Dear Alumni and Friends,

We will all remember 2020 as a year of challenges and disruptions due to the pandemic. Midway University transitioned to remote learning and work last March but resumed in-person classes and residential operations this fall. Our number of active cases has remained low throughout the semester largely due to the safety protocols we implemented including wearing of masks, social distancing, reduced residence hall occupancy, and alternative dining options. We remain cautiously optimistic about the remainder of the semester.

Despite the emergence of COVID-19, Midway University reported a fifth year of enrollment growth and a record incoming daytime class.

Several new construction and renovation projects were completed over the last year, without incurring any debt, to support our tremendous and rapid growth. We invite you to read more about our growth as well as our academic and athletic successes.

Thank you for your support and interest in Midway University.

Sincerely,

John P. Marsden, Ph.D.
President

Enrollment Growth Continues

Midway University once again had record enrollment in the undergraduate class for the fifth consecutive year and the largest ever incoming class of 283 undergraduates. This resulted in a daytime undergraduate enrollment of 687 students. The University’s total enrollment, including all evening and online undergraduate and graduate students along with dual credit students, was 1,810 compared to 1,702 in 2019 and 1,668 in 2018.
FACILITIES UPDATES

All new construction and renovation projects were completed without incurring any new debt. Midway University thanks all who helped make these projects possible to support the University’s recent growth.

Hunter Field House
The Hunter Field House officially opened its doors this fall. The building includes an auxiliary gymnasium, locker rooms, coaches’ offices, weight room and elevated walking track. Although primarily used by the athletic teams, the gymnasium provides more space to host events on campus.
The finishing touches have been put on the Tracy Farmer–Don Ball Stadium and the Dick Robinson Field. The MidwayU baseball team has been enjoying fall workouts and scrimmages.
Starks Hall Rededication
In February 2020, the Learning Resource Center was rededicated as Starks Center. When the building was constructed, it replaced the long-standing Starks Hall, named by John Price Starks in honor of his father, James Madison Starks, a former trustee. John Price Starks was also a trustee of the Kentucky Female Orphan School and behind many of the school’s building projects and plans during his tenure. The Board of Trustees voted to return the Starks name to the building to continue to honor the Starks family.

Ann J. Bowling Welcome Center Opens
The Marrs Hall renovation project was completed over the summer and consolidated administrative offices in one building. The second floor is now home to the Ann J. Bowling Welcome Center which is a one-stop shop including the Admissions, Business and Financial Aid Offices. The lower level renovations include office suites for Finance, Human Resources and Marketing. The main level includes the Office of the President, Advancement Office, and the Arthur Young Lloyd Board Room.

Marshall Gymnasium Gets a New Look
The Marshall Gymnasium floor was sanded and fully refinished over the summer with a new look of blue stain accents around the perimeter and MidwayU graphics.
New Majors and Minors

This fall students have new majors and minors from which to choose. New majors include a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health. Minors added include Finance, Entrepreneurship, Human Resource Management and Leadership. Human Resource Management was also added as an area of concentration to the Master of Business Administration program.

Marsden Elected to CIC Board

President Marsden was elected to the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Board of Directors earlier this year. The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) is an association of nonprofit independent colleges and universities that supports college and university leadership; advances institutional excellence; and enhances public understanding of private higher education’s contributions to society. Membership includes more than 700 colleges, universities, and organizations.

Gorham Named Botkin Professor

Dr. Jeb Gorham, Associate Professor in Sport Management, has been named the Botkin Professor for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years. The Botkin Professorship was established by the Midway University Board of Trustees in honor of Dr. Botkin, President of Midway College, from 1985 to 1998. To be considered for the professorship, faculty must submit a proposal detailing a research project they plan to conduct with student(s). The focus of Dr. Gorham’s project is three-fold and proposes research and partnered action plans to identify, build, and steward a network of trails (hiking, mountain biking, etc.) in Kentucky for multi-use tourism.

MBA 4+1 Program Introduced

Students who are nearing completion of their undergraduate degrees and meet the criteria are now afforded an opportunity to begin earning their MBA while still an undergraduate student. The MBA 4+1 allows students to take two upper level business courses as electives that count towards their total credit hours for their undergraduate degree and as courses for their MBA degree. This means students save more than $3,000 in future tuition and it potentially allows them to complete their MBA degree within 12 months after graduation. This is a great value and savings of time and money and helps make our graduates more competitive in the workplace.
Congratulations to the Western Team for winning the region which earned the team a direct bid to the nationals. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, nationals were cancelled this year.

Women’s Basketball Wins Division
MidwayU’s Women’s Basketball Team came on strong to win the Western Division of the River States Conference.

NEW SPORTS
The Midway University eSports team began its inaugural season this fall. A gaming arena was created on the lower level of the Little Memorial Library especially for the team. Midway University fields teams and competes in League of Legends, Overwatch and Rocket League. Also new to Midway this year is swimming. The swimming team practices and competes at the Falling Springs Recreational Complex in Versailles, Kentucky.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER
The Athletics program earned a fourth consecutive Gold Level NAIA Champions of Character Institution designation for demonstrating progress in pursuing character-driven athletics. The Champions of Character Scorecard measures growth in training, promotion, conduct in competition and commitments in five key areas with a possible maximum score of 100 points.
The Midway University community came together in grand fashion on September 17 to support #GiveMidwayU, our annual Day of Giving. Thanks to an outpouring of support, we not only reached our goal of $15,000 — but we surpassed it, raising more than $33,000 for student scholarships. The investment of these generous dollars helps make a difference in the lives of MidwayU students. If you missed the Day of Giving, please consider a donation to support the important work we all do to ensure the success of our students. Go to www.midway.edu/giving. Your gift will be invested in our students and appreciated by all.

Day of Giving

For colleges and universities everywhere, raising money on an annual basis is critical. It helps keep the doors open. It enables them to provide quality programs and instruction. It positions them to offer financial assistance. Midway University is no different. Our annual giving program is the cornerstone of all our fundraising. It is the bread-and-butter of what we do. It also is the most challenging effort. It takes a lot of money to operate a university. That is why the Midway Fund – formally known as the Annual Fund – is so vitally important. Raising money enables us to help cover those additional costs. It is an investment in the students who benefit from the generosity now, but it also is an investment in the future. Think about the education you received and how well it prepared you. Think about the friends and relationships you made, many of which still are sustained to this very day. Aren’t these the type of investments you would like to make? Consider this. Someone you never knew made an investment in your educational experience. Please “pay it forward” and do the same today. No matter the amount, it impacts lives.

Plan Now for the Future

Planned gifts are a great way to support Midway University, now and in the future. If you already have MidwayU in your will and/or estate planning, please let us know. Those who support us in this fashion are recognized as members of the 1847 Society.

The Spotlight Awards will be held on May 20, 2021. For sponsorship or ticket information, please contact Tim Culver at 859.846.5300 or tculver@midway.edu.
Midway University was featured in the Summer 2020 issue of Keeneland Magazine. The article highlighted the evolution of the school and recent successes of enrollment growth, the transition to co-education, and expansion of athletic facilities.

The Story of Midway University
How the Kentucky Female Orphan School Became Midway University
Robert R. Botkin, PhD

Midway University was featured in an August issue of the Woodford Sun highlighting the institution’s COVID-19 response and continued enrollment growth.

New History Book Published
President Emeritus Dr. Robert Botkin’s book on Midway University was published earlier this year. Copies are for sale in the Eagle Outlet at www.midway.edu/eagleoutlet

$39.95 + shipping.