

THE CAVALIER DAILY

Vol. 135, Issue 1

Thursday, August 29, 2024

LEON ARCEO, ADAIRE BURNSED, BENVIN LOZADA & HONOR WOOD | THE CAVALIER DAILY

SOMETHING OLD SOMETHING NEW SOMETHING ORANGE SOMETHING BLUE



As a new school year begins, students anticipate storied traditions and prepare for change

ADVERTISEMENT



THREE NIGHTS OF MUSIC & CAMPING WITH THE INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS

DANIEL DONATO'S COSMIC COUNTRY
THE LIL SMOKIES · THE LAST REVEL · DANGERMUFFIN
JON STICKLEY TRIO · FALCO & BOOK PLAY GARCIA
THE WILSON SPRINGS HOTEL · ISAAC HADDEN
FLORENCIA & THE FEELING · TC CARTER BAND · THE FLY BIRDS

A ROOSTER WALK FAMILY PRODUCTION

VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS

BLUE RIDGE
outdoors

AT POP'S FARM IN MARTINSVILLE, VA
TICKETS AT: [INFAMOUSWEEKEND.COM](https://infamousweekend.com)



NEWS

This month in-brief

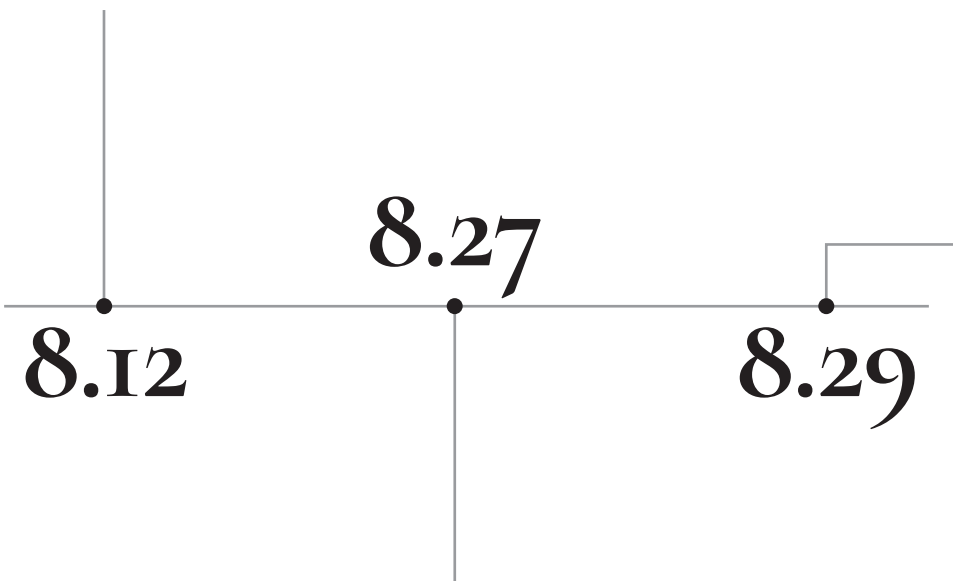
CD News Staff

University's ten highest-paid employees receive salary increases in 2024

The University's top ten highest-paid employees earn \$8,275,449 in base salary pay for 2024, according to data obtained by The Cavalier Daily through a Freedom of Information Act request. This figure marks a \$1 million increase compared to the salaries of the University's top ten earners for 2023 and represents 0.7 percent of the \$1.125 billion paid to 12,024 University faculty, staff members and U.Va. Health employees listed in the data obtained by The Cavalier Daily that reflects salary levels as of January 1, 2024.

Craig Kent, chief executive officer of U.Va. Health and executive vice president for health affairs at the University, remains the highest-paid individual at the University with a salary of \$1.6 million. Kent's 2024 salary marks a \$500,000 pay raise compared to last year, and he previously received a \$50,000 pay raise going into 2023.

Kent earns more than University President Jim Ryan, who receives the second highest salary at the University. Ryan is receiving a salary of \$912,200 in 2024, a 2 percent increase from his 2023 salary of \$894,265. Ryan earns markedly more than interim Chancellor Lee Roberts of University of North Carolina Chapel Hill — a comparable school to the University — whose salary is \$684,053 for this year.



Updated policies place additional restrictions on protests at the University

Nearly four months after Virginia State Police cleared a pro-Palestine encampment on Grounds, University administrators have revised several policies that place restrictions on protests at the University and make it easier for them to disperse protests on Grounds. The University announced the new policies Monday morning in a U.Va. Today article, followed by an email from Kenyon Bonner, vice president and chief student affairs officer, to students reiterating the changes.

Notable parts of the updated University policies include banning certain objects, such as tents, on University property, barring select exceptions, and requiring individuals wearing masks to identify themselves to authorized University officials when prompted, as a means of limiting the ability of protesters to avoid recognition.

Issues around protest and free speech on Grounds came to a head in early May, when student, faculty and community protesters formed an encampment to demand that the University divest from companies that profit off of Israel's ongoing military incursion and air campaign in the Gaza Strip. The encampment was cleared May 4, when Virginia State Police wearing riot gear and using pepper spray forcibly dismantled the tents, arresting 27 demonstrators.

In his email, Bonner said that students can still demonstrate on Grounds, insofar as they do not impede University operations, violate University policies or violate any laws. He added that all policies are designed to focus on how University community members carry out speech or expressive activities rather than focus on the content of their messages.



DOMENICK FINI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

U.Va. suspends admissions tours led by University Guide Service

The University Guide Service announced Wednesday in a statement on Instagram that the University has suspended them from conducting both admissions and historical tours, citing concerns from the University over tour attendance and tour quality. According to the statement, the Guide Service will continue to work with the University to develop an agreement that would allow for future Guide Service-led tours, and the group will continue their recruitment operations for the semester.

The Guide Service is a student-run organization on Grounds that gave admissions and historical tours to prospective students, families and visitors. As a Special Status Organization, the group is among a handful of other groups on Grounds — such as the Honor Committee and the University Judiciary Committee — that are trusted to act as agents of the University. This designation means that they are required to keep a close working relationship with a University advisor.

According to the Guide Service's statement, the suspension of their tours is a result of the University administration's belief that the organization is failing to fulfill its designated responsibilities. The Guide Service refuted this idea, claiming the administration paints an incomplete story of its performance, as the group keeps its own internal accountability measures.

"The justification for these suspensions is based on the Administration's view that UGS is failing to fulfill its delegated functions, particularly in terms of reliability and tour quality," the statement reads. "Our own accountability measures — including tour feedback solicited from all admissions tour visitors — suggest that this is an incomplete view of our tours."

Faculty Senate discusses academic freedom, free speech

Some Senators expressed concerns about frivolous complaints for teaching about controversial topics

Cecilia Mould | Staff Writer



THOMAS BAXTER | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Senate also discussed a report on religious diversity and belonging and introduced Michael Kennedy as the new Board of Visitors faculty representative.

In its first meeting of the semester, the University's Faculty Senate hosted Ian Baucom, executive vice president and provost, for a discussion about academic freedom at the University, including what free speech protections faculty have as both private citizens and University employees. Baucom also stated that the right to free expression as private individuals can mutually exist with University faculty's commitment to academic freedom, and that in the classroom professors should encourage free discussion, inquiry and expression.

Baucom responded to a set of questions posed by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion subcommittee of the Faculty Senate. In his discussion, Baucom gave the Faculty Senate a brief overview of how he personally defines academic freedom at the University. According to Baucom, those affiliated with the University maintain the right to social and political criticism and to criticism of the University.

"The Constitution guarantees faculty and other employees and students robust free speech rights as private citizens," Baucom said.

"At the same time, it is important to remember that all government employees, including public university faculty, have an obligation to ensure that their private views are not the statement of the University."

Baucom was originally set to answer these questions pertaining to academic freedom at a Faculty Senate meeting May 10, but the discussion was postponed after the Faculty Senate scheduled an emergency meeting for May 9, where they discussed the University's forceful clearing of a "Liberated Zone 4 Gaza" encampment that consisted of students, faculty and Charlottesville community members.

Baucom clarified University policy surrounding academic freedom, saying that faculty have the right to interact in political spaces, but if doing so, they must make efforts to indicate that they are not speaking on behalf of the University — such as avoiding using their University emails when writing to political organizations.

Baucom also explained the faculty discipline process for allegations of misconduct in relation to

academic freedom. He stated that anyone can bring complaints of faculty misconduct to the University and shared a proposed future policy, which would require that the faculty member in question meets with their dean after a complaint is received. He said that faculty members would not have the right to counsel at this meeting, but that they would if their case advanced to a peer review process.

In his remarks Baucom said that deans receive and review all complaints and have the authority to decide whether a complaint is false or illegitimate. He stated that the purpose of these policies is to create a safe environment to learn and work at the University.

English Prof. Mark Edmundson asked a follow up question to Baucom's statements on faculty discipline, asking him whether anyone could register a complaint for anything a faculty member says in class, writes or publishes.

"That [students, faculty and staff] could register a complaint about the classroom speech on the part of a professor, not only to me sounds alarming, I'm beginning to be alarmed," Edmundson said.

Baucom said that the University couldn't limit those who file complaints to only include some faculty members because it would negatively impact those not technically affiliated with the University — such as outside researchers working with University-affiliated researchers — who wish to directly file complaints, but said that he understands Edmundson's concerns.

English Prof. Susan Fraiman also expressed a similar concern about the impact of allowing anyone to register complaints, noting her worry that faculty teaching topics relating to diversity, equity and inclusion could be targeted by complaints.

"The idea that anyone can object to what I'm saying about transgender [rights] in my classroom is really alarming and chilling," said Fraiman. "I just feel as if conversations about this have to be contextualized in terms of this particular moment."

While much of the meeting was focused on academic freedom, the Faculty Senate also discussed a report on religious diversity and belonging and introduced Michael Kennedy as the new Board

of Visitors faculty representative. Kennedy shared that the religious diversity and belonging report was previously discussed at a Board of Visitors meeting Thursday and that the Board voted to endorse a broad notion of support for religious inclusivity at the University.

Baucom, who spoke on the findings of the report, noted that the University administration plans to act immediately on some of the recommendations of the Task Force on Religious Diversity and Belonging — a University-run working group created in December with the aim of better understanding the experiences of religious faculty, staff and students at the University.

Among the recommendations were expanding and improving the number of prayer spaces on Grounds and recruiting more faculty specializing in areas of study related to religious history, culture and conflicts in the Middle East.

"We cannot promote religion, but we want to be welcoming," Baucom said.

The full Faculty Senate will meet again September 20.

Task force delivers recommendations for religious inclusivity

The recommendations include reassessing how the University handles reports of discrimination and harassment

Thomas Baxter | News Editor

As incoming first year students and their families began moving into residences across Grounds, the Board of Visitors held a special meeting Aug. 22 that ran over an hour past its planned time. There was only one action item on the Board's agenda — endorsing the recommendations provided by the Task Force on Religious Diversity and Belonging, which quietly released its report online about half-way through the meeting, after delivering its recommendations to the University in the past month.

Ultimately, the Board did not vote to endorse the Task Force's list of recommendations, but instead approved a different motion to endorse the broad notion of religious inclusivity. In addition, this motion directed the Board's Academic & Student Life Committee to consider future action to reduce religious discrimination on Grounds. The motion passed nearly unanimously.

While the meeting agenda scheduled discussion of the report for the open session portion of the meeting, barring roughly three minutes of formalities, the meeting was held almost entirely in closed session. The Board is permitted to operate in closed session when discussing legal matters and issues pertaining to student safety and wellbeing.

The University announced the Task Force on Religious Diversity and Belonging in December with the stated purpose of developing a better understanding of the experiences and perspectives of religious staff, students and faculty on Grounds. The task force was composed of 11 members, including two students and four faculty members, though one faculty member, Religious Studies Prof. Oludamini Ogunnaike, resigned May 5, just one day after Virginia State Police cleared a pro-Palestine encampment outside the University Chapel.

