From: Tennessee Today
To: svanzand@tennessee.edu
Subject: Campus Update for April 13
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 4:26:11 PM

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

A Message from the Chancellor

Dear colleagues:

Last week, I resumed one-on-one office hours using Zoom. In one hour, I connected with a student about a refund concern, an incoming faculty member about his excitement to join UT, a political science lecturer who is with his family in Kuwait, where his wife is recovering from COVID-19, and a few others.

As our physical distance continues, these direct conversations with faculty, staff, and students have never been more important. I want to hear about how you're doing, the challenges you're tackling, and all the ways your important work is continuing even in these unusual circumstances. Let me know how we're doing and share your ideas for how we can work more effectively in this new normal.

Zoom office hours will continue for the rest of the semester every Tuesday at 3 p.m. You will find the link on the campus calendar. I hope you'll consider joining me sometime in the next few weeks to talk about whatever is on your mind.

Donde Plowman
Chancellor

Student Emergency Fund Applications Open

Applications are now open for students seeking relief through the

Student Emergency Fund, which provides assistance to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund is administered through the Office of the Dean of Students and students can apply on the Dean of Students website.

Peer Mentors Help FUTURE Students Transition Online

To help UT's 20 FUTURE students transition online, about 100 peer mentors are filling about 35 shifts daily, finding new ways to serve their academic and social needs. FUTURE was founded in 2011 as part of a federal grant to promote inclusive education, and those enrolled in the program earn a vocational certificate.

Video: Best Buddies Won't Be Stopped

More VFLs Drop In on Unsuspecting Classes

Last week, Lady Vols legend and WNBA All-Star Chamique Holdsclaw and Assistant Vols Football Coach Tee Martin, who was the quarterback of the 1998 national championship team, became the latest famous alumni to surprise UT students by dropping in on their classes.