

A SEMESTER WE'LL NEVER FORGET

UK students grapple with sudden reality of an online finish and the heartbreak of missing on-campus friends amid COVID-19 pandemic.

Kentucky Kernel COVID-19 Special Section

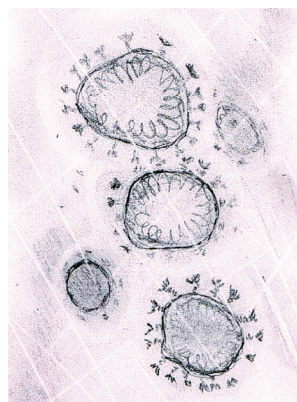
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: THE KERNEL GOES ON.

Like many other UK seniors, I sat through my last class before spring break wondering if it would be the last time I sat in a college classroom.

I don't remember much from the class—who isn't distracted right now?—but I can remember our professor's final farewell.

With that uncertain look that everyone seems to have these days, he dismissed us with the classic "I guess I'll see you all when I see you."

I've had to give our senior-laden Kernel staff a similar goodbye. Like the rest of UK's students, they're now spread across the city, state and country. With commencement delayed and calls for social distancing heeded, there's no way to know when we'll get to see each other again in person.

But that hasn't prevented us from putting out a final, remotely made print newspaper. After this paper, we're suspending the Kernel's print operation for the rest of the semester. We're hoping that as the students move off campus this week, that they can take this paper with them to remember a half semester cut short by an unprecedented global pandemic.

I'm not sure if at any time in the Kernel's more than century-long history has

the newspaper been forced to stop printing in the middle of a school year. But with students leaving campus and with local businesses barred from incoming foot traffic, the print Kernel no longer has a place to land.

Online, we'll be as busy as ever. The Kernel will continue to deliver its 24/7 daily online coverage and is going to ramp up our output of email newsletters so that no matter where you're waiting out this pandemic, you can still stay up to date on University of Kentucky news.

We're still going to be making a paper every week. It just won't be printed and will only be available in a digital format.

This pandemic will undoubtedly create new challenges for the university and its students that the Kernel, as the university's independent student newspaper, will be specially equipped to tell.

Continue to follow our coverage on kykernel.com and subscribe to our email blast and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

As this now online-only semester slogs on, our incoming editor-in-chief, Natalie Parks, will be assuming the top position on staff.

To my seniors on staff, I want to publicly thank you for the incredible job



you've done this year. I miss you all every day and I can't wait for the moment when we can all walk together across the graduation stage.

I'll see you when I see you.

Rick Childress is the 2019-2020 Kernel Editor-in-Chief.

ON THE COVER

A UK student moves out of their dorm on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at the the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky.
MICHAEL CLUBB | STAFF

'Where we need to be.' UK to stay online for rest of semester.

By Rick Childress
news@kykernel.com

University of Kentucky classes and instruction will remain online for the rest of the semester, an all-campus email announced on March 17.

The university previously planned to return from online classes on April 3, but UK President Eli Capilouto wrote that classes will remain online through the end of the semester.

"This is not where we wanted to be," UK spokesperson Jay Blanton said at a press conference after the email was sent. "But it's where we need to be to protect the health and safety of everyone in the UK community."

Residence halls will need to be vacated by noon on Friday, March 27, Blanton said.

Students can apply to remain on campus, but otherwise are required to return home. Blanton said a number of international students, who live on-campus but can't travel home, will be accommodated by the university.

"We need the vast majority of our students to make arrangements to move home to complete their studies this semester," Blanton said.

The university is also developing a process to refund students for housing and dining costs. Those details



UK spokesperson Jay Blanton speaks to members of the local media Tuesday, March 17, 2020, after it was announced this morning that UK classes will be online-only for the remainder of the semester due to the spreading of the novel coronavirus in Lexington, Kentucky. ARDEN BARNES | STAFF

will also be communicated at a later date, Blanton said.

The university is currently on spring break, with online classes slated to begin on Monday, March 23.

The semester completion date will stay the

same, Capilouto wrote. But the end-of-semester commencement ceremonies, typically held in Rupp Arena, are postponed.

