

INCLUSIVITY AT U.VA.

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Gender-neutral bathroom to open on Lawn

Two students lead charge for gender-neutral bathroom for Lawn, Range residents

KATHLEEN SMITH | SENIOR WRITER

University Dean of Students Allen Groves sent an email Saturday to Lawn and Range residents announcing the designation of a gender-neutral bathroom on the West Lawn.

One bathroom chamber in the West Lawn men's restroom will now be classified as gender-neutral, and all Lawn and Range residents will have swipe access through the front door. There are currently three private stalls within the restroom, each with its own shower, toilet and sink.

"Designating one of these private cubicles as gender-neutral allows us to insure access to this space by Lawn and Range residents who elect to use this option, as well as guests of residents whose gender/identity may be different from the resident who has thus far only had swipe access to the bathroom of their own gender/identity," Groves said in a statement attached to the email.

Lawn residents and fourth-year College students Mitchell Wellman and Drew Kiser spearheaded the effort to secure a gender-neutral bathroom option for current and future residents. Wellman, who is also chair of the University Judiciary Committee, said the project was a collaborative effort between himself, Kiser, Groves and DeAnza Cook — the Senior Resident of the Lawn and a fourth-year College student — that began in the fall.

"We're trying to broaden the scope of who is welcome to the Lawn community by way of this project, and of course the other thing is that we talked about how some of our guests have access to these restrooms and may not identify as one gender," Wellman said. "Personally, one of the reasons I believe in this is that it serves as a symbol of something more welcoming in the Lawn community for future residents who may not identify with one gender or may not want to talk about that kind of thing."

Groves said Wellman and Kiser proposed the idea of a gender-neutral bathroom in a meeting with him last August. Wellman and Kiser had two additional meetings with Groves in the fall and one meeting in January, and worked with the Office of the Dean of Students to determine options for a gender-neutral bathroom.

Cook said she served as a mediator and facilitator between ODOS and the Lawn residents



CHARLOTTE MCCLINTOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

One bathroom chamber in the West Lawn men's restroom will be classified as gender-neutral.

in the discussion of the bathroom redesignation.

"We talked about the West [Lawn's] men's bathroom in particular because it was unique in design because there's a closed area with a toilet, shower, and sink, which eliminates privacy concerns," Cook said.

Last semester, Wellman and Kiser arranged a town hall meeting with Lawn residents to discuss the possibility of a gender-neutral bathroom. They also issued a survey among residents to gather feedback regarding the implementation of a gender-neutral bathroom.

"It started with a dialogue we had with the Lawn residents, and we were able to hear a lot of different opinions of putting something like this on the Lawn," Wellman said. "From that initial dialogue, we developed a survey that was a not a binary survey, for example 'Do you want this or not,' but it was layered and there were lots of different options because the Lawn and Range share restrooms."

"This was the most trying part of the process mentally, be-

cause we all had to ask ourselves what, exactly, is the purpose of the Lawn, and how can we make it more inclusive — not just for gender nonconforming students, but also for students who might prefer only sex-segregated bathrooms," Kiser said in an email to The Cavalier Daily.

Wellman said the West Lawn Men's bathroom was a "natural point of interest," because it is a free-standing building with three private bathroom chambers. Two of the restrooms will remain designated for men, and the third chamber will be gender-neutral. All Lawn and Range residents will now have access into the West Lawn bathroom through the front door, which was previously accessible to male residents only.

Wellman said the ongoing debate concerning gender-neutral restrooms compelled him to pursue this project.

"I think that every time is a good time to be more inclusive, and as a Lawn resident this year, it's my opportunity to erect that change," Wellman said. "We had an 'if not now, then when' men-

tality that motivated us, and I can't be happier with the payoff."

This announcement comes after University President Teresa Sullivan and Provost Tom Katsouleas released a statement affirming the University's commitment to the inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy and the inclusion of LG-BTQ students, faculty and staff in the University community.

The statement was in response to the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Education's "Dear Colleague" letter revoking previous federal guidelines that instructed public schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity.

However, Groves said the announcement of the gender-neutral bathroom and the University's statement are not related.

"The process began many months ago and was recently concluded with a final decision," Groves said in an email statement.

Baxter Craven, chair of the

Range and a graduate Architecture student, also aided in the effort to provide a gender-neutral bathroom for Lawn and Range residents.

Craven said he worked with Area Coordinator Michael Jones to improve accessibility of the Range and Lawn. Craven also said the Academical Village is not easily accessible for people with disabilities, and that some female residents on the Lawn are at a disadvantage because of the distance between their rooms and the their designated restrooms.

"As you know, the University of Virginia was a male only institution for about one-hundred-and-fifty years. When women were finally admitted, facilities for them had to be squeezed into whatever space could be found or made," Craven said in an email statement. "For the Range, that meant converting rooms 51WR and 53WR — and for the Lawn, that meant digging out an entirely new room under the west side. The restrooms for women are obvious afterthoughts."

Craven, who began working with Wellman and Kiser this semester, said a more accessible restroom is important for the transgender community, those with disabilities and cisgender women whose designated restroom is far from their Lawn room.

"It is important to note that there is not an accessible Lawn or Range room for those with disabilities, but this will benefit any resident with family or friends who might have need," Craven said.

Groves said in his statement to Lawn and Range residents that the University is currently in the process of replacing the signage, but that all Lawn and Range residents will have swipe access to the West Lawn restroom front door by next week.

Kiser said the implementation of a gender-neutral restroom will make the Lawn more inclusive, and will ensure that future students feel welcome in the Academical Village.

"What impressed me the most is the speed with which the Administration took our initiative, listened to what we were asking for, and responded in kind," Kiser said. "This gave me a lot more faith in the relationship between the administration and us students."

Indivisible Charlottesville organizes town hall

Charlottesville residents, Fifth District constituents express political concerns directed towards Rep. Garrett

ALEXIS GRAVELY | SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Close to a thousand Charlottesville residents and Fifth District constituents packed into Charlottesville High School's Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center to address concerns directed towards fifth district Congressman Tom Garrett (R-Va.) Sunday afternoon.

While a number of men, women and children of all ages were in attendance, one person was noticeably absent: Garrett. The meeting was originally scheduled for Saturday, but due to Garrett's travel schedule, it was moved to Sunday in hopes that he would be able to attend. Garrett declined the invitation.

"This is the last day of a week-long congressional recess," Patrick Jackson of Indivisible Charlottesville said. "Typically, this week is used for representatives to meet with their constituents. Tom Garrett did not schedule a town hall meeting."

As a result, Indivisible Charlottesville, a local group whose focus is resisting President Donald Trump's agenda, partnered with several other organizations to organize "the people's town hall," Jackson said.

Attendees were visibly upset with Garrett's absence, as demonstrated by an array of signs and chants questioning, "Where's Tom?" throughout the event.

According to Jackson, Garrett declined the invitation.

On Feb. 24, however, Garrett announced he will host two in-person town hall meetings — one in Charlottesville March 13 at 7 p.m. and one in Moneta May 9 at 7 p.m. The locations are yet to be determined.

"We are here to ask questions that deserve answers and tell stories that need to be shared," Jackson said.

The event was moderated by Charlottesville High School students Kibiriti Majuto and Saad Khaleefa, both of whom are immigrants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Syria, respectively.

Health care, immigration and education were the three primary topics addressed at the meeting. Various speakers shared testimonies and stories related to each topic before attendees were given the opportunity to ask the moderators and Garrett questions.

The town hall was recorded, and organizers plan to send the questions asked to Garrett.

The first topic discussed was health care. According to Majuto and Khaleefa, Garrett plans to help repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Leslie Blackhall, a physician in palliative care at the University hospital, asked the first question regard-

ing health care.

"Every one of my patients has a pre-existing condition," Blackhall said. "I called Tom Garrett five times and every other Republican congressman in the state of Virginia and asked, 'What are you going to do for my patients? How are you going to keep them from dying painful deaths? How are you going to help them get the care they need?'"

Other questions related to health care included how Garrett was going to focus on the health of citizens in the future and what Garrett himself has for a health care provider.

The second area of focus was immigration. The moderators noted Garrett's tough stance on illegal immigration — Garrett said on his campaign website that he "will continue to oppose any benefits, incentives, short cuts, special programs, or any other action that rewards illegals for breaking the law."

Tina Vasquez, an ESL teacher at Charlottesville High School, spoke about how immigration has impacted her life and the lives of her students.

"A lot of my students who don't have papers have already talked about having to drop out of school and get a job to save up money to go back to their countries before



ALEXIS GRAVELY | CAVALIER DAILY

Close to a thousand people packed the Martin Luther King Jr. Performing Arts Center.

they are deported," Vasquez said. "Blocking people from coming into this country isn't going to help in any way. This is a nation of immigrants."

The final topic discussed was education.

Donna Price, an attorney, accused the Trump administration of trying to bring the education system "back to the days before Brown v. Board of Education."

"When they say they want prayer in schools, they only want their prayers," Price said. "When they talk states' rights, that's a euphemism for discrimination. I'm a transgender woman, and we need to protect all of our children in the schools."

Charlottesville Mayor Mike Signer was one of the final attendees to speak.

"People have been saying this city is the capital of resistance, and people have been asking what that means," Signer said. "This [event] is what that means. I am a very proud product of public elementary school, public junior high school, public high school and two public colleges."

In late January, Signer declared Charlottesville "a capital of resistance" against the Trump administration.

QSU holds March for Transgender Students and Kids

Approximately 100 students, faculty, community members gather to show solidarity

RACHEL COLDREN | SENIOR WRITER



RICHARD DIZON | CAVALIER DAILY

Chants included lines such as "trans rights are human rights," and "trans voices matter."

Approximately 100 students, faculty and community members gathered at the Rotunda Sunday for the University Queer Student Union's March for Transgender Students and Kids.

The event comes in wake of the

Trump administration's decision this past week to rescind national protections for transgender students that allows them to use the bathroom corresponding to their gender.

"These bills, whether they can

be enforced or not ... put fear into people's hearts," community member Bridget Graves said.

