

Good afternoon, my fellow graduates,
Over the last four years here at Bowdoin College, we have learned a lot of valuable lessons and accomplished many great things. For many of us graduating this year, this is the fulfillment of the American Dream for our families—who might have come to the United States with nothing in their pockets. Many of our families are currently sitting at home, with glistening eyes and a plethora of emotions—in their eyes the ability to have their child graduate from Bowdoin College seems like an accomplishment that they never would have dreamed of as children. And as our families celebrate this huge achievement with us, their hundreds of hours as role models, have finally culminated into this exact moment. The constant nagging for us to call home, the late-night phone calls during stressful finals, and the many care packages sent to Brunswick, Maine—remind us that no matter where we go in our lives, our families will always be there and will constantly prioritize themselves to provide the very best for us.

To all the staff, faculty, alumni, and friends of the college, I want to thank you for creating a Bowdoin experience that the Class of 2020 will never forget. Over the course of our time at Bowdoin, we spent birthdays, holidays, and critical life moments away from our families, only to celebrate those very moments with our newfound Bowdoin family. We spend numerous hours juggling academics, extracurriculars, community service, and

athletics because we truly believe in the power of the collective common good. With our newfound Bowdoin family, we formed new memories and friendships that might have cultivated from our Pre-Orientation Trips as First-Years, college houses as sophomores, studying abroad as juniors, or during senior nights this year.

To the graduating Class of 2020—together, we have endured many challenges and navigated some truly unusual circumstances. Within the span of a few weeks, we have had our patience, resilience, and sympathy tested. As seniors, we were tasked with the difficulty of giving swift goodbyes to our friends as we packed our last belongings from campus, leaving behind a place riddled with countless memories, emotions, and laughs. These last few weeks would've been truly amazing: we would've celebrated our last Ivies with Kyle, participated in our last balloon drop at the Spring Gala, and reminisced of our Bowdoin shenanigans during Senior Week. But nonetheless, as members of the Class of 2020, we have left our imprint on Bowdoin's campus. As leaders of many clubs and organizations, we have raised money for children's hospitals, protested against injustices, and empowered our underclass peers to continue building off of our incredible endeavors.

And although our lives will continue to face unforeseen challenges that we will need to overcome, it is times like these that remind of us the importance of fostering a community. While, we can't physically be

with each other today—we are together in spirit. This sense of unity amongst our class will forever remain within our hearts and within Bowdoin. Together, we have seen the transformation of Bowdoin. And together, we embark on the treacherous journey across the unpredictable path that we call life. As, we depart into our lives, it is important that we continue to be intellectually fearless, to ensure that we are the pioneers in leading the change that we want to see in the world.

The plethora of achievements of this class would not have been possible without the help of our loved ones, our Bowdoin family, and our peers. You have given us the courage to dare, the knowledge to excel, and the belief that we can succeed. When they say college is the greatest four years of your life, they aren't wrong. Congratulations, Class of 2020.