Dear Bowen Alum:

We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well.

This is clearly not a normal time in the country or the state—or at Bowen. The halls are empty, but our students, faculty, and staff are still working. Bowen students and faculty have made the leap to online classes like the professionals they all are. But I’m still concerned with the welfare of our students outside of their class work.

Like many Americans, Bowen students rely on full and part-time jobs, including clerkships, to make ends meet. In those of you who have provided our students with those job opportunities, thank you. Unfortunately, both full and part-time students are seeing layoffs or cut backs in their opportunities (or their regular jobs). This adds a layer of stress on top of their studies and the shift to an online learning environment.

In addition, many students are still using clerkships as close to what that position will still be available.

I’m asking for help on two fronts.

First, if your firm was planning to have a Bowen student as a summer clerk, please reach out to Assistant Dean Diane Snyder and let her know how you expect the position to change. You can reach her at wghoover@ualr.edu. I would encourage each of you to keep your clerk’s job at all possible, even if it means reduced hours. Our students are looking forward to summer work for not just financial support, but also for the experience you provide.

Second, consider a monetary donation. We have a Student Emergency Fund. As of now, we can assist students experiencing hardship by giving them immediate loans to help with living expenses. It has to be a loan to avoid jeopardizing their financial aid eligibility.

You can donate to the emergency fund or to the food pantry by contacting Assistant Dean Wanda Hollis who revealed that email address. She can help you find the contact person or reach out to Ms. Hoover at wghoover@ualr.edu or by calling 501-444-1500. The classrooms and halls at Bowen may be empty, but our hearts are not. Thank you for all you continue to do for our students.

Dean Benier