

**Thursday, March 25, 2021**

**Stetson University**

**Rolks Report Live Webinar:**

**What Will Your Fall and Summer 2021 Experience Be?**

**4:30 PM-5:30 PM**

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**[The broadcast is now starting, all attendees are in listen-only mode]**

**>> PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER F. ROELLKE: Good afternoon, Stetson University. It's great to be with you today. We've been doing these on a weekly or biweekly basis and I think they have proven to be quite useful to keep our community informed as we all traverse a once-in-a-century set of challenges in our education and at Stetson University specifically. I wish you a good afternoon.**

**We have a very full session today. Let me extend a special welcome, not only to our panelists, but also to some Stetson parents that might be out there, as well as some students that are going to be joining our community this fall.**

**Welcome to Hatter Nation! And we will try our very best to answer any questions you might have and we are so eager, and I really mean that sincerely, so eager to have you join us as a community as you join our**

community in the fall. So welcome to all of you!

We will try our best to answer any and all questions you might have. Many of you submitted questions in advance. Please do take advantage of the chat feature and submit your questions while our panelists are speaking. And we will reserve the last 20-25 minutes or so for questions and answers, which I think is oftentimes the most helpful part of these webinars, which we now call Rolks Report Live.

Rolks is my nickname, I've had it since I was a little kid, and we do have a Rolks Report that comes out electronically, but we have decided to call this the Rolks Report Live. And I hope it's useful to you in some way.

Now I'll turn to my colleague, Noel Painter, who will talk to you about the Fall 2021 plans.

>> NOEL PAINTER: Thank you, President Roellke. And I welcome his sentiments in welcoming you to this webinar, whether you are student, prospective student, parent, friend, staff, it's a great chance for us all to come together and remain bonded as we look forward.

I want to speak a few minutes about our fall planning for 2021. I think we have done an exceptional job in moving through each of the stages of the pandemic from last February until now and I do believe we have a solid plan for Fall 2021 that is gaining great traction and it will put us in the best way to meet the mission of our students, keep everyone safe and meet the mission of the institution.

Right now the institution, Stetson, will be largely face-to-face in fall of 2021. I've had some questions as to whether or not there will be any online classes and the fact is there will be some online classes. There may be as

much as 10% of our classes that are online. And we need to have some of that flexibility in there for students and staff and faculty who qualify for a medical exemption, but we are limiting those exceptional situations to medical exemption. There will be, there is in some cases right now a process that is already established and there will be more communication about that process.

What we firmly know is that learning happens in a Stetson way in the most powerful way for our students when we can be face-to-face.

So right now we're focusing on really two situations for hybrid and online learning opportunities and those are cases where we do have a need because of medical exemption and in other cases we do have some classes that are being proposed as online with the assumption, the actual approval, based on the outcomes of that class being improved because the class is being offered in a hybrid or online format.

We recognize that we've learned a lot in this period, so we're going to take what we've learned to make our learning experience better.

But in short, we will be largely back to in-person, in-class learning. We'll be still wearing masks, we'll still be cleaning classrooms very, very well. We'll be back -- we expect to be in three foot distances in class, which will largely be back to the same size number of people in the classroom that we had prior to the pandemic. And we believe that we can do so, align with CDC guidance in a way that's safe for our community.

Additionally, we've had a working group, the Academic Affairs Committee who has been working with constituents around the University and we have confirmed that our academic calendar will be as it was before

the pandemic. We will still have a fall break, will still have a Thanksgiving break, we will come back to campus for in-person learning and exams after Thanksgiving.

So to address a little bit of normalcy, we're happy to have that. And we realize that the demands on our students and our staff and our faculty with the compressed schedule that was necessary because of the pandemic is something that we are looking forward to having the chance to breathe, a chance to break a little bit more in the middle of semester which we know is healthy for learning.

The last thing I'll say is that we understand, too, that the world is changing. We are projecting right now with the best information that we have, with the best planning we can do for Fall 2021, and we'll be ready to change if that change is necessary. If there are great changes in the way the world is evolving in terms of the pandemic, in terms of the metrics that we've been looking at for this entire pandemic. You know, the availability of rooms in hospitals, the percentage of COVID positive tests, our ability to manage student isolation, those kinds of things are important to us and right now we feel confident about our planning for a largely in-person Fall 2021. We'll follow those metrics at specific points throughout the summer and if we need to make changes in order to be responsive to our primary concern of safety, we'll do exactly that.

