Welcome to UVA! This is probably not how you imagined your first year of college starting off, but I believe that you will be able to make the most of your experiences at UVA, whether you are doing remote learning or in-person classes. You are now officially a Wahoo, so come join our community of Hoos at UVA!

One of the things that I love about UVA is that the people in the community are super amazing and fun to be around. There is also so many places where you can find your UVA family. As a chemical engineer, my class sizes are pretty small, so the people in my major have become very close. In addition to that, I have met a lot of people from different clubs I joined such as the Karate Club, Society of Women Engineers, and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. One of the things that I am most thankful for at UVA is the amazing friends I have made. Four of the girls in my hall in first-year dorms were the four girls that I currently live with off-grounds. We have become so close, and it's crazy to think that it all started from being hallmates in our first year.

I encourage you to open yourself up to other people around you, and talk to people in your classes, in your dorm, and in your clubs. I also hope that you try your best to try new things and join new clubs! Even though this semester is mostly virtual, I am confident that you will find your place here at UVA, just like I did. I hope your first semester, and the rest of your time at UVA is everything you hoped it would be!

Go Hoos!

Sincerely,

Nirasha A.

Class of 2021

