Ferris State University
Good News Items
January 2021

Academic Affairs
COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCES AND EDUCATION
• Podcast about the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election and International Affairs with Dr. Alexander Brand of Rhein-Waal University, 16 November 2020. Listen here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_uus8hn0WTAvODEQrGbL5Qr5SoP_CmE/view?usp=sharing
• Christian Peterson’s panel discussion with Dr. Marin Nekola (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic), “The International Dimensions of Populism,” Passion for the Past Discussion Series, 2 October 2020.
• Christian Peterson was elected Member of the Peace History Society Board, October, 2020.

Extended & International Operations
• Jeff Bean, School of Education Advisor and Placement Coordinator for Ferris Statewide has been appointed to the Executive Board for the National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs. Jeff is currently serving a three-year term as the Four-Year University Representative. His most recent newsletter submission can be found here: https://issuu.com/nacctep/docs/fall_-winter_2020_newsletter.docx

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
Grants and Patents:
• Dr. Minji Sohn, working with Dr. Emmanuel Jadhav of the College of Health Professions and Dr. Yong Xu of the College of Business, have been awarded a $172,000 research grant from Emergent BioSolutions. The one-year study will assess various outcomes and the impact of naloxone access laws in the United States. Congratulations to Dr. Sohn and her team for this notable, and interprofessional, achievement.
• Dr. Sonali Kurup was awarded a $377,000 R15 grant from the National Institutes of Health- National Cancer Institute for the project “Novel dual-targeted inhibitors of EGFR
and aurora kinase for lung cancer”. This 3-year grant will fund research in drug discovery of novel anti-cancer agents. The grant is funded by the highly competitive NIH Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP), that aims to stimulate basic and clinical research that engage undergraduate and professional students in a meritorious research project, and to strengthen the research environment of the educational institution.

- Dr. Tracey Ward, along with co-inventor Dr. Raj Amin (Auburn University), received a patent for “Dual PPAR-Delta and PPAR-gamma agonists” (US Patent No. 10844003) on November 24, 2020, for the treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease, Diabetes, and reduced cognition.

Publications:

- Dr. Mike Klepser and colleagues published the paper “Impact of COVID-19 on prevalence of community pharmacies as CLIA-Waived facilities” in the journal Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy (2020 Dec 15:S1551-7411(20)31208-0).
- Drs. Thomas Dowling and Steve Durst co-authored the paper “Stimulating and sustaining scholarly activity at teaching-intensive institutions”, published in the journal Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning (Dec 15). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cptl.2020.10.005

Presentations:

- Pharmacy student Endira Hebovija presented "Distinguishing Curriculum Vitae Components for Community Pharmacy Applicants," at the 2020 American Society of Health System Pharmacists meeting on December 9, 2020. Her faculty mentors are Drs. Heather Girand, Minji Sohn, and Tracey Mersfelder.
- Dr. Felix Ammissah gave a presentation "Modulating oncogenic GTPase signaling in cancer using COX inhibitors and PUFAs," for the Haim G. and Jane Graumann Nagirner Weinstein Symposium Series at Rosalind and Franklin University College of Pharmacy (December 7, 2020).
- Pharmacy student Dawn Nguyen, with faculty mentor Dr. Dean VanLoo, presented “Cost-Benefit Analysis of Clinical Outcomes in Diabetic Patients with Ambulatory Care Pharmacist Intervention” at the 2020 American Society of Health System Pharmacists meeting on December 9, 2020.
- Pharmacy student Madison Carr, with faculty mentor Dr. Paul Thill, presented “Implementation of a sample selection strategy for meningitis/encephalitis polymerase chain reaction (PCR) film array: a quality improvement project” at the 2020 American Society of Health System Pharmacists meeting on December 9, 2020.
- Pharmacy student Brandon Buell, with faculty member Dr. Dean Vanloo, presented “Residency information program with integrated training (RIP-IT) program” at the 2020 American Society of Health System Pharmacists meeting on December 9, 2020.
• Other:
  Dr. Namita Giri was selected to serve as a grant reviewer for National Science Foundation’s SBIR/STTR Program for December 2020. The SBIR/STTR program for small businesses aligns with the NSF's mission to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense.
  Dr. Jenny Lamberts was selected as Chair-Elect of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Biological Sciences section for 2020-2021.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
• Professor Lee Templin, P.E, Construction Technology & Management, was unanimously selected as the Outstanding Educator of 2021 by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC-A) Education and Research Foundation Board of Directors. The Outstanding Educator award is based on a nominee’s academic contribution as well as his/her work with students outside of the classroom and involvement with colleagues in the industry. As Courtney Bishop, Program Director for the AGC Education & Research Foundation stated Professor Templin was selected for “his work as an educator, a mentor of students, and as a colleague in the construction industry sets you apart as an outstanding leader and role model for this award. We are particularly appreciative of your work with students in your program, which clearly sets a standard for faculty in our industry. Your leadership in these areas is testimony to your dedication to your students and the industry.” The award will be presented during the AGC-A Annual Convention this September. Professor Templin will be able to name two CM students as recipients of $2,500 scholarships for the 2021-22 academic year.

