

April 3, 2020

My dear students,

Things are moving, paradoxically, at both warp speed and a snail's crawl as we fluctuate between fast-changing situations and, for some, boredom. But I want you to know your Meredith family continues to work for you. This update gives more information on decisions we are working on or have made and what we are seeing for the near future.

- To help ensure your academic success, we have made some changes to the academic calendar. The day originally set aside for Celebrating Student Achievement (CSA) Day — Tuesday, April 14 — will now follow the normal Tuesday schedule. The semester has been extended by 2 days — April 30 and May 1 — giving you extra time for learning and questions and your professors the option of adding instructional time if needed. The exam schedule has also been modified, with exams now being held May 4 - 8.
- We have begun reimagining [Celebrating Student Achievement](#) (CSA). We know you have been busy working on projects, performances, writings, etc., and we want you to have a chance to show off what you are learning. Yes, we know some projects won't be complete—that's ok. You can still tell us the question and strategy you were pursuing. And we know performances (especially group performances) are going to be thrown off kilter; but you may still video your part of the performance. Clearly, we haven't worked out all the details yet, but I wanted you to know the CSA Day committee is busy working on a virtual opportunity and award ceremonies that will be launched on a special YouTube channel on Friday, April 24.
- Many of you have asked about room and board refunds for the part of the semester you are away (if you are away). As I have recently announced to resident students not currently living on campus, we are still working out partial financial credit specifics, too, but for returning students, it will include some incentive and relief for your expenses in the Fall. Seniors who complete their work satisfactorily will, of course, fall under a different policy since they will be GRADUATING!
- Seniors — Speaking of graduating, although we have postponed commencement weekend events, we have a survey out to solicit your ideas for a reimagined commencement. If you haven't taken the [survey](#), please do so by April 17.
- Sophomores on your way to becoming Juniors — We are working with Jostens to ensure you will have the Onyx experience you deserve! You will be getting more information about how to select a ring—and how to be sure the size is right—in an upcoming email from the Alumnae team.

- We are excited that applications, admissions, and deposits to Meredith for Fall 2020 look strong at this point. These new students will need you as their big sisters (whatever your class!) to teach them the ways of Meredith...and how to be strong!
- Earlier this week, we announced a [new pass/fail policy](#) for this semester to help give you flexibility as you manage the challenges that have arisen because of COVID-19. I do encourage you to continue giving your best efforts to your studies and to carefully weigh the impact of exercising this option on references and job and graduate school applications. Please also be sure to talk with your faculty and advisers to make the best decisions for your circumstances.

Many of you have asked good and kind questions, and many have offered suggestions and insights. We are working to respond through updates like this and [FAQs](#) and hope to settle into a steadier rhythm of updates to keep you informed. As I said, a lot is changing quickly, so we appreciate your attention and patience. Indeed, your strength and resilience continue to impress and inspire me.

And, really, seriously, keep up with social distancing in action. It is, according to the experts, the best tool we have to let us come back together sooner rather than later!

Thanks to all.....I miss you and love you!

Jo Allen, '80  
President