The report states that the task force used survey data, held focus groups, engaged with reports of bias and discrimination and compared the University to other schools before providing recommendations. The 31 recommendations cover a handful of areas that are intended to improve feelings of respect, belonging and safety for religious members of the community, according to the report.

Though the University charged the task force with discussing the experiences of students across all religious minorities on Grounds, special attention was paid to Jewish and Muslim members of the community, according to the report.

In a 2022 Student Experience in the Research University survey conducted by the school, Muslim undergraduate students reported the lowest overall sense of belonging at the University, and Jewish and Muslim undergraduates were the least likely to say they felt their views were respected. The two religious groups were also the most likely to say they have been victims of religious bias or discrimination.

Alongside ensuring belonging and respect across diverse religious identities, the task force was also concerned with threats of bias, discrimination or harassment against religious members of the University community. The task force reviewed incidents of religious discrimination or harassment reported to the University Police Department's Threat Assessment Team, as well as the Office of Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights.

Ian Baucom, executive vice president and provost, said at an Aug. 23 Faculty Senate meeting where he told the Senate about the report that both of those departments will likely see new hires to address reports of religious discrimination and harassment.

Concerning safety and threat prevention, the task force recommended that University administration should review and improve incident reporting processes, as well as provide clearer education around University policies, safety measures and resources. The report also said that the University should talk with groups affected by an issue before releasing a formal statement. Another University-operated task force — the Committee on Institutional Statements — is currently deliberating over how the University should respond to critical events.

"It is advisable for University leadership to first consult affected groups to benefit from their perspective and seek their advice," the report reads.

A number of the task force's recommendations relate to providing accommodations for religious students and community members. Baucom told the Faculty Senate that some of the recommendations that will be immediately implemented include adding more prayer and meditation spaces, as well as expanding conversations between religious leaders and University President Jim Ryan. Baucom said that future plans include reviewing holiday schedules and leave policies to accommodate religious employees' needs.

One other important accommodation that the task force highlighted — and that Baucom said would



LEON ARCEO | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The University announced the task force in December with the stated purpose of developing a better understanding of the experiences of religious members of the University community.

receive immediate attention from administrators — was dining options at the University. While the University has made efforts to accommodate some religious dietary needs — including offering meals for students practicing Ramadan, a period of fasting in Islam corresponding to the ninth month of the faith's calendar — students in focus groups told the task force that they would appreciate more religiously diverse dietary options, including halal and kosher food.

The task force also identified a need for more dialogue and understanding across religious identities. In addition to President Ryan planning to hold more meetings and conversations with local religious leaders and students, the task force identified a need for more interaction across religious differences. This could include hosting "Dialogue Dinners" through the Constructive Dialogue Institute and ensuring that the Interfaith Student Center has sufficient resources for programming and fostering constructive dialogue across religious backgrounds.

Another notable finding from the task force pertained to the degree of resources and academic offerings in certain academic areas, including politics and cultures of the Middle East.

The report states that over the past decade, "several" faculty members with academic interests around these subjects left the Uni-

versity and that across all schools at the University, only 36 Spring 2024 courses were relevant to issues of religious cultures, traditions and discrimination.

The task force recommended hiring more faculty in these areas, expanding course offerings that would allow for studies of multiple religions and allocating more funds for conferences and academic programs related to religious histories and cultures. The report points to Dartmouth College's Middle East Dialogues — where faculty from different subjects teach courses focused on the Middle East together — as a program worthy of emulation.

Towards the end of the report, after a compilation of all recommendations, the task force included an essay tying their work to previous University working groups, particularly those after the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, where far-right groups marched on Grounds, ultimately leading to the murder of one counter-protester.

The task force's report stated that the University did not address all recommendations provided by other task forces and working groups following the rally, and that further action should include inquiring as to how the findings of those task forces and the Task Force on Religion and Diversity intersect.

Baucom said that some issues raised by the recommendations will require more long term attention,

saying that one recommendation notes that Muslim students do not currently have a designated chaplain on Grounds — which could help for programming and counseling — but that the University cannot directly hire one due to legal restrictions on separating religion from public institutions.

The 2024 SERU survey was open for students to respond to throughout the previous spring semester, and results will likely be released this fall. The results will provide more timely information relevant to the task force's recommendations, as responses around religious respect and belonging will account for the political atmosphere following Hamas' Oct. 7 incursion into Israel and Israel's subsequent military campaigns in the Gaza strip that have prompted student protests across the country.

One such demonstration was an encampment at the University, which police — including state troopers in riot gear — forcefully cleared May 4.

"All members of our community must feel that they are a vital part of this place, recognize themselves in our mission, and know that they belong," Baucom wrote in a memo that prefaced the report. "All of us need to experience this, across all our diversities and commonalities — religion deeply among them."

City Council considers ranked choice voting

Multiple Charlottesville community members voiced support for the proposal at the Aug. 19 City Council meeting

Ford McCracken and Brandon Kile | Senior Writers

Charlottesville City Council discussed a measure that would implement ranked choice voting for the June 25, 2025 Council primary at its Aug. 19 meeting. Charlottesville community members who came to speak at the meeting voiced their support for the measure, with many urging the Council to adopt the ordinance at its next scheduled meeting Sept. 3.

Ranked choice voting is a practice where voters rank their choice of candidates at the ballot box, instead of selecting only one candidate. If no candidate receives a majority — or above 50 percent of the vote — an instant runoff takes place that takes into account the non-first choice candidates of voters whose first choice candidate was eliminated by not receiving sufficient votes. The practice is, in part, intended to prevent voters from having to go to the polls more than once and vote in runoff elections, which typically experience low turnout.

Because the June 25 primary will be a multi-seat race, proportional ranked choice voting would be used instead of single-winner ranked choice voting, which is used for single-seat races. In an election using proportional ranked choice voting, candidates must receive enough votes to surpass the given threshold in the election, depending on how many seats are up for election. This contrasts single-winner ranked choice voting, where candidates must receive more than fifty percent of the vote to win the election.

Eden Ratliff, deputy city manager for administration, Taylor Yowell, general registrar and director of elections and attorney Rob Hubbard gave a presentation to Council members on what ranked choice voting is, how it would be implemented in Charlottesville and what an election using ranked choice voting would look like.

Hubbard said the adoption of this ordinance will only apply for the June 25 primary election in 2025. After the primary, City Council could decide to permanently implement ranked choice voting, according to Hubbard.

"If voters and [the] Council decided they wanted to use this method going forward, they would have to pass another ordinance that would then extend ranked choice voting to the November election," Hubbard said.

The Virginia General Assembly passed legislation in 2020 to give localities the choice to implement ranked choice voting for

local governing bodies, such as city councils and boards of supervisors. The statute went into effect July 1, 2021 and will expire July 1, 2031 unless it is renewed by the General Assembly.

Should City Council vote in favor of ranked choice voting, Charlottesville would become the second largest locality in Virginia to approve the measure for local elections, after Arlington. Arlington first sanctioned ranked choice voting to be piloted in last summer's County Board Democratic primary. Arlington's County Board then voted in December to implement the measure permanently for all primary elections.

Ranked choice voting has also gained traction outside of Virginia, with Alaska and Maine having implemented the practice for statewide and federal elections, which has yielded some unexpected results. Mary Peltola, a Democrat, won Alaska's Republican-leaning at-large congressional district in 2022, and Rep. Jared Golden (D-Maine's 2nd) has won reelection three cycles in a row in a district former President Donald Trump won in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections.

While implementing ranked choice voting is a relatively new prospect for Virginia localities, other smaller scale elections have used rank choice voting — including student elections at the University. Sally Hudson, founder and board chair of Ranked Choice Virginia, a non-profit with the mission of bringing ranked choice voting to the Commonwealth, said University students can play a critical role in expanding ranked choice voting to areas outside of Charlottesville — citing Albemarle county, which surrounds the independent city.

"A lot of students are Albemarle County residents rather than [residents of] Charlottesville city," Hudson said. "They can play a really powerful role in helping with adoption there."

Hudson represented Charlottesville in the House of Delegates for four years, and helped pass the legislation in 2020 that allowed Virginia localities to implement ranked choice voting.

Hudson said she sees ranked choice implementation in Arlington and Charlottesville as stepping stones to broader use in the Commonwealth, especially given the two localities' history of leadership in democratic reforms, according to Hudson. Albemarle County is also now discussing ranked choice voting for county

elections.

"It's a great sign of how big, broad electoral reform movements can build up from the local level," Hudson said.

Many members of the Charlottesville community have expressed support for the proposed ranked choice voting system, with some coming to speak at the Aug. 19 Council meeting, including city residents and an advocate from the League of Women Voters.

Nick Co, a member of Veterans for All Voters — a nonprofit that works with veterans to advocate for electoral changes — thanked the council for their help, and said that ranked choice voting will ensure that the will of the majority is more accurately represented.

"[Ranked choice voting] amplifies every voter's voice, improves representation, allows citizens to vote their conscience without fear of wasting their vote," Co said. "We can make Charlottesville a model for other cities in our ongoing quest to perfect our democracy."

Justin Kirkland, politics and public policy professor, spoke on some of the advantages and drawbacks when localities use a ranked choice voting system. He said that candidates being able to endorse other candidates — which can happen as candidates are eliminated between rounds of voting in a ranked choice system — may decrease hostility in the political environment.

"There's some evidence that suggests that ranked choice voting actually increases civility in elections," Kirkland said. "There's also some evidence that citizens feel a little more satisfied with the electoral process when ranked choice voting is in place."

Kirkland also said he supports gradually rolling out voting reforms such as this one. He said that this type of policy experimentation is one of the benefits of a federal system, and that by trying reforms out at the local level first, analysts are able to examine the results before introducing them on a larger scale.

"If we're going to make changes of a reform like nature to the way that politics works, I'd like to see them done piecemeal so that we can study them a little bit at a time," Kirkland said. "Roll it out at localities first, and then bump it up to the state level. I think that's a smart plan most of the time."

Kirkland noted that ranked choice voting was not without its potential downsides, stating that it may discourage some vot-



LEXIE GAGNON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Hubbard said the adoption of this ordinance would only apply for the 2025 primary election. Voters and City Council may then choose to permanently implement the system.

ers from showing up on election day by changing or complicating the voting process. According to Kirkland, groups that have been historically disenfranchised may be less likely to vote if new barriers are implemented, including a more complex voting process such as ranked choice voting, where voters are more likely to make mistakes or not complete the entire ballot.

"Asking people to do a more cognitively demanding task might reduce their participation," Kirkland said. "Folks from lower socioeconomic backgrounds or racialized minorities might be less likely to participate in politics if we add one more barrier."

Another drawback to using ranked choice voting is that election results may not be finalized until over a week after election day if a race goes to a runoff. Yowell said that the process would take a minimum of seven days to certify the results, but would likely take up to eight or nine days due to the amount of provisional ballots — ballots given to voters whose registration or qualifications are in question — that must be counted separately from normally cast ballots.

"We have until the Monday following the election to input all of the same day registration voter data," Yowell said. "If we do have to go to the additional rounds, it could be eight, nine days until we

have a final count and all the final ballots have come in, so results are going to look a little bit different."

City Council member Lloyd Snook expressed concern over a feature of proportional ranked choice voting in multi-seat elections, where a candidate's surplus votes — the extra votes for the candidate after they have already crossed a given threshold to win an election — would then be distributed to whomever the second ranked candidate on those ballots is. Snook said that he would have thought this feature would be a flaw, as it only allows certain voters' influence to carry over into the second round.

"If you're with the winner [after the first round of voting], your influence [transfers] into the second round of voting," Snook said. "I would have thought that it would be a bug not to allow everybody to have a meaningful role in the selection of both people."

