

We're
ALL
IN THIS
Together

Send it -class of 2018
Sammy S

*"If this isn't nice, what
is?"*
Alex Smith

Find something you can be passionate about, and you will be successful. Aim for happiness and don't waste your time comparing yourself to other people.
Amy Sherman

Congratulations! The pandemic has been a tremendously challenging time, especially for students. As you move forward, know that you can do this and that UCSC has prepared you for the world. Enjoy it!
Josh Caulkins (Stevenson, 1998)



Congratulations -- you made it! This was not an easy time to be a college student. Proud of you and your accomplishments!
Shelly Meron
(Stevenson '05)



College is a unique time where you can be around lots of people your same age. It's a time to go nuts and figure out who you are, and grow.
Tom C, Class of '12



Congratulations on your work. If any of you are going to law school, I have the honor of swearing you in. You have passed the California Bar Examination! But to all of you...whatever your dreams/pursuits...remember...."NEVER,EVER GIVE UP !!!"
Kelvin D Filer

In just a few months, it will have been 50 years since I first walked up the path to Dorm 4 for my freshman year at Stevenson College. I guess they call it something else now, but back then it was just "Dorm 4," in the "Upper Quad." I shared a room with a hippie jewelry maker on the west side of floor 2. We had casting machines and acetylene torches on his side of the room and an Architectural Digest collection on my side. Somehow, we got along well.

Fifty years is a long time. I started out as a poor kid from Sacramento but have since been fortunate enough to have lived, worked and traveled all over the world. You accumulate a lot of stories in 50 years and my memory is pretty good. Of course, there are some years I don't remember at all, but that was because it was the 80's and ... well ... it was the 80's.

I will tell you one thing, though. I remember just about every detail of my time at UCSC. Every detail. I suspect that you will too. So, when this pandemic is finally over, and you return to campus, make sure to make some great memories.

We were asked to give current students "advice." That feels awkward to me because the world you live in is nothing like the one I did while at Stevenson. None-the-less, I'll tell you that the single most important thing I did at UCSC ... the thing that changed my entire life ... was to leave.

Don't misinterpret my comment. What I did used to be called the "Education Abroad Program." I spent my entire Junior year at a university in England. I traveled through just about every county in Europe, and even into Syria, (although that was an accident, and another story ...), and then returned to Stevenson, and Dorm 7, for my senior year.

I was a good student at UCSC, at least that's what my evaluations said. (We didn't have grades, in those days). I retained quite a bit from my classes, particularly those in economics and politics. But it was the world perspective that turned out to be the most valuable. I even got my first real job because they said "Oh! You have "international experience!" I still kind of chuckle about that.

Admittedly, the world is a smaller place than it was 50 years ago but I still believe that traveling the world changes your entire outlook on work, life and love. It is transformative. It broadens your fundamental belief system. It educates you. It opens you to possibilities. THAT is what a university education is supposed to do, don't you think?

Glen Gertmenian



You have learned to think well under extenuating circumstances, that should stand you well in an uncertain future.

Ann Zeise

Each generation has its challenges. 1967-1971 was a time of great social and political turmoil. My Grandfather, a minister, always said that his favorite Biblical saying was "it came to pass"...because it didn't come to stay. Having lived through a trying time and having succeeded to earn your degree despite these trials will serve you well in the future!

Katherine Bell, Stevenson College 1971





Sending appreciation one card at at time.



Happy
Graduation
from all of us!

I am from the class of 1972 (although I finally graduated in 1979). In my career (mostly in business), I used the writing skills we at that time developed in every single class. No tests, no grades, but a paper a week in every class at that time. Reading (listening) and writing will translate into success in life in whatever you decide to do. As my life unfolded, it all came together because I could write. So continue this Cowell tradition for your own success.
nedhenry@aol.com

Ned Henry

Congratulations! I hope you savor this moment and wake up tomorrow with that first-day-of-summer feeling. If you also feel a big grey cloud of uncertainty, well, you are not alone. It's overwhelming to go from the cadence of college to this blank canvas. My advice is take a few years and explore. Travel alone. Work on a farm. Find what lights you up. Your academic training will be there, and broad life experiences will give you the intuition to find your path. You will.

