Options Through Education

OTE 2019
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Dear 2019 OTE Scholars!

Growing up, a wise person once told me: gratitude is the best of virtues, and ingratitude the worst of vices. For this reason, I would be remis if I don’t start by thanking you all for an incredible summer. It wasn’t always easy and rosy, but like the champions that you are you were able to rise to the occasion and step into your excellence. I am grateful for a summer of hard-work, dedication, commitment to community goals and standards, and the formation of friendships that could last a lifetime. I am grateful for the experience of journeying with you as you take your first steps into your bright and amazing futures, knowing all the while that you are winners.

In Boston College we pride ourselves on being men and women for others. Being men and women for others does not require that you be perfect: perfect is the enemy of the good. Being men and women for others simply asks that you be good, and that you do good. It means that you learn over the next couple of years and for the rest of your life to appreciate the values of community, of belonging, and of otherness. Being men and women for others asks that we learn to see the value of putting others first without burning ourselves out; but more importantly, being men and women for others demands that we step into our purpose in life, our hopes and dreams, and our aspirations; it requires that we reposition ourselves and strive to reach our God-given potential.

So where do we go from here? How do we step into our excellence? In order for us to know where we are going, we have to first of all take an inventory of where we’ve been precisely because a future that is oblivious of the past is arrogant at best, and pontificating on speculation at worst. Own your past, accept it as a teaching moment of your existence, learn from it, and then grow toward a future with hope, zeal, and resilience. Never accept a “no” from someone who does not have the power to give you a “yes.” And sometimes when life at Boston College would have you come across difficult and frustrating experiences, think of them as sandpaper: those experiences may hurt you and rub you the wrong way, but depending on how you react to them, you will end up clean and polished beyond compare.

Therefore, my dear friends, you have reached an important milestone of your life map; what happens next is up to you. Learn to grow in virtue and goodness; be the bright star that we believe you to be; and more importantly, as you come back to Boston College in the Fall we ask that you “come fully functioning,” that you bring all that you are and all that you hope to become, your hopes and dreams, your aspirations, your experiences, your culture, your God-given potential as responsibility and gift to Boston College for the greater glory of God!

Tabi

Now Playing: Bigger - Beyonce
Dear students,
I’m thinking back to the time when I called each of you separately for the first time. I was so nervous to speak to you, knowing that OTE might have been the last thing you wanted to think about during your last couple of days of summer or right after your high school graduation. Hearing your voices made my role as your preceptor a reality. I was so excited to meet each of you and anxious to unfold who you are and where you come from.

Thank you for the extensive and hard work that you have put into the OTE program. The long nights, the studying, the essays and math problems, the long conversations, and laughs have all made your OTE class one that is extremely unique. It’s been a pleasure seeing each of you develop your own personalities and learn more about yourself throughout this program.

All of you have put in so much effort. You have voiced your opinions. You shared your stories and allowed others in. I cannot thank you enough for being vulnerable to one another and to the rest of our OTE family. Because of your resilience and openness, you have made become strong and compassionate leaders that BC is lucky to have.

Lastly, I want to welcome you to your freshman year at BC. I am SO SO proud of each of you. Thank you for motivating me to become a better person and for helping me be vulnerable and true to my emotions. I have learned so much about compassion and excellence through each of you. I’m looking forward to seeing you on campus and I will be here for you throughout your successes and difficulties. I’ll be a listening ear and a constant support for you. Come visit me in the Mods my loves!!

With love,
Ann
Leonidas Acosta
Ethnicity: Dominican
Favorite Song: "Both of Us" - Bobby Ray & Taylor Swift
Favorite Dance: Floss
Fun Fact: I love Korean dramas.

Aissata Diallo
Ethnicity: Guinean
Favorite Song: "Lil Baby" - Time (ft Meek Mill)
Favorite Dance: Gwara Gwara
Fun Fact: My favorite shows are from Bollywood cinema.

Lenisle Ferriera
Ethnicity: Cape-Verdean
Favorite Song: "As I Am" - H.E.R
Favorite Dance: The Woah
Fun Fact: I climbed the highest mountain in Maine (Mount Katahdin)
Ja Colby Freeman
Ethnicity: African-American
Favorite Song: N/A
Favorite Dance: N/A
Fun Fact: I'm multi-talented!

