VIRGINIA

SUMMER 2024



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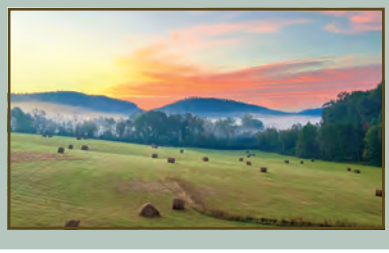
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1414 Waldemar Drive • $5,950,000

Sited amongst massive oak trees, this dazzling home enjoys incredible views of rolling hills & mountains beyond. Great room soars to 31' w/ walls of glass to take in the views. 1st flr master plus add'l 1st flr suite that doubles as an office. 3 bedrm suites up & guest suite in the basement. Large, covered rear porch & horizon pool. Features incl' wide plank oak flooring, geothermal HVAC, home gym, & butler's pantry. Comprised of two 21 acre parcels w/ 2 entrances & can be subdivided. Large, multi-purpose barn w/ half bath, devoted septic. Horse friendly land w/ creek. Fiber optic internet. 12 mins to town, Boar's Head, Farmington et al. MLS# 649482

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Greenfields is an historic Southern Albemarle hunting & farming estate suited to equestrians, wing shooters, deer hunters & anyone who wants to take advantage of the fertile croplands. The centerpiece of this storied property is a c.1905 manor home offering 12' ceilings, incredible woodwork, massive windows, endless fireplaces & modern luxuries. 3 modern, 1 bed apts in excellent condition. 25 mins from Charlottesville. Along Ballenger Creek sits the remains of Boiling Springs Grist Mill, constructed in 1780 to grind local landowners' corn & whole wheat w/ millstones imported from Italy. 2 div. rights. Add'l 258 acres avail. MLS# 650686

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STUNNING MODERN FARMHOUSE IN THE HEART OF KESWICK ESTATE COUNTRY



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$3,775,000

Comprised of 3 parcels & 3 accessory dwellings in the heart of Keswick Estate Country, this stunning farmhouse offers modern design & warm character on 35 acres. Features incl' great room with 10' ceilings, wooden beams & custom-made barn doors to frame the views, 1st flr primary, Miele chef's kitchen, geothermal HVAC & 42K generator, terrace level w/ 11' ceilings, custom bar & movie theater. Resort-style lawn w/ heated saltwater pool & covered cabana. 6-stall barn w/ attached 3-bed residence, 4 paddocks w/ run-in sheds & 150' x 255' riding ring. Not under easement. Fiber internet. Privacy & serenity just mins from Keswick Club amenities, UVA & Downtown. Rebecca White (434) 531-5097. MLS# 651580

c. 1856 TREASURE IN GREEN SPRINGS



OAKLEIGH • $3,950,000

Circa 1856, Oakleigh is a renovated, turn-key estate incl' 149 manicured acres w/ 2 ponds in the heart of the Green Springs Historic District. The home enjoys total tranquility w/ no road exposure & has been carefully modernized & renovated to incl' 3 beds, 2.5 baths & endless charm. Other structures incl' smokehouse, barn, chicken coop & equipment shed. All dependencies have water & electricity. Under Conservation easement w/ 1 division right. Fiber optic! MLS# 649582

PRISTINE C&O ROW HOME W/ VIEWS



1075 E WATER STREET • $1,869,000

Completed in 2017 to the highest quality standards, this sleek Downtown home is a completely walkable (or bike-able) city lifestyle. Located a few blocks to the Downtown Mall, Belmont & Midtown, this pristine 3 bed, 2 full plus 2 half bath home offers the best of Charlottesville's downtown lifestyle. Unusual for C&O Row, 1075 offers a 4th floor w/ den, half bath & 2nd kitchen for entertaining on the adj. terrace. Elevator accesses all levels. 2 garage spaces plus private parking behind. MLS# 651026

CHARACTER IN MEADOWBROOK HILLS



1335 HILLTOP ROAD • $1,650,000

Storybook cottage located on one of Charlottesville's loveliest streets often admired for its charm & curb appeal. Hardwood floors, built-ins, sun-filled rooms, fireplace, & multiple outdoor living areas. Upstairs are 3 beds, 2 full baths, ample closets & lots of windows! Main floor boasts spacious living & dining rms, 4th bedrm, kitchen, full bath & screened porch. Terrace level offers add'l bath, laundry rm, & home office. Tommy Brannock (434) 981-1486. MLS# 650962

EXCEPTIONAL DOWNTOWN LIVING



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Located a block from the Historic Pedestrian Mall, this 2 bed, 2.5 bath residence offers 2,600+ sq ft of refined living space where one room flows into the other. Garage parking & elevator access ensure a hassle-free lifestyle. Chef's kitchen boasts top-of-the-line appliances complemented by a spacious center island. Primary suite w/ cozy sitting area or office & primary bath features walk-in shower & deep soaking tub. Sunroom, stone terrace & expansive views from every room. Lindsay Milby (434) 962-9148. MLS# 651436

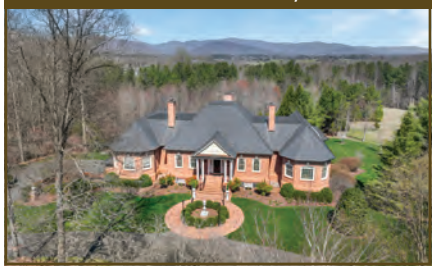
GORGEOUS HOME IN COVETED NEIGHBORHOOD



1946 LEWIS MOUNTAIN ROAD • $1,250,000

Nestled in the highly coveted Lewis Mountain neighborhood, this home offers unparalleled convenience. Beautifully renovated & updated 4 bed, 3.5 bath city bungalow exuding historic charm & modern comfort in one of the most desirable neighborhoods. Sunlight floods spacious interiors, highlighting original details alongside contemporary upgrades. Airy, open front porch w/ new roof & flat, fenced backyard—perfect for outdoor entertaining & gardening. A dream home. Meredith Wynne (434) 444-2048

1-LEVEL LUXURY LIVING W/ ELEVATOR



6385 INDIAN RIDGE DRIVE • $2,495,000

Grand elegance in Indian Springs: Stately home w/ elevator & 2-car garage offers 1-level living w/ timeless appeal & luxurious amenities. High ceilings, ornate trim details, dramatic staircase & built-in cabinetry throughout. Seamless flow from living areas to screened porch. Kitchen is the heart of the home w/ plenty of counterspace. Multiple auxiliary rooms, incl' home gym. High ceilings, spacious rooms, & high quality construction. Tommy Brannock (434) 981-1486. MLS# 650968

245 ACRE ESTATE PARCEL ON BALLENGER CREEK



0 GREENFIELD FARM • $1,995,000

This stunning & storied tract offers unparalleled privacy & tranquility w/ multiple strong building sites w/ commanding, panoramic views of the countryside. Long frontage on bold Ballenger Creek, the land is rife w/ wildlife incl' deer, quail, turkey, dove & ducks. Along Ballenger Creek sits the remains of Boiling Springs Grist Mill. The mill has been owned or visited by many prominent Virginians into the mid 1900's. 25 mins from Downtown. Under conservation easement with 2 division rights. MLS# 650901

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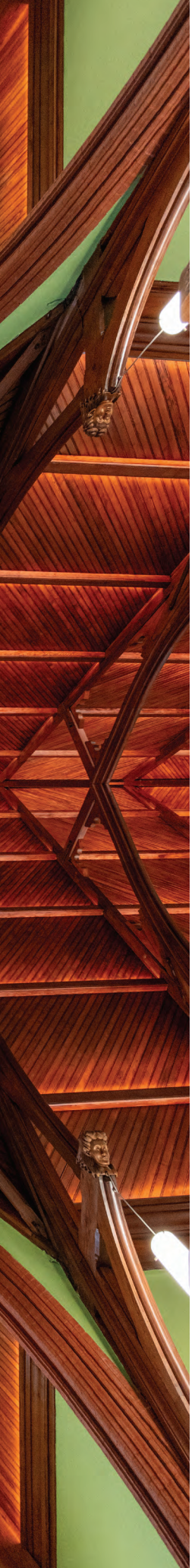
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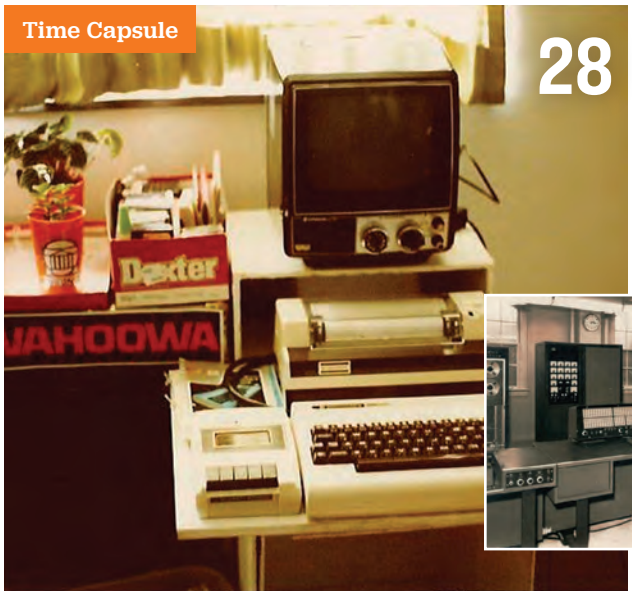
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Photo illustration by Adam Ewing and Steve Hedberg

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⬥ EDGEMONT ⬥

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



⬥ FARMINGTON ⬥

Elegant stone residence in Farmington Country Club on 5 acres with breathtaking Blue Ridge Mountain views. Balancing privacy and convenience, it's close to Charlottesville, UVA, and club amenities. Includes guesthouse, separate office, garage, pool, koi pond, and 2 garden houses. Crafted with exquisite detail, this 5-bedroom home epitomizes luxury living. MLS#650584 $5,975,000 Tim Michel, 434.960.1124



⬥ BENTIVAR MANOR ⬥

Explore this magnificent brick home, privately situated on 88 lush acres less than 5 miles from the city. Perfectly maintained, this expansive residence features 7 bedrooms and over 11,000 sq ft of living space. The estate boasts a diverse mix of pastures and wooded areas, significant Rivanna River frontage, and numerous trails for outdoor adventures. Jim Faulconer, 434.981.0076 or Will Faulconer, 434.987.9455



⬥ WILLOWFIELDS ⬥

Stunning custom farmhouse on 156 acres overlooking a pond and the rolling hills of Albemarle. Gorgeous professional kitchen, luxurious his and her bathrooms, and a light-filled great room with dramatic cathedral ceiling. Beautiful hand hewn timber, posts and beams, stone fireplaces, and covered patio. Charming log party barn with suite of amenities. $4,900,000 Court Nexsen (Rep. Seller), Mark Mascotte (Rep. Buyer) 434.825.8610



⬥ HIGHER GROUND ⬥

Palatial country estate situated on magnificent 27 acre mountaintop setting at 4,100 ft elevation, surrounded by 9,000 acres of permanent wilderness. Exceptional custom home over 11,400 sf featuring large rooms, high ceilings, 8 BR, 6.5 BA, many outside terraces and decks, breathtaking 360 degree views! 10 miles to famed Omni Homestead Resort. Jim & Will Faulconer, 434.981.0076 www.highergroundva.org



⬥ FARMINGTON ⬥

Exceptionally well-located Farmington Country Club residence on more than two landscaped acres. This five bedroom home provides a gracious main level bedroom suite, elegant living room with floor to ceiling windows, wood paneled library, renovated kitchen, covered rear porch, and terraced outdoor spaces overlooking gardens, a pool, and private backyard. $4,200,000 Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700

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◆ FIELDS OF BOAZ ◆

A country French estate custom built in 2003 on 24 acres in the heart of Ivy less than a mile from Duner's. A combination of timeless charm and modern luxury with soaring ceilings, spacious primary suite, guest quarters, home office, wine cellar, three-levels of well-appointed space. Wonderful views of the large pond, rolling countryside, and expansive terraces. Two unique, well-conditioned outbuildings. Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700



◆ TORRES FARM ◆

Discover this stunning 175-acre estate featuring a mix of pastures, hayfields, wooded areas with trails, and extensive Hardware River frontage. Located just over 10 miles from Charlottesville, the property includes a beautifully maintained 4-bedroom residence, mostly on one level, surrounded by three cottages, an office, a studio, exquisite gardens, and a pool. $3,200,000 Jim Faulconer, 434.981.0076 or Will Faulconer, 434.987.9455



◆ MEADOW FARM ◆

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



◆ MILL HOUSE ◆

Former house of noted local architect Floyd E. Johnson. Today, the beautifully and thoughtfully renovated and expanded home is a delightful 5-BR, 3 full and 2 half bath home graced by numerous FPs, modern-day kitchen and baths. Guest house, 2-bay garage, pool, equipment shed on 130 acres. Located on the banks of Totier Creek, which runs through the property. MLS#639196 $2,245,000 Court Nexsen, 646.660.0700



◆ FOR WATERS ◆

133.77-acre land tract in scenic Madison County, near Graves Mountain Lodge, with Rose and Robinson trout rivers nearby. Adjacent to Shenandoah National Forest, Camp Hoover, with Old Rag views. Includes cottage, barns, fenced, under conservation easement. MLS#650696 $2,200,000 Jim Faulconer, 434.981.0076 or Will Faulconer, 434.987.9455



◆ HIGH FIELDS ◆

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

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The View From the High Dive



That's **Gretchen Walsh (Com '25)** on the cover, collegiate swimming's woman of the year, who gave the performance of a generation at the spring NCAA Division 1 Championships.

You're seeing her through the lens of Adam Ewing. As she demonstrated the hydrodynamic beauty of her record-setting butterfly, our photographer lay on his belly over the edge of the UVA Aquatic & Fitness Center high dive to capture it. Hanging over Ewing, and hunched over a laptop, was *Virginia Magazine* Creative Director Steve Hedberg, watching as fresh images populated his design template.

As rarely happens, we knew going in what our cover line would say. The words "Crazy Fast," in combination and each on its own, distill the constituent elements of head coach Todd DeSorbo's unconventional approach to collegiate swimming—controlled chaos producing unmitigated speed.



RICHARD GARD

The challenge was how to convey that visually. In some sense we picked the exact wrong exemplar. Walsh's sprint records give her credible claim as the fastest woman in history, but so much of her speed comes from her maximal underwater kick—a perfect streamline that, confound it, creates no observable disturbance.

Overhead shots of her racing start off the blocks were simply astounding but didn't suit our purposes either. With a barely discernable ripple, she disappears into the water, like a magic trick.

We struck gold with the power of Walsh's butterfly and backstroke, as we hope she will do in Paris this summer. She told us her rangy backstroke comes from being double-jointed. You'll find Ewing's freeze frame of it inside, part of our profile of the DeSorbo era of UVA swimming, beginning on Page 44.

As you can gather, it was a lengthy photo shoot. We imposed on Walsh, an Academic All-American, just two weeks before exams and not many more weeks before the U.S. Olympic trials. She could not have been more gracious, including climbing up to the diving platform to confer with Ewing and Hedberg.

In that respect, she was a perfect exemplar of UVA Swimming & Diving. The coaches granted us unfettered access to the athletes, the practices and themselves. Most of the interviews took place during spring break because, sadly, swimmers don't really get one; at their elite level, there is no off-season.

To tell the story of Power Rack Day, assistant coach Joe Bonk helped me go several rounds with one of the rigs myself. Space and pride prevent a fuller report on that wild experience. By the next day my rotator cuff and I could write again.

UVA Swimming's small but mighty fan base—swim parents and diehard alumni—could not have been more welcoming either. I learned more about the sport embedded with them in the stands at the NCAAs in Athens, Georgia, than impersonating a sportswriter in the media section. After the meet, they let me join them back at the hotel for the team's late-night victory dinner.

There, Katherine Nelson, mother of swimmer **Ella Nelson (Educ '23, Com '24),** struck a familiar theme, recalling those meetings with the coach in the early days, when all DeSorbo had to show recruits were the strength of his convictions and the power of his personality. "Todd was undeniable. He was someone who these girls wanted to swim for," she said.

In his own remarks, DeSorbo didn't look back. He looked ahead. Before anybody had cut into the sheet cake to savor 2024, he was already talking about 2025. It seemed a little crazy, and awfully fast.

Richard Gard (Col '81)
Editor & Vice President for Communications

VOX ALUMNI

Letters



LET THERE BE LIT

Lovely article, great pics. I can hardly wait to see the newly renovated Shannon Library!

Please tell us about the worker bees. Where do employees and administrators fit into the new plan? I was employed there for several years and went from the cataloging space down to the basement to retrieve the Latin American collection that was in storage. It was close to the loading dock and quite the experience!

Marleen Berry Hansen (Grad '71)
Charlotte, North Carolina

My memory of the library during my years from 1963 to 1968 is that it was a quiet place to study. There were no lounges.

Richard Carle (Col '67, Grad '68)
Medford, Massachusetts

RENOVATING THE NAME, TOO

Thank you for this excellent explanation of the research and logic that went into renaming the library. I appreciate the description of President Alderman's many accomplishments along with the explanation of his views on eugenics based on his own words. Both presidents were visionaries, and it's now time to honor the University president who moved us forward to this century. I plan to share this article with fellow alumni who may have missed it. Thank you, Professor Suarez and committee members, for this outstanding work.

Pamela F. Sprouse (Col '78)
Charlottesville

Thanks for the fine article on the remodeled library and the stimulating renaming discussion.

I worked in Alderman and spent a lot of time there—fantastical days that certainly feel like half a century ago. I still support what those days on the Grounds were about for so much of the community, and I am also happy to see the building renamed for Mr. Shannon.

Chris Klein (Col '72)
Eldorado Springs, Colorado

I have the fondest memories of Alderman Library and welcome its renaming to honor President Shannon. To my good fortune, I had the opportunity to frequent the library seemingly seven days a week during my three years as a graduate student in American history. I had my favorite spaces depending upon my intended task given a particular day. When I last visited Charlottesville two years ago, I was awed by the massive reconstruction work underway.

Libraries require renewal as the years go by, and I am most appreciative that the University pursued this elemental project for the benefit of students and faculty as well as visiting scholars as we approach the second quarter of the 21st century.

Michael H. Ebner (Grad '66, '74)
James D. Vail III Professor Emeritus of American history, Lake Forest College
Lake Forest, Illinois

The University was shut down. It was shortly after Kent State in early May 1970, and I was completing my first year of law school. I was asked to be a legal marshal, given an armband and asked to help keep order on the Grounds. I was standing on the steps of the Rotunda when President Shannon approached the top of the stairs and the crowd quieted down. He began to speak, eloquently and sincerely. He denounced the war in Vietnam. He showed courage and character. President Shannon stood with the students during this highly charged and historic moment. The response from those on the steps was surprised and respectful. As he finished his remarks and headed back down the stairs, I had a chance to shake his hand and thank him. I said to him that so much of this could have been avoided if other university presidents showed the same vision and understanding he showed that evening. I so clearly remember that moment and the pride I felt as a member of UVA.

Barry Bryer (Law '72)
New York, New York

Thanks so much for your article. Edgar Shannon was the University president during my eight years in Charlottesville, during what were certainly tumultuous times. I was one of the possibly 4,000 people sitting on the Lawn on that very warm May afternoon when Shannon gave the speech that has come to define his tenure.

My recollection is that he did much

CORRECTION

Global development is a sub-major of global studies; 220 students graduated in global studies in 2023, making it the sixth most popular major. Also, 161 students graduated that year in both the interdisciplinary statistics and statistics majors combined, making that topic the ninth most popular that year. The Spring 2024 story "Major Shifts" contained incorrect information.

more than just denounce the Vietnam War. He also encouraged all of us in attendance, as well as the entire University community, to continue our academic pursuits and invited us to see the larger picture of an academic community that valued truth above other considerations. His statements about the war seemed to me to acknowledge the validity of the war protests and the unspeakable violence at Kent State, indicating that the protests had been heard. But the bigger message was that once he agreed that those were indeed terrible times, it was best for us all to get back to the work that had brought us to the University. That seemed like a valuable lesson as we all departed—mostly peacefully—the Lawn that day. And most people did get back to work.

My memory of the speech is that it was masterful, and not confined to the passions of the day.

George Garmany (Col '69, Med '73)
Berthoud, Colorado

Thank you for this article. As a UVA alumnus and a local Charlottesville resident who happens to live on Alderman Road, the context that the story provides to the history of the University and the legacies of Edwin Alderman and Edgar Shannon was →

Thank you for the thorough, thoughtful and elegant piece explaining how the University came to the decision to remove Edwin Alderman's name from the school's flagship library and to rename it for Edgar Shannon. I began reading the article skeptical, but concluded convinced the University had made the right decision.

Tearing down monuments—both the cast bronze ones and the honorific ones—is a delicate (damning?) enterprise in Charlottesville, perhaps more than anywhere else in America. And that's probably as it should be, given that maybe no American more than the University's founder, Mr. Jefferson, personifies the intellectual and moral tension between the people we are versus the people we aspire to be—and therefore the leaders one generation honors versus subsequent leaders whose work exceeds the aspirations (or doubts) of their predecessors.

In the pursuit of a "more perfect University," Mr. Jefferson might well support the notion that truths deemed self-evident by one era could evolve and that a subsequent generation's more expansive truths are equally self-evident and worthy of monumental recognition.

As (white, male) Virginians understood the University's mission during Edwin Alderman's time, he merited the recognition the library afforded him. As Richard Gard explained, though, Virginians today—of diverse backgrounds and perspectives—would see in Edgar Shannon's character and accomplishments a refreshed set of self-evident truths that Virginians, indeed Americans, can embrace for decades to come.

MIKE MORIARTY (GRAD '91)
Charlottesville



After four years and $161 million of construction, Alderman Library reopened to students in January with a conspicuous item still on the punch list—the name over the door. The space is blank.

John M. Unsworth (Grad '88), the dean of the libraries, had petitioned for the made-over building to be named for someone other than Edwin Anderson Alderman, the University of Virginia's first president, a figure who was larger than life in his day but whose embrace of eugenics makes him problematic in ours.

Unsworth made his request almost three years ago. A blue-ribbon committee devoted close to two of those years to studying the question and formulating a recommendation. It has proposed transferring the marquee honor to a similarly pivotal University president, Edgar F. Shannon Jr. In his 1959-to-1974 term, he worked to integrate UVA, brought about full coeducation and, amid the turmoil of the Vietnam antiwar protests, earned acclaim for keeping the academic year, the premises and the First Amendment all intact.

After months of consideration, the Board of Visitors said it would vote on the recommendation by March 1, in time for the library's official grand opening five weeks hence.

It's the most consequential commemorative naming decision the Board will have taken up since the University began reevaluating the iconography of Grounds over the past several years. No previous issue has involved a building as prominent as the main library or a personage as central to UVA history as Alderman.

It would mark something of a precedent for Shannon too, a major step-up in his recognition on Grounds. In 2013, the University affixed his name to one of the three just-completed new-new dorms, adding him to a crowd of namesakes beside Lile-Maupin and Tuttle-Dunnington, all located, in fact, off Alderman Road.

PUTTING THE NAME IN PLAY

Unsworth submitted his request to Michael F. Suarez, the English professor and Rare Book School director who chairs the Naming and Memorials Committee. Members include former law dean and UVA presidential counselor **John C. Jeffries Jr. (Law '73)**; former University Rector **Frank M. "Rusty" Conner III (Col '78, Law '81)**; former Alumni Association Board of Managers Chair **Meredith B. Jenkins (Col '93)**; two historians; and current and recent student leaders.

