

Hello, Class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA, and hope your first few weeks of class have gone well! This is a semester (and year) unlike any other, and I want you to know that everyone at UVA is here for you, regardless of where you are and who you are.

One of my favorite things about UVA is all of the amazing opportunities available to students. During my first year, I was able to learn more about business through McIntire school of commerce-affiliated clubs such as Virginia Venture Fund and Virginia Case Club, while also making friends through Chinese Student Association. From the hundreds of clubs to the free academic and career support to [Slaughter's climbing center](#), I am sure you will be able to find activities and relationships that you will cherish. Outside of clubs, some of my closest friends were made during class – I met a group of amazing people through a project in class last year, and are now planning to work together for our year-long engineering capstone!

Please know that if you are ever feeling uncertain about life, school, or anything at all – you are not alone! Everyone has felt this way at some point during college, and many of your peers are probably going through similar situations. It took me three semesters to realize that it was okay not to know what I wanted to do when I grew up, and that life is not a straight-shot from school to career to retirement. You have eight whole semesters to explore any subject you like, befriend whoever you like, and participate in whatever extracurriculars you like. Take your time to “smell the flowers” and enjoy – there is nothing quite like the undergraduate college experience!

While your experiences will undoubtedly look different than mine, I would love to help you in any I can! Feel free to [email me](#) about literally anything!

Sincerely,
Sarah Zhou
Class of 2021