Dear Student,

Welcome to the University of Chicago’s 2020-2021 academic year! The College is delighted to welcome the Class of 2024, new transfer students, and returning undergraduates in what remains an unprecedented time for our community and the world.

As I reflect on the events of 2020, I am immensely proud of you and the entire College community. Character is defined in the decisions we make. The choice to continue your education during the uncertainty of COVID-19 reflects an admirable determination, resilience, and commitment to learning. Not only does it represent one of many reasons we appreciate having you as a member of our distinguished community of scholars, but it also signals why we are confident you will be successful in achieving your academic and personal goals.

This year, the connectedness of our community will contribute greatly to our individual and collective experience. I encourage you to explore ways in which you can interact with faculty, participate in virtual and in-person University and College events and activities, and contribute your time, talent, and unique perspective to maximize your intellectual journey and that of your friends and peers. Together, we can ensure you and all College students enjoy the transformative education and experiences that distinguish the University of Chicago.

As a starting point, please consider attending events and activities the College has planned to support and celebrate you as part of our community. Exemplary opportunities follow.

- **Academic Opportunities Fair**, Sept. 30, 3 p.m.
- **Student Activities and Resource Fair**, Oct. 2, 2-5:30 p.m.
• **2nd Annual Black Convocation**, Oct. 3, 12 p.m.
• **Virtual Family Weekend**, Oct. 16-17

In addition, this video message as well as the [College website](#) will provide an overview of the opportunities available to date.

Over the next weeks, my office will communicate additional opportunities for enhancing your intellectual and personal development. In the meantime, on behalf of all of the staff in the College’s Dean of Students’ Office, my sincerest best wishes for a successful Autumn Quarter.

Sincerely,

Jay Ellison, PhD
Dean of Students in the College