May

OH-IO! In homes across Buckeye Nation, friends and families of nearly 13,000 graduates celebrated a virtual commencement for the Class of 2020. It marked Ohio State’s largest-ever graduating class. A program streamed live from inside Ohio Stadium included President Michael V. Drake and a small number of university officials in traditional commencement regalia. Apple CEO Tim Cook delivered an address via video, and the event was livestreamed, attracting 86,000 viewers, and broadcast throughout the state.

In this together. The Ohio State community is leading with purpose and compassion during the COVID-19 pandemic to develop solutions that uplift lives. The list is long — from an alumna working to equip front-line workers with personal protective equipment, to faculty experts providing a better understanding of symptoms, to students helping others through peer counseling and much more. Read, watch and learn more about how we are supporting each other and our many communities Together As Buckeyes.

TBDBITL. In a first-of-its-kind virtual tryout process that spanned three days, the Ohio State Marching Band selected its drum majors for the 2020 season. Brayden Deemer, an air transportation major, will be the 63rd drum major of the band. Kyle Hustek, a computer science and engineering student, has been selected as the assistant drum major for 2020. Instead of the traditional drum major tryouts that feature all candidates competing on the same field, this year’s tryouts were conducted digitally.

Kind connections. Some 18,000 first-year or graduating students received a surprise as part of the Office of Student Life’s Kindness Callers campaign. Staff from Student Life, Advancement, the Alumni Association, colleges and other units volunteered to call students to check in and make sure they were aware of university resources, including counseling and financial aid. “We wanted to tell them, ‘We are still right here, ready to support you,’” said Vice President for Student Life Melissa Shivers.

Front-line care. Ohio State health care professionals continue to innovate in large-scale ways that help patients nationally, expanding and accelerating COVID-19 testing, launching a plasma donation program, graduating from medical school early to fight against the pandemic and more. Buckeyes everywhere can support the Wexner Medical Center, and offer words of encouragement, through the Ways to Help webpage.