



# University announces 'Racer Restart' initiative

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Because of how COVID-19 has impacted Murray State, University administration has announced the "Racer Restart" initiative for the fall 2020 semester.

"We are working toward a traditional fall semester while making necessary adjustments for a new normal," President Bob Jackson said. "Our guiding principle of the 'Racer Restart' initiative will be the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and broader community. Classes

begin on Aug. 18 and we look forward to a successful fall semester."

A fall 2020 Racer Restart Committee, co-chaired by President Bob Jackson, Vice President of Finance Jackie Dudley, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Don Robertson, Provost Tim Todd and Director of Governmental and Institutional Relations Jordan Smith, was formed to implement the initiative.

The committee has created the following subcommittees: academic affairs and faculty support; student affairs, enrollment management and campus life; administrative operations and staff support; housing,

dining and auxiliary operations; facilities management; athletics; and development, alumni and branding, marketing and communication.

Murray State is currently working toward a traditional fall semester, but is making adjustments according to the effects of the pandemic which will be determined by the committee.

Jackson said he is anticipating a phased process beginning June 1 which will continue through the beginning of the fall semester.

Summer Orientation, which is a required program for entering freshman and transfer

students, will be held in a virtual format. Registration information can be found on [TheNews.org](http://TheNews.org).

Summer courses, with the exception of clinicals, co-ops, directed studies, internships and practicums, will be offered online only. There are almost 400 courses available online. Course and registration information can be found on [TheNews.org](http://TheNews.org).

All campus and student events and activities will also be canceled or postponed through July 31. On-campus visits are included in the canceled activities. Information about virtual tours and one-on-one meetings can be found at [TheNews.org](http://TheNews.org).

## Committee Co-Chairs and Senior Administration Leadership:

**President**  
**Dr. Bob Jackson**

**Vice President for Finance**  
**Jackie Dudley**

**Vice President for Student affairs**  
**Dr. Don Robertson**

**Provost**  
**Dr. Tim Todd**

**Director of Institutional Relations**  
**Jordan Smith**

Bryce Anglin/TheNews

# COVID-19 causes changes in student internships



Photo courtesy of Cole Emerson

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Murray State students are being affected as their internships are being canceled or changing because of the coronavirus.

Internships are an essential component of a student's success after graduation. Students learn skills not available in the classroom, are exposed to their future work environment and can potentially line up a job after graduation. The pandemic has led to sudden changes in the lives of several students which will impact their futures.

Brooke Short, sophomore psychology major, planned on being an undergraduate intern at Youth Villages in Memphis, Tennessee, this summer. Youth Villages offers a residential program

that provides therapy for youth with emotional and behavioral issues. Her responsibilities would have included observing therapy sessions, documenting the youth and attending treatment team meetings.

"It is hard to get exposure directly to therapy and treatment," Short said. "It was a really good opportunity to get hands-on experience that I was excited for."

Unfortunately, Short's internship was canceled last week. Short said this opportunity was important to solidify her career goals after Murray State and build her resume for graduate school applications. Short is disappointed, but knows the safety of the children comes first.

While some companies are canceling internships, others are still planning to go on with their programs. Companies

are finding ways to give their interns meaningful experiences in a different format than expected.

Cole Emerson, senior agribusiness major, is a barge sales and logistics intern at Marquette Transportation Company in Paducah, Kentucky. His responsibilities previously included attaching weights and destinations for barges.

His internship has moved to an online format so he can work at home rather than at the Paducah site. The main difference is Emerson cannot travel to loading docks, inspect barges and go on boat rides this summer.

"The experiences that I am missing are what makes the computer work worthwhile," Emerson said. "Also, I am unable to meet the men that work out on the river."

# Alumnus sworn in as a special justice on Kentucky Supreme Court

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Murray State alumnus Jeff Roberts was sworn in as a special justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court on April 21.

Roberts took the oath of office for the highest court in Kentucky in his office via teleconference because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. He will replace Justice Christopher Shea Nickell of the 1st District Supreme Court.

Roberts, a Mayfield, Kentucky, native, has been a personal injury lawyer in Murray since 1992. He received his bachelors in criminal justice at Murray State in 1988 and later earned his juris doctorate from Southern Illinois University in 1992.

