Dear Members of the Class of 2012:

When I came to campus in August 2011 – to the fury of Hurricane Irene and the floods that followed – I was new to Arcadia’s traditions and passions. Today, at the end of my inaugural year as Arcadia’s Twentieth President, I write to thank you for teaching me what matters most here.

I have applauded you in performances, marveled at your scientific discoveries, brain-stormed with you at your club meetings, responded to your emailed suggestions (and complaints), talked with you at the new Chat and the old Dining Hall, cheered you on the athletic fields, applauded your community service, counseled you on careers, introduced you to alumni, mentored you on projects big and small, and promised you – promised you personally – that I will continue to use my very best efforts to increase the visibility and reputation of your Alma Mater, here in Greater Philadelphia, across the country, and around the world.

You are and will always be my first graduating class. I came late to your educational experience, but intend to be here a long time to support you in your careers. I expect you to be demanding of me even after you leave, and in return, I expect you to remain connected to us, supporting the students who will follow you. The value of your Arcadia diploma will increase with the prestige of your alma mater. So please remember this when we write to ask you to remember us – with shadowing opportunities for students, internships, jobs and, yes, contributions to the annual fund. Never forget, you made it through Arcadia thanks to the generosity of those who preceded you. Pay it forward.

You will celebrate your tenth anniversary in 2022 – which will be the 150th anniversary of our attaining collegiate status, as Beaver College. It is going to be a year of celebration that will be capped with your reunion. Do not be absent. Know that your presence and your achievements will be what define us. Remember the investments that your professors have made in you. Be thankful for their passion. Stay connected to them, to us. And return, often, to renew the networks and refresh the energy that will serve you so well throughout your career. Congratulations on your achievement in graduating from one of America’s truly global universities.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Carl (Tobey) Oholm III
Twentieth President

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