

# OTE

## Options Through Education

### Year Book



Thea Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center

Directed by Sarah Gallenberg

Summer 2015

# **The 2015 Options Through Education Yearbook**

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**Anthony Abarca**

Lawrence, MA

*"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."*  
Mahatma Gandhi



**Mariam Ahmed**

Bayonne, NJ

*"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent"*  
Eleanor Roosevelt



**Nanayaw Appiah-Kubi**

Newark, NJ

*"If there's no enemy from within, the enemy outside can do us no harm."*  
African Proverb



**Ernesto Barbosa**

Dorchester, MA

*"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."*  
Shakespeare



**Kianna Barbosa**

Dorchester, MA



**Jeffrey Barros Pena**

Hyde Park, MA

*Mi name Jeff*



**Stephanie Contreras**

Pomona, CA

*"Everything happens for a reason."*



**Eric Encarnacion**

Lawrence, MA

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*  
Maya Angelou



**Sadiq Ervin**

Mattapan, MA

*"Be open, honest, and prepared to speak to everyone. Even the ones you don't like - you might be presently suprised what you learn."*



**Maurice Finley**

San Francisco, CA

*"Always aim for the impossible because even if you do not make it possible your lowest achievements will be no less than extraordinary."*



**Taraun Frontis**

New York, NY

*"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."*



**Michael Gutierrez**

Hialeah, FL

*"Don't let anything get in the way between you and your happiness" - Michael A. Gutierrez*



**Tin Lin Huang**

Boston, MA

*"Life is a beautiful lie and death is the painful truth."*



**Dimitri Lafluer**

Hockessin, DE












*"real recognize real"*  
Wacka Flocka Flame



**Khanh Le**

Braintree, MA

*"Square pegs in round holes"*

 <p><b>Megan Le</b> Moorestown, NJ <i>"This is the part where you find out who you are." - John O</i></p>	 <p><b>Minh Le</b> Malden ,MA <i>To be, or not to be, that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take arms against a sea of troubles And by opposing end them. To die—to sleep, No more; and by a sleep to say we end. Hamlet</i></p>	 <p><b>Felix Lee</b> Boston ,MA <i>The WWE Champion.</i></p>	 <p><b>Silver Li</b> Charlestown, MA <i>"The minute you think of giving up, think of the reason why you held on so long."</i></p>	 <p><b>Jaida Lightford</b> Brockton, MA <i>"Stay you in a world that is constantly trying to change you." Anthony Thomas</i></p>
 <p><b>Jacqueline Lua</b> Novato, CA <i>"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind." Dr.Suess</i></p>	 <p><b>Erla Marini</b> Dorchester, MA <i>"Stay close to what keeps you feeling alive."</i></p>	 <p><b>Jazmine Mendes</b> Quincy, MA <i>"Always be a step ahead of wherever people expect you to end up"</i></p>	 <p><b>Leila Menkor-Ono</b> Orlando, FL</p>	 <p><b>Nikitaa Newton</b> Bronx, NY</p>
 <p><b>Amirah Orozco</b> Needham Heights, MA <i>"To fear controversial issues is to fear making a change."</i></p>	 <p><b>Pavan Patel</b> Methuen, MA <i>"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That's why we call it the present."</i></p>	 <p><b>Ruperto Peres</b> Bronx, NY <i>"As soon as you make it out, you get asked to be humble, huh?" Fabolous</i></p>	 <p><b>Kayla Robinson</b> Inglewood, CA <i>"Simplicity provides a fine line between eloquence and plainness" Brown Sugar</i></p>	 <p><b>Zoe Ryan</b> Santa Monica, CA <i>"Zoe Ryan (917) 929-1949"</i></p>





**Edgar Sanchez**

New York, NY

*"A gentlemen is simply a patient wolf."  
Lana Turner*



**Jada Sanchez**

Jamaica Plain, MA

*"Waving my hands a lot"  
Schmidt, 22 Jump Street*



**Djita Sidibe**

Pawtucket, RI

*Amadou Diallo. Trayvon Martin. Eric  
Gardner. Freddie Gray. Sandra Bland.  
BLACK LIVES MATTER*



**Alexander Thu**

Lawrence, MA

*"You can search throughout the entire universe  
for someone who is more deserving of your love  
and affection than you are yourself, and that  
person is not to be found anywhere. You yourself,  
as much as anybody in the entire universe deserve  
your love and affection." Siddhartha Gautama*



