

3-13-2020

## Message to Alumni March 13, 2020

Office of Communications

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### Recommended Citation

Communications, Office of, "Message to Alumni March 13, 2020" (2020). *Archiving Kenyon's COVID-19 Story in Words*. 9.

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## Dear Kenyon Alumni,

With COVID-19 on the minds of everyone, I would like to take this opportunity to share the precautions we have taken thus far on the Hill and for our alumni. You may have heard that we have decided to delay the return of students to campus from spring break through March 29. For the first time in our history, we are challenging our faculty to plan for remote instruction that week — a challenge I am confident they will meet through innovation and shared creativity. We have also decided to postpone all campus events through April 5, although given the rapidly evolving situation, both of these dates may change. We are heeding the calls for social distancing and pressing pause on all alumni regional events as well. Our Reunion Weekend May 22-24 is still on for now, but we will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide full refunds should cancellation become warranted.

The health and safety of our extended Kenyon community is our top priority as we navigate the challenges associated with COVID-19. We will continue, to the best of our ability, the College's core academic mission while protecting the wellbeing of those in our community here and off campus. I would like to personally urge you to please take seriously the recommendations issued by global and your local health authorities.

While this is not how we had envisioned spring semester would unfold, we know that the strength of our community will reinforce us during these uncertain times.

You, as alumni, are part of that community.

Many of you have asked how you can help Kenyon and its students at this time. We have already been able to support many students thanks to **gifts** to our Student Emergency Assistance Fund. We expect that need to increase in the coming days and weeks as we assist those students who have had to remain on campus through our extended break, respond to students with urgent travel needs, and meet any number of other as yet

We know that any plans we have made now might change. The safety of our community remains paramount. The distance between us does not alter the strength of our connection, as the coming months will bear out. Wherever you may be, you are in our thoughts. Thank you for keeping Kenyon in yours.

Sincerely,

**Sean Decatur, President**

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