

Hello, Class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA!!! I know this semester won't be what you expected your first semester of college to be, but we are all in this together and here for you. Regardless of where you are or what your situation is for this semester, there are still endless opportunities to make lifelong friendships and memories.

I struggled for the first few weeks of my first year, as I think many people do, and I was really nervous coming to a school where I did not know a single person. I got lucky that I received some advice from one of my favorite high school teachers to knock on every door in my hall and introduce myself. While it is awkward at first, it is important to acknowledge that everyone else in your year is experiencing the same things, and everyone wants to meet people. Knocking on those doors led me to six of my best friends that I might never have been close with otherwise. Though things are obviously different for you, there are still safe ways to do this and even easier ways of just reaching out to someone you see in your zoom class. Don't be afraid to reach out to anyone and everyone, and always remember you are never alone here.

Through all these challenges, it'll be important that we all leave our comfort zones in order to make the most out of this semester. UVA will become a home for you as it has for all of us upperclassmen. Good luck with your first semester, and know you can always reach out to me or anyone here on Grounds for anything you need! So excited for you to be here and experience the best four years.

Sincerely,

Catherine Harding
Class of 2021