Here you can see a man tending the fire as a body burns, but Pashupatinath Temple isn’t a somber place,” says Ellen Brooks, ’18, who took this photo while in Kathmandu, Nepal, on a summer research fellowship. “It’s filled with the smells of incense and fire, sounds of prayer and song. You are constantly overwhelmed in Nepal.”

Photograph by Ellen Brooks, ’18
MS WINDOWS TO THE SOUL? Back when laptops cost as much as a used car and seemed as delicate as a triceratopsling, a student would never have dreamt of putting stickers on them. Today, they’re ubiquitous billboards advertising students’ backstories, interests, and personalities.
Not long after I came to campus almost six years ago, I heard accounting professor Joe Hoyle — a legendary faculty member at Richmond if ever there was one — telling a group of new employees just how much he loves working at the University of Richmond. Part of it had to do with how well campus helps him entertain his grandkids. Ducks and D-hall are a hard combo to beat. But mostly it was about the unbeatable work environment.

This benefit was on my mind as I chatted about Lego with Denmark’s ambassador to the United States outside of Tyler Haynes Commons one evening in November — specifically, how unpleasant it is for parents to step on a piece of it. The Danish company sold more than 75 million pieces of the stuff in 140 countries in 2016, which makes that crunch underfoot a fairly universal experience.

Ambassador Lars Gert Lose, I, and plenty of others were taking part in a candlelit walk celebrating Danish culture. As we ambled our way across campus, we stopped at a dozen pop-up stations highlighting aspects of Danish culture. At one, students performed Hamlet (which is set in Denmark); at another, carolers serenaded us with holiday songs. We ate bits of apple streusel and settled into the Danish concept of hygge, one of those terms that refuses easy translation and, in doing so, offers a window into another way of thinking.

As I came to understand it, hygge is a way of being, the kind of easy comfort you feel among close, longtime friends over drinks with a fire or candles burning nearby. I’m told that Danes use it as shorthand for soft light and comfortable nooks, for warm socks and sweet indulgences that skirt the edge of moderation. It’s a means and an end, a collective cultural response for maintaining well-being during Copenhagen’s long winter nights.

And so I was definitely in a hygge state of mind by the time we got to the sumptuous Danish feast awaiting us in Heilman Dining Center. Hunks of cheese and bread were laid out on tables next to spreads of salmon and I-don’t-even-know-whats. The atmosphere encouraged sampling unfamiliar foods, and D-hall was as crowded as I’ve ever seen it with students doing just that.

This was just one spectacular night celebrating International Education Week by highlighting Danish culture. The day before, a corporate vice president of Novo Nordisk, a Danish pharmaceutical company, talked in the business school about happiness and business in Denmark, whose people are consistently ranked among the world’s happiest. On Monday, we’d donned spectacularly silly Danish-style socks for a walk to a video conference between UR students studying in Denmark and Danish students studying on campus.

They all looked pretty happy, too.

Matthew Dewald, Editor
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The persistent beauty of alumna Amanda Kwieraga’s scientific vision

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Your Magazine, Your Voice

Let us know what you think about what you read in this issue. Email your thoughts to magazine@richmond.edu or send us a letter (our postal address is on page 5). Please include your class year, city, state, and maiden name, if applicable. All letters to the editor may be edited for clarity or brevity and should not exceed 200 words. We also welcome your story tips at magazine@richmond.edu.

Opinions expressed here are those of the letter writers, not necessarily those of the magazine or this institution.

Connect with @Richmond on Social Media

For photos, videos, news, stories, and the latest Spider Pride posts, follow UR’s official social media accounts.

Editor’s note: The photo appears in the 1971 issue of The Web, the yearbook. Thanks to Humi for letting us know he took it.

I went to the concert that featured Bruce Springsteen. But it was in the fall of 1970 not 1971, and it was in Millhis Gymnasium, not Keller Hall. There were not many people at the concert, but those who were there enjoyed it thoroughly. We were all jumping up and down. I remember just recently coming across some announcement for tickets in an old Collegian but can’t lay my hands on it right now. It was some ridiculous price like $3 or $4.
—Judy Samuelson Shapleigh, ’72
Falls Church, Virginia

Editor’s note: Springsteen played at least two shows on campus, one in Keller and one in Millhis, which probably accounts for the varying recollections of alumni who contacted us. The photo, as Judy correctly points out, was taken at the Millhiser show, not the Keller show as our story implied.

With respect to the “ill-fated” Springsteen Concert, the gist of the story is that (if my aging mind does not fail me) someone threw a smoke bomb into the concert hall. Some of us suspected someone who was upset that they were blatantly playing “hippy music” on the UR campus.

Perhaps one of his more famous concerts was on top of a parking garage (i.e., the Parking Garage Concert) on Broad Street. All I clearly remember was that it was hot and humid, but no one cared. Another notable event was when Springsteen put on a free concert in Monroe Park, where he introduced the beginning nucleus of what would eventually become the E Street Band, complete with brass and backup singers. Many in the crowd reacted very negatively to this departure from his small blues band format, loudly booing. Springsteen flatly said it was his music, the concert was free, and pointed off in the distance saying, “There’s the door.”

Those of us who had the opportunity to see Bruce Springsteen in those days were able to witness unbridled music energy and a performance indelibly etched into our brains.

Glenn Habel became legendary because he became good friends with Springsteen’s then-manager, whose nickname was Tinker. Tinker began giving him copies of the tapes made during Springsteen’s concerts. One of my most prized possessions was a cassette tape that Glenn made for me that traveled with me from Richmond to Denver to Spokane, where it unfortunately disappeared.
—Jim Hazzard, ’72
Tucson, Arizona

P.S. I should have been R’71. What can I say? Also, forgot to say the Autumn 2017 issue was great. I especially liked the article about Congressman Tom Garrett (“The Spider on the Hill”).

PAPER FLOWERS

I’m so honored to be on the cover of this magazine. I went to the University of Richmond to earn a business degree, but it was there that I learned to listen to my creative side, to take risks, and to be myself. And for that, I will always be grateful. Thank you, Kim Catley, for telling my story. And thank you, @urichmond, for everything.
—Carrie Fleck Walters, ’00
via Instagram

Proud

Thank you for the story of Cole Sydnor (“Cole’s Race,” Autumn 2017). I am so proud of him, and I don’t even know him. I am also so proud of U of R. I love my alma mater!
—Marybeth Wagner Dyson, W’87
Alexandria, Virginia

Amazingly positive & encouraging article about Cole Sydnor in @urichmond magazine. Thanks for sharing your story #spiderpride.
—@LaurenH210 via Twitter

It was an honor to have been part of your journey as you continue to change the world. Everyone be sure to read this story of a truly remarkable man.
—Richmond Rowing Community via Facebook

Pitt and the President

I read with interest your article on George H.W. Bush (“The Day a President Played at Pitt,” Autumn 2017). I am a retired U.S. Secret Service agent and was in charge of the vice presidential protective detail from mid-1983 through late 1985. Before that I was the deputy in charge.

Hankinson, on his 40th birthday, aboard Air Force II with George and Barbara Bush

I recall one occasion in Beijing, China, when the subject of education was discussed in the vice president’s limousine. Mrs. Bush asked me where I went to college, and I told her Richmond. She said that Richmond is a very good college, and then Vice President Bush said he recalled playing a baseball game against our team.

I continue to keep in touch with him, and he remains positive and in a good frame of mind.
—Dick Hankinson, R’65
Vienna, Virginia

Interesting article. The article was correct in calling it Millhiser Field — saw many a game there — (but it was located) where Robins Stadium is now, minus the tree behind home plate. Wasn’t named Pitt Field until years later, and certainly not the Pitt Field of today!
—Bill Muse, L’73
via the SpiderNation.com message board
As I sit to compose this essay, I’m reminded of the philosophically thought exercise about the tree falling in the forest, but with a twist. Mine goes: If I write a magazine essay composed almost entirely of quotes of my colleagues, did I actually write the essay? Let’s consider that question here together.

This fall, I had the privilege of interviewing some of the extraordinarily talented professors at our university. In these conversations, I had an opportunity to ask them about the subjects around which they’ve built lives of inquiry. Our topics ranged from breast cancer to beekeeping, astrophysics to music.

Yvonne Howell, professor of Russian and international studies, focuses on the impact of science and modernity in the Soviet Union and post-Soviet cultures. She’s also passionate about exposing Richmond students to global perspectives. We talked about an experience we’ve both shared, learning a second language. “Something happens when you start to see the world through a second language and culture,” she said. “It has an amplifying effect, so all of a sudden, it’s like the world is bigger. You’re you, but you’re also ‘super you’ who sees the whole world through someone else’s language and culture.”

Law professor Andy Spalding is a leading expert on international anti-corruption law, with expertise on corruption in the Olympic Games. We talked about his recent trip with students to Pyeongchang, South Korea, in anticipation of the 2018 Winter Games. “It’s very easy in law school to forget that the law is fundamentally about people,” he told me. “It’s written by people. It’s written in the service of people. To go to South Korea and to interview people, professors, corporate lawyers, NGO [non-governmental organization] advocates, and hear them talk about how these new laws are actually fundamentally changing the way they interact with each other, with the government, and how business is conducted, it really drives home for the students the idea that what we do impacts people. We should always be aware of that.”

