

Dear Trailblazers, Friends, and MCLA Community:

I want to extend my gratitude to all of you for adapting to the major disruption and challenges that have been presented to our community in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been a difficult time for everybody and I greatly appreciate the understanding, flexibility, and patience that I have witnessed from students, families, and dedicated faculty, staff, and alumni.

I write to update you on our plans to celebrate your commencement. As you know, COVID-19 continues to impact our day-to-day lives and strict limits on indoor and outdoor gatherings remain in place. We genuinely hoped that by May we would be able to move forward with our traditional commencement ceremonies. However, given the continued uncertainty with COVID-19 restrictions and the delay in delivering the vaccine, MCLA has decided to invest the resources necessary to move forward with a high quality virtual ceremony for both the Class of 2020 and Class of 2021. Commencement is the highlight of the year for our graduating students and the entire MCLA community looks forward to celebrating you on this important day. More information on these ceremonies is forthcoming.

We look forward to honoring and celebrating the outstanding achievements of the Classes of 2020 and 2021 during such challenging times. I hope all of you and your loved ones are continuing to persevere and remain in good health and spirits.

Sincerely,

James F. Birge, Ph.D.

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