



Dear Acadia graduates,

CONGRATULATIONS!

Graduation from University is certainly one of life's milestones that you will treasure and build on.

To me, Acadia has remained in my mind like a special second home, even though I am by nature not a joiner and I have only attended class reunions during the last twenty years or so, but I am glad to have done so. Acadia always welcomes us back.

It's too bad that you were not able to have a normal graduation ceremony, but if you are able to attend future class reunions you will be able to experience graduations by future classes, and perhaps the University will be able to arrange something special for you.

Its seventy years since I graduated from Acadia and some things no doubt have changed. Student numbers were less then, about 700-800 in total, and my class had many war veterans. I was a waiter in the dining hall, an usher at events in University Hall, and a business manager at the Atheneum. All those factors and activities made me feel very much a part of the University, as your experience will have done for you. And like you, I am proud to be a graduate of Acadia University.

It may take a bit of time to get your future career established, but in my experience you learn from everything that you do.

My best wishes to you for a long, happy and healthy life.



A fellow Alumnus,
Brian MacLean
Acadia class of 1950



2020 Acadia University Graduates,

CONGRATULATIONS and welcome to the Acadia Alumni family. Your Acadia student days are behind you and you can fondly look back on a great Acadia experience.

You have had exceptional experiences with classmates, roommates, faculty and friends. Many of these friends and experiences will be with you for life, because you were part of a family then, and family always sticks together.

As you progress in your new life with its many choices and changes, you may make some changes as well, as you adapt to this new world and all its opportunities and challenges, but your life lessons learned at Acadia will always stand you in good stead. As you look forward, please remember to look back as well, as Acadia is proud of you, and will always be here for you.



Best wishes
John Swinamer
Life President Class of 1965



Dear Acadia Class of 2020 Graduate,

Congratulations on your graduation. I know how much work and effort is required to achieve that and I understand how frustrating it must feel not to be able to mark this event with a formal graduation ceremony, capped by a triumphant walk across the stage in Convocation Hall, surrounded by your other classmates, friends and family. That is only one of the many losses we have all experienced in this year of the coronavirus. I feel it myself on a much smaller scale, in not being able to attend my 50th Class Reunion gathering, and being again with old friends, many of whom I have not seen in 50 years. As I am sure it has been for you, my time at Acadia was special.

The intimacy of small classes, the fellowship of caring professors, the friendships of my fellow students: these were an important part of our common shared experience and the passage of 50 years has not dimmed their warmth in my memory.

Let's look forward for a moment. After all, a Graduation Ceremony is called a Commencement because it marks a new beginning. If you are like so many other young people, the impact this pandemic is having on your life must feel crushing. "How will it affect my life going forward?" you may ask. Whether it is graduate studies or finding employment, everything is up in the air. I want to speak from experience and urge you not to be discouraged. The same skills and determination that brought you successfully through your time at Acadia will continue to serve you well. The world will right itself again, and you will rise with it.

In 1970, when I graduated, the world looked very dark. A U.S. citizen, I returned from my studies to a country deeply divided over the Vietnam War. I went on to graduate school with the intention of teaching English at the university level, and as I was finishing my doctorate learned that there was little need for more English professors. So I shifted gears and started work where I could find a position: in the financial service field. Quite a change considering I had never taken a single business course.

Yet the work turned out to be rewarding, and not just in a monetary sense. The skills I had learned in school translated seamlessly to this new career, and I was glad to be able to help people grapple with their complex financial issues and give them greater understanding of their choices. I made other people's lives better.

Sometimes people ask me if I feel cheated, or that I wasted my time studying English Literature when I ended up with a career in financial services. I try to explain, but I'm not sure I always get my message through to them. A college education is not supposed to be vocational training. It should encourage the process of critical thinking. It should help expand, not contract, the mind's vista. It should not be limited by the boundaries of an arbitrary and constantly changing world. I have never felt cheated; my time was never wasted.

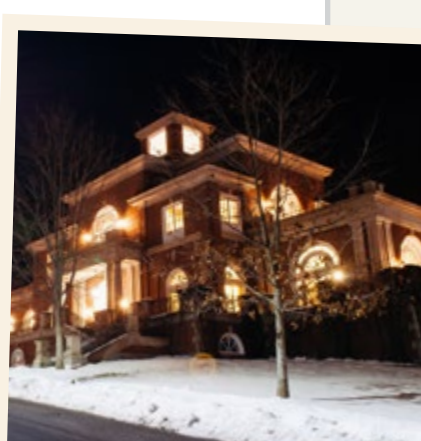
My life today is a result of the education I received at Acadia. Although I have earned a good living over the last 50 years, what is more important to me is that I feel I have done a good job of living. My generation thought it would change the world; instead, the world changed them. Yet I think I am not much changed. I have always been willing to trade money for time, for the opportunity to go my own way and do the right thing. And my reward has been a life filled, not with material things, but with time for friends and loved ones. I owe all that to Acadia.

Now you are launched over the same precipice that I was, and the world is uncertain and foreboding again. I think perhaps it was always this way. But your time at Acadia will help you overcome that. You have worked hard to earn the skills and resources that will carry you onward and upward. I won't be here in another 50 years to see all you have achieved, but I'll make you a bet. I'll wager that at your 50th Class Reunion, when you stand on that seven-tiered peak and look back on your life, you will see it filled with successes that began with your years at Acadia. If I'm right (and I know I will be) please pay off our bet by reaching out to another recent Acadia graduate. We are a large family, and families care about one another.

Yours with warmest wishes for an ever-brightening future,



David G. Dewsnap
Havertown, PA



Dear Acadia University Class of 2020 member:

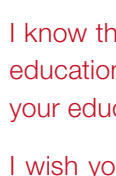
I wish to acknowledge the disappointing conclusion to your years at Acadia. Such strange times we are experiencing, which you know all too well. You have missed out on so many important experiences, least of all the opportunity to walk across the stage to accept your degree with proud loved ones in the audience. You have demonstrated the tenacity and determination to complete your courses online. You have missed out on the "fun" events of graduation week. You have missed that final opportunity to say good-bye to good friends with a hug and a promise to stay in touch no matter what, as you all head back to your homes across the country and perhaps further afield than that.

I graduated in 1975 (so long ago) with a degree in Home Economics (as it was known at that time) with a major in Food and Nutrition. My family lived locally, so my parents and a grandparent from each side of the family were able to be present. Our graduation day fell on my Father's birthday, which was special to me. (3 May 1975). I was heading off that fall to Ottawa to complete my Dietetic Internship, so I knew where I was going for the next 12 months. I am currently retired after a rewarding career as a Dietitian.

Then in 2007 our daughter graduated from Acadia and we enjoyed a full weekend of events to celebrate her accomplishments. It was great to be back on campus again and see the many changes and improvements that had occurred over the years.

I know that you perhaps are facing uncertainty, whether pursuing a career or further education. However, one of the best things you will bring to your future endeavours is your education and your experiences at Acadia University.

I wish you all the best in the years ahead and hope that you end up following your dreams and enjoying the best life possible.



Stand Up and Cheer!
Paula Edwards '75



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