Francisco Marmolejo
Ethnicity: Mexican/ Latino
Favorite Song: Any Drake song
Favorite Dance: Hit Daquan
Fun Fact: I like to eat a lot.
What a wonderful summer you have all gifted me! I am infinitely grateful for the amazing memories we have shared over the past seven weeks.

From the first phone call that we exchanged prior to the beginning of the program, all the anxiety that I had felt about being a leader in OTE changed into excitement, and it is all because of the kindness that you all exuded towards me. Although time was not on our side, we’ve managed to create comfort around each other, and very soon enough, it felt just right to consider you all family. Sharon, you are a force of calmness. I have witnessed your growth throughout this summer from a very reserved nature to the spirit that makes it acceptable for all to open up through your own vulnerability. Estefani, please be generous enough to share your wonderfully fun and lively personality with your classmates and with the world, we could all use this energy which pushes you to dance in the hallway at 2:00 am like it’s nobody’s business. Jesse, that picture you took of me while sleeping on duty, do not let it be seen by the BAIC staff, I might lose a paycheck. Your kindness is indispensable and will be one of the marks you’ll leave on the world like you did on me. Randal, I may still be mad at you that you chose Leo as your favorite preceptor, but I’ll always remember that you always took the time to say «Hey Nia» every single time that you saw me. It truly made a difference in my days. Zeyad, you are a leader! I long for the day that you’ll invite me to one of your meetings so that I can interrupt every chance I get with questions that are not necessarily related to the topic. Please don’t ever stop asking questions and looking for answers; you’re gonna be great.

Looking at every single one of you OTE scholars, I see passion, determination, resilience, beauty, strength, unity, and overall hope for the Boston College community. I cannot help but feel blessed to share the same academic space as all of you during the next year, because BC has gained some extraordinary leaders. Know that I extend my friendship and service to you all beyond OTE. Feel free to contact me anytime, it will be my pleasure to assist you with anything, even if it consists of a small conversation over lunch. I am thankful to have been part of your extraordinary journey. Thank you for that and good luck on your world-changing and amazing, future endeavors!

Nia
Randal Agyekum

Ethnicity: Ghanaian
Favorite Song: "Heard'em Say" - Kanye West
Favorite Dance: N/A
Fun Fact: I lived in Ghana for 6 years.

Jesse Aguirre

Ethnicity: Guatemalan-American
Favorite Song: "Sad Forever" - Lauv
Favorite Dance: Salsa
Fun Fact: I swam for 4 years.

Zeyad Anwar

Ethnicity: Egyptian
Favorite Song: "Soldi" - Mahmood
Favorite Dance: Hip-Hop
Fun Fact: N/A
Estefani Chavez Mier

Ethnicity: Hispanic
Favorite Song: "Remember Me" - UMI
Favorite Dance: The Woah
Fun Fact: I can squeal and sound like a pterodactyl.

Sharon Anva Acha

Ethnicity: Cameroonian
Favorite Song: "Sunday Candy" - Danny Trumpet
Favorite Dance: Step
Fun Fact: N/A
Hello Members of Leo’s Titanic,

It’s me, your preceptor writing. By the time you read this it will have been too late, I will be hundreds of miles away, gone, and on a beach probably. It’s my belief that any good ending also serves as a good beginning—this is the impact I hope my letter has on you all. I don’t want for this to be a simple farewell, but rather a letter of welcoming; an invitation.

Foremost, Congratulations in accomplishing the OTE program. It’s been such a pleasure to be your preceptor and spend the entirety of the summer with you all. I don’t think I can speak for each of your subjective experiences regarding how the summer went; however, I can give you some insight into how mine went. Summer flew right by me, and I sat in the same seat in the longue as it did. I really cannot imagine a better way that I would’ve liked to spend the summer before my junior year. I stood by you all as you got adjusted to being a Boston College student. I witnessed you get to work and motivate each other to be the best students you could be. I got to have conversations and share my experiences with you. It’s been so incredible to see the fruits of this program ripen; that’s each of you.

