

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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NEWS

This week in-brief

CD News Staff

Generative AI in Teaching and Learning Task Force hosts town hall with the College of Arts and Sciences

The Generative AI in Teaching and Learning Task Force hosted their first town hall session over Zoom Monday in partnership with the College's natural sciences department. Attendants focused on how generative AI can both benefit and harm the learning experience. The task force aims to collect input from attendees to provide a recommendation to the provost defining the University's policy towards the technology.

Monday's town hall kicks off a total of six town halls to be hosted with various schools around Grounds in the coming two weeks.

The GENAI Task Force was assembled to address rising academic integrity concerns associated with generative AI platforms like ChatGPT, a breakthrough platform initially released November 2022.

ChatGPT grew rapidly, reaching 100 million users in just two months, and can do almost anything from solving math problems to writing academic papers. The Honor Committee has already raised concerns over increased cheating possibilities arising from generative AI, and Gabrielle Bray, chair of the Committee and fourth-year College student, serves as a member of the task force.

Some participants were hesitant towards generative AI software, citing a concern for a lack of discernment between real assignments and artificially-generated work. Other members were in support of AI usage, but with strong guidelines and limits.

Andrew Pennock, event host and Assoc. Batten Professor, said AI platforms are becoming incredibly intelligent and far-reaching and students already use them in various ways in and out of the classroom.

"We need your voices in order to ultimately make our recommendations to the provost," Pennock said.

The next GENAI Task Force town hall will be held in partnership with the Architecture, Batten, Education and Nursing schools on Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The series of virtual town halls will run through April 4.



KEN FABIA | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Bill SR 23-12, sponsored by Chloe Anderson, representative and first-year Education student, calls for the installation of a new rapid flashing beacon on Grounds.

President's office hosts virtual town hall on gun violence and public safety

The President's Office held a virtual town hall Tuesday afternoon to address community concerns about increased gun violence on Grounds and student safety following a spike in gun-related homicides.

An estimated 800 viewers were given the opportunity to voice concerns to University President Jim Ryan, Timothy Longo, chief of the University Police Department and vice president for security and safety, J.J. Wagner Davis, executive vice president and chief operating officer and Robyn Hadley, vice president and chief student affairs officer.

The town hall comes in the wake of abnormally high rates of gun violence in Charlottesville, including the deadly November shooting that took the lives of three University students — second-year College student Devin Chandler, fourth-year College student D'Sean Perry and third-year College student Lavel Davis Jr.

According to Longo, the rates of lethal gun violence this year are the highest he has seen in Charlottesville. Longo also said that since January, there have been five murders in Charlottesville and 50 shots fired incidents.

"To put that [number] in context for you, in the almost 16 years I've served as the Chief of Police in the city of Charlottesville, from 2001 to 2016, I never had any more than [five homicides] in an entire year," Longo said. "There were some years I had none. On an average, we might have had two, maybe three, at most five."

After hearing concerns from participants, Ryan assured viewers that the University will remain committed to its efforts as long as gun violence threatens the community.

"You can rest assured that we will work as hard as we need to and for as long as we can until we have reduced the gun violence that is plaguing this region right now," Ryan said. "You have my word."

3.28

3.29

Student Council's General Body passes legislation to install crosswalk warning lights on Emmet St.

Student Council's General Body held its last meeting of the term Tuesday where representatives passed legislation calling for the University to install a rapid flashing beacon where Emmet St. merges into McCormick Rd. Additionally, Student Council's Executive Board congratulated representatives and shared accomplishments from the past year.

Bill SR 23-12, sponsored by first-year Education Rep. Chloe Anderson, calls for the installation of a new rapid flashing beacon on Grounds. The addition would allow for pedestrians to trigger lights before crossing the street, alerting cars to slow down.

Anderson explained that in light of recent concerns over safety in Charlottesville, including an uptick in gun violence, she wants students and faculty to feel as safe as possible on Grounds and protect student safety as much as possible.

"Personally, I've almost gotten hit by cars there or a bike or a mo-ped, so I think installing some type of safety measure would secure the area for pedestrians," Anderson said.

Many students use the crosswalk to travel to the School of Education at Ridley Hall, Old Dorms, the Chemistry building and buildings along Engineers Way. The University currently has other rapid flashing beacons in place, including several on University Avenue and where Whitehead Road intersects with Engineers Way.

The bill passed with 20 yeas, 0 nays and 2 abstentions.

UPC invites female artist to perform at Springfest

Baby Tate will join NLE Choppa in performing at the Springfest concert

Elizabeth Rambo | Staff Writer



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There will be four buses running between Grounds and Ting on a loop all night during the Springfest concert.

Rapper Baby Tate will be the first female artist to perform at the University Programs Council's Springfest in more than ten years, joining rapper NLE Choppa. UPC also hinted that a third artist will be announced in the future, writing "2/3" in the caption of the announcement post.

The announcement about Baby Tate came after criticism toward UPC for rarely inviting female artists to perform at the University. Multiple students commented under the NLE Choppa announcement post saying they were upset over a perceived lack of inclusivity in artists UPC invites to perform on Grounds.

Drew Pitter, director of UPC's Concert committee and fourth-year College student, said the process for lining up Springfest artists is more complicated than most students realize on account of how expensive it is to bring a performer to Grounds. The Concert Committee is responsible for selecting the Springfest artist.

The Springfest concert is an annual event hosted by UPC and funded through a percentage of the Student Activities Fee — the \$50 fee all students are required to pay yearly through tuition. This year's concert will be held off-Grounds April 15 at Ting Pavilion.

Earlier in the year, UPC posted a series of polls on their In-

stagram story to gauge student interest on which artists they would want to see invited to Grounds. Of those, only a few were financially feasible. Both NLE Choppa and Baby Tate were popular and affordable options.

"We polled [NLE Choppa] twice actually, and he did really well," Pitter said. "And he was also not as expensive as a lot of other artists. So we were like, 'He's cheaper than most artists, and he polled... in the top four or five of the artists we put out, so we said 'let's just book him.'"

Pitter also said booking a female artist was his top priority when beginning his position as committee director in the fall, and that he sympathizes with students frustrated at the lack of gender diversity. Most female artists that students are interested in, though, are "prohibitively expensive," according to Pitter.

"The [female artists] that are popular increase in price extremely fast to the point where they go out of our budget, and the ones that are in our budget are too unnoticeable to be a headliner," Pitter said.

Instead of having an opening artist and headlining artist, NLE Choppa and Baby Tate will have equal-length sets at the concert. It's unclear how a potential third artist will change the set length.

Pitter said that decision to hold the event at Ting was made

after McIntire Amphitheater was deemed unsafe for the event by University Police. UPC also wanted to try an outdoor venue for a change.

There will be four buses running between Grounds and Ting on a loop all night during the Springfest concert.

Fourth-year Commerce student Asia Kurtalic was last year's concert committee director. She said there is a lack of understanding of the logistics behind scheduling artists, and, like Pitter, said that many popular female artists are too expensive to book.

"If we look at an NLE Choppa — he is sitting at around 14 million monthly streamers, and his rate is \$40,000," Kurtalic said. "Whereas [rapper] Saweetie, for example, who's currently sitting at 9 million [monthly streamers] costs three times as much."

Kurtalic also said that student criticism about lack of female artists is valid. Regardless of logistical difficulties, she said that ten years is a long time for UPC to have not had a female artist.

Kurtalic said UPC had a female artist booked for the fall concert, but those plans fell through at the last minute. For her, this made the necessity of booking a woman singer for the spring even more important.

"When we had booked Sean Kingston, we had originally actu-

ally booked Tate McRae, but then she ended up [joining] Shawn Mendes' tour," Kurtalic said. "We already knew once that deal fell through, that next semester, we'll have to [book a female artist] because we were already aware of the fact that it had been so long, even prior to the criticism."

Fourth-year College student Kandace Moore said she was glad UPC finally booked a female artist, but she thought they handled the process poorly. She said she disliked how UPC did not try to quell criticism by telling students that a female artist would be announced soon.

"I most definitely think that is a step in the right direction, I love that we actually do have a female artist now," Moore said. "UPC most definitely could have said in advance and told us that there will be a female artist... they were blaming us for jumping to conclusions when it was most definitely not the students' fault."

Moore cited a comment section argument between the official UPC Instagram account and students as evidence that UPC handled the announcement process poorly.

Moore also said she wanted to see artists with deeper meaning behind their music and more community outreach. She said UPC books artists with shallower lyrics, and wished to see artists

who are also role models.

Sean Kingston performed at this year's Welcome Week Concert. UPC invited Trippie Redd to perform at last year's Springfest.

"There are so many other great artists out there that I feel like have more meaningful lyrics or have more meaningful impacts on the communities that they're from that [UPC] could have chosen," Moore said. "Like J. Cole and Dreamville Fest, as well as giving back to the community, giving back to students trying to help them learn, trying to give out school supplies, feeding meals to the homeless and things like that."

Sebastian Singh, fourth-year Batten graduate student, won a meet-and-greet with NLE Choppa after correctly guessing the artist from hints on the UPC Instagram. He said UPC was ultimately doing a good job of booking artists that the student body was interested in.

