

When I started out writing this speech, I racked my brain to think of one story that captured the essence of MCSP perfectly. I soon realized that there is no one story of mine that can do this.

Although I was very close to some of you and created [what may be] lifelong memories, there are others that lived in the same hall as us that I didn't really get the chance to know all that well. Sure we knew each other's names and would say "hi" or nod to each other in the hall, but we didn't really know each other as much as I would have liked. Regardless of this, each and every one of us had a mutual understanding; an understanding that no matter what, we would be there for one another. When one person needed help with absolutely anything, there were always fellow MCSP-ers lined up to ensure you would succeed in everything you did.

I am grateful to have joined MCSP and, looking back, I would not have had it any other way. My freshman year, I was lucky enough to be in the learning community with my sister. The fact that I had family that close by made my transition to college so much easier. But throughout the course of the year, I realized that all of MCSP was my family. I have met some of my closest friends through this learning community and they are ones that I can't imagine not being in my life at all. I got back to my hometown on breaks, and I realize just how much this place means to me; more importantly I realize how much all of you mean to me.

At first I did not consider rejoining MCSP for a second year. My plan was to live off campus with a few guys I met last year. Unfortunately, the house dynamic fell

apart and my next best option was to come back to MCSP for another year. This, however, was the best unfortunate circumstance that I have been through thus far in my life. My freshman year, I was not active in the MCSP community at all because I thought I was too cool for most of the activities. The second time through, conversely, I think about how much of an idiot I was last year and how participating in even the smallest of events can help you feel great about yourself.

I have been afforded to the opportunity to get to know most every person in this room, and I think myself lucky for this very reason. This even includes the coordinators of MCSP this year. Although many of them are not returning next year, I was so happy to have met each and every one of you. Whether it was in the office or at an MCSP sponsored event I am thankful to have met and gotten to know you all so well.

Finally, but most important of all, David and Wendy are two of the nicest and greatest people on the face of this earth. Without them, MCSP would not be as much of a community, as effective at bringing about social change, or even exist at all. They are the glue that holds this whole community together and brings together new families each and every year. I am truly thankful that I have been a part of this program and I will truly miss it when I leave, but I like knowing that MCSP will continue doing for new classes of U of M students what it has done for me.