

Hello, Class of 2024!

WELCOME TO UVA! I'm so excited to welcome you to our home. This is a place where so many memories and friendships are made, and I hope you are able to experience the same enjoyment I have been able to have here. It is sometimes difficult to fit into this place, and it may feel at times like you are alone but I promise you that you will find your people. UVA is so diverse and is home to SO many different communities. I know this year may be difficult because you are facing a hardship coming in that no class has ever had to face. However, we are here for you and will be there for you every step of the way. Something I have learned here is that UVA may be intimidating, but we are all struggling in our own way and there will be people to help you. This community cares. You just have to put yourself out there and find the place where you feel most comfortable. There is so much happening in the world, and at times UVA can be isolating yet there are always people who care and want you to be at UVA! You are the next generation of HOOs and we need you to keep the heart of this school.

Everything is going to be different this year, it is not even a question. What I do know is that perseverance and adaptability is what will help us succeed through this year. When I look back what I remember most is hanging out with my friends in dorms and staying up all night watching movies, or bonding with my roommate over the ridiculous amount of work and time. The Organization of Young Filipino Americans is what has helped me through this journey. I would not have known who to trust or what path to take without them. I am incredibly thankful for the home I have found, and I hope that you find your home as well whether it be through OYFA or any other organization on grounds.

This is a difficult time and we will make it through by having trust in our community and looking towards the future. I wish you luck in all of your classes and hope that you are able to make connections despite the problems of the world. Thank you for having hope and pushing forward this year! We need you to make this university a home.

Sincerely,  
A Friend from the Fourth Year Class  
Class of 2021