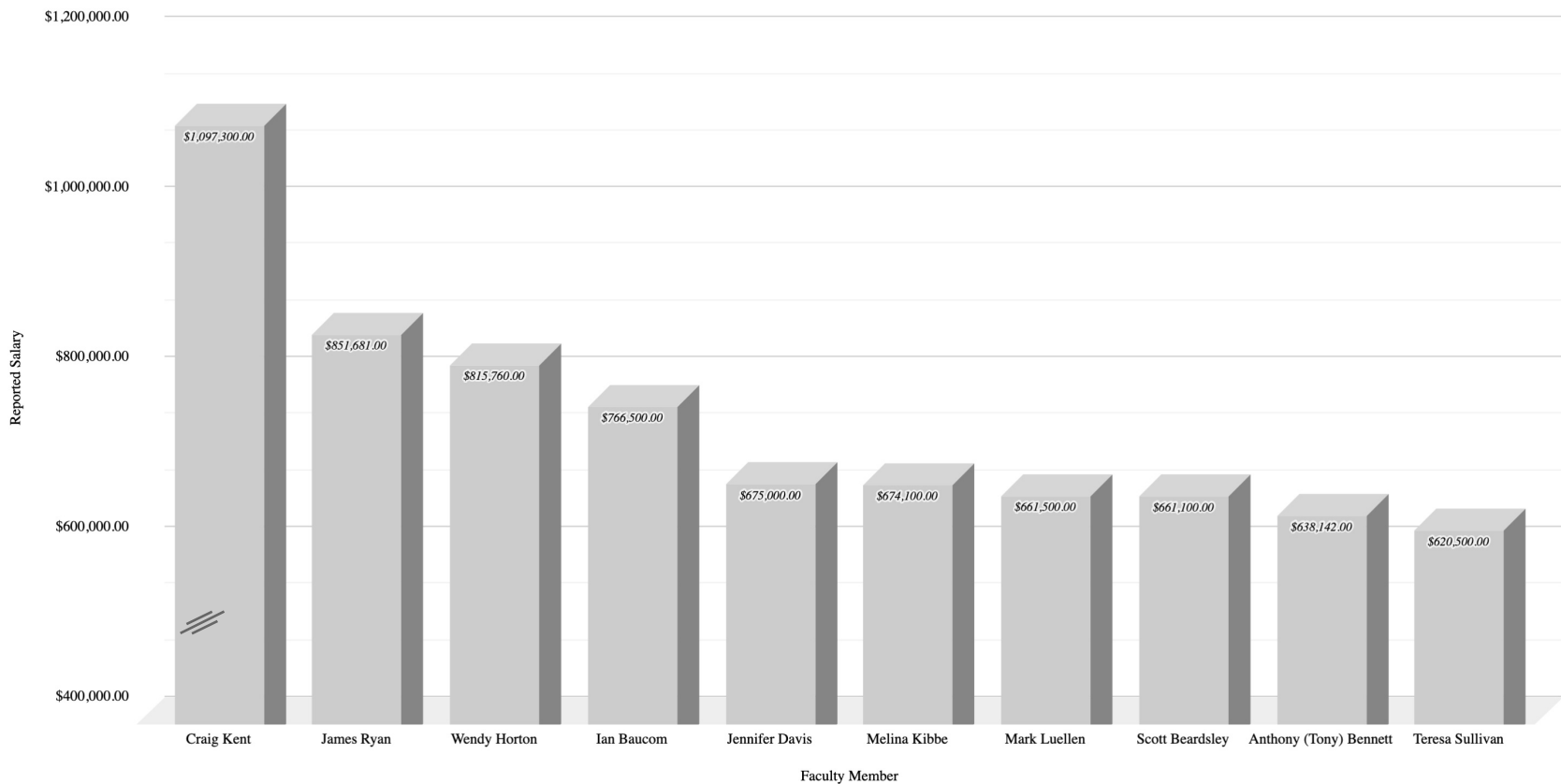
"I think that UPC has done a fairly good job of trying to give people artists that they want," Singh said. "There are good queer and female artists out there that I'm sure are not too hard to get to campus for Springfest. I hope that UPC will take that into account in the years to come."

Top ten earners at U.Va. earn collective \$7,461,583.00

Craig Kent and Jim Ryan are top earners at University with salaries of \$1,097,300.00 and \$851,681.00, respectively

Caroline Hagood | Staff Writer

Top Ten Earners



EVERY SURIANO | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The top ten earners at the University receive over \$7 million, per a 2022-23 Freedom of Information Act obtained by The Cavalier Daily. This figure represents roughly .5 percent of the \$1.6 billion paid to all 20,061 faculty and staff listed — the data set includes salaries for all faculty and staff of all individuals employed by the University of Virginia, including employees in the U.Va. Health system. It does not include student workers.

The top earner at the University for the 2022-23 academic year was Craig Kent, executive vice president of health affairs and chief executive officer of U.Va. Health, earning a salary of just over \$1 million — \$1,097,300.00, a \$50,000 raise from the previous year.

The second top earner was University President Jim Ryan, who earned \$851,681.00. Ryan earns more annually than Virginia Tech President Timothy Sands, who earned a base pay of \$614,640.00 in 2021 — 72 percent of Ryan’s income.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz earned a salary of \$657,743 in 2022 — 22 percent less than Ryan, despite the similar sizes of the University and UNC-CH.

As faculty weigh their employment options, competitive rates inevitably play a role in de-

cisions. During the fall semester, Chief Operating Officer J.J. Davis delivered a presentation about a so-called “war on talent” during a Board of Visitors meeting. According to Davis, the historical vacancy rates in the academic division hovered around seven or eight percent — this year, the vacancy rates are nearly double those figures. Last July, the University raised faculty salaries 5 percent to help address this issue.

“We are seeing a war on talent,” Davis said during the presentation. “I cannot underscore [enough], one of the most important things for us in the next one to three years coming out of this pandemic is to invest in the talent, otherwise we will lose them.”

Notably, Liz Magill, former executive vice president and provost, left the University in the Spring. She was making \$675,000 at the University and now earns an undisclosed amount as President of the private University of Pennsylvania — whose former president earned over 3 million per year.

The office of Student Affairs has also seen a recent increase in vacant positions, with several employees holding two titles. Based on 66 titles listed on the Student Affairs website the average salary for an employee of Student Affairs is \$86,708.98.

Robin Hadley, vice presi-

dent and chief student affairs officer and dean of students, earns \$360,000.00. Hadley entered the dean of students role last June, one of the first people in recent memory to hold both positions. Several other Student Affairs Officers hold two positions — including Gay Perez, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and executive director of Housing and Residence Life who earns \$200,000.00 and Catherine Brighton, senior associate dean for academic programs and Student Affairs and Education professor, who earns \$171,000.00.

The University professors with the highest salaries both also serve or have served in administrative roles in addition to professorships. Scott Beardsley, professor of business administration and dean in the Darden School, earned \$661,100.00. Teresa Sullivan, the University’s first female president who served from 2010 to 2018, and current professor of sociology earned \$620,500.00 — the second highest salary of any professor. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median business professor salary is \$94,360.00 and the median sociology professor salary is \$77,980.00 as of 2021.

Most of the University’s top earners follow a similar trend of holding administrative roles, such as Douglas E. Lischke. Lischke serves as chief financial of-

ficer for U.Va. Health and makes \$515,000.00 annually while Michael Marquardt, chief financial officer for the University Medical Center, makes \$299,781.71. There is a \$215,218.29 difference between their salaries.

Basketball Coach Tony Bennett is the top paid athletic coach at the University with a base salary of \$638,142.00 — with additional compensation from donors along with bonuses, his salary totals \$4.8 million for 2023. Bennett is the second longest tenured coach in the ACC, having coached the basketball team for 14 seasons, and he has the most wins in the University’s program history.

The men’s basketball coach at the University of Miami, Jim Larranaga, has coached his ACC team for two years less than Bennett. He earned a total salary of \$2.6 million in 2023.

Head Football Coach Tony Elliott earned a base pay of \$500,000 in 2023 — according to his contract he will earn a total of \$4.25 million after bonuses and compensation. For comparison, Brent Pry, the head coach of the Virginia Tech football team, earned \$4 million in 2022 excluding bonuses. Elliott joined the University football coaching team in December 2021.

The female coach with the highest salary is head coach of the women’s basketball team, Amaka

Agugua-Hamilton, who earned \$200,000.00 this year at the University. Agugua-Hamilton was announced as the head coach in March 2022. Like Elliott, she likely receives additional compensation from outside sources, though specific information was not available. The women’s basketball team had a record of 15-15, while the men’s team went 25-8. For comparison, Virginia Tech’s female coach earns \$625,000 directly from the institution, with a 31-4 team.

The University currently funds faculty salaries by generating revenue through three different methods. The largest category is institutional funds, which includes the endowment. The second largest category is tuition — both graduate and undergraduate — and finally state appropriations from the Commonwealth.

Editor’s Note: The full, searchable 2022-23 data set will be published on The Cavalier Daily’s website shortly.

Averages calculated may not encompass every staff and faculty member, as many serve in multiple roles. The Student Affairs salary mean, for example, does not include every single employee in Student Affairs.

New CFO Augie Maurelli will promote “collective goals”

His primary concerns include financial accessibility for students and the implementation of safety initiatives

Haley Barrett and Grace Thrush | Staff Writers

Augie Maurelli, former associate vice president for financial operations, said he plans to be a “change leader” as the new Chief Financial Officer. Maurelli further hopes to improve the University by focusing on new financial managing software, safety initiatives and student financial accessibility from an operational perspective.

As CFO, Maurelli plays a critical role in allocating resources to the University’s key initiatives, overseeing the University’s budget and working alongside with financial officers at UVa. Health.

“There’s just tremendous opportunities to continue to create value that I absolutely wanted to extend my tenure here and try to be a change leader and a value creator,” Maurelli said.

Maurelli’s appointment comes nearly four years after he accepted the role of associate vice president for financial operations in 2019. Prior to working at the University, Maurelli served as associate vice president for strategy and operations at the University of Delaware, and maintained leadership roles in athletics at Georgetown University. After working as a YoUDee and a Hoya, Maurelli realized nothing beats working as a Wahoo.

However, Maurelli did not initially start off in the world of finance. As a first-generation student, Maurelli attended Johns Hopkins University,

where he majored in engineering, and later got his MBA from Georgetown.

Maurelli said that he was always impressed with the University and that conversations with alumni sparked his interest.

“I just feel it’s a great location, rich tradition, a strong commitment towards missions not only in education but in research and patient care as well — it was an absolute no-brainer when the opportunity arose,” Maurelli said.

During his time as CFO, Maurelli said he recognizes the effort needed to deal with more immediate problems, such as the recent uptick in violence on-Grounds and in the Charlottesville community.

Maurelli noted safety measures may redirect funds from other areas of the University’s budget. The Board of Visitors in their most recent meeting discussed implementing safety measures in response to the increase in crime including bolstering the number of ambassadors around grounds and surrounding areas like the Corner, as well as implementing CompStat — a program that uses crime data analysis to predict when and where incidents will occur.

“Resources aren’t unlimited,” Maurelli said. “Budgets are malleable, and when there’s a situation like this where there is consternation around public safety, sometimes resources get

redirected.”

