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VIRGINIA

FALL 2026

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← WILL SHORTZ (LAW '77)

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NOTED WHITE GABLES MANOR HOME JUST WEST OF TOWN









410 White Gables Lane • $2,350,000

Constructed in 1922 of brick & slate, the noted White Gables Manor Home offers stately architecture & timeless finishes in an incredible location just west of town, w/ multiple use potential. Walk to Farmington, Birdwood and Boar's Head. Alternatively, this property provides an ideal location for a family office or wealth management company. 2 full baths upstairs & 3rd could easily be restored, creating a lovely primary suite plus 4 more bedrms & 3 full baths. 4 dedicated parking spaces & 2 additional spaces available. Renovations in 2005 included refinished oak floors, new HVAC, all exterior surfaces and systems, mechanical & electrical systems. Exterior just repainted. MLS# 677568

COTTAGE CHARM ON OVER AN ACRE IN THE CITY



1868 Edgewood Lane • $1,750,000

Tucked where one of Rugby's most coveted streets quietly comes to an end, this storybook 1929 cottage offers extraordinary privacy on over an acre, while remaining an easy sidewalk stroll to UVA Grounds. Inside, wide-plank heart pine floors, exposed wood beams, custom millwork, intimate fireplaces, updated kitchen & baths. Dining room sits opposite the living w/ flanking fireplaces & French doors open to rear patio w/ expansive rear lawn & magnificent magnolia canopy. First floor guest bedroom w/ adjoining screened porch. Upstairs, spacious primary suite leads to upper terrace. Large 2nd bedroom & versatile loft. Rebecca White (434) 531-5097. MLS# 678638

1+ ACRE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY JUST MINS FROM UVA



1331 Hilltop Road • $2,995,000

Rare opportunity to own more than an acre of private property in Meadowbrook Hills, just minutes from UVA, Barracks Road, & Downtown. This 6 bed, 4.5 bath home blends timeless character w/ thoughtful updates. Welcoming foyer opens to gracious formal living & dining rooms & updated kitchen flows to back deck & expansive yard. Generous family rm & main level primary suite w/ renovated bath provides easy 1-level living. Upstairs, 4 beds, 2 full baths, a loft & laundry. Basement features private entrance, bedroom, full bath, & kitchen. New landscaping & off street parking. Jamie Waller (407) 694-8988. MLS# 675290

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IMMACULATE BRICK RESIDENCE IN EDNAM



555 DRYDEN PLACE
$1,775,000

Sought-after Ednam location within walking distance to the Boar's Head Resort, Birdwood Golf Club, and just minutes to UVA & Downtown. Tucked away on quiet cul-de-sac,this immaculate stand alone brick residence offers over 4,500 finished sq. ft. with a rare combination of elegance, privacy, & timeless architectural detail. The home features 4 beds, 3.5 baths, soaring 10' & 12' ceilings, 4 fireplaces, extensive trim & millwork, and abundant windows & French doors. Spacious living areas flow seamlessly to multiple covered porches & outdoor spaces surrounded by lush landscaping & seasonal mountain views. Additional 2-car attached garage. Lindsay Milby (434) 962-9148. MLS# 677043

UPGRADED ON QUIET STREET NEAR UVA



907 COTTAGE LANE • $892,000

Charming, carefully maintained & upgraded home on an extremely quiet street close to the University & Barracks Road shopping. The original is 2 over 2 built in 1896, the addition dates from around 2000. This home has the tasteful charm only an older home can have. Quality materials, spacious, high ceilings, lots of light. There are 2 "primary suites" on the 1st floor, 2 bedrooms & a bath on the 2nd floor. Sold "as is." Dennis Woodriff (434) 531-0140. MLS# 661152

ALL-BRICK HOME IN EXCEPTIONAL LOCATION



1721 YORKTOWN DRIVE • $975,000

Tucked away in the Greenbrier School District, this stately brick home features sun-filled foyer open to spacious living rm w/ floor-to-ceiling windows & wood-burning fireplace. Main level features Alberene Virginia soapstone flooring & efficient kitchen w/ granite countertops. Stunning 2-story family rm w/ soaring ceilings, fireplace, built-ins, & French doors leading to terrace & landscaped backyard & garden. Brittney Wills (434) 409-7722. MLS# 678097

INCREDIBLE SETTING & VIEWS IN IVY



585 RAGGED MOUNTAIN DRIVE • $2,695,000

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

TURN-KEY GREENBRIER GEM



102 MEADOWBROOK COURT • $1,225,000

This all brick, traditional home is tucked away on a quiet cul-de-sac on an extraordinary, 1+ acre parcel in the heart of the city. New kitchen & 2 full baths feature heated travertine flooring, & massive screened porch overlooks expansive backyard. Upstairs offers spacious primary suite, 3 add'l bedrms, & generous hall bath. Terrace level family rm w/ wood-burning fireplace, renovated half bath, & large unfin. area plus access to 1-car garage. Brittney Wills (434) 409-7722. MLS# 678099

LIGHT-FILLED BELLAIR HOME



21 DEER PATH • $1,295,000

Rare opportunity to own a beautiful home filled w/ natural light, warmth & timeless charm. Large windows throughout & classic architectural details: paneled walls, coffered ceilings, rich wood floors & traditional millwork. With 5 bedrooms, 3 full & 2 half baths, the home offers generous space for family & guests. Fin. basement w/ kitchenette bedroom & full bath. Murray School District, Foxhaven trails! Alex Schwartz (202) 725-2545 or Bobby Schwartz (202) 841-6642. MLS# 673977

CLASSIC BRICK GEORGIAN IN A PARKLIKE SETTING



935 GARTH ROAD
$1,599,000

Set on nearly 6 park-like acres with frontage on Ivy Creek this timeless all-brick residence offers privacy, comfort & location with sought-after 1-level living. Featuring 4 bedrooms & 3.5 baths, the home is filled with natural light, spacious rooms, tall ceilings, & inviting floor plan. Brand-new cedar shake roof. A soaring stone fireplace serves as a stunning centerpiece while large windows throughout frame serene views. The property's manicured grounds offer ample room for gardening, recreation, or enjoying the setting. Rarely does a property combine such a picturesque setting with close proximity to Farmington, Boars Head, fine dining, & UVA. Sally Neill (434) 531-9941. MLS# 677564

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In This Issue



28

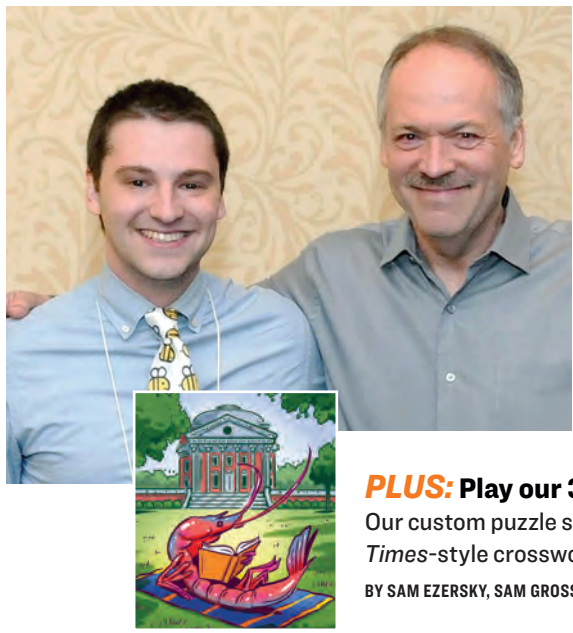
The Secret Life Of Grounds

From enslaved people's quarters to steam tunnels, take a journey through UVA's hidden spaces.

BY MARTHA CARR



LEFT: SANJAY SUCHAK; *TOP RIGHT:* ©2026 DONALD CHRISTENSEN, COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN CROSSWORD PUZZLE TOURNAMENT; *INSET:* ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLIE LAYTON; *RIGHT:* ANDREW SHURTLEFF



38

UVA's Brain Teasers

How four UVA alumni helped shape the "golden age" of puzzles.

BY SAM GROSSMAN

PLUS: **Play our 3 UVA-themed games**

Our custom puzzle section includes a *New York Times*-style crossword and a rhyming word game.

BY SAM EZERSKY, SAM GROSSMAN AND WILL SHORTZ



44

It Takes A Village

Meet the 'Hoos helping 'Hoos find food, safety, confidence and community.

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL

DEPARTMENTS

9 Letters
14 Around the Alumni Association
17 UDigest
22 Student Life
25 Discovery
26 VM Bookshelf
52 From UVA's President
54 Time Capsule
56 Class Notes
68 In Memoriam
74 Retrospect

ON THE COVER: Photo by Matt Licari; photo illustration by Steve Hedberg

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court@mcleanfaulconer.com

NOTABLE RECENT SALE



FAIRHILL

$4,275,000 | MLS 675197 | Charlottesville
SOLD
Will Faulconer, 434.987.9455
Jim Faulconer, 434.981.0076

A remarkable English country estate on 6.67 private acres, walkable to Ivy and less than 5 miles west of Charlottesville. The 7,000+ SF residence features exquisite craftsmanship, a stunning library, chef's kitchen with marble counters and culinary garden, and seamless indoor-outdoor flow via French doors and terraces overlooking Little Ivy Creek. A main-level primary suite, four additional bedrooms, and a 2-bedroom guest cottage complete this exceptional Albemarle offering.

CURRENTLY FOR SALE



WHITE HALL ESTATE

$8,800,000 | MLS 665249 | Crozet
Jim Faulconer, 434.981.0076
Will Faulconer, 434.987.9455



MONTE VENTOSO

$4,450,000 | MLS 677366 | Madison
Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700



OAK HALL

$4,000,000 | Staunton
Jim Faulconer, 434.981.0076
Will Faulconer, 434.987.9455



BEL AIRE

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

Jim Faulconer
434.981.0076
jfaulconer@mcleanfaulconer.com

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NOTABLE RECENT SALE



FARMINGTON

$3,450,000 | MLS 678851 | Charlottesville
SOLD
Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700
Mark Mascotte, 434.825.8610

Set within the highly sought-after Farmington neighborhood, this beautifully renovated residence offers timeless appeal and thoughtful design. A first-floor primary suite, three additional en-suite bedrooms with private balconies, and a stunning screened porch with fireplace overlooking beautifully landscaped and illuminated grounds make this an exceptional offering. Expansive outdoor entertaining spaces extend the living area seamlessly.

CURRENTLY FOR SALE



OLD BALLARD FARM

$2,750,000 | MLS 678129 | Charlottesville
Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700



OWENSVILLE RD

$2,450,000 | MLS 675511 | Charlottesville
Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700



BREAK HEART RD

$1,925,000 | MLS 678211 | Crozet
Steve White, 434.242.8355



BLUE HILL

$1,895,000 | MLS 677315 | Charlottesville
Mark Mascotte, 434.825.8610



EDNAM

$1,450,000 | MLS 676081 | Charlottesville
Katherine Leddington, 646.593.0333



HYLAND RIDGE

$1,195,000 | MLS 678613 | Charlottesville
Jim Faulconer, 434.981.0076
Will Faulconer, 434.987.9455

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ASHCROFT

765 Summit Ridge Pointe, Charlottesville, Va

Perched atop the Southwest Mountains, this 6-bedroom home offers panoramic views and a Karen Turner-designed kitchen. Located just minutes from Charlottesville. Price Available Upon Request – Peter Wiley 434.422.2090



GREENLEA

1614 Carriage Dr, Manakin Sabot, Va

Set on 40 secluded acres, this beautifully renovated contemporary farmhouse offers sweeping pastures and thoughtfully designed spaces for gathering. Only minutes from Short Pump. $3,050,000 – Justin Wiley 434.981.5528



RIVANNA ESTATE

1859 Rivanna Farm, Charlottesville, Va

Set upon 42 acres of Rivanna River sanctuary, this remarkable estate offers views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a landscape of rolling pastures and serene water frontage. $7,495,000 – Peter Wiley 434.422.2090 Justin Wiley 434.981.5528



MOUNTAIN VIEW

19424 River Rd, Rapidan, Va

Mountain View Farm is a rare 171.5-acre historic estate at 19424 River Road in Orange County, cherished by the same family since 1850, featuring a beautifully updated 1853 brick home. $2,700,000 – Justin Wiley 434.981.5528



BUNDORAN FARM

2635 Winsome Orchard Lane, North Garden, Va

Bundoran Farm Custom Residence- A rare offering, 5 bed custom residence with beautiful grounds and pool in tranquil setting 15 minutes from town and UVA. Miles and Miles of hiking trails. $2,600,000 – Peter Wiley 434.422.2090



HARE FOREST

8386 Hare Forest Rd, Orange, Va

Privately set in one of Central Virginia's most protected landscapes, Hare Forest is a historic estate, featuring a late 18th-century Federal-style manor on 173 acres under conservation easement. $2,795,000 – Justin Wiley 434.981.5528



EDGEMONT

3392 Edgemont Farm, North Garden, Va

Surrounded by 572 acres of rolling Virginia farmland, with the Hardware River running through the lush fields, is a home whose design is reputed to be the only remaining private residence attributed to Thomas Jefferson. $11,000,000 – Buyer Represented by Justin Wiley 434.981.5528



TWELVE RIDGES

410 Twelve Ridges Dr, Vesuvius, Va

Nestled in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, this 3-bed, 3.5-bath home offers modern elegance with 270-degree views, just minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway. $1,995,000 – Matthias John 434.906.4630



GREENVILLE

23501 Greenville Rd, Culpeper, Va

Stunning Classical Revival estate on 312 acres along the Rapidan River. Built in 1854, this meticulously restored home features original details, guest cottage, pool, stables, and more. Additional 403 acres available. $4,500,000 – Justin Wiley 434.981.5528 Peter Wiley 434.422.2090

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VOX ALUMNI

Letters

JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Thank you for the walk down memory lane in the article about the restaurants on the Corner. Another favorite of mine was Margarita's Gourmet Mexican Restaurant. I used to go there with my friend Neal Young for a plate of nachos and a pitcher of sangria for Friday happy hours.

Jeff Smith (Col '87)
Westminster, Colorado

I very much enjoyed the recent article regarding the Corner. Since graduation I have returned to Charlottesville numerous times for Reunions, Orange Bowl Committee visitations, fraternity business and wine tours. Usually, I headquarter myself at the Colonnade Club and immediately head to The Virginian and Mincer's.

My visits to these establishments are akin to time travel—the years disappear, and I am transported back to the mid-'60s. It's a great sensation.

Don Slesnick (Col '65)
Coral Gables, Florida

I very much enjoyed reading your latest issue dedicated to the Corner. I worked at The Virginian for three of my four years at Virginia. It was the best restaurant in town, famous for its amazing linguini with white clam sauce, daily specials and burgers. It was also a world-class brunch spot with lines epically long on the weekends, especially around football games. I started as a busboy/host and worked my way up to waiter and then bartender. At the time, Mary Ann Parr was the owner. She was such a wonderful person, kind and generous to all who worked at the restaurant. I was pleased to see that Mary Ann recently completed her degree at UVA and walked the Lawn. It's incredible to think how many people The Virginian has welcomed over the years. Sam Shepard, the BoDeans and Sissy Spacek, just to name a few. I always felt The Virginian was another home base for me during my time in Charlottesville. I loved working there and remember it with fondness.

Thank you again for your super cool issue.

Tyler Whisnand (Col '90)
Lenox, Massachusetts

As special as all the eateries on the Corner were, there was an equally special place just behind Anderson Brothers Book Store: Mr. Van's Pool Hall. The pool hall was much too convenient for this medical student. And my high school buddy, a UVA law student, also spent too many hours in this pleasure dome. According to Google, "The historic University Billiard Parlor (often affectionately referred to as Mr. Van Lear's or Mr. Van's pool hall) was a beloved, smoky institution on The Corner in Charlottesville. Operating for decades, Mr. Van's was known for its pinball machines, vintage ivory-ball pool tables, and as a popular hangout for students and townies alike. The original parlor and building on the alley behind Anderson Brothers Bookstore and the College Inn are permanently closed."

Michael Diamant (Med '70)
Santa Barbara, California

I loved the article about the restaurants on the Corner. One restaurant before my time, University Cafeteria, came up in my day-to-day not two weeks after reading your article.



I love to cook, and a dear friend of mine who lives in NYC bought me an old spiral-bound cookbook, *Charlottesville Cooks for Compliments* (1976), that he found at a vintage cookbook store in New York. To my delight, there was a recipe for the University Cafeteria fried chicken. I was curious about the publisher, the University League Inc., and it is related to the current Junior League of Charlottesville.

I am excited to try this recipe and found it fun that I had just read your article about it before getting the cookbook.

KATIE HODGSON NEWMAN (COL '03, EDUC '03)
Fairfax Station, Virginia



WHAT *DIDN'T* I LEARN HERE?

In the article about Gov. Spanberger, she is well-spoken and clearly has the university's needs in mind. I support her moves to make the board more amenable to the 200-plus years of academic tradition at the U. However, as a graduate whose parents paid about $500 a semester for my tuition, I cringe at the modern costs



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FEATURED PROPERTIES



The Rocks | $2,195,000 | For Sale

A stately residence in a coveted Ivy location offers a terrific floor plan with seamless connectivity throughout thoughtfully designed living spaces. MLS 676101



Proffit Ridge | $1,890,000 | For Sale

Designed for effortless one-level living, this custom home on three acres pairs a spacious primary suite with three additional main-level bedrooms. MLS 676674



Wingate Farm | $2,750,000 | Pending

A distinguished Ivy estate near Garth Road features an exceptionally built Georgian residence, complemented by a large lawn, formal gardens, and Blue Ridge views.



South Keswick | $745,000 | For Sale

Set on ten private acres near the Rivanna River, this four-bedroom home strikes a balance of comfort, functionality, and country charm. MLS 676662



Park Lane | $885,000 | For Sale

Built in 2021, this turnkey corner-lot home with five bedrooms enjoys a large, level, fenced backyard just a short walk from popular Crozet Park. MLS 677627



Hidden Hills | $795,000 | Pending

On 4.76 private acres, this charming Keswick home is surrounded by mature landscaping, perennial gardens of native Virginia plants, and easy access to community trails.



Holkham | $1,455,000 | Sold

A classic four-bedroom Ivy residence on five acres has a carriage house, swimming pool, and direct access to acres of community woods, trails, and streams.



Ashcroft | $2,375,000 | Sold

Sweeping Blue Ridge views define this exceptional 2025 home, appointed with 10-foot ceilings, a dramatic stone fireplace, and an elegant first-floor primary suite.



West Leigh | $1,200,000 | Pending

Custom modern construction meets one of the area's most established and desirable neighborhoods in this beautifully executed home on two acres in Ivy.

of a degree. Debt upon leaving drives many career choices in order to pay off the debt. Other schools have committed to a maximum debt upon leaving school. The Yale School of Medicine, through scholarships and other support, limits debt to $40,000 after four or five years. UVA could limit student debt by using donations and income from its endowment to support students rather than new buildings.

Ken Harkavy (Col '67)
Potomac, Maryland

As a UVA graduate, I am embarrassed to call these UVA public figures fellow Wahoos:

Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger, a former CIA officer, appears more concerned with centralized government power than with protecting law-abiding Virginians. Her policies raise serious concerns about public safety, individual liberty and the constitutional rights of Virginians.

Thomas Jefferson warned: "The time to guard against corruption and tyranny, is before they shall have gotten hold on us." And "When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty." Former UVA President James Ryan also deserves scrutiny. During COVID, UVA imposed multiple vaccine requirements on students and accelerated enforcement while many Virginians were questioning government mandates and defending individual liberty. A university founded by Jefferson should not become a model for institutional coercion.

Charlottesville should produce leaders who defend liberty, not public figures who justify government control over citizens' bodies, safety and constitutional rights. Someone needs to say it plainly: Public power is not virtue, coercion is not leadership, and citizens are not subjects.

Jean Hanson (Com '88)
Tampa, Florida

I wish you had sat down with Gov. Spanberger after her veto spree of strong, progressive legislation passed by her robust Democratic state government. The time for incrementalism, triangulation and mainstream corporatist Democrats has long passed its expiration date. Yet here is Virginia, saddled with one such political leader for another few years. Voters really need to get their heads out of the sand and recognize that neoliberal, centrist Democrats serve the same destructive masters as Republicans; they just grandstand and exploit polarizing social issues to cosplay as an ally of our movements.

Brennan Lowery (Col '09)
New York

UVA REPORTS COMPLIANCE EFFORTS TO DOJ [U-DIGEST]

While I commend the author of this article for her objectivity and dispassionate tone, I have to say that we are deep into Orwellian Newspeak territory when the word "progress" is used to describe the elimination of efforts to redress the effects of centuries of institutional racism and sexism. Maybe the book should have been titled *2084*.

Christopher Varga (Com '83)
Glen Ridge, New Jersey

UNSETTLED [STUDENT LIFE]

That "shining city on a hill," America, to which so many of us international students came from across the world with our dreams but also our fears, should not be silenced by the climate of intimidation that your article describes.

I came from India to the Department of Drama, UVA, in the fall of 1982, their first international student. At the time, I learned there were 22 international students at the school. Three graduate degrees later, all from UVA, I would retire as associate collegiate professor emerita from Virginia Tech in 2023. Today, I am left with deep gratitude for the freedom with which I could speak in my classes as a student; with which I could choose subjects to research and to publish on; with which I could teach, encouraging students to speak their minds; and to publish opinion pieces, such as my experiences with racism in the aftermath of 9/11 and on white supremacist attacks that killed Sikhs in Wisconsin in 2012.

However, today, a naturalized U.S. citizen since August 2001, I carry with me a copy of my American passport, even driving in town, should I need to show it.

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I was disappointed that you chose to place the letter from John S. Grant as the first one in the Summer 2026 issue. The author is correct about one thing: Context matters. But context should inform our judgment—not replace it.

