

Dec. 9, 2021

Good morning,

Here are a few updates as we move into finals week and the finish of the fall semester.

Reminders:

- There will be two commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 18. The morning ceremony at 9:30 will be for fall 2021 graduates. The afternoon ceremony at 2 will be for spring 2020 and fall and spring 2021 graduates.
- The annual holiday reception for faculty and staff will be held in Lane Manicur Hall on Friday, Dec. 17 from 2 until 4 p.m. We'll hear from the Saxophone Ensemble, and the Outlandish Sweater Contest returns. Look for a reminder next week.
- The last three performances of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* are this Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Visit the Roper Gallery to see our students' exhibit, "The Voyage of Five Visionaries." You will be impressed. The gallery is open Sundays through Wednesdays.

Helping Others.

- The [Maryland Charity Campaign](#) is in its final week. Please join me in helping our local and state nonprofits. While they benefited from federal assistance earlier during the pandemic, there are no new funds.
- The Office of Civic Engagement is collecting unwrapped Toys for Happiness in its office, Lane 234, and at the holiday reception next Friday.
- Lastly, Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity is holding a food and clothing drive for the homeless today from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Lane Center.

Community Meeting. Members of the cabinet and I met with community leaders for an open listening session this past Monday evening. Following a brief update on campus projects and the capital campaign, we heard concerns about our anti-discrimination and hate-bias policies and procedures. The meeting ended with a commitment to review those policies and procedures early in the spring semester, welcoming input from the community and ensuring a full review through our governance process.

Board of Regents Meeting. I'll be attending the Board of Regents meeting tomorrow. As part of that meeting, VP for Regional Development and Engagement Al Delia will provide the Regents with a brief report on our regional development activities. We are one of five USM institutions that will be sharing information.

COVID Testing Reminder. As we wrap up the fall semester, rapid antigen tests will be available on our [normal testing schedule](#) through Thursday, Dec. 16, to all campus members.

Please continue to be safe as we finish up for fall 2021.

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President

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