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BAS 2021 Graduate

First, I want to start off by thanking the staff and students for arranging this event, from coordinating with students to distributing the gift cards. It's a pleasure being able to participate and speak in such a significant and unique celebration, and so I do appreciate being given this chance to speak for the urbanism students.

I know going into design is the most popular decision, (and I mean no hate on it), but I am truly grateful that I made the choice during my first year to make the switch from design to urbanism.

The urbanism stream, despite being the smallest, will always have a huge place in my heart, and I've always tried to push new students and high schoolers to consider it. This stream gave us the opportunity to reflect on political, climate, and social issues in design and allowed us to be creative, curious, and experimental even if we thought our ideas were bad. I think one of the best pieces of advice we got from Catherine's studio was to Be Ragged. There's no right way to do things, so long as our message is sent. I hope all future students get to experience these four or so years the same way we did and even better.

Overall, the architecture school experience is really so unique from other programs; being a close-knit community, we are able to work closer together and do activities within and outside our field, which helped us build a lot of meaningful connections. The urbanism studios were especially enjoyable with every instructor we had, who always put 1,000 percent of their patience, dedication, and wisdom to give us the richest studio experience even if we're unresponsive sometimes. and they ultimately became people we look up to, as well as other instructors outside of the studio, of course.

We've created great memories together, like catching a Christmas vibe with Ben Gianni, a Halloween costume competition with Amy Falkner, the cutest valentine decorations in Jon Lochman's studio, and creative virtual activities and experiments with Katy Bonier, Aron Chang, and Ana Orosco. And, of course, those of us who were lucky enough to catch a memorable DSA trip to Japan with Janine right before the pandemic.

Maybe because back in first year, some older students scared us into thinking it's never gonna end, but these four or so years passed even quicker than we all thought. So, it feels unreal sitting here today, celebrating our hard work, it's probably not the way any of us predicted it to happen, but we've managed to make the best of it.

I sincerely believe we're some of the most hard-working students, which is evident in the work that we produce and even from how well-spoken and articulate we are. We should all be very proud of ourselves and very grateful for all our teachers and faculty for guiding us. And a special thank you to those who promoted a safe space for us to be expressive and vulnerable. So, I

congratulate us all on reaching this very impressive achievement, and I can't wait to see where all of us go from here with these new skills, knowledge, and connections.
Thank you!