A MONUMENTAL RECKONING

U.Va. BOV VOTES TO CONTEXTUALIZE JEFFERSON MONUMENTS PAGE 4

FOUNDING FATHER (AND RAPIST, ENSLAVER OF SALLY HEMINGS)

CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA (AN INSTITUTION WITH SLAVERY AT ITS CORE)

WROTE ‘NOTES ON THE STATES OF VIRGINIA’ (WHICH SUPPORTED WHITE SUPREMACY)

AUTHORED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (CONTRADICTING RACIST BELIEFS WITH THE PHRASE ‘ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL’)
This week in-brief

CD News Staff

Albemarle County removes statue of Confederate soldier ‘Johnny Reb’

Albemarle County removed its “Johnny Reb” Confederate statue and nearby cannons and stacks of cannonballs from the county courthouse Sept 12.

The life-size bronze representation of a nonspecific soldier, officially named “At Ready,” was erected in front of the Albemarle County Courthouse in 1909 — 44 years after the conclusion of the Civil War. Unlike local statues of Confederate generals, the monument depicts the common soldier of the Confederacy. “At Ready” was paid for by the county, the City of Charlottesville and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors voted 6-0 in favor of the statue’s removal Aug. 6 — just a month after a Virginia state law went into effect July 1 granting localities control over their Confederate monuments. The monument is the first in the area to fall, as an injunction currently bars the removal of the City of Charlottesville’s monuments to Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.

Its removal follows that of Confederate monuments in Richmond, which were pulled from their plinths throughout the month of July.

Charlottesville Tomorrow reports that the statue will be relocated to Third Winchester Battlefield historical site in Frederick County, which is managed by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

Virginia Student Power Network hosts press conference on ‘disastrous’ reopening of state colleges and universities

As coronavirus cases on Virginia campuses surpassed 2,000 and the number of cases at U.Va. ticked above 100, the Virginia Student Power Network held a virtual press conference Sept. 15 to express concerns about coronavirus conditions at colleges and universities across the state.

Current students and alumni from George Mason, William and Mary, Virginia Tech, Virginia Commonwealth University and U.Va. shared their stories in the hopes of showing a pattern of imprudent behavior from administrators since the pandemic forced students home in mid-March.

Since then, VSPN members say that schools have not done enough to adequately prepare their campuses for the return of students this fall.

“These are just symptoms of the underlying disease of corporatization and the attrition of our universities as public goods,” said Illy Han, a 2017 College graduate and VSPN member. “Our universities are not prioritizing the lives of students, workers, faculty and communities. They’re balancing their budgets on the backs of students and their families.”

The organization also noted the “ripple effect” on the surrounding community, including Black and Brown service workers at U.Va. and in the outer Charlottesville community, who are “disproportionately impacted” by the University’s decision to reopen. In response, VSPN members suggested hazard pay for all workers — full-time, contract, part-time and student — increased testing capacity, the purchase of additional personal protective equipment and tuition freezes.

‘Meet the Greeks’ event disrupted by unidentified individual shouting racial slur

An unidentified user interrupted a “Meet the Greeks” information session Sept. 15 held by the University’s National Panhellenic Council — an umbrella organization for historically predominantly Black Greek organizations — and repeatedly shouted a racist slur, according to a University-wide email sent Tuesday morning by Dean of Students Allen Groves, Kevin McDonald, vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion and community partnerships, and Maurice Apprey, dean of the Office of African-American Affairs. When the student host of the meeting tried to remove the individual, the same racist message appeared on the screen in red letters.

“It’s sad that opportunity and peace of mind is constantly robbed of us,” said Danielle Muriel, NPHC president and a fourth-year College student. “Black students should be able to go to information sessions and go to bed afterwards unbothered.”

The email added that the University is working to identify the individual and whether they are affiliated with the University community. Groves, McDonald and Apprey said that these individuals are believed to be unaffiliated with the University and located outside of the United States.

Muriel said that she hopes to put on another event in the future with stricter safety measures, but added that she hopes the University is able to enforce repercussions for hate speech in the future.

U.Va. reports 378 total positive cases, of which 330 are students

Since Aug. 17, the University’s COVID tracker has reported 378 positive cases of coronavirus in the University community — including faculty, staff, students and contracted employees. University students make up 73% of the total positive cases. Sept. 16 marked the highest number of daily reported cases since Aug. 17, recording 39 positive cases in the University community.

These numbers are only reflective of students who have tested positive through the Student Health & Wellness or the U.Va. Health Clinic. The University COVID tracker dashboard does not include the number of positive student cases that may have been detected with pre-arrival testing. Of the 18,151 tests returned so far, 65 have been positive for coronavirus.

The dashboard also reports 11 percent of the student quarantine rooms to be currently occupied and one percent of student isolation rooms to be occupied. These numbers include students who are in post-travel quarantine.
Residents of the Balz-Dobie dormitory were told Sept. 16 to quarantine in their rooms after five first-year residents tested positive for COVID-19 and wastewater testing of the dorm provided positive indicators of a possible outbreak. The University instructed all 188 Balz-Dobie residents to return to their dorms immediately to be tested for COVID-19 at 6 p.m., according to an email to residents obtained by The Cavalier Daily.

Residents waiting for tests, including first-year College student Luke Lamberson, have reported yelling to each other through open windows and blasting music — including the song “Strayin Alive” — to keep morale up.

“People are trying to uplift each other,” Lamberson said. “We understand the risks and gravity of the situation so we’re trying to keep each other positive.”

Results for the tests are expected within 24-48 hours, according to the email from Provost Liz Magill, Chief Operating Officer J.J. Davis, Medicine Department Chair Mitch Rosner and Amy Mathers, associate professor of Medicine and Pathology. Until test results are delivered, residents have been asked to quarantine in their rooms and wear a mask at all times — including in hallways and their rooms — unless sleeping.

University spokesperson Brian Coy said in an email to The Cavalier Daily that all residents who test positive for the virus will be relocated to University isolation rooms while those in close contact with infected individuals will be moved to University quarantine rooms.

“Staff from University Student Affairs, Housing and Residence Life and Student Health and Wellness are on-site at Balz-Dobie and offering residents resources and support,” Coy said.

Some students have been frustrated with their attempts to contact Student Health about possible cases and symptoms, including first-year College students Maddie Stokes and Alyssa Underwood, who are roommates in Balz-Dobie.

“They had come into contact with someone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 but had difficulty arranging quarantine housing with Student Health,” Underwood said. “We had to advocate for ourselves.”

After multiple phone calls with Student Health, both were able to move into quarantine housing in the Hampton Inn & Suites off-Grounds.

“It was all on us to continue to call Student Health when we found out about our contact … so it was a frustrating day,” Stokes said.

First-year students moved into on-Grounds dormitories Sept. 3 through Sept. 6 after the University delayed on-Grounds move-in by two weeks. Roughly 4,400 students currently reside in on-Grounds residence halls.

Second-year College student Ryan Smith, a Resident Advisor in Balz-Dobie, told The Cavalier Daily that RAs have not received much direction or information beyond encouragement support residents and ensure compliance with the University’s COVID-19 guidelines. Smith said residents had begun taking their own precautions prior to Wednesday’s alert.

“We were already kind of implementing our own soft lockdown before they sent [the email] out,” Smith said. “I’ve seen residents being really responsible, compassionate about it and telling others if they think there’s a chance they have it.”

Working with the Virginia Department of Health, the University is monitoring wastewater from residence halls — wastewater samples are being collected every 15 minutes and pooled over a 24-hour period, then are tested by UVA’s Health to detect any presence of COVID-19. If the wastewater indicates a breakout, the University will test all residents of the building.

The University’s COVID Tracker reports 11 percent of student quarantine rooms and one percent of student isolation rooms as currently occupied. These numbers include students who are in post-travel quarantine.

Residents may pick up food from an outdoor tent at Observatory Hill Dining Hall after their respective floor has been tested Wednesday night. The University has committed to arranging future meals for the rest of the quarantine.

“As we have said previously, we have been planning for months for the return of students knowing there would be cases of COVID-19 among the University community,” the email to Balz-Dobie residents stated. “We have put in place health and safety measures and expanded testing to detect and contain cases as quickly as possible.”

