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The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a daunting and unique experience for most of us. For graduating seniors such as myself, it is disheartening that the celebration for our years of arduous work will be delayed or conducted online. Many of us wish we could see our peers and professors on campus one last time, as we were largely unprepared for this situation. However, it is imperative to recognize the importance of taking the necessary precautions to protect our communities. The shelter-in-place order to practice social distancing may seem tedious, but it will surely pay off in the end when millions of lives are saved. The media portrays certain populations being targeted due to the origin of the virus, but we must remind ourselves that new diseases can occur anywhere in the world at any given time. Despite that, there have also been positives in seeing people donate their time and/or money in any way that they can. People may argue that doing good deeds and posting them on social media is strictly for their benefit, but I think that the positivity it spreads is influential. During these unprecedented times, I have been thinking about my privileges of having a safe place to live and access to food. As a result, I have been keeping myself busy by volunteering in an effort to help others who may not be as fortunate. COVID-19 has also affected my mental health with general anxiety about my future, as finding a career after graduating will likely be more difficult than it was before. I find myself thinking about if my family and friends will be safe, especially those who are more vulnerable to mortality due to an underlying condition. Thankfully, technology has been a blessing for me to keep in contact with friends and family to tend to my mental health amidst such a difficult and unexpected time. Lastly, I am grateful to all the frontline workers during this time, from supermarket employees to those in the healthcare sector who risk their lives daily. I am hopeful

that our experiences will lead to better days and serve as a learning experience for the next pandemic, as the novel coronavirus has tested our sense of humanity, resilience, and compassion for others.