



HISTORY OF THE LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

2012

Students conduct hunger strike

2006

Sit in at Minor Hall, students arrested; University raises minimum starting wage

2000

Charlottesville becomes a living wage city; University raises minimum starting wage

1997

Labor Action Group begins teach-ins

2015

Students hold rally, deliver petition to administration

2010

Sullivan takes office, rejects proposal to raise minimum wage rate

2002

University staff forms a union

1998

April 15: Living wage campaign first launched, begins living wage button campaign

University's Living Wage Campaign holds rally

Attendees deliver 1,200-person signature, request administrative meeting

Reade Pickert and Katie Grimesey
News Writers

The University's Living Wage Campaign held a rally Thursday demanding all University workers receive a living wage. The ralliers marched to Madison Hall to deliver a petition signed by more than 1,200 individuals.

In addition to making the case for instituting a living wage for all University workers, the petition calls for administration to schedule a meeting between Students United for a Living Wage members, legal officials and University administration senior members responsible for overseeing budgets and finances, and for an increase in oversight of contracted corporations by officially auditing University contractors.

First-year College student Jenneca Graber-Grace helped plan the rally and said workers at the University are not receiving enough pay to sustain a good standard of life.

"The work performed by these hard working people is critical to the way our University runs, yet members of our administration turn a blind eye to their treatment and compensation," Graber-Grace said. "Currently the poverty rate in Charlottesville is a staggering 27.5 percent. As the largest employer in Charlottesville, the University, holds exceptional power over the city's economic health."

Fourth-year College student Caitlin Levine spoke about what she said is the University's pursuit of profit at the expense of its workers.

"I feel infuriated because our public University cares more about making money than it

does about your favorite dining hall worker, about the mother who cleans your dorm bathroom, about the father who gets to the Chemistry building at six in the morning to make sure that your classrooms are in tip-top shape," Levine said. "They care more about profit than those human beings."

University spokesperson Matthew Charles said the University has established its own "minimum hiring rate," which has increased by 2 percent annually for the past several years.

"With the increase scheduled for later this year, the minimum hiring rate will have increased by 18.5 percent since the Presidential commitment was made, or 3.7 percent per year over the past five years," Charles said in an email. "This compares to the one state-granted increase for Classified Staff during this same timeframe of 2 percent plus longevity bonuses effective November 2013."

English Prof. Susan Fraiman helped launch the Living Wage campaign when it began in 1998. She said the campaign serves to work alongside other activist groups, instead of attempting to address all issues independently.

"In light of recent events, it might seem that 'wagers' should step back and allow the spotlight to remain on the important issue of sexual assault," Fraiman said. "In fact, the opposite is true. The living wage campaign is an invaluable resource, an indispensable coalition partner for any group concerned with social justice issues on this campus."

Fraiman also said activist groups must work together in order to sustain a culture of ac-

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LIVING WAGE | Students demand higher staff wages

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tivism at the University by providing support and serving as coalition partners.

“Now is the time for everyone concerned with changing the climate for women and for workers, now is the time for all of us to get involved,” Fraiman said. “The categories of women and workers are not mutually exclusive. Low-waged staff are disproportionately female.”

Arts and Sciences graduate student Laura Goldblatt said the campaign wants to make sure students are aware of what is happening on Grounds, and to raise workers’ wages.

“We want to let the administration and the Board of Visitors know that there are a lot of people on campus, in the surrounding community and among the alumni who support the University doing what’s right, and paying its workers a living wage,” Goldblatt said.

Living Wage Campaign History at the University

Fraiman has been involved with the fight for a living wage at the University for nearly two decades. She said the movement largely emerged out of the Labor Action Group, a coalition of faculty, students and community members. Initially, faculty discussed the issue with students — what she called a “Teach-In with the Labor Movement.”

“We brought together some amazing labor activists and scholars — Julian Bond, [then-]AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, Barbara Ehrenreich, among oth-

ers — who helped to make it a very successful teach-in,” Fraiman said.

The success of the teach-in led Fraiman and others to think about where the organization should go from there in order to make a meaningful difference and spurred them to officially launch the Living Wage Campaign on April 15, 1998.

“When we started the campaign — modeled on successful efforts in municipalities such as Baltimore — we were the first such campaign on a college campus aimed at raising the wages of University employees,” Fraiman said.

At the time, a living wage would have been \$8, she said. Instead of receiving this wage rate, Fraiman said much of the University’s predominantly African-American staff received wages below the federal poverty line. In order to protest the wages they received, the Living Wage Campaign encouraged people to wear buttons advertising the need for a living wage.

Soon afterwards, as employees began to wear the buttons, a member of the University staff was actually sent home. The Labor Action Group defended her right to free speech, and the Living Wage Campaign demonstrated its support by raising consciousness of the staffer’s breach of rights.

“The University did not respond, but the city was actually extremely receptive,” Fraiman said. “They realized that they were not paying their own workers a living wage, and in 2000, Charlottesville declared itself a Living Wage City.”

The Living Wage Campaign seemed to have some success, and in Nov. 2000, the University raised

the minimum starting wage of staffers from \$6.50 to \$8.19, functionally implementing a living wage.

However, because of general economic inflation and increases in the cost of living, the \$8 wage quickly fell below the standards of a living wage. In 2002, the University staff formed a union affiliated with the Communication Workers of America. The Living Wage Campaign then saw a four-year lull, which ended with a student-led sit-in in Minor Hall. Fraiman said the sit-in led to multiple arrests but again increased workers’ wages.

“In April of 2006, there was a sit-in resulting in a number of student arrests — one faculty member was arrested as well,” Fraiman said. “By no coincidence, that summer staff wages got a bump up...While the University claims their actions are not influenced by the movement, the timing of significant wage increases would seem to belie that claim.”

The most recent incarnation of the Living Wage Campaign began in 2010 when current University President Teresa Sullivan took office. Fraiman said she and others were inspired by Sullivan’s background in labor sociology. Fraiman cited a textbook written by Sullivan — “The Social Organization of Work” — which says that “being paid a living wage for one’s work is a necessary condition for self-actualization.”

However, when approached by the Living Wage Campaign, Fraiman said Sullivan was not receptive of the group’s concerns.

After receiving no response to more than 325 petitions sent to the

administration, students involved in the Living Wage Campaign led a hunger strike in 2012, lasting from Feb. 18 to March 1. One of the organizers, graduate College student David Flood said the group did not originally want to conduct a hunger strike but felt it was necessary due to the lack of administrative attention.

“We didn’t want to do the hunger strike,” Flood said. “We had indicated to the faculty that it would escalate if they weren’t willing to cooperate. We wanted to have an action that was legal that garnered attention and publicity and that the University would not be able to halt.”

The strike received all kinds of publicity, which Flood said was partly due to the participation of a University football player, Joseph Williams. Flood said even Sports Illustrated covered the two-week-long strike.

Flood said participating students, while maintaining their coursework, would meet in the morning and stand in front of the Rotunda for most of the day.

Fraiman said she remembered the strike well and was extremely proud of the actions they took to bring attention to the need for a living wage.

“It was barely spring, and these incredibly brave students would be out there with four coats because they couldn’t maintain warmth,” Fraiman said.

The University made no response to the Living Wage Campaign’s 2012 efforts and has not increased its base-rate wage since 2006.

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UCLA prof. calls for race-conscious affirmation action

Cheryl Harris, UCLA Department of African-American Studies interim chair, says current system fails to capture holistic student picture

Brendan Rogers
Senior Writer

Cheryl Harris, a professor in civil rights and civil liberties at the University of California at Los Angeles Law School, spoke to University students and community members Friday about issues of gender, race and class and how they are addressed in modern society.

Harris, also the UCLA Department of African-American Studies interim chair, discussed universities' use of affirmative action and how race played into their decisions. Harris said the current "race-conscious" affirmative action measures used at universities do not fully or effectively level the playing field for disadvantaged applicants. She also said the process does not take into consideration social class or other factors which present a more holistic picture of each student.

"Race-conscious affirmative action...has left class out of the

picture," Harris said. "Race-conscious places black students in particular in academic situations in which they cannot succeed — affirmative action actually harms the intended beneficiaries."

Harris also touched upon the shift in thinking about racial equality over the past few decades from a conservative approach — based on people exercising "colorblindness" — to a more progressive approach in pursuit of what she termed "post-racism."

"[There is] a shift to thinking about race in a different way," Harris said. "Civil rights becomes kind of like an old-school idea. The idea is that race need not be taken into account, that universalist measures are better. [It's] not so much racial erasure but racial transcendence."

Harris' talk was organized by the University's Women, Gender and Sexuality Program and co-sponsored by over a dozen other departments and student groups including the politics de-

partment, the Office for Diversity and Equity and the Black Student Alliance. Women and Gender Studies Prof. Corinne Field helped organize the event and says she found it even more successful than she had hoped.

"It looked like students were very interested and asked interesting questions," Field said. "We wanted to bring in people who are looking at the intersections of gender, race, and class — what gender scholars call 'intersectionality'...She is an absolutely fabulous scholar looking at [these issues] in the US."

Fourth-year Commerce student Arisa Koyoma, who attended the event, said she found the experience interesting and thought-provoking.

"I'm really interested in issues of intersectionalism," Koyoma said. "I try to be really aware of how [gender, race, and class] intersect. What I really liked about it [is that] it leaves room for me to self-reflect. It really pushes me to think."



Sabrina Ferrero | The Cavalier Daily

Cheryl Harris discussed the need to change the college admissions process, as well as the transition from societal "colorblindness" to "post-racism."

FCC passes regulations facilitating net neutrality

Internet service providers can no longer discriminate against competitors

Juliana Radovanovich
Senior Writer

The Federal Communications Commission passed new regulations on Thursday which in effect establishes net neutrality, a move intended to promote an open internet. Per the ruling, Internet service providers can no longer discriminate against their competitor's content by blocking it or deliberately slowing it down. Previous to the decision, network capacity could be used for any purpose after being purchased, including slowing the service given to competitors.

James Jokl, University Associate

Vice President and Chief Enterprise Architect, said the debate over net neutrality was ultimately a question of whether content providers would be required to pay to have their content delivered to the end user.

"The neutrality side wants to keep the Internet the way that it has been," Jokl said. "Some of the larger Internet providers want to see the model change, arguing that some users have higher costs and saying that they should be allowed to offer premium services for a higher cost."

In order to maintain the system as it is, however, many proponents of net neutrality believe regulations are necessary to allow competitors to enter the market and to prevent cur-

rent Internet service providers from making competitors' access to users more difficult.

"I worry that much of the innovation that has made the Internet what it is today could be stifled if we end up in a world where start-up companies need large amounts of money to effectively bid against established companies to have their content delivered to users," Jokl said. "Neutrality rules would prevent this from happening."

