

Hello, Class of 2024!

I hope you are enjoying your first semester at UVA, whether you are on Grounds in Charlottesville or staying at home. We all know that this semester is going to be hard and this is not the fall that anyone had planned; we are fighting our way through a global pandemic and are still dealing with plaguing social injustice. YOU are a bright spot in one of the toughest times in recent history – let that sink in. We are so grateful that you chose to become a part of the University community and are cannot wait to hear your stories of what brings you to Charlottesville.

Even with the very different scene at the University, there is still so much to love about and look forward to at UVA! We used to be labeled as a “basketball school,” but we have extremely special athletics across the board, with a whole host of National Championships, and the atmosphere at sporting events is nothing short of breathtaking. The Lawn hosts amazing events like Lighting of the Lawn and Trick-or-Treat on the Lawn, which you will be able to experience in due time. The creative and performing arts scene is flooded with talent, from the Charlottesville Symphony, student chamber ensembles, and A Capella groups, to architecture and fine arts exhibits on Arts Grounds, to student-run CIOs. Most importantly, the people here are what set UVA apart – you will form the most amazing friendships, work with students and professors who go on to change the world, and learn from some of the most incredible leaders, including President Jim Ryan, Athletic Director Carla Williams, Music Professor A.D. Carson, and Coaches Tony Bennett, Bronco Mendenhall, and Lars Tiffany, to name a few.

We all felt anxious, excited, and uncertain about starting college as First Years, and I’m sure you are feeling some mixture of these emotions, too. Remember, you earned the privilege to be a part of one of the greatest communities on earth. My advice to you is to try anything and everything; make sure no opportunities go to waste. The memories you will make will last a lifetime, and I wish you the best of luck on this exciting journey. Wahoowa!

Sincerely,
Brent Davis
COMM ‘21