Along with the ordinance allowing for ranked choice voting in the June 25 primary, the Council will also vote on a resolution to appropriate \$25,420 for the logistics of the implementation of ranked choice voting in Charlottesville.

Both the ordinance and the resolution will be voted on as part of the consent agenda at the Sept. 3 City Council meeting.

OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

May 4 was unacceptable — admin seems to disagree

After last semester's encampment was violently cleared, administrators are doubling down on policies that endangered students

We should all agree that the end of the spring semester was far from ideal — administrators decided to violently clear a peaceful encampment. The University has acknowledged that this was not the outcome they desired. Yet, given the recent notice which University administrators sent to students surrounding demonstrations and access to public space, we are left to wonder whether administrators actually regret the outcome. In fact, their policy changes suggest just the opposite. They have codified a series of regulations which not only operate as ex post facto justifications for their actions, but also set the University up to repeat the mistakes which they made on May 4, mistakes which endangered student safety and the right to protest.

When encampments in solidarity with Gaza first began appearing on campuses last spring, administrators were unprepared. Perhaps this could justify the initial ineptitude which was demonstrated at institutions like Columbia University. But what became evident as more universities resorted

to disproportionate displays of police force was that universities were operating without a clearly delineated playbook. And in the absence of such, they were treading precariously close to violating students' rights.

It is clear that the University was also operating without a playbook, succumbing to pressures to deploy restrictions in a way that compromised safety. Senior administrators argued that their actions on May 4 emerged directly from and as such are justified by the policy changes instituted in the wake of Aug. 11, 2017. Their assertion is not wholly inaccurate.

However, the University's response in May 2024 was a gross overcorrection of the mistakes made in 2017. In August 2017, the University was inadequately prepared for violence and prioritized freedom of expression over safety. By contrast, in May 2024, the administration was overzealous in its prevention of potential violence and rhetorically elevated safety to the forefront at the direct expense of students' rights and safety. In effect, the Univer-

sity, in attempting to correct its mistakes from 2017, actually created a similarly dangerous and violent situation.

After 2017, there was a reckoning with the lack of preparation for the white supremacist rally. Since May, however, there has been no reckoning, an absence that suggests that administrators are uninterested in even acknowledging the mistakes of May 2024. In fact, instead of changing the policies which permitted and justified the abhorrent, state-created May 4 violence, administrators have defended and codified those same policies.

Moreover, in codifying narrow policies which justify their actions, University administrators seem unwilling to look beyond policy minutiae to answer more fundamental questions, such as what constitutes an appropriate use of state force against protesters. Striking a balance between community safety and freedom of expression is not an easy one, but our community now has two signposts which should guide this policymaking. The Goldilocks ending — the solution that pre-

serves students' rights while upholding safety — lies in between 2017 and 2024.

In neglecting larger questions, the University has also neglected the importance of examining other universities who dealt constructively with protest. The administrators who were most successful at deescalating encampments were those who sat down with protest groups and negotiated in good faith. In May, to the University's credit, administrators did offer to negotiate with the group at the encampment and were rejected, a decision that we believe was shortsighted.

Looking ahead, if the University has any hope of de-escalation, more is required than an offer to talk. Rather, student protesters must trust that their university will uphold their fundamental rights and engage in critical self-reflection. In short, recent policy updates compromise the reciprocal trust that needs to exist between students and administrators and suspend the possibility of good faith dialogue.

The spring semester ended chaotically. And as we enter a new semester,

there is little reason to believe that the pressures which resulted in the encampment will dissipate. Nor is there reason to believe that the University administration learned from May 2024. Nevertheless, the fall semester must be an opportunity for growth.

We may no longer have trust between administrators and students, but we do have the gift of hindsight. We should use it to reflect on our own history in the hopes that such self-critique will empower a better future for the institution and how it deals with the question of free expression.

The fall semester is an opportunity for us to insist that the University as a whole — not just students or faculty — reflect upon a spring of encampments and try to improve how we articulate rights to protest and debate.

THE CAVALIER DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD is composed of the Executive Editor, the Editor-in-Chief, the two Opinion Editors, their Senior Associates and an Opinion Columnist. The board can be reached at eb@cavalierdaily.com.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Cavalier Daily is a financially and editorially independent news organization staffed and managed entirely by students of the University of Virginia.

The opinions expressed in The Cavalier Daily are not necessarily those of the students, faculty, staff or administration of the University of Virginia. Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the editorial board. Cartoons and columns represent the views of the authors. The managing board of The Cavalier Daily has sole authority over and responsibility for all content.

No part of The Cavalier Daily or The Cavalier Daily online edition may be reproduced in any form, in whole or in part, without the written consent of the editor-in-chief.

The Cavalier Daily is published Thursdays in print and daily online at cavalierdaily.com. It is printed on at least 40 percent recycled paper. 2022 The Cavalier Daily Inc.

HAVE AN OPINION?

The Cavalier Daily welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns. Writers must provide full name, telephone number and University affiliation, if appropriate. Letters should not exceed 250 words in length and columns should not exceed 700. The Cavalier Daily does not guarantee publication of submissions and may edit all material for content and grammar. Submit to opinion@cavalierdaily.com or P.O. Box 400703, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4703

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

To better serve readers, The Cavalier Daily has a public editor to respond to questions and concerns regarding its practices. The public editor writes a column published every week on the opinion pages based on reader feedback and his independent observations. He also welcomes queries pertaining to journalism and the newspaper industry in general. The public editor is available at publiceditor@cavalierdaily.com.



FOLLOW US @CAVALIERDAILY
WWW.CAVALLIERDAILY.COM



Want to respond?
Submit a letter to the editor to opinion@cavalierdaily.com



THE CAVALIER DAILY

MANAGING BOARD

Editor-in-Chief

Nathan Onibudo

Managing Editor

Grace Thrush

Executive Editor

Naima Sawaya

Operations Manager

Honor Wood

Chief Financial Officer

Charlie Healy

EDITORIAL BOARD

Nathan Onibudo

Naima Sawaya

Songhan Pang

Dan Freed

Wylie Brunman

Paul Kurtzweil

Anais Naish

JUNIOR BOARD

Assistant Managing Editors

Hailey Chung

Blaine Hutchens

(SA) Annabelle Gristina

(SA) Emma Herold

(SA) Catherine Kuryla

(SA) Calla Mischen

(SA) Lydia Sweeney

(SA) Vera Woody

Assistant Operations Manager

Olivia Winesett

News Editors

Finn Trainer

Thomas Baxter

(SA) Ford McCracken

Sports Editors

Ben Istvan

Xander Tillock

(SA) Grace Gould

(SA) Michael Liebermann

Arts & Entertainment Editors

Delores Cyrus

Delaney Hammond

(SA) Leila Mohajer

Life Editors

Mia Tan

Kate Johnson

(SA) Elizabeth Parsons

(SA) Grace Scott

Podcast Editor

Evelyn Lewis

Opinion Editors

Dan Freed

Songhan Pang

(SA) Paul Kurtzweil

(SA) Wylie Brunman

Humor Editor

Wardah Kamran

(SA) Emma Nero

Cartoon Editor

Sarah Elder

(SA) Ada Malpani

Photo Editors

Leon Arceo

Adaire Burnsed

(SA) Alison Pike

(SA) Albert Tang

(SA) Tess Ginsberg

(SA) Kate MacArthur

Design Editors

Lexie Gagnon

Sarah St. John

Mariam Seshan

Chinese Translation Editor

Dailin Li

Social Media Managers

Covonna Bynum

Cody Scarce

(SA) Halle McCormack

Finance Manager

Wilson Simmons

Advertising Manager

Will Peres

Analytics Managers

Elisabeth Bass

Bella Binder

Irene Si

Archivist

Grace Franklin

DEI Chair

Leena Fraihat

Prolong technology sabbaticals

Technology-free classes, which the University piloted during the summer, should be adopted as a new standard for educators

During the 2024 summer session, the University began piloting technology-free classes. Coined “Summer Technology Sabbaticals,” the goal of these courses was to encourage students to develop more “thoughtful relationships with their devices.” Students were required to refrain from using any form of technology during class and for a recommended time outside of the classroom. These sabbaticals have the potential to transform the methods which professors use to cultivate a modern classroom environment. In order to reach the full potential of this practice, technology sabbaticals should be extended beyond the summer session and adopted by professors on a regular basis.

These new technology sabbaticals help to address the increasing role that technology has played in the academic sphere since the pandemic. During the pandemic, the teaching profession was met with a dilemma — how would classrooms manage to carry on as usual without immediate access to traditional learning tools and human interaction? As such, teachers adapted to distance learning by deploying technological resources. Consequently, educators turned to online textbooks, virtual meeting platforms and artificial intelligence.

However, while the majority of classes are no longer taught online, much of the academic environment is unable to operate without computers during lectures or online exams. Though technology introduced resources to make learning more efficient, they also raise concerns about the future of original thought and authentic student work.

In piloting technology sabbaticals,

oping the fundamental real-world abilities of social skills and creativity. By requiring students to learn processes using interactive methods, educators are reinforcing critical thinking through developing skills such as problem solving, motivation and engagement.

In addition to these broader benefits of technology sabbaticals, these classes also emphasize experiential

room. Instituting technology sabbaticals broadly creates an environment in which students must complete their work without a dependency on AI. With AI advancing quicker than educators are able to combat it, cases of plagiarism and cheating are jeopardizing the learning experience and information retained from courses altogether. Of course, technology sabbaticals will not prevent students

online resources generally improve accessibility. As such, the technology sabbatical method is not and should not be a cookie-cutter solution to a multi-faceted issue. Rather, it should be instituted intentionally across disciplines in a way that balances the benefits of technology sabbaticals with the need for students to understand technological advances in their field.

In academia, educators are often urged to oppose tradition in favor of progress and in the name of efficiency and student development. However, the assumption that we must abandon tradition in order to advance in academia is a weak explanation for the clear attachment our generation has to technology. Poor socialization, battles with mental health and vast increases in cheating and plagiarism due to AI and other technological resources pose the question of whether the advancements we choose to adopt are inadvertently holding us back. It is time to reevaluate how we view progress — who says tradition cannot propel educators forward?

“The assumption that we must abandon tradition in order to advance in academia is a weak explanation for the clear attachment our generation has to technology.”

learning which will help students translate their theoretical classroom skills to the real world. Students have plenty of practice utilizing the newest technology both in and out of school. But in order to prepare students for a wide array of post-school environments, the University should adopt the technology-free method more frequently in order to emphasize the importance of technology-free learning.

Additionally, technology sabbaticals have the added benefit of mitigating a recent controversy — the use of artificial intelligence in the classroom. But by encouraging students to refrain from using electronic devices, teachers can stem the tide of AI and hopefully would encourage students to conceptualize other technology-free ways of connecting with their educational material.

While technology-free courses have clear benefits to students’ educational progress, it is unreasonable to assume that they may replace all existing class frameworks. Enforcing technology sabbaticals as the norm can put disabled students at a disadvantage, as classrooms that utilize

FARAH ELJAZZAR is an opinion columnist for *The Cavalier Daily*. She can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

Invest in our future physicians’ medical education

Directing contributions towards a tuition-free School of Medicine at the University strengthens the future of healthcare

Recently, some Americans have not been able to find physicians because the medical profession as a whole is suffering from a shortage of doctors. Perhaps most concerning is a decrease in the number of applicants for medical school. At various medical schools across the nation, donors have worked to combat this decrease with donations to make medical education free. University donors must follow suit. Donations which work to fundamentally eliminate the cost of attendance at the University’s School of Medicine will not only make medical education more affordable but also ensure a stronger future for healthcare in America.