Media Studies Assoc. Prof. Christopher Ali said he has similar concerns about a market in which Internet service providers are not subject to net neutrality regulations.

"This is about making sure that the Internet is more accessible for individuals and small businesses, and that there's a level playing field for new entry," Ali said. "I'm very much in favor of what happened yesterday."

Support for net neutrality has manifested largely along party lines. The FCC voted 3 to 2 in favor of the proposal, with the two Republican commissioners voting against the measure and the three Democratic commissioners voting to approve it.

Although he feels that net neutrality is an important political issue, Ali said he thought it should not be a partisan issue.

"[Net neutrality] should be a political issue, but it shouldn't necessarily be a partisan issue," Ali said. "But

in the past year it really has become a partisan issue, with certain members of the Republican Party coming out against net neutrality."

Ali said Republican opposition stems largely from general dislike of government regulation. Though large companies have an economic advantage in an Internet without net neutrality rules, those against regulation say government intervention will disrupt what should be a free market system. Ali said he thinks these fears are unfounded.

"There's all these theories that the government is going to start controlling the Internet," said Ali. "No, it isn't. That's a lot of rhetoric, and that's a lot of scare tactics."

The debate over net neutrality began in the early 2000s. At that time, the FCC decided Internet service providers would be considered information services rather than telecommunications services.

When the FCC then tried to regulate ISPs with open internet rules in 2009, Verizon sued, arguing that the FCC did not have adequate jurisdiction to impose the proposed regulations on information services. In January 2014, Verizon v. FCC was ruled in favor of Verizon, as the FCC could not properly justify the open internet rules.

"For the past year, we've been in this Wild West of no neutrality rules while the FCC has tried to figure out how to legally justify net neutrality,"

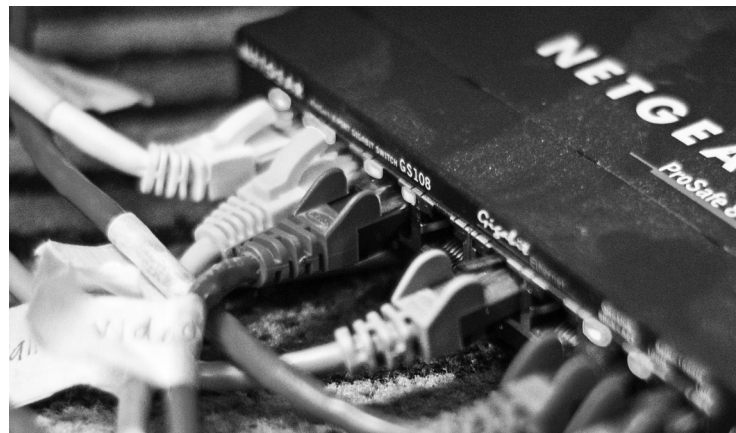
Ali said. "It wasn't about the FCC not having authority, it was about the legal justification for that authority."

Thursday's ruling changes Internet service providers back to telecommunication services, allowing the FCC to put open internet rules into place. However, although regulations have been altered, nothing will be different for individual users of the Internet, including those at the University.

"I doubt that we'll see significant changes on Grounds over the near term," Jokl said. "If the Internet were to move into a model where different types of data are charged at different rates or additional funds are needed to guarantee delivery, what is available on Grounds would likely change in the same way that it would everywhere else."

Even though little will change as a result of the FCC's ruling, Ali said that Thursday's decision was historic.

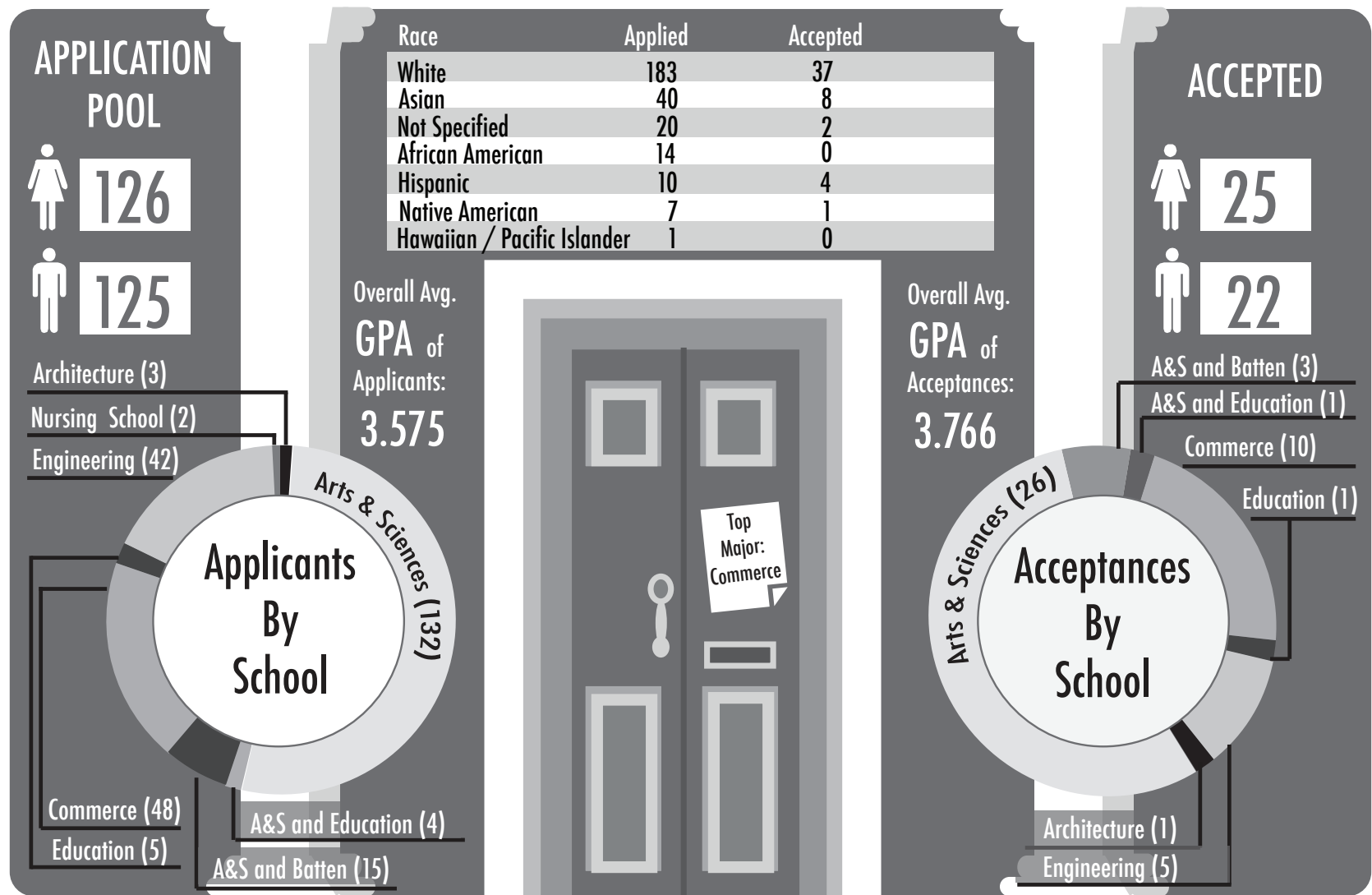
"It is not an exaggeration to say that yesterday was one of the most important moment in the history of communications in the United States," Ali said. "If we are serious that everyone needs access to the internet in order to participate as a citizen, consumer, voter, and individual in democracy and the market in the 21st century, the only way this can happen is through promoting network neutrality and an open Internet."



Marshall Bronfin | The Cavalier Daily

Per the FCC rulings, Internet service providers can no longer discriminate against their competitor's content by blocking it or deliberately slowing it down.

THE INCOMING LAWN RESIDENTS



Anne Owen | The Cavalier Daily

General Assembly defeats bill granting greater public fund to disabled children

Del. Dave A. LaRock, R-Loudoun, claims measure unconstitutional

Elizabeth O’Roark
Senior Writer

The Virginia General Assembly defeated House Bill 2238 on Wednesday by a single vote, preventing legislation which would have granted public funds to parents with disabled children to help pay for expenses ranging from private school tuition to standardized testing fees. The reallocated money would have been deposited in personalized Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts.

Del. Dave A. LaRock, R-Loudoun, the bill’s chief sponsor, said he sees a need for the bill because he feels the public school system can-

not provide an adequate education for disabled students.

“There are a lot of demands that are placed on a public school system,” he said. “The federal government mandates that they provide an appropriate education for students with disabilities. There is a level of education that exceeds what the schools can and are willing to incur the [expenses of].”

By giving parents money through the Parental Choice Education Savings Account, LaRock said parents would have had more freedom in trying to find the best education for their child.

“We think that opening up choice through an account like this, parents can put together a special-

ized program for the child,” LaRock said. “Sometimes they are the ones who know their children’s needs the most. If they want to put together a custom education, they should.”

Sen. Chap Petersen, D-Fairfax, who opposed the bill, said the proposal was unconstitutional.

“The Virginia Constitution says that the [public] money has to be spent for public schools and it can’t be diverted to private schools,” he said.

Petersen said it also would have been hard to monitor the money given to families through the Parental Choice Education Savings Account, and consequently hard to guarantee that the money was used for its intended purpose.

“When you take this money out and give it directly to the family, it is hard to see how that money will be used,” Petersen said. “When you make those kind of direct allocations then how will you know the money will be used on the student’s education?”

Petersen also said he doubted the need for further legislation addressing this issue, saying already established programs like the Individualized Education Program — provided by under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act — are sufficient to help students with disabilities in public school.

“If you have a child in an IEP program, the child will be pulled out for special classes and will have

special regulations for taking tests,” Petersen said.

LaRock, however, said the bill was shot down for political reasons, not because it is not needed.

“They want to cut it out before it gets started,” LaRock said. “I don’t think it was rejected because it lacked merit, I think that it was defeated because of politics.”

LaRock said he plans to propose future legislation and said follow-up bills will address concerns like the difficulty of tracking allocated public funds.

“We will try to refine the mechanisms for delivery,” LaRock said. “There would be audit reporting so that we can make sure that [the account] is administered properly.”

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Maddy Weingast
Associate Editor

The University Board of Elections announced the results of the Spring 2015 Election Friday. Newly-elected student leaders comment upon significant changes they hope to implement, as well as upon the campaigning process.

Potential changes

A common thread within the platforms of the various campaigns was that of transparency and student involvement in considering changes for the 2015-16 term.

Second-year College student Abraham Axler, the Student Council president-elect, said Student Council's focus will likely be on projects that are currently being reviewed, such as improving the SafeRide program.

First-year College student Lucas Williams, a newly-elected Student Council College representative, said along with initiatives like expanding Aquatic and Fitness Center hours, he hopes to increase student awareness and interest in the workings of Student Council.

