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KAREN CHENG AND DARYA TAHAN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

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Students speak against Engineering merger

Proposed merger between Systems, Civil Engineering departments comes under fire in discussion with students

KATE BELLOWS | ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Systems and Informations Engineering department held a discussion in Olsson Hall Wednesday afternoon to gauge undergraduate student opinion of a potential merger with the Civil and Environmental Engineering department. The room was filled, with roughly 75 students in attendance, and most students who spoke out during the meeting were against the merger.

The discussion was led by Systems Prof. and Department Chair Barry Horowitz and Assoc. Systems Prof. Peter Beling, and was conducted in a question-and-answer format.

Beling opened the discussion by explaining the reasons for the proposed merger, which included a desire to see the Engineering School rise in national rankings as well as to create an increased emphasis on research at the University.

"It's really a concept that's been driven by a desire to improve the school, improve the rankings of the programs in the school and the departments in the school," Beling said. "It's primarily driven by the opportunity to see an improvement in the research standing of the School of Engineering as a whole and of the individual departments in the school."

Beling said Systems and Civil Engineering are moving in the same direction.

After laying out his reasons for the merge, Beling then opened the floor up to questions and comments. Student opinion was overwhelmingly opposed to the merge.

Several students voiced concerns about the quality of teaching decreasing if the new department places an increased emphasis on research.

Beling said the merge would not change the academic experience of current Systems students, and that he could not see the academic experience of students being negatively affected.

"We have no plans, none at all, to change the degree program," Beling said. "If we can get more folks in the department, we'll have more resources in terms of faculty, so we can do more stuff. I can imagine the positive things that can come from more bodies, but I can't see the negative effects on you."

However, several students, both undergraduate and graduate, mentioned a concern about their ability to get jobs if they graduate from a department with a different name from Systems.

"Even if the exact name on our degree doesn't change, as they said

in the meeting that it wouldn't, it still gives more emphasis to a civil side that almost none of us are working on," Systems Engineering graduate student Emily Miller said. "People are uncomfortable being in a department with that slant that they didn't know about when they agreed to come here."

Systems Engineering graduate student Faraz Dadgostari said he was concerned about the different name as well.

"All problems come down to ... changing the name of the department," Dadgostari said. "It's going to appear on degrees, it's going to appear on websites. It can really affect our opportunities to publish in conferences, to get fellowships, to get funding, to get

faculty positions."

Students also raised concerns about not being consulted about the potential merger earlier. Blackwood said she was not officially notified of the merger until this weekend, when she received an email about the Wednesday discussion.

But Horowitz said the late notification was due to the fact that there wasn't much to say until just recently, as the faculty was still planning the merger.

"We wanted to wait until we felt ready," Horowitz said. "We started planning this in January, and we're only now at the point that we got to today. And even that is still not faculty-agreed-up-

on and being argued about."

Maite Brandt-Pearce, executive associate dean for Academic Affairs, said Engineering School Dean Craig Benson will ultimately decide whether to merge the Systems and Civil Engineering departments. But even his decision, Brandt-Pearce said, is subject to the decision of the provost.

Several students emphasized not feeling included in the decision process.

"I think what we found out today in this discussion is that students need to be involved in any decisions that relate to the education," fourth-year Civil Engineering student Jeremy Baruch said. "Where it's on principle not a bad idea, every [decision] needs to be passed through a joint faculty and student committee and have advice from everyone who's going to be affected."

Blackwood said she didn't feel like students and faculty were adequately consulted about the decision.

"Jefferson's institution is supposed to be built on self-government and self-research," Blackwood said. "And they did not put any of us in the decision for that to be made."

There will be a Systems faculty meeting Thursday to discuss the merger.



KATE BELLOWS | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Systems Prof. and Department Chair Barry Horowitz (left) and Assoc. Systems Prof. Peter Beling (right) at Wednesday's discussion.

Mittiga, Toscano discuss policies ahead of June primary

Over 200 attend forum between Democratic Party candidates for Delegate seat

MAIREAD CROTTY | SENIOR WRITER

Over 200 people attended a forum between the two Democratic candidates for the Virginia House of Delegates 57th district — incumbent David Toscano and challenger Ross Mittiga — Wednesday night in Nau Hall. The event is the only currently scheduled joint-appearance of the two candidates before the Democratic Party primary on June 13.

The University Democrats co-sponsored the event with the Charlottesville Democratic Party. Brett Curtis, a third-year Curry student and University Democrats president, said they began planning the forum after spring break.

"As we're seeing all across the country, young people and students, especially at the University of Virginia, want to get involved in the political process," Curtis said. "The minority leader of the Democratic Party is our representative in Charlottesville, he's running for reelection, and has a primary challenger, and we wanted to

help start conversations that students and member of the Charlottesville and Albemarle community want to be a part of in an open forum where they could do so."

Toscano serves as the minority leader in the Virginia House of Delegates.

The forum opened with each candidate giving a three-minute introduction. The candidates then responded to questions prepared by the University Democrats. The floor was then opened to questions from those attending the forum or watching the livestream.

The forum lasted for two hours, with the audience asking 12 questions. Not every person in line to speak was able to ask their question.

The questions touched on topics including campaign finance, nuclear energy and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

This is Mittiga's first political cam-

paign. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the University's Department of Politics, studying environmental political theory. Climate change-related issues are among the key points of Mittiga's platform.

"I came to environmental research while at U.Va. And that, in so many ways, has changed my life," Mittiga said. "It was my research here at the University of Virginia that really, in some sense, radicalized me. It gave me the time to reflect on a very important issue and that issue connected me with a community of people who cared deeply about the issue."

"It's very different because the electorate is so different and the groups that come out are so different," Toscano said. "The group tonight was stacked toward students and people opposed to the pipeline, and as a result of having all these questions asked about the pipeline, we didn't talk about a lot of things that we actually do in Richmond."

During the forum, Chelsea Granados, a fourth-year College student, asked both candidates for a yes or no answer in regards to whether they support the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Mittiga said he opposes the pipeline, stating "no new pipelines," and argued the pipeline would disproportionately affect people of color.

Toscano would not directly say either yes or no, pointing out that the pipeline could help workers. He said he would like to see the pipeline reduced in size, moved away from water and not run through Nelson or Buckingham counties.

"I've been sharpening them around Republicans, now I'm sharpening them on people who are little bit left of center," Toscano said. "It's great to have people come out and express their points of view and ask questions. Any really good candidate will learn from every question that gets asked or any comment that gets made and incorporate that into their

worldview."

As the 57th district is a historically Democratic seat, the Democratic candidate will likely win the seat in November. Also, no Republican candidates have entered the race. As a result, both candidates are campaigning hard, and the University Democrats have planned initiatives to get out the vote.

Toscano said he'll do more outreach, and Mittiga encouraged students registered to vote in Charlottesville to vote absentee if they will be out of town in June.

