On May 28, 2020, the members of the senior class of TIME 2000 (T-19) will celebrate their upcoming graduation from Queens College. While the ceremony is delayed, the completion of their undergraduate degrees is certainly not delayed. Congratulations to seniors Saite Chen, Xiang (Kevin) Chen, Emily Fung, Minwoo Jeon, Nicole Mleczkowski, Erika Mojoco, Brianna Patrizi, Movina Seepersaud, Amanda Seidman, Grace Tan, Jiashi Wang, Qingqiu Zeng and Yuheng 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 the Very Special Thirteen Graduates of 2020!

My very dear Thirteen TIME 2000 Google-Meet Buddy Graduates of 2020! You are graduating at a historic and unprecedented time in history that none of us will ever forget. COVID-19 has not only affected you and your loved ones, but it has also drastically impacted the quality of your final culminating semester of student teaching that you worked so hard for and all of the festivities surrounding a joyous graduation for which we were all planning and to which we were looking forward. I am in awe of the strength and positive attitude you have all shown in accepting these challenges, supporting one another, and learning new ways to reach your students when your cooperating teachers allowed for it. Sometimes we do not even realize all that we have gained from unfortunate events until they are long over. I suspect that is the case here, as we are still steeped in this pandemic and surrounded by the stress of not knowing what the future will bring. But, there is one thing that I know for sure: you, more than ever, are ready to enter the classroom as fully prepared secondary mathematics teachers. I could see this ever since you created your amazing lessons in Math 385W where we laughed together and learned together. This continued in your mini-lessons in the methods course which were so engaging. You each have a special style and I said it then, that you were already highly effective secondary mathematics teachers. However, now, as a result of feeling the pain in your own lives and seeing it in those around you, you will bring much more to your teaching than what you had before. Not only will you be highly effective, entertaining, and tech-savvy, but you will also be empathetic and loving, the most important ingredients of a great teacher. You have stuck by one another, as families do, throughout this terrible time and supported one another with love and encouragement and even laughter. Having gone through this, we have a special bond together that will last forever. I know that I have needed you to get through this ordeal and I believe that you have needed me, too. This is the kind of bond you will develop with your own students. So, your future is sure to be bright and we will spend many days looking back on this time in disbelief of what we went through and how we overcame. And, I promise you the best graduation celebration there ever was!!! Date to be determined! LOL! Now, just go get yourself jobs and do what you do best, TEACH MATHEMATICS!

I love you all, and I will be here for you forever and a day.

Congratulations on all you accomplished—against all odds! BRAVO!

-Dr. Alice Artzt

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TIME 2000’s Class of 2020: T-19 Prepares to Graduate!

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Senior Reflections

Advice to TIME 2000 Students from T-19
"Once you decide to become a teacher, stick with it. All of your hard work will pay off.” - Saite

“1) Make friends. You never know when you'll need their help.
2) Form study groups. Studying with a group of friends not only helps you study but also allows you to have chat-time/therapy sessions with your peers.
3) Join the MT4 club. Tutoring students gives you better insight on the topics with which they usually struggle. In addition, you can start applying strategies you learned in class.
4) Get into the habit of reflecting on yourself. This is one of the things I am still working on. Self-reflection is one of the crucial factors of becoming the best teacher you can be.
5) Leave a good impression with your professors and the teachers you observe.
6) Buy coffee from the library. It’s the cheapest place to buy coffee on campus.” - Minwoo

“Try not to be stressed out. Most of the time, stress will not bring you anything.” - Qingsiqi

“There is a lot of work to be done as you progress through TIME 2000. Take one step at a time and you will succeed.” - Jiashi

“Get a planner. Write a list. Stay organized. You will feel as if you have so many things to do and not enough time (believe me, that is how I felt) and getting a planner will help. Write down your due dates. Most importantly, write down three tasks you hope to accomplish each day, whether it is to complete an assignment or tutor. Not only will you feel productive, you are actually being productive, and you are slowly tackling your task list, too!” - Grace

“Students who are progressing through TIME 2000 should invest in themselves. The best investment now is to learn as much as possible; this could mean taking more courses, reading more books, or developing a whole new set of skills. Do not waste too much time on part-time jobs outside of school besides tutoring - those jobs do not add the value that tutoring will. Tutoring is superior in every aspect. Start collecting data from your students and creating your own materials and system. Turn yourself into a unique teacher who is not just somebody taking lesson plans and teaching materials from the internet. Make yourself valuable.” - Yuheng

Seniors were asked to explain an inspirational quote or mantra that has held value in their journey through TIME 2000. Their thoughts are shared below.

