

**From:** [SEAS Dean's Office and SEAS Office of Undergraduate Education Staff List](#) on behalf of [Kemper Lewis](#)  
**To:** [SEAS-BONNERSTAFF-LIST@LISTSERV.BUFFALO.EDU](mailto:SEAS-BONNERSTAFF-LIST@LISTSERV.BUFFALO.EDU)  
**Subject:** From the Dean: The Climb  
**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2020 1:57:06 PM

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Dear SEAS Faculty and Staff,

As you are well aware, we have some significant challenges ahead of us as a school and as a university. But anything worth doing is uphill and so as we climb this hill together in SEAS, I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve the School as Dean. In addition, the depth of leadership across the university starting with President Tripathi and Provost Weber has been unmistakable which brings me great optimism about the future.

I wanted to share some information with you that I hope will be helpful.

- **Monday Minute with the Dean.** Today, I am launching [Monday Minute with the Dean](#) where you will find short videos, released each Monday, where I share some targeted communication with SEAS faculty and staff.

- **COVID-19 Planning.** Recently, we formed three SEAS Task Forces that are working on scenario planning for the fall 2020 semester for 1) our educational programs, 2) our research enterprise, and 3) faculty and staff affairs and wellness. We are aligning these task forces with the broader UB planning process where we have SEAS representation on many of the university-wide planning committees. I am grateful for those of you involved in one of our task forces and/or one of the campus planning committees.

- **SEAS Rankings.** As many of you have heard, SEAS and many of our departments rose in the recent USN&W Rankings. SEAS rose 4 spots to #59 and is the #2 ranked public engineering program in the Northeast. The other rising ranks: Aerospace +3, Civil +3, Electrical +4, Industrial +4, MDI (Materials) +8, and Mechanical +8. Collectively, this is great news! Moving forward, we will continue to identify strategic opportunities and will remain committed to consistent excellence towards elevating our departmental and school rankings even further.

Despite the challenges in front of us, our leadership teams, faculty, staff, and students are continuing to innovate and create opportunities for SEAS to be even stronger and better positioned when we emerge from the pandemic.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Warm Regards,  
Kemper

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