Medical school debt is one of the biggest stressors that students face, and it steers away many who might be interested in pursuing medicine. At the University, the average debt for a School of Medicine graduate in 2023 stands at \$156,691. Even the cost of applying to medical school foreshadows the later debt that medical students and physicians have to pay off — the costs are estimated to be around \$5,000 to \$7,000 dollars throughout the whole application process. Overall, the journey to becoming a doctor is an exorbitantly costly marathon that dis-

courages many potential medical professionals before they even reach the starting line.

In response to these financial challenges, the University’s School of Medicine provides need-based scholarships. While this aid is helpful, it is often not enough. Even after aid, the

equipped them to understand medical school. On top of such socioeconomic inequities, many marginalized groups find themselves underrepresented in medicine, a fact which makes the profession less able to accommodate diverse backgrounds. Doctors who come from a similar background as their

rience. To overcome such a systemic issue of cost, it takes the University and donors to make change. Universities and donors must begin thinking beyond financial aid and start addressing the source of the problem — tuition. One major way that this can be accomplished is by removing

der \$300,000 annually and, additionally, living expenses for those earning under \$175,000. And these examples are just the tip of the iceberg. Such donations recognize that medical school debt is a significant deterrent to aspiring physicians.

To support a diverse and dedicated physician workforce, the University and its alumni should prioritize debt-free education at the School of Medicine. Many medical schools have relied upon singular billionaires to realize this sort of transformative change. While this is a feasible option, a concentrated effort from a breadth of alumni — much like what we see with the University’s athletic department — could also enable the same result. Tuition-free medical education may seem like a pipe dream, but real progress requires a bold approach which resolves problems such as physician shortages.

“To support a diverse and dedicated physician workforce, the University and its alumni should prioritize debt-free education at the School of Medicine.”

cost of medical school is daunting. Around 25 percent of doctors anticipate taking six to ten years to pay off their student loans, while 34 percent expect it to take over a decade. The high cost of medical school is an obstacle that could cost us future physicians as qualified candidates may choose careers that require less debt.

The cost of medical school especially affects students from disadvantaged backgrounds who may lack the financial resources to cover tuition. Many first-generation students must navigate medical school with less financial support than students whose cultural and economic capital has

patient can not only understand their patients better, but also raise awareness for culturally-competent care. Making medical school free would encourage socioeconomic diversity in our healthcare workforce, which is important to reduce health disparities, build patient trust and promote novel treatments.

In order to ensure that pre-medical students from marginalized groups are motivated to pursue medicine, it is essential that universities contend with the issue of medical school debt. Financial aid, while integral, is often insufficient considering the debts that students out of medical school expe-

tuition from the equation. Practically speaking, this means donors who are willing to help with reducing the cost of attendance.


While this approach is transformative in nature, it is not without precedent. Recently, several donors have made substantial contributions to medical schools for the exact purpose of eliminating tuition. In February, billionaire Ruth Gottesman gave \$1 billion to Albert Einstein College of Medicine, making it tuition free. In July, billionaire Michael Bloomberg donated \$1 billion to Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, covering tuition for students from families earning un-

GAYATHRI KAVITHA is an opinion columnist who writes about health, technology and environment for *The Cavalier Daily*. She can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

The Nau Lab's "Touchstones of Democracy" series explores key events, places, thinkers, and texts that inform the history and principles of democracy.

'TOUCHSTONES of DEMOCRACY' SERIES

FALL 2024




ELECTION 2024

Democracy in a Fragile World Order
Thursday, September 5

John M. Owen IV (UVA Politics) and **James Davison Hunter** (UVA Sociology) discuss what can be done to support a global ecosystem that sustains liberal democracies.


REGISTER



Economic Policy: Shaping U.S. Democracy
Thursday, September 19

As voters think about inflation, **Carola Binder** (University of Texas, Austin) and **Michael Lenox** (UVA Darden) consider how key moments in U.S. economic history have been shaped by concerns about price instability.


REGISTER




2020: Political and Social Legacies
Wednesday, November 20


Sociology professor **Eric Klinenberg** (NYU) discusses his new book with **Claudrena Harold** (UVA History) about how the pandemic, social movements, and the 2020 election changed our society.

REGISTER



Bond House | 600 Brandon Avenue
12:00–1:15 PM | Lunch available at 11:30 AM

 **UVA** | KARSH INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY

 **UVA** | COLLEGE and GRADUATE SCHOOL of ARTS & SCIENCES



ELECTION 2024

 **UVA** | KARSH INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY

Become a 2024–25 STUDENT DIALOGUE FELLOW

UVA undergrad and grad students of all views, backgrounds, and beliefs are invited to apply to this inaugural fellowship focused on open dialogue about the 2024 election.

**APPLY BY
SEPT 1**



SPORTS

One must-watch game for every Virginia fall sports team

Every game counts the same in the standings, but these contests might mean just a bit more

Emory Huffman | Staff Writer

As the 2024-25 academic year kicks into full swing, Virginia's fall sports teams are readying themselves for the road ahead. Some have already begun play, while others are chomping at the bit to make their season debuts.

But there is one thing they all have in common — highly-anticipated contests that fall within jam-packed schedules. From rivalries to ranked matchups to potential upsets, this fall season is sure to deliver plenty of entertainment — here is one must-see game to look forward to from every fall sports team.

Football — Oct. 26 versus North Carolina

Amidst another disappointing campaign for Virginia football in 2023, the highlight of the season came in hostile territory on the road against the Tar Heels, who were then ranked No. 10. The Cavaliers have a more forgiving schedule in 2024 than they did last year — their matchup against North Carolina in 2023 came several weeks after a season opener against SEC powerhouse Tennessee and just before matchups against Miami and Louisville on the road. This year's rendition will be played in Charlottesville in the midst of Virginia's toughest stretch — right after a road matchup against Clemson and prior to a two-game road trip against Pitt and Notre Dame.

The Tar Heels present a much more approachable challenge than last season — North Carolina lost several key players, including their starting quarterback, Drake Maye, to the NFL. Virginia will not be favored in the game, but considering the nature of the back end of the Cavaliers' schedule and their success in 2023, it is perhaps the most likely upset opportunity for an underdog Virginia team projected to finish in the cellar of the ACC.

Men's Soccer — Oct. 19 versus No. 7 Syracuse

Two consecutive seasons of high expectations were marked by two disheartening early exits for Virginia men's soccer. Losses to Syracuse in the ACC Tournament on penalty kicks was another constant between the two seasons.

Success in the ACC Tournament does not necessarily assure success on the national stage, but for the Cavaliers, the first step towards returning to national

prominence might be avenging old losses and banishing whatever bad karma remains from 2022 and 2023. The No. 7 Orange stand as a major roadblock on the path to relevance, as their Oct. 19 matchup with Virginia in Charlottesville comes in the Cavaliers' penultimate ACC game of the regular season. Virginia will have plenty of motivation for that contest, with both revenge and postseason implications on the line.

Women's Soccer — Sept. 27 at No. 5 North Carolina

Virginia women's soccer may have just missed the postseason last year for the first time this century, but the program maintains high expectations. The United Soccer Coaches' poll agrees, ranking the Cavaliers No. 21 in the country despite last season's pitfalls.

Of Virginia's several top-10 matchups, a road date with No. 5 North Carolina looms largest. The Cavaliers lost 1-0 at home last season against the Tar Heels, so this year's match in Chapel Hill, N.C. should be a good indicator of the squad's improvement — or decline — since then.

Field Hockey — Sept. 13 at Maryland

Fresh off a run to the Final Four in last year's NCAA Tournament, No. 3 Virginia field hockey has a gauntlet of a schedule lined up to start the season. The Cavaliers are no stranger to early season challenges — last season, they faced eight top-25 teams in September alone. This year, the toughest challenge to start their campaign comes in mid-September against Maryland.

The Terrapins handed Virginia its second of two consecutive ranked losses last year, and they did it in Charlottesville. Virginia faces a tougher test in College Park, Md. this season, but a road win against a former ACC opponent would help prepare the Cavaliers for a tough conference schedule.

Volleyball — Nov. 14 at Stanford

In three opportunities against ranked opponents in 2023, Virginia volleyball won just two total sets and dropped every matchup. Such was life during another middling season for the Cavaliers, who showed potential during their non-conference schedule but collapsed as the season progressed.



ALBERT TANG

Women's soccer will battle No. 5 North Carolina on the road in September, when the Cavaliers will have a chance for a signature victory.

No. 5 Stanford poses an especially significant threat considering both its volleyball pedigree and the physical toll taken on east coast athletes traveling to the west coast for one match. It will be another opportunity for the Cavaliers to welcome their new opponents to the conference with a major upset on the road.

Men's Golf — Oct. 18-20, Golf Club of Georgia Collegiate versus Georgia Tech

Virginia's only ACC matchup during regular season play comes in late October in Alpharetta, Ga. After falling to Auburn — the eventual national champions — in the NCAA Quarterfinals last season, the Cavaliers will need a strong regular season showing ahead of another postseason run.

A tournament in prime golf country against an ACC opponent sets the stage for a beautiful weekend of golf with major implications for the rest of Virginia's season.

Women's Golf — Sept. 4-6, Pan-Pacific UGSL Tournament

Virginia women's golf will go overseas in early September, kicking off the season with a scenic tournament in Mishima, Shizuoka, Japan near Mt. Fuji. It does not get much more unique than that — a win in the shadow of one of the world's most recognizable peaks would undoubtedly be an excellent way to start the campaign for the Cavaliers, who will play against collegiate-level opponents from Japan and South Korea in the event.

Cross Country — Sept. 14, Virginia Invitational

Winning on your home turf is always the goal, and in 2024, Virginia cross country will have two opportunities to accomplish that. First, the Cavaliers are hosting the Virginia Invitational in mid-September — the men's team finished seventh and the women's team third in last year's event, leaving room to improve for Coach Vin Lananna and company. Following in mid-October, the Panorama Farms Invitational will also be in Charlottesville, and with cross country championships coming shortly after in November, a strong showing would set the stage for a successful postseason.

Elayna Duprey tells Virginia Tech to ‘bring it on’ this season

For volleyball’s new transfer, Charlottesville is a home more fitting than Blacksburg

Victoria Blankenship | Senior Associate

Since the Commonwealth Clash was inaugurated in 2014, the rivalry between Virginia and Virginia Tech has only grown stronger. The two schools go head-to-head in 22 sports annually, and the games between the Cavaliers and the Hokies always have an extra charge. While the more than century-long feud has made it rare to see a student-athlete transfer between the in-state foes, senior Elayna Duprey took the leap last winter.

The outside hitter joined Virginia’s volleyball team from Virginia Tech in January, and she has no reservations about the move. Joined by a few other new players in the spring — Tennessee transfer Kadynce Booth and freshman Zoey Dood — the Cavaliers had plenty of time to work on team chemistry and development in the off-season. With a semester at Virginia under her belt, Duprey is ready to be a key point-scorer for the Cavaliers.

Starting with one of the most important aspects of why she decided to leave, Duprey sees fam-

ily as a core value in her life. She grew up in Alexandria, Va. and has lived there her entire life. She is very close with her parents and grandmother, who recently moved in with Duprey’s parents and may aim to continue going to as many of Duprey’s volleyball games as possible.

“She’s 98 years old, and just the travel aspect of it as well kind of played a big role in there,” Duprey said in an interview with The Cavalier Daily. “I wanted to be closer to home so that my grandmother was able to come to as many games as she can.”

While her family was part of the reason Duprey transferred, they also played a huge role in her becoming the strong athlete that she is today. Both of Duprey’s parents are collegiate athletes — with her mother having played basketball for North Carolina and her father having played football for Iowa.

While Duprey originally played basketball, she was introduced to volleyball by a couple of friends from her recreational

league basketball team. She ultimately ended up focusing the majority of her time on playing college volleyball when she was in high school.

When the time came to apply to universities and find the right fit for Duprey and her volleyball career, she looked to the Hokies. What drew her to Blacksburg was the opportunity to play a new position on the court and to be a part of a competitive conference.

