

EXCITEMENT AND PRIDE

GRADUATION IS A TIME FOR FAMILIES TO REFLECT ON PAST, LOOK TO FUTURE

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he same old familiar scene . . . seniors march into the gym while the band plays Pomp and Circumstance in the background. Parents, family, and friends gather in the gym for the commencement ceremony.

As the seniors enter the gym, one typical set of parents, John and Kathy Densmore, watch their last child, Terry, graduate tonight. John is happy, proud, and excited, but a little scared. Kathy reflects, "I can't believe he's old enough to graduate. It is going to seem strange not having anyone in school anymore." John has fears about Terry being on his own, but not Kathy.

As the seniors take their seats, Kathy feels sadness. John thinks, "This is it. Our baby is done with school and heading to the work force." Along with the seriousness of graduation, John and Kathy enjoy lighter moments. One is when Shelly Seifert makes Terry stand long enough to take two pictures. As the evening begins to wind down, Kathy realizes that the hardest part of graduation is knowing that Terry is going to be a young adult and won't be at home a lot anymore. John adds, "The hardest part of graduation will be his venturing into the unknown."

Graduation, whether from a parent's point of view or the graduate's, is a time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. To recall the good and the bad times but also to look forward to the future.

Sara Jean McGillis

WAY TO GO, ANGIE! Sarah Brzak offers her sister Angie a congratulatory embrace after the commencement ceremonies. Angie graduated third in her class.