Amy McDermott, journalist, Cowell '11

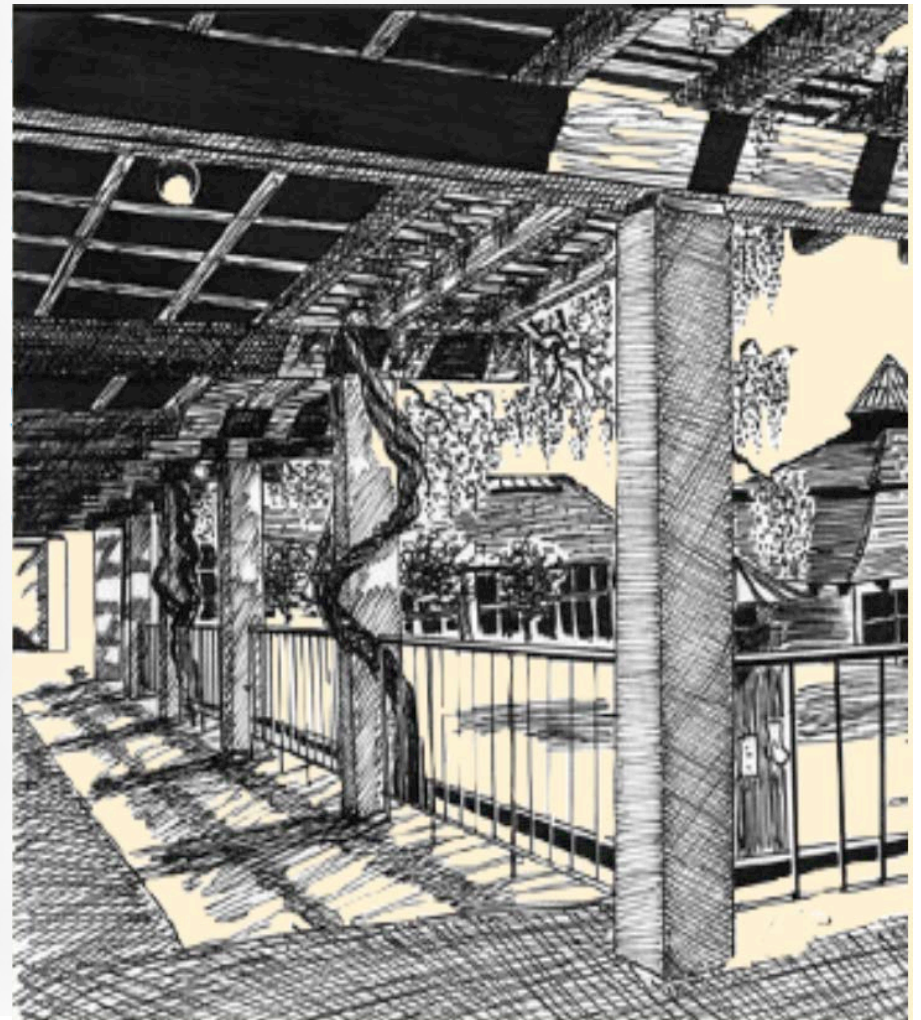
Do great work. That
includes on yourself.

Kyle Mulroe

I just want you all to know...you will apply to
thousands of different opportunities that you will
get rejected from, but you have to keep going.
Never stop. Keep fighting. You're talented. Your
chance will come. Also, never forget what a walk in
the woods can do.

Reese Morgenstern

Congratulations Cowell Class of 2021!! You all made
it through a college experience that will not be
forgotten. Please give a pat on your back for all the
hard work you put it despite of the challenging times.
Just as how you were able to adapt to these
unexpected changes, be open to what life may bring in
your journey onward. Remember to slow down and
take care of yourself as well. Wishing you all the best
in your future endeavors! Go Banana Slugs~
Michelle Tran



I want you to know how very proud I am of you. Graduating from college is such a great accomplishment but especially through the challenges that the world has faced the past year and more. You do us proud!

I loved my education at UCSC having graduated in Community Studies and at Cowell. I started at Porter and even though it's been well over 25 years count that as one of the "top" achievements of my life. I went to college for 22 years and will never forget the first day I landed on campus to to the last. I think I smiled the entire time.

Godspeed as you go onto the next Chapters and Adventures of your lives. You will do great!

Jane Parks-McKay, Class of 1992, Cowell College, Community Studies



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Happy
Graduation
from all of us!

Congratulations! If you come to Washington DC, drop a line and we can chat. Happy to share knowledge of the local labor market .

Best wishes -
Richard Newfarmer
International Growth Centre
Rmewfarmer@gmail.com

The best is yet to come, truly! You will appreciate your time at UCSC more as time passes. Enjoy the journey!
Hillary Wilson (Stevenson '93)

Dear Class of 2021,
I know you faced an uphill road and were not able to enjoy many of things that I did during my senior year @UCSC.
Have a great graduation!
Warmly, Jaron Burnett
(Stevenson, 2005)

Congratulations Class of 2021! Here is some advice if you'd like it:

1. Whatever you end up doing in the next few years, do not stop making time for the things that make you feel happy. There is always enough time in the day.
2. Prioritize your mental health. Ask for help when you need it. Each of you is essential to this world.
3. Trust your intuition when something feels wrong.

Sending lots of love and admiration for each one of you!

Heidi Maupin (Class of 2018)

Hey! I didn't get a real commencement either.
Welcome to the club!
Congrats <3
Haley Morrow c/o 2020



Use your degree in this world you either become someone who has leveled up or someone who has leveled down. Time to make stuff happen!



I hope that you loved your time at UCSC as much as I did, and I'm so sorry yours was screwed up this past year. Be proud to be a slug; some of the very best people I know are! Thank you in advance for changing the world, and huge congratulations!
Viveca Greene ('90)

To the class of 2021, congratulations on graduating!! Even though your time on our beautiful campus was cut short, I'm sure you enjoyed every minute of it. I know I did! I wish you all the best as you move on to the next chapter of your life with your hard-earned diploma in hand.