I talked about heroes — how we construct them, why we need them, and why we are sometimes happy when they fail — with psychology professor Scott Allison. Despite tales of heroism stretching back to Homer, there was very little academic research on epic individuals until recently. “There’s something about heroism that resonates with us,” he explained to me. “We can identify with heroes because the hero’s journey is the human journey. It’s our journey. … We go to movies and we read books [about heroes] because those movies and books are telling our story.”

Anthropology professor Jennifer Nourse told me about her trips to Indonesia, where she studies reproductive health in rural populations. To further her research, she learned a largely unstudied language spoken by a very small group of “highlanders,” as they’re called in that region. She also encountered systemic racism that impacts how this rural community receives health care. “What is happening, I believe, is a distrust of the governmental medical system, and so the highlanders don’t trust the lowlanders, and the lowlanders have racist attitudes about the highlanders and see them as not needing pain medicine because they can tough it out,” she said. “All of these [are] racist stereotypes that I’m gently trying to point out to people so that changes can occur.”

The deep curiosity and intellectual growth that our faculty exemplified during these conversations spark students’ creativity and prepare them to approach problems thoughtfully, critically, and ethically. I came away from our conversations not only impressed with the quality of scholarship at UR, but with greater appreciation for how this knowledge impacts the educational experience of our students. I hope you’ll take the advantage of an upcoming opportunity to hear their remarkable stories. Our discussions were filmed and are being edited to share on social media and the web this semester. We’re calling this new video series “Spider Talks” and will be launching it in the coming weeks. I encourage you to view my conversations with some of the people who are ensuring that academic excellence remains a defining feature of a Richmond education as our faculty help prepare students for lives of discovery, success in their professions, and meaningful contributions to our world.
Jepson turns 25

A quarter of a century ago, Richmond launched the nation’s most ambitious experiment in leadership studies with the creation of the Jepson School of Leadership Studies. As the school completes its 25th year, it’s now a model for leadership programs around the world.

The school’s anniversary has offered a moment for both celebration of its development and reflection on the school’s role as a pathfinder in the study of responsible leadership. It also marks a moment for looking ahead to the next quarter-century and beyond.

“Change is certain. Leadership ensures that change is intentional,” reads Jepson’s website.

For Jepson, who earned undergraduate and master’s degrees from Richmond’s business school in 1964 and 1975, the gift to establish the nation’s first school dedicated to leadership studies was both a continuation of the couple’s philanthropy to the University and an investment in a dream. He said the lessons of leadership that served him well in the companies he built were ones he began learning through opportunities he had at Richmond as a student.

“I thought much about it after leaving,” he told students during a 2010 talk. He said he asked himself: What if more of them had “the opportunity to learn more about themselves, more about people and how to interact with people, and more about how to change the world for the better?”

In 25 years, the Jepson School has answered that question for more than 1,400 alumni who work in fields as diverse as health care, business, government, education, and the nonprofit sector. Dean Sandra Peart, speaking at the anniversary celebration, said the school is prepared to continue its tradition of pathfinding.

“There is an urgent need for leadership in all walks of life,” she said. “We will continue to up our game and to be the best teachers and scholars of leadership studies.”

Accolades

Reputation rises

Rankings season brought national recognition to Richmond just as prospective students begin narrowing their college searches.

The University landed its highest-ever spot, No. 23, on the annual rankings of liberal arts institutions by U.S. News & World Report. UR also rose six spots, to No. 20, on its “Best Value Schools” list and made its lists for best study abroad, most Pell Grant recipients, and highest international student enrollment.

On The Wall Street Journal’s annual list of the nation’s top 1,000 colleges, Richmond jumped 13 spots to No. 61, putting it among the nation’s top 6 percent. The Robins School of Business ranked 21st, up six places, in the second annual ranking of business schools by Poets & Quants, which covers undergraduate business education news.

ACCOLADES

Jepson turns 25

ANNIVERSARY

THINK CRITICALLY, REASON ETHICALLY

"Change is certain. Leadership ensures that change is intentional," reads Jepson’s website.

Sharp views

Both of Virginia’s majority party candidates for governor, the former president and CEO of the Newseum, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and immigration activist came to campus this fall for public conversations facilitated by President Ronald A. Crutcher on some of the most hotly debated topics of our time.

The speakers, here for the Sharp Viewpoint Speakers Series, were greeted by full houses in the Queally Center. The 2017–18 series concludes March 22 when Crutcher hosts political strategist Karl Rove.

“It’s up to us, as citizens, to engage in debate, open ourselves to perspectives that differ from our own, and actively participate in our democracy,” Crutcher said.

For more information about the Sharp Series, go to richmond.edu/sharp.
QUOTATION

“I call it bedazzlement.”

JOANNA DRELL, associate professor of history, as quoted by Bustle.com talking about Medieval women’s use of fabric and embellishment on their shoes. The practice signaled excessive wealth at a time when sumptuary laws limited outward signs of “immoderation, luxury, and vanity” by women, she added.

DISCOVERY

Old forest, new frogs

A massive elephant skull hangs from the ceiling of Rafael de Sá’s lab in Gottwald Center for the Sciences. Suspended near it are giant bones from a whale’s jaw. But it was something minuscule that recently landed de Sá in his field’s international spotlight: itty-bitty humming frogs.

De Sá headed up a National Science Foundation project that used DNA techniques and minute observations to identify three new species of frogs in Brazil. Members of a genus called Chiasmocleis, they live most of their lives underground, emerging just a few weeks a year for what scientists call “exploitive breeding.” Their “humming frog” colloquial name comes from the telltale sound they make to attract a mate.

This amorous humming was de Sá’s siren song when he was out in the field searching for them, he told the online science publication Mongabay. “You recognize the call … and we walk until we find the point where they’re calling,” he said. “If it’s a good night, we may end up out until 3 or 4 in the morning.”

Early DNA analysis signaled that some of his specimens were members of three previously undiscovered species. Close anatomical analysis identified distinguishing characteristics. “It’s not that one is red and one is blue,” he told Mongabay.

The discovery is significant in part because of where it happened, in Brazil’s Atlantic Forest. This 330 million-acre area has been subject to massive deforestation — up to 85 percent of it — but still rivals the Amazon for biodiversity, according to the Nature Conservancy.

“With about one-third of frogs listed as endangered, anything we can do to continue to study frogs, especially identifying new species, is paramount in influencing bio-conservation efforts and policies,” he said.

IN THE NEWS

When media cover news and events, they come to Richmond for perspective and expertise. Here’s a sample of recent stories that put the University in the news:

The Washington Post

The Washington Post sought expertise from psychology professor SCOTT ALLISON on combating sexual harassment. One technique? Creating strong protections against retaliation for people who report it. “What we’re talking about,” he said, “is making it easier for people to do the right thing.”

C-SPAN

During the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation conference broadcast on C-SPAN, Richmond Law professor KIMBERLY ROBINSON said the nation’s funding model for schools is “broken, inefficient, and ineffective. We need to push for an actual federal right to education that gives you a right to go to federal court when the state is denying you equal access to an excellent education.”

The Christian Science Monitor

The Christian Science Monitor discussed Buddhism and the Rohingya crisis with religious studies professor SCOTT DAVIS. “[While] there is a romantic, more often than not, Western and academic vision of Buddhism as pacifist, … the urge to protect the community and disseminate the teachings has been tied to the use of military force,” he said.

Inside Higher Ed

Inside Higher Ed asked GIL VILLANUEVA, dean of admission, about the growth of early-action admission programs, which are popular with prospective students. “If their chance of gaining admission is higher and they can know well before the spring, then it’s a no-brainer for them,” he said.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

There will be “more strong rhetoric, more saber rattling” in the near future, predicted political science professor MONTI DATTA during a Richmond Times-Dispatch panel discussion on American-North Korean tensions. “But thankfully cooler heads will prevail in, I think, President Trump’s National Security Council.”
Hidden treasure

In the first half of the 20th century, 1905 Richmond College graduate David Carver took dozens of trips to China and taught at the Provincial School in Nanking from 1907 to 1911. He also brought Chinese culture to UR, donating more than 140 Chinese ceramics. Selections of these ceramics have been on display for years in the Lora Robins Gallery. But one of his donations, made in the 1960s, was tucked away in a decorative chest and forgotten for more than 50 years.

This hidden treasure re-emerged when the admission office staff relocated from Sarah Brunet Hall to the new Queally Center and someone opened the chest. That’s when another Spider with an interest in Chinese culture began studying the textiles.

“If you look at the symbolism of the pieces, they correspond clearly with symbols that have been present in Chinese artistic tradition for centuries,” said the researcher, Marcin Jerzewski, ’18. He is now curating an exhibit of the textiles called “Stitching Culture: Chinese Embroideries from the Carver Collection” that opens in the University Museums Feb. 8.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to work with material that has not seen the light of day for 50 years,” said Richard Waller, director of museums. Jerzewski, a double major in political science and Chinese studies, is fluent in Chinese and studied abroad in Taipei, Taiwan, working at the National Palace Museum. He said its museum was “the greatest place” to research Chinese culture and hopes to share Chinese art at Richmond.

“I have a strong personal interest in the arts,” he said, “but with most of my academic endeavors, I tend to focus on the social and political dimension of however we define China.”

