

SITTING DOWN WITH VIRGINIA'S GOVERNOR + OTHER ALUMNI IN OFFICE

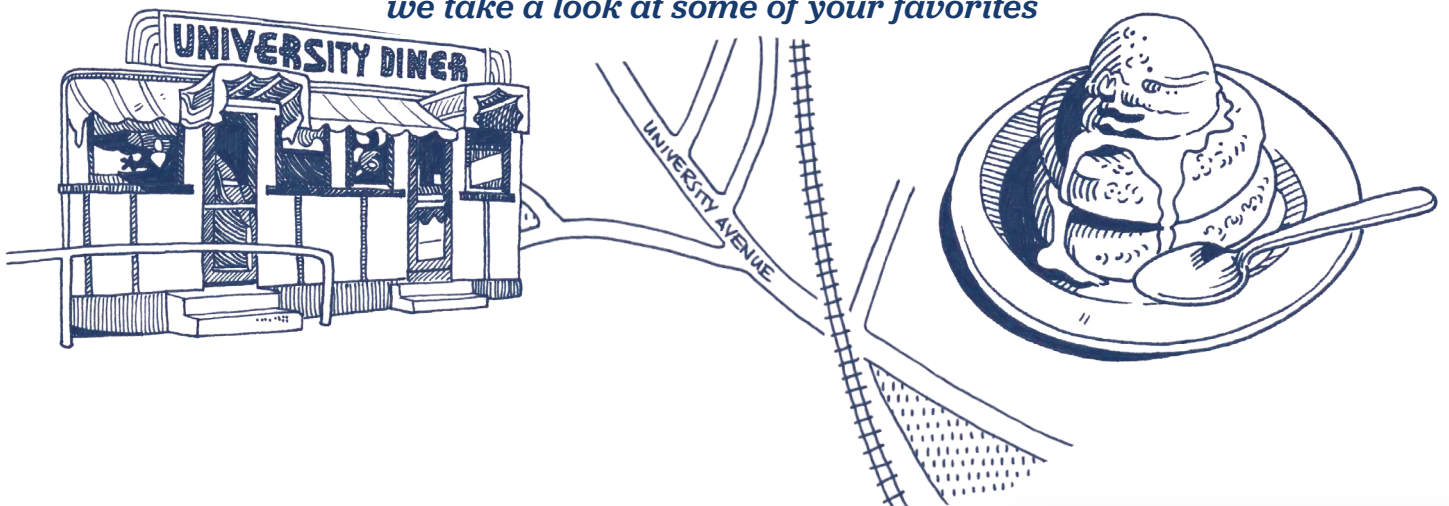
VIRGINIA

SUMMER 2026



Just Around THE CORNER

*From pipes to pies and Gus Burgers to Grillswiths,
we take a look at some of your favorites*





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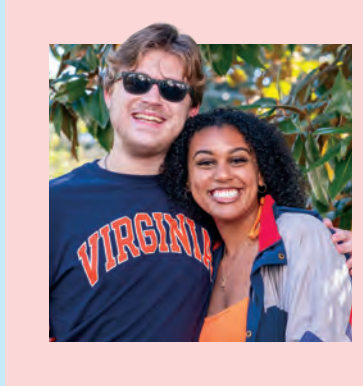
NEW YORK, NY 10017





“The Alumni Association gave me the confidence to lead, the support to make an impact, the resources to grow, and the community to thrive. ***It changed my experience***—not just as a student, but ***as a person, leader, and now as an alum.***”

JAMES EDWARDS (NURS '25)



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SIMPLY UNMATCHED SETTING, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION & FINISH QUALITY



4018 FAIRWAY DRIVE • \$6,245,000

Set within Keswick Estate on nearly 4 waterfront acres & just a cart ride from Keswick Hall & Club, w/ access to golf, spa, tennis, & dining at Jean-Georges' Marigold. The home features Georgian symmetry & classical proportions executed w/ exceptional craftsmanship. Chippendale-style railings, Amish-built shutters & cupola, architectural roofing, & copper chimney caps. Inside, a chef's kitchen w/ Lacanche range flows to scullery & prep spaces, complemented by wine cellar, lacquered butler's pantry, custom millwork & curated marble selections. Main-level primary offers privacy, while upstairs suites & living spaces support extended stays. Outdoor areas are designed for quiet retreat & entertaining. www.4018fairwaydr.com. MLS# 673336

TIMELESS ELEGANCE AMID BLUE RIDGE BEAUTY



BELLE TERRE • \$6,499,000

This extraordinary Georgian estate is set on 179 acres w/ 2 ponds, 7 natural springs, & 2 barns w/ add'l subdivision & vineyard potential. Designed for entertaining & everyday living, the home blends historic charm w/ modern comfort & mountain views from nearly every room. Main level offers formal & casual spaces, incl' 1st-floor primary suite, antique heart pine floors, & handsome study. Upstairs, 2nd primary suite & 3 add'l bedrooms w/ en-suite baths. Lower level screen viewing area, wet bar, billiards rm, guest bed, full bath & office. 7 fireplaces. Free-form pool, wide porches, & sweeping vistas. Jamie Waller (407) 694-8988 and Lisa Lyons (434) 987-1767. MLS# 668818

ELEVATED ONE-LEVEL LIVING AT KESWICK ESTATE



880 CLUB DRIVE • \$2,675,000

Remarkable 4 bed, 3.5 bath fieldstone residence designed by Jack Arnold & constructed by local builder Ralph Dammann. Private 3.5 acre lot will not change as all parcels around it have been built upon. Noteworthy features incl' soaring ceilings, arched doorways, 2 oversized stone fireplaces & expansive rear, bluestone courtyard. Timeless finishes incl' honed granite in the kitchen & large laundry rm, heavy/high quality hardware throughout, cherry cabinetry & bookshelves in home office & bar, and extensive built-ins in family room. 1 Gig+ fiber internet. Public water & sewer. Easy walk to all club & hotel amenities. Under 12 mins to Downtown yet a world away. MLS# 673250



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Charlottesville, VA 22902

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PRISTINE, HISTORIC ALBEMARLE COUNTY ESTATE WITH REDUCED ACREAGE



**LIBERTY CORNER
\$2,845,000**

In the heart of protected, rural Southern Albemarle amidst other noted properties, c. 1790 Liberty Corner on 22 acres offers a statement Virginia estate without the workload of caring for 500 acres of surrounding, pastoral vistas. At the heart of this historic property & set in absolute tranquility, is a pristine 18th century residence in

flawless condition w/ period charm & modern amenities. Improved by 2 guest houses, pool, pool house, gardens & dog runs, the home enjoys stunning, panoramic views of the rolling countryside & 2 large lakes. No stone left unturned by the owners in their careful stewardship of Liberty Corner. 25 mins to Charlottesville & under 10 mins to Scottsville & conveniences. MLS# 674734

ARCHITECTURALLY DISTINGUISHED ESTATE



2405 COOPERS LANE • \$3,695,000

This architecturally distinguished French Provençal-style spans 45 private acres. Stunning home w/ elegant floor plan featuring 5 ensuite bedrooms, expansive 1st floor primary suite, 4 wood burning fireplaces, beautifully appointed kitchen w/ seamless flow between dining, living, library & the outdoors, plus 3-car detached garage. Located mins from Monticello & only 20 mins to Downtown. Reidar Stiernstrand (434) 284-3005. MLS# 673370

INCREDIBLE SETTING & VIEWS IN IVY



585 RAGGED MOUNTAIN DRIVE • \$2,995,000

Located on one of Ragged Mountain's most desirable parcels, this fully furnished 5 bedrm offers traditional, red brick appeal w/ casual living & light, bright finishes! Enjoy stunning, close-in pastoral & mountain views. Recent renovations incl' amazing kitchen & refinished, light oak floors throughout. Full, walk-out basement w/ roughed-in plumbing & 5th fireplace. Parcel overlooks permanently protected horse farm of rolling hills framed by panoramic mountain views. MLS# 672826

CUSTOM ART & CRAFTS STUNNER IN IVY



3135 ROCKS FARM COURT • \$2,245,000

Nestled privately overlooking Blue Ridge views, this totally custom 5 bed, 4.5 bath Arts & Crafts farmhouse is truly remarkable. From the beautiful heart pine floors to the incredible dry laid stonework at the massive family room fireplace to the wonderful bluestone terrace & Buckingham slate covered patio & screened-in porch overlooking the views, there are wonderful, timeless finish details at every turn. A small creek runs along the back of the property. MLS# 673280

INDOOR-OUTDOOR LIVING AT ITS FINEST IN KESWICK



2775 PALMER DRIVE • \$3,475,000

Sited overlooking Broadmoor Lake in covered Keswick Estate & completed in 2024 is this custom 4 bedroom residence by Uhler Construction. Amazing 1st floor living plan w/ views of the sparkling lake beyond the gorgeous salt water pool. Striking finish selections incl' dramatic & varied marble & quartz selections, Philip Jeffries wallpaper, custom window treatments, white oak, wide plank hardwood floors, furniture-grade cabinetry, 130 bottle wine fridge, Lutron lighting, oversized gas fireplace, built-in gas & charcoal grill. MLS# 672074

290 ACRE FARM W/ RIVER FRONTAGE



481 RACE GROUND ROAD • \$4,750,000

Greenwood, c. 1850, a working farm w/ 290 acres & river frontage. This newly restored historic estate features a sumptuous manor w/ 4 bedrooms & 5 full baths over a finished English basement. Set amid long views of rolling farmland & the Southwest Mountains, the land supports a thriving beef cattle operation & productive cropland. Dependencies incl' original summer kitchen & guest house. The Rapidan River, popular for fly fishing & canoeing, forms a nearly mile-long border. Minutes from James Madison's Montpelier. Julia Parker Lyman (540) 748-1497.

TIMELESS & CHARMING 1935 STONE RESIDENCE IN RUGBY HILLS



**1820 FENDALL AVENUE
\$1,895,000**

Set on a wide, tree-lined street within a mile walk to UVA, this timeless 1935 stone residence features beautiful trim work, inviting nooks & crannies, large deep-set windows w/ generous sills & French doors that fill the interiors w/ natural light. Bluestone-floored foyer opens to spacious great rm w/ wood-burning fireplace & French doors to bluestone terrace w/ built-in seating, large deck & mature plantings. One-level living w/ 1st-floor primary suite featuring wood-burning fireplace & direct access to private patio, outdoor shower & hot tub. Main level cozy den w/ extensive built-ins, 5th bed w/ full bath, kitchen w/ breakfast nook & dining room overlooking the front yard. Add'l features incl' 3 bedrooms w/ private baths, expansive cedar-lined storage room and stone-walled mudroom & workshop. Lindsay Milby (434) 962-9148. MLS# 673784



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(434) 977-4005
info@loringwoodriff.com

WWW.LORINGWOODRUFF.COM

VIRGINIA

SUMMER 2026 | VOLUME CXV, NO. 2

PUBLISHER

Lily West (Darden '12)
President and CEO

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Judy Lê

SENIOR EDITOR

Sam Grossman

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Steve Hedberg

SENIOR WRITER

Ed Miller

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Martha Carr

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Xander Houff

SOLUTIONS & WEB DEVELOPER

Benjamin F. Walter (Col '05)

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Kiki McLaughlin (Col '24, Grad '25)

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Katie Feagans

COPY EDITORS

Debra Boyette, Lynn Jaluvka (Col '77),
Bernadette Kinlaw, Julie Kliegman,
Julie Van Keuren

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Anna Katherine Clemmons,
Sarah Lindendorf Hall (Col '96),
Caroline Kettlewell

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Dan Addison, Ian Bradshaw, Erin Edgerton,
Adam Ewing, Andy Franck, Jamie Holt, Matt Riley,
Andrew Shurtleff, Sanjay Suchak, Alex Wong

CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS

Matt Hollings, Jon Krause



Alumni Association: 434-243-9000

Advertising info: kfeagans@virginia.edu

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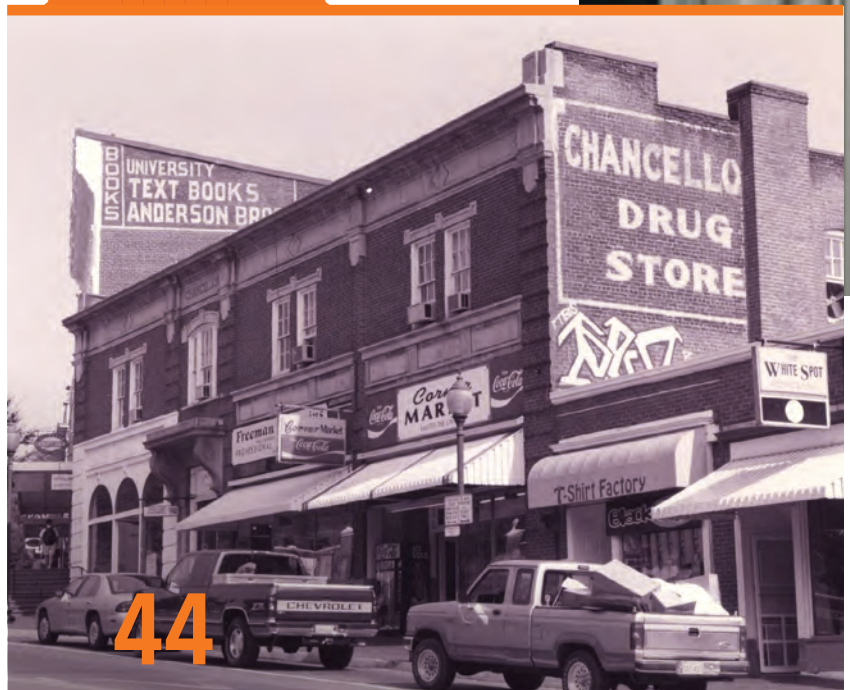
Virginia Magazine does not publish
unsolicited articles.

The University of Virginia Magazine (ISSN 0195-8798) is published four times yearly by the Alumni Association of the University of Virginia in March, June, September and December. Editorial and business offices are in Charlottesville, VA 22903. Periodicals-class postage is paid at Charlottesville, VA, and at additional mailing offices (USPS 652-480).

POSTMASTER: Please send Form 3379 to Virginia Magazine, P.O. Box 400314, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4314. Phone: 434-243-9000

In This Issue

Time Capsule



Just Around the Corner

Alumni shared with us their favorite memories of the Corner, and we did some digging of our own.

BY SARAH LINDENDORF HALL

34

“What *Didn't* I Learn Here?”

Alumna Gov. Abigail Spanberger on UVA, the public trust and governing in divided times.

BY MARTHA CARR



40

Other Wahoos in Office

A look at UVA alumni serving in our country's highest elected offices.

BY ED MILLER AND KIKI McLAUGHLIN

DEPARTMENTS

- 9 Letters
- 12 Around the Alumni Association
- 15 UDigest
- 22 Student Life
- 26 Sports
- 31 Discovery
- 32 VM Bookshelf
- 56 From UVA's President
- 58 Contributing Members
- 60 Class Notes
- 68 In Memoriam
- 76 Retrospect

TOP: SANJAY SUCHAK; LEFT: ALBERT AND SHIRLEY SMALL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY/UVA LIBRARY

ON THE COVER: Illustrations by Matt Hollings



Jim Faulconer
434.981.0076
jfaulconer@mcleanfaulconer.com

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Court Nexsen (*Darden '13*)
646.660.0700
court@mcleanfaulconer.com



WHITE HALL ESTATE & VINEYARD

Albemarle County

Jim & Will Faulconer, 434.981.0076

At the base of the Blue Ridge Mtns. sits this exceptional 212-acre estate, offered in three ways: RESIDENCE TRACT: Quality 6,000 sf home, 37 acres, pond, panoramic views, \$4,200,000; WINERY TRACT: 93 acres, spacious multi-purpose building, all equipment, 25-acre vineyard, \$2,500,000; BACK FARM: Private setting, 78-acre farm, cottage, barns, building sites, \$2,200,000. A rare blend of natural beauty, architectural distinction, & viticultural pedigree.



EDGEMONT

\$12,500,000 | MLS 576150 | North Garden
Court Nexsen



FARMINGTON

\$3,595,000 | MLS 675628 | Charlottesville
Jim & Will Faulconer, 434.981.0076



BEL AIRE

\$3,275,000 | MLS 671230 | Charlottesville
Charlotte Dammann, 434.981.1250



OWENSVILLE RD

\$2,650,000 | MLS 675511 | Charlottesville
Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700





Jim Faulconer
434.981.0076
jfaulconer@mcleanfaulconer.com

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Court Nexsen (*Darden '13*)
646.660.0700
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RETRIEVER RUN

\$2,575,000 | MLS 675197 | Charlottesville
Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700

Custom built in 2014, this seven-bedroom Western Albemarle property was designed with purpose — refined for exceptional living, expansive enough for the gatherings that come with one. Set on four private, landscaped acres with quick access to UVA grounds, the home balances privacy with an effortless capacity to entertain. A main-level primary suite, chef's kitchen, saltwater pool, and sweeping lawns — every detail conceived and executed with quiet intention.



GIBSONS HOLLOW

\$2,700,000 | MLS 675190 | Charlottesville
Tim Michelle, 434.960.1124



STONY POINT PASS

\$2,600,000 | MLS 675824 | Keswick
Mark Mascotte, 434.825.8610



GRASSMERE RD

\$2,325,000 | MLS 675095 | Charlottesville
Jim & Will Faulconer, 434.981.0076



THE ROCKS

\$1,890,000 | MLS 675416 | Ivy
Jim & Will Faulconer, 434.981.0076



EDNAM

\$1,500,000 | MLS 676081 | Charlottesville
Katherine Leddington, 646.593.0333



ELDERBERRY PL

\$1,100,000 | MLS 674034 | Earlysville
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FEATURED SALES



Milton Village | \$1,940,000

A refined, private retreat on nearly four acres in historic Milton offers effortless everyday living and entertaining. There is a first-floor primary suite, a proper chef's kitchen with double islands and gourmet appliances, a screened porch, and a three-car garage.



Horseshoe Farm | \$1,700,000

Built in 1793, Horseshoe Farm is a showstopper of a property on more than eight acres in Earlysville. The classic Virginia farmhouse has been thoughtfully renovated while maintaining many original details. A charming guest cottage is set nearby.



Rugby Hills | \$1,365,000

On popular Oxford Road in the heart of the city is a quintessential Cape Cod full of charm, character, and functionality, all a stone's throw from UVA and historic downtown. There are several distinctive rooms that flow together seamlessly.



Farmington | \$1,350,000

This Tudor residence is tucked away near a cul-de-sac in prestigious Farmington. It has three bedrooms, formal living and dining rooms, wood-burning fireplaces, and a two-car garage. The neatly manicured property of 2.12 acres enjoys natural privacy.



Letters

“I HAVE TO EARN PEOPLE’S TRUST”

My wife teaches undergraduate art history. She tells her students that the context surrounding the creation of a piece of art always matters. Similarly, the anointment of Scott Beardsley as the president of UVA cannot be judged on its own—the context matters.

The office of the president was vacant only because President Jim Ryan’s tenure ended via political assassination by the Trump administration. The subsequent selection of Scott Beardsley by an incomplete board is poisoned by a rushed and inherently political process, over the objection of critical university stakeholders.

Regardless of the outcome, a flawed process leads to a flawed result. Beardsley will fail the university as long as his legitimacy is questioned. He should be removed from office as soon as possible to allow the university to close this ugly chapter.

The context always matters.

John S. Grant (Darden ’23)
Arlington, Virginia

Congratulations to Dean Beardsley. Best of luck, sir.

Richard G. Drum (Arch ’81)
Huntington, West Virginia

UVA’S COMMON GROUND

A very interesting article. I dined at Newcomb Hall for two years: during my first year at Dobie dorm and my second year at the Monroe Hill dorms. I remember on occasion they would serve fried rabbit (not my favorite). Contract dining was a great way to initiate, build and maintain relationships with peers.

Francis Dominic Carpin (Col ’83)
Richmond, Virginia

Regarding Newcomb Hall’s history, I remember in November 1975 when Hubert Humphrey came to UVA to speak at Newcomb Hall’s ballroom. The crowd built slowly but was very thickly packed inside as he was of great interest to the students during the Vietnam War. When he finished, the crowd dispersed very quickly as there were refreshments available outside, and the effect on the structure was one of the ballroom floor fracturing and erupting, lifting up due to both the slowly accumulated great and unprecedented weight of the load, and the speed of removal of same. In the following week in my civil engineering classes, professors had a field day with such a perfect (and familiar) structural example.

Steve T. Jacobs (Engr ’75)
Sarasota, Florida

Newcomb Hall was an important part of my growing up and of my student experience. I enjoyed reading the article about the history of Newcomb Hall and anxiously awaited mention of the Newcomb Hall barbershop, which my father opened in 1958.

Elvin Lee Booker was 30 years old when he moved his young family from Richmond, Virginia, to Charlottesville to open the new shop. Until this writing, I had not thought about what an opportunity this was for such a young man. He was so proud of the shop. It was a gathering place for conversation and haircuts not just for students but for professors, deans, colonels, administrators, coaches and a variety of employees. The *Cavalier Daily* published a picture of my father cutting a student’s hair in a new fad: the flat top.

I transferred to UVA in 1970 with 100 other women. My future husband and I enjoyed good times with other students in Newcomb Hall. When I enter Newcomb Hall, I always think of my father and his place in its history.

Teresa Booker Stehle (Col ’72)
Richmond, Virginia

I remember studying at Newcomb as an undergraduate. The plush chairs and couches made it easy to study. I remember going to the back area where there were newspapers from around the country. I also enjoyed the snack bar area. Wonderful memories of a wonderful place. I was so fortunate to attend undergraduate school and get my MD from the medical school. I tell people I was born in Richmond but grew up at UVA.

Leslie B. Oppleman (Col ’71, Med ’75)
Norfolk, Virginia

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I read the correspondence in the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 editions to find a dissenting opinion to the outrage over the DOJ agreement. There was none. I submit the alternative view that there was good reason for the DOJ to investigate public institutions that misrepresent the truth with the goal of undermining foundational beliefs and subjecting one group to harassment. I deny that Thomas Jefferson would have supported the tyranny of thought brought by the new progressive institutions of “higher learning.”

John Allis (Col ’75)
Machias, Maine

UDIGEST

Thanks for your explanation of the events of a traumatic year at UVA and in particular for the timeline. It has been difficult, here in faraway Australia, to follow what happened, and the article and timeline provide insight and context. Well done.

Adam Johnson (Darden ’77)
Woolahra, New South Wales, Australia

You quote *The Washington Post*, a publication devoid of journalistic integrity and steeped in bias. Do better. Spanberger is doing what she accuses her predecessor of doing, and needs to stop interfering with higher education, and my school.

Hilary Powers Atkins (Col ’83)
Alexandria, Virginia

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— PURPOSE IN DESIGN —

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Thank you for the excellent articles regarding President Ryan's resignation. It should be disturbing to everyone that a few members of the BOV could decide to represent themselves to the government as the sole source for resolving a legal dispute, and that those members felt no need to inform the rector, much less any other BOV members, of their actions. Nor did they include the university president in any discussions with the government. That the government's claim of complaints from a few people could trigger a far-reaching investigation of the university seems to be a disproportionate response. (If, in fact, there ever was an actual "investigation," since just the threat of one was all that was needed to get the government's desired outcome.) A more sobering fact is that polls in recent months indicate that the Trump administration still has the approval of over 80 percent of Republicans.

E. L. Brickner (Engr '70)
Las Vegas

FALL 2025 ISSUE

Jim Ryan deftly navigated the "prevailing political winds" for most of his tenure. He resisted the pressure to remove Jefferson's statue at the Rotunda in the fall of 2020; in the spring of 2024, he refused to allow protesters to occupy portions of the Grounds and had them forcibly removed. But a year later,

President Ryan finally found a needle he couldn't thread: how to maintain some semblance of the university's "core value" of outreach to, and inclusion of, students who would otherwise not be able to enjoy a Jeffersonian education in the face of anti-DEI political pressure.

Interestingly, many who had decried Ryan's earlier such stances cried foul on his forced resignation; others who had cheered his earlier stances gave him a quick "good riddance" epitaph. On Jim's behalf, one bright spot in all of this is that he now has more time to be a better distance runner than he already is.

William L. S. Ross (Col '78)
Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia

GRIDDLE ME THIS [FALL 2017]

Raised in Charlottesville, my first job was waiting tables at the University Diner for a dollar an hour and all the cheeseburgers I could eat. I was 14 and worked from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Had to get a special work permit from the juvenile judge for this. I remember working with Elwood and Ethel and Quinn Shiflett. Always admired the way Elwood could crack eggs with one hand while working with other items on his grill. Quite a fond memory. Thanks for bringing it back.

Wright Shields (Med '84)
New Bern, North Carolina

VOX ALUMNI

Send Us Your Thoughts

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.

Mail: Editor, *Virginia Magazine*,
P.O. Box 400314, Charlottesville, VA 22904

Email: uvamag@virginia.edu

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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

THIS PLACE BELONGS TO YOU



Aggarwal Hall will open its doors in less than a year, and excitement is already building for the Alumni Association’s return to Emmet Street.

From a “topping out” ceremony marking the placement of the structure’s final steel beam, to hard-hat tours for volunteer leaders, to construction site open houses during signature events, alumni are already making Aggarwal Hall feel like home. As they should.

From the individuals and groups of alumni who have already come together to name the building’s premier spaces, to Hoos on the construction team bringing the project to life, to countless members of our remarkable community who have stayed

engaged through events and updates— **this place belongs to you.**

We can’t wait to share our continued progress with you in the months ahead. In the meantime, see how Aggarwal Hall is taking shape on these pages.

