



# 84 Steps:

## Senior Edition

### Class of 2015



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# **A Letter From the Editor**

Hello Fellow KAMSC Seniors,

Wow, we are graduating from HIGH SCHOOL. We have made it (although I'm still not sure how)! It's time for sentimentality, happiness, excitement, a few tears, goodbyes, and celebration. We have climbed the 84 steps literally hundreds (maybe even thousands?) of times and we are now climbing them for the last few times as students of this great place. We have so much to look forward to in the very near future and yet so much to fondly remember from our four years of high school and twelve years of amazing education.

I, personally, am so proud to have been able to lead our KAMSC Student Newspaper and Student Senate for the past year. I could not love this place more if I tried and all of my senior peers make me so elated to have been able to lead. Whether attending a private, public, large, small, close by, or far away college, we are all going amazing places and we are all going to do amazing things. So I ask us all to look back on our KAMSC years and remember all of the connections we have made, the beautiful memories we take with us, and remember that those doors in the big, brick building on Vine Street in good, ol' Kalamazoo are always open to us, no matter our place in life. Take this newspaper edition with you as you go and read it to see our excitement for college and our memories of KAMSC!

# **KAMSC Senior College Matriculation**

College here we come! Below you'll find the college matriculation of the KAMSC Class of 2015, and wow are they going to some fantastic universities!

Andrews, Cameron	Michigan State U (Honors)
Baldwin, William	U Michigan (Engineering)
Batsell, James	U Michigan (Engineering)
Beck, Grace	Kalamazoo College
Bertman, Isaac	Denison U
Betts, Madelyn	Kalamazoo College
Blinkiewicz, Hailey	U Michigan (LS&A)
Bower, Samuel	U Michigan (LS&A)
Brown, Alexander	Western Michigan U
Butt, Kaylie	Milwaukee School of Engineering
Callahan, Patrick	MIT
Chapin, Abby	U Michigan (Engineering)
Chu, Ian	U Michigan (LS&A)
Coles, Adam	Colgate U
Comes, Alec	Michigan State U (Honors)
D'Souza, Kathleen	U Michigan (Engineering)
Eldridge, Seth	U Wisconsin- Madison
Emenheiser, Anna	Kalamazoo College
Epskamp-Hunt, Eleanor	U Michigan (LS&A)
Ervin, McKinzie	Kalamazoo College
Esman, Shelby	Western Michigan University
Fenwick, Edward	U Michigan (Engineering)
Folsom, Calvin	Western Michigan U (Honors)
Gulliver, Samuel	Kalamazoo College
Hamman, Carolyn	U Miami
Haney, Isabella	Kalamazoo College
Hanley, Colby	U Michigan (Engineering)
Johnson, Lars	U Michigan (LS&A)
Kamath, Sharat	Kalamazoo College

Kleber, Lyric  
Kotekal, Subhodh  
Kwon, Kimberly  
Le, An  
Le, Binh  
Lenning, Benjamin  
Maddux, Benjamin  
Martell, Cydney  
Mendez, Chloe  
Meyers, Hannah  
Mills, Zacharias  
Nwagbo, Ugochukwu  
Ochoa, Jorge  
O'Leary, Helen  
Park, Kayla  
Perrin, Gabrielle  
Pruitt, Miles  
Rastogi, Kabir  
Razi, Farzad  
Reid, Elizabeth  
Rizzolo, Skylar  
Russcher, Parker  
Schultz, Peter  
Shirey, Abigail  
Smith, Margaret  
Spitsbergen, Jake  
Steinman, Michael  
Strehl, Elizabeth  
Vlachos, Zoe  
Wait, Haley  
Waltz, Matoska  
Werme, Kevin  
Wile, Jessica  
Woodsmith, Tristan  
Yang, Chang