—Stacey Dec, ’20

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EVENTS

Rams, part. 1
2.18 Robins Center
Women’s basketball ranked higher than VCU in the A-10 coaches’ preseason poll. Cheer the team on as they prove the coaches right. #spiderpride

“Why Feminism (Still) Matters”
2.21 The Jepson Leadership Forum hosts Jessica Valenti, founder of the much-read Feministing.com blog and a columnist for The Guardian. jepson.richmond.edu

Converge
3.02–04 Alice Jepson Theatre The spring concert by the University Dancers showcases innovation and excellence year after year. Among the annual highlights are debuts of student choreography. dance.richmond.edu

Rams, part. 2
3.07 Robins Center
Cue the cheers as the Ram men make their annual visit. Richmond alumni crushed VCU in last year’s Battle for the Capitol giving challenge. richmond.spiders.com

#SpiderPride
3.14 Our third annual National Spider Day celebration is coming. Watch your email and @urichmond on social media for ways to celebrate your Spider Pride with fellow Spiders.

Influencer
3.22 Jepson Alumni Center President George W. Bush’s influential deputy chief of staff closes the Sharp Viewpoint Series, which engages thought leaders on the issues of our time. richmond.edu/sharp

On writing
3.28 Brown-Alley Room The Writers Series hosts Mohsin Hamid, whose novel The Reluctant Fundamentalist was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize. english.richmond.edu/writers-series

Blues for Mister Charlie
4.19–22 The Richmond and VCU theater departments, in partnership with the African American Repertory Theatre of Virginia and the Conciliation Project, present James Baldwin’s eloquent examination of the wounds of race as part of this year’s Tucker-Boatwright Festival of Literature and the Arts. modlin.richmond.edu

DANCE LIKE EVERYONE’S WATCHING

The University is in the midst of a significant investment in its arts facilities. The newest examples are the fall opening of a new 1,940-square-foot dance studio and 1,436-square-foot acting-directing studio in the Modlin Center.

“Aftr the first day I taught in the new space, I did shed a few tears,” said Anne Van Gelder, director of the dance program. “The space was designed with our students in mind.”
LIVE LONG AND PROSPER

Alexander Bruno, ‘20, traveled with classmates in fall 2017 to Nova Scotia’s “blue zone,” a place where centenarians thrive, as part of their Sophomore Scholars in Residence course on longevity and happiness.

OCT. 14
1 Eighteen of us arrive in Halifax, rent minivans, and drive through the Nova Scotian countryside, awestruck by the color range of autumn’s palette. After an hour, a lighthouse appears on the horizon.
2 We hop out at Peggy’s Cove and gaze at the intricate rock formations jutting toward the Atlantic Ocean. We snap landscape shots and inhale the cool, salty air. We made it.

OCT. 15
3 At the Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance and then split into three groups to interview five centenarians and one 95-year-old.
4 Phyllis Creaser, a 101-year-old living in nearby Riverport, invites my group into the home her late husband built 82 years ago. She sits immobile in her chair and kicks her feet as she tells us of her recent loss of the ability to walk. When we ask her what she would do if she got her legs back for a day, she says, “I’d go crazy.”
5 Back in Lunenburg, we visit Lilian Hall, a 95-year-old war bride born in Britain who was a nurse during World War II. She captivates us with stories of the Blitz bombings and tells us how she met her husband, a member of a British military band, in a bar she frequented to watch him play.
6 After the war, they moved to Nova Scotia, where they ran a supermarket for two decades. They traveled the world together, once taking the same route the British military band took from Sicily to Holland.

OCT. 16
She expresses grief over friends and family she has outlived and recalls her working days fondly. She leaves us with some parting wisdom: “Keep up good work. Never give that up.”
She attributes her longevity to her faith and attitude. “You just have to get up and do it,” she says.

OCT. 17
5 At the Division of Geriatric Medicine at Dalhousie University in Halifax, we meet two experts on aging who explain the importance of quality of life considerations when discussing treatment options with patients. The biggest takeaway is that the best predictor of future health is present health. That night, we fly to Boston.
6 At the airport, we board the plane grateful for this opportunity and inspired to make healthy choices that lead to long, happy lives.
Ms. Hall’s words echo in my ears: “You just have to get up and do it.”

OCT. 18
After a morning wandering Quincy Market, we discuss longevity at Boston University School of Medicine with a doctor who runs the largest centenarian study in the world. Eighty-five percent of centenarians are female, he says, a disparity he attributes to heart attacks and strokes related to higher testosterone levels in men. But the men who make it this far, he says, are generally healthier than the women.
He attributes 30 percent of life expectancy to genetics and 70 percent to nongenetic factors, including socializing, high cognitive activity, low levels of neuroticism, exercise, having interests, and not smoking. Based on these factors alone, he tells us, 90 is a very achievable age.
At the airport, we board the plane grateful for this opportunity and inspired to make healthy choices that lead to long, happy lives.

From Photographs courtesy of Alexander Bruno, ‘20

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From Photographs courtesy of Alexander Bruno, ‘20
TOUGH LISTENER No city put Confederate monuments in places of honor quite like Richmond. Historian and leadership studies professor Julian Hayter is among three University faculty on a mayor-appointed eight-person committee gathering public input on what, if anything, to do with them today.

History and public service are both complicated negotiations. Combine the two, and the difficulties increase exponentially.

One of the toughest things about being a part of the monuments commission is coming to terms with public service. On the one hand, as foreign as this may sound to academics like me, public service often requires people divorce their ideas from the general will of the public — listening is critical. On the other hand, the mayor asked the commissioners to bring their expertise to bear on public sentiment — the public needs to listen as well. This negotiation is, at its core, democratic.

As contentious as the monuments debate has been, it’s grounded in the principles of democracy. Listening is the essential component of this commission’s charge. Democracies derive power and meaning from representation. You can’t neutralize people with whom you disagree; that’s been the problem with American political development for centuries. It’s been too exclusionary. Take Jim Crow, for instance. People used the political apparatus to remove other people from the democratic process. For much of this country’s history, paternalism, oligarchy, and exclusion characterized government. Ultimately, Confederate symbolism represents this impulse in American history — it’s a dark chapter.

As a historian, I advocate for addition more than subtraction. At times, that means coming to terms with sources that are disturbing. I’ve held in my hands letters to politicians from the Ku Klux Klan. Here’s how this experience relates to my charge on the commission, as I see it.

If I allowed my personal proclivities to get in the way of how I read sources or if I refused to read sources because they’re offensive, I wouldn’t be doing my job.

The commission’s charge is similar, in many ways — we’re coming to terms with the sources while trying to facilitate civil discourse. Some people are reluctant to admit their ancestors fought and died for an ignoble cause, so it’s been difficult, yet surprisingly refreshing.

The toughest part? How do you engage in civil discourse with someone who doesn’t believe that Confederates were white supremacists? In my case, I draw on the tools that informed my training as a historian. Instead of mythologizing about the past, I ask people to think about historical actors on their own terms. Negotiating primary sources has become more difficult recently, particularly given the level of misinformation floating around, but it really is the only way to move the conversation forward.

Here’s what the commission is really trying to do — and, while it may not appear as radical as what New Orleans and Baltimore did with their monuments, it has far-reaching implications. We’re trying to recast the story of Jim Crow and the Lost Cause so that people 50 years from now will have a better understanding of the history.

Ultimately, I think most people are on board with this approach. This is the refreshing component.

In fact, the fringe voices aren’t even close to a majority of the responses from the public. In the online comments, comparatively few people said either “Don’t do anything,” or, “Tear them down.” Most people were in the middle, wanting to add more meaningful context to Monument Avenue.

This is really a referendum on optimism in a time of incivility. I think most people are decent, but the voices of reason are being drowned out by a fraction of the American people.

There’s anonymity on the Monument Avenue Commission’s website, and yes, people have been shockingly predictable in their hatred for or support of the monuments. But those in the middle have been shockingly predictable in their hatred for or support of the monuments.

That’s where the real debate has been happening, in the middle.

But what context will we be adding? That opens up a Pandora’s box of its own.
Sophomore innovation

Read left to right, the three mastheads prominently displayed on keybodo.com — The Collegian, then Reader’s Digest, then Smithsonian.com — are a road map for tracing two Spiders’ success with a product they began developing as Richmond sophomores.

The product, Keybodo, is a keyboard cover with raised letters that creates letter-specific tactile sensations and can help reduce typing errors. Will Klingner, ’17, and Jeff Weinert, ’17, who developed it, made a prototype and tested it with elementary school students. They reported back that they could feel when they made a mistake. It’s now being tested in more than 100 schools.

The idea seems obvious in retrospect, they told Smithsonian.com.

“We think that’s a good sign,” Klingner said. “The good ideas are the ones where you say ‘How is it that nobody thought of this before?’”

Broadening who goes abroad

Approximately two-thirds of Richmond undergraduates now study abroad at some point. Three of them recently studied in Germany, Kazakhstan, and Spain with the support of Gilman scholarships.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is open to undergraduates who receive Pell Grants, which target students with significant financial need. A Washington Post analysis in October showed that 16 percent of Richmond’s first-year students in fall 2015 received Pell Grants, a figure that outpaces half of the Ivy League and reflects Richmond’s commitment to access.