There's one group of students that I need to address specifically and that's International students. We recognize that International students face more uncertainty and challenges than most. So right now we commit ourselves to communicating with you through this as we understand your

availability to travel, your availability to take in-person and online education, and address the specific challenges that you face.

Thank you very much.

President Roellke.

>> PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER F. ROELLKE: Provost Painter, thank you so much. A huge thanks to you, the deans, and certainly our faculty who have worked heroically during this time to provide an excellent education at Stetson University. Thank you so much for that.

Provost Painter will be rejoining us later with additional information. I want to thank him for that.

I would like to now turn to our colleagues Bonisha and Larry who will talk about vibrancy and housing. Perhaps you could introduce yourselves briefly and then get into the information you are giving. Thank you.

>> LARRY CORRELL-HUGHES: Thank you, President Roellke. I'm Dr. Larry Correll-Hughes. I'm the Assistant Vice President for Campus Life and Student Success, as well as Executive Director for residential living and learning.

>> BONISHA TOWNSEND-PORTER: And I am Bonisha Townsend-Porter. I'm the Director for student development and Campus Vibrancy on Stetson campus.

>> LARRY CORRELL-HUGHES: So we're going to talk to you for a couple of minutes, just give you a quick glimpse at what life looks like living on campus, as well as being a student here will hopefully look like in the fall.

Things we're planning for in looking ahead.

First, from a housing perspective, so Residential Living and Learning,

we work with the Safer Stetson Task Force to evaluate what the next fall could look like and we have made the decision to move forward with returning to shared bedroom occupancy across our campus. So where it's designed for there to be two people in a room, that will be the case in the fall, instead of all individuals across campus.

Additionally, the three year residency requirement of the University will be back into place. So in thinking about, you know, how did we come to this decision? So that's something that a few people have asked.

So it's based on a number of factors. One is vaccine availability, which has been growing in our confidence level that availability, as President Roellke mentioned, Governor DeSantis said those 18 and older will be able to get the vaccine in Florida beginning as soon as the next week or so.

Our mitigation efforts, so we actually have already installed air purifiers in every shared bedroom on campus, in addition to the UV-light filtration systems that were in our air handlers already.

The evolving understanding of COVID, what we know about COVID and how students interact in the collegiate environment is different than it was a year ago or last July.

Additionally, our experience with isolation, tracing, and our tiers policy system, we have much more confidence in those things as mitigants and how students behavior on our campus, how you behavior. And really the community ownership in keeping our community safe has been impressive, very impressive.

So as Provost Painter mentioned, we have set some dates to just kind of reassess and make sure we're still on the path for that safe vibrant

environment in the fall, so we're going to re-assess that beginning of the April, which is next week, so things look very positive to continue with this plan. As well as the beginning of June and July so we know kinds of some check points.

So for the first time this year, we really, we prioritized the ability to live on campus, which was really difficult. It was done very fast, but with thoughts of fairness and equity to our students and differing demands. And we worked as fast as possible, even renting hotels nearby for students to be in town and on campus because we value you having the on campus experience as much as possible.

So we have been exploring for a while, our philosophy here at Stetson and listening to student feedback, assessment and there are some aspects of it that historically felt inequitable and very difficult for a lot of our students. So we worked with our Student Government Association, so the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Executive Life Committee to create as fair and equitable of process as possible that lives into our values as well as, you know, makes sense of our three year University residency requirement, in relation to our assignment processes.

So we made a change so that students who are required to live on campus are prioritized in the housing self-selection process.

Now this isn't to live on campus, we're not saying people who aren't prioritized can't live on campus. This is to select your own bed on campus.

For the first time, if you are an incoming student and you have already deposited or you do that by April 1st and you fill out your housing application by April 1st, you'll be able to self-select your own bed in mid to late April.

Which is really excited, pretty unprecedented and is a really unique opportunity here at Stetson.

If you are a continuing student and you are required to live on campus, so you have entered Stetson within the last three years, you'll be able to go online and self-select. You should already know where you're at in that process. But I do want to just say that we define that as broadly as possible.

So students who have excelled academically, who have taken summer school courses or taken in with extra credit aren't penalized because of that. We have included as many seniors as we possibly could initially, and if we are able to include more in the self-selection process, we will. But just a reminder that students involved in the -- students who are interested in living in one of the residential learning programs or fraternity and sorority programs, those aren't self-selected. So leadership, quiet living, those are all options available to anyone that is a continuing student.

