Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

The reality of the year’s end is settling in, and as disappointing as our separation as a campus community has been, I’ve chosen now to take the time instead to reflect on all that has been good and memorable and what should be cherished. In a way, it is how I think we can do our best and be our best in the face of the pandemic, not having regrets about what could have been or should have been.

This is the attitude I know will influence best how we look ahead to the fall as well. There’s the old saying that while we’re often unable to control what happens to us, we are in charge of deciding how we react to what happens. I credit our entire campus community for stepping up this spring and making the most of what has been unbelievably challenging—and I wish there was a better word or phrase to describe these last several months.

We will continue our important scenario planning work this summer, making the fall the best that it can be, and time will be on our side. We pivoted quickly in March, but we can be even more intentional over the next several months in thinking ahead to the next academic year. Our block schedule will contribute to the depth of our meaningful learning experiences, for instance. The new Signature Series of nearly 30 courses that reflect on the pandemic in the context of many of our classes also represents the kind of unique approaches that Centre is taking, setting apart the educational experience we will offer this fall from other places.

Come July 1, Susie and I will enjoy watching this all unfold, and we will remain eager to hear the stories of continued success and accomplishment - your stories! Until then, our sleeves remain rolled up, and we’ll push to finish strong.

I end this message with a message to YOU SENIORS.

WE WILL—yes, in all caps—we will (and now underlined) be together when conditions allow to celebrate your significant achievements. Until that time, God speed and all best wishes, but above all - CONGRATULATIONS!

My best,

P. Roush – John (and Susie, too)
With spring term classes and finals officially over, faculty are busy finishing up their work in advance of next Tuesday’s deadline to submit grades. Under normal circumstances, this would be Senior Week, with a series of events for the soon-to-be graduates and their families taking place over several days, highlighted by the Honor Walk, Baccalaureate Service, and the Commencement ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

While planning is still underway for an in-person Commencement once circumstances allow, efforts have been focused on a Senior Celebration 2020 event on Sunday to provide a special live experience just for the seniors and President and First Lady John and Susie Roush. This will include the premier of a special celebration video that will then be launched to the public following Memorial Day. Related information, including nearly 40 video congratulations from faculty and staff programs and departments, can be found on the Senior Celebration 2020 webpage:

- https://www.centre.edu/senior-celebration/

As scenario planning for the fall continues in earnest, communication with sister institutions has become increasingly important, as have more engaged interactions with local and state health officials.

The primary resource continues to be the other 15 institutions in the Associated Colleges of the South, with members of the senior staff meeting regularly with counterparts at their sister institutions.

Through Centre’s partnership with AIKCU, the Association of Kentucky Independent Colleges and Universities, the College is also involved in the “Reopen Higher Education in Kentucky” effort led by Gov. Andy Beshear. We are also keeping focused on plans for distribution of Gov. Beshear’s Emergency Education Relief Fund. CPE, the Council on Postsecondary Education, is acting as our advocate.

Finally, President John Roush has also been a part of several Congressional Town Hall meetings regarding federal stimulus funding with legislative leaders, including Senator Paul; Congressmen Barr, Guthrie, and Rogers; and Majority Leader Mitchell.

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**Development & Alumni Engagement**

- The Class of 2020 should be receiving their first care package from the College this week. The second care package from the Centre Alumni Association, along with their diplomas, will ship the first week in June.
**Student Health**

- The student health staff have collaborated with local resources, like the health department and the local hospital, while planning for the fall term. Staff have also been involved in conversations with others representing colleges and universities who are members of the American College Health Association and student health directors from the Associated Colleges of the South.
- The Health and Safety Subcommittee continues to explore areas described in previous updates and more for fall 2020 scenario planning. The recent focus has been on testing plans to determine the existence of or the non-existence of active COVID-19 cases on campus; planning for isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing; and how to protect certain populations. Some members of the health and safety group are working with ITS to develop a tool to be used as a daily temperature/health screen reporting tool.

**Student Life**

- Though little regarding this term can be called “normal,” the Student Life team has tried to bring a little taste of previous years to the students remaining on campus by holding a late-night study breaker breakfast Sunday night. As is traditional, breakfast items were served up to hungry students by staff and faculty members, including President and First Lady Roush.
- Housing selection for fall 2020 should be completed soon, with sign-ups occurring now for regular double rooms across campus. At the same time, we are working to transition to summer housing assignments for students remaining on campus, and for those students returning for a research project or a job.
- Finally, scenario planning continues for the two committees most directly related to our area: health and safety, and residential life and student engagement. Plans are being made for all possible scenarios, but include the common thread of providing a healthy and safe environment for all to study, work, and/or live on campus. Issues such as cleaning protocols, providing enough serving space in the dining hall for social distancing requirements, and wearing masks while in any shared public space on campus are all being addressed.
- The offices of Counseling, Diversity & Inclusion, and Admissions collaborated to create a helpful “transitions” document. Parts of this have been posted on respective Facebook and Instagram pages. The full document can be found here:
  - [https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/icsfs/mm/processing_life_transitions_(2).pdf?target=d96c30c4-3f11-4d3b-a424-0d8d2d6a8f16](https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/icsfs/mm/processing_life_transitions_(2).pdf?target=d96c30c4-3f11-4d3b-a424-0d8d2d6a8f16)

**Admission and Financial Aid**

- CARES Act emergency aid was distributed to over 600 students, based on financial need and work-study eligibility. Checks were mailed Monday, and recipients were notified by email. Individual amounts ranged from $100 to $1,325, intended to offset the unexpected expenses of moving to remote education this spring. Additional funds have been reserved
for students who were not automatically eligible but have legitimate expenses that pose a financial hardship; an application will be available soon.

