

Hello, Class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA! I know that this is a difficult time to be entering college in many ways, but I am optimistic that you will be creative in finding chances to make the most of your time here, whether you are on Grounds or at home. Starting college can be really difficult, especially with the circumstances we are all going through. But please know that you are not alone and many other students and professors would be happy to support you during this challenging time. Remember that you belong at UVA, and your fellow Hoos are very excited to have you join our community!

Something that I love about UVA is that there are many different opportunities to get involved and meet new people. One opportunity that I am incredibly thankful to be involved with is the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad (CARS). I started volunteering with CARS at the beginning of my third-year, and it has been such a wonderful way to be involved in the Charlottesville community in a meaningful way. I am a pre-medical student, so I also love getting to have hands-on experience caring for patients before going to medical school. Another one of the opportunities that I have been most grateful for was joining the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship during the beginning of my first year. Although I didn't have much of a Christian background before college, the people in this community were very welcoming. I met with five other students regularly to share about life and study the Bible. The girls who were in my small group my first-year are still my best friends today!

One of my favorite things about UVA is the great diversity in the types of extracurriculars you can get involved in. However, I know the number of clubs and activities can also be very overwhelming at first. During my first year, I signed up for way too many listservs and was trying to participate in many clubs. But over time, I settled into the clubs I was most interested in, and I am sure you will too. I am confident that there is community for every student at UVA. I encourage you to push yourself to try new things during your time at college, even during this mostly virtual semester. It may take a semester or two, but I'm confident that you will find your home at UVA, just like I did!

I wish you the best of luck with your first semester and the rest of your years at UVA. We're very excited to have you!

If you would ever like to chat, ask any questions, or share any concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at ane7sd@virginia.edu!

Go Hoos!

Sincerely,
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