



January 25, 2021

Dear Heidelberg Students:

Alright, we made it through the first week of spring semester together. Congratulations!

It was a great start for lots of reasons. Classes, labs, special projects, music, theatre, sports, clubs, internships, jobs, etc. are all affected and constrained by COVID-19. But we are each doing what we can in all areas of our interest. The best part was seeing excited students back on campus. Whenever I said hello and asked, everyone said they are thrilled to be back here and that is wonderful!

Thanks to the effective leadership and passion of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and others, the Heidelberg 2021 MLK, Jr. Day ON! (WEEK!!) was a strong celebration of Dr. King's inspiring life. It was an excellent week of learning for all of us from start to finish. I was grateful to attend seven sessions. Among many highlights created by students and staff together, I have to express tremendous appreciation to Mr. Elrich "Pete" Green (HU '78) for his incredible presentation and conversation on "History through the Lens of Race" last Monday morning. That forum set our University zoom attendance record at nearly 250 participants across the country. Thank you so much, Pete!

It was also exciting to see our winter sports teams continue practicing (with lots of mandatory COVID testing all the time) and then start their shortened seasons this weekend. The women's and men's basketball games against John Carroll were broadcast. Welcome to the Berg bench and the OAC, Coach Rachel Ferri! The Wrestling team competed at ONU yesterday. Unfortunately, the Indoor Track & Field team could not compete at Mount Union due to COVID on the UMU team. We will keep practicing, testing, and competing in the OAC only going forward.

We have many significant events and opportunities for students at Heidelberg this term.

For the public launch of the *Lichtman-Behm Genocide Lecture Series* and Ohio Remembers program, storytellers Mr. Derek Niemann and Dr. Noemie Lopian from the United Kingdom will share a joint-talk titled, "Speaking Across the Divide," in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Dr. Lopian is the daughter of Holocaust survivors and Mr. Niemann is the grandson of an SS officer. They will share their family stories as a warning of the perils of

extremism and to inspire greater understanding. Derek will focus on the ease with which an ordinary person can descend into the service of a genocidal regime while Noemie will speak to why and how the Holocaust is relevant today and must never be forgotten. [Register here](#) for the webinar being held Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm EST.

Finally, I applaud the health of all Heidelberg students upon their return to campus and through the first week of ongoing testing. Our student positivity rate is only 1.5% based on the initial 1,200 student COVID tests. That compares very favorably to the current Ohio 7-day running positivity rate of 9.4%. Seneca County remains Red Alert.

We will start our COVID-19 random surveillance testing of student non-athletes this week in the Stoner Health Center. The Ohio National Guard will return to our campus for free COVID testing on Thursday, February 4th. All faculty and staff are required to be tested at that time. Our family members may join us too. This testing is also optional for all students.

Let us keep our campus healthy and successful together ... mask, distance, and testing!

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington
President