As a graduate of Murray State, Roberts acknowledged how his college experience has affected his career positively throughout his past 28 years of practicing law and now filling the role as a special justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court

"Murray State gave me a very strong educational background," Roberts said. "I was a criminal justice major. My studying ability increased significantly while at Murray State and I think that background that I got at Murray State is what helped lead my success in law school and my success so far in practicing law. I think it all goes back to that foundation that was laid there while at Murray State."

His swearing in as a special justice was advanced to hear the case Alexandria Stanziano, Et Al v. Andrew Cooley, M.D., Et. Al. Roberts was contacted about the opportunity by Gov. Andy Beshear in January and was later appointed in February.

"I was honored with the appointment and honored that the governor chose me to be a special justice," Roberts said.

A special justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court is not a permanent judge.



Photo courtesy of Roberts Law Office

They are appointed to help fill a place on the supreme court based on previous connections to a case which causes them to have to recuse themselves.

In this case, Justice Nickell had previously been on the court of appeals for the state and on the appeals panel for the Alexandria Stanziano, Et Al v. Andrew Cooley, M.D., Et. Al court case, causing himself to recuse.

Alexandria Stanziano, Et Al v. Andrew Cooley, M.D., Et. Al will be Roberts' only case that he will hear as a special justice. The case involves a murder that took place in Somerset, Kentucky, in 2014. A Pulaski County county attorney, Mark Stanziano, was shot and killed by Clinton D. Inabnit. The shooting took place just a few days after Inabnit had been released from a psychiatric hospital.

Alexandria is Mark's widow and Cooley is one of the doctors who was allegedly involved with Inabnit's treatment at a mental hospital. Stanziano is charging Cooley with releasing Inabnit too early while he was still suffering from mental issues that would have made him not fit for release.

Roberts has a considerable amount of experience working with the Kentucky Supreme Court. He has brought attention to at least 30 to 40 cases for consideration. Roberts said he was sought out for this case based on his field of work as a personal injury lawyer, which fit this case's credentials.

"I have limited my private practice to personal injury work since I started practicing in '92," Roberts said. "I'd like to think my reputation in doing personal injury work is at least why my name has brought out my reputation in handling those types of cases."

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Despite these unfortunate changes, Emerson has a positive outlook on the situation.

"I am extremely grateful for the work," Emerson said. "Marquette has been beyond good to me by extending a job after last summer during this past school year."

They even still pay him the same rate at home as they did in the office.

These students serve as two examples of the different changes happening in internships. These changes may be disheartening and subtract from the experience. However, Murray State students are resilient Racers who can make the most out of unexpected changes.

Hannah Carroll, career counselor and internship coordinator for Career Services, said in an interview with the MKY Guide that as a department their stance is to be supportive of Racers who find themselves in these circumstances.

"This includes finding alternative placements and opportunities for students," Carroll said. "As well as helping students talk with these employers to hopefully negotiate alternative arrangements and avoid a straight cancellation or rescission."

Career Services is still offering their usual services with the exception of headshots and the career closet. Students can check in with Career Services to discuss their concerns, find new internship opportunities, prepare for mock interviews and update their resume.

When asked what advice she has for students whose internship has been canceled or delayed, Carroll said students have the support of Career Services and resources across Murray State as a whole.

"I want them to know that they are not alone and these peaks and valleys that they are experiencing now are going to make them a better, more experienced and adaptable employee in the future," Carroll said.

Students can contact the Career Services team by appointment through Handshake or attend virtual walk-in hours. The hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and can be reached by visiting [murraystate.edu/career](http://murraystate.edu/career).

# Students can now apply for emergency financial aid grants

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Students who have incurred expenses because of COVID-19 can now apply for emergency financial aid grants.

"Murray State University understands that for many of our students, the disruptions caused by COVID-19 mean more than simply transitioning to online or remote coursework," according to an email sent to students. "Many Racers are experiencing additional expenditures related to items such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care."

Jackie Dudley, vice president of finance, said the University will distribute \$3.135

million of the \$6.2 million federal stimulus package to students.

President Bob Jackson said the University will look at students who are eligible for the Pell Grant in Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 and students who have lost their jobs when distributing the funds. About 34 percent of Murray State's students are eligible for the Pell Grant.

Students can complete the application on myGate in the Financial Aid Forms channel on the Financial Aid/Scholarships tab. The application asks for reasons the student is applying for assistance and how much aid they are requesting.

