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Remarks of 2020 Class President, 6:30 PM

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Graduation Remarks

Good afternoon graduating class of 2020, family, friends, faculty and staff, current students, alumni, and anyone else who's joined us today! Welcome! And, congratulations class of 2020! We did it! A year ago, but we did it!

The year since we completed our undergraduate experiences has been unfathomable. There are no words to truly describe the tragedies and losses that have occurred since the beginning of the pandemic. However, hope springs eternal. And, throughout the darkest times in the past year and a half, we have persevered and adapted to the severe challenges of the unknown. As hope and change are bred in adversity we can act upon the pressing issues that were made painfully evident and hope that will yield systematic change going forward. Also going forward, with three vaccines out at the moment, the return to normalcy, if you will, is seemingly just around the corner! I'm sure you all can hardly wait.

I'm so grateful for my time here at Illinois Wesleyan. I will never forget the incredible experiences, friendships, mentors, and, hopefully, the knowledge that I gained in my four years here. I can't thank the amazing faculty and staff at IWU enough! A former professor here, named Dr. James Matthews, used to always say, "Aren't you the best and brightest scholars that Illinois has to offer!" While he mostly said it in jest when students were hesitant to answer a question he had asked, I know there's truth in his phrase. I believe that the multifaceted education provided by a liberal arts education, provide us all with a great advantage, as we continue on the path of our lives. As a wise fictitious character, by the name of Iroh once said, "It's important to draw wisdom from many different places...if we take it from only one place, it becomes rigid and stale." No matter what we decide to pursue or where we go in the future, we can use our education to provide additional insight and help fuel change. And we will always be Titans. I couldn't be prouder to be a part of such an amazing class and I can't wait to see what we accomplish in the future. Congratulations again, Class of 2020!

Thank you all so much for listening!

TITAN GREEN OVER EVERYTHING! GO TITANS!