**Tristar To**

Malden, MA

*Thank you*



**Anabel Torres**

Hackensack, NJ

*"What if I fall?...Oh, but my  
darling...What if you fly?"*



**Victoria Trinh**

Portland, OR



**Symone Varnado**

Hazel Crest, IL

*"Yes. I am a dreamer. For a dreamer is  
one who can only find his way by  
moonlight, and his punishment is that  
he sees the dawn before the rest."*



**Karen Zheng**

Harrison, NJ

*"Cowards die many times before their  
deaths, the valiant never taste of  
death but once."*



**Tresanne Ainsworth**

Holliston, MA

*You who want knowledge,  
seek the Oneness within.  
There you will find the clear mirror  
already waiting.  
Hadewijch II  
My beloved students-- as you seek  
knowledge at BC and beyond, never  
forget the wisdom that lies within you.*



**Lyz Alexndre**

Providence, RI

*"Nothing will work unless you do."  
Maya Angelou*



**Jose Altomari**

Providence, RI

*"The mere fact that you are here is a  
testament to your ability to overcome  
obstacles. You serve as a reminder that  
you were not complacent and desired  
more.*

*Never be complacent "*



**Ashley Antwi**



**Luis Balcazar**



**Francisco Bernard**  
Bronx, NY  
*Stay classy. Stay flashy. Stay gold.*



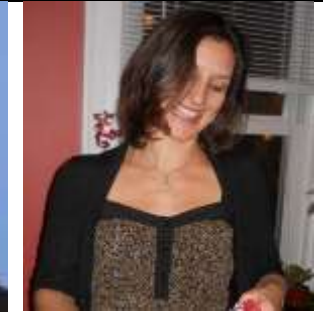
**Chris Bowen**



**Rosaleah Brown Gresham**



**Marla Derosa**



**Sarah Ehrich**  
Burlington, VT  
*"Responsibility to yourself means refusing to let others do your thinking, talking, and naming for you; it means learning to respect and use your own brains and instincts; hence, grappling with hard work." -Adrienne Rich*



**Sarah Gallenberg**  
Rochester, MN  
*Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.  
Plato*



**Afua Laast**  
Bronx, NY  
*"Be like a duck. Calm on the surface, looking composed and unruffled. Underneath paddle like hell."*



**Andrea LaGala Lamb**



**Gerry Lambert**  
Westwood, MA  
*"If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be."  
Maya Angelou*



**Josh Manlove**



**Ines Maturana Sendoya**  
Quincy, MA  
*"I can be a bridge over troubled water. I can take you by the hand and take you with me into the black community. I can walk you into your community, and if I walk with you into your community, I don't enter as a stranger, I walk as your sister."  
Sr. Thea Bowman.*



**Joana Maynard**



**Rachel McIntosh**



**Doug McNicol**  
Ramsey, NJ  
*"Be cool. Be real cool. Who real cool? We at least 'real cool'. And we real beautiful. Ugly, too."  
M.K. Asante Jr*



**Heather Menar**  
Dorchester, MA  
*I'm just an ordinary person who found extraordinary love.*

				
<p><b>Thinh Nguyen</b> Dorchester, MA</p> <p><i>"It's okay to fail, but not to give up."</i></p>	<p><b>Diana Pell</b> Tashkent, UZ</p> <p><i>College can be tough at times but the knowledge you acquire, the friendships you form, and the way it shapes you as a person are well worth it.</i></p>	<p><b>Andy Petigny</b> Boston, MA</p> <p><i>"If you have no confidence in self, you are twice defeated in the race of life." Marcus Garvey</i></p>	<p><b>Chuda Rijal</b> Concord, NH</p> <p><i>"I do not believe in taking the right decision, I take a decision and make it right." Muhammad Ali Jinnah</i></p>	
				
<p><b>Angelica Rotman</b></p>	<p><b>Arnav Roy</b> Acton, MA</p> <p><i>"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi</i></p>	<p><b>Dustin Lee Rutledge</b></p>	<p><b>Mariama Saffa</b></p>	<p><b>Shawn Savage</b></p>
				