Richmond has had 18 Gilman Scholars since the program began in 2001. In the summer of 2017, the University created the office of scholars and fellowships to help more students learn about and apply for nationally competitive opportunities that advance their educational goals.

A grade, then a gift

This fall in the basement of the Modlin Center, 10 students sorted through bright fabrics to pick out prints for arms, legs, bellies, and noses. They cut them out and oh-so-carefully stitched them together and then stuffed them. It was a teddy bear-making assignment for theater professor Johann Stegmeir’s Introduction to Costume Design course, but these bears aren’t just any class project.

When the bears are done, each one finds a new home with a patient at Children’s Hospital of Richmond at VCU.

“We start this course learning hand-sewing techniques before moving on to machine sewing,” Stegmeir said. “The bear project isn’t just a good deed; it also offers the students insight into what it takes to be a theater artist. “In the theater, you want to do a good job and take ownership of your work, but everything you make, you give away to the audience, whether you’re an actor, a designer, or building costumes,” Stegmeir said. “The students fall in love with their bears as they work on them; they have ownership, and then they give them away. It helps them understand what life as a theater artist is like.”

—Andrea Johnson Almoite, ’99

QUOTATION

“We found an industry that has not changed in probably a century, and it was time for a little bit of disruption.”

HEIDI DRAUSCHAK, L’18, quoted by Richmond Times-Dispatch about CrowdLobby LLC, a company she founded with three fellow law students that uses a Kickstarter model of online fundraising to allow everyday people to pool their resources so they can hire lobbyists to advocate for specific issues.

A BEAR’S COMFORT

A stitching assignment teaches lessons about service, too.
When students arrive on campus every August, they hear a consistent message during orientation, from their residential advisers, and elsewhere: To do well, you need to be well.

Universities across the country are increasingly developing holistic approaches to wellness. Richmond is positioning itself to become a higher education leader in this area with the announcement in October of the creation of a new Health and Well-being Unit that brings together recreation and wellness, student health, and counseling and psychological services (CAPS). It is headed up by Tom Roberts, who previously led recreation and wellness efforts.

“In our University’s mission, we make the bold claim that we prepare students for lives of purpose,” said Ronald A. Crutcher, president. “It is imperative that a holistic approach to their well-being be part of our efforts if we are to ensure they have an opportunity to thrive as part of this academic community and to position them for long-term success in their lives.” Support services across campus reinforce this message and offer multifaceted opportunities for wellness — everything from healthy dining options to wellness coursework, sustainable lifestyle education, psychological services, the student health center, exercise classes, and even study breaks complete with puppies to pet.

Students are getting the message. Last year, more than 3,500 used the Weinstein Center for Recreation and Wellness, and more than 1,600 registered for wellness classes in fall 2017. The new unit will serve the health and well-being needs of faculty and staff, too.

“Integrating our efforts and expertise and aligning our resources creates opportunities to reach a broader audience and gives us a unified voice and message,” Roberts said. “All of our programs and services benefit from the shared knowledge, resources, and access.”
SARAH MELVIN is a bona fide pro when it comes to gratitude. As director of donor relations, she is a key figure behind the thousands of thank-you notes the University sends to donors annually. She’s also a mom whose children grew up learning how to write thank-you notes. These are her tips for how to do it well.

1. BE TIMELY
   It is part of the expression of gratitude to respond in a timely fashion. It helps people know that you appreciate the gift when you stop, take a pause, and write a thank-you note. It also confirms that the gift was received. In the online giving era, it is appreciated to know when a gift is received by the University. It is especially appreciated to know when a gift was received. It sends to donors annually. She’s also a mom who is a key figure behind the University that is such a donor for a gift to the University, talk about the impact of the gift. You might say, “Thank you so much for the birthday check. I’m going to use it to go out and celebrate with my friends, and I’m going to be thinking about you when I do.”

2. BE PERSONAL
   Whether you are writing a thank-you note to your grandparents for a birthday check or to a donor for a gift to the University, talk about the personal and how it will make a difference in our students’ lives. We want the donor to be able to say, “This is exactly why I made the gift, because I know the University appreciates it, and they’re going to put it to good use.”

3. BE SINCERE
   Remember your purpose. I’ve read lovely letters before that don’t actually say “thank you.” They might refer to the gift or talk about its impact, but sometimes people will just forget to say thank you. Sometimes we don’t think it is necessary to officially thank those who are closest to us. Each and every gift, no matter the size, is a gesture of generosity and should be acknowledged.

4. DON’T GET HUNG UP ON MEDIUM
   In our office, the lion’s share of thank-you letters are sent via traditional mail, but we do email, too. There are different schools of thought on whether a mailed note should be handwritten or typed. Certainly, it’s more personal if it’s handwritten. However, not everyone has the best handwriting. A typed note that’s timely, personal, and sincere can be just as heartwarming as a handwritten note.

5. BUT DO THINK ABOUT TONE
   Are you going to use a formal salutation or an informal salutation? That’s a judgment call sometimes. When in doubt, go formal.

6. CONSIDER THE POWER OF THE P.S.
   A handwritten postscript at the end of a typed thank-you note can make the note a little more informal while really taking the personalization to the next level. We have a University president who is great about writing personal P.S. notes. Dr. Crutcher often further customizes his acknowledgement letters by adding a personal note like “It was great to see you at the game on Saturday. Look forward to seeing you again soon.”

7. RECOGNIZE THE LESS-OBSVIOUS OCCASIONS
   Use opportunities like Valentine’s Day, Mother’s and Father’s Day, or even your grandparents’ birthdays to write a note thanking someone for how they impact your life. And be sure you write one after a job interview. It may distinguish you as a candidate, and it’s a nice opportunity to demonstrate that you’re the best person for the job based on your soft skills.

8. PASS ALONG THE TRADITION
   My parents were sticklers for it growing up. God forbid Aunt So-and-so should come back at your mother and say she never received a thank-you note. You didn’t want that to happen in my house. When my son went off to college, I reminded him to write a note to his grandparents, who had given him a little check before he went away. I said to him, “Make sure you say thank you for the money, but make sure you also say thank you for 18 years of support, because that’s what they’ve done for you over your life.”

A thank-you note is a bit of a lost art, and it’s up to us to share it with the next generation to make sure that appreciation continues in our professional lives and our personal lives.

A number of alumni gifts come via calls from students, who have a chance to say thank-you personally. Here are a few of their most memorable recent moments on the phone:

Jessie Basilla, ’21
“I was talking with a younger alum about a class project I was struggling with. He told me, ‘I’ll send a donation only if you set up a meeting with your professor.’ And then he followed up with me.”

Nimisha Bangalore, ’20
“Sometimes we talk to people who came here under the G.I. Bill. Coming back from war and beginning an education, that just blew my mind.”

Megan Quinn, ’20
“One time I was talking with an alum who was a member of my sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. Once we started talking, we realized she’s part of my big-little family, eight or so generations apart.”

UNIVERSITY of RICHMOND NEWS
Hardt is here

Athletic director John Hardt, whose tenure began with the new year, wasted no time defining his focus during his introductory press conference in November: “Our No. 1 priority is always going to be the student-athlete,” he said at the beginning of his remarks.

His record shows that this was his top concern at Bucknell University, where he was director of athletics and recreation since 2000. Bucknell boasts one of the nation’s top graduation rates, and its teams regularly compete for championships across more than two dozen sports. Before Bucknell, he had positions at Michigan State and Syracuse. He played football at the University of Iowa and was a member of its 1982 Rose Bowl team.

Returning to Richmond was a personal passion and is a member of the University’s executive leadership team.

“IT’S a subtle thing,” he said. “Spiders will be great ambassadors for this University and will help spread the good word from coast to coast.”

Bucknell has won the President’s Cup — which rewards competitiveness across sports — 18 times in the 27-year history of the Patriot League. Hardt said his measure of competitive success will be similarly broad-based at Richmond.

“When we recruit a prospective student-athlete to become a Richmond Spider, we recruit them to the University of Richmond to be successful,” he said. “It doesn’t matter if you’re on the field hockey team or the football team. We’re going to make good on that promise.”

He had no doubt about how to get off to the right start at Richmond.

“The first thing I need to do is meet and individually,” he said. “Spider Athletics will be an actively engaged partner with leadership to reflect positively on the University enterprise. We will be great ambassadors for this University and will help spread the good word from coast to coast.”

Spiders get a look

Quarterback Kyle Lauletta scored an invitation to the NFL combine, becoming the fifth Spider in eight years to attend. He finished his Richmond career as the program’s all-time leader in passing yards, passing touchdowns, and total offense, and is the first Spider since Greg Lilly in 1992 to be named CAA Offensive Player of the Year. Lauletta was also a finalist for the Walter Payton Award, which recognizes the nation’s top offensive FCS player.

The NFL Players Association invited tight end Garrett Hudson to participate in the annual Collegiate Bowl in the Rose Bowl Coliseum Jan. 20.

Double top-five finishes

Junior Colleen Carney paced the Spiders with an impressive fifth-place finish at the Atlantic 10 cross-country championships in October. Teammates Kylie Regan, Amanda Corbosiero, Shelby Cain, Ave Grosenheider, and Peyton McGovern all joined her as top-20 finishers and the team placed second overall.

