

2020 Graduation Video Transcript

[Congrats Class of 2020!]

[Welcome to the Faculty of Arts Virtual Graduation Celebration 2020!]

[So today you might be missing the walk to Mattamy...]

[And your profs.]

[And maybe the group photos...]

[And the funny hats...?]

[But you made it.]

[And we're so proud of you.]

[You earned this and then some.]

[Now, we're not hoping you'll change the world.]

[We're counting on it.]

[Josel Gerardo, RLAS President] Hi Graduates! My name is Josel Gerardo and I am the new President of RLAS. I am here to welcome you to your online graduation celebration!

Over the past month or so, your professors, program administrators and Faculty of Arts staff have been pulling together their messages of congratulations and words of wisdom to share with you today - which we are about to dive into. We have also had students contribute their messages, photos and videos - like the video from Joey that you just saw. There are even a few surprise, celebrity guests who reached out to offer some messages as well - you will see them later!

Let me kick off the celebration by saying - we are so proud of the accomplishments you have made thus far. We cannot wait to see what your future looks like, how you'll contribute wonderfully to the world and continue on building the community of critical thinkers and innovators.

Now I will hand it off to our wonderful Dean, Pam Sugiman, for a message from the Deans Office.

["So happy to share in the excitement of your graduation day, and so very proud of you, too!"
Office of the Dean]

[Dr. Pamela Sugiman, Dean of Arts] Hello graduands. I'm Pam Sugiman Dean of the Faculty of Arts. We wish that we could be with you celebrating this important milestone in person, but will make the best of our current circumstances. What many of you don't see are the numerous people in the faculty who work behind the scenes to support your education.

Some of these people would normally be on stage to applaud you as you cross the stage. Others would be watching the convocation live stream from their office computers.

This year, I'd like to introduce you to my team and they want to send you their best wishes. Elishah, I'm prioritizing this grad celebration video. We've got time. Right?

[Elishah Velji, Assistant to the Dean] Yes, well, Pam. As you can see, you were booked solid (shows printout of calendar). I've squeezed in five minutes for you at 1:25 pm between a meeting with department chairs and a meeting with the President of RLAS so it's going to be another busy day. And to all the graduates. Congrats. We're all so proud of you.

[Pamela Sugiman, Dean of Arts] Thanks, Elishah. Well, at least now that we're holding all meetings virtually I don't have to run from building to building.

Now let's introduce you to Kathleen Kellett who is Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies. And Kathleen in her portfolio oversees everything from double majors to curriculum changes, policy regarding undergrad studies, course syllabi, and much more. Kathleen, do you have any words of wisdom for the class of 2020 (pause). Kathleen, I think you're on mute.

[Kathleen Kellett, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies] I'm so sorry. That happens all the time. I really just wanted to give a warm congratulations to our 2020 graduates. So many great students graduating this year. We'll really miss all those dynamic student leaders and dedicated volunteers. How can we manage? Of course I know that all our students will go on to do great things and be a positive force for change in the world. Elisa Wreford keeps everything running in our office. Elisa is the student website up to date?

[Elisa Wreford] Yes, it's all set to go.

[Kathleen Kellett, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies] Great.

[Elisa Wreford] Hello Grads. Congratulations on this big day. Good luck on your next adventure.

[Pamela Sugiman, Dean of Arts] Thanks, Elisa. Next I'd like to introduce you to our finance manager, Greg Fiorido. With your department chairs, Greg and I make sure that you have the course offerings you need to get through your programs. And we also make sure that we have enough money in our budget to pay your professors. Right. How are we doing on that front?

[Greg Fiorido, Manager of Finance] One second Pam (turns around and shouts) I'm in a meeting! I can't come kill that spider right now. (turns back to camera). Um, well. As for this year's budget, Pam, we're cutting it a little close. I may just have to print some more money, just in case. Hold on (reaches under desk). Okay, I think we're good. I think we're good to the end of the year (waves pretend dollars). In all seriousness, I just want to congratulate all the Grads of two thousand twenty. I want to wish you the greatest success in whatever comes next.