"It's all about coordinating our efforts to ensure come November, we have a united front to be able to put forward the best candidates, and the best organizing and ability to turn out the vote as well," Curtis said. "This is one opportunity to reach out to the community and participate, not just as students but as C'villians and citizens."

StudCo creates vice chair for Women, Gender Affairs

Initiative falls under the umbrella of Diversity Engagement Committee

MEGHAN TONNER | SENIOR WRITER

Newly elected Student Council President and third-year College student Sarah Kenny used her first presidential executive order to create several vice chair positions including one for Women and Gender Affairs, which is associated with the Diversity Engagement committee.

“I decided in my first presidential order to create a system of vice chairs to address different components and intersections of diversity in a more sustained way than we have before, and to focus on points of advocacy rather than putting on programming,” Kenny said.

Raiya Al Nsour, a first-year College student who was selected to serve as the vice chair for Women and Gender Affairs said in an email statement that the various committees were formed to help address issues of diversity on Grounds in a more focused manner.

“Having Vice Chairs responsible for specific areas of diversity means we can better serve our constituents,” Nsour said. “The intersectionality of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, socioeconomic status and other social categories must be taken into account when considering matters of diversity.”

Al-Nsour said she plans to engage with and support already existing student groups on Grounds that focus on issues regarding women and gender, in addition to working with administration and advocating for students.

“My goals for the upcoming year are to work closely with these organizations, increase communication across the board, and promote coalition-building,” Al-Nsour said. “We are here to serve students; we want them to know that Student Council is a resource that is always available. We are here to bolster

and empower other organizations on Grounds that are already doing fantastic work.”

The groups Al-Nsour said she intends to reach out to include the Queer Student Union, One Less, the Women’s Center and the Women’s Leadership Development Program.

In addition to this work, Al-Nsour is charged with developing Women On Grounds, which would be a peer-advising program for first-year women.

“While programs like the Women’s Leadership Development Program have a similar goal, the Women On Grounds program will be a lot more informal and a lot more focused on these organic peer to peer relationships,” Kenny said.

“I strongly encourage students to apply if they are passionate about inclusivity and diversity here on Grounds,” Al-Nsour said.



COURTESY AL-NSOUR AND KENNY

Raiya Al-Nsour, vice chair for Women and Gender Affairs (left) and Student Council President Sarah Kenny (right).

MSA celebrates Islam Awareness Month

Muslim Students Association members discuss efforts to engage community

ELIZA HAVERSTOCK | STAFF WRITER

The Muslim Students Association organized a series of outreach events during the month of April as part of Islam Awareness Month. Students have tabled at various locations on Grounds every Wednesday for the past eight weeks as part of “Islam Taught Me,” where they engaged with students to promote dialogue and answer questions about Islam.

Aseer Ahmad, MSA outreach chair and fourth-year College student, said these events have greatly helped to foster relationships with

other CIOs as well as organizations outside the University.

For example, the MSA has partnered with the Jewish Leadership Council to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity’s Store and coordinated with the Sikh Student Association to help out at the Ronald McDonald House. They also held a brunch at a nearby mosque recently and invited members from local churches and synagogues to attend.

“This year has been really great for MSA. We finally received representation within the Minority

Rights Coalition, and we’re actually the first religious CIO to have representation within this coalition,” Ahmad said. “This past year has been very troubling for many minority groups ... We just want to show that the MSA stands by our fellow Hoos.”

The outreach events are open to all students, regardless of religious beliefs. Raisa Noshin, a second-year Engineering student, said the tabling has been very successful in reaching non-Muslim students.

“We’ve gotten questions like, just general curiosity about what the religion is, what kind of things the scripture says that maybe people have heard,” Noshin said. “We often get a lot of questions about terrorism in general, and just clarifying misconceptions about the religion that have been perpetuated by the media.”

Noshin said they have even had interactions with some of the University faculty during their tabling.

“We’ve had a couple of deans walk up to this table and tell us to keep up the good work,” Noshin said. “They were very encouraging, and so the administration has been really nice.”

Noshin said her transition to the University from Northern Virginia was a big adjustment, especially in regards to how she felt perceived by fellow students. She has been very involved in the MSA during her

time here and was recently elected as the girls’ coordinator.

“People stare more and are just a little bit more hesitant to form relationships. The main adjustments I’ve made are just to be a little more receptive, to always try to have a smile on my face when I’m walking. It can be difficult with workloads increasing, but we try our best and we do stick together,” Noshin said. “I never got used to knowing every girl in a headscarf in my area because there were so many back home. But now, if I see one walking around, I probably know that person.”

First-year College student Faris Musa first became involved with the MSA this semester and said he realized it is a valuable resource for him.

“I started getting much more engaged, going to all these events and meeting all these wonderful people,” Musa said. “All these people of different cultures and different races are all united by this religion.”

Mariya Tayyab, outgoing president of MSA and fourth-year College student, has been involved since her first year, and said she has seen the organization grow and change over her time here.

“From when I started, numbers have definitely increased, and the Muslim community at U.Va. has become a lot more active in the MSA,” Tayyab said. “This was the first year we really actively tried to publicize

[Islam Awareness Month] a lot more than we have in the past couple of years just from what I’ve seen. For example, we painted Beta Bride, the first time we’ve done that.”

Tayyab also spoke about the importance of the MSA’s role in educating others to create a more welcoming community and to help to prevent prejudices from persisting.

“I do think that there’s always occasionally some types of prejudice every once in awhile, but I think that’s also the point of having Islam Awareness Month to just teach people about Islam,” Tayyab said. “Once you learn about it, you are more knowledgeable and you’re less likely to have prejudice against Islam.”

Ibtesam Zahid, incoming president of MSA and third-year College student, said he hopes to continue promoting outreach events and fostering an atmosphere of unity both within and outside the MSA.

“My main goal in MSA, which really reflects in this month, is unity. Not only among the MSA itself and Muslims, but among everyone in Charlottesville, the Charlottesville Muslim community, every type of faith, every type of background,” Zahid said. “We want everyone to come out, be like a family and accept each other and just have someone to talk to.”



MAYA LEZZAM | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Students tabling as part of Islam Awareness Month.



Top 10 simple ways to spread smiles

Making other people happy will make you happy

ASHLEY BOTKIN | FEATURE WRITER

1 Give a compliment

Chances are you look at things on your way to class. Maybe you noticed that girl's really cute skirt or the new flowers being planted by the groundskeepers. Instead of making a mental note and walking along, take the time to compliment someone. Tell the dining hall staff that the food looks delicious today or thank the cleaning staff in your dorm for keeping it so clean. There are so many people to compliment, and you will leave a smile on their face for the rest of the day.

