



# Spring graduation canceled

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After originally postponing the event, Murray State has canceled spring commencement while students and professors alike are transitioning into a new way of learning at the University.

## Summer Courses

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Tim Todd sent an email to students, faculty and staff on Wednesday, April 1, to announce all Summer 2020 courses will move to an online format. However, there are some exceptions to this change including clinicals, co-ops, directed studies, internships and practicums.

The schedule for these courses will be updated from now until registration begins on Monday, April 6, over 300 online summer courses will be available. The University will continuously provide updates on summer courses here.

## Graduation

President Bob Jackson said in an email to the campus community on Monday, March 30, that an alternative or future commencement ceremony is being discussed.

All Campus Sing has also been canceled, along with any other campus events that were planned between now and May 15.

In the email, Jackson thanked the campus community for its efforts during this unprecedented international event.

"I want to thank our students, the Board of Regents, faculty and staff for an excellent job during a very stressful time," Jackson said. "It is my honor to serve here with you as we continue our important mission of teaching and learning during this worldwide pandemic."

## Current Situation

Jackson said the University elected to pay student workers through Friday, March 27, and continue to pay all regular part-time and full-time staff.

However, he said the University is continuing to monitor the discussions at the state capitol in regards to the University's future budget, possible



Cadence Utterback/TheNews

cuts and assistance with pensions, among other financial matters.

"We are making many difficult decisions and a multitude of other hard decisions will be made in the days ahead," Jackson said.

Jackson reiterated the need to practice the guidelines being issued by the CDC and Gov. Andy Beshear, and that the health of the campus community is first and foremost.

"Gov. Andy Beshear has stated and ordered, we are attempting to bend the curve of this pandemic in the Commonwealth," Jackson said. "Most everyone is working remotely or at home. If you are not working remotely and can, please discuss with your immediate supervisor by email, call or text. They will approve this request."

## Online Instruction

Jackson thanked the faculty for quickly moving instruction to an online format and thanked students for making the change.

"You did not want or expect the changes of late," Jackson said. "But, you have responded

well and it is greatly appreciated. We are in this together and I want to thank you for working with us on this transition."

One of the ways in which the University administration is assisting students during this transition is with a new website that provides access to tips to making this semester a success. Click here to access the website.

## Advanced Scheduling

Advanced scheduling for the summer and fall semesters begins on April 6 for Honors College and graduate students. Seniors can register on April 7. Juniors can register on April 8. Sophomores can register on April 9. Freshmen can register on April 10.

Students are required to meet with their academic adviser prior to scheduling. Advisers cannot release the academic hold on a student's account until they have met. Advising meetings will take place via Zoom, over the phone or by email. Students should reach out to their adviser this week if they haven't heard from them.

## Health Update

University Health Services, which is in partnership with Primary Care Medical Center, continues to accept online virtual visits. They can be reached by phone at (270) 809-3809 or (270) 759-9200. To visit them online, click here.

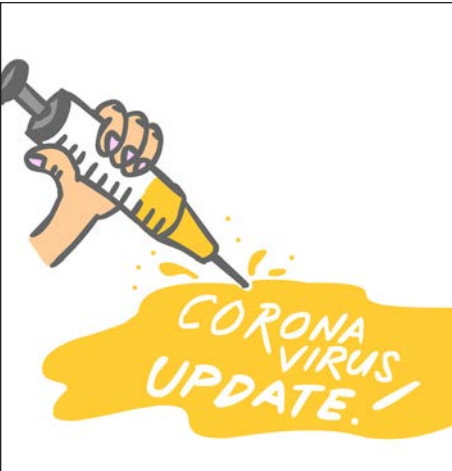
In Gov. Andy Beshear's daily press briefing on April 1, he said the state currently has 680 positive cases, including three in Calloway County. Twenty Kentuckians have died thus far as a result of the coronavirus.

