

Hello, Class of 2024!

Welcome to the University of Virginia! This is not the way I thought we'd be interacting for the first time but the way that this entire year has gone has been unexpected. Starting college during a time like this is difficult. It will require all of us at UVA to work extra hard to make the most of our time while remaining safe. Just know that we are all happy that you have joined the UVA community.

I often think about my first year on Grounds. I was living on the bottom floor of Humphreys. Not the newly renovated Humphreys, the Humphreys without A/C. My class was actually the last class to live in Humphreys before the renovation. The dorm experience was one of my favorite parts of my first year. I enjoyed meeting new people and creating memories with my hallmates. Even outside of the dorms, I liked how everything felt new. New people, new environment, new opportunities. Some of my favorite activities during my first year included participating in intramural sports and joining the Beach Volleyball Club. Throughout my first year, I met tons of people. Some became close friends while others are just part of the memories, but all of those interactions helped shape my first year.

One of the most important things to do during your first year is network. Take advantage of every opportunity you get to meet new people. Join different clubs or at least attend the interest meetings. I understand that this year is different and that it is hard to meet new people and have the same degree of social interactions, but it is not impossible. We all just have to work harder. Don't be afraid to reach out and email people from UVA that you have never met before. People can be all across the world right now and still interact through the many platforms available to us. We have to make the best of what we do have right now.

I hope this letter has helped you in some way and I encourage you to keep pushing through this tough time. It is important for all of us to be there for one another. Times like this will help bring our community closer together. I hope you are able to enjoy your time at UVA and I wish you the best of luck with your classes!

Sincerely,
RJ
Class of 2021