Starting out at Cornell was a difficult transition for me. There were days when I felt lonely and overwhelmed about coming from a close-knit high school to such a big university where I felt like a tiny fish in an ocean of people. After deciding not to join a sorority, I was nervous about finding a community to belong to. Throughout my time here, however, I have come to find not just one, but a multitude of organizations I feel connected to and belong to. I have learned to define my own terms of inclusion and to be proactive in creating spaces for others to find belonging as well. I wish as a freshman I had known everyone struggles to find inclusion at large universities, and sometimes students from minority backgrounds especially feel the struggle. By embracing our common challenges and experiences as incoming students, I think we can forge successful paths for everyone. Starting out at Cornell was a difficult transition for me. There were days when I felt lonely and overwhelmed about coming from a close-knit high school to such a big university where I felt like a tiny fish in an ocean of people. After deciding not to join a sorority, I was nervous about finding a community to belong to. Throughout my time here, however, I have come to find not just one, but a multitude of organizations I feel connected to and belong to. I have learned to define my own terms of inclusion and to be proactive in creating spaces for others to find belonging as well. I wish as a freshman I had known everyone struggles to find inclusion at large universities, and sometimes students from minority backgrounds especially feel the struggle. By embracing our common challenges and experiences as incoming students, I think we can forge successful paths for everyone.