

On May 1, 2024, we who are sentenced to death by incarceration, celebrated graduating our Sociology class held by Bucknell University. Bucknell understands the importance of education, how it can help save people. So I want to say, on behalf of all of the inside men in the class, Thank you Bucknell University. I also need to thank my Professor Karen Altendorf-Cheville. Without her expertise and amazing teaching style, I would not have successfully passed. It was a great day BUT 3 of my classmates were sadly missed. We missed out on spending the day with Kung Fu Dora, this tiny little girl who kicks ass. Dora was Team Leader, and our Colorado girls, Maya and Zoey. We also missed out on meeting Coach, Zoey's grandpop. It would've been an honor to meet him. When entering a prison, there is a hand held device called a drug scanner wand. It can pick up trace amounts of drugs. Well we were told that the wand detected the presence of drugs on someone's body. We were never given all of the details. So all 3 and coach were denied entry for our graduation ceremony. Maya, Zoey, Team Leader Dora, I am sorry we could not spend the day together. We all missed you and we all hated not being able to spend our graduation day together. BUT, hear me out young ladies, you will have your graduation from Bucknell soon and you will go on to do amazing things in life. We spent the last 4 months together, working together, getting to know one another, we bonded, and that can never be taken away from us. I did get to meet "That Guy" or was it "That Boy", this is what Dora's parents refer to her boyfriend as. I laughed because I was called so much worse. He seems like a good guy. Dora, I am sorry, you are such a sweet young lady, I nicknamed you Kung Fu crybaby because of how quickly you teared up when you were given your card representing who you are to us, 1 tough little woman. So please forgive my insensitivity, it was meant with affection. Each of you young ladies really impressed and inspired me. My first class I sat with Zoey and Maya, 2 beautiful young women I said let me see what they know, both were extremely smart, I felt so much pressure then to be as equally smart, I am after all, old enough to be their father. Then I met Xochitl, Caroline, Kirah, Izzy and Sammie. These kids made me feel like I was so beneath them in the very beginning but as each class progressed, they helped pick me up and they made me their equal.

This class did more than just educate me and teach me about Sociology



and Sociological concepts, it taught me that I can be an equal. These 8 young ladies and my professor made me feel like I was worthy, like I belonged, they treated me as a human being and not a pariah. They showed up every class eager to not just work but to get to know each other. We certainly didn't have a lot of time but we made the best of it. I chose songs for the playlist I listened to when writing this for a reason. You girls will shine bright like a diamond. You will each forge your own path in this world and have amazing futures. You have helped me more than you know. You made me feel as an equal, you treated me as if we were going to class at your university together, not in a prison. You were fearless here and I was very impressed. I can't describe my emotions or why I have tears in my eyes as I write this 24 hrs after our graduation ceremony. Dora, I took the poster you & Maya mostly created and I did my best explaining. Kirah did a wonderful job standing in for you and Maya. I mentioned all 3 of you ladies when speaking and coach. I really wanted to meet coach. The inequalities we face in prison on a daily basis, I am sorry you ladies had to experience that. You were treated as a criminal and you had no voice. Please take this experience back to your daily lives and do something to help improve someone's life in society who needs help. I am sad this class is over. I hated reading but I truly learned to enjoy learning with you. As the class is over, the rules are null and void. If you ever need to talk, want to talk or just to say hi, I will never turn down a friend and I wish I could've brought my girlfriend Kat to the graduation for you all to meet her but she had to be in Harrisburg at our rally for 2nd chances. She's in college right now herself and I am so proud of her. You can reach me at my e-mail: [robertpezzeca@gmail.com](mailto:robertpezzeca@gmail.com) I will never ignore you. You ladies have inspired me to try to continue my education. Lets see if I can get some help filling out the Fafsa paperwork. You need a college degree plus something to get those papers right. Take care, enjoy your Bucknell graduation and if you can make it happen, I would like a photograph of all 8 of you's together. I would like to be able to remember my amazing classmates. You can email it to me. I look forward to hearing from you. Take care and thank you for being the amazing people that you are. Thank you for making me feel human again for the 1st time in so very long. I am FOREVER grateful, Rob Pezzeca #DX1148, I am Prison Dad

My Playlist for this post:  
Asylum by: Disturbed  
Atlas Falls by: Shinedown  
Blurry By: Crown the Empire

P.S. The drug wand also  
SCANS positive for drugs  
over perfume +  
scented lotions. 2 things  
All 23 yr old girls use.



Blue Skies by: Sully Erna  
Breathe into Me by: Red  
Broken Road by: Sully Erna  
Diamonds by: Rhianna  
Don't Comfort me by: Sully Erna  
Don't Stop Believin' by: Journey  
Failure by: Breaking Benjamin  
Fix Me by: 10 Years  
Growing Old by: Godsmack  
Heaven by: Otherwise  
Here's to Us by: Halestorm  
Human by: Christina Perri  
If Today Was Your Last Day by: Nickelback  
Its so hard to say goodbye by: Boyz II Men  
No one gets left behind by: 5 Finger death punch  
Pieces by: Red  
Pocketful of Sunshine by: Natasha Bedingfield  
Red Rain by: Peter Gabriel  
Remember by: Disturbed  
Roads Untraveled by: Linkin Park  
A Symptom of being human by: Shinedown  
Take me Home by: Phil Collins  
Torn in two by: Breaking Benjamin  
The Unknown by: 10 Years  
Until Then by: Sully Erna (yes I know, I really like Sully Erna)  
World So Cold by: 3 days grace  
Zombie by: The Cranberries  
Let Go by: Red  
Forever My Infinity by: Sully Erna

Quote by IZZY

"If there's a garlic knot in the room,  
I'm gonna eat it."

She was right, they ARE food.