As of 4 p.m. Sept. 16, the University’s COVID Tracker reports 176 positive cases of coronavirus since Aug. 17 in the University community — including faculty, staff, students and contracted employees. University students make up 390 of the total positive cases.

Jack Goodman, a first-year College student, said a dormitory-wide group chat has been instrumental in keeping Balz-Dobie residents informed about potential exposure to COVID-19.

“Everyone’s been notifying our entire residence hall chat about when they’re going to quarantine and when they’re getting tested and whether it’s positive or negative,” Goodman said. “And if I had to give a little bit of advice to other dorms, it’d be to make sure everyone’s open with what’s going on, because hiding the test results will only make it worse for everyone in the long run.”
The Board of Visitors voted to change historic landscape

The Board of Visitors voted to contextualize the Thomas Jefferson statue, remove George Rogers Clark statue

Eva Surovell | Senior Associate Editor

BOV votes to change historic landscape

The Board of Visitors voted to contextualize the Thomas Jefferson statue, remove George Rogers Clark statue

LAUREN HORNBY & JENN BRIDGE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The statue of Clark, a Revolutionary war general who led campaigns against Native Americans, was erected in the 1940s and depicts Clark on horseback, towering over three Native American individuals, with an inscription that reads "Conqueror of the Northwest." and enrolled member of the Crow Tribe.Siouxs Tribe in South Dakota. In an interview with The Cavalier Daily before the Board’s discussion, Lopez emphasized that, beyond removal of the statue, the University must work to establish representation and support for the Indigenous community at the University. "It really would be a hollow gesture to remove [the Clark statue] but not address any of the systemic issues here at the University, which silence Native Americans," Lopez said.

Rededication or removal of Hume Memorial Wall

The Board also voted to rededicate or remove the Frank Hume Memorial Wall — also known as the Whispering Wall — located outside of Newcomb Hall and Brown College. Hume was a Confederate army soldier who later served in the Virginia House of Delegates. The inscription on the wall, which the resolution calls a "symbol of support for slavery and inequality," refers to Hume as a "devoted Virginian who served his native state in Civil War and Legislative Hall."

This summer, a student-authored petition calling to remove the Whispering Wall garnered over 2,000 signatures.

Renaming of the Curry School of Education

The Board also voted to rename the Curry School of Education and Human Development to the School of Education and Human Development. J.L.M. Curry — whose legacy has been called into question due to his slaveholding, opposition to integrating schools and service to the Confederate Army — was neither a student nor faculty member at the University. The decision follows a process of exploring the schools nameake that began in November 2018, when Curry School Dean Robert Pianta instructed an ad-hoc Committee on Names to conduct a "thorough and thoughtful process of study" regarding the future of the Curry and Ruffner names. Last June, the Board voted unanimously to remove Ruffner Hall in honor of Walter Ridley, the first Black student to earn a doctoral degree from the University.

The Board also voted to remove and relocate the George Rogers Clark statue located by the Corner. The statue of Clark, a Revolutionary war general who led campaigns against Native Americans, was erected in the 1940s and depicts Clark on horseback, towering over three Native American individuals, with an inscription that reads "Conqueror of the Northwest." and enrolled member of the Crow Tribe. Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. In an interview with The Cavalier Daily before the Board’s discussion, Lopez emphasized that, beyond removal of the statue, the University must work to establish representation and support for the Indigenous community at the University. "It really would be a hollow gesture to remove [the Clark statue] but not address any of the systemic issues here at the University, which silence Native Americans," Lopez said.

Racial Equity Task Force goals

The Board also endorsed other goals put forth by the task force that pertain to the University's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. The goals include doubling the number of underrepresented faculty at the University by 2030, reviewing the tenure and promotion process and reviewing hiring policies to ensure equitable staff hiring, wages, retention, promotion and procurement. The University also aims to recruit a student body reflective of the demographics of the Commonwealth and nation at large over a time-period that is yet to be determined, debating on a case-by-case basis whether the University should aim for a student body that is reflective of Virginia, the nation or students nationwide. In 2021, the University’s undergraduate student body was 57.68 percent white, 15.43 percent Asian American, 6.62 percent Hispanic American, 6.61 percent African American, 0.11 percent Native American or Alaskan, 0.07 percent Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and 5.43 percent unknown, 5.02 percent non-resident alien and 4.82 percent multi-racial American.

Additionally, the University looks to encourage the development of a scholarship program for descendants of enslaved laborers who built the University, provide the Carter Woodson Institute for African American Studies with an endowment and funding for recruiting faculty and explore options for recognizing and supporting Native American students and Native American studies. Other resources are to be allocated to the division of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Community Partnerships.

The University also aims to develop academic and leadership programs geared toward racial equity and anti-racism. Finally, it will be "thoroughly reviewing" University Police practices and introducing a Department of Safety and Security Advisory Council.

The Board also voted to create a plan for funding, implementing and measuring progress toward the recommendations. The Board’s commitments today are a significant step toward building upon the important work of those in years past and the racially centered work of students, alumni and colleagues that continues today," McDonnell said. "I’m grateful for the support of the board and most importantly, I look forward to the implementation process ahead, as we set the necessary expectations and accountability measures that will ensure and sustain our institutional efforts."
University President Jim Ryan provided the Board of Visitors with an update on the University's reopening and COVID-19 prevention efforts — such as testing and student compliance with public health guidelines — at the Sept. 11 full Board meeting. Director of Athletics Carla Williams also detailed the return of student athletes to Grounds and Mazzen Shalaby, a fourth-year Batten student and student representative to the Board, delivered remarks.

Update on the University’s reopening and COVID-19 prevention efforts

Ryan, who spoke with both students and Resident Advisors during move-in, said that he was glad the University staggered the process because it did not feel crowded.

Still, Ryan said that he recognizes that Resident Advisors are facing “difficult and more challenging issues” this semester, noting that he had seen a list of demands published by an anonymous group of RAs. The demands released Aug. 26 via Twitter called on Housing and Residence Life to support RAs this semester by addressing COVID-19 and safety issues — such as providing additional compensation, hazard pay, meals, and personal protective equipment — as well as several equity and inclusion concerns.

“The professional and student leadership of the resident staff program are working together to provide RAs with the support they need,” Ryan said. “This will too be an ongoing conversation.”

With in-person classes underway, Ryan said that he would describe the University’s reopening as “so far, so good” — but not perfect.

Finally, Ryan said that the University is working to develop a second version of its COVID-19 dashboard, which will include more information on the spread of the virus in the University community.

Update on fall sports from Director of Athletics Carla Williams

Director of Athletics Carla Williams provided the Board with an update on student athletes, who began returning to Grounds for training in early July. Williams said that the athletic department had wanted to take a conservative approach to bringing athletes back, though most Power Five schools allowed student athletes to come back in June.

As of last week, all 17 of the University’s varsity programs are back on Grounds. According to Williams, Virginia Athletics administered 649 tests in the first nine days of September — as of Sept. 11, there were five additional cases of COVID-19 among student athletes and 17 student athletes in quarantine.

Williams also said that the athletic department has implemented numerous safety protocols in order to safeguard student athletes, coaches and staff. Thanks to a contribution of 2,500 masks from a former football player, the athletic department was able to issue masks to individuals throughout the athletic department. Additionally, Williams said that cleaning and sanitization of weight rooms and training rooms has been a priority of Virginia Athletics and endorsed during its meeting Sept. 11, there were five additional cases of COVID-19 among student athletes and 17 student athletes in quarantine.

Finally, Ryan said that the University’s fall sports season Sept. 12, while Virginia Football’s season opener was postponed due to “COVID-19 issues” at Virginia Tech. All fall Olympic sports will play a modified schedule this season and fan attendance at games will be limited to families of student athletes and coaching staff.

Remarks from student member of the Board

Fourth-year Batten student Mazzen Shalaby, the student representative to the Board, focused on the University’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the racial equity task force’s recommendations and student concerns in his remarks to the Board.

Shalaby said that he has been impressed with students’ resilience and dedication in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in light of all that they have missed out on. He said that he thinks the University has made important strides in areas like testing, but noted that students still have concerns about what will happen if cases rise and how to protect the Charlottesville community and University employees, staff and faculty.

“Understand that students — like you all — are exhausted from uncertainty or being yanked around by the pandemic, changing communication, changing decisions and people just want to feel like they can effectively plan for the future beyond the next 10 minutes,” Shalaby said. “While this isn’t necessarily anyone’s fault, it’s the reality of what we’re feeling.”

