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VIRGINIA

FALL 2025



Special Coverage

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Jim Ryan's resignation under federal pressure, an overview of his presidency, and alumni sentiment

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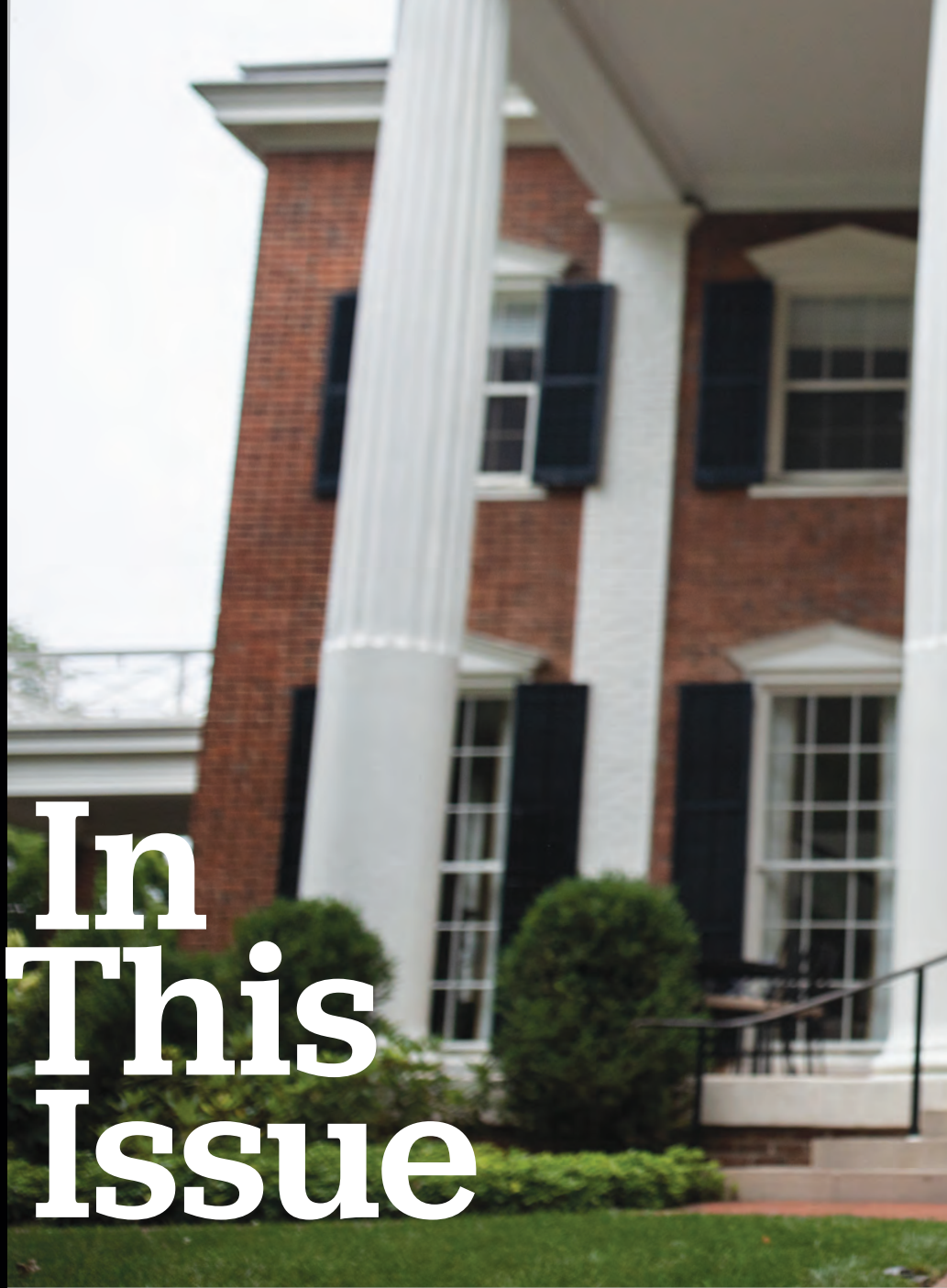
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VOX ALUMNI

Letters



Editor's note: *These letters were submitted before UVA President* ***Jim Ryan (Law '92)*** *announced his resignation on June 27. For related Vox Alumni coverage, please see Page 70.*

SUMMER ISSUE

The thoughtfully conceived issue encapsulates the volatile mixture of despair, anger and hope that countless Americans are living with every day at this point in our nation's history. Both the university and American society writ large are faced with unprecedented sabotage via massive and entirely nonsensical cuts to research in medicine and the sciences. Meanwhile, despite any legislative mandate from the state, our Board of Visitors votes to eliminate hard-won and broadly beneficial advances in diversifying the university, an effort that has spanned many decades and multiple generations of good-willed and deeply committed people. The odd memorial for the McCarthyite former professor who was shown the door by no less than President Colgate Darden reminds us that we are sometimes called upon to fight old battles over again, even those we thought had been decisively won.

All of this a perfect setup for your deeply moving remembrance of President John Casteen, a person adored and indeed idolized by pretty much every UVA alumnus, we English majors perhaps most especially. In an era when the simple but foundational concept of a leader and leadership is cast into grave doubt, we see in Mr. Casteen a brilliantly intelligent but humble man capable of long-term planning and stewardship toward the collective good; a man of honor and integrity, of kindness and generosity and easy good humor; a man of tremendous personal accomplishment and success who singularly commits himself to the uplift and enfranchisement of those he could equally well condescend to, disdain, ignore, or worse still, stigmatize and blame for their own misfortunes.

Chris Norden (Col '82, Grad '86)
Moscow, Idaho

THE BEST OF THE BEST

I was more than surprised not to see the name of Jim Bakhtiar on the list. Among other attributes, "he became one of the top players in the nation, leading the ACC in rushing in 1956 and earning All-American honors in 1957." I ran into him in the fall of '62 when he was in med school and I was a first-year in the college. The "Persian Prince" was not only Hollywood handsome but also very down to earth when I briefly spoke with him.

Victor Podell (Col '66)
Fairfax, Virginia

While I recognize that your best of the best list was touted as "semi-objective" and "entirely arguable," I was stunned to see that Chris Long was not included. As a unanimous All-American, the 2007 ACC Defensive Player of the Year and the second overall pick in the NFL Draft—not to mention a two-time Super Bowl champion who was critical to bringing the Lombardi Trophy to Philadelphia for the first time ever (go Birds!)—Chris represents the very best of what it means to be a Wahoo, both on and off the field.

His impact at Virginia wasn't just about stats or accolades. He was a dominant force, a respected leader, and has continued to make his alma mater proud through his philanthropy and advocacy.

Lauren Foley (Engr '09, '15)
Crozet, Virginia

Might I suggest another candidate, baseball pitcher Ricky Horton, whom I met at a first-year lecture from baseball commissioner and UVA alum Bowie Kuhn. Ricky had a stellar career pitching at UVA before being drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals. While not an All-Star, during his seven-year MLB career, Ricky was renowned for his pick-off move and contributed to three World Series teams and was the Chicago White Sox Opening Day starter in 1988. Since retiring from baseball, Ricky has been the voice of the St. Louis Cardinals and is the director of the St. Louis Chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Kris Nanda (Col '81, Law '85)
Ottawa, Canada

I believe my sister Lesley Welch Lehane's contributions as a student-athlete at the University of Virginia warrant inclusion as well.

Lesley and I attended UVA from 1981 to 1983, and we were both members of the women's cross-country teams that won back-to-back NCAA national championships in 1981 and 1982. In 1982, Lesley was the individual NCAA cross-country national champion and also claimed the TAC/USA (now USATF) individual national title—the first woman to win both in the same year. That year, our team also captured the USA Open team title, defeating Nike's professional team, Athletics West.

While we left UVA after our second year, Lesley's athletic career continued at the national and international levels. Highlights include breaking several U.S. road racing records, winning additional national titles, and placing fifth at the 1987 World Cross Country

Championships in Poland as part of the USA's gold medal-winning team. Additionally, on Jan. 25, 1986, Lesley ran the fastest ever indoor 5000m time in the world. She was also the first UVA female athlete to receive the Broderick Award, honoring the nation's top female collegiate athlete in cross-country.

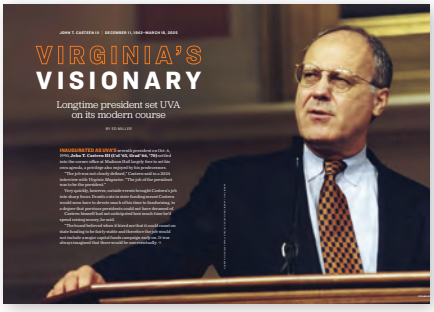
Lisa Welch Brady (Educ '85)
Durham, New Hampshire

I appreciate your disclaimer that the list of UVA's best of the best is arguable, and I am certainly not arguing the merits of those that were chosen. My observation is that the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame offers four men's lacrosse teammates that, as Hall of Fame selections, are well worthy of mention: Pete Eldredge, Jay Connor, Jim Potter and Tom Duquette, who was also a noteworthy lacrosse coach.

Ken Silverman (Com '71)
Vero Beach, Florida

How is John Harkes not on this list? MAC award winner, member of the National Soccer Hall of Fame, arguably the best American player of the '90s.

Scott Nelson (Engr '89)
Atlanta



VIRGINIA'S VISIONARY

I had the great fortune to develop an academic relationship and friendship with President Casteen. I was writing my undergraduate art history distinguished majors thesis on Holocaust memorialization under the guidance of both an art history professor and a German professor. The German professor suggested that, with his expertise in Germanic languages and literature, President Casteen might have some valuable insights to share. I couldn't imagine that someone as busy and important as President Casteen would be willing to meet with a lowly undergrad like me, but I couldn't have been more wrong. I met with him on several occasions. He was warm, encouraging and genuinely curious and interested in my research. He put me at ease while sharing his considerable expertise. President Casteen regularly met with some of the most important scholars and powerful donors in the country, and he still made me, a 21-year-old fourth-year, feel that my ideas mattered and that I had value. I am grateful for his guidance and for the small but treasured slices of time we spent together.

Lauren Brownstein (Col '92)
Silver Spring, Maryland

My father, Edgar Shannon, and John Casteen were great friends. Both did a lot to make the University of Virginia a great school. I am proud to say that I graduated from the University of Virginia.

Susan Shannon Hald (Col '93)
Sterling, Virginia

RESEARCH'S NEW UNKNOWNS

This is a good update on the situation. It's quite a complex situation with interaction on several levels and dimensions. We're creating a social reality, and we want to make the best of it.

The article ends in a hopeful tone with good management and workable compromises with the funders. Hopefully, the courts will help us too. Much of this seems so ignorant and wasteful, but we have to make the best of it and continue moving forward and growing. Patience is another important ingredient. Charity from others is another dynamic. There is great content for specific "asks" in the current situation. The potential outcomes are so wonderful. I look forward to your next installment of how it's going.

Jonathon Davies Earl (Col '73, Grad '78, '84)
Charlottesville

I personally do not find it convincing to point to the very impactful, positive results from past research. No one is talking about eliminating all federal government research to universities. I also suspect that few would debate that there is federally funded research that is not meaningfully targeted toward having a positive impact on society.

I personally do not find a 15 percent overhead cap unreasonable. At 61.5 percent, the government is really funding much of the basic infrastructure of the department/institution. Businesses would not survive with a 61.5 percent overhead rate. I also suspect that classifying expenses as overhead meaningfully reduces the government's ability to know and track for what those expenses are really utilized. This opens the door to abuse. It may be that part of the answer is to include the relevant expenses as direct costs of the research, thereby providing greater transparency to the government funding entities. Time and more data will tell whether these changes are beneficial or detrimental or some of both.

John Joseph Shaia (Darden '89, Law '91)
Chappaqua, New York

As a UVA alum and a current basic science/translational researcher at a major research university, researchers are undergoing the same daily-changing trauma as clearly and eloquently described in this article. This is deeply concerning because research grants represent investments in the future of the U.S. An analysis shows that the $36.94 billion awarded to researchers in the United States in FY2024 supported 407,782 jobs and $94.58 billion in new economic activity nationwide—or $2.56 for every $1 invested. The U.S. is leading the world in many areas of scientific and engineering research. However, there is no sustainable source of funds for basic research other than the U.S. government because the discoveries take time to develop to become profitable so that companies will have incentive to invest in and market a product. In the current climate, the U.S. will lose at least one generation of researchers, and probably 20 percent to 33 percent of established researchers will lose their jobs over the next two to three years if things do not change. This carnage is self-induced, and it certainly will not make America great. The U.S. is now China's best friend.

William Christopher Wetsel (Col '70)
Durham, North Carolina


UDigest

BOV VOTES TO DISSOLVE UVA'S DEI OFFICE

Colleges in more than 35 states have curbed their diversity, equity and inclusion practices in the past couple of years, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, which has tracked such changes since 2023.

BOV VOTES TO DISSOLVE UNIVERSITY'S DEI OFFICE [U-DIGEST]

It is deeply disturbing that UVA's Board of Visitors has bowed to the bully in the White House in eliminating the DEI office and initiatives. Hasn't diversity enriched the university experience for the students, faculty and community? Which people will the university not include in the future? DEI may seem like a new idea, but it is a cornerstone in our country's founding and implicit in "All men are created equal." To not push back on the idea that DEI programs are a form of discrimination is cowardly.

Frances M. Marshall (Engr '82)
Estes Park, Colorado

It's great to have individual merit and initiative restored to prominence at the University of Virginia. DEI was a misguided and discriminatory attempt of group social engineering. Good riddance. Thank you, BOV and the Jefferson Council.

Joseph Bennett McCoy III (Col '74)
Colorado Springs, Colorado

I have always been proud to be a UVA alumna, so I can hardly express the degree of my disappointment and dismay at the BOV's dissolution of the DEI office at UVA. The university's response is lukewarm and in no way sufficient to respond to this move against equality. Will no one stand up to racism, misogyny and the attempt of the white oligarchy to take over our country? Shame on UVA.

Elizabeth Saft (Educ '89, Grad '94)
Davis, California

There is a perfect symmetry with the BOV vote coming on the 175th anniversary of Daniel Webster's "Seventh of March" speech in support of the Compromise of 1850 and the Fugitive Slave Act. History may not repeat itself but sometimes it rhymes.

Christopher A. Duggan (Law '84)
Acton, Massachusetts

There was a time when the University of Virginia would have laughed at this kosher butcher's granddaughter's application to the College of Arts and Sciences. But in 1971, I was admitted as one of 550 women under a transition plan toward full coeducational acceptance. My admission that year was based not only on merit, but also on gender. You could say I was a DEI admission.

A first-generation college student, I was an Echols Scholar, resided on the Lawn, and graduated in 1975 with highest distinction. I went on to become a physician in Baltimore's medically underserved southeastern neighborhoods.

It was my calling to help repair the injustices of the world by providing health care at publicly funded community health centers. In Judaism, we call this principle "tikkun olam," to repair the world. Equity is a key component of this principle.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are not buzzwords to me, and those principles should never be eliminated based on computerized screening for words or initials offensive to elected officials. The University of Virginia is a better place because taxpayers' funds have been spent on ensuring the highest-caliber education to a wide variety of people.

Cynthia M. Lipsitz (Col '75)
Catonsville, Maryland

I greatly endorse the decision to dissolve the DEI office. DEI initiatives have evolved into an anathema to the university's core values. In short, the university should apply a uniform set of standards in recruiting and accepting students, professors and employees. It is that simple.

Brendan J. O'Rourke (Col '80, Grad '85, Law '85)
New Canaan, Connecticut

Shame on the Board of Visitors for voting to dissolve UVA's Division of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Partnerships. Given the university's checkered history on race and discrimination, it, of all places, should recognize the moral necessity to ensure that African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities, women, the LGBTQ+ community and the economically disadvantaged are welcomed, supported and encouraged. UVA made so much progress on this front over the past 60 years, especially under John Casteen, whom you correctly lauded for his vision and empathy in your last issue. It's sad and disheartening to see us cave to the voices of hate and division.

F. Housley Carr (Col '78)
Carversville, Pennsylvania

UVA'S EXTERNAL REVIEW OF 2022 SHOOTING RELEASED [U-DIGEST]

The university should reconsider redactions to statements about the murders of the UVA students. If UVA again produces heavily redacted reports, it will only cause greater and continued pain to the men's parents and other family. Yes, they may sue the university for any culpability in not removing or further investigating the perpetrator prior to his action.

UVA's greater obligation is not protecting the university but public safety of students and faculty, revealing the truth, and taking consequences from any neglect or miscommunication. The university must

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act differently from a private corporation or individual.

Kay E. Slaughter (Law '86)
Charlottesville

A CENTURY OF MEM [SPRING 2025]

This was a great article about Mem Gym's music history. I still brag about seeing Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band in 1974.

Another wonderful feature harkening back to its original purpose as an athletic facility was the pool on the south side of the building. It was abandoned by the athletes quickly—I think when U-Hall was built with an Olympic-size pool. That small pool survived in the '70s. We repurposed it for inner tube water polo (I think we created that as a co-ed intramural sport). It was intensely chlorinated and magical. I'm not sure the pool has survived, but I hope our kids carry on the water polo tradition!

Timothy Leahy (Arch '76, Darden '79)
Annapolis, Maryland

As a former resident of Mem Gym, I am inspired to add two more chapters to the record. First, the article doesn't mention the swimming pool that occupied the south end of the building and served as



Intramural inner tube water polo at Mem Gym in 1974

the home of the swimming & diving team until 1972, when the U-Hall natatorium opened. The pool continued to be used for intramurals (including inner tube water polo) and recreational lap swimming until 2007, when it was sadly closed and filled in. In the '60s and early '70s, a few lucky varsity athletes who referred to themselves as gym rats lived in rooms on the second floor. As a swimmer, I lived there during the 1973-74 academic year, which I believe was the final year of Mem Gym's status as a dorm. We shared the showers in the basement locker room with other gym users and massive cockroaches, and we had the run of the building after hours.

Alan N. Bedell (Col '76)
Pittsburgh

VOX ALUMNI

Send Us Your Thoughts

We welcome your letters.

The *Virginia Magazine* letters section is part of the UVA Alumni Association's broader Vox Alumni initiative, aimed at gaining greater understanding of alumni views and sharing insights. For letters intended for publication, please limit your remarks to 200 words and include your name, school, class year, city and state. We may not be able to publish all submissions, and we edit for length, clarity, style and civility. We give preference to letters that address the content of the magazine. The views expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Alumni Association.

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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Honoring Our Mission in a Time of Transition

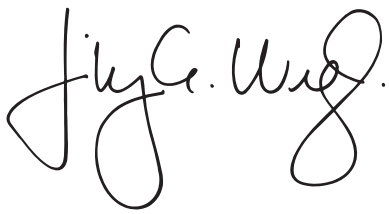
When I initially wrote this letter, the Alumni Association was preparing for a momentous milestone: breaking ground on a once-in-a-generation building project. I was excited to share the depth of planning and design that went into creating A Home for Every Hoo and enumerate all the ways in which this new building will allow us to serve you—and the rest of our ever-expanding alumni base—for generations to come.

While our building project continues as planned (and you can read more in the pages that follow), the landscape around us has shifted dramatically. President Ryan's resignation and the ensuing national news coverage sparked a tremendous amount of alumni feedback, matched only by alumni reactions to President Teresa Sullivan's ouster in 2012.

During this time of unexpected transition for the university, the Alumni Association has leaned into its longstanding mission: serving as the indispensable conduit for alumni voices and perspectives. As you will see in this issue, we received nearly 2,000 responses to our Vox Alumni survey launched after the news broke. I am grateful to each one of you who took the time to provide feedback, and I view the overwhelming response as a testament to our collective ties to our beloved university and one another.

As we step through this time of uncertainty, please know that our mission—and inspiration—remains true. Your voice, passion and commitment have always guided us forward, and this time is no different.

With gratitude,



Lily West (Darden '12)
President & CEO, UVA Alumni Association

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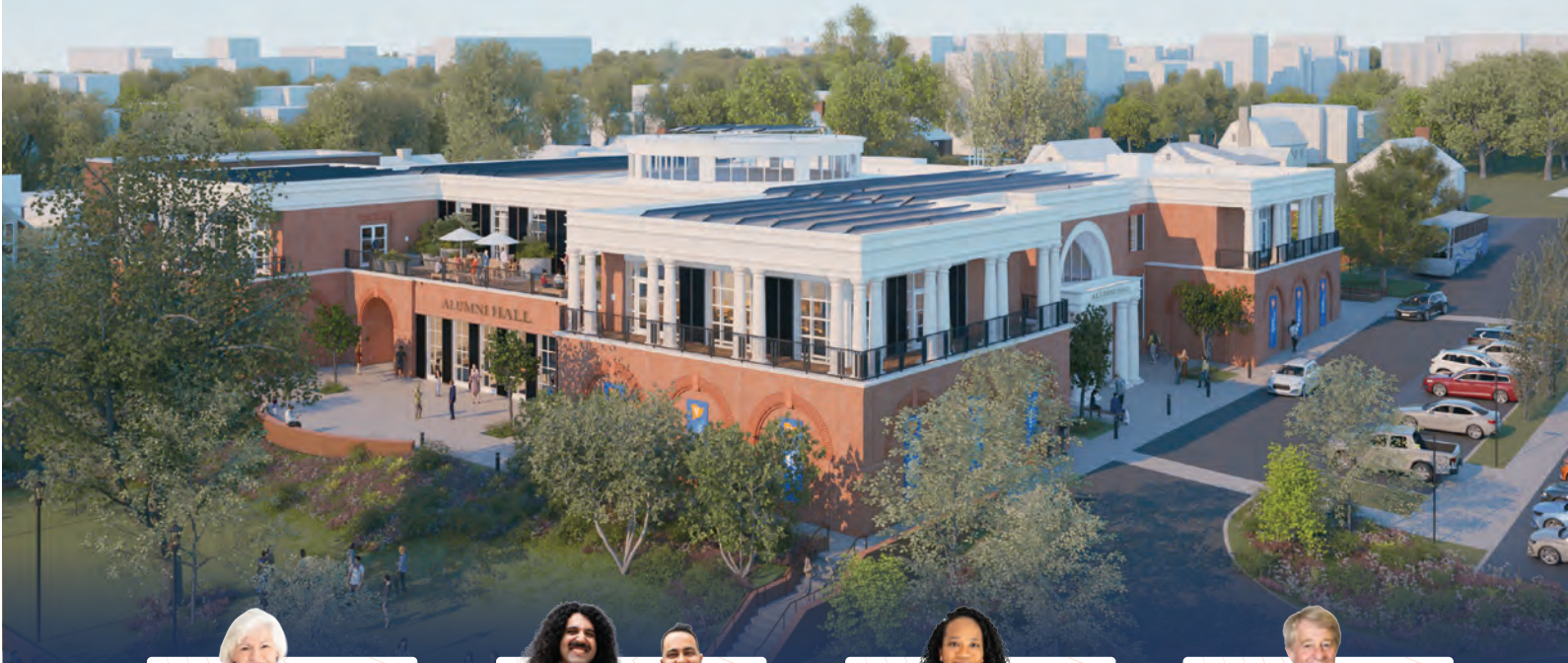
Leidra McQueen '11
Young Alumni Council (YAC) Pres.

A HOME FOR
EVERY HOO

After four years of planning and design, construction on the new Alumni Hall begins on September 1 and is scheduled to finish in spring 2027. Alumni across generations have stepped up to contribute to a new state-of-the-art center that will serve UVA's vast and vibrant alumni base.

From the library funded by the trailblazing women of the Class of 1974, to the rooftop terrace funded by members of the Association's Young Alumni Council, to the pedestrian walkway funded by the Sorors of the Kappa Rho chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., to the boardroom funded by alumni of St. Elmo's Hall—support for the new Alumni Hall truly embodies the spirit of ***a Home for Every Hoo.***

TO LEARN MORE VISIT
UVAALUMNI.ORG/NEW-HOME





"Alumni Hall has been a meaningful building for me for many decades. As a member of the Class of 1974, I am particularly excited that my friend and classmate Patty Kyle Epps had the vision to honor our story as the first full class of undergraduate women at UVA by naming the library for us. It was a joy for many of us to contribute to that space."

Ann Brown (Col '74, Law '77)



"We couldn't pass on an opportunity to precipitate positive change to UVA and its community in such an important and impactful way. Alumni Hall is just such a special place, providing an opportunity for students and alumni alike to meet and build lifelong relationships."

Anant Das (Com '19)
and *Sid Das (Col '13)*



"A Home for every Hoo represents more than just a physical building. It represents lifelong, inclusive community for all alumni, regardless of where they are from or when they graduated; a community that will always welcome us back to Grounds."

Consuelo Kendall (Col '03)



"Alumni Hall is where we've celebrated touchdowns, toasted weddings, and honored the lives of dear friends. It's where lifelong friendships are rekindled and new memories are made. It's not just about the bricks and mortar—it's about creating an atmosphere that cheers our hearts and warms our blood."

Tommy Brannock (Com '79)

UVA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION®



12 Ridges

12 Ridges is a 268-acre mountaintop estate with 360° views, vineyard potential, and refined living—just minutes from Charlottesville.
$9,950,000
Andrew Hardy (213.458.4464)



Bloomfield

Stunning French Country home on 9 acres blends refined living with pastoral charm, just 3 miles from town.
$3,980,000
Ann Hay Hardy (202.297.0228)



Caverns Country Club

A stunning 348-acre property in Luray, featuring Caverns Country Club, riverfront access, and over 100 approved residential lots.
$8,500,000
Ronda Pearl (434.760.1718)



Cherry Ridge Estate

Luxury ridge-top home with Blue Ridge views, 4 beds, 4.5 baths, and infinity pool, just 23 minutes from Lexington.
$2,195,000
Maurice Covington (434.284.1334)



Greenfields

A 753-acre legacy estate near Scottsville, VA, featuring a 1904 Colonial Revival home, equestrian facilities, and historic ties to Governor Nicholas and Lady Astor. $6,500,000
Murdoch Matheson (434.981.7439)



Shack Mountain

Historic 1935 Colonial Revival by Fiske Kimball, sits on 102 acres near Charlottesville, blending timeless architecture, stunning views & privacy.
$5,750,000
Ann Hay Hardy (202.297.0228)

1 *of* 1

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Sunday Lilac

French Provincial estate in Blandemar Farm Estates, sits on 21 private acres with breathtaking mountain views. Designed by Peter Block Architects and completed by Young & Meathe Homes in 2021, this home combines classical architecture with luxurious, modern finishes. Inside, you'll find reclaimed French oak floors, hand-painted Gracie wallpaper, and a gourmet kitchen with marble surfaces, Delft tile, a Lacanche range, and Sub-Zero refrigeration. Fixtures from Perrin & Rowe, RH, and lighting by Paul Ferrante, Jamb, and Murano Glass add a refined touch throughout. With five bedrooms, five and a half baths, and a serene primary suite with heated marble floors, the home offers exceptional comfort. Two wood-burning fireplaces with Italian stone surrounds add warmth and elegance. Just minutes from Charlottesville, Sunday Lilac offers an exclusive opportunity to experience refined living in one of Albemarle County's most distinguished communities.
$5,400,000
Murdoch Matheson (434.981.7439)



Mansion at Fort Chiswell

13,000+ sq ft on 38 acres, with a restaurant, event venue, and endless business potential.
$3,900,000
Liberty Kalergis (434.962.9911)
Andrew Hardy (213.458.4464)



Glen Haven Farm

49-acre estate with a farmhouse, event barn, and a successful venue for 20+ events annually.
$3,250,000
Mike Schneider (434.996.1377)



Roseloe Manor

1905 estate in Hot Springs, Virginia, offers timeless charm on 12 acres with stunning valley views.
$2,900,000
Yates McCallum (415.994.2464)

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SPOTTSWOOD | $2,500,000

This timeless Virginia home sits on 1.3 acres in a prestigious city neighborhood



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A record-setting sale thanks to thoughtful touches inside and out



EDNAM | $1,700,000

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FLORDON | $2,150,000

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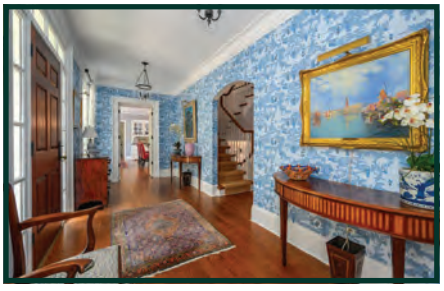


IVY FARMS | $1,650,000

A 2016 home on 2.2 acres impresses at every turn with myriad wow factors

FEATURED LISTING







FARMINGTON | 2440 North Dogwood Lane | $4,450,000

Timeless elegance and modern luxury set apart this first-rate property in historic Farmington Country Club. The home is generous in scale and sophistication, and its meticulous renovation provides every comfort suitable to contemporary living.

UVA BASEBALL COACH O'CONNOR HEADS TO MISSISSIPPI STATE

BY ED MILLER



For the first time in 22 years, the Virginia baseball program has new leadership.

Just over a week after the departure of longtime coach Brian O'Connor, who led the Cavaliers to seven College World Series appearances and the 2015 national championship, Virginia hired former Duke coach Chris Pollard, who guided the Blue Devils to a school-record 420 wins in 13 seasons.

O'Connor announced June 1 that he was leaving for Mississippi State, a move that registered as at least somewhat of a surprise, considering that less than a year earlier he signed a contract extension at Virginia running through 2031. O'Connor also refuted reports in early May linking him to the Mississippi State job, telling *The Daily Progress* that UVA "has made and will continue to make the commitment for us to continue to compete at the highest level of college baseball."

A few weeks later, O'Connor said the opportunity to coach at Mississippi State, which boasts some of the best facilities and fan support in college baseball, was too good to pass up.

"Mississippi State represents everything I love about college baseball—tradition, passion and a relentless pursuit of excellence," O'Connor said in a statement upon accepting the job.

The Bulldogs won the national championship in 2021 and have appeared in the College World Series 12 times. At 15,000 seats, Mississippi State's stadium is far larger than UVA's Disharoon Park, which has a listed capacity of 5,919. The Bulldogs averaged 11,000 fans per game in 2025, the most in the nation.

O'Connor also got a big raise. He signed a four-year deal that will pay him an average of $2.9 million annually, more than double the $1.4 million he made at Virginia, Mississippi newspaper *The Clarion-Ledger* reported.

O'Connor leaves a rich legacy behind at UVA. The Cavaliers had never appeared in the College World Series before he arrived and had made the NCAA tournament just three times. UVA reached 18 NCAA tournaments during O'Connor's tenure. He won a school-record 917 games.

"I hope as time passes," O'Connor told *The Daily Progress*, "the Virginia baseball fans can realize and understand that for 22 years I poured every ounce of energy I had into that program to make it the best that I could possibly make it for the players, the fans, for everyone involved."

In hiring Pollard, Virginia is seeking to replace one proven program-builder with another.