So I urge you to look at those options really soon if you can.

So all that leads us to say that, you know, we expect a much fuller campus in-person in the fall, so campus feels different with 2000 students living on campus than it does with 1250 students living on campus.

So there's more just natural vibrancy and energy that comes with just people being physically present with one another, although we have worked really hard this year to create as much vibrancy as we can in the virtual environment, so Bonisha and her team have worked really hard to do that, partnering with Student Organizations to figure out how to do that.

So, Bonisha, can you talk to everyone a little bit more about kind of where we're going for the fall?

**>> BONISHA TOWNSEND-PORTER: Certainly. I recently read something, I think that President Roellke actually wrote, and that was that Stetson University never closed and, therefore, we never stopped learning. And that is absolutely the truth.**

**We have not stopped learning on how to stay vibrant through an environment that doesn't quite welcome vibrancy, right?**

**And so we've worked side-by-side with students to create opportunities and to make sure that our students have a social outlet and have a way to connect and engage with one another.**

**And there has been a lot to do. I think there's been a lot of noise that has gotten in the way of knowing exactly what to do, so we have also worked on our marketing efforts to make sure that students know what options that they have.**

**And moving forward, we're just getting better and better and better at doing this. And the students are as well.**

**As you can see, the students are starting to really engage more. You are starting to see more life on campus. You are starting to see people interacting more. And it's starting to feel a little more normal, but we still have to maintain our safety.**

**And so within those guidelines, we plan to make sure that we still have standing programs, Uncouth will still happen, students will still be able to expression their talents and show off what they can do to their peers and celebrate one another during Uncouth. It's one of our most popular programs and most wanted programs from our students, so we look forward to seeing you there.**

We also have over a hundred organizations and clubs that students can become a part of. So there is definitely a set of people that every student can connect to if they desire to do so.

Those organizations and clubs are already transitioning and ramping up for next year. They are preparing their budgets. They're proposing their calendars. They are getting ready for the upcoming year.

So if you are a new student, start to probe, you can e-mail me at [Bporter@Stetson.edu](mailto:Bporter@Stetson.edu) and ask about an organization or an interest that you may have. And if we don't have it, you can create it and that's the beauty of it all. If the people are not already gathered, you can create that pod of people so you can have your people.

But we have so many different options on the campus that it's very rarely that you have to create anything because they are already there and they are creating that vibrancy that we want on the campus.

We also have different organizations that are managed by departments, like homecoming, Hatter Productions, SGA, Hatter Network, RA, intramurals. You'll start to see more and more that type of life just coming alive on the campus as the vaccinations become more and more popular and throughout the population of the people on the campus and as the restrictions start to loosen, you'll start to see more and more vibrancy on the campus.

Until then, we will do our very best to create what we can, but we need you. We need all of the students to engage. Vibrancy is about energy, it's about the transaction of energy and for everyone being involved, so that means all of us getting involved, engaging with one another, embracing one another, and celebrating life and being able to learn from each other and have

fun with each other and just have bursting laughs across the campus.

And that's what vibrancy is about. So we invite all of the students to engage with us. We also invite faculty and staff to engage with us. And if you have a great idea of a program or an event that you would love to explore with us, e-mail me. [Bporter@Stetson.edu](mailto:Bporter@Stetson.edu). I would love to talk to you about it and my team is ready.

>> LARRY CORRELL-HUGHES: Thank you, Bonisha.

You know, one of the things that you and I were just talking about yesterday is how excited we are that Late Night Breakfast will actually be at night. So, you know, the pandemic caused us not to have a Late Night Breakfast at all for Spring 2020 and to have a Late Night Brunch.

>> BONISHA TOWNSEND-PORTER: Exactly.

>> LARRY CORRELL-HUGHES: So we're excited to have that back.

For those of you who are incoming students, Late Night Breakfast is a huge Stetson tradition where it is a Late Night Breakfast right at the beginning of finals. Typically the night before finals start or during the study day. And students line up. There are students who have years of T-shirts from every Late Night Breakfast, so we're excited about that and so many other things that are hallmarks of the Stetson experience being physically in-person, the remainder of this semester and the end of the fall.

>> BONISHA TOWNSEND-PORTER: I would be remiss to not mention that SGA elections are coming up, so if you are interested in those type of student leader positions, then get engaged and get involved and get ready for those elections.

