me about all the fun times we spent as a class back when none of the men had facial hair, and the girls hadn't tried on their first pair of heels. These past memories reminded me of how unique and exceptional this graduating class really is, and how much we have changed and grown together into who we are today and who will be in the future.

As time has passed us by so quickly, from all those years ago into the last hour of our senior year, it seems more than appropriate to thank all of our teachers and faculty for all of their time and effort spent fostering our growth, and preventing us from doing something foolish. Not so long ago, we were still skipping classes, copying each other's homework (and in some cases photocopying it), just to receive a lecture from Mr. Jared and Mr. Ray later on. It might not have been the smartest thing to do, especially during our senior year, but behind every dark cloud is a silver lining, because if it weren't for these bad habits, we wouldn't have developed a bond with our teachers: a bond that shows us the difference between right and wrong; a bond that helps us during our most difficult times; a bond as strong as friendship; and most importantly, a bond that puts here today.

*Whenever I hear students from other schools talk about Wells, it always seems to be about the same things: how small the school is in regard to the number of students, infrastructure and classes. Although this may be true, as is known within the heart of every student here, it is also the reason why this institute is doing exceedingly well. With everyone as friends, from teachers to students, and every classroom a family, this school provides an environment that other international schools could only **wish** to achieve, while maintaining academic excellence. And as a member of the graduating class, I am proud to say that my classmates are my family, and we share every experience and act as a whole—whether working on upcoming events like the prom and dance nights, toughing it out through our AP classes, or even helping each other solve stressful relationship problems. We can always count on each other to be there and pass through the task. These past years have not only been measured by the amount of work done, hearts broken, or tears shed, but by the number of friends we have made along the way as well.*

If there is one phrase I would use to describe my class, it would be this, by Eleanor Roosevelt: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." For my friends, who possess diverse ideas and interests—some in psychology, some in engineering, some in mathematics—let your passion be your guiding light. For I know that we will prosper, we will be successful and we will make a positive difference in the world. Pause a moment, look around, and take all of this in, for a night like this should always be treasured. Class of 2011: I am not going to say goodbye, but good luck. For wherever life may take you, I know that our paths will cross again.

Thank you.

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