<p><b>Kate Steele</b></p>	<p><b>Maria Vazquez</b> Quincy, MA</p> <p><i>"Whatever it is you're seeking won't come in the form you're expecting." Haruki Murakami</i></p>	<p><b>Erin Wecker</b> Boston, MA</p> <p><i>"The moment we choose to love we begin to move against domination, against oppression. The moment we choose to love we begin to move towards freedom, to act in ways that liberate ourselves and others. That action is the testimony of love as the practice of freedom." bell hooks</i></p>	<p><b>Claudia Yeo</b></p>	

## Letter from OTE Program Director, Sarah Gallenberg

To the OTE Class of 2015:

In 1996, the year many of you were born, Roald Dahl's 1988 *Matilda* became a major motion picture. As a kid, *Matilda* was one of my favorite books and to this day, I watch it whenever it is on TV. It was one of the first books I read with a female protagonist, and it taught me to my gifts to contribute to the world in a positive way. To me, it epitomizes the ideals of education and perseverance. One of my favorite lines is something Matilda says. "Never do anything by halves if you want to get away with it. Be outrageous. Go the whole hog. Make sure everything you do is so completely crazy it's unbelievable..." Why have returned to this quote, you ask? Well, I think it is a testament to what you completed this summer and what you will do at Boston College if you put your heart and soul into the experience. From the moment we read your applications, we knew you were extraordinary. And during these few short weeks, you have accomplished so much. As my first year as program director comes to a close, I want to share with you how proud I am of each and every one of you. It has been quite a journey this summer, full of ups and downs, and it has been an honor to be on the journey with you. As a member of the BAIC staff, I know we hope to continue to be family and a place for you to share your hopes and fears over the course of your academic life. Please know we are always here for you, and we have no doubt that you will continue to impact your peers and the community in remarkable ways – perhaps in ways you cannot yet imagine.

In closing, I want to leave a prayer with you – the Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola. Boston College is inspired and influenced by the Jesuits in very special ways. I encourage you to explore the Ignatian spirituality as you feel comfortable. In my own path, their spirituality has been a gift to me and the prayer of St. Ignatius has inspired me in times joy and sorrow. I hope it will do the same for you. Be well and congratulations!

Dearest Lord,  
teach me to be generous;  
teach me to serve You as You deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and not to ask for reward  
save that of knowing I am doing Your Will.



## **OTE 2015 Residential Coordinator's Reflections**

**From: Shawn Savage**

As we embarked on training in preparation for OTE 2015, I set out to lead a residential staff with a shared vision of fostering a caring, conscientious and co-constructed community.

With the excitement for the arrival of every scholar and the anticipation of getting to know and work with each other and all the students, the staff spent days in preparation, in and out doors. Eventually, door 'decs' were made, students were called, and we waited with abated breaths...

Arrival day was here-- the hustle and bustle of meeting students and their families, helping students with their luggage and taking them to their rooms, then over to the Opening Ceremony and eventually over to FYE for the BC orientation. This marked the beginning of our face-to-face interaction for our journey of almost seven weeks.

And what a journey it has been! The shared cultural artifacts of Multicultural Day, the meaningful and vulnerable stories of Insight Day, interspersed with basketball, volleyball, and lots of fun and games, all made the opening retreat an impactful one. And together they foreshadowed the greatness, depth, and fun of what would become OTE 2015.

Today, the vision of a "caring, conscientious and co-constructed community" is no longer abstract; it's been real. But this could not have been accomplished without everyone's fixity of purpose and flexibility. From the conversations about our backgrounds, OTE experiences, or dreams and visions, to meetings, study hall, documentation conversations, or fundatory encounters, as well as the food, fun and frolic-- every student, every preceptor, every counselor, every faculty, every BAIC staff member, has contributed meaningfully to the richness and depth of the 2015 OTE experience. Thanks!

Of course, this does not mean there were no hiccups, tensions, struggles or sadness along the way. We had disagreements but we also had great times dancing. We had miscommunication and misinterpretations, but we also had positive meditations, meaningful conversations, and musical bonding. We cried together, but we also laughed together! We've suffered loss, but we've also celebrated accomplishments! We've made mistakes, but ultimately, they have been instrumental in helping us all learn and grow.

