Dear Parents and Families of Students in the Class of 2023,

As we prepare for students to return to campus for the spring term, there have been some changes to the semester schedule to ensure that we are doing all that we can to keep everyone safe as omicron surges. Those changes can be found on our class blog, although there are a few that I want to bring to your attention: Drop/Add will be held from January 20 to February 9, thereby allowing for a full virtual week of Drop/Add prior to the start of classes. Classes will begin on January 27, with remote learning both on January 27 and 28. Please note that there will be a one-week spring break (March 12 – 20) this term given the logistical changes.

The spring of junior year is truly a wonderful time for students to find their academic home and delve into the requirements of their major, plan for meaningful summer activities, study abroad when possible, and start thinking about the senior year. For example, your student should consider whether they will pursue an honors thesis next year, as this semester is a good time to line up an advisor and pursue funding, particularly if they want to conduct research over the summer. Students should also consider whether they want to pursue the per credit option, which allows students who have completed all of their other degree requirements to take only the second half of their thesis course in their last semester. You might also encourage your student to begin thinking about their post-college plans, as they want to apply to the BA/MA program or fellowships. All of these opportunities require solid planning, so it is never too early to begin putting things into place, whether by talking with their advisor, the Gordon Career Center staff members, or me.

I will be writing again around mid-semester; please don’t hesitate to be in touch with any questions or concerns. The Keep Wes Safe website and our class blog will continue to be helpful sources of information.

Take good care and be well,

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