The march opened at the base of the Rotunda steps facing the Lawn as participants chanted "no hate, no fear, trans students welcome here." Soon after, some members of the University and greater Charlottesville transgender community delivered personal remarks from the Rotunda steps and highlighted QSU's denouncement of President Donald Trump's actions this week.

Natalie Hunt, one of the opening speakers and a fifth-year Engineering student, said the University should continue improving for transgender and gender-nonconforming students.

"This is the only place where I'm surrounded by people who see me as me, who love me for me," Hunt said. "It needs to stay like that, and it needs to get better than it already is."

After the opening remarks from speakers concluded, participants—

led by students from QSU—marched down the Lawn and over to McCormick Road. Chants included lines such as "no justice, no peace," "trans voices matter," "trans rights are human rights" and "this is what democracy looks like."

The march concluded on the steps of Peabody Hall where Natalie Snitzer, a second-year College student and the QSU trans advocacy chair, reiterated demands for the University administration to protect transgender and gender-nonconforming students' rights on and off Grounds. Snitzer's words were met with cheers from fellow participants at the close of the march.

Snitzer said QSU had to be "spontaneous and robust" in planning the event.

"[Planning the march] felt very natural and there were a lot of people who were really fired up about this situation, about this issue," Snitzer said. "So it wasn't very hard to find people who were excited to join in and give their support."

Snitzer said she has found some support at the University, especially from members of QSU and from University Housing and Residence Life.

"[HRL] accommodated my needs perfectly," Snitzer said.

However, Snitzer said changing her name and gender pronouns in the University's SIS and Collab systems was more difficult.

"There were some barriers to me being like every other student here," she said.

In an interview with The Cavalier Daily, third-year College student Jamie Swanson said he came to the march to support a friend. As a cis-gendered male, he said he identified as an ally for the transgender community.

When asked what he took away from the march, Swanson said, "there is a community who supports transgendered people and minority groups in general. You know, it's relatively small but it's there and that's important."

Honor Committee votes on Informed Retraction language

'Inextricably linked' language to be incorporated into bylaws

KATE BELLAWS | ASSOCIATE EDITOR



KATE BELLAWS | CAVALIER DAILY

A majority of the Committee voted in favor of moving forward with the language.

"The Honor Committee voted Sunday night to pursue adding "inextricably linked" to the Committee's bylaws related to Informed Retractions. Under this language, a student could file one IR for multiple events if those events are "inextricably linked,"

meaning their actions and circumstances are similar enough to constitute one Honor offense.

A majority of the Committee — 18 of the 27 members — voted in favor of moving forward with the language, which the Committee will

solidify in coming weeks.

"The Honor Committee was considering various different changes to 'single nexus of events' language within our bylaws, which would tackle the issue of expanding the IR from several different perspectives," said Sarah Wyckoff, a fourth-year College student and Honor Committee vice chair for investigations. "This one is meaning we're choosing one direction or one perspective that we want to move forward with, so it's the concept that we agree with as a committee, or a majority of us did tonight."

Wyckoff gave several examples of acts a single IR would cover with the new language. If a student cheats on a single test by copying from another test-taker and by bringing unauthorized resources into the test, the student could file a single IR.

However, Wyckoff said, if a student cheats on a midterm and a final, a single IR may not be filed because there is not enough similarity between the events.

"They're distinguishable acts in which there's no common thread that connects the two of them," Wyckoff

said.

First-year Law student Owen Gallogly, who attended the Honor Committee meeting, was on the Committee when it drafted the Informed Retraction in the 2012-13 academic year. The first version included the "inextricably linked" language and was passed by the student body.

"We didn't want to approach it from a policy-legalistic standpoint — we wanted to approach it from a philosophical standpoint, which is, what was the philosophical purpose of the IR?" Gallogly said. "From our point of view, it was the recognition that a student could make a mistake or have a lapse in judgment, [and] recommit themselves to Honor."

The 2013-14 Honor Committee, however, removed the "inextricably linked" language. According to Gallogly, this decision has caused the Committee confusion on how to move forward with "single nexus" language.

"I can't speak for them, but my understanding was that it was removed because they felt it made the Informed Retraction too broad," Gallogly said. "But in the end, I think

we've seen both the practical and the philosophical consequences of that decision, and that's why the Committee has struggled with the single nexus language over the past four years and is currently planning on moving back to 'inextricably linked.'"

Before the Honor Committee voted, Wyckoff presented two options for changing the IR language: "inextricably linked" and "substantially similar benefit," which would allow a student to file a single IR for multiple acts if they were performed as a means of achieving similar objectives. This differed from the "inextricably linked" language in that it refers to acts that may be similar, but not identical. The Committee did not move forward with the "substantially similar benefit" language.

"What I really see this expansion being is moving away from the IR being for one act, and now being seen as one mistake or one judgment call, and expanding it to students who realize that they did something wrong and drawing a line between that and habitual cheating," Wyckoff said.

UJC discusses referenda, proposed changes to bylaws

Members consider role of educator position

RILEY WALSH | SENIOR WRITER

The University Judiciary Committee met for the first time Sunday following the University elections and discussed amendments to the UJC constitution that the student body approved, as well as proposed bylaws changes that UJC is currently considering.

Four constitutional referenda passed with widespread support in the University-wide elections.

Mitchell Wellman, a fourth-year College student and UJC Chair, said the approved referenda, — which aimed to clarify ambiguities and update language in the constitution — were a success for the committee and said the UJC "constitution has been bettered by them." Paul Bautz, a second-year Law student and vice chair for trials, then introduced the working bylaws changes to get input from the general body. There were five major administrative changes, with the most debated being a change to the position of UJC educators. These proposed bylaw changes are different from the four constitutional amendments recently approved by the student body. Educators serve an advisory role in the courtroom, and are also part of the committee's face

in the larger University community.

"The educator's main focus is not only educational duty within the trial, but the outreach purpose," Wellman said in an interview with The Cavalier Daily. "That's more distinctive of their role, the outreach of setting up collaborations with other CIOs and student groups, we do an awareness week every fall that they are in charge of. They're essentially like our outreach committee, but they also do have a minimal role in the trial itself."

The proposed change to the bylaws is intended to make the educator position open to more students by not having educators go through the process of approval to sit on trials. However, the general body expressed concern about eliminating educators from trials.

"The educator is supposed to be a resource to the students, to make them feel more comfortable," Emma Westerhof, a first-year College student and First-Year Judiciary Committee vice chair said.

Some groups voiced concern in the discussion that educators may not get the necessary experience outside of the courtroom.

"Part of the importance of hav-

ing educators in trials is that they get exposure," Westerhof said. "Without that experience they cannot educate the student body as to what is going on."

Others spoke in favor of a decreased role for educators over completely eliminating educators from the courtroom.

"They could only be required to sit on the most important trials where there may be a need for a third party that isn't caught up in the whole investigation process," Bautz said.

Taking educators out of the courtroom would allow them more time for outreach in the University community, but might take away an incentive for recruitment, according to Wellman.

"On one end we think that it will drive [applications] up because it's less stringent," Wellman said in an interview. "On the other, there may be a lower sense of investment because the trial procedure serves as such a valuable part of the involvement in UJC for people. Being able to be in the trial room and see that sanction issued is a really key factor in what drives our membership."

Other possible major bylaws

changes include administrative clarifications on voting, elections, training and ensuring the accused's right to see evidence brought against them.

No votes were taken on the potential bylaw changes at Sunday's meeting.



ANCHITA KHULLAR | CAVALIER DAILY

Wellman said four referenda passed in University wide elections were a success.

Dance Marathon aims to surpass fundraising goals

Annual fundraiser working to reach \$100,000 goal for U.Va. Children's Hospital ahead of April 1 event

MAGGIE SNOW | STAFF WRITER

Coming up to its 20th year at the University, Dance Marathon hopes to raise over \$100,000 to donate to the University Children's Hospital.

The University Children's Hospital has been a part of the Children's Miracle network since the early '80s, and the first Dance Marathon at the University was held in 1996. Since then, the event has grown to include upwards of 30 student members who fundraise throughout the year for the main event on April 1.

"When kids are in the hospital they're away from hanging out with their friends and being at school so the money goes to like funding ... teachers that are teaching classes to the kids or social programs where kids can develop socially even though they might be in the hospital for an entire year," said Connor Yost, a fourth-year Commerce student and co-outreach chair.

Another portion of funding goes toward child-sized medical equipment and research to help prevent diseases affecting children. Dance Marathon members are organized into committees, but are all individually responsible for rallying support in their immediate circles. Over the past

two years alone, the program has seen significant improvements in funding.

"I think when I was a second year ... we were at \$49,000 ... and then last year we hit \$77,000 for our final total, so we had a 35 percent program increase," said Elizabeth Girvan, a fourth-year College student and Dance Marathon co-chair.

Some of the events leading up to the event include "5K in One Day," where committee members try to raise \$5,000 in just 24 hours, or individual events, where members raise money by dressing up in costumes. On Feb. 22, the group surpassed its \$5,000 fundraising goal to raise \$7,197.

"I did this campaign last year where I said that I would wear a full body pencil suit for the entire day on Friday if I raised \$100, or something like that and I ended up raising ... \$150," said Gabby Levet, a third-year College student and co-outreach chair. These donations quickly add up to help reach the annual goal, which is revealed the day of the Dance Marathon. This year, the event will be held at Memorial Gym on April 1.

"There's usually a DJ ... then we also have a capella groups

and dance groups and some of the on-Grounds comedy groups come and we have puppies, therapy dogs from the hospital, we have student speakers, Dean Groves comes," Girvan said.

Participants do not need to dance to participate. The main goal is for participants to remain standing and engaged for the duration of the 10-hour event. Some of the most meaningful visits are from families in the Children's Miracle Network, or Miracle Families, who benefit from the funds raised by the Dance Marathon.

Some of the students involved have personal connections to the cause. For instance, third-year College student Sabin Jackson, a Dance Marathon co-chair, benefited from neonatal intensive care and wanted to raise money for similar programs.