Together, the various trials and triumphs represent a microcosm of life and living. It is my hope that as we all transition to the next phase of our journeys, we continually remember the high value of self and others. Acknowledge and cherish individuality as well as community. Always remember that it takes teamwork to make any dream work. As the Ubuntu tradition teaches: "I am, because you are". So wherever we go, and whomever we meet, may we remember (perhaps some of my favorite words) to "give...some love" --- whether it's during our 'highs' or our 'lows.'

Now go ahead and impact BC and the world. Play your part in making the world a better and more just place for ALL (positive)! Live, laugh, love and learn continuously...

Nuff rispek an' love

Bless,

SS

## Letter From English Faculty

Dear Students,

It has been our distinct pleasure to teach and get to know you this summer. We have enjoyed our time together in class or study hall and in conferences very much.

In one of the stories we studied, “Drinking Coffee Elsewhere,” recall that ZZ Packer references the Frank O’Hara poem “Autobiographia Literaria.” In the story, O’Hara’s poem is referenced when the two main characters, the first-year college students Dina and Heidi, meet, as they are struggling to acclimate to college and find themselves. Heidi, crying, has knocked on Dina’s door. Dina, who has locked herself inside her dorm room, is deciding whether to let Heidi in. This is when Heidi, to explain her feelings, recites the first three stanzas of “Autobiographia Literaria” to Dina.

The most interesting part of the poem, however, is the part that isn’t explicitly provided; it’s the poem’s omitted final stanza, which informs the story. The final stanza reads: “And here I am, the / center of all beauty! / writing these poems! / Imagine!”

In the context of the story, poignantly, neither Heidi nor Dina realize they’re “[beautiful]”! Their peers overlook them, and in a way they overlook themselves, even though their beauty is plain in how much they mean, in how “[central]” they are, to each other.

We feel the poem’s conclusion frames not only your achievement in completing Intro To Literary Studies, but also your potential.

You’re beautiful.

We know that, unlike the characters in “Drinking Coffee Elsewhere,” you are aware of your beauty—your value, your talents, your dignity. Even so, we want to assure you that we are privileged to have experienced it ourselves, reading your intelligent papers, hearing your insightful contributions to class discussions, watching your creative dramatic performances of excerpts of course texts, and more.

But value, talent, and dignity aren’t static. And the last line and word of O’Hara’s poem, “imagine,” suggests beauty’s progression. So, as the poem does, we encourage you to look forward, to “imagine” your continued development and continued discovery of self, in your upcoming four years at Boston College and beyond.

We cheer for what you have accomplished in these past six weeks, and for who you are today. We also cheer for your sure growth.

Thank you, and congratulations!

Sincerely,

Trese, Marla, Erin, and Dustin

Rachael, Kakas, Angelina, and Kate

## Letter from Math Faculty

Dear OTE Scholars:

Congratulations on successfully completing the first leg of your journey through Boston College! Each of us math instructors and tutors admire the work ethic you've shown in the past six weeks, and we appreciate how much mental toughness you've had to develop in order to overcome the adversity that is part of the OTE experience.

OTE is like a big hill that you've been forced to climb over these last forty days (and forty nights). The climb is long, and there are lots of places where the path is steep or slippery, requiring an extra effort in order to avoid falling down or getting stuck. But you've persevered, step by step, and now you can enjoy the exhilarating view from the top. You've probably promised yourself that after climbing this hill, there will be no more hiking for a while.

But that promise will be very short-lived! For now that you are at the top of this first hill, you can finally see the rest of the mountain range behind it. Your next four years at BC will include more uphill journeys that will push you to continuously evolve into even better students. In the process, you will come to find out important things about yourself: how to prioritize your goals and dreams, when and where to take a chance and try something new or different, and how to balance the everyday demands of life at BC with a long view on where you're headed in this world of ours. OTE has allowed you to begin this journey of self-discovery, and the next eight semesters of your college life provide ample opportunity for that journey to continue productively.

When you were at its base, "OTE Hill" had blocked your view of the rest of the rough terrain that is Boston College. Now that you can see what BC will be demanding of you these next four years, it might appear intimidating. But traversing the future hills and mountains of your college career is NOT fundamentally different from what you've proven to yourself you can already do. If you continue to put in the work necessary for you to succeed, and if you listen to the advice of the guides who are out there to aid you on your journey, then you will be able to handle those tough challenges ahead, step by step, course by course, year by year.

So celebrate your completion of OTE, and savor the feeling of having reached a great milestone in your Boston College career. But most of all, fill yourself with the anticipation of discoveries and successes that are still to come! We're all excited for your journey to continue.

