Hi everyone! This is our last day together officially. I am thrilled to see your presentations soon. I want to say a few things before I send you off.

**The first and most important thing I want to say is to express my gratitude for your interest and your effort**. As a whole, the two sections worked hard and diligently. I think the Lehigh culture expects that, but in this case it’s particularly impressive because of utter ridiculousness of spending a year in a room doing “remote learning”, and your general grit to stick with the experimental warts as I continue to develop the course. With all of those impediments, you stuck with it and that is what teachers live to see. So thanks.

**That grit doesn’t just benefit you and make my heart smile, it has positive externalities I hope you internalize and take satisfaction in**: Your feedback throughout was taken seriously and is going to help this course dramatically improve, because I learned a TON myself this semester. The class next year is going to be 100% better for it because I have some exciting improvements planned. So future students owe your contributions a thanks.

**Thinking about the future, I’ll say that even though I pushed you a lot, the group rose to the challenge and finished the class with real skills you can market and use**. Acquiring large datasets and spotting errors, supercharging them with additional info from text files or FRED, debugging and conquering errors, and iteratively visualizing and analyzing… that’s valuable whether you’re the one executing analyses or working with analyst reports. Update your resumes and Linkedin!

**Your perseverance through all of this is something you should take pride in, and I’m excited to see where it takes you and what doors it opens**. I know the economy is uncertain, but as finance graduates from an elite institution, I know you’re prepared to deal with those risks, and in the event it is needed, you have an incredible alumni network to leverage as insurance. Plus… you have myself and the other faculty.

**So this is where our relationships can start to shift from teacher-student to something more like mentor and friend**. Please view me as part of your network from now on and feel free to connect through “LinkedIn” at a minimum. While I’m 10% sad that this part of the story is over, I’m excited to see the next chapters.