[Pamela Sugiman, Dean of Arts] Thanks Greg. Innovation is what we do best.

Now I'd like to introduce you to the indomitable Patrizia Albanese, who is Associate Dean research and graduate studies. Patrizia works closely with YSGS, with Grad program directors and department chairs to make sure that you have excellent programming.

And Patrizia also contributes to undergraduate education in ensuring that we have enough teaching assistants and graduate assistants to help with all of our courses.

[Patrizia Albanese, Associate Dean] Thanks Pam. Hi everyone and congratulations. I just wanted to say, be the change you want to see in this world.

And as for the work I do here, I wouldn't be half as effective if I didn't work closely with Alvin, Ying, the faculty of arts graduate administrator and SRC Coordinator. Alvin, how are those Graduate Travel Awards coming along?

(pause) Alvin, is that you?

[Alvin Ying, Graduate Administration & SRC Coordinator] Sorry, it's my COVID hair. Once travel restrictions lift graduate students will be out and about in no time. The awards are posted and the applications are coming in. Congrats 2020 graduates.

[Pamela Sugiman, Dean of Arts] Thanks Alvin. I'd like also to introduce Melissa Wong, who is our Director of Operations in Arts and Melissa has had the misfortune of entering this new position right in the midst of global pandemic. Melissa, how are things going on your front?

[Melissa Wong, Director of Operations & Strategic Projects] Well I just want to say, congrats class of 2020. It's certainly been an interesting end to the year. It's been really great working with all of our faculty and staff, trying to get them set up, working remotely. And I've also had the chance to work with RLAS to set up virtual events like the Q & A with the Dean, and setting up the Youth Workers Rights Hub events. It's been really great. So, dream big grads and.. You did it!

[Pamela Sugiman, Dean of Arts] Thanks, Melissa. And last but not least Davina Chan is our senior Human Resources partner designated to the Faculty of Arts and I don't know what I'd do without Davina. Davina, what have you been working on over the past year?

[Davina Chan, Senior HR Partner] Well, Pam for confidentiality reasons I cannot comment on that at this time. But, joking aside to the class of 2020 please invest in yourselves, because we cannot wait to see the impact that you will make on this world.

[Pamela Sugiman, Dean of Arts] To all of our graduates, on behalf of the entire team in the Faculty of Arts. Congratulations. Be bold. Think big. Question everything. Believe in yourself. And please remember us and we'll remember you. You are fantastic.

[Toronto Mayor John Tory] Hi Mayor John Tory here, and I want to begin by just saying best wishes and hearty congratulations to the graduates of Ryerson University's Faculty of Arts. What a big day. A big day in your lives and a big day for Ryerson to have you now as graduates. It's an important milestone in your academic and personal lives and I'm so happy to be a small part of this very exciting moment. You know Ryerson is a University that is highly recognized here is a driving force for positive change in our own City and our own country but also around the world. As graduates you are well equipped with the experience and the connections and the education to make a difference whether it is here at home or somewhere else. I can tell you when I travel on behalf of the city everybody knows Ryerson and they know what a positive force it is and they know therefore that the graduates must be good people that can themselves make a difference.

I know that this year's graduation itself is different. You're likely watching this from home. Maybe with your family or virtually with your friends and classmates. And you may not be able to celebrate in person for a while longer. Among many things though, coming together virtually is a small example of how we have changed the way we do things in light of Covid-19. We found a way to do it. In the face of this pandemic we have seen the world innovate and disrupt and come together in order to overcome these challenging times. And that's really what Ryerson does too. It innovates and it disrupts and I hope it's what you will do. That you will innovate and disrupt and thus make a contribution to a better world. I encourage you to find hope and

excitement at the opportunity that lies ahead to do exactly the same. As mayor I look forward to seeing where your education takes you and all the incredible things you undoubtedly will accomplish going forward wherever you go. And you know wherever you do go and whatever you do next, your University, your city and your mayor will be there to support you. So congratulations once again and best of luck.

