

art@hendrix! 2020s

When President Tsutsui announced his retirement in November of 2019, the Hendrix board of Trustees appointed W. Ellis Arnold III as the college's 12th president. Arnold, a 1979 alumnus and the college's former Senior Executive Vice President, promised to "lead the college confidently into the next decade."

In January 2020, Hendrix launched an eSports program and hired Hot Springs native Logan Horton as the inaugural team's head coach. Horton currently coaches students in a variety of games - including League of Legends, Rocket League, and Super Smash Bros - from a new eSports arena in the college's Wellness and Athletics Center.

Early in the spring 2020 semester, students attended Glowfest, a rave sponsored by Couch Hall, and Hat Trick, an annual live concert at KINGS sponsored by KHDx. This year's artist line-up included Kevin Krauter, Quinn Lewis, and Afroshoujo. In early February, Students for Black Culture hosted Black Excellence Week, with events like Soul Food Day, Natural Hair Day, and a Black Excellence Panel, during which students and alumni discussed the experience of being Black at Hendrix.

On March 13th, 2020, Hendrix's Senior Leadership Team chose to suspend in-person classes due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Students and faculty left campus that week and continued courses remotely after an extended Spring Break. The Hendrix class of 2020 graduated virtually in May and still hope to have an in-person celebration once the pandemic ends. Hendrix leadership has elected to close the college for the entire fall 2020 semester as well, attempting to keep students and faculty safe through continued remote learning. Hendrix anticipates a reopening in spring 2021 but will continue monitoring local cases in case this proves unsafe.

In the face of mandated distance-learning, students continue to connect through virtual events. The Aonian, Hendrix's literary magazine, hosted a virtual launch of its 62nd issue in early September, while the college's student-run Mental Health committee hosted events later in the month, designed to help students preserve their well-being during a remote semester. Hendrix's Student Activities office hosted a week of Halloween festivities in late October, including a virtual escape room, a mini-thon of Red Brick horror films, and a screening of the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Fall 2020 also marked the opening of Hendrix's new Windgate Museum of Art. The museum's inaugural exhibitions, *Let Us March On* and *art@hendrix!* can be viewed online and are accompanied by a range of virtual programming. *Let Us March On* documents the Black Lives Matter movement in Arkansas and hangs in the museum's Window Gallery, where it can be seen from the museum's exterior. *art@hendrix!* explores the history of the Visual Arts at Hendrix College, presenting work created by faculty and alumni as early as 1938 and as recently as 2020.