He also issued an executive order restricting travel outside of the state except for essential reasons including work, buying groceries and doctor visits, taking care of a family member or in order to comply with a court order. Several of the surrounding states have much higher rates of positive cases.

Beshear estimated that between 15,000 and 21,000 people in the state have been tested for the virus.

Stay with *The News* for the latest campus announcements related to COVID-19.

# Honors students expected to still graduate with Honors Diploma



Cadence Utterback/TheNews

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Honors College faculty have worked closely with Honors students to ensure their degree programs are not negatively affected after COVID-19 has forced the University administration to cancel study abroad programs and move classes online.

Warren Edminster, executive director of the Honors College, said the coronavirus pandemic affected many Honors students who planned to study abroad, as all study abroad programs for the spring and summer semesters were canceled. Students were not able to go to China

or Korea for their programs, and students studying in Europe had to return to the U.S.

Edminster said the students whose plans were interrupted will not necessarily have to change from an Honors Diploma to an Honors Focus, though it is still a possibility for those who will no longer be able to fulfill the requirements of an Honors Diploma.

"We have accepted the coursework of students graduating in May whose trips were canceled as meeting the study abroad requirement," Edminster said. "Students graduating in December will be able to do an international project to meet that requirement if they so wish. Students graduating after December will

be able to look at other study abroad options, including a one credit hour special course we will do in concert with the Spring 2021 Spring Break in London program."

The Honors Focus is a less intensive Honors track that requires fewer Honors seminars and elective courses than the Honors Diploma. Students who cannot complete the Honors Diploma can switch to the Honors Focus instead of leaving the Honors College or staying extra semesters to meet the diploma requirements.



