

Hello, Class of 2024!

I hope you're doing well, whether you're on grounds or off grounds! What a weird time to enter college, right? Well, it's also a weird time to graduate from college, so we're kind of in the same boat! No matter what, don't forget that UVA is one of your new homes and you will always be welcome here as a lifelong Hoo regardless of where you come from.

Although the Activities Fair has already passed, I highly encourage you to sign up for as many CIOs as possible. Your first year is the best time to join clubs, and believe me, all of the clubs are ready for you to join! If there's a littles/biggs system or a mentorship system, definitely sign up. I think the most valuable advice I've ever gotten has always come from my upperclassmen. I joined the Korean Student Association and the Vietnamese Student Association (despite being neither Korean nor Vietnamese), and my biggs from those two CIOs really made me feel comfortable at UVA. Join stuff outside your comfort zone! After college, you won't get the chance to. Make sure you're getting the real UVA experience, even if it is online 😊

Being a first year is pretty scary, but you can do it! If you're feeling overwhelmed by courses, don't worry – totally normal, and I can promise you that everyone around you is feeling the same way. You will definitely pull through and before long, you'll be in my shoes, ready to graduate! It all goes by so quickly, so make sure to cherish your moments and keep records of all your memories through photos, videos, or journals. You'll have a great time here, and we're all excited to have you.

Wahoo!

Sincerely,  
Valerie Young  
Class of 2021