Suarez, a Jesuit priest with multiple graduate degrees, put them through their paces. Unsworth's submission included a 27-page white paper on Alderman that retired UVA history professor Phyllis Leffler had prepared. The committee didn't simply check her citations; it went to her sources, and then to *her* sources' sources. After consulting **Gregory Michael Dorr's (Grad '94, '00)** cited book on eugenics in Virginia, *Segregation's Science*, the committee retrieved the UVA doctoral dissertation that underlay it, and then it had him present to the committee himself.

"We understood the seriousness of the [renaming] request," Suarez says. "The committee very much didn't want to, as it were, take anybody's word for it. We wanted to do the work ourselves."

He divided committee members into pairs and gave out assignments. No one was spared. "So, there's Rusty Conner, the former rector of the University of Virginia, sitting in Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections, turning over pages in the Alderman papers," Suarez says. "And this was iterated over and over again."

A NATIONAL FIGURE

The UVA naming policy, the standards the Suarez committee applies, dates to 2008 with several revisions since. Working in Alderman's favor as UVA's first and longest-serving president are the policy's "strong preference" to honor "administrators," among others, "who have had long, close, and valued associations with the University" and its desire to "recognize distinguished or exceptional levels of achievement."

Alderman took on the newly created post of University president in the fall of 1904 having already established a reputation as one of the South's foremost voices on public education and having served as president of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and then Tulane University.

Over his 27 years in office here, he more than tripled regular-session enrollment to 2,514 and multiplied the endowment thirtyfold to $10 million, according to a May 1931 tribute in *Alumni News*. He was a master fundraiser, attracting investments from the Rockefeller family to found an education school, from Paul Goodloe McIntire to start a school of commerce, and from Andrew Carnegie for a range of curricular reforms, all while steadily increasing UVA's state appropriations.

And he was a builder, starting with the president's mansion he put atop Carr's Hill, passing on the offer of a pavilion and signaling the assertive leadership style to come. He erected Lambeth Colonnades to upgrade UVA's football venue, then upgraded it again by constructing Scott Stadium. In the

> **"We didn't want to take anyone's word for it. We wanted to do the work ourselves."**
> —*Michael F. Suarez*

illuminating and insightful.

I occasionally give tours of Grounds to family and friends who are visiting, and this deeper understanding of the history of the University is something that I value greatly.

Chris Whiffen (Col '96)
Charlottesville

When do you erase Woodrow Wilson for his progressive Democrat racist views? Or Colgate Darden Jr., who was a Byrd Organization Democrat and a witness against school desegregation in the Prince Edward County case that was consolidated under Brown v. Board of Education? Or the entire founding generation of the University? What were Shannon's views on gay marriage? Fossil fuels? Black people remained well underrepresented during his presidency relative to the Virginia population breakdown. Why does he get judged by the standards of the day instead of denounced for not being more enlightened?

Glen M. Robertson (Col '86, Law '89)
Virginia Beach, Virginia

As an NROTC student during the trying times of May 1970, I have considered President Edgar F. Shannon Jr. a role model embodying the Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment. His steady leadership brought peace to a chaotic situation. His enlightened leadership touched on many areas, allowing the University to be something I am proud of. I thank the Board of Visitors for voting to change the name of the Alderman Library to honor President Shannon.

Capt. Robert W. Jackson (Col '70)
Cohasset, Massachusetts

Thank you for your article. Dr. Shannon was president during my uninspired student life at UVA, where I struggled with the low Black student population and what I considered to be the very exclusionary South. I grew up in a suburb in Philadelphia that couldn't have been more of a polar opposite.



Shannon's Rotunda address is remembered not for flights of oratory but the courage of his convictions.

As a historian, I want to say that your piece was well-balanced and insightful, revealing both an appreciation for the troubled times in which Alderman lived and the need for a fresh and more complete perspective on Edgar Shannon's tenure as president of the University. These days I find such sensitivity and thoughtfulness in treating difficult or contentious points in our nation's past, as that of Alderman's place in the University's history, all too infrequent. That it also sought to bring a greater understanding of President Shannon's accomplishments is also noteworthy. Your articles were quite engaging. Many thanks for your efforts on behalf of the University.

DENNIS SHANNON (GRAD '82)
Charlottesville

Bottom line: For the past 25 years or so my wife and I have sponsored 49 Florida Prepaid College Scholarships for minorities. I like to see the positive in everything, so I believe I had to go to UVA to determine one of my life goals and then see it become a reality. While at UVA I was honored to be able to help coach George King on the first-year wrestling team, and he was awarded the very first athletic letter for a person of color. So Edgar Shannon deserves every accolade he can receive. He inspired me, and some good has come as a result.

Bruce Woodruff (Col '64)
Orlando, Florida

Having spent almost a year, 60 years ago, thumbing through old Virginia newspaper editorials as part of my M.A. thesis research, I became well-acquainted with Alderman Library as another home. Despite the dry, dusty and hot environment down on the first floor, it was a welcoming place. For me, it has always been Alderman Library, as it has for many generations of UVA students, faculty and staff. That name will always be part of our memories.

However, I understand the reasons for changing the name now that the library has been brilliantly expanded, refurbished and renovated in keeping

with its original architecture. Replacing the Alderman name with that of the distinguished former president Edgar F. Shannon Jr. is a perfect fit. He faithfully guided the University through the turbulent 1960s with a steady and sensitive hand. I had the highest respect for him and his wife then, always gracious in welcoming and supporting students. I have always been proud of his signature as president on my master's degree!

It is a new day with a glorious, renovated library, of which President Shannon would be humbled by having his name now attached.

Robert Louis Semes (Grad '68)
Palm Springs, California

Thank you for the in-depth article concerning the renaming of Alderman Library. President Shannon, with his signature on my diplomas, is the appropriate person for whom the library should be renamed.

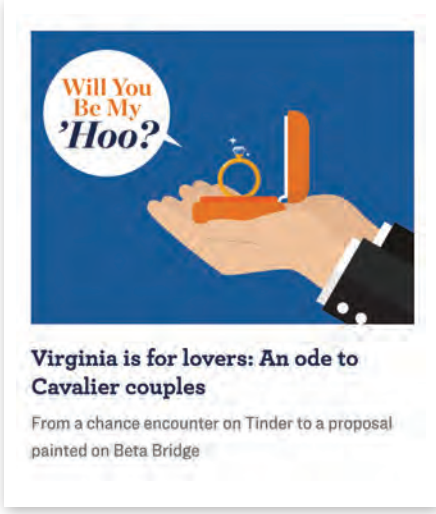
Bruce Broulik (Col '71, Grad '74)
Winter Springs, Florida

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated your article in the most recent *Virginia Magazine* about the library and presidents Shannon and Alderman. It was balanced and informative and brought me to a place where I'm comfortable with the naming decision. Of course, I've always been a big fan of President Shannon.

Randell Hunt Norton (Col '70, Law '73)
Washington, D.C.

→

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS [UVAMAGAZINE.ORG]



Virginia is for lovers: An ode to Cavalier couples

From a chance encounter on Tinder to a proposal painted on Beta Bridge

I thoroughly enjoyed the article on couples who met at UVA. I found the stories funny and heartwarming and completely engaging. Unfortunately, there were no women at UVA during my four years. Other than a tiny group of nursing students, our dates were at places like Sweet Briar, Hollins, Mary Baldwin and Mary Washington, which at the time was officially the University of Virginia at Mary Washington College. It was a trick. They were 65-plus miles away, and we weren't allowed to have cars 'til our fourth year.

I live in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and am a contributing editor at Harvard Magazine. I'm thinking of seeing if one of my fellow editors has the energy to copy this idea for a feature in our magazine.

JIM HARRISON (COL '65)
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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MAJOR SHIFTS



The decline in history majors is sad to see, especially in these times of deep political and social division. We need more students with a strong grounding in the complexity and depth of our past. Whatever their further studies or work, understanding the long shadows of history will be invaluable.

History teaches that choices are complex, decisions have unintended consequences, and "the worst of times" go in cycles with "the best of times." And the best and worst are rarely what they seem.

The article "Renovating the Name, Too," raises exactly the kind of issues that generations must grapple with. How do we determine whom to honor? Is it enough to say of leaders with mixed records, "They were just products of the time?" How do we weigh the public good versus the public bad? Must we remain committed to past honorees, even if they reflect poorly on current choices and values?

Most importantly, how do we honor those who fought against "the times"? Those who said eugenics is wrong, that people are equal and education must be also, that racism and sexism and other wrongs have no place in a just society? For every evil concept, we find good people opposing it.

SHIRLEY M. MARSHALL (COL '86, LAW '94)
Alexandria, Virginia

What a wonderful recognition for an inspirational president. Alderman, now Shannon, Library was a second home during my years at the University, and I have made use of its resources since graduating. I have vivid memories of President Shannon working in Alderman. His presence on the Grounds inspired me and many others. A university president who taught and remained an active scholar was indeed unique.

While teaching at Ohio State, I received the news of his speech from the steps of the Rotunda about the Vietnam War and remember writing to thank him for his courage and leadership. I am delighted to learn the library will soon bear his name. The naming committee, the University librarian and all involved in the honor merit our appreciation.

Michael James Galgano (Col '64, Grad '66)
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Yesterday in *UVA Today*, one of the feature articles was about a couple who bought the former home of Dean →



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A letter writer does not think our school should be paying men's basketball coach Tony Bennett "millions of dollars a year." I guess he also thinks that UVA should not try to compete at the highest levels of the various team sports whose coaches are paid what the market demands. According to what I can find online, Coach Bennett is the sixth-highest paid men's basketball coach at the college level. There are 15 college basketball coaches who make [the same] or more, and there are something like 50 college football and basketball coaches who [come close]. The fact is that Bennett is a top-notch coach who would be hired away from UVA if our school did not pay him the market rate. If we want to keep Bennett–and I sincerely hope most alumni feel as I do, that keeping him is the right answer–then we must continue to pay what the market demands.

JAMES TYSON CURRIE (GRAD '69, '75)
Alexandria, Virginia

VOX ALUMNI

Send Us Your Thoughts

We welcome your letters.

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

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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STAY CONNECTED

UVAMagazine.org Alumni.Virginia.edu

Runk and are restoring it to pristine condition to open it to the public as a bed-and-breakfast. Today I see this article about renaming the newly remodeled and expanded main library after Edgar Shannon. Apparently, several of the administration "stars" from our undergraduate years are being recognized once again.

Jeff Alan Andrews (Engr '72, Law '76)
Burlington, North Carolina

FIRST AMENDMENT CENTER DIRECTOR TO BECOME NEW LAW DEAN [U-DIGEST]

The announcement in February 2024 of the new dean for the law school mentioned the law school's then No. 8 ranking (now, I understand, No. 4). Being a completely biased graduate, I consider a high ranking to be well deserved, and the law school has traditionally used its high ranking to market the school. However, the same email noted that the law school is "boycotting" the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking process, presumably because the administration finds it to be inadequate or inaccurate in some respect. If the law school believes it must boycott a ranking process it believes to be deeply flawed, shouldn't it also refrain from marketing the positive result of such a flawed process?

Dustin Hecker (Col '78, Law '83)
Needham, Massachusetts

CLASS NOTES [WINTER 2023]

I want to thank you so much for putting my retirement note in the latest magazine. I realize I did not quite follow my original career path, but opportunity knocked soon after college, and I ended up having a great career in an industry that I never would've dreamed of. My years at UVA helped me tremendously, and I am always very honored to be able to say that UVA is my alma mater.

Alan Korman (Arch '77)
Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey

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Holland Cruise
April 8–16

Alpine Splendor: Switzerland and Austria
May 17–30

Japan
April 28–May 10

London African American Experience
May 8–16

Essential France
May 17–31

London Theater
TBD

Machu Picchu to the Galapagos
June 24–July 9

North Pole
July 7–22

North Pole: Marathon or 10k
July 7–22

Norwegian Splendor
August 14–24

Greece Cruise
September 7–17

Sicily
September 18–29

Italian Highlights
September 25–October 10

Egypt
October 13–27

Normandy, Siene River Cruise
October 26–November 3

Around the World by Private Jet
November 4–25

Fly to Antarctica
December 3–10

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

ALUMNI & PARENT TRAVEL



FROM THE PUBLISHER

Supporting students, strengthening UVA

It's hard to capture all the ways in which alumni creativity and generosity impact the University—we see it in alumni volunteer leadership, alumni-led programs, alumni-inspired courses, and countless career opportunities provided by alumni-led companies, just to name a few.

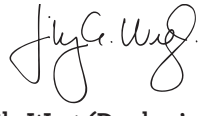
We also see it in the vast number of scholarships administered by the Alumni Association.

With charge of more than 250 funds and awards, our team manages one of the largest and most variegated scholarship portfolios in the country, disbursing more than $2.8 million in aid each year to hundreds of students across Grounds.

We fund scholarships at all levels, from modest stipends to full-tuition awards. And because of the Association's unique history and structure, our scholarships team can find inventive ways to represent the myriad passions of our alumni base. We hold scholarships that seek women in engineering, students with West Indian ancestry, students who are the first in their family to go to college, and even students who have a captivating sense of humor. From musicians to future aerospace engineers, from budding history professors to biotech innovators, our scholarship recipients can graduate with less debt and greater confidence for the future.

The past two years have seen innovation and steady growth in a program that continues to deepen in its impact on the University community. And the numbers reflect that impact—since 2022, our program has attracted more than 9,000 applications. We continually follow and define national best practices, forming relationships with peer institutions and further establishing the UVA Alumni Association as a leader in the field.

Amid all the success, our motivation remains clear: to build strong bonds among current and future alumni, honoring inclusive excellence and leadership in all that we do. Thanks to the abundant creativity and generosity of the alumni base, our Scholarships program will continue to support some of UVA's most talented and deserving students and, through them, strengthen the University.



Lily West (Darden '12)
President & CEO

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NEW LAW BANS LEGACY PREFERENCE

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL

Children of UVA alumni, who have recently made up as much as 14.7 percent of incoming first-year classes, can no longer get any advantage in the admissions process once a new state law banning legacy admissions takes effect July 1.

In March, Republican Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed bills ending preferential treatment for applicants related to alumni of the state's public universities. Two identical bills had garnered bipartisan support, passing the House of Delegates and State Senate unanimously.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to end race-based admissions last year triggered the bills, said Del. Dan Helmer, a Democrat from Fairfax County, and state Sen. Schuyler T. VanValkenburg, a Democrat from Henrico County, the state lawmakers behind the new law. It also prohibits admissions preferences for applicants related to donors.

"We got zero pushback," VanValkenburg said. At a time when universities are working to build more diverse student bodies, giving the children of alumni and donors an edge in admissions is "indefensible" and "anti-meritorious," he said.

Said Helmer: "We think that legacy [admissions preference] ... was in fact denying really capable students access to an education that can provide a pathway to the middle class at a real cost for our education system in terms of diminishing diversity."

The Supreme Court's race decision didn't address legacy admissions, but the longtime practice quickly became a target. In a statement after the Supreme Court ruling, President Joe Biden, a Democrat, called legacy admissions part of a system that expands "privilege instead of opportunity."

After Youngkin signed the bills into law, U.S. Sens. Tim Kaine, D-Va., and Todd Young, R-Ind., who have proposed a nearly identical federal bill, put out a joint statement applauding the move. Ending legacy and donor admissions preferences nationwide, they said, will "promote upward mobility and fairness in the admissions process."

Colorado lawmakers had already prohibited legacy-based admissions before the 2023 Supreme Court decision; Virginia is the first state to reject the practice since then. Other states, including Massachusetts, New York, Maryland and Connecticut, are considering similar bills. Some schools also had eliminated legacy as a category for consideration, including Virginia Tech, which announced its decision last July.

In a statement, UVA officials said they were evaluating how the new law will affect the school's current admissions approach once it takes effect.

The 2023 affirmative action decision didn't address legacy admissions, but the longtime practice quickly became a target.

"In the meantime, as President Jim Ryan and Provost Ian Baucom noted in a message to the community following the Supreme Court decision last year, we will continue to do everything within our legal means to welcome students from a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives so that they can learn from each other and contribute to the vitality of this community," according to the statement shared by Bethanie Glover, UVA's deputy spokesperson.

DAN ADDISON

New, and improved

After a unanimous vote by the Board of Visitors to change its name, Edgar Shannon Library officially opened in April. The library had undergone four years and $161 million worth of renovations that replaced the claustrophobic stacks with a new and more inviting north wing. While the library is officially open, restocking its shelves with 1.3 million books is to continue through June.



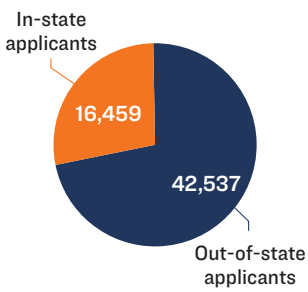
RECORD-BREAKING ADMISSIONS

After the Supreme Court decision last June banning race-based admissions, students and admissions officers navigated a more complicated admissions process this year as application numbers continue to rise. The University does not provide information about applicants' race until after it closes the waitlist, likely sometime in June.

This year, just under 59,000 students applied for admission to UVA, up 4 percent from 2023 and up 17 percent from 2022. UVA extended offers to 9,665 of those students as it hopes to fill a class of about 3,970.

Here's how the numbers shook out as of March 19:

In-state vs. out-of-state

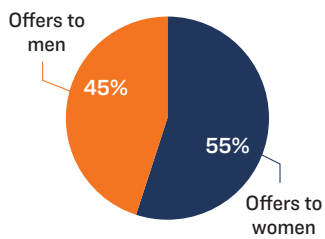


Acceptance rate

23%
In-state acceptance rate

13%
Out-of-state acceptance rate

Gender



Admissions numbers per school

204	7,113	118	2,064	168
School of Architecture	College of Arts and Sciences	School of Kinesiology	School of Engineering	School of Nursing

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Student Life



HEAD OF THE CLASS

A look at next year's crop of student leaders

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL

Laura Howard (Col '25)
Honor Committee Chair, double major in foreign affairs and political and social thought
A year after UVA students voted to approve a multi-sanction system for students who violate the Honor Code, Howard says the committee has work to do to ensure that the new system is efficient and fair, to address misconceptions and to earn back the trust of people alienated by it. "Everybody recognizes that we're nowhere near done with our work," she says. "The charge by the student body wasn't just to create a system of new sanctions; it's to keep making Honor a better system."

Harper Jones (Col '25)
University Judiciary Committee Chair, double major in history and political and social thought
Jones' top priorities are to reckon with the Judiciary Committee's recent spike in cases related to physical assault and threats to health and safety, and to ensure that students know how the UJC works and that it is a resource for them. Jones, of Greenwich, Connecticut, also plans to launch an endowment fund to support programs and provide the committee with financial flexibility. "A huge priority of mine is really kick-starting what we would call the UJC Endowment, connecting with our alums and really working to promote the mission of the UJC," Jones says.

Valentina Mendoza Gonzalez (Col '25)
Student Council President, double major in computer science and anthropology
Past presidents have often moved up through council's ranks to take the helm, but the Dumfries, Virginia, native took a different path. She first got involved in a student group that discussed social justice issues affecting the Latinx community before joining the council as director of coalition engagement as a second-year. "I think that my involvement outside of Student Council brought a lot of creativity to the role—a different perspective," she says. With a focus on community, justice and transparency, her to-do list includes creating a program that introduces underrepresented high school students to diverse student life at UVA and building a resource hub for students to share their tips for success with one another.

Chloe Vaughn (Col '24, Com '25)
Co-Chair of Resident Staff Program, psychology major and pursuing a master's in commerce
Arriving at UVA from tiny Galax, Virginia, Vaughn had a difficult time finding her place. But she noticed the close-knit community of her dorm's resident advisers. As a second-year, she embraced the chance to join that community and support students like herself. As co-chair, Vaughn hopes to expand Hoos@Home, an academic pilot project for first-years. The successful program connects students with weekly advising and support, faculty lunches, and workshops to promote academic success. "We've seen a lot of growth this year and a lot of increase in accessibility to those resources," she says.

Sammy Finnegan (Col '24)
Co-Chair of Resident Staff Program, double major in cognitive science and Spanish and pursuing a master's degree in public health
Even going into college, Finnegan, of Richmond, Virginia, knew she wanted to be a resident adviser. As co-chair, Finnegan hopes to better connect organizations, such as student health or the multicultural center, with on-Grounds students and residence life staff to ensure that they have the resources and support they need. "We really want to bridge the gap and bring all of the University organizations together and … be the connector from those organizations to the students," Finnegan says.

Nathan Onibudo (Col '25)
Cavalier Daily Editor-In-Chief, double major in philosophy and political philosophy, policy and law
The Springfield, Virginia, native got involved in the *Cavalier Daily* as a first-year, penning opinion columns about student self-governance. Last year he served as executive editor. Now he's leading the paper with a focus on investing in its people. That includes bringing in more professional training, providing stipends to better compete with other publications, and considering how artificial intelligence might make the work of putting out the paper more manageable. "People do their best work," he says, "when they see they're valued in the space that they're in."

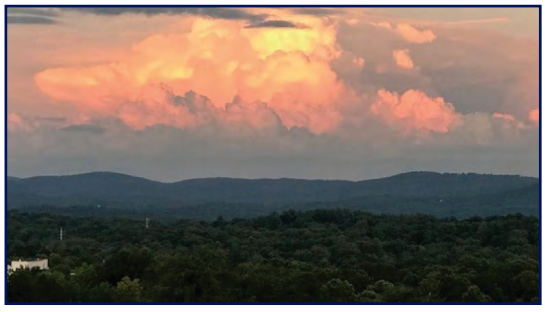
Lisa Kopelnik (Col '25)
Board of Visitors Student Member, double major in politics and economics
This is the second major leadership role for Kopelnik of Oakland, California. Last year, Kopelnik was Judiciary Committee chair, a position that requires impartiality. On the BOV, Kopelnik is excited to use her voice to represent the student body. She's eager to address topics such as the promotion of civil discourse and free expression, and issues of safety and mental health on and around Grounds. "The real responsibility of the board … is not just to address the now, it's to build the future," she says.



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Time Capsule

BY JUDY LE

We asked: What was the hottest cutting-edge technology when you were on Grounds? And did you ever answer. Please enjoy this expanded edition of Time Capsule.



"Installation of the Burroughs B5000 computer that used punch cards in lieu of paper tape. The computer used ALGOL 60 language. We e-school students thought we had really arrived."

—Sam Query (Engr '67)

Many alumni from the '60s and '70s noted ever-evolving music technology in their responses. **John Catron (Col '66)** wrote about transistor radios, while **James Wright (Col '69, Med '76)** cited the new component stereo systems of his era; **Dan Wise (Col '74)** wrote about Bose speakers. **Robert Hayden (Col '74)** says: "The music department had a Moog synthesizer in the '70s. Cutting edge at the time but really a historical relic now." And **Paula Young (Col '76)** noted that WTJU began broadcasting in stereo.





"All Metcalf was astonished at the tiny cassette tape recorder **Steve Middlebrook (Col '67)** had. (It was tiny compared with a standard reel-to-reel tape recorder—they were huge.) He faked out 25 guys, crowded into his dom room. It would start and stop, seemingly at random. We theorized that it must be voice activated or gravity sensitive, etc. But sometimes it would play with no stimulus. Mystifying! Eventually someone noticed something in his hand. He was turning the microphone on and off, which started and stopped the recorder. If we weren't laughing so hard we might have beaten him up."

—Michael Ridenhour (Col '67, Educ '73)

When **Mike Daniel (Com '58)** entered UVA, he says, "The cutting-edge technology was a slide rule. Times have changed a bit." Indeed they have, but slide rules ruled until the mid-'70s. **Ronald Cox (Engr '75, '79)** spent his first few years at UVA using one and still has it.





