

Dear Member of the Class of 1960

My name is Timothy Thompson and I am a First Classman from Indianapolis, Indiana. I come from a family of four, one sister, a mom, and a dad. My sister is younger than me and attends a boarding school in St. Louis called The Principia. My great uncle and my mom's cousin have both attended Culver, but I am the first in my direct family to attend.

This year I am the Unit Commander for Battery B for the first senior make. It has been a great honor to lead my peers and create a unit of brothers. At Culver there is nothing more important than a good bond between a unit, and that does not come without hard work. To become Unit Commander I have worked my way up the leadership ladder doing everything from being a good follower to teaching the new cadets how to live their day to day lives. The leadership opportunities that Culver has taught are preparing me for the future. I have learned to be responsible for myself and a group of young men around me. I have just been notified that I will serve as the Artillery Battalion Adjutant for the second make.

The classes that I am taking this year have all been new to me and they have opened my mind up to the world outside of Culver's bubble. There is a running joke on campus that Culver has a bubble over it and no information from the "real world" gets in or out. Government and Economics have exposed us to current news articles, which I have enjoyed and have learned from. Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus, while difficult, has been one of my favorite classes. The reason for this is it is a challenge. I push myself to truly understand the work, and AP Calculus pushes me even more.

I play hockey and golf. Both of these sports allow me to get away from the stresses of everyday life and have fun. I have been on Varsity Hockey Team for the past 3 years. We won the state championship last year! It was a very cool experience. I hope to repeat that and win another state championship in the early spring. Golf is a sport of ups and downs. You never know what you're going to get when you tee up your first shot, but the atmosphere of the game and being outside is what makes it incredible. While these are the two sports that I play at Culver, snow skiing is my true passion. I have lived in Indiana for most of my life so skiing hasn't really been part of the picture. There is a small ski slope in southern Indiana, but that is it. I have always built terrain parks in my front yard, and whenever I am given the chance to go skiing I take it. The feeling of being on a mountain, with just you and the snow, is like none other.

Next year for college I hope to attend Colorado School of Mines. It is an engineering school, and I have wanted to be an engineer since I was little. It is also in Colorado, which if you ask my parents is what I dream about at night (to ski, of course). Also, on my list are The University of Colorado at Boulder, The United States Naval Academy, and The United States Air Force Academy. Right now I am in the waiting process, but I know everything will turn out the way it is supposed to even if it is not how I may perceive it to be right now.

Reflecting on my senior year, I hope to bring away the leadership techniques that I have learned throughout my four years here. Being able to lead your peers is a huge part of being successful in life, and I believe Culver has prepared me for many of the difficulties that may be thrown at me. I would like to thank the class of 1960 for helping me to attend this great institution. I have learned many things, made great friends, and have had experiences that I will never forget. I could never have done it without your help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Thompson