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.’ - Jimmy Dean

I chose this quote because I was once in your position (as a TIME 2000 student) and you should know that there is always room to adjust and adapt to your surroundings. Do not be knocked down by obstacles. Stand up, dust yourself off, and figure out a way to better the situation and make yourself happy.” - Brianna

"Working hard is important but there is something that matters even more: believing in yourself.” - Harry Potter

I chose this quote because the Harry Potter book series is one of my favorites and because it is also applicable to students in TIME 2000. Although this program is a lot of hard work, it has properly prepared me for teaching, given me opportunities to grow as a person, and given me a support system that will follow me throughout my teaching career. You may doubt yourself and your abilities in times of stress but know that, in the end, you will be one of the best math teachers and that is when all the hard work pays off.” - Nicole

"Do not take everything to heart! Make sure to plan as much as you can and give everything your best shot but do not get caught up in your mistakes. Mistakes allow us to learn and ultimately grow. You can start fresh every day and be better than the day before. There is always tomorrow!” - Movina

"Take it one day at a time.” While college can be fun, it can also be stressful. In the end, it is, without a doubt, worth it but, sometimes, to get through it, you just have to let things be. Take things one day at a time because you do not know what is going to happen tomorrow; all you can do is focus on today.” - Amanda

Favorite moments
"I had the most fun in the 10 minutes before any SEYS class. It sounds silly, but we would blast music, exercise, dance, stuff our mouths with snacks, and laugh our butts off. We would tell stories about our students and all the annoying and cute things they would do. And, of course, cram to finish the assignment that was due. I will definitely miss this.” - Emily

“My favorite moment has to be the trip we took to the Escher Exhibit. The museum itself was so interesting and the art was beautiful. On top of that, how the art related to math was truly amazing!” - Amanda

“My favorite moment from TIME 2000 was attending LIMAÇON. It is a great experience in learning about mathematics and teaching.” - Qingsiqi

"Some of the best times that I have had during my four years in TIME 2000 are from MT4's Game Nights. It was always great to meet with the other cohorts and take some time off from studying to play games and have fun.” - Movina

“I do not necessarily have a favorite moment, but I would say that this experience in TIME 2000 has been a life-changing experience and I am forever grateful.” - Erika

How Their Past and Present are Shaping Their Future
"This Coronavirus came unplanned. It influenced my student teaching and possibly my future career. I learned that being prepared is essential. Be prepared for any obstacle you may face. Be prepared for any change ahead. And yes, be prepared to complete your edTPA early when you have time.” - Kevin

“I have made countless mistakes while presenting, taking exams, and teaching. After a certain point, I was overwhelmed with stress, anxiety and fear. However, the TIME 2000 program pushes you through a rigorous system and you eventually mature and learn from these experiences. One of the best things I have learned is not to fear making mistakes, but to respect them because mistakes can make the best teacher. I learned that I only fail when I do not do anything after making a mistake. If you reflect on what might have caused you to make a mistake and you come up with strategies to prevent making the same mistake, then you are not failing; you are becoming a problem-solver.” - Minwoo

"Mental health is so important. Reflecting on my experience as both a student and as a teacher, I have learned that your mindset can really impact how receptive you are. It is crucial to check in with yourself and take steps to stay positive when things get stressful!” - Movina

"Each semester, I built upon my philosophy of teaching. It did not matter if I was taking education, math, or other courses at Queens College, I learned about how I wanted to teach based on each professor I took. My cooperating teacher during student teaching told me, ‘When you become a teacher, you must be prepared to complete your edTPA early when you have time.” - Movina

"I learned that anything is possible if you do it with love. I would have never imagined finishing my student teaching experience and my last semester online because of a pandemic. But, I know my professors and my cooperating teacher care about me and their students. This helped me realize that we should all do everything out of love and compassion for one another.” - Erika
Congratulations, T-19, Class of 2020!