Despite these challenges, Maurelli explained that the allocation of financial resources by the University will reflect safety as a top priority.

“When we talked about risk mitigation and realignment of goals, this is a situation where some other things that probably are important may have to slide out... because there’s an immediate need to make sure we’re providing a safe environment,” said Maurelli.

Maurelli said another priority of his is to ensure that the University remains accessible to low-income and first-generation students.

In 2021, the Board of Visitors approved a 3.7 percent increase in tuition for the 2023-2024 academic year, which will affect some students’ abilities to pay for their education. Maurelli said that as expenses continue to rise, the University will continue to be one of the only public universities to meet 100 percent of demonstrated need for in-state students.

“We absolutely have to leverage the resources that we have invested, as well as figure out new ways of creating philanthropic incentives to help fuel that engine,” Maurelli said.

In the admission cycle for the Class of 2026, 15 percent of offers went to first-generation students — up from 12.5 percent in the previous cycle. In the most recent admission cycle, 1,167 students who were accepted had their

application fees waived.

Maurelli said he believes that the University has the groundwork to provide both academic access and affordability, citing initiatives like the Bicentennial scholars fund and AccessUVA— two scholarship programs at the University.

“I believe higher [education] is the leadership platform that will help the next generation and we absolutely need to be doing everything we can to evaluate, create and provide systems that allow things to be affordable and accessible, especially as a state institution,” said Maurelli.

In addition to more immediate challenges, Maurelli also said he is also committed to helping realize University President Jim Ryan’s 2030 Plan— a series of initiatives dedicated to making UVa the best public university by 2030. Specific goals of the plan include expanding the University’s financial aid program, establishing more residential communities, improving faculty recruitment and establishing the School of Data Science.

Despite the plan being extensive and costly, Maurelli remains optimistic about its implementation.

Maurelli also said that he will work to constantly refine the University’s initiatives so that there is a plan for market and more general risks.

“The world is always going to be dynamic and when there’s tailwinds,

you want to be able to maximize those and take advantage of them,” Maurelli said. “And then when there’s headwinds, you want to be able to navigate those and circumvent them to the best of your ability.”

One of his chief concerns as CFO is managing financial enterprise resource planning software — which are designed to help with various aspects of financial planning, including budgeting and predicting financial outcomes. The University made significant investments in ERPs during the pandemic to support administrators in making decisions regarding University operations.

Many other universities have begun to use financial ERPs as they face significant financial pressure due to factors like increasing costs and reduced student enrollment.

Maurelli said he will strive to maximize the benefit of using ERPs in decision-making by providing budget planning and managing debt. He notes the University has already made headway in utilizing the platforms.

“If I want to be successful, that means everyone needs to be successful and the institution needs to be successful,” Maurelli said. “If you put the institution first and you put the collective goals of the enterprise first, ultimately things typically work out.”



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Maurelli noted safety measures may redirect funds from other areas of the University’s budget.

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SPORTS

The rise of Virginia women's swimming and diving

What does a third straight National Championship mean for the Cavaliers?

Caroline Connor | Sports Columnist

Earlier this month, Virginia women's swimming and diving secured its third national title in three years, literally and metaphorically swimming laps around the competition. But just a few years prior to the three-peat, no one could have predicted the heights that the Cavaliers have reached.

In 2017, Virginia women's swimming and diving was left in limbo. It was the program's first time not winning the Women's ACC title since 2013 and it failed to qualify for the National Championship Meet. Furthermore, Coach Augie Busch announced that he was leaving the team to become the head coach at Arizona State University. In his four years in Charlottesville, Busch had won the ACC Women's Swimming Coach of the Year three times and helped lead the team to three ACC championships.

Virginia stayed in the ACC in their search for a new coach, eventually landing with NC State's Todd DeSorbo. It was an obvious hire — in his six years as associate

head coach in North Carolina, he coached the women to their first ACC title since 1980 and led the men's side to three ACC titles. DeSorbo also coached three of his student-athletes at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

In DeSorbo's first year as head coach, Women's swimming won the ACC title in 2018. They also qualified for nationals that year and the following year in 2019. Much of the success was spearheaded by Paige Madden, who came in as a freshman for DeSorbo's first season. During her time at Virginia, she would go on to be a two-time ACC Swimmer of the year.

Entering the 2020 season, Virginia fielded star freshman Kate Douglass alongside Madden. Douglass won the 200-yard medley at the 2020 ACC Championships, while Madden won three individual titles at the ACC Championships that year. Their relay and individual efforts would help Virginia win the 2020 ACC title.

However, Virginia's swimmers would not get to compete at the NCAA National Championships, which were canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team that returned after the pandemic was something Virginia had never seen before.

DeSorbo landed the recruitment of three-time Pan American gold medalist Alexandra "Alex" Walsh. Walsh, the daughter of Boston College's former swim team captain Glynis Walsh, enrolled as a freshman at Virginia for the 2021 season. Madden also returned to the squad for her senior season, helping Virginia defend their ACC title from the year before.

At the 2021 NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championships, Douglass and Madden dominated the freestyle events. Madden walked away with three out of the five possible first places. Walsh walked away with the 200 individual medley title while the Cavaliers also won the 800 freestyle relay. These combined efforts won Virginia their first-ever NCAA Championship for Women's Swimming and Diving. It marked the first time an ACC school won the title.

For some Cavaliers, the season was not over. Madden, Walsh and Douglass all qualified for the 2021 Olympics as part of Team USA. Virginia also had an incoming freshman Emma Weyant, set to compete in Tokyo. At 19 years old, Weyant won the silver medal in the 400m individual medley. Walsh and Douglass ended up competing against each other in the 200m individual medley, with both teammates placing on the podium. Douglass won the bronze medal while Walsh edged her for the silver.

Even with the loss of Madden to graduation, Virginia successfully defended their national title in 2022. The team gained the addition of Gretchen Walsh, the younger sister of Alex Walsh, who walked away with the 100 yard freestyle title. Douglass won her second 50 yard freestyle title and added the 200 yard breaststroke and 100 yard butterfly titles to her legacy. Alex repeated her 200 individual medley win from the year before and won two other individual titles for Virginia. As a team, Virginia dominated the relays, winning four of the five races.

Earlier this March, Virginia



COURTESY VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

Under the leadership of Coach Tod DeSorbo, Virginia has begun a dynastic run of record-breaking and titles.

Women's swimming and diving won its third straight National Championship despite Weyant transferring to the University of Florida. It also won its fourth straight ACC Championship. The Walsh sisters, junior Maxine Parker — a transfer student who DeSorbo recruited from the University of Georgia — and Douglass set an NCAA record in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3 minutes and 5.84 seconds. Virginia won all 5 relays with Alex, Gretchen and Douglass all winning individual titles for Virginia.

Virginia completed its most recent title defense with a total of 541.5 points, defeating second-place Texas by 127 points. The Cavaliers have won all three of the last NCAA Championships by a margin of more than 100 points.

Virginia joins the company of Stanford, Texas, Auburn and Georgia as the only schools to three-peat in Women's swimming and diving. Virginia also holds 19 ACC Championships and 35 individual/relay NCAA titles. However, as dominant as Virginia has been recently, there is still a lot of work to do to compare itself to other programs.

Stanford's last three-peat ended right before Virginia's started, as they won in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Stanford also five-peated in the 1990s, alongside Texas who five-peated in the 1980s. In total, Stanford leads the race with 11 total Women's NCAA Championships in team swimming and diving. Georgia and Texas are tied at seven, Auburn has five and Berkley

is ahead of Virginia with four team titles. So, is a four-peat possible?

While Virginia will lose Douglass, Alex and Parker will be returning for their senior seasons along with rising-junior Gretchen. Douglass concludes her collegiate career with a whopping seven total individual NCAA titles and countless Virginia, NCAA and American records broken. However, Alex is in line to leave a similar impact on the program heading into her senior year, having already secured five total individual NCAA titles in her time as a Cavalier.

The Cavaliers also have some younger talent. Rising sophomore Aimee Canny played a crucial role in winning two of the relay titles in 2023. Canny recorded the best time for the Cavaliers in the 400m medley relay and also took bronze in the 200m individual freestyle at the 2023 NCAA Championships. Sophomore Reilly Titlmann aided in Virginia's 2023 800m freestyle relay title and will compete for another two years.

The bottom line is that DeSorbo knows how to recruit and coach some of the best swimmers in the world. If his past six years at Virginia serve as any indication of the future of the Women's swimming and diving program, the Cavaliers will be competing with powerhouses like Stanford for many years to come.

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TILOCK: Virginians have the talent to shine in the NFL

Although the Cavaliers' season was not as successful as the team hoped, individual talents can shine through in the pros

Xander Tilock | Staff Writer

The dream for any college football player is to go on stage and hug NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell — a classic sign they have been picked for the spring NFL draft. While there has been a lull in success for Virginia players over the past few years, 2023 looks to be a much more promising cycle for the Cavaliers. This year's Virginia prospects heading to the pros have each taken unique paths to get to the NFL, but are flying under the radar in a talented crop of future NFL stars.

Senior wide receiver Dontayvion Wicks

Wicks — who set Virginia's single-season receiving yards record in 2021 with 1,203 yards — is projected to be drafted as high as a late third-round pick. He may slip out of the third round entirely, but any team that takes a chance on Wicks will be rewarded with a high-effort instant playmaker. His deep play ability and athleticism are already above average for an NFL wide receiver.

Wicks tallied an impressive 27 catches of more than 20 yards in his phenomenal 2021 season, showcasing the aforementioned elite deep play potential. Joe Marino of the Draft Network praised Wicks' work ethic as well.

"Wicks is ultra-competitive and

tough on the football field," Marino said. "He features exceptional ball skills and the ability to stack corners with the speed necessary to get behind them."

Three other ACC wide receivers are currently projected to be drafted higher than Wicks, but none have more yards per catch. North Carolina's Josh Downs, Wake Forest's A.T. Perry and Boston College's Zay Flowers — a potential first-round pick — averaged a career 12.3, 15.6 and 15.3 YPC respectively. Wicks' impressive 18.8 YPC is above all three and is truly elite.