Like O'Connor when he arrived at Virginia, Pollard took over a Duke program that had had little postseason success. The Blue Devils had not reached the NCAA tournament in more than 50 years when Pollard took over in 2012. He led them to seven NCAA berths and four appearances in the Super Regionals, or final 16. The eight winners of the Super Regionals advance to the College World Series. Duke also won its first-ever ACC titles under Pollard, in 2021 and 2024.

Pollard grew up not far from Charlottesville, in Amherst County, and played collegiately at Davidson College. He began his coaching career as an assistant at his alma mater and was head coach at Pfeiffer University and Appalachian State University before going to Duke.

"I am excited for this new adventure at the University of Virginia, but I am leaving a big piece of my heart in Durham," he told GoDuke.com.

SANJAY SUCHAK / UVA COMMUNICATIONS

Comm School dean steps down; search to resume


Jenkins

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nicole Thorne Jenkins, who served as dean of the McIntire School of Commerce through a period of major changes since 2020, stepped away from the role June 30.

Amanda Cowen, the school's senior associate dean for academic programs and a professor, is serving as interim dean after a search failed to find Jenkins' successor. A new executive search will resume in the fall.

Under Jenkins' leadership, the Comm School completed a $250 million fundraising campaign early, extended the undergraduate program from two to three years, and launched new academic tracks in biotechnology and real estate. Jenkins also led the school as it expanded its physical space with the renovation of Cobb Hall and the construction of the new Shumway Hall.

"This has been the best professional experience of my career," Jenkins wrote on LinkedIn in December when she announced her plans to step down. "I have enjoyed working with my fellow deans, the staff and faculty within the school, and our deeply engaged alumni on behalf of students across the University. I have enjoyed every minute of it."

After her role concluded, Jenkins, an expert on financial reporting, organizational strategy and valuation, embarked on a one-year sabbatical to work on entrepreneurial ventures and finish a book project, according to the Comm School. ***—Sarah Lindenfeld Hall***

Two more UVA Health leaders leave


Kibbe

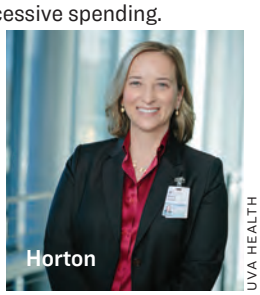
UVA COMMUNICATIONS

More leadership changes are underway at UVA Health following the February resignation of its CEO, Craig Kent.

Melina Kibbe, dean of the School of Medicine and chief health affairs officer for UVA Health, and Wendy Horton, CEO of the University Medical Center, will both leave UVA for other positions.

Kibbe will serve as president of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, according to a statement from the University of Texas System Board of Regents. **Colin Derdeyn (Col '84, Med '88)** will serve as the interim dean.

In September 2024, 128 faculty members from the UVA Physicians Group sent the Board of Visitors a no-confidence letter calling for Kibbe and Kent to be removed. The letter cited "egregious acts" it said had led to compromised patient safety, a culture of fear and retaliation, and excessive spending.


Horton

UVA HEALTH

Kent resigned after the Board of Visitors received the results of an investigation into the allegations on Feb. 25. In a letter to the UVA Health community, then-President **Jim Ryan (Law '92)** wrote that there were "sufficient concerns about leadership and trust that Dr. Kent recognized would make it difficult to remain in his position, which is why Dr. Kent stepped down." That letter didn't mention Kibbe.

Horton, who was not named in the no-confidence letter, will serve in a leadership role at the University of California San Francisco Health Center starting in September, according to a statement from UVA Health's interim CEO, **Mitch Rosner (Res '00, Fellow '02)**. ***—Sam Grossman***

$5B UVA campaign hits $6B



UVA COMMUNICATIONS

Launched in 2019 with a goal of raising $5 billion, UVA's Honor the Future Campaign hit that mark 18 months early, then reached another milestone.

In June, UVA announced that the campaign had crossed the $6 billion threshold, setting a record for the university and making it one of the largest campaigns ever by a public university.

More than 250,000 donors contributed to the campaign, then-President **Jim Ryan (Law '92)** said in announcing the figure.

"Six billion is much more than a number, of course," Ryan said. "It represents investments in critical areas of the university, from teaching and research to health care, to student access and to athletics, to name a few. This campaign will benefit our students, faculty and staff for generations to come, and I'm deeply grateful to all those who have supported our efforts."

The $6 billion figure was announced with about three weeks left in the campaign, which ended June 30. The final total will put UVA in rare company. The University of California, Berkeley, raised $7.37 billion in a campaign that ended in 2024. The University of Michigan raised $5.28 billion in a campaign that ended in 2018 and launched a campaign last year with a goal of raising $7 billion.

—Ed Miller

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Outgoing librarian Unsworth

UVA COMMUNICATIONS

University librarian closes chapter

For outgoing University Librarian **John Unsworth (Grad '88)**, the path to library leadership took a circuitous route.

"There's never been a plan," Unsworth said.

After nearly a decade leading UVA's libraries, including through the renovation of Shannon Library and the pandemic, Unsworth will retire in September when his successor, Leo S. Lo, dean of the College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences at the University of New Mexico, takes over.

Unsworth's graduate study at UVA focused on the publication of postmodern literature and experimental fiction, which eventually led him to a teaching job at North Carolina State University. Unsworth, **Eyal Amiran (Grad '84 '89)** and two other colleagues founded the first electronic peer-reviewed journal in the humanities, *Postmodern Culture*, which continues to be published.

He returned to UVA in 1993 to become the first director of its Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, helping traditional scholars navigate the nascent internet to share their work.

After a decade at UVA, he served as dean of the graduate school of library and information science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and university librarian at Brandeis.



Incoming librarian Lo

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

When he returned to Grounds in 2016 to become UVA librarian, he knew it would be a big job. Plans were already in the works for a massive renovation of Shannon. Then came the pandemic. Unsworth guided the construction while managing pandemic-related challenges.

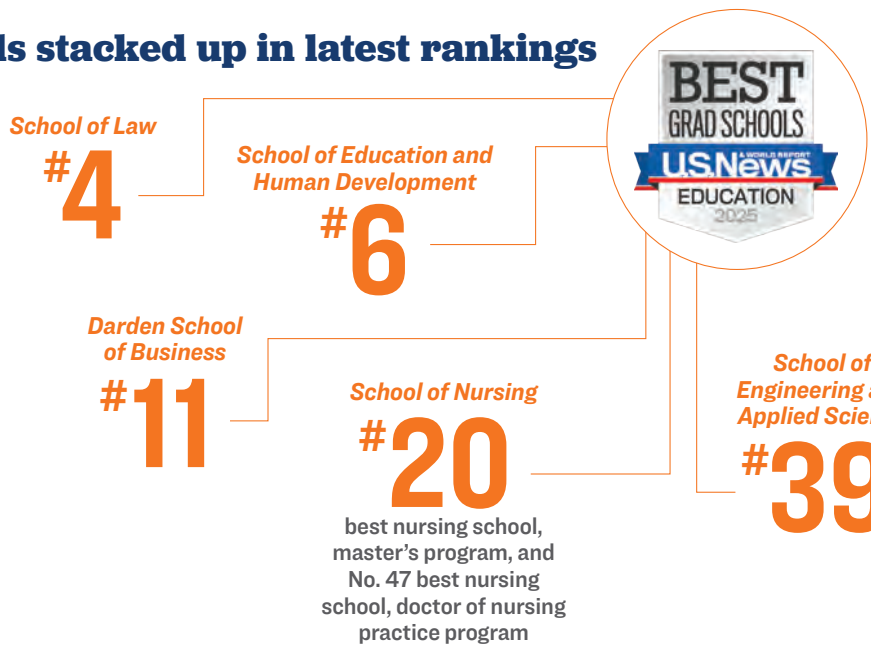
Unsworth announced his retirement in February and will remain in the role until Sept. 15 when Lo steps in. Lo, a longtime library leader and artificial intelligence scholar, holds a doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania and a postgraduate diploma in AI from the University of Oxford. Lo is co-author of the forthcoming book, *AI and the Future Workforce: A Reskilling Guide for Academic Libraries*. ***—Sarah Lindenfeld Hall***

How UVA grad schools stacked up in latest rankings

UVA schools earned high marks again in the 2025 *U.S News & World Report* rankings of graduate schools.

The law school held steady at No. 4, behind Stanford, Yale and the University of Chicago. The Darden School of Business dipped one spot to No. 11, tied with the University of California, Berkeley. The School of Education and Human Development has climbed considerably in recent years, jumping from No. 16 in 2023 to No. 6 this year.

Here are the UVA graduate schools *U.S. News* included in its latest report:









WILEY
REAL ESTATE

CRESCERE FARM
$6,950,000 | MLS 660037

746 breathtaking acres located in Madison County with long frontage on the Rapidan River, and numerous ponds and streams. This rare large tract offers excellent Blue Ridge views, with numerous stunning building sites, abundant fenced pastures for grazing livestock, with automatic waterers, fertile bottom land for crops, extensive road, and trail system, and well maintained barns, and a recently updated brick home for a farm manager. The property is in six tax map parcels, and is an ideal candidate for a conservation easement. This unique property combines beautiful land with amazing topography, complete privacy, long river frontage, no conservation easement, and within 2 hours of Washington.

JUSTIN H. WILEY | 434 981 5528

LOST VALLEY
$350,000 | MLS 649504

This 32.5-acre wooded parcel is tucked away near the end of a private gravel road. The property offers seclusion with mountain and pastoral views. Water features include two creeks. Gentle topography allows for easy access to multiple building sites. Less than 25 minutes to Charlottesville.

PETER A. WILEY | 434 422 2090

BUNDORAN FARM RESIDENCE
$1,950,000 | MLS 663560

A sought-after Bundoran Farm residence sited to take advantage of one of the most dramatic, protected viewsheds in Albemarle County. The EarthCraft certified, 3-bed home was built in 2010 to exacting standards by Abrahamse and Co. A first floor primary allows one-level living with two additional bedrooms upstairs. An additional 800+ sq ft on the lower level could be easily finished. Equally impressive is the owner's extensive native garden, offering bursts of color and a canvas for pollinators and wildlife. An easy 15-minute drive to Charlottesville in a completely tranquil setting. 90% of the 2,300 acre Bundoran farm is protected from future development. The beautiful landscape is traversed by 14+ miles of exceptional trails

PETER A. WILEY | 434 422 2090

CHARLOTTESVILLE VA | 434 293 3900 WILEYPROPERTY.COM ORANGE VA | 540 672 3903







BRAEBURN FARM
$3,250,000

111-acre farm featuring a 7,700 square foot manor home offering complete privacy and grand Blue Ridge views. The home features 10-foot ceilings, well-proportioned rooms, wide plank floors, and heart pine millwork and doors. Over 60 acres of rolling, productive pasture, and the balance in hardwoods. Two streams traverse this well-watered property and feed the nearby reservoir. Good farm infrastructure, including two stables in good condition, a road system, and 4-board fencing. Not in conservation easement. Minutes to Crozet and its amenities and an easy 20 minute drive to Charlottesville.

PETER A. WILEY | 434 422 2090

GREENVILLE
$6,995,000 | MLS 650903

One of the State's finest examples of Classical Revival architecture, sited on 716-acres of rolling, highly productive cropland with long frontage on the Rapidan River. The home is instantly recognizable with its 4 massive Doric columns and "M" shaped copper roof. Built in 1854, the residence was meticulously restored by Alexander Nicholson to its present condition. The river and its lowlands offer endless recreation including some of the area's best duck hunting. Additional improvements include a restored, period summer kitchen, conservatory, pool and pool house, stables, numerous cottages, and farm infrastructure.

JUSTIN H. WILEY | 434 981 5528
PETER A. WILEY | 434 422 2090

STONY POINT ROAD
$1,750,000 | MLS 661495

20-acre estate caliber property minutes from Charlottesville. A classic brick residence with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, partially finished walkout basement, pool, 3-bay garage and apartment sits nestled into the rolling acreage of this exceptional offering. A second, elevated site with an existing cottage enjoys panoramic mountain views offers huge potential. An additional adjoining 2 acre parcel with house can also be purchased. Perfect as a main residence or family compound. Less than 10 minutes to downtown Charlottesville, yet completely private.

JUSTIN H. WILEY | 434 981 5528
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1426 Dairy Road

Rugby | $895,000

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Associate Broker | 434.242.8501
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1201 E Jefferson Street

Downtown | $2,300,000

Bob Headrick
Associate Broker | 434.242.8501
bheadrick@nestrealty.com



108 Bollingwood Road

Lewis Mountain | $1,100,000

Bob Headrick
Associate Broker | 434.242.8501
bheadrick@nestrealty.com



249 E Jefferson Street # 25

Downtown | $1,200,000

Bob Headrick
Associate Broker | 434.242.8501
bheadrick@nestrealty.com



240 Broad Axe Road

Charlottesville | $3,600,000

Lori Meistrell
Associate Broker | 434.242.6294
lorimeistrell@nestrealty.com



2073 Aspen Drive

Hyland Ridge | $1,060,000

Jessica Russo
Associate Broker | 434.996.3176
jessica@nestrealty.com



1248 Turner Mountain Road

Ivy | Sold for $4,550,000

Marcela Foshay
Realtor | 540.314.6550
marcela.foshay@nestrealty.com



1916 Thomson Road

Lewis Mountain | $1,995,000

Lorrie Nicholson
Realtor | 434.825.4088
lnicholson@nestrealty.com



4616 Loving Road

North Garden | $535,000

The Bob Hughes Team
Associate Broker | 434.989.3592
thebobhughesteam@nestrealty.com

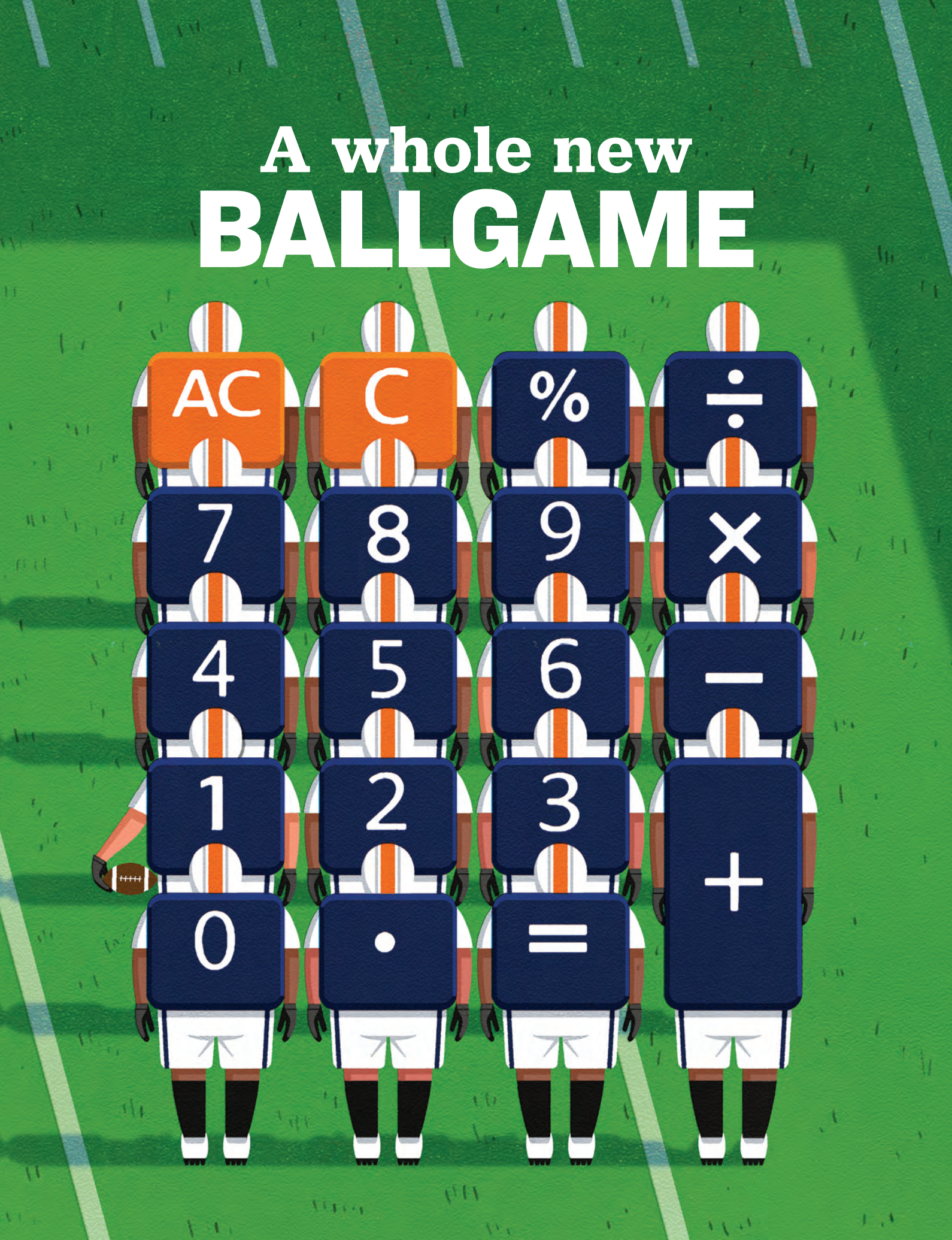


Blue Ridge Farm

Ivy | Sold for $1,975,000

Kelly C. Lindauer, Arch '92
Associate Broker | 434.249.1063
kellcrealtor@nestrealty.com

A whole new BALLGAME





PETE RYAN

A settlement aims to reform pay in college athletics. What will it mean for UVA?

BY ED MILLER

Bowing to mounting legal and legislative pressure, the NCAA in 2021 took a once-unimaginable leap: It permitted student-athletes to be paid. The rule change set aside a tenet of amateurism in place for 115 years and allowed athletes to monetize their personal brands through name, image and likeness (NIL) deals that would pay them for product endorsements, social media posts, appearances and more.

It didn't take long for things to escalate.

Seeking a competitive advantage, more than 30 state legislatures, including Virginia's, passed laws prohibiting the NCAA from placing restrictions on NIL payments. Athletes, who were supposed to be compensated for their marketability and not their playing ability, were paid by booster-funded collectives seeking the best talent for their school's teams. Some highly sought-after high school recruits reportedly got seven-figure deals for signing with a particular school, while many established players were paid lavishly for transferring from one school to another.

"What NIL was intended to be and what it turned out to be are two totally different things," said Kevin Miller, executive director of the Virginia Athletics Foundation (VAF), the department's fundraising arm.

The NCAA, on its back foot after many setbacks in courtrooms and statehouses, was powerless to do anything. Oversight "disappeared at a time when it was most needed," said **Gerald Starsia (Educ '10)**, a recently retired associate professor in the School of Education and Human Development who taught classes in college athletics administration and leadership and still writes on the topic.

In the absence of NCAA regulation, the world of NIL became "the wild, wild, West," outgoing UVA President **Jim Ryan (Law '92)** said in June.

"There's no rules. There's no clarity about what kind of payments are being made and for what purpose," Ryan said.

It's not the sort of environment in which Virginia prefers to compete, which is why Ryan and Director of Athletics Carla Williams were optimistic about a series of reforms that will launch a new era of college sports that they believe could level the playing field.

"If it works, then this will be a saner era in college sports," Ryan said. →

The changes come with the implementation of the terms of the settlement in *House v. NCAA*, the name given to three antitrust cases challenging restrictions on athlete benefits. The settlement was approved by a federal judge in June and went into effect July 1.

The biggest headline from the settlement is a provision that allows, but does not require, schools to pay athletes directly by sharing revenue with them, up to $20.5 million for the 2025-26 school year.

The settlement also increases the number of scholarships schools can provide, if they choose to, by eliminating scholarship limits and replacing them with roster caps. In football, for example, teams were limited to 85 scholarships, but most carried far more players than that. (Virginia listed 124 players on its 2024 roster.) Now teams will be limited to 105 players, but all can receive scholarships if a school can afford it. Although the move was intended to bring down costs associated with larger roster sizes, it has been criticized for limiting opportunities for non-scholarship, "walk-on" students.

House also awarded back damages of $2.8 billion over 10 years to Division I athletes who competed as far back as 2016 and were denied an opportunity to make NIL earnings.

Perhaps most crucially, as Ryan and Williams see it, the settlement places regulations on third-party NIL deals. Any agreement over $600 is subject to approval by a new clearinghouse, created to ensure that payments are for valid business purposes and in line with fair market value—and not merely a means of funneling extra cash to players to gain an unfair advantage.

By bringing payments in house, setting a cap, and regulating third-party NIL deals, the excesses of recent years can theoretically be reined in. For Virginia, a more closely regulated environment is a good thing, said Ryan, who followed the twists and turns of the case closely in his capacity as chair of the ACC Board of Directors.

"We play by the rules. We will be able to compete even more effectively than we are if everyone else is playing by the same rules. I'm sure of that."

Williams said she was "ecstatic" about the settlement, and hopeful it will stabilize the industry and give UVA a "fighting chance" of competing in this new professionalized era.

"Being at UVA is a harder path because we're going to ensure that our student-athletes are students."

The new era comes with challenges, however. One is how to pay for revenue sharing. Williams said Virginia will distribute the maximum of $20.5 million. That's equivalent to roughly 14 percent of the department's total expenditures of $145.6 million in fiscal 2023-24, the most recent year for which data is available. (Revenues for the year totaled $153.5 million, according to a report filed with the State Auditor of Public Accounts.)

There's also the question of how to best spread the new payments among players and teams. Williams declined to specify how Virginia will do it, but most schools are expected to follow the formula used to determine back damages, with 75 percent going to football, 15 to 20 percent to men's basketball, 5 to 10 percent to women's basketball, and the rest to athletes in all other sports.

That approach returns revenue to athletes in the sports that generate it.

With football no longer paying the bill, figuring out how to fund the so-called "Olympic sports" is another challenge going forward. For Virginia, which has one of the most successful Olympic sports programs in the nation—with a combined 34 national championships among those teams—the question is particularly pressing.

Miller is working on a possible long-term solution, leading a push to endow Olympic sports scholarships, and possibly even coaching positions and operating costs, to take them off the annual books and free up money for revenue sharing.

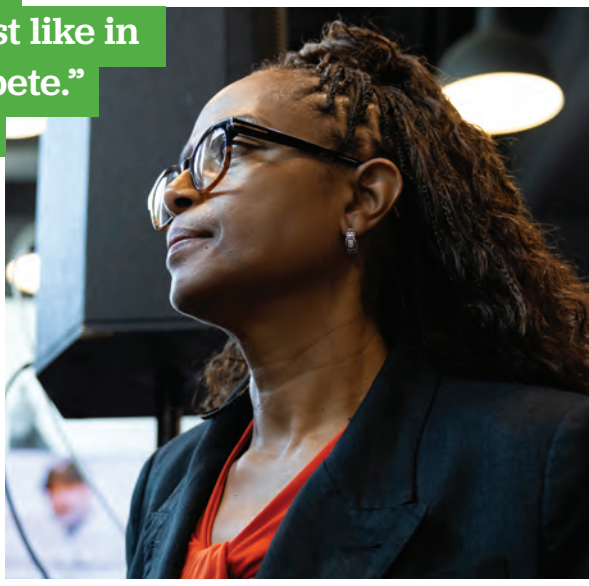
"We have a long, proud history of success in the Olympic sports programs," Miller said. "We want that to continue."



"Everything is on the table. We're looking at ways to generate revenue that we have not historically done to try to make ends meet during this critical time."

–Kevin Miller, *executive director of the Virginia Athletics Foundation*

> **This is certainly not the job that most, if not all, athletics directors signed up for … Just like in (playing) sports, you have to pivot to compete."**
>
> **–Carla Williams,** *director of athletics*



Operating expenses for Olympic sports—all programs other than football and men's and women's basketball—totaled $42 million in 2023-24. Scholarships accounted for about $15.7 million of that total.

Virginia also has a history of endowment fundraising in other areas of the university, supporting professorships, academic scholarships and fellowships, research initiatives, and more. That's why Williams and Miller say they believe this approach can succeed. As of May, VAF had secured $22.6 million in endowment commitments for 2025, a record for a calendar year. That's enough to endow roughly 14 scholarships, given a cost of about $1.6 million each, Miller said.

Virginia currently offers 316 total scholarships, Williams said. Of those, more than 200 go to nonrevenue sports. Endowing them all is a "tall hill to climb," Miller said.

The VAF's primary job is to fund the annual scholarship bill, which will grow as more scholarships are added. If Virginia offered the maximum number of scholarships allowed by the settlement for each of its 27 sports, it would total about 700 scholarships under the new roster limits. In women's swimming, for example, the number of allowable scholarships has gone from 14 to 30. For baseball, the number has jumped from 11.7 to 34, and for men's lacrosse, it has gone from 12.6 to 48. Other sports have similar increases.

Williams said the department will focus on endowing current scholarships before adding new ones. Still, the settlement allows schools to spend $2.5 million of the $20.5 million on new scholarships, and Virginia will use the funds to add 30 for women's sports, she said. A recent gift is also funding an increase of scholarships in baseball.

Though UVA and its coaches would like to offer the maximum number of scholarships across all sports, that's "impractical at the moment," Williams said. As they have for decades, coaches will need to highlight the many other reasons student-athletes choose to come to Virginia beyond just scholarships, she added.

"This is a great university with a great history and a great tradition of academics, athletics and championships," she said.

Like other schools, UVA is adapting on the fly. The settlement upends a funding mechanism that had been in place for decades and relied on football—and men's basketball, to a lesser extent—to fund almost every other sport.

UVA football brought in $54.6 million in 2023-24 and had net revenue of $21.5 million. The biggest source of football revenue was media rights payments of $25.5 million, followed by ticket sales of $9.1 million. Coaching and support staff salaries were the biggest expense at about $13.4 million, followed by scholarships at $6.4 million.

Men's basketball brought in $19.4 million and cleared $4.5 million, for a total of about $26 million in net revenue between football and men's basketball. The program received $7.7 million in media rights and $2.6 million in contributions and had ticket sales of $5.6 million. Coaching and support staff salaries were the biggest expense, at $8.8 million.

The university's other sports lost $24.1 million combined. The biggest source of revenue was contributions, which totaled about $18.2 million. None of the sports reported revenue from media rights. Ticket sales were about $1.8 million.

"If you look at athletics like it was a private business and you had 27 product lines and 25 of them were losing money, if you were the business owner you probably wouldn't offer those product lines," Miller said. "But that's not how college athletics works, and I'm not suggesting that we need to cut sports by any means."

A recent gift that will cover the annual expenses of the men's tennis program in perpetuity provides an example of how the endowment model could work, Miller said.

In Ryan's view, that means of funding is fairer than asking football to pay most of the tab for nearly all other sports.

"If some of the money generated by football goes back to the players, that seems fair to me," Ryan said. "And if the university and fans step in to support nonrevenue sports, that seems to me just conceptually and ethically a much healthier way to think about it."

Fundraising is just one way UVA athletics is attempting to cover the increased costs that come with the settlement. Williams and Miller say UVA is exploring new revenue streams, such as premium seating experiences at Scott Stadium and John Paul Jones Arena. UVA is also seeking to host NCAA events, such as the 2026 men's lacrosse championship, which will be held at Scott Stadium.

"Everything is on the table," Miller said. "We're looking at ways to generate revenue that we have not historically done to try to make ends meet during

VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

this critical time in our history."

A new seating plan at John Paul Jones Arena that takes effect for the 2027-28 season, after current seating agreements expire, is expected to bring in $75 million over five years. A "large portion" of the money will go toward endowing operating expenses of men's and women's basketball and supporting Olympic sports, Miller said. It is the first new seating plan since the arena opened in 2006 and comes at a "fortuitous" time, he said.

The athletics department is also implementing budget cuts, Williams said, although she declined to provide specifics.

"We're one of the most efficient athletic departments in the country, so any cut to our budget is significant and a sacrifice to our coaches and staff," she said.

Across the department, donor contributions are the biggest source of revenue, at $38.7 million, followed by media rights at $33.2 million. Student fees accounted for $16.7 million, about 11 percent of the total of $153.5 million.

At $30.3 million, coaching salaries were the biggest expense in 2023-24, followed by scholarships ($24.4 million), direct overhead and administrative expenses ($22.8 million), and administrative and support staff salaries ($21.1 million).

Although direct payments are new, UVA athletes, like those at other schools, were already being paid before the *House* settlement was approved.

In the early days of NIL, many athletes received often-nominal compensation of a few hundred dollars for product endorsements. In Virginia, the stakes were raised by the passage last year of House Bill 1505, which allowed universities to get involved in arranging NIL deals, without NCAA restrictions.

At UVA, such deals, funded by donors, were funneled through the athletics department's official third-party collective, CavFutures Marketing Inc. Previously, CavFutures worked only with athletes who were already enrolled, helping them broker NIL deals and educating them on how to build a personal brand. After the passage of HB1505, the collective became involved in recruiting.

"That really changed the game for us," said **Lo Davis (Col '91)**, the executive director of CavFutures. "We really for the last year have been heavily involved in discussing with agents, going back and forth with the students and parents and really offering the opportunity for them to come to UVA."

The football program received two multimillion-dollar gifts from anonymous donors in December. Those funds were used to assemble a transfer class ranked by recruiting services as one of the top 25 in the country, Williams wrote in a letter to fans in June.

At the time, there were no reporting requirements for third-party deals, and Davis declined to say how much was spent through CavFutures. Men's basketball also used collective funds to acquire players. One report from CBS Sports put the team's NIL budget at around $8 million.

Exact figures are hard to come by. As Ryan and others have noted, player agents have been known to exaggerate the size of the deals they negotiate for clients. Still, some of the reported amounts being paid elsewhere are eye-popping. Former Tulane quarterback Darian Mensah, for example, is said to have signed an $8 million deal payable over two years for transferring to Duke.

There have been no reports of UVA athletes receiving deals as lucrative. But there are clues as to what some players' NIL values were on the open market.

On3.com—which covers college football and basketball with a focus on recruiting, transfers and NIL—uses a proprietary algorithm to publish NIL valuations that it asserts are the leading index in the industry and a "baseline value" that helps athletes, schools and brands negotiate contracts.

On3.com put the NIL value of football offensive lineman **Monroe Mills (Educ '30)**, who transferred to UVA from Louisville, at $1.1 million. Quarterback **Chandler Morris**, who transferred from North Texas, was valued at $370,000. Former UVA quarterback Anthony Colandrea, who transferred to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, received a valuation of $1 million.

In men's basketball, incoming transfers **Ugonna Onyenso (Col '27)** and **Malik Thomas** were valued at $694,000 and $654,000, respectively. Former Cavalier Isaac McKneely, who transferred to Louisville, was valued at $1.2 million.



Going forward, revenue-share deals between schools and players must be disclosed to the newly formed College Sports Commission, which will oversee compliance. Third-party NIL deals will be reviewed by a commission clearinghouse called NIL Go, run by the accounting firm Deloitte.

Many NIL collectives are expected to dissolve, Davis said. CavFutures in late July added "marketing" to its name to better reflect its role as a broker of deals that provide another means for athletes to make money.