The letter assumes that because President Jim Ryan's departure was controversial, every action that followed is therefore illegitimate. That is a political conclusion, not an objective one.

Universities cannot remain leaderless indefinitely. UVA's Board of Visitors have both the legal authority and the responsibility to appoint a president when a vacancy occurs. Disagreeing with the circumstances surrounding a previous president's departure does not invalidate the board's obligation to govern.

The author also labels the selection process as "poisoned," "rushed" and "inherently political," yet offers no evidence that Scott Beardsley is unqualified or incapable of leading the university. Instead, the argument rests on guilt by association—that because some stakeholders objected to the process, the outcome must necessarily be flawed. History suggests otherwise. Many successful leaders have assumed office amid controversy or political division. Their legitimacy was determined not by the passions surrounding their appointment, but by the quality of their leadership.

Frank Rutan (Col '79)
Daniel Island, South Carolina

THE HIDDEN COST OF SHEDDING POUNDS [SPRING 2026]

I liked this article. In my day job, I work with people on GLP-1s. It's long been known these drugs cause muscle loss. Any rapid, substantial weight loss can. It's interesting there's no improvement in cardiorespiratory fitness. I hope follow-ups are done with dedicated training protocols.

Many people aren't aware that GLP-1s cause muscle loss. Mr. Angadi is absolutely right: Exercise is a nonnegotiable. The only way to preserve muscle during weight loss is to strength-train regularly (all major muscles) while eating enough protein. It can be hard for someone on GLP-1s to eat large quantities of chicken. Synthetic sources can help.

People who prioritize exercise and nutrition feel better while on GLP-1s. They're more likely to maintain weight loss long term. They're less susceptible to frailty.

GLP-1s can make a difference for those who need to lose significant weight. But they don't replace diet and exercise.

Ben Connelly (Engr '18)
Charlottesville

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.

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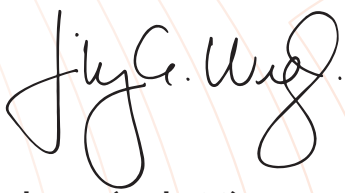
Let's start with the obvious: There's something special about UVA alumni. You can see it in our orange and blue pride, hear it when someone yells "Wahoowa!" from across an airport, and feel it at Reunions. This isn't just an affinity—it's a family.

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Thank you for believing in the Alumni Association. Your commitment inspires us, allows us to flourish, and propels us into an exciting new chapter marked by the opening of Aggarwal Hall in spring 2027. Until then, we remain as committed as ever to **building belonging for Hoos everywhere.**

Wahoowa!



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

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> **"The whole purpose of the bill was to provide the system with insulation from partisan politics."**
>
> ***—State Sen. R. Creigh Deeds***

BOV BILL HITS WALL

After a year of political turmoil at UVA, Gov. Abigail Spanberger vetoes legislation that would have reshaped board terms—leaving higher education governance unchanged for now.

BY MARTHA CARR

The political upheaval that engulfed the University of Virginia during the past year will not—at least for now—lead to changes in how Virginia's public universities are governed. Democratic Gov. **Abigail Spanberger (Col '01)**, breaking with lawmakers in her own party, vetoed legislation in May that would have restructured board terms and strengthened protections for academic freedom.

State Sen. R. Creigh Deeds, D-Charlottesville, a chief author of the legislation, said he was "very disappointed" with the governor's decision.

"Many people worked on the bill, or a version of the bill, for months," he said in a May email. "The whole purpose of the bill was to provide the system with insulation from partisan politics."

In April, Spanberger offered amendments to identical bills passed by the House and Senate. The General Assembly rejected those and sent the bills back without changes.

The legislation would have shifted board appointments from a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms to a single six-year term with a required two-year gap before reappointment, aiming to limit the ability of any governor to appoint all members of a board within a single term. The bills also would have created a nonvoting staff seat and prohibited members from adopting policies that limit expression based on political viewpoint or partisan objectives, among other changes.

According to Democratic lawmakers, the bills were an attempt to respond to a fractious period at UVA and some other state universities, which included President **Jim Ryan (Law '92)** stepping down in June 2025 under intense pressure from the Trump administration. Ryan later suggested that he was pushed out by some board members appointed by Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin under threat that the university would lose millions in federal research funding.

After taking office in January, Spanberger quickly reshaped UVA's Board of Visitors by appointing five new members and filling five other vacancies. She also pledged to work with state legislators to prevent future governors from →

UVA COMMUNICATIONS

→ imposing an "ideological agenda" on Virginia's public universities.

But in the end, she rejected lawmakers' first attempt.

In an interview with *Virginia Magazine* in April, the governor said she wasn't convinced that an overhaul of board terms was the appropriate response. But in a statement after the veto, she said she remained committed to "enacting reforms that will strengthen higher education governance."

"There's not necessarily a reason to believe that four-year terms themselves are the problem," she said. "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."

Spanberger has since reappointed three of her own board picks to full 4-year terms that start in July: **Mohsin Syed (Col '02, Law '08)**, **Elizabeth Hayes (Law '78)** and **Owen Griffin Jr. (Com '93, '94, Darden '99)**. She also opted to retain **Amanda Pillion (Educ '97, '99)**, originally appointed by Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin, for a second term, according to a university spokesperson.

Committee to tackle long-term strategy

President Scott Beardsley has chartered a 22-member committee to help him develop UVA's next long-term strategic plan, with a goal of presenting it to the Board of Visitors for review in April, according to a news release.

Co-chaired by Jennifer West, dean of the School of Engineering, and **R. Marc Johnson (Educ '08, Darden '13)**, vice president for strategic initiatives in the Office of the President, the committee is made up of faculty members, administrators, Board of Visitors members and students. Its charge is to build on the ideas Beardsley has gathered in his "Grounds for Conversation" listening tour, which began in the spring.


West


Johnson

Scheduled to begin work in August, the committee will conduct a community-wide survey and offer in-person and virtual opportunities for community members to provide input.

Beardsley has already identified several key priorities, including faculty excellence; access and affordability; exceptional student experience; robust research infrastructure; global opportunities and impact; world-class patient care; outstanding athletics; and the "Connected Grounds" initiative, which seeks to link the university's physical campus, virtual platforms and intellectual community. ***—Ed Miller***



JAMIE HOLT / VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

Virginia men snag tennis championship

Early in their NCAA championship match against the University of Texas, the Virginia men's tennis team found itself in a familiar position.

The Cavaliers dropped the opening doubles point, falling behind for the third time in the tournament.

But once again, Virginia rallied. Winning four of the final six points, the fourth-seeded Cavaliers defeated the second-seeded Longhorns 4-3 to win the program's seventh NCAA title May 17 at the Magill Tennis Complex at the University of Georgia.

"That's our culture out there, just a never-say-die attitude," coach Andres Pedroso told virginiasports.com.

The title was Virginia's third under Pedroso, who also guided the Cavaliers to championships in 2022 and 2023. Unlike those teams, which won several matches in lopsided fashion on their way to the title, this year's group had to "soul search and just go into really dark places to find ways to win in the middle of matches," Pedroso said.

Before beating Texas, Virginia defeated top-seeded Wake Forest 4-3 on May 16 to reach the championship, again coming from behind.

No. 1 singles player **Dylan Dietrich (Data '27)**, who clinched the title for Virginia, was named tournament MVP and was later named Intercollegiate Tennis Association Men's Tennis National Player of the Year. Pedroso was named ITA coach of the year.

The team title was the 37th in the history of Virginia Athletics. With this win, men's tennis tied the men's soccer and men's lacrosse programs, which also have seven. ***—Ed Miller***









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Leader shifts

Darden appoints new dean, Batten dean leaves and architecture dean stays a bit longer

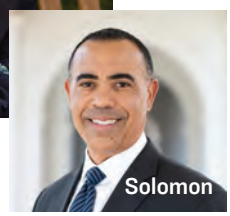
In moves among deans during a busy spring and summer, Yael Grushka-Cockayne was appointed to lead the Darden School of Business, Ian Solomon announced that he was leaving the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy after seven years at the helm, and Malo André Hutson agreed to stay on for another semester at the School of Architecture.

Grushka-Cockayne, a longtime Darden professor and most recently its vice dean, was appointed in June as the school's 10th dean and the first woman to lead Darden in its 70-year history. She fills the vacancy created when Scott Beardsley was elected as UVA's 10th president.

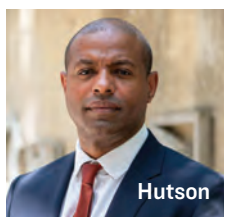
Grushka-Cockayne has been on the Darden faculty since 2009 and had served as vice dean since February 2025. Her research and teaching focus on data science, forecasting, project management and behavioral decision-making. She also holds a courtesy appointment as professor of data science in UVA's School of Data Science.

"Darden's strength has always been its people and the deeply human approach to business education: rigorous, student-centered, grounded in discussion, community, and committed to developing responsible leaders who are prepared to make a positive impact in the world," Grushka-Cockayne said. "In an age of artificial intelligence and constant change, our mission is more relevant than ever."


Grushka-Cockayne


Solomon


Chou


Hutson

Batten Dean Solomon is leaving to become president and CEO of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, an 85-year-old foundation established by the grandsons of John D. Rockefeller. He stepped down Aug. 2 and was scheduled to serve as special adviser to the provost through Sept. 1.

During his tenure, Solomon grew Batten's enrollment and expanded the school's academic offerings. Solomon launched the Bridge to Batten program for first-generation and lower-income applicants, the BattenX program for adult learners, and graduate certificate programs in public leadership and public policy. The school also expanded its physical footprint beyond Garrett Hall with additional space in the new Karsh Institute for Democracy building.

Solomon held several positions in the federal government before coming to Batten in 2019. He was legislative counsel to then–U.S. Sen. Barack Obama and a senior adviser to then-U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner.

"I have loved the Batten School since my first day nearly seven years ago," Solomon said. "It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve this community and to live in Pavilion X on the Lawn."

Associate Dean Eileen Chou will serve as interim dean. A search for a new dean will begin in the fall.

Architecture Dean Hutson, who announced last year that he would not seek reappointment when his five-year term was up at the end of the spring 2026 semester, agreed to stay through the fall as the search for his successor continues.

Several candidates to succeed Hutson came to Grounds for interviews, but "after careful consideration of stakeholder feedback and deliberations by the search committee," Beardsley and Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Brie Gertler decided to extend the search, Gertler wrote in an email. ***—Ed Miller***

UVA replaces men's lacrosse coach



Eight days after announcing that men's lacrosse coach Lars Tiffany would not return, UVA promoted his top assistant.

Kevin Cassese, 45, served as the team's offensive coordinator and associate head coach for the past three seasons. He came to UVA after 16 seasons as head coach at Lehigh University.

UVA won national championships in 2019 and 2021 under Tiffany, who had a record of 108-51 in 10 seasons. The Cavaliers won the ACC championship this past season but lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament. In 2025, UVA failed to qualify for the NCAA tourney for the first time since 2017.

On May 18, UVA announced that Tiffany would not be retained. At the press conference introducing Cassese, Director of Athletics Carla Williams thanked Tiffany for his "many contributions" but declined to comment on why he was not retained. Cassese called him a friend and mentor.

Tiffany, meanwhile, has sued UVA for breach of contract. In a suit filed June 22 in Albemarle County Circuit Court, he alleges that he signed an offer sheet for a three-year contract extension in April. The suit seeks a minimum of $1.48 million in damages. ***—Ed Miller***

TOP: ALI JOHNSON FOR UVA DARDEN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS; *LEFT:* JAMIE HOLT / VIRGINIA ATHLETICS





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

Student Life

HEAD OF THE CLASS

Meet UVA's 2027 student leaders

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL



Honor Committee Chair
Genny Freed (Col '27)
As a first-year, Freed, of New York City, was familiar with Honor, in part because it had just moved from a single-sanction to a multi-sanction system. Honor now has a "solid foundation" under multi-sanction, she says. As chair, the political philosophy, policy and law major plans to continue to refine the committee's processes; strengthen faculty and student buy-in for the system; and further address artificial intelligence, including the growing number of cases related to its use. "[We're] trying to make sure we're part of the conversation around AI," she says.



University Judiciary Committee Chair
Zach Davidson (Col '27)
Danville, California, native Davidson joined the Judiciary Committee as a first-year, drawn to its underlying philosophy of restorative justice and seeking an opportunity to make a difference on Grounds. As chair, the politics honors major is focused on educating students about the committee's processes; boosting its internal community with more opportunities for committee members to connect; and strengthening institutional sustainability, including beginning an initial capital campaign for its new endowment. "The work that we do is always difficult," Davidson says, "but it's also very meaningful and very fulfilling."



Student Council President
Michael Mitchell (Com '27)
Mitchell joined Student Council as a first-year, rising through the ranks of the council branch that funds student groups through the student activity fee. As president, the Crozet, Virginia, native who is concentrating in finance and management hopes to create an endowment to boost funding for student clubs and fully cover the council's Support and Access Services branch, which provides resources for students in need. A UVA President's Office gift funds it now. "This isn't a short-term initiative," Mitchell says. "But I think 10 years from now, we [will] have raised a significant amount of capital."



Co-Chair of Resident Staff Program
Aali Siddiqui (Engr '27)
Siddiqui, of Chantilly, Virginia, arrived at UVA wanting to be a resident adviser. The oldest of four, he'd played a caretaking and mentorship role at home and was eager to continue in college. As co-chair, the pre-med biomedical engineering major's plans include bringing volunteer opportunities to dorms and revisiting the remuneration model for student staff, which is free housing and meal plan. Some, however, live in apartments with kitchens so don't need a meal plan. "It's been really rewarding," he says of the work. "It's given me the opportunity to meet a lot more people."



Co-Chair of Resident Staff Program
Leela Trujillo (Col '27)
As a first-year, the opportunity for leadership roles drew Trujillo, from Alexandria, Virginia, to resident staff. As co-chair, her plans include tightening the program's internal workings; addressing policy gaps; and providing a more structured leadership experience for students, particularly first-years, who are part of their dorm's association council. Trujillo, who is double-majoring in German and global studies, also will look for ways to ensure staff feel supported. "One of our overarching things is 'Clarity is kindness,'" she says.



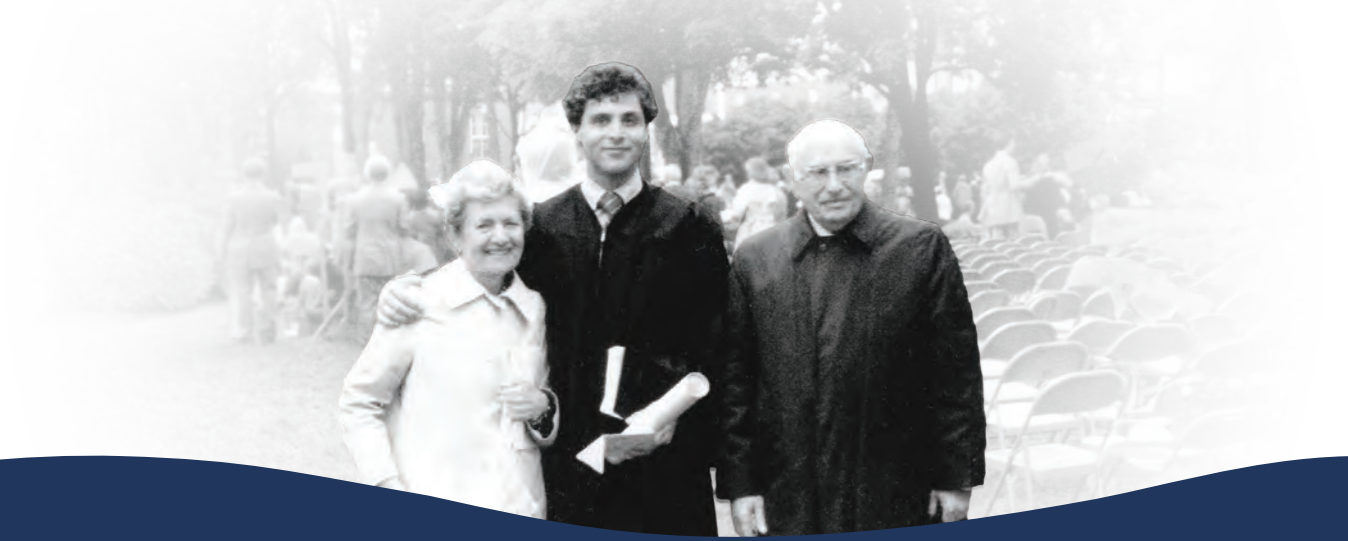
***Cavalier Daily* Editor-in-Chief**
Leigh Bailey (Col '27)
EICs usually come up through the editorial staff, but Bailey, who is majoring in economics, has mostly worked in operations as website manager and operations manager, managing nine desks, including photography, design, social media and analytics. As editor-in-chief, the Charlotte, North Carolina, native has launched a reporter's guide to educate staffers on the journalistic craft and is pushing the *Cav Daily*'s digital strategy, including with a mobile app. "I'm committed to ensuring that journalism remains a healthy forum for students to share their stories, for students to find their voice and for students to learn from one another," she says.



Board of Visitors Student Member
Jackson Sleadd (Col '27)
Since his first year, Sleadd, from the Louisville, Kentucky, area, has been a leader on Grounds. He was elected class president four times and has served on Student Council and the Interfraternity Council's governing board. Now Sleadd, who is majoring in political and social thought and studying urban planning in the architecture school, is in his highest-profile role yet. The June BOV meeting, his first, was a "crash course" in the complex business of running UVA, he says. "I'm looking forward to partnering with students and administrators and board members to take on the university's biggest issues."

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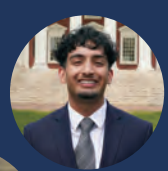
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Less costly vaccines, developed faster?

UVA researchers are working toward that goal

BY CAROLINE KETTLEWELL

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, researchers developed lifesaving vaccines in less than a year—a record-breaking speed compared with the years required for previous vaccines. Steven Zeichner believes it could be possible to get that timeline down to weeks.

Zeichner, a professor of pediatrics and microbiology, immunology and cancer biology at UVA's School of Medicine, leads a team of researchers who are refining a process—called a vaccine platform—with the potential to rapidly and inexpensively develop and produce new vaccines.

Their process involves three key steps.

First, the researchers identify which feature of the virus could be used to safely teach the immune system to recognize and fight off the disease.



UVA School of Medicine's Steven Zeichner

Next, the team uses a groundbreaking AI tool called AlphaFold to rapidly model potential vaccine designs "and choose the ones that are likely to be effective before we make them," Zeichner says. Once the researchers have settled on likely candidates, a bioscience company synthesizes the DNA sequences that encode the antigens and clones the DNAs into a plasmid, a small circle of DNA that can grow within bacteria and can place the vaccine protein on the surface of the bacteria. The company can return the completed plasmid within two weeks "at a very low cost," Zeichner says. "With this platform, we can make many different vaccines over and over again, and each one only costs about $100 to create."

Finally, the researchers put the plasmid into common bacteria. To make the vaccine, the lab then grows a batch of bacteria with the protein on its surface and inactivates the bacteria.

The low cost and ease of use of this vaccine-making platform mean that future vaccines could be affordably produced at mere cents per dose, even in the world's poorest countries, Zeichner says. What's more, they could be stored and transported at normal refrigerator temperature, making delivery to remote communities far easier. Zeichner adds that the platform "can be used over and over again for many different diseases."

Recent research published by Zeichner's team and co-authors has demonstrated that vaccines made using the system can induce a potent immune response. And some preliminary research is yielding encouraging evidence that the platform could one day be used to produce a universal flu vaccine, a variant-resistant coronavirus vaccine, or a vaccine against malaria. For now, however, the team is focused on fine-tuning the platform to ensure that the vaccines produced are able to induce the most beneficial immune response.

The UVA Licensing & Ventures Group has filed several patents on Zeichner's work and, in a challenging research-funding climate, is exploring the possibility of starting a commercial company to seek venture capital funding. Zeichner says the initial goal for that company might be to establish the success of the platform first with veterinary vaccines, particularly for commercial livestock animals.

"There is a concept called 'One Health,'" Zeichner says, "that means that you can't think about animal health and human health in isolation." Avian influenza, for example, has infected and devastated poultry flocks, spread to dairy herds and, more ominously, been diagnosed in a small number of people in close contact with these animals. "If we want to protect humans, we have to protect animals, and to protect animals you need a very inexpensive vaccine," Zeichner says.

ISTOCK / SERGEI KRESTININ; PHOTO: UVA COMMUNICATIONS

VM Bookshelf

Field notes: 5 books about sports by UVA authors

BY ED MILLER

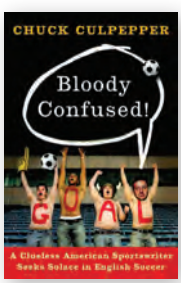
From the soccer pitch to the football field to the baseball diamond, here are five wide-ranging books about sports by UVA professors and alumni.



Skimpy Coverage: Sports Illustrated and the Shaping of the Female Athlete (2023)

by Bonnie M. Hagerman

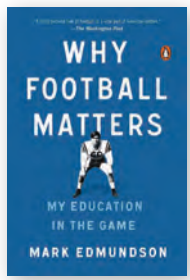
Sports Illustrated shaped the image of female athletes for millions of readers. Hagerman, an associate professor in UVA's Department of Women, Gender & Sexuality, argues that the criteria the magazine established for the female athletes who appeared in its pages was the same used for the women who appeared in its annual swimsuit edition. In both cases, the women portrayed were "attractive, often scantily clad, and above all, traditionally feminine," she writes. "Rarely did the achievements of female athletes generate the hype in the magazine devoted to its female swimsuit models." Hagerman chronicles the progress made by athletes such as Serena Williams and Megan Rapinoe and examines how definitions of feminine beauty have evolved.