"There will be a Commencement to celebrate the remarkable achievements of

our Spring 2020 graduating class; we will schedule it for a time when we are able to do so in a healthy and safe environment," the email stated.

"Nothing is off the table," said Blanton on how

the university might conduct a later commencement. He said the university hasn't made a decision yet.

Beginning Wednesday, supervisors and department chairs will have to determine which faculty and staff

should remain on campus for the rest of the week to ensure that certain critical operations still work. The rest will be asked to work from home.

Blanton said those critical operations included many of the healthcare workers, public safety employees, certain lab employees and the on-site staff needed to support the university's online classes.

Employees who do not support those critical operations will be asked to work remotely through the rest of this week and many of them will remain remote after this week. Department heads and supervisors are required to submit plans by tomorrow, Blanton said.

"We will be especially attentive to our employees who are at risk and our employees who care for family members at risk," the email stated.

Capilouto promised more information about how the rest of the semester will be managed.

"We are developing a plan for the operation of the campus that is equally sensitive to the needs of our students and the health and well-being of our staff and faculty," the email stated. "For many, remote work will continue after this week. Others will be reporting to campus continuously or on an ad hoc basis to support basic operations."

UK students exit dorms amid COVID-19 pandemic

By Sydney Momeyer &
Rick Childress

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UK students joined thousands of their peers in a nationwide exodus out of on-campus college dorms.

Citing guidance from the CDC and governor's office, UK gave students 10 days to

move off campus. Students who had no other housing options could apply to remain on campus.

Students had to move out of their residence halls by noon on Friday, March 27 and the sides of campus roads were lined with cars during the days leading up to the move out deadline.

Parents and younger siblings assisted students in hauling out side tables, lamps and in throwing out food that wouldn't make it on the journey home.

For some students like neuroscience, sophomore Cora Severs, the sudden move out was made harder by the fact that her par-

ents lived in Colorado and weren't able to fly out to help her.

She enlisted a few of her friends to help her move out of the Lewis Honors College dorms on Saturday.

Severs said she was "a little nervous" about the prospect of online classes for the rest of the semester and she said she was bummed that she didn't get a chance to say goodbye to her roommate before leaving.

Nick Campbell, a sophomore computer science major helping Severs move out, said he "wasn't surprised" when UK shut down the campus dorms for the rest of the semester and added that he'd been able to say goodbye to a number of friends.

Students had to make a move-out appointment on myUK.

Those who are moving out must remove all of their belongings from the dormitory and provide plastic bins or boxes for their move. Any items that remain inside the dorm after move-out will be thrown away.



UK sophomore Emma Wahlbrink moves out of her dorm room in University Flats with the help of her mother, Michelle, on Saturday, March 22, 2020, in Lexington, Kentucky. UK students will have classes online for the remainder of the semester due to the coronavirus pandemic.

ARDEN BARNES | STAFF

Students were provided steps for the move-out process via a UK email:

Step 1: Pack your belongings. Leave your car in the parking lot until your belongings are packed and at the loading area.

Step 2: Retrieve a cart, if needed. A limited number of carts will be available. Transport your belongings to the loading area.

Step 3: Check-out at the front desk.

Step 4: Bring your car to the loading area and transfer your belongings. (Please note there is a 30-minute time limit for vehicles in the loading area).

Step 5: Wipe down your cart with antibacterial wipes and return your cart to the lobby of your residence hall.



UK freshman interior design major Caroline Slicer packs bags into the back of a car for spring break on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at the the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. MICHAEL CLUBB | STAFF

UK offers childcare jobs to care for kids of essential employees

By Emily Girard

news@kykernel.com

In response to the closure of many childcare centers due to the coronavirus pandemic, UK STEPS is creating part-time childcare positions to assist UK employees and their families.

The program, located at various childcare centers around Lexington, will provide childcare to essential service employees. These employees, such as UK HealthCare employees and Information Technology employees, are still required to work despite other university operations

being shut down.

According to Dr. Erika Chambers, Work-Life Director for UK Human Resources, the program was developed to "support the child care needs" of UK employees "so they can continue serving the needs of their patients, our students and the community."