At the NFL Combine, Wicks tested in the 94th percentile in the broad jump with a 10'10 mark — tied for ninth among this year's wide receivers — and the 88th percentile in arm span among all wide receivers who have attended the combine since its inception in 1982. His arm span is crucial to making contested catches, which is a strong yet immensely underrated aspect of his game.

Potential landing spots for Wicks include the Kansas City Chiefs, Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears — he has pre-draft meetings scheduled with the latter two teams. Wicks' ability to catch contested jump balls will be valuable to these offenses who like to get the ball out of the quarter-

back's hands quickly.

Senior cornerback Anthony Johnson

Johnson is projected to be a late fourth-round pick, but could quickly establish himself as one of the better defensive backs from this class. At 6'1" and 205 lbs, he ranks in the 81st percentile for height and 91st for weight compared to the history of cornerbacks that have competed at the NFL Combine. Scouts have mentioned that he does not have any glaring weaknesses in his game and offers elite coverage in zone schemes.

Johnson was awarded First Team All-ACC honors this season. He may very well be the first teamer with the least hype, which is unbelievable considering he did not allow a touchdown on 361 plays in coverage — a remarkable achievement for a collegiate defensive back.

Marino compared Johnson to Rasul Douglas of the Packers, a defensive leader with a knack for making big plays. Scouting service Pro Football Focus also gave Johnson a consistent coverage grade of 82.5 for his 2022 season. Johnson was crucial in helping the Virginia defense move up an impressive 70 spots in FEI rankings from 2021 to 2022.

As a big and physical cornerback, Johnson defends on the boundary

well. He is an intelligent defender with strong play recognition — skills that should serve him well at the professional level. Potential landing spots for Johnson include the San Francisco 49ers, Washington Commanders and New York Giants. He also has a pre-draft meeting scheduled with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Houston Texans. These teams have historically been defense-first, but have significant holes in their defensive backfields currently — a reason to add Johnson into the fold.

Graduate student wide receiver Keytaon Thompson

As a transfer student in his fifth year of college football, Johnson's journey to the NFL has been an interesting one, which fellow transfer Thompson can relate to.

The No. 1 quarterback recruit in Louisiana in 2017 via 247sports, Thompson chose to fill the vacancy left by Dak Prescott at Mississippi State over offers from other powerhouses like his hometown Louisiana State. After three years at Mississippi State, Thompson spent his next three at Virginia as a playmaker in whatever position was needed for the Cavaliers but will enter the draft as a wide receiver.

At 6'5", he ranks in the 94th percentile for wide receiver height.

Thompson is projected to be a seventh-round pick and could be a steal for any team looking for a versatile weapon on offense. He brought in the fourth most receptions in the ACC in 2021 and also boasts a fantastic 6.2 yards per carry as a runner. Potential landing spots for Thompson include the Detroit Lions, Minnesota Vikings and Baltimore Ravens. These teams feature strong offenses full of creative sub-packages, which Thompson is able to contribute to due to his experience running gadget plays.

Former athletic quarterbacks that have transitioned to a gadget role have found success in the NFL, such as Taysom Hill of the New Orleans Saints. Thompson's athleticism and ability to read a defense like a quarterback are desirable skills for professional football and are arguably the best in this class. His experience is also unparalleled as a six-year college athlete.

This batch of Virginia prospects is highly athletic and has crossed paths with significant NFL contributors. They have shown excellence at every collegiate opportunity, and are worthy of the media recognition their prospect peers have been getting.

The NFL Draft runs April 27 to April 29 on ESPN, NFL Network and ABC.

Club pickleball flourishing at Virginia

650 devoted "picklers" have made their way to the University's courts

Fiona Turnbull | Staff Writer

You may have seen it on the news, around the country or even right here at the University — pickleball is America's fastest-growing sport. Its popularity has been undeniable even in Charlottesville. The Pickleball Club at UVA, officially started in 2021 and has grown tremendously since then, boasting 650 members and a 24-person tournament team.

First of all, what even is pickleball? It is essentially a combination of tennis, ping pong and badminton. The courts are smaller than tennis courts, and pickleball uses shorter nets with two people on each side. Players have paddles and aim to pass a wiffle ball back and forth to score points.

Pickleball's massive jump in popularity comes from several places — it is a sport that does not really feel like a sport. It is described as an activity where you have so much fun you even forget you are sweating.

"I joined pickleball because it is fun, easy to pick up, and [gives me] time to spend with friends outside," Josephine Genereux, club member

and first-year College student, said. "The sport is competitive, fun and social. I played tennis for a while and pickleball is similar. It's my favorite time of the week!"

When asked why she kept coming back to practices, Genereux pointed to the community.

"Arriving and hearing the music blaring and shouts from the courts always makes me happy," Genereux said. "It has become a part of my friends and I's weekly routine and something to look forward to each week."

Pickleball saw a boom in popularity after the COVID-19 shutdown, especially at the University. Just as classes and other activities were canceled, pickleball became a fun and engaging way to stay active and get outside while socializing with friends in a safe and socially distant environment.

In Charlottesville, pickleball brings together some of University students' favorite things— hanging out with friends and getting competitive. The club brings people together, creating a fun sense of community with practic-

es four times a week. Getting outside with a big group and playing a fun sport while listening to music helps students get a break from libraries and stress. The club itself is also low-stress — attendance is never taken, there are no cuts and players can decide what level of intensity they want to play at.

"We have differentiated ourselves from other club sports by allowing anybody to join the general club regardless of skill," Conor Burns, vice president and second-year Commerce student, said.

Although there is no formal coaching, there is a strong element of self-motivation throughout the club. Practices are often just club members informally playing against each other for fun and to get better, while there are also try-outs every semester to compete on the more intense travel team.

The team does more than just hang out on Snyder courts, however. In December 2022, only two years after the club's founding, the team finished fifth at the Collegiate National Champion-

ships. They were also voted "most spirited team." This year, the team hosted the first-ever University and Charlottesville Pickleball Tournament. The tournament took place Feb. 25 and 26, and included students, faculty and even Charlottesville residents, bringing together a whole community of picklers.

Burns and many others see a bright future for the Pickleball Club.

"There is a lot of growth for the club in the future," Burns said. "Ultimately, playing in more tournaments is the biggest thing. We want to proactively host tournaments for the community and different schools every semester."

The club has already started to accomplish this goal, with the February tournament and the upcoming East Coast Invitational, which includes James Madison University, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia Tech.

For the tournament team, club leadership plans to add a permanent coach to help with practice, player development and tournament coor-

dination. Burns also mentioned working with pickleball companies to gain sponsorships to help with equipment and merchandise. Finally, he is hoping for the installation of permanent pickleball courts "since most people play pickleball, not tennis, on the Snyder courts."

Burns sees potential to grow the club even more with special events such as "learn-how-to play days" or practices where members are encouraged to bring a friend that is not in the club.

"We know there are more pickleball players within UVA, and believe with the right approach, the size of the club will grow immensely," Burns said.

Pickleball has brought a sense of fun and excitement to Grounds. On a typical Monday night, with bright lights on Snyder Courts and pop music and laughs permeating the air — pickleball practice is in session.

HUMOR

A Letter to my Three Greatest Foes at U.Va.

As I near the end of my first year at the University, I think about my favorite aspects about going here — the people, the classes, a Chipotle within a 10-minute walking distance, etc. But I also have some major grievances I need to get off my chest. So instead of getting a therapist, I figured I could work through all of these emotions by writing letters to the sources of my problems. It's cheaper and less traumatic! Win-win.

Dear NetBadge Login,

Ah, Netbadge. Is it okay if I call you that? Perhaps Net? See I want to like you, I do. But you reallllly push me to my limits. You enter my life in the absolute worst moments. I could be sweating bullets, realizing I need to turn something in moments before an 11:59 p.m. deadline, struggling to find the turn-in page and bam! It's you, NetBadge, blocking me until I Duo Authenticate myself on my computer. Lately, you have been absolutely insisting — nay, beseeching! — me to Duo Authenticate myself at least eight times a day. I am done!

Allow me to explain to all my

readers, far and wide, how NetBadge enrages me.

NetBadge Login and Duo Authenticate team up every day to make my life more difficult. They force me to retrieve my phone and press a silly little electronic button that says, “Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo, open Margo’s comptueroo” when I log onto any University-affiliated site. All I want is to access my beloved discussion page, but instead I must go through the labor-intensive process of reaching for my phone, unlocking my phone with my face and hitting “approve.” Absolutely ridiculous.

Perhaps I should run for some position on Student Council and gain power to destroy you once and for all, Netbadge. Mwah ha ha! Or I’ll become the next Jim Ryan and you’ll be finished.

Worst wishes and no regards,
An unsatisfied customer
P.S. Does Mr. President Jim Ryan have to Duo Authenticate himself? Honestly, just curious.

Dear Brita in my fridge,
I will admit, you are semi-useful.

You hold water and allow me to easily refill my water bottle because my roommate and I have been cursed with a room located an entire floor above the closest water fountain. Ugh.

But, Brita, I must confess that I do not trust you. It’s hard for me to believe that I am actually drinking 100 percent purified water. Something just feels off. Perhaps it’s my fault — it’s possible that I did not set you up properly. But my water never tastes quite right. And this would make sense, considering I have practically been sick since arriving in August. I don’t remember the last time I didn’t have a cough — this is a cry for help, BTW. I have tried Mucinex, DayQuil, you name it. But still, all day, every day I just cough. That’s all I do. Well, cough and Duo Authenticate myself.

Oh, and, Brita, one more thing. Remember that time when I was trekking back upstairs after filling you up and you decided to let the lid give out, so my grip loosened and you tumbled down a flight of stairs, spilling the freshly “filtered” water everywhere? Well, I do. And I must say that

was rude and inconsiderate.
Anyways, please do better, Brita. I need all the help I can get.
Sincerely,
A friend in need of purification

Dear Everlasting Pile of Stuff on the Chair Next to my Bed,

No matter what I do, no matter how productive I may be, there will always be something on the blue fabric chair — provided by Housing and Residence Life, of course — next to my bed in my first-year dorm. You, Everlasting Pile, just won’t quit. Because even if I do fold and put everything away — there’s always one item I need to leave out as a reminder to myself, or that I need to give to a friend or that I need to bring somewhere in an hour — the cleanliness is always temporary. Within 24 hours of getting it clean, I am guaranteed to throw something onto that chair. In my eyes, you, Everlasting Pile, hold a permanent spot on my mental to-do list. At certain points, you have reached all time lows — or really, I should say highs considering the loads and loads of clothes I throw

onto you. You’re composed of countless items — outfits from three days ago, a book I keep telling myself I will read and the gas station phone charger I bought this summer that is holding on for dear life with wires popping out.