Second-year College student Emily Lodge, the newly-elected vice president of organizations, specified changes she hopes to see, such as creating awards for distinguished Contracted Independent Organizations, generating a wider selection of weekend programming, increasing general and infrastructural organization and creating a program to integrate service and scholarship.

First-year College student Uhunoma Edamwen, a newly-elected Student Council College representative, said he values outreach and wants to engage more students with Student Council. For example, he said he would like to improve the use of technology by updating the Student Council website with meeting notes, reforming SpeakUpUVA and utilizing the Facebook page.

Second-year College student Lital Firestone, the newly-elected Third-year Council president, said she hopes to implement a more comprehensive outreach program to help build a more diverse Class Council.

"I'm really excited to implement essentially a nomination

concept for [Third Year] Council members to join our organization," Firestone said. "What I'm going to do is send emails to a bunch of different multi-cultural, social, political and religious organizations and ask them to nominate five second-year students who could help contribute as a liaison from their community to ours."

Third-year College student Andrew Kwon, the newly-elected fourth-year president, said he wants to innovate and improve

the work on expanding the breadth of cases that the UJC hears through various diversity and outreach initiatives," Austin said in an email.

The Honor representatives touched on the importance of communication and adequate representation of the student body. Third-year College student Grace Muth, a newly-elected Honor Committee representative for the College, said she hopes to collaborate with other committee members in order to

about more essential parts of the Honor system and what it means to be an honorable student," Bogue said.

The Honor referenda

The three proposed Honor referenda all passed by majority votes. The first referendum will require the Committee to convene on popular assembly every two years. The second referendum will hold the Committee accountable to non-binding resolution on questions of student

Third-year Commerce student Faith Lyons, a newly-elected Honor Committee Commerce representative, campaigned against the third referenda and noted that the small margin of the vote reveals just how controversial it is. However, she said this serves as a great starting point for student engagement.

"I think the first two [referenda], while I don't necessarily know if they need a constitutional amendment, represent a good way to make the Committee more accessible," Lyons said. "It gives us a year to engage with students in a more meaningful way about how Honor is working at U.Va."

The efficacy of student self-governance

7,017 students voted in the election, representing 30.8 percent of the student body. The election provided the opportunity to reflect on the value of student self-governance, as well as its inherent tensions within the system. Some expressed concern regarding lack of voter turnout.

"Voter turnout was 30 percent [this year] which was pretty shocking," Williams said. "I think student self governance works, but it can work even better if more people are involved or encouraged to be involved."

"The highest voter turnout I've ever seen was 40 percent, so I think I am comfortable extolling the virtues of student self governance," Bogue said. "In theory I have qualms about how effective it is."

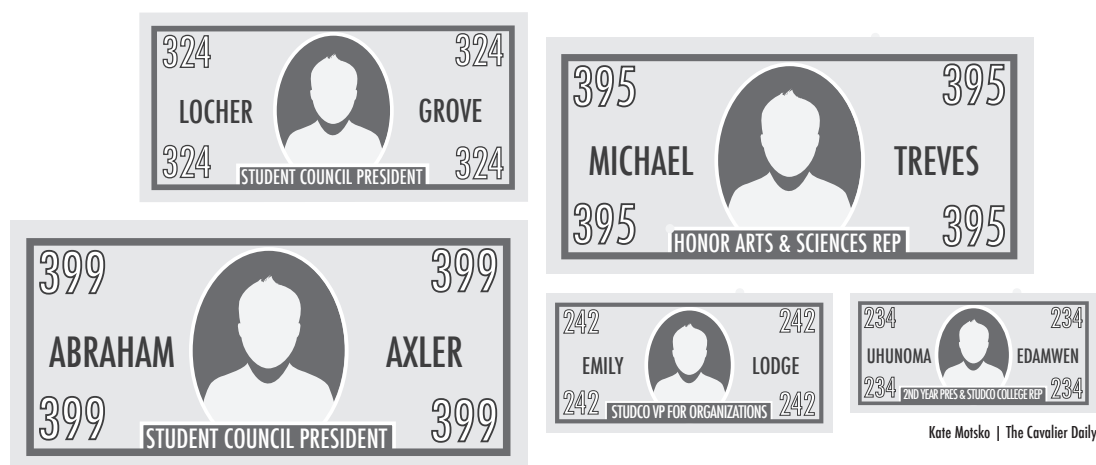
Axler pointed out that several cultural organizations, such as the Asian Student Union operate within their own governmental system. He said he doesn't think this is necessarily a good or bad thing, but that Student Council needs to recognize its job and bridge the gaps.

"I think some of the decline in voter turnout is [because] we're no longer organizations making big governmental impact" Axler said.

Overall, Muth said student self-governance provides students with skills that will prove valuable following graduation.

"I believe the value of our degree from this University is not just based on our GPA, but our ability to participate in making positive changes within our school," Muth said. "Our core value of student self governance asks students to develop leadership skills that will be a part of our lives long after graduation."

TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN SPENDERS



the Council General Body Meetings in order to increase efficiency and productivity. He said he hopes to see more transparency throughout the Council regarding what Chairs of committees, the vice president and the president do behind the scenes.

University Judiciary Committee representatives were also vocal about the changes they wanted to see within their organization. University Judiciary College Representative, third-year College student Caitlin Cosby, said UJC hopes to make UJC more accessible to the University community.

"I would love to see UJC become a more available resource to the student body," Cosby said in an email. "UJC possesses an immense support system that many students are unaware of, and because of that I want the UVA community to be more educated about all of UJC's services."

University Judiciary Committee representative Mackenzie Austin, a third-year College student, expressed her desire to diversify the types of cases the UJC hears beyond alcohol-related incidents.

"The first thing I'll do in of-

improve the Honor system.

"Now that the 27 elected representatives have been selected, we as a Committee need to work collaboratively to establish which of our goals we are going to prioritize," Muth said. "Many of us ran on different platforms, and have a number of varying opinions about the direction that we believe Honor should take. The first thing I'm going to do in office is meet with all the other Committee representatives, and to talk about what worked and did not work in the last Committee's term, and how we want to move forward collaboratively."

Third-year college student Russell Bogue, also a newly-elected Honor Committee representative for the College, said that changes will require working with peers. Bogue hopes to expand modes of faculty outreach, survey schools regarding the multi-sanction system and expand the Honor Committee's role in conversations about acts other than lying, stealing and cheating.

"It's an exciting time to serve on the Honor Committee because we're having important and substantive conversation

body opinion. The third referendum will open the door for the implementation of a multi-sanction Honor system, requiring the Committee to consider a vote next year.

"The two constitutional amendments, combined with the non-binding resolution, make our work cut out for us — we will likely start exploring a multi-sanction system right away in order to make the best use of our year in office," third-year Commerce student Avery Rasmussen, a newly-elected Honor Committee Commerce representative, said in an email.

Rasmussen said the Honor Committee will need to more thoroughly examine the effects of the multi-sanction system on the Honor system.

"We'll need to start exploring what a multi-sanction system might look like and what the effects might be on our system," Rasmussen said. "We'll also need to start further engaging the student body right away so that we can be sure we are truly representing what the student body wants to see so that we can be fully prepared to propose a constitutional amendment next year."



Megan Talej
Staff Writer

According to the Center for Disease Control, Autism Spectrum Disorder affects nearly one in every 68 children. Children affected by ASD tend to exhibit fixated, untiring interest in particular subjects. Through preliminary research, Michael Solis, a Curry School special education assistant professor, developed a method of engaging high functioning autistic students through their own specific interests to improve their reading comprehension.

“Interest-based reading” — or providing autistic students with reading material based on their particular interests — allows children from fourth to eighth grades with ASD improve their reading comprehension.

“A lot of kids with autism have difficulty distinguishing details and main ideas in texts,” Solis said. “Many also have difficulties determining perspectives of characters in texts and understanding emotions of characters within texts.”

By choosing texts about those specific interests, Solis’ team works with autistic children to spark their curiosities. By using interest-based readings, autistic children can gain skills in reading comprehension that they can apply in other aspects of their lives.

“We identify their interests and use the readings as a reinforcement and work towards showing kids that they can have success at the task of reading with this interest-based reading and show that that same success can be transferred to other types of texts as well,” Solis said.

In addition to interest-based reading, Solis’ research includes positive behavior support — a method used to increase fo-

cused attention, effort, and concentration. The token economy behavioral system — in which children are given small rewards for behaviors the teacher wants to increase — is implemented by instructors to ensure the student is progressing and consistently engaged. By offering positive support, Solis has found that students participate more actively.

“Many times one of the most difficult challenges that teachers face in regards to teaching children with autism is simply to get them to read,” Solis said.

While the participants’ performance improved significantly through interest-based reading, progress was only reinforced and encouraged through positive behavior support.

From here, Solis hopes his research can help high functioning autistic students everywhere with reading comprehension — an essential skill.

“The area of reading comprehension has consistently been



Courtesy UVA

Curry School Special Education Asst. Prof. Michael Solis works with high functioning autistic students using interest-based reading and positive behavior support to help them focus on learning.

an area of concern, so my hope is that we can come up with some things that are innovative in improving those skills so that more

kids with autism have more opportunities at the post-secondary level around attending college and pursuing careers,” Solis said.

Coding for fear and anger

Puglia publishes study on link between hormones, human social interactions

Anthony Skaff
Staff Writer

A study intended to uncover the impact of DNA methylation variability on specific social behaviors, including anger and re-

actions to anger in others, was recently published by University Ph.D. student Meghan Puglia.

DNA methylation allows cells to control gene expression and is variable in humans. The gene of interest, oxytocin receptor gene OXTR, codes for the receptor of

a key biomarker called oxytocin, sometimes referred to as the “trust” or “love” hormone.

Puglia — who has a background in autism research — was interested in the link between biology, the brain and behavior.

The research was conducted in collaboration with Psychology Asst. Profs. James Morris and Jessica Connelly, and Senior Research Specialist Travis Lillard.

The focus of the study was to establish a relationship between DNA methylation of OXTR and neural activity in response to emotional face processing. The study’s findings suggest that lower levels of methylation corresponded to lower brain response to anger and fear.

“Oxytocin lowers your response, so people that are better able to access their oxytocin by having lower methylation have a smaller response in their brain to angry or fearful faces,” Puglia said.

This research also seems to have significant evolutionary implications in relation to the anxiolytic, or calming, effects of oxytocin.

“When you think about what you need to approach someone, which our ancestors had to do to form groups allowing them to evolve into the humans we are, I need to not be afraid of you and first recognize you as friend or foe,” Puglia said. “Then I have to be able to overcome my initial fear and approach you to com-

municate and get resources from each other.”

