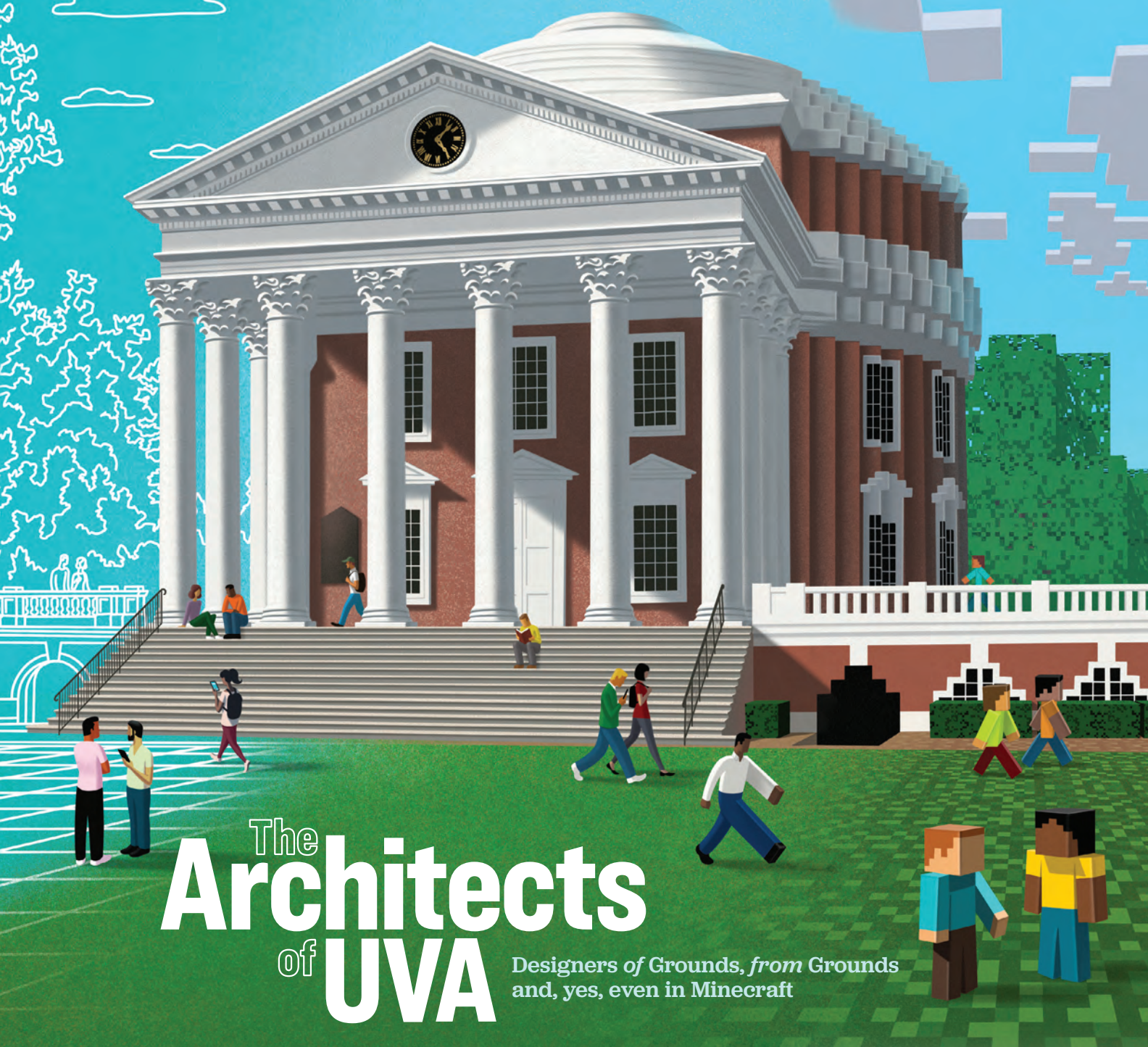


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# VIRGINIA

WINTER 2024



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suites, plus 2nd floor walk-in closet/office hide-away! Inviting front porch, fenced backyard and gardens w/ flowering blooms & lush greenery. Fenced area, raised beds, and plenty of level lawn. The 2-car garage offers a separate workshop & walk up attic. Tommy Brannock (434) 981-1486. MLS# 656092

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**2405 COOPERS LANE • \$5,950,000**

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**245 ACRE PARCEL ON BALLENGER CREEK**



**0 GREENFIELD FARM • \$1,995,000**

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**3 BEDROOM PENTHOUSE AT THE GLEASON**



**200 GARRETT STREET #601 • \$1,495,000**

This pristine 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom downtown, penthouse condo enjoys excellent urban and mountain views. Features include 2 covered terraces, 2 fireplaces and 2 secure, garage parking spaces. Condos on the top floor of The Gleason are rarely available and this one is an excellent value. Beautiful hardwood floors, granite counters and tile bathrooms. The Gleason is located just 2 blocks from the Downtown Pedestrian Mall and about five blocks from vibrant Belmont.

**HAND HEWN LOG HOME W/ MODERN LUXURIES**



**5620 BLENHEIM ROAD • \$1,250,000**

1800s original hand hewn log home blends seamlessly into completely modernized luxury home located on 22.58 acres, framed by classic fencing & level lawn. Charming details throughout: reclaimed doors & feature pieces, Virginia-grown oak hardwoods, 2 stone fireplaces, expansive front porch. 1st flr primary suite on main-level. Walk-out basement incl' built-in bar, full bath & add'l bedrm. Brand new hot tub on the deck. Only 15 miles to Charlottesville. Erin Garcia (434) 981-7245. MLS# 657363

**RENOVATED NORTH DOWNTOWN 3 BEDROOM CONDOMINIUM**



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# VIRGINIA

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Tony Bennett set the standard for men's basketball. See why he's at peace with stepping down, and what might come next for the Cavaliers.

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## The Visionaries Behind Grounds

Learn about the notable architects of some of your favorite buildings.

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## Building Big Careers

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◆ **EDGEMONT** ◆

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains is this Palladian inspired masterpiece called Edgemont—a home whose design is reputed to be the only remaining private residence attributed to Thomas Jefferson. Sited on 572 rolling acres with a tennis court, pool, pool house, and guest houses. MLS#576150 \$15,000,000 Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700 [www.HistoricEdgemont.com](http://www.HistoricEdgemont.com)



◆ **BENTIVAR MANOR** ◆

Explore this magnificent brick home, privately situated on 88 lush acres less than 5 miles from the city. Perfectly maintained, this expansive residence features 7 -BR and 11,000+ sf. of living space. The estate boasts a diverse mix of pastures and wooded areas, significant Rivanna River frontage, and numerous trails for outdoor adventures. MLS#652353 \$4,875,000 Jim Faulconer, 434.981.0076 or Will Faulconer, 434.987.9455



◆ **FIELDS OF BOAZ** ◆

A country French estate custom built on 24 acres in Ivy six miles from UVA. A combination of timeless charm and modern luxury with soaring ceilings, spacious primary suite, home office, wine cellar, and guest quarters. Wonderful views of the private pond, rolling countryside, and expansive terraces. Two unique and well-conditioned outbuildings. MLS#652608 \$3,995,000 Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700



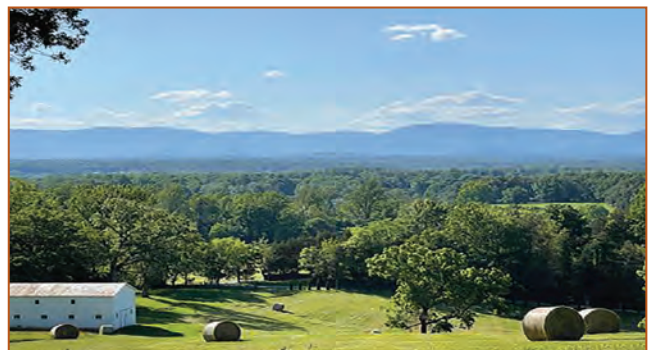
◆ **MEADOW FARM** ◆

436+/- acres providing complete privacy and tranquility. Pastoral views throughout. The gently rolling terrain lends itself to any number of productive, agricultural uses and/or recreational paradise. Property is under conservation easement with four division rights. Located in the heart of farm and estate country just south of Charlottesville and the University of Virginia. MLS#651411 \$2,985,000 Charlotte Dammann, 434.981.1250



◆ **WESTERN ALBEMARLE** ◆

Discover this newly renovated 5,700 sq. ft. brick home nestled between Charlottesville and Crozet in the coveted Western Albemarle School District. With 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, and garage apartment, this home offers elegance and comfort. Enjoy 10 ft ceilings, three fireplaces, and a gourmet kitchen with dual appliances. MLS#657678 \$1,950,000 Jennifer Von Reuter, 202.957.3465



◆ **HIGH FIELDS** ◆

Stunning 42-acre farm, a scenic 10-mile drive from Charlottesville. Nestled amidst pastures and woodlands, it offers a serene creek, an antique farmhouse, updated kitchen, three bathrooms, four bedrooms, and panoramic Blue Ridge Mountain vistas, with a substantial barn for agricultural pursuits. MLS#651245 \$1,695,000 Jim Faulconer, 434.981.0076 or Will Faulconer, 434.987.9455



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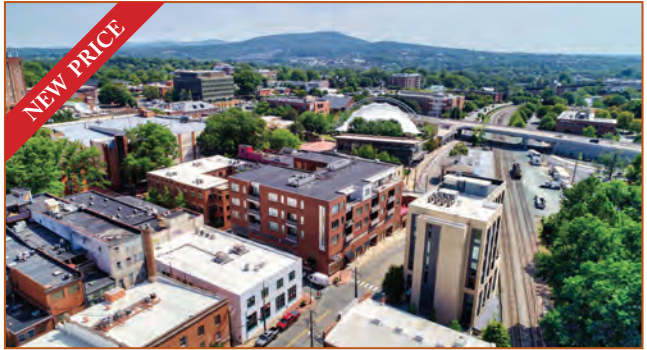
  
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◆ **HISTORIC STAUNTON** ◆

Meticulously renovated National Historic Register home, blending modern amenities with remarkable charm. 5-BR gem boasts tall ceilings, hardwood floors, stained glass windows, and elegant trim work. Quartz kitchen, magnificent primary suite, terrace level apartment, and garden. Rare opportunity in Staunton, VA, offering luxury, fantastic proximity, and timeless beauty. MLS#653080 \$1,195,000 Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700



◆ **THE HOLSINGER** ◆

This exceptional 2-bedroom, 2.5-bath condo in The Holsinger building is just steps from Charlottesville's historic Downtown Mall. Offering a spacious layout, abundant natural light, fully loaded kitchen, hardwood floors, a private balcony with mountain views, and secure parking. Enjoy vibrant downtown living! MLS#656160 \$1,178,000 Jim Faulconer, 434.981.0076 or Will Faulconer, 434.987.9455



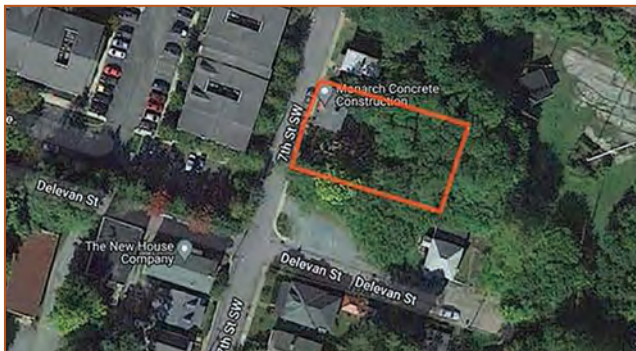
◆ **HIGH STREET** ◆

A highly visible location on a main City Entrance Corridor combined with the new Charlottesville Zoning Ordinance make 1114 East High Street an interesting property and future opportunity. The site property includes a parking lot with 12 spaces. Showings by Appointment only. Property is leased until June 2026. MLS#657521 \$950,000 Tim Michel, 434.960.1124 or Charlotte Dammann, 434.981.1250



◆ **UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD** ◆

Cabell Avenue was solidly constructed in 1956 as an over/under duplex. The 5-bedroom home (3 up, 2 down) is leased until June for \$4,390 a month to UVA students. There is a close-able stairway between the units offering max flexibility as a sing family residence, a house with lower apartment or a duplex. ML#657404 \$840,000 Tim Michel, 434.960.1124



◆ **WEST MAIN CORRIDOR** ◆

Investment/Assemblage opportunity between the University of Virginia and Charlottesville's dynamic Downtown Mall. The property is being targeted to be classified to RX-5 in the new city zoning ordinance. Four story building is possible. Don't miss this chance to invest in a prime location! MLS#657199 \$900,000 Tim Michel, 434.960.1124



◆ **KESWICK ESTATE** ◆

Nestled near Keswick Hall lies Keswick Estate, a gated community offering a 2.10± acre building site blending country life with resort living in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. Located only 5 miles from Martha Jefferson Hospital and 10 miles from UVA, Keswick Estate provides all the convenience you could ever need. MLS#650785 \$470,000 Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700

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# Announcing our new editor

In our Fall issue, Richard Gard used this space to announce his retirement after eight years as the editor of *Virginia Magazine*. In this issue, I am pleased to announce that, after a competitive and rigorous search, we have found an extraordinary new editor to carry forward the magazine's long-standing tradition of excellence.



write his essay in the Winter 2018 bicentennial special issue. Others may have seen her name atop the popular Time Capsule section, in which alumni have recounted specific parts of their time on Grounds—such as the coolest fashion of the time, the hottest cutting-edge technology, and, as you'll see on Page 60, the kindest acts.



Judy Le

While **Judy Le** may not be a familiar face (just yet), astute readers will recognize her name. In fact, some may remember that Richard mentioned Judy in his last letter—she's been the managing editor of *Virginia Magazine* for nearly a decade and was the one who goaded him to

But most of Judy's work has happened behind the scenes—selecting, developing and editing the stories you see in these pages and on our website. For countless print cycles, Judy has been the through line, the constant, the critical piece that has pulled every issue together. Now it's her time to take the helm.

I'm thrilled for Judy to lead this magazine into the future and to keep telling the stories that are important to you, our readers. Here's to an exciting new chapter ahead!

**Lily West, President and Publisher**  
UVA Alumni Association and *Virginia Magazine*



# Letters >



## SCHOOL SPIRITS

I was delighted to read your article in *Virginia Magazine* on "School Spirits" and its concluding reflection, quoting Professor Chen, who asks, "How do we square our rational modernity of the everyday ... with experiences that ... suggest that we don't quite understand the world?"

In 1972, in London, I dreamed one night that I stood on green grass, looking up at imposing pillars at an American university on the East Coast. I was puzzled and forgot about the dream. In 1981, then in India and in a dire personal crisis, I applied to graduate schools and saw the Rotunda on the materials sent to me by UVA, the only school that offered me admission and financial aid. I arrived in fall 1982.

I would also assist the late Dr. Ian Stevenson at UVA with a project related to his work on reincarnation. His considerable opus on the topic, and my own experiences and books, suggest that our existence stretches beyond our everyday ways of being.

**Suchitra Samanta (Grad '84, '87, '90)**  
*Radford, Virginia*

I enjoyed your story about ghosts and mysterious apparitions on Grounds. It reminded me of my two UFO sightings. I first saw the slowly rotating equilateral triangle of bright white lights slowly moving over the highway when I was en route to Neil Young's "Rust Never Sleeps" concert at William & Mary in October 1978. The second time I was driving

past old Scott Stadium and arriving at an intersection known as Fry's Spring, where the object hovered above me and a friend in my Chevy Vega and then sped off without a sound. I was sufficiently freaked to remark, "Please, no, I don't want to go," because I had already seen it once before. I called the local airport and asked about any unusual activity, of which, of course, there had been none—or none that anybody would admit. Over the years, nobody has ever been able to give me →

## CORRECTION

The Lesbian and Gay Student Union met at the Wesley Foundation. The story "Queer History" in the Fall issue contained incorrect information.

a satisfactory explanation of this phenomenon. Many years later, a fraternity brother who saw how excited I was that evening reported overhearing people at a party discussing the “Fry’s Spring UFO.” Perhaps one of your readers knows what it was I saw? If so, it would no longer be an unidentified flying object.

**Evan Cantor (Col ’78)**  
Boulder, Colorado

The story opened with this line: “Tales of things that have gone bump—or step-thump—on Grounds.” Even before I turned the page to continue my reading, I knew that the ghost that resides in Montebello was probably the spirit being referred to.

During our daughter’s four years in the engineering school at UVA, we served on the Parents’ Advisory Council. Occasionally, Jim and Sherry Aylor invited us to dinner at Montebello. It was at one of those dinners that Sherry shared the story of the thumping on the stairs in the mansion.

My husband and I thoroughly enjoyed serving on the Parents’ Council. However, when we think back on those times, we will always remember hearing firsthand the story about the ghost in Montebello.

**Karen M. Hopke (Educ ’72)**  
**Kenneth B. Hopke (Engr ’73)**  
Annandale, Virginia



**QUEER HISTORY**

I loved reading the history of LGBTQ+ students at the University. Beginning my time at the University in 1988, I did not see it as remotely possible to come out. Racial tensions at the University were high and conservatism was a dominating force. While there was talk of acceptance from some, the overall atmosphere was deeply unwelcoming. I first went to an LGSU meeting in 1991, terrified of what it might be like and whether I would be safe

there. It was safe and welcoming, and I found a tremendous sense of community among undergrad and graduate students. I came out at UVA in 1991-92 and was an officer in the newly renamed LGBU for the 1992-93 school year. We worked hard to build awareness about activities on Grounds during Pride Week and were able to do so, facing some rejection and some embraces. It is wonderful to see ongoing progress at the University and to consider just how far we have come. Thank you for telling this story.

**Dan Redding (Col ’92, Educ ’93)**  
Keswick, Virginia

I have the sense the Gay Student Union was about 1 year old the year I started at UVA. My mom had seen the ad for the GSU in the newsletter sent to incoming students and suggested I check it out. I met several members, including Michael A. James, whom I believe was the first president. I spent much time with this group doing grunt work. During my second year, Jenny Turner volunteered to be president and I volunteered to be vice president, just to keep the group going. A bit later, Bob Elkins showed up at a meeting and identified himself as “Alex Michaels.” He was a firebrand as he grilled us about our purpose, which I had assumed was merely to be a safe place for coming out. He wanted more than that. Later, he admitted to using the false name, and “came out on roller skates,” as we used to say. I recall the controversy about him being a gay RA, and his bravery. I want to give a shoutout to Michael A. James, whose incredible bravery to be there at the very beginning was an inspiration to me. I wish Michael were still alive to see this article, and I wish he had been mentioned.

**Larry M. Haines (Col ’77)**  
Wilton Manors, Florida

I was thrilled to read Sarah Lindenfeld Hall’s article. The article helps to fill one aspect of Virginia history that for many decades was left untold.

Unfortunately Ms. Hall left out an important part of that history. The article is titled “Queer History,” but it presents the story exclusively of lesbian and gay students. The T in LGBTQ+ is left out almost in its entirety. The word trans-

gender is mentioned only once in passing in the section about the 1990s, and the words nonbinary and genderqueer do not appear at all. Are we to take it that transgender, nonbinary, and genderqueer were left out because there were no students who identified as such?

Please note that we were there during the period covered by Ms. Hall. We were always there. Ms. Hall has written an excellent L and G history, but the history of the other letters of the LGBTQ+ rainbow at UVA has yet to be written.

**Robyn McCutcheon (Col ’76)**  
Burlington, Maine

It was refreshing to see an article on LGBTQ+ history and some of the key players and milestones over the course of the past 50 years. It did seem, however, that there was a lack of source material for a very active period in LGBTQ+ history at the University: the early to mid-’80s. I found many refreshing and positive attitudes in my time at UVA and my personal journey. While nestled in the Reagan years of political conservatism, music and culture were pushing a different agenda with the rise of the new wave era, which pushed the boundaries of dress and accepted norms of the time.

At UVA, the Gay Student Union had dances in Newcomb Hall. Outside the University confines, however, was where life was fun and engaging. Eastern Standard, Fellini’s, the Silver Fox and the “14th Street Late Night Party” provided venues where LGBTQ+ students felt welcomed and the community flourished. It was as close to an NYC vibe as one could find in Charlottesville.

Therefore, while I am sure there are stories of hostility, I found comfort in many of my friends in and beyond the LGBTQ+ community.

**Dale C. House (Col ’86)**  
Arlington, Virginia

“Queer History” deftly wove together LGBTQ stories by honestly confronting challenges and sharing hope. The article was enriched by exploring the opening of queer life in the wider cultural and political context. Reading the article filled me with deep gratitude for the people who made UVA a welcoming place for queer

people. As someone who came out in the early 2010s while at UVA Law, I now know more about the lives and organizations that created the supportive environment I experienced in the UVA community. Thank you for sharing this history.

**Matt Jobe (Grad '13, Law '13)**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Thank you for your survey of LBGQT activities within the University. I was a returning Army veteran in 1970 and remember well the *Cavalier Daily* ad calling for a meeting. Friends attended; my recollection is that there were more than the five or six on hand you mentioned. A number of my Army buddies were openly gay even though it was a dischargeable offense. I found the meeting a breath of fresh air. Going forward, my wife and I have worked within publishing for 50 years and found it a much more open, accepting community. Of course, the horror of the AIDS crisis was an education for a lot of straights. We lost a lot of friends. I find the University community much more conservative than when I attended. I can't believe the community is as broadly accepting as the article suggests. I would be happy to be wrong. Thank you for your article.

