

Dear Honors parents and family members,

I want to share how immensely fortunate I am to be a part of your student's Honors Program experience. My staff and I look forward to this time of year when we collectively celebrate each student as they drop off their thesis with applause and bell ringing/gong striking fanfare. This is not the end to the academic year anyone could have envisioned.

Words truly cannot express my sadness that our Honors Medals Ceremony will not take place this May. Medals is the highlight of the academic year for me and an opportunity for the entire Honors Community to celebrate exceptional academic achievement and to be together as a community for our graduating students prior to Commencement. My closing words at this ceremony asks all newly medaled scholars to reflect on their experiences and to take the time to express their gratitude to you for your advice, support, and love. Their success is and will always be forever tied to you and your support.

While we will not be together as we had planned, the Honors Program Office is working with several university offices to coordinate an event to be scheduled during fall 2020. We will be together, and we will celebrate. We will just be patient and make sure we can share our joy with one another when it is safe to do so. We will be communicating with you regarding plans as they develop and as details come into sharper view.

A constant, in a landscape abundant with ambiguity, is how proud I am of all of our UConn Honors students, especially our seniors. Please take care of them for us and remind them that we are still here for them when they need us. I'm looking forward to seeing you and celebrating soon.

Jennifer Lease Butts, Ph.D.

Assistant Vice Provost for Enrichment Programs and Director, Honors Program