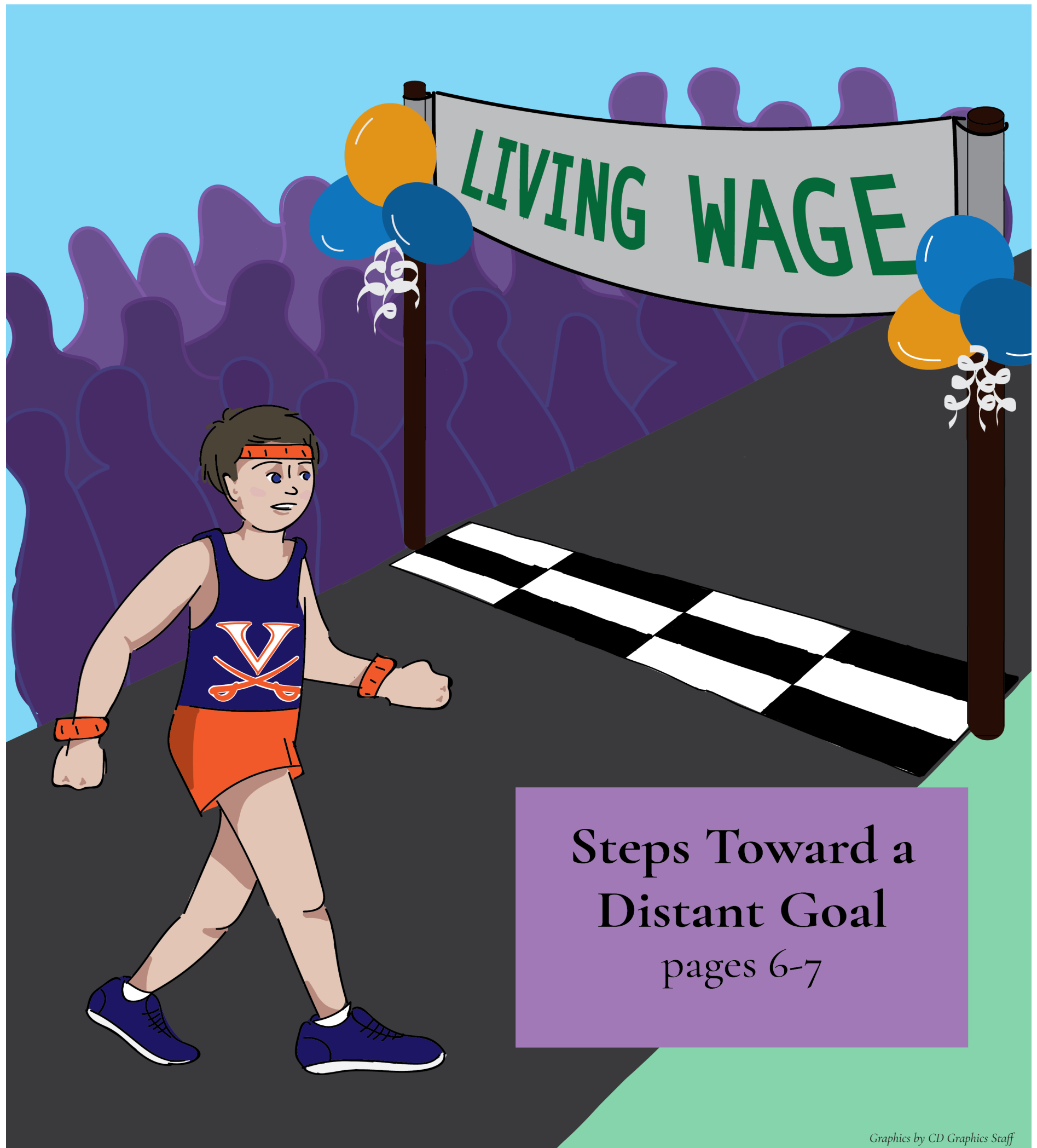


THE CAVALIER DAILY

Vol. 129, Issue 13

Thursday, November 29, 2018



Steps Toward a
Distant Goal
pages 6-7

Graphics by CD Graphics Staff

In Brief

CD News Staff

DREAMers on Grounds pens letter to Ryan calling for support for immigrants

The Executive Board of DREAMers on Grounds sent a letter to University President Jim Ryan Nov. 19 encouraging UVA's administration to increase support for immigrants at the University.

DREAMers on Grounds is an organization at the University that works to protect undocumented students and their families and inform the local community of the issues faced by immigrants.

The letter said Ryan has the opportunity to do more for the undocumented community than previous administrations. According to DREAMers, the Univerity

administration has failed to foster a community that includes undocumented students.

The University did not respond to request for comment, but in a response to DREAMers obtained by The Cavalier Daily, Ryan wrote that "we have a lot of work to do."

"I appreciate learning more about your organization and your work to create a more inclusive environment for all undocumented students at the University," Ryan wrote. "I also welcome your suggestions for how we might accomplish that goal."

Dear President James Ryan,

The Executive Board of DREAMers on Grounds would like to welcome you back to the UVA community! As an organization, DREAMers on Grounds has worked tirelessly to promote and garner support for undocumented immigrants and their families, both at the University, community, and national level. This mission and organization, however, did not come easily or with open embracement from the University or entire student body. UVA has not always been so welcoming to undocumented students and the progress it has made can mostly be attributed to the efforts of students partnering with Charlottesville community organizations operating with minimal, direct support from our University's administration.

President Ryan, you have the opportunity to do more for the undocumented community than previous administrations have ever done before. In the past, the University had the power to admit undocumented students, but were adamant against doing so. Instead, admissions sided strongly with the exclusive opinion of Attorney General Jerry Kilgore. Only recently, due to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, has UVA admitted a very limited number of

COURTESY DREAMERS ON GROUND

DREAMers on Grounds sent the letter publicly to Ryan Nov. 19.



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Honor Committee officially adopted the new CHI policy Nov. 18.

Honor officially adopts new Contributory Health Impairment policy

The Honor Committee unanimously adopted changes to the Contributory Health Impairment procedures and bylaws Nov. 18 after receiving approval from the Office of University Counsel. The new changes took effect pending University Counsel approval on Oct. 28, but now are officially included in the Honor Committee's documents.

A variety of reforms have been made to the CHI policy within the past couple of months — including changing the name of the policy from the Contributory Mental Disorder process into the Contributory Health Impairment process to make it more inclu-

sive by acknowledging that the current policy also allows for conditions that are not explicitly mental, such as a brain tumor according to Streeter, but could still contribute to committing Honor offenses.

The Committee has approved a new timeline in which students in the process will have to adhere to if their CHI claim is to be considered in an Honor trial. The Committee has also approved the removal of the "Admission of Act" portion of the policy which will remove the requirement that an accused student admit guilt to an honor offense before being assessed for a CHI.

Student Council approves creation of 11 new CIOs

In a brief legislative session Nov. 27, members of the Student Council Representative Body voted unanimously and without debate to pass a bill approving the creation of 11 new Contracted Independent Organizations.

The 11 new CIOs are the Association for Women in Sports Media, the Association of Women Surgeons Student Chapter at UVA., BiHOOphilic at UVA., Data Science and Analytics Club, Immersive@UVA, Lab-Shorts, Link Lab Committee on Culture and Livability, the Orthopedic Interest Group, the Polish Student Association, Take Back the Night at UVA. — the organization's CIO status briefly went inactive and the

group operated under the umbrella group Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition — and the Barbell Club at UVA.

The bill was sponsored by Ty Zirkle, a fourth-year College student and vice president for organizations for Student Council, who was not present at the meeting.

The bill passed with a vote of 23 in favor and one abstention by proxy from fourth-year College student Sara Zahir.



GEREMIA DIMARO | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Members of the BiHOOphilic at UVA. presented to Student Council Nov. 27.



SOPHIE ROEHSE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

University President Jim Ryan asked questions of the audience Nov. 27 at the event.

Ryan hosts talk on UVA's goals, shortcomings at 'Ours to Shape' event

The University hosted an "Ours to Shape" event with University President Jim Ryan Nov. 27 in the Newcomb Hall Ballroom. The event, attended by approximately 120 faculty and students, provided a platform for members of the University community to discuss goals — including a focus on sustainability and community engagement — for the University in the context of Ryan's "Ours to Shape" initiative.

During the hour-long event, Ryan posed questions to the room — including questions about what UVA's priorities should be and how to strengthen the University's community — then allowed time for group discussion at each table and listened to

attendees' responses on topics relating to the three highlighted themes.

Ryan challenged those in attendance to "think big or think different" while coming up with one idea to strengthen community at the University. Responses included taking Trick-or-Treating on the Lawn to first-year residence halls, offering classes on the Downtown Mall open to the public and taught by University faculty, investing in more residential colleges and providing affordable local housing through the University.

Lighting of the Lawn to see changes in time, programming

Event will feature guest speakers, presentation of the 200 bicentennial goals

Victoria Dancu and Caroline Meyer | Staff Writers

The 18th annual Lighting of the Lawn is set to take place Dec. 6 on the Lawn. The LOTL committee, made up of all the Class Councils, has made several adjustments to the event, including a shortened duration, diversified speakers and a presentation of community goals related to the University's bicentennial.

The LOTL committee, made up of all the Class Councils, has chosen this year's theme to be "Brighter Together."

According to their website, the LOTL committee hopes to use this theme to present "a space for everyone in our community" and to "[offer] a place for reflection, positivity, and most importantly: UNITY."

The tradition began 17 years ago in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. As a way to promote togetherness within the community, the University Trustees commemorated those lost by hanging festive lights on the Lawn. Attendance at the event has spiked since 2012, when a light show on the Rotunda was added.

Fourth-year Commerce student Mara Reichle said that she appreciates the fact that this year's theme will promote togetherness and move away from just being a holiday celebration.

"I personally like the idea of being a community and ... unity as a newer component of Lighting of the Lawn," Reichle said. "I like the idea that it is

not just a festive events but it is also an event to bring people together."

Katie Mendenhall, a fourth-year Batten student and co-chair of the LOTL committee, stressed the importance of LOTL in bringing together the University community, especially after the violent white supremacist rallies of August 2017.

"We think that LOTL is still fulfilling a need in our community, as we have been through a lot," Mendenhall said. "It's a great way for people from all groups across our community to come together and enjoy a fun night before finals start."

New additions to the event will include a reception on the South Lawn with programming, including food trucks, games and more for attendees to enjoy before the light show starts. Additionally, Mendenhall said the LOTL committee hopes to ensure greater variety in the groups that will be speaking between performances during the light show.

The Fourth Year Trustees did not provide The Cavalier Daily with a cost estimate for the event.

Each year, LOTL attracts thousands of attendees. In 2017, the University increased security measures, adding metal detectors to entrances, requiring attendees to follow the University's clear bag policy, limiting entrance to only two locations and

prohibiting outside food and drink. According to the LOTL website, enhanced safety procedures will be in place again this year, including the use of metal detectors.

Organizers have been working with the administration to adjust safety measures so that lines to get into the Lawn will be shorter. These efforts include creating specific lines for individuals with bags and recommending that audience members arrive 45 minutes prior to the event's start.

Like last year, the event will start at 7 p.m., but unlike previous years, the light show will begin at 9 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. According to Mendenhall, these changes were made in an effort to address past complaints from attendees who did not want to wait for several hours in the cold for the light show to begin.

The decision to shorten the tradition also stems from concerns about alcohol use at the event. Mendenhall said she and Gordon Bailey — a fourth-year College student and co-chair of LOTL — came to this decision after speaking with the administration about their concerns related to crowd control and drinking at LOTL.

"[We are] trying to find a way to curb heavy drinking at the event," Mendenhall said. "We thought that getting everyone off the Lawn earlier was a way to do that."

University Spokesperson Anthony de Bruyn said the University supports efforts to increase safety at the event.

"As is the case with any large-scale University event, the safety and well-being of those attending the event is a top priority, and the University is supportive of any efforts to curtail underage drinking or any other inappropriate behavior," de Bruyn said.

Jenna Wichterman, a fourth-year College student and Lawn resident, raised concerns about the event and the potential for dangerous activities to take place.

"As a Lawnie, I think I have a greater responsibility to be monitoring and to be making sure that everyone is okay and if they're not ... knowing what to do in that situation," Wichterman said. "I almost feel like a little bit of a co-host this year."

The planning committee is planning on making a few additional changes to this year's event, including re-emphasizing the original purpose of Lighting of the Lawn as a memorial to those lost during the 9/11 attacks.

"This year, we are focusing on bringing back the importance of Lighting of the Lawn and trying to create event norms and to make it safe space for people so they can remember the victims of 9/11," said Emma Sisk, a first-year College student and LOTL committee member.

The event will be a time for people to reflect on 9/11 and those who were lost as well as serve as a way for the people of Charlottesville to gather in an effort to collectively better the community.

Fourth-year College student Danya Abutaleb, a Lawn resident, said that they hope that they can create a more welcoming space on the Lawn for people of color and queer individuals during the event.

"I would say that [my] intentionality has changed because this is the first time where I get to humanize the Lawn and show people ... how despite the fact that no one ever expected me to be here, that I am going to be there and I'm going to open my room," Abutaleb said.

To celebrate the University's Bicentennial in 2019, the event will also feature a presentation of the community's 200 goals for the next 200 years. Goals can be submitted by students and members of the Charlottesville community through LOTL's Facebook page.

"200 goals for 200 years is meant to reflect on our commitment to making our community better as UVA starts its next 200 years," Mendenhall said. "They will be displayed at LOTL as ... a call to action to create positive change in our community."

U.Va. plans 24/7 meters in Central Grounds Garage

Students expressed their concerns over the change

Zach Rosenthal | Staff Writer

New parking meters are slated to take effect in the Central Grounds Parking Garage in January 2019 — a change that will close a long-time loophole where students leaving the garage at late hours could avoid paying for parking.

According to Parking and Transportation Director Rebecca White, these new meters — which will likely launch Jan. 14 — will feature multiple payment options including ParkMobile. ParkMobile is an app (available on both iPhone and Android) that allows people to pay for parking via their smartphone.

For garage patrons who don't want to use ParkMobile or for those who do not have the app, they can pay with cash and credit card.

Meters are already in place at North Grounds Recreation Center, Observatory Hill Dining Facility, Slaughter Recreation Center and the Aquatic and Fitness Center.

"The meters are enforced by combining management software applications with personnel on location," White said.

Currently, around 11:00 p.m. each

night — excluding Sundays, when the garages are unattended — the attendants staffing the two gated entries to the Central Grounds Garage leave their post and the gates blocking the exit are lifted, enabling garage patrons to leave without paying.