I feel as though our group had a good variety of people and an interesting small-group dynamic. You all were funny, energetic, serious, driven, and compassionate. I’ll admit that there were moments in which I thought that nobody would say a word, but I think that once we got into our small group rhythm and flow our conversations were very organic and productive. Mandatory small group time aside, it was such a great experience to get to know you through regular everyday life in Chevy. I enjoyed being under the beating summer sun with you all, whether we were picking weeds in Mattapan or at Martha’s Vineyard enjoying some ice cream. I’ve appreciated watching you all blossom outside of the academic setting. It’s been such an incredible experience to watch you all find your own friends, adjust to your class intensity, and find your own identity. Without mentioning names, I’ve been very fond of my trips to the printing room for you all, late night conversations, knocks on my door, and pretending not to recognize y’all or know your names. These moments have made the summer memorable, to say the least, but I feel as though they’ve also strengthened our bond.
I’ll admit—no surprise—that for most of the summer I did not know what I was doing or what was going on. I worried, at moments, that I would not be a good enough preceptor or that I wouldn’t be able to break the ice in a small group. I’m happy that, for the most part, we’ve all made it through the summer in the right direction and with our heads on our shoulders. I’m proud to have been some semblance of a mentor to you all this summer. I have been so blessed to be a preceptor this year, specifically the preceptor to this small group. I can’t see my summer going any other way. As a BC student who did not do the OTE program coming into my freshman year, I feel in a very similar position to you all this upcoming fall. You’ve all grown so much this summer, as have I, and I’m grateful to have evolved together, collectively. I will continue to grow, as I expect you all to.

Luciana, you’re incredibly smart and I look forward to having you as a peer in the fall. Sammy, you’re so nice and I’ve appreciated getting to know you more, as well as witnessing you become more comfortable in your new environment. Rafid, you’re so funny and never failed to brighten up the mood of those around you. Teon, you’re a great singer, a great athlete, and a great student I’m so thankful for having got to know you this summer. Makayla, you’re so confident, yet you don’t let it become arrogance, you’re honest with yourself and those around you which I really appreciate. I’ll be around for the next 2 years so don’t fail to reach out to me if you’d like. Thanks for the memorable summer. See you this fall.

Preceptor Leo
Samantha Davis
Ethnicity: White
Favorite Song: Crooked Smile by J. Cole
Favorite Dance: Milly Rock
Fun Fact: I love The Office.

Rafidur Rafid
Ethnicity: Bangladeshi
Favorite Song: It's You by Ali Gatie
Favorite Dance: Woah
Fun Fact: I can eat 7 McChickens in under 10 minutes.

Teon Smith
Ethnicity: African-American
Favorite Song: Psycho by Post Malone
Favorite Dance: Reverse
Fun Fact: I sang the National Anthem at a Cleveland Cavaliers game.
Luciana Calderon

Ethnicity: Dominican
Favorite Song: Lights Down Low by Max
Favorite Dance: Bachata
Fun Fact: I canoed in Ely, Minnesota for 3 weeks.

Makayla Guisse

Ethnicity: Jamaican-American
Favorite Song: Alemda by Solange (atm)
Favorite Dance: Whining
Fun Fact: I can fit in the dryer machine.
“Hey guys what’s up! I’m Mohamed, but y’all can call me Mo, and I’m going to be your preceptor for the summer! It’s gon be a dope summer together but before we get into all the fun can we just go around and tell our names and a fun fact about ourselves? Let’s start with Tamara and go around....”

Tamara: Hey my name is Tamara Hyppolite and I’ve been to 11 different schools growing up!
Juan: *in monotone* What’s up, my name is Johnny and I’m a pilot.
Miladi: *Smiling...a lot* 
Amy: *laughs at Miladi smiling a lot*
Justin: *whispers* I don’t really like to talk
Courtney: *In Area 51 language* Oh my god! Why are we even doing this?