RETENTION AND STUDENT SUCCESS
• More than 40 faculty, staff, and students in RSS and FLITE participated in a session titled "Examining Unconscious Bias: From Habits to Hope" led by FCTL staff members Julie Rowan, Anne Spain, and Todd Stanislav. The session provided an opportunity for participants to learn about the science of unconscious bias, the impact unconscious bias has on ourselves and others, and strategies for disrupting bias, developing new habits, and nurturing new mindsets. The session was hosted by the RSS Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

FLITE
• Ali Konieczny, Health Sciences Librarian, developed the FLITE Health & Medical Landing Pad as a central hub to serve the information needs of the College of Pharmacy, College of Health Professions, Michigan College of Optometry, and others in health-related fields. This resource can be found at: https://ferris.libguides.com/health-medical-home/welcome

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
• Mary Beaudry, Assistant Professor of Nursing in the College of Health Professions, was a contributor for a white paper written for the Convening Recommendations: Math and Statistics Education for Nurses. Recent data suggests that nursing students need a different way to learn medical math. To improve nursing mathematics education, a Convening of math educators met in the fall of 2019 in Coral Gables, Florida. After over a year of research and collaboration, as well as meeting with mathematicians and
nursing leaders, a position paper has been written to share findings and make recommendations to nursing educators everywhere.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
- Professor Emeritus, Lianne Briggs, recently completed the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International’s (HSMAI) Certification in Hospitality Business Acumen (CHBA).
- Dr. Lisa Eshbach’s case “Keweenaw Mountain Lodge: An Opportunity Worth Pursuing?” was recently published by the North American Case Research Association in the Case Research Journal (CRJ).
- ISI Haunted Virtual CTF Event – the CTF event was an opportunity to have fun, work as a team, and apply some of the skills students are learning in class.

Administration and Finance

Athletics
- The Ferris State University men’s and women’s basketball squads and the Bulldog Hockey team have all returned to safe athletic competition and hosted home events this year. The Bulldogs began hockey and men’s basketball play in December against outside competition with women’s basketball starting in early January. A number of other sports are currently slated to compete this spring.
- Longtime Ferris State University men's ice hockey assistant coach Mark Kaufman has been chosen as the 2021 recipient of the American Hockey Coaches Association's (AHCA) Terry Flanagan Award. The award honors an assistant coach’s career body of work. Each year, only one assistant coach in the game is honored. By earning the award, Kaufman joins a fellow FSU staff member in Associate Head Coach Drew Famulak as a Terry Flanagan Award recipient. He previously claimed the award in 2012 and the Bulldogs are now among only a handful of schools that have had multiple recipients of the prestigious honor.
- The reconstituted Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA), a NCAA Division I men's ice hockey conference which will begin play in the 2021-22 season, has named Dominic Hennig as the league’s Director of Strategic Communications and Brand Advancement. Hennig is a Ferris State alum and formerly served as FSU's Athletics Communications Associate along with being the Voice of Bulldog Hockey for six years. FSU will join seven other schools in forming the CCHA starting next season.
- The Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) has announced the league’s new Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, Champions for Change, which includes FSU women’s basketball assistant coach Jasmyn Walker. Formed back in November, the group has been developing strategies and goals to examine and address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion among our league, schools, and communities.
- This past fall, Ferris State Athletics successfully promoted and hosted a weekly “Ferris State Friday’s” talk show. The show aired each Friday for two hours from on-campus locations and featured coaches and special guests. It also allowed FSU to highlight local partnerships and sponsors in lieu of not being able to do so during regular athletic competitions.
- A total of eight different Ferris State University football alums were with National Football League (NFL) franchises this past fall, which is the most of any NCAA Division II school in the country. Six of those eight saw action in at least one regular-season game with two alums currently on active rosters for teams competing in the NFC or AFC Championship games.
IT