**Chris Kerr (Col '73)**  
Boston, Massachusetts



**DING! DING! DING!**

I read with dismay Ed Miller's article about the obstacles to effective reading and class participation many students face from social media.

One student's favorite class was the one in which electronic devices were forbidden; several students couldn't read for 90 seconds without checking their phones; viewing the natural world during a simple stroll was a "revelation"—all very discouraging!

But then I wondered, if social media is such a handicap, has there been a dramatic increase in failing grades and students on academic probation?

**Christopher Purcell (Col '74, Educ '77)**  
Kansas City, Missouri



**FROM THE EDITOR: A TIP OF THE HAT AND FAREWELL**

Here's wishing outgoing editor Richard Gard nothing but the best in the next chapter of his writing career. With the touch of a maestro, Gard has guided the magazine through a period of significant challenges, tragedies and accomplishments at the University and around Charlottesville.

I also salute Gard's parting comments about UVA hats leading to new friendships far from C'ville. About a year ago, I was in Gloucester, Massachusetts, to see a small art exhibition, and as I scampered across the quiet cobblestone street I heard, "Wahoowa!" I looked up and saw a smiling face shadowed by an orange Virginia baseball cap identical to the one I was wearing (but for the deeper sweat stains on mine). Pleasantries ensued, a "Go 'Hoos!" completed our exchange, and my wife provided the head-shaking eye roll you knowingly predicted.

**Mike Moriarty (Grad '91)**  
Charlottesville

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

An alumnus wrote to express his regret at the renaming of Alderman Library and the "unfortunate results" of "judging historical figures by 2024 standards." While it's one thing to recognize the contributions of some of UVA's leaders who were blatant racists, it's quite another for →

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the University to honor them by affixing their names to its buildings in perpetuity. People who think similarly could instead choose to recognize that Mr. Alderman had his name on the library for a very long time and got the recognition he deserved. Many of us, myself included, won't forget Alderman Library, where we, too, spent many hours. And still, we as individuals, and UVA as a community, can move forward in ways that are respectful and inclusive, and use the opportunity of change to bestow honors on the many outstanding leaders who have come since Alderman and are every bit as worthy of recognition.

**Jonathan Kagan (Col '75)**  
*Potomac, Maryland*

**THE STUDENT VOICE:  
SERVING ON THE BOV CAN  
BE A 24/7 ROLE**

I read with interest your article on the student representatives to the Board of Visitors and wanted to express my gratitude for the actions of one in particular.

In the spring of my fourth year, I learned that Parents Weekend for the coming autumn conflicted with Yom Kippur, the most solemn day of the Jewish year. I approached Angela

Cleveland, the student representative, who promised to speak to someone. A week later she told me that she had approached the Board's faculty secretary, who responded that one never knows when "those" holidays are going to be, and that if the University scheduled around Jewish observances it would have to do so "for everyone." I suggested that Angela remind the board that the dates of various religions' observances could be obtained by checking calendars available in almost any local bookstore, and that, at "Mr. Jefferson's University"—whose founder wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, but that nonetheless operated according to the Christian calendar—having to make accommodations "for everyone" if you did so for one was the point. Angela agreed and spoke to President Robert O'Neil, who rescheduled Parents Weekend. Angela's willingness to raise this issue spared the University the risk of alienating its Jewish students (and their parents) and any embarrassment resulting from adverse publicity.

**Eric Michael Mazur (Col '87, Grad '89)**  
*Norfolk, Virginia*

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# 30 years in and just getting started

**N**early 30 years ago, in response to the urging of enthusiastic young graduates, the Alumni Association established Young Alumni Council (YAC) to advocate for the needs of young alumni. As we prepare to celebrate this milestone anniversary this spring, it is extraordinary to reflect on YAC’s sustained, far-reaching impact across Grounds.

From initiating treasured traditions like Young Alumni Reunions (YAR) to incubating what became the University’s “Giving ToHoos Day,” YAC has been an engine of ingenuity, engagement and leadership development for decades. To that end, more than 75 percent of YAC members have gone on to serve the University in other committee and leadership capacities.

What’s more, YAC’s role in program development and relevance to the Alumni Association’s mission have never been greater. As undergraduate classes increase in size and methods of alumni engagement evolve rapidly, finding new ways to connect creatively with UVA’s young alumni is—and will continue to be—critical. Case in point: More than half of undergraduate alumni have graduated since 2000 and more than a quarter of undergraduate alumni have graduated since 2014.

While YAC may be 30 years in, it really is just getting started. Serving young alumni has always been core to the Alumni Association’s work, and we have no plans of slowing down anytime soon.

*Wahoowa,*

**Lily West (Darden '12)**  
*President & CEO*

**P.S.** This spring, YAC will relaunch its Alumni Service Award, established in 2002 to recognize alumni who have gone above and beyond to serve the University community. All alumni can nominate, and be nominated, until Jan. 15 at [alumni.virginia.edu/service-award](http://alumni.virginia.edu/service-award). We would love to hear about the dedicated alumni in your lives!

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# UDigest



## UVA UP ONE SPOT IN *U.S. NEWS* PUBLIC RANKINGS

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL

**W**hile criticism continues to swirl around *U.S. News & World Report's* popular college rankings, the digital publication has made few big changes to the methodology behind its 2025 list—and UVA's rank stayed about the same.

Among national universities, Virginia stayed at No. 24, tied with Emory and Georgetown. Among public universities, UVA moved up one spot to No. 4, jockeying for top honors with the same four institutions as usual.

UVA comes in behind No. 1 University of California, Los Angeles, and No. 2 University of California, Berkeley, which tied for No. 1 last year. The University of Michigan remained at No. 3, and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and UVA switched spots in this year's rankings as UNC moved down to No. 5.

Among the top public universities, UVA had the highest graduation rates for all students, including low-income students. UVA also boasted the highest percentage of full-time faculty members.

For the second consecutive year, *U.S. News* also named UVA the No. 3 Best Value school among public universities, behind UNC and the University of Idaho.

In the past, *U.S. News* has updated its methodologies to address criticism that the rankings place too much emphasis on a university's reputation. However, this year's methodology is largely the same as last year's; the publication did remove graduation rates for first-generation students from its methodology because of data limitations.

The rankings come amid new research that raises questions about their relevance. In a September 2024 analysis of several popular rankings, researchers found that they can be misleading because methodologies are unclear, data quality is inconsistent and some critical factors are highly subjective.

UVA was also ranked No. 14 among the top public universities in the *Wall Street Journal* ranking. *Forbes* recently placed UVA on a list of "new Ivies," defined as "the 10 public universities and 10 ascendant private ones turning out the smart, driven graduates craved by employers of all types." *Money* magazine's Best College rankings awarded UVA 4.5 stars out of 5. 📌

# UVA, CLASS OF 2028 NAVIGATE NEW ADMISSIONS WORLD

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL

The June 2023 Supreme Court decision that banned race-conscious college admissions practices upended the 2024 admissions season for both universities and prospective college students. And while some elite institutions saw sharp declines in the number of underrepresented students in their incoming classes, most of UVA's proportions stayed relatively close to those of previous classes.

As reported under federal counting guidelines, Hispanic students account for 9 percent of the incoming class, up from 7.2 percent from the previous year. The number of first-years who qualify for Pell Grants, intended for low-income students, grew from last year's 16.4 percent to 22.4 percent. About 19 percent are first-generation college students, up from 17.5 percent last year.

Black students constitute 7.2 percent of the class, however, which is down

from last year's 8.2 percent. The proportion of Asian American students also dropped, from 21.6 percent to this year's 20 percent. The proportion of white students remained about the same.

By comparison, schools such as Columbia, Brown, MIT and Cornell all saw sharp declines in the number of underrepresented racial groups in their incoming classes, according to an analysis by *Inside Higher Ed*. Even with the decline, some of those schools enrolled higher proportions of Black students than UVA did. At the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Black freshmen constitute 7.8 percent of the incoming class this year, down from 11 percent the year before.

**Stephen Farmer (Grad '86)**, UVA's vice provost for enrollment, credits UVA's relative steady numbers with focused recruitment efforts, all active or in the works before the Supreme Court decision. "We had some really good momentum going in the right direction before we had to react to the Supreme Court decision," Farmer said. "And I think those things did really help us."

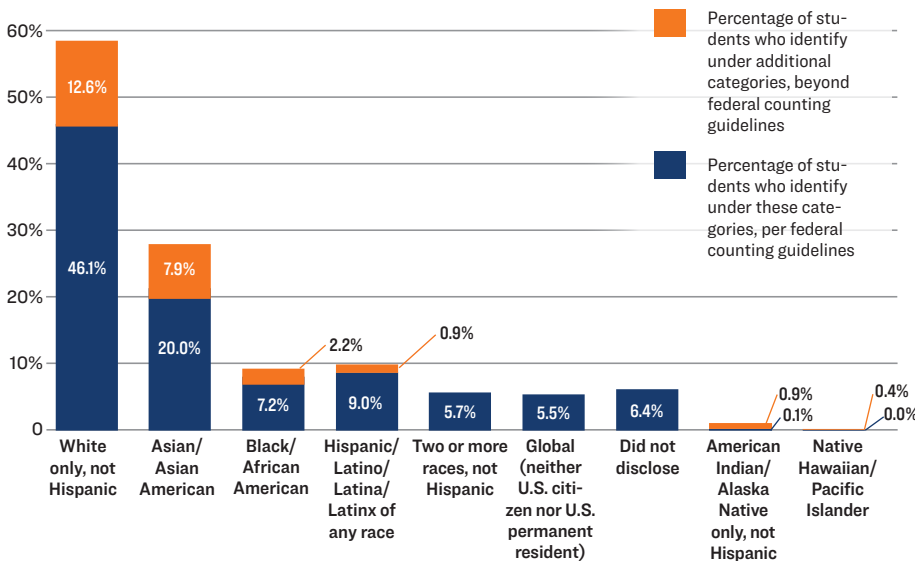
UVA, for example, has had a long partnership with the Virginia College Advising Corps, which places recent college graduates as advisers in Virginia high schools.

Advisers don't recruit students to UVA, Farmer said. But the organization's mission is to increase the number of low-income, first-generation and underrepresented high school students who enter and graduate college. And an increasing share of students from high schools with advising corps counselors are coming to UVA. About 7 percent of this year's first-years were advised by an advising corps counselor, up from 4 percent from the Class of 2026.

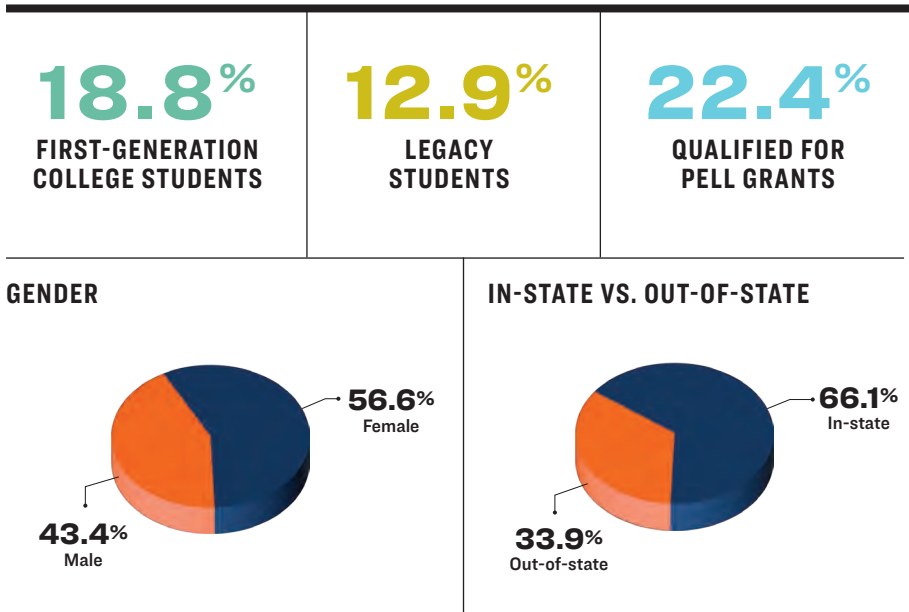
Another effort is All Virginia. The project, proposed months before the

**3,962** FIRST-TIME FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

## BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



**Note:** The blue bars above show self-identified information on race following standard federal reporting guidelines. Under those guidelines, international students are grouped as their own category irrespective of race. Similarly, Hispanic/Latinx students and those who identify as more than one race are separated out as their own categories, rather than counted within any racial category. The Office of Undergraduate Admission provides additional statistics indicating the self-reported races of international, Hispanic/Latinx and multiracial students, represented here by the orange bars. So, for example, while 20 percent of the entering class identify as Asian-only U.S. citizens, an additional 7.9 percent identify as either part Asian or as Asian international students. But the orange bars come with an important caveat: They include overcounting of individuals. A person who identifies as part Black, part white and part American Indian, for example, would be included under each of those categories and therefore shown here three times.



Supreme Court decision, targets Virginia high schools with high rates of low-income students and low rates of seniors who enroll at UVA. This year, with support from the program, 109 students enrolled at UVA from those 40 high schools, an 81 percent increase from the year before.

“The top students at these schools were not applying to UVA,” Farmer said. “They didn’t think they could afford it, and so they just didn’t raise their hand for UVA. We knew that if they did, they’d have good luck.”

UVA also revamped its Days on the Lawn program for admitted, but not always enrolled, students that brought more interactive experiences to get high school students excited about attending UVA, Farmer said. Among students admitted from the All Virginia schools, 49 attended Days on the Lawn, and 48 enrolled. Black student leaders and alumni also helped with recruiting and marketing efforts for the new class.

Alumni “shared some of their wisdom, and they just did it in a very generous, genuine way,” Farmer said. “I don’t have a way to measure it, but I think that kind of thing makes a difference.”

Making the admissions cycle more

complicated for the Class of 2028 was the glitchy relaunch of FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which left students who rely on financial aid waiting longer than usual for their aid packages.

Experts fear the botched launch may have triggered a drop in enrollment across the country, but Farmer said UVA’s financial services office stepped up to help individual students navigate the FAFSA rollout.

“It’s been a nightmare for families, and it’s been a nightmare for our team,” Farmer said. “But, despite all of that, the number of students in our class who qualify for Pell Grants is just way up.”

**779**  
TRANSFER STUDENTS ALSO ADMITTED

More financial aid support is also behind UVA’s successful admissions cycle, Farmer said.

In December 2023, UVA boosted financial aid support for in-state students, raising the family income ceiling

for students to be eligible for grants and scholarships.

The 779 students who transferred into UVA are another success story, Farmer said. Nearly 29 percent qualified for Pell Grants and 25 percent are first-generation college students. About 35 percent had previously applied to UVA. “There’s more than one way to get to the University,” Farmer said. “And the best way is the way that works.”



## UVA ROWER NABS SILVER AT PARALYMPICS

Make it 15 medals won by Virginia athletes in Paris this year.

Just weeks after current and former Cavaliers captured a school-record 14 medals at the Paris Olympics, rower **Skylar Dahl (Col '25)** added another, taking silver at the Paralympics on September 1. Dahl competed as a member of Team USA in the PR3 mixed four with coxswain event. The crew of two men and two women finished three seconds behind Great Britain to claim the third consecutive silver medal for the United States in this discipline.

“It was definitely the coolest thing I’ve ever done,” Dahl said. “An incredible experience.”

The fourth-year media studies major made the U.S. team in January and took a break from rowing for UVA to train for the games, a competition for athletes who have disabilities, held every four years just after the Olympic Games. Dahl was born with bilateral clubfoot, a congenital condition in which the feet are twisted out of position, usually with the front half turned inward and the heels pointed inward and downward, according to the Mayo Clinic’s website. —**Ed Miller**

# Discovery

## HOW LONG BEFORE LONG COVID IS EXTINGUISHED?

BY MIKE GRUSS

**W**hat, exactly, is happening to a patient's lungs during long COVID?

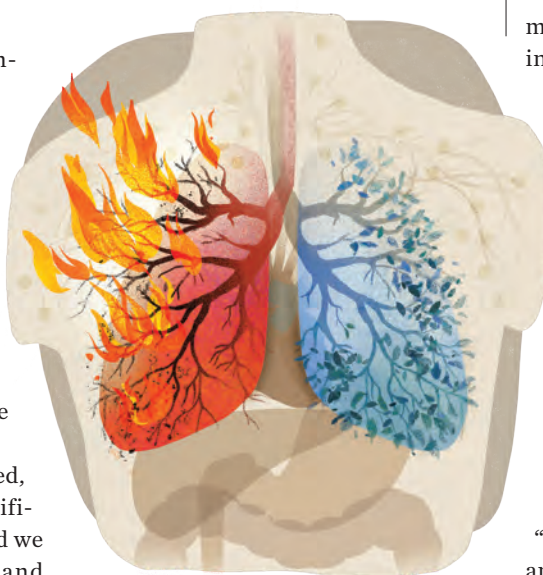
One theory is that the symptoms, such as a persistent cough and shortness of breath, are signs of an immune system that's gone haywire. The body can't stop fighting.

UVA researchers are working to unlock what's triggering long COVID in patients' lungs and, more importantly, how to treat it.

"My lab realized, 'Oh, this is a significant problem, and we need to understand it,'" said Jie Sun, principal investigator at UVA's Carter Center for Immunology Research. "In order to develop a treatment, we really need to

understand what are the driving causes of developing these chronic conditions, and to not only understand the biology, but also develop preventive and therapeutic treatment options."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 17 million adults in the United States reported having long COVID. That's defined as a continuation of COVID symptoms two to three months after the initial infection with no other explanation. Women, and patients ages 40 to 59, reported the highest rates. Symptoms can run the gamut and include heart



palpitations, nausea, fatigue—and to the interest of UVA doctors—a cough.

Early in the pandemic, Sun recognized the key to studying COVID wasn't in people's blood; it was in their lungs. His team used bronchoscopes to see inside lungs and also examined the damaged lungs of transplant recipients to study their function and look for scarring. They also worked with mice.

In instances of long COVID, they found an overactive immune system that never gets a chance to cool down. It's almost always activated, like a trick birthday candle that reignites. As a result, the infection causes an inflammatory response that can lead to coughing, difficulty breathing or worse.

The challenge for doctors and researchers becomes how to turn off that switch, that activation of the immune system.

One solution, they believe, may be the kind of medicine used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and lessen inflammation. Think of that medication as inhibitors that send a message to stop fighting.

A clinical trial could help determine—in larger numbers than used in the lab's studies—if this is a viable option.

Another UVA researcher is also working to help solve the lung complications that can accompany long COVID.

Jen Hendrick, a medical doctor of infectious disease, is designing a clinical trial that studies the early treatment of COVID with the allergy drug dupilumab, commonly used for asthma and sinusitis, which she hopes could prevent lung complications associated with long COVID.

She describes that illness as a "downstream pulmonary injury." By analyzing multiple data sets of COVID patients, including some from UVA, Hendrick found that those patients with higher markers of an immune, allergic response in their blood were more likely to need a ventilator.

By blocking two of the proteins that create the allergic response, Hendrick hopes to help take away some of the difficulties of living with long COVID. In studies where mice were infected with the virus, those that received a blocker lived longer than those that did not.

"The idea would be to improve pulmonary function abnormalities not just in terms of magnitude, but in terms of timing," she said.

That could mean a faster recovery, fewer hospital visits and fewer deaths.

Hendrick is seeking funding from the National Institutes of Health for a clinical trial. If approved, such a test could start in 2026. 



Jie Sun



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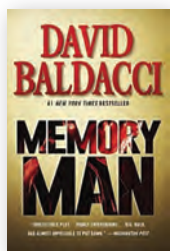
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## 5 heart-pumping thrillers by UVA Law grads

BY SAM GROSSMAN

**H**ere are five thrillers by alumni who parlayed their experiences as attorneys, judges and CIA operatives into page-turning narratives.



### **Memory Man** (2015)

by David Baldacci (Law '86)

In the first installment of his *Memory Man* series, veteran novelist David Baldacci introduces former football player Amos Decker, who, after surviving a traumatic injury, ends up with “one of the most exceptional brains in the world.” Armed with a perfect memory, Decker embarks on a successful career as a detective. One night, he comes home and finds his wife, daughter and brother-in-law murdered. Unable to solve the crime and overcome with grief, he quits the force and his life unravels. Sixteen months later, two seemingly unconnected events pull him back into police work: a confession in the case and a school shooting. To uncover the truth, Decker must tap into his superhuman cognitive abilities—and finally face the painful memories from the worst night of his life.



### **The Peacock and the Sparrow** (2024)

by Ilana Berry (Law '03)

Former CIA operative Ilana Berry's debut novel, written under the pen name I.S. Berry, follows an aging, jaded American spy stationed in Bahrain during the Arab Spring. His mission—“uncovering the vast Persian conspiracy behind the Shiite uprising against

the Sunni monarchy”—grows more complicated when his trusted informant is named a suspect in a series of bombings. A burgeoning romance with a Bahraini mosaic artist pulls him even deeper into the conflict. Tapping into her six years of experience as a spy, including one in wartime Baghdad and two in Bahrain, Berry welcomes readers into the psyche of a spy and the morally complex world of political unrest.