The A-10 named three Spiders — Carney, Regan, and Corbosiero — to the Women’s All-Conference Team. Regan, a senior, also earned one of just six spots on the Academic All-Conference team, which recognizes the best performers on the trails and in the classroom. Their first-year teammate Caroline Robelen made the A-10’s All-Rookie Team.

On the men’s side, senior Johnny Hogue led the pack for much of the A-10 championship race and finished fifth, just 13 seconds behind the individual leader. He was also named to the All-Conference Team.

Parson tops 1,000

Guard Micaela Parson joined women basketball’s 1,000 point club early in her senior season, hitting the mark in a game Dec. 1. She is the 24th player in program history to hit the milestone and the 11th under head coach Michael Shafer.

For current results and schedules for all Spider teams, go to richmondspiders.com or download the free Richmond Spiders Gameday app from your favorite app store.
CLOSE COMPETITORS One of the incoming recruits that senior captain Micaela Parson, ’18, welcomed to the women’s basketball team was a First-Team All-State player who won two state championships in high school. This recruit also happened to be her younger sister, Alex, ’21.

It would be easy to think Alex Parson is following in her older sister Micaela’s footsteps. Both are interested in biology and pre-med, both claim a love for the Hellenic Dining Center, and both play basketball for the University of Richmond. Though Micaela jokes of Alex simply “wanting to follow in my footsteps” now that both are Spiders, this idea of being “Little Micaela” almost deterred Alex from committing to Richmond.

“We sound alike, we look alike, we act alike, but at the same time we’re different people,” Alex said, adding that sometimes they get double-takes on campus. “We’re [also] two different players. I play my game, and she plays her game.”

Their different strengths ultimately make them a good pair and Richmond a better team, they said. They grew up playing against each other at the hoop in their backyard in North Chesterfield, Virginia, before they first played together four years ago at Monacan High School.

“She was always a shooter, and I would always be a person who would get to the basket because she was so much smaller than I was, so I would push her down and get to the basket,” Micaela, a senior, said. “But then she learned to stay away from me and just shoot pretty far shots, and the majority would go in.”

Alex, a freshman and three years younger than Micaela, is 5 feet 6 inches tall and plays point guard. Micaela (on right, clearly not fouling her sister) plays two guard and is slightly taller at 5 feet 8 inches. The two of them play to each other’s strengths and weaknesses, bringing, as their coaches noted, different things to the team.

Micaela said she used to be bothered when people said Alex was just as good or even better than she was. But as their last year playing together began, Micaela started working to ensure that Alex is better by the time Alex graduates in 2021.

“I’m telling her things that I didn’t find out until this year that would probably just make her a much better player throughout her four years here,” Micaela said. “I’m enjoying it. It’s just a blessing having it again.”

Although they play together now, their paths to basketball at Richmond differed tremendously. Micaela started playing against the boys when she was 5 years old and never stopped, although she does admit to considering quitting to play softball in sixth grade.

“My parents just knew I wanted to play a sport,” Micaela said. “They say I started running before I was walking.”

Alex did not start playing until about the sixth grade and conceded that her first year was very rough, in part because she had been a cheerleader. Micaela calls it “comical.”

Now that they both attend Richmond, they say their competition is healthy as they push each other to improve every day and take advantage of the last time they will play on a team together before Micaela graduates in May.

But they did have one big problem to overcome during preseason practices: Alex couldn’t guard Micaela because she couldn’t stop laughing.

“She can literally make me laugh at any moment, and it’s bad,” Alex said. “We were doing a staring eye competition for a media day, and I took one look at her and just fell on the floor laughing so hard.”
AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SPIDER CONVERSATION STARTERS
ERSATION

With this debut volume, we hereby FUEL THE FLAMES OF INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY with the oxygen of stories about remarkable, complicated, and noteworthy Spiders from years past and present.

By Kim Catley and Matthew Dewald
Artwork by Katie McBride

OLD GLORY
The American flag that draped Abraham Lincoln's coffin on his final journey home, the flag that Marines raised at Iwo Jima, and the flag that Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin planted on the moon — all were Annin Flagmaker flags. Today CARTER BEARD, R'87, the sixth generation of his family at Annin, is the company's president. It's still churning out Old Glories that regularly wave above the White House, at state capitolis, and on front porches everywhere.

HUMAN RIGHTS
"Hooligan?" The Collegian asked in 2009 when the police in Baku, Azerbaijan, arrested political activist ADNAN HAJIZADA, '05, and charged him with hooliganism. Reporters Without Borders says outspoken journalists and bloggers like Hajizada faced a tough choice in authoritarian Azerbaijan: "Shut up, flee abroad, or be jailed on trumped-up charges." Hajizada chose to speak up, holding a press conference while dressed as a donkey to ridicule government corruption. His arrest came two weeks later. He was freed in 2010 after an international outcry and complaints by President Obama to Azerbaijan's president.
When Dan Lochner, ’05, hiked Mount Everest as a student, it put him just one peak away from becoming the youngest person to complete the Seven Summits. He set his sights on Antarctica’s Vinson Massif, but transportation conflicts proved a mountain too high to climb. Another young climber beat him to the peak. In 2013, Zoe Romano, ’09, ran the 2,000-mile Tour de France course. That’s right: ran. On foot. The elevation changes were equivalent to climbing Mount Everest three and a half times.

At 80 years old, 1892 grad George Whitfield rode his bicycle from Washington, D.C., to Lawrence, Kansas, via Ithaca, New York, in 1953, back before there was an interstate highway system. He made the return trip by train. It was four times cheaper but not much fun, he told this magazine. Open-water swimming’s “Triple Crown” — circling Manhattan Island, crossing the English Channel, and swimming from the coast of California to Santa Catalina Island — hasn’t been enough for Courtney Paulk, ’00. She’s working on nonstop double runs of all three swims. Last year, she tackled two trips around Manhattan Island and across the Catalina Channel. Later this year, she’ll swim across the English Channel and back.
THE PACK RATS

The cliché that history is written by the victors overlooks the role of the pack rats who stash everything away for future generations to re-examine. 1896 graduate Charles Graves gave us a key photographic record of much of the first half of the 20th century. He was founder and general manager of Wide World Photos, the photo agency of The New York Times, sold to AP in 1941.

George Freedley, R'25, collected a Tony Award in 1946 on behalf of the New York Public Library’s landmark Theatre Collection, which he created.

And then there’s Steve Tilley, R’69. For years, he oversaw the National Archives’ JFK Assassination Records Collection. In 2003, Newhouse News Service did a story on one of the archives’ most iconic items: the clothing that Jacqueline Kennedy wore on the morning of her husband’s assassination. “Everybody remembers the pink suit,” Tilley said. It has never been displayed publicly.

THE REFORMED REFORMER

During the Civil War, J.L.M. Curry, an early Richmond College faculty member and trustee, fought the Confederacy’s misguided battle as a lieutenant colonel but then committed the rest of his life to advancing education for all Virginians. After the war, he became an agent for the Peabody and Slater funds, promoting free public education for all races across the South. The New York Times described his campaign as “bringing home unwelcome truth to unwilling ears,” and it drew praise from Booker T. Washington in his autobiography Up From Slavery.

SPAC E

You knew we’d get to Leland Melvin, R’86, chemistry major-turned-NFL draftee, turned-engineer, turned-astronaut with two space missions, turned-Richmond trustee on a mission to advance education at his alma mater. But he’s not our only Spider with ties to space. Desiree Stuart-Alexander, W’52, was NASA’s first female lunar geologist, and Neil Armstrong carried one of her maps with him on his first trip to the moon. NASA scientist Amy Snyder Hale, ’93, brought us pictures of other worlds through her work on cameras aboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and the Juno probe that flew to Jupiter.

Alongside the triumph of space, Spiders have also seen tragedy. Manfred “Dutch” von Ehrenfried, R’50, was assistant flight director for Project Gemini and supported the first American spacewalk by Ed White in 1964. Three years later, he was at mission control during a national tragedy — the fire aboard the Apollo 1 module during a launch rehearsal. He heard the last words of the three astronauts who perished.

TAKE NOTE

When it comes to history-making news, Spiders have held pens that earned Pulitzers. Historian Douglas Southall Freeman, R’1904, won two for his multi-volume biographies of George Washington and Robert E. Lee.

Dan Petty, ’09, was part of the Denver Post team that won the 2013 Pulitzer for the paper’s coverage of the Aurora movie theater massacre.

Chris Hamby, ’08, received his Pulitzer for a year-long investigation into coal miners and black lung for the Center for Public Integrity. He quickly signaled where journalism is headed by jumping to a gig at BuzzFeed News where journalism is headed by jumping to a gig at BuzzFeed News.

Paul Duke, R’47, who hosted PBS’s Washington Week, a model of civil discourse, for 20 years. A viewer once sent Duke a letter complaining about the show’s “outrageous bias.” Duke asked, “Biased which way?” The viewer answered, “Biased both ways!” A sure sign he was doing it right.

BE TTER NUMBERS

Alice Turner Schafer, W’36, took Dean May Keller’s advice to “take mathematics courses on the boys’ side of the lake” and became a pioneer in her male-dominated field. She went on to a career that eventually took her to Wellesley College and was among the founders of the Association of Women in Mathematics. Its annual prize for an outstanding undergraduate woman majoring in mathematics is named for her.