Some students park at the Central Grounds Garage knowing that if they leave late at night, the parking will be free.

"If UVA claims to care about our well being and safety, and they want us to succeed academically, they shouldn't CHARGE US to park on grounds at night!" third-year College student Elana Marmorstein said in a Twitter message to The Cavalier Daily.

Third-year College student Jackson Samples also expressed similar concerns about safety.

"Students, especially women, could definitely feel unsafe walking home at such an hour," Samples said.

Samples also shared his concern specifically for library workers and those who often spend late nights at on-Grounds libraries.

Marmorstein noted that a change in the system may leave some students

without options.

"[Closing the loophole] favors students who ... can afford to pay for parking/afford to live close to Grounds," Marmorstein said.

Samples also commented on the availability of transportation on Grounds.

"It's more a matter of public transportation not existing late at night," Samples said.

University Transit Services run less frequently at night, with some bus lines stopping their service entirely.

"If this policy was put in place I think there would have to be a definite increase in the frequency of bus service, otherwise you are asking a lot of students to walk 30 minutes home in unsafe conditions," Samples said.

When asked for comment, White said significant discounts are available during late evening hours.

"The hourly fee for the Central Grounds Garage is significantly discounted (50%) from 5PM-10PM. every day except Sunday when the discount is 65% from 8AM-10PM," White said in an email statement to The Cavalier Daily. "Every day between 10PM and

8AM, there is an extreme discount (another 50% to 90% depending on the length of stay) of \$1 for any portion of that period."

White seemed to recognize that some people have concerns about the expense of parking at Central Grounds Garage.

"These discounts are in place to recognize the type of use after hours and minimize the financial burden on parkers during off peak hours," White said.

According to White, Parking and Transportation still expects that garage usage will remain the same after the installation of the new meters. White said she hopes the new meters will alter the experience of drivers by eliminating lines waiting at the exit of Central Grounds Garage.

"[This] will open up other possibilities, like publishing real-time parking availability data which we have not done as yet," White said.

Some people said they would still try to find other places to park if the loophole is closed, regardless of if there is real-time parking availability data.

Olivia Sabik, a doctoral candi-

date at the University, she would have parked on side streets if the Central Grounds Garage had "cost anything basically." Sabik, a former member of the Honor Committee, said she found parking in Central Grounds made it easier for her to get to meetings on time.

"Ideally the situation would be that UVA provided very reliable public transportation or very affordable parking, potentially even allowing the loophole to exist so that students have reliable transportation home," Samples said.

In responses to concerns about the availability of reliable public transportation, White responded with the academic hours of operation of the University Transit System buses, which run until 12:30 a.m. or 2:30 a.m., depending on the day, at 20-minute intervals, according to the UTS website. White also noted that after those times, Safe Ride — a University-run free ride service that operates late at night when buses stop running — begins.

Ramps on Lawn to be finished by spring semester

The addition of wheelchair-accessible ramps will allow students and visitors with mobility disabilities to traverse the Lawn

Caitlin St. Amour | Contributing Writer



CAITLIN ST. AMOUR | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The new ramps, being constructed on the western side of the Lawn, will cost approximately \$974,000 and will improve accessibility for the large number of students, UVA. community members and visitors who come to the Lawn each year.

The construction of two permanent, wheelchair-accessible ramps on the western side of the Lawn will be completed by the start of the spring semester, according to UVA. officials. The ramps — part of the Lawn Accessibility Project — will provide a continuous and obstruction-free path from the Rotunda to Old Cabell Hall for students and visitors with mobility impairments.

The project will cost approximately \$974,000, according to James Zehmer, a historic preservation project manager in the Office of Facilities Planning and Construction.

Shea Megale, a second-year College student who uses a motorized wheelchair, said she has not yet experienced events like Rotunda Sing, Lighting of the Lawn or Trick or Treating on the Lawn.

"I haven't gone to any of that and I'd really like to be more a part of the Lawn," Megale said. "It's the central place of UVA."

There are nearly 200 students at the University like Megale, with mobility disabilities registered through the Student Disability Access Center. This number does not account for those who do not disclose their physical impairments and the segment of the University's 200,000 annual visitors with mobility disabilities.

The Lawn — the center of Grounds for many visitors and members of the University community — has been compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act since the 1990s. However, prior to the construction of the ramps, those who could not navigate the

hills by Pavilions V and IX were required to leave and reenter through the McCormick Road alleyways in order to maneuver each incline, which made the Lawn uninviting for individuals with disabilities.

Megale, who has traveled around the world, says she was surprised by the slopes of the Lawn on her first tour of UVA., especially after asking her tour guide if it was accessible.

"He answered 'Well, there are a couple hills,' and I thought to myself, 'I can do a couple hills — I've done the outback of Australia and the rainforests of El Yunque,'" she said.

But the inclines of the Lawn proved to be steeper and more dangerous than she was led to believe.

"I was terrified," Megale said. "I went down backwards. Once I did one, I didn't realize I was stuck doing three others ... After that experience, I thought, 'Is UVA. the right place?'"

Cory Paradis, a 2018 School of Architecture alumnus and wheelchair user, has attended events on the Lawn, but typically avoided the area due to its inaccessibility, resulting in an inability to experience a large part of the University.

"I've gone to Lighting of the Lawn several times, and I've had to have people lift me up and down the steps," Paradis said. "It definitely limits your social opportunities because a lot of parties and stuff happen on the Lawn ... I avoid that area because it's so much of a pain to navigate."

As a current member of the Barrier-Free Access Committee and teaching assistant in the School of

Architecture, Paradis has made it his mission to educate others about accessibility.

"The only way for people to really understand the issue is to either learn from somebody or go through something themselves," he said. "I'm an asset for ... the students ... [and] I can share my experiences."

Paradis says he impresses the necessity of accessibility in design on his architecture students.

"If people aren't aware, they have no clue that there is even a problem," Paradis said. "I want to get them in the mindset from the beginning that accessibility needs to be one of the top priorities whenever you design anything."

In 2015, Paradis first met with Wynne Stuart, the associate provost for academic support and classroom management and chair of the Barrier-Free Access Committee — a University committee that makes recommendations for making the institution better for individuals with disabilities — to discuss accessibility around the University.

Stuart worked on installing ramps for 10 years as the chair of the Barrier-Free Access Committee. The process to adapt the Lawn to better accommodate students and visitors with ambulatory disabilities began two years ago, with the arrival of University Architect Alice Raucher.

Stuart said Raucher immediately embraced the idea. According to Stuart, Raucher and Colette Sheehy — the University's senior vice president for operations — were instrumental in bringing the project to completion.

Stuart explained that architecture projects at the University are dependent on the respective architect of the University and said that Raucher's predecessor, David J. Neuman, focused on bigger picture projects.

"The previous architect for the University had many other things to do and was trying to figure out the whole land plan of the University, so he focused less on specifics," Stuart said.

Due to its historic prestige, the Lawn has been one of the most difficult projects Stuart has proposed.

"There was some concern that it was going to change the character of the Lawn," Stuart said. "As you look out, [was this] really what Jefferson meant? Did we want to alter this?"

In response to the critics who voiced concerns about ramps being an eyesore, Stuart responds said the claim is historically hypocritical.

"First, the construction of Cocke, Rouss and Old Cabell Halls in the 19th century closed Jefferson's intended view of the mountains, so we have a big precedent there," Stuart said. "Second, we have to keep up with the world. The time had come, and although we were legally compliant, it was not inclusive, and we were seeking to be more inclusive."

Stuart was motivated to complete this project when a student with a motorized wheelchair debated living on the Lawn.

"At that point, I did thoroughly understand that if you lived on the Lawn, you could only get out of your room and visit those on your

level — but if we have these ramps, virtually all the rooms are accessible," Stuart said.

Stuart said that the University is striving to go beyond compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act to create an environment on the Lawn where all students feel welcomed.

"What we have been working towards on the Lawn is not just the letter of the law, which we met, but the spirit of inclusion," Stuart said.

Despite her first impression, Megale said she appreciates the effort the University has put forward to achieve inclusivity, in contrast to other universities.

"Even though there is work to do, UVA. is several steps ahead of other state schools," she said.

"In my tours of other schools ... [there were] entire academic buildings that were not accessible."

Paradis said he recognizes the challenges associated with working with a historic site.

"People want the Lawn to be as it was in Jefferson's time, but Jefferson was an innovator, and if he was alive today, he would say, 'This is crazy — we need to change the way we think about this,'" Paradis said. "Since it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, you want it to be as realistic as it was in the 1800s, but at what point do you put the present need above past experiences?"

U.Va.-community working group seeks improved relations

President Ryan said “nothing” is off-limits as the group identifies factors straining University-community relations

Ali Sullivan | Staff Writer

University President Jim Ryan’s recently established community working group has already begun its mission to evaluate the relationship between the University and the surrounding community with its first meeting Nov. 5. Ryan announced the creation of the working group in October to begin the lengthy process of identifying ways in which the University — along with the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and other areas — can strengthen its bond with the local community and seek means for improvement.

Professors, community members and a University Law student currently comprise the 16-member group. In an email statement to *The Cavalier Daily*, University Deputy Spokesperson Wes Hester said the group’s highest-priority issues might include wages, housing, education and healthcare.

The group’s current mission is to first identify the underlying issues straining the communal relationship between the University and surrounding communities before it compiles action recommendations to be delivered to Ryan in February. Juandiego Wade, chair of the Charlottesville School Board and co-chair of the working group, said the body plans to take their charge with an open mind.

“We’re not going to go and say, ‘We know that living wage is an issue and so is affordable housing,’” Wade said. “We’re going to go with a blank slate.”

Devising their strategy

In contrast to the University’s previous pushes for community engagement, Ridge Schuyler, working group appointee and Piedmont Virginia Community College’s dean of community self-sufficiency programs, characterizes the group’s strategy as a holistic one. Schuyler serves on Charlottesville’s Housing Advisory Committee — a 21-member board tasked by the City Council with developing and recommending housing strategies and policy for approval by the Council.

Schuyler has also been instrumental in documenting the local struggle for workforce development and affordable living through his work in co-authoring three “Orange Dot” reports on the issue since 2011 — the most recent of which was published in October.

“I have worked with the University of Virginia to address the issue of the number of families who are being left behind in our economy, but it’s never been a

holistic approach — it’s a piecemeal approach,” Schuyler said. “This working group allows us to take a holistic view of the University and the community and their relationship.”

Before the group’s formation, University initiatives to bolster “town-gown” relations have included focused efforts to increase neighborhood engagement, an annual Day of Caring during which University employees volunteer for local nonprofits and Hoos Reuse to encourage students to donate gently used items to local nonprofits during move-out.

Why wages matter

Schuyler said he particularly hopes to bring his knowledge and expertise in wages and affordable housing to the group, citing the statistic that 25 percent of families in Charlottesville don’t make enough to meet their basic needs despite the City’s contrastingly low unemployment rate of 2.9 percent. Since 2011, average rent rates in Charlottesville have increased 42 percent — from \$931 per month for a two-bedroom apartment to \$1,325 per month — an upward trend not paralleled by increasing wages.

Increasing rent and stagnant wages have risen to a particular salience in the City and the University as a mounting affordable housing crisis — in part due to the rise of off-Grounds student housing — has become evident in the last decade. This expanding gap between wages and rent has long-activated activists in a campaign for a living wage at the University.

Suzanne Moomaw, an associate professor of urban and environmental planning in the School of Architecture, previously told *The Cavalier Daily* that the high student demand for housing close to the University has increased rent prices across Charlottesville, limiting the availability of affordable housing in recent years. A housing needs assessment recently commissioned by the City found that 1,750 households spend more than half of their income on housing.

Ariana DeLaurentis, a third-year College student and representative for the Living Wage Campaign at U.Va., said her organization has been fighting for a living wage for employees at the University — \$12.03 in Charlottesville for a single adult, or \$16.84 for a family of four — for 20 years, making the organization the longest-running unsuccessful campaign for a living wage at a public university. Currently, the

University pays workers a minimum wage of \$12.38, while Aramark, the externally-contracted provider for University dining services, pays employees \$10.65 an hour.

The University’s history in regard to worker compensation leaves DeLaurentis and the rest of the Living Wage Campaign hesitant to trust Ryan’s latest initiative to combat the issue.

“For all his rhetoric of being a better neighbor, we remain to be convinced that he is truly committed to helping students and workers until real action is done,” DeLaurentis said in an email statement. “We recognize that forming a committee is not the same thing as implementing a living wage.”

As the largest employer in the City of Charlottesville, the University is in a unique position to directly acknowledge its effect on Charlottesville residents’ standard of living.

“Until the University recognizes its role as the largest employer in the City of Charlottesville, and until the University recognizes the need to take care of its employees in appropriate ways, we will never ever solve that deep racial divide that exists in Charlottesville,” retired history Prof. Phyllis Leffler said in an interview with *The Cavalier Daily*. “The University has the opportunity to do the right thing.”

Who’s in the group?

DeLaurentis also criticized the makeup of the working group — which she says fails to include workers and community members directly impacted by the group’s initiatives.

“As much as President Ryan talks about wanting to be a better neighbor to the surrounding community, the committee’s makeup fails to center voices of those most directly affected by UVA’s encroachment into the greater Charlottesville area,” DeLaurentis said.

Those born and raised in Charlottesville might wield vastly different perspectives than University faculty and influential community members, according to DeLaurentis, who raised doubts concerning the authenticity of the group’s perspectives on inequality, power and University relations in the City.

Hester said one of the tasks of the currently-established working group will be to consider what additional stakeholders may need to be represented in the potential formation of a board or council that would carry out the recommendations set

forth by the group.

However, Wade, an active community member and Charlottesville resident for nearly 30 years, said he isn’t worried about the group’s composition.

“As I look at the committee ... I know well over half of them, and they’re a fabulous group of people,” Wade said. “Many of them have already done things in the community. I know where their heart lies, I know where their interest lies, and I think that President Ryan saw that as well.”

University professors and administrators, as well as several prominent community members, comprise the majority of group appointees; however, Toccara Nelson, a third-year Law student, stands out as the only University student to be appointed. In an interview with *The Cavalier Daily*, Nelson said she plans to bring various perspectives — not just that of a University student — as “value-added” to the working group.

“Talking with employees at the University, talking with the citizens of Charlottesville, I have my perspective as a student,” Nelson said. “I also have my perspective as a person — as a black, queer woman from Detroit — that adds in the perspective that I come from a lot of different marginalized groups.”