### **The Plinko Bounce** (2023)

by Martin Clark (Law '84)

The sixth novel by retired Virginia circuit court judge Martin Clark, *The Plinko Bounce* follows public defender Andy Hughes, who is ready to resign after 17 years of representing small-time criminals in his rural Virginia town. That changes when he's assigned to represent a man accused of murdering the wife of a high-profile millionaire. The suspect has already signed a confession, and the case seems open-and-shut—until Hughes discovers a minor technicality that takes the trial in a new direction. Obligated to defend a man he considers evil, Hughes battles an increasingly complex ethical dilemma. The story builds to a twist that even avid thriller fans may not see coming.



### **Bearskin** (2018)

by James A. McLaughlin (Law '90, Grad '97)

Set in the Virginia wilderness, James A. McLaughlin's debut novel stars Rice Moore, a fugitive hiding a dangerous, crime-filled past. He's found a solitary job as the caretaker of a nature preserve—a sharp contrast from his previous work as a drug mule and hired

killer in Arizona. When he discovers several bear carcasses near the property, however, he finds himself swept up once again in a dangerous world, this time involving poachers, the black market and international drug trades. Deeply descriptive and atmospheric, the story takes place not just in the Appalachian Mountains but also within the protagonist's troubled mind.



### **Love Betrayal Murder** (2023)

by Adam Mitzner (Law '89)

In his legal thriller *Love Betrayal Murder*, Adam Mitzner, a practicing attorney and author of 11 novels, introduces us to Matt and Vanessa, lawyers at a New York City firm. Their workplace romance is complicated by several factors: Matt has made partner and Vanessa hasn't. Vanessa is married with a

child. Matt becomes her supervisor on a major case. Two back-to-back trials and multiple narrators propel the story forward. Dotted with suspenseful courtroom scenes and, as the title suggests, plenty of betrayal, the book leaves readers questioning whom to trust.



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# GAME CHANGER

Behind Tony Bennett's surprise retirement and what's  
next for Virginia men's basketball *BY ED MILLER*



Relive all our Tony Bennett highlights at [uvamag.com/tonybennett](http://uvamag.com/tonybennett).

# In the end,

Tony Bennett retired the way he coached—following his own rules.

In mid-October, Virginia’s men’s basketball coach was making the rounds at the 2024 ACC Tipoff in Charlotte, North Carolina, talking to

media members about the upcoming season. Afterward, he returned to Grounds and put his team through its paces, showing no indication that he was less than fully committed. “He was into it,” said former Cavalier player and coach **Jeff Jones (Col ’82)**, who was at practice, watching. “Really intense and focused.”

But the following week, Bennett announced his retirement, an abrupt departure that prompted stunned reactions and tributes from college coaches, administrators, commentators, fans and former players. Still in his prime at 55, Bennett declared that he was no longer the right person to lead Virginia in the rapidly changing, chaotic landscape of big-time college sports.

“I’m a square peg in a round hole,” he said. “That’s what it is. Maybe that’s the hard part to admit, but it’s OK because, when you tell the truth, there’s freedom in that.”

But how did Bennett arrive at his decision? And what does the future hold for Cavalier men’s basketball?

## A new landscape

Bennett, very much a traditionalist, has made no secret of the fact that he is not a fan of recent changes that have moved major college sports toward a professional model, with loosely regulated payments to players, the lifting of restrictions on player transfers and the increasing influence of agents, among other changes. →

Athletics Director  
Carla Williams  
asked him to sleep  
on his decision.  
He stuck with it.

JAMIE HOLT/UVVA ATHLETICS

“We’ve been talking about the landscape and the difficulties and the challenges for years,” UVA Director of Athletics Carla Williams said.

The disruption began in 2021, when the U.S. Supreme Court found that the NCAA was subject to antitrust laws. The decision opened the way for “name, image and likeness” (NIL) payments to players, ostensibly for things such as brand endorsements, appearances, charity work and social media posts.

Payment for performance was prohibited. But booster-led NIL collectives have paid de facto salaries and signing bonuses to star players and recruits, creating bidding wars for top talent at some schools.

The lifting of restrictions on player transfers in response to another antitrust suit has resulted in virtual free agency.

“Quite honestly, you just don’t know in college basketball what rosters are, what teams have,” Bennett said at his retirement press conference.

Before the changes, players who transferred were required to sit out a season, which limited their numbers. Last season, a record 1,089 Division I men’s basketball players entered the NCAA transfer portal, according to the website On3.com. Virginia added five transfers for this season, after a frantic two-month process that begins immediately after the season and often involves negotiations with player agents, a task Bennett said he had little stomach or talent for and left to assistant coaches.

Attempts at restoring order are underway. In May, the NCAA and its major conferences reached a settlement that will allow schools to share up to 22 percent of their athletic department revenue with players. The deal, which has received preliminary approval from a judge, also seeks to rein in the influence of boosters by subjecting third-party NIL deals to NCAA approval.

Even if approved, however, the settlement is not expected to be the final word on the new model of college athletics.

In these uncertain times, Bennett was

## “I am at peace. When you know in your heart it’s time, it’s time.”

—Tony Bennett

not willing to wait for the courts, the NCAA, or possibly the U.S. Congress—which the NCAA has asked for a shield from further antitrust suits—to sort things out.

“The game and college athletics is not in a healthy spot,” he said.

In his announcement, Bennett stressed that he is not against payments to athletes, and he said collective bargaining with players is the only way for the NCAA to impose enforceable salary and transfer restrictions and limit the influence of agents.

But the NCAA has argued in court against granting athletes employee status—key to collective bargaining.

Bennett had been on record as taking a wait-and-see approach to the new environment. He said before the 2023-24 season that if he “can be successful in the right way” he would continue to coach.

At his press conference, he said he had considered stepping down after last season but got swept up in recruiting players

in the transfer portal. He signed a contract extension in June, and although he wasn’t sure he’d complete the full six years on his deal, he said he was “excited” and began preparing for the upcoming season.

Still, his discomfort with the state of college athletics lingered. At the ACC Tipoff a week before his announcement, ESPN reporter Jeff Borzello asked Bennett why people thought he could be “the next Jay Wright and retire out of nowhere.” It was a reference to the highly successful Villanova University coach who two years ago retired unexpectedly at age 60, citing the looming changes as one reason.

“I’ve got to call Jay Wright and see what he says, right?” Bennett responded, jokingly. “I always have said, when you’re doing this, you’re in this profession, whether you agree how it’s going or not, you have to be true to yourself and really look at it and say, ‘Who am I? Can I operate how I want, and can it be successful enough?’”

Bennett said at the press conference that he’s spoken to Wright “over the years.”

**Bennett reached his decision after a fall break trip with his wife, Laurel.**



JAMIE HOLTY/UYVA ATHLETICS



MATT RILEY

Before making his decision, though, he talked to his father, Dick Bennett. The elder Bennett retired as the University of Wisconsin head men's basketball coach in November 2000 at age 57, three games into the season, saying he was burned out.

His father told him "you have to do what's in your heart," Bennett said.

Bennett also received advice from his wife, Laurel. It was during a fall break trip with her that he realized it would be unfair to his team to continue to coach if he was not fully committed, he said. He called Williams, who asked him to sleep on it. But his mind was made up.

Bennett told his team the next day.

"I was definitely really shocked," said guard **Isaac McKneely (Col '26)**, the team's top returning player. "We were just about to have practice, and he broke the news to us.

"I understand his decision. He couldn't provide his best for us. He's just doing what's best. I trust Coach Bennett. I trust his decision-making. I'm thankful I got to play for him for the two years that I did."

Bennett said he gave everything he could over his 15 years at Virginia.

"I am at peace," he said. "When you know in your heart it's time, it's time."

## Bennett's legacy

Bennett's numbers at Virginia speak for themselves. He coached 500 games, the most in program history, and won 364, also a record. He guided the Cavaliers to the 2019 NCAA championship, two ACC Tournament titles, six ACC regular-season championships and 10 NCAA tournament appearances. He was named ACC coach of the year four times.

"He elevated the UVA men's basketball program back to national prominence," Williams said.

Yet it was the way he coached and built his program that set Bennett apart. He talked often of leading Virginia according to his five pillars of humility, passion, unity, servanthood and thankfulness.

Bennett was humble in victory and gracious in defeat, most notably when No. 1 seed UVA was upset by No. 16 University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in the 2018 NCAA tournament, a historic, gut-wrenching loss. Bennett was widely praised for handling it with class.

Unlike some of his rivals, Bennett recruited fewer top-ranked "can't-miss" prospects who might stay in college just a year or two and instead brought in

**Bennett and UVA achieved the ultimate in 2019, defeating Texas Tech to win the NCAA championship.**

less-heralded players who stuck around and developed into stars.

"I wanted to see if I could build a program in our unique way to compete against the Blue Bloods," he said at his press conference. "I was so intrigued and excited about being at a school that had academic excellence and the degree mattered and it was important."

Bennett's against-the-grain approach extended to his team's famously deliberate and defensive-oriented style of play, a contrast to the faster pace favored by many others that is generally considered more entertaining.

Winning validated his style of play and brought attention to his personal values and the way he carried himself. Across college athletics, Bennett has widely been regarded as someone who did things the right way. He has also been, given the visibility of men's basketball, as recognizable a symbol of UVA as any one individual.

"Bennett was the myth that the NCAA tries to present to the public, except he was real," bestselling author and *Washington Post* columnist John Feinstein wrote when Bennett retired.

"The college game has lost a giant," said

Indiana Pacers coach **Rick Carlisle (Col '84)**, who was among the many who came to the press conference to salute Bennett. "In the way he has done it and what he stands for and the integrity he has personally and as a coach."

Carlisle said he believes Bennett's remarks about the state of college athletics will resonate. Williams said his departure is a sad commentary on where things stand.

"When people like Tony Bennett exit men's basketball, exit our industry, for something that has nothing to do with coaching or teaching or being a role model, then shame on all of us," she said.

Amid the praise, there was criticism of the timing of Bennett's departure just three weeks before the start of the season. *Sports Illustrated* columnist Pat Forde, who has been critical of Virginia's style of play, wrote a column theorizing that Bennett's move may have been calculated to ensure that Williams did not have time to do anything but promote his preferred successor, Ron Sanchez, and that players would not have time to transfer. (In late October guard **Jalen Warley (Col '26)** announced he would transfer.)

Inside the dining room at John Paul Jones Arena, however, where the press conference was held, several supporters said Bennett was simply being true to himself, a privilege he was entitled to.

"He's earned the right to take some time and exhale and figure out what he wants to do next, if anything," Carlisle said.

## Virginia's future

While Bennett was figuring out what he might do next—he hinted at possibly taking a part-time advisory role of some kind, although at publication time that was still to be determined—Sanchez was hastily elevated from associate head coach to interim head coach.

The 51-year-old Sanchez, who was born in the Dominican Republic and grew up in the Bronx, is as steeped in Bennett's system as anyone. He coached with and under

**Longtime assistant Ron Sanchez, at right, was named interim head coach for 2024-25.**

Bennett at Washington State University and for nine years at UVA before leaving to serve as head coach at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

He compiled a record of 72-78 there in five years but led the 49ers to the school's first postseason title in his final season.

Sanchez returned to UVA in 2023 as associate head coach, the same title he held before leaving. He said he didn't expect to make many changes.

"It would be a mistake to come in here and think I could do things completely differently and try to have the same results," he said at a press conference five days after taking the mantle.

"The leadership may have changed, but the program and the culture here will not."

Sanchez emphasized that he'd been in on the ground floor of something that took years to build. He said his first priority when becoming interim head coach was to check on his staff members and the team's players in the aftermath of an emotional couple of days.

"I wanted to tell them they are still loved," he said of the players. "Tony's departure doesn't remove that level of appreciation for them as student-athletes here."

Forward **TJ Power (Col '27)** transferred from Duke this season largely to play for Bennett, he said. Bennett had recruited him coming out of high school and again

when Power decided to transfer.

"It's definitely been a whirlwind of emotions," Power said 10 days after Bennett's announcement and roughly a week before the start of the season.

Although the timing of Bennett's retirement made it difficult, the team had managed to move on fairly quickly, he said.

"And Coach Sanchez has helped us with that so much. He knows Coach Bennett better than anyone and he knows what needs to continue here and our team has embraced him really well."

Sanchez said Bennett was more than a colleague; he was his closest friend. Still, he said he was also surprised by Bennett's decision to walk away.

"This was not expected, but with every challenge comes an opportunity," he said.

Williams said she will conduct a national search for a head coach after the season, so Sanchez will have at least one year in charge. But he said his interim status won't affect the way he coaches.

"The title doesn't mean anything," he said. "I'm here to serve this institution for however long it is."

**Kyle Guy (Col '20)**, who was one of the heroes of the 2019 national championship team and recently returned as a special assistant, said Bennett's presence will remain.

"He set a standard here that we will strive to meet every single day," he said. ♡

*Ed Miller is senior editor of Virginia Magazine.*



UVA ATHLETICS



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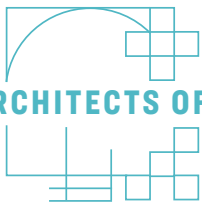
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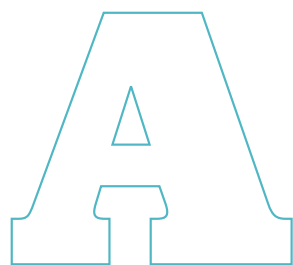
THE ARCHITECTS OF UVA



# THE VISIONARIES BEHIND GROUNDS

Over nearly two centuries, many notable architects have built on Thomas Jefferson's groundbreaking concept for his University.

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL



ny architectural history of UVA starts with Thomas Jefferson, of course. His concept for the Academical Village, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was crafted across decades, nurtured through his passion, his knowledge of architecture,

his world travels and his ideas about education.

Jefferson’s vision was revolutionary, says noted architectural historian Richard Guy Wilson, UVA professor emeritus. During that period, most universities were simply one large block of a building, Wilson said.

But Jefferson believed that learning should extend beyond lecture halls, Wilson says. “His idea was that education wasn’t just simply the professor blabbering away in a classroom, but is the environment that surrounds you, both going in the classroom and coming out.”

Today, the Academical Village remains central to UVA’s identity and mission. But since the Rotunda opened nearly 200 years ago, Grounds has hardly remained static, and its shape has sometimes responded to the trends of the day as leading architects brought their own mark to the campus.

In the 1850s, for example, buildings and grounds director William A. Pratt began to veer from Jefferson’s neoclassical approach to more trendy

styles, according to UVA’s Historic Preservation Framework Plan, a history of UVA’s post-Jefferson buildings and landscapes. That move away later resulted in an “Eclectic Period,” featuring Brooks Hall with its mansard roof and animal carvings, and the University Chapel with its flying buttresses.

The City Beautiful and associated University Beautiful movements, which hit their stride in the 1880s and 1890s, represented a shift back to the classical and early governmental architecture in the United States, Wilson says. On Grounds, it came in the form of McKim, Mead & White’s redesign of the Rotunda and the original South Lawn buildings.

By the early 1900s, UVA was growing. Amid this need for expansion, President Edwin Alderman created an Architectural Commission in 1921, filling it with notable architects of the time, to bring some “harmony to the architecture,” Wilson said. Commission members jointly designed buildings such as Scott Stadium, Memorial Gymnasium, Thornton Hall, Clark Hall and Brown College.

By the middle of the 1900s, the Architectural Commission had disbanded, but more construction—along with a more modern take on architecture, in some cases—arrived.

At each of these points and across UVA’s history, notable architects left their marks at UVA. Here are some of the luminaries whose work graces Grounds, as well as where you will find their work out in the rest of the world. →



BROOKS HALL

UVA COMMUNICATIONS

### John Rochester Thomas

**ON GROUNDS:** Brooks Hall (1877)  
**ELSEWHERE:** Hall of Records and Calvary Baptist Church in New York City

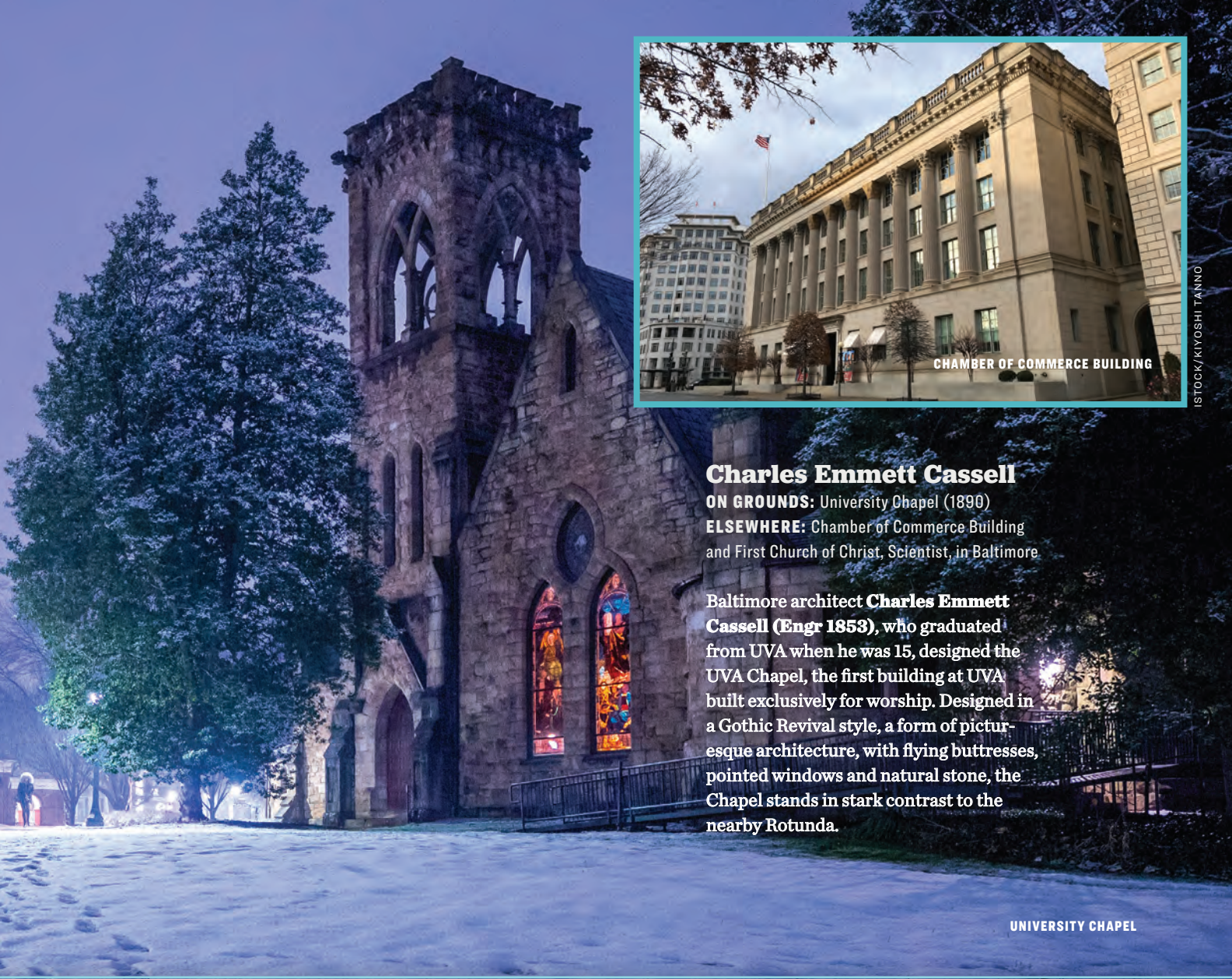
John Rochester Thomas of Rochester, New York, was a major architect of his time, called “America’s leading architect” in the 1899 edition of the National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, according to Brooks’ Virginia Landmarks Register listing. Designed in the Second Empire style, Brooks Hall was first used as a natural history exhibition hall.



HALL OF RECORDS



OLD CABELL, ROUSS AND COCKE HALLS



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING

ISTOCK/KIYOSHI TANNNO

### Charles Emmett Cassell

**ON GROUNDS:** University Chapel (1890)

**ELSEWHERE:** Chamber of Commerce Building and First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Baltimore

Baltimore architect **Charles Emmett Cassell (Engr 1853)**, who graduated from UVA when he was 15, designed the UVA Chapel, the first building at UVA built exclusively for worship. Designed in a Gothic Revival style, a form of picturesque architecture, with flying buttresses, pointed windows and natural stone, the Chapel stands in stark contrast to the nearby Rotunda.

