Dear Incoming USC Dornsife Students,

Today, you will have received confirmation of your new fall schedule and seen that all your classes are online. The decision to do this has not been made lightly, but with COVID cases rising in Los Angeles and almost 1900 new Dornsife students planning to study in small seminar rooms and large lecture halls, it was the only decision we could make with your health and well-being in mind. We are heartbroken that this unfortunate circumstance prevents you from joining us in person in the fall. We can’t wait to see you on campus the moment it’s safe to do so.

Over the summer, our world-class faculty have been redesigning their courses for online delivery to ensure that they are rigorous, engaging, and fun. In every one of our majors, Dornsife faculty are excited to get to know you, to start working with you, and to introduce you to the diverse intellectual life that makes study in the liberal arts and sciences the most exciting path you could choose.

In addition to your classes, we are developing a series of virtual interactive programs especially for you — programs designed to introduce you to Dornsife’s rich array of majors and the unique paths of study it allows you to create; programs designed to ease the transition to college and help build the tools for success; and programs that will introduce you to the classmates who will become your lifelong friends. Highlights include:

- The Dornsife Student Welcome: A chance to meet the dean and hear from some of the offices and services that will play a major role in your undergraduate life;
- Major/Minor Fair: An opportunity to explore every major and minor Dornsife offers and learn more about their unique objects of study and their approaches to the world’s most pressing questions;
- Dornsife Connections: A weekly discussion opportunity covering different aspects of the undergraduate experience. Presented by faculty, staff, and student mentors, topics include health and wellness, involvement opportunities, and skills for academic success;
- Virtual Roommates: An opportunity to be placed with other students in a virtual “suite” to compete in challenges and games;
- The Dornsife Dialogues and Changemaker series: Opportunities to learn from leading experts in the fields of politics, technology, NGOs, entertainment,
creative writing, and more, leveraging the intellectual and professional networks only a Dornsife education can provide;
• And to close out the semester, a Freshman Symposium affording you the opportunity to present your course work or poster in a conference environment.

As you can see, we have a packed schedule planned and will keep you up-to-date with a weekly newsletter highlighting upcoming programs. For questions, please email admission@dornsife.usc.edu.

We know how hard you worked to get to this moment and that this is not the start to the university experience you were hoping for. One of the hallmarks of a liberal arts education is the ability to take knowledge from diverse sources and adapt it to meet new challenges and changing circumstances. As Dornsife students you have those tools at your command. Together we will make this a truly great semester.

With all best wishes, and Fight On!

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