With regards to Nelson’s appointment as the only student in the group, Hester said Nelson would be able to accurately represent the voices of many segments of the student population through outreach and communication efforts.

Nelson emphasized the importance of community engagement to the working group’s mission, adding that instituting a living wage for community members employed by the University and its role in addressing the local affordable housing crisis should be top-priority issues for the group.

“I think we, as members of the University, have a lot to learn from community members because this is where they live — where they eat, breathe and sleep everyday,” Nelson said. “We need to privilege and cherish those perspectives — learn from them, and take those learnings, implement them into identifying issues and hopefully further down the line.”

While Nelson commended Ryan for creating the group — and his announcement in October that students from low- and medium-income Virginia families will be able to attend the

University at significantly-reduced costs — she added that outreach into the local community will be crucial to the body’s success.

At the group’s first meeting Nov. 5, Wade said Ryan was very open to idea of the group addressing a wide variety of issues of local concern, adding that he said nothing was off-limits.

Appointees gathered for a second meeting Nov. 13 at Piedmont Virginia Community College to begin a discussion of how to gather community input. Wade said the group has not yet conclusively determined how to best gauge public opinions, but he foresees a formulation of more concrete strategies during their next meeting on Dec. 12. He added that while no formal decision has been made by the group, the meetings will likely not be open to the public.

According to Hester, Ryan appointed members to the group only after consultation with key stakeholders within the University and local community but did not further elaborate on the specifics of the selection process.

Although DeLaurentis remains hesitant about whether the working group will incite real action on behalf of the University, Wade said he is largely optimistic for the future of the group — especially under the new president.

“Certain people in the public will say ‘This is just another study, why are they doing it?’” Wade said. “But we have a new president, and to be honest, it’s just a different vibe with President Ryan — it’s a really positive vibe, and people are ready to believe that he is ready to want these recommendations, that when this list is delivered to him, he is going to pick it up and run with it.”

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FOCUS

Living Wage's successes, struggles and aspirations

Activists discuss the organization's history and unmet demands, two decades after its inception

Ali Sullivan | Senior Writer

In the wake of the inauguration of President Jim Ryan, a surge of questions regarding the future of the University arose — particularly how that future relates to reconciling with the University's past. In his inaugural address Oct. 19, Ryan expressed the need for “an honest assessment of the past and the present, because this is the only way to measure progress.”

Ryan said that the University has made strides to confront issues of economic and racial injustice since its establishment in 1819. Today, the majority of University students are women, over 400 first-year students are first generation and the newest class is the most diverse in University history. However, according to the Living Wage Campaign at UVA, the University still has a long way to go.

The campaign, founded in 1998, is an on-Grounds activist organization with the stated mission to secure job security, safe working conditions and a living wage — an income that ensures a satisfactory standard of living and maintains an individual or family above the federal poverty level — indexed to the cost of living for all employees at the University.

“The University of Virginia continues to support certain hierarchies of power, privilege, and prejudice,” the campaign wrote in “Keeping Our Promises,” its working document. “Women and people of color continue to receive lower wages, and they bear a disproportionate burden of the poverty and marginalization in Charlottesville and in American society at large.”

Why wages are relevant

The deadly Unite the Right Rally in August 2017 — which drew hundreds of white nationalists and counter-demonstrators to Charlottesville — brought renewed scrutiny to the University's history in regard to white supremacy and slavery as well as to the structural inequity that many say persists within the University and the City of Charlottesville.

“When you think about it, students at this University are being served by a predominantly black working class workforce, immigrants, people of color, and they are being paid poverty wages,” said Hannah Russell-Hunter, a third-year College student and Living Wage activist. “They cannot afford to live in Charlottesville.”

Currently, the University pays workers a minimum wage of \$12.38, while Aramark, the provider for University dining services, pays employees \$10.65. Meanwhile, according to a MIT's living wage calculator — which estimates the living wage needed to support individuals and families based on the cost of basic necessities — a living wage in the City stands at \$12.02 for a single adult or \$16.95 for a

family of four in which both parents work.

These calculations do not, however, consider health insurance, vision coverage, dental insurance, disability benefits and access to retirement plans received by University employees — benefits that the University does not offer to contracted employees. However, according to Aramark — the externally-contracted provider for University dining services — the company provides workers with medical and financial benefits as well as development and training opportunities.

James B. Murray Jr., vice rector of the Board of Visitors and chair of the Finance Committee, said it may be “intellectually lazy” to disregard these benefits when calculating University wages.

“Right now our lowest paid employee, compared to the marketplace, is making over 16 dollars if you consider benefits — almost 17 dollars an hour,” Murray said. “In addition to a cash wage, our employees are getting health insurance and retirement benefits that are unavailable from any other employer in the quality and quantity that UVA offers them.”

Fraiman pointed out that benefits do not cover basic necessities

like food, rent, clothing, childcare or transportation. She further explained that two basic issues perpetuate inequity in the City — substandard wages and a lack of affordable housing. Since 2011, rents have increased 42 percent — from \$931 per month for a two-bedroom apartment to \$1,325 per month — an upward trend not matched by a rise in wages.

Within the City, 25.9 percent of residents live below the federal poverty level — a measure of income determined by the Department of Health and Human Services that establishes eligibility for government programs and benefits — despite the City's contrastingly low unemployment rate of 2.7 percent, according to Data USA. Currently, the federal poverty level is \$12,140 for an individual and \$25,100 for a family of four.

Laura Goldblatt, a postdoctoral fellow at the University and member of the Living Wage Campaign, said that the University — as the largest employer in the City — is in a unique position to directly acknowledge its effect on Charlottesville residents' standard of living by setting the standard for wages in the region.

“If UVA. [raises wages], then other people will try to compete, so they'll raise their wages as well,” Goldblatt

said. “The University has an opportunity to yield a lot of influence, which is also an area where questions of poverty and privilege are really dire.”

Administrative responses over the decades

This discord of opinion between University administration and living wage activists is not a new development — 20 years after its 1998 inception, Living Wage Campaign representatives Russell-Hunter and third-year College student Ariana Delaurentis said their organization stands as the longest-running unsuccessful wage campaign at a collegiate institution. Successful living wage campaigns include those at Harvard University and Georgetown University — which achieved their goals in 2016 and 2005, respectively.

However, VA has not been without its successes.

Although the first calls for a living wage emerged after the the University desegregated in the 1960s, Fraiman said the Living Wage movement officially launched on April 15 of 1998 following a teach-in with Labor Movement, a practical forum of professors and activists that initiated a conversation about wages on Grounds. Soon after, the group's formation followed action on behalf

of the City — in 2000, after meeting with the Living Wage Campaign, the Charlottesville City Council voted to pass a living wage ordinance. The ordinance effectively raised base wages to \$8 for full-time and part-time City employees at the time.

“There were, at the time, debates about the legality of doing that, but Charlottesville went ahead,” Fraiman said. “A key thing that they did was that they included contracted workers — people who don't work directly for the city but who work for companies contracted by the city would also have to be paid a living wage.”

During the summer succeeding the City's decision to raise wages, the University hiked its base wage to \$8.19 — a development that Goldblatt and Fraiman see as no coincidence after a period of intense lobbying and campaigning from the Living Wage Campaign.

Further success followed the campaign's sit-in in April 2006 during which 16 student members and one former faculty member, Anthropology Prof. Wende Marshall, occupied the lobby of Madison Hall for four days and three nights — prompting former University President John T. Casteen III to order the arrest of all 17 protestors on trespassing charges.



COURTESY OF THE LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

The Living Wage Campaign at UVA was initiated in 1998, and the University has yet to meet its demands.

Marshall was arrested three days prior to the 16 student protestors. That following November, the University raised its starting wage from \$9.37 to \$9.75.

“[The sit-in] did, obviously, raise consciousness — calling attention to the issue,” Fraiman said. “What do you know, after that, there was another bump in staff starting wages.”

The pattern of University action on wages subsequent to well-publicized campaign efforts continued into 2012. In February 2012, student members enumerated their demands, such as implementing a wage of \$11.44, guaranteeing humane working conditions and initiating a Living Wage Oversight Board, in a petition — gathering the signatures of 325 faculty members before delivering the document to former University President Teresa Sullivan.

In response, Sullivan penned an open letter to the student body expressing her support for raising wages for the University’s lowest paid workers with one complication — she did not agree with the students’ presented demands. In the days following the publication of Sullivan’s response, 19 activists — including one football player, Wonman Joseph Williams — embarked on what would become a nationally-recognized 12-day hunger strike, pledging to fast until the University met their demands.

That following May, the Board of Visitors voted to bump up the starting hourly wage for University employees from \$10.65 an hour to \$11.30 an hour.

“That’s been a pattern with UVa. — they don’t like to admit that they’re responsive to student demonstrations of organization and power to determine decisions of the university level, but they often are,” Goldblatt said. “This tells us as faculty, as students, that we do have a lot of ability to determine what happens at the University of Virginia — you just have to get organized and make your case.”

Goldblatt further speculated that the administration’s continued reluctance to execute the campaign’s demands stems from a fear that compliance threatens administrative legitimacy.

“Part of the reason that the University has refused to pay a living wage in response to student protest is that it acknowledges student power,” Goldblatt said. “That’s something they’re really deeply afraid of acknowledging.”

Questions of fairness

According to Murray, the University’s continued hesitation to heed the demands of the Living Wage Campaign centers primarily around issues of fairness. If the University were to index base wages to the cost of living — adjusting wages annually to comply with the Economic Policy Institute’s regionally-sourced-cost-of-living and inflation calculations — it would be a “slap in the face” to employees who have worked for years to receive higher wages if new employees were immediately given increased pay.

Murray further contends that two

groups would be left entirely unaffected by a wage increase — those who have chosen to retain their retirement plan through the Virginia Retirement System and contracted employees. The former involves a complex legal arrangement through which 1,100 University employees elected a decade ago to retain their retirement plan with the Commonwealth of Virginia when the University began to offer retirement plans outside of the Commonwealth. These employees are referred to as classified employees, and only the Commonwealth can control their wages. The latter — employees contracted by the University through third-party companies like Aramark — likewise lie outside of the University’s pay scale.

The demand that contract workers be included in any wage increases has long been paramount to the Living Wage Campaign demands. Goldblatt said the issue of contracted employees is one largely “manufactured” by the University to delay action in raising wages.

“The University of Virginia often says that they cannot tell the contractors what to pay,” Goldblatt said. “That’s not true. Many universities do. Many universities who contract with Aramark say that one of their conditions is that the company has to pay their employees a living wage.”

One of those universities with a parity policy mandating the fair compensation of direct and contracted workers is Harvard University — President Jim Ryan’s previous place of employment.

WORKERS ARE WAHOOS TOO

AKHILA DANAM | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Progress in a new Presidential administration

Ryan’s history at Harvard — along with his explicit support for an evaluation of worker compensation and recent formation of a working group to assess University-community relations — leaves both administration and activists with a guarded optimism for the future.

“[The issue of worker compensation] deserves thought and careful planning about whatever we do,” Murray said. “What we’re seeing is President Ryan and his administration doing that. I am highly hopeful that we will have progress.”

On Oct. 4 the Living Wage Campaign met with Jon Bowen, the Special Advisor to the President for External Affairs, to discuss President Ryan’s newly formed working group charged with assessing University-community relations. According to University Spokesperson Anthony de Bruyn, Ryan has committed to work with the Board of Visitors to address the living wage issue this academic year, although coming to any kind of resolution may take time.

The campaign said this a level of engagement they did not see in the administration of Teresa Sullivan.

“It’s a really big change from having Teresa Sullivan as president for the past couple years because she was completely unwilling to engage with Living Wage, with the hunger strikers,” Russell-Hunter said. “It’s been a really sharp turn in terms of Jim Ryan’s style because he’s very public facing in a way that Teresa Sullivan wasn’t.”

Fraiman said the enactment of a living wage would be the best pathway to ensuring Ryan’s inaugural mission — to rectify the discrepancies “between our aspirations and our realities” as well as to acknowledge controversies of the University’s past and present.

“In terms of the urgency of this right now, we’re all still traumatized and processing and trying to respond to the events of August 11 and 12,” Fraiman said. “I can think of no more concrete and ethical response to the events of August 2017 than for UVa. to address the structural racism in our community by paying a living wage.”

Goldblatt expressed similar hopes for Ryan’s administration moving forward, adding that the community shouldn’t forget the role of activism in whatever decision it makes.

“We should remember that that victory is largely due to the work that workers, students, community members and faculty have been doing for decades at this point,” Goldblatt said. “This is a great opportunity for him — he can really start off his presidency on the right foot.”



JOHN PAPPAS | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The University pays workers a minimum wage of \$12.38, while Aramark pays \$10.65. A living wage in the City stands at \$12.02 for a single adult or \$16.95 for a family of four in which both parents work.



Popular local restaurant strengthens its Roots

Roots on the Corner grows and changes as employees help keep the line running smoothly

Kate Jewusiak | Feature Writer

If you walk around Grounds on any given day, you're pretty much guaranteed to see students strolling on the Lawn holding a fresh El Jefe Roots bowl. Even though it hasn't been on the Corner long, Roots and its employees hold an important place in the University's food culture.

One of the Corner's newer additions, Roots was founded in 2015 by two University graduates who developed the idea while they were students in McIntire.

"I think you can definitely see that kind of startup, started-by-U. Va.-students kind of vibe there because there's just like around 70 of us employees," said second-year College student Jedidiah Park, who has been a Roots employee since August.

Roots has expanded to Richmond and Newark, Del. and is in the process of opening stores in Pittsburgh and Austin, Texas. Third-year College student Carson Butler has been working at Roots for over a year and said he has watched the company grow.

Recent changes have included the addition of a human relations employee. The creation of the HR employee position allows one per-

son to focus their energy on ensuring paperwork is up to date and monitoring employee satisfaction. Recently, employees completed a survey about their work experience.

"We're still trying to figure out how to integrate [the addition of HR] with what's already in place at Roots," said Catie Leigh, second-year College student and Roots employee. "[Roots is] a really, really young company, and it's done insanely well, so I definitely think that with those two facts comes a little bit of disconnect while they figure things out."

The employees, who are mostly college students, spend time together outside of work as well.

"We have like a Roots Fitfam, and we like to do outside things together, like work out together, and hang out," Butler said. "Work is more fun when you know employees."

Additionally, Roots offered its employees a free class at treadHAPPY and two employees ran the Richmond Half Marathon together.

"You really lean on each other, not only information-wise because like, the way we do things you have to communicate the bowls and any modifications very specifically,"

Park said.

