Dear STHM graduates,

It’s with tremendous pride that I write this to you all. Of course, this isn’t how we ever envisioned we’d celebrate everything you’ve done over your years here at the School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management (STHM). But recent days have demanded flexibility and resilience, and you’ve shown you’re up to the many kinds of challenges ahead of you.

Your time here has been a transformative one for Temple and the school. You witnessed the opening of the state-of-the-art Charles Library just across O’Connor Plaza. You’ve joined us in celebrating STHM’s 20th anniversary and the launch of the U.S.-Asia Center for Tourism and Hospitality Research. You’ve seen the opening of Saxbys as an Experiential Learning Cafe and many other improvements to our home in Speakman Hall.

During these years we’ve grown and extended our reach into the industries we serve, forging new partnerships and creating valuable internship experiences.

For your part, you’ve embarked on research projects, found new ways to impact your community and engaged with your professors and your peers in meaningful ways. You’ll find that these experiences will position you for many kinds of success going forward.

We know you’ll take the knowledge and experience you’ve gained and build a career where you can showcase your talents and pursue your passions. In that way you can take us with you wherever you go, and as alumni I hope you’ll always consider STHM to be home.

This is really a beginning, so cherish the moment as you prepare for the exciting life that awaits you. I wish you all the best as you make this transition. All of us here—the faculty, staff and leadership—are cheering for you.

Congratulations!

DR. JEREMY S. JORDAN, PhD
Associate Dean
A MESSAGE FROM THE

FOUNDING

ASSOCIATE DEAN

To the Class of 2020,

I know you are graduating in a time of uncertainty and your life is full of anxiety. However, I know one thing – you have a rock-solid education, you have been taught by “the best”, and you are more talented and prepared than any of your competitors graduating at this same time. You are #TEMPLEMADE and #PHILLYSTRONG. Don’t ever forget this.

In response to his personal SWOT assignment, here is what I said to one of your fellow graduates who had lost his motivation: “I know it’s hard to be optimistic right now, but seriously think about opportunities as a positive (not a negative).

Some of your classmates have found opportunities through webinars and professional associations that help them think about alternative employment options.

Even doing research on position openings (when you have a lot of time to search) can give you new ideas. Use this time to readjust your focus and be creative – as I think you are. Keep looking for a silver lining. It’s out there.”

This shall pass, as other horrific situations in our past have done. Go get ’em with your #TEMPLEPROUD attitude and your #STHM pride. Reach out to us whenever you want and keep in touch – we are family forever.

All The Best – STHM Class of 2020.

You are #TEMPLEMADE and #PHILLYSTRONG.

DR. BETSY BARBER, PhD, CHE
STHM Professor and Founding Associate Dean

Dr. Barber was selected as the 2020 Commencement Guest Speaker
ADDRESS TO THE STHM GRADUATES

Dear STHM graduates,

We have spent the past few years in the heart of North Philadelphia. We have grit. We are resilient. We adapted to change while working from a remote learning environment because we are Temple Owls and perseverance conquers.

Everything we have experienced and learned during this time is going to transfer into our careers when the new world emerges. Tell the world how you became Temple Made while finishing your final semester online due to a global pandemic because we made Temple Proud!

Congratulations Class of 2020! Let’s celebrate!

Mary Kate Meals, '20
Bachelor of Science in Sport and Recreation Management
Concentration in Governance and Policy
Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion
Director of Sponsorship and Fundraising, SAGA

Mary Kate was selected as the 2020 Commencement Student Speaker

We are Temple Owls and perseverance conquers.
“Something that is unique about our experience at Temple is that from the day we make our decision to attend, we are taken under the wing of Student Affairs. It is through the comprehensive experiences they provide us with that we have the support to become the best version of ourselves and the ability to positively transform society.”