"I'm glad UVA is accepting that this is the new reality," he said. "We've worked too hard to be left behind. Whether it's the health system, the law school or McIntire, we tout ourselves as being the best of the best. Why can't it be the same for athletics?"

Williams said that accepting the new reality is the only option if UVA wants to stay competitive in major college sports.

"This is certainly not the job that most, if not all, athletics directors signed up for when they got in the business," Williams said. "Just like in (playing)



KIRSTEN LUCE

> **"I'm glad UVA is accepting that this is the new reality. We've worked too hard to be left behind."**
> ***–Lo Davis,*** *executive director of CavFutures*

sports, you have to pivot to compete.

"The goal is to compete and we have to compete for championships in all of our sports, and so we've worked really hard to put short-term and long-term plans in place and activate those as the rules have allowed."

Planning for the long term is difficult in such a rapidly evolving environment. One of the uncertainties about the settlement is whether it can withstand legal challenges.

The ink on the settlement approval was barely dry when a group of female athletes, including UVA volleyball player **Kate Johnson (Col '26)**, filed an appeal, arguing that the damages portion of the settlement violates the Title IX gender equity statute because it awards the bulk of the money to male athletes. Title IX requires institutions that receive federal money to provide equal opportunities for men and women in college athletics.

How or whether Title IX applies to the settlement remains unclear and "will most likely be resolved in the courts, in administrative proceedings or through federal legislation," the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, an independent group focused on reform in college athletics, wrote in a brief on the settlement.

The commission's brief added that the settlement does not resolve conflicts between NCAA rules and state laws regarding NIL restrictions and athlete compensation.

The question of whether athletes should be classified as employees was also not resolved, and remains the subject of another federal court case, *Johnson v. NCAA*. One argument being made by advocates of employment status is that the revenue-sharing contracts now being signed by players are de facto employment contracts. If considered employees, athletes could potentially gain collective bargaining rights.

The NCAA has maintained that college athletes should be considered students, not employees. In one publicized case, Dartmouth men's basketball players voted to unionize, and were recognized as employees under the National Labor Relations Act by a regional director of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Dartmouth refused to recognize the union and appealed to the full NLRB. The union representing the players filed an unfair labor practice complaint but dropped it after the November 2024 presidential election.

Finally, there's the possibility that the revenue sharing cap or the restrictions on third-party NIL deals could be challenged on antitrust grounds. The settlement calls for disputes about third-party NIL deals to be resolved through arbitration, but some could also wind up in court.

"I'm definitely expecting lawsuits," said **Madeline Walsh (Educ '23)**, who worked as director of marketing at CavFutures and as assistant director of NIL at the University of California, Los Angeles, and follows the sector closely. "Third-party donors were not party to the [*House*] suit, so they can say that has nothing to do with them."

Mit Winter, a prominent sports attorney based in Kansas City, Missouri, who advises athletes and universities on NIL issues, said that because the revenue share cap was not collectively bargained, "it's a cap that has no antitrust protection at the moment."

Major conferences have circulated a memo for member schools to sign that would bind them to the terms of the settlement.

Wiliams said UVA plans to abide by the terms and is counting on other schools to do so as well. Getting Congress to pass legislation codifying the settlement would be helpful in that regard, she said.

It's far from clear that Congress will act. Lack of certainty has been one of the few constants in college sports in recent years, and that could continue for the foreseeable future.

"Anyone who says they know what college sports is going to look like five years from now has not been paying attention to the last five years," Ryan said.

Ed Miller is senior writer at Virginia Magazine.

ALUMNI HALL PREPARES FOR A NEW ERA

Construction on Alumni Association's new home starts this fall

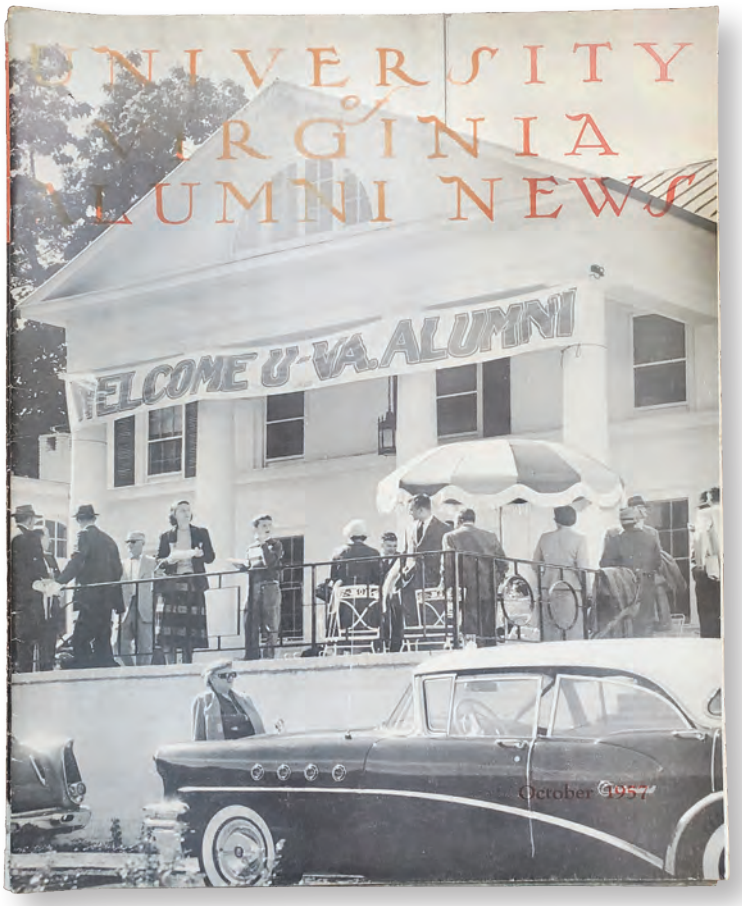
BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL



Its architects say the new building, rendered here, offers nods to Jeffersonian architecture with a modern spin.



RENDERINGS COURTESY CENTERBROOK ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS



Alumni Hall in the October 1957 issue of *Alumni News*

For more than a century, 211 Emmet St. South has taken on all manner of roles. First a home. Then a fraternity house—twice. And, in spring 1936, it stepped into its most enduring identity—Alumni Hall for the University of Virginia Alumni Association.

During Homecoming Weekend in October 1936, hundreds of alumni descended on Charlottesville to christen the space as the football team clashed with Washington and Lee, then dubbed by *The Daily Progress* as an "ancient football foe" for UVA.

At the time, big changes were happening on Grounds. Thornton Hall had opened down the street the year before and was fueling enrollment growth. By fall 1936, UVA was managing a record-breaking student body of around 2,450. And just up University Avenue, excavation work would soon be underway to prepare for a monumental shift—moving UVA's library from the Rotunda to a new central library—now Shannon.

In the last 90 years, UVA has continued that evolution—from its football rivals to the size of its student body and main library. In fall 2024, nearly 26,000 students were enrolled, and the alumni network now spans more than 270,000 graduates worldwide. An updated and expanded Shannon Library reopened in 2024. →

Clockwise from top left: **The entrance of the current Alumni Hall; a rendering of the new building's Emmet Street entrance; a rendering of the new building's terrace.**



ANDY FRANCK





And in just the past two years, Alumni Hall's neighbors have undergone their own transformation too—to the south, the new Contemplative Commons building, and to the north, a cluster of new UVA-owned buildings at the intersection of Emmet Street and Ivy Road. (*See story, Page 38.*)

Now, it's 211 Emmet's turn. In September, the white brick building will be razed to make way for a new Alumni Hall—an open and airy design with twice as much room for formal and informal alumni gatherings. **Elizabeth Hedde (Arch '05)**, a principal with Centerbrook Architects & Planners, which designed the new building, says it offers nods to Jeffersonian architecture with a modern spin throughout.

Construction will take about 18 months, and the Association's 60 employees will operate from a space on Old Ivy Road in the interim. Once it reopens in spring 2027, Alumni Association leaders hope the new building becomes a home away from home for returning 'Hoos.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," says **Tatia Granger (Col '89, Educ '93, '99)**, former chair of the Alumni Association's Board of Managers. "It's a relaunch for the Alumni Association."

A PLACE FOR PARTIES

This isn't the first major shift for the Alumni Association–or the property it's called home for so long. Before settling into its current address, the Association spent decades on the move.

In 1907, after early plans for an independent alumni facility fell through, the Association partnered with the newly formed Colonnade Club for faculty members. Together, they funded an addition to Pavilion VII on the Lawn that included a reading room, a billiard room and eight bedrooms.

In 1926 the Association moved from the Lawn to the Corner, remaking a

> **“I believe that all that is good about what has transpired is going to remain, and it is going to become a part of the new space.”**
>
> –***Tatia Granger**, former chair, Alumni Association Board of Managers*

former post office into three rooms, including a spot designed for alumni and visiting tourists to gather.

By the 1930s, the Association was ready for a permanent home–and had the funding to make it happen. In 1936, it moved into 211 Emmet St., linking its future to a house that already was a prominent feature in the society pages of the day.

The property is situated on a portion of what was once called the “Towles Addition,” named after **William B. Towles (Med 1869)**, a professor of anatomy at UVA. In late 1911 or early 1912, Arthur M. Taylor and his wife moved into their “new residence” on part of the former Towles property, according to *The Daily Progress*. It’s not clear if the house was new to them or newly constructed.

The couple regularly hosted gatherings there until 1916 when they moved to Paris, putting the house up for rent and two cows and a heifer for sale. While they were away, their home’s renters kept it lively, holding a benefit and dance for the French war-wounded and a house party for students during finals.

In 1921, Zeta Beta Tau, UVA’s first Jewish fraternity, purchased the property, which a 1923 history of the fraternity’s first 25 years describes as “probably the most beautiful fraternity house on Virginia’s campus.”

With new digs, the chapter was active. It won an award from the national fraternity for having the most campus activities, including a tea for Charlottesville’s Jewish community and a housewarming that drew more than 500, during its first year there.

Through the years, newspaper society pages told of annual house parties, teas and afterdance suppers at the house.



Virginia Alumni Association To Have Its Own Alumni Hall

The Alumni Association of the University of Virginia is soon to have its own alumni hall in the large Colonial house that was formerly the home of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and more recently of the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity.

The announcement was made in the current issue of the University of Virginia Alumni News, which is being mailed today to 16,000 alumni. The publication also tells for the first time of the active launching of the Alderman alumni fund campaign to memorialize the first president of the University, the late Dr. Edwin Anderson Alderman.

The University of Virginia has purchased the fraternity house which is directly opposite the Memorial Gymnasium on U. S. Highway No. 29, and will lease it to the Alumni Association as its headquarters.

Before the new alumni hall can be occupied, extensive repairs and alterations must be carried out, and an appeal for funds to make this work possible is carried in the current alumni news issue.

At the final celebration of the University of Virginia, which begins June 5, the new alumni hall will be the center of reunion activities, though it will not be furnished. "The Big Tent," which has for years been registration and reunion headquarters for returning old grads, will be erected on the front lawn.

The alumni fund to memorialize the late president Alderman was originated in June 1928, when there was a celebration honoring him for 25 years of service as the University's head. But the depression caused postponement of the campaign.

The active solicitation of funds began today. There will be no

A *Daily Progress* article from May 25, 1936

Classified ads in 1924 touted the home as “a lovely place,” perfect for “summer school girls” to rent. (In the early 20th century, UVA opened its doors in the summer to women who took classes in teaching, art, home economics and a few other fields.)

At some point, another fraternity, Phi Sigma Kappa, called it home. By the time the Alumni Association purchased the property in 1936, *The Daily Progress* reported, it “needed extensive repairs and alterations” before it could be occupied.

About a decade later, the Association had already outgrown the space.

A $150,00 expansion completed in 1950 added two single-story brick wings to the original house and a new room, called the Serpentine Room, for an event space.

A few decades later, the Association was again stretched, serving an alumni population close to 85,000 or so, *The Daily Progress* reported. In 1981, the Association embarked on a $2 million project to more than double its space with a new ballroom, meeting rooms, boardroom and courtyard. The expanded space opened in 1983.

STAYING PUT

Through decades of football tailgates, reunions, lectures, dances, student and alumni meetings, and weddings and other private events, the building has served alumni well, says Granger, including herself. Her 1999 wedding reception took place in the ballroom. But, as UVA’s alumni base grows, the building has its limits. “We can really only do one event at a time,” Granger says.

The most recent discussion about what to do with Alumni Hall started during the pandemic as part of conversations about how to maximize the Association’s programs and services for alumni, Granger says. Those conversations eventually led to a closer look at the current building.

Many of the building’s current challenges stem from how it has evolved over time, say Granger and **Teresa Lockard (Col ’84, Grad ’93)**, Alumni Association chief of staff. The additions and renovations have resulted in a patchwork layout.

Accessibility is a concern. A maze of narrow corridors and spaces doesn’t provide easy access for wheelchair users and others with mobility challenges, Lockard says.



A central atrium with expansive windows and skylights will echo the design of the Rotunda.

The building also has plenty of structural issues. The air-conditioning system is failing, the roof is due for replacement, and water stains—caused by both leaks and the malfunctioning air conditioning—mark walls throughout the facility.

The Alumni Association's leadership considered relocation, but the building's proximity to Grounds was too good to pass up. "The value of our building is our location," Lockard says.

As part of the deliberations, the Association's Board of Managers commissioned a space study of the existing building, which revealed that about 65 percent of the 50,000-square-foot building was dedicated to offices and back-of-house functions while only 35 percent could be used for alumni programs and events, Lockard says. The report recommended flipping that ratio.

At its October 2024 meeting, the Board of Managers agreed to move forward with the construction of a new building.

The total project cost is about $63 million, and the Alumni Association's goal is to raise $35 million toward that total cost, Lockard says. The Alumni Association is currently offering naming rights opportunities for the grounds, atrium and smaller spaces inside.

EXCITEMENT WITH A SIDE OF NOSTALGIA

For Hedde, the project at her alma mater was a rare opportunity to create a lasting place where UVA students and alumni can gather for the next century. The challenge with the project, she says, was maintaining a careful balance between honoring UVA's historic architectural language while also reflecting its reputation as a forward-thinking institution.

From her earliest conversations with Alumni Association leadership, she says, a central question was where the building should fall on that spectrum of architectural style—from traditional historic reproduction to modern, contemporary design.

"It can be a dangerous place to be in the middle because you don't want it to be pastiche, like you're just recreating something and be cute about it," Hedde says. "But you also want the forms to be familiar, so it feels embedded in the fabric."

The result is a design that feels a bit more traditional on the outside with a modern, light-filled interior. Across the design, alumni will recognize architectural references to iconic buildings across Grounds.

As Hedde describes it, a soaring central atrium, for example, echoes the Rotunda's dome, with similar proportions and railing design. Blind brick arches on the exterior reflect those found on Memorial Gym's facade across the street, Hedde says. A second-floor balcony, facing Emmet Street, evokes the Lawn's pavilions, encouraging activity at multiple levels.

Natural interior light was a priority, she says. The new Alumni Hall will feature expansive windows, skylights and a clerestory around the central Rotunda-like atrium to maximize daylight, Hedde describes. The project also is designed to maximize energy efficiency and preserve an existing serpentine wall and mature trees, including some magnolias, she says.

Pushing the new building closer to Emmet Street will make room for a larger outdoor courtyard in the back for events, Hedde says. Its presence along Emmet also will make the building more inviting to passersby, with the large windows and the second-floor balcony showcasing the people inside and outside its walls, she says.

"We don't want the building to be the first thing you see," Hedde says. "You want to see all the beautiful work and community of alumni and students in there."

After nearly 90 years of service to UVA alumni, the final months of the current Alumni Hall carry a sense of nostalgia. Alumni Association employees have been sorting through decades of memorabilia collected inside. Final alumni group meetings and events are wrapping up.

Granger gets it. She has her own fond memories of her wedding reception and countless other events at Alumni Hall. But what's changing, she says, isn't the heart of Alumni Hall—it's how much room there will be to make memories and celebrate milestones. The redesign flips the current proportions with two-thirds dedicated to events and programs.

When it reopens, Alumni Hall will offer more to alumni, she says. "I believe that all that is good about what has transpired is going to remain, and it is going to become a part of the new space."

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

Time Capsule

BY SAM GROSSMAN

With a complete overhaul of the building on the way, we asked: **What are your favorite memories of Alumni Hall?**



ANDY FRANCK

Football tailgates topped the list as the most-mentioned activity. "As alums, my wife and I went to Alumni Hall before the opening home football game when our daughter was a first-year student," wrote **Ron Culberson (Col '83)**, who also remembered playing with the pep band after football games as a student.

"My wife, who was getting her master's in education, and I, a fourth-year in the medical school, met in Alumni Hall in 1969 at a mixer. We've been married for 55 years and have shown our children and grandchildren the spot where we met."

—Frederick L. "Rick" Greene (Col '66, Med '70)



"I have two!

Last fall, at the fourth-year Oktoberfest, I went with all the graduating members in the Cavalier Marching Band. This spring, I was at the finals study break in Alumni Hall when I received a call from one of the companies I was interviewing with—it was a job offer!"

—Lincoln Trissell (Col '25)



"Halloween 2024 Bingo Night!! My friends and I have been determined to win the Best Group Costume Award since our first year so this time we dressed up as Ambassadors (UVA security officers) and won it."*—Sarah Zeffouni (Col '26)*

"As a trustee of the Class of 1989, my first time in Alumni Hall was for our first meeting. Wayne Cozart passed around a fist-sized hunk of marble and said it was a piece of the Rotunda steps that had broken off during the revelry the night before Final Exercises. It was made clear that it was up to us to keep our classmates in line!!" ***—Susie Bruce (Col '89, Educ '91)***



"Luke and Laura! The *General Hospital* Luke and Laura saga was in full swing from 1980 to '81, and Alumni Hall was a place to watch if you were between classes."

—Jo Ellen Friedman Slurzberg (Col '83)

For our next issue:

What was your favorite student tradition on Grounds?

Tell us all about it at uvamag.com/timecapsules and we'll select some to run in the Winter issue.

GROWING GROUNDS

If you haven't been back for five years, there's a lot you won't recognize

By Sarah Lindenfeld Hall

Grounds continues its metamorphosis as new buildings rise. But look closely, says University Architect Alice Raucher, and you'll see it's all guided by careful planning grounded in Thomas Jefferson's vision linking buildings and landscape, where living and learning happen side by side.

"We build in a very mindful way that extends the basic tenets of the initial Jeffersonian Grounds," Raucher says. That connection between architecture, landscape and uses shapes how UVA is designing more contemporary districts.

"The capital projects, while they obviously allow for growth of the schools and the programs, participate in making Grounds better and more accessible and connected. That happens everywhere, and that's our overarching concept."

Here's a look at changes from the past five years. →



EMMET-IVY CORRIDOR

Once home to the old Cavalier Inn and other scattered uses that weren't so friendly for pedestrians, these 14.5 acres are getting a dramatic makeover as they turn into a new destination on Grounds and a connector between Central Grounds, the athletics complex and North Grounds. A central open space allows for outdoor gatherings.

In addition to these buildings, UVA is in fundraising mode for a Center for the Arts. State funding for the project, along with capital projects at other higher education institutions in Virginia, was deferred amid economic uncertainty. In a May 2025 letter to the General Assembly, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin called the paused projects "worthy" but said it wasn't "financially prudent" to move forward with them yet.



MATT RILEY / UVA COMMUNICATIONS

1

SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

Architects: Hopkins Architects with VMDO
Status: Opened April 2024

The 60,000-square-foot building includes classrooms, study areas, offices and research spaces for UVA's newest and fast-growing school. In fact, UVA recently began planning this summer for an expansion of the building to make more room for the school and entrepreneurial programs at the university.

2

VIRGINIA GUESTHOUSE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Architects: TenBerke Architects with Hanbury
Status: To open spring 2026

The 223,000-square-foot complex will include 214 guest rooms and a 25,000-square-foot conference center with dining and a rooftop bar.





HÖWELER + YOON ARCHITECTURE

3

KARSH INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY

Architects: Höweler + Yoon Architecture with Hanbury
Status: To open fall 2026

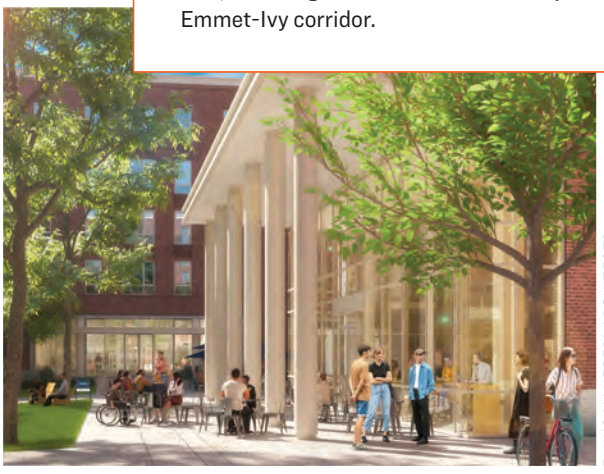
The 65,000-square-foot building will include a 425-seat auditorium, classrooms and media production space. It will serve as a home for the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

4

IVY ROAD DORMS

Architects: Elkus Manfredi Architects with Capstone Development
Status: To open fall 2027

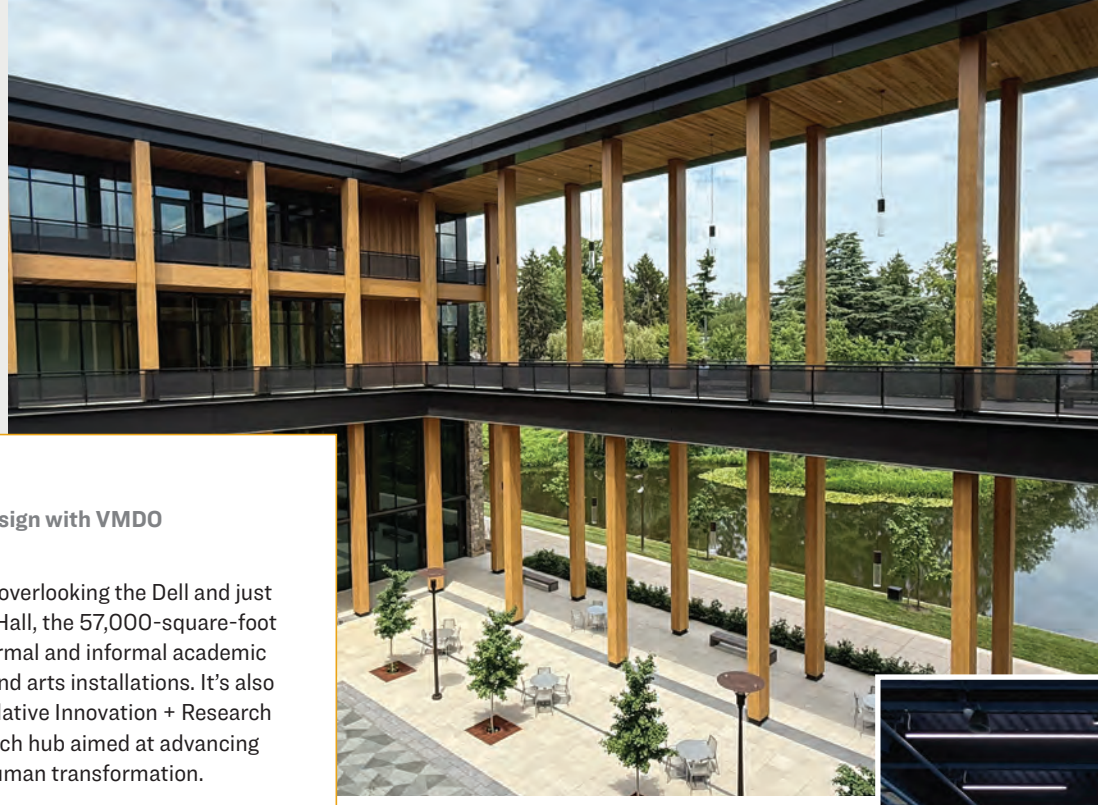
In the spring, UVA broke ground for a three-building apartment-style housing complex with about 800 beds, dining and shops. Having students living in the corridor, Raucher said, will bring around-the-clock vitality to the Emmet-Ivy corridor.



ELKUS MANFREDI ARCHITECTS

NEARBY

All these projects are within easy reach of the Emmet-Ivy corridor, nearby on Emmet Street, in the athletics complex or just up the hill on University Avenue.



5

CONTEMPLATIVE COMMONS

Architects: Aidlin Darling Design with VMDO
Status: Opened 2024

Located along Emmet Street, overlooking the Dell and just down the street from Alumni Hall, the 57,000-square-foot building provides space for formal and informal academic and social programs, events and arts installations. It's also a home base for the Contemplative Innovation + Research Co-Lab, a collaborative research hub aimed at advancing interdisciplinary studies on human transformation.





MATT RILEY / UVA COMMUNICATIONS

6

MEMORIAL GYMNASIUM

Architects: MCWB Architects, subbed to Affiliated Engineers (AEI)
Status: To open fall 2026

The 101-year-old Mem Gym is getting a major interior makeover that includes new utilities, renovated classrooms, and better spaces for academics and recreation.



7

SHANNON LIBRARY

Architects: HBRA Architects
Status: Opened April 2024

The renovation and expansion of the former Alderman Library involved razing the old stacks, building 130,000 square feet of new space, and renovating 100,000 square feet of existing space. Its north-facing side along University Avenue, once bunker-like, now includes plazas and a more welcoming entrance for pedestrians.

BRANDON AVENUE CORRIDOR

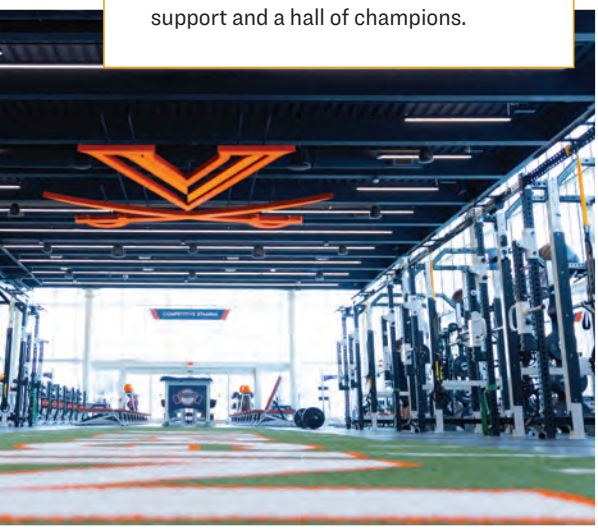
Identified as a "redevelopment zone" in the 2008 UVA Grounds Plan, the Brandon Avenue area was once home to a collection of private and UVA buildings, including Bice House, an on-Grounds residential hall that opened in 1972. Today it's turned into another UVA-designed "living and learning community" with on-campus housing, dining options and a new wellness center, along with an easy connection along and across Jefferson Park Avenue to UVA's health system, the new McIntire School of Commerce complex and Central Grounds. Brandon Avenue was turned into a "green street" to better manage stormwater through a landscaped median and to allow for outdoor gathering and events.

8

HARDIE FOOTBALL OPERATIONS CENTER AND HARRISON FAMILY OLYMPIC SPORTS CENTER

Architects: ZGF Architects
Status: Operations Center opened June 2024; Olympic Sports Center to open summer 2025.

Part of an Athletics Master Plan that included the demolition of University Hall, the projects provide more space for UVA's athletics programs. The 93,000-square-foot football operations center includes locker rooms, weight room, coaches' offices and video operations. The Olympic Sports Center will include space for strength and conditioning, tutoring, academic support and a hall of champions.



UVA ATHLETICS



10

GASTON AND RAMAZANI HOUSES

Architects: Elkus Manfredi Architects with Clark Nexsen
Status: Opened fall 2024

The Gaston and Ramazani houses, two residential buildings with seven- and eight-person apartments that house about 350 upperclass students altogether, are the latest additions to the Brandon Avenue corridor. Another residential building, Bond House, opened in 2019.



ESKEWDUMEZRIPPLE

9

NORTH GROUNDS PARKING GARAGE

Architects: EskewDumezRipple Architects
Status: Scheduled to open 2026

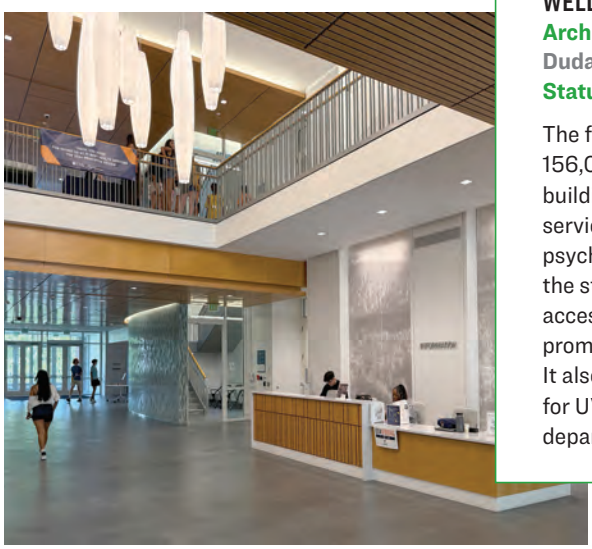
The six-story, 1,030-space garage will sit near the corner of Massie and Copeley roads to serve John Paul Jones Arena and other nearby athletics facilities. It also will serve as a hub for University Transit Service bus routes and bike storage.

11

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS BUILDING

Architects: VMDO and Duda|Paine Architects
Status: Opened fall 2021

The four-story, 156,000-square-foot building houses medical services, counseling and psychological services, the student disability access center, and health promotion and well-being. It also serves as a home for UVA's kinesiology department.



MCINTIRE SCHOOL EXPANSION PROJECT

The McIntire School now takes up residence on the southeast corner of the Lawn in a complex that includes Rouss and Robertson halls, along with a renovated Cobb Hall and new Shumway Hall. Ruppel Drive is now closed to traffic and serves as an outdoor space for events.

12

SHUMWAY HALL AND COBB HALL

Architects: Robert A.M. Stern Architects with Glavé & Holmes Architecture
Status: Opened 2025

Built in 1917, Cobb Hall, which originally served the chemistry department, has been updated to include more modern spaces for learning and collaboration. A 1930s addition to Cobb was removed to make way for the entirely new Shumway Hall, which includes a two-story student success center and "grand classroom" for daytime classes and evening programs.



RAMSA

MCCORMICK ROAD SCIENCE BUILDINGS

Three of UVA's primary science buildings, all opened in the 1950s and 1960s, have undergone major renovations in recent years to bring them up to the current century's standards.

14

GILMER HALL

Architect: Perkins&Will
Status: Completed 2022

Built in the 1960s, Gilmer's interior and exterior were transformed. The old concrete facade facing McCormick is now a glass wall, and the once closed-off labs are open, flexible spaces for biology and psychology research.



