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Students masked and vaccinated, ready for new year

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Summer in review

CD News Staff

COVID-19

Academic and residential experiences are expected to resume fully in person at the University this fall. The University first announced a vaccine mandate in May for students living, learning and working on Grounds this fall. Students were required to either upload proof of vaccination or an approved medical or religious exemption to their HealthyHoos portal. UVa. Health workers and academic faculty and staff are also expected — though not required — to receive a vaccination. Unvaccinated individuals will be tested weekly and must abide by all public health requirements. As of Monday, 96 percent of students and 92 percent of academic division staff were fully vaccinated.

Amid rising concern that a spike in cases would occur due to the Delta variant, the University will monitor case counts, hospitalizations and more to decide to lift or modify the policy by Sept. 6. In a town hall held Aug. 12, University President Jim Ryan and other University leadership addressed the mask mandate. Craig Kent, chief executive officer for UVa. Health and executive vice president for health affairs at the University, said the University’s hospital feels equipped to deal with an increase in hospitalized coronavirus patients. As of Wednesday, the University has reported 96 COVID-19 cases this summer, with 6 new cases reported Tuesday. In the Blue Ridge Health District, there are currently 6,193 cases of COVID-19 in Albemarle and 4,215 cases in Charlottesville.

Hoos at the Olympics

Nine Cavaliers brought home two gold, four silver and three bronze medals this summer at the Tokyo Olympics. In women’s swimming, freshman swimmer Emma Weyant won silver in the 400-meter individual medley, marking the highest individual finish by a Cavalier women’s swimmer in program history. Junior swimmers Alex Walsh and Kate Douglass claimed silver and bronze, respectively, in the 400-meter individual medley — both swimming personal best times. Class of 2021 alumna Paige Madden helped the United States’ 4x200-meter free style relay team win silver — the team also broke the American record for the event. Three best times. Class of 2021 alumna Paige Madden helped the United States’ 4x200-meter free style relay team win silver — the team also broke the American record for the event. Three

On Grounds

The George Rogers Clark statue located on Grounds was removed the morning of July 11 as a group of community members gathered to watch. The University’s Board of Visitors approved a recommendation from the Racial Equity Task Force last fall to remove the statue, which depicts Clark on horseback covering over a group of Native Americans with an inscription reading “Conqueror of the Northwest.” It was the site of demonstrations and marches demanding its removal prior to the Board’s recommendation.

The Board voted to rededicate the Frank Hume Memorial Wall — known as the Whispering Wall — and remove its inscription, which refers to Hume as a “devoted Virginian who served his native state in Civil War and Legislative Hall,” during its meeting in June. Since the decision, the Minority Rights Coalition — who previously launched a petition to remove the wall in its entirety — condemned the Board’s decision not to remove the memorial. Student Council also denounced the decision, calling the Board’s choice “dishonest.

In Charlottesville

In early July, the statues of Robert E. Lee in Market Street Park and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson in Court Street Park were removed following years of advocacy. Third-year College student Zyahna Bryant, who authored a petition to remove the Lee monument in 2016, addressed the crowd, calling the removal “long overdue.” A group of community members observed and cheered as the figures were removed then driven slowly down the street towards a storage site where they will be kept until a further decision is made. The City also removed the Lewis, Clark and Sacagawea depiction on West Main Street the same day.
Biocomplexity Institute’s COVID-19 model projects a peak

If no new measures are taken to stop the spread of the more transmissible Delta variant, cases could reach levels higher than those in January

Maryann Xue | News Editor

If the Delta variant continues its current trajectory and behaviors do not change, Charlottesville could see a peak in cases during the week ending Aug. 29 — the first week of classes for undergraduate students.

The University Biocomplexity Institute’s COVID-19 model predicts a potential peak of 1,251 weekly cases in what could be the greatest spike in cases in Charlottesville since February, when over 700 cases were recorded within a single week. Statewide, the peak may come a few weeks later during the week ending Sept. 12, with a potential high of 7,251 cases.

According to Madhav Marathe — division director and distinguished professor in biocomplexity at the Biocomplexity Institute — these projections are not forecasts, but possibilities that are subject to change depending on evolving human behaviors and attitudes towards the virus.

The model lays out four different potential scenarios from worst to best — Delta variant where there are no interventions and the virus continues to spread as is, Delta variant plus optimistic vaccine where there are higher rates of vaccination, surge control where increased control from non-pharmaceutical interventions like mask-wearing reduce transmission by 25 percent and spring control where vaccination levels remain the same but cases return to the lowest levels seen in the spring.

“Spring control seems to be very hard to achieve now,” Marathe said. “Double, but hard, because, in fact, schools are opening, fall is coming so more indoor activities are going to begin — those things make it harder to go back to spring levels.”

Following the peaks in January and February, cases in Charlottesville began to decline for the remainder of the spring semester. During the week of March 14, 265 positive COVID-19 cases were recorded, the lowest weekly case count since December. Numbers further dropped from May through July as schools closed and students headed home for the summer.

Graphically, there are minimal differences between the Delta variant and the Delta variant plus optimistic vaccine scenarios because the vaccination rate in Virginia is already quite high, with 553 percent of the population fully vaccinated. In the Blue Ridge Health District, 62.9 percent of the population has received at least one dose of the vaccine, while 57.3 percent of people are fully vaccinated. Nevertheless, increased vaccination rates will still help to lessen the peak.

The projected peak under both scenarios, however, is higher than the January peak. Charlottesville’s last peak was during the week ending Jan. 17, when there were 865 weekly cases compared to the potential new peak of 1,251 cases during the week ending Aug. 29 if no new measures are taken to quell the spread.

Despite these possibilities, Marathe said he did not believe the Delta variant or Delta variant plus optimistic vaccine scenarios would occur because “people will change,” but the difficulty with these projections comes with the fact that “how they might change is not easy to predict.” Case numbers might vary from county to county depending on different attitudes towards mask-wearing and other preventative measures.

“The fact that this can even be a possibility based on the models is a worrisome issue,” Marathe said. “I don’t think that this will happen unless we all completely just give up in some way, which is unlikely in Charlottesville, but it all depends on how people behave.”

The one silver lining, according to Marathe and a weekly report from the Biocomplexity Institute, is that while the Delta variant is more likely to cause hospitalizations and prolonged illness, vaccines are effective in preventing severe illness and hospitalization and produce a stronger antibody response than in those who have previously been infected. That means that hospitalizations and deaths may not increase in proportion to the rising number of cases if more people become vaccinated.

According to the University’s COVID-19 dashboard, 37 individuals are currently hospitalized for COVID-19 at UVA. Health, six of whom were admitted Tuesday. During the peak in cases in January, UVA Health saw its greatest number of single-day COVID-19 hospitalizations, with 16 individuals hospitalized on both Jan. 13 and Jan. 20. On Jan. 16, there were 61 total individuals hospitalized for COVID-19. The surge in hospitalizations led to UVA Health requiring nursing staff to pick up extra shifts.

Move-in for first-year students began Wednesday, and classes are scheduled to begin Aug. 24. According to Srini Venkatramanan, research scientist at the Biocomplexity Institute, the current model is driven by community case rates and does not incorporate the potential effects of student move-in or in-person classes.

“In terms of overall projected peaks, some of our updates in the December-January time frame did have higher estimates than current projections,” Srini said. “It is to be noted that while some of it was due to seasonal effects and the largely unvaccinated population, the current surge is driven by the more transmissible Delta variant.”

The now-dominant Delta strain of the coronavirus is present in all health regions of Virginia and makes up up about 80 percent of COVID-19 cases in the state. First reported in India, the Delta variant is more contagious than other strains of the virus. Thirty-three percent of Virginia’s 35 health districts are experiencing a surge in cases, with the other two experiencing slow growth.

The Virginia Department of Health recorded 2,552 new cases Wednesday while the Blue Ridge Health District recorded 49.

Despite having a similar vaccination rate to Virginia, Florida already exceeded its highest weekly case rate in the winter. University models are predicting that Virginia will follow suit and experience a massive surge in the upcoming weeks, with weekly incidence already up by almost four times that in mid-July.

The University has required all students living and learning on Grounds to get vaccinated, while those with vaccine exemptions must complete pre-arrival testing and be tested weekly. Faculty and staff are strongly encouraged — though not required — to get vaccinated. All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must also wear masks when indoors on University property, though administrators are hoping to review the policy by Sept. 6.

Changing behaviors, however, can have a significant impact on the course of the virus. In January, the Biocomplexity Institute’s COVID-19 model predicted that cases would peak in Charlottesville in February under conditions of less control, with 2,000 weekly cases. Instead, the peak came around 800 cases during the week ending Jan. 17, which is exactly what the model had predicted might happen under conditions of more control.

“With the final peak is really depends on our final actions,” Marathe said.

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**Model estimates only, not actual cases. For actual case counts visit [this](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/).**

**Cases are calculated by week, so “today,” “so far,” or any specific date refers to the week end date (Sunday) of the week in which the relevant date falls.**

**Estimates are created for the Virginia portion of Metro areas only.**
This year will mark the first full “normal” year for members of the Class of 2023 and 2024 — not to mention the 4,615 members of Class of 2025 and transfer students, who eagerly braved heavy rain Wednesday morning to move in and begin their collegiate journey at the University.