STEVE LODEFINK

Several alumni from the '60s noted the advent of the electric typewriter, particularly the IBM Selectric and its successors, their one golf ball–like mechanism replacing the manual typewriter's individual flying strikers.

For some alumni from the mid-'60s to early '70s, photocopiers were the height of new technology. **T. Peter Park (Grad '65, '70)** saw one in the law school library in 1963 and then in Alderman Library in 1964. **Randolph Turner (Col '70)** used a photocopier for the first time during his first year. "If my memory is correct, it cost 25 cents per page, which was quite a bit of money back then. For me it was 'cutting-edge technology' that absolutely amazed me and saved a remarkable amount of time over having to otherwise take detailed written notes."



"COMPUTERS. **You had to write your own programs and needed a big box of punch cards to take to the computer center and leave them overnight to run. One wrong punch in a single card and your program would not run. You were advised to number the cards in case you dropped them; otherwise, there was no way to get them back in order. We never dreamed then what computers would be capable of 60 years later."**—*Reg Shiflett (Engr '65, '70)*

BY FAR THE TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGY CITED MOST OFTEN WAS THE HANDHELD OR POCKET CALCULATOR.

Dozens of alumni wrote in about them, starting in 1967 with a large spike in the mid-'70s. Exactly how pocketable they were is arguable; **Bob Hicks (Col '77, Law '81)** noted that his Texas Instruments model was "the size of a small shoe." **Steve Jacobs (Engr '75)** wrote that he used a Summit-brand calculator that was about an inch thick: "a quarter-pound 'pocket' calculator that could add, subtract, multiply, divide and provide percentages." **Robert Ellis (Engr '73)** recalled his "large Dictaphone calculator the size of a good book that only did simple math."





While Hewlett-Packard and Texas Instruments were the biggest players in the budding technology, **Richard Fredenburg (Engr '71)** wrote about a WANG desktop calculator in the reactor building, "the first all-electronic calculator I ever saw. Before that they were mechanical monstrosities that had trouble doing division problems."

Of course, the relatively tiny technological marvels came at some expense: The battery-operated model required for **Leigh Gehrig**'s **(Arch '74)** Structures class cost $50, and the Texas Instruments SR-10 cost **Randy DeHoff (Col '75)** $149. **Chuck Nesbit (Col '77)** bought a simple TI model that could add, subtract, multiply, divide and calculate square roots for $60, "the equivalent of about $430 today. At the 1973 minimum wage of $1.60 per hour, I had to work 37.5 hours flipping hamburgers to buy it."

The technology behind calculators continued to advance. **Frank Philpott (Engr '75, '77)** started with one his first year: "I just had to get a four-function handheld calculator (add, subtract, multiply, and divide) at Christmas break for $125 and retire my slide rule for more extensive scientific calculations. Around my third year, it was time to retire both my four-function calculator and slide rule and buy a $150 Texas Instruments TI-50 scientific calculator. I wanted a sexier HP-35 scientific calculator, but at $399, it was out of my budget."

Time Capsule

What was the hottest cutting-edge technology when you were on Grounds?

From standing in line to going online, the ever-changing methods for registering for classes were signs of the technological times. In the '60s, **Roger Wiley (Col '67, Law '70)** was among the many generations who grabbed physical cards: "You had to stand in lines at Memorial Gym to collect a separate computer punch card for each class you needed or wanted to take. Naturally, the cards for the most popular courses and professors (Raymond Bice!) were grabbed quickly. I'm sure the card system was a big improvement on whatever preceded it, but standing in line for those cards was painful." In the '70s, **Beverly Riling (Educ '76)** and her classmates were enjoying computerized registration. By the '90s the long lines were gone, having given way to automated registration by phone. **Dave Longo (Engr '98, '01)** says, "I can still remember the man's distinctive voice when he announced, 'Welcome to ISIS, the Integrated Student Information System.'" And by the time **Katie Spicer (Arch '05, '10)** was registering, students were signing up for classes fully online, "instead of calling in on the phone to enter codes!"

"I worked at a work-study job in the admissions office. They got a word processor to send out mailings to applicants and people interested in info. The machine took up an entire room!"
—Karl Dehm (Col '81)



BARBARA ALPER/GETTY IMAGES

"ATMs. They were really taking hold in the late '70s. The Virginia National Bank had an ATM in the early 1980s, and being able to get cash was a big deal. On the honor system, we could write a check with a student ID anywhere. My dad would get my canceled checks and go nuts when he saw checks for a dollar or two for ice cream, saying that it cost more to process the check! He hated all those checks. ATMs were a relief!"
—Jo Ellen (Friedman) Slurzberg (Col '83)



"Air popper popcorn makers!
I don't know if they were cutting-edge, but they were a recent invention that every single dorm hall/suite had. We would sit out in the hallway of Echols every night with the poppers going and catch up on the latest with one another."
—Anna Lynch (Educ '84)



"VisiCalc Spreadsheet from Apple. THE first automated spreadsheet long before today's Excel!"
—Bill Tyson (Com '84)

"I remember when I discovered computer labs in 1985-86 and gleefully threw my typewriter into the closet of my Brandon Avenue apartment. We went in, my boyfriend explained WordStar to me, and then we sat side by side, typing our papers on the clunky computers at long tables with students to the left and right. I would send my opus to one of the massive (and loud!) dot matrix printers, pull out the paper (one long piece with perforations between each sheet), and then I would carefully fold the long sheet, pull off the perforated edges, and separate the individual pages before stapling and handing in. It was a bit of a process compared to today's options, but a LOT better than using a typewriter." ***—Mary Becelia (Col '87, Educ '91)***



"I was proud to bring my Commodore VIC-20 with me to Dunnington Dorm my first year. I used it to calculate and print out everyone's portion of the phone bill. I also enjoyed practicing my programming skills in Pascal and Turtle Graphics."

—Stuart Brooks (Educ '87)

"When I arrived in 1984, the dorms were a cacophony of the click-clack of typewriters at night. That sound had mostly disappeared by my graduation in 1988. The University had set up some rooms with rudimentary computers for students to write papers using WordPerfect. F9 this, F8 that, etc." *—Bryce Diamant (Engr '88)*

"Eraser cartridge for the typewriter. Game-changer!"

—Amy Marks (Col '86)



"Personal computer. Amber character-only screen, keyboard hinged up to close, handle in the back to carry—but it weighed 30 pounds so it was nicknamed the IBM Luggable. It had no hard drive, so everything, including the operating system, ran from 5.25-inch floppy disks."

—Matt Senecal (Com '89)

"The answering machine!

In a time without the internet or mobile phones, connecting with friends was haphazard. And FOMO (fear of missing out) was a thing then, too! I remember spending much of Thanksgiving weekend my fourth year reading Charlotte Bronte's *Villette* for an English class. I got so punchy that I called my friends—who were all out of town—and read passages from the book onto their machines. I was raising a white flag, and they all called to check in on me when they returned."

—Paula Peters Chambers (Col '89)



ISTOCK

"The Compaq Portable II computer. During finals fourth year, I had a 24-hour schedule for friends to come to my apartment and use it."

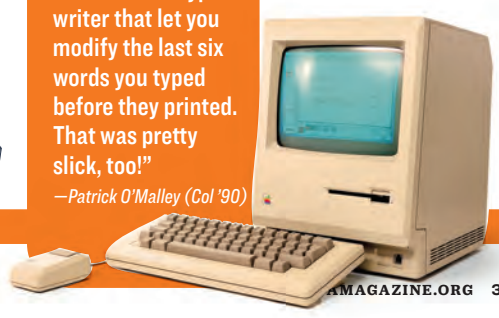
—Laura Brown (Col '87)

"The Apple Macintosh. One fraternity brother owned one, and the rest of us fought over time to use it. When demand was too high, I fell back on an electronic typewriter that let you modify the last six words you typed before they printed. That was pretty slick, too!"

—Patrick O'Malley (Col '90)

"Hard drives! Didn't have them in the school computers until my third or fourth year! Once lost a long paper just as I finished it because the floppy disk went bad."

—Dick Stanton (Com '88)



Time Capsule

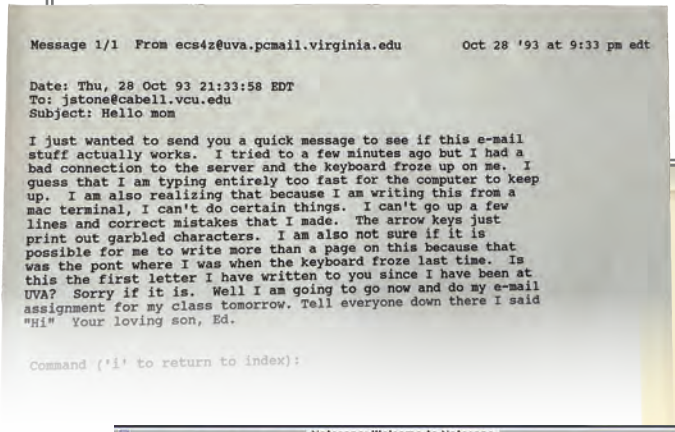
What was the hottest cutting-edge technology when you were on Grounds?

Mail

In the mid- to late '90s, students suddenly found themselves with something weirdly punctuated and completely foreign to most of them: an email address. **Christina Grotheer (Grad '95)** got one when she enrolled in 1994: "I asked why I would need an email, and they said everyone was given one. I remember being uncertain about what it was even for—ha!"

"My first email address in my life was assigned to me as a first-year," says **Brooke Van Rensselaer (Educ '02)**. "I remember questioning the purpose of email, as it seemed an inefficient way to communicate with someone when it was much faster to just call the person or tell them face to face."

Email was even more inefficient at first, as you couldn't reach many people outside Grounds; **Jen Winters (Col '92)** could write to her dad in the Army. **Ed Stone (Col '94)** says, "You could only send email within the university network among the state schools in Virginia. My mom worked at VCU at the time, so she was the first person I sent an email to outside of Grounds. She printed it, saved it for decades, and delivered it to me a few years ago. Thanks for keeping it, Mom! And, again, my apologies for never sending you letters during my first three years at Virginia."



```
Message 1/1  From ecs4z@uva.pcmail.virginia.edu        Oct 28 '93 at 9:33 pm edt

Date: Thu, 28 Oct 93 21:33:58 EDT
To: jstone@cabell.vcu.edu
Subject: Hello mom

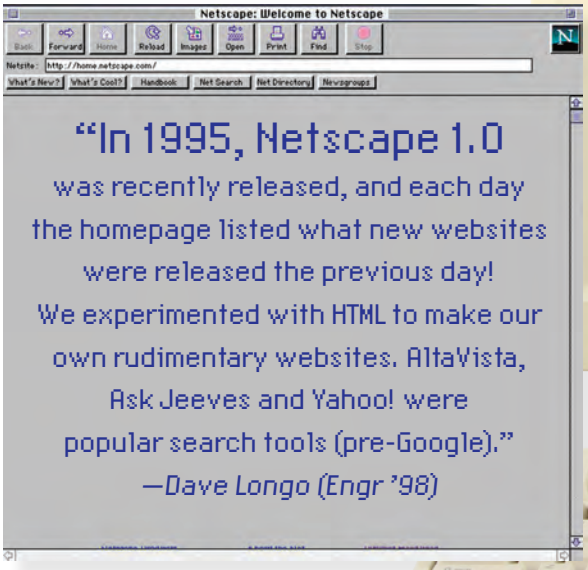
I just wanted to send you a quick message to see if this e-mail
stuff actually works.  I tried to a few minutes ago but I had a
bad connection to the server and the keyboard froze up on me.  I
guess that I am typing entirely too fast for the computer to keep
up.  I am also realizing that because I am writing this from a
mac terminal, I can't do certain things.  I can't go up a few
lines and correct mistakes that I made.  The arrow keys just
print out garbled characters.  I am also not sure if it is
possible for me to write more than a page on this because that
was the pont where I was when the keyboard froze last time.  Is
this the first letter I have written to you since I have been at
UVA?  Sorry if it is.  Well I am going to go now and do my e-mail
assignment for my class tomorrow. Tell everyone down there I said
"Hi"  Your loving son, Ed.

Command ('i' to return to index):
```

"Access to the internet.

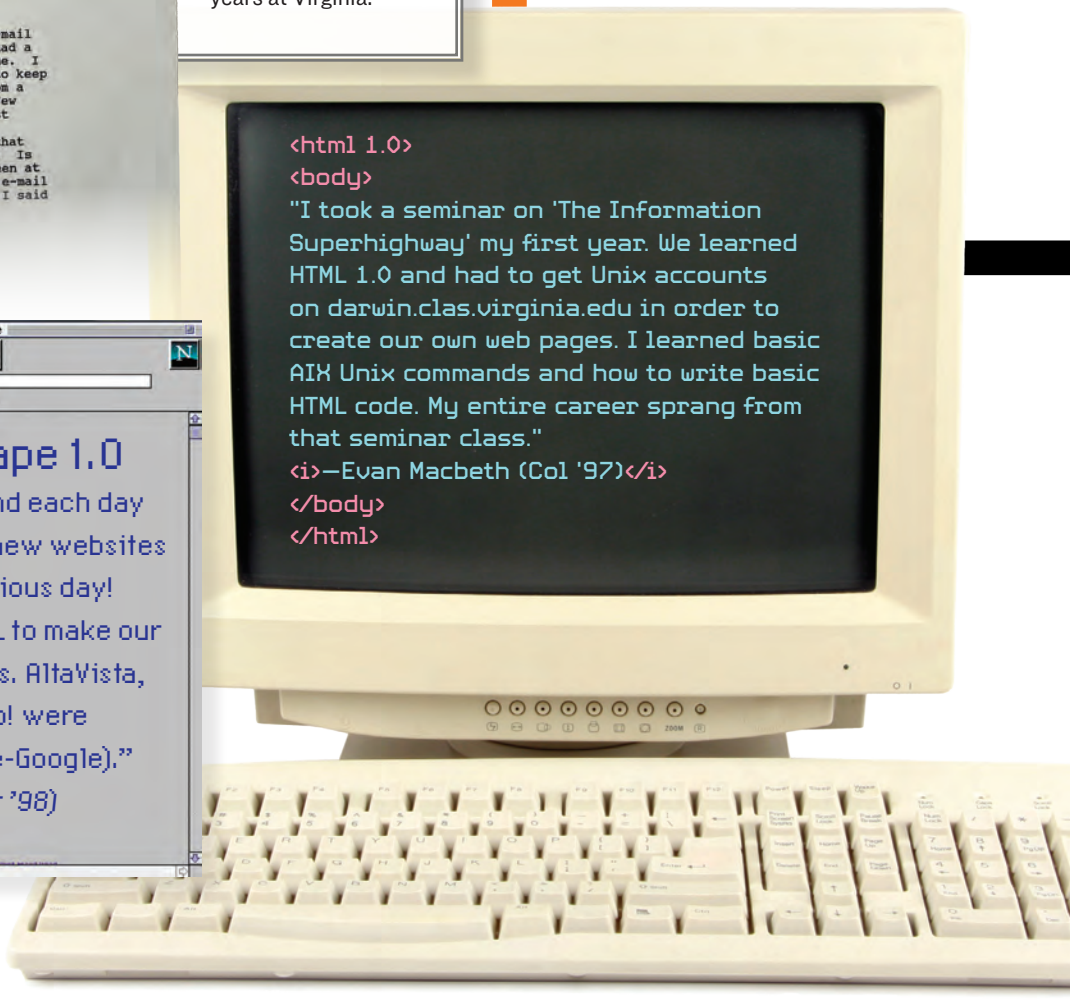
This was the fall of 1994, and I was a new engineering graduate student. I was introduced to the web via the Mosaic browser. So crazy to think about it in comparison to where we are today."

—Adam Goodge (Engr '97)



"In 1995, Netscape 1.0 was recently released, and each day the homepage listed what new websites were released the previous day! We experimented with HTML to make our own rudimentary websites. AltaVista, Ask Jeeves and Yahoo! were popular search tools (pre-Google)."

—Dave Longo (Engr '98)



```
<html 1.0>
<body>
"I took a seminar on 'The Information
Superhighway' my first year. We learned
HTML 1.0 and had to get Unix accounts
on darwin.clas.virginia.edu in order to
create our own web pages. I learned basic
AIX Unix commands and how to write basic
HTML code. My entire career sprang from
that seminar class."
<i>—Evan Macbeth (Col '97)</i>
</body>
</html>
```

"Before the internet was a necessity, my buddy JEB hard-wired each room in the frat house via Ethernet for a class project and called it FratNet. Nobody really knew what to do with it; we plugged it into our PCs and poked around to see what this "World Wide Web" had to offer. Turns out it was just a fad 😉."

—Mike Matthews (Col '99)

"Telnet. I don't know how new it was back in 1996-97, but it was new for us and we used it extensively for real-time chatting with each other in the computer labs. I remember chatting with my roommate for hours over Telnet and then going back to our room and chatting in real life for hours more. It was the beginning of instant messaging, and my UVA roommate and I continue to chat with each other in real time as technology has evolved, over 25 years later."

—Dina Tamimi (Com '99)



"Cell phones saw a huge uptick in adoption while I was an undergrad. My first year, we were very dependent on the school's phone system. My second year, my parents gave me a Motorola flip phone (circa 1995) that was really just for use in the car when driving home to Richmond or back to Charlottesville. By my third year, though, a lot of us had acquired the infamous Nokia 5160 phone, and interpersonal communications were forever changed by SMS texting. Also...the Snake game."—*Erin Schrad (Col '01)*

"Voicemail distribution lists so you could instantly let all your friends know where the party was at."

—Sam Bellas (Col '01)

"An alarm went off in the middle of a Student Council meeting. Everyone stopped and looked. One student reached into her purse and pulled out a phone. I was astonished."

—Allan W. Eng (Col '98)

"NAPSTER! (OOPS.)"

—Taylor Billingsley (Col '03)



"The iPod debuted in 2001 in the fall of my fourth year. Imagine having thousands of songs in your pocket! The white wired earbuds practically became a fashion statement—and now iPods are no longer produced!"

—Abby Newton (Col '02)

"Uber if you didn't own a car; cabs were basically nonexistent on Grounds. Uber changed the paradigm since you could suddenly get a ride anywhere."—*Aaron Way (Col '14)*

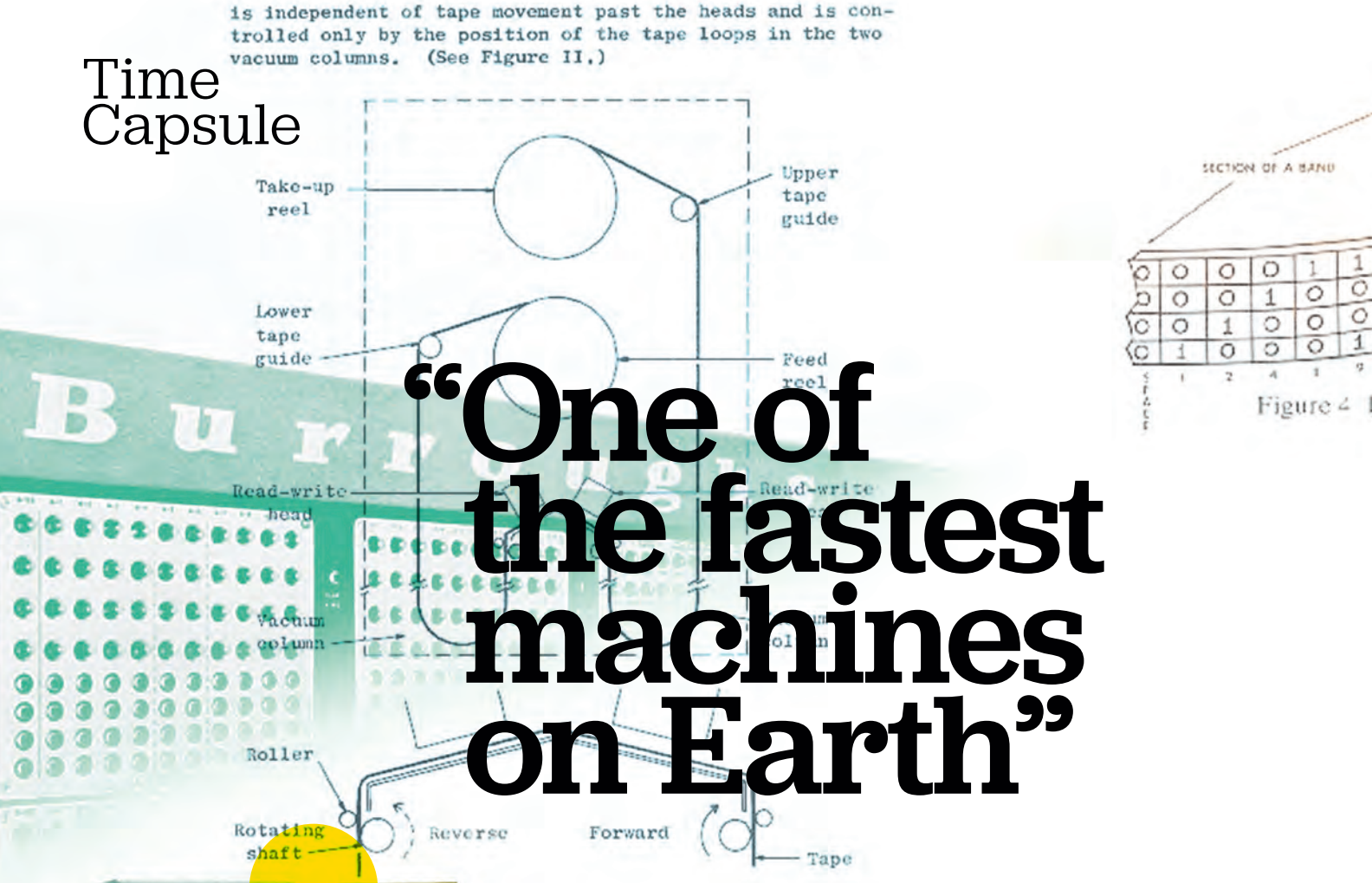


"Facebook! In 2005, we may have been the only year that had Facebook registration at orientation. Once we got our shiny new University email address, our orientation leader took us to the computer lab at Hereford and explained how to join."

—Kaitlin German (Educ '10)

ISTOCK

"One of the fastest machines on Earth"





A ROOM-SIZED CALCULATOR LAUNCHED UVA INTO THE FUTURE

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL

In the early 1960s, UVA's first computer, a Burroughs 205, took up an entire room in the basement of the physics building off McCormick Road. By today's standards, the computer—with its big magnetic tape reels and panels of blinking lights—looks like something out of an old science fiction movie. And it was. The same model was featured in dozens of TV shows and movies, including running the Jupiter 2 in *Lost in Space* and aiding the caped crusader's navigation in the 1966 movie *Batman*.

But in those campy Hollywood creations, the computer usually was a minor character. At UVA, it played a leading role. The B205, as it was nicknamed, launched the University into the computer age far ahead of



The Burroughs 205—the model seen in dozens of movies and TV shows—brought UVA into the world of computing in 1961.

most higher education institutions across the country at the time. And it provided a foundation for academic research that relied on the fast calculations of the new-fangled machine.

"It propelled UVA, by leaps and bounds, into the future," says Gabriel Robins, UVA computer science professor and creator of the UVA Computer Museum, a collection of modern and historical computer-related artifacts at the University. It allowed for "more efficient research and more productive faculty output in terms of papers published, discoveries ... of all kinds, in all fields."