# Report COVID-19 Fraud

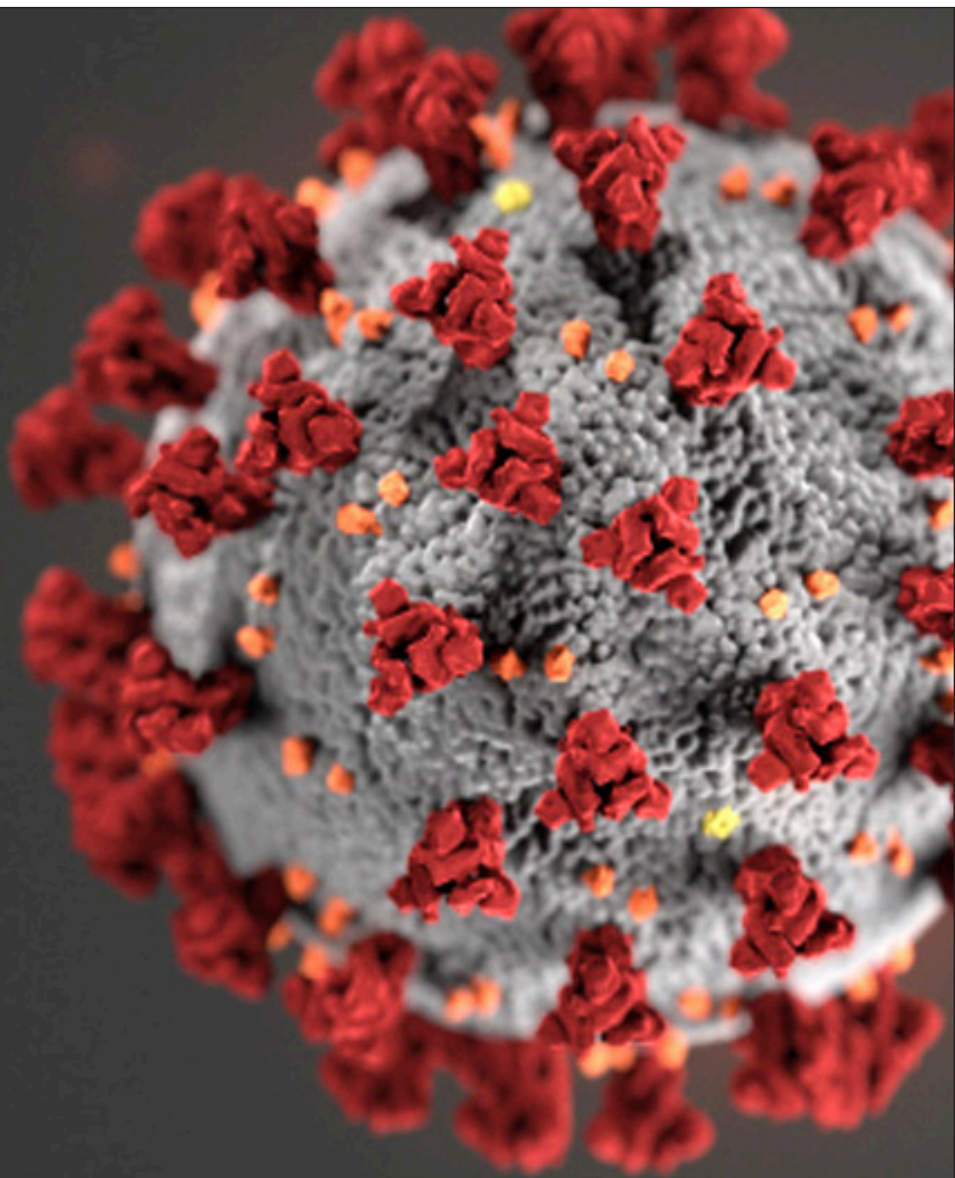


Photo courtesy of fbi.gov

## Beshear warns Kentuckians about scams

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Online scammers have taken to profiteering from consumer health concerns, setting up fake websites, sending fake emails and texts to sell charlatan products that claim to cure or prevent COVID-19.

Gov. Andy Beshear and Attorney General Daniel Cameron issued a scam alert warning Kentuckians of potential consumer scams related to the coronavirus.

The scammers may pose as public health organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF or the World Health Organization, and ask consumers to provide personal information or contact them.

According to the scam alert, Kentuckians should ask their family doctor or government health officials for

information on how to obtain a vaccine if and when a vaccine is approved.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, there are several ways to avoid coronavirus scams:

Hang up on robocalls and don't press any numbers. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from scam coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes. The recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, but it might lead to more robocalls instead.

Fact-check information. Scammers, and sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn't been verified. Before you pass on any messages, contact trusted sources. Visit federal, state and local government agencies.

Know who you're buying from. Online sellers may claim to have in-demand products, like cleaning, household and

health and medical supplies, even if they don't.

Don't respond to texts and emails about checks from the government. The details are still being worked out. Anyone who tells you they can get you the money now is a scammer.

Don't click on links from sources you don't know. They could download viruses onto your computer or device.

Be vigilant about emails claiming to be from the CDC or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the coronavirus, consult the Kentucky Department for Public Health and the CDC, or call the COVID-19 hotline about health-related concerns at 1-800-722-5725.

Ignore online offers for vaccinations. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure COVID-19.

"Kentuckians should be suspicious of scammers and con artists claiming to have a cure for the newest strain of the virus," Beshear said. "Only legitimate medical authorities are working with the CDC and the FDA to create a vaccine for COVID-19."

Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card or by wiring money, don't do it.

"We urge every Kentuckian to check the source of any information or claims related to COVID-19," Cameron said. "Be wary of any communication that asks for personal information or donations and report scams to the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General by calling the Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-888-432-9257."

To learn more about potential coronavirus scams, visit the Federal Trade Commission or the Better Business Bureau.

## HONORS

From Page 1

Carole Inman, student development counselor for the Honors College, said students appear to be handling the transition fairly well and she has been communicating with them daily.

Inman also said she doesn't think study abroad being canceled will force any Honors students to switch from the Honors Diploma to the Honors Focus.

"The Honors College has had to waive the study abroad requirement for only one

or two of the May graduates because the vast majority have already studied abroad," Inman said. "I don't see any of them moving to the Focus for this reason."