I wish you would disappear. I wish you away!! It’s not my fault that I need an easy place to drop something. But why must you exist? Why can’t you merely open a trapdoor when I place a t-shirt on your surface that magically transports the shirt to my drawer — folded, of course — instantaneously? It’s not fair!

Scornfully,
The girl who uses you as a stool to launch herself into bed

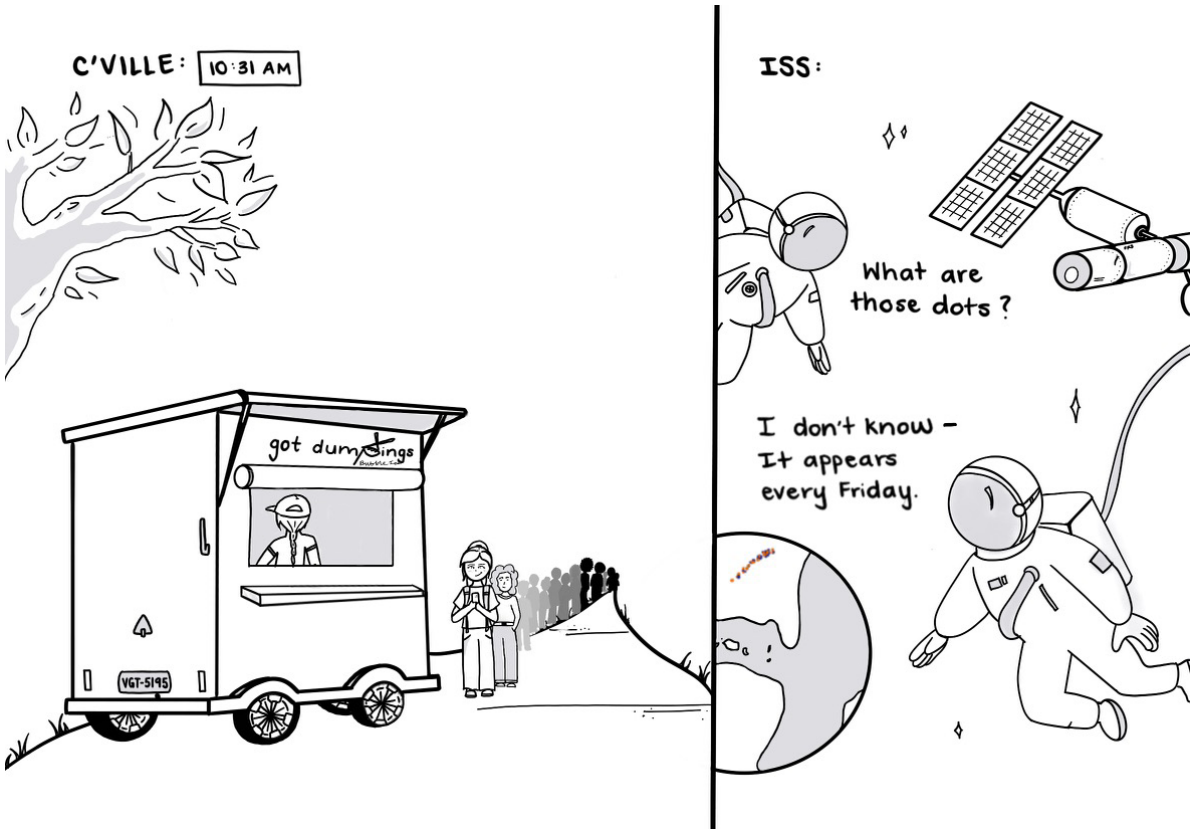
Phew! I feel much better, what a relief.

MARGO KAYE is a Humor Columnist for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com

CARTOON

Food Truck Fridays

Sarah Elder | Cartoonist



OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

Student self-governance is a privilege worth protecting

Students must meaningfully engage in the tradition of self-governance to ensure its longevity

This month marked election season for students on Grounds, with the future of the Honor Committee, the University Judiciary Committee and Student Council on the ballot. Such organizations underpin our culture of student self-governance — a unique tradition that allows students to play an active role in steering the direction of our University. Student self-governance is deeply embedded in the fabric of the University, but its importance feels lost on the student body. In order to safeguard the tradition of self-governance, it is critical that more students engage in this collective project of sculpting our student experience. Students, your ability to make change at the University is a privilege, not a right. It is time we showed up and acted like it.

Decreasing buy-in is clear in a number of ways, none more salient than student interest in filling elected offices. Only nine candidates ran this past election for a total of 12 seats representing the College of Arts and Sciences undergraduate student population.

Empty seats in Student Council’s “representative body” hinders the group’s ability to effectively represent students. This is bleak, but student turnout in elections themselves is downright depressing — in four out of the past five student elections, voter turnout in the race for Student Council president stayed below 20 percent. In 2020, both the Honor Committee and the UJC had referenda on the ballot that were not ratified because not enough students showed up to vote. If we can not even encourage each other to click on a link sent once a year to our inboxes, how can we expect to get students to actually run for these positions?

These elections and student-run institutions — the Honor Committee, UJC and Student Council — are channels through which we can communicate our values to each other and University administrators. Student self-governance permeates every aspect of our culture at this University. Our collective failure to adequately engage in these channels only hurts the unique power we have as students to advocate

for ourselves and hold those above us accountable. If we default on our responsibility to be careful stewards of the tradition of self-governance, we leave room for faculty and administrators to undercut the agency that students at the University have had for generations.

Indeed, as administrators turn over and new appointments fill powerful positions at the University, students must recognize that leadership may not be as clued in to the importance of student self-governance as they should be. Of course, administrators and the Board play a critical role in governance at the University — we are not naive to this. Nonetheless, students have a long history of leading change at the University that should be respected and protected. Beyond mere ignorance, some leaders might even be hostile to the idea of student self-governance, perhaps expressing their distaste for student leadership by calling us a bunch of “numnuts.” If we want to ensure the tradition of self-governance is not lost, the student body cannot

continue to sit in complacency. If we don’t fight for our own agency, nobody will. We cannot let turnover in leadership — or overzealous members of the Board of Visitors — undermine the power of student self-governance.

The benefits derived from that power are far-reaching. On grounds UJC champions restoration and has been working diligently to reform Greek life by addressing systemic issues at the root of hazing. Just this spring, the Honor Committee put forth and ratified the first ever multi-sanction constitution. This constitution provides for the creation of an innovative student-run system that will safeguard the Community of Trust by prioritizing education and rehabilitation — of course, only 23.7 percent of eligible students voted in the election. Without the power to self-govern, these comprehensive efforts to address the needs of the student body simply would not be possible.

Though elections for this year have passed, that is no excuse to sit in apathy, removed from the problem of low

engagement in student self-governance. If anything, we have more to do, to uphold the systems and culture that provide us with the privilege of self-determination. Of course, this means voting in elections whenever they come around, but it also means going to Student Council meetings and the Honor Committee’s town halls to engage with student leaders, or running for elected positions to shine light on the problems that are affecting our community — even reading The Cavalier Daily to stay informed on student issues. Perhaps the most effective way to ensure the longevity of our cherished tradition of student self-governance is for each of us to take to heart the message we all received on our acceptance letters — to leave our University a little better than we found it.

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Install blue light phones off Grounds

In light of recent events, the University needs to secure the safety of its students

No matter what your walk to class takes you by, it is near impossible to avoid passing one of the University's blue light phones. The University has taken great care in securing Grounds, with nearly 100 blue lights readily available to students on-Grounds. However, the University has not taken that same care with areas outside of central Grounds, particularly around centers of off-Grounds student housing. With well over half of all University students living off-Grounds, it is past time for the University to expand the blue light phone system.

In order to better understand why the University should continue to invest in the blue light system, it is important to know how the phones work. With their distinctive blue-lighted tops, the wireless system requires merely the push of a button to alert the University Police Department. Blue lights, however, are more than just phones. When you call using one blue light phone, you can travel to a second phone and continue your call, allowing police to stay in contact with you as the situation progresses. In this way, the blue light phones are more of an organized system than they are a mere police payphone. The power of the blue light phones is not that there is one of them — it is that there are many. One blue light phone is no

good as you have to be in a very specific area to access it. Adding to this system only strengthens the rest of the system, allowing students to access the phones more regularly and with ease.

I know that hearing “payphone” immediately makes one think that blue lights are outdated, or at the very least, outmatched by cellphones. And while I will admit I was hesitant to refer to the phones using this term,

in the amount of blue lights would act as a safety net, allowing you to always have access to help when you need it regardless of whether your phone is dead or has wifi.

There are currently seven blue light phones near off-Grounds housing behind the Corner. There are zero blue lights off of housing down Jefferson Park Avenue by Fry's Spring — simply put, there are not enough blue lights

corner of Gordon and 15th Street, by the Martha Jefferson House. If you live off the Corner, your best case scenario is one blue light on your street. If you are past Gordon or off of JPA, you are on your own.

Some may point out that the blue light phones at the University are underutilized. While the data shows that blue lights are not used often, and I myself have never seen anyone use

that blue lights alone are not going to rid Charlottesville of crime, a more complete system has the capability to deter crime. In almost every case in which blue lights were installed at a school, crimes went down from their presence alone.

Extending the blue light system to off-Grounds housing raises a potential concern from some that they may be used by non-University students. And to that, I say, “who cares.” We owe it to Charlottesville to be the best neighbor we can be. Inadvertently providing Charlottesville residents with additional safety measures is by no means a downside.

The truth is I am tired. I am tired of getting emails every weekend about violent crimes happening on the same poorly lit sections of Grounds. I am tired of having to jog home from work at 2 a.m. every night. The University is sitting on an endowment of over five billion dollars. Each phone costs 7,500 dollars — a small price to pay for student safety.