Bloody Confused!: A Clueless American Sportswriter Seeks Solace in English Soccer (2008)

by Chuck Culpepper (Col '84)

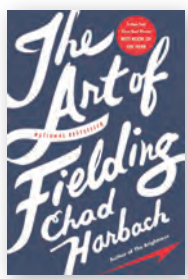
Facing a mid-career crisis he dubbed "Common Sportswriter Malaise," Culpepper, a columnist who has worked at ESPN and *The Washington Post,* decamped for England, where he immersed himself in the renowned Premier League. Culpepper embedded with the fans of an underdog club, following them to stadiums and pubs. The journey had the desired effect of renewal for the burned-out journalist while also enlightening readers unfamiliar with the fanatical world of English soccer. *Bloody Confused!* provides a primer on the history of the Premier League and compares the sports cultures and ethics of England and the U.S. Culpepper rediscovers what led him to sports in the first place: the joy of unabashed fandom.



Why Football Matters: My Education in the Game (2014)

by Mark Edmundson

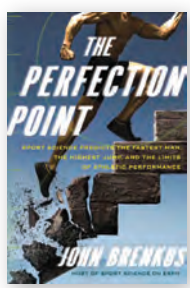
In this memoir, English professor and cultural critic Edmundson looks back at his high school football career to examine what it means to play the game he calls a "potentially ennobling, potentially intoxicating school for the spirit." He contemplates the game's place in American culture and argues that we need a deeper understanding of football than the one offered by coaches and broadcasters. "We need to recognize how much football can give, yes: the game can be a superb school for body, heart and mind," he writes. "But we also need to see how much harm football can do, and not just to the body."



The Art of Fielding (2011)

by Chad Harbach (Grad '04)

With *The Art of Fielding*, Harbach, a graduate of UVA's MFA in Creative Writing Program, authored a debut novel that *The New York Times* immediately placed in the pantheon of great baseball books. Protagonist Henry Skrimshander is a star shortstop at Westish College in Wisconsin. He's on the verge of tying an NCAA record for consecutive errorless games by a shortstop when he makes a throw that badly injures a teammate. According to the *New York Times* review, the book captures its characters "at that tipping point in their lives when their dreams, seemingly within reach, suddenly lurch out of their grasp."



The Perfection Point: Sport Science Predicts the Fastest Man, the Highest Jump, and the Limits of Athletic Performance (2011)

by John Brenkus (Col '93)

Brenkus, who created and hosted the Emmy-winning ESPN show *Sport Science*, dives into data and scientific research to predict how fast anyone will ever run, how much weight they will lift and how high they will jump. He notes that before 1954, it was widely believed that no one could run a mile in under four minutes. Then Roger Bannister broke that barrier, and within 10 years, 336 people had done it. "Once athletes knew they could do it, they did it, in droves and ever faster, each new record becoming just another obstacle to overcome," Brenkus writes. The question he ultimately poses is: "Does it ever end?" Brenkus, who died in 2025, argues that it must at some point, "at least until we evolve into another species altogether."

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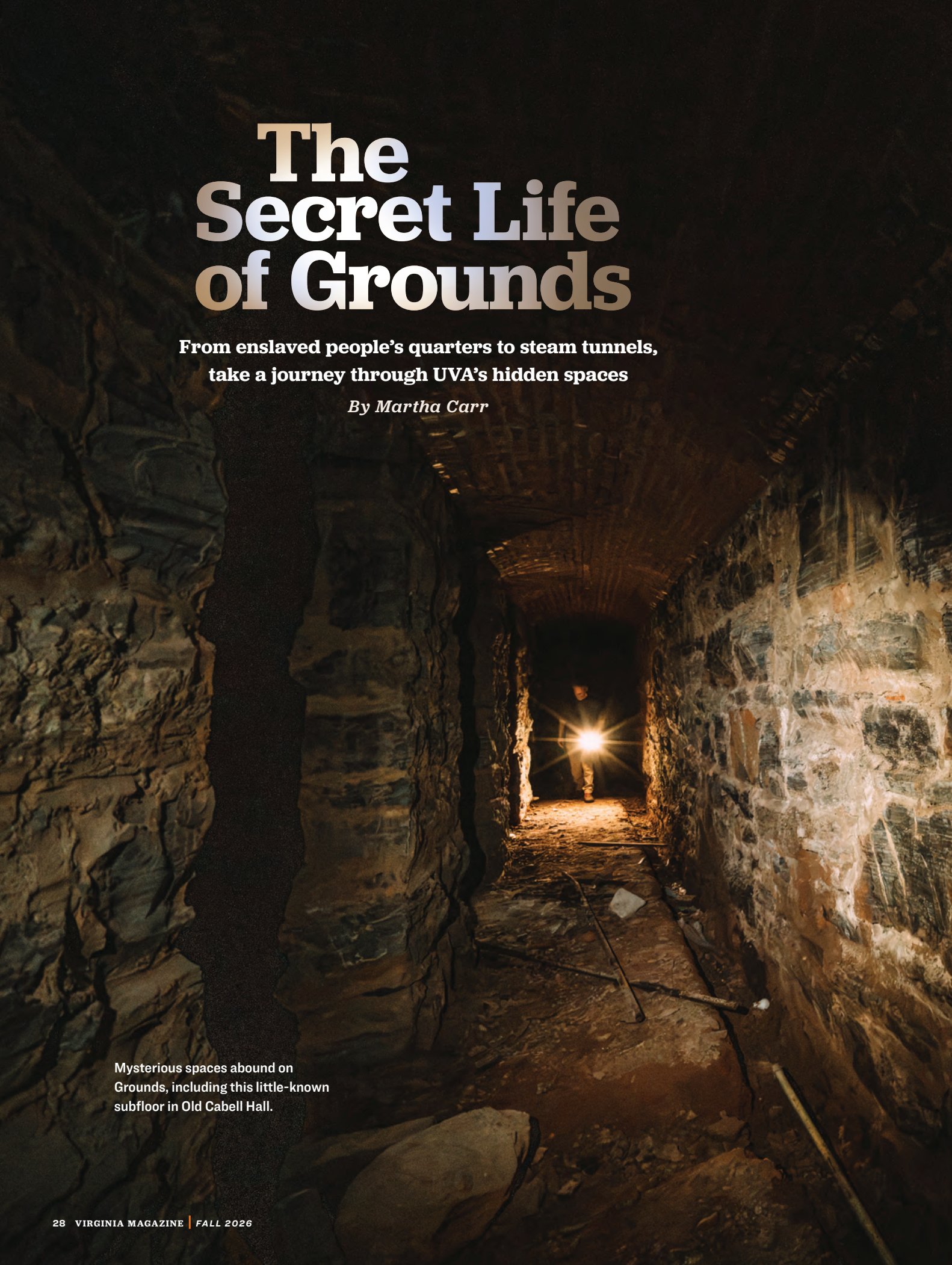
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The Secret Life of Grounds

From enslaved people's quarters to steam tunnels, take a journey through UVA's hidden spaces

By Martha Carr



Mysterious spaces abound on Grounds, including this little-known subfloor in Old Cabell Hall.



There are secret societies. Hidden gardens tucked behind serpentine walls. Dorm rooms that date back two centuries. All add to the mystique surrounding the University of Virginia.

But on a quiet morning in late May, after Grounds had settled into its summer rhythm, *Virginia Magazine* was granted rare access to some of UVA's most intriguing hidden spaces. Guided by assistant maintenance director **Ryan Taylor (Engr '99)**, we climbed into attics, ducked through crawl spaces and descended into tunnels that snake for blocks.

What emerged was a version of Mr. Jefferson's university that few ever see. The tour connected places from different chapters of UVA's story, from enslaved people's quarters beneath the East Lawn rooms to the sophisticated book shelving system that powers today's libraries.

For Taylor, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, maintaining these buildings means caring for more than bricks and mortar. The Academical Village, together with Monticello, is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its exceptional significance to humanity. And tucked within its walls are countless reminders of the people who built and transformed the institution over generations.

As Taylor puts it, "They all have a story to tell." →

Photos by Sanjay Suchak and Andy Franck



The Rotunda

Furnished with wingback chairs and round mahogany tables, the middle gallery of Thomas Jefferson's Rotunda is perched high above the Dome Room, offering students a secluded study spot removed from the daily bustle on Grounds.

Yet even this hideaway has a hidden room of its own.

Behind a locked door on the gallery's north side, an attic reveals how the Rotunda has been built, and rebuilt, over time. Overhead, interlocking terra-cotta tiles installed by the R. Guastavino Co. after a devastating 1895 blaze form the dome's fireproof roof structure. A makeshift closet opens onto the back side of the north portico clock, once driven by the intricate mechanisms of a timepiece made by Boston's E. Howard & Co. The clock is now fully automated.

But the attic's most compelling artifacts are not architectural. They are written on the walls.

Names, dates, quotations and confessions cover every surface. Some are neatly penned; others are hastily scrawled.

Brian Hogg (Col '83), the university's senior historic preservation planner, says the probationary classes of the University Guide Service began sneaking into the attic and signing their names more than 50 years ago. During the Rotunda renovation completed in 2016, officials chose to preserve the markings rather than paint over them.

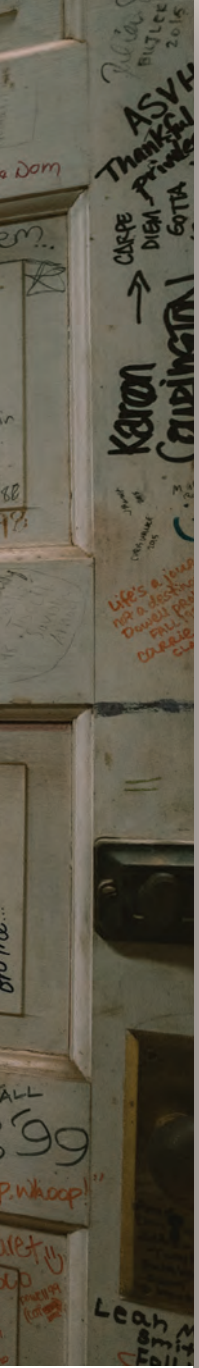
"It was known for decades," Hogg says. "So it was kind of tacitly condoned."

The inscriptions are as old as 1971 and as recent as 2025. Some are earnest. Others are funny.

One beam bears a blunt reminder of the pandemic era: "F Covid-19."

Another offers life advice: "Listen to more Mozart and don't be an asshole."

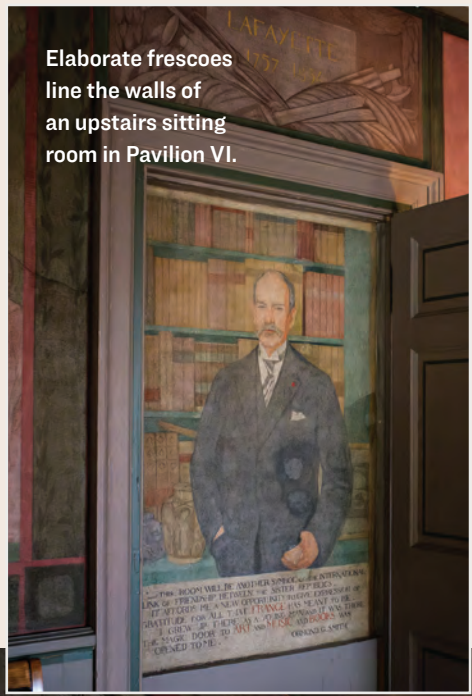
There's even the cosmic: "I have seen it. UFO."



Pavilion VI

From the East Lawn colonnade, Pavilion VI hardly announces itself. Like the other nine pavilions Jefferson designed to house the university's original schools, it was once both home and classroom, with professors living upstairs and teaching below. Now it is the private residence of Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer Kenyon Bonner, off-limits to curious passersby.

But something magical sits just off the second-story porch: a former professor's parlor wrapped in frescoes by Robert and Marthe La Montagne St. Hubert. The artists, painting directly onto wet plaster in 1929, created the murals as a tribute to the friendship between Jefferson and the Marquis de Lafayette, as well as the enduring cultural ties between France and the United States. At the time, the pavilion was home to the Romance languages department, and the room was dedicated to hearing oral doctoral examinations.



Elaborate frescoes line the walls of an upstairs sitting room in Pavilion VI.

Today it feels more like a small European salon.

Overhead, *The Apotheosis of Liberty* opens the room to the heavens. Four rearing horses draw Liberty in a chariot while crowds celebrate below. On the north wall, visitors encounter the room's centerpiece: *The Last Meeting of Lafayette and Jefferson at Monticello*. Beneath a canopy of trees, the two men embrace on Jefferson's lawn, surrounded by family, children, admirers and a company of horseback riders.

Then comes the room's final reveal. Behind a door, a portrait of the murals' donor, Ormond G. Smith, appears inside a hidden alcove. Standing before shelves of books, he gazes calmly outward.

Bonner says he's moved by the room's beauty and ambiance but uses it only rarely—to read or meditate.

"Honestly, I don't spend a lot of time in there," he says. "I'm always worried about, like, eating some french fries and getting ketchup on the mural."





Enslaved people's quarters

Just steps from the stately elegance of Pavilion VI, a cramped cellar beneath Lawn Room 22 offers a stark reminder of the enslaved people whose labor both built and sustained the university during its first five decades.

The padlocked basement room measures approximately 10 by 12 feet, with a ceiling so low that many adults could not stand upright. Pipes carrying electricity, water and steam line the walls and ceiling, delivering modern utilities to a historic footprint.

But before emancipation in 1865, those essential services depended on enslaved laborers, who tended fireplaces, hauled water and conducted other critical tasks. A 2024 historic structure report identifies the space as one of four cellar rooms beneath the Lawn that were used as living quarters.

More than 4,000 enslaved adults and children are believed to have worked at UVA starting in 1817, when they were brought to Charlottesville to build the Academical Village, according to the 2018 report by the President's Commission on Slavery and the University. After students arrived in 1825, enslaved people were relegated to basements, attics and garden outbuildings, where they labored largely out of view, according to the report.

The room itself offers clues to its former use.

A small fireplace remains covered with whitewash, Taylor notes. The mixture of water and slaked lime was used at the time to disinfect, brighten dark interiors and control pests.

The fireplace under Lawn Room 22 also remains partly blackened with soot, evidence of years of use, Taylor says. Nearby, traces of a baseboard sit atop the dirt floor.

In the cellar room next door, the remnants of a brick cistern are visible, likely used for firefighting.

And just a few steps to the south, two other basement spaces have a more intimate connection to students today: They serve as communal bathrooms.





Ivy Stacks



It might be easy to assume something mundane is stored in the gray cinder block warehouse in the 2400 block of Old Ivy Road—plumbing supplies, office furniture, rows of surplus equipment?

But the reality is more surprising.

This is Ivy Stacks, a high-density repository where millions of books, manuscripts and other library materials are shelved and retrieved for readers across the university. It contains a bibliophile's paradise but is accessible only to a small cast of librarians who keep its towering 35-foot shelves in motion.

Built in 1994 and expanded in 2017 to accommodate collections displaced during the renovation of then–Alderman Library, Ivy Stacks now holds some 3.5 million items, from bestselling novels and 19th-century encyclopedias to hard-to-find vinyl records. The collection is stored in acid-free boxes and kept at a brisk 50 degrees.

When a patron requests a title, colossal shelves slide apart at the push of a button, opening to form a narrow aisle. A librarian uses a cherry-picker forklift to retrieve the volume, and the item typically arrives at the designated UVA library within 24 hours.

In an increasingly digital world, print collection strategist Caleb Mechem says UVA's effort to preserve books is about more than safeguarding the words they contain. The objects themselves tell a story about the university's evolution.

"They give us an insight into what was important to the university, and to faculty and researchers, over the years," he notes. "If we didn't have Ivy, we would have discarded all that long ago."

To see videos of these secret UVA places, scan the QR code or visit uvamag.com/secretspaces



Cocke Hall

Inside Cocke Hall, students spend their days studying ancient civilizations, classical languages and mythology.

But hiding in a cramped attic is a relic from a more recent era: a rare impulse tower clock whose original electrical system once kept time throughout the building.

Manufactured by the Standard Electric Time Co. of Springfield, Massachusetts, and given to the university in the 1920s, the timepiece was part of a synchronized network. A master clock elsewhere in the building sent electrical impulses every minute to secondary clocks throughout Cocke Hall, releasing their motor brakes for precisely eight seconds—just long enough for the hands to advance one minute before locking again.

At some point, the clock, which overlooks the McIntire Amphitheater, was converted to run on its own, a change that proved problematic. The clock eventually stopped working and remained that way for decades.

Restoring the clock began after **Charles P. Cocke (Com '65)** attended a 2005 lecture by former university conservator Mark Kutney about the refurbishment of the building named for Cocke's ancestor, John Hartwell Cocke. Charles and his wife, Betsy, funded the project.

Kutney recovered many of the original components in the attic and enlisted antique clock expert Robert Desrochers of Lititz, Pennsylvania, to restore them. After six months of refinishing the mechanism and the bronze clock face, the tower clock was returned to service with a newly created quartz master clock.

Today, workers have to crawl under structural beams and around HVAC equipment to get a glimpse of the clock's whirring brass gears.

Facilities manager Dave Roberts was responsible for keeping the clock in working order until his retirement in 2024. In a recent university video, he revealed his simple approach: "We just treat it with a lot of love."

The Steam Tunnels



Cameron Ratliff shimmies sideways between two 18-inch water mains, head ducked, eyes tracing the tangle of conduit overhead.

This subterranean maze is his domain. But even after years working underground, some corners still unsettle him. Take, for instance, the "Jesus mural" under Thornton Hall.

"It's creepy, to be honest," says Ratliff, associate director of utilities. "If you're at the other end of the tunnel and can see that mural from a distance, it really looks like a person."

The graffiti portrait—complete with its own Bible verse—is just one curiosity hiding in the more than seven miles of utility tunnels that snake beneath sidewalks, roads and athletic fields. The passageways, some of which date back to the early 1950s, carry low-temperature hot water, steam and IT cables across Grounds. But the tunnels have long doubled as a forbidden playground for students determined to pry open utility hole covers and slip past padlocked gates.

"This is one of their bucket list items," Ratliff says.

In a Reddit discussion last year, graduates from the 1970s and 1980s described marathon Dungeons & Dragons sessions in the steamy warrens. Others traded stories about hidden entry points and elaborate student-generated maps. Still others warned of increased security and safety hazards, like dangerous temperatures and asbestos.

For Ratliff, "steam tunneling"—as some 'Hoos call it—is just another day at the office, albeit one that occasionally includes evidence of an uninvited visitor.

How can he tell?

"Graffiti and beer cans," he says.





McCormick Observatory

Ed Murphy (Grad '93, '96) unlocks a heavy maroon door in the basement of McCormick Observatory and navigates around stacks of boxes to a bank of metal file cabinets. He slides open a drawer to reveal hundreds of glass photographic plates, each tucked into a manila sleeve. Nearby are handwritten observing logs, precision measuring engines and yellowing notes pinned to bulletin boards—artifacts left behind by generations of astronomers.

"I'm afraid it's pretty much a giant junk room," says Murphy, a professor in the astronomy department. "But it has tremendous potential for someone interested in the history."

Most visitors come to McCormick, now primarily used for teaching and public outreach, to see its 26-inch refracting telescope. When the observatory opened in 1885, it was the largest telescope in the United States and second-largest lens telescope in the world.

But what's stored below, under lock and key, offers a window into the observatory's biggest contribution to astronomical science: its parallax program.

Beginning in 1914, McCormick astronomers embarked on an ambitious effort to measure stellar parallax—the tiny apparent shift in a nearby star's position as Earth travels around the sun. By photographing the same stars every six months, often for a decade or more, researchers could calculate their distances from Earth, a crucial measurement for understanding how stars are born, evolve and die.



Cluttered storage rooms hold reminders of McCormick Observatory's stellar parallax program, including thousands of glass negatives and the measuring machines used to analyze them.

After photographs were taken using the telescope, the glass negatives were brought downstairs, where astronomers, students and young female workers called "computers" spent years making painstaking measurements on specialized machines. By the time the program ended in the mid-1990s, McCormick had measured the distances to as many nearby stars as almost any observatory in the world, before space-based telescopes rendered the labor-intensive technique obsolete.

In addition to around 144,000 glass negatives, the basement still holds nearly every measuring device used to analyze those images, from the earliest machines installed in 1914 to a laser-powered instrument built in the 1980s.

Murphy says the fact that his predecessors were "pack rats" means McCormick may be sitting on a treasure.

"I think this is one of the most thorough collections in the world."

Old Cabell Hall



The hidden "caves" in Old Cabell Hall appear to be in a basement but are actually on the fourth floor.

Joel Jacobus has spent countless hours spelunking every corner of Old Cabell Hall. A self-appointed steward of the building's history, he can readily recite the quirks of the vexing edifice, completed in 1898 as part of the university's expansion after the Rotunda fire.

"We have three different seventh floors, which aren't connected. Two different second floors—and one of them is only accessible through New Cabell," says Jacobus, who manages event scheduling for Old Cabell's 851-seat auditorium. "And if you are standing in the lobby, you are on the sixth floor."

There's the old gun vault once used by the ROTC. A basement crawl space filled with Cold War-era Civil Defense drums manufactured for fallout shelters. And an empty dressing room rumored to have hosted secret society meetings.

But the real attraction, Jacobus says, are the "secret sub-dungeons."

We descend to a space that stretches beneath the building's front lobby and porch, resembling an outdoor colonnade buried underground. It looks and feels like a basement, but it's technically the fourth floor. Old Cabell is built into a hillside, Jacobus explains, and every level is above ground.

