Dear Rose of 2022,

Congratulations! You made it to graduation! I am so proud of you for all that you have accomplished during your time at Longwood. I am writing this to you having completed my freshman year of college. This past school year flew by and I am excited for everything that is coming my way. I declared psychology as my major and have tried to be involved on campus by joining the Problem of Evil reading group, the sign language club, Alpha Lambda Delta, and working in the alumni center as an administrative clerk. I love my job and the friends I have made. Next semester I will be an honors peer mentor. I am going to live in The Village with my two best friends. This upcoming school year I am going to have a lot on my plate and I still have to look into the study abroad and internship opportunities that are available to me.

By the time you are reading this, you will have made it through all of these major events that seem so far in the future like studying abroad, taking the GRE, applying to graduate schools and so forth. It all seems so overwhelming and a little terrifying, not knowing whether I will make a high score on the GRE or get into a good graduate program but it is comforting to think that no matter what happens, I will come out the other side with more new opportunities and new work to do. More importantly, I will have lifelong friends and learned invaluable lessons inside and outside of the classroom. I am uncertain of the future but I do know myself and what is important to me. I have always been an avid learner. I have always wanted to take what I learn and use it in a way that can make the world a better place. Right now, I believe psychology will provide the best avenue for accomplishing this. I’m great at listening to people and offering advice, so maybe you are preparing to go into clinical psychology. I am good at organizing and explaining information so maybe I will end up teaching and researching. Sheila told me she saves the more complicated projects at work for me, because she knows she can trust me to comb through all the information at once with high accuracy.

My greatest hope for you is that you graduate magna or summa cum laude, still apart of the Cormier Honors College and off to my dream graduate school, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to get my PhD. This would be no small feat, so I will have to continue to study and work hard. I think my biggest problem is procrastination because of my paralyzing need for perfectionism. With improvements to my time management and a little self-compassion, I can reach my goals. This, and I also need to take further advantage of the many resources available to me on campus like the writing center and the many different tutors. I want to continue to grow my involvement in a diverse group of clubs, honor societies and mentoring opportunities.

All of this will eventually lead me to you and the exciting path ahead. I want to leave you with a piece of advice. In graduate school, you are going to be challenged academically in a way you have never been before. Do not be discouraged. You are smart enough, you are hardworking enough, you are perfectly capable of overcoming any obstacle, and you have a large support group that wants to help you succeed. This is an incredible period of growth in your life so enjoy it. Be proud of how far you have come and where you are headed, because I am!

Sincerely,

Rose 0f 2019