

Hello, Class of 2024!!

Welcome to UVA! I can't imagine how difficult it feels to be beginning your college career during these crazy times and how lonely it may seem to be sort of stuck in your dorm. I'm sorry that what was supposed to be your super crazy, fun, first year of college began this way. But we aren't here to be sad. There's still so much to look forward to, and all of us at UVA are so happy you're here!

I guess I should tell you a bit about myself. I'm a fourth year in the College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in Mathematical Statistics. I'm also double minoring in ASL and psychology. I have no idea what I'm going to do when I graduate in the spring, but I'm hoping to stay around Charlottesville for a while.

Even though things are crazy, there are definitely still ways to get involved in things here. I know the activities fair has already passed, so hopefully you found something that interests you. If you didn't, no worries! You've still got tons of time to really find your place here. I'm a member of the Cavalier Symphony Orchestra, and, I have to say, it really helped me find a good group of fun, welcoming people to hang out with. I was in my high school's wind ensemble and really enjoyed music, but I actually didn't join CSO until my second year here, so don't feel bad if it takes you a little time to find your people. Obviously things are operating a bit differently now, but that can't stop you from going to Zoom meetings and learning about some fun options.

I hope this letter finds you well and you have an awesome semester! Keep your head up and don't let this virus get you down too much. You're not alone in this difficult time; I know everyone keeps saying that, and you're probably tired of hearing it, but it's true. Try to schedule Zoom or Facetime calls with people you're missing right now: friends, family, your significant other if you have one. Make sure you take care of your mental health right now, too. Obviously, do your best to keep up with your work, but make sure you're scheduling in some personal time, even if that just means having some coffee or tea before your morning classes or watching an episode of your favorite show with a bowl of ice cream and a cozy blanket. We just have to keep pushing through until things get better, and they will get better. Take care and good luck with the rest of your semester. I'll add my computing ID to the end of this letter; feel free to reach out if you need anything!

Sincerely,
Kenzie (kh6vh), Class of 2021