Stone walls line one side of the walkway, while a series of arched brick storage rooms occupies the other. Known informally as the "caves," some serve as storage for the music department; others hold housekeeping supplies.

Inside one of the chambers, Jacobus lifts a small utility hole cover and peers in.

"Want to see that?" he asks.

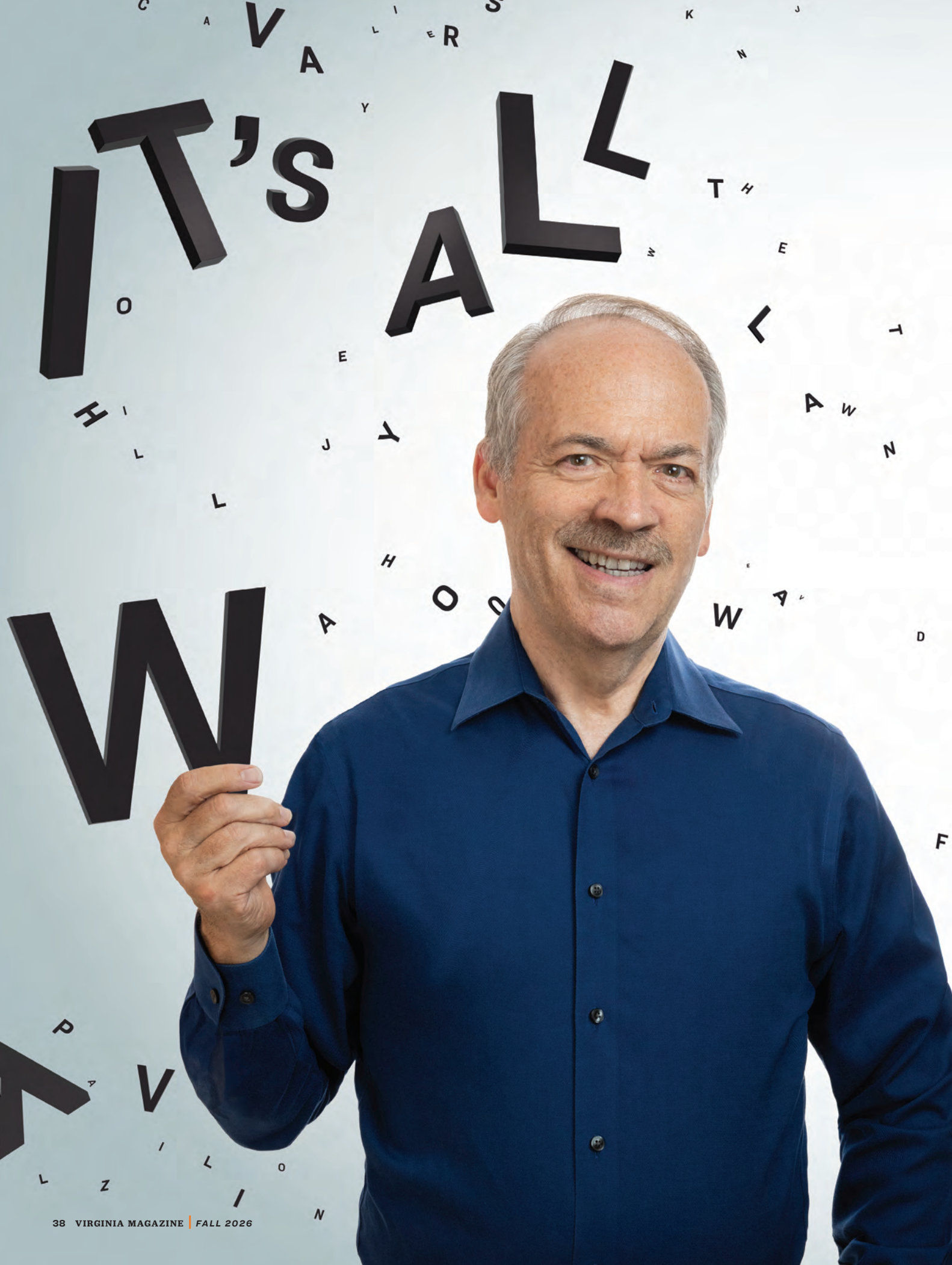
The undercroft is his favorite part.

Below, the space is tight and windowless, with a dirt floor and stone walls that echo the architecture above. There's little evidence that students have ever found their way here, aside from a broken Coca-Cola bottle and a handful of initials scratched into the stone.

Then Jacobus notices something and chuckles.

"Don't look at the booze bottles."

Martha Carr is associate editor of Virginia Magazine.


IT'S ALL

FUN & GAMES

How four UVA alumni helped shape the "golden age" of puzzles.

Plus: Play our three UVA-themed games.

By Sam Grossman

Shut off your alarm. Stretch. Solve the Wordle.

For millions of people around the world, playing a daily game is as integral to their morning routine as a cup of coffee or a slice of toast. Whether it's Wordle, Quordle or even Octordle; the *New York Times*' Spelling Bee, Connections or a mini crossword; games and puzzles are booming.

In 2025, players solved 11.2 billion *New York Times* puzzles, according to the company. Publications like *The Atlantic* and *The New Yorker* and tech companies including LinkedIn and Apple have launched their own digital gaming hubs in recent years.

Some of the most influential creators in the industry, including two *New York Times* puzzles editors, are UVA alumni. Four of them shared their thoughts with *Virginia Magazine* about why games are having such a moment.

The new games "show how we are living in the golden age of puzzles now," says **Will Shortz (Law '77)**, the *New York Times* crossword editor since 1993 and the author or editor of more than 500 puzzle books. "I'd say there's never in history been as much interest in puzzles as there is right now, and there's more diversity and ingenuity in puzzles." →

Photo by Matt Licari

> **Puzzles are the first thing that so many people in the entire world wake up and think about."**
>
> —Sam Ezersky (Engr '17), *New York Times* digital puzzles editor

This period of puzzle prosperity has been building since the 1990s, Shortz says. Then, in October 2021, came the viral sensation that was Wordle, a daily game that gives players six attempts to guess a five-letter word. Two months after software engineer Josh Wardle launched the game, 300,000 people had played it, according to *The New York Times*. About three months after the launch, 1.3 million tweets about it had circulated.

In January 2022, the *Times* acquired the 3-month-old game for a sum "in the low seven figures," the company reported. In 2025, it was played 4.2 billion times, according to the Associated Press.

A major reason behind the current popularity of puzzles, Shortz says, "is that more people nowadays are using their brains for a living than ever before in human history." After work, your brain doesn't shut off immediately, he says. It continues to crave stimulation, and the games available on our phones are a fantastic way to satisfy the craving.

Plus, today's popular digital games offer a quick sense of satisfaction to even the busiest people.

"Most of the problems that we face every day in life don't have clear-cut solutions," Shortz says. "So when you're solving a human-made puzzle and you fill in the last square or you solve it, you get a sense of finality that you don't often otherwise in life."

Such games also offer an incentive to keep coming back day after day to keep your streak extended, which is a new element in modern gaming, he says.

"Puzzles are the first thing that so many people in the entire world wake up and think about," says **Sam Ezersky (Engr '17)**, the digital puzzles editor at *The New York Times* known for creating crosswords and editing the daily Spelling Bee word game.

Ezersky and Shortz are two of the seven full-time puzzles editors in the *Times*' expanding games department.

"It's fascinating to continue to build out this frame of reference, this mindset around just thinking about ways to entertain an audience with a daily diversion," Ezersky says.

Now colleagues, Ezersky and Shortz met in 2016 when Shortz traveled to Charlottesville to deliver the commencement address at his alma mater, the UVA School of Law. (Though Shortz never entered the legal profession, he has "no regrets" about attending UVA Law and says it was "a good round of education" and "great training for the mind.")

When Ezersky heard that Shortz would be on Grounds, he reached out in the hopes of connecting, unsure if anything would come of it. Shortz obliged.

"He bopped over to my house on freaking Shamrock," says Ezersky, who, at the time, had just completed his third year in the engineering school and was creating weekly crosswords for the *Cavalier Daily*. He says that 2016 meeting with Shortz paved the way for his puzzle career.

Collin Waldoch (Com '15) and **Arthur Wu (Com '16)**, the creators of the rhyming word game Twofer Goofer, also met at UVA. They knew each other through the "entrepreneurial scene" at the commerce school and kept in touch after graduation, Waldoch says.

In 2022, Waldoch, who had already created and sold a trivia company called Water Cooler Trivia with fellow 'Hoos **Nick Jones (Com '14)** and **Ryan Allen (Engr '14)**, found himself inspired by the viral phenomenon of Wordle.

"Wordle was not some unbelievably unique gameplay mechanism," Waldoch says. "It was just really, really well packaged, delivered, designed—a good piece of software for a really great core concept."

The simple rhyming games Waldoch enjoyed as a kid inspired the concept for Twofer Goofer, which provides a daily prompt that challenges players to come up with two rhyming words. (For example: A flowing robe worn during stretching exercises? "Yoga toga.")

Once Waldoch solidified the concept, he needed help building the software—and that's where Wu came in.

"Arthur was a friend from UVA and a super, super talented designer that I'd kind of always wanted to work with," Waldoch says. "I just needed a compelling enough pitch to get Arthur to join."



The *New York Times* puzzle team at the 2025 American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, including Will Shortz (fourth from right) and Sam Ezersky (right).

LEFT: ©2026 DONALD CHRISTENSEN, COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN CROSSWORD PUZZLE TOURNAMENT; RIGHT: CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Twofer Goofer creators Arthur Wu (Com '16) and Collin Waldoch (Com '15)

Wu was on board right away.

"It just felt like a fun challenge," he says. "A lot of software is confusing, but the beauty about games is that they should be playable by anyone."

According to Wu, the pair "actually had no idea" if the venture would work. After many rounds of testing in Google Forms, they launched the game in August 2022 with the puzzle answer "glitter fritter."

Over the next few years, Waldoch says, players around the world had solved Twofer Goofer puzzles a total of 2 million times. They sold the game to Merriam-Webster in 2024.

Both now work in tech—Waldoch as a product lead at a fintech startup and Wu as a co-founder of a software company—but maintain an appreciation for games and the value they bring to daily life.

"People are looking for ritual and looking for habits that feel good," Waldoch says. "And I think puzzles just nail that."

Plus, Waldoch says, games like Wordle, Connections and Twofer Goofer include built-in "share" buttons so players can easily relay their results to friends and family to keep in regular contact. That feature helps digital games "feel intimate and personal and social," he says.

In a world where AI is being used to create everything from recipes to music, Shortz, who has worked in the industry for over three decades, isn't worried about games and puzzles being outsourced to robots—at least not yet. There are programs that can create a crossword puzzle, for example, in a split-second, but it takes a human to come up with an original theme and playful, clever clues, he says. He's seen people try asking ChatGPT or Claude to write an original clue for an answer, but so far he hasn't been impressed by the results.

"It's still a human activity, a human endeavor," Shortz says.

The future looks bright for those looking to enter the puzzles industry, according to Ezersky, who has advised ambitious *Cavalier Daily* staffers on starting a dedicated puzzles desk.

"The average age of puzzle makers continues to get younger," he says. "For a pastime that was always thought to be so guarded and erudite, it is almost—I'd say a good word for it—democratized."

As someone who chose to pursue a career in the industry more than a decade ago, Ezersky has been thrilled to witness puzzles becoming a "widespread phenomenon," he says.

"I used to just be a giant nerd all through my time at UVA," Ezersky says. "And guess what? Puzzles are in fact cool and fun and, yay, more people than ever are playing them."

Sam Grossman is senior editor of Virginia Magazine.

HOW THE PUZZLE MAKERS PLAY

These puzzle creators are dedicated players, too. We asked Shortz, Ezersky, Waldoch and Wu about their daily gaming rituals.

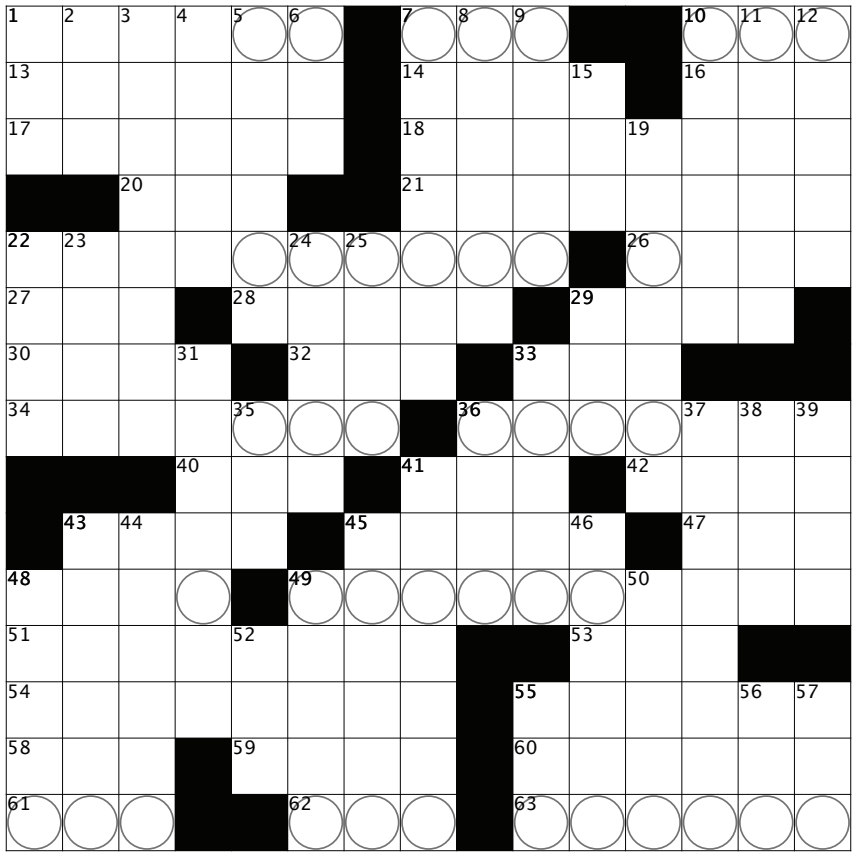
Self-proclaimed night owl Shortz notes that Wordle is released at midnight, so he plays every night at 12:05 or 12:10 a.m. Next he plays Strands, a twist on a traditional word search and his second-favorite puzzle of the *Times* lineup. Most days he plays a grid logic puzzle called One Up, created by his friend and colleague in Argentina, that gets larger and more difficult as the week goes on. "Then there's a new one that was just brought to my attention that I'm crazy about called Ribbit that I've been doing every day," Shortz says. (It's an anagram game available to Puzzmo Plus subscribers.)

"I'm religious about my daily routine," says Ezersky, who jokes that people accuse him of "insider trading" if he plays *New York Times* games, given his job as a puzzles editor. But he doesn't work on Wordle or Connections—a category-matching game that is the *Times*' second most-played after Wordle—so he gets to play those every day. Next he turns to a few non-*Times* games. "I'm a huge geography nerd. I play the Worldle, which shows a silhouette of a country, and you need to figure out what country it is." Next up is the Globle, which requires players to locate a mystery country on a map. Also in his regular rotation: a word game called Quintumble and a fantasy football-themed game called Ultimate Roster.

Waldoch and Wu are a bit less rigid in their routines. Waldoch plays in a competitive online trivia competition called LearnedLeague every day when it's in season. "It's intense," he says. "You have head-to-head matchups and all the former *Jeopardy!* players are in it." Once or twice a week, he'll also complete a mini or midi *New York Times* crossword. Wu also dabbles in the *New York Times* games—and mostly that means "trying and failing at Connections," he says.



"SCHOOL BREAK" *By Sam Ezersky*



ACROSS

1 1.0, say
7 Cruella de ___ (*101 Dalmatians* character)
10 Physics lab particle
13 Computer support service, casually
14 Column to the left of the decimal point
16 ___ Lanka
17 Hang around a public place
18 One of South Africa's capital cities
20 "Still undecided," on a sched.
21 Texas hold 'em holding that's part of the so-called "dead man's hand"
22 What criminals don't do
26 Ark builder
27 Part of L.A.
28 Luxury bedsheet material
29 "Money ___ everything"
30 Years, in Spanish (with a tilde!)
32 Carpet cleaner, for short
33 No longer in stock
34 It's a dance, a comic strip or a NATO alphabet letter
36 Lacking a time stamp
40 Bronx-born congresswoman, familiarly
41 Basketball scoring stat: Abbr.
42 Amusement park attraction
43 Promo deal inits.
45 Be all moody and sulky
47 Chain that sells health supplements
48 "Kapow!"
49 Lean cut of beef
51 In the annals of history
53 Mustang, Jaguar or Impala
54 Look up! In the sky!
55 Traffic footage aid with a rhyming name
58 Uncle ___
59 Clickable computer image
60 South American source of wool
61 Rock guitarist's equipment
62 Smashing success
63 Cold comfort?

DOWN

1 Rap's ___ Baby
2 Prefix with "laryngologist"
3 Chi-Town sluggers
4 Make do
5 Folds seen on kilts
6 First full month of spring: Abbr.
7 Like A, E, I, O and U, to linguists
8 How soup or soda is commonly sold
9 Pepé of Looney Tunes
10 Shape with equal angles
11 "Oh, yeah?! Is that a threat?"
12 Second-to-last place among the top 10
15 Visualize
19 Sheriff's badge in the Wild West
22 Count in Lemony Snicket books
23 Pro ___ (for free, legally)
24 Pandemonium
25 Coup d'___
29 Form of contraception, in brief
31 Walk drunkenly
33 "Not even capping!"
35 Kanga's kid
36 Fairy tale's second word
37 Purring pet with stripes
38 ___ Mode, costume designer in *The Incredibles*
39 What has all the cards?
41 Wise and thoughtfully cautious
43 Small chicken ... or boxing weight
44 Highway access point
45 Hunting dog breed from Russia
46 Run of notes with two sharps, in music
48 ___ nova (samba relative)
49 Invasive household insect
50 Florida city near St. Pete
52 Tech used for many a sci-fi film
55 God, in Rastafarianism
56 Crush, as a test
57 Mo. before 6-Down

UVA WORDS *By Will Shortz*

How many of these UVA words can you complete? Enter one letter per space.

1. Sweet tropical fruit __ U __ V A
2. Wide city street __ __ U __ __ V A __ __
3. Giant explosion of a star __ U __ __ __ __ __ V A
4. From Lima, for example __ __ __ U V __ A __
5. Existing everywhere at the same time U __ __ V __ __ __ A __
6. Baseball pitch that changes course __ U __ V __ __ A __ __
7. Greek dish grilled on a skewer __ __ U V __ A __ __
8. Of the same amount or value __ __ U __ V A __ __ __ __
9. Observation by spies or the police __ U __ V __ __ __ __ A __ __ __
10. Group of three rulers __ __ __ U __ V __ __ A __ __
11. Belgrade's former country __ U __ __ __ __ V __ A
12. Sudden, violent change U __ __ __ __ V A __



'HOOFER TWOFER

We created a UVA-themed set of puzzles inspired by Twofer Goofer. Each answer will be a pair of rhyming words.

By Sam Grossman

An edible crustacean on the grassy centerpiece of Grounds

A purposeful plot of blossoms near the business school

Scent-sensitive canines roaming around UVA

The core principles of an acclaimed former basketball coach

Citrus fruits from one of UVA's busiest libraries

Everlasting paradise for a member of UVA's most secretive society

BOV leader's drinks of the gods

UVA president's luxe sailing vessels

Silky fabric at the school of public policy

Extinct flightless birds at a morning-centric and beloved Charlottesville eatery

A pirate-like piece of heavy artillery at UVA's largest library

A stinky mammal at a popular UVA dining hall

An odor arising from an Emmet Street pond

Historic UVA tour-givers' sweet cars

Knockoff designer handbags at an Elliewood Avenue bar

Rebuilt Rotunda architect's predicaments

Music spinners of UVA's founder?