Batson to the rescue

Before it got the B205, UVA had tried and failed to secure National Science Foundation funding for a computer because, President Edgar Shannon would later tell the Board of Visitors, it had a "lack of experience in the operation of a computer center."

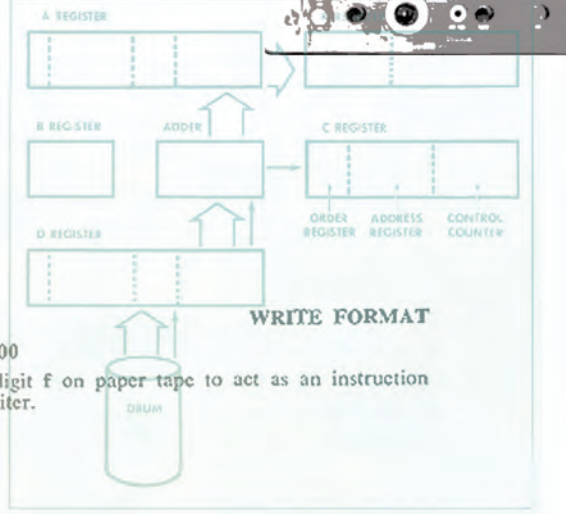
But in 1958, UVA finally had at least one person with a little knowledge of how computers worked. Alan Batson, then a 20-something with a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Birmingham in England, had just moved to UVA to become a physics lecturer. He'd been lured by future UVA President **Frank Hereford (Col '43, Grad '47)**, then a UVA physics professor who studied at Birmingham as a Fulbright Scholar.

"I was the only one at the University who had ever used a computer," Batson told *Virginia Engineering* in its spring 2000 issue. "I had used computers in England but had decided to put all that behind me and pursue a respectable career in physics."

Batson, who would become UVA's academic →

Time Capsule





UVA couldn't get a grant for a computer because no one had used one. That was until physics professor Alan Batson came along.

computing director, was involved in the effort to bring the B205 to UVA. But he didn't come to UVA to become its "father of computing," as he is now widely described. He was simply a young guy with tech experience. And not long after he arrived in Charlottesville, Batson and chemistry professor Paul Schatz were asked to study how UVA might win that grant, the *Virginia Engineering* story says. They figured it out.

At a June 1960 BOV meeting, Shannon announced that UVA had won a $60,000 science foundation grant for the purchase of a computer. The board agreed to supplement the grant with $150,000 to cover the cost of the computer and its operations for three years; altogether, that price tag would equal about $2.2 million in today's dollars.

The B205 was "faster than a human but literally millions of times slower than today's smartphone."

—Gabriel Robins, creator of the UVA Computer Museum

'One of the fastest machines on Earth'

After it was installed in the physics building in November 1960, Batson and others quickly got to work. By the B205's official dedication in February 1961, Batson told a *Daily Progress* reporter that he'd already taught 180 faculty members and students how to operate it.

He also used it to play Nim, a simple mathematical strategy game—though not that often because it wasn't fun to lose to a computer all the time, he told the reporter. There was more important work to do anyway.

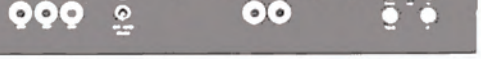
At the time of the B205's dedication, research using the computer was already underway, according to the article. Those included projects measuring the speed of disturbances in the ionosphere, studying the apportionment of political representation in the United States, and calculating the neutron flux in UVA's nuclear reactor.

"The computer center is of singular importance for the whole University," Shannon said at the dedication ceremony, "and useful to many departments that may not immediately be obvious."

By today's standards, the B205 was essentially a giant calculator, helping to churn out calculations in two seconds that, as the *Daily Progress* story noted, would take a human two hours to complete. The B205 relied on vacuum tubes and a magnetic drum memory system, along with punch cards, to store and process information.

"It can do hundreds of computations per second, which is faster than a human but literally millions of times slower than today's smartphone," Robins says. "But at the time it was a great innovation and one of the fastest machines on Earth."

Science researchers were especially eager to harness the capabilities of the new computer. Until then, they'd



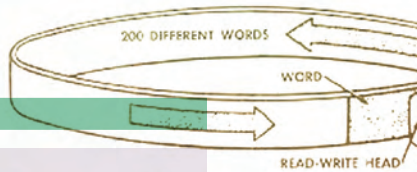


Figure 6 Access to Word Stored in Main Storag

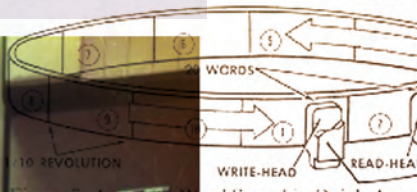
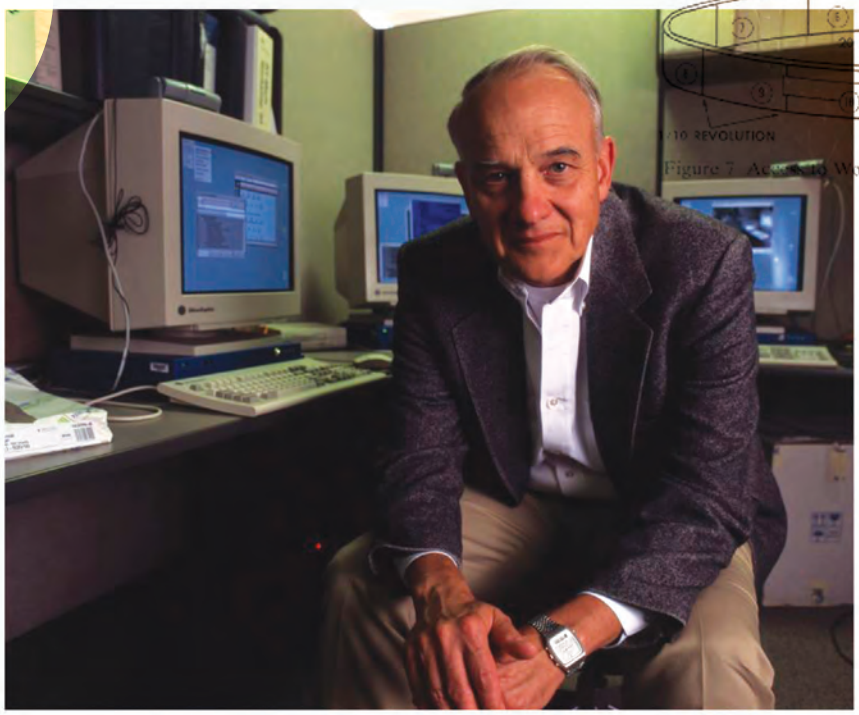


Figure 7 Ac Word Stored in Quick Acce



The B205 drew the tech-minded, including William Wulf (Engr '68), who would become a computer science pioneer.

been doing calculations by hand, which took time and was prone to error or—depending on the number of calculations required—was simply impossible.

Then, and now, computers have enabled not only calculations that humans can't do, but also those that might not even be tried because it could take years to do all that math, says **Alice Howard (Col '75, Engr '79)**, who served as UVA's special assistant to the vice president and chief information officer until she retired in 2016. She is also Batson's widow.

With the Burroughs 205, Robins says, UVA's academics could more easily process the data that came from their telescopes or microscopes to uncover statistical significance or deviations, spikes or aberrations that deserved more investigation.

But Batson, whose master's thesis was about ballet, was also eager to see professors in the humanities use the computer, Howard says.

A screwdriver party

People were "awed" by the B205, according to the *Virginia Engineering* article. Then an undergraduate engineering student, **Ted Foster (Engr '63)** remembers getting a chance to see it but not fully understanding its significance. "We didn't even know what a computer was," says Foster, who would soon work on computers elsewhere.

While the B205's existence on Grounds was a novelty to some, it quickly became a draw for tech-minded students and researchers. In a 2015 interview, **William Wulf (Engr '68)**, who would become a world-renowned computer science pioneer, told the Charles Babbage Institute that when he was applying for teaching jobs in the early 1960s, he considered only the dozen U.S. universities with a computer, including UVA.

Wulf, who died in 2023, eventually received UVA's first Ph.D. in computer science. Batson, who died in 2020, served as his dissertation adviser. Wulf retired from UVA as a professor emeritus of computer science in 2012.

In those early years, just like today, the development of technology moved fast. By 1964, Batson, Wulf and UVA had moved on to a bigger, better and faster computer, another Burroughs machine, costing $1 million, that was in a specially designed 9,000-square-foot computer science center in Gilmer Hall's basement.

Wulf told *Virginia Magazine* in 2014 what ultimately happened to the B205: Batson "declared we would have a 'bring your own screwdriver' party," he said. "We took the machine apart."

But they didn't forget about it. Decades after the computer was sent out of commission, Batson and Wulf kept reminders of the B205 in their home studies—a photo of it for Batson and its control panel for Wulf.

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



STORYBOOK SUCCESS

From looking deep inside a piano to gazing into the heavens above, these Wahoo authors are inspiring young readers. They just might capture your imagination too.

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL
ILLUSTRATIONS BY YUKE LI

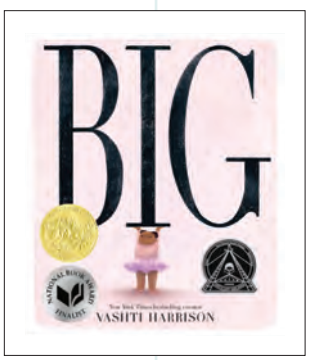


VASHTI HARRISON (COL '10)



Becoming a "big kid" is something little kids aspire to. But particularly for girls, anti-fat bias can quickly twist the meaning of "big," turning it into something to be ashamed of. It's that contrast that Vashti Harrison's book, *Big*, centers on, telling the story of a little girl who is proud to be big—until she isn't.

"I had been thinking a lot about my body and my relationship with my body, especially as a child, and my journey toward self-love. And it's been a long one for me," Harrison says of the genesis of the idea. "I wanted to engage in this dynamic of the word 'big,' especially as it related to children."



When *Big* came out in the spring of 2023, Harrison had already been a successful illustrator of picture books and a writer of nonfiction children's books. *Big* is Harrison's debut fiction picture book as both author and illustrator—and it took home major honors, including the 2024 Caldecott Medal for the year's most distinguished picture book. She is the first Black woman to win the award and joins the likes of Robert McCloskey (*Make Way for Ducklings*) and Chris Van Allsburg (*The Polar Express*).

Big is a continuation of a theme underlying Harrison's Little Leaders series, which celebrates famous women and men of color, whom she depicts as children. That concept is informed by Georgetown University research that found that Black girls regularly experience "adultification bias." In other words, adults of all races believe Black girls need less nurturing, comfort and support than white girls of the same age, researchers found.

"That was a thread that I wanted to continue on into the story and talk about adultification bias as related to Black girls," Harrison says. It's why, in *Big*, the young girl is the only rendered character. "We're following her through this journey and fully within her perspective. We're seeing how the words and bias of adults are affecting her and how she's internalizing them."

Winning the Caldecott was "shocking and overwhelming," Harrison says, joking that it was "a little too big." *Big* also was a Coretta Scott King Award Author and Illustrator Honor book and a National Book Award finalist. Winning the Caldecott will be life-changing for Harrison. The book will likely never go out of print, and cash-strapped schools and libraries often make their buying decisions based on books that win the award.

"If it means that my book will now be in small-town libraries like the one that I grew up going to, and a kid like me could find this book and hopefully see a version of herself in that story, then that means everything to me," she says. "I absolutely cherish every opportunity to get this book in the hands of somebody who wants it."

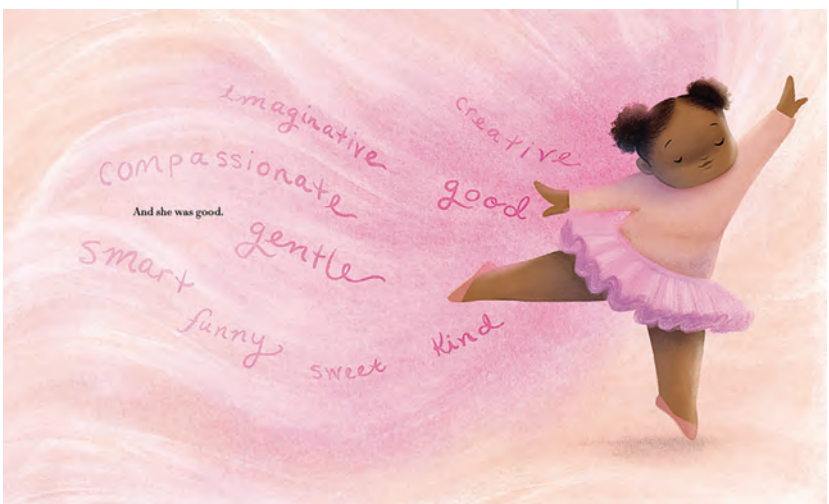
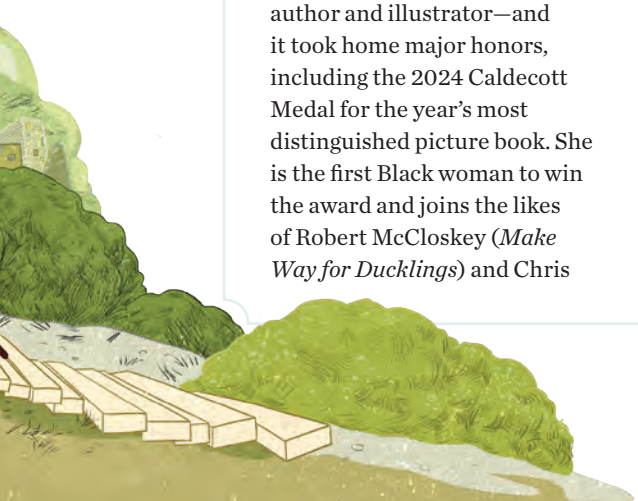


ILLUSTRATION BY VASHTI HARRISON IN *BIG*



JEN FIER JASINSKI (COL '09, EDUC '09)



ILLUSTRATION BY ANITA BAGDI IN *MY PIANO*/ COURTESY GNOME ROAD PUBLISHING

Jen Fier Jasinski lives with a grand piano and a professional pianist, her husband. But she'd never really thought much about the instrument's strings and hammers until a piano technician came over to work on it. That moment was the inspiration for *My Piano*, her first picture book, published in 2023, which tells the story of a young girl who describes the inner workings of the piano as she grapples with her own internal feelings while preparing for a recital.



For Jasinski, a former teacher, storytime was her favorite time of the day with her students—a cozy moment when they could relax together. She loved seeing the kids react as they made connections between the words and illustrations, and she enjoyed the opportunity to tie a story to the curriculum in an unexpected way. *My Piano* has plenty of learning opportunities—from the technical aspects of how a piano works to the lessons learned as the girl works through her nerves and plays her first notes.

Jasinski has a busy couple of years ahead.

Her second picture book, *Sidewalk Chalk*, is slated to come out in 2025. And *My Violin*, the sequel to *My Piano*, is scheduled to publish in 2026.

"Publishing is just a wild roller coaster—you really have to hold on for a while sometimes," says Jasinski, who started writing in earnest in 2016. "But right now it's sped up for me the past few months. I'm just hoping to keep up, and I'm trying to enjoy it."

ANNE MARIE PACE (EDUC '89)



Anne Marie Pace doesn't usually favor Halloween themes, but when the idea of a ballerina who happens to be a vampire popped into her head, she saw potential. "What I tell kids is that stories have to have problems, and so you have to have a conflict," Pace says. "Opposites are a really good way to build a conflict."

The result was *Vampirina Ballerina*, a four-book series that inspired Disney Junior's *Vampirina* animated series, which ran from 2017 to 2021 and is still streaming. "It was exciting," Pace says of seeing her character on the little screen (she's quick to add that although she inspired its title character, she was not involved in the TV series' creation).

Mouse Calls is Pace's latest work. The sparsely worded rhyming picture book, which came out in 2022, tells the story of a mouse who helps to protect his animal friends from a bad storm. These days Pace, a former high school English teacher, is working on a novel for readers ages 8 to 12 and sometimes teaching other children's book writers how to refine their craft.



ILLUSTRATION BY LEUYEN PHAM IN *VAMPIRINA BALLERINA*

On the surface, it might seem easy to write a picture book. But there's an art and science to it that includes input from illustrators, who most often work separately from authors, and careful consideration of the pace and rhythm of the words to ensure that it's fun to read and listen to. Says Pace: "I have friends who will say, 'I wrote three words today, but they were the right three words.'"



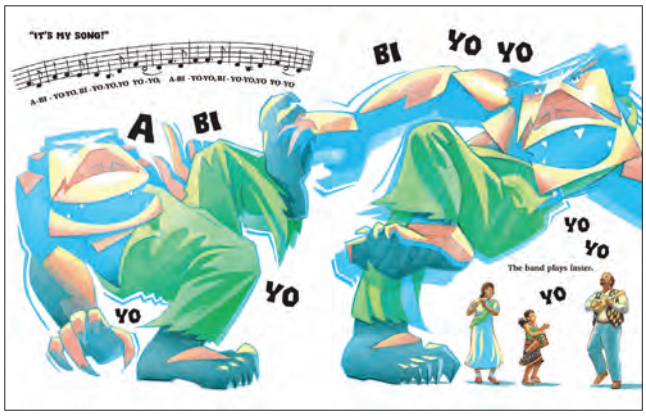
PAUL DUBOIS JACOBS (GRAD '94)

The Lost Lost-and-Found Case—the fourth book in the Mack Rhino, Private Eye, series—begins with the familiar clipped and fast-paced rhythm common in detective fiction. Our hero, Mack, has a problem to solve, and the case quickly unfolds as he prepares to speak at an elementary school.



"I had that [idea] for at least 10 years, if not earlier, and had been pitching it," Jacobs says of the Mack Rhino character. But so it goes in children's literature. It can take years for even prolific authors like Jacobs and his co-author and wife Jennifer Swender to see a work to fruition. "You've got to come with a sense of humor," says Jacobs, whose first children's book was published 20 years ago. "It's just slow-moving."

Jacobs found children's literature in a roundabout way. He'd worked as a carpenter for eight years when he arrived at UVA to earn a master's degree in creative writing with a specialty in poetry. Studying with the likes of then–U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove and Charles Wright, now professor emeritus of UVA's Creative Writing Program, he discovered the power and wonder of storytelling through poetry. Many of his picture books are written in rhyming text.



The song "Abiyoyo" is a traditional lullaby of the Xhosa people of South Africa.

Through a series of connections, he linked up with folk musician Pete Seeger, co-writing four books with him, including the picture books *Abiyoyo Returns* and *The Deaf Musicians*. And he's collaborated on multiple books with Swender, including another early reader series called Animal Inn. "Jen and I work great together," he says. "She's great at getting things from point A to B. ... I love revision. I love finding the right word, and I can go over something over and over."

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LINSEY DAVIS (COL '99)

It was the day after Iowa women's basketball superstar Caitlin Clark was the WNBA's No. 1 draft pick, and ABC anchor Linsey Davis was on the set of *Good Morning America* with her colleagues asking Clark questions. How does she handle the pressure? How early does she remember having that spirit of competition?



In many ways, Clark is living the dream that Davis envisions in her latest picture book, *Girls of the World: Doing More Than Ever Before*. The book, which Davis wrote with co-author Michael Tyler, encourages girls to be brave, use their voices and claim their place in the world.

Clark "has really become the face of driving this new excitement, enthusiasm about women's basketball, and I'm really happy to see that," Davis says. "For so long, only the men were getting the attention, and now she has really single-handedly caused this shift. ... We need to be encouraging young girls that, yes, we are strong, we are bold, we are brave, we are ambitious."



Davis' day job includes serving as anchor for *ABC News Live Prime, World News Tonight* on Sundays and filling in for *Good Morning America* and other ABC shows. Writing picture books provides some respite from the tough topics she's often covering on the news. It's also an opportunity to connect with her 10-year-old son, Ayden, whose questions and comments have sparked the ideas for each book. *Girls of the World* is her sixth and a *New York Times* bestseller.

What's next for Davis is a busy few months of news coverage, including the presidential elections this fall. But she's hopeful that the messages from *Girls of the World* will take root, she says. "I really want to plant the seeds of positivity and what's possible for young girls as far as what they can do and who they can be."

ILLUSTRATION BY LUCY FLEMING

KELSEY JOHNSON, UVA ASTRONOMY PROFESSOR



Kelsey Johnson spent formative childhood moments staring up at the stars in Minnesota, but the impact of light pollution over the years has made it much more difficult for all of us to notice what's up there. Some 80 percent of the world now lives under light-polluted skies, says Johnson, a UVA astronomy professor.

"Because of this framing in our lives, it's easy for us to go through our daily lives forgetting ... that we're part of something much bigger," she says. "I worry about what that does to our worldview. ... I think it's a real problem for humanity that we're losing touch with the universe."

That's a big reason the astrophysicist penned *Constellations for Kids: An Easy Guide to Discovering the Stars*. The book, which came out in 2020, features easy-to-understand descriptions aimed at getting young readers—and their adults—curious about stars and constellations.

"The whole point of writing this book was to get kids to want to go outside and get permission to stay up late to go outside at night—and to get their adults with them," says Johnson, who also is founding director of the Dark Skies, Bright Kids outreach program for Virginia elementary school students.

Johnson's academic research includes a focus on ancient star formations, and she's currently president of the American Astronomical Society. But her work with young people and families has been particularly rewarding. "It's doing what I wanted it to do," she says of the book. "It's getting people to go outside with their kids, and it's getting kids excited to go outside."



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MACK

DEBBIE LEVY (COL '78)

Award-winning and bestselling children's author Debbie Levy is known for documenting historical people and events. Her latest book, *Change Is in the Air: Carbon, Climate, Earth, and Us*, is a bit of a departure.



But the inspiration comes from her own experiences watching as the tidal river on Maryland's Eastern Shore—where she's fished, kayaked and birded over the past 25 years—has changed. And while news of climate change can feel gloomy, the book, released in March, points out the "superpowers" of both nature and people to make for a cleaner, better world, Levy says. "I was interested in presenting something that was both hopeful and realistic."

While the out-of-doors is the focus of *Change Is in the Air*, outsiders are the theme of most of her earlier books. *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*, for example, covers the life of the Supreme Court justice who started her work for women's rights from the outside.

This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality highlights 12 students who integrated a Tennessee high school a year before Little Rock students did the same; it's co-written with Jo Ann Allen Boyce, one of those students.

And there's *The Year of Goodbyes*, the true story of Levy's own mother as a 12-year-old Jewish girl in 1938, attempting to live normally as antisemitism grew in Germany.



Levy hopes her books cultivate a love of reading and a sense of connection. "I hope that they appreciate seeing something familiar, like seeing themselves, in a way, or something they know," she says. "And if it's unfamiliar to them ... then I hope there's a sense of, 'oh, discovery' and maybe empathy for somebody who's different."

ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX BOERSMA

WENDY WAN-LONG SHANG (COL '90, LAW '94)



Drama—in drama class. That's how one of Wendy Wan-Long Shang's latest chapter books, *Bubble Trouble*, opens. And for a book aimed at middle schoolers, who are known for their occasional flair for the dramatic, it seems entirely appropriate. Scholastic approached Shang to write the book, part of the publisher's food-themed romance series for third- to seventh-graders. A boba tea shop plays a central role in Shang's book.



Bubble Trouble doesn't just dive into boba tea and young crushes. Like most of Shang's books, it also showcases main characters of Asian descent. Her books include two about doll brand American Girl's fictional 2022 Girl of the Year, Corinne Tan, its first character of Chinese descent. Other books, such as *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu* and *The Secret Battle of Evan Pao*, feature storylines and characters of her own creation.

