

# Graduation Day

Like some ancient mysterious Elixir coursing through the body that produces magical effects, so too a Graduation takes hold of our imaginations wrapping itself in caps and gowns to produce expectations of its own.

An Elixir acts through occult body chemistry—great for fairy tales and movies—to work on obedient tissue that transforms the helpless individual.

A Graduation acts through different ritual—also representing work of body and spirit—that renders individual accomplishment.

Consider the Human Genome:  
Timeless but timespent  
startling in its complexity  
matches closely that of bird, fish and other life.  
So closely that minute discrepancies  
ring out to nature:  
Here we are—look at us: We're...different.

Clad in our gowns of graduation:  
Alike in education; rooted in our Professionalism  
the heated passion of the moment  
blends us/homogenizes us.  
Now we evolve into healer, teacher, parent  
while at the core we dream the same:  
Here we are—look at us: We're...human.

—Steven A. Wartman, MD, PhD, MACP



Illustration by Teddy Lane