Congratulations, graduates! Despite historic rainfall in Columbus, Ohio State’s graduates and their families persevered to celebrate the first in-person commencement ceremonies since 2019. Two ceremonies inside Ohio Stadium helped accommodate thousands of graduates while maintaining health and safety precautions in response to COVID-19. More than 12,300 degrees and certificates were awarded. Jamie Dimon, chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, delivered the commencement address.

Chief academic officer. The university announced that accomplished researcher, educator and higher-education leader Melissa L. Gilliam, MD, MPH, will be the land-grant institution’s next executive vice president and provost, effective Aug. 1. She is a highly accomplished physician and scientist with an academic background rooted in the humanities and a lifelong dedication to service. Dr. Gilliam’s work will help advance Ohio State’s strategic priorities, including maximizing the academic experience.

Powerful partnerships. The Ohio State University at Lima and the Ford Lima Engine Plant have announced a partnership to establish a new training center providing learning and laboratory experiences for students in the university’s Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology program. Additionally, Ohio State recently renewed and recognized its more than 20-year collaboration with Honda, which includes new $5,000 student scholarships to be awarded beginning in the fall.

Distinguished honors. The College of Engineering’s Umit S. Ozkan and Moritz College of Law’s Martha Chamallas have been named Distinguished University Professors. Each year, Ohio State recognizes faculty for exceptional records in teaching; in research, scholarly or creative work; and in service. Dr. Ozkan and Professor Chamallas were selected for their scholarship, leadership and mentorship in, respectively, the field of heterogeneous catalysis and electrocatalysis, and the fields of tort law and feminist theory.

Big 10. Karen Dennis, director of track and field and cross country, has been unanimously selected by her coaching peers as the 2021 Big Ten Conference women’s outdoor coach of the year. This is Dennis’ 10th Big Ten coach of the year honor and her sixth in the last four years. Earlier this month, the Ohio State women’s team won its eighth overall team championship in program history, all under Dennis.