



Grady College of Journalism
and Mass Communication
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

April 6, 2020

From the Desk of Dean Charles Davis

Grady College Online
268
transformed class sections

96
instructors of record

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- María Len-Ríos
- Jeff Springston
- Mark Johnson
- Brooke Rooks
- Jay Hamilton
- Janice Hume
- Bryan Reber

It's a sacred calling, a mission each of us embraced in simpler times that now feels more important than ever. — Dean Charles Davis

On Monday, March 30, 2020, Grady College transformed 268 class sections into online learning opportunities for our students, thanks to the heroic efforts of 96 instructors of record, countless staff members and administrators.

For the first time in our 105-year history, all Grady instruction was done virtually -- all moved online in the span of 10 incredible days none of will ever forget. A monumental effort carried forth by so many people, and led by Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Maria Len-Rios, with incredible support from Grady CTO Mark Johnson, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Jeff Springston, Grady's fiscal guru and all-around wunderkind Brooke Rooks, our fearless department chairs Janice Hume (Journalism), Jay Hamilton (Entertainment & Media Studies) and Bryan Reber (Advertising and Public Relations). Our academic advisors moved mountains. Our faculty responded with aplomb. Departmental assistants pitched in. Everyone lent their spirit, their outreach, their energy -- every single member of the Grady community played a role.

Most importantly, our students began their journey of working to find their footing in what is, for now, their path forward. Our job is to help them. It's a sacred calling, a mission each of us embraced in simpler times that now feels more important than ever.

Our students -- many of whom have reached out to me in the past few days -- remain resilient and strong. Their willingness to embrace an entirely new method of instruction, their sheer joy

at seeing classmates on Zoom screens -- well, it fills me with joy and pride. They remind us, daily, why we do this.

I hope that in the days ahead, you find some encouragement from the work being done by Grady College, and draw inspiration to share your own thoughts of hope with someone in need. Our students need you now more than ever. Together we will see this through, and do right by these amazing students.

One thing I know: I am grateful to be a part of Grady College. Stay well.