And shout-out to Hatter-thon, they raised \$87,000 this year. That's

amazing, especially in a COVID year. There are so many opportunities to get engaged in the way that you want to be engaged.

>> **PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER F. ROELLKE:** Great. A sin certificate thanks to both Larry and Bonisha for that very helpful information. They will be rejoining the screen at the tail end of our presentation. Some questions are starting to come in on the chat and they will be very well prepared to answer them related to housing and Campus Vibrancy.

Before I move on to our next topic, let me amplify a couple of things that were said.

One is that we never closed. It was almost a year ago that Stetson was required to go virtual, back last March, but we have moved the Stetson education forward and the only way that has been possible is through extraordinary collaboration and care for one another. We have enjoyed very low positivity. We have really been able to come together as a community to prioritize things that are most important, most notably health and safety.

Bonisha is correct, this is my first year at Stetson and what a difference between fall and spring. You see a lot of people outside, still wearing masks, being physically distanced, but you are starting to see the campus really percolate, if you will. We have had athletic competitions done with careful restrictions. So it gives me great hope and -- it gives me great excitement to be welcoming students back in the fall.

If I could now turn to my colleagues Mitchell Reddish and Ray Nault to come on to the screen to talk about financial planning and some summer programming. Thank you.

>> **RAY NAULT:** Good afternoon. Thank you, Dr. Roellke. I appreciate

the welcome. My name is Ray Nault. I'm the Interim Vice President of Enrollment Manager.

>> MITCHELL REDDISH: I'm Mitchell Reddish. I'm Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, but I'm also the Director of Stetson Summer School Programs.

>> RAY NAULT: We've covered a lot and we have a lot to celebrate with the fact that we have never closed. I'm hopeful that we have many perspective students on the call, but we have many continuing students on the call. And we know that COVID has impacted families in very different ways.

So if you are a perspective student and you are still interested in pursuing Stetson and haven't applied, our applications are still open. Our Admission Recruiters are there to help connect you with faculty members so make sure you understand what program offerings we have. We actually even tomorrow having a Hatter Day Event where students can come to campus and get to see the Campus Vibrancy in-person. So I welcome anybody who is still interested. We will have five separate events by school and you can go to our website and register for those events.

If you can't attend in-person, we do have virtual opportunities for anybody interested in fall 21 enrollment to join us, virtually, of course.

That is just to get your foot-in-the-door. We know that many families are impacted by COVID financially and I certainly encourage you to partner with the Financial Planning Team who is part of the one stop here at Stetson and work through what opportunities are out there to help make sure the costs are mitigated to the capacity that we can.

**We know that families are impacted in very different ways and Financial Planning Team is committed to making sure they are there to assist you and provide you with a roadmap for success.**

**If you're unsure of whether or not you can get to them, you can go to the Student Success collaborative app on your phone and get an appointment with one of the actual Recruiters and Financial Planning Team members. You can get a time there and do a virtual meeting or an in-person meeting with availability. So please take advantage of that and I look forward to anybody who is on this webinar tomorrow, if you are coming.**

**Continuing students, we anticipate to have continuing student awards out in the next few weeks, so that way students can start planning for fall 21.**

**If you are interested in summer courses, we do offer Financial Aid during summer courses and we encourage you to sign up for courses and the Financial Planning Team will make sure you have the avenues to continue on the success you've had in the last year.**

**We know it's been challenging, but Stetson has prided itself in finding creative ways to make sure that everybody has a way to be successful. And I think what Dr. Reddish will cover is really some of those opportunities during summer for students who are starting in the fall to start a little earlier and get a leg up. Or continuing students who want to progress and maybe graduate a little earlier or take an opportunity they haven't had a chance to this past year.**

**I'm really happy we have been able to stretch to meet our students' demands.**

**And parents, if you have questions, don't hesitate. The Financial Planning Team, our Recruiters, the people in the Registrar's Office are all**

there to provide you with solutions to some of the questions you may have.

So Dr. Reddish.

>> MITCHELL REDDISH: Thanks, Ray.

We have a very vibrant summer program at Stetson. Even last year when we had to switch to everything online and offer all of our summer courses online, we ended up having one of our best summer schools in terms of enrollment that we have had.

Students find courses during the summer to be very valuable. As Ray mentioned, it's a chance for students to catch up on courses they have not been able to take during regular semesters, or for students to get ahead in their academic career.

Students find the opportunity to concentrate on only one or two courses at a time to be very beneficial to them rather than taking a full load like they do during the regular semesters.