2 Take a friend out to dinner

If you want to make someone happy, one of the best ways to do that is with food, so why not treat a friend to a dinner for two? It's a good chance to catch up with friends you haven't seen in awhile or just let friends know you appreciate them. If you don't have a big enough budget for going out, I'm sure they will still appreciate a home-cooked meal or even a meal at a dining hall, as long as you spend time with them and let them know how special they are to you.

3 Volunteer

There are many places to volunteer in Charlottesville, but one of my favorites is the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA. They are always looking for more volunteers to walk dogs, play with cats or clean up around the shelter. You will not only make the lives of the workers easier but also brighten the day of a cute dog or cat. Besides, who said the smiles had to be human?

4 Give your mom a call

The freedom of college life may be great for you, but your mom probably misses having you at home — well, I hope she does. If you were a little bit of a nuisance, then I can't say I blame her. Anyway, take the time between classes or on your downtime to give her a call and see how she's doing. The small gesture will go a long way in making your mom's day.



DISHA JAIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

5 Send a card to your grandparents

In case you haven't explored the nooks and crannies of the University Bookstore, it houses a rather extensive collection of cards in the back of the store. Most cards are no more than a few dollars, so why not buy a card and send it to someone you care about? I bet your grandparents would love to hear how your classes are going, especially if you do not have regular communication with them. While snail mail may take a little longer than a text, the result is definitely worth it.

6 Take your dog for a walk on the Lawn

There is nothing quite as indescribable as the joy in seeing a dog walk across Grounds. When a beautiful dog walks past, you see heads subtly — or not so subtly, in my case — whip around to watch. You can practically feel the mood lightening in the general vicinity of the dog. Dogs are also good for mental health, so ask a few people if they would like to pet your pet.

7 Plan a relaxation day with your best friend

As the end of classes is fast approaching, stress is starting to creep into everyone's minds. If you have a friend that is particularly stressed, ask them to take a day off with you. Enjoy some refreshments, watch some sports or a movie and don't talk about finals the entire day. The relaxation will be good for you and your friend, and I'm sure they will appreciate your concern about their mental health.

8 Thank your professor

Semesters are not only tiring for students, but professors too. In elementary school, students expressed their appreciation by giving gifts to their teachers at the end of the year. However, a university professor may teach a class without knowing 50 percent of his or her students. On the last days of classes, thank your teacher for taking the time and effort to instruct the class. The gesture will go far in a world of spiteful Rate My Professor reviews from bitter class failures.

9 Introduce yourself to someone new

This one may seem a little scary at first, but it's the end of the year, so throw caution to the wind and make a new friend! Maybe you could sit with someone new in class or strike up a conversation on the bus. The possibilities are endless. If you don't end up making a new friend, you will at least make someone's day a little better.

10 Give a smile, get a smile

There's no quicker way to share smiles than simply giving one yourself. Try to make eye contact instead of staring at your phone as you walk to class. Chances are if you smile at someone, they will smile back. Sometimes simple acts like a smile or kind look are enough to brighten someone's mood.

Baseball travels to Florida State

No. 10 Virginia takes on the Seminoles with week of rest

ALEC DOUGHERTY | SENIOR ASSOCIATE

As the No. 10 Virginia baseball team enters the final leg of its season, the team is hungry for more conference wins to increase its standing in the ACC. The Cavaliers (33-10, 12-9 ACC) will look to do just that when they travel to Tallahassee, Fla. to take on Florida State (26-16, 10-10 ACC) in a weekend series.

Virginia will enter the weekend fully recharged on extra rest, since it's midweek game against Radford was postponed due to rain. The Cavaliers are coming off a home series victory last weekend at against Notre Dame, which saw the team battle through some inconsistencies to grab two convicting victories. Particularly encouraging was Virginia's 9-0 shutout win over the Fighting Irish Saturday, which came hours after the team looked lost on both sides of the ball in an 8-2 loss Friday night. In what was a crucial game to lock up an ACC series, the Cavaliers were locked in.

"Our guys responded like we needed to and won a key ACC series," Coach Brian O'Connor said. "I'm proud of our guys for finding a way to win the series."

The Cavaliers won the game in part on the strength of key contributions from two of its most important breakout players. Sophomore

outfielder Cameron Simmons continued his tear from the plate, going 3-5 while chipping in an RBI. Simmons had the same line against Notre Dame in the first game of the series, helping Virginia towards a 14-4 win. The sophomore took a 13-game hit streak into Friday night before being held hitless.

Simmons' hot streak has given Virginia another bat to rely on for big hits — he is second on the team in batting average (.374) and third in RBIs (36). With juniors Adam Haseley and Pavin Smith shaping up to be high picks in June's MLB Draft, Simmons is starting to emerge as a potential offensive leader for the team in the near future.

Saturday's game also featured a strong performance on the mound from freshman pitcher Noah Murdock. In the fifth start of his young career, the towering 6-foot-8 righty fired 6.1 shutout innings in one of his best outings of the year. Murdock was far from perfect — he walked four and only struck out three — but the winning result was enough to give O'Connor confidence that the freshman is becoming a reliable starter.

"Noah Murdock pitched around some walks," O'Connor said. "He's learning and growing, and he didn't let those walks beat him. He man-

aged to pitch around them and give us a great, quality start."

The Colonial Heights, Va. native has been steadily improving throughout his starts and has helped shore up a weekend rotation that was very inconsistent early in the season. If junior starter Derek Casey — Virginia's ace for most of the season — can break out of his recent slump and Haseley continues to be solid, Murdock will round out a very formidable rotation for Virginia heading into the playoffs.

The rotation's next test against Florida State will be a good indicator of how far it has come. While the Seminoles are only .500 in the ACC this season, they are a dangerous team at home, boasting a 16-8 record at Dick Howser Stadium. Most notably, Florida State took down then-No. 3 Clemson in a home series two weeks ago, proving they can play with anyone in the conference.

The Seminoles are a slightly above-average team on both sides of the ball, hitting .264 and sporting a 3.94 ERA collectively. Junior third baseman Dylan Busby is Florida State's biggest all-around threat at the plate — boating a .308 average with eight homers and 41 RBIs while leading the team in slugging percentage at .575. Senior first baseman Quincy



CALLIE COLLINS | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Sophomore outfielder Cameron Simmons is second on the team in batting average.

Nieporte adds some power to the lineup with eight home runs and 49 RBIs on the season. Sophomore starter Tyler Holton is the ace of the Seminole pitching staff, sporting a 2.92 ERA with a team leading 78 strikeouts. The southpaw averages 11.38 strikeouts per game, good for third in the ACC.

Virginia will have to give solid efforts on the mounds and from the plate to best Florida State on the road in an important ACC showdown for both ball clubs. First pitch between the Cavaliers and Seminoles from Tallahassee is set for 6 p.m. Friday, following by 1 p.m. starts Saturday and Sunday.

