Dear Seniors:

I hope that you are doing well and adjusting to online learning. Be assured that Susie and I, along with all of our friends and colleagues on the faculty and staff at Centre, miss you and your fellow students greatly.

While we have been holding onto hope that we might be able to reassemble on May 24 for a special commemoration of your graduation from Centre (even if not our traditional Commencement ceremony with all of the surrounding events), it has become clear that this simply and sadly will not be possible.

As you know, the last few weeks have been filled with difficult decisions necessary to protect the health and well-being of the Centre community, our state, our country, and indeed all of humanity. Confident that we are doing the right things under difficult circumstances, we are nonetheless well aware of the disappointment we all share in not being able to be together. I am sure this is particularly discouraging for you, your classmates, and your family. Indeed, this particular decision is one that Susie and I had hoped we would not have to make for our final Commencement; inasmuch as the two of us had begun to think of ourselves as “members” of the Class of 2020.

We do not yet have plans for a new date, but be assured that we are actively considering a handful of alternatives and will be communicating with you again before too long. We judged that it was important to get you this information as soon as possible so that you can cancel any travel arrangements you and your family might have made.

Acknowledging that this is unwelcome news, I am confident that we will find a time to celebrate all that you and your classmates have accomplished during your time at Centre. And you can be sure that Susie and I are looking forward to that very special day for you, for us, and the life of Centre College!

Sincerely,

P. Roush (and Susie, too!)