Hello Class of 2024,

Congratulations on starting your first semester of college at UVA! I understand the circumstances we are all under currently are not the best, but I still want to urge you all to savor every moment and connection you have at UVA starting from now. You are all wanted and loved here at UVA, and I am hopeful that over time you will find your own individual spaces to thrive here. Please take the time to feel any emotions you may have by either journaling or speaking to other students about them, and you will see that you are not alone in those feelings.

I have grown to appreciate the experiences that UVA has given to me. One of my favorite moments here was joining my sorority, which is the Kappa Rho chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. Through this experience, I have met some of my closest friends and truly the greatest support system that has stayed strong even throughout the pandemic. I am hopeful that you will find your "people" throughout your time at UVA.

If I could leave you all with one piece of advice, it would be to stay true to your core self and embrace all the changes that will come over your time here. It might feel uncomfortable at some points, however trust that you will always make it through. I wish we could welcome you all the normal way, but either way know that you have a HUGE support system everywhere whether virtual or in person. I am wishing you luck and peace as you embark on this new journey!

Go Hoos!!!

Best, Ibukunoluwa Omole Class of 2021