This is somewhat how our time together began as a preceptor group. Walking in for the first time, you would’ve thought it was a scene straight out of a comedy with completely different characters who were specialized in their own unique ways on how NOT to talk. The first few meetings were like pulling teeth and I could barely get any of y’all to open up— outside of Tamara, of course, who I’m pretty sure could make conversation with a tree if we gave her the chance lol. Fast forward to now and I feel like I can’t get ever get you guys to stop talking or ripping on each other (with love of course ) The amount of growth that we have seen as a group has been nothing short of amazing. Y’all have each individually come out of your shells and showed me and the rest of the group a side that I am sure not too many people have the privilege of seeing and for that, I thank you all. Thank you for sharing your stories with me and for letting me be a part of your growth throughout this program. I have no doubt in my mind that you all will go on to do great things so long as you apply yourselves and keep believing. I have seen the power of belief with you guys and have seen that all it takes is for you to really believe in yourselves to perform miracles. But, on the off chance that you ever need another set of eyes and ears to believe in you just a little bit harder than you’re allowing for yourself, I am and always will be here. You have my number...use it. Don’t ever hesitate to hit my line in a time of need whether to bounce ideas off of or just to vent to. I’m here for it all. That’s what I signed up for. I’ve grown so close to you guys in such a short time and I’m beyond proud of each and every last one of y’all for seeing this program through and making it to the first step to the rest of your lives. But you know what will top you graduating from OTE? You guys walking across that stage in 4 years to accept your diplomas to conclude your journey at BC. And when you do, remember everything that it took for you to get to that moment including all the hard nights at OTE. You did that! Don’t let anyone take that from you. Now, I wish y’all all the best in your first years at BC and go on and live the best college experience that you can!

Love,
Mo
Tamara Hyppolite
Ethnicity: Haitian American
Favorite Song: "I Was Here" - Beyonce
Favorite Dance: N/A
Fun Fact: I am First Aid, Dementia, CNA certified.

Juan Lozoya
Ethnicity: Mexican
Favorite Song: "Til I Collapse" - Eminem
Favorite Dance: N/A
Fun Fact: I'm a private pilot.

Justin Moore
Ethnicity: Antiguan American
Favorite Song: "Life is a Highway" - Rascal Flatts
Favorite Dance: Square dancing
Fun Fact: I like turtles.
Courtney Stephens
Ethnicity: Jamaican
Favorite Song: "Practice" - Gbmnutron
Favorite Dance: The "Courtney"
Fun Fact: I can get full off of water.

Miladi Teo Najera
Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino
Favorite Song: "Priscilla Alcantara" - Espíritu Santo
Favorite Dance: Bobbing my head
Fun Fact: I smile and laugh like crazy when I am very tired.

Amy Tang
Ethnicity: Vietnamese/Chinese
Favorite Song: "Don’t" - Bryson Tiller
Favorite Dance Move: All?
Fun Fact: I’m a mom of 12 bunnies.
To Tenzin,
I know that stepping into a new environment for anyone comes with a multitude of emotions. The person can be intimidated, scared and uncertain—but the funny thing is that instead of you, I was all of those things. From our first few phone calls, to you introducing me to your family, to sharing your story, you’ve made me into a better preceptor, mentor and friend. Your level of confidence and wisdom often has me questioning who’s the real mentor and mentee between us. Thank you for being my guide, friend and brother throughout the program. The man you’re growing to be is awe-inspiring.

To Jessica,
From our first phone call I knew that you would be the one to set the tone of the group. Your funny jokes, openness, and honesty made this experience all the more comfortable for me and the other five. I’m so happy you got the chance to do this program. While I know the workload is a lot and then some, you were given a space outside of your family to grow into your own, and in turn, you created a family with us. Thank you for allowing me to be your brother, friend and more importantly, your Nana.

To Haylee,
You don’t have to be the loudest person in the group to make a statement, and I think you know that. When I see you, you remind me to take my job and life is a little less serious. At times, I got pretty nervous speaking to all of you, but your calm demeanor and big smile always puts me at ease. Your comfort around me and our group makes me thing that we’ve really fostered a family between the 6 of us. It reminds me that OTE is a special place for those fortunate of such an opportunity, and I’m the one that’s really fortunate--because I got to have you in my group.

