

Graduation Goes Virtual

On Friday, May 8, Bryan College of Health Sciences held a virtual graduation ceremony via Facebook Live. Eighty-seven graduates completed their degrees in undergraduate and graduate nursing, sonography, biomedical sciences and nurse anesthesia practice. President Rich Lloyd presided over the ceremony with special guest speaker Russ Gronewold, President & CEO of Bryan Health.



“We felt our students needed closure to their academic experience and be able to celebrate this chapter in order to move on to the next,” president Lloyd said. “Providing these opportunities in a virtual format was the best way we could celebrate and keep everyone safe.”

Want to watch the 2020 virtual spring graduation ceremony?
Go to: bryanhealthcollege.edu/alumni



On Saturday, May 9, a special drive through diploma pick up for the graduates took place outside the college. Faculty and staff lined the streets to celebrate with the graduates while observing social distancing guidelines.

Both events provided a meaningful and memorable celebration for our graduates. One mom of a graduate responded on Facebook, “Thank You Bryan College of Health Sciences! As a mom of a graduate, you did an excellent job of making this graduation memorable for our son. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and innovative ideas.”

We are honored to be known as *Blue Healers*. In a time of such uncertainty, what we know for sure is that our college community is made of “carers and can-doers.”

As we adjusted our daily routine last spring in response to COVID-19, I was amazed by the work of our faculty, deans, staff, and, of course, students – who navigated unfamiliar spaces with professionalism, energy, good spirits and innovation. I was equally amazed by the many college alumni and friends, who donated food to our pantry, made masks for our students and staff who were still on campus, and offered financial support for students facing economic hardships.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with all health care professionals, first-responders and our entire community. Healers and helpers abound here. We are proud of our legacy and future. As always, thank you for your continued support of this wonderful college.

Together, We Change Lives.

Rich Lloyd



Rich Lloyd, PhD
President of Bryan College of Health Sciences



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Bryan College of Health Sciences

Healing HEROES



ISSUE VII

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Tune in Tuesdays

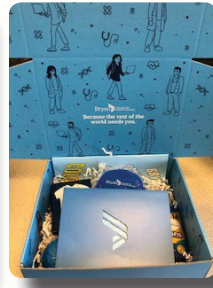
With the college closed to visitors, we still wanted to share the expertise of our faculty and resources with our larger community. Each Tuesday beginning in March, we went live on Facebook for a "Tune in Tuesday" series. Topics included MSN nurses at the bedside, biology



experiments, critical care nursing and sonography. The series continued this summer highlighting our platinite specimens and nurse anesthesia practice students showcasing skills in our Simulation Center. Tune in to the college Facebook page on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. to see us live in action.

Care Packages for Students

As students left campus this spring to begin remote learning, the college wanted to show its care and support. Over the past two months, over 600 care packages have been sent with coloring books, masks and other college branded items along with a note telling students we are thinking of them during these uncertain times. One student responded back how thankful they were for the package. Another student mentioned how they truly felt cared for.



The positive impact these packages had on students was a bright spot this summer. The college is excited to welcome students back to campus this fall.

Stepping Up On the Front Lines

Screening stations were set up at select entrances to the college and medical center in response to COVID-19 guidelines. Shortly after the request went out to staff these stations, we had numerous staff members and students jump into action by signing up for one or more shifts – filling all open shifts! Along with screening stations, students emailed to see where they could fill additional roles with their CNA license to help patients. We couldn't be more proud of the way our extraordinary employees and students are knowing the way, showing the way and caring like crazy during these unprecedented times.

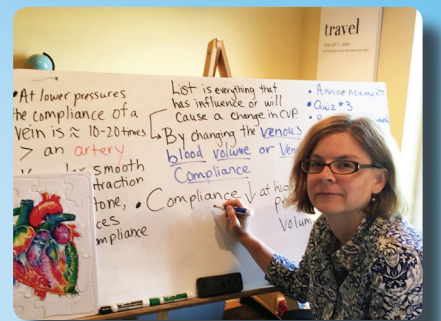
Remote Learning & Planning for the Future

March was an unsettling time for us, as it was for all educational institutions around the world. Out of seemingly nowhere, we were faced with a situation none of us had ever faced before, the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first weeks of the pandemic hitting the U.S., information seemed to change hour by hour. The Bryan Medical Center infection prevention and emergency response teams had been monitoring the pandemic since January and were not caught off guard by its emergence in the U.S. We relied heavily on their expertise as we made decisions for the college. With their guidance, we made the decision to switch all courses to remote learning, cancel most clinicals, and send almost all of our faculty and staff home to work. This decision was unprecedented and unanticipated, but necessary for the safety of our blue healer community.

