Today, I ordered graduation announcements for a girl who has achieved far more than we ever would have dreamed. Noelle is graduating high school with a Regents diploma (in four years). That floppy baby can maintain her balance on a cantering horse and clear jumps. She went to the prom and cannot wait to make a road trip this summer to meet the boyfriend she met over a Vanderbilt facilitated social group. She can advocate for her own needs and recognizes that others need support as well. She has been honored by her teachers during elementary, middle, and high school as a student who has overcome adversity and inspires others.

For a young woman who has accomplished so much, yet still needs significant structure and support, there are numerous uncertainties as we consider her path as she continues on into an inter-dependent adulthood. Her journey has never been what we initially dreamed; however, I know without a doubt that we will be able to figure it out and that she will continue to amaze us all.