For priority consideration, students must complete the application by May 15.

Now Available

## CARES Emergency Grant Application

If you have expenses related to the disruption of campus, you can access the application by doing the following:

- Log onto myGate
- Click on the "Financial Aid/Scholarship tab
- Click on the "Murray State CARES Emergency Grant Application" located in the "Financial Aid Forms" box located toward the bottom of the webpage

\*Completion of application does not guarantee eligibility or receipt of funding

# 2020 becomes real world 'Jumanji'

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

As the year progresses, more and more fiascos seem to come to light.

We began the year with an entire country ablaze, then the United States president decided it might be time to start World War III. We progressed to a pandemic, found out UFOs are completely real (though, did we ever really doubt that?) and are now facing the lovely news about murder hornets.

Before I move into the big gist of this article, can I just say that it is absolutely wild that just last year, humanity planned a raid on Area 51 and now the government comes out saying, "and by the way, aliens are real," and we don't even care? We planned a raid, guys. A raid. A whole entire raid. And now the government basically waves a white flag, tells us we were right and we're all like, "thanks, we're a little busy at the moment." Insanity.

Moving on. That's all without mentioning the gas plant explosion in Lagos, Nigeria; the Ukrainian jetliner crash in Iran; crazy flooding in Indonesia; riots in Delhi, India; the earthquakes in Turkey and the Caribbean; and the Taal volcano erupting in the Philippines.

The icing on this horrible cake absolutely no one ordered is that Kobe Bryant and one of his daughters died.

Oh, wait, I almost forgot something (insert sarcastic facepalm here). Locusts are swarming East Africa, so there's that.

There's no denying it: 2020 has been a real pain in the arse. If you're angry, that's okay. If you're scared, that's okay, too. If you're anxious, depressed, numb, that's all okay. Those are all completely valid things to feel right now.

More than a few of us have experienced complete derailments from the crazy journey that is 2020. Losing internships, losing a commencement ceremony, losing jobs,

incomes, some of us have even lost loved ones. Plans were shattered, ideas were broken.

It is times like this where I think we should all take Prince's advice when he sang "Let's Go Crazy" (great song, listen to it). We can't let the elevator bring us down, we have to live life while we have it.

Alternatively, we were also given time that we rarely get—time to breathe. Time to reminisce. Time to think. Time to make a mess in the kitchen cooking with our family. Time to build pillow forts with our siblings and children. Time to make our parents breakfast. Time to reflect and get our priorities straight. Who do we want to be, what do we really, I mean really want to do with our lives.

People don't just get the chance to stop everything and actually dedicate time to themselves and ponder where they really want their life to go.

To think that we as humans have complete control of what happens in the world is dangerously arrogant. Regardless of religious beliefs, thinking humanity alone determines the future is false thinking. Truly, we are here for the ride. We're here for the journey.

Whatever it is that keeps this world in check, call it fate, the universe, God, Allah, whatever absolutely beautiful thing you believe in, it's sent us a message. It's our time to slow down, to really smell the roses.

The rest of the world might be panicking right now, but that doesn't mean we have to.

Stay home, stay safe. Wait this thing out, and while you do, think about who you are, think about the people you love.

Know that, at the end of this, everything will be okay.

Besides, it's only level five of Jumanji, we still have seven levels to go. We can't wave our white flag already.

## APOCALYPSE CHECKLIST



Cadence Utterback/TheNews

### "IT'S NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND!"



Written & Illustrated by Cade Utterback



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# Racer tennis adds four players for 2020-21

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Before the Murray State women's tennis season was cut short because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Racers were 8-5 overall and were looking to bounce back heading into OVC play after going 1-4 in their last five matches.

With the season being canceled prematurely, seniors Claire Chang, Anja Loncar-jevic and Sara Loncarjevic may have another year of eligibility depending on whether the University chooses to do so. Nevertheless, Head Coach Jorge Caetano added Annika Pschorr, Paola Campigotto, Sarah Bureau and Gabrielle Geolier to the roster for the 2020-21 season.

## Annika Pschorr

Pschorr comes to Murray State from the University of Regensburg in Regensburg, Germany, as a junior transfer.