Inman also said for those who will graduate next fall or spring, the Honors College will look at each student individually. She believes the Honors College will be able to make sure students will graduate with the Honors Diploma.

Inman spoke to an Honors student who was studying abroad in Spain this semester but had to return early because of the coronavirus outbreak. He lost all of his in-progress credits because the remaining work was too complicated to do online from across the ocean. Inman said his

stay in Spain will meet the study abroad requirement because he was there for two months, but he ultimately ended up losing a semester of classes.

For Haley Penrod, sophomore from Morgantown, Kentucky, the news of the University going all-online made her wonder how she would be able to continue her internship and how her classes would be taught.

Penrod said she takes specific classes because she likes how her professors give lectures and she never intended to take them online.

"My biggest concern regarding the major changes involving moving classes online was how I was supposed to adjust to

only online classes," Penrod said. "I learn better in a classroom setting with structure. Without this structure, how am I supposed to carve out a time for each class and make sure I am still getting the quality education that I am paying for?"

Penrod has considered the newly implemented pass/fail option for classes that is being given to students, but prefers to wait closer to the deadline to make a final decision; also to see if all her classes qualify for the option.

"I am thankful that the University is giving students this option because we didn't sign up for online class and [the pass/fail option] takes some of the pressure off."



# Five party themes better than COVID-19

The staff editorial is the majority opinion of The Murray State News Editorial Board.

Upon watching the wonderful Andy Beshear Show (better known as the Kentucky governor's daily live streams), *The Murray State News* Editorial Board discovered that some people were having COVID-19 themed parties.

In the wise word of Beshear, "you can't be doing that."

Sure, those parties are young, and maybe they're not falling into the "at risk" categories, but do you know who is? Just about every single human being they will come into contact with.

Maybe the person the party is talking to isn't directly at risk, but eventually, through contact, the possibly-contracted coronavirus will inevitably infect someone whose chances of surviving are no better than slim.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 mainly spreads through person-to-person interaction. There's a reason the CDC has recommended people stay a minimum of 6 feet away from each other at any given moment. By merely talking face-to-face with someone, you risk spreading the coronavirus to them.

Imagine the health consequences holding a party could have. Large numbers of people in close proximity have any number of germs, and each of those individuals goes home and spreads those germs to more people.

COVID-19 can live in the body for up to 14 days, and symptoms may not appear right away. On different hard surfaces, it can live for up to three days. A lot can happen in that amount of time, and, provided a person isn't self-quarantining, a lot of people can be infected.

So, instead of having a COVID-19 themed party, here are five other ideas (if you really just can't wait to have a party).

Idea number one, the Roaring Twenties. The 1920s are idolized, right? Know what happened right before this? The Spanish influenza pandemic. Know what doctors thought people should do during the Spanish influenza pandemic? Stay home. And who knows, maybe it'll help you save some money, too. The 1920s ended in the Great Depression, everyone was pinching their pennies.

Maybe that one is a little intense, so here are some softer themes that might suit your fancy.

How about an island party? This one is only allowed if it's done through Animal Crossing. Nintendo recently dropped the latest installment of the game, Animal Crossing: New Horizons, for the Nintendo Switch. In the game, players have their own islands. If you have the ability to play online, you can visit other players' islands, or they can visit yours. Congregate at a lovely virtual island with your friends, animal and human. Bam! You have yourself an island party.

Too animated for you? This next one might not work for you, either, then.

Just a regular old party, but try it in The Sims! Then, not only are you at a party, but you can play match-maker or watch all your Sim creations get embarrassed when they "sharib dup snoop" their way through a social scenario. This has all the pleasures of a party without the real world repercussions, and you're still social distancing.

For those of you who don't consider yourselves gamers or avid fans of the 1920s, these last two will most likely be your best bet.