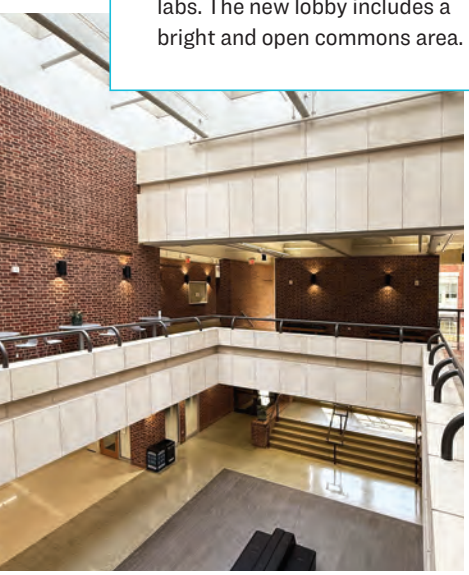
MATT RILEY / UVA COMMUNICATIONS

13

CHEMISTRY BUILDING

Architect: Perkins&Will
Status: Completed 2020

Built a few years after Gilmer, the building's extensive renovations added informal learning and collaboration spaces and updated the research areas and teaching labs. The new lobby includes a bright and open commons area.

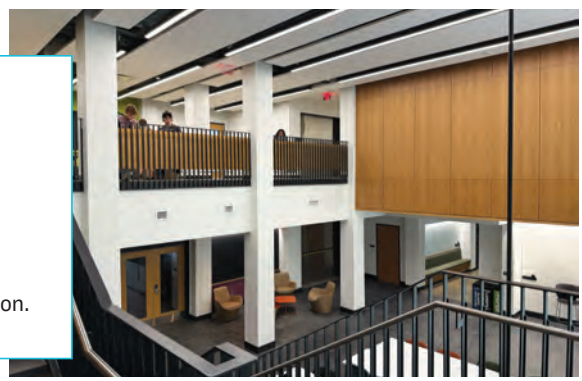


15

PHYSICS BUILDING

Architect: Goody Clancy
Status: Reopened fall 2024

Originally opened in 1954, the renovated building has better lighting, an updated floor plan and more space for collaboration.



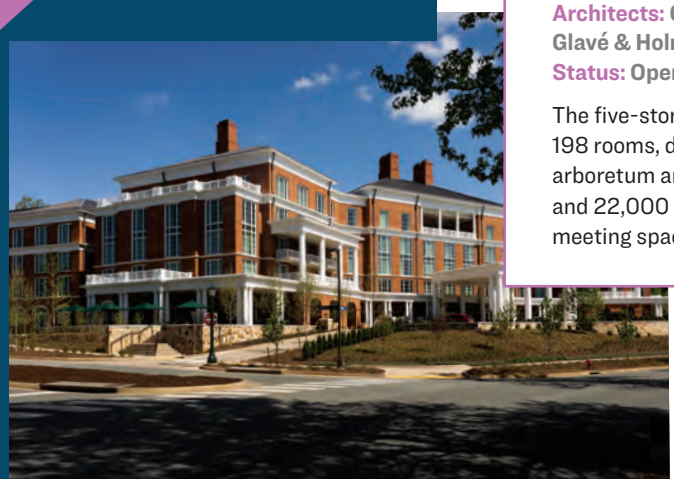
NORTH GROUNDS

16

THE FORUM HOTEL AT DARDEN

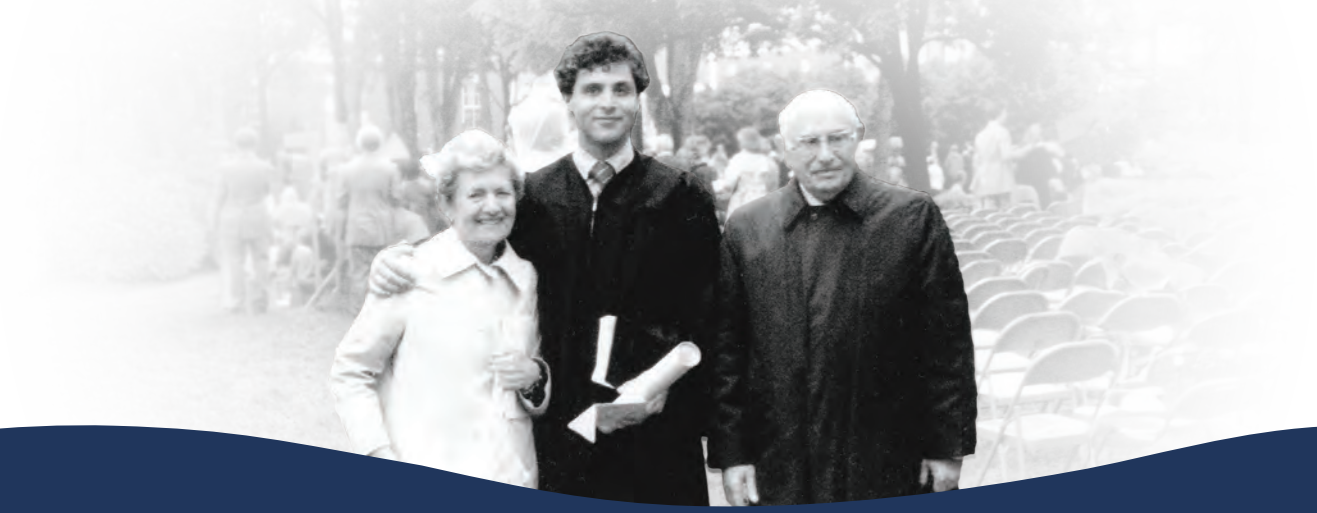
Architects: Cooper Carry with Glavé & Holmes Architecture
Status: Opened April 2023

The five-story hotel includes 198 rooms, dining options, an arboretum and botanical gardens, and 22,000 square feet of meeting space and classrooms.



UVA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

GLENN D. KIRWIN SCHOLARSHIP



AFTER THE TRAGEDY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, family and friends established a memorial scholarship honoring the life of Glenn D. Kirwin, a member of the Class of 1982. The annual scholarship is awarded to a rising third- or fourth-year student enrolled in the University of Virginia whose character and involvement in University life most resemble Glenn's. These characteristics include: leadership, determination, generosity and wisdom; the capability for original and creative thought; and a passion for entrepreneurship.

For more information, please contact
ALUMNI-SCHOLARSHIPS@VIRGINIA.EDU or **434-243-9000.**

Congratulations to this year's recipient!



JUSTINE KARP (COM '26)

To learn more, visit **KIRWINSCHOLARSHIP.COM**

High stakes in higher ed

Federal funding, DEI, research and international students are under attack at UVA and elsewhere

BY MICHAEL GAYNOR

On June 26, news broke in *The New York Times* that the Trump administration's Department of Justice had opened an investigation into UVA's diversity, equity and inclusion practices. The paper reported that officials believed the university had not ended its DEI program in accordance with a January executive order, and in an "extraordinary condition" to help resolve the investigation were demanding the resignation of President **Jim Ryan (Law '92)**. At stake, according to the report, were hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding that could be stripped from the university.

The next day, Ryan resigned, ending his tenure as the ninth head of the university. (*See coverage starting on Page 50.*)

As U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration dismantle and reshape a wide swath of longstanding American institutions—from the federal workforce to the foreign policy establishment—the situation at UVA and many other schools shows that higher education is one of the administration's primary targets.

These institutions are facing demands across a variety of fronts, including ending diversity initiatives, cutting funding and restricting international student enrollment. And while most of the attention has been focused on Ivy League schools such as Harvard and Columbia, UVA is enmeshed in each of these battles as well, as the pressure campaign for Ryan's ouster succinctly demonstrated.

Before the demand for his resignation was made public, Ryan weighed in, cosigning onto an April letter from the American Association of Colleges and Universities decrying the "unprecedented government overreach and political interference now endangering American higher education." The letter, which was signed by more than 650 higher education leaders, signaled that reforms and oversight are justifiable, but that the administration's current actions were "coercive" and threatened "the defining freedoms of American higher education."

Here's a summary of the many issues colleges and universities are reckoning with under the Trump administration, both within UVA and at other institutions across the country. →



ILLUSTRATIONS BY TIMOTHY COOK



People displayed placards to show solidarity with Harvard at its commencement in May.

THE ASAHI SHIMBUN / GETTY IMAGES



Federal cuts back colleges into a corner

As the Justice Department's investigation into UVA and Ryan's resignation show, the threat of revoking federal funding has become a powerful political tool for the Trump administration, as well as a common thread that ties many of its higher education policies together. This includes pulling federal financial aid for colleges and universities with DEI programs, as well as terminating research grants from federal agencies.

In many instances, these aren't just threats. After issuing an executive order in February on transgender athletes, the Trump administration froze $175 million in federal funding to the University of Pennsylvania, citing the school's transgender athlete policy as the reason. UPenn is the former home of Lia Thomas, a transgender swimmer who last competed for the school in 2022. University President J. Larry Jameson wrote in response to the funding freeze that the school had no transgender athlete policy and was complying with NCAA rules at the time. In July, UPenn announced that it had resolved the investigation by agreeing to remove Thomas' records from the 2021-22 season and to send an apology to student-athletes "who experienced a competitive disadvantage or experienced anxiety because of the policies in effect at the time."

Another executive order in January to "combat antisemitism" on college campuses resulted in allegations against 10 universities that the Justice Department said "failed to protect Jewish students and faculty members from unlawful discrimination." Two of those 10 schools—Columbia University and Harvard University—had very different responses to the administration's accusations.

In March, Columbia yielded to the administration's demands after it withheld $400 million in federal funds from the university. It agreed to establish new oversight over its Middle Eastern studies department, hire internal security personnel with the power to arrest students, ban the wearing of face masks in campus demonstrations and other measures.

Columbia reached a broader deal with the administration in late July when it agreed to pay $200 million to settle allegations of campus antisemitism. It also committed to end all DEI programs, provide the government with detailed admissions data broken down by race, and report arrests of international students to the Department of Homeland Security, among other orders.

Harvard, on the other hand, rejected similar demands, which university President Alan Garber said amounted to an effort to "control whom we hire and what we teach." Subsequently, the Trump administration froze over $2 billion in federal funding to the university, which Harvard is pursuing a lawsuit to restore. And in a major escalation of the fight this May, the administration revoked the university's ability to enroll international students, which is another critical source of funds. Harvard is also suing to stop this action; a Massachusetts judge blocked the administration's effort in the interim.

"This is a real power play by the White House, and with Columbia and Harvard, they're really trying to establish oversight over these universities without any very strong legal basis, and they're going to face serious legal challenges," said Sidney Milkis, a professor

> *"Without the federal funds, without the ongoing federal and state investment in financial aid, we simply wouldn't be able to really give that full financial need package to every student."*
>
> *–**Helen Faith**, UVA's associate vice provost for enrollment and student financial services*

of politics at UVA. "Columbia acquiesced rather quickly. But even with Harvard's fight, I think higher education is under assault here, which could have an enduring influence on the academy."

Trump's March 20 executive order initiating the closure of the Department of Education could likewise have huge ramifications for higher education funding. The order is currently blocked via federal judge, but more than 2,000 department employees have already been fired, including many who worked on federal education grants and student loans.

Indeed, financial aid for students, such as student loans and Pell Grants, is an area in which universities are particularly reliant on federal funds. The administration has stated that management of student loans would be transferred to the Small Business Administration or the Treasury Department. But according to Helen Faith, UVA's associate vice provost for enrollment and student financial services, "The federal student loan portfolio is huge, and I don't think either of those agencies is currently in a position to handle those funds."

The March executive order specified a requirement that "any program or activity receiving Federal assistance terminate illegal discrimination obscured under the label 'diversity, equity, and inclusion' or similar terms and programs promoting gender ideology." This leaves the door open for further cuts in federal funds, which is what appears to be at stake in the Justice Department's investigation into UVA's DEI policies.

If federal student aid to UVA were cut, "I think there would be a lot of people who would not be able to attend the university," said **Stephen Farmer (Grad '86)**, vice provost for enrollment. "And I think every other person who could attend the university would be poorer for the loss of the people who could not attend."

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, almost 6,000 UVA undergraduates were receiving Pell Grants or federal student loans in 2022-23 (the most recent available data). In total, this amounted to around $33.7 million in federal financial aid.

Faith added: "Without the federal funds, without the ongoing federal and state investment in financial aid, we simply wouldn't be able to really give that full financial need package to every student. Every single dollar of that picture really matters."

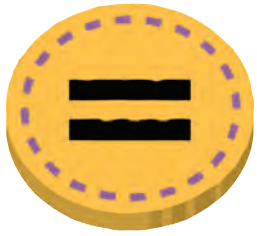
Stripping federal financial aid funding away from a college would mean that fewer students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, would be able to afford an education. And when specific institutions are targeted, as UVA has been, it can have a "chilling effect" on students from lower-income and lower-middle-income backgrounds who may be considering those colleges, according to Faith.

"Just the threat to an institution that they may be thinking about I think is enough to dissuade a lot of families from planning to go into higher education and go to college," she said.

The Trump administration's signature domestic policy bill, signed into law on July 4, will put further restrictions on student loans by capping federal borrowing at $100,000 for master's degrees and $200,000 for doctoral, medical and professional degrees. Critics of this new policy say it will push students pursuing these degrees onto the private loan market, which can mean higher interest rates and ineligibility for federal loan forgiveness programs. Along with the phasing out of the federal Grad PLUS loan program and other changes, the end result may be fewer students going into critical fields such as medicine.

Former UVA President Teresa Sullivan, who has written in *The Washington Post* about the Trump administration's attacks on higher education, said that in the long run, closing off this access to education is what worries her most.

"If you go after the undergraduate mission, I think you really go after the heart of the university," she said. "Restricting the access to college impinges on the American dream, and I think that would be the ultimate effect. And I just can't believe anybody really wants to do that."



A rollback of diversity, equity and inclusion

The day after his inauguration, Trump issued an executive order titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity." It specifically called out higher education institutions, among other entities, saying that they "have adopted and actively use dangerous, demeaning, and immoral race- and sex-based preferences under the guise of so-called 'diversity, equity, and inclusion' (DEI) or 'diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility' (DEIA) that can violate the civil-rights laws of this Nation."

This was a long-held promise of the Trump campaign, and the order was paired with another one eliminating DEI programs and policies across the federal government. It requires any recipient of federal funding to certify that it does not operate any DEI programs in violation of federal antidiscrimination laws.

The orders were followed by another in April targeting the higher education accreditation system, which is the process colleges and universities undergo to

> *"Talented young scholars in other countries who might have wanted to teach here no longer will want to. … So I think that this damage could be an enduring one."*
>
> –***Sidney Milkis**, professor of politics at UVA*

receive federal financial aid. It accused accreditors of demanding that schools adopt "unlawfully discriminatory practices" (meaning DEI) as a condition of that process. During his campaign, Trump called the accreditation system "our secret weapon" in the effort to "reclaim our once-great educational institutions from the radical left."

As a result, many colleges and universities have begun to close DEI offices and roll back those policies. In February, Ohio State University announced that it would "sunset" its Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The University of Michigan—once at the vanguard of DEI initiatives—likewise announced the closure of two equity-related offices in March, alongside the discontinuation of its DEI 2.0 Strategic Plan. And the executive orders aren't just leading to closed offices: In March, Johns Hopkins University announced that it would eliminate over 2,000 jobs after losing federal funding for international aid projects due to the closure of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which the White House attributed to "streamlining federal agencies to eliminate wasteful DEI projects."

On March 7, UVA's Board of Visitors voted unanimously to dissolve the university's Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Partnerships and to move "permissible" programs elsewhere within the university. The resolution referenced Trump's post-Inauguration Day executive order and directed Ryan to update the board on the university's compliance within 30 days. In response to the board's vote, a statement from the university affirmed that it would comply with the resolution.

The Trump administration's moves against DEI have also hit the world of university research. In February, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) began terminating grant funding for research related to DEI and gender identity subjects—a directive that was struck down in June by a federal judge, who wrote that it "represents racial discrimination and discrimination against America's LGBTQ community."

Similarly, earlier this year, Fulbright scholarships for nearly 200 researchers were canceled, seemingly due to their work studying race and ethnicity, as well as other subjects including climate change, gender and homelessness. The prestigious Fulbright Program funds scholars to study internationally and is managed by the Department of State. In June, the Fulbright board resigned en masse to protest the cancellations.

The administration's actions highlight an aggressive use of executive orders, rather than legislation, to enact policy. "I've been writing about the expansion of presidential power and presidents' use of unilateral action … for longer than I care to admit," said UVA's Milkis, who wrote about this strategy in his new book, *Subverting the Republic: Donald J. Trump and the Perils of Presidentialism*, co-authored with **Nicholas Jacobs (Grad '16, '19)**. "But I have to say, Trump is a culmination of that."



Cuts to scientific and medical funding

The federal government has historically granted a huge amount of funding to universities and other organizations for scientific and medical research: $32 billion across 60,000 grants in fiscal 2024 alone. But a sweeping change the Trump administration made to NIH funding is poised to cut that number by up to $9 billion moving forward.

The cuts stem from a potential new 15 percent cap on reimbursement for "indirect costs" in research grants, which involve costs associated with labs' shared equipment, personnel and utilities. UVA's previous reimbursement rate for these expenses was 61.5 percent, and the new cap would cost UVA researchers approximately $54 million, according to Lori McMahon, UVA's vice president for research. The action is currently tied up in the courts after state governments and research organizations filed a lawsuit and a federal judge temporarily blocked the cuts.

At the same time, researchers at many universities—including UVA—are reporting cancellations, delays and stop-work orders for a variety of research grants already in progress. In May, the Association of American Medical Colleges reported that 777 NIH grants awarded to medical schools, hospitals and other institutions had been terminated, totaling $1.9 billion in lost funding.

In a presentation to the Board of Visitors, UVA disclosed that 43 federal grants to the university had been terminated as of June 3, with 12 coming from the National Science Foundation and 9 from NIH. In total, this amounts to $63 million in lost funding.

The situation has become so dire that in late March, almost 2,000 members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine signed an open letter declaring that the cuts are "forcing institutions to pause research (including studies of new disease treatments), dismiss faculty, and stop enrolling graduate students—the pipeline for the next generation's scientists."

Meanwhile, the July 4 domestic policy bill will cut federal Medicaid spending by around $1 trillion over the next decade—creating dramatic impacts for UVA Health and the people who rely on it. A June analysis by health policy



Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in March that the U.S. may have revoked "more than" 300 student visas.

NATHAN HOWARD / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

research organization KFF, based on the version of the bill passed by the House in May, found that the legislation would decrease Medicaid spending in Virginia by $23 billion over 10 years and remove about 317,000 Virginians from the health insurance program.

In Albemarle County, where much of UVA is situated, 14.3 percent of residents were enrolled in Medicaid in 2023, and 28.1 percent of children were enrolled in Medicaid or the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). A spokesperson for UVA Health declined to comment on how local Medicaid cuts would impact the health system.



Termination of international student visas

This spring, the Department of Homeland Security began revoking student visas for hundreds of international students at colleges and universities around the country, seemingly without warning. These students were targeted for a variety of reasons: pro-Palestinian activism, criminal charges such as DUIs or even politically oriented posts on social media.

"It might be more than 300 at this point," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in late March, regarding the number of revoked student visas at that point. "We do it every day. Every time I find one of these lunatics, I take away their visas."

According to an analysis from *Inside Higher Ed*, the administration had revoked visas from more than 1,800 students across more than 280 schools by late April. The stories of several students have made national news. Video of Tufts University doctoral student Rümeysa Öztürk's arrest went viral this March; she was seemingly detained for having co-authored a student newspaper op-ed that criticized her school's response to the war in Gaza. A federal judge ordered her release after she spent six weeks in a Louisiana detention center, and she returned to Boston in May.

The visas of one student and two recent alumni of UVA, which currently hosts over 2,500 international students, were revoked in early April.

Such visa terminations are likely to influence not just potential international students, but teachers as well. "Talented young scholars in other countries who might have wanted to teach here no longer will want to," Milkis said. "So I think that this damage could be an enduring one."

On April 25, the Trump administration, facing dozens of lawsuits over its actions, abruptly reversed itself and said it would restore legal status to impacted students. But according to *The New York Times*, a Justice Department lawyer told a federal judge at the time that the administration was developing a new system for reviewing and terminating international student visas.

The actions to restrict international student enrollment continued in mid-June when, after a pause in appointments for new student visa applications, the State Department resumed the process but required applicants to set their social media profiles to "public" to allow the government to conduct "a comprehensive and thorough vetting." In the weeks leading up to this policy change, Rubio had issued a statement saying his department would work with the Department of Homeland Security to "aggressively revoke visas for Chinese students," as well as an executive order partially or fully restricting entry to the U.S. for citizens of 19 other countries.

Although the legality of many of these issues is being challenged in the courts (including the previously mentioned ban on all international students at Harvard), Sullivan said they could nevertheless dissuade international students from studying in the U.S.

"Most of your international students are advanced graduate students, and they're in places like the medical school, the College of Engineering and so on," she said. "And they're doing cutting-edge research because they're among the best minds in the world."

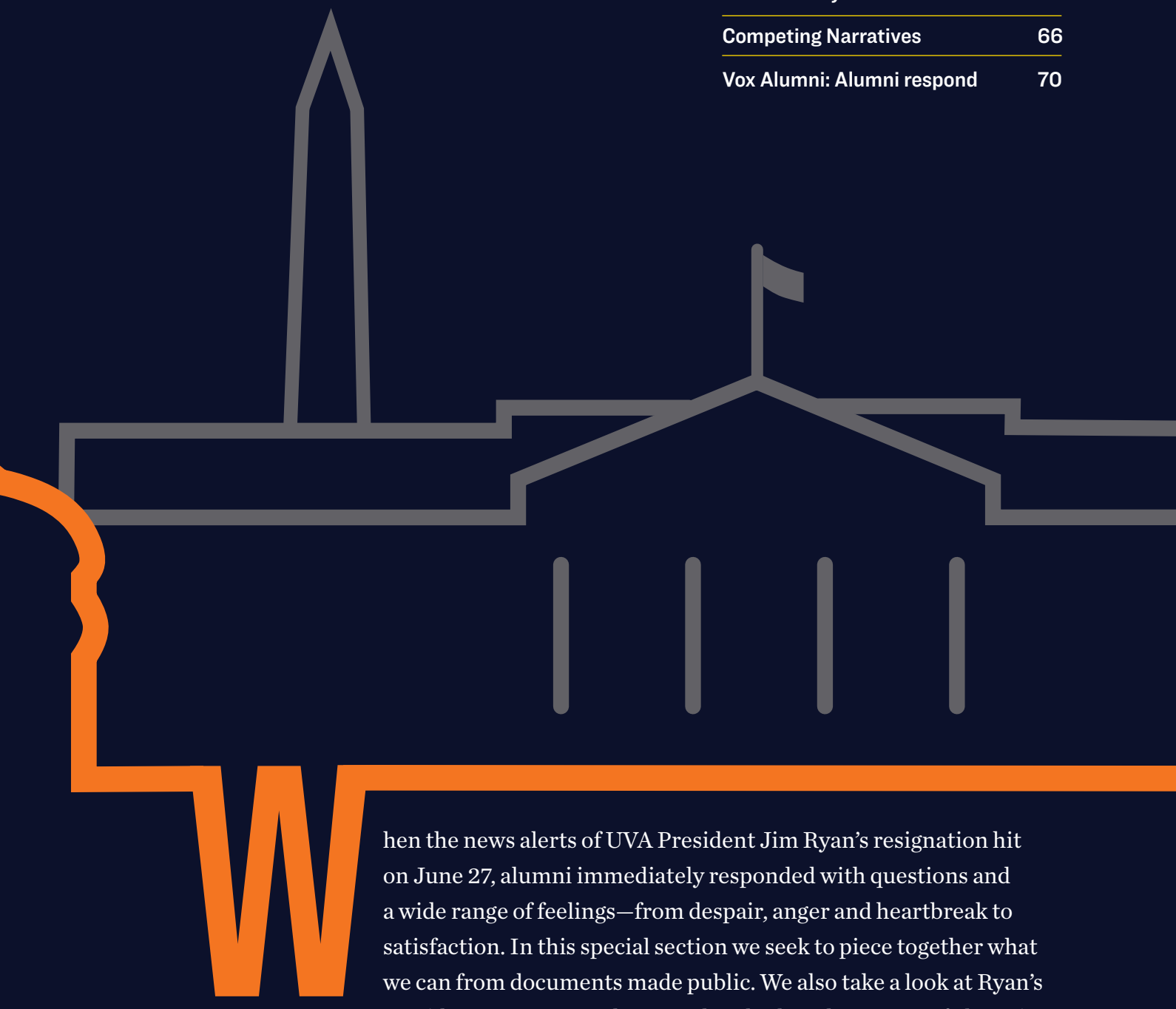
Sullivan noted that graduate students can't easily transfer schools like undergraduates can. "If you leave that professor and go to another school, you've got to start all over again. And of course no one's going to want to do that. So I think this could have a really chilling effect on the willingness of international students to go to any [U.S.] university, and not just Harvard."

Michael Gaynor is a writer based in Charlottesville.

THE FIGHT FOR UVA



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When the news alerts of UVA President Jim Ryan's resignation hit on June 27, alumni immediately responded with questions and a wide range of feelings—from despair, anger and heartbreak to satisfaction. In this special section we seek to piece together what we can from documents made public. We also take a look at Ryan's presidency, cut a year short. And we look at the groups of alumni who have dominated news cycles as well as alumni whose opinions have not made news and are important nonetheless.


JIM
VIRGINIA
CAVALIERS

MOUNTING PRESSURE

What the record shows about the events leading to Ryan's resignation and what UVA faces now

BY JUDY LE AND SARAH LINDENFELD HALL



Ryan addresses supporters after he announced his resignation.

KIRSTEN LUCE

On April 11, the U.S. Department of Justice sent UVA leadership and counsel a letter. Citing the 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down race-conscious admissions decisions, the DOJ requested that UVA certify that it did not use such factors in undergraduate admission. One week later, it made the same request for admissions at the law school.

At the end of the month, a third letter came, marking a shift in both tone and content. This one sought compliance not with a SCOTUS decision but with a resolution by UVA's own Board of Visitors. It was also the first letter to cite complaints that had come in to the DOJ.

Over a period of 10 weeks in the spring, the DOJ sent seven letters to UVA leaders, ostensibly building an investigation focused primarily on admissions practices. Ten days after the last letter, UVA President **Jim Ryan (Law '92)** announced his resignation. →

Many questions remain about the DOJ's ongoing investigation into UVA and the events that led to Ryan's resignation. In reporting on these events, *Virginia Magazine* relied on publicly available information—documents that have been made public by news outlets, as well as websites and public statements. They show increasing pressure on UVA from inside the Trump administration's DOJ—mostly coming through two alumni—on issues of race.

The landmark case

In June 2023, the Supreme Court ruled that the race-conscious admissions practices at Harvard College and the University of North Carolina were unlawful under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. Justice Neil Gorsuch, in a concurring opinion, wrote that such practices do not comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits racial discrimination by federally assisted programs.

The decision upended 45 years of precedent and is woven through Trump administration orders about higher education. The president first cited it in an executive order "ending illegal discrimination" on his second day in office, and then in an April order targeting accreditation.

In February, the Department of Education sent a Dear Colleague letter to colleges and universities seeking to broaden the scope of the ruling beyond admissions to race-conscious decision-making in "all other aspects of student, academic, and campus life." It added diversity, equity and inclusion programs as potential sources of discrimination.

The letter sought compliance with "the Department's existing interpretation of federal law" within two weeks, threatening the loss of federal funding. (In April, the department said it would not enforce or implement the letter until further notice after a federal court ruled against it in a case in New Hampshire.)

THE 2023 SUPREME COURT RULING PROHIBITING RACE-CONSCIOUS ADMISSIONS PRACTICES UNDERLIES MANY ADMINISTRATION ORDERS.

The orders soon made their way to Grounds. In March, UVA's BOV cited the SCOTUS decision, along with the January executive order and the February Dear Colleague letter, in its resolution to dissolve the university's Division of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Community Partnerships. The resolution, which passed unanimously, also directed UVA to transfer "permissible programs" to other organizational homes and to continue doing legally permissible research and activities. Ryan was also directed to update the BOV on compliance within 30 days.

"DEI is done at UVA," Gov. Glenn Youngkin wrote on X. "Today, the University of Virginia Board of Visitors voted for commonsense saying NO to illegal discrimination and YES to merit-based opportunity. Students at Mr. Jefferson's University—and across America—deserve unlimited intellectual freedom, not ideological gatekeeping."

For his part, Ryan stated that he would comply with the orders in the resolution, just as he did after the 2023 admissions decision. Back then, Ryan wrote that admissions officers would not have access to "any self-disclosed 'checkbox' information regarding the race or ethnicity of the candidates they are considering."

After the resolution in March, Ryan wrote that the central DEI office housed several important functions, including the Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights and Title IX compliance, and that the university would review where they should go. He also wrote that the university had already been reviewing its policies and practices in recent weeks to ensure that they complied with federal and state antidiscrimination laws, and that it would continue to do so.

At some point in the meantime, the Department of Justice began investigating.

The Justice letters

The DOJ's first two letters, to University Counsel and Senior Assistant Attorney General Cliff Iler, had the same structure. They cited the Supreme Court ruling and requested information about, first, undergraduate admissions, then law school admissions; admissions policies and procedures, and any changes since the 2023 decision; data including test scores, GPA, activities, essays and outcomes disaggregated by race; and any analyses the school had done about admissions trends or outcomes by race. Signatory **Harmeet Dhillon (Law '93)** told CNN's Jake Tapper in June that the DOJ had cast a wide net; similar letters went out to 70 colleges and universities.

The third letter, on April 28, was a departure.

This one went to Ryan, Iler and then-Rector **Robert Hardie (Col '87, Darden '95, '99)**, and was signed by Dhillon and **Gregory Brown (Col '89)**, two UVA alumni who work in the Civil Rights division of the DOJ. It indicated that they had received complaints that UVA may have failed to comply with the BOV's March 7 resolution, which it said called for "the total elimination of DEI" at UVA. The letter demanded that the school produce a large amount of materials, some of which went beyond the scope of compliance with the resolution. The



EMILY FAITH MORGAN

Students, staff and city residents came to the last "Run with Jim."

demands included all written or electronic records of BOV open and closed sessions and deliberations; detailed certifications from all UVA divisions regarding any positions with diversity, equity and inclusion responsibilities and whether and how those staffers were still associated with UVA; and all reports regarding the work outlined in the BOV resolution. The letter set an initial May 2 deadline for the materials.

That day, the letter was made public from an anonymous account on X.

While no public update on UVA's compliance with the resolution has been made as of this writing, the day after this letter was sent, the BOV adopted a resolution stating, in part, that "the University of Virginia has made progress on implementing the directives of the Board of Visitors' March 7 resolution on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion."

At some point in April, UVA also secured representation from the law firm of McGuireWoods, said **Rachel Sheridan (Col '94, Law '98)**, who became rector on July 1 and as such speaks for the BOV, at the Faculty Senate meeting on July 11.