During her time at Virginia Tech, Duprey continued to rise to the occasion as both a player and team leader, ending her junior season with the Hokies with 222 kills, the most out of any player on the team. However, over time, Virginia Tech did not feel as much like home to Duprey as it did when she first started playing for them.

“That place, Virginia Tech ... it just didn’t feel like home for me anymore, and a lot of other things in my life had changed,” Duprey said. “My love for Virginia Tech just started to disconnect somewhere, and it just didn’t feel

the same as when I first came to the program.”

So Duprey decided to enter the transfer portal with a couple of requirements in mind — her new school had to be in a competitive conference and not too far from home. That is when she got the offer to play with the Cavaliers, a school hours closer to Alexandria — and not just in the same conference as the Hokies, but also their fiercest rival.

Although many would be fearful of transferring to a school that has consistently been in competition with their old university, Duprey saw that as an invitation to try something new and step up. She is not afraid to face her old teammates on the other side of the net.

“I’m kind of in a ‘bring it on’ mentality,” Duprey said. “Like obviously, a bunch of my friends are still on that team, and ... when I first transferred, I was like — oh wait. Like, I’ll have to play them again. But it’s sort of like ... I just want to see how we’ve gone toe for toe, improvement for im-

provement.”

Furthermore, Duprey has felt that the people at Virginia have made it easier for her to adjust not just to a new team, but also to a new school. She feels like she has entered a welcoming environment that is already challenging her to be a better player.

“When I first came here, I was very nervous, mostly because I came from the rival school ... so just kind of coming into that warm, loving environment, just kind of caught me by surprise,” Duprey said.

Duprey will be able to see firsthand how much her work assimilating into the team will pay off with the first tournament for Virginia rapidly approaching Friday in Norfolk, Va. Pushing herself to have a great senior season will almost certainly be worth it, and Cavalier fans can look forward to watching her rise to the top with her ferocious kills.

Virginia football set to kick off the season against Richmond

The Cavaliers will face the in-state FCS opponent for the 10th time since 2000

Ryan Weiner | Staff Writer

Grounds is flooded with students again, the Corner is alive once more and class is back in session for the fall semester. That means another season of Virginia football is on the horizon. The Cavaliers will start their season with a matchup against Richmond Saturday at Scott Stadium, where they will attempt to start off 1-0 for the fourth time in the last five seasons.

The Spiders are not a pushover team. They are ranked 12th nationally in the preseason FCS Coaches poll and will have a significant chance to win their conference this year. Meanwhile, Virginia is coming off of a 3-9 2023 season where they suffered five one-score losses and left fans wondering what could have been. However, in this opening contest, Virginia should have the upper hand due to strong depth and a plethora of skilled playmakers across multiple positions.

Richmond certainly has a lot of experience on their team, something which could help them pull off the upset. Richmond Coach Russ Huesman has been leading the team for several years, posting many winning seasons and producing over twenty NFL Draft picks. They also are returning junior starting quarterback Kyle Wickersham, all three of their leading receivers and their leader in interceptions. With a lot of these players having gone against the Cavaliers before in 2022, expect the Spiders to battle through the pressure of an ACC road night game.

That being said, the talent gap between FBS and FCS is still notable, and this Virginia team is much better than their record from last season showed. There is big play ability on this roster, from sophomore quarterback Anthony Colandrea to senior wide receiver Malachi Fields to

senior safety Jonas Sanker.

Another layer to look at this game is the quarterback competition in the Cavalier locker room. Colandrea was officially named the starter Saturday over graduate student Tony Muskett — the sophomore is now set to lead the offense with an incredibly aggressive playstyle as he looks to gain a tighter grip on the starting job.

With an absolutely stacked group of Cavalier receivers, Colandrea will have lots of help. The core of Fields, Notre Dame transfer Chris Tyree and North Carolina transfer Andre Greene Jr. has enough skill to blow up any defensive scheme and make life challenging for opponents. Going further, graduate student tight ends Tyler Neville and Sage Ennis — formerly of Harvard and Clemson, respectively — are additions to the list of transfers who look to succeed at Virginia,

as the two of them both will get significant playing time in week one, specifically in any set with two tight ends.

The Virginia defense has also improved from 2023, with returning talent expected to perform better than 2023 — notably, Sanker is an early favorite to be an All-American selection. Other huge contributors for the Cavalier defense include sophomore linebacker Kam Robinson, graduate defensive end Chico Bennett Jr. and sixth-year defensive end Kam Butler. This Virginia squad has returned nearly a full 11 starters or contributors with heavy playing time in 2023, so they will be ready for whatever Richmond has to throw at them.

Another factor to recognize in this game is the stakes it has for Coach Tony Elliott. Since taking over the program, the team has yet to make a bowl game or even come close to that feat. The pres-

sure is on for Elliott to win games and make Virginia a competitive team for the first time since they made the ACC Championship game in 2019. If the Cavaliers want to make a bowl game this year, they cannot afford to drop an early-season game like this to an FCS opponent. Therefore, expect Elliott not to take this game lightly and attempt to open the season with a statement win.

Overall, this game should go in favor of Virginia. They are bigger, more dynamic and overall a better team. Being the first home game of the year, there will be a swarm of fans at Scott Stadium to cheer on the Cavaliers like there was for the early-season match against James Madison last year. However, unlike against the Dukes, Virginia should take down their in-state opponent and start off on the right foot at home in 2024.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Summer internships help arts students jumpstart careers

These workplace experiences in the arts are helping these students turn their passions into professions

Abigail Milne | Senior Writer

A summer internship can look like a traditional office job — cubicles, business dress and coffee runs. But for University students concentrating in the arts, a summer internship could look like operating a giant puppet, cutting a roll of 70mm film or photographing an Olympian. Hailing from a variety of disciplines — studio art, music, theater, arts administration and film — this small but driven group of University students are charting their own professional paths in creative industries, returning to Grounds equipped with invaluable experience, skills and connections in their chosen creative fields.

As a post-production intern at the IMax office in Los Angeles, fourth-year College student John Barnes previewed blockbuster hits before their global distributions to IMax theaters. He recalled watching the Spanish version of “Despicable Me 4” and seeing frames of the original film strip for “Oppenheimer.”

“A big portion of my job was just watching movies every day and basically making sure that the subtitles were correct,” said Barnes, who did quality control, or QC checks, on IMax films. “It was really cool to be in a private screening room, watching these movies that wouldn’t be coming out for a few weeks, and making sure that they’re up to quality with subtitles, sound, picture.”

Outside of the screening rooms, Barnes was able to attend networking events with other film professionals and had the opportunity to sign up for free movie premieres. He even met leading actor Glen Powell in the bathroom at the premiere for the movie “Twisters,” which Barnes described as “the highlight of [his] summer.”

Barnes said that earning a spot at IMax took a combination of careful planning and luck. After submitting a cold application, Barnes followed up with an acquaintance familiar with the company — a friend of his father’s client — who helped Barnes secure his initial interview. Barnes shared that it is common for jobs in film to not be posted to the public, so securing one often takes an industry connection.

“The biggest thing I learned, which people have told me for years, is always talk about your interest to everyone, because you never know if an opportunity might arise and they’ll think of you,” he said.

Similarly to Barnes, fourth-year

College student Domenick Fini also landed their dream internship working as an art and photo intern for NBC News. After years of building technical skills, experience and a professional portfolio, Fini also cold-applied for the NBC position — beating out thousands of other applicants — and relocated for the summer to New York City, where he photographed famous subjects like Olympian Jordan Chiles and actor Justin Baldoni.

Fini’s assignments included graphic design, photo editing and independent photography projects. They said they appreciated working on real NBC projects rather than menial intern work.

“I felt like I was being given the work of an actual full-time employee,” Fini said. “It was all something I felt like was respectable. And I think that was really exciting for me to feel like I was being treated like a full-time hire.”

For one of his projects, Fini photographed members of the New York City-based dance ensemble Queer the Ballet. He said he aimed to capture the personalities of his subjects through the camera.

“Being able to tell their story in a real and genuine way was often focused on the small, detailed moments and personal moments,” Fini said.

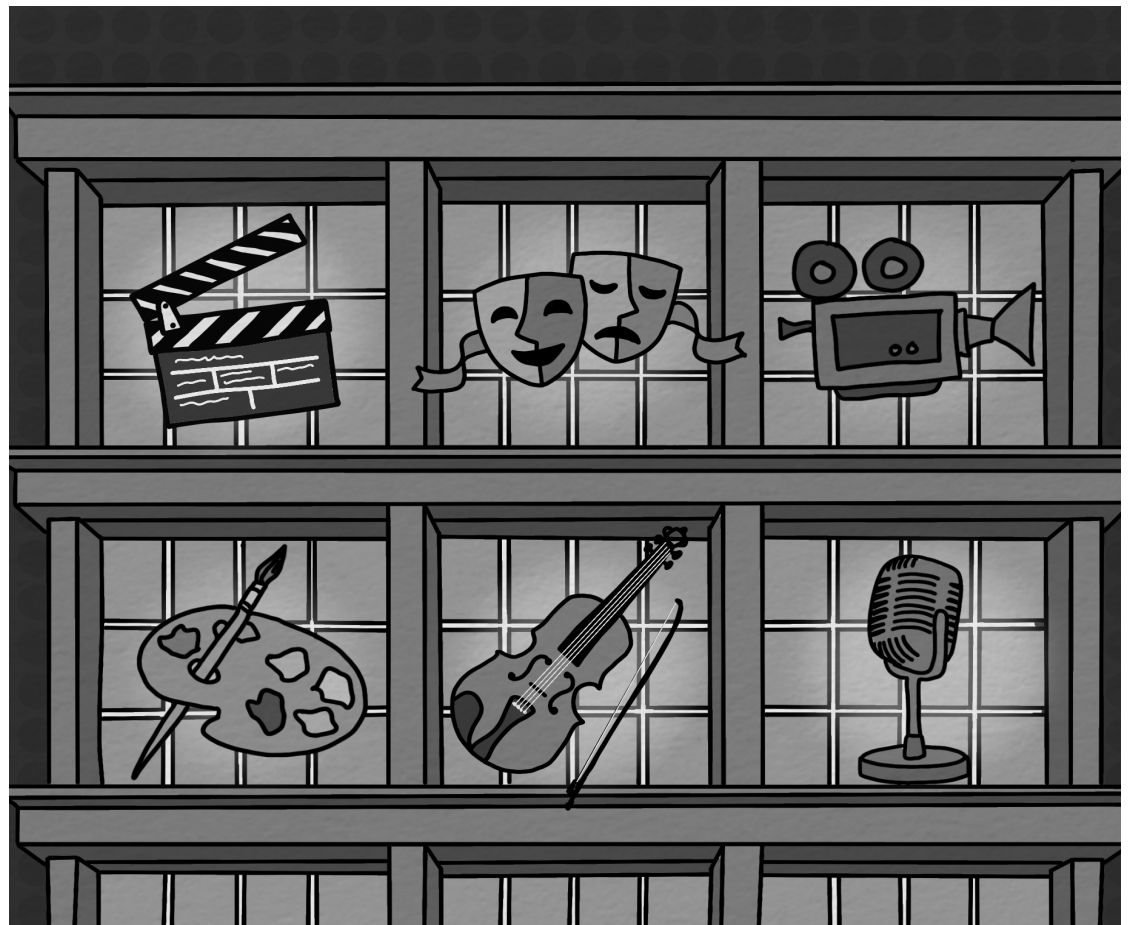
While Barnes and Fini traveled to major cities for their arts internships, others found opportunities right in the Charlottesville area. Second-year Engineering student Will Conrad spent his summer at the Virginia Theatre Festival, where he worked as a General Electrician.

