Dear Students,

I write with some positive, hopeful news about the spring semester. We have a lot of confidence in our plan for an on-campus spring. While we expect that COVID will be with us for a while, testing and treatment continue to improve such that we anticipate being ready to welcome students back to campus in January. We are also seeing steady improvement in the Memphis public health climate. Our team is hard at work planning for everything from housing to dining to regular and ongoing testing.

There are several things you need to know:

- Our <u>spring calendar</u> has been redesigned to minimize travel. We heard your concerns about the need for a break, so we have built in a short Easter Break. We expect that you will not travel during the semester except for any college-approved activities.
- We will need to remain low-density in our residence halls, so single rooms will be the norm. Additional rooms will be set aside as isolation and quarantine space.
- Classes will be a mix of in-person and remote to help keep campus lowdensity and to protect faculty and staff who are at risk. This also means that if you prefer to have a completely remote semester we can provide that for you.
- Testing will play a big part of our strategy. Our spring strategy relies on fast, accurate, and frequent testing. Whether you are living on campus or in Memphis, you will be tested regularly and need to cooperate with subsequent quarantine, isolation, or contact tracing. We will all have to mask up and follow public health guidelines that restrict gatherings. Broad support and buy-in for our health and safety plan is essential.

Dr. Harte Weyant will soon be sending out detailed information about the spring semester. You will be asked to notify us if you would like to live on campus (first-year students are required to live on campus unless they are living at home.) We will also need to know if you intend to have a fully remote spring experience.

Your resilience and care for each other continues to amaze me. I can't wait to see you back on campus.

I am sending you blessings in the form of a <u>video I made for you</u> and an <u>essay I</u> <u>wrote</u> this summer. I would love to hear the ways you are growing stronger and

wiser and your own "true question."

Best,

Marjorie



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