



A MESSAGE FROM THE CLASS OF 1970

Dear Wellesley Class of 2020,

As the calendar nears what would have been the dates of your Commencement and of our 50th Reunion, we are reaching out to let you know that you are in our thoughts and our hearts. We were impressed by the spirit exhibited in your “fauxmencement” as your lives were precipitously turned upside down. We share some common experiences during this pandemic, but others are specific to our personal situations and vantage points. While we will miss an opportunity to reconnect with classmates and the beautiful campus that we have held in our hearts for many decades, we can only imagine how disruptive this has been for you.

We, too, experienced a senior year of disruption and uncertainty, fueled by the Vietnam War and the protests in which many of us participated. The spring of our senior year, a nationwide student strike was called in response to shootings at an anti-war demonstration at Kent State University in which the National Guard killed four young people. Many of us wore black armbands to our graduation ceremony. Like you, we graduated into a recession, with dim prospects for employment—but determined to change the world for the better.

Your situation is so very different, unforeseen and entirely beyond your control. But we want to assure you that you are ready to enter this new world and to make it better in all the ways that you had planned. As it did for us, your time at Wellesley has helped you to hone the innate talents you brought to college, taught you new skills, and set you on paths that you might not have foreseen when you entered. The timelines that you planned for yourselves may be altered but your intellect and creativity are needed in this new world environment more than ever.

We congratulate you on your accomplishments, whether you are finishing with high honors or “just graduating” as so many of us did. A Wellesley education requires hard work and commitment and the experience prepares you to accomplish much that you cannot really envision yet. At our reunions, we often talk about the unexpected turns and opportunities that have presented themselves over the years.

We welcome you to your next Wellesley community, that of alumnae around the world. The bonds we established at Wellesley have given us lifelong friends and support, something that your class will also have as you move out into the world. We look forward to sharing stories with you on campus at reunions in years to come.

Warm wishes,

Wellesley Class of 1970

Elizabeth Trimble, President