We have, this summer, about 115 or so courses that we are offering and we offer courses that fulfill General Education requirements, that would be appropriate for new students coming in. We offer courses that meet specific major or minor requirements. We don't necessarily have every course that you would want to take in the summer, but we have a very broad spectrum of courses that would help students in getting ahead and advancing their academic career.

We have four different summer terms. We have two 4-week term, one 7-week term, and one 6-week term.

The 6-week term is a new term that we just started last year. It's what we call Session 4. Last year we called it our Special Summer Session. That

session is geared particularly for incoming new students to Stetson, whether they are new transfer students or new first time college students at Stetson.

Most of the courses that are in Session 4 are specifically courses that would be appropriate for first year students.

Most of our courses in the summer, throughout the whole summer with each of the sessions, most of them are online courses. Probably 85-90% of our courses are online, but we do have some courses that are on campus courses in the summer and some that are hybrid in which the students will meet in class part of the time and part of the time they will meet online.

The exception is Session 4, which is all online. It is designed particularly that way.

In addition to these special -- or regular summer school courses, we're also offering what we're calling Summer Engagement Experiences. These are designed specifically for incoming students to help them get adjusted to Stetson. There's no cost for these other than a small registration fee for each course. It's a \$25 registration fee. But we are offering around 20-25 Summer Engagement Experiences that are intended to help students be successful at Stetson. Some of them are intended to help students be successful once they leave Stetson in terms of helping them learn how to be successful in their career. And then there are some that are discipline-specific to help introduce students to particular disciplines at Stetson.

Students can register for those Summer Engagement Experiences up until June 1st. Registration for regular summer school is done online. For students who are new to Stetson, they need to work through the Admissions Office. Currently registered students, you would register just like you do for

regular semester courses.

I hope you join us for summer school. It's a very important aspect of education we do at Stetson. Students find it to be a very helpful part of their career here at Stetson.

>> RAY NAULT: So there's a few questions that came through the chat. One of them is how Bright Futures works as a private organization. Stetson does receive Bright Futures, we qualify for the gold seal, the medallion, they are all established by the state. They pay per credit. It's roughly \$203 per credit for the academic and about \$101 for the medallion. Those are rough estimates, they are on our website.

Students have to qualify. They have to meet state requirements for SAT, ACT, community service hours, those are all set by the state legislature. We know students have struggled this year being able to take the SAT and ACT tests. I know there was one here in Florida, the test was on Wednesday last week. So there still are opportunities to take the SAT test and qualify and so forth.

If you don't see it on your Financial Aid award as a first time student, perspective student, please let me know and we'll check with the state database to see if you qualify.

You can use those funds to help defray.

To current students, you must maintain your eligibility, that means maintaining the GPA for whatever program you qualified for and complete at least 24 credits academically following spring. There's a one exception as a first time student, you can use summer to capture some courses. So if this year you have fallen behind because of COVID in remote courses and you

need to catch up and get to 24 credits, you can do it with the summer semester. So there are opportunities for you to certainly explore ways to maximize as much Financial Aid that you can receive as possible.

There is a second question about, what's the benefit of summer? And that depends. A lot of students are eager and they want to get a leg up on course students. So continuing students want to progress and continue earlier. Students who are -- who want to pursue a different major, want to try something new, try an opportunity that is outside of their major, they can pursue those opportunities.

Perspective students, you want to know what Campus Life is like, even though it's remote in Session 4, you want to get your feet wet and know what the campus feels like, so when you start in the fall, you know how to navigate the advising process.

So there are many ways summer can benefit you. Costs are online, but you can receive Financial Aid for the summer courses. You can qualify for less than half time Pell Grant if you are Pell eligible. You can qualify for student loans and other types of assistance. And the Financial Planning Team to help you do that. If you have questions, I strongly encourage you to connect with them. If you have questions, send me an e-mail, I will connect you with them and make sure are you successful no matter when you start.

Thank you.

Dr. Roellke.

>> PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER F. ROELLKE: Ray and Mitchell, thank you very much, very good information. I think it's a good example that those students that dive in, so to speak, they dive into the things we have to offer,

most of the time they are able to capitalize the most on a Stetson education. I thank you for reviewing those opportunities with our audience and all of us. Thank you.

I'm also pleased to report that in December we were able to celebrate six commencements on the Deland and three at the College of Law. And we are gearing up again for in-person commencement this May.