Lower methylation levels of OXTR not only lead to a dampened emotional response, but also suggest a more efficient system for responding to angry and fearful faces. Ultimately, the goal is to fully understand how this mechanism influences overt behavior and may make people susceptible to diseases. Furthermore, the research may have bigger outcomes for people with psychological disorders.

“Potentially, one day down the road, methylation levels can be manipulated so we can identify some type of pharmaceutical intervention,” Puglia said. “If we know someone is at risk of developing autism we can potentially intervene at a very early stage so they might not even need medicine.”

There is potential for the development of a blood test that could predict how people would behave in certain social situations. The University played a key role in allowing for these discoveries.

“The resources here are unique, in particular in the labs because it’s a very collaborative environment,” Puglia said.



Lauren Hornsby | The Cavalier Daily

DNA methylation allows cells to regulate gene expression. Puglia was interested in studying its relationship with oxytocin receptor gene, which codes for the “trust” or “love” hormone oxytocin.



Matthew Morris
Sports Editor

In the locker room Saturday following his team's 69-57 victory against Virginia Tech, Virginia coach Tony Bennett quoted legendary former UCLA coach John Wooden, "the Wizard of Westwood" who shepherded his Bruins to 10 NCAA championships between 1964 and 1975.

Bennett, Virginia's guiding hand since he arrived in Charlottesville six seasons ago, said Wooden's words struck him as perfect descriptors for his latest team.

"It's the quote that says, 'It's amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit,'" Bennett said. "And if that doesn't embody these guys in terms of their ability to play for each other, to be unselfish, to do the dirty work and then to see what they've accomplished...[I'm] very thankful, because these guys have just bought in and played their guts out."

Bennett's Cavaliers had just won their 27th game in 28 tries, matching the best start in Virgin-

ia history and clinching at least a share of their second consecutive ACC regular season title. They had won for the eighth consecutive game and sixth since losing junior guard Justin Anderson to a fractured finger.

They had done so collectively, with four players scoring in double figures, and they had done so with spirit, with senior forward Darion Atkins drawing a technical foul for hanging on the rim in the final moments of his last home game.

Atkins said he had no regrets about getting called for the technical because that moment, up there on the rim, was his own.

"It was intentional," Atkins said. "I'm not going to lie. I hung on the rim, and I wasn't going to let [the referee] steal my shine in that moment. I'm glad I finished in that way. It was fun."

His teammates agreed—and in post-game interviews, they showered Atkins with praise.

"It's such an honor to be able to play with Darion," junior forward Anthony Gill said. "You know, he gives so much to our team. He's such a servant, and we're so thankful to have him."

"He's tenacious," junior guard Malcolm Brogdon said. "He perseveres through so much....He's

grown the most as a player and as a man in college that I've seen out of anybody."

Atkins started off slowly on Senior Day. Honored alongside classmates Rob Vozenilek and Maleek Frazier before tip-off, he missed both his shots and grabbed just one rebound in 17 first-half minutes.

Virginia, meanwhile, fell behind 11-4 in the early goings and nursed a four-point lead at half-time. Virginia Tech (10-19, 2-14 ACC), the ACC's last-place team, remained very much in the game.

But after the break, Atkins prospered. He knocked down his first field goal 14 seconds into the second half and scored again with 14:48 remaining to give his team a seven-point lead.

As Atkins found his game, so did the Cavaliers, who pulled ahead by 13 points with 12:41 to go. Sophomore point guard London Perrantes sank two 3-pointers and threw a pretty left-handed pass to Atkins in the paint as Virginia surged ahead.

Perrantes did not play Wednesday after sustaining a broken nose and a mild concussion against Florida State last Sunday. But, wearing a protective mask, he led the team out of the tunnel against Virginia Tech.

He came out for the second half without the mask after re-breaking his nose in the first.

"I dove on the floor for a ball," Perrantes said. "The mask slipped and I think my nose went with it. So, I feel like once that happened, I just [decided], it's broken—if I get hit again hopefully it goes back into place."

Like Perrantes after his re-break, the Hokies refused to go away. Freshman forward Satchel Pierce's two free throws with 7:32 left capped a 13-4 run that cut Virginia's lead to four.

Gill, who carried Virginia in the first half, subbed out on Pierce's free throws, as did redshirt freshman guard Devon Hall and junior center Mike Tobey. Atkins, junior forward Evan Nolte and freshman forward Isaiah Wilkins came in, joining Brogdon and Perrantes.

That quintet changed the tenor of the game, making sweet music with a 12-0 run that put Virginia up 62-46 with less than four minutes to play. Brogdon started the surge with a 3-pointer from the left wing with seven minutes to go.

The run put the Cavaliers in a very favorable position against their in-state and conference rival. The last minute or so of the game turned into a celebration, with the

crowd chanting "Atkins" as the announcer intoned, "One minute."

Atkins threw down a one-handed jam for Virginia's last field goal. About six seconds later, Bennett subbed him out, all alone, to loud applause. He had 16 points, six rebounds, three assists, two blocks and two steals to his name.

With 39.4 seconds on the clock, Bennett brought in Frazier and Vozenilek. Neither took a shot, but Frazier—a Charlottesville native—had the ball when the final horn sounded, leaving Virginia with just two regular season games and then the postseason.

"It hasn't ended yet, so that's the great part," Atkins said. "We've got a lot of basketball left. And it was a great game."

Brogdon led Virginia with 19 points, moving into 42nd on Virginia's all-time scoring list.

Asked to clarify whether he was glad to end his JPJ experience with a technical foul or whether he was glad to end it against the Hokies, Atkins explained.

"With the tech and against Tech," Atkins said. "I don't like Tech, and I was glad I got a tech, essentially, to finish the season. It was a spicy ending."

Virginia plays Syracuse Monday night at the Carrier Dome. The game starts at 7 p.m.



Akash Khungor | The Cavalier Daily

Senior forward Darion Atkins scored 16 points and grabbed six rebounds in his final home game at John Paul Jones Arena.



Akash Khungor | The Cavalier Daily

Sophomore point guard London Perrantes was perfect from beyond the arc in his return to action after missing a game with a broken nose and mild concussion.

Baseball sweeps weekend to maintain perfect record

Top-ranked Virginia baseball won all three round-robin games at the Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The Cavaliers (10-0) downed Hartford 5-1, Seton Hall 4-1 and Cornell 5-4.

Junior Nathan Kirby pitched Virginia to victory in Friday's contest against the Hawks (3-3). The southpaw threw six shutout innings and fanned ten. Kirby now has three wins in three starts.

The offense wasted no time in putting runs on the board, scoring three in the opening frame. Freshman Ernie Clement led off with a triple and scored on a single by freshman Adam Haseley. Sophomore Matt Thaiss capped off the scoring with a two-run homer.

Virginia tacked on an insurance run in both the third and fifth innings. Sophomore Alec Bettinger pitched the final three innings for the first save of his career.

A trio of Cavalier pitchers held the Pirates (1-5) to five hits in

the second game of the weekend. Sophomore Connor Jones started and worked five innings. Seton Hall tagged him for one run on three hits and five walks.

At the plate, Virginia matched a season high of 13 hits. Three Cavaliers — junior John La Prise, Smith and Thaiss — recorded three hits apiece. However, the team struggled to bring runners home, stranding 11 — six in scoring position.

Thaiss broke a 1-1 tie in the fifth inning with a solo shot — his team-leading fourth. Senior Kenny Towns and Thaiss both drove in a run in the sixth to help Virginia pull away.

Junior Josh Sborz closed out the game with two shutout innings. Seton Hall did load the bases with only one out in the eighth, but Sborz was able to escape the jam without any damage.

For the second Sunday in a row, the Cavaliers required late-game magic to escape with the

victory.

The Big Red (1-5) jumped out to a two-run lead and held it until the eighth inning. Junior Brandon Waddell lasted only four innings and surrendered one run on three hits and two walks while striking out four.

Virginia hung four on the board to take the lead in the eighth. Smith broke the shutout with a one-out double that drove home Clement. Sophomore Daniel Pinero singled home Smith, and freshman Christian Lowry — last Sunday's hero — brought home Towns and Pinero.

But Cornell responded with two in the top half of the ninth. Sophomore Jaime Smith sent a Sborz delivery over the right field wall for a game-tying two-run homer.

The Cavaliers loaded the bases in the bottom of the ninth. Senior Thomas Woodruff walked, freshman Charlie Cody reached on a sacrifice bunt which the defense



Kelsey Grant | The Cavalier Daily

Junior Nathan Kirby pitched six shut out innings Friday to earn his third win of the 2015 season.

misplayed, and Clement singled on a clean bunt. With no outs, Haseley lifted a fly ball into center which allowed Woodruff to tag up and score the game-winning run.

Virginia will return to action Tuesday afternoon against VMI. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m.

—compiled by Matthew Wurzburger

Women's basketball knocks off No. 8 Louisville

Cavaliers defeat Cardinals 75-69 on senior day, earn No. 9 seed in ACC Tournament

Chanhong Luu
Associate Editor

The Virginia women's basketball team ended its regular season at John Paul Jones Arena with a bang Sunday afternoon by up-

setting No. 8 Louisville 75-59 on Senior Day and securing its first win against a ranked opponent and 13th win at home this year.

"I am so excited for the girls," coach Joanne Boyle said. "That was just a great team win and we have been really knocking on the

door with some big teams, and it's really nice on senior night at home to come out with a W against such a great team."

Senior forward Sarah Beth Barnette — who was honored before the start of the game in the Senior Day Ceremony — got the start for the Cavaliers. Senior center Sarah Imovbioh scored her 1,000th point and a total of 22 in the game to help her team secure the upset.

"It was really good, when you're having a good game and then you get that accomplishment," Imovbioh said. "I was just really excited and I'm thankful for my teammates for putting me in positions to actually get those points."

Junior guard Faith Randolph added 23 points and eight assists, while Imovbioh also grabbed 17 rebounds to secure the ACC regular season rebounding title.

In the opening five minutes of the game, the two teams combined for a total of seven turnovers, while only making four shots. After a media timeout, the two teams traded baskets before Louisville missed four straight shots allowing Virginia to take a 13-10 lead. The Cardinals remedied their poor shooting and made their next four buckets to regain the lead with 9:27 remaining.

The two teams went back and forth for the remainder of the half with the Cavaliers holding a one-point advantage at halftime, 32-

31. Despite the messy offensive start, both teams finished the half shooting better than 47 percent.

Virginia was able to extend that one-point lead in the second half when it came out firing. The Cavaliers opened the half on an 11-3 run, which included three straight from beyond the arc. Louisville was two for 11 from the field to start the half, but the second shot of that string started a 9-2 run for the Cardinals, who retook a 47-45 lead with 9:37 left in the game.