As the restaurant expands its brand and adds more structure, the steady business keeps its employees busy.

"Working any lunch or dinner prime-time, it's just a constant line out the door, which was really stressful when I first started working," Butler said. "But now it's like, once you know all the bowls it's kind of fun to try and help everyone move as quickly as possible and get their bowl fast."

Roots employees also get pretty good at predicting orders.

"People who come in here and they're really confident and look kinda like vanilla, you know they're gonna get the Jefe," Park said.

Butler and Park said the El Jefe is also the most commonly ordered bowl, making it an easy prediction.

"The Southern and Roots bowls are more like a hippie-type vibe," Butler said.

Additionally, Roots employees have learned how to get the most out of your bowl.

"We have two different size bowls — the grain size and the salad size bowl," Leigh said. "If you ask for half-and-half base — so half rice half whatever green you get — they



CHRISTINA ANTON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Roots has expanded to Richmond and Newark, Del. and is in the process of opening stores in Pittsburgh and Austin, Texas.

put the same amount of rice you get in a grain sized bowl and more greens, so you just get a bigger salad for no extra cost."

Students can even skip the line by downloading the Roots app and ordering ahead to pick up their order from Root's satellite location on 14th Street.

"It's a game changer," Butler said. "I think a lot of people don't know about [the other location]

and then won't go because of the line, but it's a good hack."

Iron Paffles & Coffee: Waffles like you've never had them

When puff pastries and waffles collide

Sadie Goodman | Food Columnist

I tried my first Iron Paffle about a year ago, and I was pleased, but not impressed. The first paffle I tasted was savory with fried chicken, arugula, mac and cheese and aioli. The waffles themselves were good, but the filling left me wanting more in terms of flavor and texture. Based on my first encounter, I wouldn't have chosen to return to Iron Paffles & Coffee myself.

Appeal

I was prompted to return after hearing some of my friends say how much they enjoyed the food. I returned a year later to give it a second try, and this time I definitely selected a better option. I had the TBALT, a paffle with turkey, bacon, avocado, arugula, tomato and aioli. I opted for no bacon, but this sandwich was still delicious! The filling was savory and light but kept me full for hours after. The flavors were fresh and complemented the crisp, flaky waffles perfectly. I explored the website and found the signature waffles are puff pastries cooked in a waffle iron. The texture is light and crispy, but be warned, they can be a little messy. Except for the fried chicken paffle, any of the sandwiches

can be ordered gluten-free.

I also ordered a large soy latté, which was well-made and just strong enough that it didn't have a bitter coffee taste, but still kept me wide awake. They had a good selection of drinks and dairy-free milk options, which is always nice. The milk and sugar area was slightly disorganized and understocked, so I'd recommend ordering a drink like a mocha or a latté, or perhaps a juice or kombucha from the fridge near the register. I did appreciate the complimentary cups of water offered by the register.

Affordability

While the waffle was delicious, I did find the prices to be quite steep for the amount of food served. My sandwich was \$9, and I finished it all in about five minutes. It was enough food that I felt full, but for \$9 I would appreciate a side or a bag of chips. There is an option to order an open-face sandwich with just one waffle for \$6. If you're looking for less of a meal, the sweet waffles are also less expensive than the savory ones at \$6 for a sandwich and \$4 for an open-face paffle.

Iron Paffles also does a good job of

offering specials and deals. The Early Bird menu offers \$7 savory paffles before 9 a.m. Monday through Friday, and the Monday Madness deal offers \$6 savory paffles all day. You can also order additional sides for \$1.50 or various sweet baked goods from the display near the register.

Accessibility

Iron Paffles & Coffee is located on Water Street near the Downtown Mall and is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The paffles are also available on Uber Eats or Grubhub if you find yourself craving them and don't have access to a car.

Atmosphere

The interior consists of a long, shared table with wooden bench seating on either side. There is also ample seating at a wooden bar that runs along the front window and right side wall of the interior. The menu is presented as a mural on the left wall with a large, intricate painting of an elaborate waffle machine beside it. The artwork inside creates a modern, hipster atmosphere that matches the

food and drinks served quite well.

The service is quick — the sandwiches were out within six or seven minutes of ordering. I went around 11 a.m. on Sunday morning and there was no line, but a few people were already enjoying their food. The paffles come in cardboard holders, which make them a great snack for a Downtown Mall stroll. But they are a bit messy, so

I advise having napkins at the ready.

Overall, the paffles are definitely delicious, but if you're not willing to spend \$9 on just a sandwich, I don't advise coming for a meal. The sweet paffles are more reasonably priced and could be a great dessert snack or midday treat. Iron Paffles & Coffee is definitely worth a try!



SADIE GOODMAN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Iron Paffle serves Paffles — puff pastries cooked in waffle irons.

The Thanksgiving sandwich: King of leftover meals

An ode to the aftermath of Turkey Day

Hildy Maxwell | Food Columnist

Ah, Thanksgiving. The one day a year when it is socially acceptable to consume a week's worth of calories in one sitting. Some people — like me — thrive on Thanksgiving. But for others, Thanksgiving means crazy and awkwardly-forced family interactions.

Sometimes food on Turkey Day can be just as dysfunctional as our families. Since this glorious day of eating only comes once every 365 days, people tend to get a little nutty when it comes to their food. Let's be real, we've all held a tiny grudge throughout the meal when the person ahead of us in line takes the one perfect piece of turkey we'd been eyeing since the moment the bird was carved. How dare they snatch that last drumstick!

In my family, Thanksgiving is our favorite holiday. It's considered an accomplishment to have to loosen your belt a notch after downing seconds — and sometimes thirds — but even so, there always seem to be enough leftovers to feed a small army. As a result, we've gotten pretty creative

with our leftover meals. Turkey features in every dish for at least three days after the initial feast in various shapes and forms, from turkey soup to turkey paninis and turkey tetrazzini.

The same territorial lunacy that we feel during the meal also exists around Thanksgiving leftovers. So much effort goes into crafting the feast itself that the leftovers are coveted — both by those of us who want to make the holiday last for as long as humanly possible and those of us who want an excuse not to cook for a week. Most of the time, Thanksgiving recipes only come out at Thanksgiving — so leftovers are our only way to enjoy grandma's legendary cornbread stuffing more than once.

Maybe one of the most famous instances of this Thanksgiving leftover obsession is Ross's "Moist Maker" from "Friends." Ross completely loses his mind when he finds out that his boss has eaten his "Moist Maker" sandwich out of the fridge at work. For those of you who aren't familiar, the "Moist Maker" is a sandwich made

of Thanksgiving leftovers with a slice of gravy-soaked bread in the middle. As a huge fan of "Friends" and Thanksgiving, I had to give Ross's sandwich a shot this year.

My dad's go-to Thanksgiving leftover meal is the turkey sandwich. As delicious as it usually is, the sandwich tends to stick to the basic turkey, lettuce, tomato, mayo structure — a little boring, sorry Dad! So going into this, I had never really had a Thanksgiving dinner in sandwich form.

Somehow I managed to sneak a box of leftovers out of my aunt's house this year — but just enough to make one sandwich. I only had one shot to see what all the hype is about. It didn't take much effort to make this meal. I basically just heated up everything in the microwave, threw it haphazardly onto some toasted MarieBette sourdough — my favorite sandwich bread — and dug in.

Unfortunately, the gravy I had was too thick to really soak into the bread so my sandwich wouldn't be Ross Geller approved. But it had everything else — sweet potato casserole, turkey, mashed

potatoes and stuffing complete with cranberry sauce and gravy spread on each slice of bread.

This sandwich was next level. This is a big statement coming from someone who doesn't typically love sandwiches. Despite missing the "Moist Maker" in the middle, every bite of the sandwich had the amazing combo of sweet and savory that you get from the perfect bite of a Thanksgiving dinner. If you're someone who doesn't like their food touching, the idea of this might be what keeps you up at night — but I can't imagine a better iteration of the Thanksgiving experience — portable, quicker, easier and just as tasty as the original.

I finally understand Ross's rage upon losing his precious Thanksgiving sandwich. Turkey Day leftovers are irreplaceable — at least until next year — and deserve to be eaten in the best way possible. The sandwich checks all the boxes if you're looking for a simple yet scrumptious way to rework your mountain of leftover food.

Thanksgiving sandwich
Ingredients:

A little bit of all your favorite Thanksgiving foods

Two slices of any kind of bread
Directions:

I recommend using the cranberry sauce and gravy like mayo and slathering them on each slice of bread — making your sandwich moist and eliminating a bit of the inevitable squish-out that happens once you take a bite.

I also found the ideal layering scheme goes as follows — the gravy side of bread, mashed potatoes, stuffing, turkey and sweet potato casserole topped with the cranberry slice of bread. This way the mashed potatoes act as a sort of glue for the often crumbly stuffing, and the sticky sweet potatoes help keep the turkey place while you eat.

Of course, everyone does Thanksgiving a little differently, so everyone's sandwiches will be different, but that's part of the fun! Never underestimate the power of a well-made sandwich — especially one filled with all your favorite holiday sides.

Thai Cuisine & Noodle House: A must-try for pho and noodles

Satisfy your noodle cravings as winter approaches

Maggie Trundle | Food Columnist

As the cold, dull Virginia winter approaches, it always seems that coffee, soup and any warm, cozy foods taste exponentially better. I always find myself craving pho in the winter as a light and comforting option for lunch or dinner. Around the University, Kuma and Got Dumplings on the Corner are both popular and conveniently located options for ramen and pho bowls. I've tried many different spots around Charlottesville in search for the perfect pho, and I can confidently say Thai Cuisine & Noodle House is the best I have tried.

Accessibility

Located on Commonwealth Drive, Thai Cuisine & Noodle House is somewhat of a hidden gem for University students. For many students, the scope of eating out tends to stay within the Corner and the Downtown Mall. Thai Noodle House may be thought of as further away and less convenient, but it's about a 10-minute drive from Grounds and is accessible by the CAT Route 7 bus.

The restaurant is located right behind the Shops at Stonefield

and has plenty of parking. Stonefield is a popular destination for many when looking for a sit-down restaurant or a fast bite, but I think that Thai Noodle House unfortunately goes unnoticed for many students. Next time you are headed to a movie at Stonefield on a cold winter night, make Thai Noodle House the pre-movie dinner.

Despite the fact that I have not heard much buzz about this restaurant at the University, it certainly is not as unknown by the rest of Charlottesville. I went for lunch on a Friday around 1 p.m. and grabbed the last available booth in the restaurant. It was packed, which can almost always infer you've hit the jackpot.

Atmosphere

The restaurant is an open, medium-sized room with various tables and booths. The atmosphere is simplistic, and not very modern or out of the ordinary, but the food is what really takes the spotlight. Although the interior is somewhat average looking, the service was absolutely phenomenal.

Upon seeing how crowded the restaurant was, I was expecting to have to wait a decent while to have our food ready but was pleasantly proven wrong. Our appetizers came out within minutes, and our entrées followed shortly after. This is a huge success because many restaurants around Charlottesville, such as Fig or Asado, have amazing food but will keep you waiting for unprecedented amounts of time after you order.

Affordability

One of the most impressive feats of Thai Noodle House is how affordable their entire menu is. Every appetizer is under \$8, with most for around \$5. A small pho is \$8.50, while a large is \$10.50, and the large is more than enough for the average person. Some of the Chef's Special entrées are around \$15, but for the most part the entrées are between \$9 to \$15. With this pricing, you are getting a fair amount of food, authentic flavor and tasteful presentation.

Appeal

Now to the good stuff — the food. I came into Thai Noodle House wanting pho and pho only,

but I tried much more than that and will without a doubt be going back to try more. When it comes to appetizers, the thai dumplings — called Kanom Jeeb — are a must. The dumplings consist of ground pork, chicken and shiitake mushrooms and are a yummy twist on a traditional pork dumpling you might get at a Chinese restaurant. If you are looking for a lighter option, try the vegetable rolls. Crunchy, fresh veggies wrapped inside rice paper — you can't ask for much of a lighter option than that.

When it came time to order entrées, it didn't take me long to decide to order the Chicken Pho. But the menu has not three or four but 18 different types of pho to choose from. Though it's interesting that a Thai restaurant has so many pho options, their website says that they "are first and foremost a Thai restaurant but we also take pride in serving Vietnamese Pho" — which I thought they executed with great authenticity.

The pho's clear bone broth is complemented by scallions and

onions, satisfying any cold-weather craving. Thin rice noodles soak up the flavor of the broth and work perfectly with the thinly cut pieces of chicken. My favorite part of the pho, though, is the side plate of fresh bean sprouts, thai basil, lime and sliced jalapeños for the spice lovers out there. Decorating your bowl with these incredibly fresh, tasty toppings takes your pho to a whole new level.

Beyond pho, Thai Noodle House has an assortment of Thai noodle bowls, curry, wok fried noodles, fried rice, stir fries and chef's specials — proving that pho is not Thai Noodle House's only specialty. I also tried their Massaman Curry. It was a harmony of flavors and spices without being overly powerful or spicy.

With a variety dishes, there really is something for everyone on the menu. Take a trip to Thai Cuisine & Noodle House, and you can say bye-bye to chicken noodle soup to combat the winter viruses and say hello to pho!

Top 10 ways to get in the holiday spirit

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear”

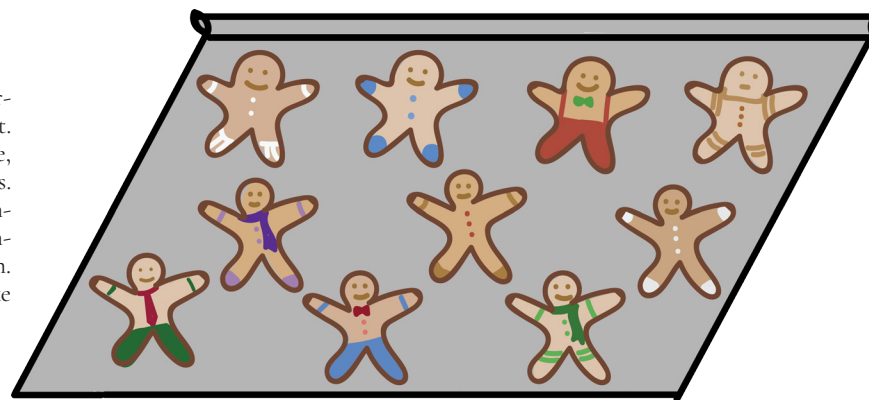
Paige Waterhouse | Top 10 Writer

1 Jam Out

Nothing puts me in the holiday mood better than blasting the iconic hit, “All I Want for Christmas is You,” and struggling to match Mariah Carey’s incredible vocal range. If you claim that you have never sung along to this Christmas anthem, then you are lying. Beyond this classic bop, there are countless other carols playing on almost every radio station to sing along to. Now that Thanksgiving has passed, let the jingle bells ring!

