

June Newsletter – June 9, 2026

Dear Members of the University Community,

I am happy to announce that I am returning to monthly communications from my office. The goal of this and forthcoming emails is to keep you informed about some of the important developments at the University and occasionally offer my perspective on areas of concern to the campus community. I hope that you will find these short reports informative.

A Successful Spring in Athletics: During the spring term, several varsity athletic teams enjoyed success. The women's golf team advanced to the NCAA Division III tournament, finishing 13th among 34 qualifying teams, with Natalie Catapano tying for 14th individually. The men's golf team placed fourth nationally, led by Aiden Tudor, who tied for 20th in the tournament field. The women's lacrosse team posted an impressive 14-4 record and reached the SAA conference championship, while the men's lacrosse team also advanced to the conference title game, finishing the season 12-6. In tennis, the men's team advanced to the NCAA Division III tournament, reaching the round of 16, and the women's team sent a doubles pair—Mariella Congeni and Ivy Wilson—to the NCAA tournament.

University Farm Makeover: The University Farm building is undergoing a significant renovation. Most noticeable is the work that is being done on the exterior of the building, which is greatly improving its appearance. The inside of the building is being fitted with new restrooms and climate control, new insulation, and updated plumbing and electrical that will make the building a more comfortable place to work. The set of improvements currently underway is the first stage of work to be done on the farm building. As the renovated space is put into use, the University will assess opportunities for additional interior improvements to further support the farm's operations.

University Ad Hoc Master Planning Work: In 2022-23, Sasaki and Associates engaged with the University community to prepare a master plan. The draft report that was written was never adopted by stakeholders and the governing boards, so an ad hoc master planning committee has been charged by the Board of Regents to finalize the master plan. Regent Elliott Harrigan, C'78, and I are co-chairing the ad hoc committee, which will complete its work by October 2026. The master plan will prioritize a list of projects to improve facilities over the next five years while identifying projects that need to be pursued in the following five-year period. To organize the work on many aspects of campus facilities, five subcommittees have formed to focus on academic facilities, athletic facilities, community (including housing and placemaking), student life facilities, and sustainability/accessibility/security. The master plan will inform fundraising efforts to support improvements in the University's facilities.

Summer Food Program for Surrounding Counties: The University's Office of Civic Engagement recently received authorization to implement a summer meal program for surrounding communities. The University will be reimbursed for approximately \$418,000 to cover the costs of providing nearly 100,000 meals to families in Franklin, Marion, and Grundy counties. To manage the delivery of food to various sites in the region, the Office of Civic Engagement will rely on the work of 16 Americorps volunteers, nearly all of whom are

University students. The summer food program is vital to continuing food delivery to low-income families in the region during the summer months when schools are closed. The program also helps to keep Sewanee Dining workers, who prepare meals, gainfully employed during the summer.

Employee Apartment Buildings: The official groundbreaking for the new apartment community on Highway 41A took place in April, and construction will begin in June. The construction phase is scheduled to be completed by the start of the fall 2028 academic term. Once completed, the 48 additional apartments will enhance the quality of University housing and expand the range of options available to rental pool occupants. On the [Sewanee Village Ventures website](#), you can learn more about the apartment project, including visual renderings of the buildings. Look for future announcements about this project and other housing initiatives led by Sewanee Village Ventures in the coming months.

The Vitality of Summer: Summer can seem like a dormant season for a university; the academic year is over, and students have graduated. (By the way, kudos to the many hands that went into splendid commencements this year!) Students may have graduated and some of our faculty and staff colleagues may have departed, but the seeds that they planted while here will continue to grow. As with the master planning effort described above, ideas are planted in the spring and cultivated over the summer. By fall, they begin to bear fruit and are then shared with the community for input and final refinement. This cycle of work calls for continued attention to communication of plans that blossom during the summer. I hope that newsletters such as these will help to keep people informed of the important work that continues during the summer and provide the basis for meaningful engagement and conversation about those developments.

Best wishes for a restful and productive summer,

Scott Wilson
Provost