Keep a smile!

Warm Regards,

Andrea, Chris, Diana & Gerry

Arnie & Claudia

# “The Fundatory Adventures”



# The Boston Scavenger Hunt

June 28, 2015



# Martha's Vineyard

July 4, 2015





# Community Harvest Project

July 11, 2015



# Six Flags

## July 25, 2015





# Crabapple Kayaking

August 3rd



# Superlatives

<b>Anthony</b> Best Hair	<b>Mariam</b> Best Sense of Humor	<b>Nanayaw</b> Best Eyes	<b>Ernesto</b> Best Bromance	<b>Kianna</b> Life of the Party
<b>Jeffrey</b> Most Likely to Be On Fleek	<b>Stephanie</b> Best Eyes	<b>Eric</b> Life of the Party	<b>Sadiq</b> Most Likely To Be Couple in the White House	<b>Maurice</b> Best Dressed
<b>Taraun</b> Most Likely to Have a mod	<b>Michael</b> Most Artistic	<b>Tin Lin</b> Best Sister Friends	<b>Dimitri</b> Best Celeb Look Alike	<b>Khanh</b> Best Sense of Humor
<b>Megan</b> Most Likely to Travel the World	<b>Minh</b> Most likely to become a millionaire	<b>Felix</b> Best Smile	<b>Silver</b> Best Smile	<b>Jaida</b> Most Likely to Drop a Mixtape
<b>Jacqueline</b> Best Hair	<b>Erla</b> Best Sister Friends	<b>Jazmin</b> Most Energetic	<b>Leila</b> Most likely to become famous	<b>Nikitaa</b> Talented Singer
<b>Amirah</b> Most Likely To Be Couple in the White House	<b>Pavan</b> Most Likely to Travel the World	<b>Ruperto</b> Best Bromance	<b>Kayla</b> Most Likely to Be On Fleek	<b>Zoe</b> Most Artistic
<b>Anabel</b> Hometown Pride	<b>Victoria</b> Most Likely to Have a mod	<b>Symone</b> Hometown Pride	<b>Karen</b> Most likely to become a millionaire	<b>Jay</b> Most Insightful
<b>Jada</b> Best to take home to mom and dad	<b>Edgar</b> Most Likely to Drop a Mixtape	<b>Djita</b> Best Dressed	<b>Alexander</b> Talented Singer	<b>Tristar</b> Best to take home to mom and dad
Best Couple that Never Was <b>Shawn and Mariama</b>				

## *Your Preceptors*

# Afua Laast



Dear Scholars,

I am so incredibly excited for all of you and your journey at BC for the next four years. I am very grateful for these past few weeks we have had to get to know each other. In this short time you have all grown so much and have impacted me so positively. Even though the summer is ending and OTE is technically over I will still love to meet with you all as the school year goes along. I will have the privilege of being part of your journey for the next two years and seeing you come into your own on campus. The first year of college can be scary, stressful, fun, exiting, overwhelming, all at once, but you are all way more than capable to take the heights by storm. So in short please do not ever hesitate to reach out to me, I am here has a resource for you! I am excited to grab lunch, or boba with you all, and support you in whatever that you do.

You got this!

Love,

Afua





## Ashley Antwi

“We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter their color.” – Maya Angelou

OTE has been quite the experience. The amount of intellectual, spiritual, and social growth that I have observed over the past month is incomparable to any program that I have either participated or lead at BC thus far. It is with an overwhelming sense of joy that I congratulate this OTE Class of 2015 on all of your accomplishments.

