

Hello, Class of 2024!

I would like to formally welcome you to the UVA community, a community that prides itself on the inter-class relations and a dedication to a common goal of bettering the world around us. As a collective we try to look out for each other and I want to say that as a fourth year student, we want you all to have an experience that truly sets the tone for the rest of your years here. I will be honest and say that they won't be an easy 4 years here, but they will be rewarding in a way that you can't imagine.

My class, and friend group specifically has been through it all. From Hancock with no AC or a Bonnycastle to pair with, it was the 150ish of us against the world. During our first year we had too many noise complaints that we can't remember the number, lost to a 16 seed, and sang country roads in the common room almost every week. It was a year that will never be forgotten and to be honest it saddens me that you won't have a year that's similar. However, if I know anything about a Hoo then you will have a great year no matter where you are. Our second year had two national championships (I don't know if you've heard or not haha), the solidification of friends groups, and we attempted to live in an apartment that was a crash course in how to adult. Second year was a movie in the best way. But as the third year we saw our world crumble with the pandemic in the spring. Yes, the fall semester was fantastic and it was probably the best semester overall, but our third year will forever be tainted just like your first year. Now as a fourth year, I am looking forward to seeing my friends thrive and know that as we continue with our lives, all of the four years we have spent here have been some of the best we will ever experience.

It has been an honor of mine to be an orientation leader for the class of 2022 and 2023, but everything I have heard from my fellow OLs is that you all have been some of their favorite orientees. I wish I could've met some of you but I had to eventually get an internship that correlated with my career path. Those summers were the two best of my life so far and that is due a lot in part to the energy each incoming class has given me. Even without being an OL, I know that the class of 2024 is bringing something new to Grounds. What you all bring is what fuels the community at UVA to be great.

My time here is almost over but your time here is just beginning. As I imagine walking down the lawn in my graduation regalia, I can picture you all having your first Lawn hangout with your friends. My time here has been better than words can say; despite any bad that the world has thrown at us, we have gotten through it. I am sure that you all will make the most of your first year here and I hope that you will make the most of every opportunity presented to you at UVA and in life. Know that the other years will get better and each year that you spend as a Cavalier on Grounds pays dividends as you live as Hoo after.

When all is said and done, we will sing the 'Good Ol' Song' arm in arm eventually.

Sincerely,

Seth Gulas

Class of 2021 :)