Wahoooa!

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



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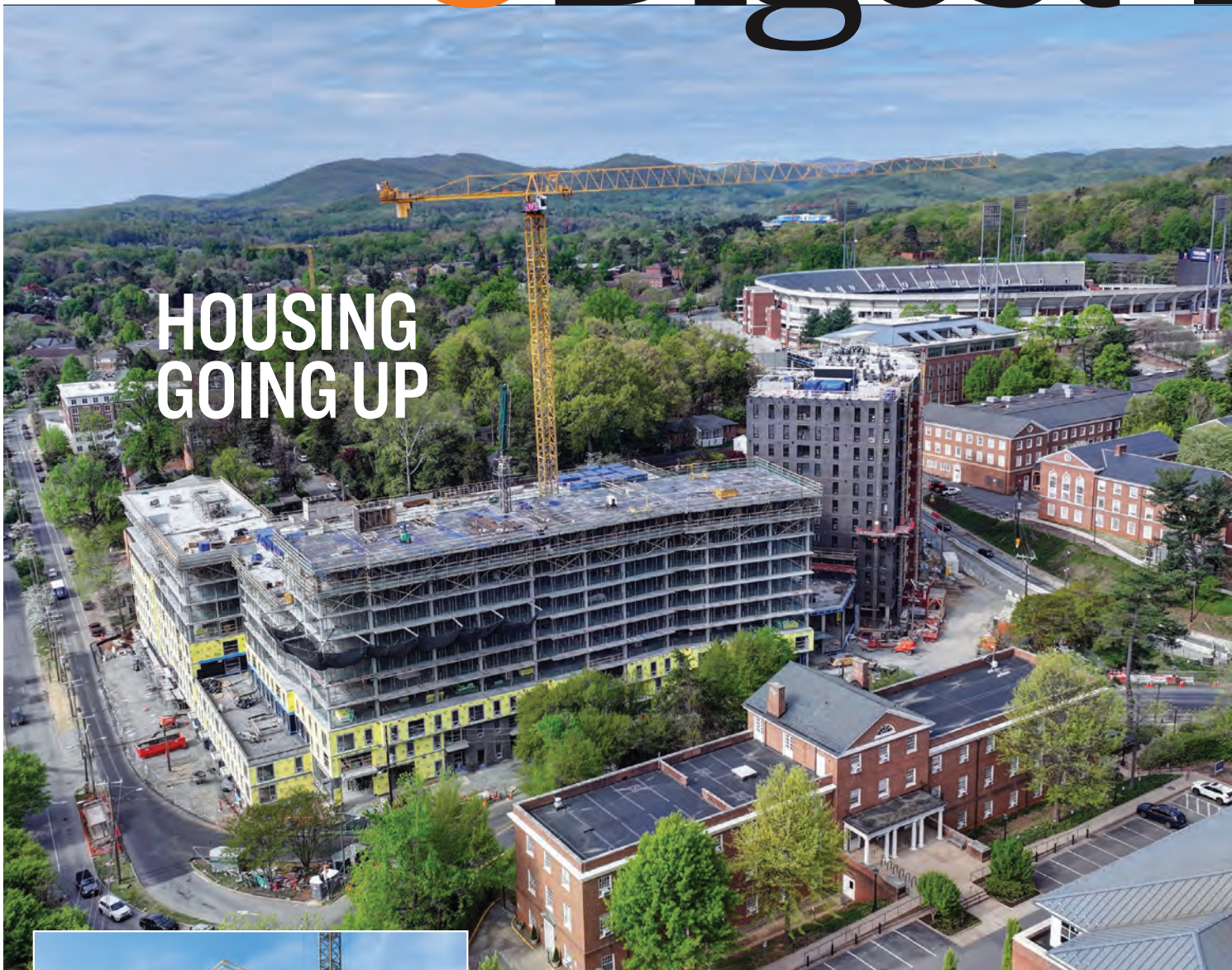
Eli Banana Bar in the new Aggarwal Hall

In honor of the approaching 150th anniversary of the Mystic Order of Eli Banana at the University of Virginia, the Board of Directors of the Eli Banana Fund sought a meaningful opportunity to support the University and secure a lasting legacy for our organization. We are thrilled to announce the Eli Banana Fund has pledged \$2 million to name the largest indoor event space and bar in the new Aggarwal Hall in the group's honor. This gift will be a part of the UVA Alumni Association's A Home for Every Hoo campaign to help construct a new Aggarwal Hall.



Scan to view more of the
new Aggarwal Hall site

UDigest



HOUSING GOING UP



ABOVE: ANDREW SHURTLEFF; INSET: STEVE HEDBERG

Rising near the intersection of Stadium Road and Jefferson Park Avenue, Verve Charlottesville (*above*), a privately built student housing complex, will top out at 12 stories and total roughly 730,000 square feet when it's completed in 2027, making it one of the tallest buildings in the city. Another private development, Blume on Ivy (*left*), located at 2117 Ivy Road, will rise 10 stories and total roughly 342,000 square feet when it's finished next year. Combined, the developments will add 1,973 beds to the city's housing supply, potentially easing market pressure. The projects were approved by the City Council but opposed by UVA. In their 2023 letters to the planning commission, Alice Raucher, university architect, and Colette Sheehy, then-senior vice president for operations and state government relations, wrote that Verve "could have a major and negative visual effect" on the Academical Village and that Blume "creates a mismatch" with its surroundings.



Applications make history again

UVA's Class of 2030 is already making history, and students haven't even moved into their first-year dorms yet. Applications for a spot in the class hit a record 82,118 this cycle, up 27 percent from the year before—but that growth looked very different depending on how students applied.

The most popular of UVA's three admission rounds among applicants, early action—which offers a faster, non-binding decision—saw a 37 percent increase to 57,513 submissions. In the regular decision round, submissions increased by 11 percent to 19,504 compared to last year. The binding early decision round stayed fairly static with about a 3 percent increase to 5,108.

During the regular decision round, UVA considered 26,767 total applications, including applicants deferred from the earlier rounds and those who applied for the final cycle.

UVA officials have declined to speculate on what's driving the growth, but it comes as UVA made a significant change to the application requirements. This year, only nursing school applicants were required to submit supplemental essays beyond the Common Application's personal statement. That makes it easier for prospective students, especially those who can afford the nonrefundable \$75 application fee, to click "submit."

Both in-state and out-of-state applicants had the best chance of admission during the binding early decision round, with offer rates of 25 percent for Virginians and 23 percent for out-of-state students. During the early action round, the offer rate for in-state students came in at 23 percent, while out-of-state students saw a steeper decline to 9 percent.

Regular-decision offers, announced in March, remain the most competitive with just 7.4 percent of in-state applicants and 7 percent of out-of-state applicants receiving offers. Overall, UVA extended 10,287 offers of admission and aims to seat a first-year class of about 3,995 new 'Hoos. —*Sarah Lindenfeld Hall*

REGULAR-DECISION ROUND

Total regular-decision applications: **26,767**

Total Virginia applicants:

6,377

In-state acceptance rate

7.4%

Total out-of-state applications:

20,390

Out-of-state acceptance rate:

7%

Note: Deferral acceptance rate: **3%**

OVERALL ADMISSION CYCLE

Total applications: **82,118**

Total Virginia applications:

19,964

Overall Virginia acceptance rate:

22%

Total out-of-state applications:

62,154

Overall out-of-state acceptance rate:

10%

Source: UVA Office of Admission

UVA board affirms Scott Beardsley as president, orders review of hiring process

University leaders back appointment but launch a “rigorous” audit of the search after criticism from faculty, lawmakers and campus groups

BY MARTHA CARR

UVA’s Board of Visitors has ordered a “rigorous” review of the presidential search that brought Scott Beardsley to office, responding to widespread concerns about how the selection unfolded. At the same time, the newly reconstituted board moved to settle questions about Beardsley’s future, voting to affirm him as the university’s 10th president.

In a March 5 directive, the board asked its Audit Committee to look at how the search was conducted, who was responsible for which parts and how decisions were made. The review will measure UVA’s methods against best practices at peer public research universities and the university’s own past presidential searches.

Rector **Carlos Brown (Col ’96, Law ’99)** said the BOV is prepared to work with Beardsley on shared goals, including “increasing affordability, endowing financial aid and improving accessibility” for all students.

“Given the significant challenges the university has faced over the past year, we have an added responsibility to check our work [and] to answer as many questions from the community as we can,” he said.

UVA’s previous board voted to install Beardsley as president during a special meeting Dec. 19 despite mounting appeals to halt the search, which had been underway just four months. The 62-year-old Darden School of Business dean was awarded a five-and-a-half-year contract with a base pay of \$1.3 million that began Jan. 1.


The board acted despite an appeal from Democratic Gov.-elect **Abigail Spanberger (Col ’01)** to suspend the



process until she was inaugurated Jan. 17. At the time, the board was entirely composed of Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s appointees. Calls to pause also came from the Faculty Senate, a group of nine deans (not including Beardsley), and demonstrators with the United Campus Workers of Virginia and the American Association of University Professors.

Beardsley’s hiring concluded a turbulent year at UVA. Then-President **Jim Ryan (Law ’92)** resigned in June 2025 amid pressure from the Trump administration’s Department of Justice. Several weeks later, former Law School Dean Paul Mahoney was appointed interim president and negotiated a deal with the DOJ that paused five investigations on the condition that UVA adhere to the administration’s interpretation of antidiscrimination laws.

Jeri Seidman, who chairs the Faculty Senate, said the group was encouraged by the board’s decision to conduct a review of the presidential search.

UVA’s Chief Audit Executive Carolyn Saint and her staff will assist the Audit Committee, which will provide an update on its key findings before or during its June meeting, according to the university. 

Martha Carr is associate editor of Virginia Magazine.

“Given the significant challenges the university has faced over the past year, we have an added responsibility to check our work [and] to answer as many questions from the community as we can.”

—Rector **Carlos Brown (Col ’96, Law ’99)**

Philip Bourne, dean of UVA's data science school, dies

Executive search to begin next fall

Philip E. Bourne, the founding dean of UVA's youngest school, the School of Data Science, died March 8 of mesothelioma. (See obituary, Page 71.) Bourne, 72, was a major scholar and leading expert in bioinformatics when he arrived at UVA in 2017 to helm the university's Data Science Institute. The school was founded in 2019, becoming the country's first stand-alone data science school.

Though the school had a physical space—a four-story, 61,100-square-foot building that opened in the Emmet-Ivy corridor in 2024—Bourne insisted it was a “school without walls,” deeply connected to other academic disciplines, researchers and students across Grounds. He also believed it was critical to weave ethics, societal impact and how to clearly communicate data into the heart of how the school approached the field.

“Particularly significant is the school's decision to place data ethics and the societal implications of data use at the center of its research and teaching missions,” said Brie Gertler, UVA's interim executive vice president and provost. “In recognizing that any comprehensive understanding of data science must also address questions of value, the school offers a powerful model for the discipline.”

The school, which offers undergraduate and graduate degrees, has proved popular. With 691 students currently enrolled, the school's data science minor is, by far, UVA's largest minor across Grounds, Gertler said. That's more than twice the number of the next most popular minor.

And, in 2024, the school launched a three-year bachelor of science degree in data science, ramping up enrollment as it hired faculty and built out the curriculum.



First-year students apply for the major, and those admitted become part of the data science cohort as second-years. Seventy-five undergraduate students entered the program in 2024 and 127 in 2025. An additional 150 are expected to enter this fall.

Jeffrey Blume, a data scientist and biostatistician who came to the data science school in 2021, is the school's interim dean. An official search for the next dean is likely to begin next fall, Gertler said.

By early April, she had met with staff, faculty and the school's leadership team to discuss the qualities they hoped to see in the school's next leader. Many told her that a new dean needs to stay on top of research and rapid industry changes and also fully embrace the school's broad vision of data science that includes ethics and societal implications—not just analytics and systems.

Many also hoped the school would remain the warm, supportive community Bourne built.

“His office door was always open,” Gertler said. “He walked through the hallways and knew most of the faculty, staff and students by name because he was so present. He set an example that helped make the school a close-knit community.”

—Sarah Lindenfeld Hall

BOV approves tuition increase

The Board of Visitors has approved a 3.6 percent increase in both in-state and out-of-state undergraduate tuition for the 2026-27 academic year.

In-state undergraduate tuition had risen a bit less in recent years—3 percent each of the previous three years.

Personnel costs were a factor. Faculty and staff will receive 2 percent to 3 percent merit increases in fiscal year 2027, along with \$1,500 bonuses approved by the state.

Mandatory fees for all regular-session students will increase by \$152, including increases of \$37 in the student health and athletics fees and \$32 in the University Transit and mobility services fee.

Graduate tuition increases range from 0.4 percent for in-state students at the Batten School to 5.1 percent for in-state students at the Law School. Undergraduate housing will increase by an average of 5 percent. Meal plan increases average 4.8 percent.

—Ed Miller

Provost search stalled again

Marking its second unsuccessful attempt in a year, the University of Virginia halted its search for a permanent provost, pushing a hire to at least the next academic year. President Scott Beardsley cited leadership turnover and repeated changes to the search committee, saying a reset will improve fairness and transparency. Interim Provost Brie Gertler will continue to lead academic operations as the university prepares to relaunch the hiring process.

—Martha Carr



UVA reports compliance efforts to DOJ

BY MARTHA CARR

Recent federal compliance reports offer the first detailed account of how the University of Virginia has rewritten policies, overhauled admissions and redirected funding under a deal with the Trump administration to comply with its current interpretation of civil rights law.

The changes are similar to those being made at universities nationwide.

The reports, to be filed quarterly with the Department of Justice through December 2028, outline university-wide changes, as well as actions taken at the UVA Medical Center, School of Medicine, School of Nursing, McIntire School of Commerce, Darden School of Business and Division of Student Affairs—including those implemented before interim president Paul Mahoney signed the October 2025 agreement. Two reports have been submitted so far, in December and March, and are available to the public on UVA's university counsel website.

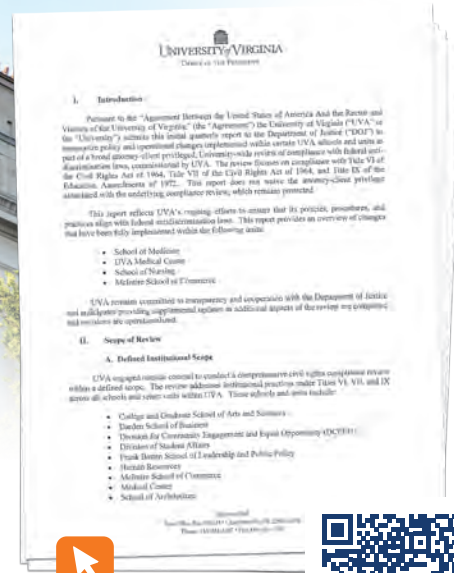
Broadly, officials have dismantled the diversity, equity and inclusion office; removed affirmative action and DEI language from websites and program

descriptions; and issued written guidance specifying that race, ethnicity, sex and other prohibited characteristics can no longer be used in university decision-making.

School by school, admissions policies are also being scrutinized. At the School of Medicine, for example, officials removed a “diversity-related” application question, eliminated the diversity section of the admissions review rubric and ended implicit bias training for admissions committee members, the reports say.

Money and programming are shifting as well. Organizations once housed within the Division of Student Affairs, such as the Black Presidents Council and Black College Women, now operate independently and receive no university funding. Events have also been changed to “emphasize broad participation by all students” and are widely marketed.

Virtually no aspect of the university, including its multibillion-dollar health system, has gone untouched, according to the reports. At the UVA Medical Center, officials have ended outreach events aimed at communities defined by race or other off-limits criteria.



See the reports and other documents provided by University Counsel here.



Faculty leadership training and pipeline programs targeting underrepresented groups in medicine have also been discontinued.

The October agreement—the first the Trump administration struck with a public university—paused five Justice Department investigations into alleged civil rights violations in exchange for compliance with then-Attorney General Pam Bondi's July 2025 interpretation of civil rights law.

UVA President Scott Beardsley, who assumed the top post at the start of the year, told the Faculty Senate in January that he intends to continue complying with the agreement, calling it a “reasonable arrangement for us.”

Under the terms, UVA is not required to pay fines, admit wrongdoing or submit to oversight by an external monitor, provided that federal officials determine it is making adequate progress. If not, the DOJ can revive the paused investigations or pursue new ones.

UVA's work is part of a compliance review that is ongoing and started last spring. It is being coordinated by Richmond-based law firm McGuireWoods.

Martha Carr is associate editor of Virginia Magazine.

> UVA President Scott Beardsley, who assumed the top post at the start of the year, told the Faculty Senate in January that he intends to continue complying with the October agreement.



UVA introduces new women's basketball coach

BY ED MILLER

Aaron Roussell was not ready for his first college head coaching job. Just 24 years old and in his first year as an assistant women's basketball coach at the University of Chicago, he was named interim coach two weeks before the start of the 2004-05 season, after the head coach resigned unexpectedly.

"At that point, I wanted nothing to do with being thrown into being a head coach," he said. "I didn't feel like I was prepared. ... I didn't get to learn from folks."

Twenty-two years, three schools and 460 coaching victories later, Roussell feels vastly more prepared for his new job as UVA's women's basketball coach. Roussell was hired April 7 and introduced at a press conference April 13.

Roussell comes from the University

of Richmond, where he coached for seven seasons. His teams there made the NCAA Tournament the past three seasons while compiling a record of 83-21. He was named Atlantic 10 Conference coach of the year in 2024 and 2025.

Roussell also coached for seven seasons at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania after eight seasons at the University of Chicago.

His track record of winning at strong academic institutions makes him a natural fit at UVA, Director of Athletics Carla Williams said. "He checks every box that we needed checking," she said.

Roussell replaces Amaka Agugua-Hamilton, who was fired April 4 despite leading the Cavaliers to their first NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 appearance since 2000.

Williams declined to comment on

why Agugua-Hamilton was dismissed. Citing sources, *USA Today* reported that Agugua-Hamilton was the subject of an internal investigation, and there were allegations of staff mistreatment.

Roussell said he was not in the market for a new job when UVA reached out. In fact, he and his family were on vacation in Jamaica, he said.

One of Roussell's first calls was to former Virginia great **Dawn Staley (Col '92)**, he said. A two-time national player of the year, Staley has won three national championships as head coach at the University of South Carolina. Roussell said he also spoke to former UVA coach **Debbie Ryan (Educ '77)**, who won 739 games in 34 seasons from 1977 to 2011 and led the Cavaliers to three consecutive Final Four appearances from 1990 to 1992.

Roussell said he aims to bring that sort of sustained success back to UVA.

"This is a place that should win at the highest levels on the national stage," he said. ♡

Ed Miller is senior writer of Virginia Magazine.

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5 BEDROOMS | 4.5 BATHS
4,930 FINISHED SF
920 UNFINISHED TERRACE
3-BAY GARAGE

\$2,595,000 • MLS# 673922



3 Acres on Owensville Road

4 BEDROOMS | 3.5 BATHS
3,172 FINISHED SF
1,712 UNFINISHED TERRACE
2-BAY DETACHED GARAGE

\$1,650,000 • MLS# 674311



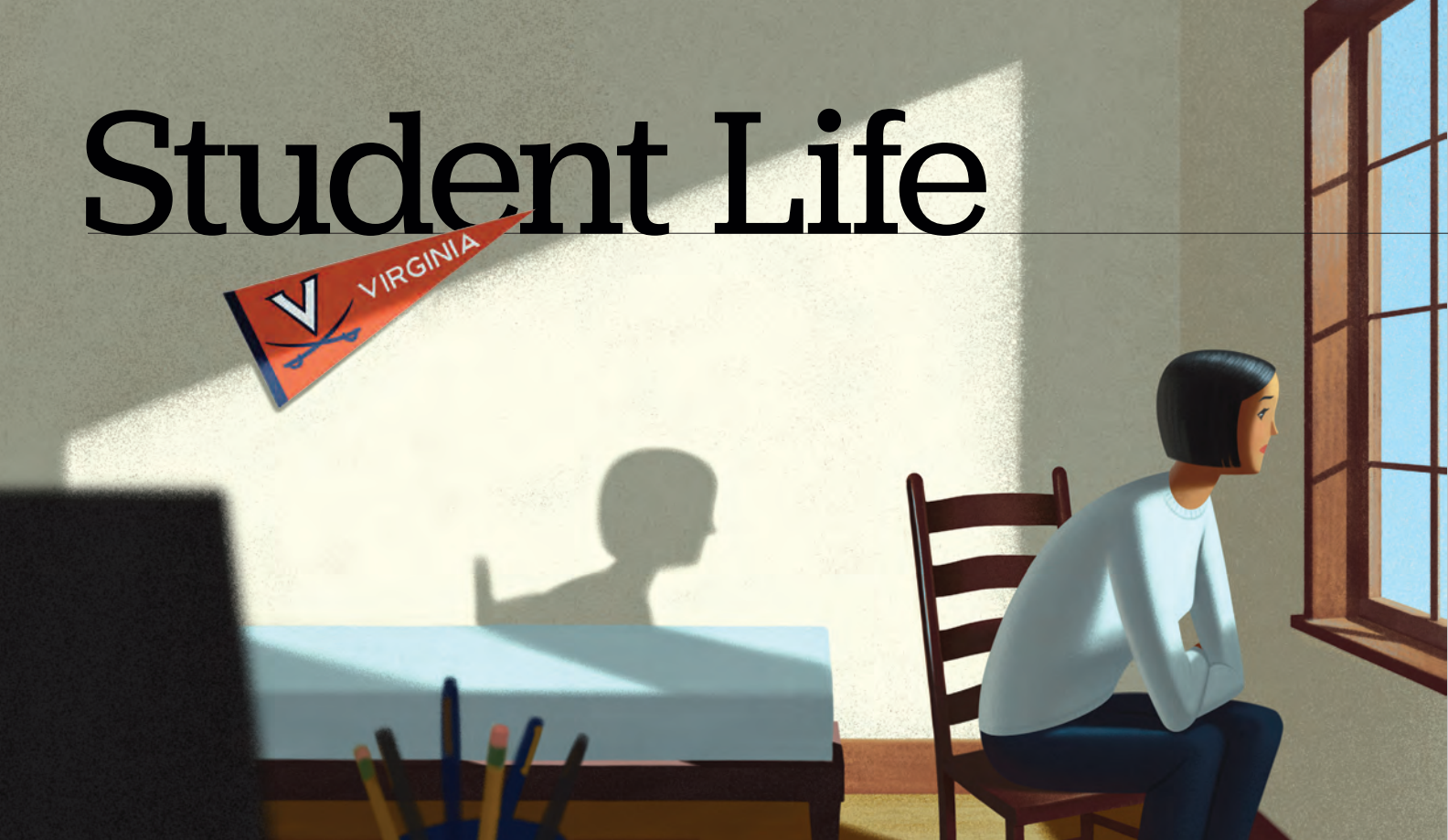
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Student Life



UNSETTLED

UVA's international students on edge as the political environment adds new anxieties to life far from home

BY ED MILLER

A first-year from India carries her student visa with her at all times, along with the Form I-20 that confirms she's enrolled at UVA. A first-year from Canada avoids posting anything on social media related to politics, immigration policy or ICE.

During the school year just completed, the advising sessions offered by UVA's International Students & Scholars Program were almost entirely booked, said adviser **Caren Freeman (Grad '96, '06)**. A staff of six spent four hours each day primarily counseling students on how to maintain their legal status.

"We go from 20-minute appointment to 20-minute appointment, talking to anxious students," Freeman said.

These are indeed unsettling times for some international students. On top of the logistical challenges and cultural adjustments that can come with studying in a different country, students are facing additional uncertainties as a result of policies implemented by the Trump administration.

"Immigration-related policy changes and proposals have been announced at a rapid-fire pace, resulting in an immigration landscape that has been extremely dynamic and

unpredictable," Adrienne Kim Bird, associate director of the International Students & Scholars Program, wrote in November on a website for UVA's international community.

The changes include expanded vetting of the social media accounts and online presence of visa applicants; travel bans preventing or severely restricting entry by citizens of 39 countries; and the aggressive and controversial immigration enforcement carried out across the country over the past year by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"Students and faculty at American universities have had their visas and immigration status canceled or been detained and threatened with deportation on the basis of past legal infractions, including minor offenses, and activities that the federal government believes undermine U.S. foreign policy, including participating in protests, writing opinion pieces, posting on social media, and other expressive activities," according to UVA's Federal Information site, set up in 2025 to address questions regarding Trump administration policies.

Students are taking precautions, with travel a common source of anxiety. Some students were rethinking plans to visit

JON KRAUSE ILLUSTRATION

home, for fear that they might have trouble getting back into the United States, Kim Bird said. “I’ve had a number of conversations with students in tears, because maybe they had a sick parent at home that they hadn’t seen,” she said.

That’s a concern for the Indian first-year who carries her papers in case she encounters immigration enforcement agents. She returned over the semester break armed with a “big folder” of documents to present at immigration. Thinking about traveling home again for summer break was making her nervous, she said in March.

“I was wondering, ‘Am I going to be let back in even though nothing has changed?’” she said. “It’s scary to think about.”

Like others interviewed for this story, the first-year, who holds a position that puts her in contact with many other international students, requested to remain anonymous for fear of facing deportation over something she said, like the Tufts student who was detained and whose F-1 visa was revoked last year after she wrote an editorial critical of the university’s response to Israel’s actions in Gaza.

A student from Columbia University who was active in pro-Palestinian protests was arrested in March 2025 and transferred to a detention facility in Louisiana, where he remained for 104 days. His case is ongoing.

