

Hello, Class of 2024!

I'm so glad you were able to join us on Grounds in what is undoubtedly the craziest environment to begin your college career. Regardless, I know everyone has a place at UVA and will soon find themselves enjoying late-night Corner runs with friends or (virtually) contributing to your favorite organization.

Zoom courses may be as unfamiliar to you as finding your way to an in-person class on Grounds, but just remember that everyone is in the same situation and struggling to adjust to our new educational reality. I've heard a lot of first-years expressing that they are worried about feeling trapped in their dorms, and I similarly remember struggling to adjust to life without a car and feeling stuck on Grounds. I didn't leave the UVA vicinity for my entire first year, but now as a resident of Charlottesville, I can't recommend enough using the CAT bus system to explore Charlottesville if you don't have a car. Your UVA ID gets you on for free (due to COVID-19 it's free for everyone actually though) and there's an app that shows you all the routes. Hint: take the Trolley to the Downtown Mall or Route 7 to Barracks or the Fashion Square Mall for some socially-distanced, mask-wearing shopping trips! It feels so refreshing to get off Grounds, especially during a stressful time like exams!

I wish you all the best as you make UVA your home for the next few years! Surround yourself with people who value the same things, call home often, and remember that one bad exam won't ruin your future!!

Sincerely,

A Fourth-Year Friend