Shalaby also discussed recent efforts to extend last semester’s default credit/no credit grading policy, citing learning challenges students may face as well as the mental and emotional struggles of learning online and “Zoom fatigue.”

Shalaby said that the topic he has heard the most about from students has been tuition. He acknowledged that this year’s tuition is already set, and the University is facing difficult times financially, but said that none of that invalidates students’ concerns.

“This is seemingly a no-win situation,” Shalaby said. “But I think frank communication about the financial realities of the University during this time may be a good place to start.”

Finally, Shalaby also discussed the racial equity task force’s recommendations, which the Board endorsed during its meeting Sept. 11. The Board also voted to contextualize the Thomas Jefferson statue in front of the Rotunda, remove the George Rogers Clark statue on the Corner, rename the Curry School of Education and Human Development, rededicate or remove the Frank Hume Memorial Wall and rename Wither-Brown Hall at the School of Law. Shalaby said that these goals should be the “floor not the ceiling” and noted that while it is important to attract a diverse student body, he thinks it is important that the University support them when they arrive.

“With in-person classes underway, Ryan said that he would describe the University’s reopening as “so far, so good” — but not perfect.

President Ryan updates BOV on U.Va. reopening

Athletics Director Carla Williams and student representative Mazzen Shalaby also delivered remarks

Eva Surovell | Senior Associate Editor
**News**

**Lack of internet access hinders learning experiences**

The University continues to provide CARES Act funding for students in need and has distributed up to $1.36 million in technology assistance alone.

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Jee-Ho Kim | Staff Writer

Varied accessibility to broadband internet has compromised the quality of education for University students, as most classes are online and rely on high speed internet for synchronous remote learning — just 27 percent of classes have an in-person component. Broadband refers to a high-speed internet that is always on. According to a report from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, approximately 10 percent of college students in Virginia do not have access to broadband. For Virginia students overall, those in rural areas tend to have less access than those in urban areas. The University, the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County are all classified as rural according to the report.

Fourth year College student Avery Gagne stayed home in Mechanicsville, Va. when students were sent back last spring and for the first two weeks of this semester. He has only one internet service provider available at his address. As a result, he had no choice but to make do with what he characterized as “slow, poor low bandwidth.”

“A lot of it was frantically running from room to room in my house trying to find a place where the internet connection worked,” Gagne said.

Skylar Wampler, a fourth-year College student, moved to off-Grounds housing at The Standard in July in order to take an online summer class required to graduate on time. With the funding she receives as an Access UVA scholar, Wampler was able to relocate from her hometown of Broadway, Va. to access faster and more consistent internet.

“I live in the middle of the woods and there’s no possible way to even run high speed internet out there,” Wampler said. “I would have taken a leave of absence this semester if I couldn’t have access to The Standard.”

Staying home for the first two weeks of the semester also led to academic consequences for Gagne. Sept. 8, the first day of in-person classes, was also the add deadline for students in the College, while the drop deadline was extended to Oct. 12 and withdrawal to Oct. 20. Gagne, expressed concern over the “gatekeeping” nature of online classes that made it difficult for students to shop around without already being enrolled with access to meetings.

“But one of my professors in the class that I’ve now dropped does a thing where having your video on was like extra credit, which . . . sucks,” he said. “I have to turn off my video to make my internet work so I can actually understand what’s happening.”

Gagne mentioned how not every professor records their synchronous lectures, which negatively impacts students who are unable to maintain a strong internet connection for the entire duration of a class.

UVA has received $35.6 million for COVID-related financial needs from the U.S. Department of Education’s CARES Act — the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Per the CARES Act, at least half of the funds must be provided as Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students. Students can apply for technology-related assistance and general assistance. Other forms of financial aid such as Bridge Scholarships have also been established by the University.

Since the release of the streamlined application process last May, over 3,000 students have received emergency financial aid so far. Of those 3,000 students, 1,150 were given a total of about $1.36 million in funding for technology. CARES Act funding is still available for both technological and non-technological related needs through next spring.

“ funding has been used for hardware, software, internet access and hotspots to ensure that students are able to attend classes virtually, even in areas of unreliable internet,” said Wes Hester, deputy University spokesperson and director of media relations.

Hester also mentions the Laptops for Students Program that provides low-income students with laptops through Student Financial Aid. Around 100 laptops have been supplied this year.

Gagne did not recall hearing that CARES funding was available. “I’m gonna be honest, that was never communicated to me,” he said. “And even if they sent an email it could have easily gotten lost under the deluge of emails that they’ve been sending in the lead up to moving back on grounds.”

Dean of Students Allen Groves notified students of CARES funding opportunities in an April 22 email. The University later removed a June deadline to receive the financial aid.

Wampler replied similarly, but she was able to learn about the CARES Act through a friend and successfully received grants twice through the general aid application. She did not apply for technological aid.

“The CARES Act would only help with a technological situation if I needed, like, a computer or a hotspot, but because of where I live, I couldn’t even get a hotspot,” Wampler said. “It’s really in the middle of nowhere ... the cell towers just don’t reach that far.”

While taking classes from home last spring semester, Wampler was unable to mitigate the effects of poor internet by receiving a Student Disability Access Center accommodation. Her professors were notified of her technological situation and accordantly adjusted class expectations for her. Deadlines to view lectures were extended, for example, and Wampler was also exempted from requirements to participate in online synchronous classes.

“I did do all the work,” Wampler said. “I did end up watching all the lectures at some point, I just couldn’t always be there.”

In order to receive the accommodation from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Wampler’s cellular plan provides 60 gigabytes of data per month, which was just enough to get her through the rest of spring semester, although the connection was inconsistent. Other alternatives Wampler employed involved going to a friend’s house in the city or to her family’s church to connect to their internet.

Gagne used a mobile hotspot once as a last resort, but he does not have sufficient data to use it consistently.

The two week self-quarantine that Gagne underwent to return to Grounds overlapped with the period of online-only classes. During the quarantine, Gagne was unable to leave his home to access publicly available Wi-Fi.

Once Gagne returned to Charlottesville and gained access to broadband, his ability to engage with online classes significantly improved. He understands, however, that not every student is able to come back to Grounds.

“It just felt like . . . the whole planning thing was based off of the assumption that students would have Charlottesville-level quality internet,” he said.

Gagne believes maintaining accommodations from spring semester could be a way the University could help account for varied internet accessibility for students.

“I think having the same grading system as last semester would be the most responsible thing to do,” he said. “I wasn’t getting the full educational value out of the classes I had signed up for, but at least I didn’t have to worry about that negatively impacting my GPA.”

“It really made me feel more secure in my situation that I could do Credit/No Credit if I so chose,” Wampler said about last semester.

“The fact that Credit/No Credit is not an option for the semester really astounds me.”

Both Gagne and Wampler appreciate the level of accommodation professors provided in spring.

“I am really grateful to the people that tried to help me with my internet situation, and I’m really grateful to my professors for being so flexible,” Wampler said.

One way professors could help students, Gagne said, would be by recording lectures so students can review information they may have missed in class due to poor internet connection.

Similarly, Gagne mentions exploring alternate methods of graded participation that do not rely on live discussion, such as discussion board posts.
For many in the University community, Tuesday, Sept. 8 was a pivotal date. Since the University’s announcement Aug. 4 that in-person classes would begin in some capacity on that day, students, faculty and staff alike have been waiting with bated breath to begin a semester of classes unlike any in recent memory. With one week of in-person class now complete, students reflected on what, for many, had been their first time in a classroom in six months.

For fourth-year College student Cora Wack, the experience has been refreshing. Wack attended her pre-advanced Chinese class this past week, which was held in Wilson Hall 214.

“This was one of my only in-person classes, so I was really looking forward to going because Zoom fatigue is a real thing,” Wack said. “I really liked being back in the classroom and seeing people I hadn’t seen in so long or had just seen on Zoom.”

As all in-person classes also provide students the option of attending online, Wack’s Chinese class was made up of both in-person attendees and students who chose to join in via Zoom.

“I think we have — 16 [people] total in our class and five people on Zoom,” Wack said. “Our teacher projected the Zoom people onto the screen, and we could hear them … She’d call on them, and then she’d call on the people in the classroom … In the classroom it was about 10 people, and the spacing was pretty good.”

