



# Loyalty Circle

Dear Loyalty Circle Members,

It's a pleasure to write to you soon after the first virtual—and most successful—Forester Day in College history. Thanks to your generosity and dedication, the College raised nearly \$500,000 on March 4 in special Forester Day contributions to dozens of our academic programs, sports teams, student organizations, and campus projects. The whole day was great fun: high-spirited Foresters from around the world connected with each other through a host of online forums and gatherings. You can still watch Forester Day videos at this link: [link.lakeforest.edu/foresterdayvideos](https://link.lakeforest.edu/foresterdayvideos).

Forester Day exemplified the great resiliency of our community after a year of pandemic challenges and deprivations. The day also featured—and drew support for—a number of the College's strategic partnerships, including two that are showcased in this newsletter. The first is our academic partnership with Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, which has produced a remarkably successful new Health Professions Program. The second is a partnership with the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, which has provided timely, valuable career programming for our 2020 and 2021 graduates.

As vaccines become more widely available and the pandemic begins to wane, the College looks forward to the 2021-22 academic year and beyond as a rejuvenating, productive time for our students, faculty, and staff. Enrollment deposits for next fall are running well ahead of past years, the historic Brown Hall renovation and expansion project is nearly finished, and our national rankings have never been better. We have come through this unprecedented year by working together as a community, and we will advance rapidly ahead in the same way.

The College's success is yours. Thanks to all Loyalty Circle members for your unwavering support, and I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming next fall!

**STEPHEN D. SCHUTT**  
PRESIDENT





## Update to the new Health Professions Program

Nearly 200 future health care providers met for the first time on February 3 to kick off the new Health Professions Program (HPP), an innovative partnership between Lake Forest

College and North Chicago-based Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (RFU) that will transform the health care industry.

Registration in the new program announced in October 2020 exceeded expectations, demonstrating the need and demand for such an approach to health care training. The first HPP cohort ranges from first-year students to juniors. They represent a variety of undergraduate majors but share a passion for working in an industry focused on helping others. HPP will expand on that through interprofessional education, and modeling the collaborative care and practice that will define the future of health care.

The HPP students will receive early exposure to 40 health care career options in this program. Upon completion of campus coursework, each undergraduate will then complete multiple experiential health-related projects with interprofessional teams of RFU faculty and students. This valuable experience will

help students develop a broad perspective on health issues that is both scientific and humanistic.

Students will enter a training track designed specifically to prepare them for a future career anywhere in the health professions, including allopathic medicine, podiatric medicine, pharmacy, biomedical science, physical therapy, physician assistant, pathologists' assistant, clinical psychology, and other RFU programs. They also can choose from a number of accelerated dual-degree programs—a master's in Physician Assistant Practice, a master's in Biomedical Sciences, a master's in Clinical Counseling, a Doctor of Pharmacy, a Doctor of Physical Therapy, and a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine.

"It's really important that students figure out early on in their education what all the choices or opportunities might be in health care so that they can pick something that is the best match for their skills and their interests," said Dr. Patrick Knott, an RFU professor who is teaching the HPP introductory class.

"Our students get an early education in the wide breadth of health professions within their first year in college. By junior year, they learn about how to be effective health professionals by developing skillsets in collaborative interprofessionalism, and an empathetic mindset by understanding the patient community and culture and health outcome challenges ahead."

**Daniela Sanchez '23** of Waukegan, Illinois enrolled in HPP to avoid a career

misstep. "What I'm hoping to get out of this program is an overview of what the medical field offers, because I know it's not always just doctors and nurses," she said. "I've known I wanted to be in the health care field for a while, I'm just not certain where."

The HPP program is attracting significant attention in the health care industry and beyond. Horizon Therapeutics, an international company headquartered in Deerfield, donated \$500,000 to set up a scholarship program for economically disadvantaged students and students of color who want to pursue a health care career. Lake Forest College and RFU are also working with numerous other foundations and area health and pharma companies interested in providing financial support for the HPP. In addition, the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition highlighted HPP for providing diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM in its just-released 2020 Illinois Innovation Index.

Lake Forest College and Rosalind Franklin University are also exploring the creation of a joint nursing program, through RFU's planned College of Nursing. The dual-degree program would provide a direct pathway for Lake Forest students to earn both an undergraduate degree and a graduate-level nursing degree in just five years. RFU is working with Northwestern Medicine, the Lake County Health Department, and other industries in the region to understand the needs, develop an innovative curriculum, and ensure the program supports the entire community. ■

## College launches innovative programming for new graduates

A college that shows its commitment to CAREERS is stronger than ever during COVID-19.

The Class of 2020 went from what was supposed to be the hottest job market in decades to the toughest one since the crash of 2008. Opportunities became more limited, companies rescinded offers due to cuts, and students began to adapt to a new virtual recruiting scene. That trend continued for the Class of 2021.

The College quickly pivoted to launch new initiatives designed to provide enhanced support for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 and equip them with the tools for success in our current employment landscape:

- Calling on the power of the Forester network, last spring the new **Foresters CAREER Program** matched 128 seniors with select alumni or trustees for video calls to provide them with support and career advice, and networking referrals when possible. In its second year, the Forester Network was even more responsive to the call for mentors. The Program matched 131 members of the Class of 2021 with more than 140 select alumni and trustees across the Career Pathways network.

