



ARTS & SCIENCES

September 2018

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segment 8B - GSAS Alumni

Dear [REDACTED]

The question that has guided me the most since I became Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences is this: What do democracies need from their universities? In order to thrive, democracies need talented people and the power of knowledge, and our mission is focused on making a difference in these two ways. Philanthropy and our Arts & Sciences community make this possible.

At the heart of the enterprise are our people—especially the students we teach. To better prepare them for 21st-century lives, we launched the New College Curriculum last fall thanks in large part to alumni support. Through a redesigned first-year experience and increased emphasis on writing, quantitative thought, and ethics, we are building a second-to-none liberal arts education for our students to flourish. More than 500 first-year students took courses in last year's pilot, and we have expanded to 800 students this semester.

In addition to the students we teach, we are also investing in the faculty who teach them—and whose research, scholarship, and artistic practice helps the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences advance knowledge, inspire minds, and transform lives.

From brain science to environmental resilience and our new democracy initiative, we are seeking significant funding for faculty teaching and research, for program development, and for our Graduate School. These investments will move us forward, distinguish the University from its peers, and expand our place in the world. More importantly, it will allow us to empower the next generation of UVA leaders and help us find solutions for some of the world's greatest challenges.

To sustain our momentum, Arts & Sciences needs your continuing financial support—no matter the amount. The difference that gifts from alumni and parents make to our progress cannot be overstated. More than 15 percent of our annual budget comes from philanthropy. I ask that you please consider making a gift to the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences today.

On behalf of the exceptional students, faculty, and staff of the College and Graduate School, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your generosity.

Sincerely yours,

Ian Baucom

Ian Baucom
Buckner W. Clay Dean of Arts & Sciences

P.S.: Your gift is a tangible way to support our new curriculum, our programs, and the world-class faculty at the College that helped make your time on Grounds exceptional. Please consider making a gift to Arts & Sciences today.