Move-in will continue Thursday and first years will have the upcoming week to partake in Wahoo Welcome events and attend convocation — where they will sign the Honor pledge — and Welcome Week programming, including University traditions like Rotunda Sings and the Welcome Week concert.

Though University leadership promised this fall will mark a return to normal operations, the Delta variant — a more contagious version of COVID-19 — has recently changed the University’s masking policy.

“This fall will also mark the first full “normal” year for second and third-year students,” said second-year College student Daniel Bojo, who, like the Delta variant, is looking to confirm some things he missed last year. “I look forward to participating in some of the fun events we didn't get last year, like football games and Lighting of the Lawn.”

Some students, including second-year College student Nadia Cheng, are hoping that conditions remain better than last year. Still, Bojo said he has hope that the connections he made during his first year bode well for what the University offers in normal times.

“I’m super excited and lucky that we’ve been able to get to this point, but also anxious about the COVID guidelines returning to how they were last year,” Bojo said in an email statement to The Cavalier Daily. “I think we’ll have a lot of momentum going into this next year and I’m really eager to experience everything college has to offer.”

Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, the University’s gathering limit for in-person events fluctuated from 15 to five to six to 25, and for 10 days in February, there was even a ban on all in-person gatherings. All the while, strict social distancing and masking requirements...
Convocation.

Move-in will continue Thursday and first years will have the upcoming week to partake in Wahoo Welcome programming and attend orientation.

Third-year Commerce student Sydney McIntire School of Commerce.

The University reinstated a mask mandate for all individuals inside University properties beginning Aug. 9.

The University moved about 20 — or less than one percent — of College courses that were previously assigned classroom space to the online synchronous format, according to Hester. An email to impacted students made clear that this change does not alter associated lab or discussion sections and is completely unrelated to pandemic precautions.

Hester said the decision was made because student class enrollment occurred before the University could assess classroom space for this semester.

"The College of Arts and Sciences moved this group of courses online primarily because it was the least disruptive option to keep student course selections and schedules intact."

Despite the handful of students whose classes will be conducted online, most are optimistic that 9 a.m. Zoom calls will be a thing of the past and that they can finally get back to classrooms.

"I’m hoping my classes will be more meaningful and engaging now that it feels like more than a week away from the first day of classes, my feelings of excitement have prevailed."

The fall semester also marks the end of online learning for most students, save for a limited number of classes that were impacted by space shortage. The University reinstated all social distancing and gathering limits. Lower caseloads over the summer led to the University’s decision to move back to in-person residential living and learning for the fall semester.

Third-year students, meanwhile, had their first year on Grounds cut short when the University told students to remain at home during spring break. Despite hope that they would soon be permitted to move back in, students never returned to finish out the spring semester in-person after classes were moved online for the remainder of the year.

With all gathering limits and social distancing requirements now lifted, third years now have the chance to experience their first full year of regular college.

"I’m excited to finally be walking around Grounds again and seeing everyone’s smiles to feel a sense of normalcy during the Delta variant. I recognize the Delta variant may make the school year," Arensen said. "I feel a sense of normalcy during the uncertainty surrounding the Delta variant."

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"I’m hoping my classes will be more meaningful and engaging now that it feels like more than staring at a computer screen," Rhodes said.

Since members of the Class of 2025 were juniors in high school when the pandemic began, they too will have to adjust to in-person learning after most spent senior year on Zoom calls at home instead of with friends in their final year of high school.

"I feel like [first years] are definitely a lot more unprepared in terms of the classes we took last year, but I think the fact that we’re all on a pretty similar page will mean that we’ll just have to work with professors and each other," first-year Engineering student Alex Schaefer said. "I’m really excited to get back to a somewhat normal year."

Others, like first-year College students Ivy Reynolds and Lucy Davis, took gap years when the pandemic hit, and are looking forward to meeting people face-to-face and making new friends.

"There have been tons of information and resources so I feel like we really have the support we need," Davis said. "We’re just super excited to be here finally."

Despite uncertainty about the Delta variant, both girls said they are hopeful that they’ll be able to stay on Grounds and in classrooms.

"Being back in school and a classroom is huge," Reynolds said. "No matter what, I feel like we’re pretty resilient at this point, and we’re going to roll with the punches."
Community lessons carried from pandemic peak
Looking ahead to the University’s plan for the fall semester, students and staff draw upon personal realizations

Acacia McCabe | Features Writer

The possibility of a return to normal has helped many students remain hopeful throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Now, with a University-wide plan in place to resume in-person classes with strict vaccine and mask requirements this fall, excitement is racing across Grounds once more as the new semester approaches.

Although many may feel that the COVID-19 pandemic is becoming a distant memory, the past year and a half will have a lasting effect on all students and staff. Over the course of the pandemic, students and staff alike have learned lessons on treating people with kindness and realized the possibilities of online learning formats. Even as the University inches back towards “normal,” there is still a much-needed place on Grounds for newfound knowledge about individual learning experiences and support systems.

For fourth-year Nursing student Raniyah Majied, one of the biggest concerns surrounding a full-in person return to Grounds is that students and staff will try to race towards a lifestyle that many of them haven’t experienced since the beginning of 2020. Majied worries about this lack of caution amid the emergence of new variants and the potential toll this charge towards normality might have on students’ mental health.

“There was a lot of people giving each other grace,” Majied said. “I’m scared we’re going to try to rush back into things and expect each other to still be performing at the same levels academically and socially as we were before the start of the pandemic.”

Similarly to Majied, Drama Prof. Towah Close recognizes the pandemic will continue to have an impact on students even as we transition back to in-person events. In ranging degrees of impact, every single student has changed in the way they act with peers and learn on a daily basis — something Close believes we should keep in the forefront of our minds.

“It is important to remember that each of us went through this pandemic, but we each had our own individual experience,” Close said. “I hope that eventually we will be able to acclimate our comfort levels to what they were before, but I recognize that it will definitely be an adjustment — for me too.”

Close also emphasizes her sincere wish that the positive and more sentimental moments of the past year and a half will not be taken for granted either as we return to Grounds. She remembers how rewarding it was for her students to finally meet in person after weeks or months of separation and is optimistic the past year and a half committed to an entirely online format in both the classroom and for speaker events at the center. She believes that being able to directly interact and connect with peers will be nothing short of thrilling for everyone involved.

“I think the isolation is not very helpful to both the professors and students,” Wong said. “I’ve been teaching here for more than 20 years, but I’m willing to adapt to new technology and I think that there are so many good things about online teaching.” Wong said. “It made me a better teacher in the sense that I have to think ahead on what kind of questions guide students’ discussions.”

Wong believes that there are elements of online formatting that she will continue to utilize as both a professor at the University and the director of the East Asian Center, despite in-person events returning. Her plans include requesting an interactive classroom for her fall classes in order to mimic Zoom breakout rooms — which she found very effective — as well as generating hybrid events within the East Asian Center to increase outreach to people all over the world.

For rising first-year College student Sasha Porter, online high school classes were an opportunity for her to prepare for her first year at the University. Porter found that online learning and the cancellation of extracurriculars gave her increased freedom within her normally rigid schedule as a high school senior.

“Since virtual school was a little bit more independent than in-person high school, it did teach me more about how to make my own schedule,” Porter said. “I think that independence that we’ve kind of grown into this year will help us a lot at UVa.”

In addition to learning from online classes and the new technology that the pandemic has generated, reflection — while extremely taxing — also provided many with a chance to step back and reevaluate their own personal circumstances.

For Majied, who was a second-year at the start of the pandemic, the troubling 2020 spring semester did just that.

Majied used her time at home to reflect on her mental health, as well as her relationships with both family and school. She realized that, strangely enough, a year of turmoil is what helped her understand what she needed in order to thrive at the University going forward. Especially in regards to her levels of involvement on Grounds, the pandemic convinced her to ignore the University’s competitive culture and put herself first.

“Coming in third-year I was involved in five or six organizations and my mental health got [bad],” Majied said. “I chose me, so I quit everything except for MRSC, which was a very good decision. That was another thing — my worth is not determined by my level of involvement or productivity.”

The pandemic might not be fully over, but the return to in-person classes this fall has evoked a lot of reflection among students and staff as the summer winds down. Ultimately, the lessons that we have learned during the peak of the pandemic — whether they were related to technology or our own mental health — will remain important for far longer than a year and a half.
New dining places bring fresh flavors and foods to Grounds

The four new dining places will allow students to experience new food options through their dining plans

Nicole Ryeom | Food Writer

Students at Brewbike coming together to enhance the University dining experience.

This past month, U.Va. Dining announced that they would be welcoming four new dining locations to Grounds. Although the dining halls offer a variety of foods, I think we can all agree that sometimes you need something other than Newcomb chicken and O’Hill coffee. However, most of the time, you don’t want to have to pay for all your meals if you are already paying for a meal plan.

“We had an opportunity to replace some of our less trafficked locations and offer more variety to the student body,” said Sarah Gordon, marketing manager of Aramark. “Through many forms of feedback, students have told us they wanted different options near central Grounds, especially options that provided fresh, healthy ingredients and international cuisines.”

These four new dining locations will give students the opportunity to utilize their meal plans at a number of different places that offer more specialized dining options.