The Cardinals' lead was short lived, however, as their only points for nearly seven minutes came from the charity stripe. Virginia took over and went on a 9-0 run of its own, including a baseline drive by sophomore guard Breyana Mason. Louisville's leading scorer in the game, sophomore forward Emmonni Henderson committed the foul that sent Mason to the line and would foul out in the Cavaliers' next possession. She left the game with 13 points.

Randolph finished an and-one opportunity late in the half to give Virginia a 61-53 lead to diminish Louisville's hopes of coming back. Virginia only made one more bucket in the game but was able to extend its lead from the free throw line as Louisville started fouling with 2:38 left on the clock.

"It feels good," Randolph said. "We've just been fighting this whole season. We just wanted to get that good win and I felt like

we got that today. It was a team effort for forty minutes. I thought we played for forty minutes, from the beginning to the end. It was a great win for us."

Coming into the game, Louisville had been holding opponents to an ACC-best average of 58.4 points per game, but the Cavaliers shot 52.6 percent in the second half and 51.2 percent for the game to reach the 75-point mark. The Cavaliers also made three of five three-point attempts in the second half.

Meanwhile, the Cavalier defense held the Louisville offense to just 9 of 37 attempts in the second half and a total of 20 points in the paint after allowing the Cardinals to score 52 down low in the two teams' first meeting earlier this season. The Cavaliers also outrebounded the Cardinals 39-28.

"We did such a better job defensively," Boyle said. "Our ball screen defense and our help side defense was so much better in this game and the girls did a great job focusing the last two days on what we needed to do. I didn't know if Jeff [Louisville coach Jeff Walz] was going to run different stuff or the same. He came in and I thought we were able to get some slips on them as well. I thought our on-ball defense, our transition defense, and our help-side defense was just on point tonight."

The Cavaliers will return to action next week when they travel to Greensboro, North Carolina for the ACC Tournament.



DJ Govender | The Cavalier Daily

The Cavaliers used a 23-point performance from junior guard Faith Randolph to defeat the eighth-ranked Cardinals on senior day in Charlottesville.

No. 2 Syracuse overpowers No.5 Virginia

The annual Virginia-Syracuse tilt is known as one of collegiate lacrosse's best rivalries — not only because of the two programs' tradition, but also due to its exhilarating finishes. Sunday, however, provided anything but the latter.

The No. 5 Virginia men's lacrosse team had no answers at either end of the field for the No. 2 Orange, which dictated the pace throughout the game in their 15-9 victory. Syracuse (4-0, 1-0 ACC) shot out to a 7-0 run to begin the game and an 8-1 half-time advantage. The lone first half Cavalier goal came from junior midfielder Greg Coholan with 3:39 to play in the second quarter.

Virginia (3-1, 0-1 ACC) was more competitive in the second half, but its efforts proved futile. A two-goal spurt cut the deficit to 10-3 just under five minutes

into the third quarter, but Syracuse responded by scoring the next three goals.

The Cavaliers ended the game on a 6-3 run in a stretch that included two goals by sophomore midfielder Zed Williams in the game's final quarter.

Syracuse sophomore midfielder Ben Williams won the faceoff battle 20-7, which led to a 50-31 advantage in shots. Senior attackman Kevin Rice tallied seven points on three goals and four assists for Syracuse.

Virginia went 0-1 on extra-man opportunities, while the Orange converted 5-7 tries. Sophomore goalie Matt Barrett recorded a career high 20 saves for the Cavaliers.

Virginia will next face No. 13 Cornell on Saturday in Klöckner Stadium. Opening faceoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

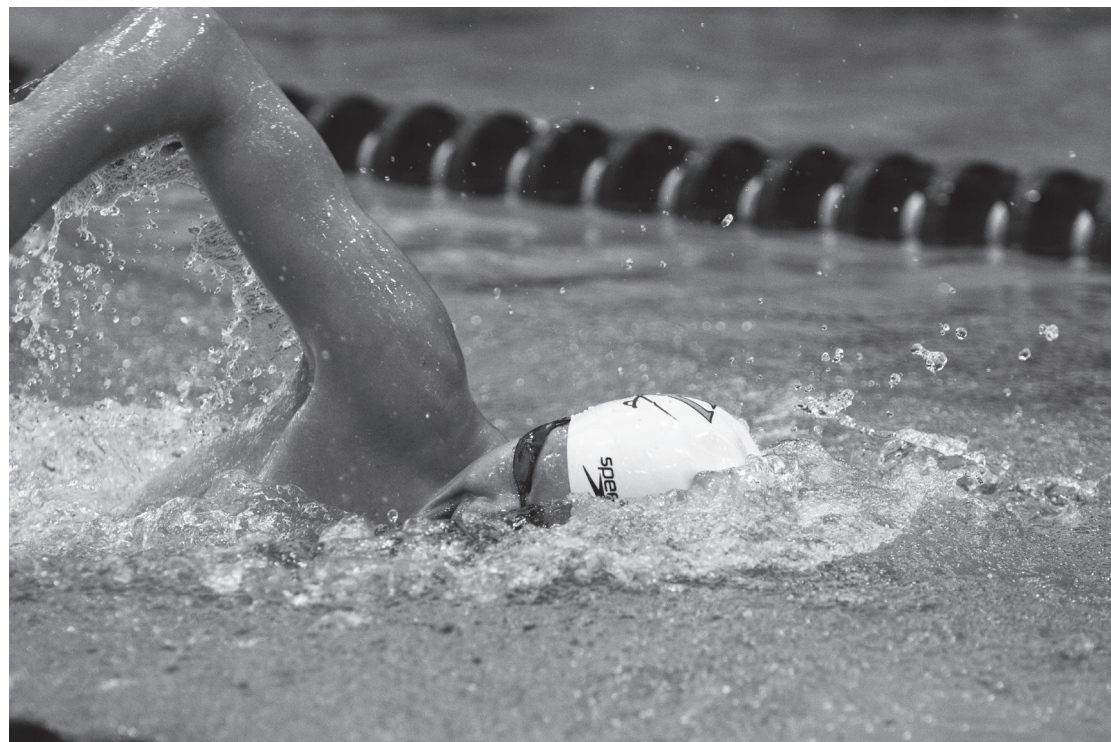
—compiled by Robert Elder



Porter Dickie | The Cavalier Daily

Junior midfielder Greg Coholan scored two goals and added an assist in Virginia's 15-9 loss to Syracuse.

Men place 8th at ACC Championships



Ryan O'Connor | The Cavalier Daily

Sophomore Austin Quinn placed eighth in the 500-yard freestyle at the ACC Championships.

After suffering suspensions, transfers and injuries, the No. 25 Virginia men's swimming and diving team suspected its usual standard of excellence would be tough to meet in 2015. However, that knowledge did little to ease the pain of its ACC Championship Meet performance.

The Cavaliers (1-5, 0-2 ACC) scored 618 points to place eighth — the lowest finish in program history. No. 7 North Carolina State placed first with 1,331 points to earn its first conference championship since 1992. No. 10 Louisville and No. 17 Virginia Tech rounded out the top three.

Virginia sat in fourth after the meet's first day — which included the diving scores from a week ago — with help from its 200-yard medley relay team setting the fourth fastest time in program history to finish eighth in the event.

The Cavaliers stayed in fourth

after Thursday's results thanks to eighth place finishes by both the 200-yard freestyle relay team and sophomore Austin Quinn in the 500-yard freestyle.

But Virginia fell to seventh on Friday, while NC State took a lead it wouldn't relinquish. The 400-yard medley relay team placed seventh in its event. Junior Yannick Kaeser — the only Cavalier swimmer who did not taper for the meet — took home seventh in the 100-yard breaststroke. He won the consolation final a day later in the 200-yard event.

Freshman Brendan Casey provided the highlight performance on Saturday with his fifth place finish in the 1,650-yard freestyle. Quinn placed sixth on the 200-yard backstroke.

Select Virginia swimmers will compete one final time this season at the NCAA Championship meet on March 26-28.

—compiled by Robert Elder

TREAT YOURSELF.
Take a walk. Eat a cookie. Watch that show.

Softball goes 1-2 against Pittsburgh



Joanna Ahn | The Cavalier Daily

Junior Aimee Chapdelaine played centerfield against the Panthers and went 1-3 in Sunday's 10-2 loss. She scored two runs in Saturday's win.

In what was originally intended to be its home-opening series but was changed due to snow, the Virginia softball team (4-14, 1-2 ACC) instead traveled to the FMU Softball Stadium in Florence, South Carolina, where it sandwiched a win between two losses to drop the series to Pittsburgh (15-2, 2-1 ACC).

The Cavaliers began their first series of conference play with a doubleheader on Saturday. In each of the two contests, Virginia put up a fight and rallied multiple times. In the first game, Virginia pounced to take the lead with a two-RBI single by sophomore infielder Kaitlin Fitzgerald, before Pitt knocked in three runs to take a 3-2 lead in the third inning.

With the game knotted 3-3 in the top of the fifth, the Panthers tacked on four runs and looked to cruise to an easy victory, but the Cavaliers promptly answered with four runs of their own, all with two outs, to even the score. Despite the Cavaliers' rally, Pittsburgh's offense burst open in the top of the seventh to plate seven runs and run away with a 14-7 victory.

In the second game, freshman Allison Davis played hero multiple times as the Cavaliers salvaged a win to split their Saturday doubleheader. The Panthers struck first as they were able to capitalize upon

multiple errors to take a 6-0 lead after the top of the second. Virginia commenced its rally with a four-run second to cut Pitt's lead to two, before later tying the game at 7-7 with three runs in the fourth.

With two outs in the bottom of the seventh, Davis, who also started the game as pitcher and homered in the second, laced a triple down the right field line to score freshman catcher Brittany McNulla and force extra innings. The game remained knotted at 8-8 until the 12th inning, when Davis stepped to the plate and launched a 1-1 pitch into the stands for her second shot of the game as Virginia earned a 9-8 win, its first ACC victory of the season.

In Sunday's series finale, Pittsburgh managed 10 runs, seven earned, off of freshman pitcher Andie Formby. Despite scoring nine runs in the previous game, the Cavaliers' offense was virtually nullified on Sunday, with their lone two runs scored by McNulla's two-RBI single to plate sophomore catcher Katie Park and Davis. Scoring in four of the five innings played, Pittsburgh earned a 10-2 victory to take the series.

The Cavaliers will next visit Harrisonburg as they compete in a doubleheader against JMU this Wednesday.

—compiled by Charles Siegel

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vpsa.virginia.edu/organization/awards
Deadline: March 2, 5 p.m. to awards@virginia.edu





Comment of the day

“While sexual assault is a horrific and damaging crime, so is the rush to judgment, particularly on the modern American college campus. Due process for all, from beginning to end-only then will the truth come to light.”

“Urban Outlaw” in response to Ryan Gorman’s Feb. 26 column “No scarlet letter for sexual assault.”

