

Boston University Academy Commencement

26th Exercise

Monday, May 18, 2020

11:00 a.m.



Diploma Ceremony

"Pomp and Circumstance"

Dr. Brett Abigaña and Dr. Szu-Ning Tai, Music Instructors

Welcome

Dr. Rosemary White, Interim Head of School

Opening Remarks

Dr. Jean Morrison, Provost, Boston University

Keynote Address

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker

"Go the Distance"

Polytropos

Latin Oration

Yixing Wang, Class of 2020

Ancient Greek Oration

William Brown, Class of 2020

Student Address

Alexis Puthussery, Class of 2020

Student Address

William Reason, Class of 2020

Presentation of Senior Class Gift

Maria Levit, Class of 2020 and William Reason, Class of 2020

Awarding of Diplomas

Charge to the BUA Class of 2020

Members of the BUA Class of 2020

Atiyyah Fatimah Abdur-Rahman

Hyunjun Ahn

William Nathanael Brown

Martin M. Brunswick IV

Allison Cheng Burdi

Ethan Y. Cheung

Everett Collins

Nikola Dobrev

Alex Nelson Duchnowski

Anna Dzhitenov

Kaiti Filippou

Xiangrui Fu

Stephanie B. Gratiano

Caileen Ella Hayes

Douglas L. Hazel

Ewan Y. Henderson

Nataly Leah Kaldawy

Chaerin Kim

David Aaron Houdek Koplow

Vibhav Kumar

Henry Gabriel Lamkin

Jean Lee

Maria Levit

Oghenerukevwe Ifunanyachukwu Madu

Denis Matov

Nicket Mauskar

Sonya Alexandra Poznansky

Anisha Prakash

Alexis Maria Puthussery

Easwer Raman

William Raymond Reason

Aniketh G. Reddy

Juliana Sposito Sena

Grace Elizabeth Simpson

Michael Louis Simpson

Jada Nicole Smith

Sarah Anne Snyder

Gurnoor Singh Sooch

Jeremy H. C. Springer

Sumedha Vemparala

Yixing Wang

Emelie Pauline Watkins Valls

Robert Gabriel West

Alexander Wheeler

Lihanxi Ye

Alex Wang Zhang

Lizi Zhang

2020 Senior Thesis Titles

Atiyyah Fatimah Abdur-Rahman	The Effect of Motivation on the Academic Careers of School Age Children
Hyunjun Ahn	Inhibition of CDC14 in Verticillium longisporum as a potential fungicide target, reducing crop loss from fungal plant pathogens
William Nathanael Brown	"A red flag before the Gallic bull:" Bismarck, the Ems Telegram, and the Outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War
Martin M. Brunswick IV	Understanding Concept Art
Allison Cheng Burdi	Identification of a Novel Promoter Region in the HIV Genome
Ethan Y. Cheung	Increasing CeMV infection rates among Bottlenose Dolphins in Western Australia
Everett Collins	Self- Understanding in Happiness
Nikola Dobrev	Autonomous Service Robots and Semantic Mapping
Alex Nelson Duchnowski	Applying Neural Networks to Frame Detection in Gun Incident Coverage in the Media
Anna Dzhitenov	From Narrative to Not: Cinematic Tradition and My Own Evolution
Kaiti Filippou	Climate Modeling: Determining the Efficacy of White Roofs in Decreasing Surface Temperature and Surrounding Air Temperature in Urban Heat Islands in the United States Northeast
Xiangrui Fu	Lumina Design: A Specialized Design System for Dark User Interfaces
Stephanie B. Gratiano	Through Hostile Eyes: A Close Reading of the New York Times Co. v. United States Opinions
Caileen Ella Hayes	"The Heart Of His Mystery": Interpreting and Playing Hamlet

2020 Senior Thesis Titles

Douglas L. Hazel	How Symbols and Sounds Drive Thought Processes in Native Languages of Children
Ewan Y. Henderson	Effects of Urbanization and Forest Fragmentation on Foliar Nitrogen and Carbon in the Northeastern U.S
Nataly Leah Kaldawy	An Investigation of Behavioral Therapy for Patients with Alzheimer's Disease in Nursing Homes
Chaerin Kim	The Benefits of Art therapy for Adolescents with ADHD
David Aaron Houdek Koplow	Using Neural-Embedded Nonlinear Mixed Effects Models to treat Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Vibhav Kumar	Analysis of Radiative Transitions In Diatomic Molecules
Henry Gabriel Lamkin	An Analysis of the Chaotic Double Pendulum
Jean Lee	The Work of Liver Foundations in Taiwan: An Analysis of the Qualities that have Sustained these Foundations in the Context of the Taiwan National Health Insurance
Maria Levit	The Climate Change Denial Machine: the Mechanism, the Actors, and the 'Debate' Surrounding Anthropogenic Global Warming
Oghenerukevwe Ifunanyachukwu Madu	Sexual assault on college campuses; with a specific focus on universities in the Boston area
Denis Matov	Social Media as a Screening Tool in the Hiring Process
Nicket Mauskar	Statistical Analysis of Neonicotinoid Toxin Exposure in the United States
Sonya Alexandra Poznansky	The Role of Mature B Lymphocytes in the Improvement of Brain Structure and Function Following Contusion Traumatic Brain Injury in Murine Models

