

dear residents

Farewell Friends

May 19, 2024

Dear Residents,

There was a lot to celebrate this weekend – your graduation and the Dallas Mavericks capping off your graduation with a win! There were lots of winners – the ones who got awards and the ones who work hard for small wins each day. I am grateful for each one of you.



Photo by [Timon Studler](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The end of something is the start of something else – we move on even as we look back at what we have just accomplished. And you have accomplished a lot. What I am most excited about is watching you continue to thrive. You already possess the three elements of success: self-awareness, conscientiousness, and sociability. Being aware of who you are, what drives you, how to navigate obstacles and knowing what you still want to accomplish is the base layer you must always wear. It's a layer closest to your skin – it wraps you; it knows you and it processes the outer layers for you. Conscientiousness is how you ensure that what you are entrusted with comes with ease – the ease of knowing that you are both capable and trustworthy. That you will follow through on your commitments

and engage in self-reflection to continuously improve your art. Sociability will keep you engaged and thriving through connections you make with others, shoulders you will lean on and shoulders you will offer to others.

As you move to various places at the end of your time here, I trust that you will keep alive the flame of camaraderie and friendship that you developed in residency. This bond is an enduring one. Last week we had a visit from two former chief residents (1984). They were thrilled to return to where they had forged a friendship through a common experience – sometimes rough, but mostly fun.

The obvious value of friendships is networking. The world is a big place. Your residency friends will look out for you no matter where you are. They will find you jobs, introduce you to others, review your papers and add you to their projects. Friends will be there to reassure you when you feel uncertain or have questions you may be afraid to ask. They will help without judgment. And friendships are also for fun – for good times, for group trips and for getting together at weddings, conferences and at reunions. Friends are confidants and can help you navigate your obstacles and be there for you at trying times. There is more to friendships than simply rehearsing a shared past – friendships are about loyalty to each other. About being there, about responding to that text, about picking up the phone at that late hour. Finally, this shared experience called residency serves as a holding on to a past that only you and they know about. Friends embody a past version of ourselves – how we dressed, what we looked like after midnight, what we ate, how we coped. One day you will develop a distance from what is now an immediate past – your friends will help you remember this shared past and remind you where you have come from, what shaped you, and how you became what you are now.

The residency program will always be your family, your home away from home. You will be missed but never forgotten.

Warm wishes,

Dino Kazi