In May, Dhillon and Brown sent two more letters to UVA leadership. The first, on May 2, detailed an investigation into complaints of antisemitic hate-based misconduct and university retaliation against a fourth-year student. (In June, a grand jury did not issue a felony indictment in the case; another grand jury hearing was set for August.) The second letter that month, on May 22, added UVA's med school admissions to the DOJ's growing investigation list.

In June, the letters' tone shifted again. On June 16, Dhillon and Brown wrote: "[T]he Department has received complaints that President Ryan, his administration, and certain faculty members have been actively engaged in attempts to defy and evade federal anti-discrimination laws and the directives of your board.

"Indeed, evidence supplied to the Department would suggest that President Ryan and his proxies are making little attempt to disguise their contempt and intent to defy these fundamental civil rights and governing laws," they wrote.

The letter added to the growing investigation admissions practices at the School of Nursing, the Darden School of Business, and the undergraduate and graduate components of the School of Education and of the McIntire School of Commerce. It also added "allegations of antisemitism, anti-Zionism, and anti-Israeli (or American-Israeli) discrimination, harassment and retaliation" as part of the overall investigation, with compliance by an agreed-upon deadline of June 23.

The next day, Dhillon and Brown sent another letter of "considerable urgency," writing that they'd received a complaint from an undergraduate student about the consideration of race in admissions for McIntire and the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

"The Department must insist that the University of Virginia, through its Rector and Visitors, take immediate corrective action to bring the entire institution within compliance of governing federal anti-discrimination laws," they wrote. "Dramatic, wholesale changes are required, now, to repair what appears to be a history of clear abuses and breaches of our nation's laws and our Constitution by the University of Virginia under its current administration."

After that June 17 message, the letters stopped.

Ryan's resignation

On the evening of June 26, *The New York Times* reported that the DOJ had privately demanded Ryan's ouster to help resolve its investigation into the school. (Dhillon has publicly denied that it was a demand but has said that she lacked

> **"THE LARGE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS WERE SHOCKED AND CONFUSED AND HURT."**
>
> *—**Clay Dickerson,** Student Council president*

confidence in Ryan's ability to "preside over the dismantling of DEI.")

The next day, Ryan announced that he would resign.

"I am inclined to fight for what I believe in, and I believe deeply in this University," he wrote in a message to the community. "But I cannot make a unilateral decision to fight the federal government in order to save my own job. To do so would not only be quixotic but appear selfish and self-centered to the hundreds of employees who would lose their jobs, the researchers who would lose their funding, and the hundreds of students who could lose financial aid or have their visas withheld."

Before the news went out, 50 to 60 of UVA's top leaders received an email calling for an emergency Zoom meeting at 1 p.m. with Ryan, said Faculty Senate Chair Jeri K. Seidman, an associate commerce school professor.

Ten minutes before the meeting began, *The New York Times* reported that Ryan planned to resign. The meeting lasted just 15 minutes, but it was charged with emotion. Many attendees were visibly upset, Seidman said. Attendees filled the chat with expressions of deep sorrow and appreciation.

"Many people cried," she said. "Shock. Tears. Lots of people expressing how they've worked here for decades and had never had a president that they felt closer to or happier to support. He just largely seemed exhausted."

Across Grounds and beyond, the reaction to the news came quickly. In a written statement to news media, Dhillon said the DOJ has a "zero-tolerance policy toward illegal discrimination in publicly-funded universities."

"When university leaders lack commitment to ending illegal discrimination in hiring, admissions, and student benefits—they expose the institutions they lead to legal and financial peril," Dhillon's statement said. "We welcome leadership changes in higher education that signal institutional commitment to our nation's venerable federal civil rights laws."

Virginia's U.S. senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, both Democrats, issued a joint statement in response.

"It is outrageous that officials in the Trump Department of Justice demanded the Commonwealth's globally recognized university remove President Ryan—a strong leader who has served UVA honorably and moved the university forward—over ridiculous 'culture war' traps," they wrote. "Decisions about UVA's leadership belong solely to its Board of Visitors, in keeping with Virginia's well-established and respected system of higher education governance. This is a mistake that hurts Virginia's future."

That afternoon, a couple hundred people gathered on the Lawn, and later at Carr's Hill. From the Rotunda steps, Seidman read from a Faculty Senate resolution that affirmed its support of Ryan and called on the BOV to condemn the DOJ demands that led to Ryan's resignation.

English Professor Deborah McDowell hadn't planned to speak, but she found herself drawn to.

"There are, in my view, some legitimate complaints against President Ryan, but they did not, for me at least, rise to the level of the decision to pressure him to resign," McDowell said. So, she wanted to know, where is the evidence that DEI policies and practices remained or that UVA supported antisemitism?

"Let facts be submitted to a candid world," McDowell later said, quoting from a line in the Declaration of Independence.

Among student leaders, the immediate reaction was surprise and chaos, said Student Council President **Clay Dickerson (Col '26)**. "The large majority of students were shocked and confused and hurt at the outcome of that weekend, even if they didn't like President Ryan," Dickerson said. "It was really, really frustrating."

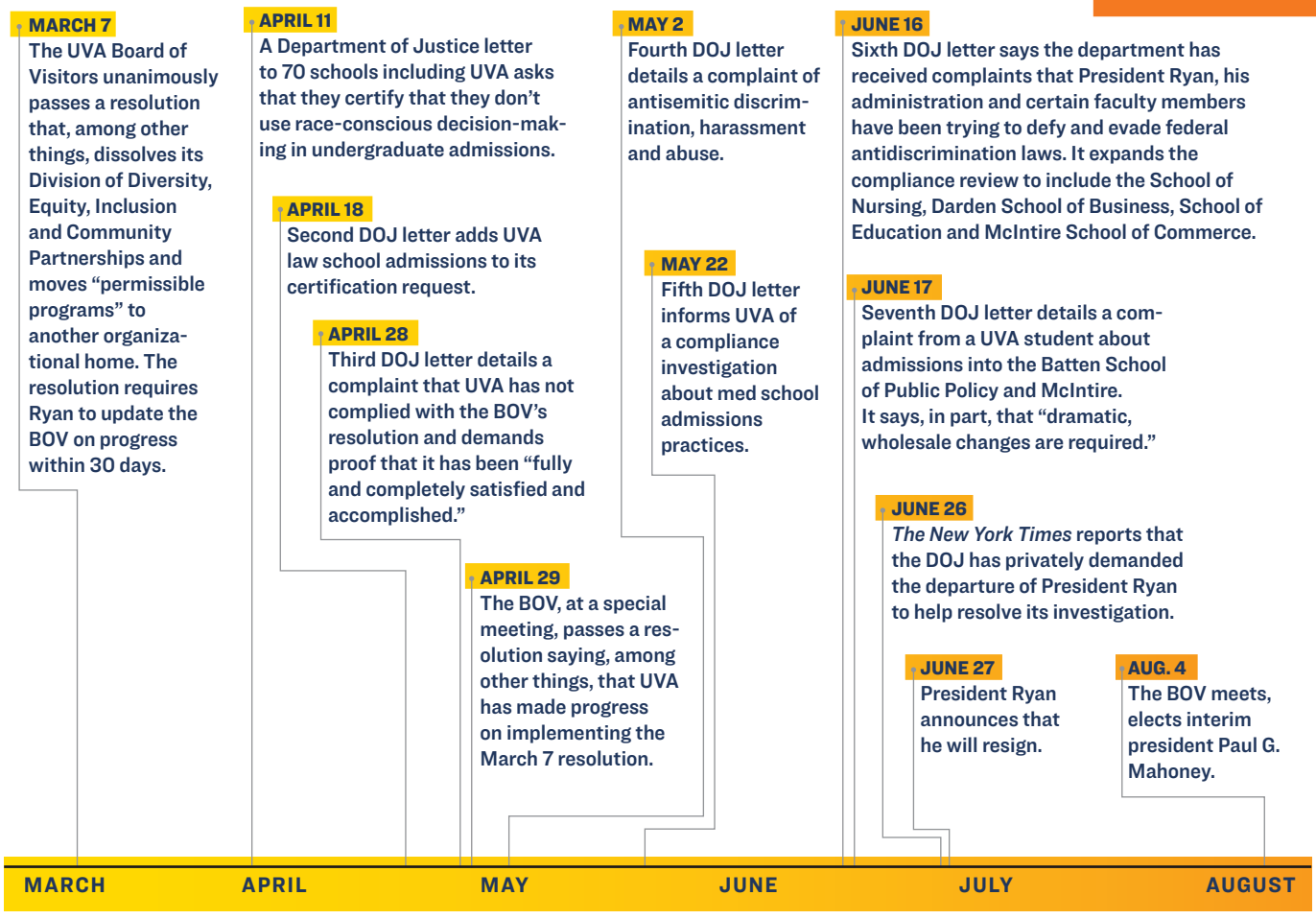
Dickerson called Ryan a "great ally" for students. He had been actively working with Ryan and the Honor Committee on a project aimed to elevate the importance of public service on Grounds, he said.

That day, the Student Council Executive Board posted a statement, "This is our University," addressed to the BOV, Youngkin and the DOJ on social media. "The important right of a public institution to govern itself has been stripped and commandeered by federal forces, and the loss of President Ryan is the latest domino to fall," they wrote. "In the wake of this resignation, student self-governance is more critical than ever. The will of the students, those who know this community best, is meant to guide this Great and Good University."

The next day, students, staff and Charlottesville residents turned out for the final "Run with Jim," organized by the Fourth-Year Trustees. They ran 2.8 miles with the president, the *Cavalier Daily* reported, from the Rotunda to Scott Stadium and back. After the run, Ryan thanked supporters.

Executive Vice President and COO J.J. Wagner Davis served as acting president until UVA law professor Paul G. Mahoney was named interim president in early August. He will serve while the BOV searches for UVA's 10th president. The 28-member search

A TIMELINE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO RYAN'S RESIGNATION



committee includes alumni, professors, staff and students, as well as 11 current or former BOV members appointed by Republican governors and two former BOV members appointed by Democratic governors. At the Aug. 4 BOV meeting, Catherine Lindqvist of UVA's Executive Search Group said they anticipated the search launching in late August or early September and taking four to six months.

Ryan will return to teach at the law school after a sabbatical, the university announced.

The BOV's role

Under state code and board policy, oversight of the university president rests with the BOV, which may remove a sitting president with a two-thirds vote of its members.

That supermajority mechanism came into play in 2012. As it is widely reported, then-Rector **Helen Dragas (Col '84, Darden '88)** and then-Vice Rector **Mark Kington (Darden '88)** informed then-President Teresa A. Sullivan that they had enough board votes to remove her and offered her a separation agreement, which Sullivan signed. She was reinstated two very tumultuous weeks later by a unanimous vote of the board at a special meeting.

Under code, four-year appointments to the board are made by the governor and approved by the General Assembly. One student and one faculty member also serve each year but do not vote.

Because of the staggered schedule of the terms, each governor can appoint all 17 members during their four years in office. Currently, all the members were appointed by Youngkin. This is the last year of Youngkin's term; in November, a new governor will be elected. (In Virginia, governors may not serve consecutive terms.)

It's unclear what role the BOV had in Ryan's decision to resign. Sheridan has given few details, citing advice from counsel.

"The DOJ inquiry was discussed at multiple board meetings," she told the Faculty Senate in July. "The unanimous motions that came out of those meetings are a reflection of conversations around those compliance issues: academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and freedom of expression.

"There were very limited interactions between the BOV and the DOJ during this time. All interactions with the DOJ occurred with Jim Ryan and [then-] Rector Hardie's authorization or at their specific request. University counsel was present and leading every interaction."

The board met on April 29, June 4-6,

VACANCIES IN UVA'S LEADERSHIP COULD BRING ADVANTAGES AND OBSTACLES IN HIRING.

and Aug. 4. (A meeting on July 2 had briefly been scheduled but was canceled that day, according to UVA spokeswoman Bethanie Glover.) As of this writing, the next scheduled meeting is Sept. 11.

In a statement read at that July Faculty Senate meeting, former BOV faculty representative Michael J. Kennedy wrote that while the initial DOJ letters had been public during the June 4-6 meeting, he learned about the increasing pressure from the news.

"I trusted our administration was working on a response to the DOJ request's demands and assumed that was being done in coordination with BOV leadership but have no specifics to share as I was not privy to them," Kennedy wrote.

"I learned of the DOJ's mid-late June letters and actions toward UVA and President Ryan's potential resignation from the *New York Times* article the evening it was published June 26. I spoke by phone to four BOV members in the 12 hours post-article and all reported also learning of this from the *New York Times* article."

Kennedy also wrote that he'd felt included and valued as a full member prior to the last 20 days of his tenure and had been removed from the room only twice all year.

Arranging to meet over the summer may have been complicated by the fact that the membership of the board has been in question and even subject to litigation. In March, Youngkin fired his appointee **Bert Ellis (Col '75, Darden '79)** from the board and appointed **Ken Cuccinelli (Engr '91)** to fill out Ellis' term, which ends in 2026. Cuccinelli sat as a board member during the April and June meetings.

A few days after the June meeting, the General Assembly's Democratic-majority Senate Privileges and Elections Committee voted to reject a slate of Youngkin's university board picks, which included Cuccinelli. It also rejected appointees to Virginia Military Institute, where the majority Youngkin-appointee board in February voted against extending its president's contract, and to George Mason University, whose president is under a similar investigation by the Trump administration as of this writing. In late July, a Fairfax County Circuit Court judge upheld the Senate committee's rejections of Youngkin's appointees; the office of Attorney General Jason Miyares, a Republican, has said it will appeal the decision.

Youngkin also appointed four new BOV members who started their terms in July; as of this writing they have not been taken up by the General Assembly.

In response to a question at the July Faculty Senate meeting, Rector Sheridan said there had been "consistent communication amongst the board as to appropriate changes in the status of the litigation.

"There has not been a need to update the board at this juncture, and we are communicating as a board as necessary. We obviously need to continue to function for the university, despite the pending litigation."

Counsel structure

In a June 30 column in *The New York Times*, **Tim Heaphy (Col '86, Law '91)**, who served as UVA's university counsel from 2018 to 2022, wrote that, in his view, UVA faces a governance issue. In Virginia, the attorney general represents all state agencies, and as such appoints university counsel.

Wrote Heaphy: "This means rather than having an advocate loyal to the university and its interests, Mr. Ryan and the university were saddled with counsel aligned with the other side."

Various state universities appoint counsel differently. Michigan State, for instance, has popularly elected trustees who appoint legal counsel off of the president's recommendation. According to the University of Texas System's regents rules, the president of each university hires administrative officers, including its vice president for legal affairs and general counsel.

For Virginia Senate Majority Leader **Scott Surovell (Law '96)**, a Democrat representing Fairfax County, that governance structure is a central reason behind Ryan's forced resignation. In 2024, Surovell introduced SB506 to allow public universities in Virginia to hire their own general counsel and clarify that boards of visitors' duties ran to the institution first, and then the state. Right now, their primary duty is to the state, he said. Youngkin vetoed the bill.

"I think those two things are a big source of conflict in what's going on right now, because these schools can't get accurate independent legal advice," Surovell said.

A leadership void

Even before Ryan resigned, key departures had shaken the top of UVA's organizational chart.

Among UVA's four-member executive leadership team, which includes the president, only one leader was a permanent hire as of this writing. That's Davis, who for a few weeks was also serving double-duty as acting president.

The first to leave, in February, was Craig Kent, former executive vice president for health affairs. Kent resigned after an investigation amid allegations from faculty that he and Melina Kibbe, UVA Health's chief health affairs officer



The BOV elected former law dean Paul G. Mahoney as interim president.

and dean of UVA's School of Medicine, fostered a negative environment that compromised patient safety and created a culture of fear and retaliation, among other issues. **Mitch Rosner (Res '00, Fellow '02)** is serving in the interim role while a national search commences.

Then, in March, came the departure of Provost Ian Baucom, who left to become the president of Middlebury College. A search failed to find his replacement in June and was set to begin again this fall. Brie Gertler, formerly the deputy provost, is serving as the interim.

Leadership at some schools is in flux as well.

At McIntire, Amanda Cowen, senior associate dean for academic programs and a professor, began serving as interim dean in July after the departure of Nicole Thorne Jenkins. A search this spring failed to find a successor and is scheduled to resume in the fall.

And in July, turnover at UVA Health continued with the back-to-back announcements of leadership departures. On July 14, the University of Texas System announced that Kibbe will be named president of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in August. A few days later, Wendy Horton, CEO of UVA Medical Center, announced her departure. She will assume a leadership role at the University of San Francisco Health Center in September.

Finally, Malo André Hutson, dean of UVA's School of Architecture, announced in June his plans to leave at the end of the 2025-26 academic year. Gertler wrote in an email that they will use the time to recruit his replacement.

Hiring challenges

Even with so much senior leadership in flux, higher education institutions can still function by carrying out existing initiatives, said Sullivan, UVA's eighth president, who recruited three executive vice presidents and nine academic deans, among other top administrators, while at UVA.

"It may mean that the board has to take a more active role, at least in staying in touch with what's going on, but that's going to depend on, really, what the board members want to do, too," Sullivan said.

And, she said, it's unlikely that it will impact prospective students very much. "If you're going to graduate from high school next year, and you're in the commonwealth of Virginia, and you've got a shot at UVA, I think you're going to take a shot to try to get in," she said.

But the uncertainty around top leadership could impact the recruitment of faculty and of graduate students, especially in fields with heavy federal funding, she said. A July 4 letter to the BOV from 12 of UVA's 14 academic deans, printed in the *Cavalier Daily*, said some donors were withholding pledges and new hires were rethinking plans to come to UVA.

"We wish to underscore that the level and number of leadership transitions now underway create significant risk and instability," they wrote. "We can be your partners in supporting the very best outcomes for our students, our patients, and the broader University community."

Still, Sullivan pointed out, UVA is far from the only higher education institution facing federal investigations or uncertainty around federal funding. What's more, the number of empty spots on UVA's leadership team could be attractive to some candidates for president. They may see all those openings as an opportunity to build their own leadership team.

It's likely a disadvantage, however, if UVA tries to recruit people for those other roles, Sullivan and Seidman said. Top candidates may be leery of accepting the job of provost or executive vice president for health affairs, who report to the president, or dean, who reports to the provost, because they don't know who they'll report to.

Waiting to hire for those other roles, however, could mean UVA will be operating with interim leaders for quite a while. It took about nine months for it to find Sullivan's successor—Ryan, who spent another year wrapping his job at Harvard. He began his tenure in August 2018.

It takes finesse to find the right person, and any attempt to hurry them into a decision could backfire, Sullivan said. "Basically the person you want for this job has already got a good job, and so you've got a bit of marketing to do to persuade them that you've got a better job in mind for them. That takes time and persuasion."

"Where do we go from here?" Seidman asked. "And is the next person that we appoint going to have the exact same situation where, if the DOJ doesn't love them, we're going to be back in the same position?"

At the July 11 Faculty Senate meeting, Sheridan said negotiations with the DOJ are ongoing and that any voluntary resolution agreement will be made public. As of this writing, that has not occurred.

Judy Le is editor-in-chief of Virginia Magazine. *Sarah Lindenfeld Hall is a writer based in Raleigh, North Carolina.*



A PRESIDENCY ABBREVIATED

Against a backdrop of crises, Ryan had his share of wins and controversies

BY ED MILLER

SANJAY SUCHAK / UVA COMMUNICATIONS

> HIS EMOTIONAL ACCESSIBILITY AND HIS ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO FEEL ALONGSIDE THE COMMUNITY I THINK WAS HIGHLY UNUSUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY AND ASTONISHING."
>
> —***Risa Goluboff,*** *former dean of UVA School of Law*

At three weeks shy of seven years, the presidency of **Jim Ryan (Law '92)** was the second shortest in UVA history. Only Robert O'Neil, who led UVA from 1985 to 1990, had a shorter term.

Length is just one measure of a presidency, however. Ryan's tenure, which ended with his resignation July 11, was notable not just for what he was able to accomplish in a relatively short time, but for the historically trying conditions under which he operated, said several UVA officials who worked with him closely.

"It was an incredibly consequential seven years," said Ian Baucom, who served as dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and then as UVA's provost before becoming president of Middlebury College in July.

Ryan's presidency was one of sweeping ambition. His "Great and Good" strategic plan, adopted in 2019, called for nothing less than making UVA the best public university by 2030.

Though Ryan left just over halfway through the plan's 10-year timeline, several of the key initiatives were underway. Its physical imprint can be seen in the emergence of the Emmet-Ivy corridor, which is home to the new School of Data Science and the future site of a hotel and conference center and the Karsh Institute of Democracy, both now under construction. UVA also built the Contemplative Commons and the Hardie Football Operations Center and completed a major overhaul of Shannon Library.

The university raised $6 billion in its "Honor the Future" capital campaign, launched biotechnology and democracy institutes, saw annual research awards surpass $500 million, and saw increases in the number of first-generation students and in the graduation rate of Pell Grant recipients. It implemented a $15 minimum wage for employees and launched the Center for Community Partnerships, both toward Ryan's goal of being a better neighbor to the surrounding region.

In addition, Ryan served—including as chair of the ACC's board of directors—during a time of unprecedented change in college athletics.

"My view is simple," said **John C. Jeffries Jr. (Law '73)**, a former dean of UVA's law school who had served on the search committee that recommended Ryan and then as an adviser to him. "I've been here 50 years and I think he's the best president of the university I've ever seen.

"I say that with appropriate deference to **John Casteen (Col '65, Grad '66, '70)**, who I also admire, but Jim was able to do pretty much what John did in a lot less time."

Ryan strove to move UVA forward while also steering it through the aftermath of the deadly white supremacist Unite the Right rally of Aug. 11-12, 2017, guiding the university through a pandemic and the collective trauma of the fatal shooting of three football players in November 2022. He also served during a time when federal officials sought more control over colleges and universities.

"As president he had to help our community do a lot of healing," said Risa Goluboff, who served as dean of UVA's law school from 2016 to 2024 before returning to the faculty, as well as serving as chair of the Deans Working Group that led UVA's response to the events of August 2017.

Just 10 days into his presidency, on the one-year anniversary of the Unite the Right rally, Ryan gave a speech in which he thanked students who stood up to white supremacists at the statue of Thomas Jefferson near the Rotunda, calling it a "remarkable moment of courage and bravery."

Ryan also apologized to those injured by the white supremacists for "mistakes we have made."

Goluboff called it "an incredibly healing moment."

"His emotional accessibility and his ability and willingness to feel alongside the community I think was highly unusual and extraordinary and astonishing," she said. →

> **"I'VE BEEN HERE 50 YEARS AND I THINK HE'S THE BEST PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY I'VE EVER SEEN."**
>
> *—**John C. Jeffries Jr.**, former adviser and dean of UVA School of Law*



"It was fairly continuous crisis management. What's amazing is there aren't that many people who are visionary and forward thinking and able to manage a crisis."

Ryan threaded that needle with the help of personal qualities that drew widespread praise, particularly his warmth, modesty, humanity, and ability to connect with students and staff.

"You never felt like he lost sight of you as an individual person," Baucom said. "I think that was core to his leadership style. He was strategic, there was a strategic plan. All of it rested on a series of values, on principles. And I think they emanated from him as a person."

Matt Weber (Educ '25), a senior Ryan adviser, recalled a whirlwind trip to London in the fall of 2022 that left staff members drained and weary as they waited for a flight home. On the plane, Ryan gave up his business-class seat to a staffer as thanks for their hard work. Ryan sat in the second to last row, Weber wrote in one of a series of posts on LinkedIn remembering moments from Ryan's presidency.

"When I think about the kind of leader that inspires and sacrifices and gives and shares, and is fun and thoughtful and spontaneous and generous to his staff and the world and trades lie-flat seat 2B for.... seat 55E — I think of Jim Ryan," Weber wrote.

Ryan led students on "Run with Jim" morning jogs, with several hundred, on average, turning out each week, Weber wrote. Ryan opened Carr's Hill to students and said yes to requests ranging from wearing moose antlers to posing in a banana costume, he wrote.



Ryan takes the oath of office with his wife, Katie, in 2018.

"He didn't seem like this guy you only saw through emails or press releases or videos the university posted," said **Lillian Rojas (Batten '24)**, who served as student representative on the Board of Visitors. "He was always around, and I feel that most students who went to UVA during his time here would agree."

Others who worked with Ryan lauded his willingness to listen.

Margaret Grundy Noland (Col '06, Darden '15), who served as his chief of staff, recalled a meeting with student leaders in 2022 shortly after then-student Christopher Darnell Jones Jr. fatally shot football players **Devin Chandler (Col '24)**, **Lavel Davis Jr. (Col '24)** and **D'Sean Perry (Col '23)**. A first-year student Ryan had taught in a seminar pulled him aside and stressed that students needed clarity on when classes would resume, rather than daily updates, Noland said.

"Jim said, 'Good point,'" and tasked Baucom with formulating a plan, Noland said.

"It was an example of his commitment to doing the right thing and trying

DAN ADDISON / UVA COMMUNICATIONS



Ryan addresses the Board of Visitors on March 3, 2023.

SANJAY SUCHAK / UVA COMMUNICATIONS

to create conditions where people could thrive," she said.

Ryan, 58, professed an abiding love for UVA during his inaugural address, "Faith in the Unfinished Project," on Oct. 19, 2018. He likened the sense of responsibility he felt toward the university, where he had spent a total of 18 years as a law student and faculty member before returning as president, to the responsibility a parent feels toward a child.

Ryan provided an outline of his vision for UVA in his inaugural speech. Flesh went on the bones in the "Great and Good" plan adopted 10 months later, in August 2019.

At the heart of the plan were new, major efforts by the university in financial aid, student housing, research, faculty and staff recruitment and retention, community engagement, the establishment of a School of Data Science, and a new "Open Grounds" gateway to the university at Emmet-Ivy.

Such big plans required raising an unprecedented amount of money. While still at Harvard, Ryan met with Mark Luellen, UVA's senior vice president for external relations; Jeffries, who was then senior vice president for advancement; and **Peter Grant (Col '78, Darden '86)**, who would chair the campaign.

Luellen said a consultant suggested that UVA should set a goal no higher than $3 billion. The university did its own analysis and thought it could raise $4.5 billion.

"He said, 'Let's go for 5,'" Luellen recalled.

UVA hit that goal 18 months ahead of schedule and ended the campaign June 30 having raised more than $6 billion. Luellen credited Ryan with being "omnipresent" throughout the six-year effort.

Said Jeffries: "That money was raised primarily by him, either personally, in some very large donor categories, but also secondarily in the way he inspired people's affection and generosity."

The campaign supported initiatives to endow scholarships and professorships, through the Bicentennial Scholars Fund and the Bicentennial Professors Fund. The former endowed more than 750 new scholarships, the latter nearly 140 new professorships.

Expanding access to the university for all students, regardless of their ability to pay, was one of Ryan's top priorities. UVA covers tuition, fees, and room and board for in-state undergraduates with family incomes of less than $50,000. It covers tuition and fees for in-state undergraduates with family incomes of less than $100,000.

During Ryan's tenure, *The Princeton Review* ranked UVA the No. 1 school for financial aid for four years in a row, from 2021 to 2024. It ranked UVA the No. 2 best value public university in 2025. UVA in 2024 also had the highest Pell Grant recipient graduation rate among public universities ranked in the top five overall by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Ryan's presidency also saw a jump in the number of first-generation undergraduate students, from 1,830 or 10.9 percent of total enrollment in 2018 to 3,030 or 16.9 percent in 2024. Ryan himself was a first-generation student.

Ryan was mulling the offer to become UVA's ninth president when white supremacists marched on the Lawn and in downtown Charlottesville during the Unite the Right rally in August 2017. He decided to take the job not despite the rally, but because of it, he said in a 2020 interview with *The Washington Post*.

Ryan spoke of the idea of running toward a crisis as first responders do. He could not have anticipated the scale or severity of the crises he would be running toward in his new job.

Ryan had been in office about 19 months when the COVID-19 pandemic brought university life to a halt. Grounds locked down the same day the World Health Organization declared a pandemic. UVA put more than 4,000 classes online in eight days.

The next six months "felt like five years," Ryan told the *Post*, as UVA prepared to reopen for the fall 2020 semester. The uncertainty surrounding the virus left no clear road map for action.

"I was in the room when that was a current issue," Jeffries said. "It's just hard to describe how many decisions had to be made *right now* on inadequate information."

Noland, Ryan's chief of staff, cited



Ryan speaks at a memorial service for three slain UVA football players in November 2022.

STEVE HELBER / GETTY IMAGES

the decision to bring back students in the fall of 2020.

"Plenty of people were pleased with that decision, but there were many who were not (and believe me, we heard from them!)," Noland wrote in an email. "Ultimately, Jim and the rest of the leadership team felt it was the right thing to do, especially for our students, who only had one chance to experience their UVA education."

UVA reopened in a hybrid virtual/in-person capacity, the start date pushed back two weeks to shore up testing, study the lessons of other universities, and add quarantine and isolation space. The 2020-21 year was a juggling act requiring frequent tweaking of regulations around masking, distancing and gathering as case numbers rose and fell.

Ryan acted on the advice of medical experts but had to make the final calls. He said in February 2021 that the challenge was to find a balance between "freedom and trust on the one hand and complete control on the other."

The next year, the murder of three students on Grounds traumatized the community and left unanswered questions. The shooter also wounded students **Michael Hollins Jr. (Col '22, Educ '24)** and **Marlee Morgan (Com '25)**.

Baucom said Ryan's leadership was crucial in pulling the community together.

"The whole community acted in grief and in compassion," Baucom said. "It was everybody, and Jim was at the heart of it."

Ryan made the initial announcement of the murders at 4 a.m. Nov. 14. In an update two days later, he appealed to the community to draw strength from its bonds with one another, which he said "are more real and powerful than our perceived differences."

"Jim was very steady throughout," Noland said, "as someone who was operating on a lot of different levels, as someone whose heart was broken, and also as a person who needed to just on a very practical level marshal the resources of the university to make sure we were providing the support we needed."

Days after the shooting, Ryan and then-Rector **Whittington W. Clement (Col '70, Law '74)** asked Virginia Attorney General Jason S. Miyares to appoint special counsel to review what happened before and after the shooting. Two law firms completed reports in October 2023, and UVA initially said they could be released the following month. The university then announced that it would delay the release, first citing attorney-client privilege and then concerns about the impact it could have on the criminal trial.

Though Jones pleaded guilty in November 2024, UVA did not release the heavily redacted report until March 2025. Through an attorney, the families of Perry and Hollins said the long wait for the report caused additional pain and suffering. Ryan acknowledged that the report, the unredacted portions of which shed little light on the events that led up to the shooting, could not provide adequate closure.

"Although I hope this update brings a measure of solace, I know that this information will not provide answers to all of your questions, nor does it answer all of mine," he said in a statement accompanying the reports.

Ryan also faced criticism for his handling of two other high-profile controversies: a letter anonymously signed by more than 100 UVA Health faculty members expressing no confidence in CEO Craig Kent and medical school Dean Melina Kibbe, and the university's forceful removal in May 2024 of students engaged in a pro-Palestinian protest.