"My mom would always bring me to dance marathons growing up and I think it's just ... a cause I would really like to support," Jackson said. "I love to support and I think it needs a lot of attention."

Others were previously involved in dance marathons in high school and wanted to continue.

"At my high school we had



COURTESY DANCE MARATHON

The first Dance Marathon at the University was held in 1996.

a really big marathon dance-type thing and I knew there was something similar here, so I beelined straight for it right when I got to school," Levet said.

Some members, like Levet, have toured the hospital and heard from some of the doctors in the field. Across the board, committee members said it is incredibly rewarding to see the fruits of their labor benefit the local community.

As the program grows, its leaders hope to continue to in-

crease funding, as well as participation in the event itself.

"We believe so strongly that if people care as much as we care it would not only make a difference at the U.Va. Hospital, but it will change their lives as well," Girvan said. "We truly want this program to touch as many students' lives as possible, as well as the lives of the families that we know at the hospital."

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F FOCUS

Women's history of arriving at U.Va.

From unofficial students to College graduates

ANKITA SATPATHY | SENIOR ASSOCIATE

Although the University's first female president Teresa Sullivan's term is quickly coming to an end, less than 50 years ago, women were not integrated members of the University community. The University has made great strides in its inclusion and treatment of women — today, besides just being academically integrated, women at the University hold elected office, live on the Lawn and are esteemed faculty members. However, some say the University still maintains traditions that harken back to its early days before co-education, and that it could take broader steps towards the inclusion of women.

History of women at the University

Contrary to the popular narrative, women were a presence — albeit a minor one — at the University since 1919.

Alexander Sandy Gilliam, professor emeritus and the former University history professor and protocol officer, said the wives and daughters of faculty members were an informal presence on Grounds at the time, though the Board of Visitors officially voted to allow women as degree candidates to the graduate schools in 1919.

They were not allowed to be in undergraduate programs — except the four-year undergraduate education program — of which they were allowed to participate in the final two years. The Nursing School was entirely women at first, until the school became co-educational in the 1960s.

Despite the small cohort of women who studied at the University early on, women were not admitted as undergraduate students in the College until 1970, and their numbers did not number half the incoming class until 1972.

Gilliam — who was an undergraduate at the University from 1951 to 1955 — also said women were fully integrated in the University community by the time he returned to the University in 1975.

"One thing that I found refreshing when I came back in 1975 is that a good many — not all — but a good many of the student organizations, things like the Z society and so on, were co-ed, so that women were actively involved not only in life of the University in general but in positions of responsibility," Gilliam said.

Compared to other peer institutions, the University was slow to integrate.

"Of the major universities, we were probably about the last to have unlimited co-education," Gilliam said. "The University was not co-ed, [Virginia] Tech was not co-ed, and one way that I guess Tech and U.Va. got away

Represented by University alumnus John Lowe, they claimed the University "severely discriminates against women in their admissions policies."

The plaintiffs argued for greater admission of women

students remained aware of that, and didn't necessarily feel like they were being accommodated all that well. On the other hand, it doesn't seem like it took very long for women to get pretty well adjusted."

female, with it being about a 56 to 44 percent female to male ratio. Although women are clearly an essential part of the University community, Leffler commented on norms that she said perpetuate the 'old boys network' the University used to typify.

"I personally have long felt that some of the ways we continue to talk about the University carries on that tradition," Leffler said. "We talk about it as the school of Virginia gentleman, Mr. Jefferson's University — well, Mr. Jefferson's university was a school of male and all privileged men, or mostly privileged men. They make some people feel less comfortable at the University, less valued, and I would say that over the years that has had some kind of an effect on women."

Other issues of equity on Grounds include salary equity and the percentage of faculty women in high-ranking positions. Although Leffler has not conducted independent data analysis of these factors, and acknowledged the University has, she said her time as a faculty member showed her that many women at the University feel there is a disparity between women and men in these areas.

"The percentage of women faculty in senior positions is quite low at U.Va.," Leffler said.

She suggested aggressive spousal hire policies to attract more women and families to the University.

"If you want to attract a woman to a particular position, then you have to have a way to accommodate the spouse," Leffler said. "Now sometimes it's just impossible, sometimes the spouse doesn't care, but sometimes the University has to stretch to figure out some meaningful position for a spousal hire. I know that there are efforts to do that, but I also know that there are universities that are more aggressive than we are which might accommodate the hire of more women."

Despite these observations and recommendations, Leffler said the University has made incredible strides since the early days of co-education, and can continue to move forward with time.

"I think history and the tradition of history linger for far longer than we often think is appropriate," Leffler said. "It's just very very hard to turn those things around."



Women have been at the University in some form since the early 1900s, but were not officially admitted as undergraduates until 1970.

with that was that there were coordinate colleges that were designated as the women's branches."

In 1944, the University's official women's branch was the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., and remained affiliated with the University until women joined the College in the fall of 1970. However, there was little coordination and interaction between the two, partly due to the locations of the universities.

"The legislature established what became known as George Mason University [in 1949]," Gilliam said. "It was established as a satellite of U.Va. and that was co-ed from the very beginning, and that was about 20-something years before Charlottesville became completely co-ed."

Challenges with integration

The impetus to include women in the College's undergraduate class in 1970 came partly as the result of a lawsuit brought against the University and the Board of Visitors by the American Civil Liberties Union, on behalf of four women seeking admission.

on the grounds of equal protection. Although the Board of Visitors had already voted to include women by the time the decision was made, the federal court rejected their original 10-year timeline, and approved a co-education transition timeline of three years. Furthermore, the court said the University's proposed 35 percent cap was unlawful.

Phyllis Leffler, professor emerita of history, has used a number of surveys conducted in 1998 from women who were a part of the initial co-educational classes to analyze their experience. Though she acknowledges the anecdotal nature of survey data, her research indicates a less smooth transition than the one Gilliam observed.

"When women students first came, very very little was done to change the resources that existed, so women students reported that it was hard to find women bathrooms readily accessible on Grounds," Leffler said. "The University didn't do much to really get ready for this onslaught of women students ... women

Leffler also said safety on Grounds, harassment and a lack of lighting were initial challenges, which were concerns former Dean of Women Mary Whitney also noted at the time.

"There were reports early on of male students who were very unhappy that the women were here — especially in the College — and who would walk by their dorm rooms and call out insulting things but I think it was a year or two before all of that ended," Leffler said. "I don't know that it was a general reality."

In contrast, Gilliam said his father, who was a medical student at the University in 1931, never discussed such faculty attitudes towards women.

While there were clear instances of harassment and targeting of women, it is not clear that these were institutional. The University attempted to provide resources for women, such as having a Dean of Women and a specific women's dormitory and student government association.

Women at the University today

Today, the University's undergraduate population is majority



U.Va. alumnus shaping the face of social media

James Quarles helps Instagram reach new levels of success

ISABEL JONES | STAFF WRITER

The University has a long list of distinguished alumni, with James Quarles being one of the most recent additions. Quarles, who graduated from the University in 1997 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, currently serves as the Vice President of Business at the popular social media company, Instagram.

Over the last two years, Instagram has experienced a surge of success, with usage doubling and revenue projected to reach \$2.81 billion in 2017.

"I think why it's successful for consumers is it inspires creativity and it helps people discover the world around them," Quarles said. "Whatever your interest category is, you just get this level of connection and intimacy that is very first-person, which you can't find in other places or on other apps."

Since June 2016, Instagram

has gained over 100 million active monthly users, rapidly expanding its consumer base from 500 million to 600 million users. In this time, Instagram has introduced several new features such as Instagram Stories, which allows users to post clips of what they are doing in temporary pictures and videos at the top of their feeds. The company has also been working to make Instagram a place where consumers go to search for businesses and products.

"We want to be the place where [consumers] find out about new products, they can search and shop for them," Quarles said. "So what we're trying to work with and help businesses do is be native and find a way to express themselves with Instagram so that their messages are just as crafted and high-quality as the rest of the content in your feed."

With about 70 percent of users following businesses, Instagram continues to outperform their competition. The company has engaged with more brands than any other social media platform such as Twitter, Pinterest and its parent company, Facebook.

Quarles attributes his success at Instagram to his academic and extracurricular experiences at the University as well as at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. During his time at the University, Quarles served as a member of Student Council for several years, held a leadership position in his Greek organization, participated in club sports and was a member of the Jefferson Society.

"I think those [extracurriculars] are important for the team-based environments at business, school and the team-based envi-

ronment that my current job is," Quarles said. "Most team sizes are like six or eight people and being able to function, particularly at pace, and for how quickly we move at a company like ours, I think they all contribute."

Quarles emphasized the importance of taking advantage of all opportunities available at the University, advising that students reach out to alumni to discuss the future of different fields in which they hope to pursue a career. In addition, he encouraged students to use their major to build foundational skills, but not to limit their options.

University students have the opportunity to take advantage of what their fields of study have to offer in a way that is directly related to Quarles and Instagram. Over the past several years, students have had the opportunity to visit a variety of tech start-ups and companies in Silicon Valley,

including Instagram, through the Digital Safari course taught by Commerce Prof. Ryan Nelson.

Quarles and Nelson both emphasized the importance of taking advantage of these opportunities and the diverse education a liberal arts school has to offer.

"The strong liberal arts foundation at U.Va. helps prepare students for a variety of occupations over a long period of time," Nelson said in an email to The Cavalier Daily.

"I think it's lifelong learning that's the point," Quarles said. "You can't just say I'm going to draw a straight line to this job because truly what makes me successful in this role is all of the accumulation of the experiences that I've had to get here."

Alternative Spring Break brings students to new places

Trips focus on service projects

LUCY HOPKINS | FEATURE WRITER

In 1992, several University students founded an organization called Alternative Spring Break in order to provide students the opportunity to volunteer in communities both in and outside of the U.S. As the organization is much larger now, it continues to offer adventurous students the chance to do something worthwhile with their week off.

