



Office of the Associate Provost
For Graduate Programs and Dean of the Graduate School

9210 University City Blvd, Charlotte NC 28223-0001

May 6, 2020

Dear Graduates,

As the Dean of the Graduate School, I wanted to take this opportunity to offer to you my congratulations and best wishes. You set for yourself a very difficult goal and you achieved it! Only around 14% of the population in the U.S. have an advanced degree; Masters, Professional Degree or Doctorate. As an undergraduate student you showed that you were capable of learning, critical thinking, and processing knowledge from different sources. With an advanced graduate degree, you have demonstrated a mastery within your academic discipline and shown that you are capable of high quality research, scholarship or other creative activity as judged by recognized scholars within your discipline.

I share your pride in your accomplishments and the joy for all the possibilities and adventures that lie ahead. But as you know, the path to a graduate degree is not easy; there are many challenges, so setbacks and disappointments are inevitable. Even the most independent among us, need help along the way in order to be successful. While in Graduate School this help came from your faculty, fellow students, family, friends, and dedicated staff who offered guidance, mentoring and even funding opportunities to help pay the bills. So, along with "Congratulations" this is a time to say "Thank You" to those who cared enough to help you be successful in your academic career.

It's unfortunate that the spring term had to end with social distancing, cancelations of milestone celebrations, and all the other difficulties and hardships caused by COVID-19 and I hope you, your friends, and family are safe and well. But even as difficult as these times are, it doesn't diminish your accomplishments or the pride we all share in your success.

It is my sincere hope that you will treasure the bond that has developed between you and UNC Charlotte and that you will stay in touch. Let us know how you're doing from time-to-time. I wish all the best and much success in all that you do.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Reynolds, Dean