

Hello Class of 2024!

Like you have heard many times again, Welcome to UVA and we are excited how you will make this place your home has it been for many of us. I can understand that this is was not you expected in how you started your College journey, and I can empathize with the many experiences you may have lost in the past six months from both the COVID-19 pandemic and the reawakening of social injustices in our society. This was not expected nor it was deserved.

As you also heard many times before, these are “unprecedented times” or the other million things emails want to say about the literal firestorm that is the world is right now. But when the ash settles and the COVID wing is no longer filled (I am a nursing student btw so I know these things), I cannot wait for you to make the memories here that will last you a lifetime

This place will become your home or will become your home for the next 4-5 years, and sometimes you make a home for yourself and others who haven't been represented before. I am the founding president of the Mixed Race Student Coalition at UVA, and I wanted to make a home for people who may have felt like me that may have never felt they belonged anywhere. I know not your story and what you are into, but I will always encourage the fact that if you don't feel nor found your community that already exists here at UVA. You can make it yourself with people you learn to love and love you.

To close with some words of Tender Love and Care that is the Nursing profession other than please follow the health rules (please, please, please follow them because COVID patients look rough in the hospital). Learn to smell the roses and take time for yourself. These four years will fly by faster than you would have thought. Yes, the pandemic is a big part of your first year, but it does not nor it will define your journey at UVA. Never forget to treat yourself because you will always deserve it. Yes, life will get hard, but you are a **WAHOO** and we don't give up.
Good Luck, Stay Safe, and Live Life.

Best Wishes,

Jae

Class of 2021