I'd like to turn to very important people with regard to not only that, but with reward ceremonies and that would be Noel Painter and Julie Hunter.

>> NOEL PAINTER: I feel like we need a baton to pass between us on all of these hand-offs. High five, boom!

This is an exciting thing for us to be able to plan to be together, to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates and I'm pleased we were able to do that in December and extraordinarily pleased that we're going to be able to do it in a large way in April and May.

So this is a little additional information on how that's shaping up. We do have celebrations of graduation in a whole lot of different fashions that begin in the week of May the 3rd and then really culminate that next weekend, one for our graduate students in DeLand, three ceremonies for our undergraduate students in DeLand. The week before we will have done four graduate ceremonies for our College of Law. Stetson is embracing this as an important thing for students, parents, families, and faculty.

One thing in particular I want to speak about is the awards and recognition ceremony. We are really taking this opportunity to rebuild. So on Wednesday, May 5th, that evening we are going to spend a special time with our students, their families, and our faculty and celebrate the academic

accomplishments. Both our students and faculty's academic success. We will have special awards for our faculty and most importantly we're going to recognize our students in the School of Business Administration, School of Music, and College of Arts and Sciences. I'm looking forward to doing that.

It will be a largely virtual ceremony. Some of us will be on stage and there will be a live part of that. But it's a special revision to the type of ceremony we have done and I think it's something that will be an extraordinary recognition of what our students accomplish here at Stetson.

Julie, how about the graduation ceremonies that will follow?

>> JULIE HUNTER: Thanks, Noel. We're very excited about moving forward with the in-person ceremonies to celebrate our class of 2021.

This year we are going to be outside, rain or shine, at the Spec Martin Memorial Stadiums. They will be split to not maximize the size of the audience. They start at 7:00 PM with our graduate ceremony for the School of Business Administration.

Saturday, May 8th at 9:00 AM, we have the College of Arts & Sciences for the National Sciences Division. Later that day at 7:00 PM we have the College of Science.

And Sunday May 9th, Mother's Day, at 9:00 AM we have the School of Business Administration.

Tickets are required for all of our ceremonies at no charge. Graduates have been provided up to six tickets for their families and friends. Due to COVID safety measures, we do not plan on distributed unclaimed tickets at this time.

Information for how students can claim their tickets can be found on

the commencement website. The important thing is the deadline to claim tickets is April 30th.

COVID safety measures we have in place. All attendees will need to present their tickets at the gate, as well as go through bag check and have temperatures screened.

We're going to require everyone to wear a mask throughout the ceremony, as well as sit physically distant from other families.

Graduates and families sitting on the field will also be spaced six feet apart. During the ceremony, we have eliminated handshakes, master degree hooding and handing out the diplomas. Those will be mailed in the following weeks.

We have also eliminated the receptions following the ceremony and ask that all attendees avoid gathering in large groups.

Basically overall the main thing to remember is to remain diligent and respectful of everyone around you.

A few quick notes for reminders, any guests requiring accessible seating for mobility or health concerns need to submit a request on the commencement website.

The commencement website is the place to go.

And one final plug, during this weekend, the Office of Two, the events office, relies so heavily on our amazing faculty and staff support, so if anyone is interesting in volunteering their time, please e-mail us at [events@Stetson.edu](mailto:events@Stetson.edu).

>> NOEL PAINTER: We really do recognize that commencement is an important event for our families and students. In fact, I have son who is

graduating this semester as well. I know specifically what I'm looking forward to seeing in a graduation for him.

I appreciate all of the work that has gone into making this happen. It's not exactly as it happened before. Some aspect of that is good and some aspects we'll miss, but I think we're doing the most we can in a responsible and safe way for our students and family.

Julie, thank you so much.

Dr. Roellke.

>> PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER F. ROELLKE: Great, thank you all very much. And I thank the audience for tolerating me popping in and out of these sessions. Thank you. You have been asking some very good questions in the chat.

At this time I'd like for folks, if they could, panelists, to please rejoin us on this webinar.

Let me also say as a person that experienced his very first Stetson commencements this December, they were beautiful, even if they were done in a physically distanced manner, they were beautiful, they were intimate, families were happy, students were happy. It's a very important rite of passage and we're delighted to do that in person even if it's a bit more restricted than what we might typically do. It's really wonderful.

And I think, frankly, it's an example of the creativity and innovation that Stetson has brought to this pandemic time. Huge kudos for your collaboration, understanding, and also participating. Really very important rite of passage that we want to do well again this spring.