Bento Sushi

Bento Sushi is the new sushi place that is located inside the Pav on the first floor of Newcomb Hall. Their menu includes delicious sushi options, udon noodles, poke bowls and more. Sushi is one of my favorite foods, so I’m always on the lookout for a new sushi place, and one that’s located on Grounds is even more convenient.

Even Better, Bento Sushi will be accepting Flex Dollars and Cavalier Advantage, which means that students enrolled on a meal plan will be able to use the Flex Dollars from their meal plan to purchase some delicious sushi. Their opening date is subject to change due to construction, but be sure to visit this location as soon as it’s open.

Ben & Jerry’s

Who doesn’t love ice cream? Especially when it’s located right inside the Pav on the first floor of Newcomb Hall. This location is perfect for an after-dinner treat or late night snack, and will save you a trip to the Ben & Jerry’s located all the way in Barracks Shopping Center.

Rachel Nuccitelli, third-year College student, spoke of her opinions on the rapidly changing UVa dining landscape and how she felt about the new ice cream location in the heart of campus. Although there are meal options that will be missed, Nuccitelli noted the benefits to students and families that new options like Ben and Jerry’s brings to the table.

“I think the addition of a Ben and Jerry’s in Newcomb will be a great place for students to take a study break, chat with some friends and enjoy delicious ice cream,” Nuccitelli said. “Its location is also great for families visiting as they make their way to the bookstore and for the high population of first-year students that eat at the dining hall.”

Ben & Jerry’s will serve their classic offerings, including ice cream, frozen yogurt and sorbet. My favorite Ben & Jerry’s flavor is Milk & Cookies, but you really can’t go wrong with their abundance of flavor options. Ben & Jerry’s will be accepting both Flex Dollars and Cavalier Advantage, as well as cash and credit card payments. Currently, the opening is anticipated to be on Aug. 23rd and no specific hours are available for the location presently.

Brewbike

Brewbike is a student-run cold brew company that is on a mission to empower the next generation of leaders through entrepreneurial experience. Started by a group of Northwestern freshmen in 2019, it has grown to other college campuses including the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Miami and is now joining the University community. It will replace Argo Tea, located in Wilsohn Hall.

“We were constantly hearing that the Engineering students near Wilsohn did not have time between classes to get lunch and that they needed a closer target of caffeine options,” Gordon said. “By replacing Argo Tea with Brewbike—a student run coffee shop—we are now offering both grab and go meals, including meal exchange options and a long list of coffee drinks.”

I think most college students would agree that coffee is an essential part of every morning, so I couldn’t be more excited to see a new coffee place on Grounds. Nathan DeGallery, launch director and market manager of Brewbike, hopes the business expansion to Charlottesville will be a place that adds to the vibrant energy of the University community.

“We just want to build a really collaborative, cool community that kind of operates in the heart of U.Va. culture as a whole,” DeGallery said. “I think we’re doing that by just bringing in lots of students from diverse backgrounds, all over the world onto our team.”

While Brewbike has filled all of their employee positions, they’re hoping to expand their team to those who may not have had the opportunity to initially apply to work at Brewbike. For DeGallery, seeing students take on leadership roles and opportunities is an element of Brewbike’s opening that excites him.

“I’m also super excited to just see how, as we start bringing on bringing people on to the team of baristas and our brew team, that community kind of steeps itself and becomes its own unique place for every individual’s development,” DeGallery said. “We’re also excited to see how we can help people with their career goals and everything along the way.”

Brewbike hopes to open their location Aug. 23, and will definitely open within that week, making it the perfect place for students to grab a quick coffee between classes. DeGallery’s favorite is the cinnamon sugar cold brew – and he hopes students will support the peer-run cold brew place’s mission to inspire students to make change in the world by giving them leadership positions and teaching them how to run a business on their own.

In addition to these four new dining locations, U.Va. Dining is also enhancing many of the menus at existing dining locations. This includes, but is not limited to, Crossroads restaurants such as Society Pies offering made-to-order personal pizza, toasted melts and sandwiches and Grill-ology offering made-to-order burgers and sauce-tossed chicken tenders. Not only are new menu options coming to the mix but locally sourcing has also become an integral part of dining.

“We are excited to feature local grass-fed beef sourced from Seven Hills Farms and veggie burgers from Charlottesville-based woman owned company, NoBull Burger, which was co-founded by an U.Va. alumna at both Grill-ology and West Range Café,” Gordon said. “We will also feature locally sourced produce from 4P Foods and Cavalier Produce when possible in several menus across Grounds.”

These four new dining locations and enhanced menu options will bring a much-needed new taste of flavor to Grounds, and will hopefully give students — especially first years on mandatory meal plans — the variety they need in all of their meals. Gordon’s tip to first year students navigating their mandatory meal plans is to take time to read the information on the UVa Dining website and follow them on social media to stay up-to-date with announcements and menu items.
Top 10 things students may have missed at the University

With certain COVID-19 restrictions lifted, I anticipate students who stayed home are eagerly awaiting their return to Grounds.

Madison Workman | Top 10 Writer

1. Walking to class
One thing I’m sure students have missed most about being on Grounds is the familiarity of walking to class. Especially throughout the pandemic, many students found themselves constrained to their living areas, not able to enjoy the activity of walking to class — a breath of fresh air that provides a much-needed break from the classroom. As classes shift back to in-person this semester, I’m sure students are eager to begin getting out to get to class again.

2. Seeing faces around Grounds
One of the best things about being on Grounds is seeing faces everywhere you go — whether it be on the Corner, in dining halls, libraries or classrooms. Being able to converse freely without scheduled virtual meetings with peers, professors, friends, as well as the Charlottesville community, is something I expect returning students have missed about being in person. As the time is approaching for the University community to convene for the fall semester, I’m sure students are getting excited to see their community out and about as they walk around Grounds.

3. Rising Roll and West Range
I know that our fellow Rising Roll and West Range lovers must certainly be awaiting the reopening of these impeccable eateries within the coming weeks. For new students, Rising Roll and West Range are located in New Cabell Hall and on the south end of the West Range, respectively. Whether it's the buffalo chicken wrap from West Range or the grande burrito from Rising Roll, students must be yearning to walk through the shining gates of these cafes on Grounds. Not only can students grab some ready-to-go snacks and quick food, these locations offer a great place to meet up with fellow classmates and friends in between classes.

4. Libraries
While venturing to the library may not seem like the most exciting way to spend one’s time, I’m convinced students missed the sense of community that libraries radiate. There’s something about being in a library surrounded by working students that brings forth your best diligence. I myself have missed this culture of libraries and am looking forward to visiting once we return to Grounds. As libraries such as Clemons and Fine Arts stay open for the upcoming semester, there will be many options to explore — even with Alderman under renovation.

5. Walking down the Corner
There is just something about walking the Corner and seeing other students, community members and faculty that brings a smile to my face. It’s even better on a beautiful, sunny and 75-degree kind of day. The Corner offers a lovely amount of great food — from the classic Bodo’s Bagels to a refreshing smoothie at the Juice Laundry — as well as places to sit outside and chat with a friend or do school work. With students coming back on Grounds, it’ll be exciting to see the Corner bustling and bustling once again this semester.

6. The Lawn
The Lawn is easily one of the most architecturally beautiful places on Grounds. Like myself, I’m assured students must be expressing their excitement regarding their return to this aesthetically pleasing, happy location. I don’t know if I can name a better spot to grab a book, veg with friends, play a game or enjoy a meal.

7. Bodo’s Bagels
Now, you can agree to disagree, but Bodo’s Bagels is practically a staple on the Corner — I might even go as far to say that it is a staple of the University. Who doesn’t love a Bodo’s bagel? If you haven’t had a go-to bagel place this summer — like myself — I can assure you that one thing you are missing is a perfectly baked, loaded Bodo’s bagel. I can guarantee that the Bodo’s line will be wrapping around the corner by Starbucks on the first Friday of the semester.

8. Mad Bowl
A hotspot for recreational sports or simply hanging out with friends, Mad Bowl undoubtedly is getting students eager about their return to Grounds. Even though Mad Bowl was utilized a lot this past year as a location for students to socially distance themselves and meet up with others, I’m sure students are excited to regather on Mad Bowl and revel in the buzz of a full-fledged start to the new semester.

9. Christian’s Pizza
You can say that again! Christian’s Pizza — the beloved pizza restaurant on the Corner undoubtedly has students already drooling at the thought of taking a delectable bite of their perfectly crusty, cheesy pizza. Whether it’s to grab a slice in between classes or a late night bite, Christian’s Pizza is a faithful friend to all and students, including myself, have to be eagerly awaiting to renew this friendship.

10. In-person classes
After more than a year of virtual school, one thing students must be most enthusiastic about is in-person classes. In-person classes ignite a stronger sense of community, belonging and willingness to participate — the feelings of isolation that some students may have experienced with online classes will hopefully remain a figment of the past. While virtual classes allowed the opportunity for our community to connect and brought with it some benefits, the experience of being able to communicate face-to-face with professors and peers is simply unmatched.
Four Virginia swimmers claim medals for the United States

Freshman Emma Weyant, sophomore Alex Walsh, junior Kate Douglass and recent graduate Paige Madden all found themselves on the podium.

Akhil Rekulapelli | Sports Editor

In March, Virginia women’s swimming and diving won its first national championship, soundly defeating its competition. However, for four Cavaliers, a national championship was simply not enough as they traveled to Tokyo to compete on swimming’s biggest stage and brought home hardware for the United States.

