

Thorndike Oak Toast

Lisette Watters and Paula Petit-Molina

LW: Hi Class of 2020, Welcome to the Thorndike Oak Toast. I'm Lisette Watters,

PPM: And I'm Paula Petit-Molina, and we are so honored to be kicking off today's celebrations with you. The Thorndike Oak Toast is a longstanding Bowdoin tradition to honor Bowdoin Alumnus George Thorndike, Class of 1806, commemorating the Senior Class transitioning from student to Alumni.

LW: Although we are not on campus for this celebration, we still want to uphold this tradition to recognize the strength we have as a class. On behalf of the Senior Class Gift Campaign Team, we want to welcome each of you, to the very beginning of a new chapter in our lives.

LW: Each of us have utilized every thing Bowdoin had to offer to the fullest and have developed a special relationship with the college. Even though we graduate from Bowdoin today, this is only the start of a relationship that we will have with this college, with our peers, and the larger Bowdoin Community. The Senior Class Gift Campaign will be here for each of you as we take this next step. Moving forward, our team promises to continue educating you on how important our roles as alumni is to the college. Through SCGC emails, our Instagram, and our wonderful class agents, we will continue to strengthen the relationships as a class that we already had, as we move together into alumni hood. Just as much as this college has had an impact on us, we too, we leave our mark on Bowdoin today.

PPM: Through our connections to Bowdoin and with one another, we can ensure that Bowdoin continues to grow in the ways we want it to, allowing future Bowdoin students to face fewer challenges, offering future Bowdoin students the privileges we shared - and many more. In addition to all the professors, staff, and administrators, thanks to the generosity of Bowdoin alumni, each of us have each been given the chance to pursue the things we love. As a Bowdoin student on financial aid, I know firsthand how important the contributions Bowdoin alumni have on the day-to-day lives of all students. Without the support of Bowdoin alumni, our campus would look completely different, for all of us. For every one of these gifts I have been given over the course of four years -- an education, a field hockey team, my incredible friends -- I am eternally grateful. To the future polar bears and beyond, we hope to share our best experiences - and we can't wait to welcome you into our Bowdoin family.

LW: There is so much to miss about Bowdoin, from cream of wheat Wednesdays, watching our athletes on Farley Field, even to our walks to class along the quad, each of us love Bowdoin in our own way. What I have grown to love most these last four years at Bowdoin, is the wonderful community of people that I know I have to lean on for the rest of my life. The offer from the college says at Bowdoin we are "to be at home in all lands and all ages" and that is what Bowdoin has become to me--a home. We have each been affected by what is going on in the world, but in this time of crisis the Bowdoin community proves to be stronger than ever. Sadly, our chance to be back on campus for a May 2020 graduation as a class has been taken away from us. It is okay to grieve the loss we've experienced by not finishing our college experience in Brunswick. We want to say thank you to President Rose for reinforcing this community in a time where everyone feels a little bit lonely, you have given us hope. You have made it clear that we will get the proper celebration we deserve next year. Although we did not get to enjoy one last spring in Maine, we still have so much to be grateful towards.

PPM: Though our time at Bowdoin nor our parting from Bowdoin may have been easy, today, our senior class writes its name in Bowdoin history. Our achievements as scientists, writers, educators, athletes, entertainers, and critical thinkers have shaped the Bowdoin community we share today and they will continue to shape it in the years to come. Not only that, but the impact that this class has made on Bowdoin sets us apart because it highlights just how much our class is capable of. Even in the face of insecure times, our successes will not be forgotten. Despite physical separation, the relationships we have

forged with all members of the Bowdoin community have been shown to traverse county, state, and country lines in this time of crisis. Together we are strong, and together we are resilient. Si se puede.

LW: The Class of 2020 is truly a special class. I could not be more proud to be graduating with this group of people today. With these lovely pints, we want to raise a toast to the Class of 2020. We did it and even though it is not the way we envisioned celebrating, we have so much to be proud of today.