

Hello Class of 2024,

I hope your first couple weeks of class have been going well!! I remember being a bit lost starting out as i had no idea how to navigate classes, homework, and making friends in a completely new environment. I can only imagine that this experience has only become more challenging with the current pandemic we are living through. I wanted to write to you and try to give you a bit of encouragement that may help you through these times.

Although your time here has been unlike any other year, I truly believe that there are still many things to look forward to during your time at the University. UVA is a place where you will make your best friends, learn new things daily (in class and out), and grow as a person. There are thousands of student organizations here excited to have you join and make the Grounds feel like your second home. Charlottesville, itself, also has countless outdoor activities that come paired with beautiful scenery, which I highly recommend. Whatever it may be that you choose to participate in, I'm confident you will have created some of your favorite memories here. I would also recommend you take up any opportunities that allow you to interact with not only the UVA community, but the greater Charlottesville one, whether in a volunteering capacity (ESOL program of Madison House has been one of my best memories here) or simply supporting a local small business during farmer's market.

I look back at my days as a first year as some of my most fond memories at UVA; there's nothing like them so try and cherish them as they're happening (I know that's kinda hard to do, but maybe you can reflect on them as they're happening rather than later). I wish you the best of luck during these tough times and throughout your four years at the university! Let me know if you ever need any help navigating things at UVA, I'm here to support you anyway i can :). Have a great day!!!

Sincerely,
Adea Abazi
Class of 2021