The positions offered include teachers and teacher assistants for classrooms of various age groups. The classrooms are divided into Infant/Toddler, Preschool and K-8 categories. Each shift is five to eight hours, with a total of 25 to 40 hours per week.

Specific requirements of employees will vary by classroom. However, all employees will be expected to perform childcare routines (diapering, eating, napping, etc.) "in a manner that is prompt, hygienic, and consistent with the good child development principles," explained

Chambers.

Interested applicants should visit <https://ukjobs.uky.edu/postings/275148>. Applicants must be CPR and first aid certified, and at least one year of childcare experience is desired. Currently, the posting offers no application deadline.

CLASS OF COVID-19

For UK seniors, the end of in-person classes marks the end of a beloved college life

By Natalie Parks
news@kykernel.com

Saying goodbye to classmates and professors. A chance to complete independent research and show work in the undergraduate showcase. Salads from Champion's Kitchen. A weekly ritual of watching Survivor with friends. The satisfaction of walking out of a final. One last March Madness at State Street.

Senior year is often described as a year of lasts, of endings and of special moments. For the Class of 2020, their lasts came earlier than anticipated as the coronavirus pandemic escalated in the United States and in Kentucky.

On Wednesday, March 11, the University of Kentucky announced that classes would be online for the rest of the semester and that commencement ceremonies would be postponed until they could be held in a "healthy and safe environment."

A friend texted the news to Kaitlyn Roe, a senior from Olive Hill, Ky.

"For a moment, I was silent," said Roe. "I just sat there holding my phone. I eventually burst into tears. I cried into my mother's shoulder and she did her best to comfort me. I don't think that I have truly sobbed like that at any point during my UK career. The tears didn't stop all day. I would just sit and

cry. I think that I'm still very numb to it all."

Roe, an English major, has been wearing a bracelet inscribed with the date of commencement since September 2019.

"The bracelet was a reminder of what I was doing it all for. No matter how happy you are, life can get stressful and we can feel defeated. On days when I feel my weakest, I look at the bracelet and remember how far I have come and what I have to look forward to," said Roe.

She said was initially drawn to UK because because it was bigger than anything she had grown up around.

"I was home schooled from the fourth grade until I graduated high school a year early in 2016," said Roe. "UK was always on my mind. It was my goal, my dream. I knew that going to college was something that I wanted, but I needed an adventure. UK is the only college that I applied to for this reason."

An ending no one could have predicted

Four years later, Roe and the—according to general UK demographic data—roughly 6,000 members of her graduating class are concluding their time at UK in a way no one could have predicted.

"I feel like the ending is honestly pretty fitting con-

sidering how the previous four years have gone," said Kait White, a senior in the College of Education. "It's truly been a wild ride from start to finish, and this is definitely a senior semester none of us will ever forget."

UK had originally planned for two weeks of online classes after spring break, but as colleges around the country closed and the World Health Organization upgraded COVID-19 to a global pandemic, UK decided to

move online for the entire semester.

"My first reaction was I thought that there was some overreaction," said Chancellor Lewis, a senior from Lexington. "I felt media was kind of helping to feed a scare, and I thought it was over-reacting but I must say my view has really changed on that."

A "hometown guy," Lewis said choosing UK was an easy decision because he could stay and develop his personal network. When UK's announcement

about online classes came out, Lewis said it helped settle things for him. His family decided it was best to stay home for spring break.

Lewis said he felt like many people, especially college students, were not taking the warnings seriously enough.

"They all have the right to make their own decision, but I think they need to remember it comes with a cost and they could potentially endanger their friends and loved ones, especially

their elderly family members," said Lewis.

The rapid developments over the last couple of weeks have left some seniors reeling from what feels like an abrupt ending.

"It's shocking for something so meaningful to end so unexpectedly," said senior Olivia Davis.

But she said that's just how she would describe her college experience.

