

Hey Class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA!! After years of working hard in high school, I'm sure when you imagined college *this* is certainly not what you expected. With so much happening in the world, it's a tough time to also be figuring out yourself! That being said, I truly believe you will come out so much stronger because of this.

Whether you are on grounds, or at home- there is still so much the UVA community has to offer and I urge you to take use of those resources. Put yourself out there and sign up for one of those CIO sponsored Coffee Chats or Zoom Bonding Events-- every organization wants you to be there as much as you want to be a part of that organization (and it's a great way to meet new people!) Go to the career center- they really do help you figure out what you want to do. If there's something you even slightly want to do- try it (you can always decide you don't want to continue after you've tried!)

Another thing you are probably worried about is how you will make friends. Everyone seems to think that you meet your future bridesmaids and groomsmen on the first day of classes, and I'm here to tell you that that isn't true. I personally never really felt like I made close friends until my second year of college (some even in my third year!)

My biggest piece of advice to give you, regardless of pandemic or not, is if you want something, professionally or socially, put the effort in to get there.

Going into my fourth year, I can certainly understand how hard it must be to miss out on cherished traditions of such an important year. I wanted to share a quote that has personally helped me through this uncharted territory-- "Just because it's different, doesn't mean it's bad!" It's easy to start comparing experiences with *other* years, but just remember that everyone in *your* year is right there with you, feeling those exact same emotions.

I'm so sure that you will find your home at UVA and look back at all four years with a smile. I wish you the best of luck with your first semester and the rest of your years at UVA. We're very excited to have you!

Sincerely,
A Friend from the Fourth Year Class

P.S.- Here's my Bodo's Order for when you get the chance: Bagel of your choice, Two Slices of Muenster Cheese Melted, Tomato, & Pesto! Grab one on a fall morning and just eat it by the Rotunda. Best feeling.