Shang grew up mostly in Northern Virginia as the child of Chinese immigrants, and the library was one of the few places where her strict parents gave her free rein. "I have very rarely come across an adult novel that gets imprinted on my heart the way books I read as a child did," says Shang, who as a law student took a break from her complex readings by picking up *Harriet the Spy*.

As a child, she didn't think much about the lack of characters like her until she came across Tracy Wu, a character in Judy Blume's book *Blubber*. Says Shang: "I still remember turning the page, and she's like this normal kid," a surprising find at a time when most Asian characters were modeled after negative stereotypes. "It was this moment of, 'Oh my gosh, that's me.'"

She started writing stories with Asian characters because that's what she knows, she says. And she hopes her readers take away the knowledge that people can have lives that are both distinctly different and quite similar to their own. "This is my wildest dream, to write books and connect with readers," she says. "I feel super lucky."

KIRSTEN W. LARSON (COL '96)



From its first pages, *The Fire of Stars: The Life and Brilliance of the Woman Who Discovered What Stars Are Made Of* by Kirsten W. Larson tells two stories: how a star is made, and the backstory of the astronomer and astrophysicist who figured out that recipe, Cecilia Payne.

What intrigued Larson the most about Payne, she says, was how in love she was with her work and the idea of being the first person to figure something out.

As a writer, Larson says, she feels a lot of affinity with Payne. "You have this idea, and you really want it to all come together," she says. "And then it's just a matter of perseverance and waiting for that 'aha!' moment where it brings everything together."

Larson's other books, like *The Fire of Stars*, also feature overlooked women. *Wood, Wire, and Wings: Emma Lilian Todd Invents an Airplane* tells the story of the self-taught engineer and first woman to design airplanes. *A True Wonder: The Comic Book Hero Who Changed Everything* tells the story of Wonder Woman, including the women who helped shape her adventures. And she has more books coming in 2025, including a graphic novel titled *Light of Resistance*, about a Parisian art curator who doubled as a World War II spy.



For somebody who was interested in so many things that she had trouble landing on a major at UVA, Larson says the title of children's book author is a perfect fit for her. "It was a combination of something I thought I could do," she says, "but also an opportunity with every book to learn about a whole new subject and be forced to master it and understand it in order to write a book."

ILLUSTRATION BY KATHERINE RAY



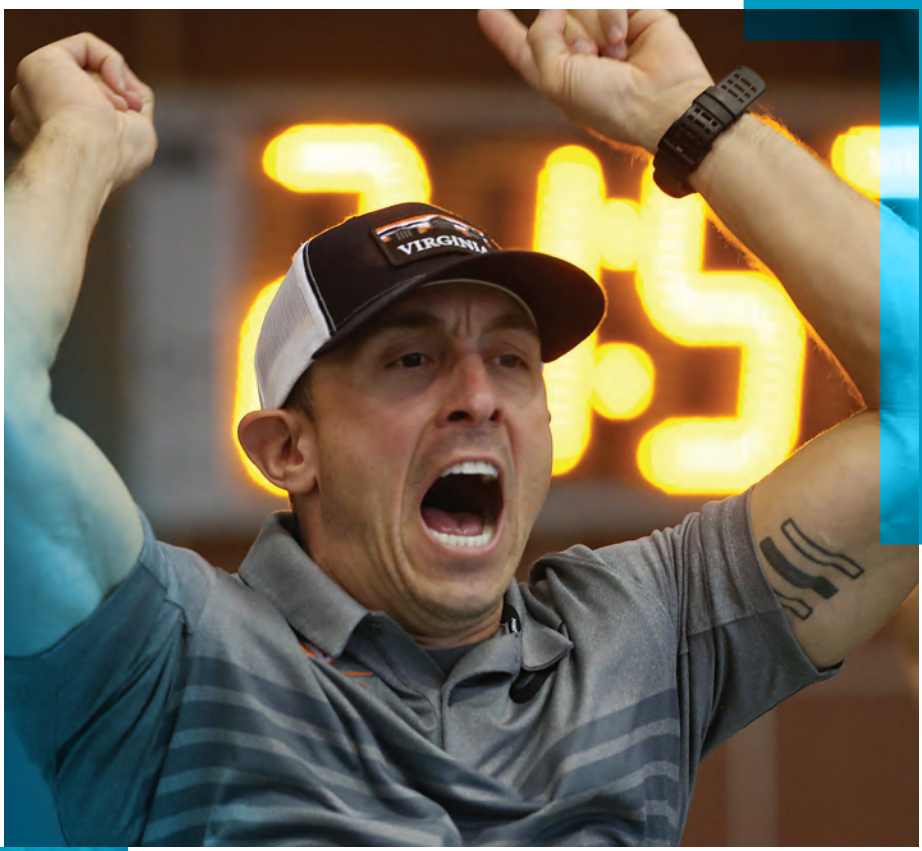
CRAZY FAST



NCAA 100-yard butterfly record-holder Gretchen Walsh

Coach Todd DeSorbo isn't just transforming UVA swimming. He's changing the sport—which is totally insane, and exactly how he likes it.

BY RICHARD GARD



When Todd DeSorbo first arrived, his recruiting pitch had to rely on excitement alone.

It would have made perfect sense for **Kate Douglass (Col '23, Grad '28)** to swim for Stanford University. The insider websites had her as either the No. 1 or No. 2 girls recruit in the country her junior year in high school, and the Stanford women were once again the reigning national champions. More to the point, Stanford wanted her.

But Douglass' parents had always had a soft spot for the University of Virginia, though neither had gone there. It, too, offered strong academics in a beautiful setting. And UVA had just hired this new swimming coach, Todd DeSorbo, from North Carolina State University, where he had generated buzz as a sprint assistant. He was coming at Douglass at top speed. It's his only setting. →

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM EWING AND STEVE HEDBERG; *RIGHT:* MATT RILEY/UVA COMMUNICATIONS



The blue Power Racks put the DeSorbo method's well-anchored chaos on full display.

ADAM EWING

TIME OVER DISTANCE

Crazy is the word for UVA Swimming & Diving in the DeSorbo era, but it's crazy like a fox. The pandemonium comes with a plan, and that plan is all about speed—all athletes going all-out all the time, swimming not just fast, but crazy fast.

That's an upending of convention. Elite-level swimming has traditionally and famously been a grind and a long slog. Coaches pile ungodly amounts of yardage on their swimmers throughout the winter season. They build up athletes' endurance, break down their muscles, tire them, make them ache. Then, at season's end, in time for major competition, they scale back—taper, it's called—so that, once rested and recovered, they're fit to swim their fastest.

DeSorbo rejects that. His mantras: Don't dull the knife. Protect their speed. He wants his swimmers ready, nimble, on their game year-round. He reduces the yardage and doesn't track it, at least not closely. It's not listed on the workouts, though his swimmers are free to count up the laps in their heads. (We asked; none said they do.) The program focuses on technique, strength and agility. It's a regimen that matches the temperament of a high-energy coach, as does the distinctively lighthearted culture and the unpretentious management style.

And it's working. Under DeSorbo and his coaches, the women's team has won the past five ACC championships. They brought UVA (and the ACC) its first national championship in 2021 and haven't stopped winning since—four national titles and counting, tying early 1990s men's soccer for the most consecutive UVA national titles. Twenty-six Cavaliers have qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in June, as have two swimming alumni and several verbally committed recruits. DeSorbo himself is headed to Paris as Team USA's women's head coach.

His approach has transformed a pretty good program into something extraordinary, and the sport is taking notice. Says Coleman Hodges, host and production manager of the "SwimSwam" podcast, DeSorbo "has broken the mold in a lot of ways, and I think that is why people have been attracted to his program and have had such success coming out of it."

That success has largely surrounded the women's program, which was further along than the men's when DeSorbo and his coaches arrived. Over their seven years, they have attracted some strong recruits, but the men's program has yet to establish the momentum needed to contend. DeSorbo, however, has a plan. It's characteristically audacious. And, also characteristically, it seems on the verge of happening.

"He had a lot of energy when recruiting us," says Douglass, a graduate student from Pelham, New York, who since going pro continues to train with the UVA team. Instagram played a big part in the program's recruitment messaging, and it was boisterous and unrelenting. "It was definitely a little scary, because I'm kind of a very low-key, quiet, more laid-back person," she says. "I was like, 'Wow, they're really just like *loud*, you know, and a lot of hype.'"

At that point, the 2017-2018 academic year, it was hype alone. The Cavaliers were no swimming power. They'd finished 12th in the 2017 NCAA women's swimming championships and had never risen higher than fifth in school history. They competed in a conference, the ACC, that had the hope of a swimming title but never the hardware. Plus, UVA was known for its distance swimming, something Douglass did not do.

Then Douglass paid a visit, and seeing was believing. In DeSorbo's office, she saw just how much the coach believed, both in the program and in her. She listened as DeSorbo, in his comfortably confident way, told her the plan: The UVA women were going to win the NCAA swimming title while Douglass was in college. He was going to put UVA swimmers in the 2020 Olympic Games, and he saw her as one of them. He would make her the fastest 50-yard freestyler in the country and, in a swimming world contradiction, he would also make her the fastest in the 200-yard individual medley.

It all came to pass, even sooner than DeSorbo predicted. UVA won its first women's NCAA title during Douglass' second year. (COVID canceled the 2020 NCAAs or it might have happened sooner.) Douglass did go to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (held in 2021), and she medaled, taking bronze in the 200 IM. She did in fact break the American records in both the 50 free and the 200 IM.

"Damn, that's what we said we would do," she says, as if still trying to believe. "All these crazy things that he said to me, they all came true."



Since going pro, graduate student Kate Douglass continues to train with the UVA team.

WELCOME TO CRAZY

Walk onto the pool deck for a DeSorbo practice, and you see and hear the crazy. The music, courtesy of a new sound system and SiriusXM, pulses at around 90 decibels. I share that data point with the numbers-obsessed coach.

"Oh, nice. Is that loud?" he asks. (In fact, yes. It falls somewhere between leaf blower and motorcycle, according to the audiophiles at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.) He says, "I like things to be a bit chaotic. I like the loud music. It gets me in a good mood."

The swimmers say the same, though not everyone on the day someone put on country.

The Aquatic & Fitness Center, the UVA swimming venue beside Scott Stadium, has one giant lap pool, which a movable bulkhead divides into the main competition pool at the deep end and the warmup pool at the shallow end. Between them, DeSorbo and his assistants run six different workouts at any given practice. They move the bulkhead throughout the season to give the swimmers roughly equal time doing their events in 25-yard lengths, the American standard, and in 50 meters, for international competition.

The women's and men's teams work out together. Douglass says, "We love training with the boys, and I think the boys enjoy training with us because we kick their asses." **Noah Nichols (Col '24)**, a fourth-year star on the men's team, doesn't disagree. "If you're next to Kate Douglass on a 200 breaststroke set, you are going to get challenged greatly, because I swear that woman does not get tired at all."

"All these crazy things that he said to me, they all came true," says Kate Douglass, as amazed as anyone.

DeSorbo works with the sprinters, using all manner of



The coaches are bizarrely in sync, says Noah Nichols, shown at the 2023 Pan American Games.

TOP: MATT RILEY/UVA COMMUNICATIONS; *RIGHT:* MAURO PIMENTEL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

devices to build bursts of power and agility. Most prominent is the Power Rack, a 5-foot-9 guillotine-like metal frame, placed at the head of a lane, holding a stack of 15 metal bars, 10 pounds each. A rubber cord and cable connect a belt fastened around the swimmer's waist to a pulley on the rack. A giant pin lets player or coach set the weight level, from 10 pounds to 150. On cue, the swimmer pushes off the wall with maximum force, kicking and windmilling with everything they've got, until the weights hit the top of the rack and the swimmer is stopped dead in the water. A rubber extension on the cable mitigates the abrupt yank on the belt, roughly 10.5 yards down the lane. The goal is to max out the rack in under six seconds. Some of the men can pull 150 pounds. I saw one swim hard enough to bust the cord connection and cause the weights to crash to the bottom of the rack.

Over the music, the splashing, and the well-masticated wad of gum in his cheek, DeSorbo shouts out times and encouragement, bending down to increase weights as he works his way up and down the deck. It's grueling, bordering on medieval, and yet in the lanes the athletes are laughing and smiling. The sprinters do this about twice a week, the distance swimmers less often.

It's the DeSorbo method on full display, the well-anchored chaos, the constant readouts of data, the sense of fun, and the coach's trust to let his assistants develop and manage the other five workouts taking place in the pools.

It showcases the rarefied talent DeSorbo & Co. have recruited to the waters of the AFC. Associate head coach Blaire Bachman Anderson, working with her own group in the competition pool, points to the swimmers arrayed in the lanes before her—**Aimee Canny (Col '26)**, who just qualified for the South African Olympic squad and Team USA alumnae Douglass and **Alex Walsh (Col '24)**. Anderson has played a central role in developing each of them, and she marvels at the opportunity.

> ***"People look at Todd and they're like, 'OK, like what did you do before this? Were you like a surf instructor? Were you selling mai tais at the beach?'"***
>
> ***—Associate Head Coach Tyler Fenwick***

On Power Rack day, you also see the no-frills sensibility that comes with coaching a nonrevenue sport. Once the metal contraptions go back into the equipment room, DeSorbo grabs a hose to power-wash the pool deck. Never mind the four NCAA championship trophies crowding his cinderblock office in the basement: When it's time to convert the pool from short course to long, he's bending down to help his assistants take up the lane lines. Then he's putting his back into the full-body chore of pushing the bulkhead through the water into position.

He wouldn't have it any other way. "If the kids see me doing that, then they're like, 'Well, I need to do something too,'" says DeSorbo, whose reported 2023 base salary of $145,600 falls just shy of a football or basketball strength and conditioning coach.

NO, DUDE, DELOITTE

DeSorbo, 46, is fit without being muscle-bound, 5-foot-10 with a swimmer's broad shoulders. A denizen of the pool deck, he wears cotton and microfiber UVA logo gear and waterproof shoes. He's always in a hat, covering his closely shaved head, the ears supporting it the best way to spot him from a distance in the stands. He has a tattoo on his inner upper arm, another on his left quad, wears a black Garmin sports watch on one wrist, usually a beaded bracelet on the other.

"People look at Todd and they're like, 'OK, like what did you do before this? Were you like a surf instructor? Were you selling mai tais at the beach?'" says associate head coach Tyler Fenwick. "'No,'" Fenwick says, voicing his boss's answer. "'I was a CPA at Deloitte.'"

The professional license came on top of bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, where DeSorbo transferred his senior year from the University of Kentucky swim team. At UNCW, he won conference titles in the 200 backstroke and 200 and 400 IM. At Deloitte his main event was long-distance fly, traveling the country as a tax consultant. Based in Raleigh, he got the firm's blessing to move to Wilmington to accommodate his wife Lauren's pursuit of her graduate degree. She was a UNCW diver.

DeSorbo kept up with his swimming at the local YMCA, practicing by himself but quickly catching the attention of a group of triathletes. They asked if he'd coach them one morning a week.

He became a sensation. Soon the Y master's team, adult swimmers, talked him into coaching their group two mornings a week. When the Y lost the coach of its competitive age-group swim program, the Cape Fear Aquatic Club, essentially high school seniors down to those age 8 and under, the Y management knew whom to ask. DeSorbo started coaching the kids six days a week, sometimes twice a day. He likely dropped the adult groups, he says; it's something of a blur. And he continued billing upward of 60 hours a week as a Big Four tax consultant.



DeSorbo and team relatively pleased at this year's NCAAs in Athens, Georgia

MATT RILEY/UVA COMMUNICATIONS

He says, "I didn't dislike the Deloitte work. I just—I didn't wake up every morning like, 'Can't wait to go to work.'"

Even with the aid of an assistant coach, it was an unsustainable arrangement. DeSorbo in his late 20s managed to pull it off. But it took a direct question from his UNCW swim coach, Dave Allen, a friend and mentor, to crystallize DeSorbo's thoughts: What do you really want to do? His answer: Coach swimming at the college level.

It would take to the end of the season of age-group swimming, and tax accounting, for a position to open on the UNCW staff. When the team's sprint coach retired, Allen offered DeSorbo the job and with it two instructional videos and a book on sprinting. DeSorbo, like the trained consultant he was, took a much deeper dive. He read everything he could get his hands on, studied the methods of the leading sprint coaches in the country. He was a blank slate, open to anything. "Whatever success I've had as a sprint coach, I attribute a lot of it to the fact that I wasn't a sprinter," he says. "I didn't have a preconceived notion of what sprinters should be doing."

After five years with the Wilmington team, DeSorbo stepped up to N.C. State, where he took over the sprint program. During his six years there, he coached three swimmers to the 2016 Rio Olympics, including gold medalist Ryan Held. He helped the Wolfpack end UVA's six-year streak of ACC men's swimming championships in 2014 and, three years later, ended the UVA women's nine-year ACC run.

The Cavaliers' misfortunes coincided with leadership turnover. After 35 years, and a record 27 ACC championship titles, head coach **Mark Bernardino (Com '74, Educ '78)** left in 2013. UVA brought in University of Houston women's coach Augie Busch to replace him. After four years of both progress and setbacks, Busch in 2017 left for the University of Arizona, his alma mater, where his father had been a longtime coach, taking his top assistants with him.

FORMING THE ROCK BAND

Busch's departure created the perfect opening for DeSorbo. There was just one catch: He wasn't interested. He too had put in for the University of Arizona job, gone through the interview process, and he was drained. Lauren DeSorbo, who he says never relished the prospect of a move out West, was incredulous.

"I just don't want to go through it again right now. I'm done, and I also never wanted to be the kind of coach who would apply for everything," DeSorbo remembers telling her. "And I was happy at N.C. State."

For a man known for uncanny timing and the ability to see into the future, it was a rare lapse. Over vacation with his wife's family, she and they set him straight. "They wore me down," he insists.

As a coach, DeSorbo likes to keep his swimmers loose going into competitive situations. "He makes it feel like if you fail, it's OK," says "SwimSwam" commentator Hodges. "It's not that it doesn't matter, but that there's not a lot of pressure." That's how DeSorbo approached the Virginia interviews, loose and alert.

Before he had worked out his deal with UVA, he started assembling his coaching staff. Anderson, an Indiana University coach at the time, spotted DeSorbo on the deck of the U.S. Open Swimming Championships on Long Island and texted him. Like the rest of the swimming world, she knew he was a lock for the Virginia job. They set up a call days after the meet, when DeSorbo's news had become official.

Here's what a formal job interview with Todd DeSorbo sounds like: "I'll be honest. I just want to shoot the sh-- with you for 20 minutes," she remembers him saying. "He was like, 'Just talk,' like we're just hanging out," she says.

Not relying on the interview process to assess someone's technical ability, he was more concerned with group dynamics. "The coaching, that can be figured out if necessary. To me it's about chemistry, and like, dude, can we just get along, and are we going to enjoy being around each other?" DeSorbo explains.

Over the ensuing week or so, they continued the conversation and continued texting. He offered Anderson the job, asking her whether she needed to see Charlottesville first. She knew to say no. She packed up her life and drove into Charlottesville 72 hours later.

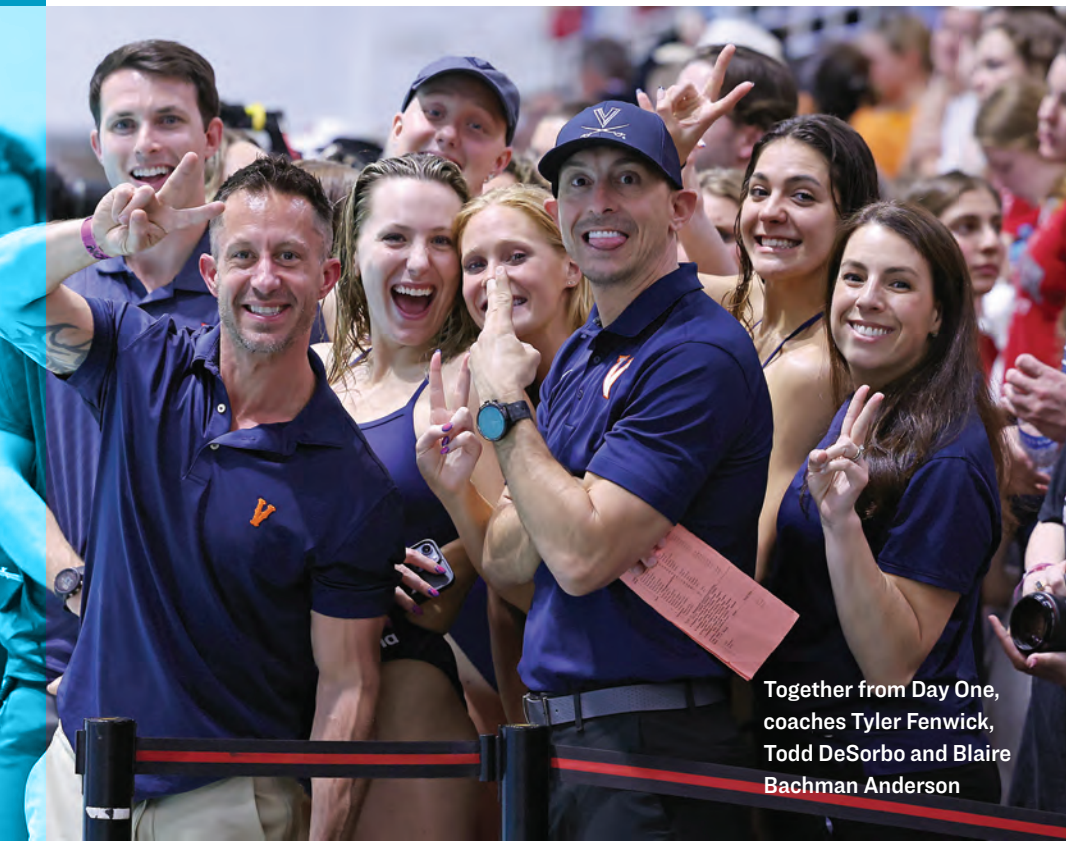
The hiring of Fenwick, then on the University of Tennessee staff, followed roughly the same script. DeSorbo already knew Fenwick's talent as a distance coach, a strength of the Virginia program that DeSorbo wanted to make sure to preserve. Fenwick knew of DeSorbo from watching him on the competitive circuit, knew that "Todd was high energy and his kids just swam like their hair was on fire," he says.

Fenwick accepted the job while in California, about to take a group of swimmers to compete in the World University Games in Taipei. With apologies, he sent the athletes on their way, paid someone to pack up his things in Knoxville, and beelined it home and thence to Charlottesville.

In the early days, fall of 2017, with his family still in North Carolina, DeSorbo lived in a rental house on Price Avenue, a half-mile from the AFC. Most every evening after practice the coaches convened there to reimagine the Virginia swimming program. Anderson describes it as a think tank. "We would flesh out what training groups would look like, what recruiting would look like," she says.

It was as much about coming together as coming up with strategy. There was a lot of pizza. Fenwick sometimes spent the night on the couch. The core group has coached together for seven years. (Anderson is leaving to step up to director of the Texas A&M program.)

Nichols, who like all the swimmers rotates among all the coaches, marvels at the mind meld. "I don't get any mixed signals at all from anybody. It's like they all went to the same school," he says. "You're going to get the same exact answer, which is so bizarre."



Together from Day One, coaches Tyler Fenwick, Todd DeSorbo and Blaire Bachman Anderson

MATT RILEY/UVA COMMUNICATIONS

Following through on the intuitive way he hired them, DeSorbo leaves his coaches to their responsibilities. "Todd basically said, 'Here are the keys. Make them fast, and you're good,'" Anderson says.