"I never expected to find my passion and love my future career so much. I never expected to find sisters



UK freshman ISC major Sofia Espinoza moves out of Smith Hall for spring break on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. MICHAEL CLUBB | STAFF



Paul Yeary, a member of UK's custodial staff, sprays the doors in the Gatton Student Center with Virex spray on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, in Lexington, Kentucky. The UK custodial staff focuses on cleaning "touch points" like hand rails and door knobs and other areas that are often touched by students, faculty and staff. ARDEN BARNES | STAFF

as an only child. I never expected to find shoulders to cry on, people to lean on, or peers to laugh with so genuinely. Everything about UK was unexpected, but I wouldn't have had it any other way," said Davis.

The inability to say real goodbyes is a common regret among seniors.

"One last that I am particularly saddened about is the last moment I had in the classroom with all those in my major," said Ashley Bisschop, a senior English and communications sciences and disorders double major. "If I had known that that last day was going to be our last day, I would have hugged people harder and told more people how much I will miss them."

Roe said not getting to say goodbye to friends and roommates will be the hardest part for her.

"I truly wanted to meet with professors at the end of the semester to thank them. I really wanted to be there in person to tell them how much they have

inspired me," said Roe. "Now, I will write them letters."

Will senioritis affect online classes?

Online instruction began on Monday, March 23, what would have been the first day back to classes after spring break.

Seniors, already coping with "senioritis", said they anticipated struggles with online classes as they remain at home in isolation.

"I'm not concerned about my level of motivation, but rather my ability to focus," said Roe. "Life can get hectic and distracting at home, we get caught up in family and friends. UK was my place to find a quiet spot and read or write an essay."

White said she has sympathy for professors, who are quickly adapting their classroom strategies and dealing with the challenge of maintaining student interest.

"I feel like a lot of stu-

dents aren't really taking the time to appreciate just how much strain all of this is also putting on professors," said White. She said she has seen ideas about Zoom drinking games in her friend groups and that she is not surprised by that approach.

Amidst the transition to online classes, seniors are grappling with what this change means for their senior year.

"This has taken away my opportunity to have my 'lasts'," said Davis. "I was unaware that they were lasts when they were happening, but my last day of school on campus, my last date party with my sorority, my last in-person exam. They are things we take for granted but shouldn't have."

Roe said she was trying to stay positive and thankful despite the disappointment of a postponed commencement.

"I know in my heart that I lived UK life to the fullest, but part of me wish-

es I had just sat down and looked around more. I wish I had slowed down and enjoyed the little moments," said Roe.

In addition to closing out the semester, graduating seniors are adjusting to life in the time of a pandemic.

Life after college, in a worsening economy

Lewis lives with his parents, but living situations are up in the air of many other students, including his friends who work as resident advisers, he said.

"I would like to go back home to see my family, but I also would like to lessen the amount of contact that I have with people, so that is not an option for me right now," said Bisschop, who lives off campus.

Roe, who lived in the dorms all four years, went back to campus over spring break to move out. UK announced that all residents would have to move out by March 27, expect those who applied to stay because of extenuating circumstances.

White, who lives in an off-campus apartment, said she worries about making rent while her job is on hold.

"I work for the local school district, but I'm not on salary, meaning I'm not getting paid while school is out," said White. "So while I don't have to worry about moving out of the dorm yet, I am still stressed about how I'm going to make rent while effectively unemployed for the foreseeable future."

Unemployment rates are beginning to rise across the country as service industry businesses are told to shut down. Lewis was laid off from his job at a restaurant, the same restaurant where

he had planned to hold his graduation party.

"It's definitely going to have an economic impact on everyone," said Lewis. "This virus doesn't discriminate. It's going to affect all of us."

Lewis is already applying to jobs in hopes of helping his family through economic uncertainty. His father works for Toyota and his workplace is already shutting down some days. His mother works as a bookkeeper in a medical office, but elective procedures are being halted.

"I hate being home, I like being out and about and giving back to the community as far as doing something productive. I want to get out there and work because I want to help someone out," said Lewis.

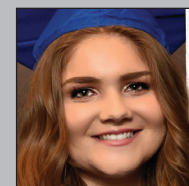
Plans outside of work are also being put on hold; Lewis and his family are re-considering a trip to South Carolina. Bisschop canceled a senior trip to Florida and White had planned on traveling to Europe this summer as a reward.