Incoming freshman Emma Weyant — who deferred her enrollment at Virginia to prepare for the Olympics — kicked off the competition for the Cavaliers in the 400-meter individual medley. The Sarasota, Fla. native won her heat, soundly defeating Hungarian Katinka Hosszu, a 2012 and 2016 gold medalist and world-record holder, and claiming the top spot in the final. In the final, Weyant swam a personal best of 4:32.76, winning the silver medal behind Japan’s Yui Ohashi.

“Touching the wall and realizing that I actually had a medal at the Olympics is kind of crazy,” Weyant said on NBC Olympics’ The Podium podcast. “It still doesn’t feel real to me, I’m just super excited to be here and be with my teammates.”

Next up on the docket for the Cavaliers was the 200-meter individual medley, which featured rising sophomore Alex Walsh and rising junior Kate Douglass. At Virginia, Walsh and Douglass have had their fair share of battles in the event, which is 200 yards rather than meters at the collegiate level. As a freshman, Douglass swam an ACC record 1:50.92 in the event, winning an ACC title and garnering All-America honors. However, in the 2021 season, it was Walsh who was able to squeak by Douglass, defeating her teammate in the ACC Championship en route to an individual national title in the 200-yard IM.

The two Cavaliers continued to push each other in Tokyo, as Douglass initially looked to have a leg up on her teammate, swimming the fastest times in both the heats and semifinals. However, in the finals, it was Walsh who pulled away from Douglass in the last 50 meters, swimming toe to toe with Ohashi. While Ohashi out-touched Walsh by just 13-hundredths of a second, the Nashville, Tenn. native secured the silver medal, with her teammate Douglass right behind — out-touching Brit Abbie Wood by 11-hundredths of a second for the bronze.

“[Douglass and I] both wanted to medal, and I just remember looking at the scoreboard seeing two and three … just a moment of pure joy honestly,” Walsh said on The Today Show.

In the 400-meter freestyle, Madden finished seventh in a race whose headlines were dominated by the battle between Australian upstart Ariarne Titmus and American legend Katie Ledecky. In the 4x200 meter freestyle relay, Madden delivered a strong second leg to help the United States to a silver medal and an American record in the event.

Supporting these swimmers is Coach Todd DeSorbo — head coach of the Virginia swimming and diving program and an assistant coach for Team USA.

Overall, with Weyant, Walsh and Douglass all set to be on a 2021-2022 Virginia squad headed by DeSorbo, the NCAA Championship is the Cavaliers’ to lose. After being on top of the world, watch for these swimmers to continue to light the American swimming scene ablaze as they succeed for both the University and the country.

This story was originally published Aug. 1 on The Cavalier Daily’s website.
Three former Virginia soccer players appeared in the sport at the Tokyo Olympics. Combined, they played 966 minutes and registered a grand total of one shot, zero assists and zero goals. But all three players — American women Becky Sauerbrunn and Emily Sonnett and New Zealander Joe Bell — made contributions well beyond the box score.

First, it’s worth explaining why there aren’t more current and former Cavalier soccer players in Tokyo. While the women’s tournament is conducted with normal squad rules, the men’s side is restricted so that 20 of the 23 players must be younger than 23 years of age. The age was raised to 24 for these Olympics due to the pandemic.

The United States Men’s National Team did not qualify for the 2020 Olympics, instead competing in and winning the CONCACAF Gold Cup, led by former Virginia striker Daryl Dike.

However, the Women’s National Team was present and ready to claim a fifth gold medal, which would have been their first gold since the 2012 London Olympics. Their previous outing at the 2016 Rio Olympics led to a disappointing fifth-place finish. Unlike the men’s tournament, the women’s competition was undertaken by only 12 teams and had no limits on the 23 available roster spots — most countries brought their entire A-teams.

It’s worth diving into the individual performances of former Cavaliers in Tokyo, starting with the women.

Becky Sauerbrunn, Defender, USA

In four seasons as a Cavalier between 2003 and 2007, Sauerbrunn compiled 90 starts at defender and led Virginia to the NCAA tournament four times. After her final college season, she earned the first of her 107 international caps on January 16, 2008. Sauerbrunn would go on to register seven assists, a pair of World Cups and Olympic gold in London.

In 2016, the St. Louis native was named captain of the USWNT, a position she carried into Tokyo 2020. In the tournament, Sauerbrunn played solid defense on the left of a back four and was fourth on the team in total minutes. While not directly responsible for any goals, the US did have a rather poor defensive showing, allowing three goals in multiple games and 10 total goals in 6 games — 9 goals in 5 games in matches where Sauerbrunn appeared.

Ultimately, the women lost to eventual gold medalists Canada in the semifinal and beat Australia 4-3 in a bronze medal thriller, giving Sauerbrunn her second Olympic medal. The defender is now 36 and will likely retire from international competition soon, with the next major women’s tournament being the 2023 World Cup.

Emily Sonnett, Defender, USA

Thankfully, if Sauerbrunn retires, another former Cavalier is as good a bet as any to replace her on defense. Emily Sonnett spent four years between 2012 and 2015 anchoring the Cavaliers’ back line and scoring soaring headers. In 2015, she was named team captain, led Virginia to the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament. In early 2016, the NWSL’s Portland Thorns took her first overall in the college draft, and she now plays for the Washington Spirit.

In Tokyo, Sonnett was a peripheral figure, tallying no goals, assists or shots over 96 minutes. In her lone start, the right back played strong defense in a 6-1 rout of New Zealand and came on as a late sub to help subdue Australia to secure her first Olympic medal.

As the current American defense ages and Sonnett enters her prime, the former Cavalier has a shot at becoming a regular in time for the 2023 World Cup.

Joe Bell, Defensive Midfielder, New Zealand

Unlike the women on this list, Joe Bell did not play a full college career. In three seasons from 2017 to 2019, the Kiwi scored 10 goals and assisted 10 more. Bell also co-captained Virginia in the national championship. This accolade of their alma mater, the Cavalier programs in the country. Beyond the accolades of their alumni, the Cavalier men’s squad is just two years removed from a national championship game appearance and the women’s team comes into the 2023 season fresh off of a College Cup run last season — setting up Virginia soccer for bountiful success in the coming years.

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Connor Lotthrop | Associate Writer
A look at four Cavaliers’ time hooping in Tokyo
One current and three former Virginia basketball players represented their respective nations at the 2020 Olympic Games

Brandon Brown | Associate Writer

Virginia is a basketball school, evidenced by championship wins and consistent push of talent into pros. Every year since 2014, the Cavaliers have had someone from the men’s basketball team sign to an NBA team, while the women’s basketball team claims WNBA All-Star and Hall of Famer Dawn Staley and 2020 WNBA Draft first-round pick Joceyn Williams as alumni. What many may not know is that the Cavaliers also bridge international waters — most recently, in the Olympics.

Francisco Caffaro, Argentina

Caffaro is the only current Virginia basketball player to participate in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. As most Virginia fans know, Caffaro has had three surgeries between 2018 and 2020 and he has been constantly battling injuries throughout his tenure in Charlottesville. For this reason, he wasn’t expected to represent his national country Argentina in Tokyo, 2020 and he has been constantly battling injuries throughout his ten years with the University. For this reason, Argentina lost to eventual bronze medalists, Australia, in the quarterfinals. Caffaro played four minutes in this knockout game.

Mike Tobey, Slovenia

Tobey represented Slovenia’s national basketball team — a surprising thing for many Virginia fans, since he isn’t currently on an NBA roster and since each team is only allowed one player of dual citizenship on its roster. The former ACC Sixth Man of the Year absolutely crushed it in the Olympics as he hooped beside Slovenian NBA Superstar Luka Doncic, among others.

Averaging a double-double, Tobey’s 13.7 points per game and 10.5 rebounds per game average helped Slovenia place as runner-up in the third place game. Tobey — nicknamed “Milk” by his teammates — was even awarded FIBA Player of the Day for his 16-point, 14-rebound performance against a competitive Spain team. Notably, he also dropped 23 points on Rudy Gobert, Utah Jazz center, and 2021 NBA Defensive Player of the Year in Slovenia’s semifinal loss.

Tobey also formed a strong on-court relationship with Doncic during his time in Tokyo. “It was … some of the most fun I’ve had playing basketball,” Tobey said in an interview with Eurohoops. “Running around, just trying to read off [Doncic’s] greatness.”

The Twitter account of Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks, has since been flooded with fans begging for the duo to team up in Texas. “You got to think about it,” Cuban told Eurohoops. “I mean, you got to think about it.”

Dawn Staley, USA

Staley was the frontwoman of the Virginia women’s basketball team during its dynasty. Twice Naismith Player of the Year and ACC Player of the Year, Staley led the Cavaliers to three Final Four appearances and one national championship appearance between 1988 to 1992.

Her playing talent has since translated to coaching, as she has served as the women’s basketball coach at the University of South Carolina since 2008 — leading the team to a national championship win in 2017. She has also been a part of the USA women’s basketball coaching staff since 2006.

In 2017, she was appointed head coach of the national team and has helped Team USA extend its streak to 55 games, including the six games she recently coached in Tokyo.