But there's an or-else. Fenwick remembers DeSorbo telling the group: "I want high energy. I want engagement. … If your kids don't swim fast, I'll find somebody who will make them go fast." Says Fenwick, "He told us that one time. I'll never forget that line."

'YOU WIN WITH STARS'

DeSorbo didn't set just the tempo; he also set a tone. His message at his first team meeting was similar to what Douglass and other recruits would soon hear. UVA would during their time win its first NCAA title. He would put swimmers in the Olympics. In fact, he said, there were future Olympians in their midst at that moment.

"Here comes in Todd, somebody



Ella Nelson, shown at the 2024 NCAAs, saw the coaches' spark on her high school visit.

JAMIE HOLT/UVA ATHLETICS

that they've known for like a hot second," making that kind of statement, Anderson says. "That's confidence that can't be made up. Like, he just walked in there and just said that."

DeSorbo says, "I definitely made a pretty bold statement, but I believed it." Once he started focusing on the UVA post, he knew the potential. Virginia's institutional prestige positioned it to be the next University of California, Berkeley, an elite public university that competed at the highest levels of swimming.

He says he didn't necessarily have any individual in mind as a UVA Olympian, and yet there in the audience was newly arrived first-year **Paige Madden (Educ '21)**, whom his predecessor had recruited. Four years later in Tokyo, she would help the USA to silver in the 800-meter free relay.

Virginia had a consistently strong program before the coaches arrived, but it had never broken through to the top echelons. The remedy was patently obvious, and nothing that hasn't occurred to every other winning or wannabe swimming program in the country. It all comes down to recruiting. High school swimming has become so highly refined that college coaching focuses on advanced-level adjustments. It's not like *Boys in the Boat*, where a coach can mold Olympians from scratch. Says Fenwick, "The thing about swimming is you win with stars."

The new coaches were months behind other schools in recruiting the fall of 2018's incoming class, though they did make several good pickups. They immediately got to work recruiting for fall of 2019. They rooted their pitch in their unshakable certitude that they were going to take Virginia swimming to a national title and its swimmers to the Olympics. Sure, you can go to Stanford, with its 11 NCAA women's titles, to Texas with its seven or to Cal with its four. Or you can come to UVA and make history.

It was compelling, and it needed to be. "We had nothing to show for anything," DeSorbo says. "We hadn't done anything at that point—we just got here—other than our personalities. Like, that's what we had to show."

Margaret "Ella" Nelson (Educ '23, Com '24), the No. 8 recruit in the country, came through for an unofficial recruiting visit with her parents just weeks after the new coaches had arrived. Anderson, who'd assured DeSorbo that she didn't need to see Charlottesville before relocating, led them on a tour of Grounds.

In circles. It was September and it was hot, and she walked them a mile out of their way in search of the Lawn. She got them no closer than the ed school.

It didn't matter. It became a joke, and proof positive of just how new and eager Virginia's coaching staff was. Nelson, who was also considering Texas and Cal, clearly saw the spark. "When I would talk to all the coaches, they just had this excitement and confidence in what they could do with the team. You couldn't help but believe them," she says. "There was no way I was not going to be part of this process."

The coaches courted Nelson together with Douglass and **Maddie Donohoe (Col '23, Educ '28)**, a distance swimmer from Annandale, Virginia, the 11th-ranked national recruit. The three knew one another from USA Swimming's National Junior Team, and they kept in close touch during the recruiting process. As they committed one by one, Virginia swimming



Gretchen Walsh has also set the NCAA women's record in the 100 backstroke.

ADAM EWING

climbed three steps higher toward its aspirations.

The recruiting started gaining momentum. Nelson's commitment gave UVA a better line on Alex Walsh, the No. 2 ranked women's recruit for the class of 2020. They were close friends, Walsh a year behind Nelson at Harpeth Hall girls school and a teammate on the nationally prominent Nashville Aquatic Club.

Walsh has gone on to become one of the stars of the program. When Douglass fulfilled DeSorbo's prediction by winning that 200 IM bronze medal in Tokyo in 2021, standing on the podium one step above her was Walsh, who took silver.

For the incoming class the following year in 2021, UVA signed the No. 1 girls recruit in the country, **Gretchen Walsh (Com '25)**, Alex's younger sister by 18 months and, of course, another friend of Nelson's from Harpeth Hall and the NAC age-group team. Gretchen was determined not to follow her sister in lockstep. Both Walshes enjoy telling the story of Gretchen's drawing up a pros-and-cons list about UVA, with Alex's name being the only entry on the debit side of the ledger.

"I honestly wanted to prove people wrong, but I couldn't deny that this was where I was supposed to be at the end of the day," Gretchen Walsh says.

The Walsh sisters dominated the UVA women's 2024 win of the national title. Gretchen bested her previous NCAA records in each of her individual events. Alex similarly won each of her individual events by swimming personal bests. Both powered UVA's victories in four relays, including setting a new record for the 400-yard medley.

Those NCAA and personal bests underscore the crucial companion element of UVA's recruiting success. It's not just that the coaches can create the excitement to attract elite talent to Charlottesville. It's that, once they get here, the athletes get better, and then better still.

Gretchen Walsh, as a prime example, has reduced her times in key events each of her three years at UVA. Between this year's ACC championships in February and the NCAAs in March, she set four successive records in the 50 freestyle. "I've honestly improved so much here, more than I could have ever dreamed of," she says.

MOONSHOT

So what about the men? The UVA coaches have set out to moonshot the program the same way they did with the women in 2019, when Maddie Donohoe, Ella Nelson and Kate Douglass came to Virginia as a package deal. This time, for the fall of 2025 incoming men's class, they've targeted a group they've dubbed the Savage 7.

At the center of the plan has been attracting the No. 1 boys recruit in the country, Albemarle County resident Thomas Heilman, who's already turning in NCAA-level times. His brother, second-year **Matthew Heilman (Col '26)**, swims for UVA, where their mother, Carrie Heilman, teaches in the School of Commerce.



Recruiting Alex Walsh kept the momentum going. She took silver in Tokyo and has been a major contributor to UVA's success, including here at the 2024 NCAAs.

Thomas Heilman has been a key link to the No. 2 recruit, his friend on the national scene Maximus Williamson who, like Heilman, is considered a once-in-a-generation talent. Among other feats, Williamson broke Michael Phelps' 20-year high school record for the age 15-16 400 IM, beating it by four seconds.

It has been a steady courtship of both of them. As part of it, DeSorbo and Fenwick made a pilgrimage to the Williamson home outside of Dallas in October, hoping to get a verbal commitment. Instead, they got an earful from Williamson's mother, Jenny, about the visit her son had just taken to Arizona State University, where Bob Bowman, Michael Phelps' legendary coach, ran the program.

"She's talking about Arizona State and how great it was, for like an hour straight," Fenwick says. "Todd's not happy."

DeSorbo said they needed to get down to business. Jenny Williamson called in Maximus to join them at the kitchen table. As they got underway, his phone rang.

It was Thomas Heilman FaceTiming him, asking if DeSorbo was there. Williamson turned his screen around to the coach, where he saw Thomas Heilman say: "Todd, you're looking at your two newest commits."

Says Fenwick, "It took us like a second, and then we're like, 'Oh my God,' like everything just changed." At which point, Jenny Williamson, who'd been working them hard all afternoon and evening, brought out a plate of homemade cookies. They were in the shape of the University of Virginia block-V, with orange-and-blue icing on top.

The next Saturday Heilman and Williamson made their verbal commitments to UVA in unison with No. 8 recruit Thomas Mercer, No. 12 Josh Howat, and a fifth Savage, Grant Murphy. The boys came up with the idea of making their announcements together to make a maximum impact. Jaws dropped. SwimSwam said simply: "Here. We. Go."

DeSorbo's plan seemed to be coming together, just as he said it would.

Richard Gard is the editor of Virginia Magazine.



Virtual commits: Thomas Heilman on Maximus Williamson's phone during Fenwick and DeSorbo's house call

TOP: JAMIE HOLT/UVA ATHLETICS; *RIGHT:* COURTESY OF JENNY WILLIAMSON



SEEING THE CHAPEL IN A NEW LIGHT

BY ED MILLER PHOTOS BY SANJAY SUCHAK



After a $2.5 million renovation, everything is illuminated

Gaze heavenward inside the renovated University Chapel and you will see the light. It emanates from newly installed LED strips along the support beams and from new fixtures hanging from the carved figureheads on exposed wooden trusses. Together they reveal the restored beauty of the 134-year-old icon's vaulted ceiling, a stark contrast to the dark aesthetic that prevailed for decades.

The ceiling was almost black before, says **Brian Hogg (Col '83)**, senior historic preservation planner with the Office of the Architect.

The walls were painted a drab mauve. Darkened wood finishes and poor lighting led to complaints that it was hard to read in the building, Hogg says. →



Take a peek at the early years of the Chapel, Page 78.



Every piece of wood was refinished and lightened to create a uniform appearance and restore the original color.

No longer. After a 13-month rehab, the first major makeover of the interior since the 1950s, the Chapel has been lightened and brightened. Craftspeople refinished every piece of wood, liberated the original pine floor from beneath worn cork tile, painted the Chapel's walls a vibrant green, and upgraded the sound system. In March, with the push of a button, the Chapel's 127-year-old bell tolled for the first time in 40 years.

A venue that hosts more than 350 events a year—from weddings and memorial services to concerts, dramatic performances and student-group meetings—came back online during the spring semester. The $2.5 million project was a collaboration between outside conservators and lighting designers and the University of Virginia's deep cadre of skilled tradespeople: masons, plasterers, carpenters and electricians.

"We're deservedly very proud of that," Hogg says, "that so much of the work we're able to do on historic buildings is done in-house."

In the case of the Chapel, it's a rare opportunity to leave a lasting mark, says **James Zehmer (Arch '02)**, a historic preservation manager for UVA's Facilities Management division. Other than routine maintenance, the building has been left largely untouched for much of its history.

"About every 70 to 75 years we get our hands on the place," Zehmer says.

Since 1890, the Chapel has stood as something of an outlier, architecturally and philosophically, from the neighboring buildings of Thomas Jefferson's Academical Village.

Its Gothic Revival style is a deliberate departure from Jefferson's neoclassicism. The use of natural stone in its construction contrasts with the red brick and white trim found elsewhere. As with nearby Brooks Hall, a Second French Empire conversation piece completed in 1877, it drew criticism for not being "in harmony with the style of the remaining buildings," historian **Philip Alexander Bruce (Col 1879)** wrote in *History of the University of Virginia: 1819-1919*.

"This is in a lot of ways a little English country church," Hogg says. "That's kind of what it was evoking in its design."

Then of course there's the fact that a chapel was built at all, 71 years after the founding of the University and 64 after the death of Jefferson. Its presence "throws into relief" Jefferson's wariness of religion's influence in public education, according to the "Master Plan for Historic Buildings on Campus" a supporting document for the "Historic Preservation Framework Plan" published by the Office of the Architect in 2006.

"In the creation of the Lawn, Jefferson had deliberately eschewed the typical inclusion of a chapel within the college campus, instead electing to place the Rotunda—the library—at the head of the Lawn grouping. The creation of the University Chapel was something of a correction, if not retaliation, of Jefferson."

At the laying of the cornerstone in 1885, Maximilian Schele De Vere, then in his fifth decade on the UVA faculty, offered his own way of reconciling the placing of a church beside Jefferson's Roman Pantheon–inspired Rotunda. "Behind us rise in cold though classic beauty the outlines of a pagan temple," he said, offering similarly faint praise for the "chaste perfection" of the pavilions and for the Lawn's "long, low colonnades, forever buried in dim twilight or dark shade."

"What so fit as this to typify the search after truth on Earth?"

The Chapel would inspire a search for something higher, he said.

"Within—the pointed window, the flying buttress, the





Above: James Zehmer (Arch '02), Brian Hogg (Col '83) and Henry Hull (Arch '16, '17) shepherded the project. *Bottom right*: The vestry was also lightened and brightened.

pointed steeple, all lead the eye upward, and with the eye the heart is also lifted up, aspiring to heaven."

Despite Jefferson's nonecclesiastical vision for UVA, religious observances and Sunday school were held in the Rotunda from the earliest days.

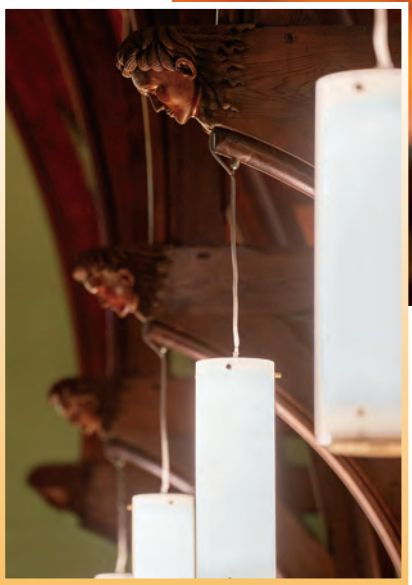
By 1835, there was a clamor to build a chapel, both to serve the spiritual needs of students and faculty and to "sway the public's opinion of the University's morals," according to the "University Chapel Historic Structures Report" completed by architecture firm Quinn Evans for the Office of the Architect in 2008.

Neither that effort nor one in 1859 got anywhere. It wasn't until the 1880s—a period of Christian revival in the country—that the campaign to build a chapel gained momentum, Hogg says.

"Like so many things here, it was a very UVA-specific moment, but it was reflecting larger national trends," he says.

Baltimore architect **Charles Emmett Cassell (Engr 1853)**, who earned his UVA engineering degree at age 15, designed the Chapel, one of 36 religious buildings he created over the course of a successful and colorful career. Trained as a naval architect, Cassell designed the naval waterworks at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, near his native Portsmouth. When the Civil War broke out, he removed the plans from his office to keep them from falling into Union hands. It was considered treason. Having risen to captain in the Confederate Army, he fled to Chile after the war to avoid execution. He became an admiral in the Chilean Navy before receiving a pardon and setting up shop in Baltimore in 1868. His name is associated with more than 150 architectural designs, over a career that continued until his death in 1916.





Artisans restored the carvings on the exposed wooden trusses. *Left*: New fixtures hang from what are believed to be the original locations of the lights. Electricians hid the wires through existing holes.

Construction of the Chapel began in 1884 after $15,000 had been raised through private donations. The amount soon proved to be insufficient, and the Ladies Chapel Aid Society stepped in to keep the project moving, however slowly. It was finally completed in 1890 at a total cost of $30,000, Bruce wrote.

A fire believed to have originated in the basement coal chute damaged the floor and destroyed 13 pews in 1910. It also might have set the Chapel on a path toward a dark aesthetic.

"All the finishes on the woodwork and the brickwork were purposely darkened," Zehmer says. "We don't know exactly when or why, but one hypothesis is that it was to mitigate smoke damage from the fire."

Decades of candle use also had a darkening effect. The Chapel was rewired and repainted in 1954, and the "well-worn" floor and "ragged carpet" were replaced by cork tile, according to the *Cavalier Daily*.

The bell tower was renovated, masonry repaired and the roof replaced in subsequent decades, but other than that, the Chapel was "much as it was when first dedicated," the 2008 report said.

The latest renovation began on the outside. UVA masons repaired water damage, restored the exterior and waterproofed the foundation.

Work inside commenced in December 2022. Conservators from John Canning & Co. of Connecticut cleaned and stripped the wood, and analyzed the original finishes to get an idea of what they looked like new. Though getting a perfect match was not possible, the goal was to create a uniform appearance among several types of wood—pine, oak and chestnut.

The pews were refinished in UVA's cabinet shop. Available Light of Raleigh, North Carolina, in concert with Facilities Management's Design Services group, designed the lighting. UVA's Construction & Renovation Services installed it. The wiring was routed to be out of sight and the lights positioned to highlight the finishes of the wood, which has a richness and beauty that came as a surprise given what it looked like before, Hogg says.

The walls were painted Grenada green, a color based on the original that was popular in the 1880s and 1890s.

The finished product, with its Victorian palette, "would be familiar to anyone who was here in the building's first 50 years," Hogg says.

Precisely who was there has been lost to history. The building differs from other churches in that there are "virtually no historic records or photographs," the 2008 historic structures report says.

"There is no record of weddings, births or deaths."

That's because the Chapel had no regular clergy, but rather chaplains from Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian denominations who rotated each year. Starting in 1904, the YMCA managed the Chapel from its then–recently completed building across the street, Madison Hall, and did so into the 1960s.

There are records for the past 30 years or so, Hogg says. New ones are being made. As of late March, 30 weddings had been scheduled over the coming year, says Katie Dovel, event manager in the Office of Student Affairs.

The renovation added some modern touches. In addition to the upgraded sound system, a newly installed hearing loop will amplify sound for those with hearing aids. And a remote strike can now sound the bell, which had not tolled since 1984, when belfry repairs included removing the pull rope. (A carillon donated by the Seven Society has been chiming since 1957.)

Hogg says the goal was to introduce features that will make the Chapel easier for more people to use, without compromising its character.

"Like all the projects we do, we recognize that the value of the building is in its ability to continue to work for the University."

Ed Miller is senior editor of Virginia Magazine.


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James C. Allison (Darden '82)
Toya Lin Craig (Col '87)
John A. Caldwell (Com '88)
Cabell Smith Gregory (Col '88)
Liz Allman Seccuro (Col '88)
Laura Lynn McKeever Col '89)
Stephan P. Oppenheimer (Engr '89, Darden '96)
Katherine G. Hubbard (Col '90)
Paul Robert Holtz (Col '92)
Jean Katharine Martin-Weinstein (Col '92)
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Michael J. Ritinski (Com '14)
John Alexander Dorsey (Col '17)
Yuhuai Liu (Engr '17)
Krishnamurthy V. Vemuru (Engr '17)
David E. Whitcomb (Com '17)
John C. Grassi (Col '18)
Clare A. Mortenson (Col '19)
Mark G. Felice (Col '20)
Allie S. Kendrick (Col '20)
Jason Jihoon Kim (Engr '20)
Stephen Luckoff (Col '20)
Hannah V. Leigh (Col '22)
Robert L. Leigh II (Col '22)
Nicole M. Luz (Col '22)
Sequoia L. Waite (Educ '22)
John Henry Thomas Bergloff (Col '23)
Peyton J. Hamlett (Col '23, Com '24)
Andrew E. Hawkins (SCPS '23)
Aldo Martin (Col '23)
Andrew C. Panning (Col '23)
Katherine Farah Hidalgo Patena (Com '23)
Christopher W. Pinto (Col '23)
Aidan M. Saunders (Com '23)
Jordan Elizabeth Burton (Col '24)
Natalie Frances Caulfield (Arch '24)
Martin Evan Bridges Crow (Engr '24)
Alexander Richard Emmert (Col '24)
Mitchell Everton Flattum (Col '24)
Madeline Elisabeth Green (Col '24)
Virginia Claire Hackney (Col '24)
Skylar Elise Haskiell (Engr '24)
James Raymond Hawkins (Col '24)
Sophia Grace Hegerich (Col '24)
Thomas Rodolfo Hodgkins (Col '24)
Vincent George Kloes (Col '24)
Reagan Elizabeth McCullough (Arch '24)
Amelia Katherine Milliard (Col '24)
Julia Rose Muratore (Col '24)
Meghan Elizabeth Nachemin (Col '24)
Esha Shiva Nama (Engr '24)
Bridget E. Rodig (Col '24)
Mohan Jude Shankar (Col '24)
Stephen A. Sprouse (SCPS '24)
James Edward Veccia III (Col '24)
Garrett Matthew Warren (Engr '24)
Amy Jessica Weinreich (Batten '24)
Mary Margaret Wray (Col '24)

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President's Letter



SHARING MEALS AND MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION AT A COMMON TABLE

In Fall 2022, we relaunched the Jeffersonian Dinner series that has taken place on and off over the years. The idea is simple—gather about a dozen people around a shared meal and help to facilitate a meaningful discussion about an important topic of common interest.

This idea was particularly appealing as we emerged from the grip of the pandemic, which reminded us all to never take a shared meal or a chance for connection for granted. But the idea actually dates back to UVA's founding. As former Board of Visitors member Jeffrey Walker describes in his TED Talk on Jeffersonian Dinners, Thomas Jefferson was known for inviting some of the most interesting prominent figures of his time for lively small group dinners at Monticello, full of debate and new ideas. In this spirit, Walker, who previously served as chair of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, hosted a series of modern-day Jeffersonian Dinners at Monticello and, along with former President Teresa Sullivan, revived the concept at UVA for several years.

Now, these dinners—hosted by Pavilion residents and at Carr's Hill—are a highlight of the semester for their participants, myself included. Since we restarted the series in 2022, we have held 25 dinners, with costs covered by the President's Office. The host—typically the faculty member or dean living in each Pavilion—chooses the topic and invites two or three faculty members who share an interest in that topic. Students, chosen by a lottery system, comprise the remaining guests.

Topics have varied as widely as the attendees. There have been dinners focused on the future of work, the ethics of space exploration, the perils and benefits of social media, and the role of athletics in higher education. Students have joined conversations with faculty members and University leaders who, in some cases, have devoted their careers to the topic at hand. University Professor Larry Sabato—UVA's resident elections guru—has hosted dinners on presidential elections and democracy. Executive Vice President for Health Affairs Dr. Craig Kent led a discussion on the future of health care. Nicole Jenkins, dean of the McIntire School of Commerce, focused her dinner on what responsible leadership in the modern world looks like.

This spring, Christa Acampora, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, hosted a dinner on belonging, which gave students a chance to discuss what it means to belong to a diverse community like UVA, even (and especially) when we disagree. Dean Acampora also chairs the task force on religious diversity and belonging created in response to the conflict in the Middle East and a nationwide surge in incidents of antisemitism. While not directly related, this dinner and the entire dinner series offer students and faculty members alike a venue for nuanced discussion of current events. Amid the constant churn of news coverage and punditry, these candid, meaningful and in-person conversations help build empathy and compassion for classmates and teach the incredibly valuable skill of generous listening.

It's those kinds of conversations that make these dinners so valuable in our online age—perhaps even more valuable than when Jefferson hosted his own. Prescient as he was, Jefferson could not have foreseen the rise of the internet and its incredible ability to accelerate both connection and division. In the context of that vast digital world, gathering around a table with people of different ages, backgrounds and opinions is both refreshing and rewarding, as I've heard from dinner participants and experienced myself.

In my view, at its best, higher education itself can and should offer that table. Instead of retreating to ideological corners, universities can give us a space to meet on common ground, where we can learn from, debate, and empathize with people whose opinions differ from our own. At this University table, we can challenge our own assumptions, ask new questions, and have the kinds of honest, in-depth conversations that are too often missing from our national discourse. If we choose to come to the table in good faith, we can not only expand our own thinking, but also tend to the health of the democracy that we all share.

If we come to the table in good faith, we tend to the health of the democracy that we share.

The Jeffersonian Dinners are a small example of this ideal, but an important one nonetheless. They remind me of what I love about working in higher education and what makes UVA, in particular, so special. I hope that we never lose sight of that common table.



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

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Class Notes

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

CM Indicates Contributing Member of the Alumni Association

'60s

Byron Dickson (Arch '63 CM) was inducted into the Salem (Virginia) Educational Foundation and Alumni Association Hall of Fame on April 26, 2023. The five inductees were recognized for major achievements in their chosen fields of education and architecture.