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“While the data shows that blue lights are not used often, this is more a reflection of their location than it is their efficacy.”

the blue light's payphone-esque features are what make it so reliable. Blue lights do not die, they do not break, and they do not go offline. They are always readily available and do not even require you to speak to a 911 operator — just pushing the button sends police to your location. Recent apps like Rave Guardian intend to capture some of the simplicity of blue light phones, allowing you to contact police with just the push of a button. But Rave and apps like it require an internet connection and a charged phone — sometimes a rare commodity after a long night out. An increase

to ensure each student has equal access to this important safety mechanism. While seven is better than zero, this is a misutilization of what I would argue is the phone's main function — a safety network. If you are using a blue light phone, it is possible that you are not in a position to call from one location. Extending the blue light path allows students to have their calls continue to be monitored as they get home. While on-Grounds blue lights are often side by side, there is a block separating each of the few blue lights that currently exist off-Grounds. Additionally, the last blue light north of the Lawn is on the

one of the blue lights, this is more a reflection of their location than it is their efficacy. How often do you need to call the police outside of New Cabel hall or O-Hill? Now, how often do you think people need to call the police on Grady or 14th? For years now, local police have been aware of the rising crime rate at the University. Although the most recent full data on crime is from 2021, just a quick search for “Longo” in my email was enough to turn up over 50 community alerts in the last year, most of those occurring in off-Grounds areas that lack a robust blue light system. And while it is true

The holistic benefits of no-technology policies

No-technology policies facilitate increased engagement and effective study habits

It is an understatement to say that no-technology policies are highly polemical among University students. Syllabi that include such provisions are met with incredulity and promptly disregarded. This reputation, however, is largely undeserved and fails to understand the comprehensive and communal benefits of technology-free classrooms. No-technology policies not only facilitate genuine engagement and inhibit distraction, they also promote study habits conducive to deeper neurological processing and higher academic achievement.

Professors who question technology's role in the classroom often cite the potential for widespread student distraction. According to one study, computer use in classrooms produces extreme distraction for students because of cyberslacking and chronic multitasking. Notably, even students who were not using computers while in the classroom experienced increased distraction because of their classmates' use of computers. The study observed that on average, students who were allowed to use technology spent seventeen minutes out of a 75 minute class period multitasking on unrelated material in an attempt to maximize efficiency. Assuming this class period

occurs twice a week for 15 weeks, students are disengaged for 8.5 hours in a single class each semester.

Predictably, such high levels of distraction negatively affects academic performance. In 2017, a different study concluded that computer use in classrooms is tied to worse academic outcomes. The researchers observed that computer use had a notably negative impact, with computer use costing students between 0.14 and 0.37 points in their GPAs. In an increasingly competitive workforce, such seemingly minor differences can be hugely impactful for admission to graduate schools and future job obtention.

Diminished academic achievement is partially explained by distractibility, but can also be attributed to shallow material processing. In 1972, psychologists Fergus I. M. Craik and Robert S. Lockhart proposed a framework explaining that information retention is a function of processing depth. Their work articulated that processing information more deeply — which is, in part, dependent upon having ample time during which to pay careful attention — increases information retention.

Interpretations of this retention framework explain that handwritten

notes improve memory because the unique motor movements of writing each letter promote deeper processing. The repetitive and non-specific movements associated with typing, in contrast, promote minimal processing. Relatedly, the comparative slowness of handwriting requires that students synthesize presented information instead of regurgitating the professor's words. In short, technology-free classrooms, and the handwritten notes that accompany them, prevent distraction and encourage greater information retention by forcing students to think critically about the notes they are taking.

We must consider, however, whether disabled students are disproportionately disadvantaged by no-technology policies. Disabled students are among the main beneficiaries of new technological developments in classroom accessibility, leading some to think that no-technology policies violate the imperative for inclusive and non-judgmental classrooms. In fact, digitized learning does promote malleability for historically marginalized students. So the removal of this flexibility is often seen as negatively impacting disabled students while prioritizing the academic success of able-bodied ones.

Many professors who institute no-technology policies attempt to resolve the ableism of no-technology policies by permitting technology for students with disabilities. This is counterproductive and needlessly singles out disabled students. At the University, the Student Disability Access Center provides an alternative to these sorts of problematic no-technology policies — the Peer Notetaking Program. Through this program disabled students can anonymously obtain class notes taken by their peers. While this is not the perfect solution, it does promote equitable benefits from no-technology policies.

Much like able-bodied students, students with disabilities will benefit from diminished distractions and deeper content processing in no-technology classrooms. However, the space to process content more deeply is created differently for students with disabilities than it is for able-bodied students. Able-bodied students benefit from the movements of handwriting and the immediate synthesis of information. In contrast, disabled students benefit from built-in increased processing time. First, they absorb material in class, and then they synthesize provided notes. As these students re-

turn to the material, they experience improved memory development and consolidation. No-technology policies can be administered to accommodate disparate needs and to produce equitable results.

Today, it is impossible to ignore that we live in a digitized age. It would be foolish to banish technology outside the classroom. Nevertheless, it would be equally foolish to presume that technology has a productive role inside the classroom. Students' collective distractibility and compromised retention are unsustainable and insufficient. Professors who institute no-technology policies have realized this and, as is their responsibility, seek to promote student achievement and encourage retention of presented information. No-technology policies have not closed a door on technology so much as they have opened one for genuine communal and interpersonal learning.

NAIMA SAWAYA is a Viewpoint Columnist for *The Cavalier Daily*. She can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

LIFE

The exceptional Ms. Kathy

The life, love and legacy of Ms. Kathy — in conversation with one of Newcomb Dining Hall's most loved employees.

Katrina Samaan | Features Writer

Every University student's experience is inextricably linked to the faculty and staff that make it possible. Bus drivers, maintenance workers, dining staff and so many other workers contribute to helping the University run every single day. One notable staff member in particular has left a lasting impression and enhanced the lives of students on a daily basis.

In her almost 22-year tenure working at Newcomb Dining Hall, University employee Kathy McGruder has never failed to make a student smile with her contagious laugh and her exceptionally witty remarks. Every single day, rain or shine, Ms. Kathy — as she's affectionately called — provides a warm and welcoming presence at the entrance of the dining hall.

Ms. Kathy always strives to enhance the lives of those around her, no matter where they come from or how they are feeling. It can be difficult for some students to get through their days when things look tough, but filing into Newcomb Hall and being greeted by Ms. Kathy's cus-

tomary "hi beautiful, kick some butt today," often leaves students walking into the dining hall with a smile on their face after a simple 10-second encounter with the remarkably charismatic Newcomb employee.

Ms. Kathy's bubbly demeanor and endearing storytelling captivates those who have crossed her path. As she spoke about her journey from her home in New Mexico to working at Newcomb for the last 22 years, her amusing anecdotes and infectious laugh brought her narrative to life.

"I used to be a cardiology tech back home," Ms. Kathy said. "And the opportunity came to put in the application here. I did... and I think I'm exactly where God wants me to be."

Her affectionate pride for her "babies," as she calls University students, is evident in the way she takes the time to learn the names and recognize the faces of those who frequent the Newcomb dining hall. Although she does love the pasta station, her favorite part about working at Newcomb Hall is seeing University students almost every day.

"[My favorite part] is the student body, period," Ms. Kathy said. "I reflect what you guys direct. So, whatever you see from me, you've already brought that in, and I'm just giving it back to you. And I'm just very thankful that that's love and not cow manure."

Her positive interactions with the students has given her the motivation to go to work for the past 22 years. Although she starts her day early, she never fails to bring positive energy to the dining hall and, occasionally, to cranky students.

"If somebody's aggressive or grouchy, my mind is like, 'Oh, you,'" Ms. Kathy said. "I have to remember what this walk is about. And sometimes you have to think about where someone just came from before they got here. They might have other things on their mind. Who knows? We're not all perfect."

Ms. Kathy explained what she loves most about the University community is how everyone looks after each other and is always willing to lend a helping hand, whether it is

giving someone directions or giving them a voucher for a guest meal.

"You guys rock, sweetie, you have a lot of love," Ms. Kathy said. "Someone in line is like, 'I'll give you a guest meal' or someone that's like 'I'm out of vouchers' [and someone is] like 'I got you.'"

Beloved by students, faculty and staff alike, Ms. Kathy's impact on Grounds was honored by the University with a portrait of her on the third floor of Newcomb Hall last year.

"I'm thankful for it," Ms. Kathy said, misty-eyed. "I appreciate it, I'm honored. I just do not feel that I should be looked at like that because I'm no greater than anybody else on this earth."

Ms. Kathy acknowledged that she is thankful for how her representation at University has honored her and her family, but reiterated that she feels no more deserving than anyone else. Her faith and humility are just two of her defining qualities.

"Well, I'm thankful for it because in my family, it's like Black history," Ms. Kathy said. "But then again, I feel

bad. I'm no more deserving than anybody else. And if anything, it should be God's picture up there... it is not just about me."

Ms. Kathy is so notable that fourth-year students have had the option to fondly mark the end of their time at the University by visiting her at 1515 on the morning of Final Exercises for a hug and final send-off. This is just as memorable for the graduates as it is for Ms. Kathy.

"I'm good baby...I don't cry till May," Ms. Kathy said.

A mentor, guardian and friend, Ms. Kathy has had a widespread impact on students at University because of the unique effort she takes to make each individual feel special and loved as soon as they spot her in the entrance of Newcomb Hall, reminding them to stay strong amongst anything that comes their way.

"Keep your head high, keep your steel toed boots on and keep kicking any institution or anything you face in the middle of its keister," Ms. Kathy said. "Real hard."



ALBERT TANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Her affectionate pride for her "babies," as she calls University students, is evident in the way she takes the time to learn the names and recognize the faces of those who frequent the Newcomb dining hall.

Serving up piña coladas and pastelitos

How I got to share my heritage and connect with my peers through our shared passion for cooking at the UVa. International Center

Alison Tashima | Food Writer

With cool piña coladas in hand and warm, fragrant pastries fresh out of the oven — my Saturday morning at the International Center was full of delicious food and friendly community. This past weekend I led my first cooking class of about 15 participants through making virgin piña coladas and pastelitos — guava and cream cheese pastries. Since the cost of materials was covered by the center, and offered its on-site kitchen to host the class, volunteering to lead a cooking class was a simple and rewarding commitment.