Duck calls heard from bygone library shelves

All puzzle answers on Page 50 ▶

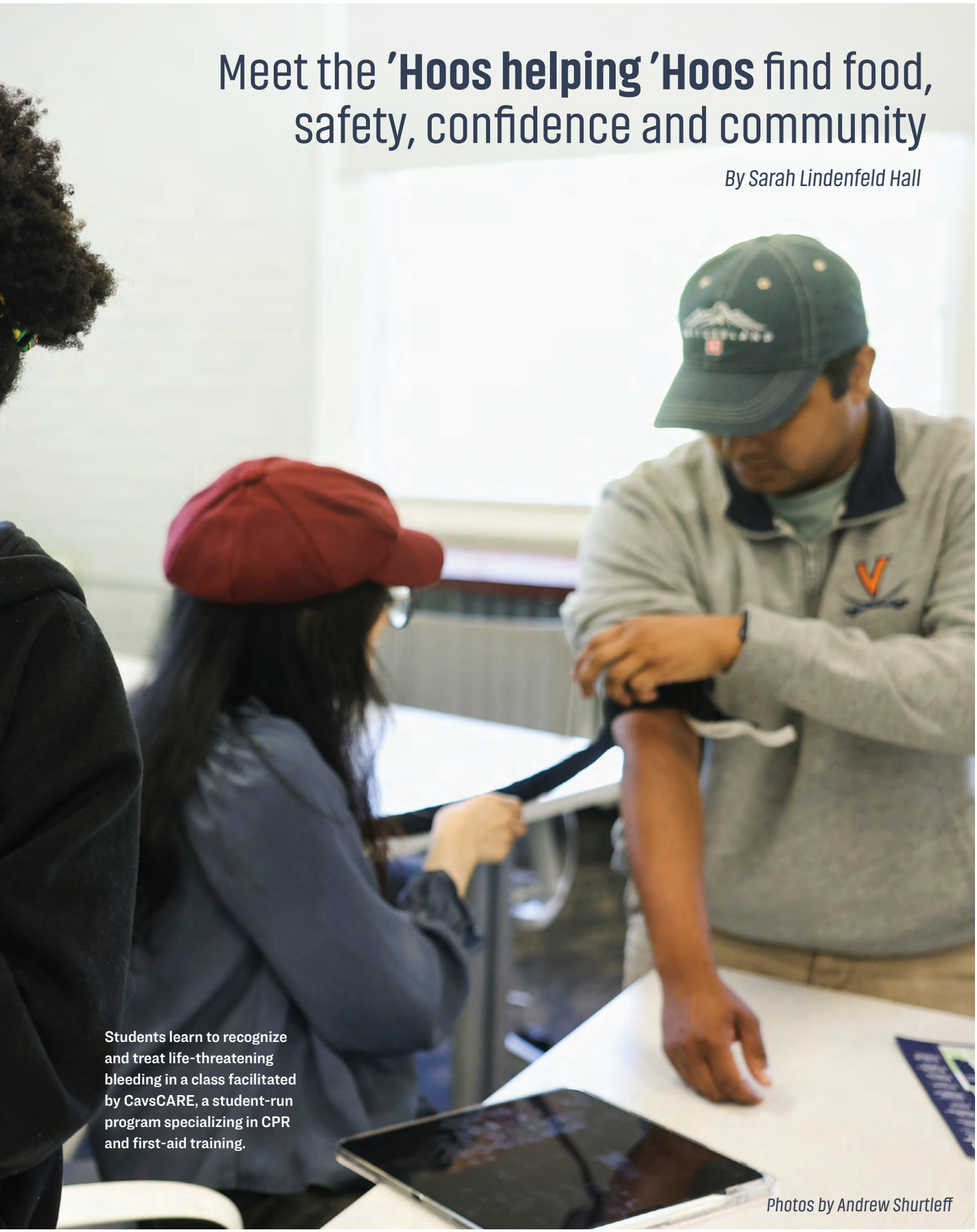
ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLIE LAYTON



It Takes a Village

Meet the **'Hoos helping 'Hoos** find food, safety, confidence and community

By Sarah Lindenfeld Hall



Students learn to recognize and treat life-threatening bleeding in a class facilitated by CavsCARE, a student-run program specializing in CPR and first-aid training.

Photos by Andrew Shurtleff



Nicole Pierce (Educ '28) restocks items in the Cavalier Food Pantry inside UVA's Student Health and Wellness Center.

Like college students nationally, UVA students are arriving on Grounds with needs beyond some cheap late-night takeout or a ride to the Corner.

Rising living costs and wages that haven't kept pace mean more people are stretching every dollar to afford basics like food, hygiene products or an interview outfit. For college students, that pressure can be especially acute—and it's compounded for first-generation and low-income students, whose numbers are growing at UVA as part of a broader state initiative.

According to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, UVA aims to increase the number of students with income low enough to qualify for a Pell Grant to 25 percent or more by 2030. During the 2024-25 academic year, nearly 20 percent of undergraduates received the grant, up from 13 percent a decade before.

Mental health needs have grown more complex too. In the past decade and a half, UVA has expanded its clinical services, and visits to its mental health clinic have nearly tripled from 7,744 to 20,458, not counting virtual and group therapy—far outpacing the growth in student population.

Students and staff have responded. In 2021, the Student Council launched its Support and Access Services branch, which provides a range of support for students, including subsidizing textbook costs, providing emergency grants, and supporting an airport shuttle, among other services.

UVA also has centralized assistance called Care and Support Services, now housed in the Student Health and Wellness department. The office provides one-on-one guidance for students who need everything from a meal to peer connection or better study skills. Its basic needs programs have grown since the pandemic and include the Cavalier Food Pantry and a fund to help students cover unexpected expenses.

"We continue to attract the best of the best students from all backgrounds," says **Alex Hall (Col '10, Educ '24)**, an associate dean of students and director of Care and Support Services. "And in order to set them up for every type of success, UVA should be and is seeking excellence in all forms of support."

As students increasingly feel the strain, they're also stepping up to run or support programs that help their peers get by. Here are four examples.

Fighting hidden hunger

CAVALIER FOOD PANTRY

The Cavalier Food Pantry, inside UVA's Student Health and Wellness Center, is designed to feel less like a pantry and more like a supermarket with bright aisles, fresh produce, refrigerators and freezers, and hygiene items.

"It's to make the students feel like this is just a normal experience," says **Nicole Pierce (Educ '28)**, UVA's basic needs program coordinator. "Food insecurity is far, far more prevalent on college campuses than anybody realizes."

UVA doesn't track food insecurity on Grounds, but nationally about 23 percent of college students experienced food insecurity in 2020, according to a 2024 U.S. Government Accountability Office report.

Generations of college graduates tell

stories about surviving on ramen. But Pierce pushes back on the notion that it's fine for college students to live on cheap, nutritionally poor food. "That is not a good diet, nor is that something we should be normalizing in any way, shape or form," she says.

The pantry started as a Student Council initiative in 2018, opening inside Runk Dining Hall, in partnership with the Dean of Students office. When the pandemic hit and food insecurity was magnified, UVA gradually shifted the pantry from a student-run effort to a staff-led program under Care and Support Services with help from a student-led leadership team and funding from UVA. It's set to receive the first $3 million of UVA's $6 million Basic Needs Support Fund endowment campaign, now underway.

In the spring of 2025, the pantry expanded into a bigger space at the Student Health and Wellness Center while maintaining the Newcomb Hall location it had moved into earlier. Other UVA schools and departments, including the School of Nursing and the Women's Center, also have their own food pantries.

Unlike the Newcomb location, the new space offers extended hours, full accessibility for students with disabilities and free parking. Students enter with their UVA ID.

About 80 percent of pantry visits now happen at the wellness center, and use of the pantry has surged. Annual visits have nearly doubled, from about 10,000 between July 2024 to June 2025 to 19,400 visits from July 2025 to May 2026.

The number of monthly visitors fluctuates, but an average of roughly 1,000 individual students visit each month, Pierce says. According to the pantry's 2024-25 annual report, 52 percent work on Grounds, including graduate assistants and work-study participants.

Students line up to help. More than 200 volunteer as stockers, and available slots fill up within days, Pierce says. **Daniel McCain (Col '27)** serves as the student leadership team's head of marketing, running its social media strategy, partnering with groups on and off Grounds, and helping to coordinate fundraising events to drive donations and normalize pantry use.

> **"Food insecurity is far, far more prevalent on college campuses than anybody realizes."**
>
> *—**Nicole Pierce** (Educ '28), UVA's basic needs coordinator*

He's clear-eyed about what the growth means. "I am sad that this exists, and this exists at the scale that it does," he says. "But in the face of hardship, community is such a beautiful way to be resilient and a way to remind all of us, whether it is just at UVA or it's across Virginia or nationally, that we are stronger together."

Dressing 'Hoos for success

CAVALIER CAREER CLOSET

A job interview. A summer internship. A first date. Around Grounds, **Micah Andrews (Col '27)** has heard the stories behind why fellow students wandered into the Cavalier Career Closet, which UVA's Student Council opened in the fall of 2025 as part of its Support and Access Services branch.

Housed in Newcomb Hall and funded through UVA's president's office, the closet offers everything from suits and tuxedos to heels, blouses and ties for students who need to look their best.

Donations of gently used and new clothing have poured in from across Grounds and the Charlottesville community. Andrews, who served as the council's chief of Support and Access Services last year, estimates they've received at least 3,000 donations so far. Students swipe their UVA ID to enter the closet and take whatever they need.

"It's fully on their honor," Andrews says.

The closet also operates online, partnering with MyCareerCloset to provide fully custom-fit new suits at no cost. Last year, the program funded 150 suits. The service is particularly helpful when the closet's stock doesn't include a student's size.

Career closets are common on college campuses, run by student groups or career centers. At UVA, its goal is to remove barriers for first-generation and low-income students like her, Andrews says. "Things like this are exactly what I needed when I came to the university."

Building a campus safety net

CAVSCARE AND UVA VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD

A new student-run EMS agency on Grounds is in the works, a collaboration between UVA staff and premed students. The UVA Volunteer Rescue Squad, now in development under UVA's Department of Safety and Security and in coordination with local EMS agencies, could launch in early 2027, with student EMTs stabilizing patients on scene before transport by an EMS agency.

"This is not being created because there's a void of care," says **William Brady (Col '84)**, a UVA professor of emergency medicine and medical director of Albemarle County Fire Rescue. "This agency is being created to help existing agencies that are already doing an excellent job."

The idea grew out of CavsCARE, a student-run program that has delivered nearly 700 free certifications in three semesters for CPR, Basic Life Support and more. **Kevin Omohundro (Col '26)** built it after noticing that affordable training wasn't available to students.

"Lifesaving care is for everyone," says CavsCARE president **Ainsley Sadler (Col '27)**, who has worked to expand the program to include other student groups, including Greek life.

After CavsCARE's launch,

> **Hoos Connected teaches you the importance of being flexible with people and giving them grace."**
>
> *—Nikita Majumdar (Col '26), Hoos Connected facilitator*

Omohundro met with UVA Police Chief Tim Longo and Brady, and the conversation turned to expanding CavsCARE's mission. The idea for a student-run EMS agency began taking shape, and Omohundro secured a $254,000 Jefferson Trust grant to kick-start the initiative. (The UVA Alumni Association, which publishes *Virginia Magazine*, also administers the Jefferson Trust.)

The concept isn't new. The National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation counts more than 250 member programs. Virginia Tech's squad, founded in 1969, answered 1,215 calls in 2023-24. Campus services average a 2.6-minute response time, according to one study, well under the national average of seven minutes.

"Even providing care within the first five minutes of a critical emergency will greatly improve the outcomes of any patient that we're responding to," says **Connor Oakes (Col '27)**, a leader in both the planned EMS and CavsCARE.

Beyond speed, organizers hope the squad eases students' hesitation to call 911 and gives students with EMT certifications, who often struggle to find placements, the opportunity to help their community and earn clinical hours, which are important for medical school applications.

Omohundro won't see the launch in person; he's now attending medical school. But he planned for that. "We have succession planning for the next three years with very, very qualified students," he says. "I'm very optimistic."

Learning the art of being together

HOOS CONNECTED AND FLASH@UVA

In the first three weeks of her first semester, **Katrin Bergesen (Col '27)** was rejected from every club she applied to. She felt aimless, but one place gave her footing: a one-credit class called Hoos Connected, built on research by UVA psychology professor **Joseph Allen (Col '80)**.

Once a week, Bergesen met with a small group of fellow first-years. Student facilitators guided them through team-building activities and then discussions about trust, conflict and communication. The class ultimately ended in a session where students could share something they had overcome.

The class "gave me the confidence to push myself through the rejection," says Bergesen, a psychology major. "It gave me a platform to speak and recognize my own resilience as a person in a way that I hadn't before."

Hoos Connected, which annually enrolls about 900 undergraduates, grew out of a study Allen launched in 1998, tracking 184 individuals starting at age 13. It found that the quality of a 13-year-old's best friendships predicted adult health outcomes better than any other factor.

The finding sparked a mission "to figure out what is happening when these relationships form organically out in the wild, and how can we take just a little bit of that magic and make it replicable, so that it's accessible to everybody," says assistant psychology professor **Alison Nagel (Col '10, Grad '20)**, Hoos Connected program director.

Allen's team first developed a high school program, now run nationally by the Wyman Center, a youth-focused nonprofit. That success led Allen's team and UVA's Counseling and Psychology Services program, with support from a 2018 Jefferson Trust grant, to adapt it for college students. By 2022, the program had evolved into its current form, with student facilitators. Other universities, including Virginia Tech, Georgetown and Northwestern, have since brought in UVA to implement the program on their own campuses.

Even before COVID, young people faced mounting mental health challenges, Nagel notes. Then the pandemic hit, amplifying anxiety and loneliness. Hoos Connected facilitator **Nikita Majumdar (Col '26)** sees a lingering side effect. The trend of "protecting your peace," which made sense during the crisis, left some students reluctant to engage with others.

Now, among peers, she sees a shift toward wanting to be part of a village—but building one takes a willingness to inconvenience yourself for others, says Majumdar, now the program's full-time coordinator. "Hoos Connected teaches you the importance of being flexible with people and giving them grace," she says.

Hoos Connected isn't the only effort aimed at building connection between students. Flash@UVA is a student-run group that evolved from a 2011 program commissioned by UVA's president's office that featured small seminars. Today, Flash programs include acoustic Lawn concerts; speed-dating events; and the Strangers Project, where students pen anonymous letters about isolation, academic struggle or the bittersweet approach to graduation for others to read.

"A lot of the focus has been on this idea of unplugging or getting connected outside of the digital world," says Flash@UVA president **Cate Murcko (Col '27)**.

For Bergesen, Hoos Connected helped her do just that. She's still in touch with fellow students from that original class, and she became a facilitator. "Hoos Connected has watched me grow up in a way, which is really sweet," she says. "It's really made me feel like UVA is home and that I belong, but also that I have the ability to make other people belong."

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



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▶ PUZZLE ANSWERS from Page 42

UVA WORDS

1. Guava
2. Boulevard
3. Supernova
4. Peruvian
5. Universal
6. Curveball
7. Souvlaki
8. Equivalent
9. Surveillance
10. Triumvirate
11. Yugoslavia
12. Upheaval

'HOOFER TWOFER

An edible crustacean on the grassy centerpiece of Grounds
Answer: **Lawn prawn**



A purposeful plot of blossoms near the business school
Answer: **Darden garden**

Scent-sensitive canines roaming around UVA
Answer: **Grounds hounds**

The core principles of an acclaimed former basketball coach
Answer: **Bennett's tenets**

Citrus fruits from one of UVA's busiest libraries
Answer: **Clemons lemons**

Everlasting paradise for a member of UVA's most secretive society
Answer: **Seven heaven**

BOV leader's life-giving drinks of the gods
Answer: **Rector's nectars**

"SCHOOL BREAK"



UVA president's luxe sailing vessels
Answer: **Scott's yachts**

Silky fabric at the school of public policy
Answer: **Batten satin**

Extinct flightless birds at a morning-centric and beloved Charlottesville eatery
Answer: **Bodo's dodos**



A pirate-like piece of heavy artillery at UVA's largest library
Answer: **Shannon cannon**

A stinky mammal at a popular UVA dining hall
Answer: **Runk skunk**

An odor arising from an Emmet Street pond
Answer: **Dell smell**

Historic UVA tour-givers' sweet cars
Answer: **Guides' rides**

Knockoff designer handbags at an Elliewood Avenue bar
Answer: **Coupe's dupes**

Rebuilt Rotunda architect's predicaments
Answer: **White's plights**

Music spinners of UVA's founder?
Answer: **TJ's DJs**

Duck calls heard from bygone library shelves
Answer: **Stacks quacks**

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHARLIE LAYTON

Frank Hardy | Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY



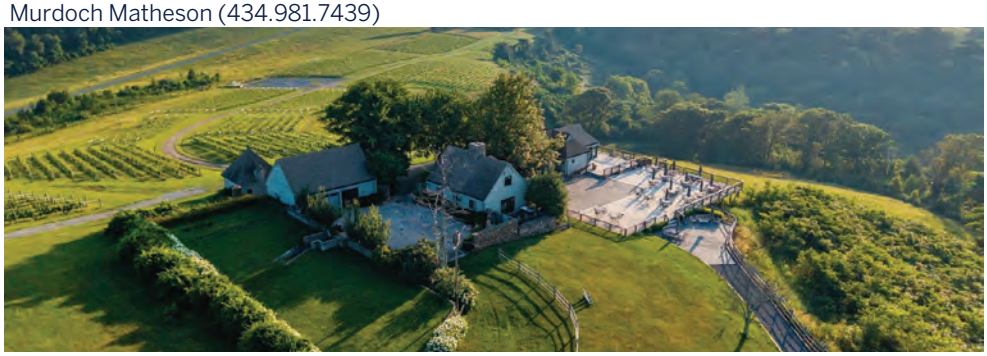
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$17,000,000
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From President Scott C. Beardsley



FINDING SHARED GROUND

During Final Exercises in May, I spoke to the 8,053 graduates in the Class of 2026 about the importance of finding shared ground.



From the podium, looking out at a sea of graduates and their proud families—more than 15,000 people on Saturday and 20,000 on Sunday—I could see clearly the shared ground.

On days like Final Exercises—joyful, exuberant, and, yes, a little warm—common ground is easy to find. There are days, however, when overcoming division is more challenging, and even more important.

I know a little something about this. I grew up in Alaska and arrived at college alone, several thousand miles from home, with one suitcase and no familiar faces. My tennis teammates asked if I had lived in an igloo and jokingly called me "Polar Beardsley." As an engineering student at Tufts, I had to find shared ground—fast.

Through my work in places like Abu Dhabi, Caracas, Tokyo, Warsaw and Cairo, I learned that starting a new job or project often requires walking into rooms of strangers, in places you've never been, in languages you don't understand, to work on problems in unfamiliar contexts.

There are two ways to approach that challenge. You can focus on what is different or negative, which can stall progress. Or you can focus on commonality. The shared ground. Our common humanity. What unites us.

This is not new wisdom. In an 1811 letter to his granddaughter Cornelia, Thomas Jefferson shared a dozen "Canons of Conduct." Rule No. 10 was "Take things always by their smooth handle."

Jefferson wasn't suggesting we avoid hard things; he was suggesting how to approach them. You can start with the rough, serrated edge of division, or you can start with the smoother side of commonality.

In May, I encouraged our graduates to walk through life looking for shared ground rather than the sharp edge of difference. Here at UVA, we continue to do the same.

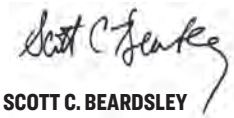
Our "Grounds for Conversation" events, where students, faculty, staff and alumni gather for conversations over coffee, have turned up plenty of shared ground.

There is a shared sense of pride in the university's mission and success. As I mentioned in my last letter, there is also consensus around key challenges and opportunities, such as making a college education more affordable for more families; taking a thoughtful approach to AI; increasing global experiences to prepare our students for a global world; investing in our faculty and our research capabilities; and equipping UVA Health, already a $4.4 billion premier health system treating nearly 1.8 million patients annually, to meet ever-growing demand. There are also opportunities to make our Grounds feel more connected—physically, but also intellectually and virtually—to encourage cross-disciplinary research and partnerships, an initiative we are calling Connected Grounds.

Our task now is to build on the shared ground we have uncovered with a sustainable plan for the future. This summer, we launched a comprehensive university strategic planning process led by a committee representing a cross section of the university. As it should be with a large and complex organization like UVA, this process will be rigorous and deliberate. We will take a careful look at the university's two main engines—the academic entities and the health system, a combined $7.1 billion enterprise—and several key drivers for those engines, including world-class asset management strategies, bolstered by a continued AAA credit rating; UVA's strong global brand and reputation; our vibrant UVA community; and UVA's role as an institution of public service and economic anchor in the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond.

If we focus on fundamentals—our engines and the drivers that keep them running at peak performance—we will ensure we are doing everything we can to support the university's mission well into the future.

After we recently marked America's 250th birthday and reflected on Thomas Jefferson's words in the Declaration of Independence, preserved in two original copies here at UVA, staking out that shared ground is more important than ever. I am grateful to everyone who has played a part in this process so far, and most especially to the people in our UVA community who show up each day ready to look for shared ground and help this special place succeed.



SCOTT C. BEARDSLEY
President of the University of Virginia

CECIL BANKS







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Spain: Off the Beaten Path
MAY 8–19

Northern Italy | MAY 15–29

Norwegian Splendor | MAY 24–JUNE 8

Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Cruise | JUNE 9–19

Egypt Total Solar Eclipse Cruise
JULY 25–AUG. 7

The Canadian Maritimes | AUG. 8–19

Sailing from Malta to Tuscany
SEPT. 25–OCT. 6

Journey Through Central Europe
SEPT. 28–OCT. 13

Enchanting Ireland | SEPT. 30–OCT. 12

Village Life in England's Cotswolds | OCT. 3–11

South Korea | OCT. 5–14

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Time Capsule

BY MARTHA CARR

What is your most enduring memory of your first-year dorm?



"The smell of microwave popcorn on the upper floors of Old Dorms."

—Ryan Doone (Arch '05)

"As one of the first occupants of the Observatory Hill dorms (341 Dobie), I enjoyed the suite-style layout, which allowed ease of socializing with other suitemates versus the McCormick Road dorms. Proximity to a food location (The Glass Hat) was also a bonus. I was disappointed to see that the Observatory Hill dorms were eventually demolished."

—Bruce Broulik (Col '71, Grad '74)

"I remember living in the basement of the Kent dorm, which if my very fuzzy memory is correct, was unusual. The basement had fewer rooms than other floors, so our floor was very tight knit. We even had a T-shirt made with our quotes about living in the basement."

—Christy McMannen (Col '02)



"Living in the Old Dorms was great and Hancock was the BEST. I was even luckier that I had one of the 'overflow' single rooms. It was the size of a closet, but it was all mine!"

—Karen Parker (Col '89)

"I was in the first wave of coed dormitories in 1978. Courtenay was the 'new dorm' for incoming students, which sat on a lovely hill across from Scott Stadium! It's demolished now. May it forever rest in peace."—**Shawn Grain Carter (Col '82)**

"I lived in a suite of eight at Brown Residential College. It was 2020 and we were hardly allowed to interact with anyone outside our cohort. We made the most of it by studying in each other's rooms, going to dinner together, and playing board games in our shared spaces. We decorated our bathroom for every holiday, threw birthday parties for one another, and supported each other socially and emotionally through an extremely difficult year."