U Michigan (LS&A)  
U Chicago  
Macalester College  
Yale U  
MIT  
Western Michigan University  
U Michigan (Engineering)  
Kalamazoo College  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Kalamazoo College  
Michigan Tech U  
U Michigan (Engineering)  
Columbia U  
U Michigan (LS&A)  
Kalamazoo College  
US Naval Academy  
Hope College  
University of Michigan  
Kalamazoo College  
U Michigan (Engineering)  
Kalamazoo College  
Michigan Tech U  
Kalamazoo College  
U Notre Dame  
Kalamazoo College  
Michigan State U (Lyman Briggs)  
Western Michigan U  
U of Michigan (Engineering)  
University of Colorado Boulder  
North Central College  
U Michigan (Engineering)  
U Michigan (Engineering)  
Kalamazoo College  
U Michigan (LS&A)  
U Michigan (LS&A)

## **College is Exciting Because...**

- “I’ll have control of my schedule.” –Bill Baldwin
- “I’ll live in a new city.” –Binh Le
- “Food & fun.” –Kimberly Kwon
- “The Ann Arbor community and atmosphere.” –Lars Johnson
- “Having time to eat lunch.” –Michael Steinman
- “I’ll make new friends and being more independent.” –Shelby Esman
- “I’ll have a large amount of time to think about doing work and then still doing it the day before anyway.” –Ed Fenwick
- “I’ll meet different people with like interests.” –Miles Pruitt
- “Freedom.” –Sharat Kamath
- “I’ll be in a galaxy far, far away.” –Zoe Vlachos
- “Nice public transportation.” Ellie Epskamp-Hunt
- “All of the different things to do at UMich and in Ann Arbor.” –Colby Hanley
- “Being involved in K College campus events and organizations.” –Kinzie Ervin
- “Being an independent person.” –Sam Gulliver
- “Sports.” –An Le
- “I’m excited to meet new people and serve our country as a student in the US Naval Academy.” –Gabby Perrin
- “Adventure.” –Isabella Haney
- “Not waking up early and having shorter school days.” –Grace Beck
- “Majoring in Media and Information at MSU.” –Alec Comes
- “Being independent and exploring campus.” –Grace Beck

## **NON School-Related College Fun**

As KAMSC kids we will of course be studying a ton in college. But everyone needs a little fun in their life! So here are a few fun activities in a few of the college towns in which our KAMSC Seniors will soon live!

- **Kalamazoo, MI**

- Rock climb at Climb Kalamazoo!
- Bike the Kal-Haven Trail!
- Go visit a local vintage bookstore like Kazoo Books!

- **Ann Arbor, MI**

- Catch a movie at the Michigan Theater!
- Visit the University of Michigan Art Museum!
- Go to a concert at the Hill Auditorium!

- **Boston, MA**

- Go get \$10 “Brunch Fiesta” from Masa’s!
- Go take a tour of Fenway Park!
- Go stargazing at Boston U’s Public Open Night at the Observatory!

- **Lansing, MI**

- Go on a nerdy trip to the Michigan State Capitol!
- Go on a beautiful nature hike at Sleepy Hollow State Park!
- Go see some awesome cars at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum!

- **South Bend, IN**

- Get your inner-yogi on at the Dhanwantari Center for Yoga and Well-Being!
- Go have a little quiet time at the Grotto behind the Basilica!
- Go get caught up on your football knowledge by visiting the College Football Hall of Fame!

- **Milwaukee, WI**

- Go watch a Milwaukee Brewers MLB Baseball Game!
- Go visit the beautiful Pabst Mansion!

