

Hello, Class of 2024!

I wanted to start off by saying that I feel for you. Coming into college as a 1st year, this is not exactly the type of experience you must've been looking forward to. I remember how amazing my first year was, and I second handedly feel upset for you. I know things are not going as planned, but everything is an experience, and this one will definitely be one for the books. Make sure to make the most of it cause I know you can surely make new, creative memories in this trying time. Always remember that your fellow classmates and faculty here at UVA will provide you with a great source of support and cheer you on as you take your next big step in life at this roller coaster of a university.

Despite the circumstances this year, know that UVA *is* the place for you. This university has given me so much to cherish. Whether that's the lifelong friendships you will make, the quality of UVA's academics, or just in general, all the memorable aspects connected with UVA: late night at crossroads, full buses that pass by you as you're waiting at the bus stop, all the snaps of the Rotunda, the basketball games, singing the good ol' song together, our hatred for Tech (haha), lighting of the lawn, UPC free merch, the corner on weekend nights, going to Carter's Mountain to watch sunsets etc. Just remember that it is only your first year. You have plenty of time to enjoy all the love that UVA has to give. Start getting yourself familiar with organizations and clubs here that you would be interested in joining. My first year, I joined PAFN (Peer Advising Family Network), a program where a mentor helps you smoothly transition into UVA, guiding you academically and socially. My mentor was always there to clear up any confusions or hesitations I ever had and supported me academically, socially, and emotionally. I also ended up finding my best friend through PAFN first year, so that was a huge plus! Then, worth mentioning, is the most happy memory I have from my time at UVA so far: My 2nd year, when we won the National Championships. I will never forget the amount of craze and togetherness that night on the corner. Loud music, dancing, happiness, chanting. It was unbelievably amazing!! This just sums up how close knit everyone is at this welcoming university. You will never feel alone!

In times like this, try making the most of your experience ~ safely. Maintain a routine, be one with nature, and remain connected. This will help you retain a sense of normalcy. College definitely has its ups and downs, but it is up to you to rise from these challenges and make way for opportunities. My biggest advice for you would be to not procrastinate on your work, keep time for your social life, and remember that school is important and valuable, but real world experience is what really solidifies that knowledge. Have fun and make the most of your time here! Go get 'em tiger!

WAHOOWA!

Sincerely,  
A Friend from the Fourth Year Class  
Class of 2021