

Hello, Class of 2024!

Despite the hardships that befell your last year of high school, *you've made it*. Welcome to UVA and welcome to Charlottesville! Whether you're reading this from your room in first-year dorms or in your bedroom in your hometown, know that you are wanted here and we're excited to welcome you into our community! In many ways, this can be a difficult time to be entering college, but I know that you'll nonetheless make the most of your time here and forge new bonds that you'll carry with you for the rest of your life.

One thing that's amazing about UVA is that there is something for everyone and we're a better community because of it. From a class on Dracula to a club that sends out notifications when there's tater-tots at O'Hill, rest assured that, no matter what your interests are, there will be a group here that shares your same interests. I met some of my closest friends in my Latin classes, something I had always been interested in, but never took until I got to UVA. Your hallmates/suitemates are also a great way to make lasting friendships! Girls on my hall first-year are now in my small seminar classes and we're reconnecting as fourth-years and sharing our experiences since we've last seen each other. People that were in my lab group for chemistry my first-year still say hi to me when we pass by each other on Grounds. Our experiences here, whether it's in-person or on Zoom, bind us all together and facilitate a stronger community that you know you can always count on when in need.

We believe in you. This semester is unprecedented and what's being asked of you is more than we were ever asked to do. I know that it can be scary to navigate a new environment while also adjusting to a college curriculum, so I'll leave you with this advice—have fun. I know I tend to let my work get in the way of me going out, but I'm telling you that it's ok to let loose sometimes. You'll need it and getting away from your work can be a de-stressor and certainly help you to enjoy your time at UVA even more. I wish you the best of luck in all of your endeavors!

Go Hoos!

Sincerely,
Faith H.
Class of 2021