Class of 2020 Celebrations FAQ

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Q: Will we definitely have an in-person commencement?

Yes. Assuming it is safe to do so, we plan to hold an in-person graduation ceremony in the Spring of 2021. We will email more details about this as soon as we are able – we have not locked in a date or location yet.

Q: Will there be an in-person celebration in 2020?

We were originally intending to hold a nighttime banquet and DJed dance party this Summer, to provide you with the fun-filled, non-academic part of WE Lead. Given the extended shelter-in-place, we are now assuming we will need to hold this “WE Done” party in 2021. It is still happening, though! We will update you as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Q: What’s happening on May 22nd, 2020?

On May 22nd, the Dean will share a recorded message for EW students that will include the first announcement of the EW Cheit Award winner and celebrate the student award winners. This information will be highlighted again at the commencement ceremony (in-person) in Spring 2021.
The message will be shared in an email from Assistant Dean Jamie Breen at 5PM PST.

**Q: Is WE Lead cancelled?**

Yes, we officially announced the cancellation of WE Lead on March 17. We are planning a WE Done party in its place (see above for more info!) to provide you with the key non-academic, social aspect of WE Lead. You will all have the option of bringing a plus one / significant other. We know the cancellation is disappointing, and we want to offer something different and special to help you celebrate together.

Please note, WE Lead (a recent EW MBA offering) is not funded directly by student tuition, and we will not replace the academic portions of WE Lead due to the unprecedented global pandemic. Participation in the academic component of previous WE Leads has been low compared to the other signature events (WE Launch and WE Innovate), so we hope you understand the decision to focus on replacing the celebratory and fun aspects of the event.

We have heard from students that optional student-planned vacations may be underway, to allow for longer celebration time. The program office is not involved in these trips. Our understanding from students is that these trips will be promoted and coordinated via social channels like WhatsApp once restrictions are lifted.

**Q: When will the Defining Leadership Principles Award Winners, Academic Achievement Award Winners, and student commencement speaker be announced?**

These award winners will be announced in the “Class of 2020 - Celebration Updates” section of Bear Necessities on Thursday, April 30 and via our social media channels (@haasewmba on Instagram and Twitter and on the EW MBA-Class of 2020 Facebook Group). The winners will also receive a congratulatory email from Dean Harrison.

**Q: When will the Beyond Yourself Fellows and Honors eligible students be announced?**

These students will be recognized in the “Class of 2020 - Celebration Updates” section in the Bear Necessities on Thursday May 14th.
Q: What else are you offering to celebrate our achievements?

We are working on a couple fun projects for you that we have not offered in the past. We want to celebrate your graduation as best as we can during this time.

To that end, keep an eye out for an email about contributing to a digital yearbook as well as a photo/video project to share heartwarming memories of your time in the program. If you are interested in being a major contributor to these efforts, please reach out at akansara@haas.berkeley.edu.