From Dean of Undergraduate Studies Jeffrey Wolcowitz …

**Congratulations to our 2014 CWRU Graduates – and to all the rest of us!**

Commencement is just around the corner (on Sunday, May 18, in case you don’t already know), making this the perfect time to congratulate the students receiving their undergraduate degrees on all that they have accomplished. We also want to wish them well as they set out on new paths of employment, graduate study, travel, volunteer work, or perhaps just a continuation of the process of developing plans for the future. In some sense, this last path is one that we all stay on throughout our lifetimes.

As Case Western Reserve graduates, you can be proud of all you have achieved academically. You have completed SAGES requirements to develop skills that will serve you well in a variety of areas in the future, breadth requirements so that you have an appreciation and a respect for the broad range of human endeavors, and a major aimed at developing a deeper knowledge of a particular area of study (and sometimes more than one major, but that went beyond what was required of you). Some requirements may have proven to be less fun than others, but we hope that you now understand why we asked you to do those things. And you have persevered, be it through long hours of study, preparation for difficult exams, or the occasional all-nighter to complete a paper on time. We hope that you were able to draw on many parts of your CWRU education as you completed your capstone project.

Many of your accomplishments came through participation in various on-campus organizations: performance groups; intercollegiate, intramural, or recreational athletics; the Greek community; cultural organizations; and other fun and/or serious affiliations. For some, the most memorable and cherished part of the CWRU experience was the opportunity to pursue an international experience, whether participating in a formal study abroad program, completing a Nursing capstone abroad, or providing service through Engineers Without Borders. Many of you provided service to others in our local community so that they too can overcome setbacks and achieve at levels more consistent with their potential, and some of you went farther afield, travelling to communities in distress or that could benefit from a few more helping hands.

The friendships developed as undergraduates with roommates, teammates, sorority sisters, and partners in the completion of an important project can last a lifetime. They will need to be nurtured, like all relationships, particularly as you scatter to different corners of the world. But it is important to remember that you have something unique and very special in common: your experience at CWRU. The Alumni Association will be there to remind you of that fact and to facilitate your staying connected.

As we congratulate the graduating seniors and wish them well in their next endeavors, this is also a good time for all of us to pause and appreciate how lucky we are to have the range of opportunities, affiliations, and friendships that Case Western Reserve offers not only to its students, but also to its faculty and staff. This is a remarkable community of teachers and learners at all stages of life and in all sorts of positions within the University. Being part of this community is a great gift, but also a great responsibility to use what we learn to make the world a better place. So, congratulations and thanks in advance for everything the graduating seniors will accomplish in the future. We look forward to celebrating your future achievements. And congratulations to the rest of us, as well, for the opportunities that CWRU affords us.

*Let me know what you think. You can write to me at jeffrey.wolcowitz@case.edu.*