"That's definitely getting postponed. I'll probably push it back by a year and celebrate my first year of full-time employment instead," said White. She has a position lined up for August but will likely try to pick up something to get through the summer.

White said she was confident she could pull through the shifting economy.

"I'm an education major, so let's just say that I was never really in this for economic prosperity. It is alarming, but these things happen," said White.

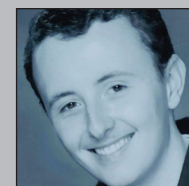
Like Bisschop, Davis and Lewis have plans for graduate school. Davis will attend Marshall University, and said her major will help



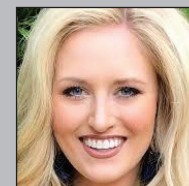
Kaitlyn Roe



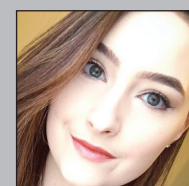
Kaitlyn White



Chancellor Lewis



Olivia Davis



Ashley Bisschop

her navigate the economy.

"The benefit of my degree is that it is medical," said Davis. "People will always need the medical field. Not only that, but that jobs for speech pathologists are in high demand."

Last week, Lewis accepted a position in a UK master's program in Com-

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The cure for COVID-cabin-fever: Nature!

For the rest of you, I'll see you on the trail from six feet away.

Wash your hands, avoid crowds, and please, don't call it the 'Chinese Virus'

The attitude of a country is, in many ways, reflected by its leadership. All eyes are on a President who has repeatedly denied his own clear racism, and

See WASH on page 11

Running: The perfect pandemic panacea

By Sarah Michels

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Restaurants, stores and universities are quickly being emptied in Kentucky, giving them an eerie atmosphere reminiscent of a zombie-apocalypse. However, the state's parks, livelier than ever, are a different story.

As an avid runner, the masses of runners, walkers and bikers that are suddenly sharing the typically vacant paths with me is startling. As I pulled into E.P. Tom Sawyer's busy parking lot yesterday, I wondered if there was an event going on that I hadn't heard about.

But then I remembered—all events are cancelled.

The New York Times

published a feature on this crisis-borne exercise boom, saying that running is "the perfect sport for a pandemic." I'd have to agree. All you need are a pair of shoes, a little bit of motivation and a whole lot of patience. You can do it absolutely anywhere and anytime (although I'd recommend daylight hours for safety purposes).

I encourage everyone who has spent the last week bingeing way too many Netflix shows and quarantine snacks to give running a try. Even if you've convinced yourself in the past that running just isn't meant for you. I promise, it is.

First, running will make you healthier. Without daily walks to class or gym sessions, your body will

thank you for getting moving again. What's more, light or moderate running boosts the immune system's ability to fight off infections such as Covid-19. If you do get coronavirus, it may be milder or shorter in duration with a stronger immune system.

Whether it's a short jog or hard distance run, running has many mental and emotional benefits besides the obvious physical ones. According to a Runner's World article, running as little as 150 minutes a week, a little over 20 minutes a day, can have an effect similar to an antidepressant. When you run, your body releases hormones called endorphins that can help your body and brain create a stronger resistance to stress.

In the midst of the current COVID-19 crisis, when many are experiencing more stress, anxiety and/or depression than normal, running could be the perfect cure.

Running could also be the perfect excuse to get out of the house. Moving back in with your parents and siblings can be exasperating at times, and a little bit of solo exercise can give you the opportunity to work off your frustration in a constructive way.

Even if you live alone with no one to bother you, a break from screen-time is still a good idea. As a journalist, I always encourage keeping up with the news cycle, but it's likely the current inundation of negativity in the news has built up an unbeneficial

level of worry and stress that needs to be worked out of your system.

A little fresh air can do wonders.

In addition to all the aforementioned benefits of running, simply getting outside serves as an important reminder—despite humanity's turmoil, the natural world still goes on as normal. When every aspect of our lives seems to be changing too quickly for anyone to adapt, the birds still sing, the creeks still run and the sun keeps shining.