Softball extends win streak to seven

Virginia beats George Washington in last home game of season

EMMA D'ARPINO | ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After sweeping Notre Dame over the weekend, the Virginia softball team picked up right where it left off, and collected a win against George Washington in its last home game of the season.

The Cavaliers (21-29, 8-13 ACC) beat George Washington (24-22, 7-10 Atlantic 10) with a score of 8-0 in a game that ended in the fifth inning due to the run rule. The win marked the seventh-consecutive victory for the Cavaliers, and it is the 100th career win for Coach Joanna Hardin.

"It's just starting to come together for us," Hardin said. "They've worked out some challenges, hitters are seeing the ball really well, and they're sticking to a plan. We're playing with confidence but also staying calm and focused ... We've just stayed true to who we are, and this is a little fruit of their labor."

The Cavaliers got on the



ALEXA PATEL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Sophomore pitcher Erika Osherow earned ACC Pitcher of the Week honors last week.

scoreboard right away, as junior first baseman Danni Ingraham picked up an RBI single to drive in senior catcher Katie Park in the opening inning of the game.

In the next inning, Virginia picked up three runs to open

up the lead to 4-0. The first run of the inning came when senior shortstop Madison Labshere hit a sacrifice fly to send senior outfielder Iyana Hughes across the plate. Then, senior third baseman Kaitlin Fitzgerald hit an

RBI single, which was followed by an RBI triple from Ingraham to wrap up the three-run inning or the Cavaliers.

Virginia followed up its three-run second inning with another three-run inning in the third to bring the Cavaliers to a 7-0 lead. Hughes and Park recorded the RBIs for the inning.

A walk-off double by Ingraham to score sophomore pinch-runner Tia Mitchell brought the game to 8-0, and capped off the win for the Cavaliers.

Meanwhile, from the pitching mound, sophomore pitcher Erika Osherow threw a superb five innings, and kept George Washington from getting a single run on the scoreboard.

This strong performance from Osherow comes after she was just named ACC Pitcher of the week, marking the first time since 2013 that a Virginia player has been named pitcher of the

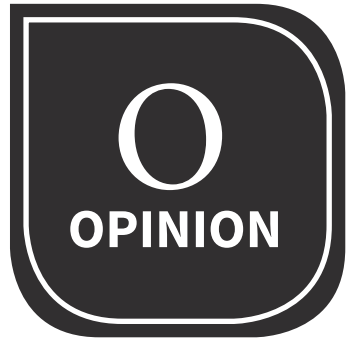
week.

"Erika has been throwing well for the last three to four weeks," Hardin said. "She has matured and grown and the award is a nice recognition. It was also just a nice shout-out to Virginia softball."

The Cavaliers now head to Louisville for the final regular season series of the season.

"Our challenge this weekend is to not press, and to stay true to who we are," Hardin said. "Basically, to do what we've been doing, if we can just take what we get and let the game come to us I think we'll be fine, and clean defense is going to be huge. Louisville is a good team so we're excited for a good challenge ahead of us."

The first game of the series is scheduled for Friday at 6 p.m., and will be followed by a 1 p.m. Saturday game and a noon game Sunday to wrap up the series.



CORRECTIONS

In the April 24 edition of The Cavalier Daily in the article, “Cville takes science to the Capitol,” the article previously misstated that cuts were made to the NIH and the NSF. The cuts to those entities are currently proposed. Additionally, the photo caption for the article, “Baseball gets series victory over Notre Dame,” incorrectly stated the player as senior long reliever Alec Bettinger. The photo was of freshman starter Noah Murdock.

LEAD EDITORIAL

By the numbers: 2017 Spring semester

The editorial board recounts some notable numbers from each month of the past semester

January

3-2: The final vote by Charlottesville City Council to remove the Robert E. Lee statue from Lee Park

330,000: The number of dollars removing the Lee statue is estimated to cost

1.65 million: The number of dollars Saga Communications spent to buy WUVA Radio

February

6,800: The projected dollars spent by student government candidates based on interim expenditure reports

3,343: The actual amount spent by all student government candidates

82.5: The percent of votes received by Sarah Kenny for Student Council president

17.5: The percent of votes received by Kelsey Kilgore for Student Council president

60: The threshold for the proposed Honor Democratization amendment to pass

55: The new threshold proposed by the Honor Democratization amendment

46.6: The percent of student votes in favor of the Honor Democratization amendment

March

1515: The name of the new student social space on the Corner

4.9 million: The number of dollars spent renovating 1515 University Avenue

4: The number of men's basketball players who announced they are leaving the basketball team

24: The overall acceptance rate for the Class of 2021

89: The number of countries represented by accepted applicants

April

164: The number of pages obtained by author Jeff Thomas' FOIA request, which fueled allegations of a pay-for-play admissions system

324: The number of solar panels installed on the roof of Clemons Library

461: The number of days until University President Teresa Sullivan steps down

2: The number of students serving on the University's presidential search committee

605: The number of undergraduate responses to the presidential search survey

3.6: The average percent increase for in-state tuition at Virginia public colleges and universities

2.2: The percent increase for in-state tuition at the University

3.5: The percent increase of out-of-state tuition at the University

THE CAVALIER DAILY

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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THE FUTURE OF THE POPULIST MOVEMENT

The political atmosphere in Europe forwards the signs of populist retrenchment

The results of the first round of the French presidential elections are in, and despite significant fluctuations in the polling in the few weeks leading up to the vote, they are along the lines most expected. Emmanuel Macron, the centrist, cosmopolitan independent, and Marine Le Pen, the hard-right, nationalist firebrand of the National Front, came out on top. Their success ushers in a campaign between two diametrically opposed visions for the French Republic, the West and the world ahead of the second round of voting on May 7. Le Pen is likely to lose by a large margin, and the hope is that the magnitude of her defeat will reverberate internationally, signaling that the election of President Donald Trump was the high-water mark of a populist movement in retreat. There is much evidence to corroborate that optimism. More likely than not, however, we are in the eye of a storm whose most devastating effects are yet to come.

First, it is worth going through all of the positive signs of populist retrenchment. In the United States, the Trump presidency began with the largest single protest event in American history — the Women's March in Washington, D.C. Its sheer size attested to the

enthusiasm of the growing Trump resistance movement. Even here at the University, the University Democrats, the Minority Rights Coalition and other activist organ-

a runoff. Democrats saw similarly surprising gains in 2005, which led into their recapturing the House of Representatives in 2006.

After its first few polarizing

the president's agenda to fit their prerogatives.

Finally, the populist surge in Europe seems to have equally abated. The recent Dutch elections have demonstrated that far-right populist parties have not been able to capitalize on the spirit of President Trump's victory last year. The first round of the French presidential election was marred by a terrorist attack on the Champs-Élysées, which killed a police officer and wounded two others. Yet, the French people did not respond by providing Marine Le Pen with a boost. The painstaking state of the United Kingdom's Brexit negotiations is reminding the world on a near-daily basis how onerous it can be to actually achieve some of these populist fantasies.

