RIT College of Science

DEAN'S BULLETIN

October & November 2020

Message from the Dean

As we begin our October and November, we are now two-and-a-half months into the academic year. Our students are back on campus, and, for the most part, they manage, we imagine or assume, to keep their face coverings, make 6 feet of separation, and wash their hands with the frequency we all have adopted. Our faculty are teaching in a variety of modalities, and, from what I hear, they are doing a fantastic job of adapting to the challenges of teaching in the time of COVID. Our staff are providing the support we need to keep our students and faculty safe, and, as always, they are the ones who make the trains run on time. Our alumni are staying connected to us and to each other in a variety of ways.

The year has been unlike any in memory. Wildfires in the Western U.S. and Gulf Coast hurricanes the latter two linked to climate change, which is a threat to our planet and to our way of life, have made the air we breathe and the water we drink dangerous. Protests against the killing of Black people by police have been ongoing since the killing of George Floyd in May, and, in the wake of the killing of Breonna Taylor, the first grand jury decision in her case, and the killing of Jacob Blake, the first two weeks of October have been filled with protests and demonstrations. And the upcoming days promise to be no different. We are in the middle of a pandemic that has killed over 200,000 people in the United States and over 1 million worldwide, and we are in the middle of a presidential election that has become increasingly contentious and ugly and, perhaps, as dangerous as any in our lifetimes.

The year has been difficult for us, students, faculty, and staff, and, of course, for our families and friends. We miss being together, we miss being able to see students' faces, we miss being able to see our colleagues' faces, we miss being able to see our friends and family members' faces, we miss being able to do the things we used to do without worry or fear. But we are doing what we can to make the best of a difficult situation. And the year before us promises to be no different. We will be able to see students' faces, we will be able to see our colleagues' faces, we will be able to see our friends and family members' faces, we will be able to do the things we used to do without worry or fear, but we will be able to do all of this safely.

The year ahead promises to be no different. Our students will be back on campus, our faculty will be teaching in a variety of modalities, our staff will be providing the support we need, and our alumni will be staying in touch with us and with each other.

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Okay, I think I've made my point. Thanks for your patience.

Stay safe.

Stay healthy.

Stay strong.

Stay in touch.

Stay hopeful.

Stay kind.

Stay well.

Stay well.

Stay well