

Hello, baby Hoos!

Welcome to UVA! We are so excited to have you guys join the UVA family whether you are in Charlottesville or at home. This year may be a little different than the norm, but it doesn't take away from the fact that you are now embarking on your ~amazing~ college journey at the University.

When I look back to my first year, there are so many happy memories that I wish I could relive. The excitement of registering for classes, watching March Madness games with my friends, and even pulling all nighters for finals week--these are all memories that we fourth years will now pass on to you! One of my favorite moments in the past 3 years was UVA's NCAA championship win. I remember that the University would stream the games at the AFC, the amphitheatre and in other places around Grounds. It was so great to dress in orange and blue and get together as a student body to cheer on our school together. (It was even better when we won haha.) The feeling of belonging to a University and repping UVA is something that I will cherish forever.

Another one of my favorite memories is Lighting of the Lawn (LOTL). Every year around the end of November and the beginning of December, UVA decorates the Lawn and the Rotunda in christmas lights and there is an official "ceremony" for it. LOTL is super hyped up the week before and UPC has these awesome scavenger hunts around Grounds for free LOTL themed mugs too! At the actual LOTL event, we all sing the Good Old Song together and we count down until the Lawn is lit up, and then the light show begins. It is super colorful and the lights dance to 3 songs while beach balls tossed around and people are singing along. It is such an awesome experience.

I hope that you all are able to make the best of your first semester at UVA and you'll be able to find your home at the University. I can't promise that it won't be difficult with the given circumstances, but I believe in you guys! You can do it and you will make it through this. Remember that you are a part of the UVA community now and the fourth years will always have your backs. Welcome to the best 4 years of your life!

Best Regards,
A fourth year friend :)
Class of 2021