Located at 21 University Circle — a 20-minute walk from Clark Library — the International Center is a hidden gem that welcomes all University students. Both domestic and international students are invited to attend events hosted by the center, which encourages engagement with different cultures and generates connections between students of different backgrounds.

One of my major passions is connecting to culture through food, so I jumped at the opportunity to share this experience with other students and members of the Charlottesville community. I was most looking forward to sharing dishes that con-

nect me with my Cuban and Puerto Rican heritage. Although I felt nervous to lead a class, the exciting and welcoming atmosphere of the center helped soothe my nerves. As attendees trickled into the kitchen, the introductions and welcoming conversations flowed easily.

I chose two foolproof and delicious recipes from my Latin heritage to share with the class — pastelitos de guayaba and piña coladas. I grew up eating pastelitos and making guava pastries with my mom, so getting to share this nostalgic treat with others was extremely special. The guava paste is thick and sweet, so the addition of the cream cheese adds a savory complexity that balances the flavors of the pastry. While I learned to make these from my mom, the Preppy Kitchen provides a great recipe to follow.

We made the pastelitos first since they require more time in the oven. Each participant was given portions of puff pastry dough, guava paste and cream cheese. While I demonstrated how to make one, everyone was set free to be as creative as they desired with shaping their bite-sized pieces which resulted in some cute triangles, rectangles and dump-

ling-shaped pastries.

We all chatted as we prepared our pastries. I was excited to hear participants talking about how this pastry reminded them of others from different cultures. One participant was curious to learn more about how pastelitos tie with similar pastries, and another attendee who had already taught a cooking class on moon cakes gladly shared her positive experience leading a cooking class as well. Once the baking sheets were full of beautiful pastries, we popped them into the oven for 20-30 minutes and the waiting began.

While the pastelitos were in the oven, I blended up delicious non-alcoholic piña coladas for the class to enjoy while we waited. Piña coladas are made of coconut milk, frozen pineapple, pineapple juice, ice and white rum, with a maraschino cherry and slice of pineapple for garnish.

The piña colada is Puerto Rico's national drink and was invented in 1954 by bartender Ramón Marrero at the Caribe Hilton hotel. While I was in Puerto Rico over winter break, my family visited the Caribe Hilton hotel in San Juan, which displays a plaque honoring the creation

of this famous beverage. I chose to pair the pastelitos with piña coladas because I wanted to share recipes from both my Cuban and Puerto Rican backgrounds.

The cool and refreshing piña coladas and warm guava pastries complemented each other well.

For the drinks, I used a simple recipe I found online as a reference. Having learned plenty of my kitchen skills from my mom, I didn't measure the ingredients and relied instead on taste and feel.

While we savored our freshly baked pastries, the participants and I brainstormed more cooking class recipe ideas, talking about how the blending of culture into fusion dishes provides an even greater opportunity to experience a variety of different foods.

Overall, I was grateful for the opportunity to lead this cooking class because it was a pleasant experience that ended up not being as nerve-racking as I'd anticipated. I love writing articles on foods and recipes from my cultural backgrounds and I realized the very essence of that comes back to human connection.

Teaching an in-person cooking

class granted me the opportunity to connect with people of similar interest much more directly than through writing — and while both modes are rewarding in their own ways, the change of pace from writing to a social experience reminded me what I love about food in the first place.

Food has the ability to create so much joy and genuine connection and is a magnificent vehicle for learning about other cultures and recognizing similarities in the human experience. There was a great turnout of enthusiastic people at the cooking class and the friendly environment was so much fun to be part of.

The International Center would love to hear from more people interested in volunteering — it doesn't have to be cooking related. Feel free to get in contact with the center with any volunteering questions or ideas in order to share parts of your own culture with the community.

Treasures by Trespure takes bake sales to the next level

Fourth-year Commerce student Trespure Gary successfully founded a profitable baking business as a full time student.

Kate Hunter | Features Writer

While many large and small businesses alike contribute to the University community, one small student-founded business in particular has flourished and spread sweetness on Grounds. Fourth-year Commerce student Trespure Gary has capitalized on her combined passions for baking and entrepreneurship by founding her own pastry business.

Gary is the founder, owner, baker and sole entrepreneur of the baking business Treasures by Trespure. Gary was a second-year student who had just applied to the McIntire School of Commerce and completed the required prerequisite courses when she decided to start her business.

"I knew this would be a good way to apply everything that I was learning to my own business," Gary said. "I was also taking an entrepreneurship course, which motivated me to start my own business as well."

Alongside her enthusiasm for

entrepreneurship, Gary's passion for baking travels back to even before college. In high school, Gary took a catering class which allowed her to cater for school events. She learned how to bake a cake from scratch and expanded her skills in the kitchen by trying other recipe ideas she found on Pinterest.

"I kind of just used to do it for fun," Gary said. "I would post what I made and people would ask, like, can they buy it or things of that sort? So I decided to turn it into a business."

With an entrepreneurship course, a business license and a knack for baking, Gary created her business from scratch, despite the pandemic, in January 2021. Although starting a small business was not part of her life plan, demand for her unique pastries prompted her to create Treasures by Trespure.

Since then, Gary has been operating Treasures by Trespure for over two years. Gary has strived to pro-

vide unique and original flavors with a homemade touch in her products. She sells pastries such as brownies, cupcakes and mini cheesecakes.

"These are treats that you wouldn't find in a typical bakery," Gary said. "For example, I make a strawberry crunch brownie, which I haven't seen in any other bakery."

Gary's business has proven to be profitable, with the help of her popular desserts like the strawberry crunch brownie or her cookies and cream bar.

"[The strawberry crunch brownie] sounds a little strange, but it's similar to if you've ever had the strawberry shortcake ice cream, there's a crumble that's on it — I recreate that crumble and put it on top like a strawberry batter," Gary said. "I also make cookies and cream cookies, which are like the cookies and cream Hershey bar, I have chunks of that in it. With Oreos, white chocolate all in one cookie — it's like the best thing

ever."

Gary is able to manage being a full-time student and an entrepreneur with the help of a Google Calendar for time management, but readily admits that this task is not easy.

"It's really hard, especially when it comes time for group work," Gary said. "You have to explain, it's not like a solid job with solid hours — you have to literally make the time."

Treasures by Trespure has derived its popularity on Grounds by catering University events and pop-up shops. Gary sets up her pop-up shops at Newcomb, near the food trucks or in schools such as Commerce.

"Through my website, there's a contact form for people that need larger catering orders," Gary said.

When Gary is not catering for University events, she sells her products through pop-up shops around the community. Gary announces when and where these

pop-up shops are through Instagram and her website.

Gary's most recent pop-up shop was for St. Patrick's Day, where she sold some of her homemade treats. She is aiming to do another one in April or end of March before she graduates this May.

After graduation, Gary plans to continue running her business. She will be moving to Arlington and plans on doing pop-up shops there. In the future, she hopes to run a dessert truck and possibly return to Grounds. Through her business, Gary has not only found a way to meaningfully engage with the community but also found a passion.

"It's also something that I started completely from scratch," Gary said. "I feel like it's like my child. I know I'm raising it right and I see it grow and the only way I could see it grow is if I invest my time into it."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

“Women Making Books” challenges stereotypes

The exhibition promotes bookmaking as an instrument of female agency throughout time and around the world

Melanie Chuh | Staff Writer

Two glass cases of women’s scrapbooks, zines and mementos line the walls of the First Floor Gallery in the University’s Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library. The exhibition, “Women Making Books,” showcases stories ranging from the 18th century to the 21st century that assert bookmaking as a source of female agency in the historically male-dominated world of literature.

The exhibit opened to accompany the 2023 British Women Writers Association Conference that will be held May 25 through May 27 at the University.

Andrew Stauffer, English professor and one of the conference faculty advisors, initiated the “Women Making Books” exhibition, seeking to curate an exhibition encapsulating the conference’s themes and “show off” the University’s special collections.

After Stauffer reached out to a curator of University Library Exhibitions, Holly Robertson, and Annyston Pennington, a doctoral student at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the exhibition was born.

“We’re hoping people during breaks will stop by and think about ... how women wrote and what it means to write and what it means to make a book in different ways,” Stauffer said.

This year, the BWWA Conference theme is Liberties, so Pennington framed “Women Making Books” accordingly, choosing a diverse array of handmade items through which women freely express their stories.

The exhibit displays pieces by both renowned female writers — like Virginia Woolf, who printed her acclaimed novels herself — and ordinary women who kept scrapbooks and annotated their favorite poems. Pennington said that featuring the latter “disrupts” the widely held notion that “to be a capital-W Woman writer” is to be a prominent published author.

The exhibition explores the concept of femininity by featuring needlework and hairwork throughout history, revealing the compelling stories behind art forms often overlooked.

“Common Threads: Volume 128” is a fabric sculpture in the shape of a composition book on

which the artist, Candace Hicks, embroiders her musings on the political significance behind word choices. Pennington described domestic activity such as needlework as one of the few areas in which women could “establish modes of power.” The curators included Hicks’s piece as an employment of historically feminine activity to assert female empowerment.

Across the hall in another glass case lies an array of Victorian hairwork. 19th century women would gift one another locks of hair, braided into jewelry that they can wear or store in scrapbooks. The women labeled the adornments with the names of their loved ones, as seen in the work, demonstrating a memorial and sentimental function.

As Victorian hairwork represents the everlasting bonds of female camaraderie, another piece titled “HAIR 머리카락” uses hair to bind poetry into a small booklet and to symbolize the simultaneous “obsession and contempt” with the female body. This mod-

ern piece utilizes two languages — Korean and English — to cement the universality of feminine struggles, a sentiment that unites women across cultures.

“Women Making Books” also explores the human desire for connection, whether reaching for personal connections with one another or towards the greater world.

Pennington, who is non-binary, recalled the awe they experience when they see commonplace books in special collections, describing them as collaging others’ words and images “in conversation with each other” to communicate an entirely new idea.

“Presumably, these women were not only making these objects for themselves, but also to share them and to show their friends or create them collaboratively,” Pennington said. “People have always wanted to do this sort of thing, and it’s definitely worth celebrating.”