[Dr. Marco Fiola] Kinga, Kinga -- your mic is muted!

[Dr. Kinga Zawada] Okay! Okay! Congratulations to the Class of 2020! (laughing)

[Dr. Kinga Zawada] Congratulations, Class of 2020. Félicitations à nos finissants! You've made it, despite a once in a hundred years pandemic and you will do the same in your future ventures. Continuez à briller! Continue to grow, achieve and discover your greatness. Vous allez bâtir le monde de demain! Je vous serre la main. (hand sanitizes hands and reaches to shake hands)

[Dr. Marco Fiola] You are the first to graduate from our brand new program in Language and Intercultural Relations. Vous pouvez maintenant bâtir des ponts entre les cultures, tout en célébrant la diversité.

[Dr. Dana Osborne] The world is always changing, and you are prepared to tackle it with incredible skills and an open mind.

[Dr. Ndeye Ba] Come back to see us for a hug when things go back to normal! Revenez nous voir! Nos bureaux vous seront toujours ouverts.

[Dr. Enriqueta Zafra] As you go out into the world to fulfill your dreams, remember that at LLC, you have a family who is cheering for you every step of the way. Congratulations! Felicidades! Os deseamos lo mejor! Estamos muy orgullosos de vosotros! Salud al mundo, cambiarlo u, muchísima suerte! Os deseamos lo mejor! (blows kiss)

Lara Popic (speaking Serbo-Croatian)

[Ronald Dans signing in American Sign Language (ASL)] Translated to: "Hi, Congratulations on finishing!"

[Dr. Hongbing Yu speaking in Chinese] Translated to: "Hope you guys had a great graduation and a bright future."

[Dr. Rania Mohammed Ibrahim speaking in Arabic] Mabrouk

[Dr. John Edward Stowe speaking in Chinese] Translated to: "Congrats Congrats, you finally graduated."

John Barnes (speaking Maltese) Prosit. Congratulations.

Mirella Witek (speaking Polish)

[Dr. Jamin Pelkey in Chinese] Translated to: "Congratulations guys, hope you all the best."

Evgunénia Timoshenkova (speaking Russian/Hebrew)

[Dr. Gerd Hauck speaking in German]

[Nina Winiarczyk signing in American Sign Language (ASL)] Translated to: "Congratulations! Good luck in the future!"

(Dr. Ndeye Ba appears on screen and hand sanitizes hands)

[Congratulations!]

(Photo Montage: Faculty of Arts Graduates)

[Max Irwin] Hi class of 2020. RLAS, the Ryerson Liberal Arts Society, wants to send a congratulations to all of you for completing your degree during this challenging time. We wish you all the best and hope you success in the future.

[Dr. Dan Horner] Hey, a big congratulations to the class of 2020 from the Department of Criminology. It's been a great privilege spending the last four years with all of you. We can't wait to see you take [...] that tremendous energy all of you have on to the next stages of your academic and professional careers and all the good work that you're going to do in school in communities in the workforce and we hope that you get a lot of opportunities this summer. Despite the pandemic. To celebrate with your friends and family.

(Photo Montage: Faculty of Arts Graduates)

[Dr. Alan Sears] Hi everybody. We're really sorry that we can't be with you in person. It's Alan, Heather, and Elizabeth from the Sociology Department. We wish we could be gathering with you right now to say goodbye. We do know that you're going to have quite an incredible story about your last few months at Ryerson. No one else has the graduation story that you have. We

really want to keep in touch with you. We've learned so much from you and really appreciate the time you spent with us. Heather did you want to say a word of goodbye?

[Dr. Heather Rollwagen] I just want to thank all of you for all your hard work over the years. All your enthusiasm. All of the great stories and energy brought to our classes and our program. Again please keep in touch with us and let us know what you're up to. Elizabeth.

[Elizabeth Johnson] Yay! You did it! Woohoo! Big thumbs up.