That's one benefit of running that your usual gym treadmill (or as us runners call it, the "dreadmill") run could never give you.

Now is the perfect time to start running, or get back

into it if you have some past experience. Visit your local parks—they're still open. Even if you have to stay six feet apart, the communal aspect of all the runners, walkers and bikers exercising on the same paths and roads is still much better than staying home alone without human connection for weeks.

If you decide to follow my advice, don't forget to wave hello to and encourage other runners. They may be just like you—trying to find some happiness and peace amidst a life-changing global pandemic.

And who knows? Maybe when this is all over you'll have finally discovered that elusive "runner's high" everyone is always talking about.

This is no overreaction

By Thomas Hart

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In the past few weeks the situation with COVID-19 seems to have spiraled from a distant issue into an unreal worldwide disaster. Travel has been banned, UK and other schools have switched to remote teaching, and now people are buying up all the toilet paper in stores.

For those who personally don't know anyone infected with the virus, all the new changes may seem like an overreaction, one propagated by media hype and public fear. Though I would agree this is true for the toilet paper thing, COVID-19 should not be dealt with

lightly. This virus is unique in its ability to spread and cause disease, and the measures our schools and countries are taking are not overreactions.

To see why COVID-19 is such a big deal, I think it's helpful to examine it in the light of two other diseases: SARS and influenza.

From 2002 to 2003, a different coronavirus caused a disease known as SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) which led to an epidemic that began like our current one. Like COVID-19, SARS started in China, spread to other countries, and claimed many lives. But despite having a lower death rate

than SARS, COVID-19 has already proven to be more serious.

In the span of about a year, SARS affected 26 countries, infected over 8,000 people, and killed 774. In just the past few months, COVID-19 has spread to well over 100 countries, infected over 190,000 people, and killed over 7,500.

One reason our governments and institutions have taken such radical action to combat COVID-19 is that it spreads so efficiently. SARS was a more aggressive disease, with more obvious symptoms that made it easily identifiable and stopped. The COVID-19

virus, on the other hand, can spread almost secretly through mildly symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals. This rapid spread, coupled with a risk of death in the elderly or those with underlying conditions, makes COVID-19 like a more well-known disease: the flu.

Every year in the U.S. alone, the flu kills thousands. The CDC estimates that during the 2018-2019 influenza season, the flu resulted in 35.5 million cases, 490,600 hospitalizations, and 34,200 deaths in the U.S. alone. As the coronavirus hype grew, many people compared COVID-19 to the flu, making the point that way more people die from

flu than have died from COVID-19.

This is an important point to make, but we shouldn't downplay COVID-19. Let's be clear: the flu is bad. That's why doctors emphasize so strongly that you get your flu vaccine each year. But flu plus COVID-19 is way worse, and this coronavirus has the potential to become just as bad as the flu. It spreads faster and is estimated to be more deadly. The only difference is that the flu is already here. It's in the population, and we deal with it coming back each year. COVID-19 cases only number in the thousands now, but the fear is that if we don't contain the

disease, it could overwhelm hospitals and become a seasonal virus on top of flu, revisiting us and overwhelming hospitals every year.

All these changes, bans, and social distancing rules really suck, but we must remember the sacrifices we make now are not just for ourselves, but for our whole community, for the stability of our healthcare system, and for our future. Until we have vaccinations and antiviral treatments to help us combat this disease, the best things we can do are cooperate, keep our hands clean, avoid contact if we can, and please, leave some toilet paper rolls for everyone else.

COVID-19 shines a light on U.S. healthcare and paid-leave disparities

By Brianna Stanley

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Yesterday, I risked a Target run. As I scanned the aisles, I felt the nags of guilt that have become the norm as we navigate this time of government-mandated social distancing.

Am I being selfish?

Is it morally fine as long as I keep a 6-foot distance?

A woman at the end of my aisle, face mask pulled down around her neck, accosted the sole employee with a demand for hand sanitizer — a common cry of our times. He shook his head and apologized that they were out.

Personally, I've been given time to adjust to this crazy COVID-19 world, yet it still feels surreal. Among my fellow students, there is anxiety as

we look into an increasingly uncertain future, but it's interspersed with levity as we laugh at wholesome Andy Beshear memes (praising the empathetic, quick response of our governor) and gratefulness for this time of mandatory rest.

