

March 19, 2020

To the University Community,

It is with considerable regret that I must announce that Commencement 2020 will be postponed. The reality of COVID-19 as well as the uncertainty about its ultimate intensity and duration have forced this decision. I am sharing this news with the College Class of 2020 and their families by video this afternoon.

This decision affects both the College and the School of Theology Commencements. We are now planning to hold a College Commencement observance sometime later in the year in the hope that the scourge of COVID-19 will by then have passed. I cannot at this time say exactly what events may take place when. When it is known, I especially hope that as many faculty as possible will be able to be present to celebrate the Class of 2020 in this genuinely distinctive way.

The School of Theology is now planning to hold its Commencement in conjunction with the DuBose Lectures, Sept. 29–Oct. 1. Again, detailed plans will follow, but we hope you will also put these dates on your calendar.

This announcement, while it may come as no surprise, will cause genuine anguish in the ranks of our graduating seniors. The University will do its best to make these Commencements appropriately celebratory and memorable.

As planning continues, we will keep the campus community informed. Meanwhile, please accept my gratitude for your patience, your support, and your understanding during these truly remarkable times.

Sincerely,

John McCardell