• Student Technology Initiatives for Spring 2021 – IT has been working with Student Affairs in identifying student technology needs during this pandemic, and as a result, 250 hotspots have been procured from State of Michigan and distributed to students via IT Service Center. A student-centric laptop requirements have been identified and negotiated with Dell and Apple vendors in providing these devices to the students via their marketplace with Ferris pricing.

• IT is playing a critical role in University activities – the members of ITS have been supporting the broadcasts of Ferris hockey games especially over the break and during these unusual conditions.

• The Accessibility & Disability Service is setting up a pilot for the Read & Write Text to Speech solution. This solution gives faculty, staff, and students the ability to provide access to those with print disabilities by enabling the conversion of text to digitize audio files. This is a web-based solution using single sign on. It is being piloted for 60 days and is currently installed in FLT 100B and ASC 1017.

Auxiliary

• Kim Young, Housing Coordinator, Laura Herron, Housing Coordinator, and Bryan Marquardt, Director of Housing and Residence Life presented on “Yada” a student acquisition & retention solution, to the Adirondack Summit conference on November 17th, 2020. Ferris is the first public university in the country using Yada for roommate matching, student acquisition, and a retention solution.

• Ferris Printing Services (FPS) has upgraded some of their equipment. Soon you’ll see information on the expanded capabilities for envelope printing – watch UWNs for more information as it becomes available.

• Ferris Printing Services now has the ability to print paper banners – the size of these banners is 11.75 x 47.25 – these can be printed one or two-sided.

• Dining services, along with the generous sponsorship of Brutus Boxes, received from our Ferris Family, were able to provide more than 100 meals for Ferris students over the Thanksgiving holiday. We were also able to give nearly $1000 to the Bulldog Basic Needs Alliance to provide emergency housing and food assistance to students in need.

• Camille Lang, our registered nutritionist, has created a very informative monthly newsletter. You will find interesting and helpful information on nutrition topics. Please be sure to check it out here.

• Steve Dorey, Culinary Operations Manager for Dining Services, and Amy Dorey, Hospitality Management Program Director, did a live Facebook presentation on December 10th. The presentation gave tips and techniques on how to build your own Charcuterie Board. If you missed the live presentation you can watch it here.

Public Safety

• John R. Allen has been named the new Director of Ferris State University Department of Public Safety and will begin on March 1, 2021.

• All of our police officers are now enrolled in a program called PoliceOne which is Virtual Academy where they can access hundreds of hours of training to keep them educated and well-trained in these ever-changing times.

Kendall College of Art & Design

• KCAD Graphic Design students serving in internship roles with Th3 KCAD XR Lab—the on-campus emerging-tech innovation lab powered by a collaboration between KCAD and Th3rd Coast Digital Solutions and focused on unlocking the potential of extended
reality (XR) technology—were invited to participate in a panel discussion on the importance of user experience in augmented reality technology that was hosted by the VR/AR Association. Students Zackary Bennett (graduated Dec. 2020), Anna Devine (graduated Dec. 2020), and Carter Teranes joined Graphic Design adjunct instructor John Koziatek and Joe Van Harken of Th3rd Coast for a conversation with VR/AR Association Detroit Chapter President Brad Waid.

- KCAD Drawing student Natalie Max is currently featured in the exhibition *Grand Gestures* at the Arts Council of White Lake-Nuveen Center. The exhibition unites professional and student artists in a showcase of large-scale drawings that speak to the ways in which physical size can shape the conceptual underpinnings of a work of art.

- KCAD Illustration and Medical Illustration Professor Patricia Constantine is currently featured in *Storied References*, a national invitation exhibition on display at Northern Illinois University’s NIU Art Museum that confronts the harsh truths of contemporary reality while employing familiar narrative motifs found in oral traditions, fairy tales, fables, myths, and legends. Constantine is showing a selection of works from her “Freak Show” series, in which she channels her experiences growing up in Florida in the 1950s immersed in the world of carnivals and bizarre sideshow attractions into art that recasts this bygone entertainment medium as a way to critically examine otherness.