- MARY KATE MEALS, ’20
Thank you STHM for the best 4 years. Over these years, I have made lifelong friendships and unforgettable memories. I will never forget volunteering at the Linc, especially when we became NFC Champions, and running down Broad Street when we won the Super Bowl. By being part of Eta Sigma Delta, we had the opportunity to explore NYC and the Hotel Experience show. I will miss Temple tailgates, but already can’t wait for homecoming. I look forward to bumping into each other at future industry events and can’t wait to see all the amazing things you all do in this next chapter. Congratulations Class of 2020!

Thank you Temple University STHM for the unforgettable experiences, forever friends, and memories I will cherish for a lifetime! Class of 2020 #TempleMade

Graduation is not the end; it’s the beginning, but “WE DID IT CLASS OF 2020!!! We are ready to start our new chapter, and I wish y’all the best of luck! Thank you to all the faculty and staff of STHM for supporting me throughout this journey. I want to send a special “Thank You” to professor Sheridan for encouraging me to step out of my comfort-zone and be able to express myself more. And thank you for making my college journey more meaningful and memorable.
I want to thank the STHM faculty, staff and my classmates for making my college experience one of the best. From making new friends while earning industry hours, to many professors helping me out off the clock, the lessons I have learned from STHM will stick with me forever. I will take what I’ve learned at Temple and carry it with me in the Sport world and beyond.

I want to thank my friends and my family for supporting me throughout my college years!! Without the support of them I wouldn’t be where I am today. Thanks for all the late-night homework help, the motivation when I need it, and never missing a Temple event that I was at. I did it!

ALLY ESPOSITO
BS Sport and Recreation Management, Governance and Policy Concentration

I want to thank the STHM faculty, staff and my classmates for making my college experience one of the best. From making new friends while earning industry hours, to many professors helping me out off the clock, the lessons I have learned from STHM will stick with me forever. I will take what I’ve learned at Temple and carry it with me in the Sport world and beyond.

I want to thank my friends and my family for supporting me throughout my college years!! Without the support of them I wouldn’t be where I am today. Thanks for all the late-night homework help, the motivation when I need it, and never missing a Temple event that I was at. I did it!

AUDREY FISSEL
BS Sport and Recreation Management

Thank you to my family who has not only supported me through my time at Temple University but enjoyed everything Philadelphia has to offer with me.

I just want to say thank you to STHM staff, faculty, peers for creating a fantastic experience over the last 4 years. As an international student from India, I came and got exposed to not only the American sport industry but the global sport industry. I learned a lot, volunteered at so many places, made several connections, had two amazing internships and really understood my place as a professional and as a global citizen.

To my favorite professors - John Allgood, George Diemer, Thilo Kunkel, Rick Ridall, Heather Kennedy, Caroline Heffernan - thank you all for teaching me not only about sports but about life and a lot of other things. Thank you for all the advice and guidance, it is something that will serve me well for the future! To Ms. Wilt and Mr. Mayer, thank you for all the support for all the non-study related aspects of STHM - helping with internships, resumes and everything else. You all are terrific leaders and hardworking professionals and that is a great thing for this program and the school.

ZIIYING HUANG
BS Tourism and Hospitality Management

The STHM experience has been and will forever be a memorable one. From the classmates who turned to friends to the faculty who have become mentors. This journey has just begun and I thank all at STHM for preparing me as I take the next step in my life.

I will always be proud of being a member of STHM and treasures all memories from the bottom of my heart. Thank you, Professor Sheridan, Dr. Lu, Dr. Ok and my friends!
George Strait once sang, “I ain’t here for a long time, I’m here for a good time.” When we look back on our time at Temple, we will realize it was just a pit-stop in this long race we call life. However, I am confident that when we think back to our time here it will be filled with not only some good times, but some great times that turned us into the great people we are! From all of the memories in classes or in SPOs, the conferences attended, the friends made, the lessons learned, I am confident we will look back on these times fondly. Thank you to everyone who made this possible for all of us and GO OWLS!