“Everybody just seems on edge, I would say,” the first-year said. “This is completely unprecedented.”

In the fall of 2024, international students made up about 5 percent of undergraduates at UVA and 21 percent of graduate students, according to numbers provided by the International Students & Scholars Program.

All told, there were 1,533 graduate students, 740 undergraduates, 94 students not seeking degrees and 820 enrolled in Optional Practical Training, which is temporary employment related to a student’s field of study.

Students from China made up the biggest group. Among UVA undergrads, there were 380 students from China, 166 from India, 143 from South Korea, 125 from Canada and 115 from the United Kingdom.

Among graduate students, 560 were from China, 250 from India, 95 from Bangladesh, 91 from South Korea and 67 from Iran.

Beyond their contributions in the classroom and community, UVA’s international students contributed \$130.1 million to the state’s economy and supported 1,333 jobs in 2024-25, according to UVA Global, which cited figures compiled by NAFSA, the Association of International Educators.

For those reasons and others, colleges have been alarmed by the events of the past year. In April 2025, more than 1,800 current and recent students at 280 schools—including three at UVA—had their visas abruptly revoked and then restored, according to news reports. In May 2025, visa processing was

“**I really do want everyone to understand the severe disruption these policies are causing for students like me.**”

—*Abhishek Kulkarni*

halted for three weeks while the Department of Homeland Security implemented new vetting protocols for the social media accounts of applicants.

When processing resumed in June, the State Department cited national security when it required applicants to make their social media profiles public. In August, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that vetting would be expanded to include “anti-American” activity, a vaguely defined category that critics charged could have a chilling effect on free expression.

The first-year student from Canada said those policies have had precisely that effect on him.

“I’m very careful,” he said. “I don’t post anything that could be flagged. Within my friend group, we avoid reposting anything that has to do with protests or politics.”

Exactly what might be flagged can be difficult to predict, as Abhishek Kulkarni, who enrolled in 2023 as a doctoral student at Darden, discovered last summer.

Kulkarni had completed the second year of a five-year program when he returned to his native India in May 2025 to get married, he said. While at home, he misplaced his passport and had to apply for a new student visa.

Visa appointments were backlogged for months in India, so he applied first in Kuwait, where his father lived, he said. He received a rejection letter saying he had not provided sufficient documentation. He returned with letters from his program director and advisers at Darden, he said.

During the second interview, the consular officer asked Kulkarni about his performances as a stand-up comic in Charlottesville, where he had participated in open mic nights, he said. Kulkarni’s popular stand-up gigs were the subject of a story and video in University Communications’ *UVA Today* in January 2024. Organizers of the comedy nights tagged Kulkarni in Instagram posts about the shows, he said.

“I guess in their enhanced social media checks they had issues,” he said. “The questions started: ‘Do you perform stand-up? What kind of jokes do you do?’”

Kulkarni did not engage in political humor and wasn’t paid for performing, he said. But his application was turned down again.

Kulkarni applied a third time, after getting an appointment in India. He again brought letters from Darden, as well as bank



“Immigration-related policy changes and proposals have been announced at a rapid-fire pace, resulting in an immigration landscape that has been extremely dynamic and unpredictable.”

—*Adrienne Kim Bird, associate director of the International Students & Scholars Program*

statements showing he had not been paid to perform stand-up. The officer looked at his file and without asking any questions told him he was not eligible for a student visa, he said.

Kulkarni said he spoke to a private passport agency in India, which advised that he wait three to five years before reapplying. He lost his research funding—he was studying the role of humor in entrepreneurship—and the stipend for living expenses that UVA had provided.

His wife is finishing her master’s degree at Harvard and will return to India after the school year, Kulkarni said. Initially granted a leave of absence from Darden, he withdrew in April after finding work in India, according to his adviser, Darden professor **Bidhan “Bobby” Parmar (Col ’03, Darden ’11)**.

“I really do want everyone to understand the severe disruption these policies are causing for students like me,” he said.

UVA has for the most part avoided disruptions that have occurred elsewhere. But international enrollment in graduate programs fell 13 percent across the state between fall 2024 and fall 2025, according to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Rachel Banks, a senior director at the National Association of International Educators, told Virginia Public Media that the drop was attributable to the pause in visa processing, the revocation of some students’ visas, crackdowns on student protests and the overall uncertainty of the current environment.

At UVA, international graduate enrollment was off just 3 percent and total international enrollment down just 1.8 percent. Kim Bird credits an early push by UVA to issue I-20 forms to students, enabling many to get visas before the pause in processing.

Whether enrollment will remain steady is unclear. Applications from international students for graduate study were down 47 percent year over year as of late March, said Associate Vice Provost **Phil Trella (Grad ’00, ’10)**, director of UVA’s Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs.

The drop is consistent with figures at peer schools, Trella said. It also comes after years of significant increases in applications. In its core academic programs—excluding professional programs such as Darden, law and the medical school—UVA received 22,000 applications last year, he said. “There are still many times more applications than we will be offering students,” he said.

Absent changes in federal policy, Trella doesn’t anticipate the downward trend reversing.

Though the current landscape is complex, international students enjoy plenty of support. UVA offers webinars that cover topics such as immunization, insurance and academic culture. There are mentorship programs; counseling; and support groups focused on maintaining mental health, bridging cultural divides, finding community, and polishing English language skills, among other topics.

On a Wednesday evening in March, a dozen international students sat at tables in the Language Commons in New Cabell Hall for VISAS Café, a weekly gathering in which participants eat snacks, practice their English and exchange stories about their cultures.

To get the conversation started, a student volunteer prompted the group with questions, including this one:

“Have you ever tried to translate something like a joke, a phrase or a feeling, and it just didn’t work?”

“Always!” one student said, to widespread laughter.

The conversation flowed. As he prepared to leave, a doctoral student from Vietnam said he looks forward to the weekly sessions.

He came to UVA in the fall semester and had already made many friends, he said. He’s aware that some international students have experienced problems but has not had any difficulties himself, including when he returned home for the semester break, he said.

“ICE? I know the news, but I don’t worry about it,” he said. “Everything is OK for now.”

Ed Miller is senior writer of Virginia Magazine. 📍



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“Death, taxes—and Virginia swimming winning”

Women win a “surreal” sixth straight NCAA championship

BY ANNA KATHERINE CLEMMONS

For his first practice with the UVA swimming and diving team in August 2017, head coach Todd DeSorbo wanted to make a statement. He had arrived on Grounds only a few days before, and he didn’t have a lot of preparation time.

Practice started at 5:45 a.m.; DeSorbo and the coaches met beforehand. As they were about to walk onto the pool deck, DeSorbo told them to stop. “We’re not just walking out there,” he said to his staff. “We’re going to go out and yell and scream.”

“It was just this infusion of energy,” senior associate head coach Tyler Fenwick remembered, laughing.

The energy has not subsided since. Nor has the winning. Further cementing its status as the most elite women’s

swimming program in the nation, UVA in March won its sixth straight NCAA championship, setting a record for most consecutive national titles within collegiate swimming.

The Cavaliers finished with 589 points, the most in program history and 208.5 more than second-place Stanford. The Virginia women won all five relay events; of the 18 women who competed, 16 scored and were named either first- or second-team All-Americans.

“It’s been a little bit surreal,” DeSorbo said. “Tyler Fenwick actually was talking to me before the trophy ceremony. He was like, ‘Who would have thought in 2017 in August that we’d be sitting here winning our sixth title in a row?’ It hasn’t sunk in

UVA ATHLETICS

Sports

yet. I'm going to have to take a couple steps back and let it sink in, but it's pretty impressive for sure."

DeSorbo's first UVA women's team was not one he recruited. But it was one he knew well. He arrived at UVA after six years coaching at NC State.

In his final season with the Wolfpack, the team's motto was "TAKE THE 10th." Virginia had won nine consecutive ACC championships, and DeSorbo's NC State squad was determined to deprive them of the next. The Wolfpack women won the ACC title that year; five months later, he was at the helm in Virginia.

DeSorbo's coaching methodology often includes mantras and phrases. His motto for UVA that first year was "ALL DAY." "We put the words up immediately in my office—that was the vibe we wanted to impress upon the team," DeSorbo said. "We're going full steam ahead."

The women's team finished ninth at the NAAs in 2018. They finished sixth at the NAAs the next season. "That felt like a championship to us," said **Alexis Wenger (Col '22)**, who was part of DeSorbo's first recruiting class. The women's team had placed fifth in 2015 and 2016, but never any higher.

They entered the 2020 season intent to build on that momentum. With ACC Freshman Swimmer of the Year **Kate Douglass (Col '23, Grad '28)** on the roster, they won the ACC and had the point totals to compete for—and very likely win—the program's first national championship. But two days before the NCAA championship meet, the pandemic canceled the competition.

The next season was a test of commitment. Only two swimmers could practice per lane, starting at opposite ends of the pool. They had to put on masks after exiting the water. Three times a week, the team and staff were tested for COVID.

Wenger, one of the team captains, worked with the other captains to find ways to build camaraderie. They'd organize group outings to wineries, having each swimmer bring a blanket to sit 6 feet apart outside. They assigned different apartments for gatherings, ensuring that only five swimmers were in a room at once, and switched the groups so different swimmers spent time together.

DeSorbo texted the team every two weeks, asking if they wanted to opt out

due to health concerns or opt in and continue training. "A lot of people opted out," Wenger said. She stayed. Still, "it was sad and hard. It was super weird given how close our team was ... to be so isolated from each other."

The team's mantra that season was "WE WILL." "They followed the rules, stuck together, and really committed," Fenwick said. "I think that's when our women's team in particular went from really good to being on track to do something epic."

Epic, indeed: On March 20, 2021, they won their first NCAA title. "It was maybe one of the biggest reliefs of all time," Wenger said. "Everything we had sacrificed that year, it was all worth it."

Alex Walsh (Col '24) was a first-year on the first championship team. The No. 2 high school recruit in the nation, she had envisioned herself swimming for Cal Berkeley or Stanford. But **Margaret "Ella" Nelson (Com '24)** was a close friend and high school classmate, and when Nelson chose UVA, "that set off bells in my head, like, 'Something's going on there,'" Walsh said. She decided to visit.

Driving into town, Walsh saw the V-Sabres adorning Grounds and noticed groups of students hanging out on the Corner. She bonded with future teammates, laughing and sharing stories. She called her mom that night and told her she wanted to commit. "The cohesion of the team was so hard to resist," said Walsh, a world champion and Olympic

Head coach Todd DeSorbo huddles with the team at the 2026 NCAA championship meet in Atlanta.



medalist. “It definitely was indicative of the great experience that I would have at UVA.”

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In the years since the initial national title, the swimmers’ commitment to DeSorbo and his staff’s plans—and to one another—continued to produce championships. Alex Walsh recalls her fourth year in 2024, when Texas and UVA were very close, points-wise, entering the final day of the NCAA championship meet. The night before, the coaches gathered the team. “Look around at each other,” they told the swimmers. “Remember all that you’ve done together, how you’ve pushed each other. You have some of the best training groups in the world in so many different disciplines.”

“Just being reminded of that was motivation in and of itself,” Alex Walsh said.

The next day, they won again.

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Meeting with the team at the start of this season, DeSorbo reminded the women that they wouldn’t have superstars like Douglass or the Walsh sisters dominating every relay—rather, the team would likely have races decided by hundredths of a second. “And I was like, ‘That’s going to be way more fun,’” DeSorbo said. “I think they took the challenge of it.”

“They exceeded expectations and still won by a mile,” he added. “A lot of the relays, they weren’t that close. I think they took a little bit of a chip on their shoulder, but the point being, the challenges are what makes it motivating and fun and exciting.”

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Perennial championships change a program’s profile, including the recruiting process. “Now you almost have to have that X factor,” DeSorbo said. “The depth of the program, the competitiveness, the high-level talent of our athletes—that scares away a lot of recruits. The ones who come here now have the X factor already. They’re not scared of that.”

This year’s squad was full of X-factor swimmers, who dominated regular-season meets as the potential of a historic sixth consecutive title loomed.

And even the top performers credited the team’s togetherness for their collective success. “There was such a cohesiveness that we had, that was unlike anything I’ve ever felt before,” said **Claire Curzan (Col ’26)**, who won four individual and two relay events at the NCAA meet, while also coming within 0.01 seconds of her own NCAA and American record in the 200 backstroke.

Curzan said that as soon as the team won, while it was exciting and historic, she was already thinking about a potential seventh consecutive national title.

Others are as well. This spring, DeSorbo took part in an ACC Town Hall event where ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips spoke.

“There are three things in life that are guaranteed,” DeSorbo quoted Phillips as saying. “Death, taxes—and Virginia swimming winning.”

It’s a dynasty that, like the swimmers themselves, shows no sign of slowing down. 🏆

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Discovery

Protecting memories in Alzheimer's patients

BY CAROLINE KETTLEWELL



UVA neuroscience professor
Harald Sontheimer

Memories are one of the most important bonds we share with the people we care about. So it is particularly heartbreaking that late-stage Alzheimer's disease steals the ability to remember not only the stories but the people themselves.

Social-recognition memory is “a very discrete form of memory, a very important one and one that is unequivocally lost in late stages of Alzheimer's disease,” explains Harald Sontheimer, professor and chair of neuroscience in UVA's School of Medicine. “When you talk to people who care for persons with Alzheimer's disease, it is very difficult once you realize your loved one no longer recognizes you.”

Now, however, research from Sontheimer's team, published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, has found that protecting a gel-like sugary protein substance that surrounds specialized neurons in the brain's hippocampus may help maintain and preserve these important social memories.

Other researchers, Sontheimer notes, have found that damage—such as through injury—to a particular region of the hippocampus leads to a similar

loss of this kind of memory. Sontheimer and his team compared healthy mice to those genetically modified to mimic the brain changes and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

As the disease progressed in the Alzheimer's mice, the researchers found that inflammation in the brain released enzymes that “digested” the gel-like substance (known as the perineuronal network, or PNN) surrounding the neurons in that region of the hippocampus. These mice, unlike the disease-free mice, lost their ability to distinguish familiar, known mice from unfamiliar stranger mice. At the same time, however, the mice with Alzheimer's retained their ability to recognize familiar objects, suggesting that social memory, but not object memory, had been affected by the loss of that PNN.

“We were able to attribute this [social] memory loss to a very specific deficit in a very small area of the hippocampus,” Sontheimer says. Significantly, he adds, there was no change to the nerve cells themselves—only to the surrounding perineuronal network.

Next, the researchers found that by treating the Alzheimer's mice with a drug that inhibited PNN-digesting enzymes, they could successfully preserve social

memory. As long as the treatment continued, social memory was maintained.

Also exciting, he says, is that the class of drugs the researchers used has previously been FDA-approved for use in human clinical trials, which could potentially mean they could more rapidly be moved into use in clinical trials for Alzheimer's patients. Sontheimer cautions, however, that researchers always have to keep in mind that while something can look promising in a mouse model, “not everything translates from mouse to humans.”

Sontheimer says progress in finding effective means to prevent, delay or treat Alzheimer's has remained challenging because, despite how central memory is to day-to-day life, researchers still don't really understand it. “We understand so little about memory in general,” he says, “and that makes it challenging to study a disease that is so defined by memory loss.”

Still, he says, progress is being made, and novel lines of inquiry, such as his team's exploration of the role of PNNs in social memory loss, may help reshape our understanding of Alzheimer's, including what role the immune system plays in maintaining—or losing—our ability to remember. ♥

VM Bookshelf

8 books on American democracy by UVA authors

BY SAM GROSSMAN

To commemorate the 250th birthday of the United States, *Virginia Magazine* selected eight works by UVA authors—including faculty, alumni and one postdoctoral fellow—that delve into the complexities of American democracy. They range from explorations of the earliest days of the republic to examinations of our modern state of political polarization.

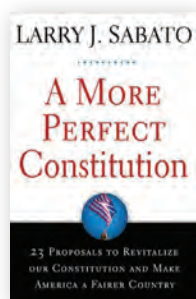


***The Home Front: Revolutionary Households, Military Occupation, and the Making of American Independence* (2025)**

by Lauren Duval

To contextualize the founding of American democracy, Duval, a postdoctoral fellow at UVA's Karsh Institute of Democracy,

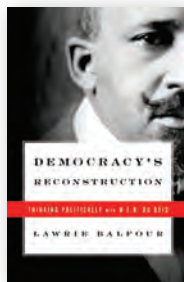
explores the daily life of citizens on the precipice of independence. Instead of statehouses and battlefields, Duval looks inside the homes of ordinary civilians in urban centers such as New York, Philadelphia and Boston as they navigated scarcity, fear and uncertainty during the American Revolution. Some contended with British military occupation—think officers quartering themselves inside homes and enslaved people absconding to the British side of the conflict in pursuit of freedom. These disruptions to domestic life, Duval argues, shaped early understanding of citizenship and power in the nascent American Republic.



***A More Perfect Constitution* (2008) by Larry J. Sabato (Col '74)**

"It is not that the founders botched the original Constitution, except for the tragic enshrinement of slavery as a fundamental element of American political life," writes political scientist Sabato. "The framers left it to us, and expected of us, that we would continue at regular intervals to perfect their work." Sabato, founder and director

of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, lays out a series of proposals for revising the document, beginning with expanding the Senate to be more representative and establishing congressional term limits. He continues with suggested improvements to the executive and judicial branches, a case for two years of universal national service, and a framework for a new Constitutional Convention.

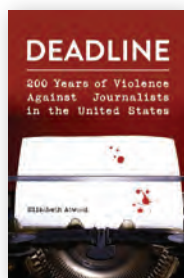


***Democracy's Reconstruction: Thinking Politically With W.E.B. Du Bois* (2011)**

by Lawrie Balfour

In *Democracy's Reconstruction*, UVA politics professor Balfour tackles what she considers to be Americans' collective failure to grapple with the long-term effects of slavery and racial subjugation. She addresses political theorists' reluctance to treat these topics as central to

the study of modern democratic life by analyzing the written works of Black scholar W.E.B. Du Bois. Balfour specifically highlights Du Bois' concerns about how the legacy of slavery conflicted with the prospects of democracy—and applies that framework to discussions about racial inequalities that persist in the U.S. today. The book does not encourage readers to take Du Bois "unquestioningly or in all regards as an authority," Balfour writes, but rather invites them to learn from and to argue with him.



***Deadline: 200 Years of Violence Against Journalists in the United States* (2025)**

by Elizabeth Atwood (Grad '83)

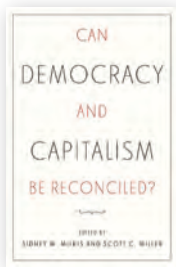
In *Deadline*, journalism professor and veteran newspaper reporter Atwood contends with a foundational tenet of American democracy: freedom of the press. She provides a comprehensive history of fatal assaults against journalists in the U.S. from 1829 until

today, organizing them into five categories: attacks against individuals; attacks against ideas; attacks in wars and other conflicts; attacks to stop reporting; and attacks against media institutions. Through these accounts, she highlights how intimidation, violence and censorship have all been used against the American press since the nation's founding. She concludes the book by offering potential solutions—including stricter legislation to protect reporters and better safety training—in the hopes of safeguarding the free press and, in turn, strengthening U.S. democracy.

Want more?

Here are some additional titles by UVA-related authors you might enjoy:

***News Hole: The Demise of Local Journalism and Political Engagement* (2021) by Danny Hayes and Jennifer L. Lawless (UVA politics professor)**

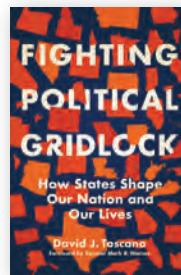


Can Democracy and Capitalism Be Reconciled?

(2025) edited by Sidney M. Milkis and Scott C. Miller (Grad '15, '18)

"In our experience as professors at the University of Virginia, young people largely believe that democracy and capitalism are structurally incompatible," write Milkis, a politics professor, and Miller, a Darden

professor and director of UVA's Democracy and Capitalism Lab. "Many students at elite business schools also believe this to be the case." To dig into the fundamental question of whether democracy and capitalism can and should coexist, Milkis and Miller compiled 24 essays from economists, political scientists, lawyers and professors. As they contend with topics including climate change and inequality, the contributors highlight how fragile the relationship between capitalism and democracy really is—and propose changes that can help strengthen it.

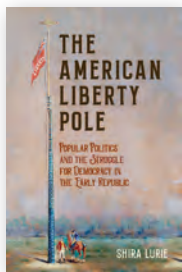


Fighting Political Gridlock: How States Shape Our Nation and Our Lives (2021)

by David J. Toscano (Law '86)

In our modern era of political polarization and gridlock in Washington, state governments have become increasingly more influential in shaping American society, according to Toscano, a former member of the Virginia

House of Delegates and a former Charlottesville mayor. He offers a detailed overview of how state governments function, beginning with an analysis of state responses to COVID and covering topics including crime, healthcare, abortion and immigration. *Fighting Political Gridlock* concludes with a call to action and suggestions for how citizens can get more politically involved in their communities. "The future of our democratic experiment depends more on citizen engagement than perhaps any policy initiative adopted at any level of government," Toscano writes. "And it is here where we are in the fight of our lives."

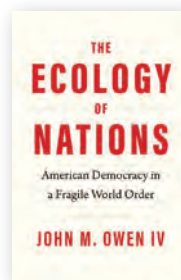


The American Liberty Pole: Popular Politics and the Struggle for Democracy in the Early Republic (2023)

by Shira Lurie (Grad '19)

How did early Americans adjust to their new role as citizens rather than as subjects? Lurie, a historian of the early United States who holds a doctorate from

UVA, seeks to answer that question in *The American Liberty Pole*. The book's title refers to the tall wooden poles affixed with flags and signs that became a symbol of debates about political expression and participation. Liberty poles first appeared as totems of resistance to British imperial policies, and in the 1790s, Republican citizens revived them in protest of the Washington and Adams administrations. *The American Liberty Pole* underscores how American political culture has been marked by disagreement and resistance from the very beginning.



The Ecology of Nations: American Democracy in a Fragile World Order (2023)

by John M. Owen IV

"For some time, it has been clear that democracy is in trouble," writes Owen, a UVA politics professor, in *The Ecology of Nations*. To investigate the causes of that trouble, he takes a biological approach by viewing the global landscape of democracies

and autocracies as a delicate ecosystem. Democracies, he says, are losing to autocracies. The success of American democracy, he argues, hinges not on internal factors like economic structure or the Supreme Court but instead on the health and welfare of other democracies worldwide. "Many Americans tend to think strictly nationally about democracy," Owen writes. "But much of what ails American democracy is coming at it from without."


The Ties That Bind: Immigration and the Global Political Economy (2023) by David Leblang (UVA politics professor) and Benjamin Helms (Grad '18, '22)

Constraining Dictatorship: From Personalized Rule to Institutionalized Regimes (2020) by Anne Meng (UVA politics professor)

Jefferson's Empire: The Language of American Nationhood (2000) by Peter S. Onuf (UVA history professor emeritus)

How Constitutional Rights Matter (2020) by Adam Chilton and Mila Versteeg (UVA law professor)

What Happened to the Vital Center? (2022) by Nicholas F. Jacobs (Grad '16, '19) and Sidney M. Milkis (UVA politics professor)



**“What
Didn’t
I Learn
Here?”**

Alumna Gov. Abigail Spanberger
on UVA, the public trust and
governing in divided times

BY MARTHA CARR



PHOTOS BY SANJAY SUCHAK

Abigail Davis Spanberger (Col '01) arrived at the University of Virginia in the late 1990s, a French major from the Richmond suburbs with the dream of becoming a spy. A quarter century after graduating, she's back—as the first female governor in the commonwealth and the official ultimately responsible for the institution that shaped her.

The intervening years were not quiet ones. Spanberger worked undercover for the CIA. She flipped a Republican congressional district that hadn't sent a Democrat to Washington in half a century. She built a reputation, rare in contemporary politics, for working across party lines. Then, last year, she won Virginia's governorship by 15 points, the largest Democratic margin since 1961.

In her first months in office, Spanberger, 46, has moved swiftly to reverse policies set by Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin and the Trump administration, ending state law enforcement partnerships with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and working with the Democratically controlled General Assembly to lower prescription drug prices, expand affordable housing and cut energy costs.

On the higher education front, Spanberger immediately appointed 27 new members to the boards of visitors at UVA, George Mason University and the Virginia Military Institute, institutions that experienced high-profile controversies over diversity initiatives under the previous administration.

Those moves have attracted national attention. Spanberger was tapped →

→ to deliver the Democratic rebuttal to the State of the Union—from Colonial Williamsburg, no less. And party leaders have pointed to her affordability-focused campaign as a potential blueprint for the 2026 midterms. Republicans, however, have challenged her centrist credentials, arguing that her agenda aligns more closely with traditional liberal priorities.

Virginia Magazine sat down with the governor in April at the Colonnade Club to talk about her first months in office, her political trajectory and her vision for the future of higher education in Virginia. What follows has been edited for clarity and length.

Q | You've described UVA as the place where your instinct to serve was sharpened. What did you learn at UVA that has guided your career in public service?

A | My answer would be: What *didn't* I learn here?

During my time on Grounds, I studied a mix of languages and foreign affairs. I always knew I wanted to follow a path into public service, but particularly through my foreign affairs class and just getting passionate about foreign affairs, I think I really honed my desire to work in the national security space.

Then the languages I took—and the time I spent developing relationships with other people who loved languages and cultures—I think helped further refine that I wanted to be based overseas and really work to constantly understand differences in order to understand threats and keep the country safe.

