

Dan Rullo

From: EA 1996 Admin <ea1996admin@ea1996.com>
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 8:58 AM
To: EA 1996 Admin
Subject: Perfect Adolescence, Immortalized Online

“Look back and take one last glance at your childhood, and realize, our hearts are always united.”

Do you recognize that phrase? That was part of **Katie (Galasso) Mills’** closing comment at the end of our graduation ceremony 19 years ago and it was perfect! Even if I never saw the video again, I could easily close my eyes and remember the beautiful emotion in Katie’s voice as she dismissed our class one last time and we parted ways... seemingly forever as far as we knew.

There was so much excitement and noise associated with the build-up to our graduation. It was 12 years in the making and we were screaming our way to the finish line. And then suddenly, with the conclusion of Katie’s comments, it was done. It was like a light switch being turned off and even though we knew it was coming, the silence was deafening. There was no 6am alarm the next morning and there would be no more hallway hang-outs before homeroom. It was like the last scene of the [final episode of Cheers](#) when Sam turned off the lights in the bar for good. Or perhaps the [final scene in M.A.S.H.](#) when Hawkeye ascends in the helicopter and sees the “GOODBYE” message written in the landscape and he is rocked by the magnitude of the gesture, knowing that he’ll never step foot on that soil again.



If you’ve forgotten all of those details and golden gems from our 12+ years together, you can now refresh your memory and relive the emotions by viewing our [Video Yearbook](#) and [Senior Slide Show](#) online! Sure, it would be much more cozy if we all crowded together on somebody’s couch and dusted off a VCR to play these on VHS. But that’s not very practical. So I dug up the digital versions of these videos that I pulled from the original tapes 10 years ago, and I’ve uploaded them to YouTube. I will soon have links to them on our website. But they are already accessible to anybody who has a couple of hours to burn.

I have to warn you before you watch these:

- 1) Our awkwardness shines through pretty strongly in these recordings. It’s actually pretty great though.
- 2) At some point, no matter how disconnected you feel from this history, you will tear up a bit when watching these.

You owe it to yourself to watch these. You deserve this one guilty pleasure. Tell your spouse/kids/etc. that you need a little bit of “me time”. Pour a tall glass of wine... no better yet, grab a 40-ounce of Natural Ice or some nasty Mad Dog like the old days. Then sit back and watch this. Shut the world out and get lost in the memories of old friends. I watched a few pieces of these last night and I can honestly tell you that it will invoke some true, visceral reactions. As long as I’m making corny childhood TV references, I’m willing to bet that you’ll find yourself mesmerized by these like [Gordie Lachance in Stand By Me](#) when his kids are hounding him to go but he can’t physically pull himself away from the memories of his childhood because he’s just too consumed.

In addition to these two videos, somebody from a younger class just happened to also upload an awesome [recording of our senior year marching band performing at Norwin](#). You don't have to be a band geek to enjoy these. Check it out!

Call To Action:

I'd love to get more of this stuff uploaded for us all to share forever (or at least until the Internet fad passes). We have a few old pictures on the website, but I know we can dig up many more. And I also know that somewhere in your parents' house, there's a box full of VHS tapes with all sorts of goodies. Get those to me and I will get the content uploaded for all to see.

And yeah... I know I'm breaking our unspoken rule by hitting your email inbox with multiple messages this week. I've tried to slow the pace in recent weeks to limit it to no more than once a week. But I'm overriding that rule this time because I wanted to get these video links to you ASAP since there's already a lot of Facebook activity with them after posting them last night. Some weeks, I may not have anything at all to email, I'm bound to run out of material at some point over the next year. So just enjoy it for now.

Senior Slide Show: <https://youtu.be/ObOYYjeBvik>

Video Yearbook: http://youtu.be/JWgSKgkoe_U

Marching Band: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPDgGA-Vi2I>

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