This year, Staley took the American women to Olympic gold once again — further extending the team’s gold medal streak through seven consecutive Olympics. Her team consisted of veterans, WNBA superstars and a number of others who took the team to the knockout stages — winning by an average of nearly 20 points per game during those three rounds and ultimately defeating Japan to win gold. Unfortunately for Virginia fans, we won’t see Staley take the international stage again in the 2024 Olympics, as she recently stepped down as Team USA’s head coach.

Aisha Mohammed, Nigeria

Mohammed graduated in 2009 from the University of Virginia and has continued her basketball career since then. The two-time Olympian has represented Nigeria in its only two Olympic appearances — in 2004 and, now, in 2020. The veteran appeared in all three of Nigeria’s group games in Tokyo, averaging 5.1 points per game and putting up 1.7 rebounds per game. Nigeria only lost by nine to the future Gold medalists — Team USA — in its first game. However, the team lost its next two games and did not advance to the knockout round. After representing Nigeria in their two Olympics games and winning four Afrobasket gold medals, Mohammed announced she is retiring from basketball.

It is safe to say that these four Cavaliers fared well in Tokyo. They have truly made Virginia basketball, the University and the greater Charlottesville community proud with their performances. Cavalier fans can only hope that bigger things are to come in 2024 at the Olympics in Paris.
Let’s not let returning to Grounds distract from reality

The temporary mask mandate for in-person classes was an important step, but there is still much to do to really keep the local community safe.

We are now entering our fourth semester shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccination rates rose rapidly this past spring, and the number of new cases dropped drastically. Many of us — including University administration — hoped this fall would look as “normal” as possible. However, we are seeing a stark reversal of the numbers of just a few months ago. New daily cases are nearing the peaks of last fall, the University must lead by example as the central healthcare, education and employment for students attempting to find virtual counseling appointments because of a positive COVID-19 test or exposure to the virus. This includes adjusting or eliminating attendance requirements for in-person classes and offering a virtual option for learning, whether through recorded lectures or online class material.

We must balance our optimism with realism. While nearly all students at the University will be vaccinated, which helps keep students safe from contracting the virus and serious infections, the data shows breakthrough cases are still a reality. As such, the University needs policies to reflect the changing environment — the temporary reinstatement of a mask mandate for in-person classes was an important step, but there is still much to do to really keep the local community safe. We will all be readjusting to a new academic, social and work environment this semester — let’s not abandon pandemic precautions in the process.

Public Health

Last semester, as the country saw record high cases and led daily new cases worldwide, the University instituted mandatory weekly testing for all students to identify any potential clusters before they spread. This semester, vaccinated students are no longer subject to testing. While the efficacy of vaccines is undeniable, transmissibility amongst vaccinated students is not out of the question. Further, the University should seriously reconsider its lack of requirements for vaccination among faculty and staff.

The University must lead by example as the central healthcare, education and employment for the Charlottesville community, especially as booster shots become necessary. A mask and vaccination mandate is a start — but not enough.

Academic Flexibility

The University must ensure all classes are flexible for students with a positive COVID-19 test or exposure to the virus. This includes adjusting or eliminating attendance requirements for in-person classes and offering a virtual option for learning, whether through recorded lectures or online class material. This will also be the first time in over a year with many students returning to in-person classes. This, combined with the continued stress the COVID-19 pandemic causes for students, should be met with increased access to mental health resources. In addition, virtual counseling appointments will cause additional difficulties for students attempting to find ways to secure a time and private location for these appointments. The University needs to invest in Counseling and Psychological Services to ensure adequate resources are available for all students, as the return to Grounds in the midst of a debilitating pandemic is going to be difficult.

Financial Support

The pandemic continues to impose financial stress on students and families. Offer financial support to students and families who continue to face financial pressure caused by the pandemic — this includes those students who will have to miss wages because of a COVID-19 exposure. With the re-introduction of in-person classes, the University setting will likely cause exposure for many students who will contract the virus. As such, financial support needs to remain in place for students losing income because of a positive COVID-19 case. Gov. Ralph Northam recently announced a $111 million investment in higher education in order to make college more accessible, especially with the additional financial strain caused by the pandemic. This shows the need for emergency relief funding for students experiencing financial hardship related to the ongoing effects of the pandemic. The University should help students better access additional aid for COVID-related financial issues, reviewing cases on an individual basis to determine the extent of funds needed.

Let this serve as a reminder to students and administration alike that we are still fighting through this pandemic. With Albemarle County is listed as having substantial transmission, we must do everything in our power to ensure it does not contribute. There are even better times ahead, but only if we recognize our responsibility to each other and to our entire community.
Incorporate aspects of hybrid classes into the fall of 2021

The Virginia University should consider some of the benefits — such as flexibility and equitable opportunities — of keeping hybrid classes going into the fall 2021 semester.

As a University student plans to return to in-person classes this fall, it is imperative that administrators remember its experience with online learning during the pandemic. While UVA was in fear of falling behind the general online learning trend, it made large strides nearly a year ago to provide a unique, relatively successful online learning experience during the pandemic. Thus, it begs the question — is it beneficial to let the pendulum swing completely back to solely in-person classes at the University? In many ways, this would be overlooking the useful aspects of hybrid learning that occurred over the past year and a half.

While we obviously do not want to return to the realm of only Zoom meetings, there were some benefits to online learning — predominantly, flexibility. An example of this demonstrates the flexibility and possible benefits of continuing hybrid education at the University in Econ 2010. During the fall 2020 semester, Econ 2010 extended the bounds of its enrollment to allow more students to take the extremely important class. On Leota’s List, the average enrollment size of Econ 2010 with Professor Elliott is 150 students. During the fall semester of 2020, however, the enrollment size increased to 660 to 680 students. Since Econ 2010 was originally intended to aid students or the families of students struggling due to the coronavirus pandemic, it helped many other aspects of the student body’s life. For example, more flexibility in when and where classes can be taken is helpful for students with jobs. With the ability to take a class online from your own local area or watch a lecture by a professor earlier in the morning or later at night, it allows for students to make secondary education work for them.

Additionally, maintaining a hybrid component may ease the stresses of taking classes with time blocks that are incredibly close together. From my time as a first-year student — since it is the only I remember the stress of needing to take two specific classes, but you have a ten-minute window to get to one of the classes at McLeod and the other at Gilmer. Therefore, having the option of attending some of those necessary classes on time and online could help expand the classes students can fit into their schedule. This may be a better option than trying to speed through Grounds on a VeoRide scooter to get to class on time.

While the environment of being in a classroom and in-person instruction is unmatched, the University should step into the future.

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Now is not the time for political complacency

Recently, there has been a surge of awareness about political issues — police brutality, racist memorials and gender inequities in particular — that were previously undiscussed on major platforms. Conversations already happening on a smaller scale were brought to the forefront of American politics. Indeed, the attention brought to these issues allowed progress to be made. However, our job as activists is not done yet.

The Black Lives Matter movement challenged institutional racism and exposed crucial flaws in the policing system. The finish line for police reform is not a forgone conclusion, but it is clear that it has not been reached. For one, qualified immunity — which protects state and local officials from personal liability except in very limited circumstances — lives on in Virginia. This is not a minute detail. The NAACP explicitly calls for an end to qualified immunity. And after the viral video of Virginia officers pepper-spraying an Army lieutenant, the Virginia NAACP demanded Governor Northam call a special session of the General Assembly for the sole purpose of ending qualified immunity. While a bill that would have ended qualified immunity was introduced, it died in the Virginia Senate. This failed bill exemplifies that while progress has been accomplished, the way towards police reform to protect Black and Brown people is nowhere near finished.

Furthermore, efforts from the University and City of Charlottesville to decontextualize and remove symbols of hate on Grounds are incomplete. The George Rogers Clark statue was removed from University Grounds, and the City of Charlottesville has removed two Confederate statues and one of Meriwether Lewis. William Clark and Sacagawea — these removals are successes. However, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials. These removals are successes. Howeverr, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials. These removals are successes. However, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials. These removals are successes. However, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials. These removals are successes. However, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials. These removals are successes. However, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials. These removals are successes. However, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials. These removals are successes. However, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials. These removals are successes. However, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials. These removals are successes. However, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials. These removals are successes. However, the Board of Visitors supports a mere digital contextualization of the University’s statues and memorials.

For instance, the BOV opted to contextualize rather than remove the Frank Hume Memorial Wall, otherwise known as the Whispering Wall. Once again, I do not deny that advancements have been made, but it is also clear that so much more must be done on Grounds to change a history of institutional discrimination.

Racism in America is complex and has a deep history — it is more than a passing phase. So, in taking the first steps to address America’s institutional racism, we must address all facets of America’s life that perpetuate racist ideologies. Statutes of racist individuals create a physical environment at the University that glorifies a history of racism. And maintaining these statues suggests apathy towards current racism. The answer is simple — there is no place for memorials of racist individuals at the University. Furthermore, digital contextualization of racist memories on Grounds is not enough. While a QR code by statute provides necessary contextualization, it fails to stop the immediate glorification of these individuals in the physical space. That being said, I do not intend to say that these individuals should not be remembered nor studied in intellectual environments. Information about these individuals encourages us to learn from their accomplishments and avoid repeating their errors. However, we can retain knowledge of an individual’s history without the moralization and glorification of these individuals in public spaces.