Though the possibility of social interaction with classmates is certainly limited under the new COVID-19 guidelines, Wack said she was still grateful for the opportunity to chat and interact with her professor and classmates, even at a distance.

“Something I kind of forgot about was walking out after class and talking to people on the way out,” Wack said. “I hadn’t realized that that was something I missed. But just walking out, talking about what our next assignment was or what we’d done over the summer … that was something that I really valued.”

Fourth-year McIntire student Schuyler Huff attends an in-person weight training class at Memorial Gymnasium, which, for this semester, is reserved exclusively for weights classes.

“It’s a 20-person class, and they’re trying to keep it under that 15-person limit,” Huff said. “So we got split into A and B days[...] Everyone had on their masks … they had hand sanitizer stations everywhere in there, the little gym wipes, stuff like that. A lot of the [first] day ended up being a demonstration of how to properly clean the stuff and making sure you’re wiping down things before and after you use it and trying to distance yourself in the gym.”

Like Wack’s class, Huff’s weight training class has also undergone structural changes under COVID-19 guidelines, such as mandatory universal masking and sanitizing workout machines before and after use.

“We’re supposed to have class Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and so I go on Mondays, the other group goes on Wednesdays, and then we alternate Fridays so that we’re coming into contact with as few people as possible,” Huff said. “[Our coach] is letting us do home workouts or anything like that, so it’s the Honor Code system for making sure you’re still doing your stuff and creating a routine.”

Like Huff and Wack, third-year Batten student Sydney Cherry also attended in-person classes this week. Under the Batten School’s detailed COVID-19 guidelines, all of Cherry’s classes are held in the Garrett Hall’s largest room — the Great Hall.

“It’s a huge room — the biggest room they have — and when you walk in, you have to sanitize your hands at the beginning, and they wipe down all of the chairs and the desks … so there’s stations to do that before you sit down,” Cherry said. “Then they have little stickers on the ground where the desks go … All the desks are six feet apart, and they’re sanitized after classes.”

Due to the hybrid learning model in place for her classes, with about 15 students attending in person and another 15 on Zoom, Cherry said that the classroom is set up quite differently than normal.

“The setup … is so technologically involved,” Cherry said. “There’s monitors everywhere because the desks are so spaced out that we can’t really see the front of the room. The PowerPoints are visible from every point of the room, which is really nice … And there’s plexiglass at the front of the room so that the professors can talk without their masks if they need to, but all of my professors have worn masks the entire time anyways.”

Despite describing the hybrid learning model as effective in many ways, Cherry said that it has, at moments, raised logistical issues in the classroom.

“We’re doing student presentations in one of my classes, so with the hybrid version, it’s a little odd because half the class is on Zoom and half is in person usually,” Cherry said. “So there’s feedback issues, and we have to use microphones. I think sharing in class and having discussions is much more strained, because all we’re doing is listening now.”

Still, according to Cherry, the professors’ flexibility and openness to student feedback has made her experience of the hybrid model a positive one thus far.

“I appreciate … how flexible my professors are,” Cherry said. “If I want to stay on Zoom for a day, that’s totally fine with them. They’re just following what our comfort levels are, and a lot of professors have been asking for feedback on what went well and what didn’t, so I’m pretty impressed with that.”

It is this type of support and flexibility that students hope carries forward as online classes continue. How the hybrid model of class will progress and evolve through the semester, though, remains to be seen.
How COVID-19 has impacted U.Va.’s student workers

Student workers share how they’ve been adjusting to new safety regulations for U.Va.’s gyms, libraries and administrative facilities

Madeline Chong | Features Writer

Following the University’s decision in March to move all courses online and cancel in-person meetings, dozens of student workers were forced to leave their jobs on Grounds as the University shuttered facilities to comply with COVID-19 protocols. This semester, the University has started to gradually reopen facilities with new adjustments and safety regulations to maintain social distancing. For many student workers, this has put them in unprecedented circumstances.

While some students discontinued their jobs due to safety concerns, others have resettled to working remotely. Amidst the changes, both in-person and remote student workers have faced challenges in adjusting to the University’s new safety regulations.

Although the University has been taking precautions, these safety regulations weren’t enough for some students to feel comfortable resuming their job on Grounds. Fourth-year College student Hannah Park decided to discontinue her job at the on-Grounds libraries due to the uncertainty and the influx of students in the facility.

“If students didn’t take the regulations seriously, or if [the] coronavirus spread a lot across Grounds, I feel like that would also impact not only myself but my co-workers and others who come in,” Park said. “In the case that those possibilities do occur, I decided it was safer to just not start working.”

The Charles L. Brown Science & Engineering Library requires workers to walk around the library frequently to check if students are wearing a mask or not, which was too much interaction for Park’s comfort. As a federal work-study student, Park felt as though losing her job because of her discomfort with these mandatory checks was unfair because working at the University was a part of her financial aid package. As she is struggling to find remote work-study jobs due to the limited options, she wishes the University would provide more remote options for work-study students who are not returning to Grounds, especially as failure to find a work-study job can result in additional financial obligations.

“I wish they made more remote jobs for work-study students just because I know no one else is back on Grounds,” Park said. “Even if they were back on Grounds, they may not feel safe, and I don’t think anyone should feel pressured to do something just for the sake of money when they feel unsafe in that environment.”

Additionally, Park was concerned about getting to and from her previous job at the library. In the past, Park used the bus system to go home after a night shift, but the pandemic made her reconsider the health and safety drawbacks of that as well.

On the downside, technology has also increased the student influx and workload for Yeo, making the changes in workload to be overwhelming at times.

“You’re doing a lot more work actually and some of it is rather overwhelming for us,” Yeo said. “The amount of work that’s given has drastically changed.”

Moving the Career Center online also limited opportunities for third-year College student Gabrielle Francois. As a new hire, Francois’ training was limited. She felt as if the adjustment that moved her internship training online was a new learning curve because she was unable to shadow her counselors and observe what a typical day would look like.

“I haven’t been able to do a lot of the things I would’ve been able to do if I was in person because of all of the changes,” Francois said. “So it hasn’t really given me the chance to be able to shadow as what would be normal, so I guess I’m kind of being pushed … to just go into it and just find it out in a different way by myself.”

Having remote virtual options for student workers has been both beneficial and challenging for the Career Center’s workers and interns. By moving the Career Center online, fourth-year College student You-Jin Yeo found it safer, easier and more efficient for students to access their appointments, resources and events.

“Technology is great because it provides us with things we weren’t able to do before,” Yeo said. “For instance, because it’s online, students don’t have to come to our UVa. Career Center drop-in location and they can just quickly chat us on our website and then we can do a Zoom call — everything is fast-paced. It’s very convenient for everyone.”

“I really don’t feel comfortable walking at night from the libraries,” Park said. “Last year I was able to ride the bus, but this year, I don’t know how they’re doing their bus system either and I don’t feel safe riding the bus [when] there’s a bunch of other people who have ridden it.”

Amidst the gradual reopening of select University facilities and services, both in-person and remote student workers have faced challenges in adjusting to the new safety regulations.

“You don’t get that personal experience with those prospective students along with their parents because you’re not meeting with them,” Yeo said. “We’re trying our best to be collaborative as a team but there are limits to it, and it doesn’t feel that welcoming or inviting for people who recently joined us and we’re trying to get to know each other.”

Although remote learning comes with its own challenges, there are methods to combat frustations and stresses students may experience. As Francois began her intern training amidst the pandemic, weekly check-ups helped her adjust into her new position.

“Take every day step by step,” Francois said. “Don’t feel like you have to be someone you’re not or perform in a state that you’re not — it’s really big to have a support system and speak to your managers and supervisors if you’re not comfortable or if you’re too stressed.”
Top 10 social interactions the pandemic has helped us avoid

I’m sure everyone at U.Va. is feeling the weight of social isolation right now, but there are still some silver linings to staying online

Lou Wilkin | Top 10 Writer

1. Walking into a huge lecture hall 20 minutes late
Remember those great occasions when a first year would be late and walk into a 150-person lecture halfway through the class and the professor would stop speaking and let them walk to the closest seat in silence — which just so happened to be in the fourth row from the front — while everyone watched them? Yeah, showing up late to a Zoom call lecture late is cake compared to that.