Q | In November you asked UVA's rector and vice rector to pause the presidential search, but they pushed ahead, signing a five-and-a-half-year contract with Darden Dean Scott Beardsley. You replaced both leadership positions and appointed a new majority to the BOV. Can you walk us through your reasoning for what you did and why you believed it was necessary to act immediately?

A | I'm sure anyone reading this remembers that time when it was just every day a new thing in the news about UVA—every day something new about how it came to pass that President **Jim Ryan (Law '92)** left. There was this constant drip, drip, drip.

And the agitation that caused within the alumni community, certainly within Charlottesville, and on Grounds for students, professors and staff, put the university into a point of real turmoil.

Thinking back to the fall, and thinking about what it would mean to be governor and to have the responsibility of actually appointing the governing board—the people

responsible for the stewardship and the strength of UVA, a place I love so much—it became clear that their obligation is to do right by the university.

At each step along the way, they had choices. They had choices in how they communicated with the public or with any of the constituencies that were upset. They had choices that even if they believed in the decision—for example—if they fully believed in what they did when they ushered President Ryan out, then tell people that and explain it.

Because they didn't—presumably because they were unable to, in that case—it created this cycle of distrust that I think was really starting to impact not just the university now, but frankly into the future.

With the appointment of President Beardsley, and I've said this to him directly, I think it's unfortunate that here is someone who has worked in support of this great place, and in choosing him the way they did, they put so many hurdles in front of him.

So my choice to replace many of them was a choice to put people on the board who, at the end of the day, would make good decisions for the university and who have demonstrated devotion to UVA.

I'm pleased with the new configuration because I think every decision they make—and I may or may not agree with all of them—will be what they believe ... are in the best interests of the university.

Q | What do you hope those changes ultimately accomplish?

A | I think it's better communication. And ideally, it is better decision-making. Even though I think the decisions of the prior board configuration were very detrimental to UVA, I'm willing to concede that if they thought they were better decisions, the way they communicated or didn't communicate [in] itself did damage.

So what I hope this new board delivers is steadiness, stability.

UVA hasn't been in the news for anything negative somewhat recently, which is success. We should aim for a space that whatever UVA wants to push forward—whether it's one of the extraordinary schools, the story of an alum who's doing something great, an initiative of the new president—gets to break through because that chaos in the governance structure is no longer there.

Q | The upheaval in university governance around the state last year prompted Democrats in the General Assembly to pass legislation that extends board member terms from four to six years and prohibits policies that impede free speech. But instead of signing it, you offered amendments, including keeping the four-year terms in place. Can you explain why?



“
When you look at
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A | The members of the General Assembly who put that bill forward were aiming for a comprehensive shift to the board appointment process, and I agree with the idea of taking a serious look at that process. But I did put forward substantial amendments for a few reasons.

One is that we had a bit of a shock in how quickly a board could be disruptive, based on what happened at UVA. There’s not necessarily a reason to believe that four-year terms themselves are the problem. Spacing out the cadence of board service doesn’t automatically provide greater stability—it just shifts the years. If you have a cohort of people, by virtue of who appointed them and when, that intends to be disruptive, it will happen regardless of where you place the terms.

So I stepped away from rewriting term lengths as a direct response. I’m open to discussions about term structure—different universities across the country do things differently—but I didn’t believe a major overhaul in reaction to UVA, or even earlier events at VMI, was the right move without stronger data to show that it would actually be a best practice for Virginia.

I also believe strongly that the responsibility for appointments should remain with the governor, with confirmation by the General Assembly. That responsibility has to be taken seriously. In the amendments, we made very clear expectations around confirmation timelines, including giving the General Assembly 30 days during session to confirm appointments.

Q | **President Trump’s administration has initiated more than 90 civil rights investigations at American universities and targeted research funding and diversity, equity and inclusion programs. UVA ultimately reached an agreement with the Department of Justice. You’ve characterized these actions as “attacks” on Virginia’s public universities, while supporters argue they were necessary to address ideological imbalance in higher education. If federal pressure continues or intensifies, how do you believe Virginia’s public universities—and your administration—should respond? Where, if anywhere, do you see room for common ground?**

A | When we look at what I’ve called attacks on public universities and higher education that we’ve seen across the country—denying federal funding, demanding changes of universities—those actions have had negative consequences for research and development and the ability to attract talent, whether they’re professors, graduate students or undergraduates.

Those decisions have impacted us in some ways we may never fully know—scientific research that just won’t happen. When you’re researching cervical cancer, that’s research on women. When targeted research focuses on women, or Black women, or Indigenous women, that is real scientific research that requires breaking down populations and understanding differences.

They’ve brought this oversimplified idea of what they

“My priority as governor is to stand up for our universities, stand up for that type of research.”

think DEI is, or whatever it is they're trying to attack, and they've done it to the detriment of, in some cases, intellectual inquiry and scientific research.

Moving into the future, my priority as governor is to stand up for our universities, stand up for that type of research, and to be deeply engaged in making every argument for why it's important to research specific types of cancers, to explore all facets of our history and to teach it to our kids.

When the Trump administration chooses to pursue a path that might be good for our universities or more broadly for Virginia, then I look forward to finding alignment.

Q | Tuition at Virginia's public universities has continued to rise; today, the total cost of attendance for in-state students is roughly \$30,000 per year with room and board, before financial aid. What's your view of the costs versus the value of higher education, and are there any policies you think the state should consider to make public universities more affordable?

A | I have three school-age daughters, and I think every parent who's looking at sending their kids off to college thinks the cost is just too expensive.

When you look at the value—especially across the country—I do think what Virginia's public universities bring is unparalleled. We have large research institutions, small universities, public HBCUs, land grants. We really have it all here in the commonwealth.

So the question is: How can we maintain that extraordinary quality and continue to bring down the cost per family?

One example of great legislation that was passed through the General Assembly recognizes that there are two different [financial aid] programs at the state level. The application processes were different and separate, and we know some Virginia students who are eligible for support were missing one or both. So that legislation would combine the process by which someone applies or understands that they're eligible for those dollars.

We're also working aggressively to increase options for career-related, grant-eligible work. While there's plenty of on-Grounds work for students [as part of work-study], if we expand the options to the field they might want to be in—such as working at a hospital or in education—there are fantastic possibilities.

Then, notably, building out the education-related or public-service-related loan repayment programs that some of our localities have as it relates to educators.

Overall, the cost of higher education does keep me up at

night, both as governor and as a parent. But I do think that we are taking steps forward in creating greater value, while also attempting to mitigate the impact of those rising costs.

Q | You've often been described as a moderate, including by members of your own party, while some Republicans argue your early actions as governor reflect a more traditionally liberal agenda. How do you define your political identity, and do labels like "moderate" or "liberal" meaningfully capture how you approach governing?

A | I would argue no, because some of the labels can be a little too reductive.

I think the best descriptors of my governing style would be that I'm a consensus-builder. I also move with urgency. I'm relatively impatient. And I also think that we have an obligation to try and really create sustainable policy.

When I was first running for Congress, I found it curious that there were some very big government programs that most people accept, love and never critique, like Medicare, Social Security and some of our VA programs. These are programs that cost an extraordinary amount of money but also deliver a substantial value.

After digging into it, using Medicare as an example, I found that when Medicare was passed, it was passed with a broad bipartisan coalition. I think that history—that somebody, somewhere put in the work—was essential to the fact that all these years later, we allow that program to be successful. But at that moment, when it was a new program and people were starting to utilize it, I'm sure there was a learning curve.

I've reflected a lot on some of our most sustainable policies. How do you try and mirror the recipe for it? So I do strive to be bipartisan. If I believe I have a good idea, why would I not try and sell it to a broader group of people? As a member of Congress, I had to do that because you needed to get enough votes.

Now, governing a state where people run the gamut of ideas and priorities, to be able to both explain what you are for and how you intend to deliver on those things via policy matters.

But I imagine that as long as I'm in politics, there will be somebody who calls me one thing or the other.

Q | Just five weeks into your term, you delivered the Democratic rebuttal to the State of the Union. You've also spoken about Democratic governors as a key counterweight to federal policy under the Trump

administration. How do you balance the demands of governing Virginia with your growing role on the national stage? And how do your relationships with other governors and national leaders shape that approach?

A First and foremost, I try to ground everything in what matters to Virginians.

When I was asked to do the State of the Union rebuttal, for me it was “What do I want Virginians to hear?” Because I do believe that what matters to Virginians matters to people in the rest of the country. Maybe they articulate it someplace different, or maybe the example is different in other states.

So when I was writing that speech, I kept trying to think about, if I was at a town hall, how would I talk to people about what that State of the Union was and why I think the president’s policies are bad for Virginians. That is really what I try to anchor things on.

As I was running for governor, and since becoming governor, it has been a great resource to be able to connect with other governors about how they’ve solved different issues or how they’ve thought about things. Not because what they did in XYZ state is right for Virginia, but because hearing how other people have thought through major decisions ... has been a helpful resource.

I’ll give a specific example. There’s a variety of different lawsuits challenging the Trump administration that our attorney general, **Jay Jones (Law ’15)**, has taken on. So

whether we are leading or joining with an amicus brief, Virginia has been able to say, “These are also the challenges facing Virginia.”

Q **We’ve spent some of this conversation talking about UVA as a policy challenge. Let’s go back to when it was just a place. Is there a single memory from your time on Grounds—a professor, a moment, a conversation—that has stayed with you?**

A I would actually say two things.

I was in a Spanish class my fourth year ... and there was a woman in the class, another student, who was a refugee from the war in Bosnia.


I remember her vividly telling the story of her family escaping Bosnia and making their way to a refugee camp and ultimately getting placed in Spain. She lived there for a number of years—her Spanish was excellent—and was then moved to the United States, where they were ultimately resettled.

I remember just being so struck by her story and what that hardship was, what that experience was like—the fact that here on Grounds, nobody would know that she had this sort of harrowing tale, and we were only 21 or 22.

I think it did frame how I view the impact of war on kids, the impact of national security questions like how do you keep people and civilians safe?

Then I would say, more broadly, when I lived in the German house at UVA, which used to be this fun and eclectic old house that was turned into a residence down on Brandon Avenue. A random group of people who liked to speak German lived there together.

That place for me was the most kind of grounding place, where I found lifelong friends.

I think that’s the experience that, whether it was just sort of sitting on the front porch talking about life or studying for an exam, was an essential piece of my UVA experience. 

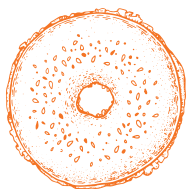
Martha Carr is associate editor of Virginia Magazine.

SPANBERGER AT UVA

Her time on Grounds: Spanberger transferred to UVA from William and Mary and graduated in 2001 with a French language and literature major and foreign affairs minor.

Her Wahoo wedding:

She married UVA classmate Adam Spanberger (Engr ’02) at the Chapel in April 2006. Cav Man even crashed their photos on the Lawn (shown). They have three daughters.



Her go-to Bodo’s order: She gets an everything bagel with cream cheese and lox; Adam gets an egg and cheese on a cinnamon raisin bagel; and they bring back an assortment of plain and cinnamon bagels for their daughters.



Other Wahoos in Office

BY ED MILLER AND KIKI McLAUGHLIN

On all sides of the aisle—in governors’ mansions and in both houses of the U.S. Congress—elected officials who might not agree on much politically have at least one thing in common: a UVA degree.

Politicians are just one category of leaders turned out by UVA. For the second consecutive year, *Time* magazine named UVA a top-three public university for producing American leaders. The magazine’s study examined “4,800 of the most influential figures shaping U.S. society today.”

Here’s a look at at UVA alumni who are serving in our country’s highest elected offices.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



GREG CASAR (COL '11)

D-Texas

More than a decade before he was elected to the House on a pro-labor, progressive platform, Casar was part of the Living Wage Campaign and Workers and Students United at UVA, campaigning to raise UVA’s employee minimum wage from \$10.14 an hour to \$11.44 an hour. Today, he’s a member of “The Squad,” a left-wing faction of the U.S. House of Representatives, and represents Texas’ 35th Congressional District, which includes parts of Austin and San Antonio. He chairs the House Progressive Caucus, and he serves on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as well as the House Committee on Education and Workforce. He has introduced bills regarding energy and commerce, including the Stop AI Price Gouging and Wage Fixing Act of 2025 and the Connect the Grid Act in February. Up for reelection this year, he has received the Democratic nomination in the race for the newly redrawn District 37.



CHIP ROY (COM '94, '95)

R-Texas

A double 'Hoo raised in Loudoun County, Virginia, Roy represents Texas Congressional District 21, which includes south Austin, north San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country. His website lists his top priorities as border security, election integrity, healthcare freedom, strengthening the military and supporting veterans. He serves on the House Judiciary, Rules and Budget committees. Policy chair of the House Freedom Caucus, he is considered one of the most conservative members of Congress. Earlier this year, he reintroduced the SAVE America Act, an election security bill that critics say could disproportionately complicate voting for certain groups, particularly women who use married names. He’s been a vocal supporter of the Trump administration’s controversial Department of Homeland Security and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement activities. Before coming to Congress, he served as chief of staff to U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz. At press time, Roy is running for Texas attorney general.

U.S. SENATE



ANDY BARR (COL '96)

R-Kentucky

At UVA, Barr contributed to *The Virginia Advocate*, a conservative student newspaper. During law school at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where his family has lived for generations,

he joined the school's Federalist Society. Today he carries those conservative ideals forward in serving Kentucky's 6th Congressional District, which includes Lexington, Richmond and Georgetown. He has supported measures to restrict abortion access, boost Kentucky's agriculture industry, combat the opioid epidemic, secure military funding, and decrease regulations around fossil fuel mining and production. A senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, he chairs its Financial Institutions Subcommittee. He also serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. At press time, he is running for U.S. Senate to succeed Mitch McConnell. During his campaign, he has billed himself as "the pro-Trump candidate," expressing support for ICE and opposition to "diversity, equity and inclusion" initiatives.



**JENNIFER McCLELLAN
(LAW '97)**

D-Virginia

Born in Petersburg, Virginia, McClellan represents Virginia's 4th Congressional District, which includes Richmond and Petersburg. She's the first Black woman to

represent Virginia in Congress. Prior to her victory in 2023's 4th District special election, she was a state senator, state delegate and one-time gubernatorial candidate. According to her website, she passed over 370 pieces of legislation in the Virginia General Assembly. She serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. As a member of the Reproductive Freedom Caucus, she chairs the Abortion Rights and Access Task Force. A moderate Democrat, she's part of the leadership of the New Democrat Coalition. She's a supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment. Other priorities include protecting and expanding voting rights, combatting climate change, and supporting labor protections. In March, she sponsored the AI-Ready Networks Act, which would prompt research into "the integration of artificial intelligence into the commercial telecommunications infrastructure."



**SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO
(EDUC '76)**

R-West Virginia

Billing herself as "West Virginia's Conservative Champion," Capito is a strong supporter of President Trump in a state he carried

by overwhelming margins in the past three elections. The daughter of former West Virginia Gov. and U.S. Rep. Arch Moore Jr., Capito was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000 and became her state's first female U.S. senator in 2014. She won reelection with 70 percent of the vote in 2020, the largest margin of victory by a Republican in state history, and she is seeking a third term in 2026. Capito chairs the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee and the Republican Policy Committee, the fourth-highest position in Senate leadership. She was named 2025 Legislator of the Year by the Addiction Policy Forum for her leadership in response to the nation's opioid crisis, which hit particularly hard in West Virginia. She is an advocate for her state's coal industry, and for relaxing environmental regulations she has called "burdensome."



JOHN KENNEDY (LAW '77)

R-Louisiana

Elected in 2016 and reelected in 2022, Kennedy chairs the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and the Senate Banking, Housing, and

Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Policy. He served as executive editor of the *Virginia Law Review* at UVA and worked as a trial lawyer before serving five terms as treasurer of Louisiana. A self-described "dedicated watchdog of taxpayer money," he focuses much of his legislative effort on financial regulation. He sponsored the Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act and the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act. He has also sponsored bills to extend the National Flood Insurance Program, a priority in flood-prone Louisiana. He has supported repealing the Affordable Care Act and strongly backed President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Known for his folksy style and thick Southern drawl, Kennedy in October 2025 published a book, *How to Test Negative for Stupid: And Why Washington Never Will*.

U.S. SENATE *CONT'D*



JOHN CORNYN (LAW '95)
R-Texas

The senior senator from Texas, Cornyn was at press time engaged in a runoff with Ken Paxton for the Republican nomination for Senate. A former circuit court and Texas Supreme Court judge, Cornyn was

elected in 2002 and served as majority whip from 2013 to 2019. He chairs the Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration and, on his campaign website, touts his record leading "the fight to restore order at the border and keep dangerous criminals out of our country." Cornyn's website touts that he "stands shoulder to shoulder with President Trump 99% of the time to finish the wall, crush Biden's open-border policies, and put America First." He supported legislation to end funding to "sanctuary cities." A fervent defender of the Second Amendment, Cornyn holds an A+ rating from the National Rifle Association and has backed legislation that would allow concealed carry licenses in one state to apply to other states that allow it.



ANGUS KING (LAW '69)
I-Maine

One of two independents in the Senate, King calls himself "a strong believer in the need for greater bipartisan dialogue and relationship building."

King practiced law, hosted a public affairs television show, and founded an energy conservation company before serving as governor of Maine from 1995 to 2003. Elected to the Senate in 2012, he won a third term in 2024. He caucuses with the Democratic Party and is a member of the Veterans Affairs, Armed Services, Intelligence, and Energy and Natural Resources committees. King co-chaired a commission to develop a cyber defense strategy and has authored legislation to develop ways of detecting content generated by AI. He chairs the Senate National Parks Subcommittee and pushed legislation to address a maintenance backlog on public lands. King was named 2024 Legislator of the Year by the Wounded Warrior Project. He helped draft and pass the Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013, a bipartisan bill that limited interest rates on federal student loans.



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (LAW '82)
D-Rhode Island

Now in his fourth term, Whitehouse is the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and co-chairs the Caucus on International Narcotics Control. He

also serves on the Judiciary, Budget and Finance committees. A former U.S. attorney for Rhode Island, he acted as the state's attorney general from 1999 to 2003. Addressing environmental issues frequently on the Senate floor, he has advocated limiting carbon emissions and advancing "smart solutions to address climate change, position Rhode Island as a leader in the clean energy economy, clean up our oceans, and hold the fossil fuel industry accountable." He co-founded the bipartisan Senate Oceans Caucus and helped pass the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to address the threat to coastal ecosystems posed by plastic debris. In response to the opioid crisis, Whitehouse in 2016 sponsored the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. He's supported gun control measures such as implementing universal background checks and banning assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.

GOVERNOR

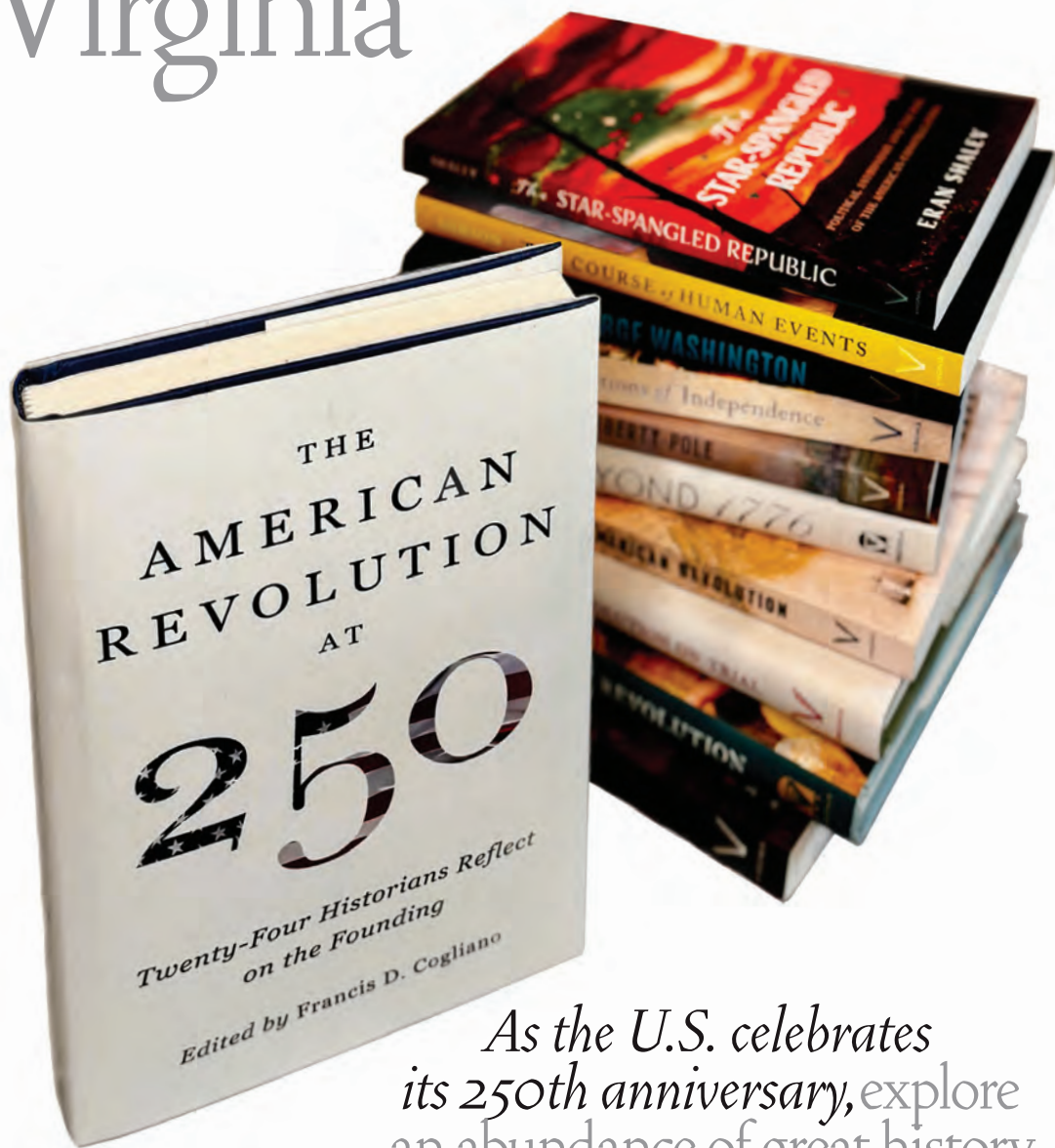


ANDY BESHEAR (LAW '03)
D-Kentucky

Beshear is the two-term Democratic governor in Kentucky, which is an otherwise solidly Republican state. He won the office in 2019 with around 5,000 votes more than his Republican opponent. Facing supermajorities in

both the Kentucky House of Representatives and Senate, many of his legislative vetoes can be overridden. Despite his opposing positions to many of the state's other elected officials, a poll conducted by Morning Consult shows that Beshear boasts a 65 percent approval rating among his constituents, making him the third-most popular governor in the nation and the nation's most popular Democratic governor. In an interview with *Politico*, Beshear described himself as a pragmatic "pro-business, pro-union Democrat." Beshear's accomplishments in office include the creation of 68,000 jobs, billions in private sector investments, record-low unemployment, and expanded healthcare access. Other priorities include expanded support for public education, particularly universal pre-K. With his gubernatorial term ending in 2027, Beshear has been openly contemplating a 2028 presidential run.

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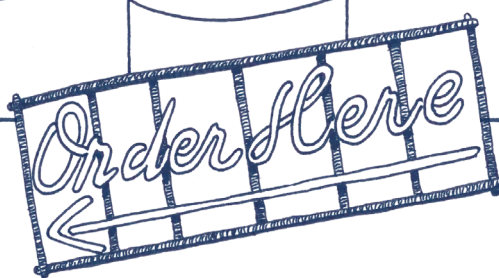
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Just Around



THE CORNER



A Gus Burger at 1 a.m. A pewter mug with your nickname on it. A Grillswith before an all-nighter. Alumni shared with us memories of their favorite spots, and we did some digging of our own.

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL / ILLUSTRATIONS BY MATT HOLLINGS



“My favorite spot on the Corner in the 1960s was The Virginian, where I often dropped in for lunch, dinner or just a few beers. I enjoyed just sitting in one of the booths, eating and/or having some beers, reading a book or magazine and listening to the music on their jukebox. I particularly remember enjoying ‘500 Miles,’ ‘Both Sides Now,’ ‘Play With Fire,’ ‘It Ain’t Me, Babe,’ and anything by Joan Baez or Peter, Paul and Mary.”

—T. Peter Park (Grad '65, '70)

THE VIRGINIAN

“The Virginian, hands down. Table dancing later in the night, wildly good food and affordable drinks. What’s not to like? I got married in Charlottesville, and where did I spend my final night as a bachelor? Atop the tables with my crew, as it was meant to be.”

—Brennan Lowery (Col '09)

“The Virginian. I wrote my thesis on top of the pinball machines there. My engineering adviser said it was one of the best he had seen.”

—Steve Jacobs (Engr '75)

“The Virginian. Great gathering spot with friends after studying, and I met my wife there. We have been married 42 years. We live in Charlottesville and still go there to dine and celebrate.”

—Will Crowder (Col '80)

The Virginian, a shotgun-style restaurant with just 14 tables, has fed generations of UVA students, faculty and alumni for more than a century. For owner **Andy McClure (Com '01)**, keeping it going feels a lot like an obligation—and he’s happy to oblige.

“It’s being a steward of something that people love, and that is a responsibility that I actually take quite seriously,” McClure says. “I love UVA ... and I love this town. Having that restaurant be such a major institution here is just awesome. It’s just a crown jewel.”

