

# 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

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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

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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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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.

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!

- Edy Toussaint '97, '18 MA

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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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