

March 16, 2020

Dear Alumni,

As you know, the impact of [COVID-19](#) is being felt worldwide. While there are no known cases in Sewanee, we want you to know about the important steps being taken to safeguard the campus community and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

The University is currently on spring break so most students are not on campus. The difficult and heartbreaking decision has been made to extend spring break by another week and then move to online classes for the remainder of the semester. We are committed to our mission to provide a world-class education. Our students remain the University's number one priority, and faculty and staff are dedicated to upholding the exceptional teaching and learning standards that are the hallmark of a Sewanee education.

Since the announcement to cancel in-person classes, we have been overwhelmed by offers from alumni to help. Your generosity and willingness to serve are exactly what defines the Sewanee community!

We have identified several ways in which you can have an immediate impact:

- Provide immediate assistance to our students during this time with a gift to [Student Emergency Relief Fund](#). Your support will help with travel expenses, meals, technology needed for online learning, and other necessities. We are already using this fund to assist students as they adjust to spring semester changes.
- The Career Center has quickly moved to a remote assistance plan for all students and will create ways (soon) for alumni to help graduating seniors and younger students. We'll communicate their ideas later this month. Until then, please share job and internship postings via Handshake* and [email Sallie Hart Williams](#), C'06, employer engagement and internships coordinator, to alert her to the posting and the Sewanee connection. [*Handshake is used by thousands of employers to connect with hundreds of college and university career centers to post jobs and internships for students and alumni.]
- [Volunteer to contact accepted students](#). While many of our admission events for accepted students and on-campus visits by prospective students are being canceled for now, enrolling our new class remains essential to the continued success of Sewanee.

Unfortunately, we must cancel all of our alumni events through the month of April. This will include the *Stronger Truer Sewanee* campaign celebration, all Sewanee Club events, and the Perimeter Trail hike event. We will, however, be looking forward to engaging with you in other ways online.

Our hearts go out to everyone who is being affected by this health crisis.

Best wishes from the Mountain,
Susan

Susan Askew, C'86
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