

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 Bonneycastle 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 what when you are here. Our second year had two national championships (I don't know if you've heard or not hahaha), the solidification of friends groups, and a failing living in an apartment and learning how to adult. Second year was a movie in the best way. But as the third year we saw all of our election crumble with the pandemic in the spring. Yes. The fall semester was fantastic and it was probably the best semester overall, our third year will forever be tainted, as will 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 a new energy to Grounds and it's a energy that is greatly needed.

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. Just as 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. If you ever need people to talk to or even scream at, then the class of 2021 is here for you. I am sure that you all will make the most of your first year here. I hope that you will make the most of every opportunity presented to you in this time at UVA and in life. Know that the other years will get better and each year that you send as a Cavalier on Grounds lauds 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 :)