

Good morning. Here we are, at long last. Right now, in this theater, we have my fellow, well-deserving graduates: the CCA Class of 2022. They have slept more in the past week than the past four months. We have our loved ones, many of whom have crossed time zones—or at the very least, braved suspiciously wet BART cars to be here. Beloved faculty and staff, whom frankly I wouldn't have blamed for not coming because it's 10 a on a Saturday, and of course, hangers-on who were really pushing their luck on our ability to get extra tickets: Thank you all for attending.

Let's take a moment to partake in a groan-worthy commencement tradition: acknowledging that this end is also a beginning. For many of us, this could be the start of something new. And it feels so right to be here with you. And now, looking in your eyes, I feel in my heart ... that the cease and desist letter I'll receive from The Walt Disney Company will finally get them to notice my stack of job applications from THREE MONTHS AGO.

CCA has always been in a state of flux. In fact, after four name changes and five addresses, the UC Berkeley Department of Physics has recently dubbed us Schrödinger's college. This is because whenever you say "California College of the Arts," there exists a moment in which you are simultaneously an alum of two different art institutions in the mind of a stranger. Whichever one boosts your job prospects.

Still, one could argue that amidst online learning and campus unification, these past four years have been one of the most significant periods of CCA's ongoing transition. In a commitment to fully immersing myself in the school's culture, I took it upon myself to do the same. By that, I mean transition. When creating my CCA email address back in 2019, I had the same confidence—as founder Frederick Myer did in 1907—that my name would NEVER change. So let's have a hand for the School of California Guild of Arts and Crafts.

There are big changes in store for CCA. Of course, all of it is made possible through our dedicated staff and faculty. Some of them are so dedicated that earlier this year, as many of us know, there was a four-day, legally protected

No one could have imagined our education here at CCA, which makes us the ideal stewards for imagining what comes next. Will we find windmills or giants? I look forward to that adventure, and I can't wait to take that trip with all of you. Thank you.