



Message from the President  
March 31, 2020

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Dear Campus Community,

As cadets and faculty pause during this most unusual spring break, I want to thank you again for your strong sense of purpose and tenacity during these challenging times. As we collectively respond to the COVID-19 virus, please take into account guidance on travel available from various agencies on our [COVID-19 information web page](#) and on physical/social distancing from [Dr. Bruce Wilbur of our Student Health Center](#).

Our faculty's successful transition to virtual instruction in many classes has gone smoothly, and the huge team effort by academic departments, librarians, and IT technicians is helping many cadets work toward the successful completion of several spring semester courses. Thank you all for persevering through trying and uncertain circumstances and for delivering a high-quality instructional experience. For those awaiting the return to face-to-face classes on campus, I want you to know that we continue to work with MARAD, the U.S. Coast Guard, the CSU, and state and local agencies to facilitate a safe and health-focused resumption of those courses as soon as feasible.

What does this mean for the roughly 700-plus cadets who must return to campus to resume instruction? As of March 31, the following **best-case schedule** is under consideration.

**All dates are tentative, and a decision to implement this plan will not be made until April 20 at the earliest:** cadets return to campus on May 1 for health screenings and residence hall re-entry; instruction resumes Monday, May 4; classes and final exams conclude Friday, May 22. Commencement would be held Sunday, May 24, and training cruise in GOLDEN BEAR would depart on Tuesday, May 26, with a tentative conclusion on Friday, July 24.

What if the best-case schedule cannot be implemented? As of March 31, the following schedule is undergoing review as a primary alternative. **All dates are notional and are being provided to give insight into potential courses of action should COVID-19 begin to abate later than early May:** for example, cadets return to campus on Thursday, May 14 for health screenings and residence hall re-entry; instruction resumes Monday, May 18; classes and final exams conclude Friday, June 5. Commencement would be held Sunday, June 7, and training cruise in GOLDEN BEAR would depart on Saturday, June 13, with a tentative conclusion on Saturday, August 8.

As for the 2020 training cruise, you can expect a complete re-write of the cruise itinerary. We have arrived at this decision based upon the recommendation of the Cruise Planning Committee. While we do not have a detailed calendar yet, this year's training cruise will take place exclusively along Eastern Pacific – and will include no foreign ports. Similarly, the planned

International Experience trips have been recast as virtual courses – and therefore avoid undue risk in international travel. In both cases – training cruise and International Experience – our intent is to keep all participants on track to their projected graduations.

As you already know, our dual priorities of campus community health and successful completion of the spring semester are driving decisions on our ultimate schedule. As we continue work toward a resolution of our summer plans, the latest information on those and other topics may be found at <https://www.csum.edu/web/alert/covid-19> . You may also find this site helpful in understanding the progression of COVID-19, as we monitor it closely to tailor our planning: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/projections>.

As we address the unique challenges of the COVID-19 virus head-on, I'd like to once again thank our faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work, our cadets for your determination and resilience, and our extended family and supporters for their continued encouragement and understanding. Enjoy your spring break... safely.

In Service,



Thomas A. Cropper  
President