Giving Day 2020
Alumni Messages
Social Media

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I recall vividly back in 1977, as a freshman, when I was overwhelmed by what I thought were stressful moments in life. There's not much that compares to what is happening today with this coronavirus. My heart is with you and I pray that you are safe and that your family members likewise are safe as well.

At 60 years of age today, I also recall fondly the days, nights and years spent at MSU, then MSC. I no longer reside in New Jersey, although all my siblings still do, instead, I moved on to Orlando Florida.

- Arnold Gratacos

I will start - from Class of 1983...and as mom to my daughter who is a freshman in the Filmmaking Program and who is busy downstairs working away...you all have this and will do great! Take it slow but continue the work already started and be creative as to how keep connected!

- Patricia Barbieri '83

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Hang in there. Take advantage of all the tools offered to you. Learn from what is happening and use it to excel.

- Gina Cousin

Been there...yet not under these circumstances! Know you are not alone. Take time for your mental and physical well-being. Stay a distance apart, as calm as possible, and move forward.

- Janice DeAngelis '77, '81 MA

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Sending good wishes to everyone!
You are part of a great community - stay strong!

- Carol Lee Kaszka

Best wishes and prayers to you all, take care and be strong.

- Mohammad Naseer Malikzai

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dear future
montclair state university graduates,

pray for a healthy, productive and safe future. also, unite and support your family members and depend on each other to share responsibilities to create a solid family structure based on love, respect and faith.

- Hiyam Mohammad

keep your minds clear, breathe, and know our God is in control! keep praying.

- Shelia Murray

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Hang in there. This will soon be a distant (and weird) memory. We are in this together.

- Melissa Nash

If you are a current student, it is time to reach out to the one teacher who makes you feel special inside and has shown he or she cares, the one advisor who you know will navigate you through challenges, or the one friend on campus who helped you through hard times. Emails and phone calls can really go a long way. Montclair State advisors and teachers truly do care, and they will help in this time of need. As a family, we can all withstand this together.

- Michelle Bayha ’16

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It is a very difficult time for all of the students - as well as those in the workforce and the self-employed. We need to look at these times, especially of paucity and isolation, as times of opportunity - to innovate and create new ways of doing things, new pathways for our talents, our emotions, and our social relatedness. The great part about modern society, science, commerce, and culture is that we have at our fingertips, the best, latest methodologies for holding us together - and keeping us together - even at great distances! We can - and will - stay connected through these channels - and there are many - thanks to the innovators! Perhaps those conceptual connections are even stronger and more vibrant about now.

- Edy Toussaint ’97, ’18 MA

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Let’s keep supporting each other’s interconnectivity - as we support each other’s dreams, hopes, and motivations. We all gain strength by learning new things from each other - and we can carry that new knowledge and ability forward - and keep the momentum going once we get past these current challenges.

Keep strong and keep believing in yourself and your friends, family, faculty, colleagues - and everyone we wish to help through all that we are learning - and this is a time to learn much that is new!

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Martin Luther King Jr. has two memorable sayings: darkness cannot drive out darkness only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate only love can do that...the question is what can we do for others?"

Montclair State University has provided a second home to me while I was an undergraduate student. My academic advisor, Andre White, truly lifted me up when I was down and is a main reason why I was able to graduate. He really invested his time and effort, and I will never forget his compassion because I haven’t met anyone like him. Also, I had a few teachers who took the extra time to show they cared by assisting me above and beyond their jobs to show they are truly wonderful human beings. I want to say that I appreciate them more than words can ever say.

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