The Corner staple has occupied the same spot at 1521 University Ave. since its opening in 1923, making it the oldest restaurant in Charlottesville. Over the decades, McClure writes in a history of the restaurant, The Virginian has weathered Prohibition, wartime shortages and a rough patch in the 1990s.

McClure’s connection to The Virginian began because he needed a job. Walking down the Corner in the late 1990s, he saw a help wanted sign in the window and was hired on the spot. At that time, the restaurant wasn’t the packed landmark it is today. It had closed at least twice in the 1990s amid ownership changes and other issues.

The previous owners had been more focused on their neighboring restaurant, the Greenskeeper, and The Virginian was “kind of left by the wayside,” McClure says. The finance major started suggesting changes; over time, the owners took him seriously and helped finance a deal that made him the restaurant owner at just 22.

His strategy for reviving the landmark was straightforward: “Make it cleaner, make the service better, make the food better, and capitalize on its age and the tradition and history that makes it so unique,” McClure says.

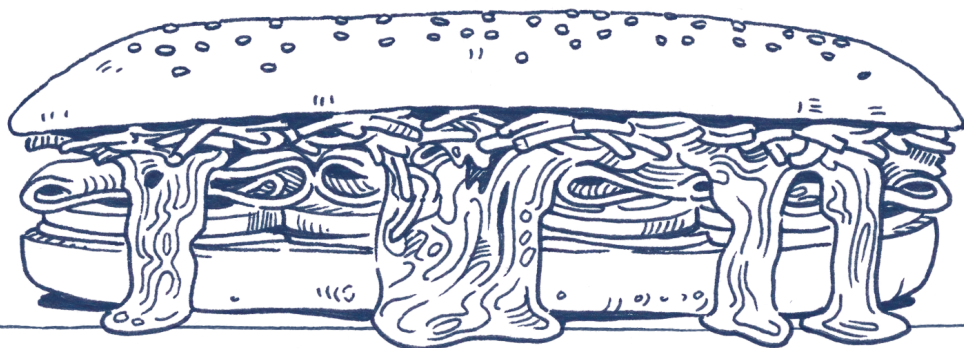
Today, The Virginian leans into its century of tradition. McClure and his team refurbish rather than replace, studying old photos to keep both the facade and interior true to the past. “We’ve tried to stick to the roots as much as we possibly can,” he says.



“The Virginian was my favorite spot at the Corner because it was within walking distance of the nursing school, a fun spot to go with a date and get a 3.2 beer. In 1964, women were either in the nursing or education school. Very few of us gals had a car, so we either walked or dated someone with ‘wheels.’ Fun times!!”

—Connie Lacy (Nurs '66)

LITTLEJOHN'S NEW YORK DELICATESSEN

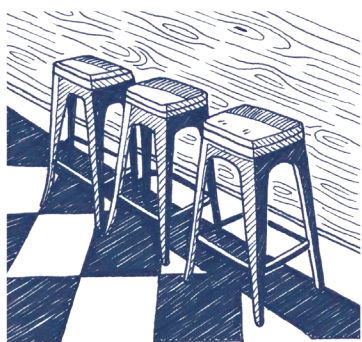


“Littlejohn’s was my favorite spot on the Corner! I loved that the sandwiches were cheap, toasted and delicious (with a side of chips from a giant barrel next to the register). It was open super late, and the line was a fun place to run into friends.”

—Jill Maurer (Col ’02)

“Littlejohn’s. It was such an iconic spot on the Corner when I was a student for either lunch between classes or building a base before a night out. After graduation, I would always go back, including bringing my girlfriend there on our first trip to C’ville before proposing to her on the Lawn.”

—Yann Pirio (Col ’94)



Nuclear Sub. Five Easy Pieces. Wild Turkey. Ask an alum from the 1970s to the early 2020s, and there’s a good chance they can rattle off their regular Littlejohn’s order.

John M. Crafaik Jr. (Col ’67) opened the 24-hour deli in 1976, and it quickly became a favorite Corner spot for its sandwiches, early morning hours and live music. Local musicians would gather in the restaurant’s front window to perform.

In the book *Regarding Charlottesville Music—An Oral History* by **Rich Tarbell (Arch ’89)**, Charlottesville-area musician Jimmy O recalls coming across a notice for someone to play there.

“I didn’t have any equipment. I didn’t have a song list. I didn’t know anything, but I had a guitar,” he told Tarbell. “They said they’d give me a sandwich and all the beer I could drink, which sounded pretty great. That was the

start of my career.”

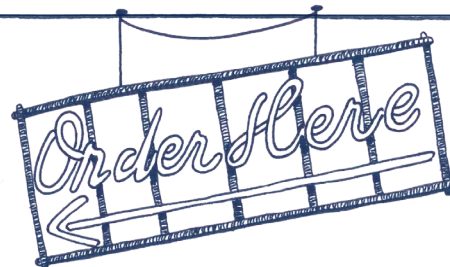
In 1980, a *Daily Progress* story recounting a night out in Charlottesville noted that a long line of students was waiting at 10:30 p.m. to place their orders. Through the years, Littlejohn’s embedded itself in UVA culture, naming sandwiches after UVA sports stars such as **Ralph Sampson (Col ’83)**, **Chris Long (Col ’08)** and **Kyle Guy (SCPS ’25)**.

And so it went until 2020. As the pandemic sent UVA students home, the restaurant’s owners put out a call for help, launching an online fundraising campaign and declaring the deli in crisis. After the death of a key member of the business and the inability to raise the needed funds, it closed its doors.

A new ownership group reopened it in early 2024 but closed it again in May 2025 because of “circumstances beyond our control,” an announcement said. “It’s been a true honor to serve you.”

“Littlejohn’s was my go-to spot on the Corner. As a student in the A-school in the mid-1980s, it was a quick walk from the studio to take a break and grab a quick bite to refuel before going back to a late night of work. My favorite was the Zonker—a bagel with cream cheese, onion, bacon and tomato.”

—David Watts (Arch ’87)

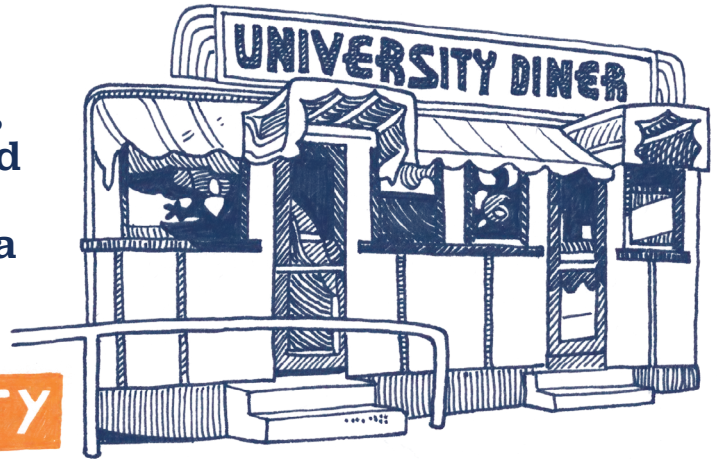


“Littlejohn’s was my favorite spot. As a recent immigrant, money was tight, so I couldn’t visit the Corner as often as my peers. However, I fondly remember splurging on Nuclear Subs the few times I could. Because it was open 24 hours, it was the perfect, convenient place for a late-night snack. Truly great, memorable times. I was saddened it recently closed for good.”

—Isaac Espinoza (Col ’95)

“University Diner. Open all night, great place for typical college food in the late 1960s and 1970s. My dad (from the Class of 1950) and a friend took a horse into the U.D.”

—Bob Proutt (Col '72)



UNIVERSITY DINER

Across its 57 years, the University Diner—known to most as the “U.D.”—was a no-frills, late-night institution staffed by unforgettable characters. A decade after it closed, in a *Daily Progress* obituary for former owner Alma Shiflett Pogolowitz, **Alexander “Sandy” Gilliam (Col '55)** summed it up:

“The diner was the place you went to if you were pulling an all-nighter at four in the morning and you were falling asleep over your books and needed a cup of coffee,” said Gilliam, who served as a longtime Board of Visitors secretary and special assistant to UVA presidents. “I can say I was a habitu  .”

There was the food. The diner served up traditional fare, but a few items took on a life of their own. The “one-eyed” bacon cheeseburger featured a fried egg as the eye. Then there was the Grillswith—two donuts grilled with a scoop

of vanilla ice cream in the middle—which became so beloved that other restaurants on the Corner have served up their own versions.

There were also the people. The Shifletts, the U.D.’s longtime owners, were known to dole out a free meal to a student in need. Ethel Mae Booker, a longtime server, was tough, warm and unflappable. Vernon Elwood Breeden, short-order cook, was behind the grill for 28 years, sometimes making 1,800 Grillswiths in a weekend.

Coy Barefoot (Grad '97), author of *The Corner: A History of Student Life at the University of Virginia*, interviewed longtime U.D. owner Irvine Lee Shiflett, Alma’s son who died in 2014, about the genesis of the Grillswith. Shiflett

told him the dish was created sometime in the late 1940s or 1950s.

“Someone must have ordered a couple of hot, grilled doughnuts one day and asked to have a scoop of ice cream put on top. Grilled doughnuts with ice cream—the Grillswith,” Shiflett told Barefoot. “It really caught on as a Corner tradition in the 1960s. We used to get 150 dozen doughnuts delivered every weekend, and by Sunday they would all be gone.”

The last night of the U.D., in May 1985, was so chaotic that the Shifletts had to call the police. People were pulling letters from the restaurant’s outdoor sign, *The Daily Progress* reported.

“We ran out of food, and they still lined up outside the door,” Fay Shiflett, Lee Shiflett’s wife, told a *Progress* reporter at the time. “We started serving one-eyed bacon cheeseburgers, then it was one-eyed cheeseburgers, then it was one-eyed hamburgers. Then we ran out of burgers, but that didn’t stop them.”



“Most definitely the University Diner, fondly known as ‘the U.D.’ What a great place to hang out with friends, eating one-eyed bacon cheeseburgers and fries. No trip to the U.D. was complete without a Grillswith for dessert. Best mind your manners around Fay and Ethel, though. They wouldn’t hesitate to toss ne’er-do-wells out the door. I wonder just how many Grillswiths were made on Vernon’s grill.”

—Susan Newsome (Col '80)

“What I liked the most about the U.D. was the bacon double cheeseburger and fries. I was there the last day it was open in May 1985 and have attached the receipt from my last meal at the U.D.”

—Lynn Brugh (Col '86)



“Mincer’s Pipe Shop. As a former pipe smoker, I enjoyed being able to put together a particular blend of tobacco that they kept on file for me. After I left the university and entered the military, I was able to have the tobacco mailed to me, regardless of where in the world I was serving. Smoking a bowlful, sometimes under inhospitable circumstances, brought back fond memories of Charlottesville.”

—Allen Saunders (Grad '67)

“The third floor of Mincer’s Pipe Shop, as it was called when I was there. I rented one of the rooms that faced the main drag and the Grounds across the street. Several of us on the third floor were already friends, so we ended up being a tight-knit group, partying together regularly, perhaps to excess. On one of those occasions, we engaged in a bowling tournament in the hallway. Unfortunately, the bowling ball managed to roll down the stairs and was lost, we thought, until we learned years later that Mr. Mincer the Elder kept it in his office as a souvenir!”

—Timothy Hardin (Col '69)

MINCER’S

Somewhere above Mincer’s at the corner of Elliewood and University avenues, a few tobacco pipes remain, a reminder of the store’s origins. As does a vintage handwritten sign that advertises a sweat-shirt for \$15.

“There’s not a lot of throwing things away going on around here,” jokes the shop’s fourth-generation leader, Cal Mincer.

UVA alumni from the 1980s and after know Mincer’s mostly as a shop devoted to UVA apparel and gear. But its origins have everything to do with a surplus of military-issued pipes flooding the market at the end of World War II, according to a history of the store—leaving founder Robert W. Mincer out of a job at a Long Island pipe factory and contemplating a potential opportunity.

College students liked pipes, he figured. Why not open up a pipe shop in a college town? He landed in Charlottesville, and Mincer’s Humidor opened in July 1948, a few storefronts away from its current location, where it moved in 1954.

Over time, the store’s inventory evolved to include more than tobacco and expanded into the space next door. Through the decades, it sold records, newspapers and textbooks and served as Charlottesville’s Western Union agent.

The big shift came in 1976, when the men’s basketball team won its first ACC Tournament championship. Mincer’s marked the occasion with a simple

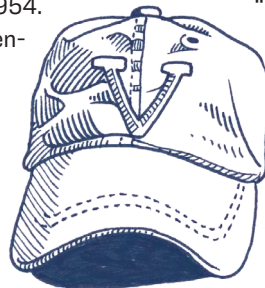
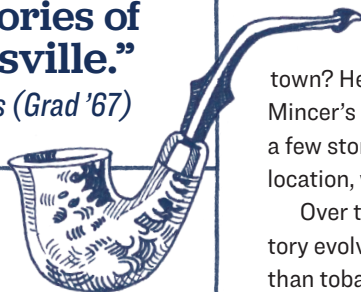
orange T-shirt. Then came the **Ralph Sampson (Col '83)** era, and demand for UVA apparel began to take off.

“Dad was very good at capitalizing on what’s missing from the market in the area around us,” says Cal of his father, **Mark Mincer (Com '85)**, who died in 2023. “Once a couple records sold, we jumped on that. Once a couple ACC shirts sold, we jumped on that.”

These days, sitting among reminders of the store’s past in his office, Cal Mincer spends a lot of time thinking about the future. The store prepares T-shirt designs as if UVA will win every championship and, in March, unveiled a new design to celebrate the women’s swim team’s sixth straight NCAA title. (See story, Page 26.)

“We’re running out of ideas for swim designs because this is the sixth year in a row we’ve had to do it,” he said of the women’s team’s March win. “But that’s awesome.”

For all the change, much has stayed the same. “I like that if you know what you’re looking for and you have experience shopping at Mincer’s, [you can] not see us for 20 years and come back and jump right back,” Mincer says. “It just feels the same.”



“Mincer’s. I worked there about 20 hours per week during my third and fourth years. Through that I met many varied and interesting people that I would never have been able to know. In the days before ATMs, Mincer’s was the only place in town that a student could cash a check from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days per week.”

—David Hawkins (Com '75)



THE WHITE SPOT

“The White Spot. After sharing a pitcher or two of the usual beverage at a Corner watering hole, only a Gus Burger could soak up all that beer, so you could walk to class from the fraternity house without a hangover the next morning! (Harold and Dimitri, the staff of The White Spot, also were always entertaining.)”

—Steve Reger (Col '83)

Plenty of businesses have come and gone on the Corner, but one spot has remained pretty much the same: The White Spot. The late-night institution is best known for its Gus Burgers—a fried-egg-topped patty known as the go-to remedy after a long night out.

Or, as the *Cavalier Daily* noted in a 1973 roundup of Charlottesville restaurants: “If your grease tolerance is especially high, give the Spot a go. Another 24-hour restaurant, the Spot seems to attract an intriguing clientele.”

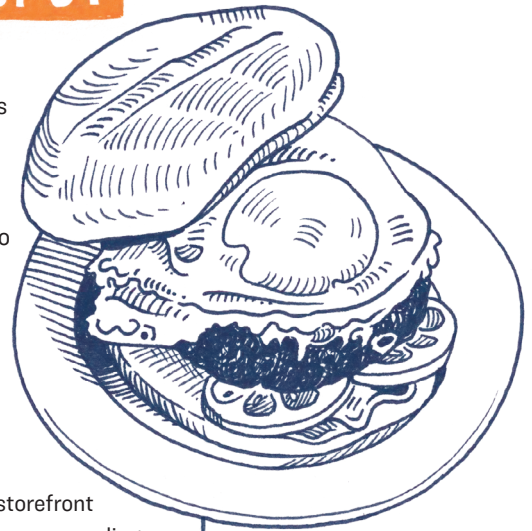
The White Spot opened in 1953 inside a storefront previously occupied by a beauty salon. Its name, according to Barefoot’s book, came from the circular impression on the floor where one of the salon’s heavy chairs once stood. The Spot’s original owner painted it white.

At first, a hot dog with melted cheese and bacon was a White Spot favorite, until around 1960, when the Gus Burger was born, Barefoot writes. The Gus Burger is named in honor of Dr. Gus Egor, a UVA doctor who reportedly requested a cheeseburger with a fried egg on top daily, according to The White Spot’s website. The rest is UVA gastronomic history.

Today, the Spot endures in the hearts and minds of UVA alumni across the generations—and may have even made it to Netflix. In *The Four Seasons*, co-written by and starring Tina Fey (Col '92), the fifth episode finds the characters back at their alma mater, walking along a Corner-like street where they discover that the fictional “Hot Spot”—famous for its burger topped with a fried egg—is now a vape shop.

“Why would they close the Hot Spot?” asks Jack, played by Will Forte. “You think it was a pandemic thing?”

The real White Spot, however, survived the pandemic. In 2021, a group of UVA alumni from the 1960s to 2000s took ownership of the landmark, according to its website. The Gus Burger is still on the menu.



“Have to get my Gus, my Motor burger, every time I am in Charlottesville. It is like a magnetic pull. Anytime I am near UVA, I have to stop there. I know the guys behind the counter—great guys—and they always remember me. Food has not changed, even under new ownership.”

—Mauricio Velasquez (Col '88)



“The White Spot. Gus Burgers were amazing after a night out. There was an Elvis impersonator that worked the grill. Also, back when I was there, from 1995 to 1999, there was a pay phone at the end of the counter. After a night out we sometimes just called the pay phone to see who would pick up and then have random conversations with other students who were there. It was a fun way to talk/meet others!”

—Joe Mancini (Engr '99)



UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA

“The University Cafeteria was a great favorite in my time. After all these years I still recall spaghetti Milanese and French apple pie. Nutritious homemade food at affordable prices.”

—Edwin Rafal (Col '56, Law '59)



“University Cafeteria. As a first-year in 1970, I did not have a meal plan, and even my hallmates with meal plans looked forward to going with me to ‘UC’ for Sunday lunch and their great fried chicken.”

—Dan Plecker (Col '74)

“University Cafeteria, aka Uni-Caf. Oh! The homemade stewed tomatoes and the green beans flecked with bacon, and the service was loving. Just what a homesick first-year needed.”

—Cynthia Lipsitz (Col '75)

National chains have filled the storefront in the 1500 block of University Avenue in recent years—Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers since 2023, a Sheetz before that, and local favorites like Armand’s Pizza and the Greenskeeper in earlier years. But the one that alumni remember most fondly predates them all.

For four decades—from 1942 to 1983—the University Cafeteria was a focal point on the Corner. And the U-Caf or Uni-Caf, as it was fondly called, announced itself with a rooftop sign in large, looping script that spelled out the restaurant’s name.

The self-service restaurant offered big plates of affordable comfort food seven days a week to hungry crowds of students, faculty and staff. Fried chicken, spoon bread and roast round of beef were regulars on the menu.

As civil rights protests swept the country in the 1950s and 1960s, the U-Caf, without any fanfare, made history of its own. Sometime in the 1950s—years before other Corner restaurants followed in 1963 and early 1964—it became the only Corner restaurant to serve Black customers, Barefoot writes in his book.

Cleve Webber, longtime manager, recalled the moment to Barefoot when a Black student, likely attending the law school, walked in one afternoon with a couple of other students.

“They went through the line, got their

food, then went and sat down smack-dab in the front window so everybody walking by could see them,” Webber said. “People would stop and look and stare in the window. I know people were asking, ‘Has Webber gone crazy?’ But it passed without any incident at all. Sure, we had some old diehards who would get upset about it. And some of them told me they thought I was wrong. But you know, the Black people sat down and ate like everybody else. I didn’t see any reason to raise hell about it.”

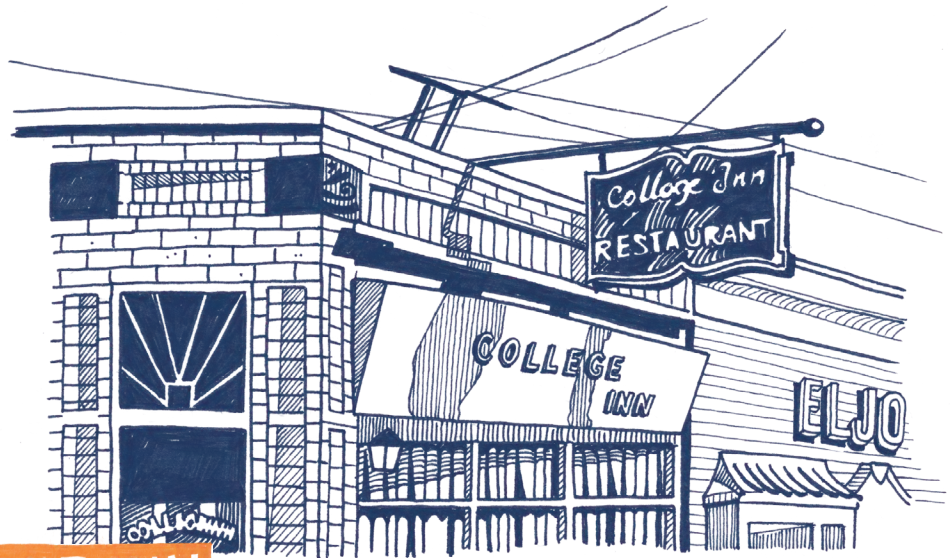
What was getting noticed was the food. In 1976, *The New York Times* called it “legendary,” and through the years, other publications—including *Glamour*, *McCall’s* and the *Mobil Travel Guide*—praised it for its quality.

While the U-Caf remains beloved among students of certain eras, its closing in 1983 didn’t spark the kind of fanfare that the University Diner’s closing would earn two years later. *The Daily Progress* reported that it closed due to financial insolvency.

Changing trends and customer tastes had a lot to do with it. It was a concept past its time, said **Robert H. Mincer (Com '58)**, then the second-generation owner of Mincer’s next door, in a *Daily Progress* story about the U-Caf’s closing.

“I think it’s the end of an era that we don’t have a cafeteria on University Corner,” Mincer said. “I think it’s sad. We live in an era of fast food, of people in a hurry.”

“College Inn. Nothing hit better than a chicken parm sub and some onion rings in their god-tier ranch after a night out.”
—Brennan Lowery (Col '09)



COLLEGE INN

With padded booths and framed UVA memorabilia on the walls, there was nothing fancy about the College Inn. But what it lacked in flair, it made up for in consistency. Reliably good cheesy bread and steak fries, gyros and chicken parm, with good delivery into the wee hours of the morning.

And for nearly 75 years, the College Inn was reliably there—until it closed in 2021.

The sign above the door said it was established in 1953, though one of the original owners told Barefoot it opened in 1952. The College Inn was the brainchild of two brothers, Elliott and Joseph Hyman, who were also behind another Corner favorite, Eljo's. Eljo's opened in the summer of 1950, and there weren't many restaurants on the Corner at the time, Joseph Hyman told Barefoot. So they opened the College Inn before selling it about a year later.

“We were both young and full of energy,” Joseph Hyman told Barefoot. “We didn't need much sleep in those days.”

The restaurant quickly became a mainstay, beloved for filling, inexpensive meals and friendly staff. In 1971, *Cavalier Daily* writer **Fen Montaigne (Col '74)** praised College Inn server Dotty Bunch, calling her the “most loving and kind woman that ever served up a BLT on rye toast.”

“She cares, and not in just a small-talk sort of way,” wrote Montaigne, who would eventually become a journalist, author and Pulitzer Prize finalist. “If you walk in with a headache, she'll know it.”

Just as enduring was the delivery service. The College Inn took orders until 2 a.m., just as the bars closed, delivering food as late as 3:30 a.m. Stu Rifkin, a final College Inn co-owner, refused to outsource to apps like DoorDash or Grubhub, insisting on using their own drivers. On weekend nights, nine or 10 drivers were on the road.

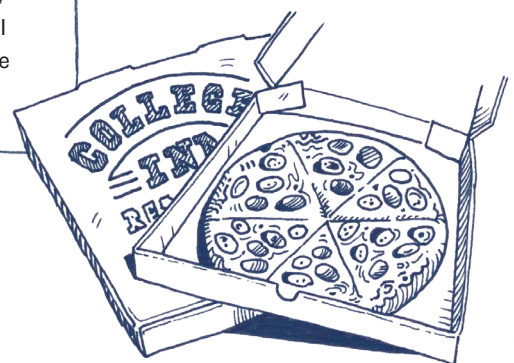
But during the pandemic, staffing grew more difficult, and some key equipment failures became too costly to fix, just as the lease came up for renewal. The landlord had a lucrative national tenant—Chipotle—ready to pay more and fund a major renovation. Altogether, those factors helped drive the decision to close the College Inn.

As it shut down, the restaurant's memorabilia and kitchen gear were sold or given away to customers, former staff and other local restaurants. Proceeds, Rifkin says, went to the restaurant's last employees.

“A much-beloved place. I'm proud of my time there,” Rifkin says. “I do tell people, sometimes with a bit of hesitation, that I was one of the last owners of the College Inn.”

“College Inn. The delivery service to dorms into early hours made it a staple for Emmet first left in '81-'82. Its pizza threaded the needle of not being from a mainstream pizzeria, and yet not being too fancy. The roast beef sub and onion rings were sleeper items on the menu if you ventured away from ordering a pie.”

—Trip Galloway (Col '85)



“College Inn. Terrific food, not too expensive. Service was great and staff was friendly. Good memories of lunches and dinners there with friends during my time at UVA.”

—Mary Jo Burke (Grad '92)



1505 UNIVERSITY AVE.

For nearly seven decades, a string of popular restaurants and bars has lured students to a single address: 1505 University Ave.

