

Hello, Class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA! For those of you that have come to Charlottesville, I hope your move-in went smoothly. Obviously, we are living in an unprecedented time and this year is probably not what any of you had imagined. However, remember that you belong here at UVA and your fellow Hoos are excited to meet you!

One of the beauties of college is that you will have the freedom to find your own path during your time here. There are so many opportunities to take interesting classes, join engaging organizations, and meet new people! As a first year, don't think you already need to know what you want to study. Personally, I thought I wanted to go pre-law, but I took some prerequisites for the comm school and found my passion! I'm now studying Finance at McIntire, but never would've done so if I didn't decide to try something new. In addition, one of the reasons I picked my major was because of an organization I joined. My second year, I joined Alpha Kappa Psi, a co-ed professional business fraternity affiliated with McIntire. This experience led me to discover unique career paths and make new friendships. I encourage you to look around at some clubs or organizations that interest you. You might find something that you never knew you were looking for, and ultimately, you'll meet new people from doing so.

While this year will create new challenges, a great way to interact with the community outside of UVA is to volunteer with Madison House. As part of Creating Assets, Savings & Hope (CASH), I help low-income individuals and families around the greater Charlottesville community file income taxes. This experience allowed me to move outside the university "bubble" and create an impact for people that support our school. Also, it's OK if this isn't for you. There are so many other great ways to engage with the community and explore Charlottesville. You have plenty of time to do amazing things while you're at UVA.

To wrap up, I encourage you to make the most of your four years here at UVA, however you decide to spend your time. This semester may not be easy, especially because of the virtual format, but don't let one semester or one year dictate your overall experience. Frankly, I didn't love UVA my first semester, but now I can't believe I only have one year left. I'm confident that you will eventually find your home here, just like I did! Best of luck with your classes and future endeavors as a Virginia Cavalier. We're excited to have you here and know you'll do great!

Go Hoos!

Sincerely,

A Friend from the Fourth Year Class (Class of 2021!)