

Hello, Class of 2024!

These next four years you will look back fondly at in the same way I have been reflecting on it as a fourth-year student. Every year was a year of growth where I learned more about myself and my friendships grew. Although it may feel impossible to be making friends in a time where we have to be socially distant, it does not mean we have to be emotionally distant. I wish that instead of being called “socially distant” it was just called physically distant because its so important now more than ever to start those social connections with the people who will be with you over these next few years and well into the future. UVA wants you and I to be here to make those connections with friends and do it in a way where we are all safe.

The best way I made friends was becoming involved with the University Salsa Club. It was an amazing place to meet people from across majors, years, backgrounds, and all kinds of experiences. The only thing we really had in common was our love for dancing and sharing that love with others. Having preciously never danced or performed in my life, this club allowed me to learn not only how to dance but how to connect with people very different than me. My favorite memory was performing at our bi-annual showcase and feeling so accomplished after practicing all semester long with a group of friends.

The best advice I can give is to join a club even if you don't feel like the expert to begin with. That's the whole point of college, its to learn new things and this is a great place to find that new passion of yours. Even though the future is uncertain, make every effort to talk to people in your hall and begin making those connections that will lead you to meet your forever friends.

Sincerely,
Susie
Class of 2021