I know this semester is different than you planned, with many classes being online and clubs meeting either virtually or socially distanced. I'm sure you came to UVA with expectations that unfortunately do not line up with the current situation we are in. However, I want to encourage you in these difficult times and let you know that we are so happy to have you here on grounds! Your professors, peers, club leaders, and upperclassmen friends are so glad that you have chosen to come to UVA, even amidst such strange circumstances.

I want to let you know that this situation is only temporary and that you have so many fun memories waiting for you in the next four years! I encourage you to join a club, hang out with your hallmates, and enjoy some of the exciting courses you are taking. Personally, I have made many memories here at UVA through my involvement with First Year Players (FYP) and Cru. FYP is a theater group that I joined as a first year and have met all of my best friends through. I'm even living with FYP members right now, as a fourth year! FYP truly gave me a family as I started my time here at UVA and I always know that they have my back. Another group I am involved in is Cru, a Christian ministry on grounds. I have met some of the nicest people through Cru and continue to be inspired and uplifted by this organization every day. No matter what you're interested in, UVA has so many wonderful and welcoming organizations that can help you find a home and a family here on grounds.

I know this semester can seem tricky, but we will get through this time! I wish you good luck in your classes, clubs, and friendships this semester. You are going to do great!!

Sincerely, Katie Morse, Class of 2021