Despite all of these signals that the centrifugal forces of our time are slowing and that liberal democratic institutions are regaining their footing, there are deeper concerns that the West and the rest of the world will have to face. Turkey's recent referendum providing President Recep Erdogan with a near-dictatorial stranglehold on his country come 2019 has provided a time of death for Turkish democracy. Central and Eastern Europe remain in the clutches of far-right populist governments

set on wreaking havoc within the European Union and clamping down on freedoms at home. Russia and China remain revisionist powers determined to establish their respective regional hegemonies and to overturn key elements of the U.S.-led international order. On an economic and social level, the world is on the cusp of a digital revolution which will have deep-seated implications for the labor market beyond what we have already seen. That means more precarity, more sluggish growth and, in turn, more populism, extremism and yearning for strongmen figures.

The evolving state of compromise between the forces of nationalism and continuity in the Trump administration is possibly reflective of a new normal rather than a momentary aberration. If that is the case, then the West and the rest of the world must be prepared to slog through an indeterminate number of years in this rough political climate.

OLIVIER WEISS is an Opinion columnist for *The Cavalier Daily*. He can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

“More likely than not, however, we are in the eye of a storm whose most devastating effects are yet to come.”

izations have put on well-attended acts of solidarity and protest in the wake of the Trump administration's executive orders.

The shoots of hope springing forth across the country have already bloomed into auspicious near-political victories for Democrats. In deep-red Kansas's fourth congressional district, where a special election was held on April 11 to replace CIA director Mike Pompeo, Democrat James Thompson lost to Republican Ron Estes by a seven-point margin. In November 2016, Pompeo beat his Democratic opponent by 31 points. In Georgia's sixth congressional district, where Republicans are used to winning by extensive double digit margins, Democrat Jon Ossoff was a little under two points shy of winning a majority of the vote and avoiding

months, the Trump administration seems to be dialing down its explosive, nationalist rhetoric and policy priorities in favor of a more traditional agenda. The last few weeks in American foreign policy have been remarkable for their continuity with previous administrations. The Trump administration ratcheted down its invective toward China, toughened up on Russia, used the military to enforce an international norm and has signaled to American allies that the United States will continue to uphold its commitments. President Trump even went so far as to declare that NATO is “not obsolete,” in reference to comments he made last year saying precisely the opposite. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Washington's strong web of institutions and checks are molding

FLYING CARS DO LITTLE TO SOLVE AMERICA'S TRAFFIC PROBLEM

Investment in public transportation would be more effective than relying on untested technology

For decades, countless literary works and popular films such as “Back to the Future” and “Star Wars” have fantasized about the feasibility of the flying car. Although significant focus has been placed on the advent of self-driving cars — along with their associated risks and benefits — the development of flying cars is not one to be ignored, with companies such as Uber and Kitty Hawk announcing their intention to develop and test the first iterations of flying cars as early as 2020. While it is fascinating to see another sci-fi fantasy become reality, the practical applications of such technology leave much to be desired.

At first glance, the benefits of such technology are appealing — flying cars would be unaffected by traffic accidents as well as highway maintenance and repair. Such vehicles could ignore disasters such as the recent I-85 Bridge collapse in Atlanta. The interstate, which normally carries 250,000 vehicles a day, is estimated to take months to rebuild. Furthermore, its collapse has caused economic damage to local businesses, with WSB-TV

reporting that many businesses are “trying to figure out how to operate under a new normal caused by the Interstate 85 fire and bridge collapse.” In theory, flying cars could bypass such accidents, reducing the amount of time, energy and fuel spent on

“Promoting the use of public transportation, rather than relying on technological advancements, has and will continue to be an effective remedy to traffic congestion.”

the road.

However, the risks of utilizing flying cars significantly outweigh such benefits. In 2015, the Insurance Institute for Highway Policy reported there were “32,166 fatal motor crashes in the United States in 2015 in which 35,092 deaths occurred.” Flying cars would only increase the chance of accidents, as drivers would have to pay attention to elevation and additional outside factors, such as birds and drones. The Feder-

al Aviation Administration has marked inattention as the main factor behind midair collisions, stating that “a daydreaming pilot staring out into space sees no approaching traffic and is probably the number one candidate for an in-flight collision.” Fur-

thermore, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has noted that “drivers engaging in visually and/or manually complex tasks have a three-times higher near-crash/crash risk than drivers who are attentive.” Given that inattention is one of the main factors behind traffic accidents, there is no reason to believe that civilians would pay any more attention while driving in the air compared to driving on the ground.

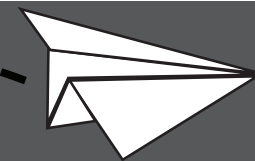
Cities which adopt such

technology would likely see a negligible impact on traffic congestion. As noted by the BBC, cities cover just “3 percent of the planet's land surface, but are already home to more than half of its people.” The Brookings Institute has noted that peak-hour traffic congestion “in almost all large and growing metropolitan regions around the world is here to stay. In fact, it is almost certain to get worse.” As the world population continues to coalesce into cities, the demand for transportation in such locations will understandably skyrocket. Flying cars would ameliorate some of those traffic concerns, though only up to a certain point (as air space, while large, is limited). Large-scale implementation of flying cars would be a logistical nightmare. The New York Times has noted: “For these personal air vehicles to become a reality in the United States, the country would need a new air traffic control system.” The rising need for additional transportation — combined with the sheer logistical overhaul necessary for wide usage of flying cars — makes flying cars impractical at best for solving traffic congestion.

Flying cars are still in the early stages of research and development, and there is little doubt progress will be made in safety and usability. However, expecting them to be a silver bullet to the ever-worsening problem of traffic congestion is wishful thinking at best. In solving the issues with traffic congestion, investment in public transportation has provided significant benefits — Hong Kong's internationally-acclaimed Mass Transit Railway, which receives \$645 million each year for maintenance, upgrades and renewals, boasts a 99.9 percent punctuality rate and has recorded profits of \$1.7 billion. Promoting the use of public transportation, rather than relying on technological advancements, has and will continue to be an effective remedy to traffic congestion.

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PARTING SHOTS



Fourth Years reflects on their experiences as Cavalier Daily Editors

GETTING INTO MY GROOVE

I came to the University and, eager to sound off on whatever weekly controversy I wanted (i.e. rant on the Internet with some legitimacy), I joined The Cavalier Daily's Opinion section my first semester. I did so without the slightest imagination I would someday become the executive editor. For one, I was set on majoring in statistics (which I did), and I knew I would only ever write a handful of college papers. Writing didn't come easy to me. Second, I, as many first years do, viewed the then-fourth years on the managing board as infallible, confident role models who had everything together — in retrospect, this hero worship on my part was a bit silly. Struggling to even find my way around Grounds, I didn't expect to someday fill one of their seats in The Cavalier Daily offices.