To my parents and brother - Thank you for always pushing me to be the best I can be and being the greatest support system! To our STHM faculty (special shout-outs to Dr. Taylor, Dr. Heffernan, Dr. Giddings, Dr. Jones, Professor Alligood and Professor Ridall) - A huge thank you for helping me navigate my career and this crazy thing called life! I truly would not have been able to accomplish what I have without your guidance, advice and at times being my stand in therapist! To the friends I have made along the way - Thank you for always pushing me go above and beyond and being a shoulder to cry on when needed. At this point, we have truly gone through it all together and even though our time together was cut short, I am so appreciative of what you all mean to me.

I may be a Bull come fall, but I will forever and always be an Owl! I can finally say, “I am Temple Made and Temple Proud!”
ANDREW NIEMIEC
BS Sport and Recreation Management
I want to say a special thank you to Professor Ridall, Dr. Heffernan, Dr. Ben and the many other faculty, staff and students of STHM!! I want to thank each and every one of you for making my time at Temple memorable, productive and special.
I'd also like to thank my family and friends for their help and support throughout my time at Temple. I could not have made it to this point without you!! #TempleMade #STHMExperience #TempleProud

NINA NOVOTNI
BS Sport and Recreation Management
Thank you, Temple University, and STHM for the past 4 years! I am forever grateful to be an Owl and to have been able to experience this amazing school. I can't wait to see what the future holds. Go Owls!!!

AMARI O GALDEZ
BS Sport and Recreation Management
To all of the friends that I've made since my first day in STHM, we dreamed about this day and we did it. The world is ours!

CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS
BS Sport and Recreation Management, Sport Promotion Concentration
“I can’t wait until I shock the doubters and prove I’m better and stronger than I was before.” - Derrick Rose

SAMANTHA REYNOLDS
BS Sport and Recreation Management
“If you don’t go after what you want, you’ll never have it. If you don’t ask, the answer is always no. If you don’t step forward, you’re always in the same place.”
-Nora Roberts

ANIK SINGH
BS Sport and Recreation Management
For all my fellow graduates - Congratulations! We did it! While it may not be the graduation we expected, it doesn’t diminish our accomplishments.
“it’s not the destination, it’s the journey” -Ralph Waldo Emerson
To the faculty and staff - Thank you for all of your support and help over the years. You have helped mold us into the young professionals. You are what make this program special!

RACHEL ROONEY
BS Sport and Recreation Management
“You can’t move forward without saying goodbye to the past.” Thank you, Temple, for being my second home the last three years! I will forever miss you, Go Owls!
To the STHM Class of 2020,

CONGRATULATIONS! Thank you to everyone at STHM for making my time here at Temple the best that it could be! You will all hold a special place in my heart forever! Temple Made and Temple Proud!

“Those times when you get up early and you work hard; those times when you stay up late and you work hard; those times when you don’t feel like working, you’re too tired, you don’t want to push yourself, but you do it anyway; that is actually the dream. That’s the dream. It’s not the destination, it’s the journey.” - Kobe Bryant

Shout-outs to my all my STHM friends and especially my “best friend,” our mascot, Hooter the Owl for making my time here that much more enjoyable!! Let’s Go Owls!!!!

“And may sunshine and happiness surround you when you’re far from home. And may you grow to be proud, dignified, and true.” - Rod Stewart, Forever Young

No matter how far in the world I travel, STHM will always be my anchor. I express my deepest and most sincere gratitude to all faculty, professors and colleagues. Cheers to us Class of 2020!
WE CREATED OUR NETWORKS AND MADE SOME OF OUR BEST FRIENDS WITHIN THE WALLS OF SPEAKMAN HALL.
I think we can all agree we would not have been as successful on this journey without the advocacy.
OF OUR AMAZING FACULTY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND THE ROLES YOU PLAYED
IN HELPING EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US ACHIEVE THIS MILESTONE

WE ARE OFFICIALLY
TEMPLE MADE!