- Learn art and culture at the Milwaukee Art Museum!
- **Annapolis, MD**
  - Take a sailing lesson in Chesapeake Bay!
  - Go check out the Annapolis Film Festival!
  - Enjoy the beauty of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century pleasure garden in Annapolis!
- **New York, NY**
  - Try some fantastic, Jewish delicacies at the very popular Russ & Daughters Café!
  - Go take a walk in the unique and beautiful Washington Square Park!
  - Take a visit to The Strand: a special, one-of-a-kind bookstore that will make you the coolest hipster of all with its vintage merchandise!
- **Madison, WI**
  - Enjoy some amazing comedy and improve at the Monkey Business Institute!
  - Go watch a Madison Mallards game!
  - Take advantage of the capitol city and take a tour of the Wisconsin State Capitol!
- **New Haven, CT**
  - Grab a slice of pizza at Frank Pepe Pizzeria!
  - Visit the Yale University Art Gallery to enjoy a little refined culture!
  - Have fun at the Lighthouse Point Park and Carousel!
- **Boulder, CO**
  - Go on a hot air balloon ride!
  - Go on a Segway tour of beautiful Boulder!
  - Grab some fresh, organic food at the Boulder County Farmers Market!
- **Naperville, IL**
  - Go skydiving at Naperville's iFLY Indoor Skydiving!
  - Put your artistic talents to the test at Pinot's Palette!
  - Unleash your inner child at Chasers Laser Tag!



- **St. Paul, MN**

- Grab some cool, retro food at Mickey's Dining Car!
- Take a beautiful walk through Irvine Park!
- Experience great music at the Twin Cities Jazz Festival!

- **Granville, OH**

- Visit the majestic Bryn Du Mansion!
- Go on an education-filled trip to the Denison Museum!
- Go catch a film at Midland Theater!

- **Houghton, MI**

- Go on a hike at Nara Nature Park!
- Grab some sweets from The Yummy Bar!
- Go skiing at one of the many mountains around town!

- **Chicago, IL**

- Go experience some great culture at the Chicago Art Museum!
- Have a huge laugh at the ever-so-famous Second City on the north side!
- Get a little cliché and check out the top of the Willis Tower (everyone needs to do it once)!

- **Hamilton, NY**

- Go check out a cool movie at Hamilton Movie Theater!
- Take a beautiful hike along the Chenango Canal!
- Grab a delicious, sweet treat from Maxwell's!

## **College Bucket List**

- Attend at least two different sporting events.
- Join a club outside of your comfort zone.
- Study outside of your college town whether somewhere else in the US or abroad.
- Go to at least one college a cappella concert.

- Take a completely random class just for fun.
- Get your best school spirit on and go to your college's homecoming.
- Post a cool pic of your school taken by you onto the social media platform of your choosing.
- Befriend someone totally different from you.
- Go to a campus theater production/choir performance/orchestra performance.
- Get a picture with your school's mascot.
- Participate in an Alternative Spring Break hosted by your school.
- Go to cultural/religious/ethnic events on campus.
- Go stargazing on the roof of a university building.
- Try out a cool, local restaurant.
- Take a class for a language you've never learned.
- Finally, GRADUATE!

## **20 Things We'll Miss About KAMSC**

- Sci-Fi Film Fest
- Class Clash
- The satisfying feeling after having just completed a science practical or a math test
- Reminiscing and laughing about the story of how Miles broke all of those beakers in AP Bio
- KAMSC Formal
- Mr. Sinclair's epic End-of-Junior-Year Speech (and anticipated epic End-of-Senior-Year Speech)
- Research Night
- Being taught by brilliant/eccentric/unique teachers
- Getting out of school at 2 (aka way earlier than our home schools)

- Being more enthralled in a lecture about Isaac Newton than you ever thought you would be because Mr. Sinclair is epic
- KAMSC Soccer Team
- Mr. Houtrouw's eccentricity and unique computer science analogies
- KAMSC Talent Show
- Having an excuse to pick up fast food for lunch whilst driving to and from KAMSC
- Dissecting/being grossed out by/being mystified by the Biology pigs
- Watching Dr. T blow up stuff in Chemistry
- DJ Ice
- Laughing about how innocent and inexperienced the new first years are
- Chillin' in the commons and student lounge
- Finally, being surrounded by like-minded, intelligent, inspirational people who all care about each other

