

Hey Class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA! I hope your first few weeks of classes have been good, and that your move to grounds went well. I really am sorry that you have to start college at such a hard time, and I am hoping sincerely that your second semester can be a lot less restrictive and nerve-racking. Starting college is tricky enough without worrying about a pandemic. However, we are truly glad you're here! You and your class are such an important part of UVA, and we can't wait to see how you'll change it for the better.

While this year is indeed different, it can still be great! UVA has been really important to me, and I am so grateful for the experiences I have had so far. Don't feel pressured to immediately make a huge, close group of friends; you'll find individual friends as they come. (Spoiler: everyone always looks like they're having tons of fun, when in reality they're just as nervous, and worried that they may not be fitting in.) I remember feeling quite lost when I first arrived, but little by little, it started to feel like home. I signed up for a ridiculous number of clubs my first year, and basically left all of them. I stuck with two where I felt most comfortable, and am still involved with, and in leadership positions for, today. These groups have provided amazing community, and people to share highs and lows with. I know that UVA has a place for you.

I hope that you feel welcome at UVA, because you are! Remember not to compare yourself to others; everyone's definition of a "successful" college experience is different. In my opinion, it's a time to learn about yourself and others, gain empathy, and potentially some knowledge here and there :). There isn't an end-all-be-all resume of college perfection, so make it your own.

We're glad to have you here! Wishing you health, happiness, and a great first year.

Sincerely,

Justice, Class of 2021