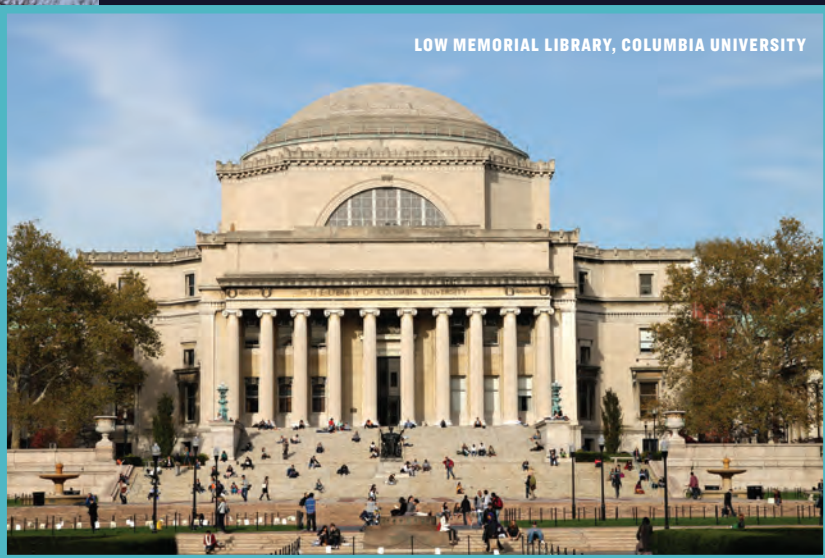
UNIVERSITY CHAPEL



### McKim, Mead & White

**ON GROUNDS:** Old Cabell, Rouss and Cocke halls; redesigned and rebuilt Rotunda (1898)

**ELSEWHERE:** Low Memorial Library, Columbia University; buildings at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



LOW MEMORIAL LIBRARY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

New York architecture firm McKim, Mead & White—made up of Charles McKim, William Rutherford Mead and Stanford White—was at the forefront of the City Beautiful movement. After the fire in 1895 destroyed the Rotunda, UVA's Board of Visitors was on the hunt for a firm “not of local repute only but of broad and national consideration.” McKim, Mead & White designed the buildings that close off the South Lawn—Old Cabell, Cocke and Rouss halls—and rebuilt and redesigned the Rotunda.

PETER SPIRO/ISTOCK

## Paul Pelz

**ON GROUNDS:** Randall Hall (1899)

**ELSEWHERE:** Library of Congress, popular lighthouses



ANDREW SHURTLEFF



ISTOCK

Paul Pelz, an architect and engineer, was considered the primary architect behind the Library of Congress. His other work includes a design used to build lighthouses on the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf Coast—in Currituck and Bodie Island in North Carolina, Morris Island in South Carolina, St. Augustine in Florida, and Sand Island in Alabama, according to the United States Lighthouse Society.

## Fiske Kimball

**ON GROUNDS:** McIntire Amphitheatre (1921)

**ELSEWHERE:** Shack Mountain, preservation projects at Monticello, Colonial Williamsburg and national parks

Architect and architectural historian Fiske Kimball had many titles. Before he arrived at UVA in 1919, Kimball was author of the first book on Jefferson's architecture, *Thomas Jefferson, Architect*, a project that was sparked by the initial research of his wife, Jefferson scholar Marie Goebel Kimball. At UVA, Kimball was chairman of UVA's architecture department and a member of the Architectural Commission. After leaving UVA in 1923, Kimball went on to establish a fine arts department for New York University and serve as director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. But he kept coming back to Charlottesville and his retirement home, Shack Mountain.



UVA COMMUNICATIONS



PEABODY HALL



UVA COMMUNICATIONS

THEN-ALDERMAN LIBRARY



LAMBETH COLONNADES



UVA COMMUNICATIONS

BALTIMORE TRUST COMPANY BUILDING



ISTOCK/TUPUNGATO

### Robert E. Lee Taylor

**ON GROUNDS:** Lambeth Colonnades (1913), Peabody Hall (1914) and then-Alderman Library (1938)

**ELSEWHERE:** Baltimore Trust Company Building (now the Bank of America Building); Dunbar Junior and Senior High School

Robert E. Lee Taylor, who graduated in 1901, was a UVA football and baseball star who studied architecture at MIT and also served on UVA's Architectural Commission. Taylor was a popular architect from Baltimore with the firm Taylor & Fisher, whose work was mostly located in the Baltimore, Richmond and Northern Virginia areas.

## John Kevan Peebles

### ON GROUNDS:

Fayerweather Hall (1893)  
and Minor Hall (1911)

**ELSEWHERE:** Wings of the  
Virginia State Capitol and  
Maury-Brooke Hall at VMI



FAYERWEATHER HALL

UVA COMMUNICATIONS



WINGS OF THE VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL



MINOR HALL

ISTOCK

Norfolk architect **John Kevan Peebles (Engr 1888, 1890)** was a member of UVA's Architectural Commission. A prolific architect, he was part of the firm Peebles & Ferguson, which also designed the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, among many other projects.



GILMER HALL

ISTOCK

NEW CABELL HALL



## Eggers & Higgins

**ON GROUNDS:** New Cabell Hall (1952), Newcomb Hall (1958) and McCormick Road dorms (1946 to 1951)

**ELSEWHERE:** Silliman College at Yale and the Dirksen Senate Office Building

To keep up with demands on classrooms and student spaces, UVA brought in D.C.-based firm Eggers & Higgins to design New Cabell Hall, Newcomb Hall and the McCormick Road dorms. The firm, led by Otto R. Eggers and Daniel P. Higgins, was the successor firm to architect John Russell Pope, who had designed a number of major buildings in Washington, D.C. After Pope's death, Eggers & Higgins completed his work on the Jefferson Memorial and National Gallery of Art, among other projects.

UVA COMMUNICATIONS



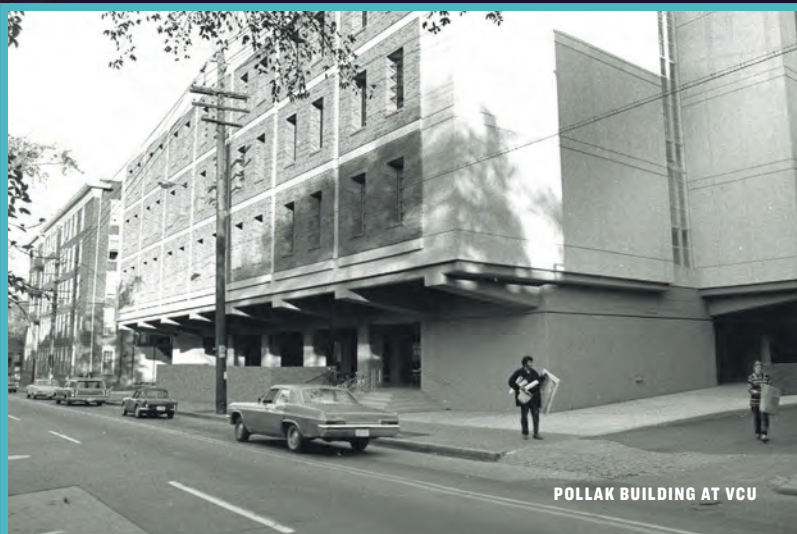
NEWCOMB HALL



SILLIMAN COLLEGE AT YALE

ISTOCK / STEVE ROSENBACH

VCU SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



POLLAK BUILDING AT VCU

## Ballou and Justice

**ON GROUNDS:** Gilmer Hall (1963)

**ELSEWHERE:** Richmond City Hall and the Pollak Building at VCU

Richmond architects Ballou and Justice, along with Stainback and Scribner of Charlottesville, designed Gilmer, the first big example of modern architecture at UVA. At the time, the modern style, according to UVA's preservation history, was deemed appropriate, in particular, for the innovative fields of science and technology. Architects Louis Ballou and Charles Justice led the firm, which also was hired to design restoration plans for the Rotunda in 1966. The firm continues to operate as Ballou Justice Upton Architects.



CAMPBELL HALL

## Pietro Belluschi and Kenneth DeMay

**ON GROUNDS:** Campbell Hall (1970)

**ELSEWHERE:** MetLife Building in New York City (Belluschi), Commonwealth Building in Portland, Oregon (Belluschi), and Harbour Town Lighthouse at the Sea Pines Resort on Hilton Head (DeMay)

The design of Campbell Hall, along with the neighboring Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library, was a group effort, including the firms Rawlings and Wilson of Richmond, and Sasaki, Dawson and DeMay Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Two professionals, however, played leading roles in the work: Pietro Belluschi and Kenneth DeMay. Belluschi was a prolific architect who also was dean of architecture and planning at MIT. DeMay was sought after for campus planning and golf projects. The two teamed up on other projects as well, including the Engineering Sciences Center at the University of Colorado Boulder in the 1960s.



METLIFE BUILDING

ISTOCK



HUMANA BUILDING

THOMAS KELLEY/ALAMY



BRYAN HALL

ANDREW SHURTLEFF

## Michael Graves

**ON GROUNDS:** Bryan Hall (1995)

**ELSEWHERE:** Humana Building in Louisville, Kentucky; Swan and Dolphin resorts at Walt Disney World

Celebrated postmodernist architect Michael Graves was a leading architect and designer, longtime architecture professor at Princeton, and winner of the 1999 National Medal of Arts from President Bill Clinton. His firm's work is found across the globe, including the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport in The Hague and multiple projects at Disney parks. Graves also was known for his design of household products, including items for the bathroom and kitchen, and collaborated with major brands such as Target and Alessi.

BAVARO HALL



UVA COMMUNICATIONS

TOUR CARPE DIEM



EXPANDED DARDEN CAMPUS

### Robert A.M. Stern

**ON GROUNDS:** Expanded Darden campus (1996) and Bavaro Hall (2010)

**ELSEWHERE:** Tour Carpe Diem outside of Paris and the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska

Known for his modern traditionalist designs, Robert A.M. Stern and his eponymous firm are behind the design of notable buildings around the world—from institutional buildings to major luxury residential towers. Stern served as dean of Yale’s architecture school from 1998 to 2016. 🍷

# BUILDING BIG CAREERS

*Meet eight School of Architecture alumni whose*

**G**

raduating from UVA's School of Architecture can be intense. But for these eight architects—and countless others—all those hours in the studio paid off. Here are some of the UVA-trained architects who are making major waves in the design world.

**BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL**

Growing up on the Oneida Reservation in Wisconsin, **Chris Cornelius (Arch '00)** noticed the differences between his neighborhood and those of his non-Indigenous friends. His community had no trees, fences or sidewalks, but it did have endless copies of the same small ranch house, built by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. By contrast, his friends' neighborhoods had far more variety.

"It became important to me, early on, to think about architecture as a way of improving life for Indigenous people," says Cornelius, a citizen of the Oneida Nation.

Those early influences were the beginnings of an award-winning career. Cornelius is founding principal of design firm studio:indigenous and professor and chair of the University of New Mexico's architecture school.

One of his latest projects is Not My HUD House, a full-scale prototype that was part of a 2022 exhibition at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Arkansas. The design is a critique of those cramped HUD-built homes and a proposal for a better solution that reflects Indigenous communities' needs.

His prototype includes high, open ceilings with light coming in at different levels and an entrance from the east, which is important in some Indigenous cultures. A modular design allows for the home to grow and shrink with the space needs of its inhabitants, who often live in multigenerational households.

"The fundamental thing was that the space inside is really given meaning by the people that inhabit it," says Cornelius, who is planning to meet with HUD to talk

about the project and potentially build a house based on the design.

There are few Indigenous architects, and when Cornelius entered UVA, his hope was to move architecture for Indigenous people beyond buildings that look like stereotypical iconography. At UVA, professors encouraged his ideas instead of critiquing them for being different, inspiring his design career and leading him to teach. "That place changed my life," he says.

Cornelius' Not My HUD House prototype reflects the needs of Indigenous communities.



TOM HARRIS

## CHRIS CORNELIUS



# ZENA HOWARD



Above: Destination Crenshaw  
Below: Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture

**A**s a Black child living in the 1960s South, **Zena Howard (Arch '88)** remembers avoiding certain spaces because of her race. “For a good part of my childhood ... [the issue] was always, ‘Do I belong, or is this a danger to me?’” she says. “We need to erase that moving forward.”

Today Howard is known for shaping architecture through remembrance design, which responds to inequality and injustice by restoring lost cultural connections and honoring collective memory.

That comes through in one of her most well-known projects: the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Among its unique elements, the museum, which opened in 2016, includes a porch, signaling that it's open to all. She was the senior project manager.

Now Howard is a principal with Perkins&Will, one of the largest architecture firms in the world, where she established and leads its cultural and civic practice.



One of her current projects—Destination Crenshaw—is focused on honoring the history and culture of Crenshaw Boulevard in South Los Angeles. Plans for the 1.3-mile open-air museum came after LA Metro ran a light rail extension at ground level along the corridor instead of underground or elevated, as it had done elsewhere. That plan saved money, but it had the potential to harm what's considered the heart of Black LA. In response, Howard and others are turning that stretch of road into a destination.

The design refers to Black life in America with structures that represent the giant star grass of

the African diaspora and paving patterns that represent the migrations of Africans in the United States. Sankofa Park, the project's first phase, will open in early 2025 and will be the flagship gathering spot with shade, seats and art.

“My career has just been a discovery,” Howard says as she reflects on the unexpected turns her work has taken. “It's been an exploration.”

COURTESY OF ZENA HOWARD

## JEFFREY MURPHY



**W**ith centuries of history, Trinity Church Wall Street had fallen into disrepair by the time **Jeffrey Murphy (Arch '82)** and his team were brought in to overhaul it. Electrical wires and various devices cluttered the space, obscuring the architecture of the 170-year-old building, the third church on the site along Broadway in New York City. It hadn't been renovated in 70 years.

"What we did was a big editing job," says Murphy, founding partner of MBB Architects.

The result, which was mostly complete by 2022, is a more welcoming building for churchgoers with better lighting and pews and accessible features. Murphy and his team also made the church more sustainable, reestablishing the insulation



*Right: Renovating 170-year-old Trinity Church Wall Street on Broadway was "a big editing job."  
Below: The church's cantilevered freestanding canopy*



and exterior glazing on the stained glass to reduce its energy use. And, like a puzzle, they found ways to add back in the modern-day necessities without obscuring the architecture.

MBB also made an addition: a steel and glass awning that provides some cover during stormy weather. "We consider ourselves to be modernist architects, but we do a lot of restoration," Murphy says. "This is a really good opportunity to introduce a sort of modern element that really stood in contrast to the historic building."

The intensive project required teams of experts—mechanical engineers, stained glass specialists and organ voicing experts among them. Murphy says he thrives in that collaborative environment, which isn't all that dissimilar from his time as an architecture student at UVA.

Coming from a family of builders, Murphy found inspiration among the architecture school's talented students and the community-based projects they worked on, including schools and community centers. One of his latest projects is on Grounds, expanding the Center for Politics.

"You can't make great architecture in a silo," Murphy says. "The friendly, collaborative environment that UVA had at the time really impressed me and influenced how I even work today."

# PANKAJ VIR GUPTA



**P**ankaj Vir Gupta (Arch '93) has always been in architecture's orbit. Growing up in New Delhi, he often tagged along with his parents, both architects, to construction sites. An interest in writing and English literature originally brought him to UVA, but the architecture of Grounds helped lure him back to the family profession.

Today Gupta splits his time between India and the United States. In 2003, he co-founded India-based vir.mueller architects with his business partner and wife, Christine Mueller. Since 2012, he's also been an architecture professor at UVA, where he founded and is a co-director of the Yamuna River Project, a long-term research program aimed at revitalizing the waterway that runs through New Delhi.

Gupta and Mueller have focused their design work on public projects—from school campuses to public toilets. "I was always, at the back of my mind, thinking about the scale of India, the scale of people who had no access to high-quality design in public space," Gupta says.

The firm's latest project is drawing international attention: a sunken museum that sits at the threshold of Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Delhi. The monument, built in the late 1500s, celebrates the second Mughal emperor.

The museum, commissioned by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, is mostly subterranean because of World Heritage Site requirements. Gupta took inspiration from the centuries of subterranean buildings in India where generations have gone for cooler shelter, gathering spaces and water.

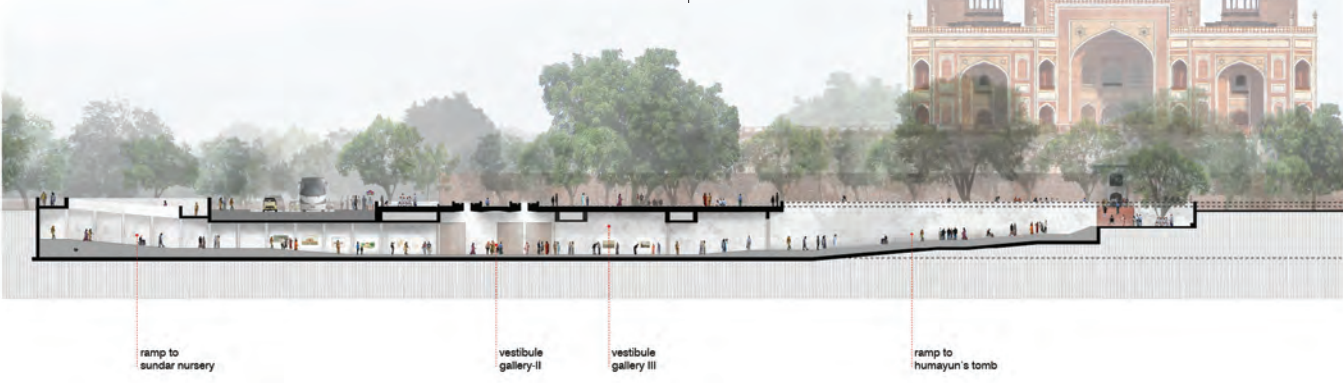
The design is also mindful of the site's trees. Galleries were woven around the existing root bases so trees weren't damaged, Gupta says. Visitors to the museum, which opened this summer, are often perplexed, wondering if the

*Right: Humayun's Tomb in Delhi, India  
Below: The site museum at the tomb is mostly underground because of UNESCO World Heritage Site requirements.*



building is actually new because the trees are so mature. To Gupta, that spells success.

"We were not interested in an architecture that was chest-thumping at all," he says. "We were really interested and always aware that this is a building for the people ... for whom this is a refuge in a very honest way to connect to their history and their past."



COURTESY OF VIR.MUELLER



## HALLIE BOYCE

Planning for the 11th Street Bridge Park has been a community-wide effort that started before Boyce and her team got involved. The resulting design brings people in, up and over the river with places to pause. There's a playground, cafe, green amphitheater, environmental education center, public art, and a canoe and kayak launch. A heavy planting of trees will provide shade and help boost water quality. Construction will start in early 2025.

Boyce's work has taken her to high-profile spots, including the U.S. Embassy in London and Capitol Hill's Folger Shakespeare Library.

"What really excites me ... on 11th Street is hearing from the community about what they want to see and do and enjoy, and what really moves them," she says. "And then trying to make places that are enduring and durable, so that they're strongly beloved."

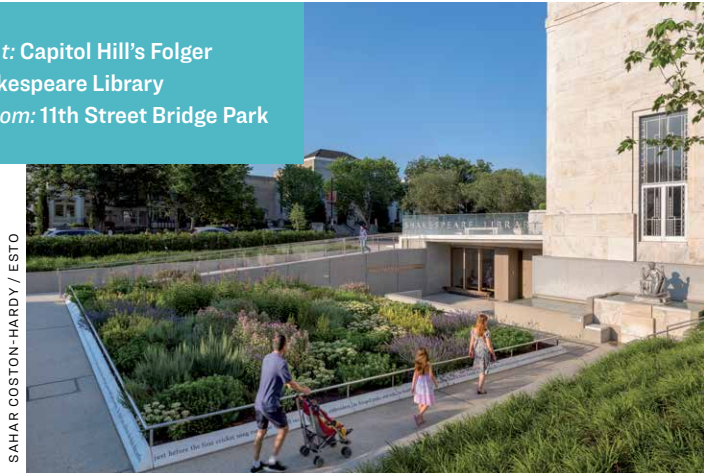
**H**allie Boyce (Arch '92) grew up on a small farm outside Baltimore, running free across the Maryland countryside. Those early experiences have informed a career in landscape architecture that focuses on community-based design, equity and environmental justice.

"My philosophy is that ... landscape architecture can and should be a catalyst for positive change in the world, particularly in communities that have been marginalized," says Boyce, a partner at architecture and planning firm OLIN.

Boyce's work focuses on public spaces and institutions, and her design philosophy is on display in one of her latest projects—the 11th Street Bridge Park in Washington, D.C. The park will create a pedestrian connection between the two sides of the Anacostia River—the highly developed Capitol Riverfront on the west side and the much less developed, lower-income neighborhoods on the east side.

The crossing comes with a difficult history, including the displacement of 23,000 people, mostly Black and Jewish, to the east side so the west side could be developed.

Right: Capitol Hill's Folger Shakespeare Library  
Bottom: 11th Street Bridge Park





## MARGARET CAVENAGH



As a child, **Margaret Cavenagh (Arch '88)** was always rearranging her bedroom. By sixth grade, she knew she wanted to be an architect. In high school, she says, her track coach made her run extra laps after she skipped practice to hear architect **Sylvia Smith (Arch '79)** speak.

Today, Cavenagh is a design principal at Studio Gang, leading the firm's interior architecture practice. Her work involves every aspect of a building's interior, from how the space will be designed and programmed to the fittings, fixtures and other materials that will be used.

"There's something really beautiful about the ability to change an environment with texture,

color, lighting, the way the space smells, the way it feels," she says.

Cavenagh's recent projects include the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts in Little Rock, which was completed in 2023. The project's challenge was to bring continuity to a 1930s-era building with a hodgepodge of additions.

The result is a complete overhaul of the existing spaces, along with a new public gallery and Cultural Living Room with flexible space for events and contemplation. Cavenagh and her team sought to bring light and softness to the complex.

