

Dear First Year,

Hello! Welcome to UVA, I hope your move-in and classes have been going well so far, I know it's quite the process to adjust to such a new lifestyle in such a short amount of time. It kinda feels like no matter how much you prepare, mentally or physically, there's nothing quite like the feeling after your family (or whoever you moved in with) leaves and you just sit there like "now what". Also, you're a college kid during a pandemic. Don't ever forget that; things as a first year are hard but you have it even harder and hey, I may not know you but I'm sure you're doing pretty good given the circumstances! Remember that you belong and are welcome here at UVA and that someone, somewhere on Grounds is super excited to be your new friend.

You've probably already heard this countless times but clubs and reaching out are so important. Keep your door open, attend an information session for a club, reach out to classmates or upperclassmen involved in something you're interested in, everyone is always looking to help and everyone is always looking to make a new friend. For me personally, I'm heavily involved in a few organizations but I'd love to give a shoutout to the Organization of Young-Filipino Americans (OYFA) and FeelGood at UVA! I've found families in both orgs and met some of the best people in each one. If you ever have any questions about clubs on grounds, or specifically these two in particular, hmu!! I may or may not hold some power in them so I gotchu. Just a side note, you don't have to be young, Filipino, or American to join OYFA and as for FeelGood... we're a nonprofit org that strives to end world poverty and hunger by the year 2030 by selling grilled cheese... if that's not intriguing idk how else to say it. Regardless of what club peaks your interest, don't be afraid to put yourself out there! It may be scary but it's all worth it in the end, I promise.

Anyways, enough about me, I hope everything goes well for you this semester and this year! Hopefully the world gets a little less crazy and things go back to being somewhat safer next semester. Even if things seem a little crazy or you feel a little alone right now, do not stress, do not worry, things will fall into place eventually. If you don't know what you want to major in, hey, neither do a lot of your peers. You're never alone in anything and like I said before, you're a college student living in a pandemic. Give yourself a pat on the back for that. :-)

If you get this letter, I would love to hear back from you!! Even if you have nothing really to say I would love to get to know you or just hear what you're up to/how you're doing. I'll leave my email at the end of this letter but also you should def follow me on instagram @y0michelle (that's a zero) so I can follow you back! Or add me on facebook that works too. Welcome to UVA, good times go hoos <3

Sincerely,
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Class of 2021