On May 12, 2021, the members of the senior class of TIME 2000 (T-20) will celebrate their upcoming graduation from Queens College. Congratulations to seniors Melissa Amster, Mei Jin Chen, Si Ting Chen, Hannah Chu, Jose Cruz, Christian Dorta, Kayla Fontaine, Maria Antonella Furca, Betty Gee, Mykela Huxtable, Vivian Kuang, Tatjana Lonic, Rochelle Luong, Chiara Maniscalco, Sophia Nanas, Joyce Pan, Karina Santos, Pei Shan, Evina Siu, Marvin Villaiba, Ying Wang and Xiaoyan Zheng. As they prepare for the next phase of their lives, TIME 2000 Director Alice Artzt and the seniors offer reflections on their journey together in TIME 2000.

A note to my Precious Graduates of 2021!

Who would have ever thought that March 11, 2020, would be the last time that I would meet with my very precious twenty-two graduates of 2021! The last day we met together was in Math 385W when the Measurement Group was doing an amazing job of presenting their student-centered lesson, engaging all of the students in the class in enjoyable activities. If there ever was an interactive course that required in-person instruction, it is Math 385W. When I heard that we wouldn’t be returning to school and that all instruction would be remote, I thought for sure the quality of the class would be ruined. What I didn’t take into consideration was the amazing perseverance, creativity, and talents of the TIME 2000 Class of 2021! Through the very dark days of the beginning of the pandemic you all showed up at every class with determination and smiles on your faces, despite the fact that some members of your own family were enduring illness and sometimes even death. I was and still am inspired by each and every one of you and credit YOU for helping ME to get through those very dark days. You created lessons that were funny and enjoyable. It was truly remarkable as YOU are all truly remarkable. After the summer when we returned to yet another two semesters of remote instruction, instead of fretting about being robbed of a true ICE experience, field experiences, and most of you having to teach online during student teaching with few students showing their faces, you NEVER complained! The only one who complained was ME. Several of you even got COVID-19 and still showed up for class and student teaching!! I am overwhelmed with
“Do not give up! Believe in yourself. Of course, there will be bumps in the road but nothing that is worth working for is ever easy. Be who you are and work hard. There is nothing more you can do other than knowing you gave it your all. Do not let a bad test break you. Reflect on any obstacle that you might encounter and take it as a learning experience. Be sure to make connections and build relationships with your professors and classmates.”

We Are All In This Together!

“Because of TIME 2000, I have a great group of friends who are helpful, insightful, intelligent and caring. I would not have made these friends without the space that TIME 2000 provides.”

“The friends that I made in this program really made a huge impact on my life. Since we have all learned how to be teachers, they are the best support group you can find, whether it be a math class you are struggling with or personal issues.”

“One of the best gifts that the program gives is friends. Lean on them, support each other, motivate each other. If it weren’t for my friends, parents, and professors, I would not have been able to get to where I am today.”

- Chiara

Senior Reflections (continued from page 1)

Advice Column: As a message to the undergraduate students, T-20 members offer advice on their journey to become successful mathematics teachers.

“Progressing through TIME 2000 is very similar to a road trip: you get in the vehicle with a destination in mind and, despite any rough roads you might encounter, you will get there. So, it is only fitting for my advice to be: Just keep driving! You might have to adapt to roadblocks, distract yourself with music, or even slow down, and THAT’S OKAY. Take that break. Do not push yourself harder than you know you can go. Everybody has different paths to success, and this is the time to do what you feel is best for YOU. Remember to take in the scenery! You only live these years once!”

- Melissa

“Having good time management is so important during the journey that is TIME 2000. Do not do homework at the last minute; instead, put all the effort you can into every assignment. Try to form study groups and make good friendships within all the cohorts!”

- Meijin

“Get your general education courses out of the way! If possible, take the gen ed classes over the summer or winter so that you can focus on TIME 2000 classes (and yourself) during fall and spring.”

- Evina

“Take each semester day by day and get close with your cohort.”

