

Subject: Dean's Update
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 1:26:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean
To: CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean via Cfaes-all
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

CFAES Community,

The last several weeks have been rife with a wide array of violence from shootings in Minnesota, Chicago, Indianapolis, Texas, Wisconsin and even in Columbus. In addition, many are anxiously awaiting the verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial on top of trying to finish the semester. With closing arguments in the Chauvin trial beginning yesterday, there may be a verdict this week. Whichever way that verdict goes, it is likely to invoke intense reactions on the part of many in our community. This year has been exhausting and challenging – I am asking for us all to recognize that this is a very stressful time, and many are dealing with feelings of anger, fear, and frustration. We are offering opportunities to come together for conversation in a safe space – Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Kathy Lechman will be available via Zoom on the following dates and times:

- April 21 2:00-3:30: [Join via Zoom](#).
- April 22 2:00-3:30: [Join via Zoom](#).
- April 23 1:00-2:30: [Join via Zoom](#).

You should also feel free to reach out to her at any time at Lechman.1@osu.edu.

This has been a difficult year, some members of our community may feel more impacted by all of this – especially our faculty, staff, and students of color and we need to continue to lift up one another. Please take a moment to check in with individuals in your community to offer your support and direct them to [wellness resources](#) and to reflect on and demonstrate our [principles of community](#) in the days and weeks ahead.

As a reminder – all CFAES faculty, staff and student employees must complete the Report = Support! training by **May 30, 2021**. More details can be found in the updates below.

Be well.

Dean Cathann Kress

Updates include:

- Awards, Continued –
- 2021 Ohio 4-H Camping Update
- Watch University Town Hall and Read FAQs
- Summer Term Will Use Emergency Pass Grading System
- Complete Mandatory Sexual Misconduct Prevention Education
- Buckeye Employee Admissions Preview
- Mask On/Mood Up
- April is the Perfect Time to Get the Spring Garden Started
- EPN Signature Earth Day Event - April 21, 2021: Take Flight!
- Webinar on Restoring the Earth's Carbon Cycle
- Addressing Equity and Inclusion in Research Mentoring
- Security Upgrades Planned for Libraries Accounts
- Virtual Health Athlete series

Awards, Continued –

As we wrap up the semester, we would also like to continue to celebrate the accomplishments of our community – congratulations to our graduate student winners during the 35th Annual Hayes Research Forum, on April 9.

- Oral Presentations: Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
 - 1st Place: Abigail Krentz - Food Science & Technology
 - 2nd Place: Sydney Grouge - Food Science & Technology
 - 3rd Place: Danielle Voss - Food Science & Technology
 - Honorable Mention – Wanderson Novais Pereira – Environment & Nat. Resources
 - Honorable Mention – Aishwarya Badiger – Food Science & Technology
- Poster Presentations: Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
 - 1st Place: Abigail Sommer – Food Science & Technology
 - 2nd Place: Madaline Winans – Animal Sciences
 - 3rd Place: Molly Mills – Environmental Sciences
 - Honorable Mention – Yutong Li – Food Science & Technology
 - Honorable Mention – Erica Grush – Food Science & Technology
 - Honorable Mention – Soumya Kanti Ghosh – Plant Pathology
- Poster Presentations: Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - 1st Place: Shannon Kelley – Animal Sciences

Additional information on the Hayes Research Forum can be found [here](#).

In last week's update on the 26th Annual Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, Joseph Urso's 3rd place finish in the Animal and Insect Sciences category was unintentionally omitted. Congratulations Joseph and mentor Megan Meuti.

Congratulations to all our students, faculty and staff honored last week during our Celebration of Students Program. If you were unable to watch it live, view the program [here](#).

2021 Ohio 4-H Camping Update

We are delighted to share that we have received approval for our plans to move forward with conducting both day and overnight 4-H camps this summer. We now have approval for overnight camps as of June 1. University leadership gave careful consideration to a wide range of factors, including vaccination availability and uptake, mitigation tactics, and a host of impacts on our members, families, volunteers, supporters, facility partners, and our employees. We know our 4-H colleagues have been working on a variety of plans that hinged on this decision and are very appreciative of their time and effort. We extend appreciation to the 4-H Camping Design Team task force who helped to prepare a comprehensive plan for balancing evidence-based COVID-19 mitigation strategies with providing needed programming for our 4-H youth across the state.

We will continue to monitor conditions across the state and will update guidelines as needed. If the state and university lift health restrictions because the spread of the virus has slowed, we will follow that guidance. On the other hand, if the virus spread surges and health advisories limiting mass gatherings are reinstated, we will move to virtual or cancel the in-person plans. We appreciate your patience with this process.