2020 Senior Thesis Titles

Anisha Prakash	A Comparative Analysis of Tryptophan Hydroxylase and Phenylalanine Hydroxylase How Close is Close Enough?
Alexis Maria Puthussery	Optimization of a microfluidic system for PLGA nanoparticle fabrication
Easwer Raman	Novel Detection of Malarial Protein Biomarker via Sandwich Assay and Anodic Stripping Voltammetry
William Raymond Reason	Can We Ever Be Responsible for What We Do? Does it Matter? A Comprehensive Modern Analysis of the Free Will Debate and a Defense of Hard Incompatibilism
Aniketh G. Reddy	PMAT framework connections in Clinical High Risk patients for psychosis
Juliana Sposito Sena	European Approach to Climate Change: The Lessons of Germany's Energiewende on Environmental Policy
Grace Elizabeth Simpson	The Drama of Reserve in Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility
Michael Louis Simpson	Creating <i>Kuebiko</i>
Jada Nicole Smith	Analysing the Problems and Solutions of the Student Debt Crisis
Sarah Anne Snyder	The Effect of CXCL12 on the survival and function of human stem cell-derived islets
Gurnoor Singh Sooch	Visual Odometry in Autonomous Vehicles
Jeremy H. C. Springer	Glowsticks: a Novel Method of Antibody Labeling
Sumedha Vemparala	How a Student's Surrounding Environment affects their Education
Yixing Wang	Contradiction and Confidence in Two Socratic Dialogues
Emelie Pauline Watkins Valls	Influence of Socioeconomic Status on Frequency of Risk-Taking Behaviors in Patients with Borderline Personality Disorder

2020 Senior Thesis Titles

Robert Gabriel West

The Compositional Strategies of Paul Simon

Alexander Wheeler

Plotting Defensive Alignments for a Given Batter Pitcher Matchup

Lihanxi Ye

Studying Crossfeeding in Microbial Consortia using Phenotype Microarrays of Biofuel Relevant Microbes: *Yarrowia lipolytica* and *Pseudomonas putida*

Alex Wang Zhang

Analyzing SEC Measures Against Fiduciary Conflict of Interest

Lizi Zhang

Role of Type-1 and Type-2 Calreticulin Mutation in Mitochondrial Metabolism of Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

Classics Orations

Latin Oration

Seneca, *De Consolatione ad Helviam*, 11.8.5-6

Yixing Wang, Class of 2020

[5] Alacres itaque et erecti, quocumque res tulerit, intrepido gradu properemus, emetiamur quascumque terras. [...] Undecumque ex aequo ad caelum erigitur acies, paribus intervallis omnia divina ab omnibus humanis distant. [6] Proinde, dum oculi mei ab illo spectaculo, cuius insatiabiles sunt, non abducantur, dum mihi solem lunamque intueri liceat, dum ceteris inhaerere sideribus, dum ortus eorum occasusque et intervalla et causas investigare vel ocius meandi vel tardius, spectare tot per noctem stellas micantis et alias immobiles, alias non in magnum spatium exeuntis sed intra suum se circumagentis vestigium, quasdam subito erumpentis, quasdam igne fuso praestringentes aciem, quasi decidant, vel longo tractu cum luce multa praetervolantes, dum cum his sim et caelestibus, qua homini fas est, immiscear, dum animum ad cognatarum rerum conspectum tendentem in sublimi semper habeam — quantum refert mea, quid calcem?]

5] Therefore, eager and upright with undaunted step, let us hasten wherever circumstance carries us, let us traverse whatever lands. [...] No matter where the gaze is lifted from earth to heaven, the realms of the divine stand apart from those of humans at a constant distance. [6] Hence, so long as my eyes are not deprived of that spectacle with which they are never sated, so long as I may contemplate the sun and the moon, so long as I may ponder the other planets, so long as I may study their risings and settings, their periods, and the reasons for their quicker and slower passings, so long as I may behold the countless stars gleaming throughout the night — some at rest, others not entering into a vast orbit but circling around themselves within their own field; some suddenly shooting forth, others dazzling the eye with scattered fire as if they were falling, or flying by with a long trail of glistening light — so long as I may stay with these and, in so far as it is permitted to a mortal, commune with celestial beings, so long as I may direct my mind always to the sight of kindred things, striving on high — what does it matter to me which soil I may tread upon?