Traveling over 7,600 miles from her native city, Pschorr told goracers.com she chose Murray State after talking with Caetano about the expectations he has for the team this upcoming season and because of the family-like atmosphere the University brings.

"[Caetano] was very friendly and positive and his ideas completely match my expectations," Pschorr said. "Plus, from what I have seen, the team has a great spirit and has become like a second family for the girls. That was what I was looking for."

By the end of her Racer career, Pschorr said she expects to enjoy her time at Murray State and wants to find success on the court and in the classroom as well.

"What I expect from my career as a student-athlete at Murray State is an incredible time where we are going to make amazing memories as a team, and are able to reach our full potential both on the court and in the classroom through hard work and a great atmosphere," Pschorr said to goracers.com.

"Annika will bring experience to this recruiting class as she will be transferring as a junior," Caetano said to goracers.com. "She is a great athlete with great hands, and she has achieved great results in the competitive German tennis league throughout her career. Her game is very polished, and she is a superb doubles player. I believe she will be able to make a huge impact in both our singles and doubles lineups from day one."

## Paola Campigotto

Campigotto, an 18-year-old incoming freshman, will arrive at Murray State following a successful junior career in Brazil.

The Joinsville, Brazil, native competed in only a few events, but because of her impressive play in those events, she was ranked as high as 1,306 in the world junior ranking by the International Tennis Federation.

Caetano told goracers.com that Campigotto's potential is very high and that she could thrive at Murray State when she acclimates herself.

"[Campigotto] moves extremely well on the court, and she is not afraid of going for her shots," Caetano said. "She can strike and hit a winner at any moment from both wings and, even though she grew up playing on slow clay courts, I believe her game is perfect for fast hard courts. Once she is

100 percent adapted, we will see her game achieve great heights."

Campigotto told goracers.com she believes Murray State is the right school for her because "it seems to be a place where I can improve myself both in tennis and academics, and because it feels like a welcoming place where I will adapt easily."

## Sarah Bureau

Hailing from Nieul-sur-Mer, France, Bureau will travel nearly 7,000 miles from her native town to arrive in Murray.

Bureau is an incoming freshman who played for Lagord Tennis & Squash Club, where she was named the UNSS France Doubles Champion along with being the runner-up and finishing third in the UNSS France Singles competitions.

Bureau told goracers.com she wanted to be a Racer because of the chemistry among the team and because she wanted to be coached by Caetano.

"I chose Murray State because it suited me in every way," Bureau said. "I felt a real team chemistry between the girls, and a really good team spirit. I also had a great feeling about Coach Caetano, which is very important to me. I immediately felt like MSU was the perfect fit for me."

Caetano told goracers.com that Bureau's undeniable skill will prove valuable for the Racers next season and beyond.

"What impressed me the most about Sarah's game, is how effortless she makes it look when she is playing because of her natural ability to change the direction of the ball," Caetano said. "She makes her opponents uncomfortable with her good hands and great feel for the ball. She is not afraid of going to the net, which adds a lot

of versatility to her game, and her addition will bring a lot of depth to our lineup."

## Gabrielle Geolier

Geolier comes to Murray State from Blainville, Canada, and will look to carry over her successful junior career into college play.

Ranked as high as 2,099 in the ITF world junior rankings, Geolier has found success, particularly in the 2019 Indoor Junior National Championships, where she finished as a semifinalist.

Geolier chose Murray State because of the family-like atmosphere along with the coaching staff and the nice facilities the University offers.

"I chose Murray State because I really like the way each student is treated like a person rather than a number," Geolier said. "As a student, I feel that I will be part of a big family and will always have help if I am in need. I expect my tennis career to be at its best [because] I will be able to work hard in the gym and on the courts because of the good facilities and great staff that will be helping me to get better."

Caetano told goracers.com that Geolier's skillset will immediately translate to college but believes her best tennis is ahead.

"Gabrielle can play from the back, but can also step in and take the ball early which gives her opponents a lot of trouble," Caetano said. "She has a beautiful net game, which will help us a lot in doubles, even though her best results came in singles. She is one of the highest ranked junior players in Canada and, even though she has a well-accomplished junior career, I believe her best tennis is still ahead of her."



**Annika Pschorr**



**Sarah Bureau**

**Gabrielle Geolier**

**Paola Campigotto**



# Senior maintains hope despite canceled graduation

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To spread positivity during these trying times Murray State senior Mirinda McClure posted pandemic themed graduation photos on Facebook.