WEBSITE

BuzzFeedNEWS
Few people in human history have had a role in saving as many lives as John Millar, R’56. He did it by leading the Centers for Disease Control’s global smallpox eradication program. Millar enlisted and trained thousands of Africans to administer more than 100 million vaccinations in areas where it still tenaciously spread in the late 1960s and ’70s. The World Health Assembly declared the disease eradicated worldwide in 1980. Smallpox killed an estimated half a billion people in the century before eradication. Not a single naturally occurring case has happened since.

Several early and mid-20th-century Spider doctors also broke new ground. The former chair of the pediatrics department at the New York University School of Medicine said Saul Krugman, ADTD, ’33, did “more to eliminate pediatric infectious diseases than any other person ever” by leading the development of vaccinations for measles, rubella, and, in particular, hepatitis B. Alfred Steiner, R’30, was not only President Herbert Hoover’s doc; he did pioneering research into the link between high cholesterol and heart disease, landing him praise in Time magazine in 1938.

Milton Ende, R’40, wondered why newborns rarely got cancer and speculated that it must be because of special properties in their blood. With that insight, he and his brother Norman Ende, R’45, became pioneers in the field of embryonic stem cell research, a field whose possibilities are still emerging with potential application for treating conditions as diverse as heart disease, cancer, Parkinson’s disease, spinal cord injury, burns, diabetes, arthritis, and others.

Other advances are more modest but no less important. Karen Miller, W’78, co-founded Dome Imaging, which developed the technology that allowed medical professionals to display X-rays on PC monitors. Before he became the name we all know for his remarkable generosity, E. Claiborne Robins, R’31 and H’60, developed over-the-counter remedies that became household names of their own — Robitussin for the common cold, Chapstick for dry lips, and more.
STATE OF BEING

Jess H. Walters, R’52, helped create a state. He was on the scene in Hawaii in 1959 as liaison between the territorial and federal governments during the transition to statehood. He said the real work came when they restructured 109 territorial agencies into fewer than 20 state departments and aligned local laws with federal ones and the new state constitution.

THE HEROES

When Sean Baran, ’07, stepped off a double-decker bus in London’s Edgware Underground Station on July 7, 2005, he saw people fleeing into the street. Terrorist bomb attacks had just devastated passengers on three trains and a bus. While some understandably ran away, Baran, an EMT, ran forward, becoming a first responder and saving lives during the worst terrorist attack in Britain in two decades.

Donald Jones II, R’84, was working for a brokerage firm in the World Trade Center in 1993 when terrorists detonated a truck bomb in the complex. He spent the next two and a half hours helping a pregnant woman down the stairs and out of the building. His heroism was recalled when he was one of four Spiders killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Army Col. Thomas H. Felts Sr., R’83, died serving his country outside Baghdad when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. Then the highest-ranking American casualty of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, he had volunteered for the deployment in a war zone to prepare himself to be an effective military teacher. His funeral was held in Cannon Memorial Chapel.

Scott Erwin, ’05, postponed his senior year at Richmond to serve with the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. He taught principles of democracy to Iraqi college students until insurgents ambushed a vehicle in which he rode. He had a long recovery from gunshot wounds to his abdomen and arms but returned to Richmond to finish his degree and go on to the University of Oxford in England on a Rhodes Scholarship.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mary Sue Terry, W’69 and H’86, remains the only woman ever elected to statewide office in Virginia and was the second woman to be any state’s attorney general. Elizabeth Tompkins, W’19, became the first woman to be admitted to the Virginia state bar after being the first to enroll at the University of Virginia’s law school. “It took them one semester to find out that I was not after a husband and another semester to find out that I could do the work,” she told Virginia Law Weekly. “After that everything was fine.”

While Queen Elizabeth II is technically Bermuda’s head of state, Michael Dunkley, R’80, was its head of government. He served as premier of the British territory from 2014 to 2017 and remains a member of parliament today. And yes, he rocks the shorts the island made famous.

BIG IDEAS, BIG BUSINESS

Thank a Spider for every time you’ve boarded a Boeing 747. Malcolm Stamper, R’47, led a team of 50,000 people in engineering, design, and construction, and built the world’s largest factory (the size of 40 football fields) to get the jumbo jet off the ground nearly 50 years ago.

Before Mark Zuckerberg turned dorm dreams into billions with Facebook, there was Josh Abramson, ’03. As a first-year student, Abramson and a childhood friend created CollegeHumor, which after three months was pulling in 600,000+ visitors and $8,000 a month. He sold its parent company, which also included edTees and Vimeo, in 2006. Plenty of others figured out how to make money online because of current trustee Michael Walrath, ’97, who founded Right Media, the company that revolutionized online ad sales in the mid-2000s. Yahoo later purchased it for $850 million — a record deal at the time.

Some entrepreneurs focus on making a simple product really great. Tod Wilson, R’92, owner of Mr. Tod’s Pie Factory, became Shark Tank’s first entrepreneur with his famous sweet potato pie. He landed a deal that he later withdrew, but Tod’s pies are still winning the national taste test.

Behind every top-selling product is a marketing mind. Richard “Dick” Keith, R’55, is the adman whose taglines are stuck in your head, like AT&T’s “Reach Out and Touch Someone” and the Army’s “Be All You Can Be.”
Cue the highlight reel. Here’s two-sport star Brian Jordan, R’89, ranking one spot ahead of Wilt Chamberlain on Sports Illustrated’s list of college athletics’ all-time greats. Here’s Sean Casey, ’99, making three All-Star appearances for the Cincinnati Reds. Here are Dick Tarrant, Johnny Newman, R’86, Greg Beckwith, R’86, and the other giant killers upending Charles Barkley’s Auburn Tigers in 1984 to make NCAA history as the first 15 seed to advance in the big dance.

Dig back deeper, and you’ll find 1941 NFL Rookie of the Year and two-time champion with the Philadelphia Eagles Dick Humbert, R’41 and G’47. And 1957 World Series MVP Lew Burdette, R’49, of the Milwaukee Braves, who pitched a no hitter and about whom Casey Stengel said, “In the years that I’ve managed the Yankees, no pitcher has so successfully and completely confused my hitters.”

Margaret Stender, W’78, who is believed to be the first female scholarship student-athlete at Richmond, brought the WNBA to Chicago as the first president and CEO of the Chicago Sky.

Frank “Gags” Gagliano, R’60, coached 14 American runners to 10 Olympics, and Cynthia Meyer, B’87, represented Canada in three Olympics on its trap shooting team.

Kenyan runner Hillary Tuwei, R’80, would have been an Olympian but for unfortunate timing. In 1976, his country boycotted the games to protest apartheid, and in 1980 it boycotted again to support the U.S. protest of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Still, he was Kenya’s Athlete of the Year in 1975 and Richmond’s captain in 1980. Rebecca Barry, ’15, captained Ireland’s U-18 field hockey team in the European Championships and has made 16 appearances so far for Ireland’s senior team. Becca Wann Taylor, ’14, took home a FIFA gold medal with Team USA as a member of the 2012 World Cup U-20 soccer championship team.

And there was never a model of constancy like Spider women’s basketball player and later coach Ginny Doyle, W’92. She didn’t miss a free throw from March 1, 1991, until Jan. 22, 1992. Her record streak of 66 stood among all players, men and women, for 18 years. Her coach, Tammy Holder, put it best: “It’s part of folklore here.”
Entertain Me

Ever jammed to Janelle Monae? U2? Dr. John? The Dirty Dozen Brass Band? R.E.M.? Harry Connick Jr.? Betsy Averst Alquist, B’82, helped their music get to you. She is a founding partner and co-owner of Music Shed Studio in New Orleans, where all of them have recorded.

Another Spider, Steve Buckingham, R’71, is the Nashville-based producer behind Alicia Bridges’ legendary 1978 disco anthem “I Love the Nightlife” and hits by artists Dolly Parton, Bettye LaVette, Shania Twain, Cat Stevens, Alison Krauss, and others. His work has landed him four Grammys, and he’s placed singles in the top 10 of 11 different radio charts including Pop, Bluegrass, Latin, R&B, and Jazz.

Tangled Webs

Key players in current politics have ties to Richmond Law that show how intertwined the Beltway can be. Richard Cullen, L’77, is the lawyer Vice President Mike Pence hired after President Donald Trump fired FBI Director James Comey, who taught at Richmond Law in the late ‘90s, for his investigation into Trump’s ties to Russian election meddling. Another Richmond faculty member, Sen. Tim Kaine, ran against Pence for the vice president’s spot.

Spiders, Too?

If an honorary University of Richmond degree makes the recipient a Spider, then here’s a sample of noteworthy honorees you could, conceivably, bump into at Reunion Weekend (if they’re still around):

• Chemist Richard Smalley, recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize; biochemist Jane Richardson, who pioneered human understanding of the structure of proteins; and Neil Degrasse Tyson, whom People magazine once dubbed “the sexiest astrophysicist alive.”

• Our 34th president, Dwight D. Eisenhower; current U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson; and former Secretary of State and Secretary of Treasury James A. Baker III.

• Comedian and actor Lily Tomlin, recipient of the Mark Twain Prize and Kennedy Center Honors; Metropolitan Opera soprano superstar Roberta Peters, who received the National Medal of Arts; and Tony Award-winning actor, singer, and dancer Ben Vereen.

• Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia; Elizabeth Lacy, the first woman to serve as a justice on Virginia’s supreme court; and civil rights attorney Oliver Hill, who helped end the legality of “separate but equal.”


The Resistors

After Brown v. Board of Education declared segregated schools unconstitutional, many Virginia school systems responded with defiance, shutting down districts in a program called Massive Resistance. Prince Edward County students Lloyd, C’66, and Mae, C’66, Jackson responded with decades of Massive Persistence. Even though their high school educations were disrupted, they ensured their two daughters graduated from college and then finished their own bachelor’s degrees through Richmond’s School of Continuing Studies.

The first wave of Massive Resistance was over by the time Robert Merhige, L’42 and H’76, was appointed a federal judge, but segregation in Virginia schools remained. Merhige suffered threats, and someone even shot his dog, when he issued pioneering rulings aimed at desegregation in Richmond.

We compiled these entries by digging into old issues of this magazine, The Collegian, and other University publications. Like any historical sources, they reflect the biases and omissions of their times. Help us write Volume 2. Send your ideas to magazine@richmond.edu.
ART FOR SCIENCE’S SAKE
There’s a dance happening in the small notebook that Amanda Kwieraga, ’15, carries with her everywhere, with art and science taking turns as the lead. Notes about the complex concepts she learned in her biology graduate program at the University of Southern California and at her new job at a San Diego biotech startup sit next to sketches that help her untangle stem cell biology, immunology, and disease. The most promising of them become paintings that explore visual interpretations and metaphors.

She begins with scientific concepts and sources but soon shifts to an artist’s perspective. When an idea feels solid, she polishes the sketch in Photoshop and translates it to wood, outlining the design in ink and filling it in with paint.

Take Circuit Cell (image 6). A professor of Kwieraga’s once described cells as robots, able to communicate using pathways that resemble a computer’s. Kwieraga painted a cell with its nucleus resembling a hard drive. Tendrils of circuitry transmit information within the cell and out into its environment. That piece later evolved into a painting of muscle tissue (image 1), each muscle cell with its own CPU reaching out to nearby cells.

“I felt like a lot of scientific art is jumbles of pathways or really intricate drawings of anatomy,” says Kwieraga, who majored in art and biology at Richmond. “I didn’t want to interpret the biology that way. I wanted to make it more conceptual, more fun, more interactive.”

1. “SYNTHETIC MUSCLE”

Cells can communicate with each other through complex, specific pathways—much like a computer motherboard. Here, Kwieraga depicts cell nuclei in muscle fibers as CPU chips, all communicating with one another through a system of interconnected circuitry.
2. “METASTASIS”
There’s a precise moment when cancer cells break away and spread to other tissues, marking the transition to stage four cancer. “It’s curious to see, here’s how metastasis starts,” she says. “And if we can look into if those cells have specific markers for metastasis, perhaps we can prevent tumors from spreading in the future.”

3. “RETINA”
In this literal translation of a microscopy image, Kwieraga wanted to capture the “incredible detail” of the layers of nerves in the inner retina.

4. “ON THE SURFACE”
When she started her series, she wanted to explore cells as conceptual landscapes. In this close-up view of a cell surface, proteins and receptors take on the qualities of Seussian trees, waving against a backdrop of plasma membrane.

5. “NEURONAL FOREST”
“Neurons have dendrites and axons that reach out to other cells and I thought, ‘They kind of look like trees,’” she says. “It’s basically showing the motor neuron as something more abstract.”

6. “CIRCUIT CELL”
“I really liked when my professor said, ‘Cells are like robots,’” she says. “At the same time, I didn’t want to just draw a robot as a cell. So I started thinking about what else has set pathways to communicate with other devices. That’s where the idea for computer circuits came from.”

7. “SYNNOTCH T CELL”
Here, a sickly-looking cell plugs into a synthetic notch T cell that has been engineered to produce a disease-specific response without the off-target effects commonly seen from treatments like chemotherapy. “In this painting,” she says, “it’s telling the cell to create antibodies against that cell. So you see the DNA come out of the nucleus. You see the production and the release of these antibodies.”
THEN FALL, CAESAR

“Appalling” and “in poor taste” critics complained when a Central Park production of Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar dressed the dictator up to resemble President Trump over the summer. But alongside this take was a Richmond-related backstory that went little-noticed outside theater circles. At its center were Joseph Holland, R’32, and the man pretending to attack him in this publicity photo, the legendary Orson Welles.

By Matthew Dewald
IT’S HARD TO PINPOINT EXACTLY WHEN THE TROUBLE BEGAN, when all the wrong elements began to align in all the wrong ways so that on a spring night in 1938, Orson Welles stabbed Joseph Holland, R’32, with a bright steel hunting knife on a Broadway stage in plain view of hundreds.

Maybe it started to go wrong on the late summer day in 1937 when Holland, by then well-known on Broadway, said yes to the title part in a new theater company’s production of Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*. In exchange, he got the Equity minimum $40 a week and what producer John Houseman later called “a dubious sliding scale based on an improbable weekly gross.”

Maybe it was that fall, when Welles emerged from a 10-day retreat in the White Mountains of New Hampshire to present his reworked script and a “suitcase full of notes” for a political statement via a modern, fascist-themed *Caesar* staged with “speed and violence,” he said.

Maybe it was the rehearsal when Welles, as Brutus, threw his dagger at the stage floor in the crucial assassination scene and it stuck, quivered, and reflected an oh-so-right glint of light back at Welles. Other actors later switched to rubber knives, but Welles’ steel one had to be kept after that, even if the freak effect would never be repeated.

Whatever the soothsaying moment of warning, on the night of April 6, 1938, the on-stage stabbing of Caesar went wrong. Welles caught Holland with his blade in the chest and arm. Holland delivered his final lines — “Et tu, Bruté? Then fall, Caesar.” — and then dropped to the stage.

As the scene progressed and the conspirators scattered, one of the actors slipped on Holland’s blood and rose unsteady. Holland lay bleeding for another 10 to 15 minutes until Mark Antony’s “Cry ‘Havoc!’ and let slip the dogs of war” and the stage went black. While the audience applauded in the darkness, worried cast members carried the now-limp Holland out a side door to a taxi, which sped him to Polyclinic Hospital on West 50th Street with his life in the balance after such loss of blood. He was only 27 years old.

The show went on, the actors continuing to slip on Holland’s blood throughout the night’s performance. By the final curtain, Houseman wrote, “it had been pretty well spread around and was beginning to dry.”

How could Holland find himself in such a predicament? What was the calculation behind the reckless choice that put a real blade in Welles’ hand night after night, near miss after near miss, for months on end? The risk is obvious, but what was the reward?

DIRECTORS AND ACTORS ON STAGE AND SCREEN HAVE LONG taken risks to preserve what English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge called “the willing suspension of disbelief.” Writing in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Coleridge wanted his audience to let go of rational skepticism over the undead spirits that animated his poetry. His phrase has survived as useful shorthand for dramatists, whose success depends upon an audience losing awareness of the artifice of the performance they’re watching. It’s why some actors insist on doing their own stunts in films and others consent to being on the receiving end of the thrust of a real dagger. To preserve the illusion of the story, the staging must be seamless, with not a single crack breaking its spell.

It is only within this spell that a work of art can conjure a world that reflects back on our own. Welles’ spell in his landmark *Caesar* production — wrapping Shakespeare sparingly in the trappings of Italian fascism — is an example of a common, if curious, impulse we have when it comes to Shakespeare. Perhaps more than any other storyteller, it’s to the Bard we turn again and again to understand our contemporary lives and politics.

We do it a lot. Just take *Julius Caesar* as an example. Last summer’s Shakespeare in the Park production of *Caesar* by the Public Theater in New York drew outrage and headlines for its Donald Trump-like figure, but he was just the latest in a long line of doppelgangers who have delivered Caesar’s lines before falling. In its coverage of the controversy, CNN...
pointed out that Barack Obama, Margaret Thatcher, and Tony Blair all got similar treatment. Playwright Tony Kushner, writing in the Los Angeles Times, described the Caesar of a 1991 production as “equal parts Huey Long, Lyndon Johnson, Kennedy — noble and dangerous all at once.”

Modern interpretations of other plays are just as numerous, from the reinterpretation of Romeo and Juliet as interracial gang warfare in West Side Story to Ian McKellen’s marvelous Nazi-themed film version of Richard III. Gus Van Sant’s 1991 film My Own Private Idaho reinvents Henry IV with River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves on the back of a motorcycle; Heath Ledger made ’90s teen hearts throb in The Taming of the Shrew remake 10 Things I Hate About You; and Mekhi Phifer brought life to Othello as a lone black basketball player on a boarding school team in the Deep South in the 2001 film O.

“Humans love pattern matching,” said Kristin Bezio, associate professor in the Jeepson School of Leadership Studies and an expert on Elizabethan drama. “We can’t help ourselves. It’s why we see monsters on the coat rack as a child. Your brain is trying to pattern-match everything.”

Shakespeare easily lends himself to such reinterpretation because it’s what he himself is doing in many of his plays, she said. His audience would have understood Julius Caesar, a play about the death of a Roman dictator, as a cautionary tale about the transfer of power in the waning years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who was clearly nearing the end but refused to name a successor.

“They were afraid of returning to the Wars of the Roses,” she said. “They didn’t want to see their country torn apart.”