Formerly known as the Heritage Repertory Theatre Festival, VTF stages professional productions in the University Drama Department’s theater spaces every summer. This summer’s three-show season included “50 Years and Counting: A Musical Revue,” “Little Shop of Horrors” and “The 39 Steps.”

“We had so many students involved, which is awesome because we’re all trying to find out what our professional careers are going to be, and exploring that right in our backyard,” Conrad said.

According to Conrad, the summer offered him opportunities to learn from his fellow technicians — a geographically and professionally diverse group that included a Broadway lighting professional and college students from across the country.

Conrad said that his co-work-



SARAH ST. JOHN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Hailing from a variety of disciplines — studio art, music, theater, arts administration and film — this small but driven group of University students are charting their own professional paths in creative industries

ers helped him compile a list of regional theater companies, which he plans to reference as he applies to future summer jobs. Much like Barnes and Fini, Conrad highlighted the value of networking as a young professional in the arts.

“As you build your network and you get to know more and more people, then people start knowing you,” he said. “And then that turns into more gigs and more people know you. And then suddenly you’re building into better and better gigs.”

Fourth-year College student Mary Hall also joined the Virginia Theatre Festival this summer, working as an actor and puppeteer in the musical “Little Shop of Horrors,” directed by Jeffrey Meanza.

Most of the company of “Little Shop” were actors of color, said Hall, and they worked to stage a more socially and politically conscious production of the campy, science fiction musical. Hall said that being an African American and African Studies and Drama double major helped her connect to the material, blending critical analysis

with craft.

“I was able to put on my scholar hat as well as my actor hat,” Hall said. According to Hall, the internship allowed her to take what she’s learned in class at the University and let that material inform her acting performance in the production.

While some students are able to secure an internship through a cold-application, Hall argued that the University should do more to guide arts students towards professional resources.

“They know that they have the resources, and they just kind of expect students to ask for it, but they have to let the students know what they need to be asking for,” she said.

When the University fails to provide financial and career support for the arts, individual professors and student organizations fill in the gaps, said Fini. Fini credits the student-led arts magazine V Mag at UVA and professors Kevin Everson and Anna Hogg of the art department with helping them build their professional toolkit.

“A large contribution to my pro-

fessional experience was due to the work of students, not UVA employees,” Fini said.

According to Fini, the University does not provide sufficient funding to arts departments, making it difficult for students to access the resources needed to get ahead in their careers.

Even when University resources fall short, Fini encourages students to find meaning in their work, and to continue pursuing careers that align with their creative passions despite the challenges on Grounds.

“You should be interested in pursuing what you love, not what you think is profitable,” Fini said. “You will make it worth it for yourself. UVA does not have to make it worth it for you.”

For Hall, as for many student artists, the rewards of working in the arts outweigh the risks.

“It is definitely something that I want to continue pursuing,” Hall said. “I love it, and I’d rather do something that I love for the rest of my life.”

Hoograss provides a unique musical outlet for U.Va. students

The club gives a space for expression and experimentation within the bluegrass music genre

Carter Horner | Staff Writer

The University's bluegrass club, aptly named Hoograss, is a new music organization on Grounds that is rambling into its second year. Here, bluegrass, country and blues fans come together to jam, perform and participate in events throughout the semester geared toward a traditional style of music with which University students might not be familiar.

Bluegrass is an American music genre that is associated with the Appalachian region and combines elements of European folk music, blues and even gospel music. It often features instruments like the guitar, banjo and fiddle. While the unique genre has a rich history, few bluegrass groups exist at the University — now, Hoograss is carving out a space for bluegrass musicians to practice and perform on Grounds.

The Contracted Independent Organization meets biweekly for jam sessions — a chance for students of all skill levels to play and improvise bluegrass music together. Austin Wright, club president and third-year College student, said that the club is open to everyone. While students who have some experience with folk or country music might find it easier to jump in and start playing, the club caters to

people who are learning to play bluegrass music for the first time.

Wright was vice president of the group last year, and he said that he and Class of 2024 alumnus Sean McGranham founded the club to create a space where anyone can enjoy and play bluegrass together, regardless of skill level.

"We're open to everybody, and obviously we're happy to have experienced members," Wright said. "But we're more excited about people that are new to the genre and new to this style of playing because we really enjoy introducing them to the community and making sure that they get this new experience. I'd say for me, that's the most important part."

Jack Leonard, club vice president and third-year engineering student, said that newcomers and experienced members alike connect through their passion for bluegrass and country music, sharing their favorite songs and playlists over email and in group chats.

Wright said the club is not only about connecting over the genre, but is also about teaching. Occasionally, Hoograss hosts workshops where more experienced members get the chance to tutor novice members. While entirely optional, these events

allow musicians to gain experience with other club members. Wright also mentioned how the club is looking to bring in people from outside the University for future workshops. Specifically, he referenced bringing in an Appalachian Flatfooting instructor, a traditional style of dance, in the Fall 2024 semester.

In addition to its regular jam sessions, Hoograss has hosted various events during its first semester on Grounds last spring. Wright said that one such event, called "House Fest," was their biggest of the year. The event was a collaboration with the music-focused student organization Indieheads, starring several bands and performers from the University, including local musician and Class of 2024 alumnus Luke Powers, and a Virginia Tech student band from Blacksburg called A Grateful Dead Band.

The organization hosted and participated in several other major events at the University last semester. Some of the club's members played with Guatemalan musician Sarah Curruchich when she performed in Old Cabell Hall, and Wright said that several members also performed at the re-opening of Shannon Library.

While the club organizes formal performances, Wright described Hoograss as a low-commitment club. Anyone can participate in these larger-scale performances, but they are optional — Wright said the club welcomes and encourages participants who are just looking to play some music with their peers.

"We're really not pushing for high commitment, just show up when you feel like it," Wright said. "Have a little bit of fun. That's pretty much all we ask. You know, be willing to play a bit of music."

One aspect of the club that Wright emphasized was the organization's ventures into adjacent music genres. In addition to bluegrass, the club plays blues, country and folk music at its jam sessions.

"Bluegrass is at the head of a really deep tradition of music that touches a lot of different genres," Wright said. "It's sort of at the nexus of all of them and so we try to embrace the traditions of all three in order to really get in touch with their history as well."

Wright expressed interest in continuing to collaborate with other music organizations at the University in the future to host joint performances

and events. Leonard said that following the success of last fall's House Fest, he and Wright are organizing even bigger House Fests for both the fall and spring semesters of this year.

"I think it's really great to be able to provide a space for super talented musicians in the bluegrass and country genres to perform since options are kind of limited," Leonard said in a written statement.

The pair's ambitions do not stop there. Wright said they are in contact with the social media influencer train_songz, looking to appear on his podcast for an episode. Wright and Leonard also plan to put a band together with some of their members to record an hour-long performance. All of these plans outline an exciting next semester for Hoograss.

Hoograss not only provides performance opportunities, but has also made the unique genre more visible on Grounds. Through the club, students are able to connect with the stories, traditions and ideas that comprise the dynamic genre — all while making great music.

Hoos Listening presses play on a new school year

The new club allows students with diverse tastes to connect over a passion for music

Grace Traxler | Staff Writer

Thousands of students have recently descended upon Charlottesville, eager to pursue all the fresh starts a new school year promises. And for those already hard at work on their fall semester playlists, new music listening club Hoos Listening offers surefire opportunities to make new friends and explore musical interests in a low pressure environment.

Founded last semester, the club provides a space for people to come together and share their love of music through events like listening parties, picnics, playlist swaps and more. Fourth-year Engineering student Ny-laa LaRose, co-founder and president of the club, explained that she and her co-founder, fourth-year Engineering student Marcus Dupart wanted to create a community where students can talk about music regardless of genre.

"I'm part of other U.Va. music communities, and I enjoy the spaces that they have ... but I wanted more community within them, and for more genres to be seen," LaRose said.

Additionally, LaRose said she feels as though those organizations often center around making music, so she

wanted to make a space outside of those organizations for music lovers of all genres who may not be musicians themselves.

LaRose also shared that Dupart's hope was for people to be able to have critical discussions where they could rank and compare albums and artists with like-minded individuals. Merging the two ideas, the pair created Hoos Listening.

After forming the club in January, the executive board has already put together several successful events, including a social on the Lawn with student radio group WXTJ and an Earth Day picnic at Hereford Residential College.

Fourth-year Engineering student Stacey Luki, who is in charge of the club's graphic design, says that the picnic event was a success. Attendees both old and new shared pizza, drinks and their favorite music as they watched the sunset from Hereford Hill.

"The picnic was very chill and relaxing," Luki said. "It felt as though a group of friends were hanging out."

The group has also held playlist swaps, facilitated by LaRose, where

club members decide on an overall theme and a length for their playlists. Individuals then create playlists according to those shared parameters and exchange them with others. This activity can be done virtually, making for a convenient way to hear new music and connect with other people during the often hectic school year.

LaRose said that the executive board has many event plans for the upcoming semester. Along with more playlist swaps, the board hopes to hold album listening parties as well as record listening parties, where people gather together and trade vinyl records.

Additionally, the group will be at The Source Sept. 1 in the Newcomb Ballroom, an event hosted by the Black Student Alliance intended to give new Black students an opportunity to explore various Contracted Independent Organizations and clubs on Grounds.

Fourth-year Engineering student Andrew Spencer operates each of the club's social media accounts and says that students can get involved by joining the club's Discord server, filling out their interest form and following their

Instagram account, @hooslistening.

The club's interest form — which students can find linked on their Instagram account — reflects its values for openness and acceptance. The form asks students both "what are some genres of music you like?" and "what are some genres you would like to get into?" According to LaRose, the executive board considers both of these questions equally important as they think about their goals for the club.

"Our club is different in that it inspires people who already love music and want to find music to do it without being judged," said LaRose.

Additionally, LaRose noted that the club's interest form has gathered a lot of diverse responses, ranging from R&B to hip hop to indie pop, which she sees as aligned with the diversity of music taste within the club's existing membership.

"Within our executive board, there's a lot of variance [in taste]," she said. "I listen to everything — I used to play music a lot too, so I'm kind of everywhere with it."

Illustrating the wide variance in

the music tastes of the club's membership, LaRose says that some of her favorite songs recently include "Spite" by Omar Apollo and "You Only Live Once" by The Strokes — which fall into the genres of alternative and indie rock, respectively. Meanwhile, Spencer has been listening to a lot of hip hop artist Childish Gambino's last album "Bando Stone and the New World," and Luki has been a big fan of Chappell Roan's pop ballad "Good Luck Babe."

"Each of us individually has a preference in terms of music genre, which is great, because as a group that allows us to have ... all types of people," Luki said.

LaRose said the club members care about music not just in terms of its artistic qualities, but for how it can elevate our lives and enhance our ability to relate to one another.

"When people are able to share what they like and how they feel about what they like, it gives us more opportunities to learn about each other," LaRose said.

LIFE

Top 10 reasons to love and hate first-year dorms

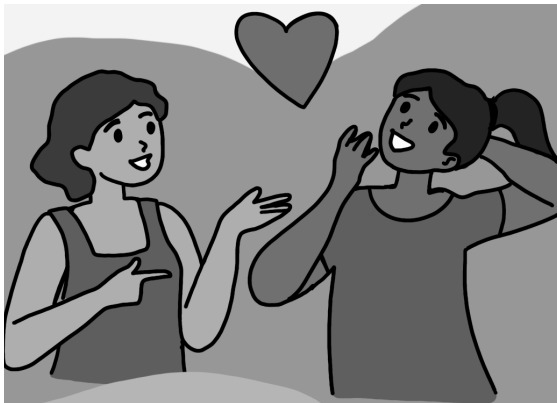
Whether you're a nostalgic upperclassman or wide-eyed first-year, you'll identify with these dualities of University dorm life

Emily Barrie | Life Staffer

Love it or hate it, dorm life is an essential part of the first-year student experience at the University. As a newly-christened second-year student, I find myself reflecting on the ups and downs of dorm living, from forging friendships in my Gooch suite to visiting icky bathroom stalls in Bonnycastle. Here are some reasons why I am both sad and relieved to now be finished with my time in the dorms.

