

Joy
A Reflection on and to the Graduates in the
Department of Counseling --- Class of 2006

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Brightness comes on quiet mornings
 as individually and collectively
 you fill the Counseling Suite
 with your laughter and bantering.

Smiles emerge at noon
 as you sometimes eat indescribable lunches,
 share communal desserts and special birthdays,
 while good-naturedly attacking ideas
 that have come forth from morning classes.

Cooperation enters in the afternoon,
 like a familiar friend,
 as you complete your final tasks of the day
 and look for ways to both stay alert
 and help your fellow classmates.

Silence dominates most nights
 as you read, reflect, and finally succumb to sleep
 with heads full of ideas, experiences, and the ideals
 of who you are becoming.

But the rhythm you're given time is not
 what makes you special --
 it is your spirit!

You have an openness to life as wide as a castle door
 and a curiosity deeper than any artesian well.

You have come together
 and stayed united
 without losing your uniqueness
 or crowding one another.

Your intensity, your passion,
 your warmth, and your voices
 are impressions that will linger here
 long after you depart.

So cheerfully and reluctantly, as faculty,
 we wish you well,
 sincerely hoping for your success ,
 yet aware that in leaving
 your destinations
will be full of the expected as well as the unknown
 which will unfold in ways

**that surprise and delight you
and that may occasionally bring you sorrow.**

**Therefore go, knowing we have grown with you
by exploring the world of counseling
and all that it encompasses
Stay in touch with words on holidays
and at random moments
and keep this thought close at hand.**

**You will always have a home here
in memory and reality
for you have filled the halls
and all of our lives
with unforgettable joy.**