To Javairia,
I still remember the open ceremony when you and I were trying to find each other to meet up and as soon as we did, you gave me a big hug. I want you to know that that gesture alleviated any type of stress or nervousness that I had because at that point I got a good read for who you are: a fun-loving, warm, and passionate person that will undoubtedly save the world. You’re always the one to ask how I’m doing and giving me the opportunity to reflect, and that means everything to me. Thank you for being my little sister. Let’s make some time in the fall to get sushi and listen to BROCKHAMPTON.

To Matt,
After getting to know you more and hear your background, it brought me a lot of comfort knowing that someone in my group comes from a really similar background. I still remember our first preceptor group meeting when we were geeking about having the same music taste (we should talk more about that by the way). Your level of maturity and patience is something that I strive for. It probably stems from how well you take care of your niece and nephew. I hope you know that they’re more than proud of their incredible uncle.

To you All,
While the 41 of you all are uniquely incredible, I’m positive that I was given you 5 for a reason. I know we talked a lot about relationships and how they can grow and alter, but I hope this family continues to be one beyond OTE. This has been one of the greatest experiences of my life and I have each of you to thank you for that. From soft smiles to hugs and from a preceptor group to a family, I am thankful for y’all. We’re definitely all hanging out in the fall, so make sure to fit me in your schedule. I love you all more than you know.

Your brother forever,

Nanayaw Appiah-Kubi

Now Playing:
Photosynthesis- Saba
Jessica Pelaez
Ethnicity: Hispanic
Favorite Song: "Break Even" - The Script
Favorite Dance: The Woah
Fun Fact: I have a twin.

Matthew Jean
Ethnicity: Haitian-American
Favorite Song: "La La Land" - Bryce Vine
Favorite Dance: Milli-Rock
Fun Fact: My boys are Tenzin, Rahim, and Kevin.

Haylee LaBranche
Ethnicity: White
Favorite Song: "Go Flex" - Post Malone
Favorite Dance: N/A
Fun Fact: I am a lifeguard.
**Jenzin Urgen**

Ethnicity: Tibetan  
Favorite Song: "Remember the Music"  
Favorite Dance: Dougie  
Fun Fact: My friends are Matthew, Rahim, and Kevin.

**Javairia Munnerlyn**

Ethnicity: Trinidadian  
Favorite Song: "Bang" - Trippie Redd  
Favorite Dance: Welcome to the Party  
Fun Fact: Lived in Japan for a month
Reflecting on move-in day in June for the OTE Program and seeing you transition into an unfamiliar territory; your faces beaming with enthusiasm as you walked into Cheverus Hall, made me think of my own arrival as a freshman to college and the new memories I would inevitably forge in a place that I would call home for the next 4 years. I know for most of you, anxiety probably surfaced upon your arrival thinking about things like the relationship you would form with your roommate, how you’d make friends within the program, the complexity of your classes and navigating your way around campus. The OTE Program is basically a precursor to life as a Boston College student and I hope that these past few weeks have solidified in your mind that this environment is a place for you to thrive. College can be exhilarating, daunting and at many times stressful. Since you’ve been here, you’ve probably experienced all three of the above but know that the BAIC staff, your instructors, the preceptors and the counsellors are always at your disposal and we try our best to facilitate an equitable space for you to express yourself.

As you expand your wings to tackle the next four years at Boston College, know that I will always have your back and you can always rely on me. To Kayla, Manny, Kevin, Kudzai and Angelizes, I am your preceptor for life and I really mean that with utmost sincerity. Whether it’s a phone call, an email, lunch or dinner, I’m always willing to spend some time conversing with you. There is no doubt that your zest for life fuelled by your varying passions will enliven the Boston College community. You each have unique, compelling life stories that have inspired me and made me appreciate the individuality each of you possess. Going forward, I encourage you to become involved in groups on campus, network with faculty and administrative staff, be open-minded, step outside of your comfort zone and don’t limit your interactions to only people who belong to the same race as you or have similar interests as you. Remember that your academics should be your primary focus because that is why you’re here and everything else is secondary. Lastly, be a changemaker. Challenge the status quo and don’t be afraid to initiate the positive change you wish to see in the world and that can start with the simple conversations you have with people. Change never comes from complacency and as you seek to create change, make empathy, compassion and love your hallmark.

