

Thank you President Rose, Members of the College, Guests.

Thank you to the Class of 2022, the Invincibles and Models of Success in the face of the greatest adversity the world has faced in the 21st century.

It is my distinct privilege to give a dedication of the Senior Class Gift, an offering which makes immediate and significant support to various aspects of the College.

Although our gift heavily affects the life of the people directly within Bowdoin, I want to hone in on how it affects the lives of the greater Bowdoin Community and how it provides a much greater lesson about engagement.

This morning, I held the hands of Julio and Flor, two of the most incredible people I have the pleasure of having in my life. Julio's hands were shiny with calluses and bent, but very strong. Flor's hands were scarred, but very warm, tender, and filled with so much purpose. These were hands where every vein told a piece of a wonderful story. These were hands that survived the Peruvian Civil War, bought a home after arriving in the US with only \$12 in their pockets, and the ones that randomly cut me pieces of fruit during my zoom classes.

My parents' hands are also the reason I am speaking to you today, as the first in my family to graduate college. However, the three of us know in our hearts our thanks must also go to the alumni who came before and willingly made the choice to re-engage with Bowdoin.

Their powerful decision planted a seed whose benefits are reaped not only by the students, but by the loved ones who support their students.

But wait, now we are soon to be alumni, now with that same choice to re-engage with the communities where we came from. We now have the opportunity to say "yes" to opportunities to be further involved.

Each of us holds a key that will allow the communities we belong to, as well as the people in them, to grow and develop in response to our view and understanding of them. This is a responsibility that we, as future leaders of the world, share. It requires us to immerse ourselves in our communities, whether they may be as rigid as grad school or a workplace or as loose as family or friends. Just as we enable the growth of others by the way we connect with them, so too will they afford you the opportunity to grow.

Whether it is Bowdoin or some other place that has prepared you for this very day, I encourage you, beloved Bears of the Class of 2022, to make that same powerful choice many alumni made

which has changed the course of my life, Flor and Julio's lives, and hopefully the lives of many more families down the road of time.

Thank you very much for taking the time to listen to me, I hope you have a wonderful day.

Signing off,

Aventura