1. Love — Daily sleepovers foster friendships

Dorm living is a middle schooler's dream come true, sleeping a few feet away from friends every night. This close proximity is so fun and allows you to form fast, intimate connections with your roommates, hallmates and suitemates. My roommate and I spent many nights talking from our lofted beds, gabbing about anything from homework assignments to cute boys. The suites, with their built-in common space, make it even easier to prattle, gossip and unwind with the people you're living with. I got so close with my suitemates that we even took our chats out of the suite on a spring break trip together.



SARAH ST. JOHN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

2. Hate — The trek to central Grounds

They say distance makes the heart grow fonder — but not when a 25-minute walk, complete with hills and stairs, stands between your dorm and your first class. All of the first-year dorms, except perhaps Old Dorms, are located far from academic buildings and dining options on central Grounds. There's an even longer walk to places that students actually want to go to — namely, restaurants on the Corner and frat parties on Rugby Road. The only silver lining to all the walking is that the thousands of steps keep the Freshman 15 at bay.

3. Love — Football, food and fitness

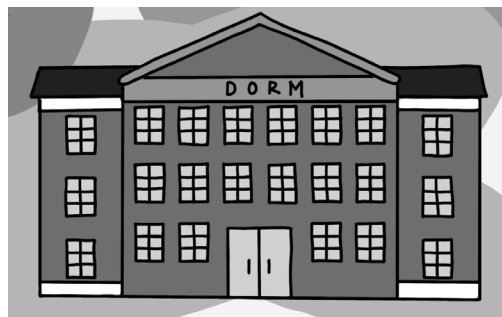
Though many corners of Grounds are far from first-year dorms, there's plenty to entertain close by. Most first-year dorms wrap around the west side of Scott Stadium, the home of Virginia football, which means gameday excitement is palpable from the window. Nearby Runk and O'Hill dining halls make pancakes and pepperoni pizza a short walk away. And all the gym rats can enjoy effortless 6 a.m. visits to the Aquatic and Fitness Center — that is, until they sit down to bench 100 pounds.

4. Hate — The luck of the dorm draw

Let's be honest — some first-year dorms are newer, nicer and more aesthetic than others. Students not-so-endeavoring call the Alderman Road suites the “motels.” Meanwhile, a few steps away are the newer Alderman Road hall-style dorms with their clean brick facades and 21st-century interior design. Your dorm assignment rests in the hands of Housing and Residence Life, and you can only pray that you end up in the building you desire. That being said, it's true that the people, not the place, make or break the dorm experience — as long as you don't get too downcast coming home to a dorm that resembles highway lodging.

5. Love — RAs enhance the first-year student experience

Each dorm has several resident advisors who support the well-being of first-year students. I absolutely adored my RA, Christine. She organized social activities — including a handy self-defense class — and gave her residents personalized attention, like when she mended my shirt during rush. She also always made herself available to chat. I can't tell you how many times my suitemates and I ran up to Christine's room to catch her up on our lives or rant about a problem. To this day, I'm not sure how she got anything done with us constantly knocking on her door.



SARAH ST. JOHN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

6. Hate — The messy bathroom

When you put a bunch of college kids in a communal bathroom, nothing stays clean. I have heard horror stories of such nasty things found in toilets and showers that I can't stomach repeating them. More commonly though, you'll find hair stuck to steamed walls, gobs of toothpaste left in the sink and toilet paper strewn across the floor. Luckily, the University cleans the bathrooms a few times per week — but even then, there are some spots, stains and smears that, frighteningly, never go away.

7. Love — Accessible outdoor spaces

From the quad at Old Dorms to O'Hill Field, the first-year dorms are surrounded by plenty of green space. In the hotter months, girls lie in their bikinis to tan, and guys take off their shirts to play spikeball. In the cooler months, you'll find students in sweats chatting with friends on picnic blankets. There's even some action in the winter, when students gather outside to build snowmen. Simply walking by these outdoor havens can bring you a sense of peace — a phenomenon that doesn't quite occur around an off-Grounds apartment complex.

8. Hate — Laundry is a combat sport

Doing laundry in the dorms requires some intense physicality. To start, you have to lug your laundry bag down several flights of stairs. Then, you have to pounce on an available machine — otherwise, you'll be left standing with dirty laundry in hand, agonizing over the movements of whoever got to it before you. Once you've secured a washer and been exploited by Speed Queen, you must keep a vigilant eye on the progress of your load. People waste no time dropping your clean clothes onto the floor so they can put in their dirty ones.



SARAH ST. JOHN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

9. Love — Lounges and study rooms

Between the snacks in my MicroFridge to the presence of my roommate, I easily became distracted in my first-year dorm room. When I needed to focus, I could rely on lounges and study rooms for a guaranteed lock-in. I was able to stay in those rooms for hours with their outlets, nearby water fountains and comfortable furniture. The best part? Once I was done with my work, I was only a few steps away from the comfort of my bed. There was no need to walk 30 minutes home from Shannon Library.

10. Hate — Frantic fire alarms

Though this wasn't an everyday issue, the fire marshals sure loved to make sure we knew how to respond to a fire alarm. It's an important safety measure, of course, but I think we all have enough common sense to know to move outside when we hear the sound. We had to evacuate our building several times last year to the terrible, deafening shriek. My worst fear was the thought of hearing that piercing noise in the middle of a shower — there's no way I was going to stand outside of Gooch in my bathrobe.

These will-be ‘Double Hoos’ are coming back for seconds

Eager to remain part of the University community, these Class of 2024 alumni are returning to Grounds for graduate school

Malaika Rehman | Features Writer

For some students, experiencing the University once is simply not enough. After walking the Lawn in May, some Class of 2024 alumni have already returned to Grounds for postgraduate studies. Though these soon-to-be “Double Hoos” will attend graduate school at the University, their nickname represents something more than the pursuit of two University degrees. As future Double Hoos, these students build on a foundation they laid as undergraduates, expanding their communities, memories and connections at the University.

After bidding adieu to her undergraduate years, Rana Yu, Law student and Class of 2024 alumna, keeps having to pinch herself. Her first year as a law student comes on the heels of Final Exercises, the thought of which brings on a wave of bittersweet feelings for her.

“It still feels pretty surreal,” Yu said. “It feels very good to be accomplished, but it also feels sort of sad and scary to be moving on to a different chapter of your life. Starting something new is always difficult.”

Going into college, Yu had her eyes on a Juris Doctorate degree but was not set on a particular law school.

That was until she discovered the tight-knit graduate communities and alumni networks at the School of Law. She said the support systems she saw in the University’s graduate student body reminded her of the uplifting atmosphere she experienced as an undergraduate.

“Having a lot of support at the undergrad level really demonstrated how much support UVA. as a university ... is able to give in general,” Yu said.

Active in the Korean Student Association as an undergraduate, Yu is now looking forward to joining comparable cultural organizations in the School of Law, such as the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. Memories of her time in KSA — from library nights to Taco Bell runs — still bring out a twinge of nostalgia. But with communities like APALSA on the horizon, Yu sees a clear connection between her undergraduate years and her new life learning the law.

Undergraduate interests also guided Mehmet Dilek, Medical student and Class of 2024 alumnus, in his transition to medical school. A former research assistant, volunteer at the Charlottesville Free Clinic and physics teaching assistant, Dilek said

his undergraduate involvements inspired him to seek out medical schools that practiced community-oriented healthcare.

That very path became a possibility for him when he was accepted to the School of Medicine. When choosing a medical school, Dilek envisioned himself collaborating with the professors and organizations that had supported him before — so the decision to return to Charlottesville came easily.

“It was a no-brainer for me. I was really set on UVA. [Medicine] the second I got the acceptance,” Dilek said. “What it really came down to, for me, was the culture ... of UVA.”

Dilek spent four years as a University undergraduate, but some students did not need to wait long before they realized the University was the place for them. Class of 2024 alumna Aishwarya Sivasubramanian earned her undergraduate degree in Cognitive Science in a whirlwind two years. Now she is a Master of Public Health candidate looking to add a Masters in Commerce under her belt next year. The completion of both graduate degrees sets her up for a four-year track that runs parallel to her peers in the

Class of 2026.

Sivasubramanian forged close ties with her professors and peers despite her brief time as an undergraduate. While her early graduation date is notable, she measures her University experience not in the number of academic years but in the relationships she made on Grounds.

“Having a good group of friends to study with and to do the work with — that, to me, feels like a huge part of the UVA. experience,” Sivasubramanian said. “It’s [about] being around so many capable, amazing individuals and creating friendships through projects and through class.”

While these prospective Double Hoos are returning to the University, they still look forward to a fresh start. Graduate life, even at the same institution as one’s undergraduate career, comes complete with new academic systems, tougher classes and more bouts of nerves. Sivasubramanian said she is gearing up for the new lifestyle and routine.

“I’m most nervous [about] the content. I know it’s going to be a lot more in-depth and high-level than I’ve ever done before,” Sivasubramanian said. “[But] I get to have a different way of

life. It won’t be exactly the way my undergrad was ... and I’m excited for a little bit of a switch-up.”

Dilek also anticipates a heavier workload than the one he shouldered as an undergraduate. But for him, the looming responsibilities of medical school are made less daunting by the opportunity to meet his new peers.

“You hear horror stories [about] med school, that it’s really difficult ... so that’s something that makes me nervous,” Dilek said. “But I’m really looking forward to making new friends and getting to know everyone.”

As the Class of 2024 heads in different directions — from travels abroad to careers in the Big Apple — these will-be Double Hoos acknowledge their luck at getting to spend more time at the University. They are returning to the same Grounds, but they are not experiencing the same thing all over again — they are discovering a new side of the University and doubling their impact on Grounds, all while appreciating the community that welcomed them in the first place.

“I absolutely loved what I had [in] undergrad,” Sivasubramanian said. “I’m coming back for more.”

An ode to orange juice — and life’s other simple pleasures

How studying in Spain taught me to savor the little things

Kate Johnson | Life Editor

When I arrived in Valencia, Spain this May to study abroad, I quickly realized that the region boasts some of the greatest oranges on Earth. Truly. The warm, dry climate and its proximity to the Mediterranean coast make Valencia a perfect locale to grow orange trees. It’s no wonder, then, that the orange juice I drank there was the best I’ve ever had. It was so delicious that I can confidently say it was life-changing — but not for the reason you might think.

Sure, this glorious orange juice has forever altered my palate — industrial Tropicana will never taste the same again. But the real gem about this juice was the lesson it taught me — that something as simple as a freshly-squeezed orange can change your worldview if you take a moment to appreciate its beauty.

My first weekend in Spain, I took a day trip to the coastal town of Peñíscola. On the drives there and back, my eyes remained an inch away from the bus window. I marveled at a tapestry of

rolling hills, quaint villages and, most strikingly, unending rows of orange trees. When I got back home, I — in hindsight, laughably — asked my host mom, “Do they grow oranges in Valencia? Or something?”

With a kind smile, she said, “Espera un momento, corazón,” and she hurried into the kitchen. I heard the slice of a knife and the whir of a juicer, and soon after, she returned to me with a glass of glowing orange juice. “Bébelo,” she said, and I brought the liquid to my lips.

I was shaken to the core. Or rather, I was squeezed to the pith. I was convinced that I had just tasted the nectar of gods, a sunrise in a glass. The juice was almost as thick as syrup. Pools of the brightest, sweetest orange burst on my tongue. As the juice slid down my throat, it felt like sunshine was pouring into my stomach. I must have looked visibly stunned, because my host mom doubled over laughing and collapsed into me with a hug.