We have a whole series of questions, but I want to emphasize a few

more things related to COVID, if I may, and then we'll go to the Q&A.

First, as Larry pointed out, I may have indicated on the outset, some good news is coming with regard to the vaccine roll-out in the State of Florida and that includes able over the age of 18 and over can register for a vaccine starting on April 5th.

I'm also very pleased to report to this audience that I'm getting my first vaccine on Friday, 5:30 PM, Pfizer. I get my second one April 16th, 5:30 PM. And I encourage everyone in the community do the same.

It is really quite remarkable what's happened scientifically during this pandemic, that this vaccine is now becoming more widely available to us. And it's a real game changer for Higher Education, the fact that this vaccine is now rolling out with repetitivity.

Despite the greater availability of vaccines, including those over 18, we are still working with our Department of Health partners, Advent Health and the independent Colleges and Universities of Florida to make Stetson University available as a vaccine site. There's no promises or guarantee for that, but we are working diligently to do that. Not just those that are Stetson affiliated, but those of our neighbors in DeLand. We are working on that, but we are pleased to report that the vaccines are rolling out with some repetitivity, so that's great.

It's been mentioned a number of times here, we still are in the middle of the pandemic and I would amiss if I didn't repeat the important safety measure, wash our hands for at least 20 seconds multiple times a day, wear your mask, watch your distance and watch your crowd size. WWW. That's why Stetson has been able thrive during this difficult environment with the

members of our community with those very simple and straightforward mitigation efforts. Let's stay vigilant.

Noel you talked about our desire to be as much face-to-face instruction as possible and we do have some accommodation for folks that might be in a health risk category, et cetera, either students or faculty, et cetera, would it be possible for students to be online for some of their experience? I suspect the answer to that is yes, but not fully online. Is that correct?

>> NOEL PAINTER: That is correct. For students who qualify, who request and qualify for a medical exemption, there is the opportunity to be fully online, but that's going to be a little bit tricky because all of the availability for classes that you might have in-person won't necessarily be there. We will have to work with you specifically to make sure you get a schedule that will work for you and for your faculty.

You know, about 10% of the class total being online, there will be limited access to online classes for students who don't qualify for a medical exemption just because that's appropriate for the Instructor or appropriate for the pedagogy and the outcomes of the class, so students, when registration opens on April 5th, which is a week later than initially planned, but on April 5th registration opens, there will be classes that are listed as online that you can register for. But they will be limited and the seats in those classes will be limited because we will be saving some of those seats for students who do qualify later over the summer, incoming, et cetera, for medical exemption.

>> PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER F. ROELLKE: I'll mention this again at the end of the session in one of our slides, but we are, again, encouraging all Stetson community members to get vaccinated. When you do get

vaccinated, please register yourself as having been a vaccinated person. I'll give that information at the end of the session because we want to make sure most of our community, if not all, is vaccinated. So, again, a strong encouragement to get vaccinated.

We have a question here about -- and Larry this is for you and you may not yet know the answer because this is a highly evolving context, but as we track the folks that are vaccinated, will housing assignments be impacted, for example double or triple occupancy, for students that are vaccinated versus not vaccinated.

>> LARRY CORRELL-HUGHES: We don't plan to have any triple occupancy. In looking for planning for the fall, no lounges or triples and we've even taken some smaller two-bedrooms offline.

We don't expect to do assignments by who is and isn't vaccinated. It's rapidly evolving as to who can be vaccinated.

Students can prefer a roommate, if there is someone that you want to be with, you can put them down as a preference. If you are a current student, you can do that on the online.

We have an online housing portal, the same place you would do your housing application, if you are in the housing self-selection process, you can go in there during your appointment time or later with you and your group or your roommate, preferred roommate, and select which room, which bed you want, in which building that is available at that time.

So it's a really great student, it's a different system, it will look different, but just like you can select your class, you can select your housing assignment. It's impressive that we can open that up for first incoming

students.

>> PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER F. ROELLKE: Thank you, Larry. And there is a link in the chat for Residential Living and Learning which might be helpful to audience members.

And Larry, maybe you can build on Ray Nault and Mitchell Reddish presentation. Can you talk about summer housing for those that wish to participate?