Bill Crutchfield (Com '65 CM) was to be honored in May with a Virginia Senate Joint Resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of Crutchfield Corp., an electronics retailer based in Charlottesville. Crutchfield founded the company in 1974 when he was unable to find a modern stereo for the Porsche 356 he was restoring. He was named Ernst & Young's Master Entrepreneur of the Year for Virginia in 1999 and was inducted into the Consumer Electronics Association's Hall of Fame in 2007.

Don Slesnick (Col '65 CM) delivered the graduation address for Florida International University in December 2023, when he was also awarded the FIU Medallion for Outstanding Alumnus. Slesnick, a former mayor of Coral Gables, Florida, received the Excellence in Public Service Award from the Gables Good Government Committee in March 2024. His late wife, Jeannett, a former city commissioner, was also honored posthumously.

'70s

Rick Kast (Col '70) has published *Romance With Variations*, a novel concerning the relationship between Robert, a lawyer who is a classical music lover, and Anna, a pianist. Kast is a lawyer and classical music lover himself. He retired from the UVA General Counsel's Office in December 2015 and lives in Charlottesville.

Charles Avery (Col '72) has been leading The Nehemiah Project DC, a federally funded housing program that helps men transition to society following incarceration, while also consulting on other mental health matters. He also serves as the president of the Loudoun Douglass High School Alumni Association and co-chaired the effort to preserve and restore the school, which has been designated as a historic landmark. Avery, who was valedictorian of the last class of the segregated school, received a 2023 Charles Hamilton Houston Equity and Justice award from the Loudoun County (Virginia) NAACP in recognition of his work.

Tom Gilroy (Col '73 CM) has published *Out of Season*, a political thriller set against the backdrop of a 1980s civil war in West Africa that Gilroy covered as a reporter based in Douala, Cameroon. The book also explores deeper themes like race, religion, colonialism and the high cost that anger and resentment inflict on relationships and judgment. Gilroy's book of short stories, *In Bikole*, based on his two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in a village in Senegal, was published by Alfred A. Knopf.

Ross Perry (Col '73 CM) was named a *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur* by the Republic of France for his work building French and American relationships during his tenure as president general of the Society of the Cincinnati. The society was formed at the end of the American Revolution in 1783 by George Washington's officer corps, and the current members focus on the appreciation of the deeds, accomplishments and relevance of the American Revolution.

Robyn McCutcheon (Col '76 CM) has published *Queer Diplomacy: A Transgender Journey in the Foreign Service*, covering her career with the Department of State, largely in the Soviet Union, Russia and other post-Soviet countries. The book also covers her transgender journey—including at UVA in the 1970s—through gender transition while serving as a diplomat in Romania.

Jill S. Tietjen (Engr '76 CM) has published *Duty Calls: Lessons Learned From an Unexpected Life of Service*, a memoir co-authored with Dr. Antonia Novello, the first female and first Hispanic U.S. surgeon general. The book recounts Novello's childhood illness and her life of service, as well as lessons learned as U.S. surgeon general, as commissioner of the Department of Health for the State of New York during 9/11, and through hurricanes, earthquakes and the pandemic in her native Puerto Rico.

Elizabeth "Beth" Moore Chiusano (Educ '77, '79 CM) has retired after 44 years as an audiologist. Her career included service in the Army as one of the first female audiologists. Chiusano also worked for 10 years in an ENT practice in Lawton, Oklahoma. Upon moving to Sussex County, New Jersey, in 2002, she purchased a private practice, which she ran successfully for 21 years. She sold Sussex Audiology Services & Hearing Aid Center LLC in 2023. She and her husband, Wayne, live in Andover Township, New Jersey.

'80s

Steven Fox (Engr '81 CM) is co-founder and **Luke Fox (Engr '15 CM)** is manager of the eAviation and Drone Academy, which provides classroom learning, flight training and hands-on experience focused on the emerging Unmanned Aviation Systems and electric "green technologies" aviation markets. The academy is at Hampton Roads Executive Airport in Chesapeake, Virginia. Its mission is to prepare students for the FAA Part 107 UAS operator exam and provide specialized drone training for select use cases.

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Class Notes

Dr. Reginald J. Sanders (Col '81 CM) was recently named president of the American Society of Retina Specialists. The ASRS is the world's largest organization for retina specialists, and Dr. Sanders is the first African American to serve as president. He was inducted into the charter class of the Retina Hall of Fame in 2017.

Kathleen Biggins (Col '82 CM), founder of C-Change Conversations, a nonpartisan group devoted to educating people about the science and risk of climate change, was a keynote speaker at The Garden Club of America's National Affairs & Legislation Conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Mills Kelly (Col '82 CM) will be a Fulbright Scholar at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, during 2024. He is currently a visiting scholar at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History.

Joe Essid (Col '83) published "Writing Centers & the Dark Warehouse University: Generative AI, Three Human Advantages" in the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Leadership Studies*: Vol. 2, 2023.

Rickey White (Educ '83) has published a Christian romance novel, *Beneath the Skin;* a poetry book, *Poetic Expressions From Beneath My Skin*; and a children's book, *Cori Candle and the Vowel Family Quest.*

Dr. Andrew Go Lee (Col '85, Med '89 CM) has received the Houston Methodist Hospital Academic Institute Presidential Excellence in Education Award for 2024.

Michael Iademarco (Med '86) has retired after 25 years of active duty as assistant surgeon general with the rank of rear admiral in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. In his last role, as the deputy assistant secretary for science and medicine in the Department of Health and Human Services, he effected coordination for long COVID across the U.S. government. Iademarco also served at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, as the health attaché to the U.S. Mission to Vietnam in Hanoi, and on various medical and public health school faculties. He and his family live in Washington, D.C.

Nancy Colier (Col '87) has published her fifth book, *The Emotionally Exhausted Woman: Why You're Feeling Depleted and How to Get What You Need,* a self-care guide to help women find the courage to express their deepest needs, nurture self-awareness and be themselves in a world that expects them to be everything to everyone. Colier is a psychotherapist, interfaith minister and public speaker.

Jennifer (Bogart) McDowell (Col '87) has been promoted to interim academic dean of career and technical education at Hennepin Technical College, a member of the Minnesota state system of colleges and universities.

Jim Chapman (Col '89 CM) has received the Lewis Cenker Award from

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Elizabeth Larus (Grad '89, '94) has been named nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council Global China Hub. Larus is professor emerita of political science and international affairs at the University of Mary Washington.

'90s

Thomas Hauser (Col '90) has published *Flying in the Shadows: Forging Aerial Intelligence for the United States Army*. The book explores the military partnership between aviation and intelligence, including its origins, key personnel and technological development. Hauser has worked in the U.S. intelligence community for more than 20 years. Previously, he taught politics and history while on the faculty of Shenandoah University and served in the Army.

Mark Nuckols (Col '90 CM) has published *Travels with Ferdinand and Friends: A Centennial Journey Through Austria-Hungary*, which won Hidden River Press's Panther Creek Nonfiction Book Award. Beginning at Franz Ferdinand's castle in the Czech Republic, Nuckols trekked through former Habsburg lands to Sarajevo for the centenary of the archduke's assassination, visiting old friends from Slovakia—where he taught English after graduating from UVA—and singing with local musicians in Dubrovnik, Prague and elsewhere. He lives on Virginia's Eastern Shore, where he translates, plays music and chess, and is active in the local alumni group.

Steve Silbiger (Darden '90) has written the fifth edition of his book, *The Ten-Day MBA*. The book distills lessons from the country's top business schools, including Harvard, Stanford and UVA's own Darden School of Business. Previous editions of the book have sold over 165,000 copies and been translated into 12 languages.

Paul Alp (Arch '91) has joined the law firm of Adams & Reese, where he serves as one of the co-leaders of the new aviation and aerospace team. In addition to focusing on traditional matters for airlines and manufacturers, Alp devotes a substantial portion of his practice to complex airworthiness, compliance and enforcement issues. He is the author of numerous articles on legal issues affecting the aviation and aerospace industry. He also holds a commercial pilot certificate and has worked as a flight instructor.

Michael Palladino (Grad '94) has been appointed provost and vice president for academic affairs at Stockton University in Galloway, New Jersey. Palladino currently serves as vice chancellor for academic affairs at Bloomfield College of Montclair State University.

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Class Notes

Ben Arthur (Col '95) is launching the sixth season of his podcast, "SongWriter," in which an author reads a story and a songwriter performs a song written in response. Past seasons have featured authors and songwriters, including Questlove, Susan Orlean, David Gilmour of Pink Floyd, Roxane Gay, Joyce Carol Oates and Steve Earle. This season will focus on elements of human flourishing like forgiveness, polarization and empathy.

Jason F. Lovvorn (Grad '96) was promoted to professor of English at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. Lovvorn served as assistant director of the Teaching Center and as director of the writing program and currently serves as the English department's internship coordinator.

Capt. Jenny Sigel Burkett (Nurs '97 CM) assumed command of Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command, Camp Pendleton, California, on Aug. 4, 2023. She is the first Nurse Corps officer to command the hospital. She lives in Oceanside, California, with husband C. Allen Burkett Jr. and children Emma, Lizbeth and Clarence.

Evan Rothschild (Com '97 CM) has become the newest principal at Adero Partners, a wealth management firm with offices in the San Francisco area and in Portland, Oregon, that caters to high-net-worth clients. Rothschild previously worked as a financial adviser at Morgan Stanley, founder and portfolio manager at Morris Rothschild Capital, and senior equity analyst at The Boston Company and Delaware Investments. He lives in Redwood City, California, with his wife, Allyson.

Melanie Avery (Col '99 CM) is leading a large data transformation and decision support team for BAE Systems as technical program manager for a cross-functional team of data scientists, software developers and business analysts in a data transformation and decision support division at the Department of Homeland Security. She took on this role after serving at Veterans on the Rise, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, for nine years while also working as a management consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Susan Martin (Educ '99) has been selected as a finalist for the 2024 Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Leadership. The Golden Apple Foundation is an Illinois nonprofit committed to preparing, honoring and supporting great educators who advance

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Andy Aube, Rye, NY
Umran Agha, Karachi, Pakistan
Thomas Bloebaum, Columbus, OH
Charles Braff, Locust Grove, NY
Woody Carrington, Lynchburg, VA
Richard Chucker, Henrico, VA
Will Clemens, Salem, VA
Anders Gyllenhoff, Alexandria, VA
Lowell Jones, Atlanta, GA
Logan Kapit, Southwest Ranches, FL
Jack Limroth, Virginia Beach, VA
Greer Matthias, Gainesville, FL
Alexander McCall, New Orleans, LA
Connor Monahan, Concord, MA
Jack Reichert, Charlottesville, VA
Benjamin Sayers Jr., Buffalo, NY
Sami Saliba, Charlottesville, VA
Daniel Shea, North Potomac, MD
Walker Simmons, Charlotte, NC
Max Wallace, Richmond, VA
Ashton Winegardner, Greenwich, CT
Whit Woolard, Piedmont, CA
Jack Zola, Greenwich, CT

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educational opportunities for students. Five finalists were chosen from more than 100 nominations. Martin is principal of Reservoir Gifted Academy in Peoria, Illinois.

'00s

Justin Humphreys (Col '01) has been nominated for a Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Award for Book of the Year for his recent biography *George Pal: Man of Tomorrow*. The award recognizes performing arts scholarship with exemplary use and interpretation of library and archival collections.

Justin Watkins (Col '02 CM) has been promoted to major in the U.S. Army. Maj. Watkins currently serves as an appellate defense attorney at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He previously served in South Korea, Kentucky, Iraq, Germany and Kuwait. He will attend the Army's Judge Advocate Officer's Graduate Course in Charlottesville for a Master of Laws degree in military law next year.

Thaddeus Minshall (Col '03) received a Design-Build Award from the New England chapter of the Design-Build Institute of America for design and construction management work on New England Academy's South Shore campus in Marshfield, Massachusetts. Minshall is vice president of real estate/development at Connolly Brothers Inc., a construction management firm serving private commercial, industrial and institutional clients.

Issa K. Moe (Col '03 CM) has rejoined Moss & Barnett, a law firm with offices in Minneapolis and St. Cloud, Minnesota. Moe returns to the firm after serving as general counsel for ACA International, a trade association for the accounts receivable management industry. He focuses his practice on representing clients in litigation and providing counsel on compliance, risk management and general business matters.

Whitney Garrison Athayde (Col '05 CM) has been promoted to managing consultant at AmPhil, where she helps mission-aligned nonprofits scale their

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fundraising operations. She works from a farm just north of Charlottesville where she and her husband also homestead and homeschool their four children.

Sam Towell (Law '05) has been elected by the Virginia General Assembly to one of three judgeships on the State Corporation Commission. The SCC is an independent department of state government that regulates public utilities, insurance, state-chartered financial institutions, securities, retail franchising and railroads.

Ashley Bartley (Col '06 CM) has released two additional titles in her social emotional learning children's book series published by Boys Town Press. *Jasper Lizard Wants to Stay Home* helps young children experiencing separation anxiety and *Molly and the Runaway Trolley* offers children strategies for managing anxiety at home and at school. Bartley is a school counselor, author and curriculum writer who lives with her husband and three young boys in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Tony Gentry (Educ '06) has published *The Night Doctor of Richmond*, a biographical novel about notorious 19th-century Medical College of Virginia anatomist and grave robber Chris Baker.

Jim Roche (Darden '06 CM) has been named president, BRP and CEO, Underwriting, Capacity and Technology Operations, at Baldwin Risk Partners, one of the largest insurance brokers in the United States. Roche has been at BRP since 2019, when he joined as part of the acquisition of Millennial Specialty Insurance (MSI), a firm he founded in 2015.

Sarah V. Schweig (Col '07) has won the 2023-24 Jake Adam York Prize for her second collection of poems, *The Ocean in the Next Room*. The collection will be published by Milkweed Editions in January 2025. Schweig's first poetry collection, *Take Nothing with You*, was published by the University of Iowa Press in 2016.

Robert Colby (Col '09 CM) has published *An Unholy Traffic: Slave Trading in the Civil War South* with Oxford University Press. The book explores the survival of the slave trade during the Civil War, its effects on the inhabitants of the wartime South, and its influence on the course of the conflict. Colby is an assistant professor of history at the University of Mississippi.

Nicole Gates (Col '09) has been promoted to vice president, legal, for Dr. Seuss Enterprises. Gates, who previously held the role of senior corporate counsel, will manage the growing Dr. Seuss Enterprises legal team and, as a member of the executive leadership team, will provide strategic guidance on major corporate initiatives and a wide variety of operational matters.

'10s

Erica Stephenson (Nurs '11 CM) and **Caleb Stephenson (Com '08 CM)**



welcomed their daughter, Isabel Charlotte Stephenson, on Sept. 27, 2023. The family lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Kaitlyn (Houck) Witman (Col '12 CM) has been named CEO at Rainfactory, the company she co-founded in 2014. Rainfactory is a marketing agency for new technology product launches, crowdfunding and pre-sales. She lives in Vienna, Virginia, with husband **Ben Witman (Engr '12)** and their three children.

Cecily Zander (Col '15) has published *The Army Under Fire: The Politics of Antimilitarism in the Civil War Era* (LSU Press), a path-breaking study focusing on the fierce political debates over the size and use of military forces in the United States during the Civil War era. It examines how prominent political figures interacted with the professional army and how those same leaders misunderstood the value of regular soldiers fighting to reunify the fractured nation.

Benjamin Cunningham (Com '16 CM) and **Stephanie Coffua (Col '16 CM)** were married in Savannah, Georgia, on Oct. 28, 2023, 10 years after meeting at the Corner Parking Lot during a scavenger hunt for new students. Over 50 'Hoos attended the nuptials, and the bride and groom led a rendition of "The Good Old Song" during the reception. The couple lives in Brooklyn, New York, where Coffua works as an editor for ABC News and Cunningham works as a consultant for McKinsey & Co.

Henry LeGard (Com '17 CM) and **Niel Ketkar (Engr '19 CM)** have founded Verisoul, a platform that identifies fake accounts and bots by using artificial intelligence to analyze email, network, device and user behavior. The product prevents sign-up promotions from being abused, reduces cybersecurity risk, and improves user experience, among other benefits.

John "Jack" Flagg (Col '19 CM) has joined the law firm of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. as an associate in the Tort & Insurance Litigation Department. He handles insurance defense claims involving premises liability, automobile, and personal injury matters from the firm's office in Fort Myers, Florida.

'20s

Ryan McNeilly (Col '20 CM) and **Chelsea Guillory (Col '19 CM)** were married in Pensacola, Florida, on May 2, 2023. The two met at the Aquatic and Fitness Center in 2018. They recently celebrated their marriage back in Charlottesville on Jan. 13, 2024, with many 'Hoos in attendance. The couple lives in Jacksonville, Florida.

Chase J. Overton (Com '22) has joined Guidehouse, a global business consulting and services company headquartered in McLean, Virginia, as a data science consultant. Previously he was a risk and compliance consultant with Protiviti.











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In Memoriam

'40s

Nancy Chase Holbrook (Educ '47 CM) of New Orleans died Dec. 3, 2023. She lived her entire life in New Orleans, apart from a spell at UVA, where she was a member of the drama club and Virginia Players. In the 1950s she worked in marketing at New Orleans Public Service, where she met her husband. Over the years, the couple became legendary participants in Mardi Gras celebrations, remembered for showing up to costume parties dressed as Olive Oyl and Popeye one year and the Whos from Whoville another. Family and friends remember her for her spirited intellect and ability to tell stories from her encyclopedic memory. Survivors include two daughters, three grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Guilford Dudley Ware (Com '49, Law '52 CM) of Norfolk, Virginia, died Jan. 27, 2024. He served in World War II and retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Upon completing his Air Force active duty, he attended UVA's McIntire School of Commerce, where he was a member of Chi Phi fraternity, the marching band and the Honor Committee. He returned to Grounds to earn his law degree and was voted president of his graduating class. After completing his studies, he joined the law firm of Baird, White & Lanning in Norfolk. The firm changed its name several times, becoming Crenshaw, Ware & Martin in 1989. While maintaining an active law practice, he also served as the president of Norfolk Dredging Co., guiding the company well into his 90s. He was active in many professional organizations, including the American Bar Association; Virginia Bar Association; Virginia State Bar; Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association, of which he was a former president; and Maritime Law Association of the United States. He was a former president of the Virginia Symphony, Norfolk German Club and Norfolk YMCA and a member of the board of the Virginia Symphony Foundation, the board of the University of Virginia Law School Foundation, and the board of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Survivors include three children, including **G. Dudley Ware Jr. (Com '86, Darden '91 CM)**; son-in-law **Arch Brown (Col '84 CM)**; daughter-in-law **Elizabeth E. Ware (Educ '86 CM)**; and nine grandchildren.

Rosser Lee Wayland Jr. (Col '49, Grad '50, '52 CM) of Danville, Virginia, died Jan. 9, 2024. A Charlottesville native, he graduated from UVA with bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in organic chemistry before the age of 21. After graduation, he came to Danville to work as a research chemist in the Dan River Mills Research Division. When Dan River developed its own chemical plant, he served in various leadership positions until his retirement in 1996. He was an active member of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists and the American Chemical Society. His career was interrupted with two years' service in the U.S. Army's Chemical Corps from 1954 to 1956. After his retirement, he served as an adjunct professor of chemistry for seven years at Averett University. His excellence was acknowledged with many awards over the years. In 1966, he was awarded the Danville Jaycees Outstanding Young Man Award. His profession awarded him the Olney Medal in 1975 for excellence in textile chemistry contributions. And in 2003 he was honored with the Kiwanis Outstanding Citizenship Award. He worked as a teaching guide for school groups at the Danville Science Center and spent many hours mentoring young people in their chemistry studies. He enjoyed gardening and the beauty of nature. He spent many hours in the genealogy room at the public library assisting people searching for ancestral information. He remained a proud Wahoo, and in total his family has 13 degrees from the University. Survivors include his wife of 70 years, Margaret; three sons, **Rosser L. Wayland III (Col '77, Engr '79 CM), Robert J. Wayland (Col '81, Grad '83 CM)** and **Richard A. Wayland (Col '83, Grad '85 CM)**; six grandchildren, including **Hilary Wayland (Col '13 CM)**; and six great-grandchildren.

'50s

Gordon Granger IV (Educ '55 CM) of Earlysville, Virginia, died Jan. 6, 2024. In 1946 he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served for two years. Upon his honorable discharge, he returned to his native Charlottesville and enrolled at UVA with the help of the GI Bill. He was a member of the Delta Upsilon fraternity and played football under coach Art Guepe. After graduation, he traveled the country as an employee of Delta Upsilon. He taught history and coached high school football before entering his lifelong profession as a stockbroker. After living in Richmond for several years, he and his family settled on a family farm just outside of Charlottesville. He was a great cattleman, and every year planted a large garden and

grew more vegetables than the family could eat in a year. He would often take baskets full of vegetables to his local friends. He enjoyed teaching his daughters to garden, fix fences, bale hay, drive tractors and cut grass. Survivors include four daughters, including **F. Champe Granger (Com '84, Grad '93 CM)** and **Kate Oprandy (Nurs '08)**; and three grandchildren.

Charles Andrew Cole Jr. (Law '57 CM) of Marietta, Georgia, died Aug. 12, 2023. He received his law degree from UVA after earning a chemical engineering degree from North Carolina State University. He went on to practice law in Smyrna, Georgia, and was a lifetime member of the Cobb County Bar Association. When not working, he was active in woodworking, politics and model railroading. He also enjoyed watching football, live theater and movies. Survivors include two children, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

L. Martin Flanagan (Law '58 CM) of West Palm Beach, Florida, died Feb. 3, 2024. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and later in the Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of captain. He graduated from the Citadel in 1953 and earned his law degree from UVA in 1958. He practiced law in West Palm Beach for more than 60 years. He specialized in the defense of physicians and hospitals in medical malpractice cases and clients such as General Motors and Ford Motor Co. in product liability cases. He served as president of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association and was a member of the National Product Liability Advisory Council. He was a longtime member of the West Palm Beach Kiwanis Club and served on the board of directors. He was predeceased by his wife of 66 years, Mary. Survivors include four children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

'60s

Guy Ricker Cooter (Col '60) of Danville, Virginia, died Dec. 28, 2023. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, he earned his bachelor's degree in history from UVA, where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He received his master's degree in commerce from the University of Richmond. He was past commissioner of the Central Virginia Soccer Referee's Association and inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2007. He retired from the U.S. Small Business Administration. He frequently shared his opinions with the world in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and the *Danville Register & Bee* and briefly worked as a nature photographer. He loved the Sunday comics and a good pun. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Leah; two sons, **David Guy Carter (Col '91 CM)** and **Steven Ricker Carter (Col '93 CM)**; two daughters-in-law, including **Nicole Wieting Carter (Col '95, Educ '95 CM)**; and four grandchildren.

