

Hello, Class of 2024!

I know this is probably not the start to college that you always dreamed of, and you may be worried that this online experience keeps you from many new experiences and possible friendships. I encourage you to keep your head up, find unique ways to interact with your classmates and the UVA community, and remember that this virus will eventually pass. I promise that UVA is going to be so much better than you could have ever imagined!

I have had so many wonderful memories here, and thinking back on some of them can always confirm my belief that I wouldn't have wanted to find myself in any other place for my college experience. I am a member of Naval ROTC, where I have had a chance to meet so many motivated people who share the same passion as me, yet all come from varying backgrounds with all sorts of unique talents, experiences, and desires. At UVA you will find people who, like you, are smart and work hard, but will also show you new and exciting perspectives on the world.

This is likely the first time where you have this much freedom to do all sorts of awesome things. Do your best to branch out and pursue the things that bring you happiness. This place has done some amazing things for me, and I'm sure it will do the same for you. I encourage you to embrace this challenge, to overcome it, and to become the energetic, wide-eyed, passionate first-years the UVA community needs you to be. Wahoowa and good luck!

Sincerely,

Oliver T.

Class of 2021