The letter, sent in September 2024, accused Kent and Kibbe of encouraging doctors to overbill patients and of creating a culture of fear and intimidation. Ryan said it offered many accusations and few details and "unfairly—and I trust unwittingly—cast a shadow over the great work of the entire health system and medical school."

After Kent's resignation in the wake of an independent investigation of the allegations, Ryan apologized for his initial response, which he said was "intemperate and disrespectful."

Ryan was also criticized for the forceful way in which UVA cleared student protesters who set up tents near the University Chapel in May 2024 in opposition to the war in Gaza. Police in riot gear used pepper spray to roust and remove about 45 people after nearly four days of peaceful protests. More than 25

> **"IT WAS THE HONOR OF MY LIFE TO WORK BESIDE AND LEARN FROM YOU."**
>
> *—**then-President Jim Ryan**, announcing his resignation*

protesters were arrested.

Virginia state Sen. Creigh Deeds was among those who questioned the way the encampment was cleared. "People have a right to protest," he said. "I'm not sure what change provoked this sort of response by the police. Violence is unnecessary." Faculty members also faulted UVA's response.

Ryan said at a town hall three days after the incident that he realized he had lost some trust from the community.

"At the same time, I have an obligation as a president to make decisions that I think are in the best interest of the entire community, not one segment of it," he said.

Ryan weathered those controversies but was ultimately swept out by the rising conservative backlash against diversity, equity and inclusion.

Ryan made diversifying UVA's student body, faculty and staff a priority in his Great and Good plan. Though he was a proponent of DEI initiatives, he said universities should not shy away from "honest critiques" of them.

In an op-ed published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in May 2023, Ryan defended DEI as promoting equal opportunities, not equal outcomes, and said it was key to "attracting and retaining the most talented people, creating a vibrant campus culture, and promoting a richer and more robust exchange of ideas." He also conceded that DEI statements and training could run the risk of seeming "coercive."

How much more diverse by race or gender did UVA's student body and faculty become during Ryan's tenure? The picture is mixed.

Among students, those who identify as Asian American made the biggest gains, going from 14.2 percent of the total undergraduate enrollment in the fall of 2018 to 19.7 percent in the fall of 2024, according to UVA's office of institutional research.

The percentage of Black undergraduate students grew modestly, from 6.7 percent to 7.5 percent. Enrollment of Hispanic students increased from 6.4 percent to 7.8 percent.

Compared with Virginia's four-year public universities as a whole, however, UVA had both smaller proportions and slower rates of growth of students who were Black or Hispanic, according to data from the Virginia State Council of Higher Education. Statewide, the proportion of Black students grew between 2018 and 2024 by 14.5 percent, compared with 11.8 percent at UVA. For Hispanic students, the proportion grew 28.2 percent statewide, compared with 22.0 percent at UVA. In 2024, Black students made up 16.7 percent of state undergraduate enrollment overall and Hispanic students 10.7 percent.

The proportion of UVA students who identify with more than one race grew from 4.6 percent to 5.8 percent, growing slightly faster than at schools statewide but ending up at the same percentage.

White students fell from 57.2 percent of UVA undergraduate enrollment in the fall of 2018 to 48.8 percent in 2024. While the rate of decrease was higher than the rate statewide—14.8 percent compared with 11.4 percent—the proportion of white students has been consistently higher at UVA than at schools throughout the state, which had 47.4 percent white students in 2024.

UVA had both a higher percentage of Asian American students than the state as a whole in 2024—at 19.7 percent compared with 11.9 percent—as well as a faster rate of growth for the past seven years.

At UVA, Asian Americans also made the largest percentage-point gains—though still small—among total faculty during Ryan's tenure. The group accounted for 12.8 percent of all faculty in 2024, compared with 10.5 percent in 2018. The percentage of Black faculty rose from 3.9 percent to 4.8 percent. Hispanic faculty went from 2.5 percent to 3.0 percent, and the number of international faculty rose from 4.6 percent to 6 percent.

The percentage of faculty who are white fell from 77.3 percent to 68.7 percent. Women increased from 40.4 percent to 44.4 percent. Female students also made gains, increasing from 54.9 percent of undergraduate enrollment in 2018 to 56.2 percent in 2024.

When announcing his resignation, Ryan said that he had already planned to leave after the 2025-26 academic year. His contract ran through July 31, 2028, which would have given him 10 years in office. That's a long time in the pressurized environment now faced by university presidents, Jeffries said.

"Being a university president is orders of magnitude more difficult today than was true 20 years ago," he said. "And that's not just true at Virginia. That's true everywhere. You can see it throughout the country. Universities are under attack today."

Ryan, who through a staff member did not respond to an interview request for this story, plans to join the law school faculty after taking a sabbatical. He said in his farewell address that he will have more to say about the challenges faced by higher education, and UVA, at a later time. He focused instead on thanking the university community.

"It was the honor of my life to work beside and learn from you," he said.

Ed Miller is senior writer at Virginia Magazine.

COMPETING NARRATIVES

Alumni groups battle leading up to, and in wake of, Ryan's resignation

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL

They all walked the same Grounds and wore the honors of Honor. But this spring and summer, groups of UVA alumni also were on diametrically opposed sides of countless news cycles that swirled around the resignation of President **Jim Ryan (Law '92)**.

On one side were a group of alumni called the Jefferson Council and lawyers with the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, concerned that UVA hadn't fully complied with a Board of Visitors resolution to dissolve its Division of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Community Partnerships. This spring, **Harmeet Dhillon (Law '93)**, assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division, and **Gregory Brown (Col '89)**, a deputy assistant attorney general, began sending letters of increasing urgency about the issue to university leaders, also demanding information about allegations of discrimination and antisemitism.

On the other side was an upstart group of alumni and faculty members called Wahoos4UVA. It formed in May to sound the alarm as news stories increasingly hinted that Ryan's job might be in jeopardy. The group, with an advisory committee led by co-chairs **Ann Brown (Col '74, Law '77)** and **Chris Ford (Engr '87)**, aimed to "set the record straight" on UVA's success under Ryan. They asked followers to sign onto a letter in support of the president. In less than a month, thousands were following their lead.

In the days and weeks leading up to and after Ryan's resignation, alumni with sharply contrasting views on UVA's direction spoke out in news stories, op-eds and social media posts. They offered competing narratives about the university's leadership and what should happen next.

"We're really in uncharted territory," Ann Brown said.

Longstanding concerns

To some, the troubles on Grounds started this spring, but for the alumni behind the Jefferson Council, their dissatisfaction began years ago.

Back when **Joel Gardner (Col '70, Law '74)** was a student in the 1960s and 1970s, he said, political differences didn't get in the way of personal relationships. "I can remember that in my fraternity house," Gardner said. "We used to get into arguments and then laugh and have a beer."

But decades later, he sensed a different climate as he spoke with students and faculty. In his view, Grounds had become more "politicized." He said the excessive focus on diversity, equity and inclusion stifled free expression.

Dissatisfaction with UVA's leadership was bubbling up for others as well after a Lawn resident posted a sign on her door that said "F--- UVA" in the fall of 2020. Some called for the sign to be removed; Ryan declined. Signs were allowed on Lawn room doors, and removing the sign because of its content would "run afoul of the Constitution and our own commitment to protecting free speech," he wrote.

Ryan's decision "agitated" some

THE JEFFERSON COUNCIL
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA


CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

UVA alumna Harmeet Dhillon, assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice



Alumna Katie Couric's Instagram post about Jim Ryan's resignation

WAHOOS 4 UVA

alumni, Gardner said, including the Jefferson Council's eventual co-founders, **Bert Ellis (Col '75, Darden '79)**, who reportedly brought a razor blade to the Lawn to cut the sign down and confronted the student, and **Thomas Neale (Col '74)**.

According to the Jefferson Council's 2024 prospectus, the group formed in 2021 to uphold the Jeffersonian legacy, support the Honor Code, protect the dignity of the Academical Village and promote a culture of civil dialogue. Gardner was named president in 2024.

Since its founding, the group has regularly published articles on its website, maintaining a steady drumbeat of criticism of UVA and Ryan. The prospectus said its blog had more than 800 subscribers and a membership of roughly 2,800. In July, Gardner said the group had about 10,000 people, including supporters and others, on its listserv.

Through the years, the council →

also has coordinated with conservative student groups and brought conservative speakers to Grounds, including former Vice President Mike Pence and Abigail Shrier, author of *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters*.

Before Gregory Brown joined the Justice Department, the Jefferson Council also had connected Brown's Charlottesville law firm with a UVA student with a claim of free speech violation and one with a claim of antisemitism, as reported by *The New York Times* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Both cases with UVA were settled out of court. Brown also was scheduled to speak at the council's fourth annual meeting in April but didn't attend, *The New York Times* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported.

The 2021 election of Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, gave the group hope that their concerns would be taken seriously, Gardner said. Under state code, the governor appoints members to the BOV, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

"Once Glenn Youngkin was elected, we knew that there was going to be a board there that wasn't going to be totally one-sided," Gardner said. In early July, the BOV was composed entirely of Youngkin-appointed members.

A new group grows

After the March BOV resolution to dissolve UVA's DEI office, the Jefferson Council's drumbeat of concerns about Ryan got louder. The group placed ads in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and launched websites that claimed UVA hadn't ended its DEI programs and characterized Ryan's leadership as "politicized and feckless."

Kimberly Acquaviva, a professor in UVA's School of Nursing, had been watching the Jefferson Council's activities and had grown increasingly concerned. In her health policy work, she said, she's committed to fostering viewpoint diversity and fact-based dialogue. But she was dismayed by what she considered to be misinformation in the Jefferson Council's newspaper ads in Virginia's capital.

"I felt a real sense of frustration, because over the last six to eight months, I've seen multiple attacks on UVA ... by a group that is not directly affiliated with UVA but has some clear partisan affiliations if you look at who their speakers have been," she said.

In May, Acquaviva and assistant nursing professor **Ashley Apple (Nurs '18, '20)** founded Wahoos4UVA. Ann Brown first learned about the group in a late-May *Chronicle of Higher Education* article about the Jefferson Council's demands for Ryan's firing. She quickly reached out.

Worries about the impact of the Trump administration on UVA had been weighing on both Brown's and Ford's minds. But—naively, perhaps, Brown said—a "frontal assault" on Ryan was unexpected. No leader is perfect, Brown and Ford agreed. But they could quickly tick off Ryan's big successes, starting with a $6 billion capital campaign that exceeded its original goal by $1 billion.

"His accomplishments are extraordinary," Brown said. "My reaction was, we'll be the laughingstock of the country that we're exiting a president who just completed one of the largest capital campaigns of any public university in America, among many other accomplishments."

The picture that the Jefferson Council and other critics were painting of Ryan and UVA didn't mesh with their own experiences on Grounds. Ford pointed out that critics' attacks often related to events out of UVA leadership's control.

"The question is whether the leadership in charge at that time handles those events with thoughtfulness, effectiveness and with an eye toward what is best for the institution," he said. "And we see—at least in our viewpoint, and I would argue the vast majority of the alumni—nothing but positive results coming out of this administration."

What's more, Wahoos4UVA's leaders said, building a more diverse, equitable and inclusive university community has been a key goal of UVA presidents long before Ryan. **John T. Casteen III (Col '65, Grad '66, '70)** established UVA's original Office of Diversity and Equity, prompted by a series of racial incidents on Grounds in late 2002 and early 2003.

Decades earlier, when UVA's student body was composed mostly of white men, Brown was part of the first coeducational undergraduate class enrolled at UVA. "My own class had twice as many Black students as any prior undergraduate class," she said. "Those kinds of advances and inclusion and welcome

UNDER RYAN, UVA RANKED NO. 1 IN THE FIRE FOUNDATION'S 2025 FREE SPEECH RANKINGS, UP FROM NO. 6.

CHIP SOMODEVILLA / GETTY IMAGES

> **"WE'RE REALLY IN UNCHARTED TERRITORY."**
>
> *—**Ann Brown**, co-chair of Wahoos4UVA's advisory committee*

and support for groups that had been missing or terribly underrepresented on Grounds was a core belief of [former UVA President] Edgar Shannon."

That history makes this moment a true test of UVA's governance and long-standing commitments to nurturing a more diverse community, Brown said.

"There's an enormous obligation on the BOV to really step up and, in both word and action, demonstrate their commitment to our ongoing academic excellence, to our openness as an institution, to different points of view, to the diverse nature of our student body and our faculty, and to the principles that have animated our university to an increasing extent over the last five decades of its 200-year existence," she said.

As Wahoos4UVA's leaders began to build their own platform, the idea for an open letter emerged. Between late May and early July, more than 15,000 people had signed the letter supporting Ryan and Wahoos4UVA's mission. After Ryan's resignation, the group messaged its growing list of followers with a link to a letter that they could send directly to the BOV. Within days, some 1,400 people had clicked send.

Free speech—or not

Wahoos4UVA's evidence of a thriving university is great, in their view: In addition to the successful capital campaign, it includes the launch of the popular new School of Data Science and retention rates for first-year students that match or exceed peer schools.

Wahoos4UVA also highlighted that UVA ranked No. 1 in the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression's 2025 College Free Speech Rankings, moving up from No. 6 the previous year. Harvard, at No. 251, was last and received the lowest possible score of 0.00. UVA earned a 73.41. Results of a student survey make up a large majority of the score, according to FIRE.

Gardner discounts UVA's top score. "It was a low bar because there's a lot of other universities that were pretty bad," he said.

The survey results aren't all positive. Students at UVA, for example, are more likely to say it is acceptable to shout down a speaker than on other campuses. Still, while some universities earned penalties in recent years for deplatforming speakers, UVA's Ryan administration earned bonuses, including when it allowed Pence to speak even after some students called on UVA to cancel the event.

Looking ahead

On June 27, most alumni found out about Ryan's resignation via a news notification. In a statement, Ryan wrote that his resignation came with a heavy heart, but he aimed to protect UVA from further harm from the federal government.

Again alumni were back in the spotlight. That evening, the DOJ's Dhillon, who was a year behind Ryan at UVA's law school, went on CNN's *The Lead With Jake Tapper* to explain her point of view.

"Jim Ryan has built his entire career on what was the academic vogue, which is DEI. Now it isn't," she said. "And so I think that it is time for new leadership that's willing to comply with federal law. I think that's the best thing for UVA. I love UVA. I proudly have my law review and my degree on my wall in my office in the Department of Justice."

The Jefferson Council touted her interview on social media, and ahead of the July 4 weekend, Gardner sent a letter to supporters calling Ryan's resignation a "necessary and welcome step."

Going forward, Gardner said, "we're looking for someone to move the university back to the center, to depoliticize the university, to pursue true intellectual diversity, to create that level playing field for the free exchange of ideas, and someone who will judge students, faculty and administrators based on merit, achievement and character, and not other factors."

On the other side, prominent 'Hoos quickly spoke up in Ryan's defense. "Jim is a tremendous leader; this is a very sad day for @UVA. The University hasn't just been a consistently great academic program under his tenure, it's ranked NUMBER ONE in Free Speech by FIRE," Reddit co-founder **Alexis Ohanian (Com '05)** wrote on X.

Journalist **Katie Couric (Col '79)** posted about her sorrow to her 2 million followers on Instagram and 938,000 followers on Facebook, mentioning Wahoos4UVA, quoting Ann Brown and inferring what UVA founder Thomas Jefferson would think.

"He would no doubt be incensed that the federal government was demanding the resignation of any officer of the University of Virginia—or any other college," Couric wrote.

In messaging to its followers and on social media, Wahoos4UVA leaders demanded accountability and transparency from the BOV. In a July 8 letter to supporters, Brown and Ford wrote that the BOV had abandoned its fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of UVA, leaving it defenseless against political overreach from the Trump administration.

"Nothing good will come of this," Brown said. "Almost no matter what happens next, this is going to be a very dark chapter."

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

VOX ALUMNI

'SADDENED, DISAPPOINTED AND TERRIFIED'

We asked alumni for their reactions to President Ryan's departure. The overwhelming majority were upset; 1 in 6 was pleased to see him go.

BY JUDY LE AND KIKI MCLAUGHLIN

A few days after UVA President **Jim Ryan (Law '92)** announced his resignation, the Alumni Association opened a Vox Alumni survey portal with an open prompt: "The UVA Alumni Association is an alumni-led 501(c)(3) organization that operates independently and as a separate entity from the University of Virginia... [W]e are gathering reactions to President Ryan's departure and will be sharing this feedback with university leadership. Please use the space below to share any thoughts or reactions you have."

It was an echo of an earlier time. After then-President Teresa Sullivan announced her resignation in 2012, the association gathered alumni sentiment—the volume of which crashed its email servers—and presented a printed copy to the Board of Visitors. Sullivan was ultimately reinstated.

In July, Alumni Association President **Lily West (Darden '12)** similarly offered university leadership the reactions to President Ryan's June 27 resignation.

The response rate was overwhelming this time around, too. In just the first 24 hours, more than 1,300 responses poured in; over the next week, they continued steadily. The feedback link was sent via email and shared on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X. Additionally, some alumni groups shared it with their respective membership bases.

Because of production deadlines, this article is based on the approximately 1,900 responses that were received from July 1–14. The survey was not designed for statistical significance; the results are not necessarily representative.

About 83 percent of respondents were alumni, 23 percent were parents, 5 percent were faculty/staff, 4 percent were friends, and 6 percent identified their relationship with the university as "other." Many respondents overlapped two or more categories.

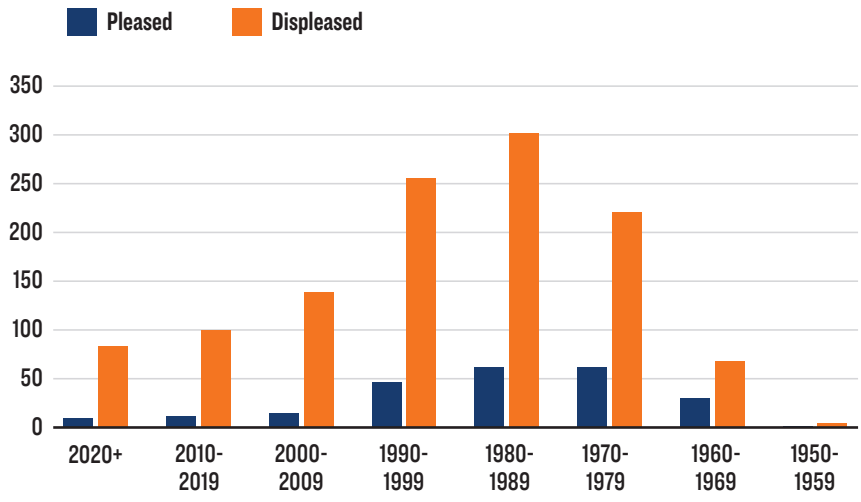
For those whose demographic information has been shared with the university—about 1,700 of the respondents—52 percent were women and 48 percent were men. Responses were spread across class years, with the most representing classes in the '70s, '80s and '90s.

Respondents across the board were overwhelmingly negative about Ryan's resignation and the events that preceded it. Eighty-three percent of alumni who responded were upset by or concerned about the situation; 16 percent were glad to see Ryan go. One percent had unanswered questions or did not express an opinion. About 1 percent were generally pleased with the outcome but unhappy about some aspect of the situation. (Responses were counted in every category they represented and therefore add up to more than 100 percent.)

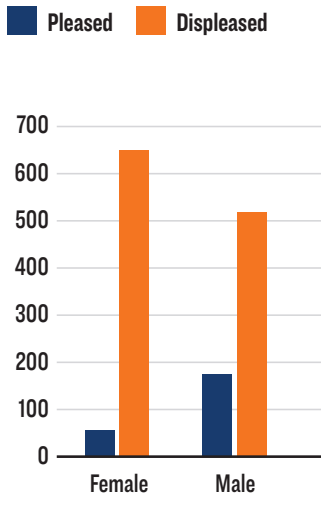
While the overwhelming majority of every class cohort was upset about Ryan's resignation, the alumni who graduated after 2000 were the most unhappy. More than 90 percent of respondents in the aughts, '10s and '20s had a negative reaction. That compares to the 71 percent of respondents who graduated in the 1960s who expressed a negative reaction.

Ninety-three percent of alumni

Alumni responses by class decade



Alumni responses by gender



women were unhappy with the events, along with three-quarters of alumni men.

Because of the open-ended prompt, many responses hit on several themes. Some common ones emerged: Among alumni respondents, 53 percent expressed support for Ryan and sadness at the situation; 51 percent expressed concern with political influence and federal overreach; and 38 percent were critical of the Board of Visitors and/or Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, whose appointments made up the majority on the board at the time and all of it now.

Seven percent of alumni respondents said they would be hesitant to donate to the university now; 4 percent said they felt ashamed to be an alum.

The vast majority of the 16 percent of alumni who were supportive of Ryan's resignation were also critical of diversity, equity and inclusion practices. Meanwhile another 16 percent of alumni comments were expressly supportive of DEI.

Similar to alumni respondents, other groups who responded to the prompt were also overwhelmingly negative about Ryan's resignation. Eighty-four percent of all respondents—including 81 percent of parents, 94 percent of faculty/staff and 84 percent of friends—expressed displeasure.

One thing both sides did agree on: Thomas Jefferson would have seen it as they do. For those in the minority, Ryan's resignation represented a potential return to Jeffersonian ideals for the university. For those in the majority, the federal assault on higher education goes against what Jefferson envisioned for the school and the country. **Damian Capozzola (Law '96)** wrote, in part, "Among the many quotes to live by from Thomas Jefferson, one of my favorites is: 'In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.' Against this measure, UVA has failed."

Here are some of the hundreds of responses from alumni, some edited for clarity and length:

"All President Ryan's DEI programs did were increase the cost of tuition with all the hires. Plus, it duplicated what a human resources department does. I agree with President Trump that DEI is simply a form of reverse discrimination. Not sure what the 'equity' portion of DEI was meant to be. Clearly, all U.S. citizens share equally in huge investments the U.S. has made in its infrastructure. Please have UVA's next president stop the social engineering and educate!"

Paul Holton (Engr '74)

"As both a parent and an alum, I was heartbroken to hear that Jim Ryan was put in this position where he was forced to resign. His engagement with and commitment to students, faculty and the community, as well as his commitment to service and the moral compass with which he led, all made me proud to have him helm our university. He was the Tony Bennett of university presidents. He has my deepest respect and appreciation."

Michelle Nelson (Col '89)

"I am deeply saddened, disappointed and terrified by President Ryan's resignation and the board's acceptance thereof. President Ryan has been a great leader whose vision has brought wealth to both the institution's coffers and its faculty and student body. Because of a misguided, unnuanced policy of this administration, UVA has lost a principled president and, I would argue, its institutional integrity. Virginia has been a bastion of moderate-conservative learning, founded on Jeffersonian principles. By capitulating to unconscionable bullying and malign micromanagement, UVA has not only undermined its long, revered history of academic freedom, it has jeopardized the independence of higher education in this country. To call this a tragedy would be an understatement."

Deborah Cogan (Law '84)

"I really liked President Ryan. The circumstances surrounding his departure are quite unfortunate. I really hope the university's next leader is cut from the same cloth as Mr. Ryan. Balancing the interests of such a diverse range of stakeholders (especially in this political moment) is not an easy task—but Mr. →

Ryan did it with grace, humility, and careful attention to the needs of this community. His leadership deserves to be emulated, and his legacy should be commended."

Nathan Onibudo (Col '25)

"I've not heard a single person suggest or argue or say that Ryan did NOT do the things he's been accused of doing. The bottom line is, at a public university, you're beholden to policy as decided upon by elected politicians. Jim Ryan failed to comply with those policies. As a taxpayer, parent and alum, I want university leadership accountable to laws, regulations and policies of elected officials. I do NOT want someone who thinks they know better, or their principles are more noble, or who simply ignores said laws and policies. Time to go."

Bowen Richwine (Col '91)

"In addition to reinstating President Ryan, we need to shift systems, specifically, the Board of Visitors, who is appointed, and how. The board should represent all students and alumni, not just the few with power and financial resources, which do not represent the vast majority of current students and recent alumni. I am extremely frightened by the direction of the university and urge that the board internally opt to allow for voting student and faculty representation in addition to more democratic selection to ensure that it can properly protect all university community members/the broader Charlottesville community. Better board governance could allow us to retain programs that we need to support all students (aka DEI). Now is the time to stand up to fascism, not give in. We must be brave to stand up for DEI, be good and great, prepare the next round of citizens ready to fight for democracy, as well as make sure our governing bodies within the university are representative."

Liz Nigro (Batten '23, Educ '25)

"While I may not agree with many of the DEI initiatives implemented by American academia, buckling to political bullying was not my preferred way for UVA to address the issues presented. Instead, the BOV might have better preserved the academic independence of the university by asserting its authority over the issues and working with the Ryan administration to address legitimate concerns of the academic community without interference from administrations in Washington and Richmond."

Michael Viscount (Col '75)

"Very sad President Ryan felt he had to resign. Admire his class act and values and decency. What some call political correctness, many of us consider to be kindness and respect for the other. As a Christian, veteran and citizen, I and my family support DEI and lament the fear, grievance and misinformation promoted by others."

Judy Clements Lindamood Hughes (Col '77)

"It is a travesty that the university is taking steps backward. In the '70s, only 100 of us (Black students) were admitted to the university annually. My graduating class graduated the largest number of students with about 60 Black people graduating in 1979. Why can't we live together in peace and harmony? The university was built by slaves. We have a right to sit at the table and work together to solve problems. I pay my taxes to support public education. Every young adult should have the opportunity to prosper. My parents marched to end segregation in the 1950s. My uncle, Dr. Linwood Jacobs, had to pay white students to purchase his books for him from the Corner because he could not purchase them for himself. We all marched on Carr's Hill when President Hereford lied to Black students in 1975. When will this nonsense end? I am sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Karen Brown (Col '79, Educ '86)

While Jim Ryan was well-intentioned, he was misguided in his leadership of UVA. DEI and much of the 'woke' agenda he advanced is an intellectual fad based on current discrimination to address past discrimination. Two wrongs don't make a right, just more injustice. Kudos to the Jefferson Council, the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice for rectifying the primacy of the individual (regardless of their immutable characteristics), the meritocracy and unfettered inquiry. Ryan should have listened and learned."

Joseph B. McCoy III (Col '74)

It is a sad day when a university that was founded by America's founding father who arguably best understood the threat that tyranny and government overreach posed would capitulate in such a craven manner to a demand predicated on a specious understanding of the law. As someone who defended the civil rights of all Americans for over a decade in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, I am particularly ashamed that the laws that were enacted to put an end to centuries of flagrant racial discrimination are now being used to demand it. The university is at its best when the student body is sourced from all of the great wells of talent across Virginia and our country, which is what diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives made possible."

Michelle Coles (Col '02)

President Jim Ryan has worked tirelessly to create a safe and welcoming university for every student. He leads with kindness, grace and poise. Forcing him out of his position by threatening research funding and student visas is completely unacceptable. DEI initiatives are imperative in creating a diverse and welcoming university community and allow anyone to pursue higher education. It's unfortunate to see President Jim Ryan leave in this way and sets a dangerous precedent where a university president seeks the approval of a presidential administration rather than the university community of alumni, staff, and most importantly, its students."

Ayanna Millner (Educ '23)

"I'm a proud graduate of the University of Virginia, and formerly a proud graduate degree holder from the University of Florida. I've watched in dismay as Ron DeSantis has dismantled a once-proud university, and I fear what will happen to Mr. Jefferson's university as the fascists take over. And I don't use that term lightly. I've watched in dismay as the current Washington administration has dismantled health care, research, the rule of law, and on and on. Don't let that happen to the university we love."

Ted Wathen (Col '69)

"I am appalled that our president—who helped get UVA global recognition; executed a successful, record-breaking capital campaign; and helped us navigate unthinkable tragedies—was not supported by the BOV. As a former BOV member from another university, our primary job is to partner with the president on the success of the university. You turned your backs on him. I am ashamed."

Shavonne Gordon (Engr '95)

"My reaction to President Ryan's departure is absolute shock. Never would I have believed that the President of the U.S. would have the power to bully college presidents out of their jobs. I believe Mr. Jefferson would be outraged were he alive today. Although I think Ryan ultimately saved university jobs and funding, it was an egregious abuse of power that was used against him and our fine educational institution. As a teacher it definitely puts fear in my heart for the future of all education in our country."

Gwen Gulliksen (Grad '89)

"I grew up in a totalitarian state, and I was horrified to see President Ryan forced out using familiar-to-me and antithetical-to-democracy methods. The BOV should have supported President Ryan and not buckled so easily under this illegitimate pressure from the federal government."

Irina Khanin (Law '04)

"I am deeply disappointed in my alma mater for not supporting President Ryan. UVA was a welcoming place when I was a student over 20 years ago. It was a place where the editor of the leftist student political magazine and the editor of the right-leaning student political magazine could respect each other deeply, be good friends and still write pieces in collegial disagreement with each other. The university recognized us both as campus leaders. President Ryan's efforts to continue and build on that legacy should have been applauded, supported and defended. We should not have been cowed by bullying tactics and by a few federal administration appointees' attempts at silencing and pushing out differences."

Minming Wu Morri (Col '98)

"When I attended UVA, it competed with Berkeley for the accolade of best public university. Today it's on par with UCLA. I wish that President Ryan had put as much effort and emphasis into academic excellence and integrity as he did into far-left causes such as renaming things, removing statues, implementing and then hiding racist policies, and covering up violence in the athletic program. I, for one, will not miss President Ryan. I hope that this is a turning point in the history of the university that will lead to a much better Academical Village and a return to the real reason for its existence."

Brian Mays (Col '92, Engr '03)

"I fear that recent actions will reach beyond losing credible leadership and extend to academic interference, the loss of prospective students and faculty, and a rapid decline in respect for the institution. After resigning, President Jim Ryan—a legal scholar whose expertise is the intersection of the law and education—cited the need for the university to protect what is special about the UVA community. It is an ever-evolving group defined by students, faculty, administrators and alumni that choose to define it, broadening the bounds of opportunity in the best traditions of our nation. The Board of Visitors ousted its president once before and reinstated her after criticisms of the process and motivations became clear. If only we were so lucky this time. The situation involves federal actors, the weaponization of government and the polarization of our society. I would encourage the Alumni Association to be firm and call for detailed inquiries into President Ryan's resignation and the Board of Visitors' actions with regard to federal threats."

Ricky Passarelli (Engr '11, Arch '13)

"President Ryan was a great leader and role model. His loss is enormous. He will be missed. Bending to tyranny pains me greatly. But I also appreciate the sacrifice he made to save so many. I hope the arc of a moral universe does bend towards justice. We shall see..."

Leon Aussprung (Col '87)

"The Board of Visitors abdicated its responsibility to defend their president against a flimsy Justice Department case. Rather than supporting Jim Ryan, who has a track record of success and is widely respected by students, faculty and alumni, the Board of Visitors instead sided with a vocal and highly politicized minority. Forcing Jim Ryan to step down in the face of dubious legal claims could have wide-ranging impacts on other universities as they try to chart a course with an administration hostile to many widely held goals of higher education, including diversity, inclusion, debate and research. I wish the Board of Visitors were acting in the best interests of current and future students, not political interests."