In the early 1960s it was Jim's Restaurant, operating despite an early stumble: Three men, including restaurant owner James Sprouse, were jailed for stealing more than \$400 of pots, pans and utensils from Newcomb Hall. Sprouse was still running the restaurant in 1963, when he worked with police to catch an employee suspected of larceny.

Alumni from the 1970s may remember it as Poe's, which had its "fair share of run-ins with the Internal Revenue Service," Barefoot wrote in his book, but became a favorite of students for its stuffed taxidermy raven, "Spanish dungeon lights," live music and 35 kinds of imported beers.

By the time Poe's closed in 1982, the multistory building included a second-floor game room and third-floor disco, Barefoot wrote.

Next came Macado's in 1983, a regional chain that alumni from the 1980s and 1990s still fondly remember for its Long Island iced teas, pitchers of beer and cheap food. It closed in 1997, a victim of the Corner's parking woes and the building's multiple levels, the owner said at the time.

Since 1999, 1505 University Ave. has been home to Irish pubs—first O'Neill's, and now Trinity on the Corner, whose Instagram page touts weekly specials like "\$10 Natty Pitchers" and \$5 wings.

The names change, but the vibes inside 1505 have long stayed the same.

"I was there in March of '76 when the 'Hoos won our first ACC men's basketball tournament, beating UNC in the final. Although it was the start of spring break, the Corner exploded with incredulous and ecstatic fans. I was standing on a table in Poe's with about 10 others when it collapsed and we fell into the supportive arms of the masses therein assembled. I also witnessed chandeliers pulled from the ceiling by the celebrating throng. Needless to say, the place was utterly destroyed by the festivities but continued to be the go-to place for the remainder of my cherished days at UVA."

—Rodney Follin (Col '77, Grad '80)

"O'Neill's had everything a broke college student could want. It was an easy place to hang out with friends, decent enough food for a date, and featured some trendy drink specials like 'Survivor hour' on Thursdays! While O'Neill's has sadly since closed, at least Trinity in the same spot keeps some of the Irish spirit alive on the Corner!"

—Alex Hannagan (Col '07)

"Macado's! So many good memories of going there with big groups of friends and dormmates, and also going on dates with the guy I would end up marrying. They had good food, and it was cheap (a requirement for a college hangout). Heading up the stairs for the restaurant just seemed so cool somehow!"

—Sandra Szilasi (Col '95)

OTHER FAVORITES

"Two clothing shops: Eljo's and Ed Michtom's. Great 'threads,' as we called them in the late 1960s. But I mostly drooled over clothes rather than bought them there. I didn't have the 'bucks.' I knew clothing was changing when J. Press of New Haven stopped its visits and ads in the CD."

—James C. Block (Col '68)

"Armand's Pizza. All-you-can-eat lunch buffet and Thursday night Seals and Butler acoustic music."

—Dave Presson (Com '92)

ST. MAARTEN CAFE AND TRADING CO.

The regulars at St. Maarten Cafe and Trading Co. didn't just have a favorite barstool or booth. The truly devoted became part of its mug club. Heavy pewter steins engraved with nicknames hung on the wall in numbered slots. Mug club members didn't buy their way in, says **Mary Katherine "MK" King (Engr '02)**. They got a mug by showing up so often that the staff knew them by name.

King earned her own mug application on her 21st birthday. "It was like, you made it. You were a part of [something]," said King, now a Charlottesville real estate agent. "I go to this bar, and I'm a member! That doesn't sound cool anymore, but it did when you were 21."

St. Maarten opened in 1985 and over three decades became a second home to a devoted mix of UVA students, alumni and locals, drawn to the friendly atmosphere, the Cajun cheese fries, wings of every spice level and good beer specials.

Some student groups even claimed it

as their home away from home. Trigon Engineering Society and University Transit Service student bus drivers were among the regulars who made it their unofficial headquarters. The decor was tropical, complete with a fish tank, but the walls were dotted with callouts to its regulars—including the steering wheel from a UTS bus and a plaque listing Trigon presidents.

"Maarten's was for all the other kids," King said. "We were not a frat party establishment, more like the land of misfit toys."

In its heyday, students and locals formed long lines outside on the busiest nights for a spot at the bar or one of the booths. In 2012, St. Maarten closed for a few months before five Trigon alumni, along with two longtime employees, worked together to reopen it. The group added some TVs, tweaked some specials and bought St. Maarten about five more years. Last call was in November 2016 after the final football game of the season.



"My favorite spot on the corner was St. Maarten Cafe! I loved it because loyal customers could have their own personalized mug hanging at the bar so they could have their favorite beverage served in their own mug. We would go there after a late night on Rugby Road and have their famous loaded chili cheese fries! Of course, who can forget St. Maarten's wings, which ranged from Fire to Hell hot. There are even off-menu levels of the wings—all the way up to Seventh Plane of Hell Death Wings."

**—Nam T.D. Nguyen
(Col '90, Med '94)**



"St. Maarten. It was our home away from home at the end of a long day. Good food, beer and company. And if you were a regular, you had your own beer mug hanging over the bar waiting there for you."

—Esther Haskvitz (Educ '82, '92)



Sarah Lindenfeld Hall (Col '96) is a writer based in Raleigh, N.C. Her favorite Corner orders were a gyro and steak fries from the College Inn, a Nuclear Sub and Rice Krispies treat from Littlejohn's, a Roadhouse chicken sandwich from St. Maarten, and a roast beef and cheddar sandwich with sprouts from Take It Away.

Time
Capsule

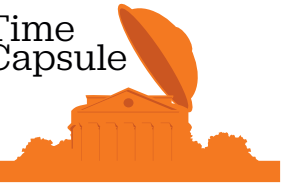


"There were afternoons when my dear friend Haber McCarthy and I would go to the Rexall Drugstore to look at funny greeting cards. We would not buy them, just simply read them and laugh or cringe. Haber passed away far too soon, and I cherish so many memories of him and think of him every time I buy a greeting card."

—Ceci Fannon Birk (Col '80)

"The Biltmore! Their huge salads with 'pizza bread' on the side and Toll House Pie were among our menu favorites."

—Stephanie Krebs De Falco (Col '00) →



OTHER FAVORITES

“The Mousetrap. During the Ralph Sampson era when UNC dominated, I remember watching UVA come back from a 17-point halftime deficit to win. By the end, everyone there was standing in their chair.”

—Jim Grantham (Med '83)

“Martha’s Cafe. They made great use of the space in the traditional frame building, and the food (usually quiche, salad and a muffin) was a novelty for a rural Virginia bumpkin like me.”

—Rudi Nollert (Col '80)

“Michael’s Bistro! Gone now, but unforgettable. That bistro gave me my first taste of Belgian ale—Delirium—and a duck shepherd’s pie that was pure comfort. Dark wood, low light and an inviting warmth made it the kind of place you wanted to linger. Some places close; the memory doesn’t.”

—Anne Mariel Zimmermann (Grad '04)

“TJ’s, a favorite watering hole for students and the occasional ‘townie.’ They had a tradition of ‘dime time,’ 10-cent beers for an incredibly short duration! It would get so crowded that groups would send one person to the bar to buy as many beers (in flimsy plastic cups) as they could hold and bring them back to the table for everyone. We’d all chug as quick as we could and then go back for more until time was up. They also had an awesome Halloween costume contest every year! One year, us friends went as a box of crayons and another year a portable bar, complete with 7Up, Seagram’s Seven, ice cube, Wahoo cup, etc. Such fun times!”

—Susan (Richardson) Powell (Nurs '84)

“Take It Away. I will never forget those sandwiches! The sprouts, house dressing, the oblong shape of their bread. Those sandwiches accompanied me on so many favorite UVA memories. I loved stepping inside—the checkered floors, the baskets of chips, the anticipation!”

—Sarah Jane Dhall (Col '07)

“I liked so many spots like Mincer’s, U-Caf and Eljo’s (just because of the smell), but I had a special liking for Rohmann’s Sporting Goods next door to Mincer’s (and later the newer half of the expanded Mincer’s). They really catered to the racket sports, and everything there was priced so that it came out to an even dollar amount with tax. As silly as that sounds, I loved that.”

—Sid Spencer (Col '77)

“Coupe’s. There was nothing better than a spring in Charlottesville and feeling the beautiful breeze coming up from Elliewood Avenue. The live music was to die for, and the drinks were unnameable. Always has and always will be my favorite spot on the Corner. Having worked at Trin and Coupe’s, there shouldn’t be a debate as to which is the best.”

—Nathaniel Carlson (Col '24)

For our next issue:

What are your enduring memories of your first-year dorm? Share your story and photos at uvamagazine.org/timecapsules, and we’ll select some to feature in the fall.

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INTRODUCING “GROUNDS FOR CONVERSATION”

Many of the best and most illuminating conversations of my life have happened around a table, sharing a meal or enjoying a cup of coffee. I imagine that the same is true for many of you. There is something powerful about coming together around a common table.

We all know how an extra half hour spent talking with someone over coffee can create or strengthen connections that could lead to new opportunities and partnerships. At the Darden School of Business, where I served as dean, the school’s “First Coffee” tradition began around its founding in 1955 and still brings together students, faculty and staff each morning for conversation and connection, building a sense of community one day at a time.

In the spring, my team and I launched a “Grounds for Conversation” listening and learning tour with the simple goal of bringing our community together for open conversations about the university and its future—and some great coffee, tea and other refreshments along the way.

I have been fortunate to meet with students, faculty and staff in many of UVA’s 12 schools and its major divisions, as well as UVA Wise, UVA Northern Virginia, UVA Health, and the athletics department, with more meetings planned for the fall. I have also met with community leaders and traveled to several areas with high concentrations of UVA alumni.

Through these conversations, I am learning where our community sees UVA excelling in meeting our mission of education, research, patient care and service. I have been hearing ideas on what we should keep doing, where there are opportunities to improve and what “no-regret moves” would accelerate our impact. These are changes or initiatives we can implement relatively quickly to shore up areas of

need or address opportunities. We are also building a strategic and financial fact base to inform our decision-making work.

We will continue to distill and act on these ideas, but themes that have come up so far include a focus on affordability, including further building up the AccessUVA program for need-based aid and scholarships; equipping our students for a changing world by continuing to increase global experiences and taking a thoughtful approach to AI; investing in faculty excellence at every school so we can attract, retain and develop exceptional faculty; continuing to grow the impact of UVA’s major research centers; further investing in UVA Health to continue providing world-class patient care, as well as life-changing treatments and research breakthroughs; and partnering with leaders in our local communities, the commonwealth and the nation to advance our shared goals.

The “Grounds for Conversation” listening tour will also inform our long-term strategic thinking. The good news is that many of the strategic initiatives of the “Great and Good” 2030 strategic plan launched under former President **Jim Ryan (Law ’92)** have been fully realized; the remainder are on their way to completion. Leaders across the university worked hard to bring us to this point, and their work is to be applauded. Now we must honor and build on that excellent work as we look ahead to a vision for UVA’s enduring excellence in pursuit of our mission well into the future.

That means setting our aspirations high, keeping our mission as our North Star and carrying forward the excellent work that is already happening. Excellence doesn’t come from dramatic gestures or constant reinvention, but from discipline and courage in pursuit of our mission. From intentional actions guided by our values. From setting

➤ **Themes that have come up so far include a focus on affordability, investing in faculty excellence and further investing in UVA Health.**

high standards and working steadily toward them with talented professionals. From doing many things—sometimes hundreds of things—just a little bit better, every day. Most importantly, excellence matters most when pursued in service of a clear purpose.

If we sustain purposeful excellence in every domain of our mission, we will achieve the full potential of the mission and be recognized as the best public university and university medical system in the country.

Achieving that goal begins with learning through listening and conversation. I am deeply grateful for every conversation I’ve had over the spring. It has been a privilege to see not only the talent contained within our university community, but the passion and deep desire to see the university succeed.

Every person in this community—students, staff, faculty, alumni, healthcare providers, researchers, friends and donors—is invested in its success. And every conversation matters. I am grateful for your input so far, and I hope to see you soon for a great cup of coffee and even better conversation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott C. Beardsley".

SCOTT C. BEARDSLEY
President of the University of Virginia

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ALUMNI & PARENT
TRAVEL

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.

Bethany Gaubatz (Engr '26)	Amanda Poncy (Arch '06)	Lysander Schmidt (Engr '26)
Thomas S. Wood (Engr '96)	Cordelia Muhlbauer (Engr '27)	Dimney Rideout (Col '26)
Virginia Fleming (Engr '26)	Matthew Ontell (Com '17)	Beck Ortiz-Rohaly (Col '26)
Katherine Fidler (Engr '26)	Jeffrey Borst (Com '99)	Shihe Wang (Engr '24)
Catharine Elliott (Darden '98)	Allison Andrews (Col '03)	Neal Whitsett (Col '25)
Angela Ciolfi (Law '03)	Lillian Gilbert (Col '24)	Douglas Yaffa (Col '26)
Piper Toney (Com '26)	Charlotte Galloway (Com '25, '26)	Jackson "JP" Hoffman (Col '26)
Cindy Chang (Col '96)	Elizabeth Fickel (Col '22)	Cate Whittaker (Batten '26)
Alexis Simpson (Nurs '18, '20)	Shaw Matthews (Col '24)	Benjamin Kurland (Engr '26)
Zoe Shook (Col '26)	Christopher Termini (Com '01, Law '06)	Kevin Omohundro (Col '26)
Molly Lynch (Col '00)	Frank Chin (Col '12)	William Ragland III (Com '26)
Daniel Schuttinga (Engr '98)	Quintin Jepson (Col '20, Grad '22)	Anthony Long (SCPS '24)
Thao Nguyen (Col '23)	Michael Ratliff (SCPS '20)	Harrison Kircher (Col '09)
Sarah Whelan (Col '99, Educ '99)	William Ulrich (Law '07)	Cosette Clement (Col '26)
Tyler Saeli (Col '07)	Daniel Massengill (Col '26)	Daniel Baber (SCPS '25)
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Class Notes

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'60s

Clifton W. Potter Jr. (Grad '64, '70 CM) published *Yankees in the Hill City: The Union Prisoner of War Camp in Lynchburg, Virginia, 1862-1865* with McFarland. Using diaries, extant manuscripts and burial records, Potter fashions the story of a POW camp unlike any other in the Confederacy. He is professor emeritus of history at the University of Lynchburg.

George Coussoulos (Educ '65 CM) wrote his third book of historical speculative fiction, *The Unknown, Surprising, and Fascinating Life of Jupiter Evans: Thomas Jefferson's Personal Valet Tells His Story*, released in October 2025.

Laura Lenox Thigpen (Nurs '68 CM) traveled to Antarctica in December. She takes her UVA spirit wherever she goes, including Antarctica. 📍

'70s

Mark Christhilf (Col '70) published *The Tenant in the Mind: Consciousness and Its Imperatives* with Iff Books in February. A professor emeritus at Eastern Illinois University, Christhilf has also published a book of literary criticism and a book of poetry, as well as articles, reviews and poems in numerous journals. He lives in New Jersey.

William Lawson (Darden '72) and Catherine Wood Lawson will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary in 2026. Mr. Lawson is retired from Eli Lilly. The couple spends summers at their lake cottage on Lake Charlevoix, Michigan. In the winter, they spend time in Florida. They fly-fish in the western North Carolina mountains in the fall and travel to Europe in the spring.

Sean "Ed" Patterson (Col '73) retired from a 43-year career as a clinical development scientist. He worked with Fortune 50 companies to gain FDA

approval for treatments for patients with rare diseases and published 11 papers in peer-reviewed medical journals. He lives in Cape Coral, Florida, where he plays pickleball and volunteers for his community.

Barry Maine (Col '74) has retired after 44 years as a professor of American literature at Wake Forest University. He credits the UVA English department for inspiring his love of literature and literary scholarship.

Bob Witeck (Col '74 CM) received the Arne Sorenson Vanguard Award at Out & Equal's global summit in October 2025. Witeck is the co-founder of the first gay-owned business certified by the National LGBTQ+ & Allied Chamber of Commerce and author of *Business Inside Out*, one of the first books on marketing to gay customers. 📍

Charles Garrettson (Col '75, Grad '86) wrote *A Stroke of Luck: An Exercise in Meaning* about his experience with a stroke. Garrettson wrote it on his iPhone, using the index finger on his nondominant hand. *A Stroke of Luck* draws from the philosophy of Viktor Frankl, whose book *Man's Search for Meaning* Garrettson credits with transforming his life. 📍

Michael Viscount (Col '75 CM) retired in 2024 after 43 years as an attorney in private practice, primarily in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He lives in Linwood, New Jersey, near the Jersey Shore, and is using his retirement to relax at the beach, play golf, travel and spend time with his extended family.

Nancy Hudgins (Law '78 CM) published a biography, *Books Good Enough for You: The Storied Life of Ursula Nordstrom*, Editor of *Extraordinary Children's Books*, with Abrams Books in March. Nordstrom, the editor of *Goodnight Moon*, *Charlotte's Web* and *Where the Wild Things Are*, among other classics, was a fierce advocate for children's right to read. 📍

Kimberly Behre Kenna (Col '79) published her latest novel, *Lola Gillette and the Summer of Second Chances*, in March. The middle-grade adventure follows a 13-year-old grieving the loss of her twin while living in her eccentric uncle's castle home. Part of the proceeds will benefit Gillette Castle State Park and the Cove Center for Grieving Children in Connecticut.

'80s

Tim Cupp (Col '80, Law '83 CM) started a new law firm, Cupp Law & Mediation. Through this venture, he continues to share his employment law expertise in the Shenandoah Valley region and central Virginia. Cupp has practiced employment law for over 35 years. 📍

Mills Kelly (Col '81 CM) published his second book on the history of the Appalachian Trail, *A Hiker's History of the Appalachian Trail*. Based on extensive research in archives up and down the trail, this new book hikes America's most iconic trail from the late 1920s through the 2020s. Mills was recently named professor emeritus at George Mason University. 📍

Mark Linder (Arch '82 CM) published *That's Brutal, What's Modern?: The Smithsons, Banham, and the Mies-Image* with Park Books. Linder is a professor of architecture at Syracuse University. 📍

Pete Ward (Educ '82 CM) was named to the *Indiana 250*, a list honoring Indiana's most impactful leaders, for the fourth year in a row. Ward is in his 45th season with the Indianapolis Colts franchise and was named COO in 2010. He also serves as chair of the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center development board. 📍

Brenda Waugh (Col '82) published *Becoming a Restorative Lawyer: How to Transform Your Legal Practice for Self, Client, and Community Growth* with

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Class Notes

GoodMedia Press. The book explores how restorative justice can be integrated into the everyday practice of law to expand the potential for improving relationships and healing while resolving legal disputes. 

Ron Culberson (Col '83 CM) produced *Pep Banned*, directed by **Chris Farina (Col '82)** and Bill Reifenberger, which premiered to a sold-out crowd at the Virginia Film Festival in October 2025. The film depicts the creation, antics and ultimate demise of the UVA Pep Band, which performed from 1974 to 2003.

Larry Ebert (Engr '85 CM) contributed his essay "Systems Thinking Mindset in the Age of AI" to *AI and Consciousness in Organizations and Society*, published by Palgrave Macmillan. He also wrote "The Promise and Perils of AI in the Arts," included in *The World Remade by Artificial Intelligence*, published by McFarland. Ebert is an instructor at the University of San Francisco. 

Send us your updates


We want to share your news with the UVA alumni community. When submitting items for publication, please keep in mind the following guidelines.


- › Class Notes typically fall into the following categories: wedding, retirement, publication, birth, job or academic accomplishment.
- › Please limit your submission to 100 words. Submissions will be edited for style, content and length.
- › Once approved, all submissions are publicly visible. Do not submit anything you wish to remain private.





To submit your updates, scan the QR code or go to uvamag.com/submitnote.


Steven Gordon Krug (Com '86 CM) was awarded the degree of doctor of philosophy in history from the University of Georgia. Krug specializes in colonial and early American history. His dissertation examined the evolution of the Virginia plantation economy during the Jeffersonian era.

Ben Jacklet (Col '87) published *Follow the Sun: Around the World in Search of Solar Solutions*, which chronicles the rise of solar energy as a reliable and affordable source of clean electricity and a leading solution to the climate crisis. Jacklet traveled to 15 countries for his research and conducted 50 interviews with solar experts from around the world. 

Linda Lee (Fox) Bryant (Col '88, Darden '21 CM) was elevated by the Virginia General Assembly from a judgeship in the general district court to a judgeship in the circuit court for the 1st Judicial Circuit of Virginia. 


Walter "Casey" King (Engr '89) retired after 31 years as physics professor at Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) in Conway, South Carolina. In 2008, King founded HGTC's long-running Addiction & Recovery Lecture Series, which has featured notable celebrity speakers, including Craig T. Nelson, Danny Trejo and Meredith Baxter. 

Jeff G. Konin (Educ '89 CM) wrote *What Passenger Are You?: A Flyer's Guide to Airplane Etiquette*, available on Amazon. Konin, a storyteller and frequent traveler, explores the unspoken rules and comedic chaos of modern air travel in this ode to flying. 

Suzanne Gannon (Col '89 CM) is in her seventh season as a writing coach to students tackling their undergraduate, transfer, scholarship and graduate school application essays. As the "Essay Conqueror," she has advised more than 230 applicants from across the country and abroad, helping them gain admission to more than 100 schools, collectively. 


Margaret "Margie" McManus (Col '89) has been appointed the inaugural chief academic advancement officer at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. McManus currently serves as professor of oceanography and director of the Uehiro Center for


the Advancement of Oceanography. She has worked at UH Mānoa since 2003.

Pamela Schmid (Col '87 CM) has announced the creation of a study-abroad scholarship in honor of her late sister, **Patti Schmid (Col '89 CM)**, who passed away in 1995 after two years as a volunteer English teacher in Namibia. The Patti Schmid Scholarship seeks to meet financial need for students studying abroad at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. The founders are working to endow the scholarship. 

'90s

Jason Jimerson (Grad '90) was selected to participate in *Writing Vocation: A Colloquy for Future Contributors*. This opportunity was offered by the Council of Independent Colleges through its Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education. Jimerson is chair of the sociology department at Franklin College.

Mike Woosley (Engr '91, '93, '97 CM) was appointed as a science policy adviser for Congress. Working on an energy and environment team, Woosley helped drive the introduction of the International Nuclear Energy Act of 2025, two other nuclear bills, and a Taiwan energy security bill alongside Delaware's U.S. Sen. Chris Coons' foreign policy team. 


Robert M. Browning (Col '92 CM) was elected by unanimous vote to lead Gulf Coast regional law firm Brown Sims as president in its first leadership transition in over 25 years. 

Kimberly Pryor (Col '94) was selected as the chief financial officer of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Pryor is responsible for the agency's \$8.3 billion annual budget and nearly 180 team members serving VDOT's financial planning, capital investment, asset management, federal programs, fiscal management, public-private partnerships and tolling programs.

Trey Cox (Law '95) was elected to the executive committee at Gibson Dunn. Cox looks forward to helping shape firm strategy and supporting lawyers and clients in an increasingly complex legal landscape.


Eric Green (Engr '96) was appointed chief executive officer of Cascade Partners, a Detroit-based investment banking and turnaround and restructuring firm. A former U.S. Navy officer, Green brings a service-oriented leadership perspective shaped by experience in high-accountability environments. He most recently served the firm as chief operating officer. 

Laurin (Goff) Malatich (Arch '96 CM) launched a new website and branding for her interior architecture and design studio, Malatich Cochran Design, which she runs with her business partner, Beth Cochran. Malatich Cochran Design is in its seventh year of business and specializes in luxury residential design in and around Charleston, South Carolina. 

David Contreiras Tyler (Col '96) has joined Duane Morris as a partner in the New York office's corporate practice group. Tyler has experience advising issuers, project sponsors, underwriters and investors on public and private offerings of debt and equity securities, with a focus on capital markets and securitization transactions originating in Latin America. 

Lisa Langhoff Fitzpatrick (Col '97 CM) has become a partner in the insurance practice group at Chaffe McCall's New Orleans office. Fitzpatrick advises insurers and businesses facing complex coverage matters.

Gunes Hopson (Col '97, Law '01 CM) has opened her own law firm, GFH Law, representing businesses, entrepreneurs and travel advisers. Hopson also owns a luxury travel agency, Luxe Travel by Gunes. She is happy to assist clients on both the legal and travel fronts.

Andrew Arculin (Col '99) has been appointed as co-chair of the Financial Institutions Litigation and Regulatory Compliance practice group at Blank Rome law firm. He began the new role Jan. 1. 