[Dr. Alan Sears] Yay!

[Elizabeth Johnson] Keep in touch. Keep in touch. Email.

[Dr. Alan Sears] Keep in touch.

[Dr. Heather Rollwagen] Congratulations.

[Elizabeth Johnson] Congrats.

(Photo Montage: Faculty of Arts Graduates)

[Dr. Bob Murray] Hello my name is Bob Murray, Chair of the Philosophy Department as most of you know. We're terribly sorry we can't have the uh enjoy the fun of convocation in person. I just wanted to say that you spent the last few years exercising your reason over some of the most difficult and profound questions. And it's our hope that we've exercised your reason and that'll serve you well wherever you go. And I also want to invite you to stay in touch for the Department through your favourite Professor. And it's our hope that we have enriched your lives as much as you have enriched ours and it's short and sweet but all the best and take care.

(Photo Montage: Faculty of Arts Graduates)

[Jagmeet Singh] Hey graduates. I know this isn't the graduation that you expected, we're living in pretty unexpected times, but to help you celebrate this graduation I want to share with you a couple of words of advice. First off, just take a moment and breathe. You've got to take care of yourself. I know it sounds obvious, but it's very important. Secondly, in this difficult time, I know it's hard to predict the future. A lot of people are worrying about the future and we're in uncertain times and when people are worried and afraid, they're less likely to take chances, but that is what makes young people so amazing. Your passion, your excitement, and your hope for the future. Don't let these difficult times get you down. I want you to take those chances. When you get older and I can say that now with my grey beard, that you look back on life and you don't

really think about the chances that you took that didn't work out but you really regret the opportunities that you didn't take. So take chances. And finally, and I think most importantly this crisis has shown us all how connected we are. How we are all in this together. We are all one. And so, I want to encourage you all to find ways to take care of one another. It's only when we really look beyond ourselves and lift the people up around us that we live a life that feels rewarding. So, find ways to take care of one another. Lift each other up so that we all rise together. I know your passion and your excitement, your creativity are going to chart a course forward. I can't wait to see what you do and I'll be there cheering along your side and fighting to make sure the future is bright.

[Dr. Todd Girard] Hi class of 2020. I was just looking at some brain images. Wow, look at that hippocampal activation. I expect you all have some really great memories from your time at Ryerson. And look at your graduation brain network. Wow is it really ever lighting up. Congratulations. What's that? We can't make such reversed inferences? Wow that's some deep critical thinking. And I know you guys are ready to take on the world. Congratulations. Go get em.

[Dr. Dale Smith] Hi everyone. My name is Dale Smith. Some of you know me. Been in my classes. I'm the undergraduate program director for English and I'm just wanting to wish you all the best in the world going forward. So proud of you graduating. And I look forward to hearing from some of you and wish you all the very best. And it's a real honor to have had you in our program. And very grateful to you all. And good luck with everything you do. Best wishes. Bye.

(Photo Montage: Faculty of Arts Graduates)

[Dr. Dave Atkinson] Hi everyone. Dave Atkinson from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. I want to say congratulations to all the Faculty of Arts grads and especially those from Geographic Analysis and Environment and Urban Sustainability. What better place to send my congratulations from then this lovely meadow ecosystem. Remember, you're part of our ecosystem from Ryerson and so we're always here to help. Good luck and congratulations.

[Dr. Christopher Gore] On behalf of the Department of Politics and Public Administration, I want to wish the class of 2020 a huge congratulations. To our students in the Masters in Public Policy Administration program, the Politics and Governance program, and the Public Administration and Governance program this is certainly not the convocation that I anticipated or how I expected to see you today, but I want you to know that we wish we were with you, that we celebrate your accomplishment, and we hope you will stay with us as a community as you move forward into the future.

[Dr. Cory Searcy] Congratulations to everyone in Arts on completing your graduate degree. You should be very proud of this achievement. No doubt you're graduating into very challenging circumstances. I believe you've been well equipped in your time at Ryerson to positively contribute to our society whether responding to the covid-19 global pandemic advocating, for policy change, or rising to other challenges that are sure to come. I wish you all the best going forward.

