May 15, 2020 - Campuswide email

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

As you know, this particular end to the academic year is bittersweet for Susie and me, since it marks the culmination of 22 wonderful years of learning and adventure here at Centre College that we have been fortunate beyond measure to enjoy with thousands of students and hundreds of faculty and staff.

We feel a special connection with this year’s seniors, anticipating this as our own “Commencement” as well, because we begin our lives beyond Centre starting June 30. While it is disappointing that COVID-19 has taken our shared graduation experience on May 24, we will – and I insist that we will – plan to gather at some future date to celebrate in person. And what a time that will be!

The good news is that while we will soon begin new chapters, we will always remain integral parts of each other’s stories, woven into these narratives as they unfold over the years and decades to come.

Devastating as this pandemic has been, our connections to one another through Centre Dear are and will forever be stronger. As part of your family, your Centre family, please know that Susie and I can be counted on to be there through thick and thin, for better or for worse. The eternal optimist, I am confident that the future will be bright, that our times will be thicker and better. Continuing to share our triumphs with one another will make them all the more sweet.

In that spirit, stay in touch and work to make the world better for others – always doing your best and being your best, with no regrets.

My best,

John – P. Roush (Susie, too)
Status Report #6
COVID-19 Crisis Management Task Force

May 15, 2020

With final exams underway and continuing until Wednesday, May 20, there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel for this grand experiment that will forever be remembered not just as the spring 2020 term but also the coronavirus semester.

As a hopefully welcomed diversion for viewing during Sunday’s break from exams, Dean Ellen Goldey will send out a link to our “Centre Showcase 2020: Virtual Honors Celebration” on Saturday, May 16 via campus email. In addition to messages from President Roush and Dean Godley, we will hear from our two senior speakers and learn about recipients of this year’s awards and honors in the approximately 25-minute video.

Efforts also remain underway to produce a celebration event for seniors that will have a live component for them alone on Sunday, May 24 at 3 p.m. This event will be recorded and shared later that evening with the entire campus community and includes a special 10-minute “Senior Celebration” tribute video that opens with a moving version of the alma mater sung by the choir on Zoom, along with special messages from a variety of speakers, particularly President John and First Lady Susie Roush.

While academic work is being finished up for the spring, the College’s 10 subcommittees devoted to scenario planning for the fall continue their efforts in earnest, with the goal of each group reporting out by June 1. From there, the senior staff has two mini-retreats scheduled to digest the information and then announce plans for how Centre will be prepared to balance concerns for health and safety with our commitment to a deeply engaging and meaningful educational experience.

Finally, communication with the broader campus community about COVID-19 and our digital spring term has continued, with two Zoom meetings taking place this week with parents, one specifically for parents of seniors. The first of several events with alumni also took place Thursday evening, during which John and Susie were able to reflect on their wonderful memories from the last 22 years.

Student Health

- Updated guidelines were released by the American College Health Association on May 7, which are being reviewed by student health staff and others on campus. They can be accessed here:
- While busy planning for the fall, student health staff remain available to students for their healthcare needs.
The Health and Safety Subcommittee continues to be involved in scenario planning for fall 2020. Work mentioned in the previous update continues, with attention freshly focused on testing plans, training for faculty/staff/students, isolation/quarantine/contact tracing, and cleaning protocols.

**Student Life**

- Work continues to develop scenario plans and safety protocols for the fall term. In planning for housing for the fall term, all suite/apartment options have been assigned. Sign-ups for singles and regular doubles will be done by a Qualtrics survey May 13-26.
- At this point, we anticipate that approximately 60-65 students will be with us this summer.

**Admission and Financial Aid**

- Centre College received just over $493,000 in CARES Act funding to be distributed to students for emergency assistance with unanticipated expenses related to the disruption of their education by the COVID-19 crisis. The plan for distributing the emergency aid was communicated this week and disbursement of funds to students begins next week.
- As a reminder, Centre continues to recruit students for the incoming class against our new June 1 reply date.

**Budget & Finance**

- A revised operating budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year remains in development. The process includes working closely with Admission and Academic Affairs to model enrollment ranges based on recruitment outcomes and retention, which will impact decisions in mid-June about budget reduction options previously communicated in the CFO’s Budget and Finance Update #2:
- The Resource Recovery Team continues to review opportunities for additional Federal funding, which might include:
  - The Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act. Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives released their next COVID-19 relief package, which they plan to vote on soon. In total, the bill would provide $37 billion for higher education, of which $7 billion is reserved for private, nonprofit colleges and $27 billion for public colleges.
  - EDA/EAA grants to support economic and workforce development.