Elliot Felix (Arch '99) published his second book, *The Connected College: Leadership Strategies for Student Success*, drawing on his experience working with more than 100 colleges and universities to improve student

The Mystic Order of Eli Banana welcomes its new members for 2025-26

Braxton Biller, New Market, VA
 Aarush Bojja, Ashburn, VA
 Daniel Cheon, Yorktown, VA
 Spence Doherty, Charlottesville, VA
 Matthew Donaldson, Cold Spring Harbor, NY
 Duffy Driscoll, McLean, VA
 Jeb Finney, Birmingham, AL
 Jack Ghegan, Atlanta, GA
 Thomas Hooks, Princeton, NJ
 Cole Husson, Virginia Beach, VA
 Michael Flint Keener, Richmond, VA
 Henry Laurencio, Los Gatos, CA
 Jake McDonald, San Francisco, CA
 Aaron McPheeters, Denver, CO
 Ryan Miller, Westborough, MA
 Ram Perez, Norwalk, CT
 Spencer Ratliff, Charlottesville, VA
 Dylan Sawyer, Nokesville, VA
 William Scharfenberger, Manhasset, NY
 Sam Schultz, Pittsburgh, PA
 James Shepard, New York, NY

Jackson Sheridan, McLean, VA
 Adam Trubish, Buffalo, NY
 Thomas Werner, New Orleans, LA
 Bobby Yarbrough, Atlanta, GA
 Andrew Adams, San Antonio, TX
 Henri Camposano, Los Angeles, CA
 Achille Guest, King George, VA
 Peter Kaplan, Washington, DC
 Sam Matlovsky, New York, NY
 Jack McDonald, Bernardville, NJ
 Gus Neuwirth, Los Angeles, CA
 Mason Paulik, Gladstone, NJ
 Max Sanne, Richmond, VA
 Jack Shaifer, Atlanta, GA
 Michael Shyjan, Westford, MA
 Ben Varner, Chantilly, VA
 Nicholas Zirinis, London, UK

Grand Banana:

Boss Oberlin, Savannah, GA



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Class Notes

experience. *The Connected College* was named one of the 10 best higher education books of 2025 by *Forbes*. 📖

Larry Wilson (Col '99) was promoted to equity partner at his law firm, Evert Weathersby Houff. Wilson joined the firm's Atlanta office after working in Cleveland as a SAG-AFTRA franchised agent.

'00s

Stacy Landis Hackney (Law '01) published her debut novel, *The Primrose Murder Society*, with HarperCollins in March. Set in Richmond, Virginia, the novel follows Lila Shaw, a newly single mom who reluctantly agrees to investigate a decades-old murder in her building. When another resident is killed and Lila becomes the prime suspect, she

must team up with her elderly neighbors to catch a killer. 📖

Dana Hartz (Com '01 CM) has been named associate vice president of finance for United Educators. Hartz has experience in accounting and financial reporting, including insurance company filings. She most recently spent nearly 10 years working for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Justin Humphreys (Col '01) contributed writing and captions to *Sophia by Eisenstaedt*, the collector's edition book of photographs of actor Sophia Loren by photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt.

Frederick Schutt (Col '04, Law '13 CM) was elected as a principal at Woods Rogers. Practicing out of the firm's Richmond, Virginia, office, he focuses on labor and employment matters. In

addition to defending employers before federal and state agencies, he conducts workplace investigations, negotiates employment-related agreements and advises on effective workplace policies.

Will Barksdale (Col '05, Law '08 CM) was elevated to partner at Jenner & Block. Barksdale, a lawyer in the firm's Washington, D.C., office, focuses on helping clients navigate Federal Energy Regulatory Commission investigations and enforcement actions. He also represents clients pro bono in affirmative and defensive asylum cases in the United States.

Adam Kadlac (Grad '06, '07) published his second book, *The Magic Kingdom and the Meaning of Life: A Philosopher Visits Disney World*, with Polity Press in November 2025. He reflects on how the Magic Kingdom can prompt park-goers to ruminate on topics such as authenticity and pleasure, what it means for corporations to play such a large role in our culture, whether nostalgia is always bad, and, of course, princesses. 📖

Jen Shoop (Col '06) published *Small Wonders: A Field Guide to Life's Quiet Joys*, a collection of essays, musings and poems on the art of paying attention, in April. The book grew out of her daily blog, *Magpie* by Jen Shoop, and is organized around themes such as motherhood, inheritances, the natural world and language. 📖

Christopher Jamison (Col '07) released his album, *Altered Ego*, continuing a career marked by thoughtful songwriting and national recognition. Now balancing life as a musician, educator and father of two with his wife, **Meg Williams (Arch '06 CM)**, Jamison credits his formative college nights playing at The Virginian restaurant for shaping his musical voice and sense of community. 📖

Mindy Colden (Engr '08 CM) has been appointed chief operating officer of Falconer Construction Company, a heavy civil construction firm based in Charlottesville. Since beginning at the firm in 2006 as an intern, she has seen Falconer nearly double in size. Colden lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, with her husband, **Trip Colden (Col '05 CM)**, and their two daughters.

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Class Notes

Jianyi Lee (Col '08, Grad '13) and **Kevin Mo (Engr '09, '10 CM)**, along with their two young sons, released *Portugal: A Kid's Travel Adventure* through Kindle Direct Publishing in September 2025. Inspired by exploring the world with their two sons, the book blends real-life travel experiences with history, geography, food and cultural discoveries. The family lives in Summit, New Jersey.

Emily Goodson (Educ '09) released her debut memoir, *Dating Disability: 15 Stories of Dealing With the BS and Building Confidence*, in December 2025. Goodson, who has partial paralysis, shares intimate stories about growing up, navigating relationships and building confidence in a world that often fails to talk about disability.

'10s

Victoria "Tori" White DeJarnette (Col '10) was awarded the KPMG

Silver Award for her pivotal role in successfully launching KPMG's new enterprise technology platform, a foundational initiative driving the firm's strategic business transformation. She orchestrated the efforts of seven teams, synthesizing their plans into a cohesive road map for a seamless launch.

Alex Berman (Col '11) has been elevated to partner at Blank Rome, effective Jan. 1, 2026. Berman helps corporate policyholders navigate complex insurance disputes. 📍

Allison Geller (LaMothe) (Col '12) published her debut crime novel, *Dirty Metal*, with Flatiron Books in February. *Dirty Metal*, set in New York City in 1992, features crime reporter Parker Snow as she investigates the Russian mafia and a string of women's murders. *Kirkus Reviews* called it "a bold debut befitting its bold heroine" in a starred review. 📍

Anna Kovatcheva (Col '12) published her debut novel, *She Made Herself a Monster*,

with HarperCollins Mariner in February. The novel is a story of female community, fortitude and rage set against a backdrop of Slavic vampire folklore, inspired in part by the UVA course on *Dracula* and other representations of the vampire that Kovatcheva took with professor Jan Perkowski in 2009. 📍

Pietro Sanitate (Col '12 CM) was elected as principal at Woods Rogers. He advises on complex disputes and litigation across a wide range of practice areas, including commercial disputes, intellectual property, insurance defense, construction and government contracts. He practices out of the firm's Richmond, Virginia, office.

Olivia J. (Kiers) Stone (Col '12 CM) curated *A Weather Eye: Art and Early Modern Meteorology* at the Worcester Art Museum in Worcester, Massachusetts. Stone gathered maps, graphic satires and other materials to chart the dramatic shifts in Europe's and America's collective understanding of weather from the 16th to early-19th centuries. The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog she co-edited, *Facing the Elements: Visualizing Weather Then, Climate Now*. 📍

Arin Mitchell Peter (Com '13) and her husband, Wes, welcomed their second child, Coulson, and wrote a children's book, *Hello Baby! Love, Josie*, which celebrates their growing family from their dog's point of view. They hope families, young readers and dog lovers will enjoy the book, and they're excited to show their children around Grounds soon. 📍

Callie Anne Bateman (Nurs '16 CM) and **Max Stevenson (Col '16)** welcomed their first child, Sabrina Jade Stevenson, in October 2025. The family lives in Alexandria, Virginia, where Bateman is director of nursing for Pediatric Associates of Alexandria. Stevenson has a postdoctoral fellowship in neuroscience at Georgetown University. 📍

Elizabeth Kukla (Engr '16, '20 CM) announced that her boutique software development firm, Tech Foundry, successfully completed a SOC 2 Type 2 audit. The audit serves as a formal validation of Tech Foundry's longstanding commitment to enterprise-grade security. Based in Richmond, Virginia, Tech Foundry specializes in custom

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Mary-Collier Wilks (Grad '17, '21)

published her UVA dissertation research as her first academic book, *Reimagining Aid: Foreign Donors, Women's Health, and New Paths for Development in Cambodia*, with Stanford University Press. The book investigates the intricate interplay between aid donors from Japan and the United States, their competing priorities, and their impact on women's health initiatives in Cambodia. 📍

Cynthia Alam (Col '19)

facilitated an executive presence workshop for senior leaders at Microsoft through her company, PRSNCE Command. During the workshop, she guided participants in building composure and influence in high-pressure situations. PRSNCE Command helps leaders and teams translate executive presence into measurable impact in high-stakes environments. 📍

Alexandra Rains (Col '19 CM) and

Jonathan Hartley celebrated their wedding with family, friends and many fellow 'Hoos in Afton, Virginia, on Oct. 11. Reuniting with so many loved ones in Charlottesville and on Grounds made the weekend extra special. The couple honeymooned in Switzerland.

'20s

John Cooney (Col '21)

won his UVA friend group's fantasy football season, dubbed the Valley Fantasy Football League. The group's members lived together on Valley Road during their time at UVA and remain connected through the friendly competition.

Blake Showers (Com '21 CM)

married Nalleli Bustos Cuellar in June 2025. Their journey, which has taken them across countries, has grown into a life built on patience, laughter and unity. Showers is grateful for the lessons, friendships and foundation given to him by UVA. 📍

Michaela Barnett (Engr '22) is running for the U.S. House of Representatives in Tennessee's 2nd Congressional District. She is seeking to flip the longest continuously held Republican seat in the nation. She previously completed an American Association for the Advancement of Science fellowship in science and technology policy in Congress in 2025. 📍

Emily Wright Winans (Com '22) and **Nick Winans (Engr '22)** were married in Tuscany, Italy, in August 2025. Ms. Winans met Mr. Winans in college at a Super Bowl mixer between her sorority and his fraternity, following in the footsteps of her parents, who also met at a UVA fraternity house.

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Baths: 3 full, 1 half
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In Memoriam

'50s

Irving Luie Fass (Col '51 CM) of Newport News, Virginia, died Dec. 16, 2025. While at UVA, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi, forming lifelong friendships. After graduation, he joined the Coast Guard and was stationed in Baltimore, where he met the love of his life, Nancy. The couple moved to Hampton Roads, Virginia, where they raised their five children. He and his brother, **Arthur Fass (Col '55)**, took up the family business, Isaac Fass Seafood in Portsmouth, Virginia. They later founded Fass Brothers, expanding the business into fishing fleets, processing plants, a dry dock and several restaurants. In retirement, he spent his time painting. Along with his brother Arthur, survivors include his five children, including **Andrew Fass (Com '81 CM)** and **Thomas Fass (Col '88 CM)**; daughter-in-law **Rebecca Parcell Fass (Col '88 CM)**; 11 grandchildren, including **Claudia Fass (Col '16 CM)** and **Emma Fass (Engr '18 CM)**; and nine great-grandchildren.

Blaine Townsend Phillips (Col '52, Law '55 CM) of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania,



and Easton, Maryland, died Dec. 3, 2025. He was a member of T.I.L.K.A., the IMP Society, and the *Cavalier*

Daily. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and graduated with honors. In law school, he was a member of the *Virginia Law Review*, was president of the Raven Society, and received the Raven Award. He was a senior partner at Potter Anderson. In 1991, he was appointed chairman of Delaware's Judicial Nominating Committee. In 1999, the UVA School of Law established a permanent chair in his honor, the Blaine T. Phillips Distinguished Professorship in Environmental Law. He was elected as an officer of Fauna & Flora International and served on the boards of several environmental groups. As a proud supporter of the university, he was a trustee of the alumni board of the University of Virginia Endowment Fund. In Delaware, he was a longtime board member of the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, the Hagley Museum and Library, and the Mt. Cuba Center. Survivors include his wife, Susan; three children, **Andrea Phillips Salley (Arch '78, Law '82)**, **Blaine T. Phillips Jr. (Col '86)** and J. Riley Miller; three stepchildren; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Robert Weeks Kitchel (Com '54 CM) of Nashville died Feb. 18, 2025. At UVA, he was president of Chi Psi fraternity and a member of T.I.L.K.A. and the Honor Society. From

1954 until 1960, he worked for the Hercules Powder Co. of Wilmington, Delaware. After marrying his wife, Emily, he moved to Nashville. He owned and was president of the E.S. Brugh Co., which he sold to Crichton, Perry & Brandon in 1988, becoming vice president of that company until his retirement. He was a past president of the Exchange Club of Nashville (now the Economic Club). He was chairman of the board of the Harpeth Hall School and served on the boards of the Ensworth School and Cheekwood historic estate. He was an avid tennis player who won numerous club, state and senior titles. Along with Emily, survivors include two daughters; five grandchildren; a great-grandson and many nieces and nephews.

Benjamin "Ben" Y. Bigler Jr. (Col '55 CM) of Williamsburg, Virginia, died Jan. 10, 2026. He was a member of Theta Delta Chi, the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, and Army ROTC. His fourth year, he lived in Lawn room 52. Following graduation, he married his wife, Mollie, and served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. His career began at Union Carbide Corporation, where he became director of marketing research and data systems, based in New York City. After 30 years at Carbide, he started his own firm. He later relocated to Williamsburg,

where he indulged his love of history as an interpreter at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and taught courses for the Christopher Wren Association. After retirement, he moved to Doylestown, Pennsylvania, where he taught history at Delaware Valley University, before returning to Williamsburg. He loved nature, family, big-band music and the Buffalo Bills. Survivors include four daughters, including **Anne G. Bigler (Col '80 CM)**; three sons-in-law and four grandchildren.

W. Glover Garner Jr. (Law '56 CM) of Newport News, Virginia, died Jan. 7, 2026. He



played on UVA's successful 1951 football team and lettered in boxing. He was a member of Army ROTC, Beta Theta Pi, V-Club, Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity, T.I.L.K.A. and the IMP Society. He served seven years in the U.S. Army Reserve. He practiced law in Newport News for 50 years. He was an active member of the Virginia and American Bar Associations, serving as a council member of the Virginia State Bar from 1969 to 1975, among other leadership roles. For several years, he led the Peninsula United Fund, the Newport News chapter of the American Red Cross and the Hampton Roads Jaycees. Survivors include his brother **Wallace**

Former FBI director “did everything we asked him to do”

On Dec. 11, 1968, Marine 2nd Lt. **Robert Mueller (Law '73)**, the scion of a wealthy family who volunteered to serve in Vietnam, was leading a rifle platoon in Quang Tri province when it was ambushed by an enemy armed with rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and mortars.

Under heavy fire, Mueller led a team on a mission to recover a platoon member who had been mortally wounded. Four months later, Mueller was shot through the thigh while leading his platoon to rescue U.S. soldiers under another heavy attack.

Mueller, the former FBI director and special counsel who died March 20 at age 81, returned home with a Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart, among other honors. He enrolled at UVA Law in the fall of 1970 with a worldview shaped by his service, he said in 2013.

“I do consider myself fortunate to have survived that tour in Vietnam,” he said, upon receiving the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in law. “There were many who did not, and perhaps because of that I’ve always felt compelled to try to give back a little.”

Mueller spent most of his career in public service, as a federal prosecutor, head of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, director of the FBI for 12 years, and, most recently, special counsel in charge of the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Mueller took over the FBI a week before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and was widely credited with revamping



and modernizing the agency to focus on counterterrorism.

“National security—that is, preventing terrorist attacks—became our top priority,” he said in his 2013 speech at UVA.

In 2017 the Department of Justice named Mueller special counsel to lead the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election. The probe was politically charged, with President Donald Trump repeatedly calling it a “witch hunt.”

The probe resulted in 34 people being indicted or entering guilty pleas and culminated in the 448-page “Mueller Report.” Regarding Trump, Muller wrote that “while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him.”

The sense of duty that characterized Mueller’s life and career extended to his relationship with UVA, said classmate and former Law School Dean **John Jeffries (Law '73)**.

“He did everything we asked him to do,” Jeffries said. “Every time we asked him to show up and participate, he did.”

Mueller gave the commencement address at the Law School graduation in 2003. Rain forced the ceremony into Memorial Gym, where the acoustics were less than ideal, Jeffries recalled. Afterward, Mueller shook the hand of every graduate

as they left the stage.

“Director Mueller’s graciousness and warm interactions with the graduates made what could have been a dreary event an uplifting one,” then-Law School Dean Paul Mahoney said in 2013.

Mueller in 2013 talked of the warm reception he received at UVA, at a time when some other law schools were not as welcoming to Vietnam vets, he said.

“The university was looking for a range of experiences, understanding that a true legal education is an amalgam of the law and of values with the goal of preparing its students for service—service to the country, service to Virginia and service to others,” he said.

Mueller met and became friends with classmates who had opposed the war, he said. He also connected with fellow veterans, such as **Cameron Smith (Law '73)**, who also served in the Marines.

Smith said he followed Mueller’s career and was not surprised that he was known for his integrity and service.

“The character that he had, the sense of duty and honesty, was very much apparent during our years in law school,” Smith said.

Mueller, who had retired to Charlottesville in recent years, is survived by his wife, Ann; two daughters; and five grandchildren.

—Ed Miller

K. Garner (Col '58, Med '62 CM); two children, including **W. Glover Garner III (Med '94)**; daughter-in-law **Karen B. Garner (Col '90, Med '94)**; eight grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews, including **Thomas K. Garner (Col '95)** and his wife **Christy Pomeroy Garner (Col '97)**.

A. Austin "Budgie" Pearre Jr. (Col '56 CM) of Frederick, Maryland, died Jan. 20, 2026. He was a member of ODK and St. Elmo Hall, as well as the IMP, Raven, and T.I.L.K.A. societies. He was a starting player on the Cavalier basketball team. After earning a medical degree from Johns Hopkins University and serving as a medical officer in the Navy, he completed his residency and cardiology fellowship at UVA. He returned to his hometown of Frederick to practice medicine, first with his father, **A. Austin Pearre Sr. (Col 1919, Med 1922)**, and then as a founding member of Internal Medicine Associates. He took care of numerous generations of families for 51 years. He remained close with his UVA and Charlottesville friends and loved UVA sports. He was predeceased by his wife, Joanne. Survivors include four children, including **Insley Pearre (Col '84 CM)** and **Austin Lindsay Pearre (Col '89 CM)**; son-in-law **Steve Wilson (Col '84 CM)**; and five grandchildren, including **Eliza Pearre Wilson (Col '20)**.

Douglas Munder Godine Sr. (Col '57 CM) of Baltimore died Dec. 24, 2025. At UVA, he held leadership roles



in Delta Kappa Epsilon, the IMP Society, Eli Banana and Student Council. He was an All-American lacrosse player. Following graduation, he served as a first lieutenant in the Army. A prominent real estate developer at the Rouse Company, he helped plan and develop Columbia, Maryland, in the 1960s. In 2003, as vice president of General Growth Partners, he was responsible for the redevelopment of Columbia's Town Center. He was a founding trustee of Jemicy School, a school for dyslexic students. He was predeceased by his daughter, Mary Brooke. Survivors include his wife, Ellen; one sister; two children, **Kathy Godine Phillips (Arch '84)** and **Douglas Munder Godine Jr. (Col '91)**; daughter-in-law **Corie Williams Godine (Col '91 CM)**; and five grandchildren, including **Katherine Cecile Phillips (Col '17 CM)**, **Walker Guthrie Phillips**, **Douglas Munder Godine III (Col '22, Com '23)**, **William Halsey Godine**, and **Caroline Margaret Godine (Com '27)**.

'60s

J. Taylor Buckley Jr. (Col '61 CM) of Sanibel, Maryland, died Aug. 10, 2025. His stint on the *Cavalier Daily* became the first gig in his storied, four-decade journalism career. He spent 12 years at *The Morning News* in Wilmington, Delaware, beginning as a copy editor and becoming its managing editor. He then was hired to be a managing editor for the then-infant *USA Today* and later became a senior writer, covering topics ranging from

campus crime to dirt. He was a juror for the Pulitzer Prizes. Loved ones remember him for his frequent, caustic letters to the local paper, *Kent County News*. He loved the outdoors and was an early proponent of renewable energy. Survivors include his wife, Graciela; three children, including **Kathryn Buckley Kaiser (Col '91, Educ '05, '14 CM)**; son-in-law **Christopher Kaiser (Law '95)**; two stepchildren; and two grandchildren, **Stephanie Kaiser (Col '21)** and **Edward J. Kaiser (Col '23 CM)**.

John Montgomery Tsou (Engr '63 CM) of Mechanicsville, Virginia, died Oct. 27, 2025. Born in Guangzhou province, China, he worked as a radio operator with the resistance army stationed on Quemoy Island. During this time, he met the man who would become his adoptive father. He moved to the United States and attended high school in Connecticut. He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from UVA, where he was a member of the Trigon Engineering Society. He spent his career in the Richmond, Virginia, area, starting with Allied Chemical Corp. and retiring in 2010 as co-owner of Hanover Engineers, PC. He was especially proud of attaining professional engineer status and completing major projects statewide. He enjoyed gardening, fishing and traveling the world. Survivors include his wife, **Patricia Dorman Tsou (Nurs '63 CM)**; his daughter, **Mei-Lei D. Tsou (Col '87)**; his son, Michael; four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Bill David Hays (Engr '64) of Jackson, Mississippi, died Oct. 4, 2025. While studying at UVA, he was in the Air Force ROTC. Upon graduation he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and served on active duty at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. He received an honorable discharge as captain in 1968. His first employer, ESystems, sent him to live in Bitburg, Germany, with his wife and young children. Two years later, he returned to his home state of Mississippi to work for MP&L (now Entergy Mississippi), acting as a quality control officer for Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. Later, he joined MTel as vice president of emerging technology, where he was awarded multiple patents for his groundbreaking paging protocols and an early international paging system. He loved fine-tuning his Mercedes and reconstructing computers. His favorite hours, though, were spent working in the yard with his family. Survivors include his wife, Kathy; three children; one brother and nine grandchildren.

Fred H. Hirsch (Col '66 CM) of Laramie, Wyoming, died March 11, 2024. At UVA, he was a member of Delta Sigma Pi, Pi Kappa Phi and Air Force ROTC. After graduation, he joined the Air Force and married his wife, Edith. Military service brought the couple to the Rocky Mountain West region, where they fell in love with the mountains and open spaces. While on active duty, he earned an MBA from the University of Wyoming. He attained the rank of colonel and retired from the Air Force Space Command.

He then moved to Laramie, where he spent time fishing and hunting with his family. He taught for several years at the University of Wyoming College of Business and served on the board of directors at UniWyo Credit Union. In his later years he and Edith traveled the western U.S. in their RV. Survivors include his four children and three grandchildren.

Joseph Edward Carbonell III (Arch '69 CM) of Greenville, Delaware, died Aug. 20, 2025. He was a member of Phi Psi fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, ODK and the Raven Society. With several classmates, he created *Modulus*, an architecture school publication. In his adult life, he became involved with the Virginia Club of Delaware

and served as its president. He and his wife raised their children in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, living in a historic 19th-century home and working to regenerate and cultivate the land. He practiced architecture with his father's firm, Whiteside, Moeckel and Carbonell, in Wilmington, Delaware. He was passionate about historical preservation and adaptive

reuse, collaborating with the Riverfront Development Corp. of Delaware to revitalize Wilmington's riverfront. He was also skilled in modernist design, working on Delaware Theatre Company, The Delaware Contemporary, and Ronald McDonald House. Survivors include his wife, Lynn, and three children.

PHILIP E. "PHIL" BOURNE | MARCH 22, 1953–MARCH 8, 2026

Founding dean of the School of Data Science was "a visionary"

Phil Bourne's memorial service was held in the School of Data Science, a building Bourne himself had been key in securing.

A line of motorcycles stretched in front of the building, with their gear-clad riders reminiscing about days spent traveling the country with Bourne. A playlist titled "Dad Playlist #1" full of classic rock tunes welcomed in friends and colleagues, and the *Monty Python* quote "Always look on the bright side of life" opened a memorial slideshow.

Bourne, the founding dean of the School of Data Science, died March 8 at 72. A pioneer in the field who served as the first associate director for data science at the National Institutes of Health, he arrived at UVA in 2017 to direct the Data Science Institute. Two years later, he helped transform it into an entirely new school of the university.

"He had a vision for data science. It was all about data science for the common good, and that's what we were interested in," said Don Brown, former director of the Data Science Institute and current senior adviser to the dean of the School of Data Science, at the memorial.

Bourne and Brown pitched the idea for the new school to then-President **Jim**



Ryan (Law '92), who had just assumed the role in mid-2018. Ryan wasn't particularly receptive.

"It is not a small thing to create a new school," Ryan said at the memorial service, adding that he eventually came around and recognized Bourne as "a visionary."

"Phil saw things that others didn't," Ryan said. "He knew what was coming in data science and how it was already changing the world."

Bourne was singularly invested in the success of the school and its people. He was, according to Brown, a "servant leader." Despite his extensive research career, "he

really made it clear that his focus was going to be on the school and on building the school," Brown told *Virginia Magazine*.

Born in England, Bourne moved to Australia at 12. He earned his undergraduate and doctoral degrees in chemistry from Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia. He came to the United States to work at Columbia University and later became a professor at the University of California, San Diego, where he made himself known in the field of bioinformatics. He joined the National Institutes of Health in 2014 before landing at UVA.

Bourne's work has made a significant impact on how research is conducted and shared. As a founding member of the Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics (RCSB), he was a key figure in managing, developing and securing federal funding for the Protein Data Bank, a massive open-access archive of structure data of proteins and other large biological molecules.

"So much of modern science is built on the back of that work," said Stephen Turner, assistant dean for research at the School of Data Science.

Bourne was beloved by his colleagues. "It was hard not to have meetings with him and smile and laugh a lot," said Brown. "He was just the kind of guy that made that possible."

Survivors include his wife, Roma; two children; and a granddaughter.