>> LARRY CORRELL-HUGHES: Absolutely. Our summer school housing is in the University Village Apartments every year. That is typically upper class students, so it is a unique opportunity to live there. They are all individual bedrooms. There are typically four bedrooms to an apartment. There's a clubhouse there, the University Village Apartment Clubhouse, so we host events, social activities, all those things are right there where you are living.

So typically we have between 85 and 120 students living on campus during the summer. We did last summer. We never closed. We never closed at all in Residential Living and Learning, we're open 365 days a year.

Incoming students can live on campus during the summer if you are taking summer school classes. One of the important things to know is because the summer school sessions overlap with one another, you could be taking class in multiple sessions, we do our housing for the summer based on the weeks that you're going to be here.

So it's a very reduced rate of \$145 a week. So if you are here for three weeks, that's 3 times 145. If you here for ten weeks, we do that by week and that's billed to your student account.

Those are apartments with full kitchens, so you'll be able to cook all of your meals there or eat out. So meal plans aren't available during the summer, but students who live on campus are in that community during the summer, so it's a great opportunity.

>> PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER F. ROELLKE: Great. Thank you very much, Larry.

And there's another question here which I think I can tackle and it's a good one, which is are there circumstances under which Stetson best laid plans might have to be changed, right? This is a highly evolving context.

I guess I'll answer this question the way I did in the fall when we were smack dab in the middle of this thing, we're going to watch carefully all of the data and all of the public health expert advice that comes out on a very regular basis.

The concerns we had in the early fall, as you can imagine, were high positivity rates, they were low hospital bed availability. We worked very, very closely with our local health partners to insure if a student did get sick that they would have the ability to get medical care immediately. We made sure that was the case in the fall when positivity rates were higher.

So Stetson Safer Task Force has done an extraordinary job monitoring public health data. We have engage the experts in epidemiology and public health and we will continue to do that in the Fall semester as well. So we will continue to monitor this very, very carefully.

I have also learned as a person coming from the Northeast that Stetson University has in the past been the recipient of hurricanes. Those things can, in fact, alter your best laid plans. We've been fortunate this past year where

we did not suffer from hurricane season. Other parts of the country certainly did.

We did, however, have a tornado, we had a tornado that touched down in DeLand. I don't want to make anybody scared, that's not a common occurrence in DeLand.

What I'm trying to articulate to our audience and panelists is Stetson has proven its ability to be nimble. We proved that last March when we were forced to go virtually because of the public health data available to us at that time. We have slowly, but surely moving through our tier system to make sure we can engage in a campus that is vibrant as best as we possibly can. So we're going to be nimble as we move forward. Okay?

So that's the answer to that. And I think I've answered -- we have answered all of the questions in the chat. If we have not, please feel free to e-mail us again and we will try to answer them individually as best we can.

I do want to part today with just a few more remarks about the context within which we live. And I'm drawing a little bit from my remarks, it was a very powerful COVID remembrance webinar we had for our community a week or so ago when we were identifying exactly a year when we were forced to go virtual at Stetson University.

And this is not to point out in anyway sort of the horror shell with regard to what's happening with our world, but to acknowledge the very challenging times we have in our world that go just beyond COVID and a global pandemic.

So since we turned the calendar from 2020 to 2021, we have experienced an earthquake in January, also [indiscernible] refugee crisis,

also in January 2021, a Humanitarian crisis in Yemen, winter storms that rocked the United States, Venezuelan and Humanitarian crisis in February 2021. There has been considerable civil unrest in the United States for really over a full year, if not more, that have created a sociopolitical context in which difficult conversations must occur.

And, of course, as we know, COVID. We are still in the middle of this with over 2.7 million deaths worldwide, over 545,000 death in the United States, and over 33,000 deaths right here in Florida.

Let us recognize and honor those that have struggled through all of these crisis. And what I said a week and a half ago I want to repeat here and I really believe it and I know it's shared by members of the Stetson community, both here and DeLand and Gulfport. There is no better place to be in Higher Education more broadly, or Stetson University more specifically, when the world is confronting challenges like these.

And the reason I believe that and I believe it firmly is because we are a community that cares for each other, we are a community that has a lot of really smart and insightful people in it, and what better place to be in Higher Education more broadly, and Stetson University more specifically, when we are confronted with the global challenges we are in today.

We can focus it with an interdisciplinary lens and apply to real world problems and it affirms to me why it is such an honor and pleasure to serve as your President at Stetson.

Please stay well, please stay safe, please keep your questions coming. And as I always conclude, Go Hatters!

**[Webinar concluded]**

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