She deployed plaster walls, for example, because of their luster and texture. Inside the mostly glass Cultural Living Room, she curated a collection of seating options of all sizes that were beautiful from every angle and could also be easily moved to make room for events. "Everything had to feel soft and welcoming," she says.

Her latest projects include the Spelman College Center for Innovation & the Arts, a new building that will serve the historically Black women's college in Atlanta.

"I like to design spaces that, activated, feel really joyful and happy," she says. "They're beautiful. And they change over the day to night, depending on the light coming through them."

*Above: The Innovation Lab at the Spelman College Center for Innovation & the Arts  
Below: The Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts in Little Rock*



# OLLE LUNDBERG

Three decades ago, **Olle Lundberg (Arch '79)** got a call from a friend who'd found a slab of wood measuring 6 feet wide and 17 feet tall from a single redwood tree at an estate sale in Mendocino, California. "I've already bought it for you. Bring a truck and get it," Lundberg remembers his friend saying.

It would take 30 years, but Lundberg, founder of architecture firm Lundberg Design and a longtime maker whose firm's shop also builds custom creations, has found a new home for it in one of his current projects: St. Helena Community Church in California's Napa Valley.

The slab will serve as a wall that will allow for two altars—one that faces the sanctuary and another that faces an outdoor courtyard. The project also involves tearing out the plaster walls to reveal the building's redwood framing.

"Everything that we build, on some level, I try as much as possible to reference back to the base material—what we're borrowing from the earth," Lundberg says.

By the time he got to UVA, Lundberg had already dabbled a bit in construction, including renovating an



AFTERHOURS CREATIVE

abandoned chapel that he lived in while at Washington and Lee University.

Now based in the San Francisco area, Lundberg's clients have included high-end restaurants and major technology companies, including Google. The firm was behind the design of the first Google Cloud office, which involved the renovation of a sprawling 1960s-era facility that had housed an early supercomputer. Signatures of the design include a two-story courtyard capped with a sculptural circular window and a massive communal table made from a split redwood tree.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the career I've had," Lundberg says of his work so far. "[I'm doing] what I always wanted to do, which was to live a creative life around interesting people and do interesting work."



LUNDBERG DESIGN



Left: The first Google Cloud office  
Above: St. Helena Community Church



## SYLVIA SMITH

**S**ylvia Smith (Arch '79) entered architecture at a particularly challenging time—during a recession and when few women were successfully pursuing the career. “It was tough going for a long time,” Smith says. “I’ve always felt like I had to work twice as hard to gain credibility and be taken seriously.”

Today, 43 percent of architects are women, according to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. And Smith plowed through the obstacles, building an award-winning career that includes major projects such as the Statue of Liberty Museum. She is now partner emerita at the firm she joined in 1982, FXCollaborative. She launched the company’s culture and education studio, focusing on museums, schools and cultural projects.

Recent work includes the David Rockefeller Creative Arts Center in Tarrytown, New York. The former orangery, built in 1908, presented plenty of challenges. The long, narrow building, with 24 interior columns, needed to be turned into a performance and rehearsal space where artists could create and

present their works in progress. The renovation also had to maintain the spirit of the building and be sustainable.

In the end, Smith and her team eliminated six columns, working with a structural engineering firm to create trusses to support the building. A solar panel array helps



DAVID SUNDBERG



David Rockefeller Creative Arts Center

JOHN MUGGENBERG



Statue of Liberty Museum

IWAN BAAH

it to achieve net-zero energy consumption. The project opened in 2022.

“The building itself had a character and quality that was unique,” Smith says. “So we did modern insertions and a modern vision, all using materials that were sympathetic to the original structure.”

Throughout her career, Smith had opportunities to veer in different directions, but she got hooked on immersing herself in the needs of her clients and producing designs that enhance their communities and culture.

“I like seeing the world through other people’s eyes,” she says. “I want ... at the end of the day, for ... the users to say, ‘I feel special when I’m here.’”

*Sarah Lindenfeld Hall is a freelance writer based in Raleigh, North Carolina.*



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# IN @RICH'S AND @ITS

From Minecraft to Legos to The Sims, here are three creative (and time-consuming!) ways that 'Hoos have paid homage to Grounds.

BY SAM GROSSMAN





Small details like the flower beds and fountains in the Rotunda courtyards add an authentic feel.

## MINECRAFT GROUNDS

BY ALEC HUSTED (COL '20)

*Estimated hours spent: 80 to 120*

**After graduating from UVA** in May 2020, Alec Husted (Col '20) found himself facing two problems: He missed Grounds and, thanks to COVID, he had too much time on his hands.

The solution? Recreate the University in Minecraft, the popular video game that allows users to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual blocks. Over the course of a year and a half, Husted ended up with a wildly detailed, almost eerily accurate version of Grounds.

When you open the world, which Husted completed in May 2021, you're instantly immersed. As you stroll down each path and round each corner, you keep finding new details: the illuminated seating area outside Clemons Library, a serpentine wall lining a pavilion garden, a narrow passageway separating the Lawn and the Range, even the McIntire Amphitheatre. And everything, somehow, feels totally proportional.

"The way I went about it was a combination of Google Maps and my memories of walking around Grounds during my undergrad ... and tours of Grounds on YouTube as well," says Husted, who's now serving as an officer in the U.S. Air



Force. "I'd look at pictures of, say, the Rotunda or one of the libraries, and just look at the proportions between different pieces, like, 'This window looks to be about two blocks by three blocks.'"

The most elaborate and impressive part of the world is the Rotunda—and it was also the trickiest to complete.

"A lot of the buildings on Grounds are fairly standard: rectangular with a triangular roof," Husted says. "At first, it was difficult to find a compromise between the Rotunda's curvature and Minecraft's angular building blocks. That took a matter, honestly, of just proportions more than anything, just sizing relative to other objects next to it."

It took many attempts to get the Rotunda just right. "And that's one of the reasons why I was so proud of it in

The Rotunda's interiors come complete with the front desk, three levels, the Dome Room, the oculus and the room where the Board of Visitors meets.



“One of the early difficulties was finding the right material that looked the closest to the materials on Grounds. The bricks in Minecraft are red, and it’s not that red-brown color you see in real life,” Husted says. “I ended up just sticking with this material in Minecraft called brown wool.”

the end,” he says, “because I got it to a point where it looked really, really good.”

When you climb the steps and enter the main doors of the Rotunda, you’ll notice that, unlike the other structures that Husted built, it features a complete multilevel interior that you can walk through—and up.

Once he completed the Rotunda, he worked his way outward, building the rest of the Lawn and moving south to Old Cabell Hall.

Husted’s homage to Grounds is *almost* perfect, but there was one detail he found impossible to get right with Minecraft’s limited resources: statues. They’re simply too small and too detailed to build with Minecraft’s cubes. He decided to represent the Homer statue in front of Old Cabell Hall and the Jefferson statue in front of the Rotunda with rudimentary, “low-resolution” versions.

In addition to the Rotunda, Husted’s world features the Lawn (pavilions I–IX and pavilions II–X), the West Range (dining hall, Lawn rooms, and hotels), the

Chapel, Shannon Library, Clemons Library, Special Collections, Peabody Hall, Monroe Hall, Garrett Hall, Cocke Hall, Old Cabell Hall, New Cabell Hall, Rouss Hall, Bryan Hall, and the McIntire Amphitheatre.

When he shared the project with the UVA community on Reddit back in 2021, Husted says, he was “blown away by the response that people had to it.” Users called it “legendary,” “insanely well done” and “the most beautiful thing I’ve ever seen.” One said, “It’s amazing how this could bring me so much nostalgia. It’s as if I’m right there again.” Another asked to download the file to “show my kids UVA through their favorite game.”

His post is now the third most upvoted of all time on the UVA subreddit.

For other ‘Hoos interested in tackling a project of this magnitude, “definitely take it a day at a time or in chunks,” Husted suggests. “With dedication and passion, you never know what you can create when you set your mind to it.”



“They already had marble material in Minecraft, so that came along pretty easy,” Husted says. “They even had chiseled marble, which provided even better detail for columns on the Lawn.”



Tour Husted’s Grounds and download your own at [uvamag.com/minecraft](http://uvamag.com/minecraft).



# LEGO ROTUNDA

BY BENJAMIN EDLAVITCH (ARCH '25)  
Estimated hours spent: 40 to 50

## Benjamin Edlavitch (Arch '25)

started designing a Lego model of the Rotunda before he'd even been accepted to UVA.

"When you apply to architecture schools, you have to have a portfolio. A couple of the projects I had in mind were Lego-related, so I started working on the Rotunda," says Edlavitch, who competed on Season 4 of Fox's *LEGO Masters* reality game show in 2023. "It was meant to be a little bit of pandering, maybe, to help me get into the program here."

Using what he describes as "CAD for Legos," he finished the rendering during his first year but says it "sat around as a digital file for the next couple of years" as he focused on his schoolwork. Now, in his final year of the architecture program, he has finally built the physical model to be featured in a Lego exhibit at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond.

Tasked with constructing a famously round structure using square bricks, Edlavitch had to experiment. He found a round wheel piece—"meant to be used on the outside of a wagon or a stagecoach or something"—and then laid it flat and used clips to attach pieces.

He also had to shop around until he found just the right materials for the building's iconic columns: candlestick pieces stacked on top of one another and then, at the top, round circular studs and flower pieces. "That gives the detail of the big Italian Corinthian columns," he says.

The final creation—which includes trees, terraces and the Jefferson statue below the Rotunda's northern steps—measures about 12 by 15 inches and contains around 3,000 pieces.

"I really enjoy having this creative outlet that's very playful," he says. "I think playfulness is a very important part of architecture, and creating things that people really identify with and enjoy interacting with."



Edlavitch paid close attention to the trees surrounding the Rotunda, particularly the "big ancient 200-year-old ginkgo tree to the right of the Rotunda. ... I wanted to make sure that presence was felt."

Pieces clipped to "an old wooden wheel piece" helped give the structure its round shape.

Edlavitch started building a digital rendering in high school and then worked off that model to build the real-life version, which required an estimated 3,000 pieces.





To create the Rotunda's iconic dome, Butcher says, she researched online until she found directions to make a Greek-style building like you'd see in Santorini. "I had a photo on my phone of the Lawn from a few different angles," Butcher says, "and I was really taking close looks at the architecture."

In what she calls "a single night of boredom," Butcher spent about five hours building the Rotunda from scratch by referencing photos of the Lawn from different angles.

"I was really taking close looks at the architecture, and it was kind of cool because it actually made me really think deeply about the architectural decisions they made, because I was trying to replicate it as closely as I could."

The trickiest part? The proportions. "I don't think The Sims is really meant to be on a giant-building scale," she says. "It's designed for more of a house scale." Take, for example, the clock situated in the building's Lawn-facing portico that, in real life, measures 5 feet, 6 inches, across. Butcher's only option was a regular decorative house clock, but she managed to use a cheat code to scale it up until it fit seamlessly.

Another detail she's proud of are the tables and chairs in the courtyard—she tinkered with several options until they looked just right.

"I had also seen the Minecraft version of Grounds, and it's made me think about, as UVA students, how much our beautiful architecture on our Grounds means to us," Butcher says. "And I think it's really cool that a lot of different people have felt the need to create little digital monuments to it." 📌

## THE SIMS ROTUNDA

BY ALI BUTCHER (ENGR '24)

Estimated hours spent: 5

### When Ali Butcher (Engr '24)

arrived at UVA for her first in-person semester in the spring of 2021, COVID restrictions forced her to get creative to familiarize herself with Grounds. She and her dormmates turned to The Sims, the popular video

game that lets users build homes for virtual characters.

She started by building Lile-Maupin. "First year I was in my dorm pretty much all the time because of COVID, so that was kind of my little world," says Butcher, who now works as a technical solutions engineer in Madison, Wisconsin. "My friends and I had little Sims, and then we decided we needed the Lawn for them to also walk around."



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## President's Letter



# WISE: A TRUE GEM IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

**A**t a time when many small liberal arts colleges are struggling, the University of Virginia's College at Wise seems to have found something of a secret sauce.

UVA Wise is a public, four-year residential college that is a division of the University of Virginia, founded in 1954 to serve residents of Southwest Virginia and beyond. Every time I visit this beautiful campus in the mountains, I leave inspired by the terrific students, faculty and staff; by Chancellor Donna Henry and her leadership team; and by all that the UVA Wise community is doing to uplift the region it calls home.

I'm hardly alone in my appreciation. While peer institutions face declining enrollment, applications and enrollment at UVA Wise are steadily increasing. A record 6,380 students applied to the Class of 2028, almost double the previous year's record. More than 2,700 were from Virginia, and more than 1,800 were from the Appalachian Regional Commission territory, which includes mountainous, rural counties from New York to Mississippi. The current enrollment of 1,280 students is up almost 20 percent over the past two years. About 88 percent receive financial aid, and 51 percent are first-generation college students. For many of these students, a UVA Wise education can be transformative, changing the trajectory of their lives and uplifting their families and communities.

There are many factors in play, but UVA Wise owes much of its success to a firm commitment to accessibility, an outstanding liberal arts education that meets students' and employers' needs, and a deep connection with Southwest Virginia and Appalachia.

First, in line with UVA's commitment to meet 100 percent of demonstrated financial need, UVA Wise offers scholarships and financial aid that make a great education possible for talented students, regardless of their means. This support includes 88 Bicentennial Scholarships, which, with matching funds from UVA, total more than \$47 million in endowed scholarships. Additionally, in September, UVA Wise doubled its Within Reach program to cover tuition and fees for families with annual earnings of \$80,000 or less.

The Year in Wise program, which allows waitlisted UVA applicants to enroll at UVA Wise for one year before transferring to UVA, also keeps talented students in the commonwealth. Launched in 2019, the program has grown steadily and enrolled 100 students this year. These students often have competitive out-of-state offers, and keeping them in Virginia benefits UVA Wise, UVA and the commonwealth.

Second, UVA Wise students enjoy the benefits of an outstanding liberal arts education, plus programs focused on regional needs. For example, the College offers several nursing programs to address critical health care shortages, all housed in the newly renovated Don R. Pippin & John C. Wyllie Hall, an impressive 28,500-square-foot nursing education center.

New programs include a Master of Education program, a hospitality and tourism major, and a master's program in data analytics, expected to begin next fall after final approval by the State Council of Higher Education. These programs cultivate in-demand skills that meet important needs in the Appalachian region.

Finally, UVA Wise's commitment to Southwest Virginia and Appalachia extends beyond the job market. It is a campus community that is determined

to give back. The Appalachian Prosperity Project, a partnership between UVA, UVA Wise, the Virginia Coalfield Coalition, the private sector, and the state, offers early language and literacy programs for Southwest Virginia families, professional development for early childhood teachers, college and career advising, health care programs, and entrepreneurship initiatives. UVA Wise students, faculty and staff are involved every step of the way, through that project and through numerous other research and service efforts that directly benefit Southwest Virginia residents.

These efforts are paying off. In 2023, the Virginia Business Higher Education Council estimated that UVA Wise is responsible for \$188 million in total economic contributions to the commonwealth. Also in 2023, UVA Wise was named an Innovation and Economic Prosperity institution, one of 91 institutions recognized for extraordinary commitment to economic and community development.

All of these efforts contribute to a sense of purpose and momentum that is palpable the moment you step on the UVA Wise campus. More than anything, I believe that sense of purpose is driving UVA Wise's growth. People want to be part of something real and valuable. Understanding UVA Wise's unique value to Southwest Virginia and beyond has been one of the most compelling experiences of my presidency. I'm deeply grateful to Chancellor Henry and the entire UVA Wise community, and I'm delighted more people are taking notice of this Southwest Virginia gem. I can't wait to see what's next.

**JAMES E. RYAN (LAW '92)**

*President of the University of Virginia*

*Seek. Explore.*

# DISCOVER

**Spain**

May 2-13

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April 8-16

**Japan**

April 28-May 10

**Alpine Splendor:  
Switzerland and Austria**

May 17-30

**London African  
American Experience**

May 8-16

**London Theater**

May 14-22

**Essential France**

May 17-31

**Africa: Tanzania**

May 19-30

**Machu Picchu to  
the Galapagos**

June 24-July 9

**North Pole**

July 7-22

**North Pole: Marathon or 10k**

July 7-22

**Norwegian Splendor**

August 14-24

**Greece Cruise**

September 7-17

**Sicily**

September 18-29

**Italian Highlights**

September 25-October 10

**Egypt**

October 13-27

**Normandy, Seine River Cruise**

October 26-November 3

**Around the World by Private Jet**

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The following alumni recently demonstrated their commitment to the University of Virginia Alumni Association and its important programs and activities by becoming Contributing Members of the Association.

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Sandra Benson Thornton (Col '80)  
Nancy E. Kechner (Educ '83, Educ '05)  
Kevin J. Madigan (Grad '84)  
Moirra E. Burns (Col '87, Med '93)  
Christopher M. Gottscho (Law '89)  
Leslie Williams Stevenson (Col '93)  
Pascale Bissainthe Centola (Law '94)  
David S. Mackie (Col '94)  
Curry Elizabeth Hyde Rosato (Col '95)  
Christos A. Christou (Col '96)  
Mark T. Goglia (Law '96)  
Gregory J. Montero (Col '96, Law '00)  
Maureen Katherine Toohey (Law '96)  
Demond C. Chapman (Col '97)  
Leonor Bantay Montero (Engr '97)  
Andrea T. Alms (Grad '98)  
Shauna Darby Piedrahita (Grad '99)  
Barrett J. Stephens (Col '99)  
Jennifer M. Bell (Educ '00)  
John Nathaniel Brogdon (Col '00)  
Katalin M. Csorsz Brogdon (Col '00)  
Andrea Plummer Guardenier (Col '00)  
Dean D. Rafferty (Engr '00)  
Sean S. Suder (Arch '00, Law '04)  
Javier Portella (Col '01)  
Sheri Lee Rotondi (Col '01, Educ '01)  
Sarah Sisti McInnes (Col '02)  
Mona Dallal Tarpley (Law '02)  
Ashley R. Tatum (Col '02)  
Dusty S. Vogelpohl (Law '02)  
Nicholas G. Hallenbeck (Col '03)  
Barbara J. Fried (Grad '04)  
Andrea L. Greenwich (Col '04)  
Erika Caruso (Col '05, Educ '05)  
Joshua T. Ferguson (Darden '07)  
Nicolas A. McTyre (Col '07)  
Jacqueline F. Wernz (Law '07)  
Catherine A. Rhodes (Col '08)  
Kathryn E. Merchant (Col '09)  
Grace Pyon (Col '09, Grad '12)  
Adam D. Burton (Engr '10)  
Christopher Michael Hodgson (Col '10)  
Hyunjoo Shim (Grad '10, '14)  
Alexander C. Swindler (Engr '10)  
Christopher L.W. Elliott (Educ '11)  
Joshua T. Coons (Col '12)  
Tiffany D. Morris (SCPS '12)

Ramona H. Rice (SCPS '12)  
Samara M. Corbin (Col '14)  
Bommae Kim (Grad '14, '16)  
Abrianna N. May (Educ '15)  
Samuel R. Thomas (Law '15)  
Erin K. McCleary (Educ '17)  
Noelle Easter Cruz Co (Engr '18)  
Zachery C. Taylor (Col '18, Batten '25)  
Al H. Ahmed (Educ '19, '20)  
Timothy R. Harris Jr. (Engr '19)  
Stephanie A. Montoya-Redlich (Col '19)  
Eleanor M. Brasacchio (Col '20)  
Jeffrey V. Garcia (Com '20, Darden '20)  
Kristen J. Kelly (Com '20)  
Jan P. Danel (Col '21)  
Chae yeon Kim (Engr '21, Com '22)  
Benjamin I. Tankel (Col '21, Com '22)  
Martha A. Gaunt (Nurs '22)  
Caton M. Gayle (Engr '22)  
Mary M. Hogewood (Col '22)  
Grayson Saunders (Col '22)  
Navindra J. Seoparsan (Col '22)  
Logan Evans (SCPS '23)  
Dario J. Fagan (Com '23)  
Steven L. Feldman (SCPS '23)  
Karl Vincent Frisch (SCPS '23)  
Jennifer Jill Michie Kuo (Engr '23)  
Terence V. Moriarty (Engr '23)  
Lucy K. Resar (Col '23)  
Andrew J. Song (Engr '23, '24)  
Dany E. Berbari (Law '24)  
Nolan W. Brahmey (Educ '24)  
Graham Matthew Bucko (Col '24)  
Charles Griffin Burns (Col '24)  
Abigail Ella Donahoo (Col '24)  
Joseph Austin Dorgan (Col '24)  
Anna Claire Hurley (Col '24)  
Emma Elizabeth Kruus (Com '24)  
John Matthew Laborde (Col '24)  
Luke Alexander Lamberson (Com '24)  
Ryan Coleman Lanford (Col '24)  
James Kees Leliveld (Col '24)  
Scott Gregory Martin Jr. (Col '24)  
Kyra Paradise (Educ '24)  
Elias Stephen Patrick (Darden '24)  
Kristen Alexandra Pettit-Pokora (Engr '24)  
Alyssa M. Prendergast (Col '24)  
Nirav Yogen Shukla (Darden '24)  
John R. Siver II (SCPS '24)

Justin Garland Abel (Engr '25)  
Yasmin Bakhit (Col '25)  
James Callahan Burton (Batten '25)  
Christopher J. Davis (SCPS '25)  
Marissa Jane Inra (Col '25)  
Victoria Elizabeth Stoner (Col '25)

With their new Contributing Membership, these Hoos can tap into member benefits like:

- **NEW** Active&Fit Direct program membership, which provides discounted membership options at over 12,500 gyms!
- Free career advising, including one-on-one sessions with a counselor (exclusive to Contributing Members!)
- Discount at the UVA Bookstore
- Access to an exclusive Perks Platform with special national offers on entertainment and travel
- Football gameday parking at Alumni Hall
- Member-only events including bingo and wine tasting
- Membership Welcome Kit
- **And much more!**



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Contributing Membership means you'll be part of a community of more than 65,000 people who **share your passion for all things orange and blue!**

Join today and be one of our most loyal and passionate alumni by empowering the Association to serve our community—today and tomorrow.