—**Kiki McLaughlin**

Elizabeth “Liz” Brand Monroe (Grad ’69, Arch ’75 CM) of Zionsville, Indiana, died Jan. 3, 2026. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in history from George Mason College, she received graduate degrees in British history and architectural history from UVA. She then worked in the Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management in Tallahassee and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. In 1989, she moved to Indianapolis to work on the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis. She became a professor in the school’s history department and directed its graduate public history program for over a decade. In 1992, she co-authored *The Main Stem: The History and Architecture of North Meridian Street*. She served as executive director of the National Council on Public History. In 2008, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy presented her with the Gossett Award for her article on the court’s landmark Dartmouth College case ruling. Survivors include her stepbrother and several extended family members.

’70s

Paula Windt Schlossberg (Educ ’71) of Falls Church, Virginia, died Jan. 25, 2026. She graduated from UVA with a master’s degree in education and went on to teach special education for over 30 years in the Fairfax County school system. During her career, she helped many children with learning disabilities succeed

in their education. In her younger years, she volunteered to host international students, making friends from around the world. She was fluent in French and Spanish and loved to travel. She loved motorboating with her family, traveling around the East Coast from Baltimore to Florida and the Caribbean. She adored her black Lab, who was her constant companion. Loved ones remember her for her infectious smile and laughter. She was an accomplished artist, mostly working with oil painting. Survivors include her husband, Peter; two children; a granddaughter and a brother.

William F. McDermott Jr. (Educ ’72, ’76 CM) of Rochelle, Virginia, died March 13, 2025. He dedicated more than 20 years of his life to his friends and colleagues at UVA and the Curry School of Education as a certified research administrator. He served on the boards of directors of the Madison County Habitat for Humanity and the Rochelle Ruritan Club. He was also a member of the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center in Charlottesville, an active disaster relief volunteer for the Red Cross, and 13-gallon blood donor to the Red Cross. He loved to travel, and loved ones remember him for making every person feel valued. Survivors include his wife, Janet; four brothers and their spouses; a sister-in-law; three chosen children; two grandchildren; and one niece and several nephews.

Diana Munsey Perkinson (Law ’72) of Boones Mill, Virginia, died Oct. 6, 2025. She was a pioneering attorney

and devoted advocate for women and children in the Roanoke Valley. A graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College and the UVA School of Law, she was one of the first women to practice law in Roanoke. Alongside her first husband, Frank, she ran a law practice in downtown Roanoke. In 1992, she began her long and meaningful work as a guardian ad litem, representing children in abuse and neglect cases. She and her longtime partner, L.C., poured their hearts into their home, Shamchris Farm. They enjoyed peaceful farm life and entered their horses in many equestrian and sporting events. She will be remembered for her intelligence and compassion and her commitment to justice, family and community. Survivors include L.C.’s children; two brothers, including **Fred Munsey (Col ’80 CM)**; and several nieces and nephews, including **Kate Munsey Welch (Col ’10 CM)**.

John Oliver Webb Jr. (Engr ’73 CM) of Alton Bay, New Hampshire, died Dec. 12, 2025. He received his undergraduate degree in nuclear engineering with distinction from UVA. After his graduation from UVA, he spent five years on active duty for the Navy, assigned to the USS Hamner destroyer in San Francisco. He later earned a master’s in mechanical engineering from Northeastern University. He worked as a quality engineer for several companies, including Stone & Webster and Johnson Controls. He was an officer in the Naval Reserves in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and served as chairman of New England’s

Recruiting District Assistance Council. He was promoted to captain in 1993 and served as a commander in the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). Following 9/11, he was recalled to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle at the NAVSEA headquarters in Crystal City, Virginia. He retired onboard the USS Constitution in 2003, following 30 years of service. Survivors include his wife, Ruth Webb; three children; and five grandchildren.

Angus Mack Hagins (Col ’78) of Bolton, Massachusetts, died Aug. 14, 2025. At UVA, he played trumpet in the Pep Band and sang in the Glee Club. After graduation, he attended Duke Divinity School at Duke University and became a United Methodist pastor. He served the New England Conference for over four decades before retiring in 2021. He spent 20 years at West Chelmsford United Methodist Church in North Chelmsford, Massachusetts. He also served on the board of the Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center in North Andover, Massachusetts. He loved music, reading and farming. He was devoted to his loyal dog, Stella. Survivors include his wife, Whitney; a sister and two brothers.

’80s

David Robert Brewton (Col ’81) of Pittsburgh died July 10, 2025. At UVA, he volunteered at the Charlottesville Housing Improvement Program (now AHIP). He created an interdisciplinary major in religious studies,

economics and government and graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude. After graduation, he moved to Pittsburgh and joined Breachmenders Ministries, an advocacy group that worked to provide affordable housing to low-income families. Later in life, he worked for the nonprofit Hazelwood Initiative, Inc., to fight gentrification and improve residents' quality of life. In 2024, he received a mayoral proclamation honoring his lifelong work in affordable housing and healthcare, citing that he had raised over \$52 million toward these efforts. He loved biking, logging countless miles through the city and along the Great Allegheny Passage trail. Survivors include his wife, **Barbara (Buckingham) Brewton (Col '81)**; four children and their spouses, including **Peter Brewton (Col '08)** and his wife, **Jennifer Hayes (Col '08)**; his siblings; and five grandchildren.

Elliot G. Freier (Col '83 CM) of Los Angeles died Jan. 17, 2026. At UVA, he was an Echols Scholar, a staff member of *The Declaration* magazine and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He attended Yale Law School, where he was the managing editor of the *Yale Journal on Regulation*. He joined Irell & Manella in 1986, where he became partner. He was recognized as a leading tax lawyer by Chambers and Legal 500 and was elected as fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel. He was a mentor to many of Irell's lawyers and staff, always finding time to provide guidance despite his workload. After retiring from

Irell, he continued to advise both the firm and clients as a partner at VLP Law Group. He and his wife, Cora Perez, were avid supporters of the arts and donated their time and resources to many nonprofit causes. Cora also died Jan. 17. Survivors include his two sons, Cora's son and a grandson.

Willis Padgett "Bill" Whichard (Law '84, '94 CM) of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, died Nov. 18, 2025. He received his undergraduate degree and Juris Doctor from UNC-Chapel Hill. He participated in UVA Law's graduate program for judges, earning his Master of Laws in 1984 and later returning for his Doctor of Juridical Science. For his dissertation, he wrote about Justice James Iredell, a North Carolinian who served on the first U.S. Supreme Court. He edited this work into a book, which was published by Carolina Academic Press in 2000. At various points in his career, he served in the North Carolina House of Representatives, the North Carolina Senate, the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the North Carolina Supreme Court. After retiring from the Supreme Court, he served as dean of Campbell University's law school. In his later years, he joined Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, where he remained until 2024. He is survived by his wife, Leona; two daughters and six grandchildren.

John Edward Ebert (Com '87) of Gainesville, Virginia, died Oct. 25, 2025. At UVA, he was a resident adviser and member of Beta Theta Pi. He began his career as a

senior trader with O'Connor & Associates in San Francisco and continued with Swiss Bank. He was a founding member of a proprietary unit of RBC Dominion Securities' Chicago office. He later founded Cavalier Trading and, along with his brother James, was a managing partner. During his career he traded on the San Francisco, Philadelphia, New York and Chicago options exchanges. He was a frequent guest lecturer at UVA. Although his career took him around the U.S., he kept his hometown of Foley, Alabama, close to his heart. He helped found Starfish23, a nonprofit that provides free sports camps and clinics for children. In 2024, he got his teaching certificate and taught adaptive physical education for special needs students. He moved to Houston in 2025 to work at Larson Financial Holdings. Survivors include his daughter, **Veronica Diamond (Nurs '30)**; five siblings; and many nieces and nephews.

Barbara Ann Gillette (Darden '87) of New York City died Feb. 9, 2026. She studied art history at Harvard University before earning her MBA at UVA. She had a career in public relations and marketing, working as a senior associate at Ross & Lawrence Public Relations and as a media specialist at Weil, Gotshal & Manges. She was a longtime resident of Manhattan's East Side, where she found joy in the city's museums and galleries, often walking miles through the city and Central Park. She volunteered for many years at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She was a voracious reader

and an avid traveler. Known for her warmth and outgoing nature, she was devoted to her family and was a deeply caring friend. Survivors include her mother, two siblings and their spouses, and several nieces and nephews.

James "Jim" Patrick Guy II (Col '87, Law '90) of Richmond, Virginia, died Jan. 21, 2026. He was an Echols Scholar at UVA. He met his wife, **Judith Anne Trott Guy (Col '86)**, while participating in young adult ministry at UVA. Born in San Jose, California, he lived his life all over the world, including New Jersey, Paris, Belgium, Germany and various regions of Virginia. He represented Virginia's rural electric cooperatives and served as the 128th president of the Virginia Bar Association. Beginning in 2020, he served as general counsel for the Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative. He served on the Virginia Board of Directors of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. For many years, he fronted an Irish American pub band in Richmond's West End. His great passions in life were his family, the rule of law and music. Along with Judith, survivors include three children; two granddaughters; his mother; his siblings; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

William Hampton Keen (Col '88 CM) of Palm Beach, Florida, died Jan. 23, 2026. After graduating from UVA, he studied at Oxford University before returning to his home state of Florida. Early in his career, he worked at SunTrust Bank and taught at-risk students at the Tampa

Marine Institute. He earned his law degree from the University of Florida. He practiced law at Hill Ward Henderson and Lytal, Reiter, Smith, Ivey & Fronrath before founding Keen Law Group. He served his clients wholeheartedly, earning widespread respect as a leading plaintiffs' attorney. He served on the board of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County and volunteered with Meals on Wheels. He was always present for his children, leading "Team Keen" on adventures across the country and the world. He loved fishing along Florida's Gulf Coast as well as in the Everglades. Survivors include his wife, Joette; three children, **Will Keen (Col '23 CM)**, Carolyn, and **Virginia Keen (Col '27)**; two siblings; and nieces and nephews.

'90s

Matthew Branson (Col '96, Law '02 CM) of Glen Allen, Virginia, died Oct. 20, 2025. At UVA he served as president of Alpha Epsilon Pi and working tirelessly as managing editor of the *Cavalier Daily*. He was a Jefferson Scholar. Following graduation, he worked as a sports reporter for the *Northern Virginia Daily*. He returned to UVA for law school. During this time, he clerked at the Institute for Justice in Washington, D.C., where he met his wife, Nicole. After working as an attorney at Alston & Bird and then Latham & Watkins, he joined McGuireWoods in Richmond, Virginia, eventually becoming deputy general counsel. He loved coaching his children's sports teams and sharing in

game nights with them. Along with Nicole and his three children, survivors include his parents, two brothers, several in-laws; nine nieces and nephews, including **Bethany Branson (Col '13, Educ '14 CM)** and **Zachary Branson (Law '15)**; and his beloved cat.

'00s

Jillian Carter Ford (Col '01, Educ '01) of Smyrna, Georgia, died Oct. 3, 2025. She was a Ridley Scholar who studied education and African American history at UVA. In 2011, she earned a Ph.D. in educational studies from Emory University. She dedicated her life to others, teaching at the high school, college, and graduate levels for 25 years. She was an associate professor of social studies education at Kennesaw State University. She mentored people from all walks of life and worked to fine-tune her craft through arduous study, classroom teaching and community organizing. Her career was infused with the joy of liberation, equity and social justice. Loved ones remember her magical presence, kind essence and sense of generosity. She was predeceased by her wife, Jamilah. Survivors include her partner, Lena; her parents; two siblings; and a niece and a nephew.

'10s

Samantha Lynn (Reid) Moeller (Engr '18) of Maidens, Virginia, died Jan. 5, 2026. A talented musician

and performer, she joined the trumpet section of the Cavalier Marching Band, where she met her husband, **Gray Moeller (Col '19, Law '22 CM)**. Following graduation, she worked as a security management specialist at SWIFT in Culpeper, Virginia. In 2022, the couple moved temporarily to Wasilla, Alaska, where their daughter, Bonnie, was born. They returned to central Virginia in 2023. She began a YouTube channel, which has helped tens of thousands of people navigate the uncertainty of cancer diagnoses. Her greatest joy was motherhood and she was a gifted singer. Along with Gray and Bonnie, survivors include her parents, a sister and two brothers.

Faculty & Friends

Carrie Heilman of Charlottesville died Feb. 25, 2026. In 2003, she came to UVA as an associate professor of marketing, teaching brand management and strategic brand consulting. She was a beloved mentor and respected academic, earning a UVA All University Teaching Award in 2020. She was a member of the Raven Society and served as a faculty advisor for the university's National Student Advertising Competition team, which won three national championships under her guidance. Beginning in 2018, she served as the faculty representative to Virginia Athletics. Survivors include her husband, Brad; four children, including **Matthew**

Heilman (Com '26) and **Thomas Heilman (Col '29)**; her parents; and two brothers.

Charles Ray Tolbert of Charlottesville died Dec. 4, 2025. A professor emeritus of astronomy at UVA, he specialized in optical and radio astronomy and spent 40 years teaching introductory courses. As director of the Office of Academic Space, he spearheaded conservation initiatives during the early 1990s energy crisis. A longtime member of the Physical Access Committee, he was committed to accessibility for all community members. For 10 years, he served proudly as grand marshal, leading Final Exercises. He was a member of the Raven Society, Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. He and his wife, Carla, were longtime members of the Colonnade Club, where he served multiple terms on the board and two years as president. His dedication to his community extended beyond UVA; he served on the Albemarle County School Board, the Piedmont Regional Education Program, and the Albemarle County Service Authority. Along with Carla, survivors include three daughters, including **Michelle Tolbert (Col '94, Educ '00 CM)**; six grandchildren; two siblings, including **Mary Ann Tolbert (Grad '71)**; and many extended family members.

Submit an obituary

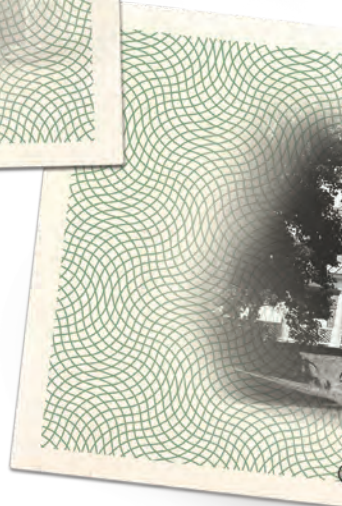
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ON THEIR OWN

How Law and Darden traded state funding for tuition control

BY MARTHA CARR

Leonard Sandridge remembers the moment well. It was the 1970s, and an accreditation committee was visiting the University of Virginia School of Law, widely considered among the best in the nation despite charging far less than its private peers. When the visit was over, **Sandridge (Grad '74)**, then the university's budget director, got an unexpected scolding.

"They said, 'Shame on you, because you have an easy way to fix this thing,'" he recalls. "If you were simply charging your law school students—especially the in-state students—a market rate that they would have to pay anywhere else, you would have the money you need to fix the library ... to take care of the salary problems that you have."

Sandridge, who would later become the university's chief operating officer, knew the suggestion was politically impossible at the time. Charging market tuition for any academic program at a public university would have been a nonstarter in Richmond.

But by the late 1990s and early 2000s, as Virginia legislators wrestled with repeated rounds of recession-driven budget cuts after the Gulf War and the dot-com crash, the idea began to look less radical—and increasingly practical.

State appropriations had fallen sharply, dropping from 32 percent of UVA's academic budget in the mid-1980s to 12 percent in 2002.

The shift gave university leaders an argument.

"We were able to say to the state: 'Look, we don't expect you to make every institution do what we're offering to do,'" Sandridge says. "But we think you ought to give us permission to be innovative in the way we price our products."

The result was one of the most unusual financial arrangements adopted by a public university in the United States, according to James Hyatt, vice chancellor and CFO emeritus at UC Berkeley, and the author of several books on higher education financial management.

In 2002, with the blessing of key state lawmakers, Sandridge and other university leaders inked a deal with the law school and the Darden School of Business, two of UVA's most in-demand graduate programs. Under the agreement—often referred to on Grounds as "financial self-sufficiency"—the schools could set their tuition at market rates and dictate their own salaries and budgets, with the understanding that the Board of Visitors would not unreasonably withhold its approval. The schools were also allowed to keep any private

Retrospect



Jeffries also noticed a pattern during admissions. Prospective students were sometimes choosing higher-priced private law schools where scholarship aid helped lower the sticker price over UVA's more affordable tuition.

"So we were faced with people who went to competitor schools at a discounted tuition, not much higher than ours, but we still lost them," he says.

Winning over skeptics

The financial self-sufficiency concept took years to gain traction, says Sandridge, who recalls holding countless meetings on the subject. It finally took root in the early 2000s, when state budget problems forced legislators to rethink Virginia's financial relationship with its public universities.

Attorney **Terence Ross (Law '83)**, who sat on the Board of Visitors at the time, says its members were under tremendous pressure to reduce expenses. So he suggested they look at individual divisions to see where the weaknesses were, and then "make some really hard choices," like a private corporation might.

But after undertaking that review, the board decided against cutting academic programs and instead moved to shift UVA's "star" professional schools to a market-based funding model.

The financial self-sufficiency deal did not require legislation, but state political leaders needed to be convinced that it wouldn't disadvantage Virginia students. Some BOV members also had concerns.

Ross says he largely gave voice to those worries. Among them: rising tuition that might squeeze out middle- and working-class Virginians, student debt that could push graduates to take jobs outside the commonwealth, and the possibility that a smaller proportion of in-state students would be admitted.

Sandridge served as a key player in those negotiations.

"It took several years for people to believe that we could manage those two schools without them running off and acting irresponsibly," he says. "We had to convince our board that it was a good thing to do."

donations they raised.

In return, the schools agreed to give up all state funding, cover the full cost of their operations, and pay an annual "tax" to the university equal to 10 percent of the tuition revenue they collected—a share that has since grown to 12 percent, according to current law school Dean **Leslie Kendrick (Law '06)**.

"You could write the deal on a cocktail napkin," says **John Jeffries Jr. (Law '73)**, dean of the law school at the time. "We renounced all state funds ... in return for the ability to raise our tuition to near market rates."

Jeffries and Sandridge say the model was feasible because of UVA's unique position in the higher education marketplace. Both the law and business schools were already considered top tier. Graduates typically secured jobs with firms that offered generous starting salaries, making student debt more manageable. And both schools had deeply engaged alumni networks capable of supporting scholarships.



IAN BRADSHAW

“ You could write the deal on a cocktail napkin.”

—John Jeffries Jr. (Law '73), former law school dean



“It took several years for people to believe that we could manage those two schools without them running off and acting irresponsibly.”

— Former COO Leonard Sandridge (Grad '74)

The schools agreed to several conditions. Both offered discounted tuition for Virginia residents—initially \$5,000 less than the out-of-state rate. The differential remains \$5,000 at Darden but has since narrowed to \$3,000 at the law school, according to the university.

The law school also expanded its public service loan forgiveness program to include graduates who worked in private practice in Virginia and earned below a certain salary threshold. That program now covers any graduate making less than \$100,000 a year, Kendrick says.

Meanwhile, alumni stepped forward with philanthropic support, allowing the schools to fund more scholarships, Jeffries says.

A national shift, with a twist

UVA isn't the only university that's been forced to get creative.

Public colleges in many states shifted to new revenue models, launching large-scale capital campaigns for the first time and steadily raising tuition and fees to make up the shortfall in state support, Hyatt says. Many also turned to recruiting more out-of-state students who were charged higher tuition rates.

UVA President **John Casteen III (Col '65, Grad '66, '70)** prioritized private fundraising, growing the university's endowment from \$488 million in 1990 to \$5.1 billion in 2007. University leaders also worked with legislators on restructuring bills in 2005 and 2006 that gave Virginia's higher education institutions greater autonomy over tuition and finances.

The financial self-sufficiency model at Darden and the law school was another key tool—and a precursor to the broader restructuring deal. But what made it so unique?

Hyatt says it wasn't simply that the schools could charge near-market tuition; other top public programs did that. The difference was that the graduate programs agreed to forgo state funding—and even return a portion of tuition revenue to the university.

Kendrick says it still works that way today.

“Top public law schools now charge tuition that's very similar to private schools regardless of what the university funding model is,” she says. “What's different here is that ... we are giving money back to the central university.”

The payoff—and the price

Twenty-four years into the arrangement, tuition and fees for the two programs have risen by more than \$50,000, now ranging from \$77,900 for in-state law students to \$84,838 for

out-of-state students at Darden. For comparison, tuition and fees have risen by less than \$38,000 at the medical school and less than \$20,000 at the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

Still, demand has remained strong, Kendrick says, as have job prospects. For 2025 law graduates, the median starting salary was \$225,000, and 99 percent were employed 10 months after graduation, according to an employment summary reported to the American Bar Association.

At Darden, the most recent graduates reported a median starting salary of \$175,000 plus a \$30,000 signing bonus, with 90 percent accepting full-time jobs within three months of graduation, according to the school's 2024-25 employment report.

Darden Interim Dean **Mike Lenox (Engr '93, '94)** says the business school has thrived under financial self-sufficiency, in part because administrators can reliably project revenue and plan accordingly. As a result, he says, the school has consistently ranked among the top 10 MBA programs, raised more than \$630 million since 2019 and awarded nearly \$30 million in scholarships last year.

“We're among the best in the world—and that's a historic high point,” Lenox says.

The law school has seen similar gains, according to Kendrick.

But Ross, who remains a supporter of the model, says there were some unanticipated consequences.

“The biggest problem was not seeing the extent to which [the schools] would push up the tuitions,” he says. “It was never contemplated, because we never had these gigantic increases.”

Lenox argues that tuition escalation is a general phenomenon in higher education, separate from the financial self-sufficiency model.

“Almost all top business schools, public or private, are now at similar tuition levels,” he says.

In terms of the proportion of Virginia students enrolled, Darden's share has fluctuated over the past 24 years but remained relatively stable at 27 percent as of last fall, according to UVA's Office of Institutional Research & Analytics. At the law school, however, the in-state share has dropped from 44 percent to 22 percent over the same period.

That tracks with a slower decline across UVA's graduate programs. Overall, in-state graduate enrollment fell from 44 percent in fall 2002 to 38 percent last semester, university data shows. 📊

Martha Carr is associate editor of Virginia Magazine.

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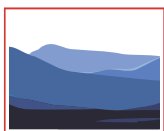
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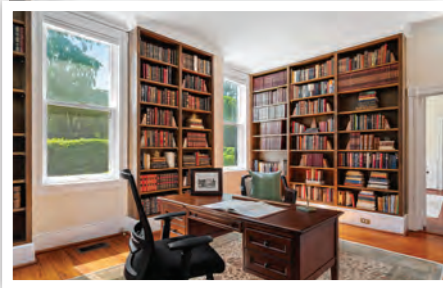
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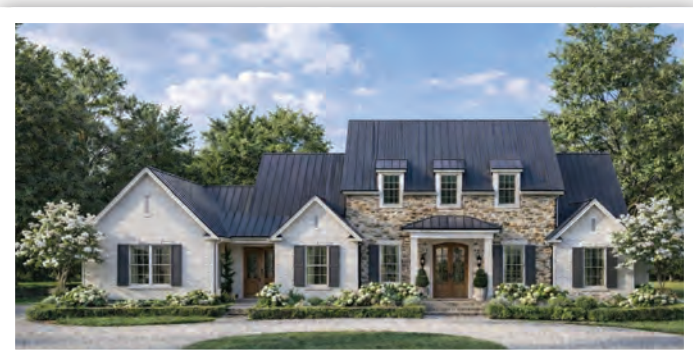
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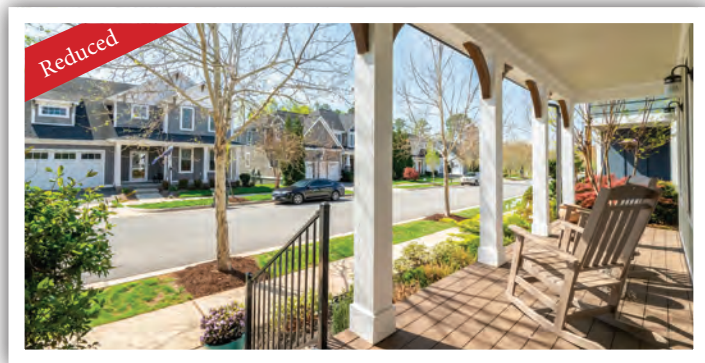
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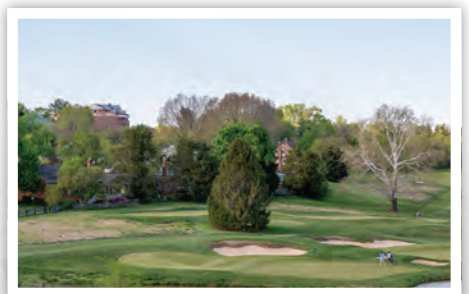
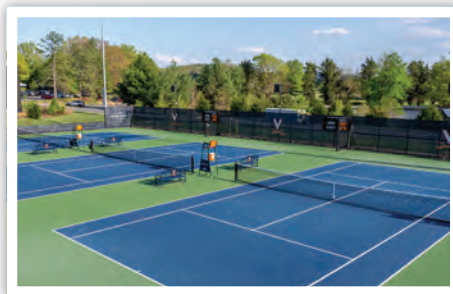
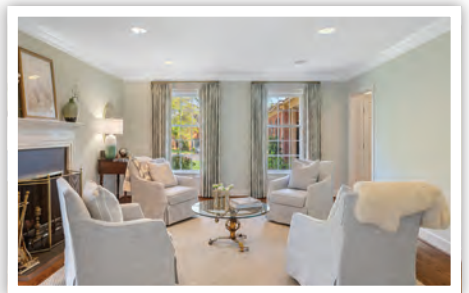
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