

Hello Class of 2024,

Congratulations on starting your first year at the University of Virginia! It is no small accomplishment to transition into life as a college student but the fact that you are able to make the transition in a pandemic is astounding. Even if you aren't on Grounds or haven't gotten a chance to leave your dorm much you have still entered the UVA community and that is the best place to be because even if we can't be here in person the people are what make UVA the amazing school that it is. The class of 2024 is a very important part of continuing that community and we wouldn't be able to do it without you so thank you for choosing to be a Wahoo!

I am fourth year but it feels like just last week I was moving into my dorm room in Tuttle-Dunnington when it was hot and humid in August of 2017 (seems like a long time ago I know I am old it is fine). And now as I am sitting and writing you this letter I am sitting across from that same roommate that moved into that dorm in Tuttle-Dunnington 4 years ago. She has been my roommate all four years and it has been awesome, so when I tell you the people are what make UVA great I mean it! The friends I have made over the past four years are friends that I will have for life. Although it is harder to meet people now still try to make the effort because everyone is in the same position you are and everyone is looking for the people that they will make their UVA memories with.

The people are what are going to make memories stick with you and there are way too many for me to try to list out for you. People always say it sucks to have a pandemic during my fourth year of college but instead I look at the fact that I was at UVA for some historic years and you will have your fun at UVA too. There have been some ups and downs while I have been here and there will be some ups and downs for you too but surround yourself with the right people and you can still have fun.

Speaking of fun, let's talk about some of the awesome things about UVA. As you may know UVA is a part of the ACC sports conference which stands for the All Cavalier Conference because you can't name a sport we don't dominate. We will start with fall where football games take up your entire Saturday and the best ones end when you are rushing the field after a win (the best was last year against Tech). Winter we of course have basketball and there is nothing better than singing the good ole song at the top of your lungs after we won the National Championships. In the spring I was lucky enough to attend the Lacrosse National Championship game which again we won. More fun comes along with being in Charlottesville I am sure you have heard of the fun that happens on the Corner that you will get to experience when it is safe to do so. There is also the Downtown mall which is great for food, shopping and the farmers market. We are also surrounded by beautiful mountains that have some of the best hikes I have ever been on.

These are just a few of the things that you have to look forward to during your years at UVA. Remember that these next four years are YOURs therefore they are going to be what you make them. So although this year is wasn't you expected you can still make the best of it!

Sincerely,

Haleigh Hopper, Class of 2021