—Margaret Haun (Col '24)

"My Kent dorm had the best sandwich shop in the basement with egg, tuna & chicken salad sandwiches and of course hot dogs with chili."

—Doug Cather (Engr '66)

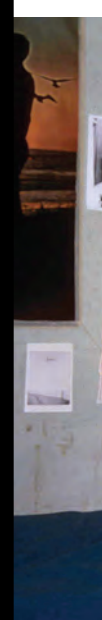
"Mount Kellogg. A great dorm, but I'll always remember that trek up or down those stairs whenever I missed the bus. My legs got in shape quickly!"

—Emma DeMartino (Educ '23)

"Teaching my friends how to do the Cupid Shuffle and Cha Cha Slide, dressing up as Soulja Boy for Halloween, all getting ready together in a small dorm room for first-year formal, and making a dorm tour TikTok that got thousands of views."

—Natiya Turner (Col '28)







"My enduring memories of Lefevre include impromptu dance parties in the hall, dragging mattresses into another dorm room for a giant slumber party, and blasting tunes in the bathroom on Friday nights as we all got ready to go out." ***—Jennifer Batts (Com '90)***

"My first year in Dobie was the most vivid and enduring memory I have of my four years at the university. My mother had passed away two weeks before I was to arrive on Grounds and my father was not handling it very well. But the guys in the suite were great and, as difficult as it was that first year, their camaraderie was quite simply sustaining."

—Jason H. Silverman (Col '74)

"Most afternoons in the fall of 1965 touch football games were played in The Dell. One afternoon I joined the players from my floor and I suffered a concussion. I don't remember the hit or how I got to the hospital, but I will never forget the kindness of my dorm mates who visited me during the week I was hospitalized."

—Stuart Katz (Col '69)



"I was in Lefevre. It was an old building with two students per room and each of us had an old desk and dresser and bed. I taped a lot of posters, photos, etc., to the wall on my side of the room to try to brighten the space."
—Pete Robinson (Col '74)

"The girls down the hall getting me to disco dance. It led to a side career as a dance instructor, which I still do today!"
—Tom Koerner (Col '80)

"My roommate Dave and I had a broken record player that, once started, would keep playing the same record over and over. At night, we'd debate which record we wanted to listen to all night—as I recall, the Rolling Stones' *Hot Rocks* was a favorite."

—Gregory Ashe (Col '88, Law '95)

"Music blaring out of multiple dorm windows during warmer months."
—Ford Bartholow (Com '82)





"Bonnycastle was so HOT (no A/C) when we first got there, but our first-floor dorm mates were COOL!"
—Sue Wei (Col '77)

"Bonnycastle in 1973 was all girls, and I wondered why an all-girls dorm had urinals lined end to end in the bathroom. The one and only phone at the end of the hall was a real prize on Sunday evenings when everyone called their parents to share updates."

—Julia Park Lundstrem (Col '77)

"Welcome to the Dungle! I remember the amazing energy after upsetting Florida State (2005) all night, weekend brunch at Runk as a sort of secret only for us all the way at the very end of the lane, and a truly epic game of Assassin. Dunglison for life." ***—Brennan Lowery (Col '09)***

For our next issue:

What are your favorite memories of snow at UVA? Share your story and photos at uvamag.com/timecapsules and we'll select some to feature in our Winter issue.

Class Notes

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

CM Indicates Contributing Member of the Alumni Association

2026 SELECTED HONOREES

The Alumni Association manages 250 scholarship funds, which recognize and celebrate students across Grounds. Here are a few standout fourth-year scholars who received Alumni Association awards this year, along with one exceptional incoming first-year recognized by the Bolívar Network.

Ernest H. Ern Distinguished Student Award



Arjan Dulai (Col '26)

This award honors a student who has won recognition in the academic community for making exceptional contributions to university life. During his time at UVA, Dulai prioritized student belonging, safety and wellness. As a student adviser at the Contemplative Sciences Center, he implemented student-centered mindfulness programs and served both as a trainer and a volunteer for Madison House's Crisis HELP Line and as a Peer Health Educator for UVA Well-Being Services. As a senior orientation leader, Dulai helped develop the summer 2025 orientation program.

Gray-Carrington Scholarship Award



Noah Dyer (Com '27)

This scholarship covers one year of tuition, fees and housing for a rising fourth-year student who shows integrity, achievement, leadership and humility. Dyer, the captain of the men's Swimming & Diving team, is the president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and a representative to UVA's Athletics Advisory Council. Previously, he was the Student Council's first student-athlete representative. He is a College Sports Communicators Academic All-District athlete, a Class of 2027 Trustee and a Raven Society member.

T. Rodney Crowley Jr. Memorial Scholarship



Eli Petty (Com '27)

This scholarship provides the equivalent of full in-state tuition to a rising fourth-year student who exhibits leadership, sportsmanship, character and integrity. Petty, who studies entrepreneurship, analytics and AI, is a valued UVA lacrosse player who has been named to the ACC Academic Honor Roll. As a facilitator with the One Love Foundation, he guides groups through conversations around relationships and dating. He is also a member of Phi Chi Theta Business Fraternity.

Glenn D. Kirwin Scholarship

The Glenn D. Kirwin Scholarship is awarded to students who embody leadership, determination, generosity and wisdom; the capability for original and creative thought; and a passion for entrepreneurship.



Aali Siddiqui (Engr '27)

Siddiqui, the co-chair of the Resident Staff Program, oversees almost 300 residential advisers and fosters an inclusive and safe on-Grounds housing environment. Through his work as Engineering School representative with the University Judiciary Committee, he upholds UVA's culture of Honor while ensuring fairness for students facing trial. This year, he serves as the committee's vice chair for first-years. He is a Sunday school teacher for the Islamic Society of Central Virginia and a campus ambassador for Gift of Life Marrow Registry.



Truman Griffith (Col '27)

Griffith, a fourth-year economics major, has generously given his time and knowledge to causes on and beyond Grounds. As a site coordinator for Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (CASH) through Madison House, he enables student volunteers to assist low-income community members with tax preparation. He coaches for TOPSoccer of Charlottesville, a nonprofit soccer league for children with disabilities. He serves as a Class of 2027 Trustee and is a fellow at the Meriwether Lewis Institute for Citizen Leadership.

Sky Alland Scholarship



Alexander Peskin (Batten '27)

This scholarship covers a year of full tuition and fees for a rising fourth-year who demonstrates leadership, achievement, enterprising spirit, humility and devotion to the university. A Meriwether Lewis fellow, Peskin helped develop plans for student spaces on the rapidly developing Emmet-Ivy Corridor. He was the 2025–2026 student co-chair of Madison House and is the current president of the Inter-Fraternity Council. He is also a prominent member of the Virginia Venture Fund, a student-managed investment fund.

From the Bolívar Network:

First-Year Scholarship



Crystal Guillen (Nurs '30)

The Bolívar Network awards the First-Year Scholarship to a high school student in Virginia who has demonstrated commitment and service to the Hispanic and Latino/e community. A rising first-year from Norfolk, Virginia, Guillen has worked to bridge language and access gaps for Spanish-speaking families, helping them navigate medical visits, legal processes and daily challenges. She has volunteered at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital and served on the Norfolk Youth Council.

’60s

Larry Good (Col ’61) has released a new children’s book, *The Tree of Ticket Leaves*, about the fantastical adventures of a girl, a “deputized question mark,” a tackling dummy and a buffalo unicorn. Good is a former high school teacher and school librarian.

Don Slesnick (Col ’65 CM) was honored with the eponymous Don Slesnick Civic Vision Award by the Coral Gables Art Cinema at its annual gala. Slesnick, a former four-term mayor of Coral Gables, Florida, received the award from the city’s current mayor. The award reads, “With gratitude for his vision, leadership, and enduring legacy.”

James Currie (Grad ’69, ’75 CM) published his fifth book, *Missouri Mule: How Harry Truman’s Stubbornness and Determination Helped Win World War II and Led Him to the Presidency*, with Academica Press. The story of how Harry Truman went from being in Franklin Roosevelt’s political doghouse to becoming Roosevelt’s running mate, it also exposes the actions of corporations that placed profits ahead of providing quality military equipment for the war effort.

’70s

Woodfin Ligon (Grad ’70) is enjoying retirement after three decades at General Electric’s Global Research Center. He has more than 40 peer-reviewed scientific papers and several U.S. patents. He lives in Farmville, Virginia, with his wife, Ann. Their son, Tom, is a senior manager at X-energy. Their daughter, **Claire Ligon (Educ ’12)**, is an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University. The Ligons have two grandchildren.

Katherine Gekker (Col ’72, Grad ’73 CM) released her poetry collection, *O My Charmer*, in March. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals, including *The Hopkins Review*, *Presence*, *CALYX* and *Rappahannock Review*.



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Class Notes

Paulette Jones Morant (Col '74 CM) was selected to share her photography projects in a solo exhibition at the Nelson Gallery in Lexington, Virginia. The collection, titled "Contemplation," featured a variety of architectural designs, seascapes and florals and was on display in March 2026.

James M. Thunder (Grad '74) and co-author K. Chris Todd wrote *The United States Attorneys for the District of Columbia 1801-2024*, published by the Historical Society of the D.C. Circuit in April. Thunder and Todd thank Anne C. Causey, **Randi Flaherty (Grad '08, '14)** and Cecilia Brown of UVA's Special Collections for their assistance in researching the book.

John Chilton (Col '75) and his spouse, Carolyn Moomaw Chilton, have written *Even the Stones Will Shout: Shrine Mont at 100*, about the history of the titular open-air cathedral in Orkney Springs, Virginia. The couple celebrates their 52nd wedding anniversary this year. After living and working around the globe, the couple retired to Orkney Springs, Carolyn's hometown.

Ken Ginader (Engr '76 CM) was appointed to the board of the National Aviation Hall of Fame Enshrinee Nominations and Selections Committee. Committee members vote to enshrine aviation leaders, pilots, teachers, scientists, engineers, inventors, governmental leaders and other individuals who have contributed to the advancement of aviation in the U.S.

Page Nelson (Col '76) and co-translator Leo Gornik have published *Osip Mandelstam: Selected Poems*. Nelson and Gornik's translation is one of the most comprehensive English-language translations of Mandelstam's verse currently in print.

Christopher D. Stanley (Com '76) retired in 2022 after 30 years as a professor and author focusing on the world of early Christianity and Judaism. In addition to his academic publications, he recently released the final volume of his historical fiction trilogy, *A Slave's Story.* He and his wife, **Laurel Stanley (Nurs '77)**, live in Southern California.

Mary Lisa Gavenas (Col '78) published a biography, *Selling Opportunity: The Story of Mary Kay*, with Viking Penguin in April. Chosen by *Literary Hub* as one of the "Most Anticipated Books of 2026," the book received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly* and was featured on the *New York Times* April reading list.

L. Flick Hatcher (Col '78 CM) has published his second novel, *Romancing Normal*, with BookBaby press. Protagonist Drew Carter is on a quest to "date the gay away." Set at a fictionalized UVA, the story follows Drew from straight to gay to gray. He discovers the joy of living authentically, fulfilling a plan even greater than he'd hoped for—proving that nice guys don't finish last.

Steve Huntoon (Col '78, Law '82 CM) published his 100th trade press column on the electric power industry. He and his wife, Barbara, split their time between Wilmington, Delaware, and Boston to be near their grandchildren. They live in Miami Beach, Florida, during the winter.

Neil Liebowitz (Col '78 CM) wrote his first novel, *Deception: A Psychiatrist's Stolen Journal*, under the pseudonym Aaron Riley. A retired psychiatrist, he has also written a memoir, *Psychiatry in Techno Colors: A Psychiatrist's Memoir of Lessons Learned About the Diagnosis and Treatment of Anxiety and Depression*.

Drew Krecicki (Arch '79 CM) has recently retired and now lives in Charlottesville with his wife, Jane. After 43 years as an architect, including 22 years as a principal at HuntonBrady Architects in Orlando, Florida, Krecicki is excited to become involved in the Charlottesville community.

Ellen Morris Prewitt (Col '79 CM) released *When We Were Murderous Time-Traveling Women*, a New Orleans-based fantasy whose protagonist, Etoile, inadvertently calls forth a prince, a saint and her three ancestral grannies. Etoile enlists her grannies to help return the prince to his own time, but turning to three murderous women might not be her best idea.

C. Diane Smock (Law '79 CM) received the Extraordinary Achievement Award from the Upstate Mediation Center of Greenville, South Carolina. A former judge, Smock volunteered to lead the center on an interim basis, guiding its stabilization and renewal. She secured essential operating support and helped launch new programs, ensuring the center's continued service as a valuable community resource.

'80s

Pamela Norsworthy (Col '80 CM) published a historical thriller, *The Florentine Entanglement: A Novel of the Cold War*, in January. *The Florentine Entanglement* and her debut novel, *War Bonds: A Novel of World War II*, both earned "Get It" tags from *Kirkus Reviews*. Norsworthy, formerly a Charlottesville-based journalist, lives in Atlanta with her husband, **Cameron Gray Norsworthy (Col '79 CM)**.

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.








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Class Notes

John Culver (Col '81 CM) has joined the Jim Pattison Group as U.S. general counsel. The Jim Pattison Group, based in Vancouver, Canada, is one of North America's largest privately held companies. Culver previously spent 35 years as a litigation partner at K&L Gates and its predecessor firm.

Peter DiGiacinto (Engr '81) retired as head of global research and development with a major chemical company after 45 years in the industry. During his career, he held several upper-level positions with companies including Albemarle Corporation, Amoco, BP Chemicals and Ineos. In retirement, DiGiacinto intends to pursue his love of mountain biking in northwestern Arkansas.

Mary Ellen Zator Estes (Nurs '81, '83 CM) released the sixth edition of her textbook, *Health Assessment & Physical Examination*. Published by F.A. Davis, this title is available as a hardback text as well as an e-book.



Griff Thomas (Col '81 CM) is living in St. Petersburg and Delray Beach, Florida.

Thomas Gorman (Col '82 CM) recently celebrated his 40th year of continuous, full-time employment.

Teri Lovelace (Col '82 CM) retired in 2020 as founder and president of Locus Impact Investing, a community-driven consulting and investment advising firm. Since then, she's managed her father's herd of 140 black angus cattle at Wallace Gap Farm in Madison, Virginia. The farm sells all-natural, pasture-raised beef direct to consumers.

Lynn Rivera (Engr '83) has written *Love in the Time of Autism: A Memoir*, a collection of haibun essays (a Japanese literary form that combines prose and haiku) about raising her son. Her stories describe the transformation of her family, the growth of understanding and patience and, ultimately, the power of love.

Virginia Barrett (Col '85) released two publications in the spring: a new collection of poems, *The Vessels We Carry Keep Us Alive*, with Saint Julian Press, and an editing project, *YELLOW: a Hue Are You anthology*, with Jambu Press. Barrett lives in Northern California.

Andrew G. Lee (Col '85, Med '89 CM) was honored with a 2026 Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award from the Baylor College of Medicine chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha, a national medical honor society. Additionally, he has published his 16th textbook, *Consultations in Neuro-Ophthalmology*, as well as *Neuro-Ophthalmology Update*.

Peg Willingham (Col '85) was appointed to the Electoral Board of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, in December and was elected as its chair in January. The Electoral Board ensures that elections within the City of Falls Church are conducted properly.

Scott Douglas Gerber (Law '86, Grad '92) published his 11th book, *The Trafficker: A Novel*, in January. His previous book, *Law and Religion in Colonial America: The Dissenting Colonies*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2023.

Suzette Bishop (Grad '87) recently published three poetry chapbooks, *Eyes of Some Robbers*, *Unbecoming* and *Were-Jag*. Bishop has an M.F.A. from UVA and a Doctor of Arts from the State University of Albany.

Elizabeth Freund Larus (Grad '89, '94) has been awarded a 2026 Taiwan Fellowship from the Republic of China (Taiwan) Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A visiting fellow at National Chengchi University in Taipei, she is conducting research on Taiwan's civil defense and emergency preparedness. Larus is professor emerita of political science and international affairs at the University of Mary Washington.

Vivek Thoppay (Engr '89), a wealth management adviser with Merrill Lynch, was named to the *Barron's* "Top 1,500 Financial Advisors" list in 2026. Based in the Bay Area, Thoppay has been a financial adviser for over 10 years and has 20 years of investment experience.

'90s

Allen Groves (Law '90 CM) received the Chancellor's Medal for his transformative contributions to the student experience at Syracuse University while serving as senior vice president and chief student experience officer. The Chancellor's Medal is Syracuse University's highest honor. Groves has been in the role since 2021.

Thomas Hauser (Col '90) published *Sentinels in the Sky: An Appraisal of the Aerial Exploitation Battalion* with the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command. He previously published *Flying in the Shadows: Forging Aerial Intelligence for the United States Army* and *Seizing the Electronic High Ground: Transforming Aerial Intelligence for the United States Army*. Hauser works in the U.S. intelligence community.

Jill Corso McNabb (Col '90, Darden '99 CM) was awarded honorary membership in the American Pharmacists Association, one of the organization's highest recognitions. McNabb has been a founding team member of several pharmacy-focused ventures, including

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Pharmacy Profiles, Synerio and RxAlly. She is also a committed STEM education advocate and a volunteer leader helping to build the new Northern Virginia Science Center.

Tammy Stempler Priest (Col '91 CM) released her book, *Jerusalem Calls*, in August. Part memoir, part biblical history, *Jerusalem Calls* tells the story of her faith journey—which took an unexpected turn during her time at UVA—with the rich tradition of Judaism and the Old Testament pilgrimage feasts, from Sinai to Jesus' ministry to today.

Jen Soalt (Grad '93, '10) and co-author Andrea Avery published *Let's Discuss: Practices for Equitable Student Participation in ELA Classrooms* with Teachers College Press in April. The book covers a wide range of research-informed practices teachers can use to make class discussions more engaging, inclusive and meaningful.

Derek Baxter (Col '95) published his second book, *The Forgotten World War: Exploring the Secret History of the American Revolution, from Spain to India and Back Again*. Baxter traveled around the world to show how deeply interconnected America's story was with events unfolding across the globe. His first book, *In Pursuit of Jefferson: Traveling Through Europe With the Most Perplexing Founding Father*, received a starred review *from Kirkus Reviews*.

Peter Gallagher (Engr '96) was elected a partner at Egon Zehnder, a global leadership advisory firm. He works with boards and CEOs of public and private equity companies on executive searches and leadership development, with a focus on biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and the life sciences.

Lara Call Gastinger (Col '98 CM) published *A Perpetual Journal Practice* with Timber Press in June. The "perpetual journal" guides readers through a long-term, incremental approach to connecting with the natural world through drawing. It features introductory techniques and spreads from Gastinger's own perpetual journal. She created some of her first botanical sketches in UVA's gardens.

Michael Gragnani (Col '99 CM) has been named CEO at Diversified Trust, a $14 billion wealth firm. Gragnani is currently the managing principal of the firm's Atlanta office. He will assume his role as CEO in January 2027.

Scott Lambridis (Col '99) published his debut novel, *St. Ulphia's Dead*, with Regal House Publishing in July. *St. Ulphia's Dead* follows two researchers investigating an outbreak of apparent possession on a remote island, where the boundary between science and belief begins to erode. Lambridis has an M.F.A. from San Francisco State University and lives in Washington state.

'00s

Erin Anderson (Col '00, Educ '04, '15) was appointed the William and Sheila Konar Director of the Center for Urban Education Success at the University of Rochester. She authored *Leading Continuous Improvement in Schools: Enacting Leadership Standards to Advance Educational Quality and Equity* with former UVA researcher Kathleen M.W. Cunningham and UVA professor David H. Eddy-Spicer.

Brooke Brower (Col '00 CM) joined Johns Hopkins University as the director of an initiative on democracy reforms for the recently established School of Government and Policy. Previously, he was the executive producer of ABC's *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*, which earned four Emmy nominations during his tenure.

Mary Katherine "MK" Mawyer King (Engr '02 CM) was appointed to the Albemarle County Planning Commission by the Board of Supervisors in January 2026. King is a central Virginia real estate broker and a community advocate who brings more than two decades of experience in residential construction, land use, housing and community development.

Brooke McIntyre (Com '02) published her nonfiction picture book, *If You Went to the Bottom of the Ocean*, in May with Chronicle Books for Young Readers. Readers become explorers in this diving adventure, experiencing the ocean's sunlit surface, the twilight zone and the pitch



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Class Notes

darkness near the bottom of the ocean. The book received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*.

Shelley Burnside (Educ '03) has completed her second full year as an instructional assessment and analysis specialist at Atlee High School in Mechanicsville, Virginia. She has over 19 years of experience as a secondary-level math teacher.

Ilan Kaufer (Col '04 CM) was recently recognized by Leadership Palm Beach County with the 2026 Leadership Excellence Award. Kaufer currently works for NextEra Energy as an external affairs manager and lives in Jupiter, Florida.

Submit a Class Note
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Rebekah Edwards O'Dell (Col '04, Educ '05) has accepted the position of master teacher for strategic cultural partnerships at the College of William and Mary. O'Dell, who has spent 21 years in the classroom, is the founder of the Moving Writers Community and the author of four books on writing instruction.

B. Cameron Webb (Col '05) was appointed to a four-year term as health commissioner for the Virginia Department of Health by Gov. **Abigail Spanberger (Col '01)**. Webb is a health policy expert and internal medicine physician. He assumed the role in January 2026.

Lauren Santana (Col '06, Educ '07) founded Curated Concierge in Charlottesville, helping families and professionals manage their busy lives. She recently launched College Concierge to support UVA students with move-in, move-out and summer storage. After 13 years as an elementary educator, she is excited to support families in a new way.

