11-6-2020

Week's End Newsletter, November 6, 2020

Office of the Provost
Messiah University

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Sharpening Intellect | Deepening Christian Faith | Inspiring Action

Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.
The Provost office and other offices around campus have received many notes of appreciation from students expressing “sincere gratitude to the professors here on campus and for those who are working remotely. We greatly appreciate all of your self-less, loving, and caring dedication for us. We are praying for you all during this challenging time. We appreciate you!”

### Informational Updates

- Undergraduate and residential graduate students will soon have access to TimelyMD, an all-in-one telehealth provider created for universities that gives access to quality medical care anytime, supports student mental health, and provides timely responses.

- In the coming weeks, students will receive clear and timely communications about steps they should take for returning home for the break as well as how to prepare well for returning to campus in January.

- Enrollment management has been working closely with the Engle Center on health and safety, enabling us to continue to hold scheduled in-person visits for prospective students. Thanks to all, educators, enrollment management, and our health providers, for the collaborative work that makes an in-person visit for prospective students possible.

### Good News on Campus

**Contributed by Vice Provost for Student Success and Engagement, Kris Hansen-Kieffer**

Like others on campus this year, the Career and Professional Development Center has adjusted to new ways of coming alongside students as they discern, prepare for and pursue their professional goals. While students are still able to receive career coaching services in-person, most of our programs have moved to virtual spaces. Here are some highlights from this fall:

- Virtual internship, job and graduate program fairs – despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, recruiting for opportunities is in full-swing. As anticipated, our students have access to a wider variety of virtual professional experiences.

- Employers are clamoring to access the solid talent and distinct character of Messiah students. Because of restrictions, information sessions have moved exclusively online, which has allowed us to showcase an even broader reach of employers from across the country. Most of the sessions, featuring MU alumni representing diverse industries, were recorded and are archived on the [CPDC website](#).

- The Into the City career immersion program took on a virtual twist and featured alumni living and working in California. Organizations featured included Netflix, Google, PFM Asset Management, Levi, LinkedIn, Disney and others. Recordings can be accessed via the link [here](#).
above. Also, watch for information on Into the City Goes International in the spring!

• Amazingly, we have a record number of students engaged in internships this fall. They have a unique opportunity to experience firsthand how organizations are pivoting during these challenging times.

• CPDC team members have visited more than 20 classes and have appreciated opportunities to partner with faculty and academic departments.

• Students can still apply for grants to support virtual professional development opportunities!

We are encouraged and inspired by the stories of our interns and Class of 2020 graduates who are demonstrating grit and resilience as they break through the challenges to pursue their goals.

Consider following us on social media to get a taste of stories like this one:

Higher Education Highlights

• Kahoot announced this week an upcoming direct integration with Zoom. Game on! (Campus Technology)

• This week saw Liberty University delete from its website convocation videos of pastor John Piper, after Piper wrote a blog post seen as critical of President Trump. (Religion News Service)

• The president of Notre Dame, Rev. John I. Jenkins, faced official campus backlash this week after attending, unmasked, the Rose Garden ceremony introducing Amy Coney Barrett as nominee to the Supreme Court. Jenkins later tested positive for COVID-19, as did many others who were in attendance at this event.

Closing Thoughts

Contributed by Associate Provost, Alison Noble

Public health reports from the NIH, CDC, and other sources indicate that loneliness and a sense of social isolation have been widespread due to the social distancing strategies that are necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19. As this semester has progressed, we have learned ways that we can be both safe and at the same time be physically present with one another — even if not in the proximity or gathering size we would wish. This week, I have been reflecting on the value and poignancy of in-person interactions. There is joy even in a brief moment of greeting three colleagues, all at once, on the patio outside the High Center or in a friend or colleague, masked though we both may be, stopping by with a friendly hello and physical presence. We need one another; we are fed by presence; we are called into community. It is the gift and reassurance of presence that Jesus promises to the disciples in the final words of The Great Commission, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” In closing, I share for reflection this week the excerpt below from St. Patrick’s Breastplate, a well-known lorica in the monastic tradition, as well as an adapted choral version of the same.
... 
Christ with me, Christ before me, 
Christ behind me, Christ within me, 
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, 
Christ at my right, Christ at my left. 
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, 
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, 
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, 
Christ in the eye that sees me, 
Christ in the ear that hears me. 
I arise today 
Through the mighty strength 
Of the Lord of creation.


Do you have something you’d like to see in the newsletter? We’d love to hear from you. Email provost@messiah.edu.