Sarah Holsinger (Arch '15)

From Jim Ryan



TO ALUMNI, WITH GRATITUDE

When I began to write this letter at the beginning of the summer, I planned to tell you about the Cavalier Fund, a promising initiative that removes financial barriers to student participation in UVA's extracurricular opportunities, and which was made possible by the generosity of donors to UVA's Honor the Future Campaign—an extraordinary effort that has exceeded $6 billion.

In my view, UVA's alumni network is unparalleled. As a group, you are as accomplished as you are generous with your time and your resources. You give back by supporting those who follow in your footsteps.

Being in this job has taught me to expect the unexpected, but I hadn't predicted that I would need to resign suddenly and earlier than I had planned, which makes this my last letter to you as president. As I said in my message to the community, I am heartbroken to be departing in this way. Serving as UVA's president has been the honor of my lifetime. That said, I cannot leave without writing to thank you—our alumni—for everything you do to make UVA the best community in higher education.

In my view, UVA's alumni network is simply unparalleled. As a group, you are as accomplished as you are generous with your time and your resources. You give back by supporting those who follow in your footsteps. You meet with and mentor students and young alumni who are interested in your fields. You host or attend watch parties, admitted student events, and receptions for alumni around the country and the world. You lend your expertise to others by participating in panels or speaking to groups. You return—with enthusiasm and sheer joy—for Reunions, for football games, or to show off Grounds to your loved ones. You even write to me regularly to share your own ideas about how to make this place even better! To put it simply, you show up for this community. For all of this and more, I am incredibly grateful.

This is a challenging time for higher education. I nonetheless remain optimistic about what's next for UVA, for many reasons, but here I'll mention three.

The first is that we have completed a campaign that has enabled us to strengthen our foundation by investing deeply in the two most essential ingredients for an outstanding university: great faculty and great students. Thanks to the generosity of more than 250,000 individual donors, we raised more than $1 billion to support faculty and students. These investments will pay dividends, both literally and figuratively, for generations to come.

Second, I have seen this community step up, time and again, no matter the challenge. There is no question that higher education is now facing intense criticism. But UVA is objectively in a very strong position and has an incredible story to tell, which has the benefit of being true and confirmed by data and rankings: This place changes lives, it leads in creating leaders, it produces groundbreaking research, cares about and protects free speech, offers great value and a return on a family's investment, and delivers world-class healthcare. I know that all of you will help to tell our story.

And finally, I'm optimistic because of one of our best traditions: the passionate and respectful exchange of ideas among those who love this place. I've said before that UVA often feels like a big family—loving but occasionally raucous. We do not always agree, which is to be expected in a diverse and intelligent community like ours, but we care for and respect one another because we believe deeply in this place and its mission. Like the Lighting of the Lawn, or walking the Lawn for Final Exercises, or streaking the Lawn—the devotion of alumni to UVA is a tradition that I hope and trust will never falter.

I will miss being your president, but most of all, I will be forever grateful to all I met along the way, including our incomparable alumni. I hope to see you around Grounds again before too long. In the meantime: Thank you.

JSR

JAMES E. RYAN (LAW '92)
Former President of the University of Virginia


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NEW CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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.

Lore C. Steinhauser (Col '75)
James V. Flinn Jr. (Col '76, Grad '98)
Stephen S. Gerth Jr. (Col '76)
Tracy Jean Abruzzo (Com '85)
Jeffrey S. Bostak (Engr '85)
Gina M. Williams-Jackson (Col '85)
Joseph E. Capizzi (Col '89)
Eugenia R. McPeek Hinz (Col '91)
Sarah Mees (Col '91)
Christine G. Rider (Com '91)
Jennifer E. DeWees (Col '93, Educ '93)
Melissa Orencia Gunter (Col '95)
Timothy Yooshik Seo (Col '95, Educ '98)
Stephen Vincent Gastright (Arch '97)
Jennifer Lefurgy (Arch '98)
Thomas S. Cooke (Col '00, Educ '06)
Emily Ann Grisham Cooke (Col '00)
Farrah deLeon Phongsavan (Col '00)
Katherine Van Tassel (Col '00)
Kevin M. Passerini (Col '02)
Barbara A. Cross-Jones (Grad '03)
Amanda B. Munoz (Darden '04)
Amanda Elizabeth Burke (Engr '05)
Melissa Lam-McCarthy (Col '05)
Katherine Mays (Educ '05)
Ashley M. Morgenthaler (Col '05)
Scott D. Morgenthaler (Col '05)
Jennifer L. Poole (Col '05, Educ '13, '19)
Mary E. Warren Stone (Col '05)
John D. Arseneau (Engr '06)
Bryce J. Griffler (Engr '10)
Brian M. Melnyk (Col '10)
Eric S. Strow (Com '10)
Kathryn R. Bird (Arch '12, '13)
Brian L. Luckett (Col '14, Educ '15)
Amy E. Epport (Col '15)
Shannon M. Jones (Col '15)
Emily Anne M. Self (Col '15)
Kenneth D. McCoy Jr. (SCPS '16)
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Conrad K. Wharton Jr. (Darden '21)
Peyk Cyrus Bakhshi (Com '22)
Jordyn P. Callaghan (Com '22)
Antonio Edward Daschke (SCPS '22)
Christopher Robin Kelley (SCPS '23)
Claire Ashley DiLorenzo (Com '24)
Mary Kathryn Lamb (Col '24, Com '25)
Eloise Parker Nelson (Col '24)
Vidur Agaram (Engr '25)
Elisabeth Claire Bass (Batten '25)
Carson Sarah Breus (Com '25)
Robert Lucas Bundy (Col '25)
Julia Patricia Bustamante (Com '25)
Sarah Grace Campbell (Col '25)
Kaitlyn Ryan Carroll (Col '25)
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Jonathan Schochet Cooper (Col '25)
Kira Magnolia Crowner (Col '25)
Sarah Katherine Dahl (Com '25)
Heyden Sybilla Hempel Davis (Col '25)
Ryan Diamond (Col '25)
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Paxton Knowlton Fawcett (Col '25)
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William Ellis Givens (Col '25)
Bethany Joy Gledhill (Col '25)
Sean Martin Goodhart (Col '25)
Mary Logan Hall (Col '25)
Ann Frances Harrison (Col '25)
Kathryn E. Hart (Col '25)
Alexander Phillip Hause (Col '25)
Camille McLaurin Hollis (Col '25)
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Harrison Walker Hutto (Col '25)
Lucas David Hyman (Engr '25)
Meredith Pamela James (Engr '25)
David Connor Jearls (Com '25)
Zoe Danielle Jenkins (Educ '25)
Raffi Kanayan (Batten '25)
Gabriella Miles Kelly (Col '25)
Nathaniel Joseph Kim (Col '25)
Corbin David Lathrop (Col '25)
Gianna Lynne Latorre (Col '25)
Christine Cecilia Luecke (Col '25)
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Joshua Aidan Maggiano (Com '25)
Benjamin David Makarechian (Batten '25)
Maya E. McCollum (Law '25)
Emily Royce Mead (Nurs '25)
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Jonathan Wesley Moore (Col '25)
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Joshua Novick (Com '25)
Stepheney Faith Odom-Thomas (Col '25)
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Andrew Marshall Rice (Col '25)
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Olivia Grace Tiboni (Com '25)
Taryn Ann Tkachuk (Col '25)
Joshua William Warren (Col '25)
Gabriella Amina Watson (Col '25)
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Margaret Celanire Worden (Col '25)
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Isabella Marie Wright (Engr '25)
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Class Notes

Indicates a corresponding photograph or video online at **uvamagazine.org/classnotes**.

CM Indicates Contributing Member of the Alumni Association

2025 HONOREES

A longtime faculty member, student leaders, accomplished student-athletes and exceptional incoming students are among the members of the UVA community who received awards from the Z Society, the Alumni Association and the Bolívar Network this year.

From the Z Society



Pale Z Award
Cedric Rucker (Grad '84)
Cedric Bernard Rucker, former interim dean of students, received the Pale Z Award, the highest and rarest honor that the Z Society bestows. In the wake of the devastating shootings on Nov. 13, 2022, Rucker postponed his planned retirement and returned to Grounds to provide critical leadership and support to the student body. Rucker, who also served as interim senior associate vice president of student affairs, has become a trusted and beloved advocate for students. He has worked to preserve student self-governance, champion student needs and empower leadership from all walks of university life.

From the Alumni Association



Distinguished Professor Award
Michael Doran
The Alumni Association's Distinguished Professor Award is given to a longstanding educator at UVA who has displayed exceptional commitment to teaching. Doran has been named a "teaching legend" by law school dean **Leslie Kendrick (Law '06)** and has a history of helping students approach complex subjects with ease. One of his most notable contributions to the School of Law was reviving a Native American law course and modifying the curriculum to ensure that Native students received meaningful attention in the course materials.



Ernest H. Ern Distinguished Student Award
Lisa Kopelnik (Col '25)
This award honors students who exemplify outstanding academic and leadership performance and exceptional contributions to university life. A Jefferson Scholar from the San Francisco Bay Area, Kopelnik studied government and foreign affairs. In 2024 she earned a Truman Scholarship, given to young leaders nationwide. During her final year at UVA, Kopelnik served as chair of the University Judiciary Committee and as the student member of the Board of Visitors, developing a reputation as a leader centered on clarity, wisdom and grace. She was also a fellow at the Blue Ridge Center, an active member of the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, and a valued presence within the Jewish community on Grounds.



Gray-Carrington Scholarship Award
Zachary Palazzotto (Engr '26)
This scholarship honors students who exhibit integrity, achievement, leadership and humility. Palazzotto is a fourth-year in the School of Engineering who serves as treasurer of the Engineering Student Council. A passionate university leader and community advocate, Palazzotto helped develop affordable STEM tools for Charlottesville's K-12 schools through his role as an undergraduate researcher at the Make to Learn Laboratory, where he developed optical physics components for the OpenFlexure Microscope. He volunteers with the Inter-Fraternity Council, the Brody Jewish Center and Camp Good Grief, where he assists young children in coping with loss through art and music.



T. Rodney Crowley Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Trey McDonald (Com '26)
This scholarship honors students who exhibit leadership, sportsmanship, character and integrity. McDonald, who studies finance and management with an entrepreneurship track, is a leader of the UVA football team both academically and on the field. He is a two-time ACC Athletics Academic Honor Roll member and a 2023 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District honoree. His impact extends beyond the university through his volunteering with the Ronald McDonald House, local Greer Elementary School and ACE tutoring.



Glenn D. Kirwin Scholarship
Justine Karp (Com '26)
This scholarship is awarded to a UVA student who embodies leadership, determination, generosity and wisdom. Karp is president of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and the Gamma Iota Sigma business fraternity. Her leadership and generosity are evident through her work as program director of Madison House and CFO of the Community Honor Fund. As one of 15 members of the Student

Advisory Council for the university president, she participated in open discussions about various issues affecting the university and Charlottesville communities.



Sky Alland Scholarship
Phillip Bonsu (Col '26)
Covering full tuition and fees for the next academic year, this scholarship honors enterprising spirit, leadership, humility and devotion to the university. Bonsu, a premed student studying data science and global studies with a concentration in global public health, has demonstrated these qualities through his work as a fellow for the Meriwether Lewis Institute for Citizen Leadership. In this role, he and other fellows are working to repurpose nearly 3,000 acres of land at Morven Farms into a university sustainability lab and community center. Through his work with the Office of African-American Affairs and the Organization of African Students, he uplifts Black American and African students.



Alumni Family Scholarship
George Botros (Col '29)
Daniel Cao (Engr '29)
Jenna Gilliam (Col '29)
Botros from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Cao from Crozet, Virginia; and Gilliam from Keswick, Virginia, have been awarded the competitive Alumni Family Scholarships for the Class of 2029. The Alumni Family Scholarships support high-achieving children of UVA degree holders and are awarded through a competitive application process.



Molly Bass Memorial Scholarship
Jenna Gilliam (Col '29)
Gilliam has been awarded the Molly Bass Memorial Scholarship, which was created in 2023 in memory of **Molly Bass (Col '88, Educ '90)** by her family and friends to honor her 27 years of service to the UVA Alumni Association and her role in creating the Alumni Family Scholarship in 2009.

From the Bolívar Network



First Year Scholarship
Tomás Garcia (Col '29)
This scholarship provides funds for an exceptional Hispanic/Latinx high school student from Virginia to incentivize them to attend UVA. A rising first-year from Arlington, Virginia, Garcia has served on a leadership team for Best Buddies, a friendship club that connects students with and without disabilities, and has participated actively in Cohort, a group for high-achieving minority young men. Garcia has also served as president of the Spanish Honor Society, tutoring English learners during his term and sparking a deep interest in teaching and mentorship. He is interested in studying accounting and economics.

'50s

Thomas Fraser Pettigrew (Col '52) published his 11th book, *Anti-Black Racism in America: Is It Declining?* with Oxford University Press. The book examines the ways systemic racism is perpetuated in America, with a particular focus on housing segregation. Pettigrew's career in academia began under the mentorship of the late Professor Frank Finger of UVA. Pettigrew went on to earn his doctorate in social psychology at Harvard University. He later taught and researched at the University of California, Santa Cruz, with stints in Australia, Germany, the Netherlands and South Africa.

'60s

Joan Burcher Green (Educ '62 CM) reports that her son, Chad Green, was elected to the Virginia General Assembly House of Delegates in 2023. Del. Green serves the 69th District.

Bruce Woodruff (Col '64) played with professional tennis players Kim Clijsters, Leylah Fernandez, Jack Sock and Sam Querrey in the Bea for Kids Champions Challenge in Orlando, Florida. The charity tennis tournament raises funds for children with complex medical issues.

'70s

Scott Gleason (Col '72 CM) was recently named to the board of directors of the Free Yezidi Foundation USA, a D.C.-based nonprofit promoting the human rights and well-being of Yezidis in Iraq and their diaspora in the aftermath of the 2014 genocide perpetuated by ISIS. Gleason recently retired after 27 years with Goldman Sachs.

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To send us your update, scan the QR code or go to **uvamag.com/submitnote.**

Cathy Delligatti (Nurs '75) is partially retired and working remotely. She spent her career as a chief nursing officer and health care quality consultant. She is using her retirement to quilt, garden, cook and visit her seven grandchildren. This year, she and her husband will celebrate 49 years of marriage.

David J. Doukas (Col '79 CM) was awarded the title professor emeritus at Tulane University after a distinguished four-decade career in medical ethics and family medicine. His scholarship focuses on the areas of professionalism, primary care bioethics, genetics and end-of-life care decision-making. He held the James A. Knight Chair of Humanities and Ethics in Medicine at Tulane from 2017 to 2024 and was founding director of the Program in Medical Ethics and Human Values at the Tulane University School of Medicine. He previously worked at the University of Louisville, serving as the William Ray Moore Endowed Chair of Family Medicine and Medical Humanism and the director of the Division of Medical Humanism and Ethics.

William Mell Griffin III (Col '79 CM) has been named the 2025 Outstanding Lawyer of the Year by the Arkansas Bar Foundation and the Arkansas Bar Association. He is a partner at Friday, Eldredge & Clark, where he serves as vice chair of the firm's management committee and leads the litigation practice group.

Charley Watts (Arch '79 CM) recently retired after selling his firm, Watts Leaf Architects, a Charlotte, North Carolina-based regional architecture practice specializing in multifamily housing. The firm was acquired by Kaas Wilson Architects of Minneapolis. After two years of transitioning clients and staff, Watts is now enjoying retirement, focusing on personal projects, and spending quality time with his wife of 46 years, Karen, along with their children and grandson. His contributions to the profession earned him multiple lifetime achievement awards from both the Greater Charlotte Apartment Association and the Mecklenburg County building department.

'80s

Jeff Clements (Col '81 CM) recently retired from a 42-year career in local and state government. Clements was inspired to pursue a career in public service due to a college spring break internship with then-City Manager Cole Hendrix. He went on to work at the Jacksonville City Council Research Division in Florida for 36 years, eventually becoming chief of research. He was elected president of the Jacksonville, Florida, and Columbia, South Carolina, chapters of the American Society for Public Administration. He is spending his retirement singing in choirs and choruses, staying active in the UVA Club of Jacksonville, and serving as a member of the advisory board of the College of Fine Arts & Humanities at Jacksonville University.

Andrew Lee (Col '85, Med '89 CM) was recognized with a YouTube Silver Creator Award for his YouTube channel, "Neuro-Ophthalmology with Dr. Andrew G. Lee." There are over 113 million active channels on YouTube, and Lee is proud to be among only 400,000 channels to receive the YouTube Silver Play Button. With frequent uploads and a wealth of knowledge, Lee's channel is great for those interested in neuro-op.

William Brockschmidt (Arch '86 CM) is proud to announce that his design firm, Brockschmidt & Coleman, was awarded a 2025 Arthur Ross Award for Interior Design given by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art. The Arthur Ross Awards were established in 1982 to recognize and celebrate excellence in the classical tradition of art and architecture. The awards ceremony was held May 12 at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City. Brockschmidt & Coleman was established in 2001 and has offices in New York City and New Orleans.

Page Robinson (Col '86 CM) and **Anthony Donovan (Col '84 CM)** were married in May 2024. Robinson is the granddaughter of **Norborne Thomas Nelson Robinson Jr. (Col 1898)** and the great-granddaughter of **Norborne Thomas Nelson Robinson (Col 1856)**. Donovan is the son of **Gerald Madison Donovan (Col '52, Med '60)**. They live in Washington, D.C., and Santa Barbara, California.

Patrick Wheaton (Col '86 CM) was named president of the Southern States Communication Association during its 95th annual convention in Norfolk, Virginia, in April. SSCA is a regional association of academics and professionals in the fields of human communication. Wheaton is a professor of communication studies at Georgia Southern University, teaching courses in rhetoric, argumentation, public speaking and political communication.

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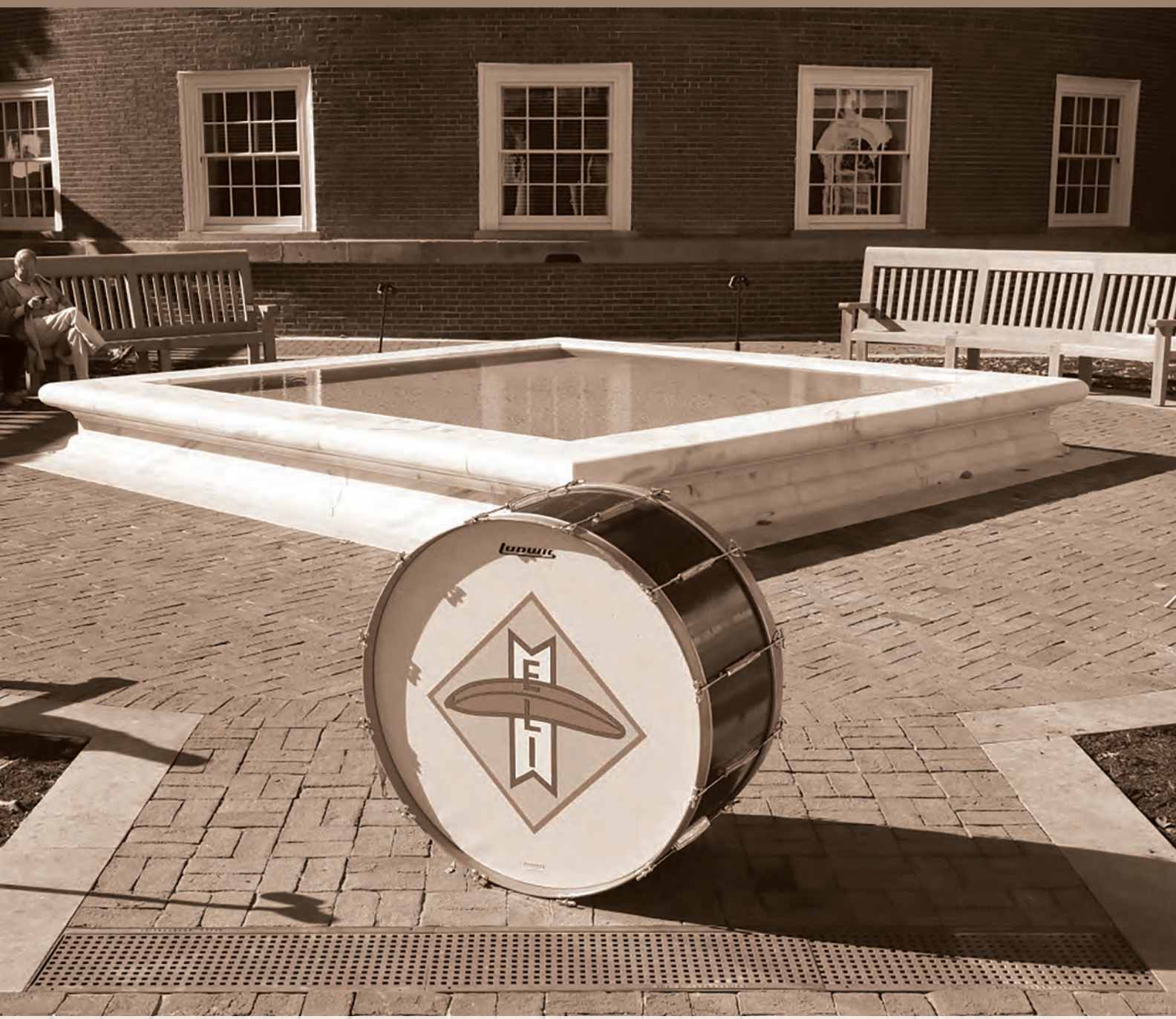




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Congratulations, **Eli Watson Tullis (Col'51)**

for being selected as the charter member of

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Class Notes

Michael Huffstetler (Arch '87) was sworn in as the 106th national president of the Society of American Military Engineers. He will lead the National Leadership Team and the SAME Board of Direction in overseeing the governance and strategic efforts of the society, which has 25,000 members, 1,500 member companies, and over 100 posts and field chapters around the world. SAME is dedicated to patriotism and national security and seeks to connect engineering professionals from public and private sectors.

Andrew Arthur (Col '88 CM) was invited by the Oxford Union Society of Oxford University to participate in its June 5 debate on the topic "This House Believes No One Can Be Illegal on Stolen Land." Founded in 1823, the Oxford Union has hosted a range of speakers, from the Dalai Lama to the late Queen Elizabeth II. Arthur partnered with David Seymour, deputy prime minister of New Zealand.

Jack Bailey (Col '88 CM) published his first work of fiction, *Harold the Hairy Herald and the Adventure of a Lifetime*. This middle-grade novel tells the story of Harold, an inexplicably hirsute apprentice herald working in the castle of King Thymos. When Harold joins the search party tasked with locating the king's missing son, he uncovers a conspiracy that threatens the very existence of the Kingdom of Dazain. *Harold the Hairy Herald and the Adventure of a Lifetime* is a classic hero's journey in which a boy navigates a dangerous world and discovers what he's capable of in the face of difficult challenges.

Jordan Gruber (Law '88) co-wrote *Microdosing for Health, Healing, and Enhanced Performance* with James Fadiman, "the father of modern microdosing." The book was published through St. Martin's Press. According to Rick Doblin, the founder of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, it is "the most comprehensive and data-based book on microdosing ever written."

Kara O'Brien Cox (Col '89 CM) published her debut novel, *Another Summer,* under her pen name, Kara Kentley. A second-chance contemporary romance, *Another Summer* follows Avery, who returns to the Maine lakeside resort where she worked in college and comes face to face with her first love, Miles, who ghosted her after breaking her heart a decade before. As they work together to help a friend, Avery begins to question everything she thought she knew about Miles, their past, her future and herself. Cox and her husband, **James P. Cox III (Law '83)**, live in Charlottesville.

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'90s

Suzanne Goldlust (Col '90 CM) competed on *Jeopardy!* in June 2023. She won one game, winning $18,700. She also participated in the Champions Wildcard Tournament in February 2024.

Melissa Farmer Richards (Col '93 CM) wrote *The 30-60-90-Day Handbook: Checklists for Communications and Marketing Leaders in Higher Education*. Her handbook was published by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Adam Olenn (Col '95 CM) launched a special program for job-seekers, StoryStrengths, through his business, Rustle & Spark. This online course, created in response to the mass layoffs of federal employees, combines resume polishing and specialized coaching to communicate career accomplishments through the power of business storytelling. He offers a StoryStrengths discount to UVA alumni.

Jason Sisney (Col '95 CM) published his article "California's Olympic Financial Failure: The 1960 Winter Games" in the *Journal of Olympic History* in May. Seven years of research went into his analysis. Sisney is a member of the International Society of Olympic Historians and a senior staffer for the California State Assembly. He advises elected assembly members on the state budget and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Corinna Barrett Lain (Law '96) published *Secrets of the Killing State: The Untold Story of Lethal Injection* with NYU Press. Based on seven years of deep research, this exposé takes readers into the notoriously secretive world of American executions, using shocking revelations about lethal injection to shine a light on the American death penalty more broadly. Lain argues that the state cannot be trusted with the power to take life, and she examines all the ways it has tried to cover that up. Lain is the S. D. Roberts & Sandra Moore Professor of Law at the University of Richmond School of Law.



WHY SHOP AT THE UVA BOOKSTORE?

All bookstore profits go back to the University to support students. To date, more than **$20 million has been donated back to the University, including $3 million in student scholarships.**

UVA BOOKSTORE



Class Notes

Bruce H. Russell II (Col '97 CM) was awarded first prize in the 2025 Alpha Delta Phi Foundation Alumni Literary Competition for his original poetry cycle, *The Fellowship of the Turning Road.* His poetry explores themes of brotherhood, faith, justice and the transition from boyhood to manhood. In keeping with his Appalachian roots and lifelong commitment to literacy, he donated his monetary prize to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, helping to ensure that children throughout the region have access to books and the joy of reading from an early age. When not pursuing literary endeavors, he keeps busy with his law career. He lives in Abingdon, Virginia, with his wife, Shannon, and their two sons, Clark, 16, and Eamon, 13.

Michael Uebel (Grad '89, '97) published *Seeds of Equanimity: Knowing and Being*, through Mimesis Press. This innovative introduction to the philosophy and psychology of equanimity challenges the view that equanimity—the state of mental calmness and composure, especially under stress—is the effect of a method aiming at states of impartial stillness and solidity. Responding to the sharp increase in writings on mindful living, Uebel blends Eastern and Western philosophies, generating a rich constellation of ideas framing equanimity as an epistemological mode and existential condition.

Marshall Fawley (Col '98 CM) was named partner and principal of Lehrman Beverage Law, a boutique law firm specializing in serving the alcohol industry.

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'00s

Andrew Wozniak (Col '00) just returned from leading a research expedition to the East Pacific Rise deep ocean spreading center. Wozniak and two other passengers in the HOV Alvin, a deep-ocean submersible, had the tremendous fortune to be the first to ever witness a clearly active undersea volcanic eruption at a mid-ocean ridge. He and his team were at the EPR to study how the organic geochemistry of hydrothermal vent ecosystems influences ocean chemistry. Wozniak is an associate professor of chemical oceanography at the University of Delaware and lives in Lewes, Delaware, with his wife and daughter.

Justin Humphreys (Col '01) has co-authored a new book, *Salem's Lot: Studies in the Horror Film* (second edition), published by Centipede Press. The book includes interviews with major figures of the 1979 *Salem's Lot* miniseries, dozens of rare photographs, and discussions of



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Joelle Jefcoat (Arch '01) has been named chief legal officer of Perkins&Will, a global architecture and design firm. Jefcoat has spent over two decades with the company, first as an architect and then as a member of the legal team. Perkins&Will is recognized for its innovative and sustainable architecture practices.

Oneya Fennell Okuwobi (Col '01 CM) released her first monograph, *Who Pays for Diversity? Why Programs Fail at Racial Equity and What to Do about It*, with University of California Press on March 18. Okuwobi argues that diversity programs have been a costly detour on the path to racial justice, and getting back on track requires solutions that provide equity, dignity and agency to all employees, instead of defending the status quo. Okuwobi is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Cincinnati.

Joel G. Weinberg (Col '01) has founded Precision Counsel, a law firm focusing on real estate litigation and business litigation. With over 15 years of hands-on litigation experience, Weinberg has represented plaintiffs and defendants in both jury and bench trials and has litigated a variety of claims related to real property, business disputes, personal injury and consumer law. Weinberg is admitted to practice law in the California state courts as well as the U.S. District Court, Central District of California.

Lisa Filemyr (Engr '02 CM) was honored as a Luminary award recipient by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association. The award recognizes senior-level women who serve as a role models in their company, actively mentor and sponsor others, help advance other women's careers, and exhibit dedication to the health care industry. Filemyr is the executive director of engineering at Epocrates, a company under the Athenahealth umbrella, that develops software to aid medical professionals. At Athenahealth, she champions diversity, supports employee resource groups and advocates for women in STEM.

Greg Hansard (Col '03) published his second book, *Virginia Cider: A Guide from Colonial Days to Craft's Golden Age*, with University of Virginia Press in October 2024. The book looks at the history and techniques of making the iconic Virginia beverage, from the colonial era to today. Included in the book are a guide and map of all the cideries in the state. Hansard says inspiration for the book came from a work experience in 2014 at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, where he worked in collaboration with breweries, meaderies and cideries to brew recipes from the museum archives.

Ian Marcus Amelkin (Col '04) has joined the faculty of the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University as a tenure-track associate professor teaching first-year criminal law, criminal procedure and other criminal justice-related seminars. Amelkin has spent more than a






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decade as a public defender at the Federal Defenders of New York.

Ashley Cinalli-Mathews (Col '05) and **Erin Campbell (Col '05)** are co-directors of Central Virginia Community Justice, a nonprofit in Charlottesville that offers restorative services to the community. The program was initiated by **Shannon Pollock (Law '14)** in partnership with Albemarle County and the city of Charlottesville. CVCJ is now a freestanding organization with a demonstrated history of success in promoting justice, healing and safety. CVCJ has recently expanded to offer restorative services in Charlottesville public schools. Cinalli-Mathews, Campbell and their staff provide presentations and trainings about restorative practices to various organizations.

Jessica Randolph (Col '05 CM) was recently awarded both the 2024 National Medical Association Ophthalmology Educator Award and an American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Award. She is a vitreoretinal surgeon and an associate professor of ophthalmology at Virginia Commonwealth University. She currently serves as the president of the Women in Retina section of the American Society of Retina Specialists and is the president-elect of the Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. She has a passion for medical education and diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Her favorite role is that of mom to 5-year-old twins and a 2-year-old.

Alvin Garcia (Col '88, Nurs '06 CM) completed his Professional Master of Business Administration program from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, last December. He is currently stationed in Rota, Spain.