In these times of quarantine, many find themselves having Netflix parties. This is a party you can have via FaceTime, Zoom, Skype or just with the members of your household. Simply start the video call, pick



Cadence Utterback/TheNews

out the movie or show of choice and sync up the start of the show for all involved. There's an add-on actually called Netflix Party that will automatically sync up all who are watching. Watching the same show together at the same time will help you feel connected despite the distance between you and your friends.

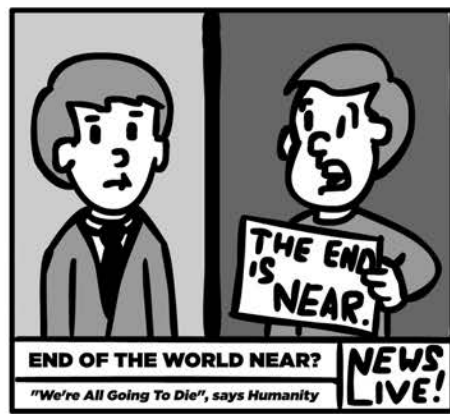
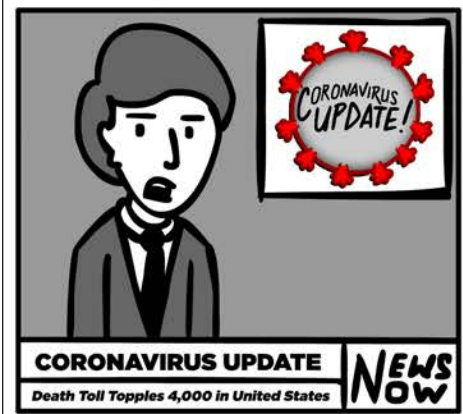
Lastly, just a plain old Zoom party. You thought Zoom was just for class? Think again. Zoom presents a perfect opportunity to have a party over a video call. Each individual kicking

it up in their respective homes, but still able to enjoy the virtual presence of their friends. It's close enough, right?

So, while this time of crisis is seemingly unending, it is still possible to feel united. Yes, these suggestions are partially joking and sarcastic, but that's not to take away from the point. Continued social distancing and self-quarantining will get us to where we want to be, and that's reunited with our friends face-to-face.

## "...AND IN OTHER NEWS..."

Written & Illustrated by Cade Utterback



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# NCAA grants seniors extra year

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College athletes who had their seasons cut short because of the COVID-19 pandemic have been granted another year of eligibility by the NCAA.

The NCAA Division I Council voted on Monday, March 30, to grant universities the decision to provide student-athletes playing spring sports another year of eligibility. However, student-athletes playing winter sports are not eligible for the extra year since the majority of their respective seasons had already taken place.

The council's decision comes after questions arose regarding seniors' eligibility following the NCAA's cancellation of spring championship tournaments as well as the men's and women's basketball tournaments.

Along with granting universities the right to provide student-athletes with another year of eligibility, the council also voted to increase the number of athletes on scholarship to make up for incoming freshmen as well as those who decide to stay another year with the new ruling.

Additionally, schools will be provided with "the flexibility to give students the opportunity to return for 2020-21 without requiring that athletics aid be provided at the same level awarded for 2019-20," according to a statement from Michelle Brutlag Hosick, NCAA's associate director of communications.



Senior outfielder Ryan Perkins celebrates with sophomore catcher Jonah Brannon in a game on March 1.

Paige Bold/TheNews

However, this only applies to those who had no eligibility following the 2019-20 season prior to the new ruling.

To help ease the financial struggles universities will have to face after providing another year of eligibility to student-athletes, the NCAA's Student Assistance Fund will be available

for universities to use to cover extra scholarships.

Council Chair M. Grace Calhoun said the decisions made by the NCAA were in the best interests of universities and will provide those seniors who thought they had played their last games the opportunity to play again.

"The council's decision gives individual schools the flexibility to make decisions at a campus level," Calhoun said. "The Board of Governors encouraged conferences and schools to take action in the best interest of student-athletes and their communities, and now schools have the opportunity to do that."

