



Provost Newsletter

April 20, 2020

Hunkered Down: Apart and Yet Connected

Commencement weekend 2020 has concluded without the public collective celebration we joyfully anticipate each year when we honor the achievements of our students. Instead, we had a bittersweet weekend. I found myself agreeing with the poet T.S. Eliot: April really did become our "cruellest month."

But we adapted well in transitioning Commencement, as we have transitioned so many aspects of our campus life throughout these past few weeks. Faculty, students, staff and deans sent virtual congratulations and encouragement to our students. We sponsored events, honors presentations, Facebook and Instagram posts, and the Johnston celebration. Our Commencement website will reflect these adaptations.

In the many messages delivered through our virtual commemorations, two themes stand out to me. The first is obvious — we deeply miss our togetherness as a community. Dean Tom Horan began his video greetings to the class of 2020 by stating, "I am all dressed up in regalia but alas I am alone." Tom draws our attention to the joy of pomp and circumstance — our commencement ritual is not much fun without a crowd. College of Arts and Sciences senior Maxine Magnus Mchunguzi opened her YouTube commencement address by acknowledging: "This is not the way I wanted to do this speech. I wanted to hear you, to see you, to share space." But then Maxine emphasized that through a video she could still share her "thoughts across time and space in hopes of connecting," much as she has done in her entire educational experience at Redlands. In her address entitled "Journey of 10,000 Miles," Maxine inspires us to appreciate how much distance she travelled, from South Africa to Redlands, and then to the Johnston Center, where Maxine graduates with an emphasis in "Media, Marketing, and Communications."

Connectedness in the face of social distancing is the second theme sounded in our communications, and this is also a perennial observation made in any Commencement season. We focus — appropriately — on the accomplishments of graduates at Commencement. But each Commencement also pays tribute to all of those who shared the journeys and ensured student learning and educational attainment. In her message to English department seniors in the Class of 2020, for example, Professor Heather King both shared her disappointment at mandated distancing from students and at the same time, noted that the "texts shared in classes become lasting connections." Professor King continued: "faculty are regularly inspired, though never as surprised as [students] are by all they achieve." Faculty make connections happen and foster our learning communities. Of course, peers and staff and many others contribute, but it is ultimately faculty who make that journey across the commencement stage possible. As Dean Kendrick Brown wrote to the seniors in CAS: "Never forget that faculty and staff are the heart of our College. With them, you will

always find ardent supporters for your most ambitious dreams or trusted confidantes ready to support you through frustrating challenges."

To the faculty in all the Schools and the College, I echo Kendrick by saluting our University-wide dedication to students. Almost overnight, it seemed, you rose to the challenge of teaching, advising, mentoring and ensuring degree completion for our students in new and often unfamiliar "modalities." I am not surprised. Your resilience and creativity make Redlands a great University. We owe immense gratitude to you in this Commencement season.

We are already planning for celebrations with graduates who can return to campus in October for Homecoming Weekend. Details will be forthcoming by early summer. The University Commencement website has been updated with general information. You'll find links to many of the past week's commencement communications in the updates that follow.

In the three previous "Hunkered Down" Provost columns, I focused on immediate responses to COVID-19 and planning for our short term and long term strategic future. That work continues. But for now, celebrate all that commences for our students and concludes for you — albeit, only some of you!

Stay well, stay safe, and take a breather.

Kathy Ogren
Provost

Provost Updates (including COVID-19)

COVID-19

- The Emergency Preparedness committee has added modeling options for reopening campus to its weekly agenda.

Commencement

Please use the links provided here to follow our communications with the Class of 2020

- [School of Business](#)
- [Johnston Graduation](#) [use password: h7.W3=?^]

- **College of Arts & Sciences.** Dean Brown's letter is reprinted below.

April 17, 2020

Dear CAS Community,

Since March, we have seen many changes in how we interact with each other. The adjustments we all have made demonstrate our adaptability, resilience, and commitment to safeguarding our community's health. However, an unfortunate consequence has been cancellation of cherished events and activities that happen at this time of the academic year. I regret that the College has been unable to hold its Commencement and the various activities associated with it.

The University will celebrate our 2020 graduates at Homecoming on Friday, October 30. From the feedback I have received over the last few weeks since announcing the Homecoming celebration, I understand the importance of graduates: (1) being individually recognized; (2) receiving the public approbation of faculty/staff and loved ones; and (3) having a meaningful experience that evokes a feeling of culmination and achievement. I will work with others across the University to ensure the Homecoming celebration delivers these essential features.

Right now, especially on this day, I appreciate that the Homecoming celebration feels far away. For this reason, my office has worked with University Communications, Academic Computing and Instructional Technology Services, and College faculty/staff to create an online site dedicated to celebrating our 2020 graduates. The site will have the student Commencement address and senior honors recognitions. Also, we would appreciate 2020 graduates' assistance with the site. Please share photos, messages of congratulations, and memories of your time at Redlands by posting to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter with the hashtag **#congratsURclassof2020**. Parts of the site are live now, with other aspects to be included next week, and can be reached at www.redlands.edu/cascommencement2020.