2 Bake

Cooking up some sweet confections is a guaranteed way to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Whether it’s cookies, cupcakes or even fruit cake, no one can resist the taste of freshly baked sweets. Even if you’re not willing to share, your roommates can enjoy the free smells that waft throughout your apartment or community dorm kitchen. Turn on “The Great British Bake Off” and make sure to have a fire extinguisher on hand.



9 Let it snow

With only one more week of classes left, our chances of getting a snow day off are dwindling. Fortunately, there are many foolproof ways to ensure that we experience a snowfall before heading home for the holidays. You know the drill — wear your pajamas inside out, flush some ice cubes down the toilet, sleep with a spoon under your pillow and bust out your best snow dance. Let’s bring on the flurries.

3 Wear tacky clothes

Christmas is the only time of year you can get prizes instead of weird looks for wearing ugly sweaters, so take advantage of it. Whether it has lights, sequins, jingle bells — or maybe all three — dig out that dusty cardigan and wear it with pride. Pair your sweater with some festive socks and a Santa hat to really complete the look and spread some holiday cheer.

6 Hang with friends

The holidays are a great excuse to gather all of your favorite people in one room and throw a party. Play games, bake cookies and celebrate the best time of the year with the best people on Grounds. Just don’t go drinking too much eggnog, or you may find yourself with hoofprints on your forehead and sleigh-marks on your back.



4 Give back

One of the most exciting parts about the holidays is picking out special gifts to give to your family and friends. But what about those who don’t have anyone to share the season with? Some simple ways to give to those in need include picking up some extra groceries for the food bank, donating your old winter clothes or participating in a toy drive. Any little act of kindness can help make someone’s holiday a little brighter!

7 Feast

One of my favorite part about the holidays is that the food never stops coming! Don’t get me wrong, Thanksgiving was delicious, but now I’m ready for gingerbread, candy canes and eggnog. If you’re nervous about putting on a few extra pounds, don’t worry. With winter approaching, your body will thank you for the extra warmth as you trudge to class.



5 Find some mistletoe

Here’s a test — start belting out “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” and if no one else joins in to complete the duet, you need to find some mistletoe. The holiday season is not only the season of giving but also the season of couples. “Spending time with loved ones” evidently means finding yourself a significant other. So, if this past Thanksgiving your aunt once again pestered you with typical question “Are you seeing anyone?,” start looking up!

10 Make a list, check it twice

There is one obstacle standing in the way of the freedom of winter break — finals. This one may put a damper on your holiday cheer, but it will for sure make the upcoming weeks of misery a lot easier. I find that making a giant checklist of all the studying I have to accomplish is a great way to stay motivated and keep track of all my work. When feeling overwhelmed with the daunting amount of homework you still have left to do, just be thankful you don’t have the entire planet counting on you to bring them gifts. If Santa can pull off Christmas Eve, you can finish that term paper.





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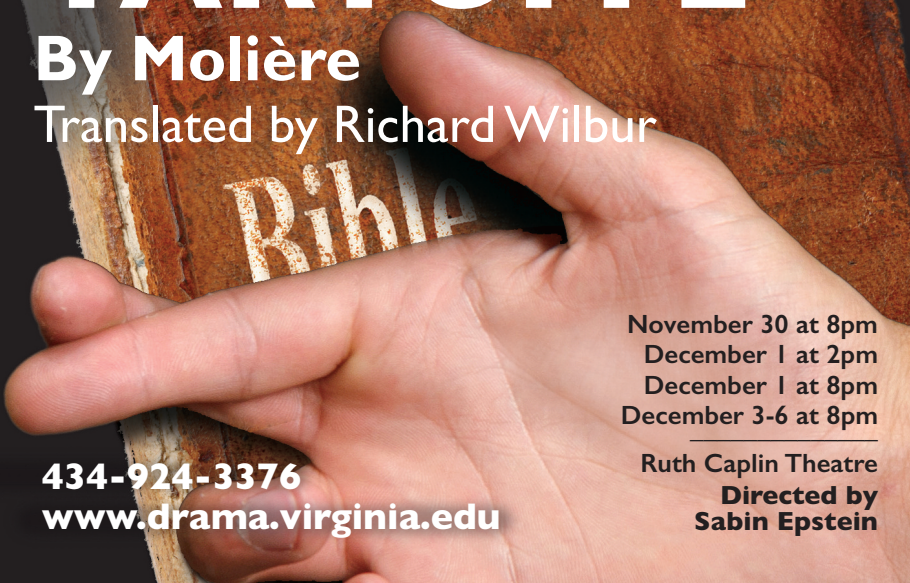
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Where will Virginia football go bowling?

Breaking down the bowl selection process and where the Cavaliers could end up

CD Sports Staff

For the second year in a row, Virginia football Coach Bronco Mendenhall has his team set to play in a postseason bowl game. Despite losing three of their last four games, the Cavaliers (7-5, 4-4 ACC) enter bowl candidacy with one more win than they did last year, when they were slated to play Navy in the Military Bowl in Annapolis, Md.

With a better record and a relatively weak ACC selection pool, the Cavaliers have a possibility to reach a Tier I ACC Bowl — a step up from last year's secondary Military Bowl. There is far from a guarantee this will happen, but to clear up some possibilities, we dive into the bowl selection process to look at where Virginia could end up.

ACC Bowl Selection Landscape

This season, the ACC has 11 teams that have reached the six wins necessary to clinch a bowl birth — including Notre Dame, a non-ACC team that is always granted an ACC Bowl game if eligible. The league will get an 12th team eligible if Virginia Tech defeats Marshall next week in a recently scheduled game.

Of these teams, the No. 3 Fighting Irish and No. 2 Clemson will likely head to the College Football Playoff to play for a national championship. The next likely destination for an ACC team will be the Camping World Bowl, which gets the first choice for an ACC team after the Playoff and the prestigious New Year's Six bowls. Camping World is likely to select Syracuse or NC State — both of whom lost only three games this season — to fill their ACC slot, with the other heading to a Tier I Bowl.

Four ACC teams will play in a Tier I Bowl, of which five games could be chosen — the Pinstripe Bowl in New York, N.Y.; the Belk Bowl in Charlotte, N.C.; the Music City Bowl in Nashville, Tenn.; the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas; or the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla. The second team to take a Tier I Bowl beyond Syracuse or N.C. State will likely be Pittsburgh, who won the ACC Coastal over Virginia.

Virginia Tech — if eligible — and Wake Forest will likely fall to secondary bowl games with only six wins. That leaves Virginia, Georgia Tech, Boston College, Duke and Miami to vie for two Tier I slots, with the rest falling to secondary bowls.

Where is Virginia likely to end up when the dust settles? Our staff gives their predictions and rationales for Virginia's bowl location, taking into account how the rest of the dominos will fall.

Alec Dougherty, Sports Editor
Prediction: Belk Bowl vs. South Carolina

I'm giving Virginia the edge over Miami and Duke — whom they defeated this season — and Boston College to seize a Tier I Bowl, and keeping them close to home in Charlotte. Geography plays a role in the bowl selection process — likely a factor in Virginia's placement in Annapolis last season — and Belk would get a good Cavalier faithful presence by picking a team from Virginia. There has been considerable buzz about Virginia attending the Belk Bowl, with the well-connected News & Observer sportswriter Joe Giglio slating the Cavaliers there per his sources. As for opponent ACC draws an SEC foe in the Belk Bowl, and South Carolina (6-5, 4-4 SEC) seems like a logical pick. The Gamecocks have had a rollercoaster of a season, but have played ranked teams hard behind the solid quarterback play of junior Jake Bentley. The game would be an entertaining matchup of spirited southern schools.

Jake Blank, Sports Editor
Prediction: Sun Bowl vs. Arizona State

I'm also predicting a Tier I bowl for the Cavaliers. I believe their national fan base and relative novelty

amongst bowl eligible teams will make them an attractive selection. While the Sun Bowl is not located in a spot particularly dense with Virginia alumni, none of the other teams up for consideration are either. The Sun Bowl will be also required to select a team from the Pac-12. I predict they'll take Arizona State (7-5, 5-4 Pac-12), an intriguing matchup for Virginia junior quarterback Bryce Perkins. Perkins originally attended Arizona State, before transferring to junior college after a neck injury. The Sun Devils are a popular pick among other prognosticators for the Sun Bowl, and much like the Cavaliers, have found themselves consistently in close contests — nine of their games have been decided by less than a score. A bowl game between the two teams would likely be a tight and high-scoring affair — something I'm sure Virginia fans could get behind.

Ben Tobin, Managing Editor
Prediction: Military Bowl vs. Temple

I'm going to be more pessimistic than Alec and Jake and predict that Virginia makes a Tier II bowl game. The Cavaliers played brilliantly for the first two-thirds of the season, going 6-2 and becoming ranked for the first time since 2011.

But given this strong start and the ACC Coastal Division hype the team received, the 1-3 end to the season and the third-place finish in the ACC Coastal will knock the Cavaliers down to a worse bowl game. With that in mind, I think Virginia will once again be slated to play in the Military Bowl on Dec. 31. Yes, Cavalier fans probably don't want to hear that, given Virginia's embarrassing 49-7 loss to Navy last year. However, I could see the bowl selection committee wanting to put Virginia in game close to its fanbase and liking the storyline of the Cavaliers searching for redemption. I'm guessing that the American Athletic Conference team will be Temple (8-4, 7-1 AAC), given the Owls' proximity to Annapolis and their success in the conference this year.

Zach Zamoff, Sports Senior Associate Editor
Prediction: Quick Lane Bowl vs. Minnesota

I'm also predicting a Tier II bowl for Virginia because the Cavaliers weren't able to eke out the close games this year and pick up big wins needed to make a Tier I bowl game. While their 7-5 record is an improvement from last year, their weak non-conference schedule makes it difficult to justify

them in a Tier I bowl. In particular, their close losses to Georgia Tech and Virginia Tech will make it tough for them to enter into Tier I territory, even if they do have the edge over Duke and Miami. Despite losing its last three, Boston College should also have the nod over Virginia for a Tier I because they had a tougher schedule and have the same record as the Cavaliers. This is going to make it difficult for Virginia to enter Tier I territory, although I think it's certainly possible given how close the Cavaliers' last two losses were. Given these circumstances, however, I think the Quick Lane Bowl would be a good fit with Virginia. The Cavaliers, having already competed in the Military Bowl last year (it's unlikely for teams to repeat bowls in consecutive years), are primed for a matchup against a Power 5 opponent. The Quick Lane Bowl in Detroit will be a matchup of two programs on the rise. Minnesota Coach P.J. Fleck and his Gophers (6-6, 3-6 Big Ten) just defeated Wisconsin with their "Row the Boat" mantra, and Coach Mendenhall's Cavaliers continue to make steps in the right direction. Virginia has a chance to show program progress in this contest, which should be very winnable for the Cavaliers.



COURTESY VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

A rollercoaster season has made Virginia Coach Bronco Mendenhall's team's bowl destination murky, with many similar ACC teams jockey for coveted Tier I Bowl games.



Reflect student concerns in tuition allocation

Given the petitions created by several groups on Grounds, the need to address new programs is clear

The University recently announced that it was considering a 2 to 3.5 percent tuition increase for the next academic year. While tuition hikes of this sort are not unusual — since 2012 there have been similar hikes — students still balk at the idea of paying more. Students and their families often become frustrated with tuition increases, especially if these increases fail to extensively improve their experience at the University. The administration, especially under University President Jim Ryan’s “Ours to Shape” initiative, should wisely allocate money to programs requested by a student body that prioritizes issues that directly

affect students’ education experiences.

University Vice President for Finance Melody Bianchetto explained that tuition increases come from a variety of factors, ranging from rising annual operating costs to spikes in their utility bill. Bianchetto also emphasized that increases stem from new academic initiatives, such as the New Curriculum and the Forums. A push to offer higher level seminars, where the student to professor ratio is low, also drives up costs.

Taking Bianchetto at her word, we should evaluate what types of curriculum should be supported by the University through the allocation of increased tuition. The #LatinxUVA open letter makes the compelling

argument that the University should expand the Latinx Studies minor into a major program. In order for this to occur, the University needs to both hire more professors knowledgeable in the field as well as increase course offerings within this area of study. If money is available for allocation to this initiative, the University should absolutely put its weight behind the Latinx Studies expansion.

By the same token, the Asian Leaders Council released a report titled “We Are Not Invisible” asking for academic reform, which lists many of the same grievances as the Latinx community. The ALC also has made a stand for increased course offerings and expanded Asian American tenured professorships — in the College,

Asian American students comprise 14 percent of the student body, while Asian American professors hold 8.46 percent of the professorships. Enlarging Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies as well as working towards departmentalizing the American Studies programs would serve to reach these communities’ goals.

As the “We Are Not Invisible” letter eloquently addressed, “Diversity is more than a mere buzzword; it is crucial for offering new perspectives and for challenging intellectual spaces.” If the University must raise tuition, then it needs to put its money where its mouth is in supporting diversity. Student-led initiatives, where reasonable demands have been voiced and supported by petitions, prove that a signifi-

cant portion of students support these communities’ concerns and want to see them actionized. If the University is truly “Ours to Shape,” let students help sculpt that future.

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The Cavalier Daily is published Thursdays in print and daily online at cavalierdaily.com. It is printed on at least 40 percent recycled paper. 2016 The Cavalier Daily Inc.

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V.T. LOSS SHOWED WORST OF U.VA. COMMUNITY

Losses to Virginia Tech unveil the prejudicial and privileged backgrounds of our own University community

Losing the Commonwealth Cup for the fifteenth time in a row hit a lot of Cavalier fans hard. The amount of emotion going into the game as well as after the loss is understandable — Virginia Tech has historically been our fiercest rivals. Even sportscasters before the game had Virginia at a toss-up against Virginia Tech, signalling a recent shift under the Mendenhall #NewStandard era which otherwise would have been seen as near impossible just a few years ago.

However, after the football team's tragic fumble in overtime and ultimate defeat, I saw indications of an uncomfortable tradition in U.Va. athletics — distasteful jokes and/or jabs against Tech students and alumni. While I understand that there is a place for playful banter between rival institutions, many of the jokes made at Tech's expense reveal the worst about our University, rather than theirs.