LEAD EDITORIAL

Debt collection agencies hurt students

The U.S. Department of Education was right to cut ties with five agencies Friday

The U.S. Department of Education announced Friday it would end contracts with five private collection agencies. While the Education Department’s Federal Student Aid office handles student loans, it contracts out to debt collection agencies to collect payment on those loans. These agencies must adhere to federal debt collection laws — in particular the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

Unfortunately, as the Education Department has found, five such agencies were likely providing inaccurate information to borrowers. Doing so stands to agencies’ benefit: if these agencies mislead borrowers about their options to get out of default, they stand to reap even more collection fees. Why they need them is debatable: according to Dwight Vigna, an Education Department official, debt collectors expect to make nearly \$5.8 billion in commissions over the four-year period

ending in 2016.

It is important to reflect on just who the borrowers are in these situations. The Federal Student Aid office gives loans to students attending college. The amount of student debt in our country is well beyond where it should be — according to The Institute for College Access and Success, in 2013 nearly seven out of 10 graduating seniors left school with an average of \$28,400 in student loan debt. According to The Huffington Post, cumulative federal student debt is now over \$1.1 trillion, and the number of borrowers now in default is over 7 million.

With the growing student debt problem and the difficulties indebted students face upon graduating college, the possibility of students being misled about their payment options is nothing short of outrageous. The toll this kind of debt can take on an individual is immeasurable: according to a Gallup report, college graduates with

high levels of student loan debt are less likely to thrive physically, have a good sense of purpose and be involved in their communities. In other words, debt is, quite literally, debilitating.

If collection agencies knowingly concealed payment options that could lighten students’ burden of debt, the Department of Education is right in its decision to cut ties with those agencies. Moreover, the U.S. Department of Justice should immediately begin investigating whether those agencies violated existing federal debt collection laws — a strong possibility.

It is important for the Department of Education to look out for the populace it aims to serve — namely, students. In the future, the Education Department should scrutinize its contracted debt collectors, and, if possible, find ways to compensate borrowers who were misled by these particular agencies. Perhaps the Education Department should also reevaluate the

agencies with which it contracts more regularly: one of the agencies it cut ties with has worked for it since 1997, and the number of days, months or years during which the agency has misled its borrowers remains unclear.

The above solutions, however, are band-aid solutions at best. The ideal scenario would be for the Education Department to cut out the middlemen altogether and funnel federal loans directly through the Treasury Department or a federal program of some kind, where collectors will have no incentive to mislead borrowers. No matter what, if a collection agency misleads borrowers, the Education Department’s response is reactive — making it difficult to compensate borrowers for whatever money they may have lost in the process. Were the process to be streamlined without outside agencies, students would have a better chance of graduating with less debt.

Creating a diverse newsroom

A diverse newsroom leads to a higher variety of thought and experience that invaluablely enhances quality of coverage

A couple of weeks ago I wrote about the importance of striving for, achieving and maintaining balance in news reporting in The Cavalier Daily. Another essential element in good, effective reporting is diversity. In a newsroom, diversity of thought, of background, of experience and of perspective is critical to providing readers with helpful information.

When faced with a topic or story, a reporter can, quite literally, only ask the questions she imagines need to be answered. Her background and prior experiences are going to drive the sorts of questions that come to mind. With research she can expand her scope but, again, will be limited by her own worldview. Asking more and different questions can illuminate a story, make it more relevant for more readers and provide better context. Sometimes, the only way to be able to frame those ques-

CHRISTOPHER BROOM
Public Editor

tions is to have someone else in the newsroom who will think of them. A simple example of this might be a story having to do with physical accessibility around Grounds.

A person who uses a wheelchair or who has some limit on their mobility will think about and see Grounds quite differently than a fully able-bodied person. While the story could be factually correct and offer some interesting or helpful information without input from a person facing different challenges navigating Grounds, a story that incorporates those challenges, especially from the reporting side, is likely to be more informative and effective.

Other areas in which diversity is important cut across the student experience at the University. From financial aid, housing and food choices available on Grounds to how student health is set up there are innumerable topics that affect the

day-to-day life of people here. It is critical that people who have different life experiences and different expectations and needs contribute to thinking about stories and questions on these topics.



Further, one of the most important things The Cavalier Daily does is serve as a voice of the students separate and distinct from the administration of the University.

Further, one of the most important things The Cavalier Daily does is serve as a voice of the students separate and distinct from the administration of the University. But students do not have one voice. Exploring stories from multiple angles and asking questions rooted in

differing experience and expectation will make The Cavalier Daily a better voice for more students.

In order to be effective in this role there needs to be more information in stories than a report on what Student Council did in a meeting or what someone offering an amendment to change the honor system intends with their effort. In fact, I’m certain that alone I cannot come up with the full range of questions that would be interesting to everyone reading The Cavalier Daily. The more people who can have some input the better the overall set of questions will be and the more varied the background of those people, the better.

Diversity is more than quotas and more than making

sure there are a certain minimum number of people who tick whichever box we want to count that day. Indeed, much of the time viewing diversity in this way implicitly sees (usually) Caucasian men as the default normal and we just count everyone else as being diverse. The diversity of a group can’t be determined just by looking because what comprises diversity is also thought and experience. The Cavalier Daily should strive to encourage diverse thought and use it to inform their news reporting to better serve their readers.

Christopher Broom is the Public Editor for The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at publiceditor@cavalierdaily.com or on Twitter at @CDPublicEditor.

Why is no one talking about the UBE?

Students should be concerned about the influence the University Board of Elections exerts

The University Board of Elections is the most powerful organization on Grounds that nobody talks about. The UBE controls the process of student elections, from applications to run for office to voting. Why is there so little discussion of an organization that holds such a subtle but powerful influence on organizations central to the University? The only article I was able to find that had any substantial conversation about the UBE in recent memory is a lead editorial from Spring 2013. Even that article, which is highly critical of the UBE, evidently did not bring about the needed conversation. There are issues surrounding the UBE that we should be discussing — such as their troubles with holding elections and the possible biases of the UBE's application process.

Cavalier Daily Focus writer Grayson Kemper recently wrote a great article on the UBE, giving a comprehensive view of the or-

ganization as well as highlighting some areas where the UBE might be inefficient. The article pointed out that one of the main goals of the organization is to have little to no uncontested races. Despite most elections being contested this year, there were still 15 people running with no opponent. I acknowledge it is hard to get two people to run for every position every year, but a consistent trend of uncontested seats is a failure of one of the UBE's basic goals. Troublingly, Kemper points out there is a history of having voting services crash during elections. Though most students still manage to vote if they are determined to do so, frustration with the voting website may cause many not to vote. This is a failure that the UBE is working on but still has yet to fully eliminate.

There are also problems that could develop in the UBE down the road. The outgoing chairs of organizations the UBE oversees, such as the Honor Committee,

actually take part in helping to select the next year's members. There is a dangerous potential conflict of interest in letting people pick their own overseer. Without even meaning to, the chairs will pick people of whom they approve. While this does not seem to be a prevalent problem at the moment, there still is the potential for it to become one. I'd rather this issue be ad-

Council president was assaulted, prompting a report about how elections were run at the University. This report revealed significant malfeasance by the Election Committee which led to its disbandment and the creation of the UBE. The Election Committee's ineffectiveness was enabled by the lack of attention it received in the University community — a problem UBE shares now.

It is clear the UBE is trying its best to run student elections, but the internal perspective members of the UBE inherently have makes it hard for them to see some of the more fundamental issues the organization faces. This is why further discussion

is needed in the community. When students are given issues on which to deliberate they will examine them to an extreme and then not hesitate to put pressure

on organizations to institute changes — the Honor referenda are a perfect example. People are willing to confront these issues, but their energies just need to be directed in the right area.

Even after elections, there is a huge debate going on in the University community about the Honor referenda. Within this debate most people take for granted the process that put these referenda on the ballot and the reliability of the voting system that let students come to a decision on this issue. We need to stop overlooking this essential and powerful organization. The UBE has issues we, as a community, need to talk about in order to maintain the integrity of our elections and ensure that we have a capable, qualified student government.

Bobby Doyle is a Viewpoint writer.

BOBBY DOYLE
Viewpoint Writer



Why is there so little discussion of an organization that holds such a subtle but powerful influence on organizations central to the University?

dressed before it causes a scandal, such as the one that ousted the UBE's predecessors, the Election Committee. In 2003 a student campaigning for Student

The hidden dangers of depression

College students must be made aware of the subtle effects of the disease so that they can seek proper aid

A student's time in college can be at once the best and worst years of his life. While students experience newfound freedom, friendships and a multitude of unique experiences found only on college campuses, they also become vulnerable to the hidden dangers that lurk beneath the excitement. Loneliness arises as old high school friends fade from the social scene, and stressful schoolwork puts a tremendous burden on students who are used to being at the top of their class. Job searches and decisions such as which major to pick have consequences that will echo throughout students' lives and are additional sources of worry at a time when students may not have family or close friends for comfort. Mental illnesses such as depression find fertile ground amid these conditions, when students are alone and susceptible to their dangers.

While sexual assault has recently been grabbing the headlines on college campuses as one of the greatest dangers facing students, mental illnesses such as depression especially have been

quietly causing untold harm to student populations. The latest survey by the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors found that 36.4 percent of college students suffer from some form of depression. This is a dangerously high number considering the risks associated with depression, which can include substance abuse, binge drinking and harm to academic performance. Students suffering from depression also experience higher rates of suicide and drop out of college in higher numbers — and these side effects do not even include the debilitating illness itself, the effects of which can be anything from feelings of hopelessness and sadness to difficulty concentrating and thoughts of or attempts at suicide.

As can be seen from the wide range of symptoms listed, depression is a complex illness that goes far beyond feelings of sadness, which many fail to understand. This lack of understanding, coupled with the often subtle effects of depression, can cause students to mistake their

mood changes and other symptoms as nothing more than unavoidable results of the stress of college, a misunderstanding which prevents the affected students from getting the help they need. Though a certain amount



The latest survey by the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors found that 36.4 percent of college students suffer from some form of depression.

of stress and sadness are normal, students must be made aware of what separates normal amounts of sadness and anxiety from harmful levels that are the result of a mental illness. At the very least, students should always have the opportunity to address their worries to a trained professional who can either lay those fears to rest or set them on a path to healing.

Not enough has been done here at the University to pro-

tect students from depression and mental illnesses like it. The administration needs to take concrete steps to increase both students' awareness of the symptoms of depression and their access to treatment for it. This is

not to suggest that the University has been lax, however. The Mental Wellness Screening Day that took place on Feb. 19 in Newcomb is a great example of steps the University should be taking to make students aware of both the presence of mental illnesses

on Grounds and the availability of Counseling and Psychological Services for troubled students. Such events provide a convenient outlet for students who do not feel their problems are serious enough to merit a call to CAPS, but still feel the need to talk to someone. This idea can be taken further. Instead of one Mental Wellness Screening Day, a recurring event similar to it should be established in a public and stress-free environment that

is convenient for students. On a related note, CAPS could open an auxiliary office somewhere near first-year dorms. As first years may be the most vulnerable to depression and have the least information on the resources the University provides for help, mental health screening and care options need to be made more readily available for their use.

