July 2020

I hope this message finds you and your extended family doing well. In light of the disruption caused by COVID-19, much of what we know and expect about daily life has changed. However, our commitments to our community of scholars and our network of local schools and organizations have not wavered. Our community has been deeply impacted by the pandemic and by the senseless murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and others. We have been uplifted and inspired by the peaceful protests for racial justice in America.

Though we cannot physically be together during this time, we remain fully engaged with our community of scholars. In June, our Alumni Associate, Aaron D'Oleo, hosted a "community circle" on Zoom co-facilitated by PUPP Scholars and Alumni—offering space for them to share their feelings, fears and hopes in light of recent events. Our scholars and alumni have also shared their passion and leadership engaging with local movements to address injustice in their communities.

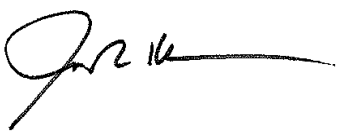
Back in March, PUPP shifted all of our operations to a "virtual mode," including our weekly after school sessions and excursions. We hosted group viewings of plays and virtual trips to landmark museums around the world. We have found that our scholars appreciate greatly the opportunity to engage with their peers for intellectual discussion, cultural enrichment and simple acts of care and compassion. In addition, we are keeping an eye on changes to standardized testing, the wave of test-optional admissions announcements, as well as news about our return to "normal" as we plan for the summer and upcoming fall semester.

We endeavor to host **a small ceremony in August to honor our PUPP Class of 2020**. Our Class of 2020 will still participate in a "transition to college summer course" developed and implemented virtually, in collaboration with Princeton University's Freshmen Scholars Institute. In the fall, they are set to attend a broad range of outstanding colleges and universities, from Bates to Dartmouth, Gettysburg to Princeton, as well as Rutgers, Richmond and The College of New Jersey.

Our **20th anniversary PUPP Summer Institute** has been re-imagined, slightly, as an online experience. It features the same range of rigorous academic courses and enrichment activities, all through an online platform. The institute is a mix of traditional programs and activities, alongside innovative solutions to address our remote community, with classes running from June 25th and through August 7th. In the week prior to the start of the institute, we distributed school supplies and course materials—including Chromebooks, calculators and backpacks for new scholars, and new items to facilitate participation from home, like a desk fan, laptop "desk/pillow" and yoga mat! Our "virtual Opening Ceremony" is available on our website. Please take a look when you have the time.

Please feel free to reach out if you have questions or concerns about PUPP and our community of scholars—jklugman@princeton.edu.

Very best regards,



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