

Hello, Class of 2024!

**Warm Welcome** - We want the first-year class to feel at home in the UVA community, whether they are on Grounds or in their hometowns this semester. *This is a great place to:*

- Acknowledge the hardships of entering college during this difficult time, due to the pandemic and the social injustice occurring in the country
- Remind the first-year class that they are welcome and wanted at UVA

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. Remember that you belong at UVA, and your fellow Hoos are very excited to have you join our community!

This year... has been a terrible time for everyone. You know it, I know it, and unfortunately there's not much that I can really write here that

**Reflect on Your UVA Experience** - Even though this year will undoubtedly look different from previous ones, we want to remind the first-year class that there is still a lot to look forward to at UVA! Make sure to reflect on something that has made you grateful for your UVA experience. *This is a great place to:*

- Describe a happy memory from your time at UVA so far
- Express your gratitude for a club or organization that helped you find a home on Grounds

Something that I love about UVA is that there are so many different opportunities to get involved and meet new people. One of the opportunities that I have been most grateful for was joining the Career Peer Educators program through the UVA Career Center, which I joined during the beginning of my third year. As student employees, Career Peer Educators learn a lot about career counseling and professional development, but my favorite part of the program has been building strong friendships with the other people in my program, which consists of UVA students of all different majors, years, and backgrounds. It has been wonderful to have spent the last year working and growing with an extremely supportive group of co-workers who have also become close friends.

**Well Wishes** - We can all remember feeling anxious and uncertain about starting our first year of college, so be sure to leave your recipient with some words of support! *This is a great place to:*

- Wish the first-year class good luck with the semester
- Offer words of encouragement or friendly advice

I encourage you to push yourself to try new things during your time at college, even during this mostly virtual semester. 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!

You got this.

Sincerely,  
Alvand, Class of 2021