

Hello, Class of 2024!

I hope you have been enjoying your time at UVA, thus far! I know that this hasn't been the college experience that you were expecting, but I promise that you will still find many ways to make amazing memories during this unique time. Between the pandemic and the social injustice occurring in the country, I know that your transition into college has likely been more challenging than the years before you, but please know that you are not alone. I know that we are all disappointed about the current circumstances; however, at the end of the day we are all in this together. I know as a community we are going to get through this difficult time and find a way to persevere.

Your first-year experience may look different from my first-year experience; however, I know that you are going to be able to make UVA your home. There are going to be so many fun things to look forward to in the future. Everyday is honestly going to feel like a new day at UVA. I have countless happy memories from UVA that I will cherish for the rest of my life. From partying on 14th Street after the UVA Basketball team National Championship win, to storming the field after UVA Football beat Virginia Tech, it truly is the unexpected memories that are the most exciting.

Do not feel like you have to join a lot of clubs to find your place at UVA. For my first-year, I did not join a single club; rather, I explored something new every week. I finally found my home at UVA during my second-year by joining Class Council. I have helped put on numerous meaningful events, such as The Third Year Ceremony and I am currently working on Graduation. My favorite memory hands down though has to be Lighting of the Lawn, which is the annual light show on the Rotunda. Working on that project truly filled my heart with so much happiness and I met so many amazing people in the process. I encourage you to take your time to find an activity you love! Everything will fall into place.

One piece of advice that I would like to share with you is the idea of creating balance in your school and social life. UVA is sometimes a very competitive environment, so it is oftentimes easy to feel consumed by school work. I highly encourage you to take time everyday to do something enjoyable. Go on a walk, watch the sunset, play games with your friends, and go out of your comfort zone - these are all easy ways to take a break given the social-distancing measures. When society gets back to a state of normalcy, your possibilities to have fun are going to be endless! Go to sporting events, go to live performances, go to parties, go to new restaurants, and explore UVA and Charlottesville. Try your best when it comes to your academics, but please know that the world is not going to end if you don't finish a reading assignment or if you don't get an 'A' on your quiz. In 20 years you are not going to remember that time that you did not do as well as you wanted to on an exam. Instead, you are going to remember all of the memories that you make with your peers at UVA. Sometimes it's the unplanned outings that turn into the greatest memories; hence, why balance is so important.

Once again, Welcome to UVA! While this semester is unlike any other, I know that you are going to do great and find your home at UVA. There is so much in store for you. Everyone here is rooting for you and please reach out if you ever need anything! Go Hoos!

Sincerely,
Victoria Propheter
Class of 2021