## Brown earns All District 18 and Lou Henson All-American honors

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Though NCAA basketball was cut short, Murray State sophomore guard Tevin Brown was recognized for his play in the OVC by making the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division I All-District 18 First Team and the Lou Henson All-American Team.

The NABC sent out the list of the All-District teams for all 24 districts in

Division I basketball on Tuesday, March 24.

This honor comes after Brown was named to the All-OVC First Team with the conclusion of OVC regular season play.

Brown averaged 17.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 3.7 apg and 1.2 spg while shooting 44.7% from the field and 41.9% from deep in the 2019-20 season. Among the OVC, Brown was the only player to rank in the top 10 in scoring (5th), assists (8th) and assist/turnover ratio (1.4, 10th).

Brown joins fellow OVC competitors Austin Peay's junior forward Terry Taylor, EKU's sophomore guard Jomaru Brown, Belmont's sophomore forward Nick Muszynski and UT Martin's senior forward Quintin Dove on the All-District 18 First Team.

Belmont's sophomore guards Grayson Murphy and Adam Kunkel along with Austin Peay's freshman guard Jordyn Adams, EIU's junior guard Josiah Wallace and UT Martin's redshirt sophomore

guard Parker Stewart were named to the All-District 18 Second Team.

The OVC Coach of the Year, A.W. Hamilton of EKU, was recognized as the All-District 18 Coach of the Year.

CollegeInsider.com also announced that Tevin joined Kunkel and Taylor as members of the Lou Henson All-American Team.

Tevin will enter his junior season looking to crack the 1,000 career points milestone, as he sits at 960 career points from 65 career games with Murray State.



Brown drives into the paint against Morehead State.

Gage Johnson/TheNews



# Professor creates apparatus for medical professionals

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It's heartwarming to witness Murray State members reinforcing Racer Pride and helping the community during a time of need. During the COVID-19 pandemic, assistant professor Rudy Ottway used technology to assist medical professionals.

Ottway created face shield apparatuses, visors that cover and prolong the use of surgical face masks, in partnership with Kent Campbell, who works for local software company TapLogic.

"The Institute of Engineering became involved in 3D printing the visor frame when Keith Travis, vice president of institutional development at Murray-Calloway County Hospital, contacted Dr. Danny Claiborne, the department chair of the Institute of Engineering," Ottway said.

Claiborne asked Ottway if he could support the needs of the hospital and reached out to junior engineering graphics and design major Clay Doron for assistance with the project.

They have worked tirelessly to supply 300 visors to the hospital and are now working to provide visors to Primary Care, Fast Pace and the Kentucky State Police.

Doron said by 3D printing the visor frames, they can make them for the hospital at a significantly lower price.

"The idea behind the face shield is that it can be worn over a traditional mask and prolong the life of those traditional masks," Doron said. "The face shields can be sanitized and reused."



Ottway created the visor frames by 3D printing.

Photo courtesy of Rudy Ottway

Doron said they are contacting other medical professionals around the area who are in need of them.

3D printing creates a physical object from a three-dimensional digital model. Ottway used a design from Sweden, which was shared worldwide so people can 3D print the visor frame.

There is another way to create the visor frames by creating a mold, however the visor frame is larger than what the molding equipment is able to produce.

The apparatuses help provide more facial coverage for medical professionals. The shield on the visor extends from the forehead to protect eye exposure and goes down past the chin.

"A 3D printer works by adding successive layers of material until the final part has been created," Ottway said. "The process that we're using to 3D print the visor frame is called material extrusion or fused filament fabrication."

Ottway said the 3D printed visor frame is then paired with a clear transparency film to make a visor.

Creating the visors with 3D printing is quick, inexpensive and easily accessible. The Institute of Engineering owns several 3D printers that Ottway and Doron have been using.

"We can 3D print a visor frame in about 45 minutes at a cost of less than \$1 in material," Ottway said.

Doron has used 3D printing in his classes, but the experience with this project taught him more than the classroom ever could.