I started my writing career swinging for the fences in every column. I wrote about racism for my first week on the job. I attacked Greek life and legacy preferences in undergraduate admissions, all within my first few months. I was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, ready to change the world with

my often impulsive and uncalculated articles.

During second year, my role at the paper took a different arc than that of Dani Bernstein, the editor-in-chief who served with me on the managing board and who had joined the paper the same se-

lot of friends after publishing it. Having had a year of experience during which I felt my Opinion pieces did nothing except draw ire from online commenters and occasionally friends, I became increasingly disillusioned by the paper's role on Grounds.

activity?

At the highest level, the importance of the paper's work on the rest of the University became clear to me. I sat in on discussions of how our work impacts our various stakeholders — students, CIOs, community members, faculty, the administration and more. I got to write the lead editorial, edit Opinion articles, organize the content in the print pages and decide which article would be included in the newsletter received by thousands of subscribers. I even got to peek at the website analytics and realized just how many people our work reaches. Soon after, I ran for executive editor and won the election.

Over the next year, I got to make decisions which will make me a better leader once I graduate. I oversaw editorial board selections, hired two paid ombudsmen, endorsed student elections candidates, cut unnecessary guest platforms, led an external review of college newspaper editing processes, organized section meetings and participated in endless discussions about strategy with my peers on the managing board. All the while, I wrote up to three editorials and edited about 15 columns per week — not an easy feat for someone so unaccustomed to

At the highest level, the importance of the paper's work on the rest of the University became clear to me.

mester I did. In her parting shot, she explains how she became increasingly invested in the impact of the paper's work on others, especially during what was a tumultuous year for the entire community.

At that time, I felt the opposite. I wrote about things which I cared about, but which produced no tangible impact. That spring, I took a critical look at one of my own communities — the University Guide Service — and argued for its relocation from Pavilion VIII, a space which I felt implicitly and unfairly elevated the organization over others. I lost a

This feeling amplified with my decision to join a volunteer fire department at the start of my second year. I also enrolled in an EMT class to join the city's rescue squad. It was easy for me to trace the impact of these two other organizations on the community and county at large. There was a time when I felt I wasn't making the best use of my time writing an Opinion article, when I could instead spend time volunteering with agencies whose impact was so easy to see. How could publishing arguments on the Internet ever match up with responding to 911 calls as an extracurricular



NAZAR ALJASSAR
127th Executive Editor

writing, at least compared to my friends in the humanities and social sciences.

This is not to imply that a managing board role is what makes a Cavalier Daily experience fulfilling. People find ways to engage themselves at all levels in the paper. For me, the key difference maker was spending more time in the office, which is required of managing board members. If you're ever in the office on a print night, you'll know what I mean. The dozens of writers, artists, producers, business staffers and editors coming together to create our product will show you a passion for making an impact that you will rarely find elsewhere on Grounds. Thank you to all who have been with me on my journey.



I hate to sound like a member of the liberal elite, but I'll say it: I read the news. Garfield, Dennis the Menace, Peanuts, The Family Circus — hell, I'll even read Doonesbury if I'm feeling particularly high falutin. And on my way to reading these, the important part of newspapers, I have to flip through the other boring pages, so I sometimes notice the headlines. This is how I have become a fountain of knowledge, able to rattle off newsy little bits of information such as: "The temperature was a high of 67 degrees yesterday," and, "Hillary won the popular vote."

As an informed citizen, I recognize my obligation to partake in discourse regarding national and global affairs. I love a healthy

debate. I crave the free exchange of ideas. Nothing gets me more excited, other than all forms of dessert. I even started a podcast to encourage my peers to join me in these discussions. My podcast is called, "You Are Wrong and I Will Tell You Why," and it should be up on Spotify in the next few decades. Production's been slow because all my guests keep cancelling. By the way, if you would like to be featured on my podcast, please shoot me an e-mail! It is a low-pressure situation. You barely even have to talk. Each episode is 90 minutes long, but I talk for 87 of them, and then there's a two minute word from our sponsors. Basically, I just need you to state your name and an opinion on anything, and then you can just sit back and let me tell you how wrong you are. If you don't have any opinions, no worries. State a fact — I'll dispute that, too! I'm like a younger, hotter Fox News!

But back to my point. In my

recent discussions with fellow news readers, I've discovered something incredibly alarming. Just last week I was talking to a couple of my many, many friends, when one of them said: "We really need to change our approach to addressing the problem of nuclear weapons. It's like we've forgotten that we were the ones who dropped the atomic bomb." I gasped. This statement blew me away for two reasons. First, I have never read a history book and thus did not know we had dropped the atomic bomb, so I was, like, very shocked by that. We are such a peaceful people, I just couldn't believe it. As FDR once said, the only thing we have to fear is nothing, because we have done nothing wrong ever.

But what really threw me for a loop was that when my friend said, "nuclear weapons," he pronounced it like the word, "nuclear." Here's the kicker: nuclear is not even a word!

Here is how you should say the word: new-clear.

Here is how you should not say it, and yet so many do: new-kyal-lur.

I'm worried, America. It is about time we start pronouncing our words correctly. After all, what does it say in the very first line of our constitution? I don't know for sure as I have never read it, but those founding fathers seemed like they had a lot of sense. When they sat around the table making their deeply racist, sexist arguments, they pronounced stuff correctly. We owe it to them to follow in their footsteps.

Who are we, if not a country in which we put most of our resources into telling everybody else in the world how superior we are? Let us be superior in our pronunciation!

Who are we, if not a people that goes abroad to foreign lands with foreign languages, yet insists on speaking our own language no

matter what, talking really loud and slow, as if that's somehow going to make people understand? When we scream in English at the poor salesman who does not understand (and really has no obligation to understand, because after all this is his country, so we probably could have learned a word or two in his language, but anyway), let us scream our words at him correctly, angrily, properly pronounced!

Nuclear is just not a word, and I can be silent no longer. This is a national issue, one that I will fight tirelessly, until I get tired, and then I'll probably let it go. Anyway, to hear about other stuff you are doing wrong, come be on my podcast. Please. Anybody?

