

Student Lasallian Commencement Address
December 2014
Presented by Josiah Bolanos

Good afternoon, members of the Board of Trustees, Brother James, honored guests, faculty, staff, fellow graduates, parents, family and friends. Before I begin my address I want to praise each and every single graduate on making it to where you are today. I especially want to applaud every individual who has supported you, loved you and provided for you while you were earning your degree.

Don't be afraid! Don't be afraid of what, you ask. Don't be afraid of packing your bags and pursuing your dreams. Don't be afraid of finding a faith that best suits you. But most importantly, and I can't stress this enough, don't be afraid of discovering who you really are and what absolutely truly makes you happy. Finding fulfillment in life is as simple as that. No secrets no tricks. Our Lewis Lasallian education has provided us with the skills to achieve our dreams and overcome any particular fear that can set us back. But in order to figure out how we arrived to this point, we need to first ask ourselves, how did Lewis help me overcome these challenges? How did I get here?

For many of us it began on our first day at Lewis as incoming freshman or transfer students. For all of us, it was

well. Believe it or not, I lost 20 pounds in those weeks because I was so distraught from culture shock and homesickness. In the end, however, my study abroad experience was the greatest