

*We are so excited for you as you set off on this journey and have so many things to say, we thought it best to try to write them down so that you can use them or ignore them on your own time. First and foremost, we love you and we're so incredibly proud of you. It's hard to put all this down without some structure, thus the picture and the necklace. I think of them as who you are and how you'll become who you will be.*

*We love this picture of you because it captures who you are: a person with the world at her feet. But not by accident—your accomplishments and accolades come from dedication and hard work. Whether in theater, where you put in the time and effort at voice training and playwriting and over time made progress and earned the rewards, or in school, at FACT Camp or App Camp, in lacrosse or so many other places, you have learned that goals are achieved through effort and dedication. And I think you've seen so many instances where the process of achieving goals is enjoyable and rewarding in and of itself: you make new friends, learn about yourself (“I like playwriting more than being on stage!”), and have amazing experiences that you would not have predicted or discovered otherwise. The understanding that achievements result from setting goals and working towards them is knowledge that will serve you well as you go forward in life.*

*There's another important aspect of this picture: all the people surrounding you. Remember that the people you associate with—by choice or by default—can lift you up, magnify your strengths and help you to achieve your dreams. It's important to nourish those relationships and build your village because just about everything you do will be better with a village: people to share your triumphs and commiserate with your disappointments.*

*“Crescat Scientia; vita excolatur” and UChicago are such a perfect fit for you as you stand on the threshold of your past and your future. Your boundless curiosity has already led you to so much knowledge and experience. And as your knowledge grows from more to more, you'll have countless opportunities to enrich human life: your own and others. The hardest part for you will be—as it has always been—choosing among amazing opportunities.*

*This necklace symbolizes how your past and future are related. Renewal means that your past helps you to build your future, not limit it. Think of us as your first set of roots: we're in deep with you and we'll always be there to help you grow, stay upright and go further. Your new experiences and relationships will help you put down more roots in new places that will enable you to branch out even further. You already know that growth can be exhilarating and also challenging, and we want you to remember that you have the stability, patience and balance to handle the ups and downs that come with that.*

*So take advantage of this incredible opportunity to try new things, learn new things, meet new people, have adventures great and small. It won't always go smoothly, but you already know that. And as you've already learned, the rewards of working through the hard parts are more than worth it. As you said so beautifully in your application essay, being a Maroon means not having to choose which version of Gabi to be. The best Gabi is the one who's all those things, and the future Gabi will be all of those things and more.*

*We love you so much and we're so grateful to be on this journey with you!*