You'll always have this fellow Stevensonian cheering you on 🍌 Once a Banana Slug, always a Banana Slug!
Bridget, class of 2019

*Class of 2021,
If I have learned anything in my years since college, it is that no man is an island. Connect with others in your work, hobbies, and spiritual lives, and put in the effort to maintain those relationships. It's not always easy, it's often not convenient, but it is always worth it in the end. Don't let fear of rejection prevent you from trying.
Sarah Hernandez, class of 2015*

My advice to every undergraduate Banana Slug

- 1) Learn how to grow food (organically!)
 - 2) Learn how to use tools so you can build and maintain infrastructure
 - 3) Learn how to cook vegan/vegetarian
 - 4) Learn how to repair bicycles and e-bikes
 - 5) Learn wilderness skills - foraging/ plant identification, hunting/ fishing, etc.
 - 6) Learn mediation/ conflict resolution skills - this is perhaps the most important skill for the 21st century!
 - 7) Meditate daily
 - 8) Sing, dance, play a musical instrument outside
- Aaron Silverberg, Cowell '78



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Don't be afraid to live on campus. This is one of the few campuses where it's a privilege to live on campus because it's so beautiful. So whether it be Adams house, Parkman or any other dorm get yourself a room settle down and be happy that you're there.
Adam Balch

Congratulations! Through this past year especially, you have chosen the path of resilience, strength, and perseverance with grace. Your success and determination will take you a long way, don't rush yourself! And biggest piece of advice I can give you, don't take life too seriously. Slow down when you feel overwhelmed and enjoy the ride and all will fall into place. I wish you the best of luck and a happy fulfilling life! You did it!
Christine Dougan

Congratulations for making it through an incredibly challenging first year! Be proud of your accomplishments, for getting through classes and most of all, your resilience. I'm hoping you can enjoy community at Cowell. Don't be afraid to reach out to someone you've seen in class and plan something fun together like seeing a sunset on OPERS lawn, a hike into the forest to feel it's stillness or a trip to Penny's for ice cream and warm toastedmarshmallow fluff. Those moments will come soon enough!

I commend you for surviving and persisting through this remarkable year. You will always have unique stories about your college experience! And that is the wonderful part — it is yours, and no one can ever take it from you. Now you get to build on it, and enjoy a lifetime of unfolding knowledge. Cowell will always be a touchstone for you.

Mary Fitzpatrick '76

Congratulations for being tenacious and creative during this unprecedented year.

This year, while not what you must have expected when you imagined your college experience, has taught you many valuable lessons. These lessons will carry you through the rest of your lives. You are all an inspiration.

Sara Stone

Walk in the woods, go to the beach, squeeze in that personal finance class, put yourself out there since you may never see these people again anyways...and by god, get a sandwich at Zoccoli's.

Reese Morgenstern

Don't forget to check out the radio station, KZSC!!!

Dylan Smock

I SUGGEST YOU TRY TO LOOK AT IT THIS WAY: YOUR GRADUATING CLASS IS VERY SPECIAL BECAUSE YOU EXPERIENCED PANDEMIC YEAR. WE COWELL PIONEERS WERE ALSO SPECIAL, BECAUSE WE EXPERIENCED THE FIRST YEAR, WHICH HAD ONLY TRAILERS, A LIBRARY, A GYM, A SCIENCE BUILDING, AND A DINING HALL. SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BRAG THAT YOU EXPERIENCED THIS CRAZY YEAR. AND DO COME BACK TO CAMPUS WHENEVER YOU CAN TO ENJOY THE BEAUTY YOU DIDN'T GET TO LIVE IN. PRETEND YOU WENT ABROAD FOR A YEAR.> BEST OF LUCK!!!
CLAUDIA KRICH

Cowell students, keep it up! You're doing amazing and all of your efforts will pay off. Don't be afraid to explore and step out of your comfort zone sometime. You will learn a lot about yourself through out your college experience. While it may have been hard to build relationships with your peers during the pandemic, try to stay connected in other ways. You all are resilient and brave in spite of the unprecedented time. Stay strong and never be afraid to ask for help.
Michelle Tran

From a Cowell Alumnus (1985) to the 2021 graduating class: You have had to persevere challenging times. I know you were robbed of many of the experiences you hoped to have in college. But you made it through these difficult times and graduated. That speaks volumes about your commitment, dedication and ability to adapt to situations beyond your control. Those qualities will carry you far. Congratulations!!!
Edwin Romanowicz

YOU SHOWED SO MUCH STRENGTH IN GETTING THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC AND YOU SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF YOURSELF. I HOPE YOU GET BACK TO THE CAMPUS SOON AND EXPERIENCE THE WALKS THROUGH THE WOODS AND THE COOL AIR BLOWING FROM THE BEACH AT NIGHT. MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR TIME THERE. GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE BEYOND CLASSES, JOIN CLUBS, REACH OUT TO PEOPLE WHEN YOU FEEL UNCERTAIN, FIND MENTORS, MAKE FRIENDS, AND JUST ENJOY THE RIDE!

SONAM '15





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