Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to enclose Bates’ Class of 2017 profile. Included are some highlights from the past year at the college – an invigorating time and pivotal moment in the history of Bates.

For starters, A. Clayton Spencer was installed as Bates’ eighth president in October 2012. Clayton brings a wealth of higher educational experience to her dynamic leadership, along with an unmatched perspective to her presidency. She came to Bates from Harvard, where she most recently served as vice president for policy for four college presidents. Well suited to Bates, Clayton is extraordinarily bright, yet down to earth, and we are so fortunate to have her at the helm. Students, faculty, staff, Bates families and alumni all find her approachable and accessible. To get a sense of Clayton’s aspirations for Bates and the future of the liberal arts, please see bates.edu/president for videos of her inauguration and events surrounding her installation.

On a more personal note, as Clayton finishes her first year as president of Bates, I am completing my first year as dean of admission and financial aid. I am proud, beyond measure, of the Bates Class of 2017’s academic talent, extracurricular engagement, and rich diversity. This is the academically strongest class in recent Bates history, and the most geographically, racially and socio-economically diverse ever to matriculate at Bates.

Our legacy of inclusion, social justice and academic excellence continues to guide all that we do at Bates, including our admission and financial aid practices. We strive to make Bates affordable for all families and are proud to maintain our commitment to meeting 100 percent of students’ calculated financial need — for all four years. In fact, Bates seniors graduate with loan debt that is significantly lower than the national average, and our graduates’ loan default rate is zero. These facts speak to the value of Bates’ liberal arts education.

I invite you to peruse the enclosed statistical profile of the Class of 2017 and to visit our prospective student website, bates.edu/2018, for more information. In addition, please contact the Office of Admission deans and counselors listed on the back of the profile with specific questions or comments on behalf of your students, families and colleagues.

From all of us at Bates, best wishes for a rewarding school year!

Leigh A. Weisenburger
Dean of Admission and Financial Aid

bates.edu
At Bates, I’ve had opportunities that would never be afforded to someone so young at other colleges. For example, as a first-year student I worked as a research assistant with a professor in the psychology department, studying how contaminants and other environmental changes shape evolutionary responses. Prior to joining the Bates faculty, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, in Massachusetts.

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At Bates, I’ve had opportunities that would never be afforded to someone so young at other colleges. For example, as a first-year student I worked as a research assistant with a professor in the psychology department, studying how to detect and reverse racism in young children. I also received a grant from the Harward Center for Community Partnerships to help run a summer camp that serves primarily Somali refugees. These opportunities have formed my college experience into something exceptional.

— Philosophy and rhetoric major Alex Bolden ’15 of Cleveland, Ohio, directed the 2012 Sankofa MLK Day Production, an exploration of African diasporic experiences through performing arts.