5. Passing by people tabling outside Newcomb
As someone who has been on both sides of this coin, dealing with CIO tablers will not be missed. Though I will say it is funny to see students come up with ways to avoid getting small pieces of paper shoved out in their faces — the best one I’ve seen is someone making direct eye contact then immediately darting their eyes to the floor and speed-walking into the dining hall.

7. Accidentally interrupting an in-depth conversation
If this has ever happened to you, you probably know that there is really no graceful way to extract yourself from a serious conversation that you’ve accidentally walked into. This is especially true since you usually did have an actual reason to talk to them — to get notes from class or figure out when the next paper is actually due — and you still need to go back to talk after having backed out of the situation. What a drag.

8. Running into a professor in the hallway
This could actually go either way — sometimes it’s great to stumble across your professor and strike up a conversation if you’re on close terms. Other times you wave and say “Hi” and they don’t know who you are so they just look confused as you both pass each other. Really, the easiest way to go about this situation is to not go about it.

9. Running into a professor in real life
I don’t think this is quite reaches the level of finding out your high school math teacher is also a bartender, but maturity doesn’t have that much of an effect on the struggle to have a light conversation without any awkward silences. One time I went to see a performance in Richmond and ran into my Acting I professor during intermission, where I found out her husband was in the cast — a really crazy interesting encounter all in all. Still, we couldn’t avoid awkward silence for longer than 15 seconds.

10. Ending up next to your TA at a frat house
Seeing your TA while out drinking with friends is all around a shifty interaction because you feel like you should probably be nice and socialize but also the only thing you really have to talk about is class, and the music is pounding your ears in anyway. Plus, there’s always that weird underlying fear that they would somehow get you in trouble.

2. Sitting next to someone you only somewhat know on the bus
This is the worst, especially if it happens in the morning. I once sat next to a person I knew vaguely through a club while on my way to an early morning exam and spent 10 minutes sputtering half-legitimate statements to avoid any awkward silences. We ended up being friends eventually, but it definitely wasn’t because of that conversation.

3. Or just mistaking a stranger for a friend or classmate
Most everyone knows about this — when you’re walking down the sidewalk on Grounds and someone is coming from the other way and you think you might know each other, so you stare as you approach without saying anything. The person is a total stranger about a quarter of the time, but the whole walking-staring contest is still super unnerving.

4. Running into someone at the toaster station in dining halls
Most of the time this has happened to me with classmates I’ve only briefly met or perhaps exchanged a “hello” once or twice because we both got to the dining hall at the same time after class. The light conversation starts off fine but usually gets drawn out too much because the toasters always take longer than you think they will — or maybe that’s just me. Regardless, dining halls can be a breeding ground for weird social interactions.

6. Showing up to a get together before anyone you know is there
One strange opportunity the pandemic has given us is to get closer to our family and closest friends. Plus, now that almost all social interactions with strangers are online, the possibility of walking into a party or study group before the person who invited you shows up and having to strike up conversation with people you only know through a mutual friend is gone.
SPORTS

Previewing the 2020 Virginia field hockey season

In an unprecedented 2020 season, the Cavaliers look forward to winning their first ACC title since 2016

Sarah Pettycord | Associate Writer

The 2019 Virginia field hockey season was a major improvement from the previous year, but one that still ended in heartbreak after a loss in the NCAA semifinals to Princeton. With many top offensive and defensive players returning this year — including three preseason All-ACC team members — the 2020 Cavaliers look prepared to have a strong season in the face of a conference-only schedule. In the preseason ACC poll, the Cavaliers were predicted to finish second behind reigning NCAA champion North Carolina.

2019 season recap

After a rough 2018 season, the Cavaliers came in hot with an impressive freshman class and a drive to recover from the previous year’s woes. The team started strong and maintained pace, finishing with a 15-3 regular season record and a seven-game winning streak.

Virginia came into the postseason ranked No. 4 overall in the nation. The Cavaliers were able to outlast Duke in the ACC Tournament Quarterfinals, but fell to Boston College in the next round. Despite this loss, Virginia still received a bid into the NCAA Tournament based on their outstanding regular season record.

The Cavaliers defeated Delaware and Maryland in the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament, but ultimately lost to Princeton in the semifinals. This was the fourth year in a row that the Tigers knocked the Cavaliers out of the tournament.

2020 schedule breakdown

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically altered the 2020 field hockey season — forcing Virginia to play 10 conference games this season and the ACC Championships in early November. The NCAA tournament that normally follows the conference championships has been postponed with the hopes of playing in the spring.

Virginia will open the regular season Sept. 26, playing two home games against Wake Forest. The following weekend, the Cavaliers will host two games against Syracuse (Oct. 2, Oct. 4). The team will then travel and play two games against North Carolina (Oct. 11, Oct. 12), one against Boston College (Oct. 18) and play two against Louisville (Oct. 23, Oct. 24) at home. The regular season will wrap up in Durham, N.C., on Oct. 31 as Virginia takes on Duke. Finally, the Cavaliers will look to take the conference title for the first time since 2016 at the ACC Championships in Durham, N.C., Nov. 5-8.

Keys to success

Utilizing the freshman squad

Now in her 15th season as head coach, Michele Madison has consistently brought in solid recruiting classes. This year, Virginia has an impressive group of eight freshmen joining the roster that look to strengthen the team. Four of these eight are midfielders — Annelies Knot from the Netherlands, Alexandra Morgan from Winnetka, Ill., Meghen Hengerer from Bedford, N.J., and Grey Schnarrs from Camp Hill, Pa.

Three strikers are also joining the squad this year — Esha Shah from Ellicott City, Md., Lilly Hengerer from Bedford, N.J., and Mary Vardell from Houston, Texas. Rounding out the recruiting class is back Emily Graeff from Phoenixville, Pa., who should provide a healthy dose of competitiveness at defense.

With a recruiting class of this size and caliber, the Cavaliers will have many opportunities to play to some new strengths and take advantage of different skill sets on the field.

Returning players

In addition to this new group of players, the Cavaliers will have many of their top offensive and defensive players back on the team this year. Six of last season’s top eight scorers will be returning, as will junior goalkeeper Lauren Hausheer — who surrendered only 23 goals last season. Furthermore, Virginia is the only team in the ACC with three players receiving preseason conference honors, as senior back Rachel Robinson, junior back Amber Ezechiel and Hausheer were all recently named to the preseason All-ACC team.

The combination of team veterans and new recruits will bring a special quality to this team unlike anything seen in previous years.

Focus

The Virginia field hockey team hasn’t won the ACC in a few years and they have yet to win a national title. Considering the unusual schedule this season, achieving either of those things is going to be more difficult — but if the team wants any chance at all, they must remain hyper-focused and tune out distractions. If they can do this and play solid, clean field hockey, success should come.

Predictions

Having an all-conference field hockey season will make for some great games in 2020, but with road games against Boston College — who knocked Virginia out of the NCAA Tournament last year — and defending champion North Carolina, it will be more difficult for the Cavaliers to succeed. I predict Virginia will finish with an 8-2 overall record, losing to Boston College and splitting the series against North Carolina.

Virginia will start its most unique field hockey season thus far Sept. 26 at Turf Field in Charlottesville against Wake Forest.
Former Virginia football players hope to shine in the NFL

A number of former Cavaliers will be debuting as rookies this season while veterans look to make a lasting impact on their teams.

Jude Nataw | Associate Writer

With a new NFL season underway, many former Virginia football players will have the opportunity to showcase their talent at the professional level. In a year where sports across the nation have been profoundly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, one week observed that football will be no exception. Despite the crowded stadiums and new safety protocols, former Cavaliers—ranging from rookies to veterans—will be taking the field and competing at the highest level. Here’s what to expect from the Cavaliers in the NFL.

Rookies

Following one of the best seasons in recent Virginia football history, a number of highly valuable players on both sides of the ball declared for the NFL draft. While some Cavaliers generated buzz as the draft neared, the first Virginia football player did not come off the board until the fifth round. With that being said, every Virginia rookie selected or signed this past offseason will have a lot to prove in their first NFL season.