Ebony Walden (Arch '06) will publish her memoir, *Where I'm From: A Poetic Journey Across Five Continents*, with She Writes Press in September 2026. Walden is also the creator and host of *Black Beyond Borders*, a travel documentary series exploring Black identity, culture and belonging across the African diaspora. Season two is slated to premiere in February 2027.

Nicola Beel (Col '07) and Joseph Crisci were married Nov. 8, 2025, in beautiful Saint Barthélemy. Beel is a senior wealth management lending officer for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in New York City.

Frank Block III (Engr '07, '09, '12 CM) has been named the 2026 Federal Engineer of the Year by the National Society of Professional Engineers. At the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Devices and Radiological Health, he leads public health emergency responses to major medical device recalls.

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Class Notes

Sarah V. Schweig (Col '07) completed her Ph.D. in philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York City. Her dissertation, *Measures of Disorder: Poetry and Aesthetic Corruption in the Age of AI*, engages with the work of Stanley Cavell, Richard Rorty and Charles Taylor, among other philosophers and writers.

'10s

Hasan Ahmad (Col '10 CM) serves as vice president and associate chief medical information officer at Parkview Health, a multi-hospital healthcare system spanning Indiana and Ohio. As a board-certified hospitalist physician and clinical informaticist, he leads enterprise efforts to improve how physicians use technology, including advancing the responsible adoption of AI across the health system.

Eugene Resnick (Col '10 CM) has been selected as a U.S.A. finalist for the Social Action Award from the British Council's Study U.K. Alumni Awards 2026. Resnick is an alumnus of the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Monica Tucker-Schwartz (Nurs '10) was inducted as a fellow of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) in March. The AONL fellow designation recognizes exemplary nurse leaders who have made significant and sustained contributions to the specialty of nursing leadership and to AONL.

Kaitlyn Badlato Adams (Arch '13 CM) and Oscar Granberry Adams IV were married on March 21 at the UVA Chapel. The couple met in 2022 and live in Arlington, Virginia. The bride is the daughter of **Julie Kruger-Badlato (Com '82 CM)**. The groom is the son of **Nancy Bizier Adams (Col '78 CM)**.

Mimi Montgomery (Col '14 CM) published her debut novel, *Murder Bites*, with Penguin Random House on Aug. 4. *Murder Bites* is a murder mystery on the set of a reality TV show about dogs. It was named one of Goodreads' buzziest debut novels of 2026. Montgomery lives in Washington, D.C., where she's a reporter at *Axios*.

Zachary "Tyler" Carrico (Com '16) and **Kari Heavenrich (Com '16)** welcomed their first child, Bryn Leigh Carrico, on June 21, 2025. Bryn Leigh's grandparents include **John Carrico (Com '86, Darden '91 CM)** and the late **Sheri Leigh Carrico (Educ '87 CM)**. Tyler is managing partner of Thayer Investment Partners in San Francisco; Kari is a vice president at Rockpoint.

Delaney Mitchell Crozier (Col '17) and **Benjamin Crozier (Col '18)** were married in Chicago on March 28, 2026. Delaney met Benjamin at a Christmas party at his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Mu, in 2015. They were joined by many 'Hoos to celebrate the occasion.

Seth McElroy (Nurs '17) appeared as a contestant on *Jeopardy!* on June 5, 2026,



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Baths: 3 full, 1 half
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Acres: 32.57
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fulfilling his lifelong dream of competing on the show. A watch party was held in Charlottesville.

Katie Rogers (Col '18 CM) and **Will Dozier (Col '18)** got married at St. Paul's Memorial Church on the Corner in Charlottesville in October 2025. They celebrated their wedding with family, friends and many fellow 'Hoos. Charlottesville-based band Kendall Street Company performed at their after-party at Live Arts Theater on the Downtown Mall. The couple met in a Shakespeare seminar as second-year students.

'20s

Caroline Dundervill (Educ '20 CM) graduated from the West Virginia University School of Medicine in May 2025. Dundervill is currently an OB-GYN resident at the University of Kentucky.

Lauren Harter (Col '21 CM) has joined Georgia-based law firm HunterMaclean's corporate practice group. Harter, who earned her law degree cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law, focuses her practice on immigration law. She is an active member of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers and the Young Lawyers Division of the Savannah Bar Association.

Thomas Siu (Law '21), a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, was named Junior Officer of the Year at the Defense Service Office Southeast in Norfolk, Virginia. During his time at the Defense Service Office Southeast, he represented those charged at courts-martial.

Jay Pendarvis Jr. (Col '24) wrote and directed a short film, *See You, Soon*, starring Asante Blackk (*When They See Us*, *Euphoria*) and Isaiah John (*Snowfall*). The film premiered at the Dallas International Film Festival and has been selected for several other film festivals. The project serves as proof of concept for Pendarvis' first feature film, *Brother's Keeper*, which is currently in the financing stage.

Monroe Mills (Educ '25) and Olivia Barnes were married on May 16, 2026, at Hazy Mountain Winery in Afton, Virginia. Mills and Barnes graduated from Texas Tech University. The bride is a graduate physician assistant student at Mary Baldwin University. The groom is continuing his studies at UVA, where he is on the football team.

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In Memoriam

’50s

John Edward Clarkson (Col ’53, Law ’58 CM) of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Oct. 5, 2025. At UVA, he was president of DKE fraternity and participated in varsity football, wrestling and track. He also was a member of T.I.L.K.A., the Z Society, the 13 Society and the Raven Society. In 1953, he joined the U.S. Army and served two years at Fort Eustis, Virginia, and at Pusan East Air Base in Busan, Korea, retiring as a first lieutenant. After earning his law degree, he joined Willcox Savage in Norfolk, Virginia, where he became a partner. In 1983, he was appointed to the Circuit Court of Norfolk, serving with distinction until his retirement in 1997. He was its chief judge from 1987 to 1989. He served as the president of the UVA Alumni Association Board of Managers in 1976 and 1977. Survivors include his wife, Kirkland; two children; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Siegfried Brockmann (Col ’54 CM) of Berkeley, California, died Dec. 27, 2025. Born in East Germany, he was adopted by American journalist Walter Brockmann, allowing him to escape in 1948 and receive U.S. citizenship. He studied chemistry at the University of Virginia from 1950 to 1954. He was a member of the Virginia Glee Club. After graduation, he received a teaching fellowship at Harvard. In 1956, he was offered a job at Cole Chemical Co. in St. Louis, where he rose to vice president. He retired in 1990. He then moved to a house in the Berkeley Hills designed by famed architect Bernard Maybeck, where he enjoyed his view of San Francisco Bay. Survivors include two nephews.

W. Gerald “Jerry” Hamm (Engr ’54 CM) of Irvington, Virginia, died April 28, 2026. At UVA, he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity. He worked as an engineer for the Douglas Aircraft Co. on various aircraft programs and guided missile programs. He then worked for Atlantic Research Corp. in Virginia, initially as a project engineer on solid-propellant rocket motor programs. He was the co-holder of a patent concerning a unique solid rocket motor design. Over the course of his career at Atlantic Research, he advanced to director of the production division, corporate executive vice president, CEO and member of the board of directors. He served on the boards of the National Capital Area Council of Scouting America, the UVA Engineering Foundation, the Virginia Manufacturers Association and the Professional Services Council. Survivors include four sons, six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and several stepgrandchildren.

Edwin James Harvie Jr. (Col ’54, Med ’58 CM) of Danville, Virginia, died Feb. 27, 2026. At UVA, he was a member of the *Cavalier Daily*, the Jefferson Society and Kappa Alpha fraternity. After receiving his medical degree, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in South Korea and Fort Myer, Virginia. In 1964, he opened one of the first internal medicine practices in Danville. He was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, receiving its laureate award in 1995, and held many leadership roles in the Medical Society of Virginia. He also served on the board of directors of the UVA Medical Alumni Association. He volunteered at the Free Clinic of Danville from 1993 to 2015 and served as its medical director for over a decade. In 2012, the Virginia Health Care Foundation named him an “Unsung Hero.” Survivors include two children and their spouses, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Al P. Saufley (Col ’54 CM) of McGaheysville, Virginia, died March 6, 2026. At UVA, he was a Dean’s List student, member of Delta Upsilon, member of Skull and Keys, and player on the UVA football team. He served in the U.S. Army in West Germany. After his discharge in 1956, he joined General Electric in Waynesboro, Virginia. His career led him to the international division of General Electric in New York, and he spent 14 years living overseas on assignments in four major European capitals. He was the seventh-generation owner of Long Meadow Farm in Rockingham County, Virginia, which has been in the family since 1779. He frequently volunteered in his community, serving as treasurer of several civic organizations, including his local Ruritan Club and a cemetery association. He was predeceased by his daughter, **Kimberlie Saufley (Col ’83)**. Survivors include his wife, Phyllis; two children;

five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

John Lionel Ruseau (Arch '56 CM) of Charlottesville died March 8, 2026. A few years after graduating from UVA's School of Architecture, he joined its faculty, teaching graphic design and watercolor for 32 years. He spent his summers sailing and painting watercolors along the Atlantic Coast. After retiring at age 65, he traveled to Europe to paint landscapes. Back in the U.S., he sailed the Eastern Shore with his family. Loved ones remember him for his dry sense of humor. Survivors include his wife, Sandy; four daughters; three sons-in-law; a granddaughter; and two grandsons.

David French Apple Jr. (Col '58 CM) of Atlanta died March 23, 2026. At UVA, he served as president of the College, chair of the Honor Committee, associate editor of the *Cavalier Daily* and president of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He was a member of ODK, the Raven Society, the Z Society, the 13 Society, T.I.L.K.A. and the Jefferson Society. A distinguished orthopedic surgeon, his career spanned private practice, professional athletics and rehabilitative medicine, and included 30 years as team physician for the Atlanta Hawks. He co-founded and served as medical director for the Shepherd Center, a leading hospital for spinal cord and brain injury rehabilitation. Survivors include his wife, Jane; four children, including **Karen Apple Mathews (Col '87, Educ '93 CM), David F. Apple III (Com '90)** and **Megan Apple Stephenson (Com '97 CM)**; 12 grandchildren, including **George W. Mathews IV (Col '24), Sydney Apple (Com '28)** and **May S. Stephenson (Col '29)**; and a great-grandchild.

Kenneth D. Tuck (Med '58 CM) of Roanoke, Virginia, died March 31, 2026. After graduating from medical school at UVA, he trained at the Cleveland Clinic, the Public Health Service Hospital in San Francisco and the Mayo Clinic. He then practiced medicine at the Navajo Nation in Arizona before returning to Roanoke. He served as president of the Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, the Medical Society of Virginia, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. As a Rotarian, he spearheaded programs to mentor and train doctors worldwide to aid his lifelong effort of eradicating preventable blindness. He was a volunteer at the Bradley Free Clinic in Roanoke. He was awarded Rotary International's highest individual honor, the Service Above Self Award, in 2017. Survivors include his wife, **Sara H. Tuck (Nurs '57)**; three daughters, including **Kathryn Tuck Coats (Educ '02)** and **Caroline Tuck Nold (Col '89 CM)**; two sons-in-law, including **William Nold (Col '96)**; 11 grandchildren and their spouses, including **Ross Hanchett (Med '07)**; and five great-grandchildren.

'60s

William "Bill" Prescott Lecky (Arch '60 CM) of Annapolis, Maryland, died April 5, 2026. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he attended UVA and was inducted into the Raven Society and ODK. During this time, he had a friendship with visiting writer-in-residence William Faulkner. After graduation, he formed Cooper-Lecky Architects, becoming a stalwart of the Washington, D.C., architectural community for nearly 40 years and training many architects. He worked on projects including the Blair House, the White House Press Room and projects at the National Zoo. He had a prominent role in designing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. He was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 2008. Survivors include his wife, Paula; his children, **Brooke Lecky Supple (Col '92 CM)** and **Eric Lecky (Col '97)**; and four grandchildren.

James Kent Morrison (Col '62 CM) died May 23, 2026. At UVA, he was a member of Skull and Keys, the Jefferson Society, the Air Force ROTC and Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He served in the U.S. Air Force in Clovis, New Mexico, from 1964 to 1965. In 1968, while completing his doctorate from the University of Washington, he moved to Hong Kong and Taiwan with his young family to conduct academic research. His career in education started at the University of Utah, where he taught political science. He worked as an administrator at the University of Rhode Island and at Walden University in Minneapolis. After retiring, he spent many years as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, acting as a surrogate guardian for children in the legal systems in Minnesota and Washington. He traveled frequently and loved to prepare food from all over the world. Survivors include three sons and six grandchildren.

Kenneth M. Heilman (Med '63 CM) of Gainesville, Florida, died July 15, 2024. At UVA, he studied chemistry for three years before being accepted into the medical school, skipping a bachelor's degree. He trained in internal medicine at Cornell University Medical College. During the Vietnam War, he joined the U.S. Air Force and, at the rank of captain, deployed as chief of medicine at a NATO hospital in Izmir, Turkey. After discharge, he completed a neurology residency and fellowship at Harvard. In 1970, he joined the University of Florida, where he became the James E. Rooks Jr. Professor of Neurology. For many years, he also served as chief of the neurology service at what is now the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Gainesville. He had a prolific literary career, writing and editing 22 books, more than 115 chapters and over 670 journal publications. Survivors include his wife, Patricia; three children; and five grandchildren.

Edward "Ned" A. Parrish Jr. (Engr '64, '66, '68) of Charlottesville died May 28, 2026. He served as an air traffic control instructor in the U.S. Air Force in the

1950s, inspiring his passion for electronics. He studied electrical engineering at UVA. He earned membership in Eta Kappa Nu, Tau Beta Pi and the Raven Society. He stayed at UVA as a professor, serving as the chair of the electrical and computer engineering department from 1978 to 1986. He was a recipient of UVA Engineering's Distinguished Alumni Award. He held national leadership positions in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and ABET (formerly the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). He was an early pioneer in pattern recognition and image processing. In 1987, he joined Vanderbilt University as the dean of the School of Engineering. In 1995, he became president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he remained until his retirement in 2004. Survivors include his wife, Shirley; four sons; two brothers; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

William Emmet Coleman Jr. (Grad '66 CM) of New York City and Florence, Italy, died March 31, 2026. He earned his master's in English literature from UVA after graduating from Providence College in 1965. He then earned his doctorate from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). He was professor emeritus of English at John Jay College of Criminal Justice at CUNY and of English and comparative literature at the CUNY Graduate Center, where he also chaired the Ph.D. program in comparative literature. His scholarship focused on medieval studies, particularly the works of Boccaccio and Chaucer. He co-published a critical edition of Boccaccio's *Teseida delle Nozze d'Emilia* based on manuscripts in Florence. Survivors include his wife, Edvige; three children, including **William Emmet Coleman III (Col '94, Darden '01 CM)** and **Daniela Coleman (Col '99 CM)**; a sister; and two grandsons.

William Herring Hancock (Col '66, Educ '72 CM) of Union, West Virginia, died March 18, 2026. At UVA, he studied English and was active in Theta Chi fraternity. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and returned to UVA for his master's in education after he completed his service. He returned to his hometown of Union, where he worked as a mental health counselor for the Monroe Health Center, later serving on its board of directors. He became the mayor of Union and took great pride in successful grant efforts to overhaul the town's municipal water system and to reconstruct and beautify its downtown. He was also the proprietor of a local floral business. Survivors include his brother and sister-in-law, four children, and 10 grandchildren.

Eugene Watson Chappell Jr. (Engr '67 CM) of Springfield, Virginia, died Feb. 16, 2026. At UVA, he was a member of Sigma Pi fraternity and the Naval ROTC. He lived on the Lawn in his fourth year and in the Crackerbox (an early Academical Village building) in his fifth year. After graduation, he served in the Navy for four years. During his military service, he was stationed on several submarines, including the USS Torsk. After his discharge from the Navy in 1972, he worked for several government contractors around Washington, D.C., including his own company, Science Engineering and Analysis, in the early 1980s. He loved playing tennis, golf and poker and was an avid reader of mystery novels. Survivors include his husband, Chuck; his sister, **Marilyn Chappell Woolard (Nurs '65)**; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Thomas R. Rumsey (Grad '69, '72) of Palmyra, Virginia, died April 20, 2026. He earned his master's and doctorate from UVA after completing his undergraduate education at Hamilton College. A gifted educator, he taught high school history for over 40 years, first at the Harrisburg Academy in Pennsylvania and later at Casady School in Oklahoma City. He was also the author of two textbooks on European history. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he worked as a college counselor, and he greatly enjoyed helping students identify colleges that would be a good match. Upon retirement, he moved to Palmyra, fulfilling a lifelong dream of owning a home in the woods with a personal library. He spent the bulk of his later years reading, writing, watching movies and collecting political cartoons. Survivors include two daughters, four siblings, two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

'70s

Blaise Andrew Angelico (Col '73 CM) of Metairie, Louisiana, died May 6, 2026. At UVA, he was a member of Zeta Psi fraternity and a Lawn resident. He went on to study medicine and received his medical degree from Louisiana State University. His career in internal medicine spanned multiple decades and touched thousands of lives. In retirement he enjoyed traveling overseas to explore European countries. While at home, he enjoyed gardening, reading, and spending time with family and friends. Survivors include his wife, Janet; his brother; two sons, including **Blaise M. Angelico (Col '04 CM)**; two daughters-in-law, including **Ashley A. Angelico (Com '04)**; and five grandchildren.

Edward G. Moore Jr. (Col '73 CM) of Martinsville, Virginia, died March 12, 2026. While at UVA, he played football and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He left UVA before graduation to serve in the Vietnam War, for which he was awarded honors including a Silver Star, a Bronze Star Medal with Valor and a Purple Heart. He then returned to UVA to finish his degree. He later earned a master's in education from the University of Georgia. After completing

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his education, he continued to serve in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of colonel. He served as a military attaché in Turkey and with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. After his military career, he taught government at the University of Texas, Brownsville. Survivors include his wife, Gloria; three children, including **Sara DeFoy (Col '01)**; and six grandchildren.

William Thomas "Tom" Zuk (Col '73) of Williamsburg, Virginia, died April 24, 2026. He earned his degree in religious studies at UVA, followed by a master's degree in architecture from Virginia Tech. He worked for 27 years as an architect in Northern Virginia, retiring in 2007. During that time, he co-authored *New Technologies: New Architecture* with his father, UVA professor emeritus William Zuk. He was also a visual artist and continued to experiment and evolve that craft throughout his life, creating numerous works in a variety of media. He worked in pen and ink, oil, acrylics, wood carving, and most recently in wood-cutout collages. His artwork was exhibited at galleries around Virginia, and several of his pieces were selected for juried art competitions. He loved kayaking, biking and babysitting his granddaughter. He is survived by his wife, Linda; three children; three siblings; and his granddaughter.

Sue Young Vodola (Educ '74) of Reston, Virginia, died Jan. 25, 2025. She completed her undergraduate education at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Massachusetts, where she met her husband, **Paul Vodola (Grad '76)**. The couple came to UVA for their graduate degrees. She worked as a teacher while studying for her master's degree, and after the couple moved to Northern Virginia, she found a career in Loudoun County Public Schools. Specializing in developmental reading, she was devoted to her students and fellow faculty members and was known for incorporating a sense of play in her classroom. She loved to travel, making several trips to Europe and annual trips to New England. A talented home decorator, she often adorned her home with mementos from her trips. She was predeceased by her husband. Survivors include her brother and his wife, two nephews, two cousins, and a sister-in-law.

Paul Vodola (Grad '76) of Reston, Virginia, died May 29, 2024. In 1970 he graduated from Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Massachusetts, where he met his wife, **Sue Young Vodola (Educ '74)**. They were married in 1971, when he had already lived for a year in Charlottesville. He had a long and fulfilling career at Systems Planning & Analysis in Alexandria, Virginia. He published many technical papers and several popular articles. In retirement, he put his extra time to use as an avid amateur genealogist; one of his findings was published in *The Mayflower Quarterly*. He enjoyed studying the piano and performing for nursing home audiences with fellow students. Survivors include his sister, his stepmother and stepsister, his brother-in-law, and a niece.

William Carlton White (Col '78) of Charlottesville and Chatham, Virginia, died March 7, 2026. Shortly before graduating from UVA, he began work in the research lab of Professor Donald W. Kupke in the biochemistry department, where Kupke became his mentor. This opportunity led to a 34-year career in molecular genomics research in the department. He adapted and maintained vital animal cell cultures as a member of the biomedical research lab of Joyce Hamlin, working to understand how mammalian genes replicate themselves. These foundational discoveries are now taught in medical school biology courses. He had various hobbies throughout his life, including building model rockets in his youth, riding dressage as a young man and gourmet cooking later in life. Survivors include two sisters and a niece.

'80s

Bruce Alpheus Harris (Col '80) of Manteo, North Carolina, died Dec. 17, 2025. At UVA, he studied mathematics. He worked as a procurement and operations manager for the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission in Richmond, Virginia, where he stayed for over four decades before his retirement to the Outer Banks of North Carolina in 2024. He loved strumming a guitar, rooting for the UVA basketball and football teams, cooking meals on the grill, and walking his beagle. He was predeceased by his brother **Chuck R. Harris (Col '75 CM)**. Survivors include his wife, Lockie; his son; and two siblings, including **Greg Harris (Engr '82 CM)**.

Cary Marriott (Col '80) of San Antonio, Texas, died Feb. 24, 2026. She studied English and French at UVA and was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. She worked for Condé Nast in New York City for more than a decade before taking a role at the Shaker Museum and Library in New York's Hudson Valley. She and her family lived in Provence, France, and Rome, and spent 11 years in Pittsburgh before moving to San Antonio in 2007. After more than 15 years as a full-time mom, she became the marketing director and later chief engagement officer at the San Antonio Museum of Art. Her feature stories and essays about food, culture and community appeared widely, including in *The New York Times*, *Gourmet* and *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. In 2001, NPR broadcast her essay about parenting while in Rome. She was a devoted caregiver to her mother and sister. Survivors include her husband, Jim Taylor; two children; and a sister and brother.

