Hello, Class of 2024!

Welcome! This probably isn't the way you hoped your college experience would begin but you can definitely still have a fantastic year and enjoy your time at UVA. Everyone is very excited to welcome you here, whether that be in your classes, CIOs, or wherever else you are finding your fellow Hoos!

One of my favorite parts about UVA are the people I have met. One of my favorite involvements is Women in Computing Sciences. WiCS is a CIO that helps encourage and support women in computing sciences (not just computer science). They do have professional events that I have found really helpful but my favorite part has been getting to know the people there. Even if you aren't interested in computing sciences, I would highly recommend trying to find a club or group that can help connect you with other people in your major area so you can feel like you are part of the community and know the people in your classes better.

I would really recommend trying to join whatever you may have even the slightest bit of interest in! I regret not getting more involved in a couple clubs earlier just because I was a little intimidated. From what I have seen, some clubs are also using Zoom breakout rooms so you can also still get to know the other members more personally. I also recommend taking advantage of the many departments at UVA. It's a great way to broaden your horizons and you might be a lot more interested than you initially thought!

I would also recommend not being afraid to go to office hours! It's great to get to know a professor better and it could save you a lot of time. TA office hours can also be really helpful (especially for CS classes)! The last piece of advice I have would be to make sure you balance your time well. Some people spend too much time on their classes to enjoy their time as much as they could have while others regret slacking off as much as they did later on. I wish you luck, especially in this challenging time.

Wahoowa!

Sincerely,
Megan Marshall
Class of 2021