A quick scroll through Twitter postgame, and the usual suspects arrive. Jokes about Virginia Tech degrees' worthlessness, their student population's alleged inbred

family trees, redneck qualities and their lack of national prestige abound. Moreover, there's also a tendency to flout our University's supposed greatness — our 25 national titles, our ranking as a flagship public university and our low admission rate, hovering currently around 28 percent.

It is certainly good to be proud about your university, but there are limits as well. What comes across in particular about University students trash talking Tech is a sense of superiority and privilege that frankly showcases the worst of our community. In making fun of so-called "redneck" and "white trash" Tech students, the real message is students not from privileged backgrounds or the cultural elite don't belong at our University. The same follows for jeers against Tech's supposed backward simpleton student body — read between the lines and this means students from these backgrounds aren't welcome here.

The classism and privilege permeating the trash talk from our own student body reflect our values at their worst, when they're under

pressure and wounded by embarrassment. In these moments, we see the true nature of our community when we experience loss, and the result is largely unflattering. However, at the same time, our student body largely seems to support diversity initiatives and expanding

well be a deterrent for prospective students to even bother applying. Why go to a school that doesn't value you, where you are the punchline?

We do have some milestones worth celebrating, such as the newly reported early action admission

ty, which still harkens to a painful past for many students currently enrolled here. However, we cannot ignore the hurt we cause in the present. The step towards celebrating all diversity on Grounds compels us to clearly communicate to prospective and current students that their presence in our University space makes us greater. Moreover, inclusion of these communities within our own means that our University will grow and positively change because of their membership.

Shifting this narrative about ourselves relies upon a change in the way we talk about our rivals. Bashing Tech may be a University pastime for some, but as long as we keep up the jeers, the real joke is on us.

If our community truly wants to have a better, more well-rounded University, we have to address the irony of dissing Tech students while we at the same time encourage inclusivity at our University.

access to the University for students who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to come here.

If that's the case — if our community truly wants to have a better, more well-rounded University, we have to address the irony of dissing Tech students while we at the same time encourage inclusivity at our University. Even more, we need to be honest about how our privileged sneering at these communities may

statistics, which show large increases in minority and first generation applicants. However, if we want to cultivate a diverse student body, we have to be mindful of the image of ourselves we are projecting out into the world. Inclusion simply means that a person is welcomed here. The tasteless jokes lodged against Tech students signal the opposite.

We are slowly working to rewrite the narrative of the University,

KATHERINE SMITH is a Senior Opinion Columnist for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at k.smith@cavalierdaily.com.

WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR PRESIDENT RYAN'S WAGE PLAN

Increasing wages would go a long way toward assisting low-wage workers in an increasingly unaffordable Charlottesville

In recent years, the cost of living in Charlottesville has continually increased. Housing, water and gas prices have all become more expensive within the past two years. This increase falls heavily on low-wage workers. Seeing as the University is the largest employer in the City of Charlottesville, it is in a unique position to address these issues.

Soon after President Ryan took office, some members of the University community called on him to institute better wages for members of the University community. In order to solve this issue in a comprehensive, well-researched manner, the University created a new administrative position called a "community resource specialist" who would work with employees to help them find necessities such as housing, food and utilities. The creation of this position primarily aims to direct low-wage workers to community resources, but its creation has already faced much criticism since it was posted in mid-October. Despite its intention to help wage-earning employees of the University, many in the community have interpreted it as a way to excuse inaction regarding wage policy. While this initiative may be helpful to wage-earning workers, the implementation of a new living

wage policy at the University is the best way to solve many of the issues that the community resource specialist serves to address.

Scott Seal, the senior director of the Office of Human Resource's Total Rewards Team has stood by the creation of this position, and adds that the decision to reevaluate and raise wages is "not off the table." Nevertheless, raising the minimum wage should solve the issues this position is meant to do. Assistance

that they will eventually increased be by University officials. In fact, he created a working group called "Bettering our Neighborhood." Like the community resource specialist, this group is one of the many initiatives that Ryan has rolled out in order to improve the University's relationship with and impact on the Charlottesville community. This group would strive to better a number of issues, "which may include wages, housing, education

proach" possible. Regardless, Ryan has made no clear statement about the extent to which wages could increase or to whom this potential increase would apply.

While a wage increase would be helpful to all members of the University community, it would be most helpful to all contracted workers. Contracted workers at the University include a range of different positions. For example, food service, warehouse and utilities jobs at the University are all contracted from Aramark. The University's minimum wage is currently \$12.38. This is slightly above the \$12.09 wage necessary to live in Charlottesville. However, dining workers, who are hired by Aramark Co., are paid a starting wage of \$10.65 per hour, which is well below the Charlottesville living wage. The living wage increases to \$27.09 for a single working adult with a child and \$30.79 for a single working adult with two children. These workers face the same increases in living standards as other members of the community, and deserve to be fully included in any wage increase plan. If the University wants to pursue a living wage, it is necessary that this applies to all workers on Grounds.

Moreover, the Charlottesville City Council voted in 2017 to agree

that the Charlottesville living wage is \$13.79 for city workers. This wage is also set to increase to \$14.20 in the coming fiscal year, and to \$15 by 2021. Mayor Nikuyah Walker also indicated that she hopes other institutions within Charlottesville take steps to establish similar wage policies. If the University wants to help improve the lives of its workers and create a better working relationship with the City of Charlottesville, it is essential that officials prioritize the welfare of its workers.

In comparison to the City Council, University officials have made very little effort to ensure that their workers have the means to do more than just simply survive in Charlottesville. Hopefully the sentiments put forth by the city and larger Charlottesville community can push Ryan in the right direction and encourage him to create a proposal that increases wages for all low-wage workers at the University.

VICTORIA MCKELVEY is an Opinion Columnist for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

Seeing as the University is the largest employer in the City of Charlottesville, it is in a unique position to address these issues.

programs such as those the community resource specialist could create should be the last resort for members of the University community, not the first action taken. If there is sufficient need to warrant the creation of this entirely new position, there is equally sufficient need to raise the wages of University employees in a time-efficient manner.

Ryan, on the other hand, has discussed the issue of wages, implying

and healthcare." Still, this group only provides the intention to discuss increasing wages in the future.

Ryan did reportedly promise the Living Wage at UVA campaign that he would increase wages by the end of the 2018-19 academic year. Notwithstanding this, in a Facebook post from the 14th of September, Ryan stated that he wishes to take time to research this issue in order to put forth the most "holistic ap-

H

HUMOR

Why Thanksgiving creates an alternate reality

Thanksgiving is an interesting time of a year, to say the least. Never has the fourth Thursday of a certain month gotten as much attention as that of November, and for what? Unseasoned poultry? A parade organized by a declining department store chain? Covertly racist comments made by your overtly racist relatives at the dinner table? Personally, I don't really get the hype. But regardless of my feelings of confusion towards the holiday, no matter who you are, Thanksgiving is a pervasive phenomenon — one that completely takes over your life to the point where you can't even recognize it anymore. So you can better understand what I mean, here are my top three reasons why Thanksgiving makes me feel like I'm living in an altered reality:

1. The history

Growing up, we all learned how Thanksgiving came to be: one day, the Pilgrims and the Native Americans put aside their differences and came together over a grand feast to celebrate

what they were grateful for, eventually leading to this annual tradition. I know what you're thinking: this is totally what happened and definitely not some fabricated, idealized version of events contrived to absolve a bunch of European colonizers from the mass genocide of nearly the entire indigenous population of North America. Unfortunately, you are wrong. But is it really that hard to believe? You know how the saying goes: "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue ... and then committed what most definitely would be considered human rights violations by modern standards." This is why pretending as though none of these horrific events ever took place and instead the Native Americans and Pilgrims sat around a fire, singing Kumbaya and going in on some turkey makes me feel like I'm experiencing some kind of propaganda-fueled dystopian simulation not unlike 1984. Big Brother is watching you, and he's got stuffing.

2. The timing

I think everyone can agree that Thanksgiving break is strangely placed within the academic calendar. For starters, it begins in the middle of the week

(note: f—k Tech and JMU for their week-long breaks), which leaves class schedules up in the air. Suddenly, you're not sure if your Tuesday classes are even happening anymore, and even if they are, it's as if the academic bar has been lowered to limbo level — you receive extra credit for simply showing up to lecture and your professor ends up playing documentaries on the Vietnam War (???) just to kill time. This, while fun, ultimately results in genuine confusion as to whether or not you really go to a Top 25 university.

Thanksgiving's dangerously close proximity to finals is also a cause for concern. In fact, I'm pretty sure in academic-speak, "Thanksgiving" roughly translates to "hell is imminent". Sure, you have five days to forget all your responsibilities and get lit off of some spiked cider, but the second you return to Grounds it is GRIND TIME. Last-minute papers are due, group projects are in full swing and you have to face the soul-crushing reality that bringing your calculus grade up 37 points in two weeks may not be the most achievable of feats. Until winter break, your life is an unfamiliar, incoherent daze fueled

led by Red Bull and self-loathing, with only the distant memory of pumpkin pie and AMC's *The Godfather* movie marathons to remind you that the world wasn't always this cruel.

3. Coming home just keeps getting weirder and weirder

As I've gotten further along in my college career, returning home feels progressively more bizarre, and Thanksgiving break is no exception. Everything feels a little different, but also the same. This strange sense of nostalgia is ever-present, and you don't quite know what to do with it. You take an innocent drive around town and before you know it, it's midnight and you're lying down in the reclined passenger's seat of your friend's car, parked outside a Cookout while listening to *The 1975* (unfortunately, a true story). You reminisce about how immature your high school self was compared to who you are now, completely neglecting the fact that last week you ate stale pizza rolls for breakfast at 2 p.m. (and you enjoyed it). Talk about cognitive dissonance, am I right?

Thanksgiving was a whirlwind for me, and now you all know why. The mental and emotional turmoil I experi-

enced at the hands of this flightless-bird-glorifying holiday was nearly unbearable. But on the bright side, it's finally over, and I can now move on to my next critique: Christmas. I mean, seriously, exploiting the birthday of the most prominent religious figure in history for the purpose of capitalistic gain? Pathetic. And the random fat dude in red who trespasses via chimney and steals cookies? Don't even get me started on those property crimes.

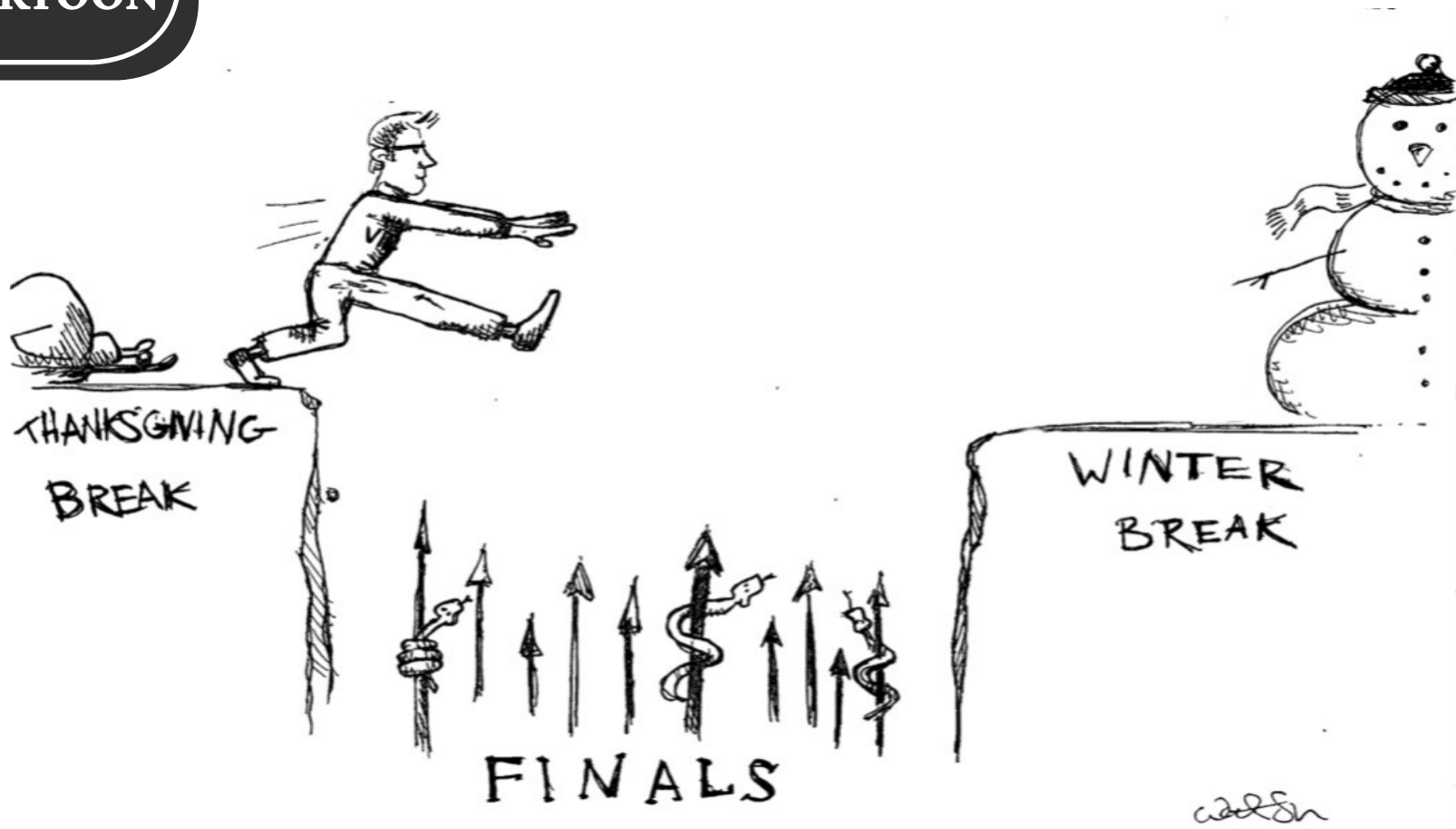
ALISHA KOHLI is a Humor Columnist for *The Cavalier Daily*. She can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com.

