

Our present situation has given me a lot of food for thought about the importance of the liberal arts. As you know, that is a constant theme for the college. We've long felt as though we are clamoring for attention in a world focused entirely on STEM.

The pandemic has focused a spotlight on both the strengths and weaknesses of science. Scientific research and development is absolutely vital in the fight against COVID-19. But so are the social sciences, that provide the careful analysis of data that helps plan the next moves in government reaction. We're seeing interesting tests of the limits of state and federal actions in an emergency: that's political science. And it's a test case in how the right communication at the right time can inform and influence the public.

The humanities are key players in navigating our circumstances. What's the best source for understanding the coronavirus? The historical records of the post World War I influenza epidemic, the plague in Athens in 430 BCE and the Black Death of 1348. How do we learn to cope with the human costs of isolation? We look to world literatures. And how do we stimulate our brains, calm our fears and alleviate boredom? The arts, of course.

It's all a giant test laboratory of what the liberal arts have argued all along: we are vital to the civic enterprise. It cannot be liberal arts or STEM, it must be liberal arts and STEM.



One good thing about this house arrest: we have the time to enjoy the unfolding stages of spring. Carol claims to have bunnies in her yard. I have a skunk. But no matter. This is usually such a busy time of the academic year, filled with presentations, meetings, and end-of-year celebrations. I often found I would wake up one morning and spring had sprung without my noticing it. This year, as I walk around the neighborhood, I'm enjoying it tree by flowering tree. I hope you are too.

The Raider Food Pantry has revised their procedures in order to best serve students. The campus pantry has been depleted by need and the inability to restock. In an effort to continue to support students, the Food Pantry is currently accepting applications for \$20 gift cards to supplement grocery costs. The Pantry can offer 125 gift cards each month. If more than 125 students apply, applicants will be chosen at random. Students who did not get chosen during the first drawing will automatically be placed in the next month's drawing. Applicants will be drawn and notified on April 15th, May 15th, and June 15th. Here's the link to the application: [Food Gift Card Application](#)

Stay well. Please keep up to date on university communications by visiting the website <https://www.wright.edu/coronavirus>. The frequently asked questions are particularly helpful.

Handwritten signature of Linda Caron in black ink.

Linda Caron, Dean
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