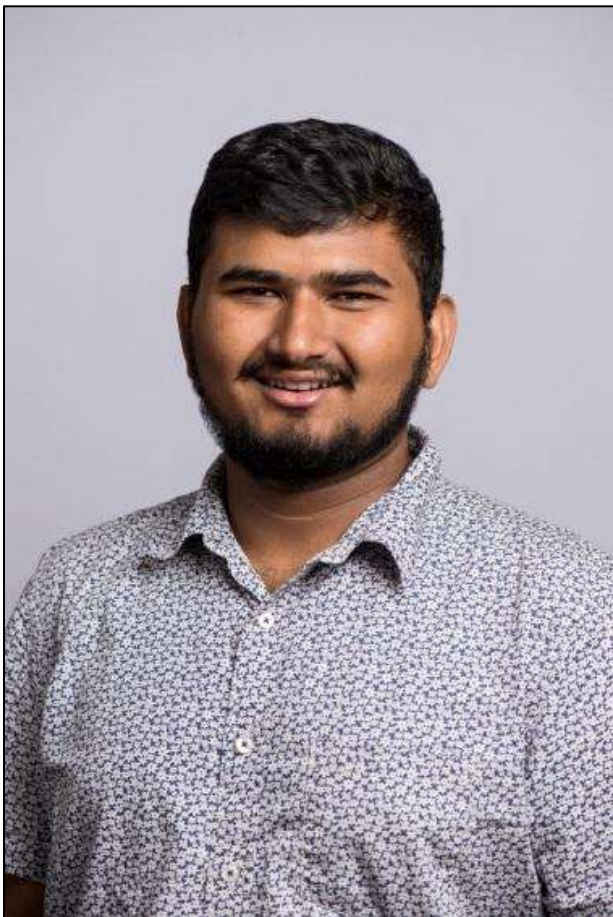
It would be an understatement to say that each scholar’s journey throughout the program was unique. Just as you are all aesthetically diverse, you are all diverse in your backgrounds, which is something that speaks to the beautiful narratives that create your stories. Despite the lengthy study halls, arduous homework assignments, and exhausting “fundatory” events, the resilience and determination of this group has never failed to shine through even in the bleakest moments of the program. For that, I commend you all on your strength. Not only have you shown strength through your different mechanisms of coping, but you have demonstrated unwavering support for the members of our OTE family.

My hope for this year’s OTE scholars is that you do not forget the conversations you’ve had with a roommate or friend. Do not forget how your first connection to someone in the program was and how good it made you feel to belong to this community. Do not forget the feeling of thirty-nine other students being in solidarity with you. Your first year will take a lot from you. Past troubles may resurface. You will be presented with new challenges. In the midst of it all, please don’t forget that you have your OTE family as a resource. Whether it be reaching out to a preceptor or BAIC staff member, a counselor, or a fellow scholar, don’t hesitate to ask for support and try your best to reach out when you can.

I know you’ll all come to achieve great things at BC and over the next two years that I’ll be here with you I can’t wait to see how far you progress. It’s been an absolute honor and blessing to serve as a preceptor this summer and just know that I am here for you when you need me.

Love,

Ashley



## Chuda Rijal

Dear OTE '15 Scholars,

It has been an amazing summer for me! Thank you all for making this summer one of the memorable summer of my life. You guys are such a talented group of people. I admire your hard work, dedication, and motivation towards learning. Change is a process that is created by learning and I am very excited to see your change, growth and success in future. I know that it is very hard to keep yourself motivated in school work during the summer but I hope you had a good experience during OTE outside of academics. I want you to remember that I am always here for you; even after my time at Boston College, I am a phone call, a text, a face time or skype away. I am also excited to see your happy faces in the fall semester; please don't give me that BC look away😊. In addition, I would also like to thank all of my staff and faculties because without your support, I wouldn't be satisfied with my experience as a preceptor.

Best,

Chuda Rijal

# Frankie Bernard



It's the perfect storybook ending. I came into BC through OTE and now I leave BC through OTE. It has brought me greater joy this summer than seeing the growth of what six weeks has done. From our shared reflection at retreat to our daily interactions in the 2nd and 3rd floor of Fitz, it has been humbling to see what each and everyone one of you is capable of. To my preceptor group, my squad, I'm always available as you know whether it's be texting, calling or even, Snapchat. I am so thankful to have had you five in my small group and I couldn't be more proud of what all of you have accomplished. I have no doubt in my mind you will do wonders at BC. To the rest of OTE class, I can't thank you enough for being so dedicated to this program and allowing us as a staff to guide you through what to expect in the next four years. You are an intelligent and wise class and the potential I see in all of you comforts me in knowing BC wil

I improve with you on campus. To my staff, it has been an honor to work alongside each of you and it has been a pleasure to have gotten to know you well these past two months. This is it for me and BC, but it's not it for me and OTE. Don't be a stranger because I will find you. I will find you and I will hug you! Good luck Class of 2019. Together, you are more.