Ottway and Doron have been working out of the Rapid Prototyping Center in the Collins Industry and Technology Center. While Doron works, he also balances school work.

"Each mask takes about 30 minutes to print, so while they are printing I can work on my school work," Doron said.

"The biggest thing is staying ahead of everything, staying organized and not waiting until the day before something is due to work on it."

Doron said his parents are Murray State graduates and he's lived in Murray his entire life, so helping to create the visors for medical professionals is important to him.

"Being able to help keep our local hospital staff safe and healthy during this crisis was its own reward," Doron said.

Ottway said people across the campus and in the community have reached out to donate transparencies and their own 3D printers to help them.

"We are happy to help and are thankful that we've been blessed with resources to help in this time of need," Ottway said. "The team effort from Murray State University has been phenomenal, and we appreciate all the support."

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# Greek life finds special ways to finish online semester

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Now that the University has moved completely online, Greek organizations have had to adapt how they plan to stay in touch with one another for the rest of the semester.

Luckily, Murray State students are resilient and have made the most out of the situation by finding new, fun ways to reach out remotely.

Julia Cwiklowski, president of Alpha Sigma Alpha, said the sorority will meet on Zoom every two or three weeks for the rest of the semester.

They are also keeping in touch through GroupMe and social media like Instagram and Facebook. On the chapter Instagram page, the PR chairman started a hashtag for girls to use when posting about their daily quarantine activities.

"One of our members started a positivity playlist on Spotify for girls to add songs that make them smile even if they are feeling alone during this time," Cwiklowski said.

Currently, ASA will continue philanthropic efforts.

"This year our chapter started using Crowd Change, an online fundraising website, to collect philanthropic donations," Cwiklowski said. "We are hoping to put together a social media campaign to raise money and awareness for our efforts to support the Special Olympics."

She said she is looking forward to the travel ban lifting so the chapter can begin to plan events to bring together their sisterhood.

Cwiklowski wants to remind the Murray State community that they will grow from this.

"It is our hope that our society will regain its health so we can all come back together soon," Cwiklowski said.

Kolbe Mattingly, president of Alpha Tau Omega, said his members have been



Photo courtesy of Katie Rose

Katie Rose, vice president of communications for AOII, said the chapter is continuing sisterhood events like online zumba.

holding weekly executive council meetings on Zoom and using GroupMe to keep the brotherhood connected.

Braxton Embry, elementary education major and secretary of ATO, said the chapter already did its philanthropy and are preparing for events for next semester.

"We hope everyone is making the best of the situation we are in and taking care of themselves," Embry said. "This will only make us a stronger campus and community."

Katie Rose, vice president of communications for Alpha Omicron Pi, said the sorority has kept in touch by meeting once a month on Zoom for chapter meetings and are also using Facebook and GroupMe.

AOII will continue sisterhood events virtually such as Zumba, study dates and movie nights.

"We are just trying to find creative, unique ways to continue deepening our sisterhood," Rose said.

She said the chapter has recently started an event called "Rose Buddies."

"Every Sunday, each member is assigned a new 'Rose Buddy' and you and your new buddy are responsible for finding time during the week to Facetime and talk for ten minutes or so," Rose said.

Rose said AOII is participating in one community service event virtually by sending a positive video to the Murray community to lift up spirits during this time.

She said it is important to stay strong and that the Murray State community will get through these times together.

"Everyone is giving up things and struggling right now," Rose said. "We need to stay resilient and find the joy in everyday life."

Lauren Wagner, president of Alpha Gamma Delta, said the chapter is meeting through Zoom weekly and members still talk daily.

"We are all pretty close, so we are typically posting on our page or talking on the phone every day," Wagner said. "We interact a lot and ask advice from one another."

The chapter has kept each meeting lively with themed meetings. For the Zoom meeting on Monday, March 30, everyone brought their pets. Next Monday, members will wear self-care face masks and bring their favorite book.



Photo courtesy of Murray State University