Kari Miller (Educ '07) was featured in an interview with *CharlottesvilleFamily Magazine*, in which she talks about International Neighbors, the Charlottesville-based nonprofit she founded. International Neighbors works to help ease the transition to life in the Charlottesville community for immigrants and refugees.

Christina Shawn (Educ '08) published her children's picture book, *And Then Came You: When Families Grow, Love Grows Too*, with Chronicle Books in April. This endearing children's book is a powerful tool for helping little ones understand that there are often silver linings to the changes life brings. Liz Garton Scanlon, author of Caldecott Honor winner *All the World*, called Shawn's book "a lyrical love letter, written to families of all shapes and sizes." Shawn received her master's degree in reading education at UVA before becoming a reading specialist, literacy coach and author. She lives in Richmond, Virginia, with her husband and three children.

'10s

Clare Short (Educ '12) released her debut children's book, *Bo the Boat*, in March. A

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pediatric speech-language pathologist and mother of three young children, Short wrote this lift-the-flap book to support early speech and language skills for young children. Readers will join Bo and his trusty companion, Captain Mo, as they cruise through the sparkling waves, embarking on a bustling workday full of surprises and friendly faces. With charming illustrations by Paula Rodriguez and engaging rhymes, *Bo the Boat* is the perfect voyage for curious minds ages 0-3. Short lives with her husband, **Chris Short (Engr '08, '12)**, in Atlanta, where they cheer on the Wahoos with their children.

Ezra Fairley-Collins (Col '13) and his wife, Malu, welcomed their second child, Kailani, on Jan. 5. Kailani joins her older sister, Cyn'Nyah, 5.

Caroline Massie-DeJarnette (Col '13 CM) and **Richard DeJarnette (Com '13 CM)** welcomed their second child, Leon Henry DeJarnette, on March 1. Leon joins big brother Hugh and is the grandson of **William Elliott DeJarnette (Col '73 CM)** and **Barbara Jeanne DeJarnette (Educ '78, '82 CM)**. The family lives in Richmond, Virginia.

Polina Chesnakova (Col '14) authored *Chesnok: Cooking from My Corner of the Diaspora: Recipes from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia*, available in September. The cookbook explores life and cooking in the Soviet diaspora through her family's immigrant story and recipes. It can be found through several major online retailers. She will host a series of events in November to celebrate the book launch. Chesnakova and her husband, **Lee Eschenroeder (Col '11, Med '17 CM)**, recently moved from Seattle to Rhode Island. They welcomed their second child in July.

Emily Schade Lee (Com '16 CM) and her husband, McNally Lee, joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Meredith Lagler Lee, on April 1.

Mackenzie Karnes Duncan (Col '17 CM) and her husband, William Earnhardt Duncan, welcomed their first baby, William "Hales" Duncan on March 9. Mackenzie sings "The Good Old Song" to Hales as his evening lullaby.

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ALUMNI YAC

HOO-RAH-RAY!

Congratulations to the 2025 Alumni Service Award winners!

Each year, the UVA Alumni Association's **Young Alumni Council** (YAC) honors two outstanding alumni who have gone above and beyond to serve the UVA community with an opportunity **to direct a $1,000 gift**, funded by YAC, to the University entity of their choice.



Claudia Quintero (Col '11)
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Bolívar Network's Book Scholarship Fund



Phil Herget (Col '85)
GIFT DIRECTED TO:
The College Fund

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In Memoriam

’50s

John “Jack” Fletcher Perry (Col ’53) of Warrenton, Virginia, died March 10, 2025. After graduating from UVA, he joined the U.S. Army and then served in military intelligence in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He went abroad to Germany to study at the University of Freiburg. Upon his return to the U.S., he worked as a computer programmer and met his wife, Charlotte. The couple moved to Washington, D.C., where he began working for NASA as a budget analyst. He worked for NASA for 25 years until his retirement in 1987. His loved ones remember him for his wit and his easygoing personality. His favorite hobby was raising and showing Great Pyrenees dogs, and he was active in several dog clubs. Survivors include two daughters and five grandchildren.

Patrick Bolton Gregory (Col ’54 CM) of West Halifax, Vermont, died May 27, 2025. Born in New York to two poets, he came to UVA and studied French. After graduation and U.S. Army service, he settled in Paris and landed a job at the publishing firm Hachette. He returned to the U.S. and continued his career in publishing. He worked as an editor in New York and Boston, and he also translated French fiction and nonfiction. In 2004 he published a novel, *The Daguerreotype*. In 2023, he and his wife, Justina, relocated to southern Vermont, living in the 18th-century farmhouse where Justina had grown up. He volunteered at the Northampton Survival Center. His family remembers his literary sensibility and wide-ranging intellectual interests. Survivors include Justina; two children, including **Tobias Gregory (Col ’93)**; and two grandchildren.

Jefferson Davis Hamlin (Col ’54, Engr ’59 CM) of Dallas died April 3, 2025. The Danville, Virginia, native was a member of the St. Anthony Hall (Delta Psi) fraternity, Eli Banana and Naval ROTC at UVA. He became a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, serving on the USS Nemasket and the USS Wisconsin. He had a successful career in systems engineering. He was a board member of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation, the UVA College of Arts & Sciences, and the UVA Alumni Association’s board of trustees. A lifelong classical music enthusiast, he volunteered time and resources to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the Dallas Opera. Survivors include his wife, Winnie; three sons, including **Jeff D. Hamlin Jr. (Engr ’86 CM)** and **Frank M. Hamlin (Col ’90 CM)**; and 11 grandchildren, including **Elizabeth W. Hamlin (Col ’20, Educ ’20)**, **John T. Hamlin (Col ’22)**, **Henry T. Hamlin (Col ’27)**, **J. Turner Hamlin (Engr ’21 CM)**, **Parker D. Hamlin (Engr ’20 CM)**, **Winborne L. Hamlin (Engr ’18 CM)** and **Will H. Hamlin (Col ’25)**.

Betty Jane Mothershead Ranson (Nurs ’54) of Florence, South Carolina, died March 23, 2025. She earned her nursing degree from UVA after transferring from Madison College, now James Madison University. She married **Walter Gilmore Ranson (Engr ’56 CM)** at the UVA Chapel in 1955. When her husband’s engineering career took them to Europe, she became a homemaker, raising her three boys in Northern Ireland, Luxembourg and Germany. Upon her return to the U.S., she renewed her nursing license and got into volunteer work. She served on the boards of several hospital organizations and spent 2,000 hours volunteering at the McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence. She was an accomplished painter, an avid reader, and an enthusiastic player of bridge and golf. She cherished keeping in touch with her UVA nursing classmates. Survivors include her children, including **Walter Andrew Ranson (Col ’81 CM)** and **Carlton S. Ranson (Col ’87 CM)**; daughter-in-law **Jamie Buchanan (Engr ’94 CM)**; a sister; two grandchildren; and 12 nieces and nephews.

John B. Vance (Educ ’56 CM) of Chesapeake, Virginia, died May 8, 2025. He received his bachelor’s degree from Madison College, now James Madison University, in 1953, before receiving his master’s degree in education from UVA. He was employed by Chesapeake Public Schools for 36 years as a physics teacher, supervisor of science education, director of personnel and director of employee services. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1953 to 1955. He was a member of numerous professional organizations and had been a member of American Legion Post 310 in Chesapeake since 1955. Survivors include two children, including **Charles Vance (Col ’80 CM)**; a sister; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three nephews; and two nieces.

Ralph Folger Kneeland (Engr ’58 CM) of Sacramento, California, died March 31, 2018. Born in Delaware and raised in Alexandria, Virginia, he was forever loyal to UVA. During college, he played as a fullback on the football team and was a member of Eli Banana, the IMP Society, Alpha Tau Omega and the student council. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy for four years as a navigator. He spent his career at the Westinghouse Corp. and other companies across the country. He was an avid golfer, tennis player and sailor, and he could always be

Biology professor was a teacher "in the truest sense of the word"



When **Kazusa Edamura (Grad '14)** moved from Japan to study biology at UVA, she had never lived overseas and was worried she wouldn't find community. That changed when she met biology professor Masashi Kawasaki, who was quick to welcome her into the Japanese community in Charlottesville, frequently inviting her and other students to his home for dinner.

"If you have issues or troubles, Professor Kawasaki and [his wife] Yasuko-san are the first people you think to get help from," Edamura said. "I never thought that Charlottesville could exist without Professor Kawasaki."

Kawasaki, who died May 18, taught biology at UVA for 35 years. An animal behavioralist interested in how the brain generates behavior, he specialized in the study of deep-sea electric fish. He was a popular lecturer most known for his animal behavior lab course, which filled seats every semester, often with a long waitlist. He was also the departmental director of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Those who worked with him noticed his deep care for his scientific subjects.

"As soon as I heard about his passing, one of the first things that came into my mind was, 'Oh, what about the fish? Because he really loved those animals,'" said **Iggy Provencio (Grad '96)**, a professor in the biology department.

Provencio recalled that Kawasaki led with humility, generosity and intellectual curiosity. Kawasaki consulted with colleagues on the topics of his class and frequently brought in guest lecturers.

"He was always broadening his horizons even though he was a world expert in behavior," Provencio said.

Later, Kawasaki would regularly give guest lectures in Provencio's classes. When, one year, Provencio neglected to ask him out of fear that he was taking advantage of his kindness, Kawasaki reached out anyway, saying, "Aren't you going to ask me to give a lecture this year?"

Friends and loved ones also remember him as a creative and resourceful person. The child of professional musicians, he didn't pick up his preferred instrument, the double bass, until adulthood, but within just a few years he was able to join the Charlottesville Symphony. He built an electric bass that he could deconstruct and take on a plane overseas to Japan.

Born in 1955 in Kyoto, Kawasaki received his Ph.D. from Sophia University in Japan before coming to the U.S. for a postdoc at Washington University in St. Louis. He then held another postdoc at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego.

After announcing the news of Kawasaki's death, Douglas Taylor, chair of the biology department, set up an online memory wall. Dozens of tributes from co-workers, students and even high school classmates flooded in.

"He made it alright to be enthralled by a leech—or in his case an electric fish—and created a space where learning was anything but dry," wrote former student **Noel Derecki (Col '07, Grad '12).** "Dr. Kawasaki was far more than a professor—he was a teacher, in the truest sense of the word."

To honor Kawasaki's dedication to teaching, the biology department teaching award will now be named for him.

"He was the best of us," wrote retired UVA biology professor Deforest Mellon, Kawasaki's friend and colleague.

Survivors include Kawasaki's wife, Yasuko; two children; and his mother and a brother who live in Japan.

—Kiki McLaughlin

found with a book in his hand. Survivors include his wife, Mercedes; and several nieces and nephews.

H. Rand Pas (Com '58) of Waterfall, Pennsylvania, died April 21, 2025. Born in Iowa, he came to UVA to study commerce. He joined the Tau Kappa Epsilon and Delta Sigma Pi fraternities. He served in the U.S. Air National Guard from 1958 to 1964. He worked at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and Verizon and later as an accountant in the financial industry. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; his daughter; three stepchildren; six grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Robert Julien Pauly (Engr '58 CM) of Columbia, South Carolina, died Sept. 29, 2024. He earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from UVA and a master's degree in engineering and an MBA from George Mason University. His career took him to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland and AT&T Bell Labs in Washington, D.C., and Murray Hill, New Jersey. He then had stints as an adjunct professor at George Mason University, the University of Phoenix and St. Leo University. In his retirement, he served as a member and chair of the Midlands SCORE Chapter, providing business management workshops and client counseling to small-business entrepreneurs. He enjoyed an active life, coaching many of his sons' sports teams and golfing frequently. Survivors include his wife, Peggy; his sister; his sons, **Robert J. Pauly Jr. (Col '89 CM)**, **John C. Pauly (Com '91 CM)**, **Christopher P. Pauly (Com '93 CM)** and Mark; and two grandchildren.

Frances Marshall Purcell (Nurs '59 CM) of Orange, Virginia, died June 27, 2025. She first attended the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, but transferred to UVA to study nursing. She was a member of Kappa Delta sorority. While working her first job at the University of Virginia Hospital, she met her husband, **H. Harwood "Woody" Purcell (Col '63 CM)**, who was a student at the university. They married in 1961. During her career, she worked as a public health nurse, first in Orange County, Virginia, and then in Albemarle County, Virginia. She was a woman of many interests, skilled in singing, needlepoint, painting, and playing tennis and golf. In addition to her husband, survivors include three daughters, including **Courtenay Palaski (Col '86 CM)** and **Sara Perine (Col '89 CM)**; a sister; and three grandchildren, including **Charlotte Perine (Col '24).**

Eugene Paul Rairden (Arch '59 CM) of Raleigh, North Carolina, died Jan. 30, 2025. At UVA, he was a member of Naval ROTC, ATO, the architectural council and the Honor Committee. He entered Officer Candidate School and served as an officer in the U.S. Navy, where he was stationed in San Francisco and Coos Bay, Oregon. He returned to the East Coast to work in the architecture firm of McGee, Scovil, and Rairden in 1963, and worked there until his death. He was a member of the Jaycees, vice president of Raleigh Sports Club, and a lover of the Virginia Cavaliers basketball and football teams. Survivors include his wife, Rebecca; three sons; and a granddaughter.

'60s

Robert Merrifield Reed II (Col '61 CM) of Midlothian, Virginia, died May 4, 2025. At UVA, he was a member of St. Elmo Hall (Delta Phi) and Eli Banana. Following Navy Officer Candidate School, he served in the U.S. Navy for four years. During that time, he volunteered for Special Services and completed training for the Underwater Demolition Team, a precursor to the Navy SEAL program. He was the founder of Reed Development Company, which played a significant role in the building industry in southwest Florida for nearly four decades. He was one of the early developers of Naples Bath and Tennis Club, once recognized by *Tennis* magazine as one of the premier tennis facilities in the world. He was a faithful volunteer for Meals on Wheels and the Rotary Club. He retired to Cashiers, North Carolina. Survivors include his wife, Melissa; two children; two stepchildren; four grandchildren; four siblings; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Johnny Ferguson Hill Sr. (Educ '62) of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, died March 29, 2025. He received his bachelor's degree from Duke University and subsequently began teaching in Martinsville, Virginia, while also earning his master's degree at UVA. He began a 40-year career at Miami University, with a brief stop to complete his Ph.D. at Indiana University, Bloomington. In his various faculty and leadership roles at Miami University, he helped thousands of students and teachers alike become better educators. He received many recognitions for his work, including the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Christofferson-Fawcett Award in 1993 and the Miami University Alumni Association's Effective Educator Award in 1990 (now the William Holmes McGuffey Award). He loved singing and listening to music. Later in life, he picked up carpentry skills to build his retirement home in West Virginia. Survivors include four children, 10 grandchildren, six grandchildren-in-law and 11 great-grandchildren.

Grayson Eugene McNair (Engr '62 CM) of Allentown, Pennsylvania, died March 29, 2025. At UVA, he was active in student life and became president of Chi Phi fraternity. After college, he joined Pennsylvania Power & Light Co., rising through the ranks to become vice president of the Lehigh division. After retiring from 32 years in engineering, he served as interim director of Second Harvest Food Bank and as Lehigh County commissioner. He became the director of the human services division of Lehigh County. Dedicated to community service, he also held leadership roles with the United Way, Minsi Trails

Council BSA and the Emmaus Planning Commission. His lifelong commitment to Scouting included supporting his sons' achievements as Eagle Scouts and earning the Silver Beaver Award himself. He was predeceased by his daughter, Kerry Ann. Survivors include his wife, Jan; two sons; two brothers; a stepsister; two granddaughters; and two nieces.

George Revell Michael Jr. (Arch '62 CM) of Alexandria, Virginia, died April 7, 2025. He was a member of the Honor Committee and was on the board of the *Cavalier Daily*. He was elected to the Raven Society and Omicron Delta Kappa. At UVA he met his first wife, **Linda Harris (Arch '59 CM)**. Together they ran their general architecture practice, Michael & Michael, for over 30 years. Throughout his career, he designed numerous buildings in Old Town Alexandria, including churches, libraries and residential buildings. He served as president of the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects and the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association, and he chaired the first Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival. He was a member of the UVA Alumni Association's Board of Managers from 1988 to 1994. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Ann; five children; and five grandchildren, including **Alexander Reisig (Col '28)**.

Robert Milner Pyle Jr. (Law '63 CM) of Vero Beach, Florida, died March 15, 2025. He graduated from Williams College in 1960. After completing his law degree at UVA, he embarked on a career in corporate and federal securities law in New York City. He began his career at Mudge, Rose, Guthrie & Alexander, and then joined Studebaker-Worthington and the Singer Corp. before becoming vice president, secretary and counsel at various points during his tenure at the American Society of Corporate Secretaries, now known as the Society for Corporate Governance. His final positions before retirement were vice president and senior assistant secretary at American Express. After marrying his wife, Page, they settled in Short Hills, New Jersey, where he enjoyed boating, tennis and racquetball. He also was a skilled pianist, an avid reader of the news and a lover of opera. After retirement, he moved to Florida. Survivors include two daughters, a sister, a nephew and four grandchildren.

Harold Patrick Clifford Brown Jr. (Grad '67, '70 CM) of Alexandria, Virginia, died Dec. 30, 2024. He attended Duke University before receiving his master's and doctorate in English literature from UVA. He taught as a professor throughout the U.S. and overseas, including in Iran and Kuwait. Following his academic career, he worked as a researcher at the U.S. International Trade Commission. After retirement, he continued his intellectual pursuits in art, music, literature, philosophy, history and politics. He was an avid collector of fine antiques and enjoyed hosting dinner parties. He was predeceased by his brother, **Thomas G. Brown (Col '70 CM)**. Survivors include his nieces, including **Amy Caruso Brown (Col '02 CM)**; a grandnephew; and several cousins.

Gerald E. McDowell (Law '67 CM) of Chatham, Massachusetts, died May 27, 2025. At UVA, he lived on the Range and played for the rugby team. He worked for the U.S. Department of Justice as a federal prosecutor for over 35 years, serving in key leadership roles, including chief of the Organized Crime Strike Forces in Boston and St. Louis. He also served as Washington, D.C., supervisor of ABSCAM, the landmark FBI investigation that resulted in the criminal convictions of several elected officials. He later served as chief of the Public Integrity Section, leading high-profile corruption investigations into the federal judiciary, and as director of the Asset Forfeiture Office. His career was a testament to his steadfast belief in the principles of American democracy. In retirement, he enjoyed teaching tai chi. Survivors include his wife, Regina; three children, including **Meghan McDowell (Col '97)**; and three grandchildren.

John Leonard Pedrick Jr. (Engr '67 CM) of Alpharetta, Georgia, died Dec. 19, 2024. At UVA, he studied aerospace engineering and was vice president of Theta Chi fraternity. He served as an ensign in the U.S. Navy, piloting helicopters until his honorable discharge in 1972. He then received his master's in marine affairs from the University of Delaware and a law degree from Lewis & Clark Law School. His legal career began in the Office of General Counsel in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. During that time, he and his family lived in Seattle; Washington, D.C.; Juneau, Alaska; and St. Petersburg, Florida. He served as a U.S. administrative law judge in the Atlanta office of the Social Security Administration before retiring in 2007. In retirement, he found his calling training service dogs with Canine Assistants in Alpharetta. He is survived by his wife, Martha; two daughters; and a grandson.

William Potter Schofield Jr. (Col '68 CM) of Washington, D.C., died March 7, 2025. He graduated with honors from UVA, where he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, retiring as a major. Following his military service, he earned his law degree and passed the state bar of Georgia. He joined the State Department as a foreign service officer and was stationed in locations including Brazil, Jamaica, Slovakia, Afghanistan and Washington, D.C. He always enjoyed attending Washington Nationals baseball games. He loved dogs, fishing, traveling and the theater. Survivors include his sister-in-law and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

George D.H. McMillan (Law '69 CM) of Birmingham, Alabama, died April 18, 2025. He completed his undergraduate education at Auburn University before attending UVA Law School. At UVA, he was a member of the law school's student council, T.I.L.K.A. and the

Z Society. A prominent Democratic politician, he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1972 and was elected to the state Senate the following year. From 1979 to 1983, he served as lieutenant governor with Alabama Gov. Fob James. He helped found City Stages, a music festival in downtown Birmingham. He also was a founder and longtime board member of the Black Belt Community Foundation, which serves 12 counties in the state's Black Belt. He remained dedicated to UVA, encouraging countless Alabamians to apply. Loved ones remember him for his mentorship of others and his ability to bring people together. Survivors include his wife, Ann; two children; two granddaughters; and a brother.

Wynne Thomaston "W.T." Huff II (Engr '69 CM) of Smyrna, Georgia, died April 1, 2025. At UVA, he was a member of Chi Psi fraternity and played on the soccer and rugby teams. He served in the U.S. Army before dedicating over 25 years as the chief building inspector for the city of Smyrna. His craftsmanship in woodworking produced many unique furniture pieces. An avid tennis player, he and his doubles partner won many citywide tournaments. His friends and family remember him as a charming Southern gentleman, unafraid to voice his opinions. With an acute awareness of the wonders of nature and a progressive consciousness, he was a longstanding member of the Sierra Club. Survivors include his wife, two siblings, his son and two stepchildren.

'70s

Kenneth Turney Gibbs (Col '70, Arch '72) of Atlanta died July 25, 2023. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in architectural history from UVA and a doctorate in architectural history from Cornell University. He wrote many works in the field of architectural history. He was employed for many years by the state of Georgia in the Historic Preservation Office. A lover of music, he was an accomplished pianist and cherished his extensive record collection. He also enjoyed gardening, keeping journals and identifying plants by scientific name. He took great pleasure in nature and hiked throughout the country. Survivors include two siblings and many nieces and nephews.

John Christian "Chris" Nissen III (Col '71) of Philadelphia died Feb. 1, 2025. After studying at UVA, he attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. He produced a substantial body of work as a landscape painter, with pieces held in various private, public and museum collections throughout the country, as well as in the Arts in Embassies Program with the U.S. government. He once won a New Jersey State Council on the Arts fellowship and, in the 1980s and '90s, taught in the Temple University architecture department. He was deeply invested in the Pennsylvania art scene, taking inspiration from his predecessors and uplifting his peers. His loved ones remember enthusiastic conversations with him regarding his DIY projects, mysteries of the universe, baseball statistics and his love of Maine. Survivors include his wife, Cynthia; two daughters; his brothers, **Leif Nissen (Col '86)** and **Eric Nissen (Col '75 CM)**; and two granddaughters.

Robert Lee Bowman (Engr '72 CM) of Richmond, Virginia, died April 29, 2024. He received his bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from UVA, where he was also involved in student self-governance. He was proud to have worked for the same company for 43 years, Westinghouse Electric Corp., later acquired by Siemens. Friends and family remember him for an eagerness to learn and a sharp sense of humor. He was an accomplished woodworker who enjoyed building furniture and tinkering in his workshop. Survivors include his wife, Margaret; his daughter; his son, **Andrew "Andy" Bowman (Col '04)**; his daughter-in-law, **Lisa Thomas (Col '04)**; two grandchildren; three siblings, including **Al Bowman (Col '74 CM)**; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Bruce B. Frazer (Educ '75) of Charlottesville died April 13, 2025. After earning his bachelor's degree in health and physical education from UVA, he taught physical education in Austin, Texas, and then in Charlottesville for UVA. He was an amateur gymnast, a passion that began in high school and continued during his time at UVA. Throughout his life, he participated in the gymnastics community in Charlottesville as a volunteer coach and supporter. He loved the outdoors, was dedicated to recycling and sustainable living, and once worked with UVA's recycling program. He loved walking on Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. Survivors include two brothers and two daughters.

Timothy L. Nolan (Col '76, Med '80 CM) of Rochester, New York, died April 16, 2025. At UVA, he was a member of the IMP Society, the Raven Society and Omicron Delta Kappa. He volunteered with Madison House and was a chair of the residency staff program. He then attended UVA's medical school, graduating with Alpha Omega Alpha honors. He spent most of his medical career in private practice but spent the last few years of his career serving veterans at his local VA. A caregiver to his core, he retired early to care for his wife, remaining devoted to her through his final days. He loved music, history, national parks and the Buffalo Bills. Survivors include his wife, Carrie; his son; his siblings, including **Kathryn Nolan Rushdoony (Col '78)** and **Patricia Nolan Prewitt (Com '81 CM)**; brother-in-law **Kerry Prewitt (Col '81 CM)**; three nephews; and a niece.

Bryan Foster Helm (Darden '77 CM) of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 23, 2024. Before attending UVA, he graduated magna cum laude from Rice University and worked as an architect and city planner in London and Doha, Qatar. He graduated from Darden with honors. He spent the next 20 years working in the natural gas pipeline industry at Southern

Natural Gas Corp. and Harbert Management Corp. in Birmingham. After this work, he became the parish administrator at the Cathedral Church of the Advent (Episcopal). Survivors include three siblings; brother-in-law **Jimmy Robinson (Grad '72 CM)**; three nieces; a great-nephew; and two great-nieces.

'80s

Richard S. Minturn (Arch '80 CM) of Charlottesville died Feb. 10, 2025. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard in 1971 before earning his master's in architecture from UVA. He raised his children in Massachusetts, later returning to Charlottesville to work at UVA. He began as a project manager in facilities management and became a senior academic facility planner in the provost's office. Some of his proudest achievements were his roles in the renovation of Shannon Library and the building of the new School of Data Science and the Contemplative Sciences Center. He enjoyed sailing, hiking with his children, traveling with his wife and walking his dog. He had recently joined the board of Preservation Piedmont. Survivors include his wife, Suzanne; his two children, **Mary "Molly" Minturn (Col '02)** and **John "Jake" Minturn (Col '07 CM)**; two siblings; four grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Tamera Cauthorne-Burnette (Nurs '83 CM) of Rockville, Virginia, died May 11, 2025. While studying nursing at UVA, she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and the Raven Society. She was a primary care provider in areas of underserved populations across Virginia. She also served as an adjunct clinical faculty member for VCU's School of Nursing graduate program, authoring numerous book chapters and periodical articles. In 2012, she joined CareMore, eventually becoming its lead nurse practitioner for Virginia and Washington, D.C. From 1998 to 1999, she was a fellow at the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership at UVA. She served on the boards of the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners, the UVA School of Nursing Alumni Association, the UVA Health Sciences Council and the Virginia Nurses Political Action Committee. She was a lifelong equestrian and foxhunter. Survivors include her husband, William; her parents; her brother; and several nieces and nephews.

Peter Douglas Croyle (Col '83 CM) of North Judson, Indiana, died Feb. 9, 2025. At UVA, he was a member of the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society and Pi Lambda Phi fraternity. He attended graduate school at American University before embarking on his career in the travel industry, planning and leading tours and giving enrichment lectures aboard cruise ships all over the world. He especially enjoyed his 12 trips to Antarctica. He was a master scuba diver who had explored the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. He was also a volunteer tour guide instructor in Vietnam. He returned to Indiana every year to see the Indianapolis 500; last May was his 50th race. He is survived by his parents, his brother, a niece and many friends around the world.

Paul Drexel Biddle (Arch '86) of Los Angeles died April 17, 2025. His lifelong love of art inspired him to study architecture at UVA, where he was a member of St. Anthony Hall (Delta Psi). He later received a master's degree from the American Film Institute. He settled in Los Angeles, falling in love with the beautiful landscapes, Hollywood glamour and his community. He began his career directing and producing TV advertisements. He then opened his business, Drexel Design, designing dozens of private homes in L.A. Besides his love of architecture and videography, he also enjoyed skiing, writing and riding motorcycles. Throughout his life, he kept his family members laughing with his sense of humor and penchant for storytelling. Survivors include his father; six siblings; and many nieces, nephews, grand-nephews and cousins.

'90s

Jon Andrew Dyck (Col '92 CM) of Austin, Texas, died Nov. 18, 2024. After studying government and foreign affairs at UVA, he spent a gap year in the Czech Republic editing the English language edition of a local newspaper. He received his law degree from the University of Texas and began his legal career as a lawyer at Baker Botts in Washington, D.C. He served as chief counsel of the Bureau of Export Administration and vice president and general counsel of the Millennium Challenge Corp. during the George W. Bush administration. He also served on the board of directors for UVA's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. He was a competitive swimmer and rower, a cellist and pianist, and an enthusiastic home chef. He had recently completed a novel. Survivors include his parents, Walter and Lana; three children; three siblings; and seven nieces and nephews.

Forrest "Jake" Williams Jr. (Col '94) of Dallas died May 6, 2025. While studying economics at UVA, he was a key member of the track and field team, once holding the school's pole vault record. Today, his highest vault stands at No. 10 in UVA history. His loyalty to UVA sports never wavered, and he cheered on the football team every year. After college, he jumped into the world of finance, starting out as an analyst at Dillon Read and UBS. His career took him from Dallas to New York, Miami and back to Dallas, where he co-founded Catalyst Holdings, a private equity firm. Beyond his professional achievements, he was best known for his infectious sense of humor and his talent for forging lasting friendships. Survivors include his wife, his mother, three siblings, and several nieces and nephews.

Retrospect



RAIDERS OF THE LOST CARDS

Hidden for decades among busts and other forgotten mementos in a boiler room at Alumni Hall, this old card catalog holds a record of the first 125 years of students at UVA. It came to light as staff packed up the building for demolition. (*See story, Page 32.*)

It's not clear who created the catalog, who updated it, or how it was used. The cards are exclusively handwritten from 1825 until the section marked 1834, which has some typewritten cards (though that would have been before commercial typewriters). Some of the cards from the first class are sometime later marked "Deceased," or in the case of John A.G. Davis, who later as a law professor was famously shot to death on the Lawn, "Killed November 14, 1840." Early cards list only a city; later ones have full mailing addresses. Every card has a year and a letter to denote major.

After its brief period of discovery, the catalog is back in storage. It will return when the new Alumni Hall opens in 2027. ***—Judy Le***



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Ivy Va- Privacy, elegant living, first-floor primary suite, natural light, pool
$1,160,000



River frontage- Garth Rd, scenic views, spacious layout, privacy, country living
$947,500



Old Ballard Rd- Private wooded lot, light-filled, updated kitchen, screened porch
$1,360,000



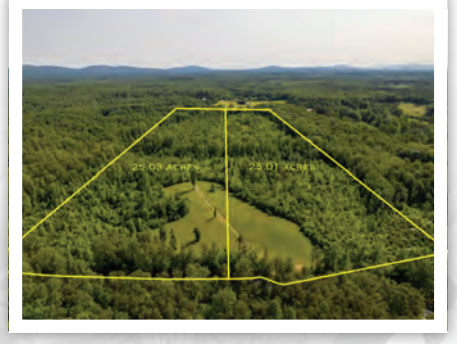
Carrsbrook- Classic brick home, spacious back yard, screened porch, garage
$545,000



Glenmore - Custom designed, original owners, meticulous finishing, gated community.
$1,350,000



Pleasant Green, Crozet - Townhome, gourmet kitchen walk to Crozet, loads of upgrades
$425,000



Burnley Station Rd- 50 acres, development potential, pastoral views, natural springs
$1,075,000

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