Many don't have this privilege.

According to a 2019 Federal Reserve study, 40 percent of Americans would be unable to come up with \$400 to cover an emergency. Low-wage workers often cannot afford to heed the CDC's call to stay home and social distance or are often forced to take unpaid leave or seek other employment as their businesses shut their doors.

These are not distant people with distant problems. The poverty rate in

Kentucky is 18.3 percent, meaning that one in every 5.5 individuals lives under the poverty line in our state.

The U.S. does not have national standards on paid family and sick leave, which is absolutely ridiculous when compared with the rest of the world. According to the WORLD Policy Analysis Center, 94 percent of countries have paid sick leave; that's not just out of the developed countries, but all of them.

This incentive to remain at work puts these lower-income workers at a greater risk of contracting the coronavirus, and, if they do begin to show symptoms, these are many of the same workers who also cannot afford healthcare insurance or the co-pays so many plans re-

quire.

According to a 2019 Census Bureau report, 8.5 percent of the American population (27.5 million people) lacked healthcare insurance in 2018. Currently, testing is free for COVID-19 but the cost of treatment falls to the individual — a huge deterrent to getting tested in the first place.

COVID-19 is not the cause of these issues in our safety-net systems, but it does bring them to light.

Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act on March 18. This act provides workers diagnosed with coronavirus with two weeks of paid-leave, among other family-leave provisions. This bill is a needed emergency response, but many individuals will still fall

through the cracks (e.g. it doesn't apply to private businesses with under 50 employees, or more than 500 employees).

This is a short-term measure that temporarily addresses only the issue at hand, and only for some. Americans will continue to get sick, to have children, or otherwise need time off work for mental and emotional health. We need a system that allows us to be healthy, during a pandemic and otherwise.

Working within our current framework, the state's response has been laudable. From boxed lunches at bus stops to the dulcet tones of our governor at 5 p.m. daily, I am proud of the steps we're taking. However, I also dream of a commonwealth where greater financial

security, which has cascading positive effects on health and emotional security, is available for all. It's possible — just look to the 173 countries who were so much better prepared due to their pre-existing universal healthcare and paid-leave systems.

When COVID-19 is no longer a threat, we shouldn't forget what it was like to live with this insecurity and fear for our futures that so many lower-income Kentuckians experience daily. I hope that through this crisis our collective empathy grows, and that it will be reflected not only in our interactions individual to individual, but in our support for policies and leadership down the road that create a more secure, fair, and sustainably healthy society.

SENIORS

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munication Sciences and Disorders.

"That's slated to start in June, we'll see if that happens. We're hoping that the virus is settling down by then, but that's the plan," said Lewis. "I'm staying at UK for a while, that's for sure."

Roe also hopes to return to UK, where she has planted roots, for a master's degree.

"I have always been more geared towards worrying about what makes me happy, rather than what makes me the most money. I have faith that the Lord will provide a way for me to live my dreams,"

said Roe.

Heartbreak after a postponed commencement

One of those dreams was to walk across the stage at Rupp for graduation. As a homeschooled student and first-generation college student, Roe's family has never gotten a real chance to celebrate her academic achievements, she said.

"I hope and pray that it's rescheduled for a later date and not just combined with December," said Roe. "I feel like the Class of 2020 is capable of rallying and dedicating a weekend to our accomplishments this summer or fall."

For many of the seniors, the postponement of commencement is more about their loved ones than themselves.

"With the ceremony being pushed back, I have family members who can no longer attend and that in and of itself is saddening," said Bisschop. Because of the postponement, her siblings will have to change flights and her grandmother, who has a compromised immune system, will no longer be able to attend.

Davis said the postponement was devastating to her and her family.

"I think it is hardest on my mother because she never got the chance to walk across the stage and receive her bachelor's degree," Davis said. "So, me being able to walk across the stage was a big deal for her. I wanted that chance to represent my family on the stage and let them say, 'That's my daughter, she did it.'"

