

The following message was shared with the Wesleyan community today from President Michael S. Roth '78.

Dear friends,

What a tumultuous year it has been! While emerging from such uncertainty has felt slow, so many Wesleyans helped usher in this time of celebration with hard work, creativity, and joy. From the champagne toast for thesis writers to premieres of new plays and films, our time since spring break has been a whirlwind. What a pleasure for me to see Foss Hill filled with students, and to watch so many of you sing, compete, or just study in some sunny spot near College Row! Exams are almost over, and I'm looking forward to not one, but TWO commencements this year (we are welcoming back the Class of 2020).

I'm so grateful for the care and attentiveness of Rick Culliton and the Pandemic Planning Committee. They kept us safe enough to have the kind of experiences we prize at Wesleyan. Professors, coaches, and staff members were extraordinarily creative in finding ways to support and deliver the best in pragmatic liberal education. The Wes community around the world was generous and enthusiastic in their support. Thank you all!

Wesleyan students throughout the year have shown extraordinary resilience, compassion, and intelligence as we made our way through the pandemic. More than just earning credits, they found ways to learn about themselves and the world while forging deep friendships. They have created a foundation for lifelong learning by seeking out new ideas generated by a variety of perspectives. They did so sometimes with great seriousness but also often with exuberance tempered by humility. The combination is inspiring.

The commencements are around the corner...I'm dusting off my cap and gown. Congratulations on all of Wesleyan's accomplishments. I wish you a healthy, safe, and sunny summer!

Gratefully,

Michael S. Roth
President