

Hey Class of 2024,

Welcome to UVA! We're so excited that you're here, whether you're in Charlottesville or elsewhere. Although this semester looks a lot different than we may have envisioned, we are so glad that you've joined us as members of the UVA community.

The student community is one of UVA's strongest assets. There are so many ways to get involved, even during this mostly virtual semester. I've been a part of the Society of Women Engineers and Engineering Student Council since my first year. They are both a great way to meet new people and make new friends to wave at either on a zoom meeting or when we pass by each other on E-way. Both organizations have given me the opportunity to help plan events for UVA and the greater Charlottesville community. I really recommend finding organizations to be a part of at UVA. If you're not sure where to start, feel free to stop by a SWE meeting or an ESC event! We'd be more than happy to have you!

I'm reaching the last few chapters of my college experience, but I do have a couple pieces of advice as you start this brand-new chapter!

Take a minute to notice the little things. Make a cup of coffee or pour a glass of water while watching the sunrise. Wave at your classmates at the beginning or end of a zoom meeting (or both)! Now more than ever, we are in this together.

You aren't alone. One of the bookends of our college experience is radically different than we expected. But the college experience isn't defined by just one chapter. It's comprised of a million little moments. It's the first time you answer a question in class. It's laughing with a friend about something that happened earlier that day or even three years ago. It's that moment of recognition when you see a stranger wearing a UVA hat at a grocery store while you're wearing a UVA t-shirt.

This next chapter isn't what we expected, but it's up to us to make the most of this unexpected situation. From joining new clubs to noticing the little things, we'll make the most of this once-in-a-century plot twist. From one Hoo to another, welcome to UVA and welcome home.

Go Hoos,

Katie

Class of 2021