

Hello, Class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA! I know the last few weeks aren't what you expected college to be like, but I hope you're making the most of your college experience so far. No matter where you are this semester, here on Grounds or back home, know that you belong at UVA, and we're all excited for you to get to know the University we know and love. Stay optimistic this year, and use your time wisely knowing that your following years here won't look like this.

One of my favorite things about UVA is that everyone can find a community or group that they feel at home with. One of the opportunities that has been the highlight of my college experience was joining Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope (CASH) within Madison House. I joined CASH as a first year excited to learn more about adult things like filing taxes and eager to start serving the Charlottesville community that had put in so much effort to welcome me. While volunteering for CASH, I found my drive to help people and empower them through financial literacy. I found a subject that excited me, and pushed me to explore academic and career opportunities I'd never considered before. I also found friends who had similar interests to me, and were equally as passionate about self-enrichment and community service. I learned valuable interpersonal and financial skills that help me to this day. This will be my fourth year in CASH, and the impact it's had on my life is incalculable. I hope that you, too, will find the community, organization, or people who will change your life for the better.

This semester won't be easy, and it'll require a lot of discipline and motivation. Have a good attitude, push yourself to grow, make wise decisions, don't be afraid to fail, and most of all, stay safe. You've worked so hard to get here, and I'm confident that you're going to enjoy your next four years at UVA. I wish you the best of luck with your first semester, and I entreat you to reach out to us upperclassmen if you ever need anything, because we are always willing to help. We're very excited to have you!

Go Hoos!

Sincerely,
Leanne
Class of 2021