Dear Class of 2020,

I extend my heartiest congratulations to you on your graduation from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine.

One thousand, three hundred and sixty days ago, you began a journey with us that now culminates in the receipt of the Doctor of Dental Medicine degree. Undoubtedly, the journey had some highs as well as some lows but you persevered and, through incredible hard work and dedication, you are now ready to enter the next phase of your journey as a dental healthcare professional.

You have accomplished much during your time with us. You have distinguished yourselves through your outstanding commitment to service and by your academic prowess in both the biomedical and dental sciences. You continually impressed us with your empathy, your resilience, and your talents, as well as your work in the classroom, in the clinics, and in the community. Most importantly, you have established relationships with each other that are now lifelong friendships.

On behalf of all of the faculty and staff at the School of Dental Medicine, I would like to express our collective appreciation for allowing us to get to know you and for permitting us to be a part of your academic career and professional development. It has been both our honor and our pleasure and you will forever be a part of our UConn family.

I encourage you to acknowledge and recognize all of the individuals in your lives who have supported you, in countless ways, during this amazing journey — your spouses, parents, family members, significant others, loved ones and friends.

Always remember that you have been given an incredible opportunity to help improve the lives and well-being of others. The trust that your patients will place in you is an amazing gift — embrace it, treasure it, and above all, let it inspire you.

I wish every member of the Class of 2020 the very best—wherever life takes you! Congratulations on all that you have accomplished and I hope your journey is filled with success, health and happiness.

Best wishes,

Steven M. Lepowsky, D.D.S.
Interim Dean