Francisco Bernard

Boston College Class of 2015

Twitter: @illbefrankie

## Jose Altomari



The beauty of having been in my position is that I've not only been privileged enough to see the development of many of you over the course six weeks but I've been overwhelmed by the joy of knowing the potential success that you all have the ability of achieving, even without knowing it yourself. The fact of the matter is that I know all of you have shown resiliency in times of crippling despair whether before or during the program, the harsh reality is that obstacles will continue to be placed before every one of you. However, the mere fact that you've made it to a position that many may not have thought you would attain is a sheer testament to your abilities to make accomplishments in the face of adversity.

I've gotten the chance to know a few of you and for that I will be forever thankful. Laughs, putting people on blast, anger, tears and so many more emotions are, in a way, the essence of what this program has been; I could not imagine my summer having been any better. Actually, not being crippled for a few weeks would have been pretty nice, but even then, I could find serenity just through conversing with so many of you.

Point is, there is so much promise and greatness in all of you and it's been a blessing to simply have been in your presence.

- Jose





## Maria Vazquez

You are all so incredibly amazing. Thank you so much for being exactly who you are. Each and every one of you. No one has failed to show me that they have something special, inspiring, and wonderful to give.

I want you all to know that without you, each and every single one of you, without our talks, without our insiders, and little quirks, this summer would not have

been as special as it has come to be. Even though we might have only shared one hug, one conversation, one interaction, know that it has left a mark on me and that I will not forget any one of you. You are each so remarkable—I literally have no words to explain myself. I was moved by your stories, your experiences of perseverance, of strength, of intelligence, of hard work. Your smiles, your jokes, and your positivity in light of difficult and less than ideal circumstances, stirred in me happiness, a feeling of reassurance, every single time I was having a difficult day (and there were a few).

Each and every one of you is here for a reason, and I KNOW, I am sure, that BC will become a more diverse, more inclusive, and all around better place because each of you are here.

This summer has not been easy by any means, but I want to thank you all for making it one of the most special and rewarding experiences I have had at BC. While I wish that I were spending your first year at BC with my OTE fam, I **know** that you guys will KILL your freshman year. I have no doubt in my mind that you are all destined to do amazing things, and I just pray that you keep mama bear updated with as many snaps and texts as you can remember to send me :)

Remember that both the peaks and the valleys make the journey. These next four years aren't always going to be easy, but they will always, always, always, be worth it.

I am so proud of you all for surviving OTE! You have made me so proud already, I know you will continue to do astounding and influential moves on your journey. Make mama proud out there and promise me you won't forget me when you're big bad seniors and I'm just a wrinkly old alumna ;)

Muchos Besos,

Maria



## Heather Menar

Knock knock?

Who's there?

Boo

Boo who?

Aww why are you crying?

Because OTE is ending!

This may appear to be a joke, but honestly I am very sad that the end is finally approaching. These past few weeks with you all have been a great pleasure! I knew that my job as a preceptor would be rewarding but I did not think that I would become so attached. I am so glad that I get to spend one more year with you! I look forward to seeing all that you do throughout your freshman year and beyond.

Love,

Heather



## Thinh Nguyen

Hi Everyone!

I want to thank you all for all your hard work, openness, and loving hearts this summer. I know the classes are long and the study halls seem never ending, but you made it to the end and are better from it. Many of you came in unsure about why you were here. I hope now you have gained some confidence in yourselves and left with some good friendships and mentors. You all have taught me so much about being a mentor, friend, and teacher. Even having graduated BC, I didn't expect I would learn so much from just six weeks.

To Jasmine, Jeffrey, Symone, Minh, and Silver: I will miss each of you so much... Thanks for putting up with my discipline, silliness, and corny jokes. Jasmine, though you always pick on me, I'm so happy to have been your preceptor. I hope you keep making great friends and helping others. Jeffrey, You were the bomb-diggity and helped me so much more than you can imagine. Symone, you were absolutely incredible this whole summer and I'm thankful because I know you're going to accomplish some amazing things! Minh, you know you're like a younger version of me, so I know you're going to turn out great. Work hard, and have fun. Silver, you were our ray of sunshine. Thank you for opening up to us, and being so incredible!

Thank you everyone for the amazing summer. It was a pleasure to have been a part of OTE class of 2019!

Love,

Thinh

NOW... I SAY NO MO.

**Congratulations  
And Goodbye!**