

From: LCOM Office of the Dean <COMOfficeOfTheDean@med.uvm.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Gilwee, Vicki M <vicki.gilwee@med.uvm.edu>
Subject: ON BEHALF OF DEAN PAGE: Thanks and Important Updates

Dear Larner Community:

In these unsettled times, where bad news all-too-often dominates our attention, I'm writing to say thanks and share positive updates on our future.

Thank you: With health and financial uncertainties, compounded by issues of school and child care, and with our society's reckoning with systemic racism and injustice, at times it almost seems too much. This time has been anything but "business as usual," as our community has rallied to face the truly epic challenges of our time. I have been so deeply impressed by the way our faculty, students, and staff have responded with commitment and innovation to keep our College moving ahead. This has not been easy for anyone, but please know how your efforts are appreciated and have resulted in our maintained commitment to our missions of health care, education and research.

White Coat: For many years, an important autumn milestone for our community has been the White Coat Ceremony that celebrates our first-year medical students' entrance into clinical education, and the commitment to professionalism that the white coat represents. While our need to follow health protocols has precluded gathering together in Ira Allen Chapel as we usually would for this occasion, White Coat will still go on for our students, just in a different way, this Friday at 1:00 p.m. I hope you will take the time to join us—it should give us all confidence in our future. You can follow the livestream link on our homepage to join the Class of 2024 for this important occasion.

Larner Alumni: This week we are also welcoming back to campus, in a virtual way, our wonderful alumni. Graduates of our College from the past 60 or more years will be taking part in a host of events that will allow them to reconnect with each other and learn what is happening today at the place where their medical careers began. Reunion kicks off tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. with the 7th Annual Vito Imbasciani, Ph.D., M.D. '85 and George DeSalvo LGBTQ Health Equity Lecture. I hope you will join us for this and other special reunion online offerings.

Firestone Building: This project has been under development for over three years, and received final approval from the UVM Board of Trustees in January. While we delayed groundbreaking this spring, the project will be continuing with preconstruction work next week with the plan for construction to start with the spring thaw. I should emphasize that financing for this building is separate from the operating budget that supports general activities of our College. Furthermore, the project is now supported by a new \$5.4 million grant from the NIH, announced last week, to fund the UVM Center for Biomedical Shared Resources, to be located on the first floor. **The first of many Construction Notices from our Facilities Team will soon follow this message to detail the initial enabling phase of the project.** As happens with all construction projects, there will be some disruption of routine. The installation of a perimeter fence in a majority of the Given parking lot to establish the construction site will displace parking spaces to lots that are adjacent or across the street. Please understand that this disruption in our routine is part of a critical investment in the future of the Larner College of Medicine.

Thank you again for all you do for our community. Even more than the day I arrived here in Burlington, just two years ago this week, I am inspired each time I get to spend time (virtual or otherwise) with our

students, faculty, and staff. We will get through this and emerge even better than before. Until then, please take care of yourselves, your loved ones, and each other.

Sincerely,

Rick

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