

Hello, Class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA! Starting college is a feat in itself, and the events of this year have no doubt made it an even bigger one. As a POC that moved onto grounds the week after the Unite the Right Rally in 2017, I know what it is like to have to change what you thought your college experience would be like. However, just like my classmates did, I am confident that you all will rise above the added challenges you are facing and become an example to those who come after you.

Something that I love about UVA is that there are so many different opportunities to get involved, while there are also many places to retreat to for solidarity and peace. You can go from movie screenings on the field outside of O'Hill to studying quietly in the courtyards of Monroe Hall. Two places where I especially felt at home were OAAA and The Chi Alpha Hub. These places are welcoming to UVA students of all different majors, years, and backgrounds. Whether I was in need of community, study buddies, or just some food, It has been wonderful to be reminded that I am not alone in my experiences, struggles or convictions.

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!

Sincerely,
A friend from Class of 2021