Mark A. Towery (Col '80) of Fairfax, Virginia, died March 9, 2026. He studied history at UVA and was the treasurer of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He earned his law degree from the College of William & Mary. After two years of service as a government attorney, he practiced

privately in Fairfax City for the remainder of his career, first with Sneed and Mims and then with Blankingship & Keith. He primarily represented the families of people killed or injured by dangerous products, transportation facilities and vehicular collisions, and was recognized in the 2018 *Best Lawyers in America* list as a Lawyer of the Year for product liability litigation. He was predeceased by his brother **O.B. Towery III (Col '67, Med '71)**. Survivors include four siblings, including **Sara Towery O'Hara (Col '78 CM)** and **Timothy Towery (Com '82 CM)**; and his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, including **Charles O'Hara (Col '80 CM)**.

Craig Siegenthaler (Col '87 CM) of Louisville, Kentucky, died May 18, 2026. At UVA, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta and T.I.L.K.A. He then studied at the University of Georgia School of Law and went on to have a 36-year law career. His last position was at Fisher Phillips in Louisville. *The Best Lawyers in America* twice recognized him as a Lawyer of the Year. He was very active in the Louisville community. For over a decade, he was on the board of USTA Kentucky and had a special commitment to their Raise a Racquet foundation. He coached youth soccer while his daughters were in elementary school. Survivors include his wife, **Jennifer Clower Siegenthaler (Col '85 CM)**; two daughters; his father; and two brothers.

James "Jim" M. Taylor Jr. (Com '88, Law '94) of Alexandria, Virginia, died June 14, 2026. At UVA, he was president of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. After a brief stint as an auditor, he returned to UVA to earn his law degree. He remained a devoted supporter of UVA for the rest of his life, tailgating at football games, serving on the Jefferson Trust and visiting Grounds often. He spent many years in investment banking, becoming executive vice president and CFO of Federal Realty Investment Trust. In 2016, he joined Brixmor Property Group as chief executive officer, remaining there until his retirement in 2025. In 2023, he served as chair of the International Council of Shopping Centers. Those who worked with him valued his empathy, kindness and integrity. He loved classic cars, particularly his 1964 Ford Thunderbird. Survivors include his wife, Alice; two daughters, including **Virginia Grace Taylor (Col '20)**; his mother; and his sister.

'90s

Amy Estes McCullough (Col '96 CM) of Charlottesville died April 24, 2026. She was an Echols Scholar who gave back to her community through volunteering with Madison House. After graduating, she studied law at Washington and Lee University. A respected attorney, she served as a trusts and estates lawyer and as a guardian ad litem in the Fredericksburg area. She was a past president of the Virginia Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and was once recognized as its lawyer of the year. She served on the board of the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region. She was also extensively involved in many other charitable groups in the Fredericksburg area, including the Fredericksburg Area Service League and the Washington Heritage Museums. Survivors include her husband, Stephen, and two sons.

Margaret Ashley "Meg" Saunders (Col '97 CM) of Richmond, Kentucky, died April 27, 2026. At UVA, she double-majored in music and psychology and played in the Charlottesville Symphony. She earned a Master of Music in violin performance and a Master of Arts in Teaching in music education from Eastern Kentucky University. She built her career in and around Lexington, Kentucky, as a longtime member of the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra and as a beloved private violin teacher, touching the lives of hundreds of students, from young children to those preparing for their master's recitals. She also taught at Centre College, Eastern Kentucky University and Transylvania University. She enjoyed gardening and celebrating birthdays and half-birthdays. She loved her cat and all things pink. Survivors include her father, **Wayne Saunders (Engr '71 CM)**; her mother; and her brother.

Jason Neil Rudolph (Engr '99 CM) of Durham, North Carolina, died May 21, 2026. He earned a computer science degree at UVA, where he was also a member of the men's rowing team. He worked for several startups, including Relevance and GitHub. He loved working with small teams of smart and driven developers and cherished the long-term friendships that grew from those working relationships. After leaving the corporate world, he founded his own company, Workshop 64, where he continued to build tools that he believed were missing from the software space. He created a web app, BuildPulse, which quickly sold on the open market. He then turned his focus to creating a scuba dive logging app, EveryDive, that he gifted to divers around the globe. Survivors include his wife, **Michelle (Kraft) Rudolph (Col '00)**.

'10s

George Dewey "Guy" Lyle III (Com '11 CM) died April 18, 2026. He embraced UVA to the fullest during his time as a student, joining the University Guide Service, the Hullabahoos a cappella group, Chi Phi fraternity and Naval ROTC. He lived on the Lawn his fourth year. Upon graduation, he was commissioned into the U.S. Navy, serving as a naval aviator and mission commander with Strike Fighter Squadron 211 (the Fighting Checkmates) from 2011 to 2018. He was awarded the Strike/Flight Air Medal in 2015 for his valor in combat. He then served at the Office of Naval Intelligence as an air warfare analyst and served as a White House military social aide. He retired from the Navy as a lieutenant. He had earned

graduate degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the Wharton School of Business. Survivors include his parents, **George Lyle (Med ’85 CM)** and **Donna Davenport Lyle (Col ’81 CM)**; his sister, **Elizabeth Lyle (Com ’07 CM)**; two nieces; and his girlfriend, Daniela.

Richard Leiter Johnston III (Col ’13 CM) of Alexandria, Virginia, died April 19, 2026. As a member of Phi Delta Theta, he founded a charity basketball tournament, Hoop Dreams, to support Habitat for Humanity and the Boys and Girls Club. The event still runs today. He began his distinguished military career after graduation. He served as a platoon leader in the 25th Infantry, where he led soldiers in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel in Afghanistan in 2016. He later passed the grueling Special Forces Qualification Course, becoming a Green Beret. As a Special Forces Detachment Commander, he was deployed to the Philippines, where he worked with local security forces to combat terrorist groups. He completed many of the most rigorous schools in the U.S. military. He received numerous awards recognizing his outstanding leadership and contributions to security. Loved ones remember his sense of humor, impressive karaoke skills and easy smile. Survivors include his parents and two sisters.

Jason Matthew Diamond (Nurs ’14) of Rocklin, California, died April 4, 2026. Before studying at UVA, he moved from California to Charlottesville, where he worked as a nursing aide and medical assistant. He volunteered with the Western Albemarle Rescue Squad and became an EMT with the University of Virginia Medical Center. He then was accepted into UVA’s nursing program and earned his bachelor’s in nursing. He began his nursing career at UVA Medical Center’s cardiac ICU before moving back to his hometown of Rocklin to be closer to his daughter. He flourished within the Sutter Health system in California and loved caring for his patients. He was a gifted natural athlete and loved watching sports, especially the Detroit Lions. He lived with his three beloved dogs. Along with his daughter, survivors include his parents and many loving extended family members.

Martha Grace Hale (Col ’14) of Louisa, Virginia, died Feb. 3, 2026. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in history from UVA and pursued her passion for medieval studies at the University of Toronto. She then earned her master’s in library science at the University of Maryland. She joined the staff of the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at UVA in 2023. Her interest in history was surpassed only by her commitment to helping others in her field. She was known for her kindness and passion for animal caretaking. Survivors include her husband, Stephen; her parents; two sisters; her brothers-in-law; and two nephews; as well as a large extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins.

’20s

Braden Thomas Cuttler (Col ’20) of Herndon, Virginia, died Dec. 18, 2025. At UVA, he studied international relations. He interned for U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine and supported multiple causes to uplift marginalized people. He served on four different mission trips to renovate housing for those in need. He was an avid adventurer who visited 25 countries and 45 states in his lifetime. He loved biking, kayaking, hiking and road trips, and had a deep and lifelong appreciation for nature. He was an Eagle Scout. Loved ones remember him as a welcoming and uplifting person who had friends of all ages and backgrounds. Survivors include his parents; his sister; his grandmothers; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Donovan Johnson Sr. (Col ’24) of Gretna, Louisiana, died May 25, 2026. A native of Marrero, Louisiana, he studied at UVA, where he played as a safety on the football team, appearing in 15 games. His first year, he was one of 12 “true freshmen” to play in a game. He double majored in African American and African Studies and American Studies. He was a proud brother of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and served as its president. Loved ones remember him as a joy and an inspiration who had a smile that could light up a room. Survivors include his son; his mother; his stepfather; his grandfather; his siblings; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Faculty and Friends

J. David Deck of Charlottesville died April 2, 2026. A researcher and graduate student at Princeton University who studied limb regeneration in amphibians, he came to the UVA School of Medicine’s anatomy department in 1954. He later moved to the Department of Cell Biology. In his 46-year teaching career at UVA, he taught anatomy and histology to over 6,000 first-year medical students, receiving several teaching awards from students and faculty. In recognition of his scholastic work and service to the university, he was selected to become a member of the Raven Society. Additionally, he published research on structures of the aortic valve and heart tissues. He was a lover of music, a world traveler and a family historian. Survivors include his daughter; his sons, **J. David Deck Jr. (Col ’82 CM)** and **Stewart L. Deck (Col ’92)**; and his daughters-in-law **Patricia Faszewski Deck (Col ’82)** and **Elizabeth Rogerson Deck (Col ’91 CM).**

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Retrospect



VARSITY, HAULED

Underappreciated structure escaped demolition with a 2005 relocation

BY ED MILLER

In the early 2000s, Varsity Hall sat perched on a hillside southeast of the Lawn, out of sight and out of sync with its surroundings.

"It was a building everybody kind of loved to hate," says **Mary Hughes (Arch '87)**, who served as UVA's landscape architect from 1996 until her retirement in 2022. "It was clearly a different style, a different era, was not even on the Jefferson grid of the rest of the Grounds."

Built in 1858 as UVA's first infirmary, Varsity Hall served in that capacity for 43 years, and then slid into obscurity over the next 100.

"It has survived because it was forgotten," wrote the authors of a 2003 historic structure report on the building. "It is located out of sight, surrounded by other buildings constructed over the last century."

It was one thing to be out of sight, and quite another to be in the way. In 2003, Varsity, then home to the Air Force ROTC, stood smack-dab in the path of a planned expansion of Rouss Hall, located directly to the west.

It appeared that Varsity Hall would have to be demolished, Hughes says. First, though, the building's story needed to be documented, via that historic structure report.

The findings surprised almost everyone, Hughes says.

"Varsity Hall had this remarkable history nobody had even guessed at before," she says. "It became impossible to justify tearing it down."

With demolition off the table, only one option remained: Varsity Hall, so long neglected, was going for a ride, 185 feet downhill, to a new home on Hospital Drive.

At first glance, Varsity seemed an unlikely candidate for salvation. Written by John G. Waite Associates, Architects, the report began:

"A historic building is often considered worth saving if it is aesthetically important, or associated with a famous person. Varsity Hall falls into neither of these categories." →

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Designed by William Pratt, who was UVA's first supervisor of buildings and grounds, Varsity Hall was the first purpose-built college infirmary on any American campus, according to UVA's historic preservation framework plan.

Instead, Varsity Hall's significance was as a rare surviving example of one of the first "modern" buildings, using the emerging technology of heating, ventilation and plumbing systems.

Designed by William Pratt, who was UVA's first supervisor of buildings and grounds, Varsity Hall was the first purpose-built college infirmary on any American campus, according to UVA's historic preservation framework plan. It owed its existence to the periodic typhoid epidemics that plagued UVA. Outbreaks in June and November 1857 resulted in the deaths of 19 students and the suspension of classes in the spring of 1858, according to "Varsity Hall: The Infirmary at the University of Virginia," a 2008 article written in the *Journal of American College Health*.

The cause of the outbreaks was not known, although the miasma theory, widely subscribed to at the time, held that poor hygiene, lack of proper ventilation and stagnant water were culprits, the article said.

Accordingly, Varsity was built with an innovative central heating system, louvered and retractable windows that improved ventilation, and attic cisterns that collected rainwater runoff and piped it to the bathrooms. It integrated architecture and engineering in a way that made it a "state-of-the-art 'machine' for healing," **Jody Lahendro (Arch '82)**, a retired preservation architect at UVA, wrote in an email.

Built in the Italianate style, it was part of a construction boom during a period of growth at the university. Varsity was also the first significant structure built off the Jeffersonian grid, not parallel to the Lawn. It was oriented to the northeast to capture the prevailing winds, Hughes says.

Students paid a $5 annual "infirmary tax" to cover the building's operating costs and staff salaries. Though it is not well documented, it's believed the infirmary was one of the UVA buildings co-opted for use as a Confederate hospital during the Civil War.

For several decades, Varsity sat alone. "Imagine Varsity as a freestanding building sitting in a sort of romantic landscape on a hillside," says **Brian Hogg (Col '83)**, senior historic preservation planner for the Office of the Architect.

As UVA grew, the neighborhood got crowded. By 1899, Rouss Hall had risen to the west, Randall to the north and Cabell (now Old Cabell) to the southwest.

"The Lawn sort of turned its back on Varsity Hall," Hogg says.

Soon after, Varsity lost its purpose. When the university hospital opened to patients in 1901, UVA no longer needed an infirmary. The "Old Infirmary," as it was called in the early 20th century, became, in succession, a fraternity house, a home for nurses, a dorm for student-athletes (hence its renaming in 1919), a home for faculty, and finally, in the 1950s, the home of the Air Force ROTC.

Varsity Hall was still serving that purpose when the McIntire School of Commerce announced plans to expand Rouss Hall as part of the school's move back to the Lawn. McIntire was not interested in incorporating the building into its expansion plans, Hughes says.

"At the time, the only history the UVA community valued was connected to Thomas Jefferson," she says. "And this building clearly was not."

Ironically, the fact that Varsity had been ignored for so long helped save it from demolition. Even so, contrary to appearances, it was not headed downhill before it was moved down the hill.

"Building finishes have been neglected for years," the authors of the 2003 historic structure report wrote. "This has led to the erroneous impression that Varsity Hall is in poor condition."

In fact, Varsity Hall was remarkably well-preserved. Though it had gotten ad hoc updates over the years, the features that made it historically significant—its original cast-iron furnace, wooden ductwork, freshwater cistern system, cast-iron kitchen stove, and four-track window and shade systems—were still intact.

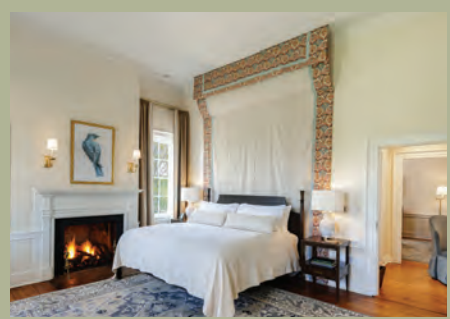
The surprises that were revealed in the report on Varsity Hall raised the question of what other buildings might have been underappreciated, Hughes says. In 2006, UVA developed a Historic Framework Preservation Plan with the goal of taking inventory of the university's entire post-Jefferson

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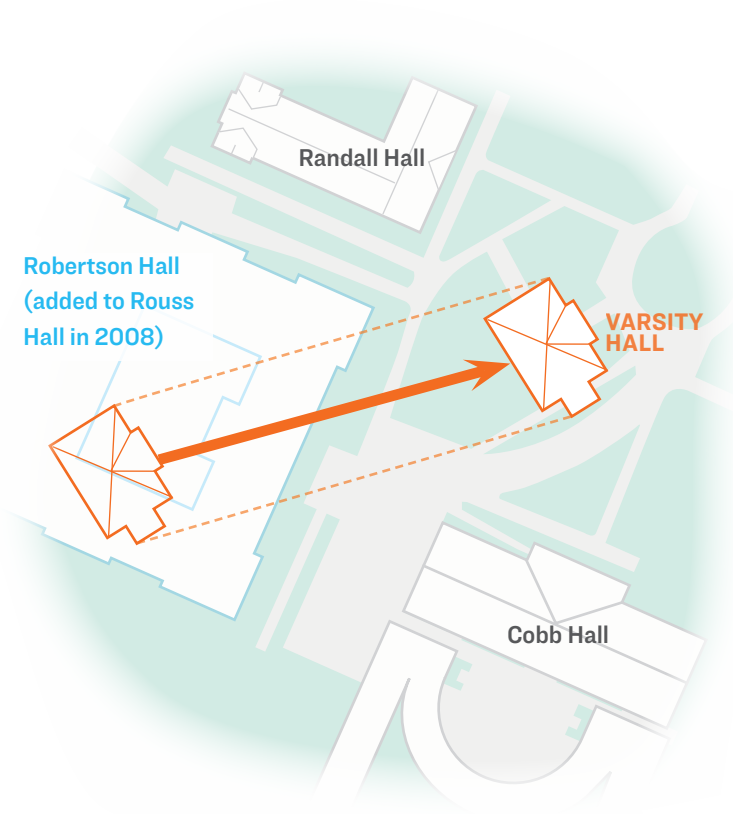
built environment. The plan, updated periodically, informs conversations about future development of Grounds by ranking buildings based on their contributions to the university's history, the quality of their original design, their integrity and their current condition.

"The realization that we had this building that probably would be a National Historic Landmark on any other campus that was completely disregarded and planned to be demolished was a wake-up call that we should really look at a broader history of UVA and these buildings," Hughes says.

Once it was decided that Varsity Hall had to move, the question became: Where? A site at the foot of Hospital Drive was chosen for its proximity, just 185 feet to the northeast. Moving the building farther away would have involved removing overhead utility wires, Hughes says.

Still, it was a massive undertaking, requiring months of preparation. Although the building was in good shape structurally, problems arose. The tower on the east wing was not attached to the main building, so the two pieces had to be cabled together. The windows had to be removed and the gaps between the walls filled with mortar.

The contractor, Expert House Movers, drilled holes in the building's exterior walls, a few feet above the ground, and threaded heavy steel beams through them to support the structure from beneath. They then jacked the building 4 feet off its foundation and demolished the portion remaining below.



> **"The realization that we had this building that probably would be a National Historic Landmark on any other campus that was completely disregarded and planned to be demolished was a wake-up call that we should really look at a broader history of UVA and these buildings."**
>
> ***—longtime UVA landscape architect Mary Hughes***

Workers slid 19 dollies beneath the building. Each had eight wheels powered by a hydraulic motor. The entire rig was operated by a joystick, says Expert House Movers founder Jerry Matyiko.

With joystick in hand, Matyiko got behind the building and began walking slowly down a gravel slope prepared for the building to descend on the morning of April 9, 2005.

Shortly after he started, the building began sinking into wet gravel. Workers put down wooden boards to provide better traction. Traveling the first 30 feet took three hours.

The pace picked up to a foot per minute before the wheels began sliding—and pulling the bulldozers anchoring the building from behind. Workers put chocks under the wheels to stop the building before setting off again, pausing every two feet.

Hogg was among those watching when the building finally rolled into place in the late afternoon.

"They had a plumb bob tied to one corner of the building to make sure it wasn't tilting, and they had an X on the concrete where that corner of the building needed to land. When the plum bob was on the X, they stopped moving."

The relocation was featured on an episode of the Discovery Channel program *Mega Moves*. When the building came to a halt on its new site, cheers rang out from spectators.

"It's not going anywhere, anymore, nowhere for 100 years!" Matyiko said at the time.

Renovated after being relocated, Varsity is now the home of UVA's Office of the Vice President for Research. A booklet in the lobby details the building's defining features and 168-year history.

It's a moving account.

Ed Miller is senior writer at Virginia Magazine.

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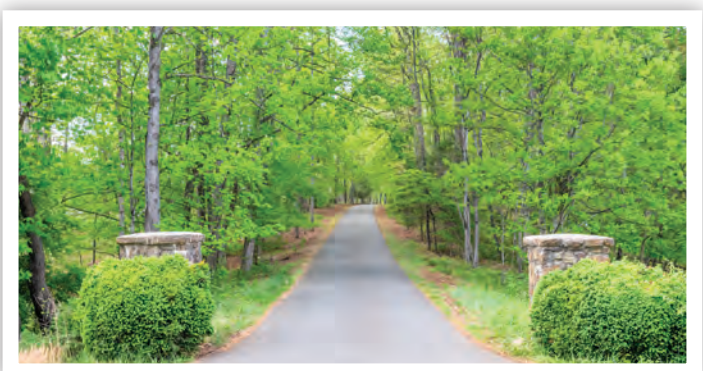




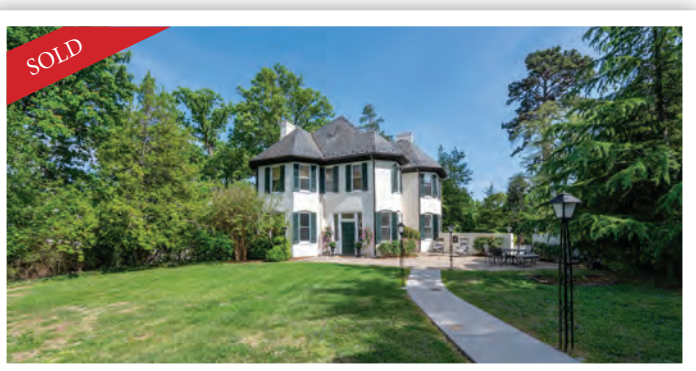


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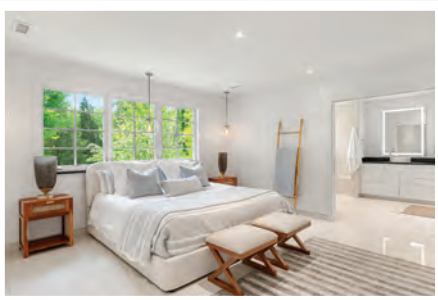
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