## **College Groups We Plan to Join**

- "Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Society of Women Engineers, a sorority." –Kaylie Butt
- "Varsity soccer and coin collecting." –An Le
- "Possibly Adventure club at K College." –Sam Gulliver
- "Intramural sports and research." –Sharat Kamath
- "The CU club swim team." –Zoe Vlachos
- "The Christian Fellowship and Frelon (the dance company) at K College." –Kinzie Lee (Ervin)
- "Recreational sports and engineering club(s)." –Miles Pruitt
- "Intramural sports at UMich." –Lyric Kleber
- "String quartet/orchestra." –Ellie Epskamp-Hunt

- “Research, BlueLab (engineering international service group), and yoga club.” –Colby Hanley
- “A frat.” –Ugo Nwagbo
- “Solar Car Team at Michigan.” –Ed Fenwick
- “Community service campus group.” –Shelby Esman
- “Aerospace Club.” –Parker Russcher
- “Theater, choral groups, church groups.” –Lars Johnson
- “Math club and service organizations.” –Haley Wait
- “Varsity soccer.” –Binh Le
- “Scuba diving, movie club, cooking club.” –Carolyn Hamman
- “Ski club.” –Abby Shirey
- “I plan to run varsity cross country and track and be a member of the Catholic organization at the Naval Academy.” –Gabby Perrin
- “I would love to join the Kalamazoo Philharmonia and maybe even the K College Circus or an a capella group.”
- “In an effort to lower my stress, I would love to join the yoga club.” –Grace Beck
- “I want to do *a capella* and theater at K College.” –Maggie Smith
- “I really want to be in the Improv Club and try Open-Mic Nights at MSU.” –Alec Comes

## **How the World Has Changed Since We Were Born (1997/6-Now)**

	<b>1997/6</b>	<b>Now</b>
<b>Top Movies</b>	“Titanic”, “Good Will Hunting”, “Men in Black”, “My Best Friend’s Wedding”, “Home Alone 3”	“Boyhood”, “Interstellar”, “Birdman”, “Selma”, “American Sniper”, “Gone Girl”

<b>Top Song</b>	“Candle in the Wind” by Elton John	“Uptown Funk” by Mark Ronson
<b>Average Cost of Gas</b>	\$1.22 per gallon	\$2.87 per gallon
<b>Average Cost of a Movie Ticket</b>	\$4.59	\$8.17
<b>US President</b>	Bill Clinton	Barack Obama
<b>Pop Culture Fads</b>	Beanie Babies, Rollerblades, Spice Girls, Piercings, “Rachel” Haircut, Grunge, Fanny Packs	Cupcake Shops, Food Trucks, Hipsters, Selfies, Twerking, “YOLO”, The Kardashians
<b>Our Age</b>	0 years old	18 years old

## **7 Ways KAMSC Prepared Us for College**

1. We. Know. How. To. Study. Whether math exam, lab practical, computer math test, or physics quiz, we know how to study and study hard.
2. We can handle a little challenge. At KAMSC we and our teachers have not played around. Tight deadlines, countless assessments, and high standards are the name of our game, and this mindset will help us so much in college.
3. We already have learned to love diversity. Whether it is a girl from Kalamazoo Central or a guy from Vicksburg, we all come from very different cities and towns within the same county and we have learned to become a community together. This can only help us when going to college with people from around the world!
4. We can do group work (even when we don't want to). From mandatory chemistry lab partners to research teams and groups,

although we may hate to admit it, we have become experts at multi-person Facebook messaging, late nights in a random classmate's basement, and last-minute paper-editing and completion of labs. And, we all know that group work isn't going to stop in college.