Your friend,

Prince
Angelisse Feliciano

Ethnicity: Puerto Rican  
Favorite Song: Great One by Jessie Reyes  
Favorite Dance: Whoa  
Fun Fact: I am a Certified Nursing Assistant.

Kayla Newman

Ethnicity: Black/ Caribbean  
Favorite Song: Ye by Burna Boy  
Favorite Dance: African American Dance  
Fun Fact: I love Frank Ocean
Manny Ulysse
Ethnicity: Haitian
Favorite Song: Beautiful People by Ed Sheeran
Favorite Dance: N/A
Fun Fact: I can cook.

Kudzai Kapurura
Ethnicity: Zimbabwean
Favorite Song: Almeda by Solange
Favorite Dance: Youuuuuuu
Fun Fact: I have a twin.

Kevin Liu
Ethnicity: Chinese
Favorite Song: Jay1 by Good Vibes
Favorite Dance: N/A
Fun Fact: I can dunk
Dear OTE Family,

I am in shock of how fast this program has gone by. Time truly does fly by when you’re having fun, and we’ve had plenty of it. From our group meetings to movie nights, weekend outings, night activities and everything in between, y’all always made me smile and laugh, and I thank you for that. Know that your time at BC will move just as quickly, and so I implore you to remember to take time to make these types of memories too, and if you ever feel alone on campus that you can always call me.

I know how tough the classes can be and applaud you all for your rigours and determination. I am so proud of each and every one of you. When you start in the Fall the classes will be tough, but I know that you can succeed and continue to adapt and overcome any challenges that face you. You are smart enough and you do belong here, never forget that. I am so proud of each and every one of you and know for a certainty that you are going to do amazing things at BC, and in life.

And to my fabulous five (aka, my preceptor group), thank you for being so open and honest, for being genuine, working hard, supporting one another, and giving me an absolutely amazing summer. Jhevauni- I have loved watching you come out of your shell and want to thank you for teaching me to get out of my comfort zone more often. Monse- I admire your work ethic and warm heart and want to thank you for reminding me to smile and take a break sometimes. Rahim- I am so proud of you for overcoming the challenges you faced in the program while still maintaining a positive vibe and want to thank you for checking in on everyone. Ricardo- I cannot wait to see all the amazing things you do at BC and want to thank you for your unwavering kindness and reminding me to try new things. Sametha- I admire your independence and your ability to keep a calm mind, you have wisdom beyond your years and want to thank you for reminding me to continuously connect to and support others.

To the other Preceptors, Counselors, RC and BAIC staff, I want to thank you all for the beautiful memories and for making this one of the best summers of my life. I appreciate and admire you all in so many different ways and feel so honored to have worked with such an amazing group of people.

With much love and gratitude,

Raven

Now Playing:
Last Hope- Paramore
Ricardo Ponce

Ethnicity: Latino
Favorite song: Changes by Dej Loaf
Favorite Dance: The Whoa
Fun Fact: Eyes open, goals to be accomplished

Samentha Fanfan

Ethnicity: Haitian
Favorite song: Break from Toronto by PartyNextDoor
Favorite Dance: The Whoa
Fun Fact: I used to double dutch!
Monserrat Verdejo
Ethnicity: Mexican
Favorite song: ‘03’ Adolescence by J Cole
Favorite Dance: Bachata
Fun Fact: I am Pharmacy Tech Certified.

Rahim Jessani
Ethnicity: South Asian
Favorite song: Just A Dream
Favorite Dance: The Washing Machine
Fun Fact: I live 5 minutes from Disney but have never been.

Jhevauni James
Ethnicity: Jamaican
Favorite song: Heights by Masicka
Favorite Dance: The Whoa
Fun Fact: I am intrigued with the concept of yin and yang.
Dear Students,

When I applied to be an OTE preceptor, I was nervous and I did not think that you guys would want to build that much of a close connection. I realize that I was wrong during our first meeting at the retreat. We got so close very quickly. I realized how special you all are. You all have a passion and work so hard. I am so glad you guys were assigned to me and fate brought us together. I am so happy I have so many memories with each one of you. My favorite memory of us being together was the day at The Connors Center where we all shared our stories about our romantic relationships. After that first meeting, I was sure I had the best group of students.

