

THE *Veritas* VOICE

SUMMER 2020 DIGITAL EDITION

You normally get the summer edition of The Veritas Voice newsletter delivered to your mailbox in mid-May. But because of coronavirus related production issues, we can't do a printed edition. So here's an online "special edition" to update you on the latest news.

Veritas: Next Steps

The Veritas Board of Directors met virtually on Friday, May 15th, and of course the main topic was "what comes next?". Veritas members' best interests were at the forefront of the board's lengthy discussions and its decisions. Read on for plans pertaining to Distance Dialogues, Summer, Spring Makeup, and Fall.

Distance Dialogues

The Distance Dialogues will continue on Zoom through the end of June on Thursdays during the 1 pm time slot. Session 3 registration was sent out on Monday in the Veritas Weekly. Session 4 will be released next week.

Summer 2020

The Summer 2020 term will be held online via Zoom. We are working to finalize the schedule with this switch to a virtual platform, but you will receive information in the coming weeks about registration. The summer term will still be held July 13 - 31st as originally scheduled. The summer term will be free and open to current Veritas members and new members.

Spring 2020 Make-Up

Making up the remainder of the Spring 2020 term was a "maybe" back in March when the board decided to cancel the rest of the term. But now it's a go -- we are going to be able to finish the remaining four weeks of **most** spring classes. The remaining 4 weeks will be held via Zoom from August 3rd - August 28th during the original scheduled time slot (if your class was originally on Tuesday at 1:40, it will still be on Tuesday at 1:40). You will receive an email for each class you were registered for during the Spring 2020 term in June letting you know if it will be made

up. **We will not be re-registering or adding any additional members to the classes.** Only those originally on the roster will receive the link to the class.

Fall 2020

We have made the decision to move forward with holding the Fall term **virtually**. While Bellarmine University has not made a decision regarding a return to campus this Fall, a steering committee is working on a reopening plan for campus. The Veritas Board of Directors feels that given the high risk population of most of our members, the lack of social distancing that will be able to be done in our packed, vibrant classrooms, no available vaccines or reliable treatment, the unknowns of the virus in general, and the potential of a second wave, this is the route we must go. We are still working through the logistics of scheduling, amount of classes, fees, etc. and will update you as these decisions are made. The membership fee will be waived for the Fall 2020 term for those who registered in the Spring 2020 term that was cancelled. Course fees will be charged. Membership fees and course fees will be charged for all other registrants.

For many of you, we know this will be a relief to continue your love of learning in a safe setting. For others, we know you miss the interactions that you can have on campus. Please know that as soon as it is safe to make that return to campus, plans will be put into place to do so.

Veritas Member Outreach Continues

First and foremost, the Veritas Staff and Board of Directors want to send our well wishes for continued health and safety during these uncertain times. We are all missing the socialization aspect of being on campus, conversing with friends before or after class, grabbing lunch at the Dining Hall or in Cafe Ogle, and attending field trips and special events. While we are apart, we have a continued awareness of the effects social isolation has on the age group our members are. We wanted to make you aware of some of the outreach options available to our membership:

-Grocery shopping and pickup is still available to our members. If you need something from a store but would like to remain Healthy at Home, please email (veritas@bellarmine.edu) or call (502) 272-8374 the Veritas office to arrange a pick up.

-Scholarships toward Veritas membership fee and 1 class will continue to be available for the Fall term and terms after. Information about the scholarships is sent out in the Veritas Weekly a few weeks before registration each term.

-Over the next several weeks you will receive a phone call from a fellow Veritas member as part of a new board initiative to keep in touch with our membership. If you would like to assist in making these phone calls, please email veritas@bellarmine.edu.

Veritas Knights Helping all Knights

One of the great benefits of Veritas is being a part of the vibrant and caring Bellarmine community of staff, faculty and especially students. Veritas has long demonstrated the importance of supporting that community. It recently endowed a student scholarship and several years ago helped fund the remodeling of several classrooms that we use.

In that spirit, the Veritas Board of Directors last week voted to make donations to two campus programs that directly help students in need – needs that have been intensified by the recent disruption of their lives brought on by COVID-19. Almost one-third of Bellarmine students are Pell Grant eligible, meaning they are among the neediest students in the nation. Bellarmine knows that these funds will be vital for students when it is time to return to campus.

Knights Helping Knights

Veritas will donate \$10,000 to the Knights Helping Knights Fund. Bellarmine launched the effort in March to help its most vulnerable students whose lives have been disrupted by the COVID-19 crisis. It has affected both their personal and financial stability and the lives of their families.

The fund is providing emergency assistance such as internet access, food, student aid and scholarships, and other emergency needs. Bellarmine launched the fund drive to bring the Bellarmine community together to support its students, and so far has raised \$170,000, according to Bellarmine's website. This fundraiser replaced the annual Bellarmine Day of Giving for 2020.

If you want to give on your own, go to www.alumni.bellarmino.edu/KnightsHelpingKnights.

Knights Pantry

Veritas will gift the Knights Pantry food bank \$1,000 in Kroger Giftcards. The pantry, which was made possible through a partnership with Dare to Care, provides supplemental food to Bellarmine students, who can access the pantry as often as they need and take whatever they need.

Many Veritas members know about the Knights Pantry's good work. The registration tables set up at the start of each term in the last several years have been a collection point for our members to drop off food and hygiene products for the pantry. But with Veritas classes shifting to online, we're no longer on campus to drop off food. The \$1,000 will fill that donation gap.

Many of us learned about the pantry's origins and operation during a Zoom presentation that was part of Veritas's recent Thursday online lecture series, The Distance Dialogues. The pantry's stock usually includes food like canned soups, macaroni and cheese, pasta, vegetables, rice, fruit cups, cereal and peanut butter. Since opening in November 2018, the pantry has served over 2,300 community members..

How Safe is Zoom?

As you may expect, the number of daily users on Zoom has skyrocketed over the past couple of months. With the company reporting an average of 300 million daily Zoom participants, it is no surprise that security is a topic that has been in the news lately. In early April, the CEO of Zoom announced they would be taking extensive steps to amp up their security.

The Veritas staff is taking the necessary steps to make sure our account is secure and provide a safe experience for our members. Most of the security issues that you hear about on the news related to Zoom happen with large corporations who share their access link, meeting number, and password online. Below are some of the safety steps Veritas has taken:

1. Information is emailed specifically to the people who should be accessing the meeting, lecture, or class. That is why we don't post the information on our website or even distribute through the Veritas Weekly newsletter.

2. Our meetings are always secured with a password.

3. If you have joined a Distance Dialogue lately, you may have noticed a message that says you must be admitted by the host via the virtual waiting room. This prevents people who are not authorized from joining.

4. The host also has the capability to remove a participant from the lecture.

5. Lastly, we have disabled the screen sharing feature for all attendees other than the host. This will prevent "John Smith" from deciding they would like to take over the meeting and share a PowerPoint or video that was not authorized.