The past semester has been a tragic one for this University as several fellow students committed suicide. Increasing awareness and treatment options for mental health on campus is a step toward both healing the scars left by these tragedies and preventing new ones from arising. Students of all years, religions and demographics may experience the pain of a mental illness and need to be made aware of and given access to the resources necessary for healing.

Alex Mink is a Viewpoint writer.

ALEX MINK
Opinion Columnist

The misguided exaltation of Jefferson

Students should refrain from venerating Thomas Jefferson

From referring to him as “TJ” or “Mr. Jefferson” to quoting him at any opportunity that may arise, Jefferson seems to be at the center of adulation for a significant population of our University community. This is rather unfortunate — such sycophancy ignores the fact that Thomas Jefferson was a racist and slave owner.

ALEXANDER ADAMES
Viewpoint Writer

“myth of benevolence.” The painting does that by challenging the notion that Thomas Jefferson was a great, noble and “benevolent” man by reminding the audience of Jefferson’s detestable racism and slave ownership.

While I am sure not all of my fellow Cavaliers are paying homage to Jefferson as a man, from my experience and the experiences of many others, a substantial population of the University (administration and faculty included) seem to be Jeffersonian sycophants. If one searches “Thomas Jefferson” in the University email address, then one is likely to come across many references to Jefferson. The expression “What would Jefferson do?” is familiar to some students, faculty and staff. It seems to elevate Jefferson to a quasi-deistic stature. The phrase implies that if one is in trouble, then one should look to Jefferson for reassurance and security. All that being said, some Cavaliers may be appalled by classifying Jefferson as a “racist.” To them, it would seem unfair to characterize him as a bigot because he was — to

an extent — a product of his culture. Though that is partly true, Jefferson remained a slave owner despite other notable individuals being vocally against slavery.

In the illustrious “A People’s History of the United States” by renowned historian Howard Zinn, Zinn reveals that one of Jefferson’s early drafts of the Declaration of Independence included a paragraph condemning slavery. His admonishment, however, seemed to be moti-

final version of the Declaration, and — despite acknowledging its immorality — Jefferson continued to own slaves.

Now, am I trying to say to ignore all of Jefferson’s accomplishments? Certainly not. There is nothing wrong with a person praising Jefferson for his political ideas. On the surface, Jeffersonian democracy, for example, sounds like a splendid idea. Many Americans would passionately stand in support of equality in politi-

cal opportunity with a focus on the average, hard-working person. However, there is a huge difference between supporting his political ideals and venerating the man. When you venerate him, you must come to agreement with all his virtues and actions. An individual’s admiration of Jeffersonian political views simply means the person approves of or commends Jefferson’s political ideology. On the other hand, if someone openly prais-

es Jefferson as a person, he is suggesting appreciation for everything about the man, including his personality and practices.

If you still have trouble understanding why we should not idolize Jefferson, then conceive this: If a founding father of our nation (literally and figuratively) shackles one into slavery, then would one revere this individual? Probably (and hopefully) not.

There is a huge difference between venerating an individual’s ideas and venerating the individual. If you like Jefferson, then you probably like him only for his ideas and accomplishments. Therefore, I urge those who think highly of Jefferson as a man to extol his ideas (the non-discriminative ones, that is) instead of the man. Jefferson may have been a great leader, but to say that he was holistically a noble, benevolent or great man is misguided.

Alexander Adames is a Viewpoint writer.

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There is a huge difference between supporting his political ideals and venerating the man.

vated by his disdain towards Britain’s attempt to “excit[e] those very people to rise in arms [against] us.” This passage was then omitted from the

Prioritize computer literacy

Learning coding is more valuable than learning foreign languages

Besides the phrases “buenos días” and “¿puedo ir al baño?” I admit to remembering hardly a lick of Spanish from my high school years. Despite the hundreds of grammar exercises and vocabulary words teachers drilled into my head, I simply wasn’t intent on learning a foreign language. To my mathematically and scientifically inclined mind, there was only one language of any practical interest offered at the school — JavaScript. For three years I practiced coding as an elective, and looking back on it now, it was one of the best decisions I made in high school.



HASAN KHAN
Opinion Columnist

the College’s language requirement. I would argue even further that for the majority of College students, two or three courses in computer science would far outweigh picking up a foreign language.

Detractors might argue that such a replacement of foreign languages at the high school level would cause a number of issues — that it would limit student’s understanding of dif-

ferent cultures and hurt student communication skills developed by learning foreign languages. Others argue coding languages should not be considered languages at all since they cannot be used to directly communicate — a fair point. Still, while it is easy to see where these arguments are coming from, the reality is that the skills begotten from learning a language in high school or college are simply not that beneficial, especially for students who start at the beginner level late in their teens. Sound scientific research shows the best time to learn a new language fluently lies in a “critical period” starting from birth until the age of seven. High schoolers who are just beginning a

new language clearly fall out of that window, not to mention college students. Teens and young adults picking up languages so late in the game are barred from becoming proficient and fluent at a language in classroom-style settings. In contrast, learning code is much easier to begin later in life — after basic arithmetic concepts have been

“

For three years I practiced coding as an elective, and looking back on it now, it was one of the best decisions I made in high school.

learned by students — but just as hard to master as conventional foreign languages.

The case for the importances of language in the business world is dying. Career expert Stacie Nevadomski Berdan notes that many jobs, especially in business, are lost to bilingual immigrants who possess “language skills and cross-cultural competency,” and concludes that learning a foreign language is vital to business career success. Yet

as blogger “Darwin” of the “Darwin’s Money” personal finance blog points out, many domestic companies who desire diversity or language skills will simply hire second-generation immigrants who have grown up learning their native language at home and English at school. Fluent in both languages, these immigrants are far

more prized than Americans who have only a few years of basic classroom experience. Moreover, Darwin argues most professionals at international companies speak English regardless, making it unnecessary to learn new languages in the first place. And with the rise of sophisticated translation technologies embedded into Google-owned apps like Word Lens and Google Translate, the need to be conversant in foreign languages is decreasing.

Without a doubt, learning a new language provides a host of side benefits, such as the opportunity to learn about new cultures and gain insight on different linguistic perspectives. Regardless, learning software languages in the century defined by the computer simply

provides a more practical asset to college students. Java, C++, Python — these languages aren’t just used in the United States, but are practiced the world over. Students interested in learning a new foreign language this late in the game should look into the University’s summer language programs, which offer immersive language environments for newcomers. For everyone else, taking coding classes provides far more bang per buck. Currently, the College requires students to earn between zero and 14 language credits as part of “competency requirements,” with exemptions given only through testing out. Meanwhile, only three overcrowded introductory computer science lectures (CS 1010, CS 1111 and CS 1112) are offered at the University, tending to reach over capacity within days of registration opening. The College should move to reduce traditional foreign language requirements, expand entry level coding courses and make coding-heavy courses eligible as credit toward language requirements.

Hasan’s column runs Fridays. He can be reached at h.khan@cavalier-daily.com.



LOVE CONNECTION:

Stephen & Madina

Two second years find a new friend over a shared crème brûlée

Margaret Mason
Love Guru

Stephen and Madina met at 8 p.m. at Old Cabell Hall and went to Cafe Caturra.

Stephen: I was nominated by three of my friends to do [Love Connection]. I was a little reluctant to go through with it, but I thought, "Alright, why not?" I just kept an open mind and decided to try it out.

Madina: I had someone I know [do Love Connection] and I just thought it would be a fun experience and a good story to tell. When I found out I was chosen, I just started laughing.

Stephen: This was my first time [on a blind date]. I wasn't expecting to meet the love of my life or anything remotely close to that. I expected a simple, casual date where you just get to know the other person, and that's exactly what it was. I also got a delicious steak out of it, which was awesome.

Madina: I've never been on a blind date before. I wasn't expecting anything — I just figured it would be fine.

Stephen: We met at the steps of Old Cabell. I waited for about two minutes and then she showed up. We introduced ourselves and then headed for the restaurant.

Madina: He was already there and I heard him talking to a friend about [Love Connection] and his friend was so excited for him. Just as she was walking away, I was like, "Hi" and he asked if I was Madina. I pronounced his name wrong, which was kind of funny. We shook hands.

Stephen: She seemed like a pretty nice girl. She was polite but a little shy and reserved. There was neither a strong negative nor positive impression — just like most average first encounters you make with people.

Madina: He seemed really nice, like a regular U.Va. student.

Stephen: It was a pretty easygoing con-

versation. I didn't think it was awkward at all — no painful silences or anything. I naturally talk a lot, so I probably did most of the talking, but she also talked quite a lot. She was a good listener and the conversation was pretty good.

Madina: The conversation was so much fun. I don't think we had too much in common, but we're both second years and are interested in similar things. There was no awkward moment — it was very easy. We talked about travelling and French.

Stephen: We are [both] children of immigrant parents and we prefer to hang out with groups of people we know well. We both really hate cats and love dogs, although I've never owned a dog [and] she has had two. We both speak or can understand a foreign language.

Madina: We [know] some of the same people in different organizations and [have] common friends. He has travelled a lot and is culturally aware, and I feel like I am as well.

Stephen: There was definitely more of a friend vibe. I know I was not flirting, and I'm pretty sure she wasn't either. It was more chill, if anything.

Madina: I definitely don't think I was flirting. I can't tell if he was. It was very casual and chill.

Stephen: I could see myself being friends with her, but not anything more. She was a pretty nice, easygoing girl, but I didn't feel any chemistry or a romantic connection, which is a key requirement for me.

Madina: I think either [being friends or more] would be fine. If we just wanted to just hang out, that would be cool, but if we wanted more, that would also be cool. I'm down for either. If [a connection] just means having a nice conversation and not being awkward, then I would say we had a connection, but that could just be friendly.

Stephen: We [were] at the restaurant for about two hours, and it was getting kind of late. We had both finished eat-



Stephen

Courtesy Stephen

Year: Second

Major: Spanish and Neuroscience

U.Va. Involvement: Resident Advisor, Culture Chair of Korean Student Association, Social Chair of Slavic Student Association, Madison House Medical Services volunteer

Hometown: Tashkent, Uzbekistan and Danville, Virginia

Ideal Date: Intelligent, funny, considerate, open minded, culturally aware, likes Kanye.

