

Dear Quincy University community:

Today, July 6, has been recognized for the past few decades as International Kissing Day. Given our current public-health insistence on physical distancing, it isn't surprising that the holiday didn't get much attention. Perhaps next July will be kinder to kissing.

This message is the fifty-second update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are a member of the QU community and have not read the previous update messages, you could search them out in your email folders or read them at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>.

The next Quincy University update will be emailed to you no later than Monday, July 13. An online town-hall meeting will be hosted on Wednesday, July 15, at 5:30 p.m. Information about the town-hall meeting will be emailed to you separately.

A total of 129 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 43 of whom are considered recovered. Some of these cases spread within households. There are four current hospitalizations in Adams County linked to COVID-19. One Missouri resident has died in Adams County of causes related to COVID-19, as has one Adams County resident.

There are now 147,865 COVID-19 cases in Illinois, 0.09% of which are located in the Quincy region. More information about COVID-19 cases in Illinois, including county-by-county reports, is available at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>. These QU updates on COVID-19 cases are taken from the public reports of state and county agencies.

There currently are 23,856 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Illinois and Missouri no longer have stay-at-home orders, but some restrictions are in effect for everyday life in both states. Out-of-state travelers to Chicago who plan to stay in the city for a time should read about the city's quarantine-on-arrival order affecting travelers from 15 U.S. states. No such order exists for other parts of Illinois.

For international students: Thank you for your patience as we wait for guidance from the U.S. Student Exchange and Visitors Program (SEVP) regarding the return of international students to campus. Earlier today, the U.S. federal government released initial guidance to universities for the return of international students to study in the US. We are reviewing the guidance and will be in touch with government officials to discuss situations facing our students. Some of the information contained in the

guidance is subject to interpretation and we want to provide you with the most accurate information available. By the end of this week, you will be contacted by someone at QU to provide information specific to your return to campus. The University continues to plan for in-person classes this fall. However, we recognize that some international students may be delayed in arriving on campus for the first day of classes. We will have scheduling options to accommodate you. Rest assured that faculty and staff will work with you to ensure a successful start to the fall semester. If you are an international student-athlete, expect a call or message from your coach with additional information pertaining to team activities.

International students should email Dominic O'Donnell at odonndo@quincy.edu to update their contact information. Once we have conferred with our U.S. government representative, having up-to-date contact information will ensure we can get instructions to you quickly and efficiently.

Regarding spring commencement, we will announce the new date for our **2020 Spring Commencement** later this week. The rescheduled commencement will be held in September 2020. We anticipate holding multiple spring commencement ceremonies on one day, so that physical distancing will be possible during each ceremony.

As we already have announced, the 2020 Winter Commencement will be held on Wednesday, November 25, the day before Thanksgiving. So that students and families can plan for the coming year, the academic calendar for Spring 2021 will be published this month.

Each of us needs to wash hands for 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer, and maintain a physical distance of six feet when we must be out in public. Washing hands thoroughly with soap is a better option than the use of hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer should be rubbed on one's hands for 30 seconds or more, according to the CDC. In addition to physical distancing, the CDC now recommends the use in public places of simple cloth face coverings to reduce COVID-19 infections.

If you are looking for campus news over the summer, you are encouraged to follow @Quincy_U and @Quincy_UMcGee on Twitter. Resources are always available at www.quincy.edu and at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>.

Tomorrow, President McGee, Dr. Tracy, and at least 40 other Quincy University employees will be participating in an annual Summer Service Day, which is intended to beautify and prepare campus before the arrival of our students. President McGee will be painting outside Helein Hall while lecturing on the finer points of *Star Trek's*

Prime Timeline as it differs from the Kelvin Timeline chronicled in the three most recent *Star Trek* movies. The painting work will likely conclude before the lecture.

Stay safe, hawks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development

P.S. A small statue of Victor E. Hawk has proudly taken up residence on President McGee's desk, where Victor dares students to greatness. This statue of Victor is over 40 years old and made of ironwood, one of the hardest, toughest woods in the world. Victor is said to guard the diplomas of recent graduates as they are signed in the brown ink of Quincy University. It is also said that rubbing Victor's head is good luck for any current or future QU student -- but only if the student regularly washes hands and uses hand sanitizer.