Joe Reed, wide receiver, Los Angeles Chargers

The first Cavalier to come off the board in the 2020 draft with the 93rd pick, Reed is slated to have a big role with the Los Angeles Chargers this season. Despite an outstanding year as Virginia’s top wide receiver, posting 77 receptions for 679 yards and five touchdowns throughout his college career, Reed was considered to be a potential first-round pick at one point during the 2019 season, a number of former Virginia football players have secured spots on NFL team rosters and are ready to make an impact in 2020.

Jordan Mack, inside linebacker, Carolina Panthers

A deep inside linebacker class in 2020 resulted in Mack falling out of the draft. However, he signed with the Carolina Panthers as a free agent. Despite being signed by the Los Angeles Rams following the draft, Kirk is on the practice squad at the moment. Despite his current status, Perkins’ ability leaves the door open to making the active roster one day, since the Rams lack a reliable back-up to starting linebacker Jared Goff.

Bryce Hall, cornerback, New York Jets

Hall’s stock plummeted which ultimately resulted in his year cut short due to a devastating injury. Perkins already started to debut his explosiveness with a 46-yard return of a punt. Reed will have a chance to make a name for himself as a return specialist.

Established starters

In today’s NFL, a number of Cavaliers have moved up the lineup and made a name for themselves as starters in the league. With a number of standout performances on both offense and defense, these former Virginia football players include a Super Bowl champion and the league’s reigning leader in interceptions.

Rodney McLeod, free safety, Philadelphia Eagles

The starting free safety of the Super Bowl LII champions, McLeod is slated for a bigger role this season. With the Eagles loaded at the receiver position with the likes of Keenan Allen and Mike Williams, Reed will have a chance to make a name for himself as a return specialist. Reed already started to debut his explosiveness with a 46-yard return of a punt.

Several former Virginia football players have secured spots on NFL team rosters and are ready to make an impact in 2020.

High-potential players

Still young in their NFL careers, a couple of Cavaliers in their sophomore season will be looking to continue to grow and develop in 2020. These former Virginia players enter the new season with a real chip on their shoulders.

Juan Thornhill, free safety, Kansas City Chiefs

The highest Virginia draft pick since 2011, Thornhill was drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in the second round of the 2019 NFL Draft. Thornhill had an impressive rookie campaign, recording 46 tackles and three interceptions, one of which was returned 46-yards for a touchdown. Although Thornhill’s season was cut short due to an ACL tear, he is currently working his way back up the depth chart for the Chiefs.

Notable Mentions

Not every former Virginia player in the NFL is on a starting lineup or an active roster. A number of former Cavaliers are in supporting roles as second- or third-string players or even practice squad members. These individuals, who are still contributing around the league in one capacity or another include Kurt Benkert, LaRoy Reynolds, Brent Urban, Andrew Brown, Maurice Canady, Eric Smith, Oday Aboushi and Tim Harris.
LEAD EDITORIAL

On the right track, yet far from finished

The University must follow through on its proposed racial equity plans to enact substantial and lasting policy changes

The University Board of Visitors voted Sept. 1 to approve several resolutions that display a commitment to promoting racial equity on Grounds. These include renaming the Curry School of Education and Human Development, contextualizing the Thomas Jefferson statue in front of the Rotunda, and removing or relocating the George Rogers Clark statue. They also voted to rededicate or remove the Frank Hume Memorial Wall — commonly referred to as the Whispering Wall — as it memorializes a Confederate soldier. Additionally, University President Jim Ryan outlined several recommendations on how the University can better address its historic landscape. These include renaming buildings “once the time period for a name expires,” ending the celebration of the Confederacy among the University’s built environment and making a full biography of previous namesakes available in the case of any name changes, which would promote learning from our history rather than erasing it.

Finally, the Board has addressed some of the demands of the student and community activists that have been calling for these changes for years. Nevertheless, the removal of statues and the renaming of buildings are not detailed policy shifts that will effectively end the history of racism at the University. Moving forward, we must hold the Board to this higher standard of committing to and fulfilling the values of accessibility and diversity on Grounds.

Perhaps the most important avenues for change lie in the Board’s endorsement of the initiatives outlined in the final report of the Racial Equity Task Force. These included dedicating financial resources to ensure the continuation of racial equity initiatives, reviewing tenancy policies, providing anti-racism educational tools and committing to diversifying demographics among the student body and staff. Additionally, the report suggests the University launch an equity “scorecard” of its efforts, start an endowment for the Carter G. Woodson Institute and the Department of African American and African Studies, fund scholarships for the descendants of the enslaved laborers who built the University and create a Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies.

These 12 initiatives — should the University and its administration commit itself to instituting said changes — outline tangible efforts that can be implemented to address systemic failures in the University community. We must remember that this is only the first step. Discussing the report, Ryan stated “Some will think — and have expressed — that this report goes too far, [but] others believe it may not go far enough.” We are among those who believe that this is not enough.

The University must continue to stretch further and enact meaningful changes to work towards a more equitable future for students, faculty and staff. This includes acknowledging when it is on the wrong side of history, remembering that those efforts must continuously evolve to adequately address all shortcomings. The University must recognize its history within the Charlottesville area and how it plans to improve and give back to a community it has taken so much from.

While not directly addressing any specific plans for these initiatives moving forward, Ryan did state that since each of the 12 goals align with those of the 2030 Strategic Plan, meaning any funding for these efforts will come from the Strategic Investment Fund. Nevertheless, we still do not see any of these proposals as top priorities for the University.

The University must remember that while these changes are both necessary and important, the path to a racially equitable community lies in concrete policy and continuous, vigilant practice. The final report of the Racial Equity Task Force must be more than a call to action — it must be an undertaking between the University administration and the community it serves. The University must commit to following through on the initiatives outlined in the report, continue to address problematic names and statues around Grounds and acknowledge that work is far from over. Actions speak louder than words.

THE CAVALIER DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD is composed of the Executive Editor, the Editor-in-Chief, the two Opinion Editors, their Senior Associate and an Opinion Columnist. The board can be reached at edb@cavalierdaily.com.
The University can never do enough to make up for its past

With a history like the University’s, there is no limit on the amount of reparative efforts that need to be put forth

The University should never do enough to make up for its past, and there’s no limit on the amount of reparative efforts that need to be put forth.

The University can never do enough to make up for its past. With a history like the University’s, there is no limit on the amount of reparative efforts that need to be put forth.

The University must protect student mental health

The COVID-19 pandemic has given students new anxieties

The University must protect student mental health. The COVID-19 pandemic has given students new anxieties.

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T he University’s COVID-19 response uniquely challenges students’ mental health — we are now faced with uncertain housing situations, inflexible grading policies and poor administrative responses. This necessitates a new plan that recognizes students are battling increased stress, anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts, during this semester and beyond our academic lives. As National Suicide Prevention Week closes, we should remember that mental health is a discussion that exists year-round, not solely for seven days in September.

Due to the University’s decision to invite students back to Charlottesville, a preventable housing dilemma has arisen. James Madison University saw over 600 cases among its campus population — a staggering number of cases to arise in only the first week — before temporarily ending in-person lectures and ordering students to return home. This poses many potential factors that add to student anxiety, depression and uncertainty in how Grounds cases will unfold.

The University will inevitably see patients at least mild anxiety and mild mental health concerns. Moreover, students must cope with the fear of inadvertently contracting COVID-19 from others back to their home, where more vulnerable communities could potentially see greater exposure to coronavirus. Many students only have the options to live in an expensive, increasingly-contaminated residence hall, or return to a home environment containing domestic violence and discrimination. Other students rely on University housing as their sole resident, but JMU’s unraveling brings into question how sure that reliance can be.

In an extremely untimely and harsh move, the University forcibly relocated hundreds of students living in specific dorms now designated as quarantine zones — only days before students began returning to Grounds. This merely augments housing uncertainty, while also admitting that the University expects to need such large quarantine zones.

Another source of increased anxiety arises with the University’s choice to follow its standard grading policy for the fall. This decision ignores all aforementioned issues, as well as inequality in student access to adequate technology, and thus inequality in access to advising, library resources, telemedicne and even virtual class meetings. Student mental health is directly tied to academics. The University’s meritorious environment — now combined with a limited understanding of individual student realities — furthers academic anxiety.

The University’s Counseling and Consultation Center, Student Health and Hoos Health Check emails we receive. While physical health should certainly be a priority, the University has failed to address the mental implications related to our changing times.

