TIME 2000 Class of 2016 Prepares to Graduate!

On May 16, 2016, the eleven members of the senior class of TIME 2000 (T-15) will celebrate their upcoming graduation from Queens College. As they prepare for the next phase of their lives, TIME 2000 Director Alice Artzt and the seniors offer reflections on their experiences as TIME 2000 students.

Note to the graduates of 2016! THE ELEVEN FROM HEAVEN!! Eleven angels (at least I thought so 😊), each so different, each so special. You come from all different parts of the world with completely different backgrounds and together you have stood by one another through the very best of times and the very, very worst of times. That is because within each one of you is the same burning desire to make a positive difference in this world through your common love for mathematics, children, and humanity in general. The purity of your ambitions is why I refer to you as my Eleven from Heaven. I hope that you will always “persist” as you have done these past four years, and fulfill your ambition to use your talents and your hearts to make this world a better place, one student at a time. Finally, as I have reminded all of my past graduates, always know that no matter how far away you may go and no matter how many years may pass by, I am always here, thinking of you and wishing you the very best that life has to offer! 😊

-Dr. Alice Artzt

Memories

I’ll always remember when we went to the Museum of Mathematics in Manhattan and rode the bike that has square tires. We all took turns and waited because we were all amazed! The trip brought us together as a cohort and it was an amazing day!

- Carolina Restrepo

Congratulations to the TIME 2000 Class of 2016

Yovanny Hernandez
Alan Hsu
Douglas Lee
Lu Li
Yuting Li
Kathleen Lyons
Alexander Montalvo
Mahrukh Paracha
Chrissoula Potaris
Crystal Purpura
Carolina Restrepo
Final Farewells From T-15 (Continued from page 1)

and decided to study with my cohort. This memory is special to me because I realized how much I missed out on when they studied together and I opted to go home every time. That may have been the worst study session ever (in regards to the fact that the final was impossible) but I had so much fun trying to understand the material with some pretty amazing people. –Kathleen Lyons

The first TIME 2000 Field Day is quite memorable. The games were fun and many people in our cohort were there. Then, there was an after-party. It reminded me of my middle school days.

My teaching experience in Math 385W is my favorite memory. Alan, Yuting, Yovanny and I taught five lessons together. It was the first time I felt like I was really a teacher. It was a great experience and I learned a lot from it.

–Lu Li

I’ll always remember the day when Yovanny found out he passed his Content Specialty Test (CST). We ate at Dairy Queen in Corona right after we finished teaching that morning. It was SO good!

–Alan Hsu

When we were observing Mara Markinson at East West School of International Studies, Alex and I were running late, so I suggested we meet at Panera Bread on a Sunday afternoon to edit the newsletter. During this time, Mrs. Weinman and I had a discussion about marriage and children. Of course, I remember her advice to this day. When we finished editing the newsletter, I had the opportunity to eat dinner with both Mr. and Mrs. Weinman. Not many college students can say they experienced eating one meal with two special people, a mentor and a professor. –Crystal Purpura

Words of Wisdom: Advice for the Undergraduates

The journey to become a math teacher is certainly not an easy one, but I believe if you have a passion to help students learn and grow, you will make it. Never forget why you started this journey and never forget that, no matter how impossible it seems, you are special enough to get through it. Only your peers know the difficulties you faced and what you did to get where you are. Hold on to that, rely on each other, and you will all be unstoppable.

–Mahrukh Paracha

Be organized and on top of your game. Share ideas and information with your cohort. You are a team! Stay calm and take one challenge at a time!

–Carolina Restrepo

Never give up despite how stressful and challenging the road may be. Although it is likely that obstacles will come your way, it will all be worth it in the end when you have the opportunity to do what you love. TIME 2000 provides a great support system and resources to help you through the difficult journey. However, you can ease the experience if you eliminate procrastination from your vocabulary, i.e., become the Carolina Restrepo of your cohort!

–Crystal Purpura

Make the most of every opportunity to learn, because time is precious.

–Lu Li

You have to truly have the desire to teach children. This is not a job you should pursue just because you think you are good at math. Teaching requires long hours outside of school, preparing, grading and preparing some more. It’s tough, but it’s worth it in the end!

–Douglas Lee

When you face hardships in your teaching journey, don’t let emotions or circumstances deter you from what you are passionate about. This past semester, I had several moments when I wanted to give up. Our feelings and circumstances always change, but I believe things exist that are eternal, unchanging. Seek those out. For me, Jesus, community/family, and good music have kept me going.

–Alan Hsu

Students are your best teachers. Through experience, you will learn to appreciate past teachers and influence future students.

–Yuting Li

Think carefully before you decide if you want to become a math teacher. Although it is a very rewarding job, there is a lot of hard work and planning involved. So if you want to become a teacher because you get weekends and summers as well as a host of holidays off, this job isn’t for you. But, if you want to be a math teacher because you’re passionate about the mathematics and you want nothing more than to help students understand the mathematics and become critical thinkers, then go for it! If you have a true passion for teaching mathematics, when you’re actually teaching, it doesn’t even feel like a job. So, my advice would be to become a math teacher for the right reason, and when you do that, the weekends and summers are just additional perks of one of the most rewarding careers.

–Kathleen Lyons

Advice? Join TIME 2000. Complete your edTPA during your winter break. Don’t let one, two, or twenty failures stop you from chasing your dream. Always believe in yourself. You can improve yourself as a person every day so don’t ever give up. “Freshman Alex” would never have been able to handle the challenges I’ve faced and goals I’ve accomplished throughout this semester as a teacher. I find my motivation in letting others doubt me. Then, it’s a sweet feeling when you make it to the TIME 2000 graduation!

–Alexander Montalvo

Good Luck, T-15!