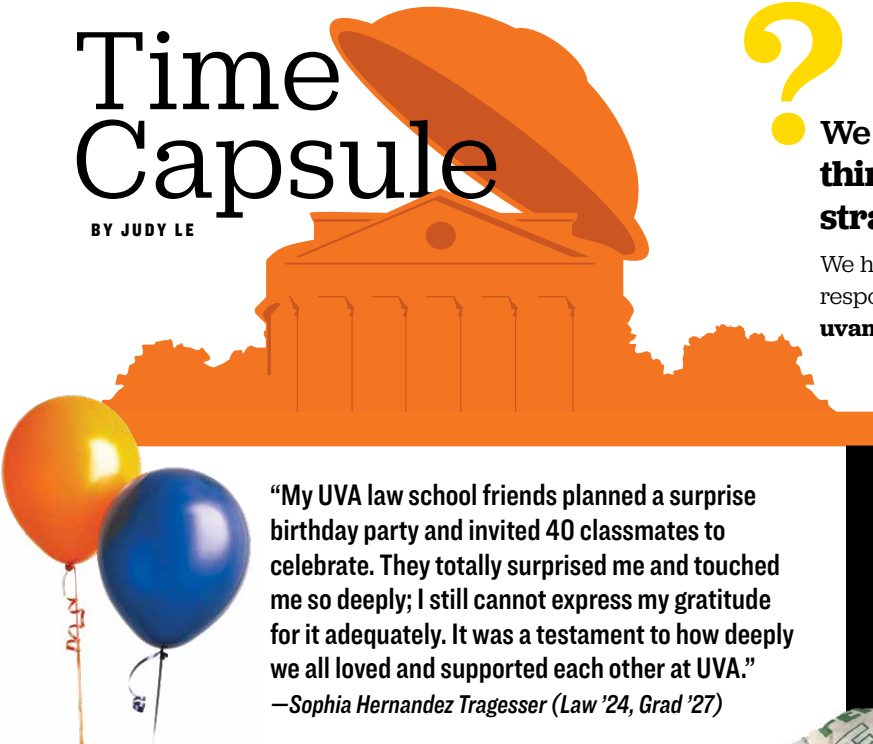
# Time Capsule

BY JUDY LE



**We asked alumni: What is the kindest thing someone—known to you or a stranger—did for you at UVA?**

We had such an overwhelming and heartwarming response that we put more entries online at [uvamag.com/kindness](http://uvamag.com/kindness).




**“My UVA law school friends planned a surprise birthday party and invited 40 classmates to celebrate. They totally surprised me and touched me so deeply; I still cannot express my gratitude for it adequately. It was a testament to how deeply we all loved and supported each other at UVA.”**

—Sophia Hernandez Tragesser (Law '24, Grad '27)

**“In the second semester** of my fourth year, I got a message to go to Alumni Hall. I had recently been in the hospital for a few days, and I had an Honor loan about to come due. I'd paid my tuition late because I needed that money to pay for a car repair. I needed the car because I lived a good distance from Grounds and not near a bus line. But I had a couple of jobs and I just needed to get even. I walked into Alumni Hall and told the woman at the desk who I was and that I'd been asked to come down. After a short wait, a gentleman walked out, introduced himself and told me that I'd been selected to receive a scholarship. He told me it was anonymous, and that the donor did not wish to be recognized. He handed me an envelope, congratulated me, and that was it. Inside was a check, drawn on the Alumni Association's account. That gift saved me. I will never forget that kindness.”

—Nancy Godwin Joynt (Col '85)



**“I ordered Subway and then at the cash register, I dug in my backpack and panicked that I forgot my wallet! The girl in line behind me said she would pay for my food. I offered to take her number and pay her back, but she said not to worry about it. I remember her smiling, placing her hand on my shoulder confidently, saying**

**she's paying it forward. All she reminded me to do was to help someone else in need the next time I was able.”**

—Afreen Haq (Col '25)

**“A group of my fraternity brothers and I were at a basketball game at UNC my third year when I got the terrible news that my father had passed away from a heart attack. I was in shock. Without hesitation my friends took me to the airport, bought me a ticket home and sent some clothes after they returned to UVA. I will never forget their kindness at one of the most difficult times of my life.”**—Adrian “Arlo” Edwards (Col '72)




**“After I had a bad fall from a horse, a classmate took me to the hospital and stayed with me all day through the X-rays, resetting my elbow and endless conversations with doctors and med students. She made sure I was comfortable and supported during one of the scariest moments of my first year. I've always remembered her kindness.”**

—Ginny Sun Lee (Com '17)




ALBERT AND SHIRLEY SMALL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS/UVA LIBRARY



**“I was warmly welcomed by the Romance language librarians as a student working in Alderman. They never knew it, but the French cheeses on Friday afternoons made me feel part of a community that I didn't find elsewhere.”**

—Julie Brown Neu (Col '97)



“Dr. Greer Wilson was kind enough to host delicious Sunday dinners. This was such a safe and comforting environment. It was home! She was a blessing to so many. I will always be grateful for those times.”

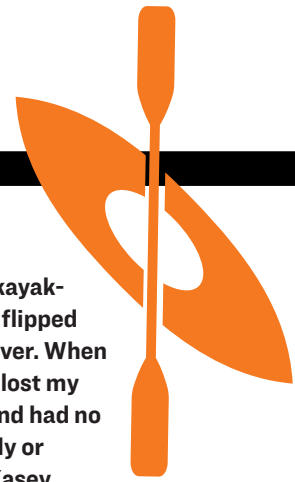
—Tahnee Jackson Whitlock (Col '92)

“Dr. and Mrs. Lester Wilson and family offered a standing invitation to Sunday dinner to this somewhat confused and bewildered first-year student. When tragedy struck in my wife’s family in 1970, Dr. Wilson was there immediately to provide comfort and support for a couple of stunned and grieving newlyweds.”

—Jay Orvin (Col '71)

“Families at Wesley Memorial UMC ‘adopted’ students, and my family had me over for multiple home-cooked meals! Really appreciated having a seat at their family dinner table and of course the food!”

—Devon Hahn (Engr '02)



“On a Native American Studies class trip for a kayaking river tour, my kayak flipped over and I fell into the river. When I made it to shore, I had lost my phone, had no money, and had no way to contact my family or friends. My professor, Kasey Jernigan, gave me the clothes off her back. (She packed extra.) She called my family to let them know I was safe. Afterward, she drove me to a Best Buy and helped me buy a temporary Tracfone so I could continue my studies without much disruption. My family and I have always been grateful for Professor Jernigan’s help that day, even after all these years.”

—Cassie Deering (Educ '23)

“**My husband and I** attended graduate school at UVA in the mid-’70s. UVA had a beautiful campus with nice buildings, great teachers, and friendly students. At that time, housing was limited. We obtained a paper listing information on housing rentals and began searching for accommodations. We made several phone calls and visited various apartments, only to be informed upon arrival that they had ‘just been rented.’ However, when we called back later, we were told that vacancies were still available. We suspected these were cases of racial discrimination. We contacted student housing, and they provided us with a lawyer who investigated the matter. The lawyer took the cases to court and won both. Thanks to the University’s support, we were able to obtain justice.”

—Mary Speight (Educ '76)

### For our next issue:

Are you still friends with your UVA besties? Tell us about the enduring relationships you made on Grounds. How did you meet? How do you stay in one another’s lives now?

Tell us at [uvamag.com/timecapsules](http://uvamag.com/timecapsules), and we’ll select some to run in the Spring issue.

# Class Notes

📍 Indicates a corresponding photograph or video online at [uvmagazine.org/classnotes](http://uvmagazine.org/classnotes).

CM Indicates Contributing Member of the Alumni Association

## '40s

**June P. Bartley (Nurs '49)** celebrated her 100th birthday on June 16, 2024. She started at UVA on March 11, 1946, and graduated March 10, 1949. She met her husband, John A. Bartley, who was attending UVA in the School of Architecture, in 1947. They were married March 11, 1949, the day after her graduation.

## '60s

**Don Slesnick (Col '65 CM)** received the Henry M. Flagler Community Builder Award at the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's annual Goals Conference banquet in June. The award, which acknowledges lifetime contributions to South Florida, was given to Slesnick and his late wife, Jeannett, who was honored posthumously.

**Arthur Kahn (Col '69 CM)** is in his third season screening arthouse and repertory films at Thetford Academy's Martha Jane Rich Theater in Thetford Center, Vermont. Thetford Arthouse Cinema hosts residents and visitors in the Vermont/New Hampshire Upper Valley twice weekly for 12 weeks of free films, refreshments and discussion, with support from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation and Vermont Humanities.

## '70s

**John Allis (Col '75)** and **Cathy Allis (Educ '77)** have received organic certification

for Kennebec Oat Farm in Machias, Maine. The farm grows milky oats, wild raspberry leaf and lady's mantle leaf. John continues as a licensed engineer in Maine, Colorado and Virginia, although most of his time is spent on the oat farm.

**Richard B. Miller (Col '75 CM)** retired July 1 and is now the Laura Spelman Rockefeller professor emeritus at the University of Chicago. Before going to Chicago in 2014, Miller served in several roles at Indiana University, starting in 1985. On May 7 he welcomed his grandson, Declan Ian Miller-Mulcahy, into the world. Miller is finishing a book tentatively titled *A Simple Twist of Fate: Religion, Moral Luck, and Social Criticism*. He lives in San Francisco with his wife, film scholar Barbara Klinger.

**Josh Pons (Col '76 CM)** published his third book, *Letters From Country Life: Adolphe Pons, Man o' War, and the Founding of Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm*. It is a recounting of his grandfather's role as personal secretary to New York financier August Belmont II, breeder of the greatest racehorse of the 20th century, Man o' War. The narrative follows Pons' grandfather from New York to Maryland, where in 1933 he established Country Life Farm, now the state's oldest thoroughbred farm. 📍

**William Matthew Ruberry (Col '76)** has published *Harmony in Black and White*, his first novel. Set in the Virginia cities of Richmond and Charlottesville, the book is a newsroom drama inspired by Ruberry's own reporting in the wake of the 2017 march by white supremacists in Charlottesville and the 2020 murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. It examines

the impact of race and implicit biases on our media, law enforcement, and the systems that govern them. Ruberry was a reporter for the *Greenville News* in South Carolina, then an award-winning reporter and editor for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. 📍

**Mark Bateman (Col '79, Engr '86 CM)** has retired after 45 years with Lockheed Martin's undersea systems program in Manassas, Virginia. He had worked off-site at the General Dynamics Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, since the start of the Virginia-class submarine program in 1996. Bateman was a principal hardware systems engineer and served as the engineering liaison to the shipyard. He supported development and testing of the sonar, combat and imaging systems for the Virginia-class and the new Columbia-class programs. Bateman lives in Ledyard, Connecticut, with his wife, Paula. They have two children, **Chelsea Lauren Bateman (Nurs '13 CM)** and **Callie Anne Bateman (Nurs '16 CM)**. 📍

**Robert Lufkin (Med '79)** has published *Lies I Taught in Medical School*, a *New York Times* bestseller based on his experience as a full professor at the UCLA and USC medical schools. The book has been described as a riveting, cautionary tale of how medicine has gotten things so wrong (and continues to) in the area of metabolic health. 📍

## '80s

**R. Webb Moore (Engr '80 CM)** has joined the Sands Anderson law firm as counsel

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# Reunions



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UVA Alumni Association and sponsored by:




# Class Notes

in the Richmond, Virginia, office. Sands Anderson is a full-service, multidisciplinary law firm with offices in Virginia and North Carolina.

**Jay Jerome (Grad '81 CM)** has received the 2024 Distinguished Scientist Award for Biological Sciences from the Microscopy Society of America. This award is the highest award given by the society and recognizes preeminent senior scientists who have a long-standing record of achievement in the field of microscopy or microanalysis. 

**Stephen Rademaker (Col '81, Law '84, Grad '85 CM)** was a finalist for *The American Lawyer* magazine's "Attorney of the Year" award for work he did on behalf of Radio Free Europe reporter Alsu Kurmasheva to win her freedom from arbitrary detention in Russia. 

**Dr. Andrew G. Lee (Col '85, Med '89 CM)** published the second edition of his textbook, *Emergencies in Neuro-Ophthalmology*. Lee served as president of the Houston Ophthalmological Society for 2023–24 and president of the Houston Neurological Society. 


**Wesley Marshall (Col '85, Law '88 CM)** was elected to a three-year term as chairman of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, effective July 1. Marshall was appointed to the commission in 2012. He also served as commission chair from 2015 to 2018. Marshall serves on the executive committee of the Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators, the board of directors of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions, and the National Association of Workers' Compensation Judiciary. He was a founding member of the Virginia Workers' Compensation American Inn of Court.


**Charles "Tom" Blair (Col '87, Law '90 CM)** is a contributing author in *Lynching in Virginia: Racial Terror and Its Legacy*. This volume of essays examines the more than 100 people who were lynched in Virginia between 1866 and 1932. Its diverse set of contributors—including scholars, journalists, activists and students—recover this wider history of lynching in Virginia, interrogate its legacy and spotlight contemporary efforts

to commemorate the victims of racial terror across the commonwealth. Blair, who developed an interest in Civil War and Reconstruction history while growing up in Rockingham County, Virginia, is an attorney in private practice in Washington, D.C.


**Kim Bridges (Col '87 CM)** has been promoted to associate professor in the School of Education at Virginia Commonwealth University. She joined the Department of Educational Leadership in 2018 after earning a doctorate in education leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She directs the Ed.D. capstone experience, a yearlong collaboration with graduate student teams and partner organizations. Her scholarship and facilitation work focus on local governance and state policy for sustainable K-12 improvement.

**Valerie Johnson Thornton (Col '87 CM)** graduated with a doctorate in education from Regent University on May 3. Thornton is a second-grade teacher at Norfolk Academy in Norfolk, Virginia.

**Dorothy Shea (Col '88 CM)** was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the next deputy U.S. representative to the United Nations, with the rank of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. Several friends from the UVA class of 1988 attended her Aug. 16 swearing-in ceremony, which was officiated by the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield. She took up her new duties in New York on Aug. 19. 


**Dr. Jon McCullers (Col '89 CM)** has been named dean of the College of Medicine and vice president of health affairs at the University of Houston. He previously served for 13 years as chair of the pediatrics department at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. 

**Gregg L. Michel (Grad '89, '99 CM)** has published *Spying on Students: The FBI, Red Squads, and Student Activists in the 1960s South*. Published by LSU Press, the book focuses on the law enforcement campaign against New Left and progressive student activists in the South, particularly white student activists who have often been overlooked in the scholarship of the era. Drawing on formerly secret FBI

files and records of other investigative agencies, it provides fresh insights on the destructive, broad-based, weaponized surveillance tactics deployed by state actors in their drive to suffocate dissent in the region. 

## '90s

**Brian G. Cafferty (Grad '90)** has joined the boutique law firm GoldMark Partners as a partner. Cafferty brings an extensive background in real estate, corporate governance and finance to the firm, in Needham, Massachusetts, and is focused on commercial real estate and corporate law. Before joining GoldMark, Cafferty served as vice president of legal affairs at Combined Properties, a full-service real estate investment and development firm, specializing in the development and acquisition of high-quality office, residential, industrial and retail properties in the Boston area. Cafferty received his J.D. from Boston College Law School.

**Steve Odabashian (Col '91)** was recently honored by two Philadelphia-area publications for his work in the test prep industry. He was named "Best SAT Coach" by *Philadelphia Magazine* in its August 2024 "Best of Philly" 50th-anniversary edition. In addition, his company Main Line Test Prep and Tutoring was named "Best College Prep Service" by *Main Line Today* magazine in its July 2024 issue. 

**Luba Shur (Col '93, Law '96 CM)** has published her first novel, *RULE 23*, a buzzy satire that tells the tale of one of the greatest gifts enshrined as law. There's a striving, young associate who's the book's antiheroine, a ruthless senior partner eager to exploit her ambition, and a legal system that enables their diabolical schemes like tracks enable a runaway train. At UVA, Shur served on the *Virginia Law Review* and earned Order of the Coif honors. She launched her career as a two-time federal judicial law clerk and worked in private practice at two preeminent "BigLaw" firms, including tenure as an associate, a counsel and an equity partner specializing in complex litigation and other dispute resolution. Following these positions, Shur worked as a media law attorney at a government agency

## Class Notes

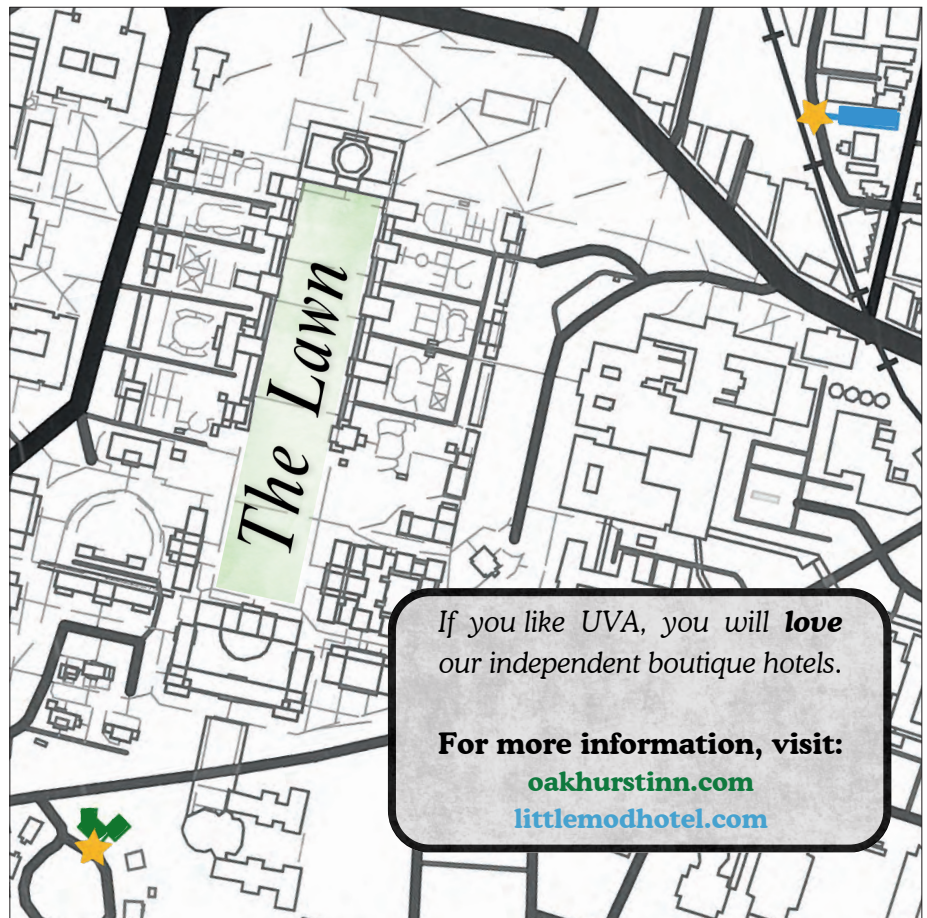
and currently works as a broad-based in-house general counsel. She lives in the Washington, D.C., area with her husband and two children. 📍

**David Tarleton (Col '93)** was hired as chair of the Department of Film and Media Arts at Syracuse University. He also teaches film directing in the school's nationally ranked film program. Previously, he served as the director of graduate programs in film at Columbia College Chicago. He has 30 years' experience in the film and television industries as a producer, director and editor. He produced and directed the feature film *Hunter* and the television series *Dark Secrets*. He was executive producer and director for the streaming series *Dokumentary* and worked with the Muppets for Disney. He and his wife, Adria Dawn, received an Emmy nomination in 2023 for *Identity*, their film project about transgender youths. He studied film at New York University and received his M.F.A. from the University of Southern California.

**Steve McCullough (Col '94 CM)** recently published through LexisNexis a treatise on the Virginia Constitution titled *Virginia Constitutional Law*. McCullough has served as a justice on the Supreme Court of Virginia since 2016.

**Luis G. Pedraja (Grad '94)** has been appointed as a delegate to the New England Board of Higher Education by Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey. The appointment highlights Pedraja's leadership in higher education and his dedication to expanding educational opportunities in central Massachusetts. Pedraja has served as president of Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) in Worcester, Massachusetts, for seven years and has more than 30 years of experience in higher education. During his tenure, QCC has increased enrollment, launched student success initiatives, developed a strategic plan, expanded community partnerships, enhanced workforce development programs, and achieved reaccreditation from the New England Commission of Higher Education.