NORA WALLS is a Humor writer for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com

A NATIONAL ISSUE



EVENTS

Thursday 4/27
Resident Staff Program: Lecture Series w/ Professor Higginbotham & Maillet, 6-7:30pm, O’Hill
Second Year Presents: Second Year Send Off, 6-8pm, McIntire Amphitheater
FYP Presents: Little Shop of Horrors!, 8pm, SAC
Pancakes for Parkinson’s Presents: Trinity Bar Night, 9pm-12am, Trinity Irish Pub
Class of 2017 Presents: Fourth Year Date Function, 7:30-9pm, Crozet Pizza Bar

Friday 4/28
Beta Ball Pit Benefitting UVA Children’s Miracle Network, 3-6pm, Beta Theta Pi
FYP Presents: Little Shop of Horrors!, 8pm, SAC
Phi Sigma Pie Fest Benefitting the Children’s Miracle Network, 1-5pm, 403 14th St NW
The Whethermen Present: Graduation Spectacular, 7-9:30pm, Chem 402
SheVille Art Showcase and Fundraiser, 7-9pm, 1515
Hoos for Israel and BJC Present: Israel Fest, 4-7pm, Lambeth Field
The Sil’hooettes Present: From the Depths Spring Concert, 8-9:30pm, McLeod Hall
Hoos Moving to New York Party, 5-8pm, The Biltmore
Kite Festival, 3-6:30pm, The Lawn
Athletes for Equality Present: The Future of Athletics and LGBTQ Issues, 3-4:30pm, 1515

Saturday 4/29
Track & Field and Cross Country Virginia Grand Prix, 6pm, Lannigan Field
UPC Movie Screening: Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them, 7-9:30pm, Newcomb Theater
FYP Presents: Little Shop of Horrors!, 8pm, SAC
40th Anniversary Spring 2017 Foxfield Races, 9am-5:30pm, The Foxfield Races

Sunday 4/30
Ballroom Dance Club Showcase, 2-3pm, Newcomb Ballroom
UPC Movie Screening: Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them, 9-11:30pm, Newcomb Theater
19 Friends Presents: No Ordinary Revue, 7:30-9:30pm, Ruth Caplin Theater
ISC Presents: Free Yoga Class Benefiting the UVA Women’s Center, 11am-12pm, Garden I
FYP Presents: Little Shop of Horrors!, 8pm, SAC
Spring Journal Launch, 3:30-5pm, McIntire Amphitheater

WEEKLY CROSSWORD SOLUTION

SAM EZERSKY | PUZZLE MASTER

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Parachute brings non-stop energy to The Jefferson

Charlottesville band rocks homecoming show with help from Kris Allen

ELLEN ADAMS | SENIOR WRITER

Pop-rock band Parachute brought The Jefferson to life April 23, playing a high-energy set featuring old hits and new on their “Getaway Tour.” Frontman Will Anderson and saxophonist Kit French created the group while both were attending the University in 2007. Since then, Parachute has gone on to be one of the most successful bands to emerge from Charlottesville. The group has toured alongside acts like Kelly Clarkson, The Script and Gavin Degraw.

Before Parachute took the stage, American Idol winner Kris Allen warmed the crowd up with his acoustic rock and stellar vocals, opening with the catchy “Faster Shoes.” Despite playing most of the set with only his guitar and piano accompaniment, Allen captivated the audience with his sincere lyrics and charming personality.

Standouts from Allen’s set in-

cluded a crowd-pleasing cover of Katy Perry’s hit “Chained to the Rhythm” as well as the heartfelt ballad “In Time” — a song Allen described as “the most real song I’ve ever written.” “Live Like We’re Dying,” Allen’s biggest hit, elicited a lively response from the audience, who sang back his lyrics with enthusiasm. Allen concluded his set with the aptly titled “End of Show” — a clever, partially improvised song that highlighted his skills as a performer.

Parachute soon took the stage to thunderous applause, kicking off the show with “Getaway” from their latest album “Wide Awake.” Anderson proved himself a superior showman throughout their set, as he jumped on and off the piano and belted out song after song with consistent energy. Even during slow songs, Anderson’s sheer charisma shone through and held the audience’s attention.

Barely taking a breath in be-

tween songs, Anderson then launched into a series of hits like “She Is Love” and “White Dress.” He then paused to share the backstory to a slower song, “The Mess I Made,” which he wrote in the hopes of winning back a girl who broke up with him after only two weeks of being together. Though Anderson was unsuccessful in his plight, the song is one of the band’s best, and it provided a quiet respite from the more intense songs.

Parachute put on a thoroughly entertaining set from start to finish — performing with the energy and skill of a seasoned rock band. Even someone unfamiliar with the group’s music could appreciate the talent and passion put into Parachute’s show. This energetic homecoming show only helped further prove that Parachute is one of Charlottesville’s best local acts.



COURTESY PARACHUTE

University grad Will Anderson fronts Parachute. The group played at The Jefferson this week.

A conversation with Scott Miller

Virginia songwriter will play at The Jefferson April 28

HENRY HOLLANDSWORTH | STAFF WRITER

Scott Miller has a knack for writing songs that make listeners feel like they really know him, even if they haven’t heard of the man. The Staunton, Va. native has been writing lyrics for the love of it since he was fresh out of college, playing in Knoxville, Tenn. with his band, The V-Roys. Since then, he’s formed his own band, The Commonwealth, and still keeps up his family’s cattle farm. He’ll be opening for the Steel Wheels at The Jefferson Theater April 28, and The Cavalier Daily caught up with him before the show.

Arts & Entertainment: You’re a consummate Southern rocker — raised on a farm and a former resident of Knoxville, and current part-time Rancher in Swoope. What is it about the South — be it the people, the culture, the attitudes — that you really think can’t be beat?

Scott Miller: I know, right? Although I have to disagree with you over “part-time” rancher. There ain’t nothing part time about farming and after 20 years in the music business and perfecting the art of “losing” money, farming is a natural fit but a

full time job. I think most people in the South have some attachment to the land around them, either from having it passed down or just its beauty, especially here in the Shenandoah Valley where I grew up and now live — this valley is a like a giant box filled with land waves. There is also the southern penchant for storytelling, which is the kind of song I like — songs do not have to be that way. But basically, it comes down to bacon and grits are far superior to scrapple.

AE: You seem to hold something of a conversation with your audience — especially in small venues — during your shows. How would you say that you’ve developed the ability to read the venue and speak to the audience at hand?

SM: Well, I got sober a number of years ago, which helps tremendously. In my years in a rock band, The V-roys, it was all about trying to achieve some unconscious mind and throwing your s—t out there and hoping someone picked it up or at least danced. My songs are stories, but not with declarative statements. I try to use declarative images to invoke whatever feeling I have, and try to find some common ground with the listener. Any banter should be a forward to that and if it can’t do that then it should at least break the mo-

notony of the dreaded singer / songwriter show. I hate singer / songwriters and I am one.

AE: Where are you most looking forward to playing in the next few months?

SM: That’s hard to say. I tour so little anymore due to the farm, and don’t really live for the road like I used to. I don’t tour January or February or the beginning of March, although I ended up in Ireland this time last year. I have to take late May and June off to get my hay up. I hate touring in the fall because I love college football way too much ... But I’ll be through Texas the beginning of May, and some shows down in East Tennessee where I used to live and where I really came into my own. I’ll be through the midwest in July. Really any place with an intelligent audience willing to listen is fine with me.