"There were two or three short response questions and lots of basic questions, just so they could get a feel of like who you are," first-year Engineering student Emma Chamberlayne said. "[The application] wasn't based on like classes or activities or anything. It was more just writing about yourself so that they could tell whether you'd fit in well with the vibe of a trip. You could rank all the trips in order of which ones you'd like to go to most, [but] personally, I didn't really care where I went because I just thought it was a cool thing to do."

Although ASB offers dozens of trips to its applicants, some trips attract more applicants than others.

"Most trips are between eight and 12 people, including the site leaders," second-year Col-

lege student and ASB trip leader Zach Schaffler said. "I think the perception of this being a selective thing is from people who choose to go on these big name trips — like to Costa Rica or something like that — but if you're looking to try new things and go anywhere, you'll definitely get a trip."

ASB has trips to 32 locations planned for this year both domestic and international, including San Francisco, New Orleans, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica. Some are offered annually, but trip destinations vary a great deal because site leaders are allowed to propose new locations.

"There are certain trips that repeat every year, so you could easily jump on one of those, but if you're feeling very passionate about one certain place, it's all you," Schaffler said. "This year, we're going to Anza-Borrego Desert Park in southern California." While every trip is a service trip, each trip focuses on a different type of service. ASB divides its trips into five different service categories: medical, housing, environmental conservation, hunger and human services.

"Both trips — the one I did last year and the one I'm lead-



COURTESY ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

Students enjoy their spring break while volunteering in the U.S. and abroad.

ing — are environmental conservation trips, so that means we're working on the park with the park rangers, helping them with the tasks they need to do," Schaffler said. "I really enjoy

that kind of trip because you get to visit a unique area of the country and make it better with your time there, so you get to both enjoy it and improve it."

Since applicants are able to

choose which trips they'd like to go on, they are able to tailor their experience to ensure that the type of service they do on their trip is in accordance with their interests. "Service is really important to me — I think I want to work for a nonprofit as a systems engineer — so like this seemed like a fun thing to do, and I'm interested in traveling, so this is a good way to combine the two," Chamberlayne said. "You can do environmental service at the national parks ... they're kind of roughing it for a week, and that was not as appealing to me because I don't want to not shower for that long."

Regardless of the work they'll be doing or their destination, all ASB participants will return to Grounds knowing they've shared a unique experience with people they might not have met otherwise.

"I think the thing I'm most looking forward to is seeing how the group develops and watching how these eight people we're bringing with us [will] start off probably pretty awkward with each other and, at the end of the week, [be] laughing and smiling and sharing inside jokes," Schaffler said.

LOVE CONNECTION

SHOTA & LAKSHMI

A second chance at romance

LILLIE NEAL | LOVE GURU

Shota and Lakshmi met in front of Edgar Allan Poe’s room at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday night and went to Roots on the Corner.

LAKSHMI: I signed up for Love Connection because I was just bored and reading articles and thought it would be funny if I signed up and ended up doing it. I did it awhile ago and kind of forgot I had signed up.

SHOTA: I went on a date through Love Connection before, and the first one was very pleasant. I subscribe to the idea that it’s never too late to make a new best friend. And you know I thought, why not? I enjoy doing something every day that I will remember.

LAKSHMI: I hadn’t been on a blind date before. I thought it would be more like a friendly encounter than a date-like encounter, so I was just prepared for getting to know someone.

SHOTA: Every day is different. Every person is different. The interaction between two people is like a chemical reaction — once you interact, you come out differently. I did have in mind that I didn’t want to do the same date. But expectations-wise, I think you just set it as friends and then see where it goes from there ... I did clean my room.

LAKSHMI: So I got there like two minutes early, and my date got there right on time.

SHOTA: I was like, “Hey, are you here for Cav Daily?” and she was like, “Yeah.” I said, “What do you want to do?” and she said, “It’s already late, do you want to go to Roots?”

LAKSHMI: We grabbed Roots, and he also bought me bubble tea. We were going to sit on the steps of the Rotunda, but since it had rained, we sat in his Lawn room.

SHOTA: I think the conversation was pretty balanced. We never really got personal with our questions or conversation, it was a little bit beyond small talk but nothing really deep.

LAKSHMI: We both have had a lot of experiences to share at U.Va., so we were kind of talking about everything we’ve done and looking into the future because we both are going to go work in the same area, so we were talking about our respective workplaces and what not.



DESCRIBE A TYPICAL WEEKEND: Going out a couple nights, actively pursuing substitutes to school work, playing tennis, going to the gym, eating meals with people and throwing a frisbee on the Lawn. This weekend, I was looking up the perks of Amazon Prime and was actually blown away. Good weekend.

HOBBIES: Tennis, pottery, volleyball, browsing social media, eating, thinking about the dialectical relationship between form and content and sleeping.

WHAT MAKES YOU A GOOD CATCH?: My good friend Patrick said I have a knack for establishing meaningful connections because I get beyond pleasantries quickly. I identify with that.

WHAT MAKES YOU A LESS-THAN-PERFECT CATCH?: I say conventional words like "small" and "strong" in unexpected ways, which throws people off. Additionally, I abbreviate words such as "powerful" to "pofu," pronounced like tofu, and that also throws people off.

WHAT IS YOUR SPIRIT ANIMAL?: Tuna — they never sleep because they need to keep swimming in order to keep breathing. Restless.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PICK-UP LINE?: Let’s go to El Jaripeo and get some margaritas while we get to know each other better.

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN ONE SENTENCE: Shota is an introspective, spontaneous guy who loves posting long Snapchat stories and exploring new experiences — like going on a Love Connection blind date for the second time — as long as they are reasonably priced and healthy.

YEAR: Fourth

SCHOOL: School of Engineering and Applied Science

MAJOR: Computer Science

U.VA. INVOLVEMENT: Society of Women Engineers, HackCville, CS Teaching Assistant, U.Va. Di Shaan (Indian dance team), The Cavalier Daily (past), Cavs in the Classroom (past), HooRaas (past, Indian dance team)

HOMETOWN: Ashburn, Va.

IDEAL DATE PERSONALITY: Funny, easy to talk to and caring

Ideal date activity: Coffee

DEALBREAKERS?: Country music fan

DESCRIBE A TYPICAL WEEKEND: Doing homework somewhere outside of Rice Hall, club meetings, dinners with friends, socializing at parties and of course “30 Rock”

HOBBIES: Dance, community service, watching puppy videos and sleep

WHAT MAKES YOU A GOOD CATCH?: I’m easy to talk to and well-rounded.

WHAT MAKES YOU A LESS-THAN-PERFECT CATCH?: Sometimes I think I’m funny when I’m really not.

WHAT IS YOUR SPIRIT ANIMAL?: Goat

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PICK-UP LINE?: Are you a keyboard? Because you’re my type.

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN ONE SENTENCE: All I want for Christmas is a puppy.



SHOTA: We’re both engineering. We’re both working in Northern Virginia next year. We have a lot of mutual friends.

LAKSHMI: He was really interested in credit card benefits, which I thought was funny. He pulled out his laptop and looked our cards up and compared our point systems and what not. He also pulled up my Facebook profile in front of me so that was interesting. From the things

I’ve heard of Shota, I wasn’t really surprised.

SHOTA: Yeah, we talked about credit cards for a little bit — pretty nerdy.

LAKSHMI: I think it was more of a friend vibe. We were just really getting to know each other, so it wasn’t really any sort of immediate chemistry, but definitely a friendship that I would keep in touch with in the future.

SHOTA: It was definitely a friend vibe.

LAKSHMI: As a friend, I could see us going out again. Since we will be in the same area and know a lot of the same people, we will probably end up in the same gatherings. We’ve already been to the same parties, so I’ll probably see him around.

SHOTA: She’s definitely pleasant, and I enjoyed talking to her. I think we wouldn’t hang out actively like get

lunch again, but we would definitely talk if we saw each other at a party or social gathering.

LAKSHMI: For the Roots, we paid for ourselves, but he did buy me bubble tea.

SHOTA: As a date, it was a 6, but as getting to know someone, it was an 8.

LAKSHMI: I would give it a 7!

Women's basketball falls to No. 18 NC State

Virginia loses regular season finale

ALEC DOUGHERTY | SENIOR ASSOCIATE

The Virginia women's basketball team (18-11, 7-9 ACC) closed the regular season by dropping a home contest to No. 18 NC State (22-7, 12-4 ACC), 59-48. The game was also on the team's Senior Day, with the Cavaliers honoring their lone senior Breyana Mason before the matchup.

Virginia was not able to overcome the Wolfpack's hot start from three and never took the lead against a sure-fire NCAA Tournament team.

"[I am] obviously disappointed in the loss," head coach Joanne Boyle said. "[NC State head coach] Wes [Moore] has a veteran team and how they played tonight is how they've been playing all year. It hurts for the loss and for the opportunity, but also for [Mason's] senior night. That's not how we want to have her leave on our home court."

Mason has been a rock for the team in her upperclassmen years, playing a huge leadership role as a senior among many freshmen this year.

"I have a lot of great memories here on this court and over my four years we've won more games here than we've lost. I keep that in the back of my mind," Mason said of her time at Virginia.

Besides honoring Mason, the game was also important for Virginia's morale and momentum



Senior Breyana Mason was honored before Virginia's game against N.C. State as the team's lone senior.

going into the postseason with the ACC Tournament looming as well as the chance to secure a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"They know. We've talked about it throughout the year," Boyle said of her message to the team about the postseason. "We've learned a lot this year and tonight was an opportunity to put it all together ... Talking about the tournament, we've done that before, so they know what's out there for us."

NC State jumped out to an

11-5 lead in the middle of the first quarter after starting three-of-four from three-point range, and closed the quarter on a 6-0 run to take an eight-point lead going into the second frame.

Virginia's struggled from the field in the first half, making only six of 24 baskets and unable to come back before the half. The Cavaliers won the third quarter to pull within nine points, but the Wolfpack kept its foot on the gas in the final frame, scoring 18 points to solidify the win.

Virginia shot a measly 28.6 percent, unable to get much going against a tough Wolfpack team. Junior guard Aliyah Hurland El led the team with 10 points, while Mason chipped in seven points and five rebounds in her final game at John Paul Jones Arena.

