

Dear students,

The new academic year is about to start, and whether you're returning to campus or arriving for the first time, you will be shifting gears soon and adjusting to the transitions ahead -- in living arrangements, in your studies, and, for some of you, in the New England weather. Even though I am beginning my fifteenth year on the faculty, I am in the middle of a great transition, too, and I could not be more excited. Since becoming dean, on July 1, I have relocated my office to SSS, and I have unpacked box after box in the dean's residence, just beside the Whale. My wife Aisling Colón, our daughter and son Emerson and Ellison, and our two labs Parker and Joey are my happy partners in all of this work. They are just as excited as I am for the year to start.

Other transitions around campus are awaiting you. The most spectacular one is Sterling Memorial Library, which is emerging from its scaffolding after a year-long renovation of its nave. The space, now filled with light, has been completely redesigned and cleaned. This renovation is stunning, so be sure to visit Sterling as soon as you're settled, and plan to spend time here during the year. In the residential colleges, we have some new faces: Calhoun's new master is Julia Adams, Professor of Sociology; Timothy Dwight's new dean is Sarah Mahurin, Lecturer in English; and Silliman's new dean is Jessie Royce Hill, Lecturer in English. We have interim directors at two of the cultural centers: Amanda Hernandez at La Casa Cultural and Christopher Cutter at the Native American Cultural Center. In November, we will be welcoming a new Chief of Student Health and Athletic Medicine, Dr. Andrew Gotlin.

There's also been a transition in the leadership of student life: Earlier this summer, the student life organizations of Yale College and the Graduate School united under the leadership of Secretary and Vice President for Student Life Kimberly Goff-Crews '83, '86 J.D. With this new unified leadership, I will continue to provide strategic direction and set priorities for student life in Yale College, and Marichal Gentry, newly appointed Associate Vice President for Student Life, will continue to support students within the college. This summer, Vice President Goff-Crews, Graduate School Dean Lynn Cooley, and I began the work of integrating resources used across the university, among them the Resource Office on Disabilities, the Office of Gender and Campus Culture, and the Office of Undergraduate Career Services, now renamed the Office of Career Strategy. We will keep you up to date as we continue with this work.

But first things first: Colleges open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors on Wednesday, August 20, and two days later the freshmen arrive. President Salovey and I will be on the Old Campus and in Silliman and TD that Friday to say hello to everyone. Whether you're moving in yourself that day or you're helping carry boxes up the stairs, I hope to see you out there and shake hands with you as we start this year together.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Holloway
Dean of Yale College
Professor of African American Studies, History, and American Studies