Roe said she and her mom walked

around campus before moving out so she would be able to take senior pictures. It's "overall heartbreak" for her family, Roe said.

With classes online and commencement postponed, the mood among seniors is mixed.

Lewis said his friends are trying to lighten to mood with memes and potential Zoom meet-ups.

"If you don't laugh, you're going to drive yourself crazy," he said.

Roe said her friends are numb.

"No one is angry. We all respect the decision to cancel everything. I think we are all just still in shock. I don't think it will feel real until May comes around and we aren't there," said Roe.



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WASH

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for some, this will only serve to confirm and encourage their own prejudiced actions. Our leadership should never partake in activities that further racial divides in our country, but the actions of our administration are especially damaging in the delicate times we currently face.

In the words of Governor Andy Beshear, this is an unprecedented time in which the world has been told not to

come together in the face of uncertainty, but to stay apart.

As a half-Korean myself, this situation feels personal. Life as an Asian American is already complex in terms of identity, and my heart aches knowing that feelings of "otherness" have only intensified for many Asians during this crisis. We don't need to further divide across our borders and within our own country. Now is not the time to target Asian people or attempt to continually shift the blame. The coronavirus threatens all of us—not just Asian people—and our actions need to reflect unity.

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sports

Basketball stars get national honors after season comes to screeching halt

By **Kernel Sports Staff**
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After the NCAA basketball season came to a screeching halt, a UK women's hoops player and a men's player received national recognition.

Kentucky women's sophomore guard Rhyne Howard was named a First-Team All American by the Associated Press Thursday afternoon. That makes her the first player in program history to receive first-team honors by the AP.



Kentucky sophomore guard Rhyne Howard pumps the crowd during the Kentucky vs. Mississippi State women's basketball game on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, at Memorial Coliseum in Lexington, Kentucky. Kentucky won 73 - 62. LUKE TAYLOR | STAFF

After being named SEC Player of the Year last week, UK men's sophomore guard Immanuel Quickley was listed as an All-America honorable mention by the Associated Press.

Quickley averaged 16.1 points per game, led the team in made three-pointers with 62 and averaged a team-high 42.8 percent three-point shooting. He also shot an impressive 92.3 percent from the free throw line on the season.

Howard was also named SEC Player of the Year, and was named SEC Freshman of the Year in 2019. She led the Cats and ranked second nationally with 23.4 points per game, grabbed 6.5 rebounds per game and 62 steals.

"Rhyne is the definition of an All-American and one of those rare players that impacts the game in absolutely every statistical category," Wildcats head coach Matthew Mitchell said in a UK press release. "She's so much more than a prolific scorer. She has zero weaknesses, which makes her the most dynamic player in college basketball."



Kentucky sophomore guard Immanuel Quickley goes up for a shot during the game against Tennessee on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at Rupp Arena in Lexington, Kentucky. Tennessee won 81-73. JORDAN PRATHER | STAFF

Defensively, she makes incredible plays that you just don't see every day and her effort on the boards is exceptional and a difference maker. Even considering her statistical prowess in every category, her most special quality is her

ability to come through in the clutch. There is no player in America who I want to have the ball at a crucial time more than Rhyne Howard. She is a true All-American and we're proud of all she has and will continue to accomplish."

All sports activity canceled through at least April 15; NCAA, SEC to re-evaluate then

By **Kernel Sports Staff**
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The NCAA plans to give Division One spring sport athletes eligibility relief in light of the cancellation of all winter and spring sport

championships, according to Jeff Goodman of Stadium on March 13.

Goodman also reports that the NCAA is looking into athletes who participated in winter sports as well.

On the same day, the Southeast-

ern Conference extended its ban of athletic activities until April 15. That suspension includes all practices and meetings.

The official Inside the NCAA Twitter account tweeted a statement from the Division One

Council Coordination Committee, which believes "eligibility relief is appropriate for all Division-I student athletes in who participated in spring sports." The statement also said that the exact details of the so-called eligibility relief will be final-

ized at a later date.

The Committee also banned all in-person recruiting for all Division One coaches through at least April 15th. That date is when the Committee will evaluate what to do next.