Watch University Town Hall and Read FAQs

University leaders held a town hall on April 12 that covered information on university planning efforts related to fall semester as well as updates on vaccination distribution efforts. You can [watch it](#) and read answers to questions that were submitted on the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes Autumn Campus Reactivation page](#). [Read more](#).

Summer Term Will Use Emergency Pass Grading System

Students will be graded using the Emergency Pass grading system in summer term 2021 in recognition of the

exceptional circumstances caused by COVID-19. The system, which was first implemented in spring semester, replaces lower letter grades with a PE mark that is not factored into grade-point averages. This change applies broadly to undergraduate and graduate courses that are traditionally graded A-E. [Read more.](#)

Complete Mandatory Sexual Misconduct Prevention Education

All CFAES faculty, staff and student employees must complete Report = Support! training by **May 30, 2021**. Everyone plays a key role in keeping Ohio State safe, and it's important to know how to identify, disrupt and report sexual misconduct. As soon as you can, please view your BuckeyeLearn transcript at buckeyelearn.osu.edu to complete the requirement. [Read more.](#) This year, any merit-eligible employee who does not complete the course by **May 30, 2021**, will not be eligible for an annual merit increase. Student employees, graduate associates and employees who are not eligible for merit increases may be subject to unit-specific consequences for non-completion. Bargaining unit employees should follow their applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Buckeye Employee Admissions Preview

Join Undergraduate Admissions on **May 3 at 6 p.m.** for a special virtual admissions overview designed for Ohio State employees and their college-bound students. We invite you and your high school sophomore or junior to learn about today's Ohio State experience including deadlines and the admissions process, financial aid and scholarships, regional campus options, tuition benefits and College Credit Plus enrollment options. [Read more.](#)

Mask On/Mood Up

Stress, anxiety and depression have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are three brief evidence-based strategies that you can practice every time you put on your mask to increase your mood and reduce the stress in your life: deep abdominal breathing, saying a positive self-affirmation and being kind to others or naming someone you are grateful for and letting them know. Join the Mask On/Mood Up movement to promote positive mental health. [Read more.](#)

April is the Perfect Time to Get the Spring Garden Started

April is a busy month in the garden with planning, planting, bed prep and fertilization. Learn the tips and tricks to do right now in your April garden to get the 2021 growing season started off right with a quick video update and April Gardening webinar from Growing Franklin. [Read more.](#)

EPN Signature Earth Day Event - April 21, 2021: Take Flight!

The Environmental Professionals Network (EPN) at The Ohio State University is partnering with TEDxOhioStateUniversitySalon and Monarch Joint Venture, for their annual signature Earth Day celebration on **April 21, 2021**. **Take Flight!** is an Earth Day celebration of local and global efforts to protect and restore the monarch butterfly. Join this virtual celebration and find out how you can help to restore monarch habitat. To learn more about this virtual celebration and to register, visit go.osu.edu/epnapr21. Use #EPNTakeFlight on social media to celebrate, inspire and connect with others engaged in monarch conservation and to share your experience and connection to this iconic butterfly.

Webinar on Restoring the Earth's Carbon Cycle

Ever wonder what it takes to slow down the planet's warming? The cause is excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the answer might be right under our feet. An upcoming **April 22** webinar will celebrate Earth Day offering insights from Ohio State faculty on the Earth's carbon cycle and how we can restore it by storing carbon in soils. [Read more.](#)

Addressing Equity and Inclusion in Research Mentoring

This workshop is designed for mentors of undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs and junior faculty and will be offered on **May 20, 3–5 p.m.** via Zoom. During this workshop, participating faculty will learn how

to acknowledge the impact of conscious and unconscious assumptions, privilege and biases in the mentor-mentee relationship. Through group discussion, case studies and role play, mentors have the opportunity to learn and practice mentoring skills that deal with diversity matters. [Read more.](#)

Security Upgrades Planned for Libraries Accounts

University Libraries is implementing security updates that will change the way some users access their library accounts. These changes ensure the security of a user's private data while at the same time standardizing access with an Ohio State username. [Learn more.](#)

Virtual Health Athlete series

As part of our ongoing focus on employee well-being, the Office of the Chief Wellness Officer is offering the popular Health Athlete program in a seven-week virtual format. Through engaging presentations and personal reflection, Health Athlete participants develop strategies to maintain and expand their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual energy. This series is open only to Ohio State employees. Several sections are available starting the second week of May. Register by May 3. [Read more.](#)

Dean Cathann A. Kress, Ph.D.

Vice President for Agricultural Administration & Dean

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

140 Ag Administration | [2120 Fyffe Road](#) | [Columbus, OH 43210](#)

614-292-6164 Office

kress.98@osu.edu

Twitter: @cathannkress