A two-game slide to end the season is not what the Cavaliers wanted to signal to the rest of the league as a bubble NCAA Tournament team, and Mason knows the team must overcome

the late season fatigue to make a title run.

"Everybody at this point is probably feeling a little tired or fatigued, but you just have to grind it out and keep going. The great players and the great teams are going to be the ones who overcome it," Mason said.

The first postseason test for the Cavaliers will come in the first round of the ACC Tournament. Eight-seeded Virginia will take on ninth-seeded Wake Forest Thursday in the first round of the tournament. Virginia outlasted Wake Forest a few weeks ago in an overtime thriller at home.

Coach Boyle knows the Cavaliers will have to take a war-like mentality into the postseason, with each game as a battle to survive and advance.

"When you go to the tournament, you're going to war," Boyle said. "No team is coming in at this time and changing who they are. You're not practicing the next day or day and a half. You are who you are. So before you talk about what you're going to run, you have to know you're about to go to war. We need to be getting back to where we were growing and doing well as a team."

The Cavaliers will look to put their recent losses behind them as they begin their pursuit for an ACC title Thursday in Conway, S.C. Tipoff is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Haseley leads baseball's series sweep against Rutgers

In the first series of the season, the Virginia baseball team (7-0) showed the rest of the league how dangerous its deep offense can be, pummeling Rutgers (1-5) in a three-game sweep to continue its season-opening win streak.

Virginia took the first game against Rutgers, 7-3, Friday after a grand display of power hitting. Rutgers got on the board with a run in the first inning, but junior outfielder Adam Haseley quickly erased the deficit with a two-run homer in the bottom half of the inning.

Haseley would homer again in the sixth inning to break the game open, and finished the day a stellar 4-4 with five RBIs. The rest of the power hitting was shouldered by graduate catcher Robbie Coman, who also homered twice — two solo shots — and went 4-5.



Junior outfielder Adam Haseley finished the day 4-4 with five RBIs, leading Virginia to victory over Rutgers.

The second game of the series was delayed due to a thunderstorm, but Virginia didn't miss a beat, plating 12 runs on 15 hits in a 12-4 victory against the Scarlet Knights. The Cavaliers played small ball most of the day, scoring on singles and doubles to back a quality outing from sophomore pitcher Evan Sperling.

Six different Cavaliers knocked in runs, and Haseley and sophomore outfielder Cameron Simmons each had three hits. Haseley built a streak, reaching base 11 straight times in the series' first two games.

Haseley took the mound in the third game of the series, and was largely able to pitch stress-free, as the Cavalier offense put on a clinic against Rutgers pitching. The end result was an 18-2 blowout by Virginia. Haseley allowed two runs in seven

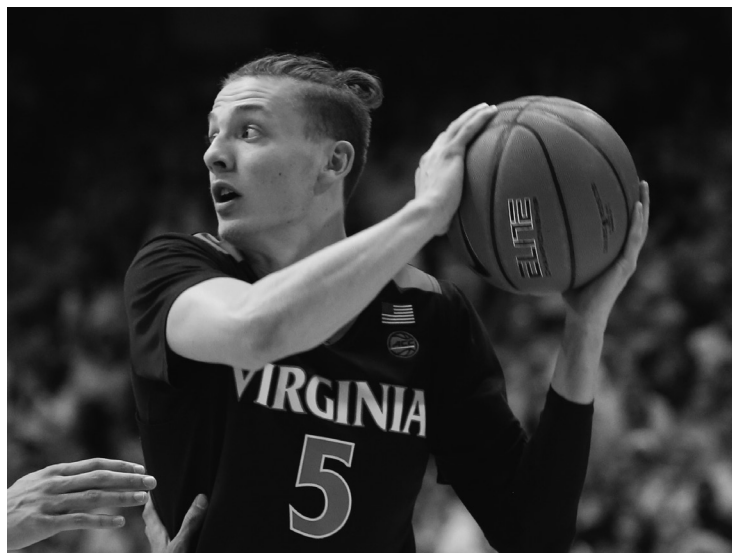
innings, striking out six and walking none.

The game started close, with Virginia taking only a 4-2 lead into the sixth inning before plating eight runs in the frame. Sophomore second baseman Ernie Clement, who homered for the first time this year and had four RBIs, and Coman, who belted his third homer of the weekend and knocked in four runs, did the heavy lifting on offense. Rutgers only mustered three hits against Haseley and none against the Cavaliers' shut down bullpen in the final two innings.

Virginia will look to keep rolling when hosting William & Mary Tuesday in a grudge match — the Tribe knocked the Cavaliers out of the NCAA Tournament last season.

— compiled by Alec Dougherty

No. 18 Virginia snaps losing streak, will face UNC



RICHARD DIZON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Freshman guard Kyle Guy led the Cavaliers in scoring against N.C. State with 19 points.

The No. 18 Virginia men's basketball team ended their four game losing streak with a 70-55 win at North Carolina State Saturday.

Against one of the weakest teams in the conference, this game was a chance for the Cavaliers to get some much needed offensive rhythm back. The Cavaliers (19-9, 9-7 ACC) shot 48.9 percent from the floor, including 68.8 percent from three. The performance was a huge improvement over the last three games, when Virginia shot 32 percent and made only 19 percent of attempts from behind the arc. However the team still struggled to sink free throws, making only 13 of 22 attempts.

Freshman guard Kyle Guy led the Cavaliers in scoring, helping the team off to a good start with 14

points in the first half, four of which were threes. He finished with 19 points on 54 percent shooting.

Virginia's leading scorer, senior guard London Perrantes, found his shooting streak in the win, finishing with 16 points. During the Cavaliers four game losing streak, Perrantes shot 16 of 58 for a 27.6 field goal percentage and only made five of 28 attempts from three. However he seemed to have returned from his slump in the win, shooting 50 percent from the floor and sinking three from downtown.

Junior guard Devon Hall also put up double digits, finishing with 18 points in addition to grabbing nine boards. Freshman guard Ty Jerome, who found himself in the starting lineup, added five points, six rebounds and four steals.

In their next matchup Virginia faces No. 8 UNC, currently topping the ACC.

North Carolina most recently grabbed a blowout victory against Pitt, 85-67. When the two teams last faced off less than two weeks ago, the Tar Heels (25-5, 13-3) blew out the Cavaliers by 20 points with a final score of 65-41. Virginia shot an abysmal 27.8 percent of the field, including 18 misses out of 20 attempts from behind the arc.

The game was not much of a contest, as the Tar Heels led by double digits for most of the game. Jackson scored 20 points in the win and currently leads the team in scoring — averaging 18.8 points per game and making 45.9 percent of his attempts from the floor.

— compiled by Julia Thompson

No. 6 men's lacrosse falls to No. 17 Pennsylvania

The No. 6 Virginia men's lacrosse team lost a tough, closely-fought battle, 11-10, against No. 17 Pennsylvania this past weekend in Philadelphia, Pa.

The Cavaliers (3-1) came into the matchup looking to keep their undefeated season alive, but were stopped short by a Quaker (2-0) team determined to build some momentum after winning their season opener a week ago.

The Quakers came out of the gates firing, taking an early 3-0 lead. However, Virginia responded with several goals of their own, evening the score at 4-4. Pennsylvania, unwilling to relinquish their lead, got back on track and made the score 7-5. Virginia kept fighting and tied the score up at 7-7 before the end of the first half.

The Quakers came out of halftime playing well, winning the third quarter before taking a 10-8 lead early in the fourth quarter. Virginia had one last scoring blitz in store for the afternoon, scoring two straight goals to make the score 10-10. However, it was not enough as the Quakers scored the game-winning goal with just under six minutes left in the game.

Freshman midfielder Dox Aitken starred for Virginia once again, scoring four goals. Senior attackman Zed Williams had another strong game, chipping in three goals.

Virginia will return to Charlottesville to take on High Point at 7 p.m. Wednesday night at Klöckner Stadium.

— compiled by Rahul Shah



CALLIE COLLINS | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Senior attackman Zed Williams earns a hat trick in Virginia's loss to Pennsylvania.

Softball picks up three wins in ECU Pirate Invitational

In the last weekend before kicking off the regular season, Virginia Softball finished the ECU Pirate Invitational with three wins and two losses.

The Cavaliers (8-8) opened the Invitational with a convincing 8-1 win over Seton Hall, then 3-1 for their season.

The game started with each team getting an early run on the scoreboard in the first inning, but good pitching from both teams then slowed down the offensive momentum of the game.

Sophomore Lexi Mettler came to the mound in the bottom of the second inning, and didn't allow Seton Hall (6-2) a run for the rest of the game. Mettler's pitching and Virginia's defense helped the Cavaliers stay mistake-free for the second time this season.

In the sixth inning, senior Katie Park notched her second triple of the season to get the Cavaliers back on the scoreboard. Shortly after Park's RBI, junior Danni Ingraham homered for the second time this season, bringing Virginia's lead to 4-1.

Later in the seventh inning, the Cavaliers picked up four more runs due to poor defense from Seton Hall. Virginia finished the game with 11 hits, marking the third game in a row with 11 or more Cavalier hits.

Later in the day, Virginia faced ECU and fell to the tournament host in a 10-1 game. Virginia's only run came in the fourth inning from senior McKall Miller scoring off of an RBI double from senior Iyana Hughes.

In the second day of the tournament the same lineup awaited the Cavaliers, but the results were

reversed as Virginia lost to Seton Hall and beat ECU (8-6).

The day started with a 4-2 win loss for the Cavaliers against Seton Hall. The third inning — featuring three runs for the Pirates — proved to be the difference in the game.

Things turned around for the Cavaliers later in the day, as they went on to beat ECU, 7-3. Virginia led the entire game with RBIs from Ingraham, junior Allison Davis, sophomore Erika Osherow, sophomore Kaitlin Fitzgerald and senior Madison Labshere.

