Ten Students Earn Valedictorian and Salutatorian Honors

June 07, 2019 by Hannah Silverstein

Andrew Liu ’19 will deliver the valedictory address for the Class of 2019.

At Sunday’s commencement ceremony, six valedictorians and four salutatorians will be recognized for earning the highest grade point averages in the Class of 2019.

“These exceptional students exemplify the curiosity of mind and intellectual engagement with the world that are among Dartmouth’s highest values,” says Kathryn Lively, interim dean of the College. “They have made Dartmouth proud.”

To become a valedictorian, students must earn a 4.0 grade point average. This year, Liu “Nicole” Chen ’19, Andrew Liu ’19, Anant Mishra ’19, Siyuan “Sonia” Qin ’19, Alexander Sullivan ’19, and Ruoni Wang have achieved this distinction. At commencement, they will march to the Green at the head of the class of 2019 and be recognized from the
podium for academic excellence. A committee representing the deans of the faculty and the interim dean of the College selected Andrew Liu to deliver the valedictory address to the graduates.

Salutatorians, who each achieved at least a 3.99 grade point average, include Christine Dong ’19, Colleen O’Connor ’19, Arvind Suresh ’19, and Samantha Stern ’19.

Valedictorians

Ruoni Wang ’19

Xichang, Sichuan, China
Computer Science and Economics double major

What’s next: working at Facebook as a software engineer

“I took ‘Computer Science 1’ with Professor Thomas Cormen and I really fell in love with CS. I love the theory side of things, and senior year I was able to explore some software development—we made augmented reality mobile apps and mobile apps using Watson, IBM’s AI platform. Every new area in CS is exciting. I’m also majoring in economics, concentrating in industrial organization and tech governance. I’m so inspired by the many caring professors I’ve had in both departments. Professor Diego Comin, who teaches “Econ 70,” which was an immersion experience in China, and macroeconomics, has been a mentor. He inspired me to take a broader look from an economics perspective on how
companies grow and become productive, and how technology diffuses into different parts of the world. All those bigger issues helped me better frame my understanding of the tech industry. I feel like he believes in me and I feel that support. I’m also very involved in the Street Soul dance group, which has been a huge reason why Dartmouth has been a great experience for me.”