



March 1, 2021

Dear Heidelberg Students:

Hearty cheers to everybody on campus for getting us to the fourth "sometimes hard" month of winter as we head to the halfway point of spring semester while managing COVID successfully. Our cumulative campus positivity rate is holding at 1.2%. The Ohio 7-day running positivity rate has declined to 3.6%. Please access our *Berg COVID-19 Spring 2021 Dashboard* here www.heidelberg.edu/dashboard.

We celebrate and honor Women's History Month in America during March!

Good luck to our basketball teams as they start the OAC Tournament with the women playing at Ohio Northern tonight and the men hosting Wilmington here tomorrow night. When senior guard Brooke Beamer sinks her first shot, she will reach 1,000 NCAA career points!

Speaking of great student-athletes, Ms. Aileen "Ali" Sayre '13 (Political Science major with Legal Studies minor and hard-throwing softball pitcher) founded our annual Harry Potter event a decade ago. We celebrated *Harry Potter Fest X* all last week under the watchful eye of the Sayre Fireball Dragon in The HeidelBean! Despite the Dementor's COVID Curse on our castle, lots of students participated in the scavenger hunt, the Potter Trivia Night, and other fun activities. Thanks to Parkhurst Dining, 336 Student Prince witches and wizards enjoyed the Friday Feast in Hoernemann Refectory. I heard that the Butterbeer was quite tasty! Check out the Academic All-American Plaza at Hoernemann Stadium where Ali's distinguished plaque hangs permanently.

As I mentioned in this letter at the end of fall term, we want to host a live outdoor Commencement 2021 in May. Still do. A cross-functional planning team is working hard on that event. After Governor Mike DeWine announces his graduation event parameters soon, we will share our plans.

To get to that academic goal successfully and to support fall/spring sports which are starting now, we will maintain our rigorous campus testing schedule and all health protocols. This will include the return of the Ohio National Guard for free COVID-19 campus surveillance testing in March, April, and May. More details forthcoming soon.

I am very proud of all Heidelberg students for showing so much community care, individual grit, and shared resolve to be here together against significant adversity this year.

Let us keep our campus healthy and successful for everyone ... masking, distancing, and testing!

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington
President