- The admission and financial aid team continues to work to enroll the Class of 2024 as we approach our June 1 reply deadline. This week, admitted students received a graduation tassel in the mail, to mark their high school graduation and give us an excuse to highlight our own great outcomes for Centre graduates. Kentucky students who have committed to enrolling at Centre received a surprise gift this week: admission staff members are personally delivering handsome “Centre Class of 2024” yard signs to nearly 200 Kentucky students who have made their enrollment deposit. (Similar flags are being mailed to out of state students.)

**Centre Cares Reporting**

- Through the Centre Cares Reporting Tool, students, staff and faculty are able to share how they are doing, what is going well and what is a challenge as they study and work through the Covid19 pandemic. Mary Gulley, Kendrick Durham and Andrea Abrams receive the student forms; Julie Wheeler and Andrea Abrams receive the staff forms; Robyn Cutright, John Wilson, and Andrea Abrams receive the faculty forms. While forms can be submitted anonymously, we have made sure to follow-up with anyone who provides their names.
- Thus far, 55 student reports, 26 staff reports, and 14 faculty reports have been received. We have learned, not surprisingly, that students, staff, and faculty have felt overwhelmed and exhausted by the situation and have struggled with technology issues and work/life balance. Students have found it difficult to adjust to such an abrupt shift to online classes, while faculty and staff are especially concerned with childcare issues and budget uncertainty. Many feel disconnected from the Centre community.
- The Dean’s Office, Human Resources, Information Technology Services, and the Center for Teaching and Learning have provided strategies and resources to better navigate these unusual circumstances. Through on-line forums, staff, faculty, and students are able to have questions answered directly by President Roush, Dean Goldey, CFO Brian Hutzley, and Bob Nesmith, Dean of Admission.
- In June, a Caregiving Task Force will focus specifically on the needs of faculty and staff who care for children and others. The feedback from the Care Reports has contained bright spots. Students appreciate the ingenuity and flexibility of faculty. Faculty are impressed with the resilience and engagement of students. Staff admire the ways in which co-workers have pulled together. There are more needs to meet and more challenges to overcome.
- The Centre Cares Reporting Tool will remain available.

**Academic Affairs**

- The Dean’s Office is wrapping up the term and preparing for the fall CentreBlocks schedule. The Registrar has reconfigured the class schedule, and returning students will register for Fall courses from May 28 through June 3.
• A new Moodle course has been set up for incoming first-year students, providing a first-ever “one stop shop” for their orientation to the College, including information about placement tests, and course registration.
• We will be gathering data about student success in the just-finished spring term to gauge the impact of the shift to remote learning on student outcomes. As we have done for parents, alumni, faculty, and staff, we will also be hosting a student forum via Zoom on May 29 for current students to ask questions and share insights.

**Center for Global Citizenship (CGC)**

• The Center for Global Citizenship is currently assessing conditions for the remaining seven fall 2020 study abroad programs and will make a decision about them by June 15. We are in contact with ACS schools, our exchange program partners, and government agencies in the U.S. and abroad. The health and safety of our students is our primary concern in assessing the viability of these programs. In some cases, we can delay the start of the programs (either to later in the fall or in the spring), giving us more time to ensure a safe and academically rich context for our students.
• Year-end data was recently generated to determine study abroad participation of the projected 347 students graduating in 2020:
  o 291 studied abroad (84 percent)
  o 128 studied abroad 2 or more times (37 percent)
  o 34 studied abroad 3 or more times
  o 9 studied abroad 4 or more times
  o 26 were International students

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

• CTL is offering a range of synchronous and asynchronous opportunities to learn this summer. Please see [our summer programming website](#), which will be updated throughout the summer. This includes content on:
  o [Course Design](#) in online and hybrid environments, including a four-week asynchronous course for faculty and staff with teaching roles. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
  o [Technology](#) to support working and teaching remotely, including a live workshop every Tuesday. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
  o [Experiential Learning](#) ideas and initiatives for remote or hybrid environments. [Click here](#) for more information.
  o In addition to CTL-created content, please check out other opportunities, including a series of workshops just announced by Jenn Goetz on supporting students and diversity and inclusion. [Click here](#) for more information.
• CTL has also started thinking through classroom technology solutions in light of the different scenarios involved in planning for the fall.
**Norton Center for the Arts**

- Norton staff are busy evaluating industry recommended re-opening guidelines for performing and visual arts centers, including scenario planning, health and safety precautions, patron engagement, and service expectations.
- The inaugural “Live Zoom with Steve” event held May 19, featuring Centre alumnus and singer-songwriter Travis Lee Kern performing a song or two, along with current and past Norton Center student workers and patrons, was a success.
- Be on the lookout for the next GREAT STORIES blog post soon or click the link to read the most recent posts.

**Athletics**

- Jamey Gay, Head Athletic Trainer, along with the other members of the athletic training staff are in process of earning their contract tracing certifications from Johns Hopkins University. By becoming certified, Gay and staff can provide contract tracing and become case managers for our student-athlete population. As every major organization associated with sport has reported, testing and tracing will be key for the resocialization of sport.
- The Athletics COVID-19 Action Team, under the direction of Gina Nicoletti-Bellinger, continues it works of scenario planning for fall 2020.
- The Athletics Committee of the Scenario Planning Team continues to look at multiple options for fall 2020, but is moving slower to allow the critical work of the Athletics COVID-19 Action Team to occur.
- Recruitment of the current 2020 class continues to be one of the best on record—in quality and quantity—while work is ongoing for fall 2021 cycle.