

This past semester was my 5th semester at the University of Virginia studying in the Biomedical Engineering program. It was certainly different than my last four semesters to say the least. Despite my schedule being entirely virtual, I still spent the semester in my apartment in Charlottesville. I found virtual schooling both challenging academically and socially, but I tried to make the best of the situation. One activity that helped me enjoy the semester was hiking. I committed to going on one hike each week which gave me the opportunity to explore the outdoors and participate in a COVID-safe activity. I was also able to remain connected to my friends in a safe manor through outdoor activities. I am so grateful that the University of Virginia is situated near Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. I was incredibly impressed with how the UVA community responded to the pandemic. Students were fantastic about wearing their masks whenever they were in public or outside of their roommate bubble. Additionally, the university conducted asymptomatic testing on the whole student body every few weeks as a preemptive measure. Although this semester was different, I was very appreciative to still be able to virtually attend school. I am incredibly grateful for the Wings Over America scholarship donors that were instrumental in helping make that possible for me.

C A R O L I N E D O Y L E

N O R F O L K V A

U N I V E R S I T Y O F V I R G I N I A

