

## FROM THE CHANCELLOR

*Dear Alumni and Friends:*

*Much has happened since Petie and I arrived on campus this summer! We welcomed the College's largest freshman class ever and shared in the students' joy - and a bit of trepidation - about this new phase in their lives. Many of them are the first in their families to attend college and it is heartwarming to hear students express gratitude for the excellent educational opportunities that UVa-Wise affords them.*



*We've also welcomed hundreds of alumni and friends to campus for our 50th anniversary celebrations. You will find many smiling faces in the photos in this issue - maybe even yours! The moments we've shared, from the great stories to easy laughter, have reminded us all what a unique place this is.*

*To further verify that uniqueness, a new book, **No Ordinary College: A History of the University of Virginia's College at Wise**, is just out. Professor Brian Wills has written a wonderful testament to the innumerable persons who have helped shape the college. I recommend it to you. When you think that only 50 years ago we started with 109 full-time students on the old county poor farm and today have grown into one of the best public liberal arts colleges in the nation - you have to stand amazed and proud.*

*As we wind up our 50th celebratory year, our collective enthusiasm and commitment for the college's future only grows more robust. The University of Virginia's College at Wise has many great years ahead. Petie and I are privileged to be with you as we begin number 51!*

*Wishing you a joyous holiday season and Happy New Year!*

*Ernest H. Ern  
Chancellor*