To our 2020 graduates, I want you to know how proud all of us in the College are of you, the journey you have taken with us, and what you are preparing to do after your time with us. Your University of Redlands education has prepared you for what you are facing now and the opportunities that will present themselves to you in the future. I hope the online celebrations you have experienced or soon will experience with College faculty/staff and your loved ones have expressed the care and dedication we feel for you. Never forget that faculty and staff are the heart of our College. With them, you will always find ardent supporters for your most ambitious dreams or trusted confidantes ready to support you through frustrating challenges. Stay in touch with us whether you return for the Homecoming celebration or your path takes you elsewhere at that time.

Please take care, be well, and accept my best wishes for all that the future brings.

Sincerely,
Kendrick Brown

Kendrick T. Brown, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Academic Affairs Updates

Sponsored Programs (by Steve Moore)

In a time of economic and social disruption, it is useful to look for external funding that not only helps sustain current projects but also helps move our research and teaching into new areas of endeavor. Accordingly, *Hunkered Down* will feature notices of funding opportunities that may be of interest to the University of Redlands community. This week, we feature new opportunities arising from governmental and private responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as upcoming deadlines for other competitions that may be particularly relevant to the current situation. Future editions of the newsletter will continue reporting on these and other opportunities that are relevant to research and instruction currently being accomplished at the University of Redlands. Contact Steven Moore, Director of Sponsored Programs, at steven.moore@redlands.edu or 909-748-8687 to inquire about these opportunities.

Federal Opportunities:

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

According to its [FAQs – Funding for NEH Applicants and Grantees Impacted by the Coronavirus](#) website, the NEH received \$75 million in supplemental funding to assist cultural institutions and humanists affected by the coronavirus as part of the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act economic stabilization plan appropriated by Congress and signed into law by President Donald J. Trump.

Approximately 40 percent of the appropriation, or \$30 million, will go directly to the 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils, based on the standard population formula used for their annual appropriation.

The remaining 60 percent, or \$45 million, will support at-risk humanities positions and projects at museums, libraries and archives, historic sites, colleges and universities, and other cultural nonprofits that have been financially impacted by the coronavirus. All NEH supplemental funds must be obligated to projects by September 30, 2021.

NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020.

Eligible entities should also contact their state humanities councils. NEH supports 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils across the country, all of which also make awards to local humanities projects.

The NEH does not indicate that supplemental funding from the CARES Act will be used to make additional awards for upcoming grant deadlines. However, the following NEH program deadlines may be of interest to University of Redlands faculty:

[Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants](#), Application Due May 15, 2020. *The purpose of the Challenge Grants program is to strengthen the institutional base of the humanities by enabling infrastructure development and capacity building. Awards aim to help institutions secure long-term support for their core activities and expand efforts to preserve and create access to outstanding humanities materials.*

[Research and Development](#), Application Due May 15, 2020. *The Research and Development program supports projects that address major challenges in preserving or providing access to humanities collections and resources. These challenges include the need to find better ways to preserve materials of critical importance to the nation's cultural heritage—from fragile artifacts and manuscripts to analog recordings and digital assets subject to technological obsolescence—and to develop advanced modes of organizing, searching, discovering, and using such materials.*

[State Humanities Councils General Operating Support Grants](#), Application Due May 22, 2020. *With the General Operating Support Grants, state and jurisdictional humanities councils make humanities education and learning available at the state and local level, delivering on NEH's mission to advance knowledge and understanding of the humanities and to increase public awareness of, access to, and support for the humanities in the United States.*

[Digital Projects for the Public](#), Application Due June 19, 2020. *The Digital Projects for the Public program supports projects that interpret and analyze humanities content in primarily digital platforms and formats, such as websites, mobile applications and tours, interactive touch screens and kiosks, games, and virtual environments. The projects must be designed to attract broad public audiences.*

[Digital Humanities Advancement Grants](#), Application Due June 30, 2020. *Digital Humanities Advancement Grants (DHAG) support innovative, experimental, and/or computationally challenging projects at different stages throughout their lifecycles, from early start-up phases through implementation and sustainability. Experimentation, reuse, and extensibility are hallmarks of this program, leading to innovative work that can scale to enhance scholarly research, teaching, and public programming in the humanities. This program is offered twice per year. Proposals are welcome for digital initiatives in any area of the humanities.*

Additional NEH opportunities and deadlines are provided at:

<https://www.neh.gov/grants/listing>.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The NIH has received supplemental funding for specific institutes:

- \$1.532 billion for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- \$103.4 million for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
- \$60 million for the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)
- \$36 million for the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

- \$30 million for the NIH Office of Director
- \$10 million for the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- \$10 million for the National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Funding opportunities stemming from this supplemental funding is being announced on the [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](#). Most of the currently announced opportunities are targeted at Principal Investigators (PIs) who are already conducting research relevant to the pandemic. However, competitions available to any applicants are becoming available. For instance, the following opportunity ...

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): NIEHS Support for Understanding the Impact of Environmental Exposures on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

...is available through the [Mechanism for Time-Sensitive Research Opportunities in Environmental Health Sciences \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) funding mechanism.