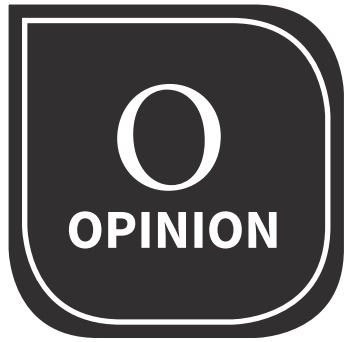
The Cavaliers ended the tournament on a high note, picking up an 8-1 win over Coppin State Sunday. Virginia now heads back to Charlottesville to gear up for hosting a Commonwealth Clash matchup against Virginia Tech Friday.

— compiled by Emma D'Arpino



COURTESY VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

Senior McKall Miller scored Virginia's lone run in a 10-1 loss to ECU.



CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 23 edition of The Cavalier Daily, in the article “Malcolm Stewart named Senior Resident of Lawn,” Malcolm Stewart’s school was misstated. He is a student in the Batten School not the College.

LEAD EDITORIAL

Protect transgender community on Grounds

U.Va. should proactively protect against gender-based harassment

President Trump ordered the Departments of Education and Justice last Wednesday evening to withdraw important protections for transgender students in public schools. Removing these protections, which let transgender students use bathrooms and other facilities corresponding to their gender identity, signal a strong disregard for the civil rights of thousands of students across the country. Given the potentially detrimental effects of this decision, the University needs to take the necessary steps to reassure the transgender community on Grounds of its unconditional

support.

In a recent survey conducted by the Association of American Universities regarding campus sexual assault among college students, LGBTQ students reported “significantly higher rates of sexual assault and harassment ... than their heterosexual peers.” The removal of these forms of protection by the federal government is especially troubling since transgender students are at a higher risk of experiencing violence and harassment. Inaccessibility to the right bathroom puts transgender people in demeaning and potentially dangerous situations

on a daily basis.

Existing University policies and programs like “Just Report It” and online educational modules have provided a foundation, but without federal protection, the University will need to be more proactive. To ensure the safety and protection of transgender students, the administration could implement housing based on gender identity and enforce specific policies which deal with peer gender-based harassment. While it is impossible to completely eliminate peer gender-based harassment on Grounds, the University can significantly reinforce protec-

tion by improving educational programs geared specifically towards this type of harassment.

It is clear the removal of these protections by the Trump administration will have damaging effects to transgender students across the nation. With the establishment of Title IX in 1972, the country made a decision to protect every U.S. citizen from sex discrimination in institutions receiving federal funding. If President Trump wishes to take away these protections, the University needs to ensure the transgender community on Grounds has its full support.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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U.VA. AS A ROLE MODEL FOR CHARLOTTESVILLE ENERGY POLICY

Charlottesville should make a commitment to city-wide carbon neutrality by 2050

Since its inception in 1819, the University has shaped the city of Charlottesville. It has long served as an incubator for new, forward-looking policies and perspectives. Unsurprisingly, students, alumni and faculty have initiated many of the city's progressive policies and attitudes. A prime example is Charlottesville's current mayor, Michael Signer, who is a graduate from the University's law school and has taught classes at Batten. As mayor, Signer has implemented an advisory council on innovation and technology. Under his tenure, Charlottesville was ranked fourth in the U.S. for entrepreneurship. With this in mind, it is only fitting that the University should serve as the role model for the city's energy policy.

In 2011, the Board of Visitors approved the University's first ever sustainability plan. The plan set goals for the University to reduce water use, curb carbon footprints and lower waste. The University's sustainability plan received tremendous support

and guidance from faculty and students. The plan's baseline goal is a 25 percent reduction in emissions by 2025 and has already lowered its greenhouse gas emissions to below its 2009 level, despite substantial growth. Just last week, Sun Tribe Solar, a Charlottesville-based solar provider, finished installing the University's largest solar investment to date on top of Clemons Library. While the University has striven to curb its environmental footprint, the City of Charlottesville has lagged behind. According to the latest available City of Charlottesville Emissions Report, Charlottesville is committed to reduce its carbon emissions by 10 percent by 2035, which is unambitious compared to many cities. At the heart of the issue is Virginia's Voluntary Renewable Energy Standard, which is only a meager 15 percent by 2025.

With the expertise and vision of the University behind it, Charlottesville should make a commitment to city-wide carbon neutrality by 2050. Similarly

sized cities, such as Burlington, Vt., have already proved that carbon neutrality is currently feasible, so we can only imagine what could be accomplished in the next 30 years. In addition to

school could provide expertise in local policymaking and social entrepreneurship.

The move only makes sense for a city which is home to Apex, Sun Tribe Solar and Coronal,

velopment.

This transformation would only accentuate the city's existing industries, culture and values. Pursuing clean energy sources results in energy independence, so this emissions goal would further build upon Charlottesville's current culture of locally owned business and locally sourced products. The commitment also connects to the University, which is constantly looking towards the future (you only have to see and hear the never-ending construction on Grounds to know that). It is clear that Charlottesville has the foundation for a green future in place. It just needs to realize its potential and capitalize on the opportunity. As the all too familiar Mr. Jefferson once said, "nothing is troublesome that we do willingly." Let's make it happen, Charlottesville.

JAMES GREEN is an undergraduate student at the Batten school.

With the expertise and vision of U.Va. behind it, Charlottesville should make a commitment to city-wide carbon neutrality by 2050.

reducing emissions, the commitment would prompt a fundamental change in how the city approaches new development and energy sourcing. Moreover, the goal's long horizon would allow the city to tap into the University's renowned academic resources, including advice from the Darden school, which has become a leader in advising businesses to adopt more environmentally conscious practices. Furthermore, the Batten

some of the largest and most innovative clean energy providers in the country. As national climate policy stalls, more people are calling for action at the local and state level. There is an opportunity for Charlottesville to transform itself into a mecca for sustainability in the Southeast. The newfound attention brought by this initiative would encourage clean energy investment and attract qualified professionals, further spurring economic de-

ARTICLES SHOULD HAVE A CLEAR, DISTINCT PURPOSE

Recent opinion columns have not made engaging arguments, headlines are not pulling readers in

Some articles recently published by The Cavalier Daily have readers grumbling about the obvious points made by authors. Senatorial behavior is divisive? Partisanship is killing redistricting reform? We need more civics education? What else is new? These pieces are well written and make clear points but there is little nuance or style in the way the arguments are presented. Articles should have a clear angle and titles should encourage readers to read on, not stop them in their tracks. One of the most challenging aspects of journalism is finding an angle for an article. However, this is also an excellent opportunity for authors to develop their voice and tackle issues in an interesting and informative manner.

For example, the issue of redistricting reform is important and has a powerful impact on voter power. The punch line of

more appropriate title for this piece may have been, "Are voters choosing their legislators, or are legislators choosing their

Elizabeth Warren's speech in the Senate regarding the appointment of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, which occurred over two weeks ago. It is likely that readers already knew about this incident and had an understanding of the vast partisan divide that exists in Congress. Pieces like this one may be frustrating to well-informed readers and dissuade them from reading through articles in The Cavalier Daily.

Readers are looking for authors to offer perspective and engage with issues in a meaningful way. There is essentially no value-added when authors make points that are already self-evident to readers. Editors should ensure that titles accurately demonstrate the point of the article and make the read-

er interested in learning more. In addition, they should work to find engaging and original angles for their pieces. This is particularly true for opinion columns, as well as news coverage at the local and state and national level. Authors and editors should strive to present the best possible articles and work to incorporate constructive feedback from readers.

JACQUELYN KATUIN is the Public Editor for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at publiceditor@cavalierdaily.com or on Twitter at @CDPublicEditor.

Readers are looking for authors to offer perspective and engage with issues in a meaningful way.

the article is that legislators have the ability to draw districts, and essentially choose their voters. Unfortunately the author buried the lead and the article title did not invite readers to learn more about why redistricting reform is desirable in the first place. A

voters?"

Similarly, readers may have by-passed the article titled, "Senatorial behavior is overly divisive" entirely because they assume they already know the main argument. This piece details the dispute surrounding



Want to respond?

Submit a letter to the editor to opinion@cavalierdaily.com



EVENTS

Monday 2/27
Men’s Basketball vs. UNC, 7pm, John Paul Jones Arena
Office for Sustainability’s Game Day Challenge Basketball, 6pm, John Paul Jones Arena
MELC’s Time of Trump: Being an Immigrant, 7-9pm, Multicultural Student Center
Basketball Watch Party, 7-9pm, Alumni Hall
Chi Omega Presents: Melting Pot & Make-A-Wish, 5-10pm, 501 E Water Street
Delta Zeta Presents: Cheesy DZ, 7-9pm, Alderman Library

Tuesday 2/28
Baseball vs. William & Mary, 3pm, Davenport Field
SYC Presents: Scarves for Kids, 7-9pm, Clark 101
Chi Omega Presents: Melting Pot & Make-A-Wish, 5-10pm, 501 E Water Street
Delta Zeta Presents: Cheesy DZ, 7-9pm, Alderman Library

Wednesday 3/1
Men’s Lacrosse vs. High Point, 7pm, Klockner Stadium
Chi Omega Presents: Melting Pot & Make-A-Wish, 5-10pm, 501 E Water Street
Days on the Lawn Info Session, 6-6:45pm, Wilson 301