- KCAD Associate Professor and Fashion Studies Program Chair Lori Faulkner is one of 10 finalists in the 2020 Threads Magazine Four Elements Challenge, an international competition that asked entrants to create an original garment design inspired by one of the four classical elements and interpret it through their choice of fabrics, embellishment, and sewing techniques. Faulkner was also named one of 16 finalists for the competition’s audience choice award. Using Earth as her inspiration, she created eveningwear from repurposed materials using a sustainable design method called zero waste design in which the entire length of fabric is utilized, eliminating textile waste.

- Several individuals from the KCAD Master of Architecture program—Program Chair Dr. Michael McCulloch, Emeritus Brian Craig, alumna Jade Heiler (’19), and current student Fatema Sulemanji—were invited to lend their perspective to the West Michigan Center for Arts & Technology’s virtual symposium WMCAT 20/20: Exploring Conflicting Visions for the Future. The KCAD group helped power a conversation around how the built environment can unite people and communities rather than separating them, and what a more inclusive Grand Rapids could look like in the future.

- KCAD alumna Piper Adonya (’18, BFA Digital Media) was commissioned to create a countertop mural for Condado Tacos, a new restaurant slated to open up on Grand Rapids’ west side in early 2021.

- KCAD alumna Larissa Cleveland (’06, BFA Photography) continues to be one of the most sought-after pros in the wedding photography business with her recent inclusion on BRIDES’ “Best Wedding Photographers in America” list.

- KCAD alumnus Conor Fredricks (’16, BFA Industrial Design)—who forms the nucleus of Fredricks Design, Inc. alongside his father, uncle, and cousin—is now steering the family business into the furniture market as the lead designer for Freddy Furniture USA. The new company is filling the need for direct-ship, ready-to-assemble, and adjustable furniture solutions for K-6 students adapting to the new normal of remote learning.

- KCAD alumnus Alex Gilford (’11, BFA Illustration; ’11, BS Art History) is currently featuring his plein air paintings in two separate exhibitions: the 47th *Michigan Annual Exhibition*, in which he’s one of just 50 artists from around the state selected for inclusion; and *Plein Air Troupe*, an exhibition at the Nature Center at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills, Mich.
• KCAD alumnus Cameron Jenkins (‘19, BFA Drawing) was one of 20 artists featured in Gift of Art an exhibition at Irwin House Detroit that featured affordable pieces of artwork priced for giving and collecting.

• KCAD alumna Erica Lang (‘14, BFA Printmaking) was honored as one of Grand Rapids’ best local artists in Grand Rapids Magazine’s 2021 Best Of readers’ poll. Since graduating from KCAD, Lang has built the popular art and clothing brand Woosah into one of the city’s most successful creative businesses.

• KCAD alumna Alyssa Menold (‘13, BFA Illustration) had a game master screen she created for the tabletop miniatures board game Aetherium selected for inclusion in “Infected By Art: Volume 9,” a publication showcasing the world’s best imaginative realism artworks. Menold also collaborated with Dog Might Games on some custom Dungeons and Dragons game gear used to film a special segment for the YouTube channel of hit TV show “Stranger Things."

• KCAD alumnus Jeen Na (‘17, BFA Photography) had anonymous photographs he shot of voters in the lead up to the 2020 US Presidential election features in a Vanity Fair article that provided a slice-of-life look at how the election was playing out across the country.

• KCAD alumna Kristen Pappas (‘16, BFA Interior Design) authored an article in BayLife Magazine that explored how color choices in interior spaces can affect the emotions of those who inhabit them.

• KCAD alumna Deidre Remtema (‘01, BFA Interior Design) was recently featured on the Custer podcast “The Lift with Nikki Probst” in a segment exploring the roots of her business,—Deidre Interiors—her passion for design, and what inspires her to go the extra mile for her clients.