Ideal Date Activity: Picnic on the Lawn, going to the SPCA to play with dogs or dinner

Deal Breakers: Smokes cigarettes, likes cats, doesn't like movies, arrogant, closed-minded

Hobbies: Reading, playing tennis, cooking

What makes you a perfect catch? I am an awesome cook.

What makes you a less-than-perfect catch? My apathy towards certain things has no bounds.



Madina

Courtesy Madina

ing quite a while ago, so I asked her if she wanted to leave, and she said sure.

Madina: We shared dessert and I got to have the strawberry on the crème brûlée. We [talked] for 30 minutes, even after our plates had been taken away. He had parked his car [at] Clark and [we] walked back together. We were on the Lawn and he said, "It was really nice to meet you" and gave me a hug.

Stephen: [I would rate the date] around a 5. I had a decent time and got a good

meal out of it, but it lacked the chemistry and we didn't have many striking similarities. Our personalities didn't really match to a point where I would take her on a second date. She seemed a little too introverted for my taste.

Madina: I would rate the date an 8. It wasn't romantic, but on very friendly terms, it was genuinely nice to hang out with someone and have dinner.

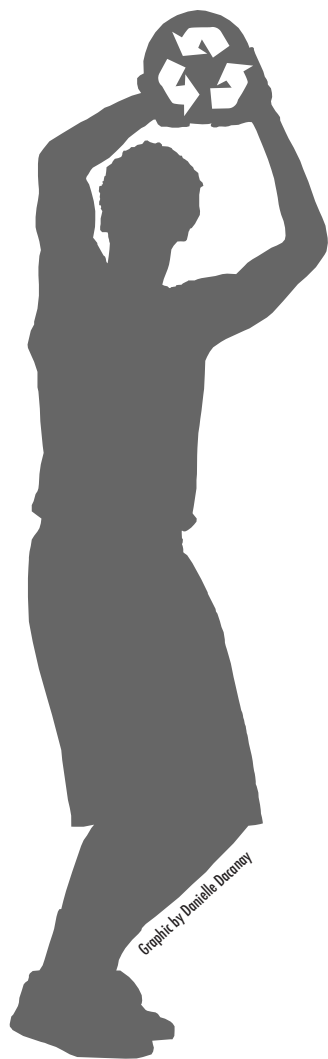
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Sustainability sponsors Recyclemania

Sustainability groups promote environmentally conscious thought

Brittany Hsieh
Feature Writer

Recyclemania is a nationwide campaign organized by Keep America Beautiful, a non-profit organization working to ensure that communities are environmentally and economically sustainable. To raise awareness about the campaign, University Sustainability organized a “Game Day Challenge” at the men’s basketball game Saturday against Virginia Tech.

“[Recyclemania] is an eight-week competition [focusing on] the 3 R’s — reducing, reusing and recycling — [as well as overall] waste reduction,” fourth-year Commerce student Lauren Nguyen, an Office of Sustainability employee, said.

The University Sustainability organization plans to focus on different themes of sustainability each week to highlight different facets of the concept of environmental sustainability.

“Each week we focus on a particular theme about recycling that some people might not know about at U.Va.,” Nguyen said. “Our first week was general recycling [and] the eighth week will be about garbage and what you can’t recycle and compost.”

The Game Day Challenge at Saturday’s game against Virginia Tech was part of last week’s Recyclemania theme. Numerous volunteers were asked to make the basketball game zero-waste by attempting to recycle or compost everything and have less than 10 percent of waste be comprised of trash. The challenge also served to educate people about recycling and sustainability.

“Since it is going to be such a huge game, it is a good way to reach a lot of people,” second-year College student and Office of Sustainability employee Maria Rincon-Lizarazo said. “This is a really great way to get the word out about how easy it is to be sustainable and how pertinent it is to your life.”

Members of University Sustainability say becoming more environmentally conscious is an important issue to discuss because it is an ever-present issue in every student’s life.

“I think it affects everyone,” Nguyen said. “There is really no one here who can go through a day without wasting anything. We are trying to teach people to be responsible about that, whether it be recycling or knowing how to sort their trash because it has been proven that we have a huge impact on the environment.”

However, sparking public interest has been one of the greatest challenges sustainability groups face.

“People think they have to go out of their way to do these things,” Rincon-Lizarazo said. “We are really trying to make [learning about sustainability] convenient and show people that it is a simple change. It is good for you and even better for the environment.”

The University is currently

spearheading a number of sustainability initiatives, including Student Council’s Sustainability Forum. In addition, ongoing efforts include integrating sustainability into resident advisor programs during orientation days and collocation of trash and recycle bins in Alderman Library.

“One thing that we have noticed in conferences with other schools is that U.Va. is very much ‘from the grounds up,’” Nguyen said. “A lot of [our ideas and initiatives] come from the students, whereas at other schools it is from the top down.”

Recyclemania is an important event in moving the work of sustainability groups forward and fostering dialogue. The movement is a growing and receiving more support with each event these groups hold.

“U.Va. has come a long way, but we have a ways to go,” Rincon-Lizarazo said. “It takes time, but we are getting there by investing time in all of our incredible initiatives.”

Promoting women’s economic empowerment

Enactus team partners with local bakery to improve business

Danaite Soquar
Feature Writer

Second-year College students Hartini Lestari, Pooja Ranganathan and Lexi Schubert are promoting the professional and personal growth of women through Enactus, a business CIO working to solve Charlottesville’s social and economic problems.

As part of the Enactus’ Women’s Economic Empowerment team, the three students have partnered with Charlottesville-based bakery Stevie G’s, run by sisters Sue Gass and Stephanie White, to advance the idea of women as entrepreneurs.

The team formed their partnership with the bakery through Investment Collaborative, a non-profit which brings together community resources and educational support in ways specific to local businesses. The partnership has been beneficial for both the students and the business owners, Lestari said.

“Working with a local business not only helps grow local economies, but [also] allows us to build personal relationships

with the owners,” Lestari said.

Gass and White run their bakery, selling gluten-free products to distributors including local grocery stores, markets and cafes.

Lestari, Ranganathan and Schubert have worked to increase Stevie G’s presence on Grounds by identifying the best locations for the bakery’s products. So far, goods have been sold at West Range Cafe, Crossroads and Wilsdorf Cafe.

The project provides students with the unique opportunity to incorporate classroom learning into a tangible initiative.

“We have all taken economic classes, but applying the concepts is a completely different experience,” Ranganathan said.

The team also worked on advertising for the business by developing a website, posting flyers around Grounds and establishing a social media presence. To achieve their goal of streamlining finances, the girls wrote a report examining the bakery’s relationship to local competitors and compiled strategies to maintain competitiveness.

The group members said

watching their efforts on the project come to fruition is the most rewarding part of participating in Enactus.

“The one-on-one experience and making a real impact was my favorite part,” Lestari said. “It was fun to see how your work translated for a business, such as the website.”

The group won a \$1,500 grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation, which they utilized for the expenses of their project. They plan to submit an impact report as a part of a national competition among recipients of the grant to assess their effectiveness at developing a local business.

With the group’s two-year relationship with Stevie G’s coming to an end, Schubert wants to continue bringing attention to the experiences of women in the workplace by reaching out to different groups at the University.

“I want to continue raising the importance of women’s economic empowerment at the University through the University Women’s Forum, an organization which discusses the dynamics between women in the workplace and family,” Schubert said.



Courtney Brubaker | The Cavalier Daily

Second-year College students on Enactus’ Women’s Economic Empowerment team have partnered with a local bakery, run by two sisters, to expand its reach on Grounds.

A natural collaboration of entrepreneurship

College student Daniel Willson integrates involvement with TomTom and HackCville

Jane Winthrop
Feature Writer

After volunteering at Super Demo at the end of his first year — an event sponsored by the TomTom Founders Festival — third-year College student Daniel Willson did not anticipate becoming involved in HackCville and TomTom. The two prominent Charlottesville organizations would come to define his college career.

TomTom Founders Festival, started in 2012, brings together interests in music, art and innovation for an event-packed week in downtown Charlottesville.

“I connected with how it was trying to connect the fun, music, art component with talks and competitions for the intellectually curious,” Willson said.

HackCville shares a similar mission. Located on Elliewood Avenue, it provides a space for motivated students with entrepreneurial interests, while giving back through classes and events.

“Just this last semester we held 60 different events in 120 days, which is crazy,” Willson said. “We teach classes and workshops [in]

modern skills that employers are looking for that you might not be able to take because it’s not offered at U.Va. or it’s not in your [department.]”

Willson became assistant director when HackCville transitioned from an alumni-run organization to a student-run organization. Now with CIO status, HackCville relies on students for its day-to-day and long-term operations.

“One of my favorite things about this space and in this community is you meet people from all years, all majors, all the time,” Willson said. “I’ve been able to take a lot of the lessons I learned from [TomTom] and apply it to [HackCville], back and forth.”

The partnership between TomTom and HackCville began at the Super Demo event the same year Willson volunteered, and has grown since.

“TomTom has a lot of student volunteers and interns that work with the festival, and a lot of them come from HackCville,” Willson said. “They know this is a great place to find super talented, motivated students who are interested in innovation and the arts. It’s ended up being a very natural collaboration.”

oration.”

This year, Willson returns as TomTom’s innovation programming coordinator for the second time. Looking ahead to April, he hopes to streamline events using his experiences last spring.

“[In 2014] there wasn’t the focus that we wanted,” Willson said. “So this year, we are focusing things — we are holding an all-day conference at the Paramount Theater downtown called the Founders Summit.”

The ‘Founders Summit’ will boast big name entrepreneurs, such as University graduates Alexis Ohanian, the co-founder and CEO of Reddit, and Becca McCharen, the founder of fashion line CHROMAT. These entrepreneurs will speak on their startup experiences and hope to inspire the brightest young minds in Charlottesville.

“This is the year where the festival takes a big step forward and says, ‘We’re not just a Charlottesville thing anymore,’” Willson said.

While TomTom Founders Festival and HackCville give back to the community by forging connections between the community, its entrepreneurs and students, they have had a profound impact on

Willson’s own experience in Charlottesville, he said.

“It can be hard to step outside your comfort zone and say, ‘I don’t know if this new thing I’m interested in is for me, but I’m going to go try it,’” Willson said. “I took that leap my first year getting involved with the Festival and with HackCville, and I am so glad that I did.”

While the University provides a host of opportunities for students, Willson stresses the importance of exploring your “backyard” — in

this case, the greater Charlottesville area.

“I think there’s more to life than school,” Willson said. “I think you can learn a lot at the University, and I think you can meet incredible people and learn amazing skills that will be really useful to you, but that’s not everything.”

Ahead of the TomTom Founder’s Festival, The Cavalier Daily and TTFF are working together to spotlight entrepreneurship in the community.



Sarah Dodge | The Cavalier Daily

Third-year College student Daniel Willson (right) supports student entrepreneurs through involvement with TomTom and HackCville.

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