



December 14, 2020

Dear Heidelberg Students:

Congratulations on finishing your fall semester classes last week ... Good luck to everyone on finishing your final exams, papers, and projects this week!

With that success, we want to acknowledge that 28 undergraduates and 9 graduate students will complete their degrees at the end of this term. That is fabulous! Under normal conditions, we would have celebrated these great academic accomplishments on campus a few days ago. Another COVID casualty. We will mail out your signed diplomas in January. If we are able to have in-person graduation ceremonies in May (and we want to), please join us.

I am happy to see that the Stoner Health & Counseling Center will launch *BergCare* this week. This new 24/7 service will provide medical and mental telehealth to all Heidelberg students free of charge until they return to campus next month.

I was disappointed to learn on Friday that the restoration and renovation of France Hall has been slowed due to some inside construction challenges. Those issues are being addressed. Unfortunately for the 70 female residents, the five Greek societies, and the two female faculty annex apartments, France will not be ready for occupancy in January. We will keep you posted.

Friday was also the deadline for students to update your current mailing address in OASIS to ensure that you get the mandatory return to campus COVID testing kits. Students are required to have a confirmed "negative" test to return to campus next month. This test will be at no cost to you.

While we are all excited about the start of the COVID vaccination process in our country, we must protect ourselves, our families, and our friends even more carefully now. It will be many months before the pandemic is under control. The risk is higher for everyone during these three winter months. The Ohio 7-day running positivity rate has declined to 15.1% (still not good) and there are other states with much higher rates. Please remain aware and guard your health!

We are looking forward to welcoming winter sport student-athletes, their athletic trainers, and their coaches back to campus on January 3rd. And then all students, faculty, and staff will return to campus for *MLK, Jr. Day ON!* to start spring semester on January 18th.

I wish everyone a strong finish to fall semester this week as we continue to celebrate this wonderful holiday season!

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington  
President