

Hello Class of 2024,

First off, welcome to the University of Virginia. I know your college experience is very different than how mine first started but you should still have an open mind and try to make the most out of your time here. Online classes and social distancing may hinder some aspects of college life but you only have 4 short years here and I can attest that it goes by so quick so make sure to use your time and do things you are passionate about. Find your community at UVA and cherish the times you spend with your fellow Hoos.

I'd say my time at UVA has been a place where I have struggled and overcome adversity but also where I have made so many everlasting memories. One of the things I am most grateful for is finding a community within OYFA. I am not Filipino, but I was accepted with open arms into this organization and have grown a lot as a professional and as a person. I learned a lot about myself and about Filipino culture and I can't reminisce on my time at UVA without ever bringing up OYFA. I had so much fun dancing, singing, bonding, and making everlasting memories and it has been a pleasure being part of OYFA's board and council in order to give back and sustain the organization I call my home.

I encourage you to try as many new things with your time at UVA and especially find a place where you can make new friends and new memories. I am confident you will be able to find a home, just as I did, and wish you the best of luck with your first semester and the rest of your years at UVA.

Sincerely,

Class of 2021