“She Feels Your Absence Deeply” is another piece that exhibits the strive for connection,

especially across great physical distances. Class of 1998 alumna Golnar Adili creates images with children’s toy blocks to narrate the story of her parents’ immigration from Iran to the U.S.

On the blocks, Adili quotes one of her mother’s letters to her father who traveled to the United States by first describing the family’s agonizing longing for their father, emphasizing how the yearning for connection with loved ones is a desire that exceeds the cultural bounds of time and place.

“Women Making Books” takes care to feature a diverse set of voices, committing to inclusivity and highlighting marginalized individuals. Pennington hopes to challenge the notion of a gender binary through the exhibit, which includes several works by authors whose genders are unknown due to the authors’ own anonymity or the authors’ varied expressions of gender.

“What does it actually mean that women are doing this stuff?” Pennington said. “What it means

to be a woman changes culturally over time along all these different axes, so how can this even be a discrete category that we use to narrow the field?”

Thus, Pennington said they deliberately selected voices pushed to the side by the “masculine perspective,” which often deems activities like needlework and “un-domestic labor” feminine.

By recontextualizing these stereotypes, which serve as “a site wherein women have had to work within a box in order to establish modes of power,” Pennington hopes to pave the way for writers using a variety of media to transcend the ordinary definition of books as they do gender.

The “Women Making Books” exhibit will be on display through June 10 in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library.



The “Women Making Books” exhibit will be on display through June 10 in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

ALISON PIKE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Art department plans memorials honoring D'Sean Perry

Perry, one of the victims in the tragic November shooting on Grounds, was a Studio Art major at the University

Emily Pitts | Staff Writer

The art department is currently working on two memorials to honor D'Sean Perry — who was an involved Studio Art major in the College — including a bench next to the Culbreth Garage and banners of Perry's artwork which will hang around Arts Grounds. As students, faculty, friends and family continue to grieve the tragic events of last semester's shooting, the University community has come together to ensure the legacies of D'Sean Perry, Lavel Davis Jr. and Devin Chandler are not forgotten.

Victoria Valdes — assistant director of the Visual Resources Collection in the Art Department — devised the idea to memorialize Perry by using art to honor the profound, distinct impact he had beyond the football field. For Valdes, these memorials are informed by her personal connection to Perry, who was one of her students.

"He just was wonderful to work with," Valdes said about Perry, whose altruism and passion for his artwork was evident to those who interacted with him. Valdes recalled carrying a 60-pound bag of plaster down the hall when Perry offered to carry it for him.

"He was so enthusiastic, he was kind, he got the other guys engaged," Valdes said. "He would go out of his way to make sure that they were on the

same level with him and that they were up to up to date on whatever we were working on at the time."

Third-year College student Jay Pendarvis, a fellow student athlete and friend of Davis, Chandler and Perry, noticed Perry's kindness in their shared class, the African American theater class on the bus during the shooting.

"We had to get in groups [in class] ... D'Sean was sitting at the back and he had his group already," Pendarvis said. "He looked over to me and I didn't have anybody. He was like, 'Bro, you're coming to work with us'... If he saw someone wasn't included in something, he would try and include you. I really appreciated that."

Along with his ardent commitment to football, Perry was extremely dedicated to his art, which is reflected in the pieces he created.

"[Sports] can be very draining and take a toll on your body," Valdes said. "To then be able to turn around and use your body in a different way... you're molding or you're cutting or you're sanding... all these activities sort of allow you to step back and just be creative... this inspiration comes out of your own needs and desires."

Valdes recalls a specific project in photogrammetry — a method of creating 3-D models — where Perry not

only created the one model that was required, but went home and made multiple additional pieces. In one of these models, Perry created a bust of himself as Greek myth character Icarus.

"It was a representation of how he felt with football and his major and all the academic pressure at the same time as a sports pressure," Valdes said. "Sometimes [he felt] like [he was] overthinking and flying too close to the sun."

Valdes hopes the bench — located near the garage where the shooting occurred — will transform the location into an area for students to both rest and reflect on the lives of the victims.

"It's really easy for a generation of students to move on through the University and then wonder what happened there," Valdes said.

The proposal for the second memorial, pending the University's approval, intends to replace various miscellaneous banners hanging around arts grounds with banners depicting artwork Perry left behind.

While the University art department initially intended to complete the memorials by what would have been Perry's graduation this spring — for which his family will be in attendance — the installments must first undergo a lengthy approval process be-

cause of their affiliation with the University. This process involves the University Architect, who will make sure the bench is up to code, and University Communications, responsible for all appearances of University branding.

The memorials have the full support of Perry's family, with whom the University art department has been in contact.

"[Perry's parents'] heart's desire is to really just see D'Sean memorialized," Valdes said. "To see that we care and that we were invested in him, and we truly were."

The art department remains committed to honoring Perry during final exercises. Fourth-year Studio Art majors' final spring show will feature an area reserved for Perry's artwork, alongside other student pieces responding to the tragedy.

Pendarvis, a fellow studio art major, will have one of his pieces on display, which he created for another class as a response to losing Davis, Chandler and Perry. He created a wearable angel wing, designed specifically from Perry's Icarus statue.

"I kind of wanted to symbolize them as guardian angels in the sky, rather than continuously looking at the tragedy," Pendarvis said. "The easiest way for me to get through it, I think,

was to see them as angels, looking over us now that they're not here anymore."

On the outside of the wing, Pendarvis added flowers while maintaining details of feathers to adhere to Perry's original creation. Moving up the wing, the flowers begin to decay, symbolizing the passage of time, from life to death.

Accompanying the physical wing, Pendarvis, who is pursuing a concentration in cinematography, is working in a class to create a film to accompany the wing to explain a bit more of its context.

"We had one of my teammates wear [the wing]," Pendarvis said. "Once we're done filming we'll probably take the straps off and make sure nobody wears it again, because it's, it's hard to put on...we'll probably put it on a stand and put it in D'Sean's senior showcase along with the video that accompanies the wing."

Pendarvis' response pieces, along with other student responses, will be displayed alongside Perry's exhibit in the studio art majors' spring show, which will officially open May 20.

"[Perry had an] overflowing sense of life," Valdes said. "I would love to see more guys and gals from [sports] teams come in and actually engage with the arts. It's such a great way to sort of express the fullness of your personality."

Local fiber artists fight against fast fashion

By constructing clothing with fabric, yarn or thread, fiber artists promote Earth-conscious creativity

Elizabeth Shackelford | Staff Writer

Between classes, third-year College student Faith Goalder finds herself knitting in the halls of the University's academic buildings. Knitting needles in hand, Goalder is one of the many young fiber artists working with fabric, yarn or thread as a material to advocate for sustainable fashion.

Goalder works to negate the issues of fast fashion by investing time into a budding movement referred to as slow fashion — the antithesis of fast fashion — which aims to combat the issues of overconsumption and overproduction within the fashion industry. For Goalder, this has meant learning how to knit and crochet.

"My grandmother taught me to knit during quarantine," said Goalder, whose initial interest was to make sweaters.

Now, after fully diving into the hobby, she's made everything from shirts to tote bags, making her uniquely familiar with the processes that go into the creation of garments as both a form of art and a practice of necessity.

"As I have gotten more into [fiber arts], I have gotten a better look at slow fashion and sustainability," Goalder said.

Goalder said that it can take her up to a month to finish one piece, giving her insight into the true amount of labor that goes into the production of her store-bought clothes. In doing so, artists like Goalder reduce clothing waste by putting care into the quality of their garments, ensuring that each piece is meant to last.

Third-year College student Sofia Garcias is another local fiber artist engaging with the sustainability movement through her creations. Like Goalder, she learned from her grandmother, and began incorporating environmentally conscious practices into her projects.

"I try not to waste too much fabric. I'm mindful of how I cut my fabric so it [will] last, and I don't buy [materials] constantly. I use what I already have at my disposal," Garcias said, echoing Goalder's statements regarding the importance of mindful consumption.

The ethos of sustainability revolves around consuming mindfully and reusing products to avoid excessive production — Goalder acknowledges the difficulty in practicing sustainability in artistic disciplines based on the creation of something new.

"[Knitting's popularity on] TikTok and social media increases that mass consumption," Goalder said. "I feel like knitting influencers, in some ways, feel pressure to create a lot more [pieces] because they want to get [their work] out to their audience."

As slow fashion itself becomes a trend, it can paradoxically lead to issues of overconsumption in other forms, such as in the consumption of yarn. Thus, the slow fashion movement is not without its own environmental impacts — while synthetic yarns, such as acrylic yarn, are more affordable than natural yarns, they are also composed of fibers produced with fossil fuels.

"I think that both knitting and crocheting are [sustainable] either way no matter what fiber you're

making them with," Goalder said. "They're still more Earth conscious than buying from a fast fashion company."

In order to reduce their environmental impact, fiber artists like Goalder and Garcias reuse materials for new projects, upcycles and even simply learn how to mend existing garments.

"I'm interested in reclaiming the yarn from sweaters [I get] from a thrift store," Goalder said. "You can take old sweaters and make them into something new."

Garcias also advocates for conscientious choices regarding the materials she uses for her project.

"I try not to use mixed fiber fabrics because they are harder to recycle," Garcia said. "I try to use only cotton materials."

Goalder also said that practicality is an important aspect of maintaining sustainability in her artform. In doing so, artists are intentional with the projects they create, and they waste fewer materials.

"It's important that [fiber artists] make garments that they continual-

ly wear or something that somebody else will be able to get use out of," Goalder said.

Goalder is also a regular at a local knitting circle, where she meets with other community knitters involved in slow-fashion.

"It's nice to be able to get perspectives from people who aren't all U.Va. students," Goalder said. "There are a variety of ages, and a variety of different reasons why people come to knitting and crocheting that helps me see more of the wider Charlottesville community."

Within the University and the greater Charlottesville community alike, sustainable fiber artists are coming together in a place where art meets practicality. As the craft becomes an increasingly common form of sustainable expression, artists like Goalder and Garcias are finding new ways to engage with the modern world of fashion by synthesizing creation and conservation.

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Tina Fey

in conversation with President Jim Ryan

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