

Wow. That's all I can really say right now

If you had told me Freshman Year that I would be giving a speech at the senior banquet for the school for creative and performing arts, I probably would have run away. **First of all** because I didn't even go to this school; I spent Freshman year at a prep school in Connecticut where my main focuses were Cross Country and Tennis; **Secondly**, because I have never given a speech in my life. Upon discovering that I was supposed to talk about what SCAPA has meant to me, to be honest, I had no idea how to fit it all in 3-5 minutes. What do I talk about? Do I talk about the Weekly practice Logs that are required for all Vocal Majors, which I have never done, except for the very few that I made up on the spot? Do I talk about the 2 weeks of ridicule that I experienced upon bleaching out my hair in Preparation for SCAPA's Production of *Cats*? Having tears streaming down my face as I receive a standing ovation during the finale of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*? Then I realized what has been the most valuable part of being in this program.

While I am sure that anyone you ask would tell you that I am calm, cool, collected, and never overdramatic, walking through the doors of Lafayette at the beginning of sophomore year, I'll be honest: I was a little rattled. 12 years of conservative private school had taught me that self-expression and individualism shouldn't happen. However when I started meeting my classmates and fellow artists, I understood how it is our self-expression that causes our individualism. I would have never guessed I would have met such diverse people as the ones who are sitting here tonight. The states best saxophonist who is also a talented athlete; A Teenage Opera Singer who likes to figure skate on the weekends, an incredible artist with a flair for fashion and photoshop. A dramatic actor who is the lead singer of a rock band, or a die hard Josh Groban fan who enjoys writing some of the most beautiful poems I've ever read. These are the people that have consistently been my inspiration, my colleagues, and my friends. Some of these people I've known since I was 4 years old, others I've just gotten to know this year. This is what has been the most important part of being in SCAPA. Seniors, look around. These are the people that you will look back on and remember growing with as an artist. SCAPA has led

us all to meet interesting and creative peers that we will be friends with for the rest of our lives. I hope you all have cherished your time with each other as much as I have with you. Every single one of you is incredibly talented and you all have inspired me so much over my time here. I am so proud and humbled to be in your company tonight. Thank You.