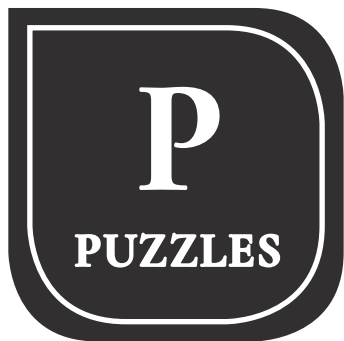
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CARTOON

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR

Walter Sharon | Cartoonist





WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

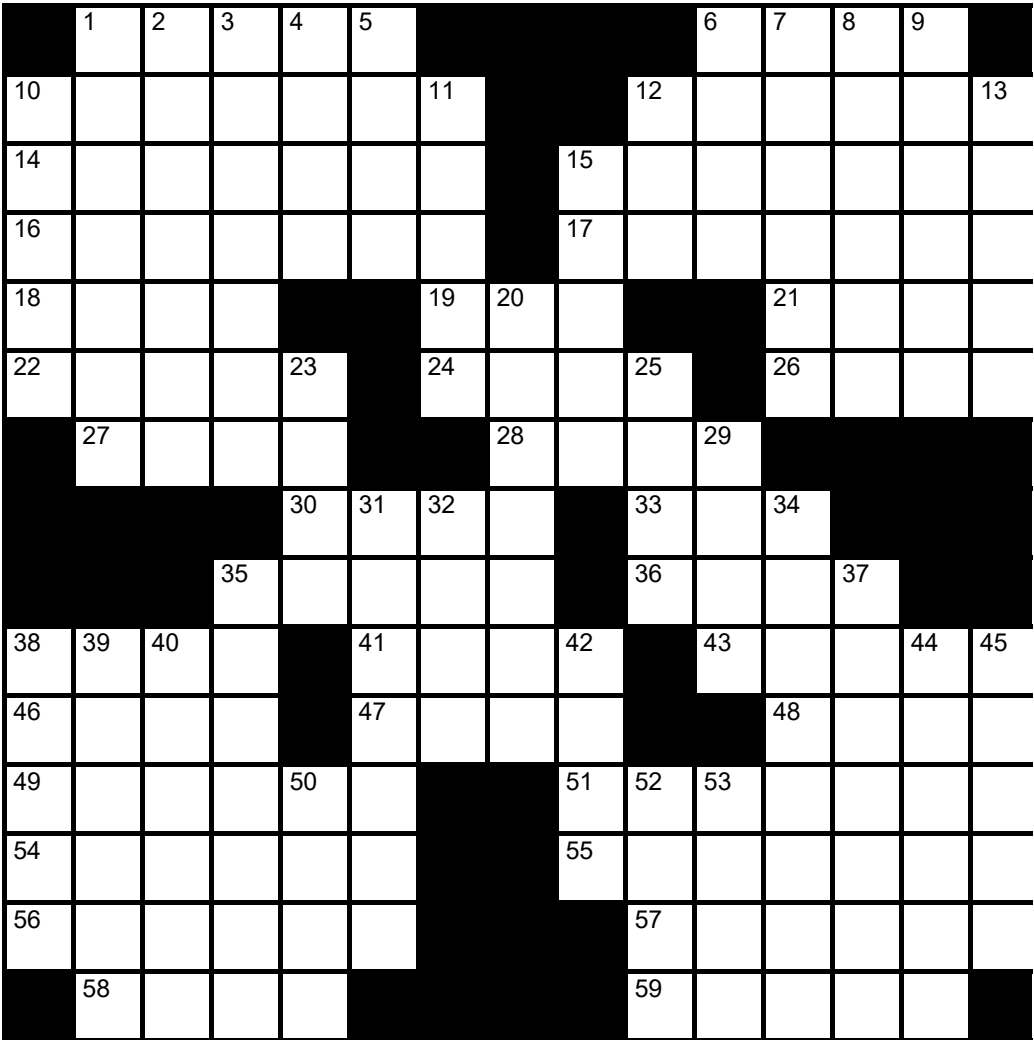
Dan Goff | Arts and Entertainment Editor

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

Across

- 1. Off to the ____
- 6. Shakespearan word for "do"
- 10. Visible
- 12. Warhol was a leader of this two-word movement
- 14. Ahab's weapon of choice
- 15. Relating to the mouth or kissing
- 16. Clothed
- 17. Letter, typically of an official nature
- 18. In law, certain type of decree
- 19. The loneliest number that you'll ever know
- 21. 19-across is not this
- 22. You do it to wood for luck
- 24. Some workers are demanding a living one
- 26. Interesting people are the ____ of the earth
- 27. Narrow valley
- 28. Sedimentary rock with clay and lime
- 30. Woodwind instrument
- 33. Fish eggs
- 35. R.E.M. song featured in an episode of "Parks and Recreation"
- 36. British term for a popular type of bean
- 38. Violent sliding motion
- 41. Alpha Centauri, or Lady Ga-

- ga's Ally
- 43. Short notes
- 46. Famous Plato allegory
- 47. Marine-sponsored aid program ____ for Tots
- 48. Where a traditional Dec. 6 event will take place
- 49. "Do what I say ... ____" — two words
- 51. Flavor of ice cream, or boring person
- 54. Thanksgiving break just ended, but this one is coming soon
- 55. What you use to unclog a toilet
- 56. Tools for tag at a theme park
- 57. Imagine, conceive
- 58. Ripped
- 59. Come to ____ with — accept



Down

- 1. Dec. 9 is one of these days
- 2. Canned, sprayable substance
- 3. Sudden, unaccountable change in mood
- 4. Dark brown, black — a more literary way of saying a common color
- 5. ____ gin — type of liqueur

- 6. Medical professionals
- 7. Artistic works, usually large-scale
- 8. Spit
- 9. What some might do during 54-across
- 10. Part of an animal's leg
- 11. Give, bequeath
- 12. 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 13. 19th council of the Catholic

- church
- 15. The Christian God says He is the "alpha and ____"
- 20. Date on which a saint is celebrated with a feast — two words
- 23. Tie the ____
- 25. Makes a mistake
- 29. Fabric-making apparatus
- 31. Kitchen utensils likely used at Thanksgiving
- 32. Moving aboard
- 34. Type of cosmetic
- 35. Be uncomfortably hot
- 37. Mixture, blend
- 38. Frown
- 39. Rope used as a lasso
- 40. Two-word phrase meaning "nevertheless"
- 42. Abbreviation having to do with event invitations
- 44. Types of baby birds
- 45. Trap for catching animals
- 50. Dry or withered
- 52. Came to earth
- 53. Model for an art class, maybe

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* SOLUTION FROM LAST ISSUE





Georgia O'Keeffe's natural abstraction

Curator Emerita Carolyn Kastner lectures on artist's early work and influences

Robin Schwartzkopf | Senior Writer

"This is O'Keeffe geekdom ... if that's not your deal, this is the time to leave!" Carolyn Kastner, Curator Emerita of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, N.M., joked at the beginning of her talk. The crowd that gathered in Campbell Hall Nov. 15 for the annual Gladys S. Blizzard Lecture, "Learning to See Abstractly," seemed eager to absorb the knowledge Kastner would share about the artist, particularly her time at the University.

Matthew McLendon, director of the Fralin Museum of Art, introduced Kastner to the crowd. He spoke to his excitement for the currently running exhibit at the Fralin, "Unexpected O'Keeffe: The Virginia Watercolors and Later Paintings," and the evening's speaker, who would emphasize the importance of continued scholarship of O'Keeffe's early work and watercolors.

Throughout her talk, Kastner reiterated the importance of O'Keeffe's disciplined practice, reminding the crowd with visual examples of her work over the span of a 60-year career. Evaluating her student work and then moving forward in time — through her teaching career in Texas, her work

in New York at Lake George and her practice in New Mexico — Kastner told a story of O'Keeffe's journey as an artist and her devotion to the principles she established while in Charlottesville.

"She's not finding a shape — I say she's defining a shape," Kastner said, prompting the audience to look deeper at O'Keeffe's art compared to the nature she took inspiration from.

She elaborated that O'Keeffe's early drawings and watercolors, though less popular than her paintings of enlarged flowers which gained her worldwide renown, have an educative capacity to teach others how to see and study her work.

"I want you to see them the way I see them," Kastner said of the paintings she displayed in front of the audience, "as radical experiments that set the course for her future."

O'Keeffe transformed a natural scene by isolating its parts and re-assembling with her own methods. Kastner described it as the artist relaying "her ideas of what she observed," rather than mere reproduction. This practice of interpretation and trans-

formation would continue, with O'Keeffe always beginning with line, questioning her own work and guiding her work through what Kastner called "the path of abstraction."

As her career continued, O'Keeffe continued to shape her process, which she adapted from the compositional work of Arthur Wesley Dow. Before coming to the University, O'Keeffe went four years without making any art, an experience she described as a "trauma" but about which scholars know little.

Kastner said that being at the University "ended the doubts about being an artist that had haunted [O'Keeffe]," allowing her to find her voice as an artist and start building a professional career in Texas as head of the art department at West Texas State Normal College in 1916.

From there, O'Keeffe embarked on a similar journey as many of her modernist contemporaries — she wanted to make "the great American thing." Kastner described her attempts to build on her art, escaping from subjective painting to instead embrace the particularities of the countryside,

"visually articulating an individual experience."

Kastner also repeatedly spoke about her wish for the University to continue uncovering the mysteries of O'Keeffe's practice and life as an artist through newly-discovered letters and archives.

"I can't express how important it is for a field that seemed closed ... when we go into the archive, we're finding a different story," Kastner said.

In "Learning to See Abstractly," Kastner educated an eager crowd on the role the University played in a young Georgia O'Keeffe's life. She also emphasized the job scholars at the University should embrace today in using their environment and resources to tell more of O'Keeffe's story. Her influence, Kastner said, is all around.

"When you [know where to look], you see it everywhere."

Visitors can explore O'Keeffe's environmental artistry fully through the new exhibit at the Fralin. Located comfortably in one room on the second floor of the museum, "Unexpected O'Keeffe" presents the artist's work as a student alongside paintings from

her later life, illustrating the longevity of the disciplined practice O'Keeffe adopted while at the University. Guests can also see Dow's "Book of Composition," on display — the guide which shaped O'Keeffe's studious devotion to line as the beginning of any composition.

The exhibition's high potential for scholarly importance — which McLendon emphasized at the beginning of Kastner's talk — is undeniable, but "Unexpected O'Keeffe" also instills in the visitor a kind of wonder. Examining O'Keeffe's series of watercolors depicting the Rotunda, a sense of pride emerges that a young artist could come to Charlottesville, reignite her passion after a period of immense self-doubt, adopt a lifelong practice and — instead of painting what was already right in front of her — craft something from nature, yet entirely new.

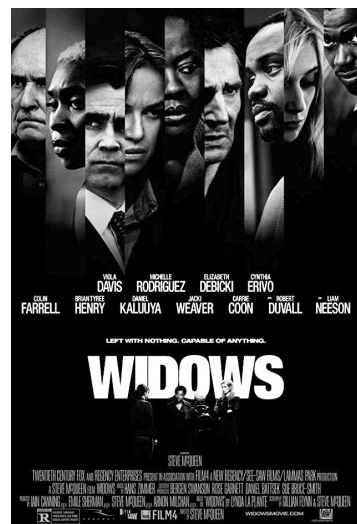
"Unexpected O'Keeffe" will be on display through Jan. 27, 2019.

'Widows' is an empathetic, riveting heist thriller

Film marks a turning point for director Steve McQueen's filmography

Darby Delaney | Senior Associate

With a body of work centering on physical, psychological and self-inflicted suffering, filmmaker Steve McQueen's sensibilities firmly align with the conventions and themes of arthouse, rather than commercial, cinema. That's what makes his latest film, the moody heist thriller "Widows," so appealing and confounding.



COURTESY 20TH CENTURY FOX

Filmmaker Steve McQueen's latest work, "Widows," is both appealing and confounding.

McQueen imbues the inescapable, ultra-sleek heist genre with his signature edifying and forceful voice. The result is a rare type of commercial film, one that elevates its familiar material into an attuned exploration of survival and empathy.

"Widows" stars Viola Davis as Veronica Rawlings, a Chicago teachers' union executive married to a notorious criminal, Harry (Liam Neeson). After Harry and his accomplices perish in a failed robbery, widows Veronica, Alice (Elizabeth Debicki) and Linda (Michelle Rodriguez) find themselves in emotional and economic turmoil. Veronica recruits Alice and Linda to pull off a \$5 million heist to pay off Harry's debt to crime-boss-turned-politician Jamal Manning (Brian Tyree Henry), split the rest among themselves and secure their futures.

McQueen and co-screenwriter Gillian Flynn broaden the film's scope to include sprawling commentary on the massive cultural upheaval in Chicago. McQueen defiantly throws audiences into the busy, twisted plot with a sensational opening sequence. Veronica and Harry share a tender moment in bed, which becomes cross-cutted with the turbulent heist-gone-wrong. Shot from the point of view of a get-

away van with its back doors flying open, Harry and his crew attempt to flee the chaotic stream of bullets fired by the police.

The confrontational sequence ends with crescendoed violence and an assured introduction to McQueen's unique vision for the film. Yes, he delivers a ruthless and whiplash-inducing thriller, à la Harry and his crew's brutalized attempted getaway. More importantly, he depicts the complex dynamics between experienced criminals and their home lives, as seen in Veronica and Harry's sincere love and care for each other.

McQueen infuses "Widows" with a surprising amount of empathy for his characters. Veronica, Alice, Linda and their appointed driver Belle (Cynthia Erivo) come from various racial and socioeconomic backgrounds and manifest their pain in different ways. After Harry dies, the quietly mourning Veronica doesn't have anybody in her life — except her adorable, obedient dog — and frequently reminiscences on their marriage. Abused and delicate, Alice reluctantly joins a website matching wealthy men to young, attractive women. Linda, meanwhile, struggles to take care of her children amid the repossession of her dress

shop, while Belle works multiple jobs to support her daughter.

Because of the desperate heroines' despairing livelihoods, the stakes of the film's central heist become insurmountably high. Veronica, Alice, Linda and Belle chase sheer survival, rather than personal comeuppance, opulence or fun — the usual motivations in heist films. McQueen presents their rapid descent into crime as necessary and noble, and it's simply a joy to watch these smart and strong, albeit inexperienced, women develop their plan. Whether the gang practices their shooting skills or buys a getaway car at an auction, each seemingly mundane task leading up to the robbery coalesces into well-executed, satisfying narrative payoff.

The film's weakness lies in McQueen's didactic scrutiny of the corruptive and fundamentally inequitable Chicago, a city which constrains our heroines from living secure and protected lives. Between its examination of gender roles, unconcealed racism, class and corrupt political campaigns, "Widows" tackles a myriad of social inequalities, resulting in both an astute moral urgency and superfluous ambition. A cheap inclusion of police brutality functions as a mere plot de-

vice to add to the dense array of another character's grievances. As an especially pressing issue affecting far too many black lives, police shootings warrant an intense and thoughtful foregrounding, as opposed to a shoe-horn subplot in an already overstuffed movie.