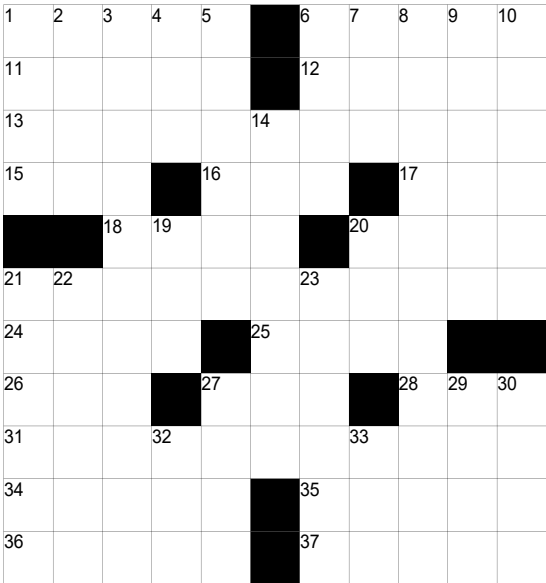
WEEKLY CROSSWORD

SAM EZERSKY | PUZZLE MASTER

ACROSS

- 1. Chopped down with an axe
- 6. Radio, TV, etc.
- 11. Something to R.S.V.P. to online
- 12. Pizzeria fixtures
- 13. Popular 31-Across location in the Southeast: 2 wds.
- 15. "Your point...?"
- 16. Lost items posted on many "Class of" Facebook pages
- 17. Ctrl-Alt-___
- 18. Norway's capital
- 20. Butt, to a Brit
- 21. Popular 31-Across location in the Northeast: 3 wds.
- 24. "Sad to say..."
- 25. Country in Trump's travel ban
- 26. Space between teeth
- 27. Words before second or minute: 2 wds.
- 28. Navigational aid, for short
- 31. Next week, for UVA students: 2 wds.
- 34. "Put ___ in it!": 2 wds.
- 35. Bonds of baseball controversy
- 36. Some charity races, informally: 2 wds.
- 37. Affirmatives

DOWN



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- 1. Virus contracted by eating contaminated food, briefly: 2 wds.
- 2. "___ Almighty" (2007 comedy partly filmed in Crozet)
- 3. Bottom part of a sill: 2 wds.
- 4. Seventh Greek letter
- 5. Venus ___ (famous sculpture): 2 wds.
- 6. Riotous masses
- 7. New Year's ___
- 8. Exact lookalikes: 2 wds.
- 9. Family doing?
- 10. "High School Musical" actress Tisdale
- 14. Loving to bits
- 19. Acronym for some E-school classes
- 20. Obamacare inits.
- 21. Really bothers: 2 wds.
- 22. Go by, as time
- 23. ___ Patty (Spongebob's beloved burger)
- 27. Tattoo parlor bottlefuls
- 29. Cut the peel off
- 30. "The ___ the limit!"
- 32. "Guh-ross!"
- 33. "Call Me Maybe" singer Carly ___ Jepsen

*THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN THURSDAY’S ISSUE

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H&S HEALTH & SCIENCE

The future of American healthcare

Professors Carolyn Engelhard, Chris Ruhm discuss healthcare policy changes at Jefferson Society Panel

XIAOYING LI | STAFF WRITER

In light of President Trump's election and the establishment of Republican control over both houses of Congress, the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society held a panel Friday at Jefferson Hall to discuss the future of the Affordable Care Act. Speakers included Carolyn Engelhard, associate professor of public health sciences and public policy, and Chris Ruhm, professor of public policy and economics.

"The event was organized because we felt there was strong student interest in the future of American healthcare and that it could add to the intellectual discourse of the student population," Grant Guan, second-year Engineering student and the Chair of the Jefferson Society Debate and Oratory Committee, said in an email to The Cavalier

Daily.

Engelhard said the purpose of the ACA was to expand health coverage to include a small range of people who could not buy health insurance themselves.

"The ACA act, like a lot of legislations, has winners and losers," Engelhard said. "Some of the winners for the ACA are the low income folks [or] chronically ill folks."

However, since the ACA brings many people into the insurance pool, central insurance benefits will get more expensive to those not covered under the ACA subsidy. It could also mean a delay in delivering coverage.

"The biggest dollar spent on Medicaid went to the elderly and senior citizens," Ruhm said. "Medicaid covered children up to 100 percent under the poverty line and ... It covered pregnant

women. It didn't provide a lot of coverage for adults."

While the ACA policy includes many more services and cuts down the premium for a range of people, adults — especially healthy adults — are hurt as prices increase.

"For the first time in six years after the ACA was passed, more voters favoured keeping it or repairing it than repealing it," Engelhard said.

Republicans in Congress would like to pass a reconciliation act of the ACA, which means only defunding pieces of the ACA that exert fiscal pressure on government. Ruhm's list of these pieces includes "outpatient emergency services, hospitalisation, pregnancy, newborn care, mental health, prescription drugs ... and also birth control and breastfeeding coverage."

Ruhm said these services allow a healthcare system to provide full healthcare benefits, but are unfavored by opponents who think these pieces cost the government too much.

According to estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, if the reconciliation were put forward without properly planned replacement, between 20 and 30 million Americans could lose insurance coverage.

Republicans are considering four replacements for the ACA, all of which follow the conservative orthodoxy of decreasing the role of federal government in healthcare.

Ruhm gave particular notice to replacement of the especially unpopular mandate policy of the ACA, which requires every person to purchase insurance or pay a penalty. If the Republicans re-

peal the ACA, Ruhm explained, insurance companies would be put at risk because many healthy people will choose not to buy insurance.

For now, President Trump has said he will preserve the pieces that keep marginalised people in the insurance pool.

"If you allow any sick people into the insurance plan — to the risk pool — you'll have to somehow get the healthy people in to balance their experience," Engelhard said. "Otherwise, you'll have an insurance pool with nothing but sick people and the premium will go up out of this field. In order to get healthy people into the pool, you got to help them buy it, and in order to help them buy it ... You have to come with new money from the government and not increase the federal deficit."

DNA testing reveals elite Puebloan lineage

Researchers discover matrilineal line dating back 300 years in Pueblo Bonito burial site

DIVYA VISWANATHAN | SENIOR WRITER



COURTESY STEPHEN PLOG

Pueblo Bonito hid a burial site DNA testing has revealed to be that of an elite family.

With the help of DNA and mitochondrial testing, U.Va. researchers recently discovered a burial site in New Mexico holds generations of an elite family related through a female — or matrilineal — line.

Pueblo Bonito is the ruins of one of the largest "great houses" in Chaco Canyon, N.M. Great houses were sprawling public buildings which served as community centers for Pueblo Native Americans.

Little was known about the

social and political aspects of the Pueblo society due to their lack of written documents. This discovery, however, now indicates a wealthy social class ruled and ultimately helped grow Chaco into a historical and cultural phenomenon.

Stephen Plog, University professor of archaeology and researcher on the project, said that this finding has given some insight on the initial development of the unusual and unique architecture of the area, which was

significantly different than that of previous civilizations. Plog said the matrilineal line was responsible for overseeing and developing great houses — large Pueblo residences — that are hallmarks of the early society.

The study was also the first to use DNA testing to uncover a familial relationship among individuals with no written records using archaeogenomics. Archaeogenomics refers to usage of genetic techniques to unveil information about the past.

"Scientists look for tissue that has remained moist, because that is likely to have more intact DNA, so little bits of bone marrow tissue inside frozen bones may be a source," Anindya Dutta, University professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics, said in an email to The Cavalier Daily.

Of the 14 burial sites located in the crypt at Pueblo Bonito, mitochondrial DNA from nine of the sites were tested and were found to be identical for all individuals, indicating that each of the individuals were related.

Dutta said when a human baby is first conceived, a majority of the cytoplasm in the zygote comes from the egg, as it

is much larger than the sperm. Because mitochondria are located in the cytoplasm of cells, almost all of the mitochondria in the baby come from the mother.

"Therefore a person's mitochondria (and mitochondrial genome) is derived from one's mother, who got it from her mother and so on — the maternal lineage," Dutta said. "As is true for any DNA, mitochondrial DNA also mutates at a low rate, and so the closer in sequence two person's mitochondrial DNA, the closer their maternal lineages."

In addition, through the use of radiocarbon dating researchers found that the bodies were placed in the crypt over the length of 300 years. Scientists concluded the bodies were not merely family members, but part of an elite Pueblo lineage.

"The bottom two burials, both of which were males, had massive amounts of shell and turquoise buried with them," Plog said.

Plog mentioned that shell and turquoise were very valuable and important items in Native American culture. They were also often used symbolically in rituals, highlighting the high so-

cial status of the men buried at the bottom of the crypt.

"The two burials at the bottom of the crypt are easily among the richest — if not the richest — burials in the Southwest," Plog said. "If you put all those things together it pretty clearly indicates an elite matrilineal line that was ruling Pueblo Bonito, which was the largest of the Chaco houses and may have been ruling over a broader area than that."

Plog continues to explore other elements of the Chaco Canyon, such as evidence of scarlet macaw remains found during excavation. DNA analysis will be run to learn more about the role of trade in the expansion of Chaco, as these birds were not native to the areas of the Southwest where they were found.

"We are exploring the role of this long distance trade in stimulating the development of Chaco," Plog said. "The DNA testing has shown us that the macaws are from Southern and Central America, so there are related factors like that [that] we need to begin to explore."

Oberholzer named Transplant Center Director

Transplant director from University of Illinois at Chicago hopes to expand transplant access

SARAH YANG | SENIOR WRITER

The University Health System named Dr. Jose Oberholzer Director of the Charles O. Strickler Transplant Center Feb. 20. Oberholzer previously served as Chief of the Division of Transplantation and Director of the Islet and Pancreas Transplant Program at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Oberholzer was chosen following a national search, CEO of University Health Pamela Sutton-Wallace said.

“Dr. Oberholzer will work with our transplant team to expand our program and make it easier throughout Virginia and beyond to access lifesaving care,” Sutton-Wallace said in an email to The Cavalier Daily.

Sutton-Wallace cited Oberholzer’s ability to expand access to care in the decision.

“He has a background as an innovative patient care provider and researcher who has made it easier for more patients to receive transplants through robotic-assisted surgeries,” Sutton-Wallace said.

Oberholzer was drawn to the University by the potential for a cross-discipline transplant program.

“When I received the call from U.Va., I was intrigued to hear that ... They wanted to create an integrated transplant center, and that’s a very unique opportunity that doesn’t happen very often,” Oberholzer said.

Oberholzer earned his medical degree from the University of Zurich Medical School, and received his master’s in healthcare management from the Harvard School of Public Health.

As a researcher, his area of academic interest includes making surgery safer and less invasive for diabetic and overweight patients.