Classics Orations

Ancient Greek Oration

Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*, 2.40

William Brown, Class of 2020

φιλοκαλοῦ μὲν τε γὰρ μετ'εὐτελείας καὶ φιλοσοφοῦμεν ἄνευ μαλακίας: πλούτῳ τε ἔργου μᾶλλον καιρῷ ἢ λόγου κόμπῳ χρώμεθα, καὶ τὸ πένεσθαι οὐχ ὁμολογεῖν τινὶ αἰσχρόν, ἀλλὰ μὴ διαφεύγειν ἔργῳ αἴσχιον. . . [2] καὶ οἱ αὐτοὶ ἦτοι κρίνομέν γε ἢ ἐνθυμούμεθα ὀρθῶς τὰ πράγματα, οὐ τοὺς λόγους τοῖς ἔργοις βλάβην ἡγούμενοι, ἀλλὰ μὴ προδιδαχθῆναι μᾶλλον λόγῳ πρότερον ἢ ἐπὶ ᾧ δεῖ ἔργῳ ἐλθεῖν. [3] διαφερόντως γὰρ δὴ καὶ τόδε ἔχομεν ὥστε τολμᾶν τε οἱ αὐτοὶ μάλιστα καὶ περὶ ὧν ἐπιχειρήσομεν ἐκλογίζεσθαι: ὁ τοῖς ἄλλοις ἀμαθία μὲν θράσος, λογισμὸς δὲ ὄκνον φέρει. κράτιστοι δ' ἂν τὴν ψυχὴν δικαίως κριθεῖεν οἷτά τε δεινὰ καὶ ἡδέα σαφέστατα γινώσκοντες καὶ διὰ ταῦτα μὴ ἀποτρεπόμενοι ἐκ τῶν κινδύνων. [4] καὶ τὰ ἐς ἀρετὴν ἐνηντιώμεθα τοῖς πολλοῖς: οὐ γὰρ πάσχοντες εὔ, ἀλλὰ δρῶντες κτώμεθα τοὺς φίλους. . . [5] καὶ μόνοι οὐ τοῦ ξυμφέροντος μᾶλλον λογισμῷ ἢ τῆς ἐλευθερίας τῷ πιστῷ ἀδεῶς τινὰ ὠφελοῦμεν.

[1] For we love beauty with moderation and love wisdom without being weaklings—indeed, we use our wealth as an occasion for action, not as an excuse for bragging. We do not call impoverishment shameful; it is shameful, instead, not to work towards escaping impoverishment. . . [2] We ourselves at least discuss, or even develop, our policy properly; we do not believe that words are harmful to deeds, but rather that setting out upon what must be done without being instructed by a speech beforehand is harmful to deeds. [3] For we especially hold to this fact, that we dare most of all to reflect on the things that we undertake. To others, ignorance is courage, while knowledge brings hesitation. But they would be rightly judged strongest in spirit who, foreseeing most clearly both terrible and pleasant things, nevertheless do not turn away from danger. [4] And we are different from many men in our virtue, since we acquire friends not by receiving benefits but by conferring them . . . [5] We alone bring aid to others, without cowardice, not according to our knowledge of the profit, but according to our reliance on our liberty.

Members of the Class of 2020

will attend the following institutions this fall:

Barnard College	McGill University
Boston University (10)	University of Michigan
Brandeis University	Northeastern University (3)
Brown University	University of Pennsylvania
University of Chicago	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Colby College	Rhode Island School of Design
Colorado College	School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Columbia University	Stanford University
Connecticut College	Swarthmore College
University of Connecticut (2)	Tel Aviv University and
Cornell University	Columbia University Dual Degree
Dartmouth College	Program
Georgia Institute of Technology (2)	Tufts University
Harvard College	Washington University in St. Louis
Indiana University-Bloomington	Wesleyan University
University of Maryland-College Park	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	

Boston University Academy

Faculty and Administration

Rosemary White, Interim Head of School

Brett Abigaña, Mark Alonge, Jill Atkinson, Travis Bain,
Jonathan Baker, Aiysha Barr, Dawn Bregoli, Paige Brewster,
Meghan Brown, Olive Brown, Carly Buckholz,
Elizabeth Cellucci, Margo Cox, James Davis, Sirena Davis, Nick
Dent, Srdjan Divac, Ellen Evans, Daniel Ford, Jennifer Formichelli,
Rita Freda, Bill Gardiner, Nastaran Hakimi, Gordon Harvey,
Richard Horn, Stacey Hughes, Kristin Jewell, Patricia Larash,
Rachel Mansour, Carlos Martinez, Elisha Meyer,
Victoria Perrone, Lauren Proll, Eric Simonian, Meg Shannon,
David Stone, Cynthia Taylor, Steph Tattrie, Stacey Weiskopf