- Through a new partnership with the Lake

Forest Graduate School of Management (LFGSM) and their Center for Leadership, the College funded two **Professional Skills Badge** courses for 120 graduates in June. Three virtual weekly sessions on Leadership Skills or Business Skills with LFGSM faculty culminated in a celebratory networking event in which participants received a digital badge that can be incorporated into their resume and LinkedIn profile. This program will launch again this summer for 2021 graduates and sessions will include themes of diversity, equity and inclusion; professional ethics; and adaptability.

- In late June, the College created a unique spin on the growing number of collegiate “micro-internship” programs in which students complete short-term projects with the **Forester Micro-Mentorship Program**. This innovative program emphasizes a mentoring component—mentors provide career advice as well as close guidance on a project that provides on-the-job experience.
- In July, the College began offering new on-demand webinar training through **4ProPlus/4MedPlus Professional Trainings and Certifications** to provide technical training in Adobe Software,

Database Technology, Health Care and Contact Tracing, and/or Programming Languages. Close to 100 Class of 2020 graduates took advantage of these courses last summer, and the Class of 2021 were able to complete courses over winter break and J-Term to add these skills to their resume prior to graduation.

- A special networking event on July 21—**Hire a Forester: Class of 2020 Virtual Employer Mixer**—capped off the summer programming. Graduates connected with and learned more about employers who were hiring as well as hiring trends across the Pathways.

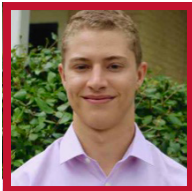
- The January 2021 J-Term made it possible for many students to complete an academic internship that provided real-life work experiences and an opportunity to grow their professional network. The J-Term internships were made possible through collaboration with our fantastic employer partners and the Forester Network and created an opportunity to provide additional support for both students and employers. Through these immersive career experiences, students were given another chance before the start of spring semester to build their resumes, gain connections, and take steps toward their professional goals. ■

## A Look Back on the Past Academic Year

To reflect on the past academic year, we sat down virtually with three students, **Aaron O’Neill ’21**, **Margaret Blackstone ’22**, and **Gabe Anzeze ’23** to discuss all things student life after moving back to campus for the spring semester. They shared insights into the transition to remote learning and back again to a hybrid model, as well as what they learned about themselves on the way as they adapted.

### Aaron O’Neill ’21

Major: Economics/Politics  
Minor: Legal Studies  
Hometown: Franklin, TN



**Q.** Were your original school/work/internship plans for the 2020–21 academic year altered? How did you adapt?

**A.** Not too much, I was able to take my finance internship online and continue working in a similar capacity. If anything, the change has provided some added benefits as my semester internship has turned into a year-long experience and has allowed me to develop much stronger relationships with the people I work with than I would have initially expected. I have been fortunate to work with supervisors that have been very flexible and understanding.

**Q.** What advice would you give students who are looking to make the most of today’s virtual environment?

**A.** Take advantage of the additional time you have, whether it be reading more, keeping up on news, or developing a new skill. Also, don’t be afraid to better understand what ways technology can help your life or make it easier for you.

### Margaret Blackstone ’22

Major: Music/Business  
Minor: Music Education  
Hometown: Roseville, MN



**Q.** How did you practice self-care during this time; are you still practicing these habits?

**A.** I have learned over quarantine that I am more of an introvert than I thought, so after just taking time to be by myself and knowing that being by myself is okay, I started reading new books, trying a bunch of different foods, baking and cooking, and I actually also started running. I trained for a half-marathon during quarantine and I’m continuing to run, and that has been great!

**Q.** What is one important thing that you learned about yourself or your habits?

**A.** In a joking sense—I learned that I get really “hangry” and usually when I find myself annoyed, I just need to be fed. But more seriously, I’ve learned what it means to relax. For me, relaxing is just shutting off the laptop and going on a walk, or it’s taking a nap and just learning how to balance all of my activities with getting the energy that I need.

### Gabe Anzeze ’23

Major: Politics/Economics  
Hometown: Nairobi, Kenya



**Q.** What was the transition like back to campus this spring? What’s your class schedule like—in person, hybrid, or completely virtual?

**A.** It was absolutely brilliant to finally see the campus come alive after spending the entire time here when it was shut down. I intentionally took one class that is in person just so I could get off my computer and actually go to a classroom every so often. All my other classes are online but it’s much better this time since there are actually people around campus.

**Q.** What are you most proud of this year?

**A.** Apart from surviving the pandemic thus far, I am very proud of being able to carry out my role as president of UMOJA remotely. It was a real challenge, and continues to be, and I could not have done it without the entire executive board! They’re amazing. ■

*Hear more from Aaron, Margaret, and Gabe at [lakeforest.edu/studentreflections](https://lakeforest.edu/studentreflections).*



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COLLEGE

Save the Date

# Homecoming and Reunion

## October 1-3, 2021

More details to come  
this summer.