**Marlene Hall (Col '96 CM)** was named one of the top 10 producing real estate



## In Memoriam

Mr. John E. Barger (Educ '61)  
Mr. Jonathan R. Cline (Col '02)  
Mr. Joseph V. Dyer, Jr. (Col '58)  
Mr. E. Lewis Hansen (Col '51, Law '57)  
Mr. Edward T. Hapgood, Jr. (Col '62)  
Governor Brereton C. Jones (Com '61)  
Mr. Henry M. Massie, Jr. (Col '64, Law '68)  
Mr. P. Gregory Shelly (Com '68, Dar '75)  
Mr. George F. Smeltzer (Col '62)  
Halcott M. Turner, EdD (Educ '53)  
Mr. Henry L. Valentine II (Col '50)  
Mr. Lewis S. Wiley (Col '62)



# Class Notes

agents for the Commonwealth of Virginia for eXp Realty for the month of June 2024. 🏠

**Lara Gastinger (Col '98 CM)** was featured in Charlottesville's first Botanical Art Festival, held in September at the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont. Gastinger kicked off the festival with "Introduction to Nature Journaling," an intro to a technique known as the perpetual journal. Attendees learned strategies to observe and document the natural world around them. Gastinger also demonstrated her drawing and painting techniques and provided opportunities for attendees to draw along with her. 🏠

**Arun Rao (Col '98 CM)** joined Mayer Brown in Washington, D.C., as a partner in its Global Investigations & White Collar Defense practice, where he guides clients through the complexities of the global regulatory environment.

**Dr. Erika Werner (Col '98, Engr '99, Res '08 CM)** was appointed president of the faculty practice at Tufts Medicine and the Tufts University School of Medicine, where she is also the chair of obstetrics and gynecology and the Louis E. Phaneuf teaching and research professor. Werner lives in Barrington, Rhode Island, with her husband, **W. Frazier Bell (Educ '98)**, and their two daughters.

**Julie Dauksys (Educ '99, '10)** has retired after 33 years in public education in both the city of Hopewell and Hanover County in Virginia. Dauksys served as a K-8 literacy specialist and coach for 27 years. In 2022, she completed her Ph.D. in curriculum, culture and change at Virginia Commonwealth University. In retirement, she will continue as a part-time associate professor of literacy at Randolph-Macon College and serve as co-president of the Virginia State Literacy Association's Virginia College Literacy Educator's chapter.

## '00s

**Justin Humphreys (Col '01)** has published *LIFE. Hollywood*, a two-volume coffee table collection of classic Hollywood photos from the archives of *LIFE* magazine, with captions and linking essays by Humphreys.

**Myron Santos (Col '01 CM)** was nominated for a Primetime Emmy for his work on *The Amazing Race* in the category of Outstanding Picture Editing for a Structured Reality or Competition Program. It is his second nomination; his first came for *RuPaul's Drag Race All-Stars* in 2019. Santos, his wife and their 9-year-old daughter live in Los Angeles. He is a member of the Motion Picture Editors Guild (IATSE Local 700) and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and is on the board of the UVA Entertainment Club of Los Angeles. 🏠



300 Court Square \$3,850,000  
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485 Marthas Way- \$1,650,000  
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**Jules P. Manger (Col '03, Res '14 CM)** has been recognized by *Newsweek* in its first ranking of America's Best Prostate Cancer Surgeons. The list recognizes the 150 best prostate cancer surgeons in America based on outcomes data and peer review. Dr. Manger lives in Tucson, Arizona, with his wife, **Linda (Williams) Manger (Col '03 CM)**, and three sons.

**David Meredith (Com '03)** has been appointed to the board of directors of Riskified, a New York Stock Exchange-listed public company that is a leader in e-commerce fraud management and risk intelligence. Meredith has spent three decades serving in senior executive leadership and board director roles across multibillion-dollar public companies and private-equity-backed, technology-focused firms. He serves on the advisory board of the McIntire School of Commerce. 

**Jessica Somers (Com '04)** has joined Aledade, the nation's largest network

of independent primary care providers, as chief financial officer. Somers joins Aledade from Evolent, a publicly traded company that specializes in improving health outcomes. At Evolent, Somers led the development and execution of strategic growth investments, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and other strategic partnerships.

**Jordan Dotson (Col '05)** has published his debut novel, *The Ballad of Falling Rock*, a work of literary magical realism from BHC Press. The book is set in the Appalachian town of Trinity, where an angel-toned preacher's son disappears just as his fame as a singer is rising. Dotson was born and raised in Appalachian Virginia. After graduating from UVA, he moved to China to study classical poetry and folk music. Over 14 years in Asia, he worked as a journalist, musician and writing teacher, and eventually earned his M.F.A. in fiction from City University of Hong Kong. His lone co-written screenplay won the Jury Award in Narrative Shorts at more than

30 film festivals worldwide, and though he now teaches in Boston, Dotson still considers Southwest Virginia home. 

**Brendan Gillen (Com '06 CM)** has published his debut novel, *Static*. Set in the downtown New York music scene, the book explores the weight of familial expectations, the pursuit of our deepest hopes and dreams, and the struggle to make meaningful connections in the anxiety of the digital age. Originally from Charlottesville, Gillen is based in Brooklyn and earned his M.F.A. at City College of New York. His fiction has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best Small Fictions and has appeared in the *Florida Review*, *Wigleaf*, *Necessary Fiction*, *Maudlin House*, *New Delta Review*, *Taco Bell Quarterly* and *X-R-A-Y*, among others. An Emmy-winning writer/director in the film and advertising space, he has written and creative-directed content for ESPN, Condé Nast, Fox Sports, the U.S. Open, Anheuser-Busch, Resy and many other brands. 

The UVA Alumni Association is pleased to introduce its

## 2024 ALUMNI FAMILY SCHOLARS



**TYLER CRAWFORD**  
(COL '28)



**JOOYOUNG KIM**  
(ENGR '28)



**ROSE MAGGIO**  
(COL '28)



**COLE NUCKOLS**  
(COL '28)



**SARAH BETH ROBINSON**  
(ENGR '28)



**MARGUERITE SANTOS**  
(NURS '28)



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# Class Notes

**Nerissa Neal Rouzer (Col '06 CM)** and **Garett Michael Rouzer (Arch '05 CM)** welcomed a daughter, Alexandra Elise, on April 10, 2024. She joins big brothers Ethan and Owen. The family lives in Charlottesville.

**Neal Willetts (Educ '06)** married Elijah Akers in a late-afternoon ceremony at Ford's Colony Country Club in Williamsburg, Virginia, on June 26, 2024. **Katie Morgans (Col '07)** did one of the readings, and numerous UVA friends attended. Akers is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, and the couple will move to Columbus, Ohio, where he works in the IT industry and Willetts works as a project manager for a small software company.

**James Wilson (Grad '06, '11)** has published *America's Cold Warrior: Paul Nitze and National Security From Roosevelt to Reagan*. Wilson credits the "amazing" experience of completing a Ph.D. in American history at UVA from 2005 until 2011 with Melvyn P. Leffler, Edward Stettinius professor of history, emeritus,

for making it possible for him to write the book.

**Katie Appel (Col '07 CM)** and Francisco Gavalda were married May 11, 2024, in Antigua, Guatemala, with 13 UVA alumni on hand to celebrate. Appel has lived in Guatemala since 2016, managing U.S. government-funded projects on topics related to anti-corruption, education and violence prevention. The Wahoos in attendance were **Emily Archambeault-Wahlberg (Col '07 CM)**, **Amanda Huffman Doyle (Col '06)**, **Chelsey Jones (Col '07 CM)**, **Payal Maheshwari (Com '06, Darden '12)**, **Remy Kauffmann (Col '08)**, **Colleen Sweeney (Col '07 CM)**, **Brian Gavron (Com '08, Darden '13 CM)**, **Bowman Dickson (Col '09 CM)**, **Serena Bolliger (Col '07)**, **Katie Cristol (Col '07 CM)**, **Steve Giballa (Col '06)**, **Allison Murphy (Col '07, Grad '08)** and **Daniel Cullop (Col '07 CM)**.

**Laura B. Truesdale (Col '08 CM)** of Moore & Van Allen was named to the 2024 "Lawdragon 500 X—The Next Generation"

list. The 500 X list, now in its second year, recognizes future leaders in law and those who "have eyes turned toward the future and an undiminished belief in the opportunity to make an impact." Truesdale's practice focuses on advising clients—such as real estate developers, lenders and financial institutions, contractors, and buyers/sellers of contaminated properties—on the environmental aspects of a wide range of real estate matters.

## '10s

**Amanda Smith (Col '10)** has joined the health care practice of the law firm K&L Gates as counsel in its Washington, D.C., office. She joins the firm from 340B Health, a nonprofit organization comprising more than 1,500 hospitals and health systems participating in the federal 340B drug pricing program. Prior to her role at 340B Health, Smith served as a health care law clerk for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance.

**Paul Hodskins (Col '12 CM)** and his wife, Katie, celebrated the birth in August of their son, James Roger "J.R." Hodskins,



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# Class Notes

who joined 2-year-old Addison at home in Leesburg, Virginia.

**Dr. Monica N. Melmer (Col '11, Med '17 CM)** and **Dr. Patrick D. Melmer (Col '12, Med '17 CM)** welcomed their third child, Harrison James, on July 1, 2024. He is adored by his sisters, Kennedy Caroline, age 4, and Madison Grace, age 2. His favorite lullaby is "The Good Old Song." Now that they are outnumbered, the Melmers have switched from traditional man-to-man coverage to the "Pack Line" defense. The family lives in Richmond, Virginia, where Monica and Patrick are assistant professors in the division of addiction medicine and surgery department, respectively, at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Jimmy Garner (Engr '15 CM)** and **Julie Garner (Com '15)** welcomed their first child, Mason James Garner, on Aug. 28, 2024. The family lives in Williamsburg, Virginia, while Jimmy pursues his law degree at William & Mary. 📍

**Lauren Nguyen (Com '15 CM)** has been named controller and vice president of finance at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Nguyen oversees the organization's finance and accounting functions, including accounts payable, grant reporting, audit and tax filings, and financial reporting. She also plays a crucial role in developing the aquarium's economic strategy and sustainability planning. Nguyen is a licensed certified public accountant with previous experience at EY (formerly Ernst & Young) and 50CAN, an education advocacy nonprofit.

**Fang Guo (Grad '16, '17)** was promoted to principal at Cornerstone Research, a leading provider of economic and financial consulting and expert testimony. Guo consults on antitrust and competition, consumer fraud and product liability, intellectual property, and statistical sampling matters, primarily in the life sciences and health care industries. In these contexts, she has analyzed class certification, liability, market definition, market power and damages, among other issues.

She also assesses alleged anticompetitive delays of generic entry, estimates the competitive effects of vertical mergers, and evaluates alleged price fixing and pass-through along the supply chain.

**Chanlee Luu (Engr '17 CM)** has published her debut poetry collection, *The Machine Autocorrects Code to I*. The book, which won the Washington Writers' Publishing House 2024 Jean Feldman Poetry Prize, was launched at an October event at Politics & Prose in Washington, D.C. 📍

**Selina Horsley (Col '17, Educ '18 CM)** and Benjamin Stone were married April 13, 2024. Selina is the daughter of **Garrett Horsley (Col' 86 CM)** and **Helen Hamilton Horsley (Col '87 CM)**, sister of **Lily Horsley (Com '21)**, niece of **Stuart Horsley (Col '82 CM)** and granddaughter of **Waller Horsley (Col '53, Law '59)**, who served on the Board of Visitors from 1988 to 1992. The couple lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she teaches English as a second language and he works for Cigna Healthcare. 📍

**Carolyn Wilkes (Col '17 CM)** and her husband, David Wilkes, welcomed their first child, Henry James, on June 29, 2024, in Fairfax, Virginia. 📍

**Nicole Andersen (Col '18 CM)** received her master of public health from Vanderbilt University, with a concentration in epidemiology, on May 10, 2024. Andersen's thesis research was on "Exploring Neonatal Weight Loss Among Opioid-Exposed Infants with Prenatal Polysubstance Exposure," and she completed her practicum with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). Andersen will work with TDH as a child fatality review program director, leading a team investigating child deaths to raise awareness and promote necessary safety measures for Tennessee families. 📍

**Shivani Dimri (Col '19 CM)** has published her first card game, "Let's Circle Back: A Corporate Storytelling Game and Prompt Deck." Drawing from her experiences as a federal government consultant, Dimri designed this team-building game to enable consultants and business professionals to bond over their work-related stories and opinions. 📍



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# '20s

**Emily Schmidt (Educ '20 CM)** and **Bryce (Land) Schmidt (Com '20)** were married in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on July 26, 2024, with many 'Hoos in attendance. **Sarah Snow (Educ '20 CM)**, Emily's first-year hall mate in Watson-Webb, was the maid of honor. The couple met second year when Emily lived two floors above Bryce in Lambeth Field Apartments. Bryce proposed on the Lawn in 2023.

**Dr. Mark Eid (SCPS '22)** and **Dr. Stephen Chang (SCPS '22)** have founded Acts Financial Advisors, a wealth management firm in McLean, Virginia, that recently surpassed \$100 million in assets under management. They provide comprehensive financial advising with an emphasis on tax strategy and asset protection for high-net-worth physicians and entrepreneurs. 

**Jason S. Nadolinski (SCPS '22 CM)** has been selected to serve as director of the student affairs division of the Military and Veterans Student Success Center at Florida Atlantic University. He will lead a professional staff dedicated to serving and supporting more than 1,700 military and veteran students, their dependents, and the U.S. Army ROTC battalion at six campus locations across South Florida. Nadolinski accepted this position upon retirement as a senior special agent/team leader with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where he served from 2001 to 2023. He also retired from the U.S. Navy as a master chief petty officer after combined active duty and reserve component service of over 26 years. 

**Karl Frisch (SCPS '23 CM)** was reelected as chair of the Fairfax County (Virginia) School Board on July 11, 2024. Fairfax County Public Schools is Virginia's largest and the United States' ninth-largest public school system. Frisch was elected in 2019 to represent the Providence District, becoming the first

openly LGBTQ+ person elected to local office in Virginia's most populous county. In addition to his work on the board, he serves on the board of directors for the University of Virginia Queer Alumni Network. 

## Faculty and Staff

Madhur Behl and the Cavalier Autonomous Racing team won the speed trial portion of the Indy Autonomous Challenge at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in September, clocking 171 mph. Universities compete in unmanned race cars, built like one-seater Formula 1 cars but with high-tech computing equipment. It was the first time in the event's four-year history that an American team was fastest. Behl is an associate professor in the School of Engineering who teaches computer science and systems information engineering. A \$50,000 grant from the Jefferson Trust in 2020 helped establish the club.



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# In Memoriam

## '40s

**Jack Panky Jefferies (Com '49, Law '51 CM)** of Vero Beach, Florida, died July 17, 2024. He earned his bachelor's degree in commerce and his law degree from UVA. He also earned a master's degree and a doctorate in law from Yale. After completing his education, he served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He went on to become a partner for 28 years with the law firm Lord Day & Lord in New York City and was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. Known as an expert on laws and regulations affecting hotels, he was legal counsel to the American Hotel and Motel Association, the New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association, and the Hotel Association of New York City. In 1990, he co-authored the textbook *Understanding Hospitality Law*. He also self-published a book of short stories about his childhood called *Happy Times*. Survivors include a daughter and two grandsons.

## '50s

**William H. Lupton (Col '50 CM)** of Earlysville, Virginia, died Feb. 5, 2024. He earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from UVA. In 1951 he

joined the U.S. Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., as a radio engineer. In January 1954 he was sent to Enewetak Proving Ground in the Marshall Islands to assist in the testing of the hydrogen bomb. In 1956 he began graduate school at the University of Maryland, earning his doctorate in theoretical physics. In 1960, he joined the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory as a plasma physicist, working there for 25 years. An expert in high-voltage electrical switches, he pioneered the use of modern transmission line codes for accurate theoretical analysis of electric circuits. In 2005 he moved back to his hometown of Charlottesville. In his retirement, he enjoyed gardening, woodworking and reading. Survivors include two daughters.

**Loretta Stanerson Flagel (Nurs '58)** of Wausau, Wisconsin, died Aug. 21, 2024. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from UVA, where she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She was a dedicated homemaker who lived in many towns across Wisconsin throughout her life. She enjoyed creating greeting cards, sewing for her loved ones, gardening and baking. Survivors include four children, a brother, nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

## '60s

**William "Bill" Powell (Col '62, Darden '66 CM)** of Camano Island, Washington, died April 18, 2024. He attended UVA as both an undergraduate in the College of Arts and Sciences and a graduate student at the Darden School of Business. He was a member of Zeta Psi fraternity, the IMP Society, T.I.L.K.A. and the men's lacrosse team. He was also a Lawn resident. After college, he served in France as a U.S. Army military police officer. He worked as a sales manager for several beverage companies and owned his own consulting firm. He enjoyed playing tennis, sailing and crabbing in Puget Sound, bargain-hunting at garage sales, and volunteering at the Center for Wooden Boats. Survivors include his wife, Signe; two daughters, including **Molly Powell (Law '04)**; and five grandchildren.

**Robert Douglas "Doug" Wilburn Jr. (Engr '62)** of Asheville, North Carolina, died Jan. 23, 2024. He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at UVA, where he was inducted into the Phi Eta Sigma and Tau Beta Pi honor societies. He was also a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and the marching band. After graduating, he earned his master's

degree in engineering from UCLA. Upon completing his education, he worked for NASA on Apollo 16. Survivors include a sister-in-law, a niece and a nephew.

**Peter Gayton Claymore (Col '65)** of Gainesville, Georgia, died Sept. 3, 2024. A native of Washington, D.C., he received his bachelor's degree in history from UVA, attending on a Naval ROTC scholarship. He served in the U.S. Navy for 10 years, earning the rank of lieutenant. After he left the Navy, he and his family settled in the Washington, D.C., area, where he worked for multiple defense contracting firms. He continued his education by earning master's degrees from Southeastern University and George Mason University. He was a dedicated stamp collector who also loved model trains and served as a board member of the D.C. chapter of the National Railway Historical Society for many years. He was a Hunkpapa Sioux and was an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. He enjoyed educating others about Native American history and was a regular visitor and donor to the reservation in the Dakotas. He retired to Gainesville, Georgia, where he taught classes at the local college and worked as a tax preparer. He enjoyed travel, reading, sports and politics. He remained a proud graduate of UVA, closely followed the sports teams,

## Congresswoman was ‘arguing consistently for change’

Visiting a gay bar during the 1980s AIDS epidemic came with plenty of stigma, but **Sheila Jackson Lee (Law '75)** was undaunted. The longtime Democratic congresswoman from Houston spent her career speaking out about social justice and equity issues.

Jackson Lee, who was first elected to Congress in 1995, wasn't worried about backlash from a visit like that, her daughter Erica Lee Carter said. Jackson Lee's message to anyone who might object: “We're not free until we're all free,” Lee Carter said.

So as Lee Carter leafed through sympathy cards after her mother died this summer, one seemed emblematic of her long service. “I first met your mom in a gay bar in the '80s,” the sender wrote. “She was a force of nature for civil right[s].”

Jackson Lee was running for a 16th term in Congress when she announced in June that she was in treatment for pancreatic cancer. She died July 19 at age 74 after being immersed in civic activities in Houston for decades—as a lawyer, judge, city council member and ultimately U.S. representative.

“The presence, from a family side, could be frustrating sometimes,” Lee Carter said of her mother's constant community involvement. “But I see the circles where that really meant something to everybody she was present for.”

Growing up in the Jamaica neighborhood of Queens, New York, Jackson Lee challenged the status quo from a young age. After her high school guidance counselor told her she'd make a great secretary, she refused to learn to type, Lee Carter said. “My dad has a lot of stories of paying people to type or typing her work.”

Instead, she helped make history at top universities. In 1972, Jackson Lee was one of the first women to graduate with a degree from Yale. She then became part of the largest class of Black students to enter UVA Law School at the time. The 17 students formed a close-knit group built on a shared experience of growing up during segregation and coming of age during the Civil Rights Movement.



Early on it was clear “this girl was going somewhere,” remembered classmate and friend **Delores Boyd (Law '75)**. Jackson Lee was confident and outspoken, often talking about Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to be elected to Congress and, in 1972, the first woman and African American to campaign for a nomination for president.

“Sheila had opinions and didn't mind articulating them,” said Boyd, a retired U.S. magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

When friends learned that Jackson Lee was running for office, “It was like, ‘Oh, Sheila's running for office,’ and the undercurrent was, ‘just like we knew she would,’” said **John Charles Thomas (Col '72, Law '75)**, the first Black justice on the Supreme Court of Virginia.

After her death, Democratic leaders remembered Jackson Lee. President Joe

Biden called her “a towering figure.” Vice President Kamala Harris called her “a tenacious advocate for justice.” They both credited her for her role in reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act and making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Jackson Lee had a lighter side, Lee Carter said. She loved to dance and listen to R&B and gospel music. But “bulldog” and “intense” are good words to describe her too, her daughter said.