AE: Are you going to be performing with talented bassist and fiddler Bryn Davies and Rayna Gellert?

SM: God, they both are so talented. It makes you sick. For this show at The Jefferson Theater, it will be just me and Bryn Davies [a bassist who has toured with] Guy Clark, Tony Rice [and] Jack White. She is studying nuclear engineering at the University of Tennessee and this show hits close to exam times. She’ll be

making quite the monumental effort to make this gig.

AE: Do you have any favorite songs to play live?

SM: I think that varies depending on the configuration in which I’m performing. Solo? Could be one song. With just a bass player? Might be another. The times when I take the whole Commonwealth out would even open it up more.

AE: What’s the last time you played in Charlottesville? Any specific venues you like playing here?

SM: I played the Paramount Theater with Ricky Skaggs and Ry Cooder last time I was on your side of the Blue Ridge. That was a fun night. I’ve played a bunch of different places around the area, but you know I never really toured in Virginia because I didn’t want to face my family or teachers or scoutmaster ... Back in 2005 I did a tour on the Amtrak Crescent and we played a show at the Starr Hill Brewery. My high school teachers rented a limo and came over Afton Mountain and partied harder than the band; so you get my point ... But I left here and went to Tennessee to seek my music career, so I’m just really getting to know the players around this area and am so happy to be able to share part of the Steel Wheel’s big evening.



COURTESY SCOTT MILLER

Songwriter and full-time farmer Scott Miller will play at The Jefferson this weekend.

U.Va. reduces nitrogen footprint

Renewable energy efforts contribute to international N-Print project

TINA CHAI | SENIOR WRITER

Nitrogen pollution — which is caused by excess nitrogen in the air and water — is one of the largest environmental problems in the U.S., according to the Environmental Protection Agency. To begin to combat the surplus of nitrogen, University researchers have created the N-Calculator, the world's first virtual model to calculate nitrogen usage and emissions.

Nitrogen makes up about 78 percent of the Earth's atmosphere, and it is an essential nutrient for biological organisms as an amino acid that helps make protein. The majority of nitrogen exists as a harmless, inert diatomic gas. However, once separated, the nitrogen atoms become reactive.

"It's very difficult to break those atoms up, but once they do, they become very biologically reactive," Environmental Sciences Prof. James Galloway said. "It can become chemically reactive — it's [a] major component in smog, in eutrophication and a variety of other environmental problems . . . For example nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas that can be formed through such reactions."

Human activity — often attributed to the burning of fossil fuels and food production — generates four to five times more reactive nitrogen than natural processes do.

To spread awareness of the overabundant production of nitrogen, Galloway and Allison Leach, a former College graduate student, developed nitrogen footprint models in 2009 for Leach's thesis. These models also contributed to the N-Print project — an international collaboration between the U.S. and the Netherlands to reduce nitrogen pollution. Supported by a grant from the EPA, the project has inspired the University's Board of Visitors to set a nitrogen footprint reduction goal of 25 percent by the year 2025.

The nitrogen footprint models are made accessible to all in website form. The N-Print website answers frequently asked questions about nitrogen pollution, introduces viewers to the purpose of the model and contains a program to calculate the nitrogen footprint of any individual, institution or country.

"The way the project developed is we wanted to have a tool that consumers could use, or institutions could use, that told them how their use of resource



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Human activities, such as the processing of animal products and energy usage, lead to an increased nitrogen footprint.

es — nitrogen, food and energy — contributes to nitrogen pollution in the environment," Galloway said. "It also gives them a tool to learn about how to then reduce usage."

A nitrogen footprint is calculated through an equation that measures the amount of reactive nitrogen lost to the environment from food intake and energy usage.

"A nitrogen footprint is the amount of reactive nitrogen released to the environment from resource consumption. The main factors are food and energy," Leach, who is currently a University of New Hampshire doctoral candidate, said in an email statement. "The food nitrogen footprint includes two parts — the nitrogen released upstream during the production of food (e.g. fertilizer runoff, processing wastes, manure loss-

es) and the nitrogen contained in food that is consumed, which ultimately enters the sewage stream. The energy nitrogen footprint includes the nitrogen emissions released from energy consumption, such as electricity usage or transport."

Contingent on consumption, the value of an individual's nitrogen footprint can increase or decrease with a change in diet.

"I could reduce my nitrogen footprint by cutting down on the amount of animal protein I eat. And especially, only eating the amount of protein a person needs," Galloway said. "We only need a set amount of protein to maintain our bodies, but the average American consumes about 40 percent more than they need."

Likewise, institutions can decrease their nitrogen footprint by purchasing fewer meat products and by conserving energy.

"There are also things the University can do to reduce energy use, like switching out the light bulbs," said Elizabeth Castner, project manager of the University's institution-level nitrogen footprint project and Environmental Sciences research associate. "When they build new buildings, having environmental standards like a LEED Certification can help, so that they are energy-efficient buildings. Another thing is to switch to fuel and energy sources that are less nitrogen intensive, so switching away from coal — which we still use in our heat plant on campus — to natural gas, which has a lower nitrogen footprint."

Since N-Print's inception, the University's nitrogen footprint has been reduced. According to the 2015-16 University Sustainability Annual Report, the amount in metric tons of Uni-

versity-affiliated nitrogen emissions has decreased by 11 percent between 2010 and 2014.

Aside from adding a carbon footprint component to N-Calculator, other areas of improvement can also be made for the tool in the future.

"There are a lot of ways it can be improved," Galloway said. "We know what these improvements are and most of them require [the tool] to become more complicated. But we're wanting to develop a tool that focuses on the consumer — it's easy to use, gives them an opportunity to see how they're using their resources that result in nitrogen pollution."

N-Print is just one of many sustainability projects the University has implemented recently.

"[The University] has four solar photovoltaic installations on Grounds, and is working on a roadmap to identify potential locations for additional renewables," Andrea Trimble, director of the University's Office for Sustainability, said in an email statement. "Solar panels are installed on Ruffner Hall, the [University] Bookstore, Clemmons Library and Skipwith Hall."

The Delta Force program — the Office for Sustainability's initiative for building sustainability — has also introduced changes to the University. Since utilities usage makes up over half of the University's nitrogen footprint, the Delta Force program has been especially focused on reducing energy consumption while increasing efficiency in utility plants and buildings. These efforts have reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved energy conservation and decreased the University's nitrogen footprint.

Trimble reminds that students, faculty and researchers alike can undertake the task of bettering the environment.

"Every individual and team at [the University] has a role in advancing sustainability," Trimble said. "As we all have opportunity to ask ourselves how to reduce the environmental impacts of our daily decisions — such as minimizing waste, diverting waste from landfills and looking for opportunities to save energy and water."

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