

Dear Class of 2024:

Greetings from Charlottesville, and my warmest welcome to you to Mr. Jefferson's University of Virginia! I recognize that this is undoubtedly an unprecedented time, so remember that we live to make history each and every day. I am sure you have heard plenty in the emails, whether from President Jim Ryan or Dean Groves, that entering college, a brand phase of your life, during such a challenging time is no easy task, and we must stay on the bright side, be optimistic and keep vigilant. We are, indeed, sailing in uncharted waters, discovering the path little by little, but I want to reassure you that we, your fellow Hoos, are all in this together. You are not alone.

Whether you are on Grounds or not this semester, it can be daunting to step outside of your comfort zone, especially with social distancing and remote classrooms, to be proactive and meet new friends. I encourage you to stay active and "explore" the community. If I were to give out one piece of advice looking back, I say, "Go, enjoy your first-year to the fullest and leave no regrets." The precious time available in your hands now can be rather hard to come by later on in your journey at UVA, and if there is one take away from this about to be length letter, it is to cherish your time. Cherish your time learning in your favorite classes, cherish your time pursuing your interest, and cherish your time having fun with your friends.

I am a computer engineering major from the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and your path may or may not cross with mine. Should I "complain and whine," I would probably want to have more time to spend with friends. Nevertheless, please don't be scared away from Engineering, because the starting salary usually compensates for the opportunity cost quite well. But to this contrary, I was lucky enough to enjoy my all-time favorite hobby throughout the years, singing. I joined the University Singers in my first year and am still an active member now. If you have been in the choral all along, or want to experience some choral music, I highly recommend you to audition! There is so much to say about this group, for which I will save for another time. To me, this group hit home and felt like a big family, for through it, I continued my passion for singing (in a chorus) and found peace with my heart.

If you have come this far to the end of my writing, I want to thank you for your time and appreciate your ongoing interest. Please feel free to reach out at any time for anything through my email below. I think I have said plenty, and I hope you haven't gotten too bored just yet. Life is like a road full of ups and downs, and you can very well be riding in a valley now. But let not the trifles in life trouble you, for "when the night is overcome, you may rise to find the sun."

Truly,
Bill Y. (zy5nj@virginia.edu)
Class of 2021