We will monitor NIH COVID-19 opportunities and report on them as they become available. Contact Steven Moore to discuss these opportunities.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

The NSF, which received \$75 million in funding from the CARES Act, has announced the following special emphasis competitions:

[Dear Colleague Letter: Request for SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals Addressing COVID-19](#). *The letter invites US-based small businesses [which can be created by faculty] to submit Phase I proposals focused on the development and deployment of new technologies, products, processes, and services with the potential to positively impact the nation's and world's ability to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Areas of research that might be considered include, but are not limited to: artificial intelligence, digital health, diagnostics, distributed ledger, environmental technologies, medical devices, pharmaceutical technologies, disinfection and sterilization, and filtration and separations.*

[Dear Colleague Letter on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#). *The letter states that the NSF is ...accepting proposals to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge. NSF encourages the research community to respond to this challenge through existing funding opportunities.*

Department of Defense (DoD)

[Newton Award for Transformative Ideas during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). *Applications due May 15, 2020. This award will be presented to a single investigator or team of up to two investigators that develops a "transformative idea" to resolve challenges, advance frontiers, and set new paradigms in areas of immense potential benefit to DoD and the nation at large.*

Private Opportunities:

[Fast Grants](#). Rolling deadline, currently paused. *If you are a scientist at an academic institution currently working on a COVID-19 related project and in need of funding, we invite you to apply for a Fast Grant. Fast Grants are \$10k to \$500k and decisions are made in under 48 hours. If we approve the grant, you'll receive payment as quickly as your university can receive it.*

[IBM COVID-19: Fight the global pandemic](#). Applications due April 27, 2020. *The Call for Code Global Challenge, an initiative of IBM, asks the world's developers to build solutions for COVID-19 and climate change. Interests include crisis communication, remote education, and community cooperation.*

[MIT Solve](#). Applications due June 18, 2020. *Over \$1.5 million in prize funding is available for Solve's 2020 Global Challenges, including Health Security & Pandemics. MIT Solve is seeking tech innovations that can slow and track the spread of an emerging outbreak, for example by improving individual hygiene, developing low-cost rapid diagnostics, analyzing data that informs decision making, and providing tools that support and protect health workers.*

For Faculty

by Ben Aronson

There has been quite robust participation in the weekly Hunsaker Teaching Excellence/ACIT conversations so Shariq Ahmed (ACIT) and I will plan on hosting this as a standing weekly meeting **Tuesdays at 4:00**.

Some of us are poised to start a new course. Scholarship indicates the importance of creating community in on-line courses and so this week we will take the first 15 minutes to talk about techniques for building an on-line learning community. We can share our own experiences as well as approaches that others have taken. The remainder of the conversation will be open to whatever topics are of interest.

Meet us at https://redlands.webex.com/meet/ben_aronson.

Please get in touch with me (Ben_Aronson@redlands.edu) or Shariq (Shariq_Ahmed@redlands.edu) if you have questions or issues regarding your teaching preparation or current teaching efforts.

Instructional Technology

by Cheyne Murray

Associate Director,
Instructional
Technology
Services;
Adjunct Professor,
School of Education;
Vice President,
University of
Redlands Staff &
Administrators
Assembly

Course Design and Pedagogical Resources:

Preparing to Teach Online — May & Summer Terms

Whether you are moving a class online for the first time or have experience, check out the support and resources available to help you.

- [Teaching Consultations](#) for individuals and departments or programs. Get your questions answered by a trained consultant.
- [Designing Online Content using UDL Principles](#)
- [Online Faculty Orientation](#)
- Collaboration with Faculty Peers via [Microsoft Teams](#)
- Additional Teaching Guides:
 - [Continuity Plan](#)
 - [Lecturing in WebEx](#)
 - [Course Design Framework](#)

Weekly Highlights:

- The College of Arts & Sciences Biology Department featuring Lei Lani Stelle, Lisa Olson, Candy Glendening, Linda Silveira and Ann Marie Moreno met with ITS to collaborate on Course pedagogy, Teams, WebEx and strategies on converting face to face to online.
- The School of Education used both Moodle and SharePoint to create various resources for students (Online Student Orientation, and Online Community of Practice) for Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Teaching and Learning.
- Moodle averaged 3,000 users per day.
- WebEx usage for the first half of April continued to rise with 3,339 meetings.
- There were 1,669 active users in Microsoft Teams over the past month. Of note, this past week, the Faculty Forum led all Teams here in the University with 161 active users. Per specific courses, Professor James Krueger of the College of Arts & Sciences Philosophy Department led the charge with 28 active users in his Health, Medicine, and Society (HMS 100) course.
- Paul Chacon of ITS has been offering training sessions on productivity software available to University employees. Classes during the last 2 weeks have covered Office 365, SharePoint, Microsoft Teams and many other supported applications. Resources can be located within the [Online Training SharePoint](#).

School of
Business

by Dean Horan

After several years of consideration (and delay) the Pasadena City College Board of Trustees has finally approved our MOU, including provisions for teaching on campus (once such is possible). I believe this will have a notable strategic upside for our undergraduate (SB) degree completion in general as well as our specific visibility in Pasadena.