• KCAD alumnus Joshua Solas (‘18, BFA Illustration) and some fellow artists banded together in Kingston, Jamaica to create a public mural of reggae pioneer and legendary musician Toots Hibbert, complete with names of some of the most famous songs Hibbert and his band, the Maytals, produced, as well as archival news articles chronicling the band’s growth over the years.

UICA
• As KCAD’s Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA) looks toward the future, the organization has announced its first open calls for submissions for a slate of exhibition programming set to begin in Summer 2021:

  • The Art of Living Together seeks design solutions and interventions for the outdoor grounds of UICA’s new location in KCAD’s Woodbridge N. Ferris Building. Designers’ ultimate challenge is to infuse this building with new life and new beginnings to create a symbiosis between KCAD and UICA.

  • Whereabouts: the Influence of Place and Space seeks site-specific installations for the three separate, yet connected locations within the more public-facing spaces of UICA.

  • Other World seeks to reframe what’s possible for those on society’s margins through stories of alternate futures and worlds created on their own terms. The exhibition will lift the voices that draw upon their own history, communities, and movements to ask: Who are we? Where have we come from? What do we believe in? What fills us with hope?

Student Affairs
• Admissions is offering all of their spring semester event series which includes the Explore Ferris (geared toward prospective students), the Admitted Student Live series, Parent and Family Lounge series, and the Virtual Financial Aid Nights. Thank you to all the departments collaborating with Enrollment Services to make this happen.
Online Orientation is available for students entering in summer or fall 2021. Students can find details and access the portal at ferris.edu/orientation.

Financial Aid has:
  o Sent 2,595 awards to new students.
  o Offered WNF Scholarships to 5,554 new incoming freshmen. Point in time last year, they had offered 3,328 scholarships.

For Fall 2020, the Personal Counseling Center had 80% of scheduled appointments attended (923 attended, 1148 scheduled). This is up from Fall 2019 of 73%.

Birkam Health Center administered 2 student flu shot clinics and administered 107 free flu vaccines. They also administered 2 drive-thru flu clinics for FSU faculty/staff where they administered over 100 flu vaccines.

Fall 2020, Birkam Health Center fielded over 3,850 phone calls to support students with health and COVID-19 related questions or appointment requests. They also performed 365 virtual visits in fall 2020.

CLACS has engaged with 2,511 Instagram viewers tuning in for 10 “Tune in with Teresa” alumni interviews.

Student Life has assisted 276 students (and growing) with a free Mi-Fi and/or a technology grant to use to purchase a computer this spring. So grateful that in partnership with IT and UA&M teams that we could help these students. We have 53 Mi-Fis left from our original order. We can help almost 500 more students with their computer purchases.

University Advancement and Marketing

Dr. Bradley and Mrs. Catherine Taylor recently made a gift to start the Dr. Bradley and Mrs. Catherine Taylor Endowed Scholarship, to benefit students in the Michigan College of Optometry who actively volunteer in a program to improve health outcomes in their community. Dr. Taylor, who graduated from Ferris in 1987 with an Optometry degree, has a strong background in public service and health, and Catherine makes annual trips to Tanzania to help with several children whom the couple supports, meeting their health and educational needs.

Johny Kello, co-founder of MatchRX, recently made a gift to establish the Santa Zawaideh Tribute Scholarship to benefit students in the College of Pharmacy who are interested in working in an independent pharmacy following graduation. Santa is a proud 1973 graduate of Ferris’ College of Pharmacy. She founded DirectRx in 1980 as an independent pharmacy based in Troy, Mich., and served as president through 2018, expanding its services and reach nationally. DirectRx continues as a thriving, independent family-owned business. All four of Santa’s children have pursued careers in independent pharmacy. Her eldest son, Gabe, a 1995 Ferris Pharmacy graduate, co-founded MatchRX, a private web-based marketplace used by thousands of independent pharmacies to buy and sell small quantities of non-controlled, non-expired overstocked prescription drugs and drugs in short supply, to satisfy a specific patient need or declared public health emergency.

The Newell Johnson Memorial Scholarship Endowment is gaining support, following the passing in December of this charismatic, longtime professor and fanatic of all things Ferris. The scholarship will benefit the Automotive Management program, where Newell was a faculty member for nearly 30 years. Newell had a significant alumni following, so the availability of the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge matching gift program through 2023 is an attractive option for Ferris alumni who want to help build the endowment base.
Martha Levaardsen also took advantage of the FFSC, to establish a gift and honor her late father, Norman. The Norman O. Levaardsen Memorial Endowed Scholarship will honor his contributions as department head for the College of Arts and Sciences’ Biology Department and focus on students in the program who intend to pursue postgraduate learning, in Dentistry, Medicine or other disciplines.

