

Working from Home Week 10

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To: Hshsl-All Staff <hshsl-allstaff@umaryland.edu>

Hello all –

Another early message.

I am going to enjoy a relaxing four day weekend in exotic suburban Ellicott City. Ron is taking time off too. This may test our marriage.

Another busy week kicked off by LOTS of activity surrounding the announcement of the Recovery Task Force by Dr. Jarrell last Friday.

I have been appointed to the RTF Operations Focus Area (we've already had two meetings!) and James is on the IT one (and he's had two meetings).

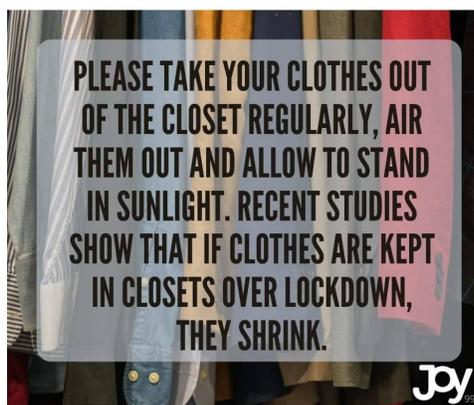
The thing that has been stressed is that the initial focus is on restarting the research enterprise at UMB.

So It looks like we will also be teleworking all summer. However, things change daily. So these weekly messages will continue. Perhaps a book – Assembled Pandemic Wisdom of M.J. Tooey! Bedtime reading for sure!

Earlier this week I posted a quick report from the HS/HSL Service and Outreach Task Force and got several positive responses and suggestions that I will share with the Task Force in order to refine the idea of a monthly HS/HSL Day of Service. One of the best messages I received was from Lauren who shared the following with me:

“Before Covid I volunteered in downtown Baltimore every weekend. Since we can't do that anymore, I've been making PB&J sandwiches every week and other volunteers take them downtown and drive to where they know people will be (under overpasses, bus stations, etc). The effort started out small, the first week I think we had a total of 250 lunches but it has grown, this past weekend we had over 2,000 lunches to deliver to people in downtown Baltimore. Here is a link to our efforts: <https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2020/05/16/our-lady-of-perpetual-help-ellicott-city-meal-donations-coronavirus-latest/>”

I didn't post that to embarrass Lauren (although I thought the story was awesome) but to share that even something like making a PB&J sandwich can make a difference. So I hope you are thinking about the simple things we can do with an HS/HSL Monthly Day of Service. And if you have been doing something let us know. Every little bit helps in these crazy times!



A weekend activity:

And finally, something for the holiday weekend: The Best Gear to Make Your Backyard More Fun:

<https://www.wired.com/gallery/best-outdoor-gear-for-home-backyard/>

Have a fun weekend and let us not forget it is Memorial Day on Monday. When one day looks pretty much like the rest it is easy to do.

Memorial Day began after the Civil War as Decoration Day to honor veterans. Here's more history:

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>

This year, not to take away from our courageous veterans, but just this once, let's add and honor new veterans from the war on COVID-19. Our health care workers, postal service employees, delivery men, grocery store workers, housekeeping staff/workers, public safety workers. These people are heroes. Keep them safe and well.

And you, stay safe and well too!

Best –

M.J.

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