Our students, faculty and staff rose to the occasion. Classes were offered in creative ways using virtual meeting technologies, labs were offered via videos filmed with GoPro cameras affixed to foreheads and clinical experiences were offered via simulated scenarios. Our students continued to receive a high quality education and were able to interact with our supportive staff with ease. Julia Medina, third-year nursing student, found a positive spin on this unique challenge:

"My remote learning experience was definitely one to remember. It was extremely overwhelming at first, but after realizing that everyone had to make adjustments, it made things a tad less scary. I think this experience has helped me become even more flexible with life situations and determined to achieve my academic goals. Nurses are supposed to be able to think fast and adjust to medical complications that can happen at any time. Moving to remote learning so quickly made my adjustment skills even better."

We are now facing the fall semester with uncertainty about how COVID-19 will affect our community, but we continue to be committed to the safety of our students learning in an academically rich environment. Throughout the summer, our faculty spent time planning for two different scenarios: one where all lecture classes would be offered remotely and one where there would be a hybrid of both remote and face-to-face teaching. By planning ahead in this way, we are prepared to start the semester one way and switch over to another way at any time during the semester, rather than feeling like we are doing a quick response to an emergency as we did in the spring.



Exercise 26 - setting up the experiment



At this time, we plan to launch the fall semester on Monday, August 24. Classes in each program as well as science and math general education classes will be taught face to face, while all other general education classes will be taught online or remotely. All labs, clinicals and simulation experiences will be taught face to face regardless of how theory content is delivered. There is just not an effective substitute for those hands-on experiences. We are ready to keep our students and staff safe, and we are ready to make changes if and when the need arises. We truly cannot wait to welcome all of our students back to campus in the fall.

This spring the college received multiple grant awards that will support students into the future. All funds received total nearly \$1 million. These funds will support undergraduate through graduate students in meaningful ways.

Nurse Faculty Loan Program

Renewed for over \$340,000 for grant year July 2020-June 2021.



The Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) seeks to alleviate the nursing shortage by contributing to the pool of qualified nurse educators. Up to 85 percent of tuition, fees and reasonable costs can be cancelled upon completion of an advanced degree with concentration in nursing education and four years of full-time or full-time equivalent teaching in a faculty role at an accredited nursing program. After completing the degree, recipients have up to one year to find employment as faculty in order for the loan to be cancelled. Cancellation for the first three years of the loan is 20 percent and 25 percent for the fourth year, equaling 85 percent of the loan being cancelled.

CARES Act

The college received \$500,000 in federal emergency grants for students through the CARES Act this spring. Many students have encountered financial hardships due to COVID-19 and the disruption of campus operations. All eligible students seeking funds will receive a \$255 grant. Additional grants will be issued to students who need them due to additional hardships caused by the pandemic. Half of the allotted grant money must be used to cover student expenses, the other half can be used to cover campus operation expenses that were unplanned due to COVID-19. From the beginning, our goal has been to give as much of these resources to students as possible. To date, the college has awarded \$242,725 to 435 students.

Pace Woods Grant

The Pace Woods Foundation generously donated \$15,000 per year with the potential for renewal for up to three years. The Pace Woods grant creates student support services, including academic, professional and social interventions, for those students most at risk for attrition. We paired 31 students with faculty and staff coaches to help support their success in the spring term.

Said one staff mentor, "Working with a student 1:1 to provide additional support was so meaningful. We set academic and personal goals and I am proud to say she achieved every one by the end of the semester. Through this program she has the tools to continue to be successful to graduation!"

Preliminary results show that this academic coaching program was a success. Of the participants, 87 percent, or 26 out of the 30 students, increased their spring 2020 semester grade point average (GPA) compared to their fall 2019 semester GPA. Also, results demonstrate fewer failed courses.