**Academic Affairs**

- The Registrar is putting the finishing touches on the Course Schedule for fall, and current students will be registering for both fall blocks during the last week of May.
• The Center for Career and Professional Development is working hard to help students find summer internships if their original internship has been cancelled due to COVID-19.
• The Academic Affairs scenario planning subcommittee is considering a number of possibilities for fall and how they would impact coursework. These include teaching in-person classes with social distancing, teaching on-line, and teaching hybrid courses. The subcommittee is working closely with the subcommittee on health and safety.
• Faculty are considering offering summer programming for incoming and current students.
• The architectural plans for the new Learning Centre in Grace Doherty Library are nearly complete, and library staff continue to do the important work of making space for the renovation process.

**Center for Global Citizenship (CGC)**

• CGC has established a new relationship with Student Universe for easier flight bookings and better “duty of care”; that is, easier options for flight changes, guidance on insurance options, and a designated contact person
• The subcommittee devoted to scenario planning for study abroad is working on ramifications of study abroad decisions for housing, finance, and liability.
• Partial refunds for emergency flights taken by students to get home from abroad programs continue to be processed.
• Decisions about 2020-2021 study abroad programs remain in process and involve continued conversations with our study abroad partners.

**Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)**

• CTL is developing a robust series of summer programming to help faculty and staff cultivate expertise with online tools and to support faculty as they prepare for fall 2020, including a short sequence on course design, webinars and workshops on instructional technology, experiential learning, accessibility, and diversity and inclusion. Faculty should expect to see a survey asking about their needs and an outline of summer offerings next week.

**Norton Center for the Arts**

• Staff are hard at work preparing to announce the upcoming Norton Center 2020-2021 season, along with subscription and single-ticket sales campaigns. This includes a plan to re-open following Healthy-at-Work and social distancing guidelines.
• The new “Live Zoom with Steve” event will allow patrons to share their favorite Norton Center stories on a free, interactive Zoom call schedule for Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. The event will feature Centre alumnus and singer-songwriter Travis Lee Kern performing a song or two, along with current and past Norton Center student workers. To join the free call or get more info, visit the Facebook event page:
  o [www.facebook.com/events/906755749788310/](http://www.facebook.com/events/906755749788310/)
**Human Resources and Benefits**

- With assistance from Kathy Jones and Wayne King, HR has been reviewing the Healthy at Work, Phase 1 guidance to ensure compliance with the stated policies. The two big changes this week are new requirements for those on campus to take and report their temperature and wear a mask in public spaces or when around other people.
- Many have submitted a nomination to our Thank You program. Please be sure to visit this link to see who has been recognized so far as “Heroes at Work”:
  - [https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/Home-New.jnz?portlet=Heroes_at_Work](https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/Home-New.jnz?portlet=Heroes_at_Work)

**Development & Alumni Engagement**

- On Wednesday, May 13, the Family Engagement team hosted two live virtual parent forums via Zoom with President Roush and senior staff members. The conversations were guided by questions submitted by parents prior to the calls. In total, more than 200 parents and family members participated in the forums.
  - Parents of students in Classes 2021, 2022, and 2023 heard updates that specifically addressed their questions and concerns relating to finances, academic affairs, health and safety, athletics, and the College’s plan for fall 2020.
  - The Class of 2020 call relayed information from senior staff relating to plans for the Senior Celebration on May 24, a future in-person Commencement, and continued professional development for students after graduation.

**Athletics**

- Upon the recommendations of the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA), the American College Health Association (ACHA), and the NCAA, we have formed the Athletics COVID-19 Action Team to guide our process toward the return of college sports to campus in fall 2020. Gina Nicoletti-Bellinger, Associate AD/SWA, is chairing the effort that includes our sports medicine team, student health, team physician, strength and conditioning, and facilities.
- While the scenario planning subcommittee for athletics is looking at multiple options for how fall 2020 might exist, it is moving slower at the moment to allow for the critical work of the Athletics COVID-19 Action Team. Continued monitoring of the local, regional, state, and national landscape include meetings with the Southern Athletic Association (SAA), as well as the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU).
- As a reminder, athletic summer camps scheduled to occur on campus through June 30 have been cancelled. Included in this group are women’s soccer, swimming, track and field, tennis, and basketball. We continue to assess our camps scheduled for July 1 and beyond, exploring any opportunities to reschedule some version of our cancelled June offerings, if appropriate.
- Recruitment continues to go well, with additional deposits and commitments coming in from the hard work of the Centre coaching staffs. In addition to recruitment for fall 2020, working on the fall 2021 cycle continues as well, all while working hard to hold on to our deposited class and minimize any summer melt.
Information Technology Services (ITS)

- ITS will soon begin targeting the return of equipment from those who signed it out.
- Many user passwords are set to expire, so please change your password so it doesn’t expire over the summer break. Instructions are available here on the ITS Knowledgebase:
  - [https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/Campus_Resources/Information_Technology_Services/Password_Management.jnz](https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/Campus_Resources/Information_Technology_Services/Password_Management.jnz)