The fight for equity never ends — it is a goal we must work towards each day.

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The majesticity of floriography can help you this semester

For those who do not know, floriography is the Victorian language of flowers. Emerging in the 19th century, this coded messaging through floral bouquets makes for a discreet way of communication. Traditionally, the symbolism and meanings of specific flowers can connect to culture, mythology, the appearance of the blooms themselves or are simply invented by people for the heck of it. On the surface, the practice of floriography may seem like such a bore. Yet, there are so many different combinations to explore and so many ways of expressing your sentiments, positive or not, with the human population through nature's most marvelous creation.

Bouquets are combinations of different flowers that can form one collective thought, such as for apologies or even tokens of affection. You can send someone a bouquet of chrysanthemum, marigold, mint and cypress to express your sympathies. Or, perhaps, a collection of blush roses, cornflower, sweet william and honeysuckle to court an interested party or solidify your status as taken. In floriography, arrangements are quite significant. Singular flowers attached to oneself or given to others also can symbolize your own character or status. Green carnations and violets, among other flowers, have historically been linked to LGBTQ+ identities to announce that you are a part of the community. And, in some cultures, the location of a flower behind the left or right ear relates to relationship status.

Nowadays, the language of flowers has dwindled in popularity. But, if you are like me and spurred by sheer boredom have looked into the subject, you have discovered an entirely new way of communication. Do you want to express to a loved one that you will care for them forever even though it's only the third day of class? Give them an orange blossom to symbolize eternal love, paired with ivy for a long-lasting relationship. Do you have a friend feeling down after their first in-person exam? Send them the lily of the valley with some protea to represent a return to happiness through transforming a bad situation into a good one.

Do you need to apologize to a classmate after forgetting to do your part in a project? Combine rue with columbine to symbolize regret and foolishness. That will most definitely solve your problem. Has a roommate drank all your beverages and eaten your food marked with your name? Leave some yellow tansy on their bed to declare war. They will never see you coming. Has a not-so-close individual you know done something so incredibly idiotic to you that you can not fathom how to put your disappointment into words? Stuff some yellow carnations for disdain, geraniums for stupidity, and wormwood for bitterness in their backpack. It probably will not teach them a lesson, but you may gain satisfaction in the action.

Has someone in your dorm been messing up the bathroom to the point where you must seek relief in more distant locations, but you think you know who it is so you want to send them a message calmly instead of breaking their kneecaps? Place some mint for suspicion and hellebore for scandal on their doorstep as a warning before you ask one of your more confrontational friends to put them on blast in a GroupMe chat.

So, whether it is to propose union, send a heartwarming message, or express searing annoyance, floriography has your back. Have fun.

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

CAROON

First bite of the semester

Audrey Lewis | Cartoon Editor
Across
6. At the University, return to ______.
7. Supporting beam at top or bottom of staircase.
10. Canopy placed over the head and shoulders of a patient to deliver oxygen. (Two words)
11. Alternatively known as a glaze event or silver thaw. (Two words)
13. A canal or inland water passage for boats to travel through.
15. Name of streetwear company founded by artist Shepard Fairey.
17. A builder who works with stone.
18. Programming command for global.
19. In Greek mythology, people who committed this were punished by the gods.
20. Genre of fiction also called thriller.
23. A song with a single melody is this.
26. Alone; relating to a single person.
27. “And that’s what you missed on Glee!”: one of these is given at the beginning of each of this series’ episodes detailing what happened previously.
28. Wahoo ____; the string of events UPC arranges for incoming students.

Down
1. A magical person able to see the future.
2. Latin for in entirety. (Two words)
3. Of or relating to ash.
4. Way classes at the University will be held for the first time since spring 2020. (Two words)
5. What a person does to the type of flies in 9 Across.
6. Of or relating to genes.
8. Relating to the distant past. (Two words)
12. New University policy temporarily mandates people wear these when indoors.
14. A type of behavior that can be relational or physical.
16. A woman’s bedroom or dressing room.
17. To form something badly.
22. Skincare brand Glossier has a universal one of these called “Balm Dotcom.”
24. Outburst people yell when hurt.
25. First name of the protagonist of the Fantastic Beasts series.
Get energized to return to Grounds with a back-to-school playlist

“Ancient” by The 1975

This song has long been a favorite of mine, and upon hearing it now, I can’t help but think about all the moments I’ve spent in the performance of this song. It’s not just the lyrics that resonate with I, but the overall feel of the song. The rhythm is perfect, and the melody is haunting.

“Juno” by NOS

While this song may not be immediate to many, it is definitely one of my favorites. The lyrics are so meaningful, and the overall feel of the song is incredible. It’s a perfect start to the semester.

“A Time Like This” by Sam Hunt

This song is such a great way to start the semester. The lyrics are so powerful, and the overall feel of the song is just incredible. It’s a great way to get students excited for the upcoming year.

A timeless playlist for trying to beat the clock

This year, students will appreciate the mad dash to in-person classes more than ever before. Nothing quite beats the rush of adrenaline one gets before walking into a full, silent lecture hall with a coffee in hand and a required textbook left at home. It’s a nostalgic stress, and we sure missed it. This crazy process, however, is incomplete without a soundtrack. Get your feet shuffling faster with some beats that are moving just as erratically as you are. Here are a few songs to add to a sweet, stressful run to New Cabell.

“Bunny is a Rider” by Caroline Polacheck

This song is the predecessor to full-blown, tardy-induced panic. The optimistic beat might even convince a student that UTS will get them from dorms to the center of Grounds just in time. Caroline Polacheck’s summer release of this single was incredibly well-received, unlike excuses from late students. This track earned her a spot on frequented Spotify playlists like “Pollen” immediately after its drop on social media. Polacheck told Pitchfork the concept of bunny is “slippery, impossible to get ahold of.” Exasperated professors may feel the same about a student’s constant absence. Even still, this song is an easy way to get greeted feet moving and grooving to the beat.

“Running Away” by VANO 9000, BADDBADNOTGOOD, Samiel T. Herring

Not only is this song appropriately named, it’s incredibly recognizable. This Adult Swim soundtrack rose to popularity on TikTok not long ago, including a creative trend that offers solid advice and the TV program’s hidden logo. This lengthy version includes Samuel T. Herring repeating, “Time, Time, Time.” This will help students get a move on like nothing else can. His voice represents the seconds ticking by in the most melodic way possible. Herring’s voice, as well as this whole track, encourages both running and facing the facts — everybody is late now and again in life.

"Calling U Back" by The Marías

An incredible wall of sound is created by The Marías in this seductively overwhelming track. The beat ebbs and flows, fading in and out at just the right times. In short, it won’t allow any students to get too lost in the music on their continued rush to class. The lyrics project an unashamed confidence that can’t help but catch on. “I can do anything” — might this include making it from the bottom of 14th street to Clark in just minutes?

“RUNITUP” by Tyler, the Creator, Tecco Touchdown

If you’ve heard any of the songs above, there is no doubt this new hit from Tyler, the Creator has you in its grasp. With another aptly named track, the likelihood of getting from Point A to Point B simply increases. The beginning is a near pep talk from Tyler himself, setting the scene for a boost in both speed and confidence. Verses featuring Tecco Touchdown solidify the theme of success. Don’t be so surprised if your feet stop making contact with the concrete. … RUNITUP will send you to the heavens. Death by Baudelaire.

“The Look (MGMT Remix)” by Metronomy, MGMT

Don’t let this song’s overwhelming beginning fool you. “The Look” has been remixed to perfection in this synth-heavy version. The classic song by Metronomy has been influenced by MGMT to become a dynamic playlist hit. It’ll make students feel like they’re running through a cheery ‘90s movie in a disturbingly good way. “We’re always running round this town.” They meant Charlottesville, right?

“One of the Girls” by Otho

This song is a slow-burn, but Otho lays it all on the line in “One of the Girls.” The sleepy lyrics give a persistent beat its deserved stage. This track also continues the theme of time — and more specifically — not having enough of it. Students and professors alike can surely relate to this concept. Maybe we even treasure it after being stuck behind closed doors.

“Jargorn” by Fade ‘Em All

Bring it home with the loud, disruptive track that is “Jargorn.” Fade ‘Em All shouts his way through this hedgepodge of sound and percussion in a way that surprisingly gets the job done. At the very least, it’s a definite way to get the blood flowing. If listeners thought the initial percussion was a lot, get ready for the guitar that shows its way through the mesy sonic landscape towards the end.

By now, hopefully frantic students will be breathless and seated in a lecture hall. Hit pause and do it all over again the next day — it’s all part of the college fun.
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Getting involved — U.Va. Arts style

With the new semester fast approaching, here is a non-exhaustive first-year guide to the arts at U.Va.

Caitlin Woodford | Senior Writer

The upcoming semester is set to mark the return of many things we love about U.Va. Between the switch back to in-person classes, the revitalization of many student groups which underwent a full pause or significant changes during the height of the pandemic and the arrival of the incoming Class of 2025, the return to many cherished communities and spaces is bound to feel both exciting and a bit overwhelming — especially for new students. Particularly in the arts field, the changes of the past year have created significant difficulties for artistic communities, but have also made them all the more resilient and enduring. If you are an artically inclined first year sitting in your new dorm room and thinking about what to do now that you’re at college, here is a breakdown of some places to get started. Even if majoring in the arts isn’t exactly your thing, there are still plenty of ways to get involved at the University both in and out of the classroom.

