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## Fwd: A Note from President Davis

1 message

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Tue, Mar 17, 2020 at 3:59 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **UCA President's Office** <[presidentsoffice@uca.edu](mailto:presidentsoffice@uca.edu)>  
Date: Tue, Mar 17, 2020 at 2:15 PM  
Subject: A Note from President Davis  
To: <[student@cub.uca.edu](mailto:student@cub.uca.edu)>

Students,

Today brought the first day of our transition to 100% online instruction as we adjust to the realities of COVID-19 and work to complete the last four weeks of our spring semester. I wanted to send you a note to let you know how much I appreciate your understanding and commitment to finish the semester strong despite these unforeseen and difficult circumstances. I also want you to know that I am disappointed that we are not able to carry out the semester as originally planned.

Our campus is disheartened to have our more personal relationships with you truncated so abruptly. Our faculty and staff are diligently working to make these last four weeks special, but do not think for a second that we are not all going to miss you terribly. Jenny and I were talking the other night about the quality of the students in our respective classes this spring. Our students have challenged us with enthusiasm, curiosity, and initiative. We are both going to harness as much of that energy as possible as we move our courses online ... but we still will miss key parts of the great relationships formed.

We are also sad that impactful occasions like The Big Event and other special student events had to be cancelled or postponed. In all of our campus and community events, the outstanding character of our student body shines as you pour yourselves into being active with your friends, helping your neighbors, and making your place better. When I talk with alumni, community members, and elected officials about our amazing student body, I regularly shower them with stories of how you are bold and channel your classroom excellence into leadership, service, and community impact. While I am encouraged by our student, faculty, and staff spirit of cooperation and determination during these strange times, I cannot wait to get everyone back on campus this summer and fall. There is something special about the relationships formed on these grounds and your collective impact that marks us as a great university.

I am also very disappointed that we will not be able to host our traditional commencement exercises on May 1st and 2nd for our spring graduates. Though work is being done right now to find other ways to mark the completion of your degrees (stay tuned for more on that), it is just not the same as hearing your name called and allowing us all to celebrate you as you walk across the stage and receive your diploma. I want all of our spring graduates to rest assured that I have directed that all of you may participate in our summer commencement exercises.

Finally, make sure that you eat well, get some fresh air, keep up with your readings and assignments, and check your email frequently, as it will be a primary method of communication. I remind you to check the [UCA COVID-19](#) site regularly for updated information. You should also link to our [Office of Student Success](#), as they are working with the Center for Teaching Excellence to assist students with issues related to going online with our studies.

Again, thank you for your patience during these extraordinary times. I am very proud of our students, faculty, and staff for your positive attitude and hard work in response to these challenges.

Sincerely,

Houston Davis  
President