While "Widows" occasionally suffers from some of its societal observations, the film still remains a stunning treatise on opportunity, inequality and survival. McQueen makes an efficient use of one the best ensemble casts in recent years. All the women — especially Davis, who poignantly juggles vulnerability with a formidable resilience — give challenging and engaging performances, as does Daniel Kaluuya, who plays the most icy and sinister onscreen killer of 2018.

"Widows" packages its heavier themes into a tightly constructed, crowd-pleasing romp with shocking twists and a breathless pace. The film marks a step forward for McQueen, who has proven his ability to deliver intelligent and compelling films for general audiences. Considering the standardization of entertaining but insipid box office juggernauts, movies like "Widows" should be more available to mainstream audiences.

TEDxUVA talk covers the science behind porn

At Student Speaker Competition, Matthew Houff lectures about risks associated with pornography, effects on the brain

Ashley Ewing | Staff Writer



ASHLEY EWING | THE CAVALIER DAILY

TEDxUVA's Student Speaker Competition was held Nov. 14 at Boylan Heights.

Second-year College student Matthew Houff spoke about internet pornography and its effects on the brain at the TEDxUVA's Student Speaker Competition held Nov. 14 at Boylan Heights.

Houff began his talk with a discussion on "supernormal stimuli," which he described as stimuli that hijacks people's natural instincts. For instance, he explained that the brain's normal drive to eat food can be hijacked by the supernormal stimuli of junk food. The extra drive for food of high caloric content can lead to health problems, such as obesity and food addiction.

"Even if an obese person realizes the problem with their food consumption, it can be still be very hard to quit," Houff said. "The junk food, a powerful superstimuli, has already rewired their brain, effectively hijacking the natural reward system."

Houff paralleled the way junk food can hijack the brain's instincts to how pornography can affect the brain's sexual drive and reproductive instincts. He focused on two ways in which pornography causes this hijacking of the brain — sensitization of the "wanting system" and desensitization of the "liking system."

Sensitization of the "wanting system," Houff said, occurs through the build up of a protein called DeltaFosB. Research from the National Academy of Sciences shows that DeltaFosB accumulates in regions of the brain related to addiction in response to many drugs and compulsive behaviors. This protein

causes increased sensitivity to the stimulant and "increased drug seeking behavior," according to the National Academy of Sciences.

Houff said that a similar effect occurs in response to pornography, as the build up of DeltaFosB results in increased sensitivity and the formation of new brain connections that allow you to remember the actions associated with a pleasurable experience. This results in being drawn to repeat these actions later to obtain the same response.

The effect of building these new brain connections that link together actions associated with pleasure is that parts of a person's daily experience can become cues. Houff said that just as the smell of smoke may be a cue that reminds and motivates a smoker to smoke again, a place or time of day in which a pornography user is alone with the internet may be a cue to watch explicit content.

The second way in which pornography affects the brain, as Houff described, is the desensitization of the "liking system," or the brain's natural reward system. This process occurs through a build up of a protein called CREB in the brain, which suppresses the pleasure responses from the reward system. Research from "Behavioral Sciences" shows that with an increased amount of CREB, a greater amount of a stimulant is needed to achieve the same effect with continued use.

Not only is there a desensitization to pornography, but there is also a dampened response to other parts of an individual's life.

"In fact, too much CREB float-

ing around in your brain can dull the enjoyment of anything, even simple things like a sunset or your favorite song," Houff said.

Despite the dulling effects of pornography, according to Houff, around half of college-aged males today were exposed to pornography before the age of 13.

Some audience members were surprised to hear about how accessible pornography is to children.

"Matthew's talk about pornography opened my eyes to ... how kids have access to it around the age of 11 or even younger," second-year Nursing student Jordyn Hamlett said.

Since pornography can be a child or teen's first exposure to sexual interactions, it can teach them "this is what normal sex is like. This is how I'll do it," Houff said.

Houff presented how this perspective affects an individual's sexual behaviors and thoughts by citing a meta-analysis that studied how porn usage is "associated with more permissive attitudes about sex, a lower view of monogamous relationships and more gender-stereotypical beliefs." This analysis also found an association between heavy porn usage and engaging in risky sexual behaviors that put individuals at risk for sexually transmitted infections.

Additionally, pornography not only affects an individual's brain and sexual behaviors, but also affects relationships that the individual is involved in.

Houff reported on another meta-analysis including 50 stud-

ies and 50,000 participants that "unanimously showed that for men, pornography consumption was associated with lower interpersonal satisfaction." For instance, some experiments found that men rated their partner as less attractive after watching 20 minutes of porn in contrast to a group of men who watched a nature documentary.

"Being a psychology major, I really enjoyed hearing about the negative effects pornography has on the brain," said Alexa Connelly, a graduate student in Virginia Commonwealth University's Psychology Department. "Pornography is something that everyone comes in contact with, but no one talks about."

Likewise, second-year Engineering student Daniel Keith said that pornography is a "taboo topic" that people are often afraid to talk about.

"I appreciated that Matthew took a very scientific approach to his argument," Keith said. "Keeping it scientific helped appeal to many people."

Although pornography is not discussed in public often, Houff said he wasn't any more nervous talking about pornography in front of his peers than he would have been if he had talked about anything else — because he spoke about it strictly from a scientific perspective.

After being presented with all of the research that indicates how pornography affects the brain, Houff came to the conclusion that his goal is simply to raise awareness of these effects, "so that every person can consider the cost before

they consume."

During his talk, he said that shame is not how he wants people to respond to his talk because "porn users aren't bad people." He also said that legislation is also not an ideal solution to mitigate the negative effects of pornography usage because censorship can lead to underground markets.

"What I'm really about is raising awareness of the risks associated with pornography and how that can affect people, particularly young people," Houff said. "Awareness is my main goal."

While pornography can rewire the brain, it can also be unwired, according to Houff. He said that since many people have been watching pornography for most of their lives, "it's hard to even know if what they are feeling is normal."

Therefore, he suggests that if an individual is wondering if pornography has had negative effects on them, the only way to know is to take a break from pornography and reflect on what changes.

"We can leave behind fake imitations of sex and super-stimuli that hijack our brains and instead embrace freedom," Houff said. "After all, freedom is not the ability to do whatever we desire, but rather the ability to do the thing we desire most."

How climate change is impacting Virginia wineries

An environmental scientist weighs in on Virginia's changing climate and local winemakers explain what they're doing to cope

Kirsta Hackmeier | Staff Writer

While deadly wildfires rage in California and Hurricane Maria's true death toll remains unknown, Central Virginia may seem far removed from the devastating impacts of climate change. Although the state has generally been insulated from highly publicized extreme weather events, small climatic shifts are creating significant problems for Virginia's large agriculture industry. Vineyards, close to the hearts of many in Charlottesville, have been feeling the effects of climate change quite acutely this year.

"Anybody that grows anything is concerned about climate change, in a way that people that might be further removed from agriculture aren't," said Matthew Brown, the wine club manager for King Family Vineyards and a University alumnus.

Because crop success depends so heavily on the weather, growers are paying particularly close attention to even the slightest changes and developing techniques to cope.

According to Deborah Lawrence — an environmental science professor who specializes in climate change — average temperatures in Virginia are increasing. Warmer weather leads to more pests, more

disease and more ripening, which is particularly relevant for vineyards. Ripening produces the sugar within grapes, which goes on to produce the alcohol found in wine. More ripening means more sugar and more alcohol in the final product.

One innovative way to help slow the ripening process is by using a product called Surround, a white sprayable clay that farmers can apply to their crops to help reflect UV light, keeping them cooler and preventing precocious ripening. However, that is not the only benefit the spray offers. Derived from a natural mineral, the clay is extremely sharp on a microscopic level. While it is harmless to humans, it effectively repels many of the bugs and pests that become more prolific in a warmer climate.

While temperatures are trending upwards, short-term concerns for Virginia's agriculture have more to do with colder springs and heavy rain. One result of climate change unique to the Southeast are polar vortices — created by changing conditions at the poles affecting the jet stream — that blast cold air into the region during the winter and spring. The spring months, when the grapes

have just started to bud, are when the plants are at their most sensitive. One harsh frost could mean the loss of the entire year's crop.

King Family Vineyards has taken several steps to try to prevent this. During cold spring nights, warmer air rises creating what's known as the inversion layer. The winery has installed a wind machine, and will sometimes even fly helicopters over the vineyard, in order to force this warmer air down among the vines. On particularly cold nights, they resort to burning bales of hay near the plants.

The major challenge facing viticulturists right now though is the rain. 2018 has been the wettest year on record to-date for Washington, D.C. and Roanoke, and the second wettest year for Richmond. All of that water is creating serious consequences for crop producers.

Lawrence said that heavy spring flooding can wipe out immature sprouts, and more moisture means increased chances of mold and mildew. To reduce foliage, vineyards have to "manage the canopy," which means hand-trimming leaves to make sure the plants have enough surface area for photosynthesis, but

not so much to make them prone to fungal growth.

When the vines absorb more water, they also give more water to the grapes, which can dilute their flavor. In order to maintain high quality standards, King Family has had to concentrate their wines. While this preserves the desired flavor, color, aroma and tannin, up to 20 percent of the liquid initially produced is lost in the process. The financial impact of increased precipitation goes well beyond simply lost product though. Intensive canopy management necessitates increased labor costs, and rainy weekends have hurt agritourism in Virginia wine country.

To help allay the problems created by changing weather patterns, Glass House Winery, in Free Union, Va., has opted to focus on different varieties of wine that are less affected by the rain.

"My too-often-repeated 2018 joke," Glass House Winery owner Jeff Sanders said. "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. When it gives you this year's weather, make rosé."

Sanders said we "are not prescient enough" so know how exactly how climate change will impact win-

eries the the future. However, Brown described what can be expected from wine in different climates. Warmer weather will mean wines that have higher alcohol and sugar levels, depleting their structure and making them taste "jammy," while places experiencing cooler conditions will produce higher acid wines, similar to champagne.

For Lawrence, the key is creativity.

"The innovators who discover which grapes are both tolerant of our extreme weather and delicious will be the ones that do well," Lawrence said. "I would urge innovation and experimentation."

Brown, who frequently interacts with winemakers from the around the world due to his studies at the Institute of Master of Wine based out of London, noted that climate change is playing an increasing role in discussions about wine. However, he feels that the United States is not on the same page.

"It does seem like we live in the only country in the world where it's an option to believe in climate change," Brown said. "Which is just terribly tragic."

Local cybersecurity startup receives \$8M in new investments

Mission Secure, Inc. acquires funding for platform that provides system visibility and potential solutions to threats

Cecily Wolfe | Senior Writer

In the past few months, Mission Secure, Inc., or MSi, a local startup that develops cybersecurity software and hardware strategies for infrastructure security, completed a Series A financing, receiving over \$8 million in funding from investors.

Major contributors included Energy Innovation Capital, Chevron Technology Ventures, Macquarie Capital and the University of Virginia Licensing and Ventures Group. The company works in the oil and gas, power, transportation and defense industries, providing products that defend the control systems of infrastructure from cyber attacks.

"We made an investment over a year ago and then we were part of the most recent round of funding a few months ago," said Robert Creeden, the managing director of the University LVG Seed Fund and New Ventures. "[MSi] is a very strong company... We are very happy to be able to invest in them and support them in any way that we possibly can."

Mission Secure stemmed from a need recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense in 2010 to prevent attacks on weapon platforms in a way

that still allowed such technology to operate properly. With funding from the DOD, faculty at the University began to explore approaches to achieving "cyber resiliency," or the ability to simultaneously thwart attacks and complete missions as planned.

Several years later, in 2014, David Drescher — chief executive officer, co-founder and board member at MSi — along with several of his former business partners, connected with researchers and started MSi as a way to commercialize ideas and products developed at the University. Comprised of cyber security, military and business professionals, as well as software and systems engineers, MSi now has around 30 employees, with offices in both Charlottesville and Houston.

"We are a fast-growing company now," Drescher said. "We are still relatively small, but when we first started this, nobody knew what we were talking about. Now they are starting to pay attention."

In particular, the research of Barry Horowitz, a professor and chair of the Systems and Information Engineering department, created much of the foundation of work for MSi. Horowitz

and his team developed the technology as part of national defense projects, analyzing physical systems including cars, manufacturing machines and unmanned air vehicles in order to reinforce existing machines and fortify them against malfunction and attack.

"We have been and are working hard on transitioning these technologies into actual use, and I am anxious about how quickly we can get that done," Horowitz said. "That's one of the reasons we helped start MSi — because the university can't do that; that has to be industry."

Using the principles behind Horowitz's research, the team at MSi created an integrated software and hardware solution. With the software in a client's data center and the hardware physically attached to machines, the patented MSi platform continuously monitors and collects data from infrastructure to protect against threats. In the event of an attack, the MSi platform is designed to detect abnormal behavior, inform operators of the issues and enable autonomous or operator-guided corrections.

"Think about everything that touches your life," Drescher said.

"Think about the electricity running through your apartment or home, water coming out of your faucets, the fuel you put in your car. We are trying to help companies protect that — that is our mission."

Primarily focused on the defense and energy sectors, the MSi platform supervises weapons platforms, such as unmanned air vehicles and tanks, and refinery equipment. Attempts to hinder the machinery or to fool it by falsely convincing the system it is secure with manufactured data are the most common threats. These have the potential to have widespread repercussions, whether that is through botched military defense maneuvers or unexpected explosions in a power plant.

"This company is all about national security," Drescher said. "It's about making sure power, energy, water and military systems are all safe and functioning when they need to so that they can do whatever the role it is they have to do."

Today, MSi maintains its connections with the University and the local community. Its headquarters are located off the Downtown Mall, and, according to Drescher, even as the

company expands, they intend to keep the headquarters in Charlottesville.

Drescher also noted that at least a third of its employees have attended the University for their undergraduate, graduate or postdoctoral degree, and University students regularly intern at MSi over the summer.

Drescher said that in light of the recent investment, the company's top priority would be to hire more employees, a step that has already been taken. A recent announcement stated that David Jordan — former chief information security officer of Arlington County, Va. — and hacking and defense expert Weston Hecker would join MSi's team as vice president of Cyber Services and Smart Cities and Lead Cyber Evangelist, respectively.

"We are just trying to build the business as big and fast as we can and get as many customers as we can," Drescher said. "We have people who work on our team that are all very passionate about what they do ... and we just want to keep hiring more people and doing more innovative things."

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