- Jose

“Build up a good relationship with your peers. You’ll be learning together for four years.”

- Ying

“Get to know your cohort and upperclassmen, even if it is just by starting casual conversations. They will help you out more than you think!”

- Betty

“Nine out of 10 times, there is a student who is a member of TIME 2000 who can help you with any problem you may have.”

- Mykiela

“Think of the future and how much hard work you are putting into your career path. Know that this is what you want and that you will do everything to make it some of the best years of your life!”

- Rochelle

“Teaching is not an easy job, but you are all capable of becoming great teachers. No one is born a great teacher, so don’t be afraid to make mistakes. ‘Being wrong is the first step to being right!’ as said by my Introduction to Language professor, Andre Eliatamby. When you make a mistake, look at it as a stepping stone to becoming an even better teacher.”

- Hannah

“Take a deep breath and do not get overwhelmed by all the work. As you progress through the program, the workload increases. There are times when you will feel like it is all too much and you may want to give up. When you feel like this, just take a break. Step away from your computer and your notes and do something you enjoy. Go to the park, read a book, listen to music, whatever; just take a break and calm your mind. You are more than capable of doing the work and succeeding. Look back at how far you have come and remember that you are doing this for a reason.”

- Christian

“Do not give up! Believe in yourself. Of course, there will be bumps in the road but nothing that is worth working for is ever easy. Be who you are and work hard. There is nothing more you can do other than knowing you gave it your all. Do not let a bad test break you. Reflect on any obstacle that you might encounter and take it as a learning experience. Be sure to make connections and build relationships with your professors and classmates.”

- Sophia

Meaningful Mantras: Members of T-20 share the mantras that kept them grounded throughout the program.

“Remember why you started. When you are sitting through your classes, planning lessons, or going to fieldwork, remember why you started. When you are struggling and are wondering, ‘Why am I doing all this?’ think about what made you want to become a teacher in the first place, what kind of teacher you want to become, and what impact you will have when you finally become a teacher.”

- Vivian

“‘Fall down seven times, stand up eight.’ There are a lot of times when you will get pushed back, or feel like you failed as you progress through the program. Let’s face it, this program is not easy. Yet every time you encounter a setback, think about it as just that — a setback. It is not stopping you from moving forward, it is just something standing in your way holding you back. You just have to get up and move forward. You will overcome it, but only if you try.”

- Christian

“AAA: Always Ask Artzt! Dr. Artzt is much more than your average professor. Even if it is something not related to academics, she will provide some sort of assistance. If you are struggling with anything, remember AAA and Always Ask Artzt!”

- Betty

“You learn more from your mistakes. Remember that it is okay to not be perfect all the time. You learn much more from making mistakes. Mistakes are necessary for growth, so do not let them hold you back.”

- Tatijana

“‘Don’t give up. Keep going,’ was the motivational saying that I kept in mind throughout my experience in TIME 2000. There were many times when I felt so overwhelmed and struggled to the point of giving up. I spoke to many of the upperclassmen about my struggles and would always find that we shared those same struggles. In speaking with them, I realized how grateful they were to the program and how it has shaped them into becoming inspirational mathematics teachers. This only motivated me even more to continue and to graduate from TIME 2000. No matter when you feel like giving up and backing
out, remember to keep pushing through, and that many TIME graduates have faced the same difficulties as you.”  

-Chiara

Teacher Appreciation!

Students wrote about the impact made on them by all of the professors from the program. Here are some of the highlights.