Jackson Lee would sometimes take flak for being too vocal. She told *The New York Times* it was just her way of ensuring that her constituents' concerns were heard. “I don't have wealth to write a check,” she said. “But maybe I can be a voice arguing consistently for change.”

Jackson Lee is survived by her husband, Elwyn Lee; Lee Carter; a son; and two grandchildren.

—**Sarah Lindenfeld Hall**

and loved any opportunity to return to Charlottesville and walk the Grounds. Survivors include his son and two grandchildren.

**Clarence Joseph Sharrer Jr. (Col '65)** of Harrisonburg, Virginia, died Dec. 11, 2023.

He earned his bachelor's degree in history from UVA, followed by a degree in educational counseling from James Madison University. He began his career in rehabilitation services in several offices before becoming the assistant director of Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville, Virginia. He held the position for 10 years before relocating to become the director of the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna, Tennessee. He next served as commissioner for rehabilitation services for Tennessee before moving back to Virginia to become the executive director of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Services Board for 12 years. He retired in 2001 and pursued his interests in archaeology, wildflowers, gardening, reading, classical music, opera and British television. Survivors include his wife, Page; a daughter; a son; a stepdaughter; a sister; two grandchildren; and many nephews and cousins.

**Ann Elizabeth "Beth" Moore (Nurs '67 CM)** of Jacksonville, Florida, and Highlands, North Carolina, died June 21, 2024. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from UVA. In 1978 she received a master's degree in nursing from Ohio State University. She began her nursing career as a staff nurse in upstate New York and was always dedicated to providing

excellent health care. One of her favorite positions was teaching nursing students. She was proud to have opened the endocrine unit when she was chief nursing officer at a Richmond, Virginia, hospital. She held various other management and consulting positions in the health care field throughout her nursing career. In 1998, she moved to Highlands and began a real estate career. With a downturn in the real estate market in 2008, she returned to the health care field, providing home health services. She cherished her time spent volunteering in the neonatal intensive care unit at Wolfson Children's Hospital and serving on its volunteer board. She was an avid traveler and visited six continents. Survivors include her husband, Wally; a son; a stepdaughter; a brother; and five grandchildren.

**Gary Dell Kessler (Col '68, Grad '71 CM)** of Charlottesville died July 29, 2024. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in foreign affairs at UVA, where he was active at the Wesley Foundation and worked at Alderman Library (now Shannon Library). He also earned a master's in governmental administration at George Washington University and a diploma from the U.S. Army War College. He worked for 32 years in editorial, analysis and management positions at the CIA in the government foreign news agency, with tours in Japan, Thailand and Cyprus. He rose to chief of the Middle East Bureau. In semi-retirement he ran an editorial and publishing consultancy service for 20

years, editing academic and trade books. More than 30 of his own nonfiction, fiction and short story works have been published in true or pen name, and he was the volume editor for 13 published multi-volume anthologies. Survivors include his wife, **Evelyn Cottman Kessler (Nurs '67 CM)**; two children, including **G. Drew Kessler (Engr '92 CM)**; daughter-in-law **Aimee R. (Newsom) Kessler (Col '93 CM)**; three sisters; and two granddaughters.

**Martin J. Wayne (Engr '68 CM)** of Gainesville, Florida, died May 10, 2023. He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from UVA and a master's in business administration from the State University of New York, Albany. He began his career with General Electric and worked at plants in Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, New York and, finally, Florida, where he spent the rest of his life. He received a patent in 1987 for designing a device to measure current in a printed circuit. He later worked for several engineering consulting firms, ending with CH2M Hill, from which he retired. When he wasn't working or tinkering on his many computers and electronic devices, he was enjoying boating, cave diving, fishing and scuba diving in Florida's waters. At age 67, he also took up skiing. Survivors include his wife, Lucy; two children; and four grandchildren.

## '70s

**James Carothers (Grad '70 CM)** of Lawrence, Kansas, died July 9, 2024. He earned

a doctorate in English from UVA, where he wrote a dissertation on William Faulkner's short stories. He also held bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Missouri. In 1970 he began a 46-year career at the University of Kansas as an English professor. His teaching focused on modern American fiction (including William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald) and Shakespeare. He also developed courses including Literature of Baseball and Honors: Comedy and Humor. He served for 12 years as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and as president of faculty four times. Beginning in 1979, he attended the University of Mississippi's Faulkner Conference each year and was a founding editor of *The Faulkner Journal*. After retirement, he continued his research through the Digital Yoknapatawpha Project, a collaboration between an international team of Faulkner scholars and technologists at UVA. He always maintained a love of baseball and humor. Survivors include his wife, Beverly; two children; two grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

**Edwin Michael "Mike" Chewning (Engr '70)** of Madison, Alabama, died June 16, 2024. He studied aerospace engineering at UVA, where he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and the P.K. Society. After graduation he began working for NASA at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, where he served as a mission planner and

network support manager. In 1978 he joined McDonnell Douglas in Florida, supporting the Kennedy Space Center with preparations for the space shuttle program. Later he moved to Huntsville, Alabama, in support of the Marshall Space Flight Center. In 1997, he began a 10-year stint at Spacehab Inc., where his missions included support of logistics flights to the International Space Station. After stints at Boeing and TriVector Services, he retired in 2013. He enjoyed boating and vacations in St. Thomas. He continued to follow the development of commercial human spaceflight and was eager to see human missions to the moon and to Mars. Survivors include his stepdaughter, her children and grandchild; his stepson; and his niece **Sarah Chewing McIntosh (Col '01 CM)** and her husband **Paul McIntosh (Col '01, Med '05 CM)**.

**Robert Allen "Bob" Nigro (Com '71 CM)** of Kiawah Island, South Carolina, died June 30, 2024. He earned his bachelor's degree in finance from UVA, where he was a class president, a Lawn resident and a member of the golf team. He enjoyed a long career in finance, with the bulk of his time spent at the First Boston Corporation in Chicago, Atlanta and New York City offices. He finished his career at SEI Investments. He settled in Greenwich, Connecticut, and retired to Kiawah Island in 2006. He served on the executive board of directors of the Charleston Animal Society and Coastal Community Foundation and chaired the investment committees for both organizations. He also served on

the board of trustees of the Kiawah Conservancy and was chairman of the Golf Committee at Briar's Creek. He steadfastly supported his beloved alma mater and consistently headed up the Class of 1971 Reunion Committee. He loved to cook elaborate Italian meals for friends and family and, in retirement, took Italian language classes. He also enjoyed working on vintage cars. Survivors include his wife, Lee Anne; two children; a brother; and four grandchildren.

**H. Conrad Warlick (Educ '71)** of Fredericksburg, Virginia, died July 3, 2024. He earned his doctorate in counselor education from UVA, where he was a member of the Raven Society. He also held a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University and a master's degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. From 1953 to 1957, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy and as chief of operations on the USS Pictor, stationed in the Pacific. He taught English at UVA and served as associate dean of undergraduate admissions before joining the administration of the University of Mary Washington in 1974. During his 23 years there, he held positions including vice president for admissions and financial aid, executive assistant to the president, and senior vice president. He served on the board of directors of the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, The Salvation Army, the University of Mary Washington Foundation and the United Way. He remained active in several state, regional and national college admissions

organizations and served as president of the Potomac-Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling. He served on the founding boards for the Fredericksburg Academy and the Fredericksburg Festival of the Arts. Survivors include his wife, Anne; two sons; a sister; and two grandchildren.

**Thomas Baldwin Brittain III (Col '73 CM)** of Arlington, Virginia, died June 1, 2024. He earned his bachelor's degree from UVA and worked as a real estate agent and property manager for over 30 years. He also worked as a research analyst and bartender. He was an avid sports fan who supported local professional teams and, most of all, his beloved Virginia Cavaliers. He also loved history, strategy games, bowling and billiards. Survivors include his mother, three brothers, and six nieces and nephews.

**David Gene Cupp (Grad '75)** of McKinney, Texas, died July 19, 2024. He earned a master's degree in drama from UVA. He spent 25 years in Charlottesville as the news director and co-anchor of the 6 p.m. newscasts at WVIR-TV. Under his leadership, the newsroom expanded to include dozens of reporters, videographers and meteorologists. He received accolades including the Virginias AP Broadcasters' Robert Gallimore Distinguished Service Award, an Emmy nomination and the Edward R. Murrow Award for writing. In 2005 he began a new career at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he taught writing, voice and diction, and the history of broadcasting. He

also maintained a passion for theater as both a playwright and performer. He enjoyed many seasons performing at UVA's Heritage Repertory Theatre. He loved singing, Irish pubs and a nice glass of Jameson. Survivors include his wife, **Cecilia Minden (Educ '00)**; a daughter; a sister; a granddaughter; and many nieces and nephews.

**James Ronald "Ron" Lovell (Engr '75 CM)** of Huntsville, Alabama, died June 28, 2024. He earned his master's degree in nuclear engineering from UVA after receiving his bachelor's degree in engineering science from Tennessee Technological University. He completed the Engineer Officer Basic Course at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After many years working as a licensed professional engineer, his position required more training in computing, leading him down a new career path. In 1984 he joined supercomputer company Cray Research. Living in Huntsville, he worked as a senior systems analyst and oversaw software development at sites including the Alabama Supercomputer Center and NASA. He eventually settled in a position at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, working with companies including Silicon Graphics and Kratos. After retiring in 2016, he enjoyed playing disc golf, watching movies and PBS, and continuing to work with computers. Survivors include his wife, Karen; two sons; two sisters; and many cousins.

## '80s

**Anne E. Hammond (Com '81 CM)** of Beverly Hills, Michigan, died July 26, 2024. She earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from UVA, where she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, a Student Council budget adviser, and a member of the McIntire Marketing Association. After college she headed west and started her career in advertising in San Francisco. From 1981 to 2007 she worked for advertising agencies in San Francisco, New Orleans and Detroit as a media buyer and then as a media planner. In 2007, she launched her second career as a realtor for Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel in Birmingham, Michigan. She was passionate about real estate until she retired in 2022. She was active in the Village Club and the Birmingham Area Alumnae Panhellenic Association as a representative of her sorority. She was also a legacy member of the Junior League of Birmingham. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends on Walloon Lake and traveling around the U.S. and abroad. Survivors include her husband, **Ed Hammond (Col '81 CM)**; three children; two siblings; and four grandchildren.

**Nancy Garrett Stuart (Col '82 CM)** of New York City died July 18, 2024. She earned her bachelor's degree in English literature and sociology from UVA. After graduation, she joined Morgan Stanley Smith Barney (now Morgan Stanley Wealth Management), where

she had a 30-year career in financial marketing across the mergers of many major financial institutions. She retired as vice president of marketing in estate planning at Citigroup. She loved New York City, where she resided in Stuyvesant Town, and the beach town Point Lookout, New York, where she spent her summers since childhood. She could often be found toting her big black Nikon camera. Survivors include her husband, Bill; a stepson; three granddaughters; three siblings; and several nieces and nephews.

**Elizabeth "Lisa" Smith Fijal (Col '83 CM)** of Clifton Park, New York, died Sept. 25, 2023. She earned her bachelor's degree in economics from UVA. After graduation, she worked for various software developers in the Washington, D.C., area. She was one of four founding members of the Augustine Classical Academy in Mechanicville, New York, and served as the school's mathematics teacher for 12 years. The school honored her with an administrative scholarship in her name. Survivors include her husband, Alan; four children, including **Thomas Fijal (Engr '15 CM)**; and four grandchildren.

**Kirk Joachim Fleischer (Col '87, Med '91 CM)** of Norfolk, Virginia, died June 19, 2020. He earned both his bachelor's degree in biology and his medical degree from UVA. He then trained at both Johns Hopkins Medical School and the Mayo Clinic. He practiced cardiothoracic surgery in Norfolk, Virginia, and Houston, Texas. He loved art and painted cartoon

characters in two hospitals for pediatric patients to enjoy. He also enjoyed wildlife photography. Survivors included his mother, Helga, who died April 23, 2024.

## '90s

**Deverie DuVal Jensen (Col '96, Educ '96 CM)** of Ellicott City, Maryland, died July 10, 2024. She earned her bachelor's degree in history and her master's in elementary education from UVA. An active participant in University life, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority, the KD representative to the Inter-Sorority Council, and a volunteer for Madison House. She taught elementary school in Montgomery County, Maryland, for 28 years. Most recently, she taught third grade ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) at Summit Hall Elementary. After nearly three decades teaching, she still loved her job. She regularly volunteered at her own children's school and could always be found cheering in the audience at their athletic and theatrical events. She remained close to UVA, returning often for football and basketball games, reunions, or picnics on the Lawn with her children. Each year for 30 years, she reunited with her KD sisters for a getaway trip to celebrate their friendship, often combined with a stop at the newest winery in Charlottesville. Survivors include her husband, Eric; two children; her parents, Robert and **Carolyn Jones**

**DuVal (Nurs '69 CM)**; a brother; sister-in-law **Lindsay Murphy DuVal (Com '99)**; and two nephews.

## '20s

**Zachary Dart Galli (Educ '22 CM)** of Williamsburg, Virginia, died May 11, 2024. He attended UVA on an Army ROTC scholarship, earning his bachelor's degree in kinesiology. He was a member of Chi Alpha Christian fraternity, served as social chair of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and played intramural soccer and volleyball. During his third year, he shadowed health care workers at Scott Wagner Integrated Medicine. He also created a fitness mentorship program for his ROTC battalion, pairing stronger cadets with those needing help with their fitness goals. After graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He furthered his military training at Fort Gregg-Adams in Virginia, where he earned a position in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). Upon graduating from the Army Logistics University, he received the Distinguished Award of Merit. Next he attended the EOD school at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where he earned the colloquial title of "unicorn" by passing all 45 required tests on the first try. In January 2024, he was assigned to his first duty station at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In February 2024, he became a first lieutenant. His military awards include

the Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal and the basic EOD badge. Survivors include his parents, Michael and **Gail Faris Galli (Nurs '89 CM)**; two siblings; three grandparents; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

## Faculty & Friends

**Laurence “Larry” W. Fredrick** of Charlottesville died May 19, 2024. He joined UVA in 1963 as the first chair of the astronomy department. Under his leadership, and through strategic hiring, the department grew into a modern research-oriented program and attained national prominence. He established Fan Mountain Observatory in Albemarle County and supported the effort to bring the headquarters for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory to Charlottesville. In 1963, he presented a study to the Langley Research Center about large space-based telescopes, landing him a role on the Hubble Space Telescope astrometry support team. He served as secretary of the American Astronomical Society and served as a member of many professional societies, including the Virginia Academy of Science, the Royal Astronomical Society and the National Space Society. He retired from UVA as a professor emeritus in 1995 but remained involved in the department’s social life. Outside of astronomy, he enjoyed golf, photography

and UVA sports. Survivors include three children, including **Rebecca L. Mesarch (Engr '88 CM)**; a sister; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Jeffrey Hopkins** of Vancouver, British Columbia, died July 1, 2024. After earning his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin, he came to UVA as an assistant professor of Tibetan Buddhist studies in 1973. He founded a doctoral program in Tibetan Buddhist studies two years later. He worked to expand Buddhist studies at the University by hiring other experts. He was the recipient of three Fulbright fellowships and made 12 trips to India and five to Tibet for research. He also served as the chief translator for the Dalai Lama from 1979 to 1989 on tours of the U.S., Canada, Europe, Southeast Asia and Australia. He published over 50 books and mentored 18 Ph.D. graduates, retiring from UVA in 2005 as a professor emeritus.

**Frederick “Fred” Schauer** of Charlottesville died Sept. 1, 2024. A leading legal theorist and free speech scholar, he spent 16 years on the UVA School of Law faculty. He earned his bachelor’s degree and business degree at Dartmouth and his law degree from Harvard. After a few years working in Boston law firms, he joined academia. He held positions at several schools—including the West Virginia University College of Law, Cambridge University, the College of William & Mary Law School, and the University of Michigan Law School—before joining

Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1990. There he spent 18 years teaching courses on the First Amendment, supervising graduate students in jurisprudence and comparative constitutional law, and serving as academic dean and acting dean. In 2008 he headed to Charlottesville to become UVA’s David and Mary Harrison Distinguished Professor of Law. He took pride in mentoring young legal scholars and supporting first-generation students. Over the course of his career, he wrote more than 300 works on freedom of speech, constitutional law and the philosophy of law, including the books *The Proof: Uses of Evidence in Law, Politics and Everything Else* and *Thinking Like a Lawyer: A New Introduction to Legal Reasoning*. In 2021, the University of Chicago Law School listed him as one of the top 20 most cited legal scholars of all time. In his free time, he enjoyed photography and woodworking. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Spellman, who is also a professor on the UVA School of Law faculty.

**Harold R. “Harry” Strang** of Charlottesville died April 20, 2023. He spent nearly 40 years as a professor and researcher at UVA’s School of Education and Human Development (formerly the Curry School of Education). He earned his bachelor’s degree in biology from Harpur College in Endicott, New York. He joined the U.S. Army and, upon completing his training, transferred to the National Guard so he could continue his education and teach while serving his

country. He taught biology for two years in Lake Mohegan, New York, before earning a master’s from SUNY Albany and a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Kansas. After two years of postdoctoral research, he received a federal grant funding automated reading research and landed at UVA. Over the next 39 years, he taught development and learning courses year-round. He worked with graduate students who assisted him with his research, focusing on computer simulation of classroom experiences including fundamental teaching skills, classroom and behavior management, student-teacher dialogue, and assisting special education students. He also served on the doctoral committees of many students and served as marshal at many graduations. After retiring in 2008, he pursued a lifelong love of woodworking. After he underwent brain surgery in 2012, he and his wife, **Alice Strang (Educ '79)**, established the Strang Neuroscience Research Award at UVA. The endowment provides seed money for young scientists to investigate traumatic brain injuries, stem cell therapies and Alzheimer’s disease. In addition to his wife, survivors include two children, including **Dana Strang Peterson (Educ '99)**; a brother; and two grandchildren.

# Retrospect

## WHAT, THE DUCK?

No joke: Comic book character won 1979 Student Council election

BY ED MILLER

**J**ohn Serpe (Col '80, Law '83) was unsure who might run against him for Student Council president in the spring of 1979, but he was certain someone would.

A third-year history major who by his own admission was “not the world’s greatest undergrad student,” Serpe hardly looked unbeatable. He’d won election as vice president for appropriations the year before by a narrow margin, he recalls.

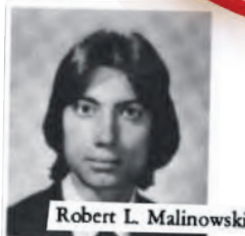
“I was thinking there were various people who might run against me,” he says.

No one did. No people, anyway. Serpe’s opponent was a Marvel comic book character called Howard the Duck, whose candidacy was hatched as a joke by students **Bob Malinowski (Engr '80)** and **Kevin Keefe (Col '80)**. The campaign gained momentum, however, tapping into feelings of “growing cynicism and antipathy towards Student Council and student self-governance as a whole” according to a history of Student Council, written in 2018.

“I was surprised at how quickly people latched onto it,” Malinowski says, looking back.

Malinowski was even more surprised when Howard outpolled Serpe 1,743 to 1,668.

But the fictional waterfowl was ineligible to serve. “Student government rules bar a duck or any other nonstudent from taking office,” the *Daily Progress* clarified, in case anyone was wondering. Serpe took office, embarrassed but



Robert L. Malinowski



John Serpe

Bob Malinowski’s idea to pit Howard the Duck against John Serpe was not original; in 1976 the character had run for U.S. president in a storyline.

determined not to take the loss personally, he says.

The anthropomorphized duck’s campaign was nothing personal, Malinowski says. It was a protest against student government in general, and “politicos” who put their own ambition over the interests of students, he says.

Malinowski had tried something similar when he was in high school, running a campaign for a fictional—if human—candidate, he says. Administrators discovered the ruse on the eve of the election, foiling his plan.

Keefe, Malinowski’s roommate at UVA, was a big fan of Howard, a caustic, cigar-chomping cynic whose social

satire made him something of a counterculture antihero. So Malinowski decided to try again.

He and Keefe printed campaign posters and buttons. They set up a table on the Lawn and answered questions on behalf of their feathered candidate. The campaign’s slogan, “Why a Duck? Why not?”

We’ve had turkeys running student government for years,”

was borrowed from a Marvel plotline in which Howard the Duck ran against Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford for U.S. president in 1976.

The Student Council elections committee first ruled that Howard’s votes would not be tabulated, but it reversed course after Malinowski and Keefe presented it with a petition signed by more than 800 students.

At the time, Serpe was critical of the decision to count Howard’s votes, telling the *Cavalier Daily* the committee had allowed the race to degenerate into a farce. All these years later, he confesses to being blindsided by the whole thing.

The comic “wasn’t something I’d ever really followed,” he says. “I was more of a Donald Duck guy or whatever.”

A successful trial lawyer based in Houston, Serpe can laugh about it now. He’s proud of the work he did as council president. He says he lobbied the General Assembly to get a student representative on the Board of Visitors, which came to pass in 1983. He also pushed back against a plan to build a residential college at Birdwood, a proposal that was unpopular with students.

“I didn’t want to lose to a duck,” he says. “But when all was said and done, I got to do what I wanted to do, and it was a great experience.”

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