

# The Bulletin

Campus News for the SUNY Cortland Community

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

We did it!

Every one of our students, faculty and staff confronted the challenges of coronavirus distancing, isolation or quarantine to complete a spring semester like no other in history. We taught, learned and connected online while we faced a global pandemic that has disrupted our everyday lives. We stayed home, we changed the way we do things, and we faced new opportunities.

Together, we are #RedDragonStrong.

To our recent graduates, we recognize that your final months at SUNY Cortland were not the finale you had hoped for. You deserve a special acknowledgement — completing your undergraduate or graduate degree off campus and physically far from colleagues and friends was not part of the plan. And then it was.

Please know our [Commencement Committee](#) has been working since mid-March to provide the recognition you deserve. [A three-part approach](#) will feature a Virtual Class of 2020 Celebration from Tuesday, May 26 to Friday, May 29. It includes video presentations, interactive celebration activities and a listing of this year's applicants for degrees. This will be followed up with a special mailing to all confirmed graduates this fall. The Class of 2020 will have its own in-person Commencement on campus in May 2021. We will announce more details as soon as possible, pending the results of an email survey of Class of 2020 members.

We welcome all new graduates into the ranks of SUNY Cortland's 80,000 living alumni. For the Class of 2020, the sky is literally the limit, and they are [encouraged to submit a photo that will be sent to the International Space Station](#).

And, [this message to our graduates](#) from our own WWE Hall of Famer Michael F. Foley '87. You may know him as Mankind, Cactus Jack, a *New York Times* bestselling author or an activist on behalf of many important charities. Thanks, Mick, for being #RedDragonStrong.

Thanks also to our faculty and staff for [sending a video urging students: "Don't Stop Believin."](#)

In true Red Dragon Spirit, our students remained involved, our faculty committed, and great stories continued to come our way, despite the coronavirus pandemic:

- [Physics and graphic design students work together on COVID-19.](#)
- [Cortland's Economics Department models multiculturalism and diversity.](#)
- [Breanna Washington '19 and Natalie Lipari '20 earn SUNY Graduate Fellowships.](#)
- [SUNY Cortland's College Archives is preparing to preserve COVID-19 history.](#)
- [Faculty can learn more about inclusively teaching a diverse student body.](#)
- [Virtual Transformations goes live.](#)
- [Susan MacLaury '68, Ph.D., LSW and John Sipher](#) will be honored at the May 2021 Commencement ceremony.
- [Faith Graham '19 reflected on what it was like to become a meme](#) when her report on a man in grim reaper costume on a beach in Florida went viral.

- [First-year student Cierra Stone](#) is working with her former teachers in the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District to maintain a food distribution project for needy students.
  - Everyone in the SUNY Cortland community is encouraged to participate in [the Red Dragon Run](#), which is raising money for the Student Emergency Fund.
  - [A summer exhibition will chronicle solitary COVID-19 impressions.](#)
  - After spending a semester learning about writer and activist Audre Lorde, students in Danica Savonick's English seminar wrote public blog posts sharing what they learned for this digital collection of [Lessons from Audre Lorde](#).
  - Mark Dodds, Sport Management Department, had "Impact of NCAA corruption on the Adidas brand," published in *Choreiga*, an international sport management journal.
- Finally, SUNY Cortland received approval to [issue refunds for unused campus services](#) and these were scheduled to go out May 18.

Let's stay in touch with the great things people in our community are doing via [bulletin@cortland.edu](mailto:bulletin@cortland.edu).

Thank you and be safe,

SUNY Cortland Communications Office

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