“I’ve always felt that we need to reduce the invasiveness of surgery,” Oberholzer said. “For some patients how big the cut is doesn’t matter, but there are some patients where it becomes very important, and mostly overweight patients. These patients have a very high complication rate because of the incision you have to make, and they have a very high chance of infection.”

Another area of interest is increasing the availability of organ donations in Virginia.

“Virginia is not too bad in organ donation, but it could be better,” Oberholzer said. “You can look at it from whichever way you want — there is no ethical, philosophical [or] religious argument that would be against organ donation.”

One way to achieve institutional commitment from the community is to educate the public about organ donation, Oberholzer said.

“What happens very often is that

there are misconceptions about organ donations, and people think it’s something creepy, and that’s why it’s important to inform people” Oberholzer said.

At UIC, Oberholzer worked on decreasing the risks volunteer donors face.

“Robotics can help — it’s not only robotics, but medical management and also enrichment and counseling of living donors,” Oberholzer said. “I hope I can bring some of it here [from UIC] and help people.”

During his time as director, Oberholzer hopes to make the University Transplant Center a comprehensive transplant institute that offers all available organ transplants.

The University program is quite comprehensive already, Oberholzer said, but he hopes to make improvements.

“There are still patient populations that are not addressed here and certain procedures that we do not do here, such as small bowel transplant and certain combinations, for example combined heart-kidney transplant,” Oberholzer said.

A particular area of interest for Oberholzer is the integration of younger students into the medical field through a summer internship for high school and undergraduate students.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Dr. Oberholzer hopes to increase access to transplants and decrease risk.

“It’s a paid summer internship for students who are interested in the biomedical field,” Oberholzer said. “It’s not for students who want to be physicians, but for students who are interested in an engineering career — chemical engineering, biomedical — who want to learn firsthand.”

Pioneered at UIC, the program is 10 weeks and funded by the National Institute of Health. Students gain

experience in the operating room, watch transplants or donations and participate in clinical rounds.

“It’s really important to groom the next generation,” Oberholzer said. “It’s exposure to the idea, what the work of transplantation is.”

Oberholzer starts his new position at the University next month.

Carbon tax — bipartisan response to climate change

Conservative carbon tax proposal factors in social costs of emissions

KEVYN HADLEY | STAFF WRITER

Addressing climate change picked up bipartisan support earlier this month when the Climate Leadership Council proposed a “carbon dividend” plan — a two-piece proposal including a carbon tax and a plan to return the revenue to the population through dividends, according to The Washington Post. The group of prominent conservative thinkers includes James A. Baker, Henry Paulson, George P. Schultz, Marty Feldstein and Greg Mankiw.

According to the Carbon Tax Center, a carbon tax seeks to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by correcting the discrepancy between the market price and social cost of carbon by placing a fee on each ton of carbon dioxide.

Burning fossil fuels causes damages to the environment — including increasing global temperatures and rising sea levels — that are not reflected in its market price. Even those who don’t believe in climate change can appreciate the increases in respiratory disease, asthma and depletion

in natural resources caused by increased carbon dioxide emissions.

These costs boil down to a single number — the Social Cost of Carbon. In theory, according to economics lecturer Dr. Spencer Phillips, a carbon tax bridges the gap by raising the market price to reflect the social cost. Ideally, this causes a decrease in demand for carbon-intensive goods and therein a decrease in emissions.

Many economists have advocated for a carbon tax for years, but its recent re-emergence in the political spotlight sparked new debate over its feasibility, risks and potential benefits. One of the benefits associated with a revenue-neutral carbon tax plan is its simplicity.

According to Phillips, the cap and trade system proposed in California in 2011 failed because it required the use of permits, an administration to police the trading of permits, contracts to assign emission rights and a plethora of other regulatory controls.

In addition to its simplicity, a carbon tax produces revenue that can be

used in a variety of ways.

“You can give [the revenue] back as reimbursements to people of low income [or] minority groups who are suffering disproportionately from the higher cost,” fourth-year Commerce student Alexander Wolz said.

The revenue can also be reinvested into research of renewable energy to further sustainability efforts.

“[A carbon tax] makes the relative cost of carbon-emitting energy higher and the renewables comparatively [cheaper], so it should really accelerate the transition to renewable energy,” Phillips said.

This could lead to growth of the green energy while reducing U.S. dependence on unreliable sources of energy.

“A carbon tax would also make our economy more resilient, because it incentivizes us to move towards a decentralized, renewables-based non-fossil fuel economy and that’s more resilient in general, than one that relies on pulling [oil] out of the ground from countries in the Middle

East,” Wolz said.

Despite the advantages of a carbon tax, certain drawbacks merit examination. For example, a carbon tax is most effective if implemented globally.

“[Climate change] is a global phenomenon that demands a global solution. You would want carbon tax to cover everything — all emissions from wherever they are,” Phillips said.

Without a carbon tax implemented internationally, there is a greater risk of carbon leakage and production outsourcing to countries with fewer barriers on emission production, causing the same amount of carbon pollution produced, just elsewhere in the world.

With respect to the University, students may see an increase in transportation costs.

“People who drive a lot, people who fly a lot, they would be paying more, but I wouldn’t say that is paying more unfairly because we are currently paying an artificially low price — is what I would argue. We

have so many fossil fuel subsidies in the U.S. ... We’re just paying the bare bones, what it costs to get [the oil] out of the ground. We’re not paying for the damage that we’re causing,” Wolz said.

Additionally, movement away from fossil fuels could encourage the University to move towards more sustainable forms of energy.

“Dominion — our power provider — they would have a much stronger incentive to start producing renewable energy which is getting cheaper by the day, so the net result may be that we have cleaner energy and that it could be cheaper,” Wolz said.

However, before the implementation of a carbon tax, certain changes would be necessary.

“First of all, the administration would have to actually accept that climate change is real and that humans are responsible for it and therefore changing the behavior of humans, through a tax or some other way, is part of the solution,” Phillips said.

Asthma drugs could prevent influenza pneumonia

Early treatment may halt spread of infection in lungs

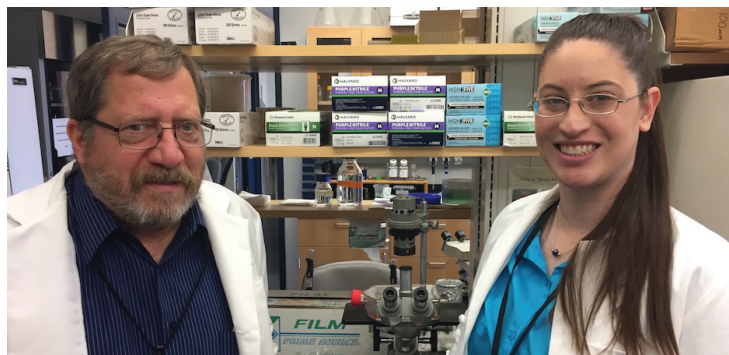
ANUGYA MITTAL | STAFF WRITER

Dr. Thomas J. Braciale and Dr. Amber Cardani from the U.Va. School of Medicine may have found a way to prevent a fatal form of pneumonia using common allergy and asthma medications.

According to Cardani, influenza infections typically only affect the upper airways such as the throat and nasal passages. However in more serious cases, the virus infects alveolar epithelial cells in the lungs. The infection of these cells characterizes pneumonia — or inflammation of the lungs — and is potentially fatal as alveolar epithelial cells are necessary for oxygen and carbon dioxide exchange.

Cardani said the main issue with influenza pneumonia is its difficulty to treat. Once the pathogen infects the alveoli, the immune system responds by eliminating the infected cells. However, if a large area of the alveoli is infected, then the entire alveoli may be attacked by the immune system and general lung function begins to decline.

Braciale said that while other forms of pneumonia are transmit-



COURTESY JOSH BARNEY, UVA HEALTH SYSTEM

Braciale and Cardani may have discovered a preventative treatment for viral pneumonia.

ted via bacterial infection and can be treated with antibiotics, influenza pneumonia has very few available treatment options. Up to 40 percent of patients with influenza pneumonia may die from the infection.

“So it’s rare to get influenza pneumonia, but if you get it, it’s very serious because it can be fatal and life-threatening — because of your inability to respire, your inability to get oxygen into those terminal airways,” Braciale said.

Previous studies suggested that

medicines used for allergies and asthma may prevent infection of alveolar cells. The researchers initially used mice to study the pathways involved in the development of severe influenza.

While treating the mice with allergy and asthma medications such as Singulair and Accolate, they found that the mice did not develop influenza pneumonia. Braciale said these results were unexpected.

“It was — first of all — a big surprise that these drugs might possibly

be useful, and then an even bigger surprise that ... When given to the mice [the drugs] actually protected them,” Braciale said.

However, the application of such drugs in humans to prevent influenza pneumonia has yet to be tested. Before a clinical trial can be conducted, more data must be collected.

In an attempt to duplicate the results of the mice experiment, researchers are using data mining. They are examining data from the last 10 years to determine whether people treated with these types of medications have reduced rates of infection. In addition, they are treating test tubes of human cells with allergy and asthma medications.

According to Cardani, the ultimate objective is for asthma medications to be used as a preventive measure for influenza pneumonia.

“The hope is that these drugs — that are already FDA-approved for asthma — could be given preventively to patients with pre-existing conditions that [predispose] them to viral pneumonia, or during some pandemic seasons,” Cardani said in

an email to The Cavalier Daily.

Braciale adds that the applications of these drugs may go beyond prophylactic, or preventative, usage.

“The other way — in principle — that you might use [asthma medications] is if somebody comes down with the flu and it looks like it’s going to be a little complicated,” Braciale said. “In other words, [the infection] isn’t clearing up as quickly as [we] would like and maybe it’s getting hard for them to breathe — we could give them these medicines instead as a treatment early in the infection.”

While more research is necessary before asthma and allergy drugs can be used to prevent and treat influenza pneumonia in humans, Braciale is hopeful for future applications of results.

“These medicines which are out there and otherwise don’t have any side effects at all could be a useful aid to prevent people from getting serious flu pneumonia,” Braciale said. “But in the meantime, please take your flu shot.”

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