

Letter to UVA '24

Hello Class of 2024! I hope that you have enjoyed your first week here on Grounds. I know it is not quite what you expected in your first week of college, but be sure that we are very happy that you all are finally here. I understand that it can be difficult to succeed and fully engage with your classes through the virtual setting that has been created here at the University, but I can ensure you that our collective compliance with the COVID-19 regulations set by Dean Groves a couple of weeks ago will make our full return to in-person classes just that much sweeter. I think that it is important to know that as a class of first years, you are highly valued and wanted here at UVA, and that you should not feel any kind of unwelcoming or dispassionate atmosphere during your time here.

I remember my first year here on Grounds was amazing. It truly is what you make of it, and there were several experiences I enjoyed that made my first year the best possible introduction to a higher education that I could ever have imagined. Going up to the O-Hill observatory to look at the stars at night, playing Spikeball on the Lawn with my hallmates, and most importantly, getting to know a group of individuals who I still am in close contact with today as a fourth-year. Although restrictions on groups may prohibit you from doing some things you may enjoy, I encourage you to be creative with your event planning and find alternatives to what you would normally do with your time in this situation. My hallmates were imperative to my success during my first year, and I don't think that I could have gone through it without them. Build relationships with these people and many others (as safely as you can), so that when your fourth year rolls around, you can enjoy a network of close friends to depend on and spend time with before your time here in Charlottesville is up. Believe me, it goes quicker than you may think, it is not a cliché.

I wish you all good luck this semester, and truly hope that you all can find many silver linings to this difficult situation, with confiding in your friends, family, and members of our very empathetic faculty. I will leave you with one piece of advice: study all you can! You can never be too prepared for an exam, homework assignment, or research paper and it would behoove you to try your absolute hardest on these assignments.

Sincerely,

A Friend from the Fourth Year Class