John Kenner Marlow (Com '61 CM) of Front Royal, Virginia, died Feb. 4, 2024. He spent two years stationed in Germany as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Prior to his military service, he attended UVA on a football scholarship, graduating from the McIntire School of Commerce. He was the co-captain of the football team, lettered three times in track and played first-year basketball. He was also a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. After his education and military service, he built several apartment buildings and bought Marlow Motor Co. from his father. He later purchased Tri-State Nissan in Winchester, Virginia, and Marlow Ford in Luray, Virginia, and continued building homes and developing real estate in the area. He served 14 years on the Warren County Board of Supervisors and was a founding director of the Lord Fairfax Planning District Commission. He served as mayor of Front Royal from 1982 to 1990 and was a founder of the Warren County Educational Endowment. He was a founding director of Peoples Bank of Front Royal, a director at Jefferson Bank and a director of First Bank. He served as a director of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley and was a chair of the board of trustees at Shenandoah University. Survivors include his wife, Joyce; four daughters, including **Emily Marlow Beck (Col '99 CM)**; three siblings; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Marléne Stanton (Educ '61) of Delray Beach, Florida, died Feb. 23, 2024. She received her master's degree in education from UVA after earning her undergraduate degree from Barnard College. She later went back to school, earning her master's degree in instruction and curriculum and English as a second language at Kean University in 1993. Throughout her career, she was a classroom teacher in New Jersey, New York and Virginia, as well as an adjunct professor at the Union County College Industry-Business Institute, teaching ESL in specialized on-site courses. She briefly entered the business world, working as both a placement counselor and an underwriter, before ultimately returning to teaching. She supported many causes, including Hadassah and animal rights. She remained close with both college friends and those from her childhood, and she was known as an active, athletic person who was always on the go, whether it be a morning tennis match or a number of other activities. She enjoyed playing the piano and spending time with family, both humans and pets. Survivors include three children and two grandchildren.

The Rev. Nancy Sowers Whiteley (Nurs '61 CM) of Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, died Feb. 24, 2024. She earned her nursing degree from UVA and worked primarily as a recovery room nurse during her medical career. Many years later, she returned to academia, graduating magna cum laude from James Madison University in May 1986 with a bachelor's degree in general studies. This prepared her for Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, where she earned her master's degree in divinity in 1989. That year she was ordained as a Presbyterian minister, performing numerous baptisms, marriages and funerals. She lived in Rockbridge Baths

for 45 years, first in the manse and then later in her beloved cabin in the woods, nestled just above the Maury River. She was a lover of literature, travel, cats and snow. Survivors include two children, three grandchildren and three stepchildren.

John Jeremiah Funkhouser, M.D. (Med '63 CM) of West Falmouth, Massachusetts, died Nov. 18, 2023. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. After graduating from Yale in 1959, he attended medical school at UVA. In 1964, he began military service and served as a ship's doctor on the *USS Oglethorpe* in the Mediterranean Sea. He was later stationed at Oceana Naval Air Station, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Philadelphia Naval Hospital and Saint Albans Naval Hospital on Long Island. In 1972, he and his family relocated to Massachusetts, where he practiced urology at Jordan Hospital and served as chief of surgery. He also worked at Falmouth Hospital, where he was president of staff during the 1980s. He co-founded Urology Clinic Inc. and was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He retired in 2009. He was chairman of the Major John Bradford House, co-founder of Bowerman's Beach Club, president of Harbor Head Tennis Club, and an active member at Woods Hole Golf Club. He played classical piano throughout his life, and as a member of the Yale Alumni Chorus, he sang in concerts at Carnegie Hall and participated in two overseas tours. He enjoyed gardening, birdwatching, and collecting stamps and coins. Survivors include three children, including **Christopher Funkhouser (Col '86, Grad '88 CM)**; sister **Laura Ruml (Col '74, Res '90)**; and four grandchildren.

Oscar Stuart Chaplain Jr. (Educ '64) of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died Feb. 23, 2024. He earned his bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University, his master's degree in education from UVA, and a doctorate in education from George Washington University. He served as an elementary school principal in Virginia for 34 years. He authored the 1967 children's book *Snookums Sneaks Through* and the 2018 novel *Wilderness Honor*. He was an avid historian, belonging to many organizations, including the Magna Carta Society, Jamestown Society and Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters. He enjoyed carving decoys and ships and was known for playing pranks on everyone he knew. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Betty; three daughters, including **Lynn Gaffey (Col '84, Nurs '98)**; and six grandchildren.

Douglass North Ellis Jr. (Col '65 CM) of Nantucket, Massachusetts, died Jan. 3, 2024. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He earned his bachelor's degree at UVA, where he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, and his law degree at Boston College. He practiced law at Ropes & Gray for 36 years. During that time, he served as the firm's hiring partner and chair. He led the evolution of the firm from its historical roots in Boston to a national powerhouse, growing its presence in New York and, later, Washington, D.C., bolstering the practice in private equity and litigation. He loved boating on the shores of Nantucket and gaming at the Wharf Rat Club. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Caroline; a daughter; a sister; and two nieces.

James Whitfield "Jim" Vick (Grad '66, '68 CM) of Austin, Texas, died Nov. 8, 2023. At UVA, he earned both his master's and doctoral degrees in philosophy after completing his undergraduate education at Louisiana State University. While he was studying at UVA, both of his children were born in Charlottesville. He enjoyed a long and successful career at the University of Texas at Austin, serving as associate dean of the College of Natural Sciences and vice president of student affairs, in addition to his responsibilities as a professor. He was also appointed to the Men's Athletic Council, eventually becoming its chairman. As a professor, he became famous around campus for studying his students' pictures before class so he could call them by name from the first day. He also would invite students to dinners at his house so he could get to know them outside the classroom. His dedication to the profession was commemorated with many teaching awards, including the Jean Holloway Award, the Texas Excellence Award, Parents Association Award of Distinction and the Nowotny Medal, among others. He and his wife traveled every year to spend time in the mountains and national parks. He was also passionate about sports and put significant effort into coaching his children's teams over the years. He enjoyed crossword puzzles, trivia and playing the banjo, and he was a prolific poet. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Niki; an older brother; two children; five grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Arthur A. Autorino (Engr '69 CM) of Eastham, Massachusetts, died Feb. 4, 2024. He earned his bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from UVA, followed by a master's degree in industrial administration from Union College. He had a successful career, starting as a managerial trainee at GE and moving on to vice president positions at Smith & Wesson, Murray, TheraSense and Abbott Diabetes Care. After retiring, he embraced the beaches and life in Eastham, becoming heavily involved in the community. He was a volunteer at the National Seashore, a board member at the Nauset Light Preservation Society and treasurer of the Eastham Historical Society. Elected to the Eastham Select Board in 2020, he was serving as its chairman at the time of his death. Survivors include his wife, **Georgia Autorino (Nurs '69)**; three daughters; and four grandchildren.

Col. Phillip Lyle Blake (Grad '69) of San Antonio died July 30, 2022. The son of a U.S. Army infantry colonel, he spent his career in the Army as well. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1960 and earned his master's degree in English from UVA in 1969. He began his military career with the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and later

served a second tour with the 101st as a battalion executive officer. He served three tours in Vietnam, the first with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, which deployed in May 1965 from Okinawa, Japan, as the first U.S. Army ground unit to Vietnam. He taught English at West Point from 1969 to 1972. He graduated from the Infantry Officer Career Course, the Armed Forces Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He also led the Army ROTC Department at the University of Alabama. His final assignment was as senior regular Army adviser to the commanding general of the 95th Infantry Division, Camp Robinson, Arkansas. His awards and decorations included two Legions of Merit, the Soldier's Medal for heroism, three Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. Upon retirement, he earned a teacher's certificate from Southwest Texas State University and taught high school English for one year before being appointed Commandant of Cadets at Marion Military Institute in Alabama, where he served from 1990 to 1994. He enjoyed reading, writing, lifting weights and cycling. Survivors include his wife, Reda; two children; three brothers; and five grandchildren.

George Partridge Greenhalgh III (Col '69 CM) of Boyce, Virginia, died Jan. 18, 2024. A U.S. Army veteran, he completed Army ROTC training at UVA, becoming the third generation of his family to serve after graduation as a U.S. Army artillery officer. During his time on Grounds, he played polo and was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity. He worked for Diversified Educational Systems, marketing training products to educational institutions, and operated the Fairfield Farm Market as an outlet for hydroponic produce. He began a career in real estate in the mid-1980s, eventually joining his wife at Greenhalgh Real Estate, specializing in country properties. In 1998, he took over managing his family's farm, Shan Hill. Born into an avid equestrian family, he served as a board member for Virginia Polo and was a lifelong member of the Middleburg Polo Club. He passed his passion for polo on to his daughters, who competed for UVA. Survivors include his wife, Robin; his children **Langdon Greenhalgh (Col '97 CM), Blakeley Greenhalgh (Col '00 CM), Sybil Greenhalgh Price (Col '10)** and **Marjorie (Meg) Greenhalgh Pryde (Com '12, Darden '18 CM)**; and six grandchildren.

John Randolph Light (Col '69, Darden '74 CM) of Roanoke, Virginia, died Aug. 6, 2023. He served for two years in Guam as a naval supply officer. An Echols Scholar in the ROTC program, he earned his bachelor's degree at UVA in English and religion. He was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the Raven and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies. After completing his undergraduate studies, he earned his business degree from Darden. He worked for Baxter Laboratories in Chicago, then started Commonwealth Door & Hardware with his brother in Roanoke. He was an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke and cherished his years of service on the board of Mill Mountain Theatre. His fondest memories were of his family and friends at UVA football games. Survivors include his wife, Juliet; a brother; three children, including **Mary Light Dusenbury (Col '93 CM)** and **Maggie Light (Col '01 CM)**; and six grandchildren, including **Anna Light (Col '25)**.

'70s

Steven Lee Blake (Grad '70) of San Antonio died Jan. 19, 2024. He completed the Army ROTC program at Tulane University and was commissioned as a Transportation Corps officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Tulane in 1966 followed by his master's degree in foreign affairs at UVA. He taught political science at the University of Maryland at Munich, Germany, for six years. In 1980, he began a distinguished career as a foreign service officer in the U.S. Department of State. He served in a variety of roles as a political-economic officer and deputy chief of mission for 22 years, with postings in Doha, Qatar; Washington, D.C.; Bonn, West Germany; Belgrade, Serbia; Kraków, Poland; Bucharest, Romania; and Sofia, Bulgaria. On three occasions, he was awarded U.S. State Department Superior Honor Awards for extraordinary service. In 2002, he retired from the State Department, living in Romania and Bulgaria before settling in his family's hometown of San Antonio. In retirement, he read voraciously, exercised daily and pursued his interest in European antiques. A true polyglot, he was fluent in several languages, including German, Romanian, Bulgarian, Polish, Serbian and Arabic. Survivors include two brothers and several nieces and nephews.

Everette Doffermyre Jr. (Col '70, Law '73 CM) of Atlanta died Jan. 27, 2024. While earning his bachelor's degree in economics at UVA, he was a ROTC cadet, a member of the St. Anthony Hall fraternity, a member of the snow-skiing team and a football cheerleader. After he graduated Phi Beta Kappa, he returned to Grounds to earn his law degree. He then moved to Atlanta, where he met his wife, Mary, and started work as a corporate litigator for Kilpatrick law firm. He worked there for 15 years before founding his own firm in 1987: Doffermyre, Shields, Canfield & Knowles. He served as a trustee for a number of charitable organizations, including the National Childhood Cancer Foundation, Episcopal Media Center, Crossroads Community Ministries and Georgia State Golf Association Foundation. He remained involved with UVA throughout his life, including serving as president of the Alumni Association, chairman of the Board of Managers, chairman of the National Committee on University Resources, a trustee of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation, and a member of the College Foundation Board of Trustees. He received the Raven Award from the Raven Society in 2014 for his

lifetime dedication to UVA. His friends and family knew him as a loyal, smart man and leader whose main goal was to help others. Survivors include his wife, Mary; three children, **Julia Doffermyre Green (Col '00 CM), William Doffermyre (Col '02, Law '06 CM)** and **E. Randolph Doffermyre (Col '06 CM)**; and eight grandchildren.

Philip Salembier (Col '71) of Paonia, Colorado, died Jan. 9, 2024. He graduated from UVA with a degree in anthropology and completed a master's degree in architecture from the University of Utah. After architecture school, he and his wife moved to St. Louis. He took a job with HOK architects, joining a small team of architectural computer graphics programmers who developed a 3D design system, key features of which became standard in the commercial systems that followed it. In 2005, the couple left St. Louis to become full-time volunteers. Over seven years, he built two large greenhouses on a farm in Nova Scotia; installed a solar array to power a tractor in Ann Arbor, Michigan; constructed an outdoor wood-fired oven for a bakery in Paonia; and assisted with grassland restoration and fish monitoring for The Nature Conservancy in Arizona. He played the flute, wrote novels, rode his bicycle, and pursued lifelong interests in history and physics. Survivors include his wife, Janice; three children; and three grandchildren.

Richard Bersin (Law '76) of Bellevue, Washington, died Dec. 7, 2023. He played basketball at Duke University before attending law school at UVA. He spent his entire career in civil litigation law practice. He clerked at the Environmental Protection Agency under William Ruckelshaus, its first administrator. He later moved to the Seattle area, practicing first at Bogle & Gates and then in his own firm. Most recently, he associated with Inslee Best Doezie & Ryder in Bellevue, working up until a few months before his death. He maintained a love of athletics and was an avid University of Washington football fan for decades. Survivors include his wife, two daughters, a brother and a sister.

Timothy Lawrence Prince, M.D. (Col '76 CM) of Orlando, Florida, died Jan. 17, 2024. He attended UVA as an Echols Scholar, earning his bachelor's degree "with highest distinction." He earned his medical degree from Emory University in 1980. He became a nephrologist after completing his clinical and research fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston in 1987. That year, he joined what is now called Nephrology Associates of Central Florida and retired in 2022. He volunteered at Grace Medical Home during the last years of his professional life. He loved travel and physical challenges. His adventures included hiking 550 miles along the Camino de Santiago in Spain and climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. Survivors include his wife, Robin; three children; three siblings; two grandchildren; and three nieces.

Peter Craig Harrelson (Col '78, Med '83 CM) of Ophir, Colorado, died Jan. 22, 2024. He was an Echols Scholar at UVA, where he earned both his bachelor's degree and his medical degree. He became known as "Dr. Pete," a physician who would call his patients just to check in and see how they were doing. When paying back his Public Health scholarship (which helped supplement his medical school tuition), he was assigned to work with the Navajo Nation and learned several Navajo words and phrases. He loved embedding in other cultures and traveled throughout Southeast Asia, India, Africa, Europe and the Americas. He loved music and dance, whether it was playing harmonica or attending Colorado's many music festivals. Growing up in Hawaii, he was known as "Nature Boy" and maintained a lifelong love of the outdoors. A passionate mycologist, he loved to share his morels, chanterelles, boletes, puffballs and oyster mushroom harvests. Survivors include three brothers and six nieces and nephews.

'80s

Johanna Louisa Noia (Com '83 CM) of Leesburg, Virginia, died Jan. 14, 2024. She received her bachelor's degree in finance from UVA and started her career as a financial service analyst for Marriott Hotels before moving to KPMG, where she made lifelong friends. She also worked at the American Red Cross. She often volunteered with her children's schools and found herself forming friendships with the other women in the neighborhood. In her free time, she enjoyed taking family vacations to national parks. She also loved going to the beach, her favorite of which was in Corolla, North Carolina, where she and her husband had a second house. She was a lifelong UVA sports fan. Survivors include her husband of 35 years, Stephen; two children, including **Michael S. Mace (Engr '20 CM)**; two siblings, including **Alan J. Noia (Engr '69 CM)**; and many nieces and nephews.

Marianne Blash Tereszcuk (Col '85) of Los Angeles died March 27, 2023. Born in Philadelphia, she earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from UVA. She received her degree while raising two elementary school students and was grateful to be able to do her homework together with them. She was an award-winning photographer and an avid gardener. She loved traveling with her family and marked her children's birthdays with tropical vacations. When her grandson was born in July 2014, she and her husband moved to Los Angeles to spend every day with him. Survivors include her husband of more than 50 years, Alex; her daughter and son; and her grandson.

'00s

Lisa Meredith Cowles (Col '05 CM) of San Francisco died Jan. 17, 2024. While at UVA, she took multiple student trips to Europe and was a member of Kappa Delta sorority. Her adventurous spirit also took her on many

study-abroad trips to destinations such as Argentina and Nicaragua. After graduation and brief relocations to both San Francisco and New York, she decided to pursue her true passion of teaching and went back to school to earn her master's degree in education. She taught elementary school in San Francisco for 12 years, with a family-focused and naturally empathetic approach to the classroom, working with students of diverse and sometimes disadvantaged backgrounds. Outside of teaching, her interests included art, dance, hiking, skiing and city marathons. Survivors include her parents; a brother; several aunts and uncles; and many cousins.

'20s

Mary Elizabeth Keys Buttitta (Law '20 CM) of Los Angeles died Feb. 27, 2024. A Chicago native, she earned her bachelor's degree in economics, with minors in Spanish and environmental studies, from Loyola University Chicago. She then attended UVA School of Law, where she was involved in the student environmental law group, founded a food law student group, was a member of the vegan and vegetarian society, and enjoyed exploring the wooded trails around Grounds. She pursued a law internship at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency office in Chicago and at RUSH University Medical Center. She was proud to have passed the California bar exam on the first try, and in 2021 she fulfilled her lifelong dream of moving West. She made her home in Los Angeles, where she worked for Winston & Strawn as an associate lawyer in real estate law. She also did pro bono work with detained migrants and victims of wrongful evictions. She was an avid gardener, music lover and NPR enthusiast. Survivors include her parents, three sisters and a nephew.

Faculty & Friends

Ching-hsien Huang of Union City, California, died Dec. 27, 2023. He earned his bachelor's degree from Tunghai University in Taiwan and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. He arrived at UVA in 1967 as a visiting assistant professor of biochemistry. He spent 33 years there and was honored as professor emeritus in 2001. He consistently referenced the Honor Code. During his career, he received many honors for his work in biophysical chemistry, including the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation fellowship and the Avanti Award in Lipids from the Biophysical Society. He raised his children as die-hard Cavalier fans who loved UVA and Charlottesville as much as he did. He was passionate about Chinese history and art, publishing several articles and books after retiring from UVA. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Laura; his children **Tien-tsin Huang (Com '97)** and **Tien-wei Huang (Col '99)**; and four grandchildren.

K.L. Seshagiri Rao of Avondale, Pennsylvania, died Jan. 14, 2024. After receiving his master's degree with distinction in philosophy at the University of Mysore in India, he came to the United States in 1962 on a Fulbright Fellowship. He earned his Ph.D. in comparative study of world religions from Harvard University in 1966. He taught at universities including the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Washington and Lee University. In 1971 he joined the UVA Department of Religious Studies as a full professor, where he worked for 25 years teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in comparative religion, Hinduism and Gandhian studies. After his retirement, he and his wife moved to Pittsburgh, where he co-established the India Heritage Research Foundation (IHRF), a research center dedicated to creating an authoritative and scholarly reference in all aspects of Hinduism. Over the next two decades, first in Pittsburgh and then at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, he served as editor-in-chief of the 11-volume *Encyclopedia of Hinduism*. He authored several books, papers and articles and also edited several books, including four volumes of *Religious Traditions of the World*. He served as vice president of the World Hindu Federation, Nepal; president of the International Association of Gandhian Studies; and vice president of the Quest Institute in Charlottesville. Survivors include his wife, Saraswati; four sons; a brother; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Roger Alan Rydin of Charlottesville died Jan. 8, 2024. He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Northwestern University, followed by a master's and doctorate in nuclear engineering from MIT. His research took him to Ispra, Italy, where he worked at Euratom, the European Atomic Energy Community Lab. In 1970, he accepted a faculty position at UVA's School of Engineering and Applied Science, where he worked for 30 years. He authored *Nuclear Reactor: Theory and Design* and wrote many articles on reactor dynamics and control, computational methods, reactor measurements, and medical physics. He consulted for the U.S. Army Foreign Science and Technology Center (FSTC), now the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC), alongside several of his former UVA nuclear engineering doctoral students. He also collaborated frequently with Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He was a lifetime member of the American Nuclear Society, serving on the Mathematics and Computation Division Executive Committee. After retiring in 2000, he loved attending UVA soccer and lacrosse games, playing with his grandchildren, collecting toy trains, and skiing at Wintergreen. He continued writing and presenting papers until 2018. Survivors include his four children, **Gail Rydin (Col '82), Scott Rydin (Col '83, Engr '89 CM)**, **Richard Rydin (Engr '89, '92 CM)** and Laura Rydin; and four grandchildren, including **Ghislain Ventre (Engr '24)**.

Retrospect

EARLY CHAPEL LIFE

BY ED MILLER









See the newly restored Chapel, Page 54.

Tasked with preparing a report on the University Chapel in 2008, the architecture firm Quinn Evans found that the historical trail quickly went cold. There was little documentation of the early years of the building, which was completed in 1890.

"For whatever reasons, virtually no written or photographic records appear to exist for this structure," the authors wrote in the 195-page "University Chapel Historic Structures Report."

Perhaps that's because the Chapel belonged to no one in particular. It had no regular clergy, just a series of rotating chaplains. Beginning in 1904, it was managed not by the University, but by the YMCA located across the street at Madison Hall.

The report contains one photo, circa 1889, of the Chapel under construction. The next exterior photo dates from 1911, 22 years later.

The period postcards shown here help fill the gap. They document, in their own way, some of the early life of the Chapel.

Dating from 1905 and 1906, the postcards are held at the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library. They depict pastoral scenes that wouldn't look out of place in the English countryside, which was the idea, after all. The Chapel's design was inspired by the Gothic parish churches of England, the report says.

In two of the postcards, the ivy-like vines that covered the building from about 1911 through the 1920s have begun climbing the bell tower. Another shows the Chapel in winter. Though the scene is idyllic, the cold weather took a toll on the structure. The Chapel was just 7 years old when some of the masonry had to be repointed to prevent additional damage from frost. A donor provided $50 to complete the job because the Superintendent of Grounds "did not have so much to expend," the report notes.

Ed Miller is senior editor of Virginia Magazine.

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Bellair- Ranch style home, neighborhood pond, trails, two-car garage. $730,000



Hyland Ridge- Gourmet kitchen, screen porch, walk-out basement, bluestone patio. $1,100,000



Ivy, VA- Beautifully renovated, 1st floor primary suite, 2-story stone fireplace $875,000



Green Springs- 200 acres, 1885 farmhouse, barns, protected countryside, $1,350,000



Old Trail- Turn key, one level living, expansive basement, stone bar. $830,000



Lake Monticello- Walking trails, minutes to beach 3, fully fenced yard. $328,000



Cascadia- End unit townhome, mountain views, rooftop terrace, light-filled $549,000



Villa Deste- Two lots remain, bring your own builder, 5-21 acres, $3675,000-$395,000



City- Manicured gardens, close to UVA, the corner, and downtown Charlottesville

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Southern Albemarle - Breathtaking mountain views from nearly every room. Features include two primary suites, gourmet eat-in kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, recessed lighting and built-ins, The large partly finished basement has bonus room and an ample storage area. Large patio, salt water pool, and two car garage. $1,175,000











Ivy, VA- Build your dream home! Beautiful 5.06 acre nearly level parcel of land with run in shed, individual well, and shared driveway. Conveniently located near Boars Head, Farmington & UVA. $525,000



Ednam- Attached unit overlooking pond. Open floor plan, kitchen has high end appliances, & dining room w/ built-in shelving. Both main level & upper decks offer stunning western mountain views. $1,100,000

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Parsons Green Ln

This picturesque mountain view home offers a serene retreat overlooking a tranquil, stocked pond. Stone patios and expansive decks extend the living space outdoors, providing ideal spots for relaxation or entertaining. Three bedrooms upstairs and an additional bedroom on the main level. Spectacular views and sunlight from almost every window of the home. Other features include pool, barn and a two-car garage. The property is meticulously landscaped, creating a harmonious blend of beauty and tranquility in every corner. Experience country living with quick access to all the amenities that Charlottesville and Crozet have to offer.



Sally Du Bose
Principal Broker
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BEST OF ZILLOW™ *According to customer feedback*

★★★★★ *5 Star customer rating*

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