

## COMMENCEMENT REMARKS

**JAMES MASON, MA, BFA**  
**Associate Professor, Fashion Design and**  
**President, Faculty and Librarian Association**

I bring you greetings from the faculty and librarians.

**We believe that there is no higher calling than educating the youth of this city, this state and country.**

**We believe that every difference makes a difference when we stand together to fight a common cause.**

**448. That's how many of you will graduate today.**

**295. That's the number of faculty and librarians who have prepared for this day. For this moment.**

**290 . That's the number of days the faculty and librarians went without a contract yet we believe your education should not be impacted by our push for fairness and respect.**

**We believe that our administration will remember this moment when we say**

**" Our worth is rooted in the fact that we change the world."**

**We believe that the governor, our governor will realize that funding of education cannot be a second thought.**

And now

A poem,

A whisper,

A thought

A shout

OUT

To a few who walk today.

Puerto Rico Hot Shop. Established in Puerto Rico by you, my friend.

I tip my hat.

Bisques, yes, Lobster bisques. Some say Amazing. We all must try it.

Yes, **Carmelo Rios walks with Fine Arts 3D today.**

A Thought

Relentless, Curious, committed. A vision singular a most singular joy.

Joy, genius and we are humbled by you.

Out there sits **Amanda Sanabria who walks with Art Education today.**

Exemplary

A Whisper

Exemplary, excellent, brilliant.

We admire your good will.

We admire your generosity.

Kind and curious. Talented and helpful.

We shout out a model citizen, art historian, and artist.

**Jayme Horne walks with Art History and Fine Arts 2D Painting today.**

A Poem

What's in a name? What's really in a name?

Can it change the way we think about our racial identity.

Can it change the way we think about our ethnic heritage?

First generation.

First generation American of Laotian Heritage.

First to college in your family. **Boo-teng Ta-na-cone walks with photography today.**

A Shout

Hip Hop

A word a phrase a tone a haze.

Stillness, movement, groove .

Hip Hop.

Massachusetts Hip Hop Archive holds you high.

**Lisa Lee walks with SIM today**

A Song

Like climbing a mountain. She persisted.

Like swimming the ocean. She persisted.

Time did not break you nor did you falter. She persisted. Incredible, remarkable, prolific. And yes, she persisted.

**Barbara Ishikura walks with the graduate program today.**

A Note

Ambitiously adventurous.

Courageously inspirational.

Exuberantly generous.

Inventively passionate.

Resourcefully unassuming.

Conscientiously curious.

Illus-tra-tive, illustratively we shout out to **Dora Wang walking with Illustration today**

A Calling

La mode. De la mode. Moda Moda.

Fashion speaks. Fashion listens.

Enthusiastic, receptive, inspired.

**Annalissa Petrucci walks with Fashion Design today**

A Vision

Joy. Passion. Excellence.

He has a passion for producing works that bring joy to the audience.

Joy. Honored. **Dennis Tsai walks for Film/ Video and Animation today.**

A Gift

Industry form and function.

Industry manufacture, production enterprising application.

Industry with tremendous energy.

**Adam Smith walks with Industrial Design today**

A Grace

Is there a queen in the house?

Is there an African queen in this house?

Passionate, memorable, superb.

Is there a queen in this house whose mother has come from Africa to be with you today?

Yes, **Queen Allotey-Pappoe is walking with the certificate program today**

You who walk today exemplify who we are, where we're going, and who we hope to be.  
A glorious shout out to all of you this class of 2018.

**Congratulations!!!!**