

Hello, Class of 2024!

Whether you're joining from the comfort of your own home or experiencing a small glimpse into life on Grounds, we extend a warm welcome to UVA! This year is unique, to say the least, and has brought along many hardships that have challenged us individually and as a larger community. You are not alone in feeling nervous, disappointed, or scared about what the future holds for your journey at UVA. I hope that this letter will help you feel reassured in knowing that no matter what happens, you will always have a strong and supportive home here that is excited to welcome you!

With only a handful of close friends coming with me to UVA, I was worried as a first-year on how I'd be able to adjust and find my place in a large university. It took me a little bit of time, but I, like many of us, found myself a family with each CIO I joined throughout the years. X-Tasee Dance Crew introduced me to a diverse and passionate group of dancers who taught me to find happiness in community while performing at classic UVA traditions like Lighting of the Lawn. Cultural CIOs like Korean Student Association and the Organization for Young Filipino Americans made me feel represented as a middle-class minority student. My favorite experience, being a Resident Advisor for Shea Language House, allowed me to be there for other students who felt just like I did when I swiped my ID for the first time moving into Tuttle-Dunnington three years ago. With each year, you get an opportunity to learn more about who you are and meet the most wonderful people along the way.

Despite it being a crazy semester, you will always have a way to engage yourself in all the opportunities UVA has to offer. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there and try something new, whether that be academically by taking an elective class in a field outside your major or extracurricularly by joining an intramural sports team. If you ever feel out of place or overwhelmed, you have a community of career counselors, big-little relationships, resident advisors, and fellow students to lean on. One day, when you're a fourth-year yourself, you'll look back at all the amazing memories you've made here and hopefully help welcome a first-year student like yourself. Welcome to UVA, Class of 2024, we're thrilled to have you!

Sincerely,  
Vaishnavi K.  
Class of 2021