Theater

For the dramatic at heart, the University is a great place to find community. While technically a drama department is well-known for its varied and high-level productions throughout the year, including its upcoming season. However, with several entirely student-run theater groups on Grounds, the theater community at the University is vibrant and exciting for majors and non-majors alike. A good place for new students to get started is First Year Players, a theater organization that puts on a full-length musical each semester with a cast entirely composed of first-year students. Upperclassmen make up the artistic and production staff, so involvement doesn’t have to stop after your first year. For more performance-based student groups, check out the Paul Robeson Players, whose mission it is to cultivate artistic diversity in the realm of theater performance through both internal performances and the support of other Black theatrical events at the University. Other organizations include Spectrum Theatre and Shake-speare on the Lawn, which produce independent shows each semester as well. Within each group, there are also many opportunities for theatrical production — all student-run groups and what most drama department productions boast a student-based technical theater team, and there are a variety of opportunities for directing, playwriting and other production roles as well.

Music

With a huge number of organizations dedicated to all different facets of music, the University has no shortage of opportunities to get involved. Performing arts classes for many students is the University’s wide array of a cappella groups — which feature themes ranging from rock to showtunes, as well as more generalized men’s, women’s and co-ed groups. If a cappella is your calling, try checking out Rotunda Sing — the annual Welcome Week concert held by the University’s premiere co-ed a cappella group features most of the University’s a cappella groups and can help prospective singers feel out the different musical styles of each before auditions begin. For musicians whose interests lie outside of vocals, there are also plenty of instrumental groups on Grounds. At the “first and only student-run full symphony orchestra” at the University, the Cavalier Symphony Orchestra is a hub for a variety of musical styles. The organization features both a large philarmonic ensemble and smaller chamber groups such as a jazz ensemble, string quartets, woodwind quartets and more — and the organization also hosts a strong social element. In addition to student groups, there are a number of University-run music organizations as well — the University Singers, Cavalier Marching Band and African Music and Dance Ensemble are just a few highlights of an impressive list.

Visual Art

Between opportunities presented by the University’s resident museum of art — the Fralin — and student-led organizations, there are also many avenues of expression for visual art at the University. The Fralin houses a variety of programs throughout the year, including Final Friday tours of the current exhibits and the Fralin Student Docents — a volunteer program which includes both training and leading various tour groups through the museum. Separate from the Fralin, there are several organizations on Grounds that highlight a variety of artistic styles and mediums throughout the year. A notable example is V Magazine — a student-produced publication which “focuses on fashion, art and culture at the University of Virginia, featuring students and organizations, as well as other events and topics in interest of students and organization. As the magazine Scratch Zine also provides a publication opportunity for both visual artists and writers, with each issue centering around a unique theme that seeks to increase the visibility of the diverse arts that U.Va. students produce.”

General tips and local groups

In addition to joining student organizations, the University also offers plenty of arts-based classes that provide outlets for a variety of disciplines. Not sure which classes to try? Take it from a U.Va. Arts veteran, fourth-year College student Julia Preston, who is currently a University Singer and the performer of First Year Players.

“Tell those students interested in the arts to take a history class that corresponds to whatever their artistic medium is — art, history, music, history, etc. — even if they don’t have the intention of studying the arts academically.” Preston said. “It really enriches your experience and understanding of your art if you have the historical context for it, and every arts history class I’ve taken has been very worthwhile.”

Outside of the aforementioned disciplines, the University also houses a variety of writing programs. Within the English major there are area programs in literary prose and poetry, and on the student-run front there are many opportunities for the arts. From student-led literary magazines like the Virginia Literary Review. For those who decide to pursue arts in the academic sphere, another notable University-run program is the Miller Arts Scholars program, which provides funding to undergraduate students pursuing a variety of artistic projects.

If none of the classes or student groups mentioned above strike your fancy, fear not! The Charlottesville community is vibrant and ripe with artistic organizations that provide ample opportunities for students outside of the University umbrella. Local art exhibits such as IX Art Park and the Kluge-Ruhe Museum of Aboriginal Art often host events geared toward students and community members throughout the year, and local performance organizations such as Live Arts provide great opportunities for both participating in shows and obtaining artistic work experience.

Both within and beyond the opportunities and organizations listed above, which just scratch the surface of the artistic communities of the University and Charlottesville, there are many diverse and creative people ready to welcome new students into the world of the arts at the University. This list is purposely non-exhaustive — no matter what discipline you may already be interested in, or want to try out, there is certainly a place for everyone to experience a fulfilling and creatively engaging four years at the University.

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Jack Harlow to perform at Wahoo Welcome Concert

The rapper is set to headline UPC's free student concert

Lauren Whilitock | Staff Writer

As part of the University Programs Council's Welcome Week, rapper Jack Harlow will be headlining this year’s Wahoo Welcome Concert. Michael Kim, UPC Chair and third-year college student, revealed the mystery guest in an interview with The Cavalier Daily.

UPC initially advertised the concert as having a mystery guest, hosting an Instagram raffle with hints for students to solve. Initial hints included a picture of Big Red sodas, a red cream soda mentioned in Harlow’s “SUN-DOWN,” and a photo of Heath Ledger’s “Joker” in reference to Harlow’s song entitled “Dark Knight.” The third hint was an illustration of green bubbles, referencing Bblasian’s song, “Green Bubble,” on which Harlow is a featured artist. The fourth hint featured a map of Gibberd Gallery and Parndon Wood Nature Reserve, both located in Harlow, England.

Prize winners, chosen from a pool of commenters who correctly guessed Jack Harlow, will be notified by the UPC on or before Saturday. Announced on Insta gram, the grand prize will reserve front row seats to the show for the winner and two additional guests. The second place winner will receive one piece of autographed merch from the artist. Rapper Jack Harlow is best known for his 2020 hit “WHAT’S POPPIN’,” featuring DaBaby, Tory Lanez and Lil Wayne, and for his feature on Lil Nas X’s 2021 hit “INDUSTRY BABY.” Besides his notable collaborations, Ken-ncorth native Harlow gained major popularity from his 2020 album, “That’s What They All Say.” Harlow will stop at the University in the middle of his Creme de la Creme Tour and then head to the United Kingdom for a performance at the Reading Festival on Aug. 27. Harlow’s team will be selling merchandise at the Wahoo Welcome Concert for students to purchase.

The Wahoo Welcome Concert will take place Aug. 21 at the Amphitheater and will run from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Doors will open at 8 p.m. with Connor Noble, DJ and third-year College student, as the opening act. The concert is only open to students with valid student IDs, which will be scanned at the gates. The event will be followed by a giveaway at the NFC, including a grand prize of a Bose Soundlink Color II.

To accommodate the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, UPC recommends that all attendees wear masks and spread out in the Amphitheater. UPC is also providing ADA accessibility for this year’s concert. Anyone interested can contact UPC and be provided with an easily accessible and socially distanced area.

The concert will be UPC’s first in-person concert since 2019, when UPC hosted rapper ASAP Ferg for the Welcome Week Concert. During that concert, many students were disappointed by the rapper’s misogynistic and homophobic comments, prompting UPC to release a statement distancing themselves from his views. Previous Welcome Week artists include Joey Badass and T-Pain.

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Besecky applied for an internship at a company in the midst of renovating one of her favorite buildings on Grounds — Alderman Library.

Third-year Engineering student Sarah Besecky has always been fascinated by the process of building construction, from observing the progress of local construction sites to taking courses on the subject and pursuing a career in construction management. In an effort to achieve her dream of working in the civil engineering field, Besecky applied for an internship at a company in the midst of renovating one of her favorite buildings on Grounds — Alderman Library.

“Growing up, there was always a lot of construction going on,” Besecky said. “It was really interesting to pass different construction sites each week ... and see sites go from a hole in the ground to a fully built building in a matter of months, or over the course of a year.”

Sweden-based contractor Skanska, who was awarded the construction management contract for the Alderman Library renovation in June 2019, noticed this passion in Besecky, who applied to intern at the company when she received an email about the opportunity from the Engineering School. Skanska selected her as an intern at the construction site, where she would gain hands-on experience.

An important part of Besecky’s job with the construction management team is keeping up communication among everyone working on the project. She does the most work on Request For Information submittals — which help the subcontractors, design team, the architect and the owners communicate with each other, making collaboration between teams easier and keeping their work efficient.

“I also have some other smaller items that I do, such as doing an underpinning case study — which is the process of supporting the existing building by laying a foundation for it,” Besecky said. “We excavate right next to the building so it doesn’t fall in, and so I’ve been keeping track of that as well as the ... pieces incorporated into pouring each pit.”

Besecky’s work on the Alderman Library construction site allowed her to take the numbers-based material from courses she has taken at the University and see where it comes into play during building planning and construction. For example, Besecky took what she learned in her physics courses — such as the math involved in how structures stand — and applied it in real life scenarios.

Her experiences over the summer applied her love for civil engineering and ignited her passion even further, while introducing her to a new aspect of construction she had not considered in the past — construction management.

“I learned that there’s a lot of different components of construction that I didn’t know existed before now, like how construction sites are organized and how different subcontractors are brought in as well as ... the different roles these subcontractors have on the project and the various specializations they have that make them qualified for these roles,” Besecky said.