It took me several hours to

finish the glass. I savored every sip, letting its magic mellow on my taste buds. I was amazed how such a humble thing, when I stopped to completely and utterly experience it, could bring me so much joy. Granted, this was probably the best orange juice I’ll encounter in my lifetime. But it was still, just, simply, a glass of orange juice, a drink I had consumed hundreds of times before without a second thought.

The orange juice was only the beginning. After those transcendent sips, I began to experience my surroundings with a heightened awareness. I noticed giggling boys chasing one another in the park on my walk to class. I smiled each time my professor remarked “super-mega-guay” with his deep, lavish Spanish accent. At the beach, I felt my sundress billow in the sea breeze. And when I returned home, I closed my eyes to take in the scent of tortilla de patatas wafting from the stove.

I moved through the summer in this way, taking time to appreciate each and every sen-

sation, from sights to sounds, from tastes to smells. As I did, I realized how ripe the world is for joy — whether in nature, on city streets or in the comfort of home — if I just paid attention. All around me were small, yet profound, opportunities to experience life to the fullest. I took advantage of any chance to gaze upwards at hovering palm tree branches, listen to live flamenco in the neighborhood plaza, hug my host mom or juice an orange in her kitchen.

When I think back on my summer abroad, what comes to mind first are not the people I met nor the famed landmarks I saw — though I cherish those friendships and those travels dearly. Remarkably, the little things — like my afternoons savoring orange juice — constitute my fondest memories. In those moments, I was deeply present, mindful of the everyday beauty in my midst. In those moments, I felt the most joy.

Now that I’m back on Grounds, I’m finding similar lit-

tle ways to feel, experience and reflect. I’ve basked in the Virginia sun on the Lawn, and I’ve belly laughed in the company of old friends. I’ve even enjoyed a bottle of Tropicana, which — though it cannot compare to Valencia orange juice — still has the nostalgic, sweet flavor of my childhood. My newfound understanding that ordinary things can be extraordinary has given me an eye for life’s little treasures.

I encourage you to live intently this year, appreciating these moments of mundane beauty, whether following the arched motif of West Range or sighing under a blast of air conditioning in Newcomb Hall. Maybe, at least, they’ll lift the corner of your mouth in momentary delight.

KATE JOHNSON is a Life Editor for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at life@cavalierdaily.com.

HUMOR

Bucket list for incoming first years

Editor's note: This article is a humor column.

Now that I have two whole semesters of experience under my belt, I have compiled a list of adventures that all students at the University should attempt in their first year. Incoming students follow a template when making their posts — they share their intended major, what clubs they might be interested in and, of course, that they are “thinking about rushing in the spring.” While these students dream of those chill nights in, I would like to prepare them for what they should really focus on.

Spend a day at 7 Day Jr.
Strolling down the Corner for the first time, you'll know you have found the hotspot when you feel the electricity of the song “Gasolina” pounding through the gates of heaven — the entrance to 7 Day Jr. This convenience store, turned Charlottesville monopoly, serves as the cornerstone of the Univer-

sity. Other colleges with successful basketball teams “tent” for tickets, but students at the University camp outside of 7 Day Jr.
You can even sit down for a meal at the brand new 7 Day Jr. Deli and Bar located on 14th Street. With the franchise making an unexpected reach into the food industry, one can only imagine what other industries — or parts of Grounds — it might expand into next. If you stay long enough, you might even witness the launch of a 7 Day Jr. ice cream shop or apartment complex.

Go off the AFC high dive
Have you ever witnessed an average student launch themselves off the high dive at the AFC? Probably not, and there's likely a good — legal — reason that they only let Olympic-caliber athletes on such a hazardous structure. But personally, I don't think much could go wrong with sending yourself off of a 50-foot platform. Imagine the clout you would receive. When you arrive on Grounds this fall, make

sure to rush in line behind the diving board. But don't run. You're not allowed to run at the pool.
Take the CAT
To this day, I don't know where the CAT actually goes. I have only heard there are places in Charlottesville outside of Grounds — Barracks, that plaza with the Trader Joe's and the half-mile void between the Standard and the Downtown Mall. What better place for self-reflection — maybe even a cry session — than on a bus where you know for sure you won't be spotted by your University characters because it is headed to the parts of Charlottesville that only exist according to legend. One of these days, I trust I will find the time to hop aboard a CAT bus in hopes that it brings me somewhere exciting. My own personal yellow brick road.
Become an intramural sports pro
They say money can't buy you happiness, but for just 15 dollars

per semester, you can experience priceless exhilaration through intramural sports. The University has recently caught up with the times by streamlining its intramural sports through a system operated on an app called Fusion Play.
On this app, students can make teams, select their rosters and be jump-scared when they see they are scheduled to face an opposing team composed of their ex, their unhelpful TA and that one class friend. When you hear the word “influencer,” you probably imagine a famous person on Instagram, TikTok or even YouTube. I would argue that while your post on the “uvaz028bios” page could go viral, the Fusion Play app is where the real influencing happens.
Start a secret society
Lastly, the University presents the perfect challenge for those who love to name their friend groups and practice institutionally supported vandalism. If you enjoy drawing on public spaces,

you will typically find yourself out of luck because of some nit-picky vandalism laws. However, if you must produce visual art, look no further than a secret society. There is a simple process to creating a secret society — first, choose an induction process, then, select your most qualified colleagues to join and, finally, get together and paint on some sidewalks when no one is looking. It's time to let your inner Banksy free.
The University has endless amounts of sidequests to offer. Whether you're the adventurous, sporty or reflective type, there is a unique experience waiting to be unlocked for you somewhere around Grounds. Once you've made your way through this list, you will make the class of 2028 proud.
EMMA NERO is a humor columnist for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com

CARTOON

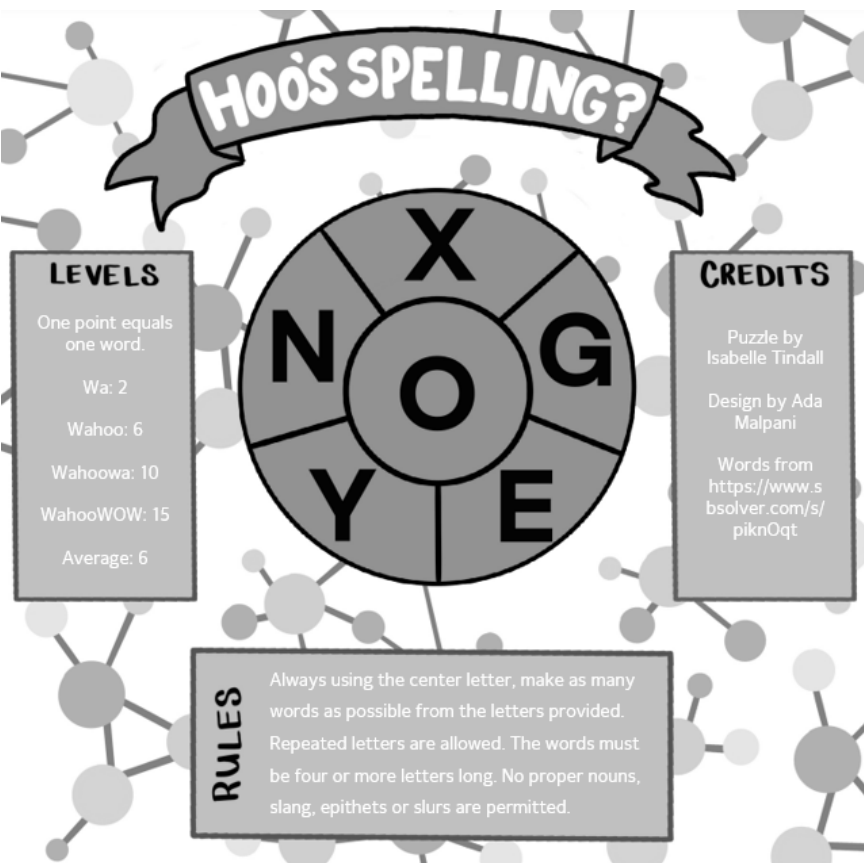
Corner Store Kingpins

Conwell Morris | Cartoonist



Hoo's Spelling

Isabelle Tindall | Puzzle Master



CROSSWORD

Quinn Connor | Puzzle Master

ANSWERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DITIGAL VERSION OF THIS PUZZLE WHICH IS PUBLISHED AT WWW.CAVALIERDAILY.COM

ACROSS:

- 1 Unite
- 6 Instagram’s parent company
- 10 Oily org.
- 14 Locked in on the bull’s-eye
- 15 Starting words in a game of tag
- 16 Texas politician O’Rourke
- 17 Emotion featured in Pixar’s “Inside Out 2”
- 18 Chipotle competitor
- 19 Ed Sheeran sings about an “A” one
- 20 “Taste the Rainbow” candy
- 22 Has faith in
- 24 Wastes the day away in bed, say
- 25 Cattle chatter
- 26 Start of the most common “Jeopardy!” category
- 29 Big steaks event?
- 33 Acquires, as a Boy Scout badge
- 34 Competes in the second leg of a triathlon
- 35 Butterfield of “Sex Education”
- 36 ____ Naija Gaston AKA Ice Spice
- 37 Amusement park annoyances

- 38 Fast-paced card game involving slapping
- 39 “Golly!”
- 40 Frozen floaters
- 41 _____ asada
- 42 Legendary city of gold
- 44 Harmless
- 45 “Killers of the Flower Moon” actor Robert De _____
- 46 Emoji with glasses and two front teeth
- 47 Like eggs in soufflés
- 50 Common air freshener shape
- 54 Give or take
- 55 Blueprint detail
- 57 Disney princess who sings “Part of Your World”
- 58 2012 Nintendo console
- 59 Vow
- 60 Nigeria’s capital, formerly
- 61 Surgery souvenir
- 62 At no cost
- 63 The final frontier

DOWN:

- 1 Sweethearts, in Gen Z slang
- 2 Text-displaying technology for Kindles
- 3 Prefix with potent or present
- 4 Some subatomic particles
- 5 They fix issues

- 6 Silent performers
- 7 Hot Topic shoppers, often
- 8 Common Father’s Day gift
- 9 Available in shops
- 10 Like 100°
- 11 Shipping center?
- 12 Coup d’_____
- 13 Rom-_____ (some cheesy movies)
- 21 Cell service letters
- 23 Pillages
- 25 Lincoln and Ford
- 26 _____ flag; behavior that is not necessarily good or bad
- 27 Artist’s stand
- 28 Culinary follower of deep or stir
- 29 “Exactly!”... or what might be shouted after the highlighted clues have been read aloud
- 30 _____ Sun (juice brand)
- 31 Taking advantage of
- 32 Gobbled up
- 34 Pink dinosaur in the Mario franchise
- 37 Hears about
- 38 Aboveground bunker
- 40 Creamy cheese on a charcuterie board
- 41 Trix and Kix
- 43 Like Taylor Swift for roughly 40% of the 2010s
- 44 “Big” name in London

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21			22	23				
				24				25						
26	27	28					29					30	31	32
33						34						35		
36						37					38			
39					40					41				
42				43					44					
				45				46						
47	48	49					50					51	52	53
54						55	56			57				
58						59				60				
61						62				63				

- 46 Not mainstream
- 47 Present toppers
- 48 Prince rescued by 57-Across
- 49 Locale of Yakutsk and Irkutsk on a Risk board
- 50 _____ the Cat (fictional feline)
- 51 Latvia’s capital
- 52 Fair-hiring agcy.
- 53 If’s partner in coding
- 56 Between a birdie and a bogey

ADVERTISEMENT

JOIN
THE CAVALIER DAILY
Tell the history of now | recruit-cavalierdaily.com



Want more of The Cavalier Daily delivered fresh to your inbox every morning? Subscribe to our daily newsletters!