

Hi CMAE Graduates!

My name is Minh Nguyen, I am a graduating senior of the Class of 2021. It is an honor to be speaking with you today, and I would first like to deliver the biggest CONGRATULATIONS to all the CMAE Graduates! YOU DID IT!!

It has been a long four years, but you've all made it to the finish line-- or should I say, the starting point of even greater things. As a first-generation student, I had thought that I was gonna be all alone on this journey. But little did I know that not only was I not alone, but I had also found many of my dearest second families here. The University of Oregon had allowed me to grow so much as a student and a young working professional, it has equipped me with the right skillsets to accomplish my future career goals, and helped me find my unique voice in a supportive community of like-minded individuals.

Throughout the past four years, I've had the opportunity to serve as a Research Assistant, Contact Tracer, Teaching Assistant, and also as one of your own CMAE Student Tutors. From the moment I joined this DES community, I knew that I had found myself a second home where I can fully express myself, share my stories, concerns, and grow. I had met some of the most caring, hard-working, and dedicated individuals here at CMAE: from the advisors who let me cry in their office after my first day as a TA, the staff members who always asked me how my day went and reminded me to take care of myself, and the fellow students who never ceased to inspire me with their work ethic. You know who you are, and I want to say that you've all lifted me up from my darkest moments of self-doubt and made me realize how lucky I am to be calling this place my family. And for that, I thank you.

To all the current students of CMAE, remember to always nurture a growth mindset and believe in yourself! You can achieve anything that you put your mind into, through hard work and consistent effort. Embrace your uniqueness, your background, and the different experience that you bring to the table. Stay close to your core values, but also don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zones to try new things. Every single one of you is an ASSET that our community is lucky to have, and we all cannot wait to see all the amazing things each and every one of you will accomplish in the future. Good luck, and go Ducks!