

What's Good, Class of 2024!

A very warm welcome to UVA! You're probably feeling confused about the future, figuring out how to manage your time for real, and still trying to balance having a social life. Maybe you don't like your dorm, or you've finally realized the dining hall food isn't seasoned. If you've made it this far, know that me and thousands of other students are with you. But let me tell you this—amidst all this craziness, a pandemic, a new city, a new school, new faces all around—there is something exciting. The growth you will experience in your four years here will make you a stronger, kinder, more resilient person. This might be your last time being in school before entering the “real world”, or maybe you're ready to be in school for another 10 years (pre-meds wya). Either way, UVA is a special place. Not because the school is perfect, or because it's a conflict-free zone, but because it has YOU in it. And you my friend, are a superstar. Don't let anyone tell you different. No matter how hard your classes get, or how stressful exam season is, or how many times your friend group switches up—you have everything you need to make the impact you want to see in the world. SO use your time here to get involved, see what you can offer to the world, and watch it return tenfold.

One of the opportunities that I have been most grateful for was joining Housing and Residence Life (HRL) as a Resident Advisor, which I joined during the beginning of my third year. As student employees, Resident Advisors have to be trained to handle just about any situation, at any time of day or night. The next time you see your RA, please give them a huge thanks or a tiny note of appreciation! The sticky notes my residents would put on my door with kind words of encouragement meant the most to me—I've actually kept them all. I encourage you all to apply to be a part HRL at some point in your time at UVA, as I truly feel it a unique and valuable learning experience, not to mention it can be so much fun! It has been wonderful to have spent the last year working and growing with an extremely supportive group of students who have also become close friends.

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, even though it may not seem like it at first. You've turned a new leaf by starting your life at the University, whether it be online or in person. The coming years will bring joy, tears, stress, confusion, loss, excitement, new opportunity, growth, and success. Trust me, this next 4 years will fly by. When I look back on my life at UVA as my time here comes to a close, I think of all that I've been through and learned, and ultimately am so grateful for the ways in which my experiences at UVA have made me become a stronger person. I promise, that time will come much faster than you think. Don't try too hard to get there, or you'll miss the little things on the way. And believe me, it's all about the little things. Wishing you the very best this year, and an exciting four years ahead. Take a deep breath, and do your best.

Go Hoos!

With love,  
A fourth year homie,  
Class of 2021