Phillip J. Lapekas recently made a planned gift to Ferris. A 1963 alumnus of the Printing Technology program, Phil had a unique and rewarding career, spanning more than 25 years at several Blind Rehabilitation Centers with the Veterans Administration, which saw him provide leadership across the country.

Valuing the importance of education and being of a mechanical mind himself, Phil established the Phillip J. Lapekas Endowed Scholarship, to provide support to students in the College of Engineering Technology.

One Day for Dawgs, Ferris’ annual giving day, will take place Wednesday, April 14. This 24-hour giving day event brings together Bulldogs from across the county in philanthropy, by raising funds for several causes across campus. One Day for Dawgs is a day of giving, celebrating philanthropy, collaboration, community and Bulldog pride. Like many events in 2020, our plans paused, due to COVID-19. In our 2019 event, alumni, students, faculty, staff, friends and family made a powerful, collaborative impact on the University, raising more than $94,000 for 71 different causes.

We want One Day for Dawgs to be even more active and impactful in 2021. We welcome inquiries from those who seek to raise funds for a program, department or college. If you are interested, contact Megan Eppley by email to learn more. You can also search online for more information.

The News Services and Social Media Team, in conjunction with the Ferris Pride Committee, hosted the annual Ferris Pride Home for the Holidays Photo Contest. The contest is an opportunity for Bulldog students, faculty and staff to submit photos demonstrating the holiday spirit and Ferris pride. In all, 16 official entries were submitted for consideration. On the main Ferris State University Facebook page, the posts combined to reach more than 96K people with more than 1,000 combined post clicks, comments, reactions and shares. On Instagram, contest post entries were liked more than 4.8K times.

News Services Communications Specialist John Smith reported on the new bachelor’s degree in Social Justice. The story was posted to the University News website and picked up by MLive and the Big Rapids Pioneer for stories.

The 2020 Ferris year in review video, developed by Digital Media Specialist Hannah Crouch and the rest of the News Services and Social Media Team, reached more than 3.5K people on Facebook, made more than 3.8K impressions and had 48 combined comments, likes and shares. The post was clicked more than 170 times. The video was viewed nearly 90 times on Facebook with nearly four hours of watch time.

The two Fall 2020 virtual commencement videos, posted to the Ferris State Video YouTube channel, were viewed nearly 2K times. The videos further combined to record more than 265 hours of watch time to showcase our Fall 2020 commencement ceremonies.

Three outstanding graduate video features received more than 6,000 views on the Ferris State University main Facebook page. The features, which are also available on YouTube, highlighted students Gwendolyn Robbins, Hannah Mason and Marisol Martinez.
The Alumni Association hosted their first Alumni Social Hour in December, by offering Charcuterie Board Building 101 in partnership with Amy (MBA, '05) and Steve Dorey. The virtual event proved to be popular and streamed on Facebook Live with an outreach of 2,231 people, 51 comments and 10 shares. In addition, the event had 256 total views on the Alumni Learning Consortium platform, receiving an average NPS (Net Promoter Score) of 9.83.

For January, the Alumni Association offered Alumni Social Hours for Vision Board Building (Monday, Jan.11) and a Winter Paint and Sip (Thursday, Jan. 28).

In the near future, alumni and friends can take part in Love in Art: A Valentine’s Celebration (Thursday, Feb. 11), Virtual Wine Tasting with Left Foot Charley’s (Thursday, March 11) and “A Smokin’ Good Time: Tips and Tricks Smoking Favorite Meats and Side Dishes” (Thursday, March 25). A complete list of upcoming alumni events is available online.

The Alumni Association, in partnership with the University’s Career Center hosted a virtual Grad CareerFest Jan. 12-15. December Class of 2020 graduates and all students and alumni had the opportunity to participate in a four-day career conference, free of charge. The conference offered virtual sessions with more than 70 career authors, regarding topics such as career exploration, career management strategies and critical soft skills that managers expect.