Dear First-Year Students,

First of all, welcome to the University of Chicago! I am delighted that you will be joining our intellectual community in the fall – even though I wish it would be under different circumstances.

To foster connections under these difficult conditions we have asked the faculty of the eight Humanities Core sequences to select a book of summer reading that loosely resonates with the materials covered over the coming academic year. While it is not part of the required readings, the selected titles will undoubtedly provide topics for many conversations inside and outside the classroom.

Since I imagine that some of you may want to read not only the summer reading selected for your sequence, I am sharing the complete list:

**Readings in World Literature:** Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron*

**Philosophical Perspectives:** Ursula LeGuin, *The Dispossessed*

**Greece & Rome:** Alice Oswald, *Memorial*

**Human Being & Citizen:** Ursula LeGuin, *The Dispossessed*

**Reading Cultures:** Eve Ewing, *1919*

**Media Aesthetics:** Eve Ewing, *1919*

**Language and the Human:** Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric*

**Poetry and the Human:** Kevin Coval, *A People’s History of Chicago*

University of Chicago’s Barnes & Noble Campus Bookstore will be sending you instructions to access an electronic copy of your summer reading selection in the next few days. Look out for an email from “bookstorecustomercare.”

Let me end by wishing you all the best for the remaining weeks of the summer. May you remain healthy and in good spirits! Wear a mask and socially distance when appropriate!

Best wishes,
Christopher J. Wild, Ph.D.
Germanic Studies, Theater & Performance Studies, and the College
Master of the Humanities Collegiate Division and Deputy Dean of Humanities
University of Chicago