5. We know how to research. Like a lot. Like we've all been doing it for four years. Although it has sometimes been one of the most stressful aspects of KAMSC, we are some of the only high school students to get the privilege to perform such high quality research. So, yes, college, we've already done research and we will continue to dominate in that area.
6. By success (and failure) we know lab procedure. Remember when Dr. T made us create our own lab procedure? Or when we dissected pigs in biology? Maybe some of us blinged out or decorated our lab goggles (I know I did) or when we learned that hydrochloric acid can in fact burn exposed skin? How about the most infamous lab event in all of KAMSC history: Miles' breaking of the countless beakers in AP Bio? We may have been a little silly and inexperienced at times inside of the KAMSC labs, but at least we won't make these mistakes in front of our college classmates!
7. We know how to unite in the name of nerdiness. No matter what group any of us belonged to back at our home schools, we always could come together to have fun--very nerdy fun. Whether at Sci-Fi Film Fest or Class Clash or Semi Formal, we knew how to have fun with each other no matter what and this is truly a life lesson that we should all treasure and remember in college and beyond.

# Our College Mascots

The many college mascots of our universities!



# **A Letter from the Juniors**

KAMSC Class of 2015,

Congratulations! You've finally made it. Four years at KAMSC is definitely an achievement to brag about. You've reached an important milestone in your life that you'll never forget. For the rest of your life, you will look back at the friends you made here and laugh at the ridiculous, nerdy moments you shared.

Throughout your high school years, KAMSC gave you a remarkable experience that will be forever etched in your hearts. After long and tiring days of classes, you hung out at *Bagel Beanery* and *Fourth Coast* with best friends from numerous school districts. You took classes with some of the finest educators in our state with challenging lesson plans that were both adventurous and arduous. In ninth grade, you had the opportunity to dissect fetal pigs with Mr. Chopp during his very first year on the job. And while we're all proud of Mr. Chopp for his new position as head of STEM at Comstock, we know he's really leaving because he couldn't stay at a KAMSC without seeing your class every day. Everyone at KAMSC wishes him and your class good luck! Also in your first year, with the help of Mr. Cardwell, you were able to create your own video games in Scratch and improve your public speaking abilities with career presentations. Sophomore year, you were the last class to take chemistry with Dr. T, which is an experience I have heard involved a lot of flying cows.

After Sophomore Year, things began to change. Many of you chose to take part in Research Team and work with Dr. Goudie, along with mentors from all over Kalamazoo. Junior Year, you no longer had all your classes with the same classmates, and you were able to pick an elective of your choice. You were upperclass students, and finally, you were able to sign up for a class with Ms. Hach. Although her lesson plans were engaging, you secretly spent time petting her dog under the table. In that year, some of you chose to advance your math careers with Star Trek-loving Mr. Milka or the speediest grader at KAMSC: Ms. Kalnins. Those of you that chose to take AP Chemistry spent another year with a new teacher, welcoming Ms. Hampton to KAMSC. That year, all of you had the opportunity to be taught by Mr. Sinclair, one of the most celebrated physics teachers in the nation. The next year, you were able to take the seniors only



class, Advanced Physics, with Mr. Alshehri, the only teacher that lets you order pizza on a C Day. However, the one thing you can surely never forget out of all your experiences here, is that you sat through four whole years of Mr. Houtrouw's never ending award ceremony speeches.

Your class is definitely one that will be remembered. From starting a talent show to breaking an entire cabinet full of glassware, the underclass students of KAMSC will never forget that we had the opportunity to spend our high school years with you. Going to KAMSC has given you skills that very few other high schools have the capability of providing. You're basically trilingual (C++, Calculus, and English). By my estimation, you've walked up the 84 Steps at least a thousand times, so a third floor dorm room will have nothing on you!

Now, you're KAMSC alumni. Know what that means? You successfully made it through one of the hardest four-year high school programs in Southwest Michigan. You will be the kids that your college classmates look up to and the ones that professors admire. You are the smart and driven over-achievers who will become tomorrow's leaders. You have strived for nothing less than greatness and are capable of achieving more than you know. And now, you are among the select few who can attest to the unforgettable experiences on the fourth floor of the brick building on 600 W. Vine Street.

I wish you good luck in college and hope to see you on alumni day!

Simran Singh