(Photo Montage: Faculty of Arts Graduates)

[Dr. Claustre Bajona] Congratulations class of 2020. You did it! And we are extremely proud of you. Moltes felicitades.

[Dr. Stéphanie Walsh Matthews and Nicole Florecki] Congratulations ACS.

[Nicole Florecki] You're a graduate. You did it.

[Dr. Stéphanie Walsh Matthews speaking] We know now is tough but soon we'll find each other again and we'll properly celebrate. And until then...

[Dr. Stéphanie Walsh Matthews and Nicole Florecki] ...enjoy your summer.

[George Stroumboulopoulos] Hi there. How are you? Hi, it's George Stroumboulopoulos. I just wanted to wish you a very heartfelt congratulations on your graduation. It is difficult in the best of times to get into a school, to be able to afford it, to accumulate the debt, and then to graduate, but to have to do that in the face of everything else that has been going on in this world, this year. One of the most complicated, interesting, difficult, challenging, inspiring, and important years that we've ever experienced, but you've done it. And that is worth noting. So, much love and support to you. So now that you got this piece of paper. You've got this distinction. What do you do with it? Well, go out there and be incredible members of your community. Don't be upstanding members of society. That's language that they used to use on you to try to get you to fit in and follow the old system. Don't do that. You've got connections. You've got friendships. You've got education. Many of you have a certain place of privilege. Your job now is to go move mountains and clear spaces for the people who might not have access to the things that you now have. Take all the things that your education has given you and find a way to use it to make this a better and more equitable place. I know you can. You know that old punk rock ethic. If you're united well then you can never be divided.

[Janice Fukakusa, Ryerson University Chancellor] Congratulations graduands for an amazing job well done. I am so proud of you and I know that your family is also proud of you. Thank you to your parents and grandparents, sisters, brothers and friends, who supported you all along the

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Faculty of Arts
Student Experience Centre
stulife@arts.ryerson.ca

way. Your education at the Faculty of Arts gives you the foundation to follow your dreams. And I can say that with certainty, because my degree in Liberal Arts, Political Science and Philosophy, is the best investment that I have ever made. Now it's your time to celebrate. Congratulations and enjoy this wonderful moment.

[Prime Minister Justin Trudeau] Hello everyone. Bonjour tout le monde. Congratulations to Ryerson University's class of 2020. Today is a pivotal moment in your life and I know your friends and family are incredibly proud that you made it to this point. I know that this isn't exactly what you had in mind when you thought of graduation day but we're still going to take a moment to recognize that it took a lot of hard work and sleepless nights for you to get here. During your time at Ryerson you were challenged to expand your knowledge, to open your mind to new and exciting fields of study. You were taught the value of teamwork and the importance of different perspectives and whether you're receiving a degree in the Arts, in Science, or in Business, you've learned valuable skills that have prepared you for what lies ahead. Now I know the future seems more uncertain than it did before. We're facing one of the greatest challenges the World has seen since the second world war. It's why we're celebrating online and not in person today. But the truth is, you will face more challenges as you go through life no matter what path you choose or what profession you pursue after this you'll be faced with obstacles that will test your resolve and your character. It won't always be easy. In fact it rarely will be. But class of 2020 you are ready for whatever comes next. You have everything you need, not only to overcome challenges, but to make your dreams a reality. We're all counting on you to do just that. Because you are the future of our country and of our world and we need you now more than ever. Earning a degree is something worth celebrating, but it's not the only thing we're celebrating today. We're also celebrating everything that you will achieve in the years to come. So as you graduate today enjoy this moment and take comfort in the fact that this is only the beginning. Once again congratulations graduates. Encore une fois, félicitations aux finissants de 2020.

(Student Experience Centre is in a zoom meeting passing a sign that reads, "Congrats Ryerson Arts Grads of 2020".)