However, Student Health can work directly with students to facilitate services, talk to professionals and navigate their mental health in this newly virtual setting. Surely, it wouldn’t take great effort to attach mental health service information to the near-daily Hoos Health Check emails we receive.

But too much of this effort is in the hands of students and faculty — the University itself needs to be taking the greatest initiative in caring for its students. Forcing students to take on heavy schedules whilst balancing their mental wellbeing without the help of their college is not only unacceptable but also another failure in the University’s pandemic response.

As distinct from the pandemic but impossible to ignore, the increased discussion on police brutality and systemic racism necessitates that the University create unique psychological programs related to helping Black and Brown students navigate any emotional reactions they may be experiencing at this time. Moreover, as the next presidential election nears, political anxieties are skyrocketing as many politicians are skewering as many politicians and voters expose discriminatory and conservative language. These matters only worsen mental health struggles for so many people. Before students or voters, we are humans worthy of equality and love. Let us never forget that.

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OPINION

Thursday, September 17, 2020 | 13
Someone check on President Ryan

We are growing increasingly concerned about our Commander-in-Chief. No, not that one, but your premature conclusion from that sentence alone was understandable. This is about University President Jim Ryan. As COVID-19 is hammering universities across America far worse than gonorrhea ever could, it is causing contentious discussions over how it should best be mitigated. While multiple people are responsible for making the important decisions around here — like whether to splurge on some Purell or cut corners with a knockoff brand — it is safe to assume the buck stops with Ryan.

It is always easy to criticize people in charge, but I implore you to consider the immense stress these individuals are under amidst this crisis. President Ryan has a lot on his plate right now. Normally, that would be a good thing because he runs so darn much — they don’t call him Mr. Caloric Deficit for no reason — but these are unusual circumstances. Just put yourself in his New Balance Fresh Foams for a moment. You may have to scrunch your toes a bit, but go ahead. Just think about his unenviable perspective. Would you want to bear this responsibility right now? Of course not. Being a fly on the wall when you were conceived would be more appealing. In all seriousness, I am confident he is working tirelessly to make good decisions for our community.

Plus, as if the virus isn’t wreaking enough havoc, President Ryan is rumored to be juggling other issues. For instance, QA-non, a group of raging lunatics, is actively trying to implicate him in a scheme to convert Christian’s Pizza into, well, something very bad. Fortunately, there is no evidence to corroborate this. Christian’s remains dedicated to feeding inebriated youngsters and nothing else.

Naturally, all this mayhem might be taking a toll on his mental health. An unconfirmed source has spotted very premature Christmas decorations already gracing his property. Unless he is trying to summon a miracle of sorts, that cannot be a good sign. I’d suggest to him a consultation with CAPS, Counseling and Psychological Services here on Grounds, but they have their hands full with all the First Years realizing high school relationships are no more.

These are quite obviously difficult times for all of us. The social dynamic around Grounds is completely upside down. All this social distancing is a new adjustment for everyone, even the engineers. Furthermore, even the cordial relationship students typically share with President Ryan himself is being negatively affected at the moment. His weekly running initiative, Run with Jim, might as well be Run from Jim right now.

Hopefully we can all return to normalcy soon. I am confident that bouts of indecent exposure on the Lawn and violations of the fire code at Newcomb are on the horizon. In the meantime, however, do your part — keep the booze to yourself, don’t share the Juul and don’t be an idiot. As for President Ryan, someone please check on the guy. And wear a mask.

MICHAEL LINDEMANN is a Humor columnist for The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com.
**PUZZLES**

**WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Aaron Rose | Puzzle Master

* THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEXT ISSUE

**Across**

6 A person who participates in a sport or competition based on speed.
7 A small North American songbird; named after a common kitchen appliance.
10 The consequences of an event; usually used in reference to nuclear disasters.
11 Traditional Italian rice dish.
12 Location of the U.S. Open major tennis championship, recently completed this past weekend.
13 Once every 30 days.
14 A phrase meant to encourage someone to get to work on something quickly; also, the slogan used in TV ads for Wonderful Pistachios. (Two words)
19 This Southern city would have hosted the 2020 NCAA Final Four basketball championship, if not for COVID-19.
21 The so-called 2020 “NBA Bubble” is located near this prominent vacation city.
23 The exposed guts, internal organs of an animal.
25 In mathematics, a circle is a type of this curve, just with its foci at the same point.
26 In deserts and beaches, these are piles of loose earth particles blown together by wind or by water. (Two words)
27 A dark black color and type of wood; also, the name of a Black culture and lifestyle magazine.

**Down**

1 Historically, a term of derision for a white Southerner who supported Reconstruction policies; generally, someone not to be trusted.
2 A type of dry stream that fills after a heavy rainstorm; located primarily in the arid Southwestern U.S.
3 Seoul and Busan are cities located in this East Asian nation.
4 Type of animal that includes the elk and moose; the whitetail is very common in Virginia.
5 A sad, miserable person.
6 When you return an item you bought to a store, it is expected that you will receive a monetary ------.
8 A hunting dog breed with African origins.
9 Host city for the 2020 Summer Olympics, now rescheduled for 2021.
13 A very small unit of metric distance; one-millionth of a meter.
15 A professor with a permanent appointment in their department is ------.
16 The collective biological traits of a family or larger group. (Two words)
17 Originally scheduled to begin in May, this city will host a major tennis championship at Roland Garros at the end of the month.
18 Handsome, attractive; rarely used term today.
20 A narrative structure that relays events to the reader in sequential order from beginning to end.
22 To lounge about lazily. (past tense)
24 Term that can refer to soot residue or a type of fungus.

**CORRECTION**

The article “Professors seek info on students using online services” in Vol. 131, Issue 2 misattributed quotes by Prof. Chris Neu to Prof. Craig Dukes. The article has been updated online to correct this error.

* THE SOLUTION TO EACH PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEXT ISSUE

**SIGN UP FOR OUR DAILY E-NEWSLETTER AT CAVALIERDAILY.COM**
COVID-19 tests are being given to all 188 Balz-Dobie residents after five students tested positive, wastewater testing suggested that there may be an outbreak.

Mathers explained that dorms are a top priority since they could be hotspots for COVID-19 transmission.

"Places people live together are at especially high risk for transmission, and it's because you can't wear a mask every hour of the day and you're indoors," Mathers said. "So we see COVID transmission occur quite quickly in buildings where people live together."

Mathers and Colosi-Peterson have worked closely with University Facilities Management to ensure widespread sample collection on Grounds. On any given day, up to 10 small robots, called auto-samplers, are stationed at manholes near dorms for sample collection.

Paul Zmick, senior associate director of energy and utilities, explained that his group created detailed maps of Grounds to choose wastewater testing locations. Locations are chosen to test as many students as possible while allowing testing locations where outside sources can contribute to the waste stream, like public restrooms. The number and exact placement of these testing locations varies on a day-to-day basis to ensure that every dorm's wastewater is monitored every few days.

Once samples are collected, Facilities Management personnel deliver chilled wastewater samples to Mathers and her team, who then test the samples within 10 hours.

Zmick highlighted that his team has enjoyed working with other University disciplines to contribute to research and the overall mission of the University.

"This is truly a combined UVa effort," Zmick said. "We have the Health System side, the academic and teaching and research side, we have Facilities, and not only utilities but the part of facilities that helps manage housing...[Facilities is] out there in the roads, working in sanitary systems all day every day, so we are in a unique position to help."

Like with any testing methodology, there are some limitations to wastewater testing for SARS-CoV-2. A major concern is the possibility of a false positive. Research suggests that just as SARS-CoV-2 is shed in the stool very early during infection, it can also continue to shed past resolution of symptoms, at times when a person no longer poses a risk to others.

Mathers, Colosi-Peterson and their teams are working to mitigate this issue by focusing on high signals of coronavirus genetic material in their tests, which are strongly correlated with earlier infections. Without receiving the identity of any student the wastewater testing team can also check with Student Health to see if a student who has recovered from the virus has recently returned to a dorm from quarantine if a dorm returns a weakly-positive signal.

Another challenge is that while most dorms, such as dorms on McCormick Road and Alderman Road, can be sampled efficiently, rooms on the Lawn and Range cannot be sampled without risk of outside contamination from other wastewater sources. The same obstacle is preventing testing of wastewater from student residences off Grounds.

Nevertheless, wastewater testing can be used to supplement all other testing at the University and can monitor a large portion of the student population with the hope of preventing COVID-19 outbreaks.