“I wanted to spread some positivity surrounding graduating during a pandemic, instead of spreading more sadness,” McClure said.

The pictures were posted on an Andy Beshear meme page where they caught a lot of attention with the caption, “My ceremony is canceled but my hope is not.”

Because of COVID-19 many events have been canceled, one of those being graduations nationwide, and it has left seniors grieving. This motivated McClure to spread positivity with her graduation photos.

McClure came up with the pandemic themed graduation photoshoot while researching positive graduation caps.

“I wanted something pandemic themed because it only happens once in a lifetime,” McClure said. “If you had asked me a year ago if I would be wearing a mask and holding Lysol to take my graduation photos, I would have said that is insane.”

McClure is a mathematics major who will be graduating at the end of the spring semester.

Online classes have been a struggle in the past for McClure, but this transition has been smooth for her despite it happening suddenly.

“The majority of my professors were very understanding that our entire lives were flipped upside down, so they made the



McClure did a pandemic themed photoshoot for her graduation photos.

*Photo courtesy of Mirinda McClure*

switch as easy as possible for everyone involved,” McClure said.

The online transition wasn't painful for McClure, however she was sad to miss out on senior festivities.

“I feel like I missed out on my ‘lasts’ for it to be the end of my bachelor’s degree,” McClure said. “That relief of walking out of my last final will instead be just a walk back into my living room.”

Although the graduates may not be able to celebrate in person, McClure said it doesn't mean they can't celebrate together.

McClure is back home with her family which has been challenging, but despite the pandemic status they try to maintain a positive outlook.

“We try to find something in the near future to look forward to so that this doesn't seem like it will last forever,” McClure said. “It gives a little ray of hope on a cloudy day.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has given many people gloomy outlooks, but McClure remembers it's important to remember to laugh during these times and remember that they won't last forever.

“I have been able to stay positive because I have hope of a better day to come,” McClure said. “I have hope that the new normal, while it probably will not look like it used to, will still bring us as a society back together.”

Despite the unexpected end to her bachelor's degree journey it will not be the end of her college experience.

“After graduating, I am glad to say I am returning back to Murray State to get my master's in business administration,” McClure said. “I look forward to rejoining everyone on campus in the fall.”

# Alumnae found Adopt-a-Grandparent program to help senior citizens during pandemic

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Within a day, Murray State alumnae Rose and Rossetta Jackson gathered volunteers together in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to bring a building full of senior citizens essential supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, their Adopt-a-Grandparent program has enough support to assist senior citizens in three different homes.

It began when Rossetta, 2010 graduate with a bachelors in business

management, checked on their mother in Westwood Senior Homes to see if she was in need of any essentials. She found that multiple people in the building were in need.

“Rossetta made a list of each apartment and what they needed, and she reached out on Facebook to see if we could get people to ‘adopt’ a senior citizen to purchase the essentials they needed and to love on them as well,” Rose said.

Rose, who earned a bachelor’s in organizational communication in 2009, said the response was overwhelming with

every apartment filled by the end of the day after the initial post.

“Rossetta named it Adopt-a-Grandparent at that point because the name just fit the cause,” Rose said.

Rose said the twins extended their services to adjacent senior homes when people wanted to volunteer but they had run out of grandparents to help. Currently, they care for 150 people.

At each facility, the senior citizens must cook for themselves. However, Rosa said many are on oxygen or have an illness that makes it difficult for them to do so.

“With money people were donating we decided to feed at least one hot meal a day for all three buildings on top of having them adopted out,” Rose said.

With donations, they purchase the meals or cook it themselves and deliver them. Often, local restaurants donate food to support the cause.

“We are coming up on our first full month and it has been a truly humbling experience to do what the bible says to do, which is to love our neighbors as ourselves,” Rosa said.

Rose and Rossetta are accepting donations so they can purchase food for all three buildings. They also struggle to find hand sanitizer, Lysol and bleach wipes.



Alumnae Rose and Rossetta Jackson began a program to assist senior citizens during the pandemic.

*Photo courtesy of Rose Jackson's Facebook page*



The Jacksons provide hot meals once a day in this program.

*Photo courtesy of Rose Jackson's Facebook page*