



Since 1911

BAKER COLLEGE OF CLINTON TOWNSHIP

BAKER BULLETIN

SUMMER 2015

GRADUATION EDITION

GRADUATION SPEECH BY STUDENT TIERA ROBINSON



Tiera Robinson received her Bachelor of Human Services degree

Good morning President Torline, deans, faculty, distinguished guests, family, friends, and fellow graduates.

Behavioral scientist and best-selling author, Dr. Steve Maraboli encourages us to “Let today be the day we stop being haunted by the ghost of yesterday. Holding on [to] grudges, harboring anger and resentment are poisonous to the soul.” He continues, “Get even with people, but not those who hurt us, forget them, instead, get even with those who have helped us.”

I chose to matriculate into Baker College of Clinton Township because I knew what I wanted. I wanted a great higher education experience. I wanted to be treated like a human being. I wanted to be taught by men and women who experienced what they were teaching. I wanted a challenge and a chance to expand my brain. I wanted a rigorous curriculum with instructors who cared and understood what “life happens” really means.

I would like to thank all of the instructors for accommodating us--mothers, fathers, graveyard-shift workers, homeless, unemployed students, to the best of your power without doing so unethically. **FOR THAT I THANK YOU!**

Furthermore, I knew I needed extra help until I better understood what college life was really about. I knew what I was looking for. Baker College was where I received the tools I needed to succeed in the real work world. I knew I needed

genuine greetings, as I tackled a seemingly far-fetched goal. I received such genuineness. **FOR THAT I THANK YOU!**

For four active years--I, just as many of you, have overcome hurdles--heartache, job loss, crisis, childcare issues, transportation issues, and even deaths. For me, not just a familial death, but unfortunately the death of my mother--my support system and my friend. Four years of such agony, and stumbling blocks did not stop me! Those hardships only built my endurance, immunity, and strength. All odds were against me, a welfare recipient--after losing my job due to my son’s medical emergency. I overcame such hardships.

Baker College appeared to me as hope; hope in my stereotypical, statistical situation--a single black teenage mother of three kids. **By the way, did you know you were sitting next to me--whom society deemed a statistic?**

I knew attending Baker would increase my confidence, self-esteem and drive, diminishing fears that held me captive. Attending Baker turned a young introverted adult into a more caring extrovert. I blossomed in its classrooms. I have watched many of you blossom as well. Most of us shed tears, for both disappointments and accomplishments. We were faced with many challenges. It was then we realized how capable we

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(Continued on page 3)

Congratulations Class of 2015



The graduates of Baker College of Clinton Township Class of 2015 gathered together for wonderful commencement ceremony on June 13th. Guests of the graduates, along with faculty and staff of the college, celebrated the achievements of these outstanding students. The proud graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas from Campus President Don Torline and members of the Board of Regents. There were 735 degrees awarded, which included masters, bachelors, associates, and certificates.

The Baker community salutes the graduates, as well as their family and friends who supported them in their accomplishments. It is an honor to have worked with you in reaching your educational goals. We look forward to hearing

from you about your successes as you progress in your career. We will be here to help in the future, be it for employment assistance or to further advance your education.

Best wishes to the class of 2015! May your future dreams come true!

Commencement Program

Processional	“Processional March”, A. Gulamant
O Canada! and Star Spangled Banner	Alyssa Ferri accompanied by Ken Kepler
Invocation	Rev. Lawrence Healy
Welcome and Remarks	Donald Torline, Campus President
Recommendation of Faculty	Dr. Laura Treanor, Vice President of Academics
Presentation of the Class of 2015	Donald Torline, Campus President
Commencement Student Speaker	Tiera Robinson, Bachelor of Human Services
Presentation of Academic Awards	Department Deans and Board of Regents
Presentation of Diplomas	Donald Torline, Campus President and Board of Regents
Benedictions	Rev. Lawrence Healy
Recessional	“Pomp and Circumstance”, Edward Elgar

Henry Lowe, Interpreter for Hearing Impaired

(Tiera Robinson, continued from page 1)

really were—surprising ourselves during the most stressful times of each quarter--mid-terms and finals. We did it--we passed those tests as well as many life tests that were presented as heightened pop quizzes.

SEE HOW CAPABLE WE ARE?

“If we can make it there we can make it anywhere”, reaffirm Jay-Z and Alicia Keys in the song, “Empire State of Mind.” We have done that—overcome personal barriers, student-centered barriers, and stumbling blocks of all kinds—preparing us to march toward a brighter future.

This is why I chose Baker, because I trusted that they would equip me with tools to accomplish my goals and become a better role model for my three kids. Thank you for such equipment: **confidence** to move forward; **knowledge** to challenge tough topics; **experience** to better deal with my cohorts; **endurance** to sustain in the real world and **self-esteem** to stand before you today.

I walked into Baker College as a disorganized, confused young adult student. Today, however, I am leaving through the same doors confident, full of life, energetic, capable and with my head held high.

Fellow graduates, keep focused, keep pressing your way forward--life is too short to entertain stumbling blocks. Do not let your current situation be your final position. There is much more to accomplish in your life, in your community and in this world. As long as you have life, breathe life into someone else--utilize whatever skills you can until you literally cannot press your way through anymore. Apply your talents and gifts wisely, for they are not to be hidden. As Steve Maraboli told us, let's get even with the great people, who did well to us and spoke well of us. Revenge has never sounded so melodic.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES! THANK YOU!



SPECIAL AWARDS



Business / Technology

Salvatore Biondo
Bachelor of Business Administration
Accounting

Allante Simmons
Associate of Applied Science
Automotive Services Technology

Education

Emily Tabor
Bachelor of Science in Education
Elementary Teacher Preparation - Language
Arts

Jeremy Sutphin
Bachelor of Science in Education
Elementary Teacher Preparation - Social
Studies

Health Sciences

Catherine Bingle
Associate of Applied Science
Medical Assistant

Nichole Kardas
Bachelor of Health Science
Health Services Administration

Human Services

Jakina Bailey
Associate of Applied Science
Early Childhood Education

Terrance Downey Jr.
Bachelor of Human Services
Human Services

Outstanding Students

Malcolm Gibson
Bachelor of Human Services
Human Services

Cedomir Stefanovich
Bachelor of Information Technology and
Security
Information Assurance

Lynnette M. Zaner Design Technology **Award**

Mark Lawson II
Bachelor of Interior Design
Interior Design

"You cannot help but learn more as you take
the world into your hands. Take it up
reverently, for it is an old piece of clay, with
millions of thumbprints on it."

John Updike