Wastewater testing officially began when students began moving in the first week of September, but the program’s first fully operational week began Sept. 7.

The mandated testing of Balz-Dobie residents Wednesday evening is the first time the University has administered COVID-19 tests to an entire dorm this semester over fears of a potential outbreak. Students in the dorm have been asked to quarantine and wear a mask at all times, including in their rooms, unless they are going to sleep. Should a student test positive, they will be moved to one of the University’s isolation rooms, and any close contacts will be relocated to a quarantine room.
**HEALTH & SCIENCE**

**U.Va. receives NSF grant to handle sensitive COVID-19 data**

The $1.2 million grant expansion provides institutions with the ACCORD-COVID system to ensure safety when handling sensitive data

Brightjney Varghese | Senior Writer

The coronavirus pandemic has sparked research initiatives across a variety of disciplines. As researchers investigate the consequences of the virus, they require secure systems to ensure the safety of sensitive health data. Last year, University personnel established the high-performance computing system Virginia Assuring Controls Compliance of Research Data to aid institutions across the Commonwealth with their research efforts. The grant, funded by the National Science Foundation, was recently expanded to ACCORD-COVID, which serves institutions around the nation.

ACCORD was initially designed for smaller institutions in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ronald Hutchins, vice president of information technology at the University, described that many of these schools have health-related projects in place. However, they cannot further their research without proper tools to ensure that a subject’s health data is stored safely.

“There is a lot of the science that happens in the small areas — small professors who have ideas that just have no way of managing them because they’re in smaller schools,” Hutchins said. “Our goal was to try to enable those folks who were not able to do this kind of research.”

Efforts to develop ACCORD began three years ago. Hutchins and his team proposed the idea to the NSF and went through multiple rounds of feedback and revisions to simplify the system. In October of 2019, they finally received a $2.5 million grant to develop the infrastructure.

Once the pandemic hit, the team realized the potential to adapt the system for coronavirus-related research efforts across the nation. Hutchins noted an expansion in research projects in the past few months, and these studies encompass a multitude of fields. Regardless, they all require computing systems that will ensure the safety of personal health data.

“We’ve seen so many different entities, laboratories and research facilities shift their focus away from whatever it was they were doing [for COVID research]. That’s been a powerful thing for us,” Hutchins said. “I think we’ve made more progress than we could have otherwise.”

Tho Nguyen, senior research program officer at the University’s engineering department of computer science, mentioned that the group proposed the idea for ACCORD-COVID to the NSF. The foundation was very supportive, and after a quick turn around, the team received a $1.2 million grant expansion.

Once an institution becomes affiliated with ACCORD-COVID, researchers complete projects and data analysis normally. ACCORD-COVID provides the platform to store data, and it offers many features to simplify the storage process and ensure security.

“We’ve protected the data in a similar manner and even more stringently than we protect the data for the hospitals,” Hutchins said. “In fact, we designed the ACCORD project to house federal data which is even more tightly controlled than health data. It’s built according to federal standards, which makes it a bit more cumbersome for the researchers to access, but it makes the data much more secure.”

In terms of security, Nguyen stated that the system complies with federal regulations outlined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

“The beauty of ACCORD is really helping people meet the policy requirements around sensitive data so that they’re not bringing in unlisted research to their institutions,” Nguyen said. “In fact, that is probably the hardest issue to deal with right now.”

Another unique feature of ACCORD-COVID is the use of containers. Rick Downs, director of research computing at the University, described containers as sub-machines within the virtual environment of ACCORD-COVID.

Containers are launched based on the type of research conducted and are torn down when the research is complete. This approach provides an organized storage system for researchers that works in the background.

“The researcher says I need to do this particular type of work, and these sub-machines will spin up,” Downs said. “They’ll be able to access them ... and then that container gets torn down. If they have a complex workflow they might be dealing with three, four or five containers, but to them, it’s all a very seamless workflow that just passes one thing to the next.”

ACCORD-COVID also uses federations, which allow researchers to log into the system using their home institution’s credentials. For instance, researchers at the University would log in using their Netbadge information. Then, they would be connected to the system, thus providing seamless integration between a home institution’s service and the ACCORD-COVID platform.

“For the researcher, it really hides all this infrastructure, all this back-end stuff going on, and just allows them to focus on the research,” Downs said. “That’s really what researchers want to do. They just want to get their work done, and they don’t want to have to know what’s behind the curtain.”

Currently, ACCORD is in use at institutions such as George Mason University and the Virginia Tech Carillon School of Medicine. The infrastructure for the computing system is built, but the team is currently working on overall policies and contracts before extending the service outside of the Commonwealth. They hope to provide their service to other NSF-funded researchers within the next few months.
In the midst of COVID-19 wreaking havoc on artistic creation, many music-lovers wondered how long it would be before they could marvel at live concerts or sweat profusely in general admission standing rooms. The wait is now — somewhat — over. Pictures of fans seated six feet apart have been circulating online and foreshadowing the future of the socially-distanced consumption of art. This slightly melancholic display of live music seems to be the new normal for the time being. However, many venues, including Charlottesville’s very own The Front Porch, are still opting to host live, online music events in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. These long-awaited concerts are filling the homes of whoever decides to tune in with waves of smooth jazz, therapeutically loud classic rock and so much more.

Last Wednesday, online viewers virtually assembled for another installment of Save the Music, a concert series which takes place in real time at The Front Porch. These events are accessible through The Front Porch’s Facebook and YouTube pages, thanks to a myriad of local sponsors, such as the Charlottesville Jazz Society. Viewers are able to ask the band questions in the comments, donate to local artists and once again get lost in the mesmerizing art of performance. Arguably, these online venues offer more interaction with artists than a traditional show, as well as a unique listening experience which allows for increased — albeit virtual — communication with fellow listeners.

This most recent concert was led by the dynamic artist Jack Sheehan, a saxophonist, educator and composer. Since the young age of 11, Sheehan has been mastering the saxophone and performing with household names in the jazz genre, such as Nestor Torres and Terence Blanchard. By the time he was 13, he was performing at gigs as much as three or four times per week. Sheehan’s instrumental mastery and the ease in which he performs onstage were apparent during the event, despite the technological barrier through which the band was forced to perform. Viewers were still able to witness the confident air of Sheehan as he interacted with both his instrument and the masked performers around him, gliding side to side on the ornate rug beneath them.

After acknowledging the strangeness of the past couple months and the ongoing fight for Black justice in America, Sheehan played a somber rendition of “Hymn to Freedom.” This piece seemed to be a respectful nod to the feelings of pain and loss felt by many since March and throughout history. Following this moving number, the tone of the music shifted drastically. Covers of upbeat jazz classics and delightful sounds from the strong horn section became a running theme of the night, undoubtedly impressing the nearly 400 online viewers. Interestingly enough, the majority of songs performed by the band were written by renowned piano players, which converted delightfully to the expressive beauty of the saxophone. Comments of praise for Sheehan’s unique talent and the blissful sounds of live music consistently flooded the pages of the online broadcast.

The night ended with the Jack Sheehan Band acknowledging the generosity of The Front Porch and executing a power performance of “Gingerbread Boy” by saxophonist Jimmy Heath. The band members simultaneously commanded attention from the viewers as they powered through each chord, beat and high note with surprisingly swift movement.

If you missed this lively performance or want to catch future shows in the Save the Music series, tune in to WTJU Charlottesville on 91.1 FM at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays or 8 p.m. on Fridays or stream online at wtju.net.
2020 fall fashion trends: Sequins, belts and pops of color

Seven fall fashion trends — plus tips on how to pull them off sustainably

Anna Miller | Senior Associate Editor

With every new season comes a new set of trends and a lingering pressure to buy more clothing. Granted, fashion is fun because of these ever changing trends, but by now, the industry’s negative impact on the environment and human rights are undeniable. There is a tricky balance to strike for fashion lovers — how to stay on top of the trends while shopping responsibly. Luckily, these seven fall fashion trends are easy to recreate sustainably.

Dad chic

Characterized by oversized sweaters, suit vests, button-up shirts and blazers, this trend can be shopped straight out of your parent’s closet. Bring on the argyle, bring on the little animals embroidered on everything. Whether in its mission of chronicling student life and news at U.Va.

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