Besecky’s work on the library renovation didn’t just introduce her to a career path — it also presented her with the opportunity to leave a lasting impact on Grounds.

“It’s really cool ... to have this project at U.Va. because throughout your time here, everyone always asks about how you are going to leave an impact on Grounds,” Besecky said. “Working on this project means that whenever I visit in the future, I will always get to say that I helped build the library ... Knowing that countless students will get to study here when the construction is completed is very exciting.”

The library renovation project planning began in the spring of 2016 with the goal of improving a facility beginning to show its age, with its plumbing, wiring and air conditioning reaching the point of failure. The building will be renovated to meet the current standards of safety as well as suit the needs of modern students, including improved lighting with the addition of wide-spread light sources as well utilization of existing light wells, easier books and updated south and north entrances.

Work on the renovation started in January 2020, with its cost of $100 million being partly funded by a $40 million donation from an anonymous donor, as well as a $4 million donation from board of visitors members Robert and Molly Hardie.

As the summer comes to an end, the renovation reaches a crucial point. Recently, a concrete subcontractor came on site to start working on the foundations of new expansions on the main building. This marks the end of the excavation and demolition of the site and the beginning of the construction of the new structures.

Since COVID-19 put the entire world on pause, many projects postponed their work until conditions improve. But, Besecky explained, it has not impacted the renovation during her time interning with the company.

“Since I started, COVID really hasn’t impacted our work,” Besecky said. “We’ve all been on site, continuing to work, especially with the state mandates and everything kind of going away — at least as of right now — it’s been full steam ahead.”

As the impact of COVID-19 lessened throughout the summer, the renovation is still on pace to be completed in 2023, with the library set to re-open in the spring. While Besecky will not be attending the University to take advantage of the facility by the time of its completion, she knows she will always be able to look at the building and know that it represents her mark on Grounds during her time as a student.
19 months later — where are we now?

Experts discuss the COVID-19 Delta variant and emphasize the continued importance of COVID-19 vaccination

Abigail Challas and Brigitte Meyer | Staff Writers

After months of decreasing COVID-19 cases coupled with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in the United States, the end of the pandemic seemed to be drawing near for most. For therapists, it was the first United States COVID-19 case was reported on Jan. 21 of last year, marking this Saturday 19 months since the virus first arrived in the United States from Wuhan, China. However, in recent weeks, COVID-19 cases in Virginia have been increasing at a rate similar to the holidays, when cases and hospitalizations stressed the University Hospital. As the University is set to bring back students for in-person classes this next week, UVA Health experts discuss the potential causes for this case uptick and give their thoughts on what the future may hold.

Dr. William Petri, chief of the Division of Infectious Disease and International Health at the University, expressed his concerns regarding the recent rise in COVID-19 cases. He attributed this increase to the Delta variant, a mutation in the spike glycoprotein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes the virus to be more transmissible than the original strain.

What makes Delta different

“Of course, we are all concerned about the Delta,” Petri said on Aug. 4. “The number of cases of COVID in Virginia have gone up 400 percent in the last four weeks. We’re seeing all around the country that we’re clearly into a fifth wave of COVID-19, and this is due to the Delta variant.”

Petri noted that there are other variants currently in circulation but explained that the Delta variant is the most transmissible and, consequently, the most prominent.

According to Petri, the Delta variant comprises 70 percent of current COVID-19 cases in Virginia and 85 percent of COVID-19 cases in the United States. He added that one month prior, the Delta variant was present in only 5 percent of cases, showing this mutation is more infectious than previous strains.

Dr. Reid Adams, UVA Health chief medical officer, specified that over the past eight weeks, UVA Health has seen an increase in patients requiring hospitalization due to COVID-19. As of Tuesday, the University COVID-19 tracker reported 31 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, and on Saturday, the seven-day average of hospitalizations was the highest it’s been since May. Adams furthered that the health system is prepared for a potential surge in COVID-19 cases, adding that there are several areas of the University hospital — in addition to the hospital tower — that can be repurposed for COVID-19 patients if necessary.

Infectious disease specialist Dr. Patrick Jackson believes that current vaccines remain effective at preventing severe illness and hospitalization despite the more transmissible variant, noting that the majority of hospitalized COVID-19 patients are unvaccinated.

“The other hand, if we are asking the question about how effective the vaccines are in preventing any infection from COVID-19 or preventing transmission from person to person, I think there is some reason for concern that the vaccines may be somewhat less effective in the face of Delta,” Jackson said.

Petri cited a recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine, which found that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine prevents 88 percent of symptomatic Delta variant infections. He added that the vaccine originally provided 94 percent protection from the United Kingdom, or Alpha, variant.

However, Petri furthered that there is preliminary data from Israel which shows that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is only about 30 percent effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 Delta variant infection.

“With the Alpha variant, you probably have like 100 times more antibody than you need to be protected, whereas with Delta, it’s only about four times more antibody,” Petri said.

Getting vaccinated

Both experts nevertheless stressed the importance of vaccination, especially as students return to in-person learning in Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

“I think the number one thing we need to do is increase vaccination rates,” Jackson said. “I think anything that the schools can do to encourage vaccination among their staff should be done, including paid time off to recover from the vaccination. Letting people not come into work when they’re sick, I think, is equally important.”

The University and Virginia Tech are currently working together to develop a new, broad spectrum COVID-19 vaccine that could protect against many different types of coronaviruses and variants. Additionally, Petri said that his lab is also developing a new COVID-19 vaccine that uses a lipid vesicle to surround the COVID-19 spike glycoprotein. He stated that his vaccine is deliverable intranasally and has shown to be 100 percent effective at immunizing mice.

Petri added that there is buzz about potential booster vaccinations to strengthen COVID-19 immunity. On Wednesday, the Biden Administration announced a plan to provide booster vaccinations beginning in late September for individuals who have received either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Moreover, on Aug. 12 the Food and Drug Administration officially authorized Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 boosters for immunocompromised individuals.

“There’s clear data that kidney transplant recipients, or patients with rheumatoid arthritis that are on methotrexate and other immunosuppressive medicines, are not responding adequately to the vaccine,” Petri said. “The idea is, by giving them a booster, there’s at least a chance that you’ll be able to improve on their antibody response.”

As doctors and health officials work to address the growing issue of the Delta strain, they have also redoubled attention to populations that have been hesitant to receive the vaccine. In Charlottesville, this includes members of the Latinx community. Max Luna is head of the Latino Health Initiative, which has worked to bring health literacy, affordable care and healthcare to the Charlottesville Latinx community since 2009. In light of the pandemic, the initiative has focused heavily on providing accessible information concerning vaccination to the community, especially given that the Latinx community has the highest risk of infection.

“We are seeking to build trust in the health system, government, doctors, vaccine itself and the sources of their information,” Luna said. This trust-building has been accomplished via virtual town halls, with anywhere between 500 and 800 listeners per meeting, language and cultural competence at vaccination sites and establishing roots in the community.

Not only have these roots helped achieve greater vaccination rates in the Latino community with more than 60 percent of community members vaccinated with one dose, these connections can also be used to promote other important care like flu shots and cancer prevention.

“It’s a sustainable initiative in the long run,” Luna said.

Moving forward, Jackson emphasized the importance of influenza vaccinations for this upcoming flu season. He said that the United States saw very little influenza infections this past year due to masking and social distancing, which will likely lead to a worse flu season this year.

“You kind of rely on people having been exposed and recovered the previous year to tamp down on the amount of transmission that flu can run through in a population,” Jackson said. “I do think that in this coming flu season, vaccination is going to be incredibly important, and we’re going to need to really ramp up our efforts to vaccinate people.”

A healthier future

Although the pandemic is likely far from over — Petri estimated that it will take at least two to three years before COVID-19 outbreaks subside — Jackson is hopeful that the pandemic will result in an increased focus on more equitable healthcare with expanded public health efforts.

“If you look at the burden of infectious diseases like HIV, sexually transmitted infections, pneumonia and influenza, the burden of disease falls most heavily on people who are most marginalized in socioeconomic terms and in terms of racial and sexual inequities in our society,” Jackson said. “I think that this pandemic has really highlighted those disparities for the broader population as well.”

He furthered that every individual’s health is dependent on their neighbors.

“Even if you occupy a relatively privileged place in society, the fact of communicable diseases means that you need to care very deeply about what happens to people who are less well situated than you are, even if all you care about is your own self-interest,” Jackson said. “I hope that that message really penetrates and people really understand that we are all in this together and no one is an island unto themselves.”

He explained that he advocates for providers at UVA. Health to distribute their most effective COVID-19 therapies such as monoclonal antibodies to groups that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

“I hope that moving forward we will expand that attitude to other treatments that probably have not been rolled out as effectively,” Jackson said.

He is also optimistic that technology discovered during the pandemic will be used as a stepping stone for other illnesses.

“I do think that we have learned quite a bit scientifically about respiratory infections during this pandemic that will be helpful moving forward,” Jackson said. “I think one thing that people may notice is that the mRNA vaccine technology is likely to be expanded to other other viruses and bacteria, so it’s likely that more mRNA vaccines will come on the market in the relatively near future. I think that’s gonna be a really powerful tool.”
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