Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak

EyeOpener June 9, 2020 Augustana Dean

June is Rotary Fellowship Month

Odell opened the meeting with a video of *O Canada* with 15 members, speaker Demetres, former member Carolyn, Rotaractor Rhema and noon club President Roy at the online meeting.

**Speaker** – Demetres Tryphonopoulos, Dean and Executive Officer, Augustana Campus, UofA

With his Fine Arts background, Demetres led off with some quotes: *Fire and Ice* by Robert Frost, ‘There’s something rotten in Denmark’, Shakespeare ‘Tis bitter cold and I am sick at heart’. Despite the somber opening Demetres changes the mood with an optimistic, informative presentation covering convocation, course delivery, achievements, athletics and budget.

* Over 170 graduating students will soon be participating in a virtual convocation to receive their degrees. UofA continues to rank in the top 5 Canadian universities
* Remote delivery for the fall term is being developed while options for the winter term are still open
* The university is proud of student achievements in gaining entrance to medical, law and other advanced programs. Dr Hinshaw is only one example of past students that are making an impact in the community, Alberta, Canada and internationally. Additionally, teaching and research excellence is reflected in peer awards and funding
* U Sports has cancelled fall sports and ACAC will decide by August 1st
* Demetres has worked hard with the main campus to address the budget changes. Curriculum changes, staff reductions and a full assessment has been undertaken.

On the subject of budget, Demetres made it clear that he does not buy into conspiracy theories and is not opposed to budget cuts. He sees the challenge is the depth of cuts to be achieved in a short window. The ability to access reserves is an avenue he feels would mitigate the challenge to a degree.

 Demetres was very positive in his presentation and wanted us to go away knowing that the university has value beyond an educator through scientific and academic research, community involvement.

 He has a very pragmatic view of the role of the campus in Camrose and its role in bridging rural students with urban institutions. He is seeking advocates for the good work Augustana has done in the past and continues to provide.

Demetres responded to questions and accepted our thanks for his presentation.

Destiny will provide **Food for Thought** next week

**Happy Bucks**

* Able to be at the meeting
* Sunshine and rain
* Greenhouses in Edmonton still have perennials
* Thunderstorm – loud lightning crack but no damage

**Announcements**

* Congratulations and thanks to Rhema as a member of the District Rotaract Council
* Edmonton Riverview club Wheelchair Tune-up at Wetaskiwin Airport Saturday 10 to 3. Any questions, please call: Roman Bayrock 780 239 7214
* 2020 Rotary Virtual Convention June 20-26. Free general and breakout sessions. More information <riconvention.org>
* Assistant Governor, President-Elects Vegreville, Wainwright and both Camrose Clubs had a Zoom meeting to learn more about each other and the clubs. Will share ideas.
* Tiffany Doig, noon club, is co-ordinating a Food Drive in Wetaskiwin for the Montana Cree Food Bank. Contact her a tdoig70@gmail.com to assist or learn more.
* I have a disc golf basket you can see and try out.

**Next meeting** June 16, 7:00am. Odell will send Zoom invites.