It is amazing how much you have grown this past six weeks. I am so proud of each one of you. Spending the summer after high school doing a program as intense as OTE is not easy but YOU DID IT! I really can’t wait to see what you can do next. I hope you continue to work hard, to show kindness and to use your voice to empower others throughout your four years at BC.

Although I am sad that OTE has come to an end, I am excited to see you all transition to your freshmen year. I know you might feel scared, anxious and even out of place but I want all of you to remember that this is your school too. You deserve to be here as much as everyone else. In case you ever feel lonely, like there is nobody on campus to reach out to, please, please remember that I am here. I am only a phone call, text message or even a few steps away (I will be living in Rubenstein). Even though OTE ended, I am still here for you at any time and for whatever help you might need. I promise to be present; as a friend, preceptor and as a mentor to support and to advocate for you. I want to end by saying thank you for making me a better leader and a better person.

Much love,

Rosie
Elijah Allen-Smith
Ethnicity: Jamaican/American
Favorite Song: "Hate Will Never Win" - XXXtentacion
Favorite Dance: Woah
Fun Fact: I like cartoons.

Stencia Bastien
Ethnicity: Haitian/American
Favorite Song: "Demons" - Imagine Dragons
Favorite Dance: Woah
Fun Fact: I'm a singer.

Destiny Chimilio
Ethnicity: Honduran
Favorite Song: "A-Team" - Ed Sheeran
Favorite Dance: Square Dancing
Fun Fact: I'm double jointed.
Sophia Hoang
Ethnicity: Vietnamese/American
Favorite Song: "Tough Pill" - Kris Wu
Favorite Dance: Woah
Fun Fact: Never broken a bone.

Randolph Rivera
Ethnicity: African-American
Favorite Song: "Perfecto" - Mac Miller
Favorite Dance: Woah
Fun Fact: I have a really bad sense of humor.
The Counselors

Francisco Hernandez Salgado
Amy Harris
Alexis Briggs
Scholars!

Thank you for allowing us to get to know your wonderful selves over the duration of this program. You all bring irreplaceable gifts to the OTE program and more importantly to Boston College; your inspiring drive, your heartwarming care for each other, your resourcefulness, your ingenuity, your critical consciousness, your budding leadership, your collective love of song and dance and your passion. The most notable gift you all possess is your inherent ability to create community amongst yourselves from Day One of OTE. This skill will serve you well as you enter Boston College in the Fall. The reality is, campus may feel different from what you have come to recognize during your short seven weeks here, and that is okay, because you will come to get to know this place again in a brand new way.

Our intention for you all as counselors was to assist in highlighting the beautiful strengths you already possess. Our hopes for you going forward are that you continue to question all that you encounter in your experience here (as you have done beautifully thus far), to accept growth as an uncomfortable but necessary process and to create for yourselves a bonus home and family at BC that you will cherish forever. We are excited to see what this journey has to teach you all about yourselves.

When all else fails, remember your village. They will carry you through.

With Appreciation,

The Three C’s

True Colors - Cyndi Lauper
La Vida Es Un Carnaval - Celia Cruz
My Life - Mary J. Blige
The English Faculty

Meg Holly, Annie Malady
Rachel McIntosh, Untara Rayeesa, Marla DeRosa
Not Pictured: Treseanne Ainsworth, Megha Pancholi, Troy Woolsey
Superlatives

Best singer: Stencia & Tevor

Best Dancer: Asista & Tenzin

Best public speaker: Kudzai & Jacolby

Life of the party: Courtney & Paco

Best Dressed: Lemyle & Elijah

Best Smile: Miladi & Manny
Most Likely
Too...

Sleep through a natural disaster

Rafid & Jessica

Marry a mirror

Makayla & Prince
"Music, at its essence, is what gives us memories. And the longer a song has existed in our lives, the more memories we have of it".
- Stevie Wonder
Signatures!