



Dear Class of 2020,

Congratulations! As a historic graduating class, know that what you have accomplished is nothing short of extraordinary. You have completed your final semester of education at Otis College at a time when your creativity and courage is the fuel that the world needs to feel inspired and motivated to forge ahead. Thank you for being a positive light to us all.

I would like to welcome you to the [Otis College Alumni Community](#) of more than 10,000 alumni around the world. Our alumni family is the engine of the creative economy in all facets of art and design industries. We are digital artists, fine artists, illustrators, interior designers, lighting designers, landscape designers, graphic designers, product designers, fashion designers, toy designers, educators, veterans, cultural producers—and, for more than a century, we have been each other's strongest support network.

As you now continue your individual journeys, I ask you to always think back to the time when you were students and how important it was for you and your classmates to receive the support of alumni. Otis alumni are an integral part of the College community as faculty, staff, administrators, and donors.

In a recent letter to the community, written by a faculty member of more than 15 years (and also my classmate), Scott Zaragoza ('03 BFA) expressed how he became part of something bigger than himself at Otis. He wrote: "After my time as a student, I immediately began my life and career as an Otis faculty member, where the feeling of being part of a close community continues even to this day. I keep trying to think of one anecdote that would sum up the gratitude I feel. The numerous stories that come to mind would be enough to fill a novel at this point. What rings true for me is that I would not be who I am today if it weren't for the support, friendships, and opportunities experienced during my time here."

For some of us, being part of the Otis Community is what helped us become the first family member to graduate from college, or simply take the leap and pursue a dream and blossom into the artists and designers we are today. In Scott's letter, he also calls for action. He urges all of the Otis Community to donate to students who truly need our support. It is special for us as alumni to consider giving any support we can, because many of us, including myself, could not have graduated without a scholarship. This is why the College recently launched the [Otis Is Essential](#) fundraising campaign, to support students, faculty, and staff.

As alumni, we demonstrate a lifelong commitment to Otis by staying connected to the College and cheering the school on when we come back for Annual Exhibition, give an artist lecture, teach, hire each other, lean on each other for feedback and critiques, and when we drop in to say hello. When the campus reopens, you can always drop into Career Services for advice, and the Alumni Relations office to learn more about remaining an active member of our community. The College is also working on ways to invite you back to utilize the labs and shops this year. I've also put together a [list of resources](#) available to help artists and designers during these uncertain times. Otis will always be your home. I look forward to welcoming you back and staying in touch.

Best of luck!

Sincerely,

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Director of Alumni Relations

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