

Hello, Class of 2024!

I know that your first semester at UVA probably isn't what you expected and honestly, my last year here is not what I expected either. But we are in this together and we can get through it! There are a lot of things going on in our community and in our country but it's really up to us to make sure 2020 finishes strong. Rely on your friends, family, and fellow classmates for support. Work with each other and make the most of what you have but remember that everyone at this university is glad you're here.

As I look back at my time as a Hoo, I'm so grateful for the people I was able to meet. I came to UVA as an out-of-state student and knew practically no one. I consider myself an outgoing individual but it's always hard making those first impressions. Luckily, every student, professor, and organization I interacted with was so genuine and made me feel welcome. I found my home in the Asian-American community at UVA and outside of it as well. There are so many different groups of people at this school with various interests, I'm confident all of you can find your home away from home.

Finally, I just want to say good luck but you probably don't need it. You're here for a reason and don't forget that. But also remember that you are here as a student. That is my main piece of advice. The job of a student is to learn so you are here to learn. It could be from class, a club, or even a friend but never stop learning. You only have a few years of college so make the most of it.

Sincerely,

Simon Li
McIntire School of Commerce
Class of 2021