

Dear Class of 2024,

We've been waiting for you all summer and we're so glad you're finally here! 2020 has been a wild and unpredictable year in many ways. Whether you have come to Charlottesville or are learning at home, you are loved and welcomed by the university community in this season of new discovery amidst loss.

While I've taken some wonderful classes here, I would say that the best part of my UVA experience has been finding new communities. Joining clubs is a great way to make friends with similar interests! I joined First Year Players to meet other performers and creatives, and I've laughed harder with them than I have my entire life.

Conversely, becoming the best version of yourself can also take the form of doing things outside of your comfort zone. I rushed even though I didn't fit the sorority "type," and have since met an entire world of interesting and driven people that I would not have met otherwise. I met my best friend when she joined in our second year. She's a straight Econ major who wears the same leggings every day; I study creative writing and shop in the little boys' section at Goodwill. Truly, a match made in UVA Greek heaven.

TL;DR find a community, but also find pockets of nourishment for yourself too. Play music, go on a picnic, make study dates with your roommates... the world is your oyster now.

Wishing you all the best in your first semester here, as well as these next four years.

Much love,
Eva Petersen
CLAS '21