“Dr. Artzt has taught me that it is okay for things to not go as planned. You are constantly learning, especially from your students. Even when you are extremely prepared, you can never be sure what will happen when you walk into your classroom.” - Kayla

“From the great Mara Markinson, I learned the importance of ‘keeping it real.’ Although I have rarely been one to hide my personality, Mara gave me a firsthand experience of just how much students will appreciate when we show them who we are and that we, too, are human. Even the smallest gestures can go very long ways, from taking a minute to talk about how we feel on a tough day to telling corny jokes, or simply reminding our students that we will never give up on them. To watch my students gradually become more comfortable with participating as a result has brought such warmth to my heart. This will stick with me forever!” - Melissa

“Mrs. Mancusi is the role model that I would love to take after when I become a teacher. She is so passionate about teaching, and she supported and helped us as much as she could. She provided very useful suggestions for our lessons. From being Ms. Mancusi’s student, I know the impact of being a passionate teacher, and I will treat all students equally and help them.” - Meijin

“Professor Abrams who taught us Foundations of Special Education really inspired me. He taught me to trust and care for all students, no matter how ‘good’ or ‘bad’ they may seem, because you are never sure of what they are going through. I want to be a teacher who will change the lives of my students in a positive way.” - Xiaoyan

“I admired how Professor Krzysztof Klosin explained concepts in thorough detail and made it simple to understand. As a student, I admired how he was willing to help the students outside the lectures. I will take both of these things into consideration for my teaching career.” - Siting

“David Miller’s knowledgeable and humorous teaching style always stood out to me.” - Pei

“Dave Miller! He taught me Discrete Math, Problem-Solving and Abstract Algebra. He has influenced me to become a better teacher because he made his learning environment one where YOU have to do the work and you can ask him any question. His classes were just fun to be in and I felt comfortable to ask him questions.” - Evina

“David Miller helped me understand that students will be more motivated to learn if the teacher acknowledges each student as an individual.” - Mykiela

“Professor Miller has been a great inspiration to me. He has challenged me to become a more flexible thinker and inspired me to be a great entertainer while being in front of the classroom.” - Joyce

“Ms. Markinson has inspired me to challenge myself and has taught me that we learn the most from our students.” - Tatijana

“Professor Curcio taught me to become more aware of how teaching is so impactful to our students. She always emphasized how we must try to be there for our students no matter what, and we must always try our best.” - Antonella

“Dr. Artzt has been there for me throughout my journey in TIME 2000. No matter what day or time it was, if you needed Dr. Artzt she was just a phone call or e-mail away. She has influenced me to become a better teacher through her resilience as she taught our three-hour long night classes with the same energy she would her first class of the day. Her constant passion for teaching and the way she expressed herself in the classroom have prepared me for the inevitable obstacles to come as I navigate through my teaching career.” - Sophia

“My experience in TIME 2000 has shaped me to become a confident person. The knowledge and teaching skills that I have acquired from TIME 2000 are so valuable, and I’ll be sure to use them in my career to become a great teacher in the future”. - Xiaoyan

“This program has taught me the importance of the students rather than the content. As a teacher, your job is to encourage your students to become great people and ensure that your students feel comfortable. Your students should always know you care and that you believe in them.” - Kayla

“Observing various teachers in different schools helped me understand there is not one specific teaching style that works better than others. Your teaching style can be whatever works best for both you and your students.” - Mykiela

“My college years have taught me to adopt a stoic philosophy in regards to the way I perceive things in life. If something is beyond my control, I can only accept what has happened and I can control the way I react to it. It is valid to have an emotional reaction, but it is more valuable to think about what you are going to do from there. Struggle and adversity are integral parts of learning and life, but regardless of what happens, as Kid Cudi says, ‘Keep moving forward.’” - Joyce

“I was on the Queens College Women’s soccer team for four years and there were many occasions when I thought to myself, ‘I can’t do it... I can’t do the two things I love. I can’t teach math and play soccer at the same time.’ I felt like I had to give up soccer and I decided that there must be another solution. TIME 2000 was supportive and I learned how to manage my time wisely, plan ahead, and reflect. I never really used to reflect until I started writing the TIME 2000 portfolio. I began reflecting on myself as a student, a pre-service teacher, an athlete and as a person overall.” - Tatijana

“Enjoy every bit of the journey. The highs and lows and everything in between. TIME flies and soon it will be you graduating!” - Karina

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**Best wishes to T-20, the Class of 2021!**

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**Upcoming Events:** Freshman Orientation, June 3; Portfolio Due Date, June 11
Congratulations, T-20!