In Julius Caesar, Shakespeare offered his audience a woeful tale of civil war and considerable bloodshed, but even that would have a way of bringing comfort to uncertain times, she said.

“If we can provide an explanation for what’s happening now, we feel like we have control over it, even if we don’t,” she said. “Being able to put a label on something, it’s like a diagnosis. Even if the prognosis is not good, having a diagnosis actually makes us feel better because we at least know what we’re dealing with.”

Four hundred years later, we’re using Shakespeare’s texts to do the same thing he did in his time. That’s partly a testament to this skill — “I like to think of him as the Steven Spielberg of the 17th century,” Bezio said — but also a result of historical accident. His highly accomplished contemporary, Christopher Marlowe, was also wildly popular but died young, she pointed out. A lot of Marlowe’s and other plays from the period are lost. Many of Shakespeare’s best plays — Macbeth, The Taming of the Shrew, The Tempest, and Julius Caesar among them — might have also been lost if not for the publication of The First Folio in 1623.

“If they hadn’t done that, we wouldn’t be reading Shakespeare,” Bezio said. “We would be reading Ben Johnson. Was Shakespeare good at what he did? Absolutely. He made a lot of good choices, but when it comes right down to it, he wasn’t some kind of glorious genius. He is very much a posthumous beneficiary of dumb luck in a lot of ways.”

**HIS DUMB LUCK HAS TURNED OUT TO BE OUR GOOD FORTUNE**

as we continue to turn to his works again and again to understand ourselves, just as Welles did in his time. This past fall, a group of sophomores encountered a version of Shakespeare that aimed to shed light on a contemporary issue. They were enrolled in a course called A Life Worth Living taught by associate professor of Russian Joe Troncale. The reading list ranged from Plato and St. Augustine to Leo Tolstoy and J.M. Coetzee, all designed to help them understand the processes of self-discovery and self-understanding in their own lives.

October’s fall break took them to a theater at Baruch College in New York City for a production of As You Like It (above) by a company called New Feet Productions. It depicted Shakespeare’s characters as modern refugees.

The company’s choice of play for this treatment was not obvious. As You Like It is one of Shakespeare’s most produced plays these days and a favorite of high schools. It’s full of disguises and other contrivances, like women dressing as men and then imitating women to pursue marriage in a forest called Arden. The action is usually conceived as a romantic comedy full of sweetness and light.

“I have to confess that it is a play that has always driven me slightly crazy,” said Jessica Bauman, who adapted the script and directed the production, called Arden/Everywhere: The As You Like It Project. “It’s always bugged me. One of the things is that the people in the forest always looked to me like they just stepped out of an L.L. Bean forest and were on their way to a picnic. Why aren’t those people starving?”

Most productions gloss over the premise that sets the play’s action in motion: An evil duke casts out his brother, niece, and others in a bid to seize power, banishing them to a forest. Bauman’s version treats their predicament seriously.

“They are on the run for their lives, living in the woods and living hand to mouth,” she said. “We have a word for people in that situation. Those people are refugees. The stakes are very serious.”

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**UNIVERSITY of RICHMOND ARTS**

2018 WINTER 33
The production’s set evokes a refugee camp, with a mishmash of corrugated steel and wooden pallets that serve as walls and shelves. The characters inhabit a deliberately uncomfortable environment, with suggestions of deprivation and menace always looming, even as life goes on. In one scene, two main characters Rosalind and Celia have what should be a private conversation as they stand in line with others at a water pump. In other scenes, ensemble cast members are always crowding the background, kicking a soccer ball or lingering nearby trying to eavesdrop on the principal characters.

But the show’s most striking feature was its cast, made up of a mix of professional actors and non-professionals who were mostly college students. All of the non-professionals were immigrants or the children of immigrants. One was a resettled refugee. After the intermission, some of the actors broke character and took center stage to tell a bit of their stories with accents influenced by places like Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Uzbekistan, Liberia, and Russia.

“It was my favorite part of the show,” said Emilie Erbland, ’20, one of the students on the New York trip. “Shakespeare stopped for a moment as real people came out from behind the roles. I became more interested in the play after that point. I didn’t realize the set was portraying a refugee camp in the first half of the show. I think that speaks volumes about how we think of refugee camps. It made me sort of snap out of that Shakespeare funk and realize this is about real lives.”

JOSEPH HOLLAND WAS A LONG WAY FROM HOME WHEN Orson Welles stabbed him in the service of anti-fascism. The leading man with the booming voice and chiseled jaw was a small-town Virginia boy who grew up in Franklin, a community of 5,000 surrounded by peanut and cotton farms. His stage acting career began late in high school and then began to flourish at the University of Richmond. He made the first dramatic speech ever performed in the then-new Jenkins Greek Theater and played Othello there to help celebrate his commencement.

“I was born saying “To be or not to be,” he told the Richmond Times-Dispatch, which covered some of his performances.

After college, he left for two years of training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and then made his debut on Broadway, where he performed in 22 plays from 1934 to 1957. He was a proud Spider, too, returning to campus in 1935 to perform the title role in Richard III at the Greek Theater. His return prompted a thank-you note from Westhampton’s first dean, May Keller, who had apparently never seen him perform before. “I confess that your acting surprised me,” she wrote, “even after all I had heard.”

His Broadway debut came in a production of Romeo and Juliet staged by the Katharine Cornell Company. Signing on with Cornell was a major step in Holland’s career. She was nationally famous — “indisputably a reigning Broadway star of the second quarter of the century,” wrote The New York Times. Holland played opposite her in George Bernard Shaw’s Saint Joan and alongside such leading figures as Tyrone Power and Charlton Heston in other plays. The legendary Martha Graham was the choreographer of the 1934 production of Romeo and Juliet in which Holland had a small part. That was also the production where Holland first met the 19-year-old Orson Welles, a talented eccentric with a violent temper.

Yes, that Orson Welles. The man who would later send unwitting listeners into a panic with War of the Worlds. The man who made Citizen Kane, a film critics still consistently rank as America’s greatest cinematic achievement.

If Holland’s career was steadily developing when they met, Welles’ was about to take off, accelerated by work he was simultaneously doing on CBS Radio, which was making him a star. Early in his 20s, Welles — filled with “terrible energy and boundless ambition,” as the producer Houseman put it — directed a New Deal-era Federal
Theater Project production of Macbeth that challenged the politics of the day with its all-black cast. When Houseman and Welles both found themselves pushed out of productions in 1937, Welles — as Houseman tells the story — turned to him one day after supper and said, “Why the hell don’t we start a theater of our own?” Julius Caesar, with Holland in the title role, would be the first production of the newly christened Mercury Theatre. Its bold, modern production propelled Welles’ reputation ever higher.

In the many volumes written about Welles, Holland’s stabbing is often a slightly sensational aside, if it appears at all. In his memoir, Houseman — later of The Paper Chase fame — introduces it as “a less comic incident” after an anecdote about an errant fire alarm and sprinkler deluge during a performance. He treats the Holland episode seriously but dispassionately over three paragraphs, concluding with, “We paid his hospital bills, and he never sued us.”

It took Holland a month to recover and return to the role. In it, he was receiving acclaim and advancing his career, too. New York theater critics called him “striking and powerful as Caesar” and a “full-bodied Caesar alive and vital enough to explain all Brutus’s misgivings.” He finished the run, which lasted 157 performances, but never worked with Welles again. He stayed on Broadway, though, often taking roles in other Cornell productions of varying success. He also served during World War II for four years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

When he returned, his profession was shifting under his feet. As the film industry matured and the television industry developed, the nation’s entertainment center of gravity shifted west to Southern California.

Holland took parts in touring shows, including a 30-week, 30,000-mile stretch in 1948 and 1949 playing Hamlet and Macbeth in cities from Ames, Iowa, to Walla Walla, Washington. In the mid-1950s, he moved west, settling in an area of Hollywood Hills called Nichols Canyon, where many stars lived. He landed minor film and television roles, including on Peter Gunn and Alfred Hitchcock Presents.

In the early 1960s, he started to invest in real estate and bought an apartment complex near UCLA and several houses. He and his partner Vincent Newton shifted gears to a contented, successful life as landlords, according to his cousin and fellow Spider, Mills “Mac” Edwards Jr., R’67, who got to know him later in life. Holland and Newton eventually retired to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where Holland died in 1994.

Holland’s decades of scrapbooks and other memorabilia eventually ended up in Edwards’ hands. In 2017 he donated them to the New York Public Library’s Billy Rose Theatre Collection, where they are today. Sometimes, depending what shirt Holland wore, the scars were still visible.

“Joe rarely talked about this unless pressed,” Edwards said. “One time, I asked him what he would do if he saw Orson Welles walking down the street toward him. He told me, ‘I’d turn and go the other way.’”

Sometimes, drawing out details was difficult. Welles may have taken the artistic risk, but Holland was the one who had borne the cost. “He never talked about this unless pressed.”

Holland’s decades of scrapbooks and other memorabilia eventually ended up in Edwards’ hands. In 2017 he donated them to the New York Public Library’s Billy Rose Theatre Collection, where they are today. Sometimes, when Edwards and his cousin talked about the stabbing, he said, “One time, I asked him what he would do if he saw Orson Welles walking down the street toward him. He told me, ‘I’d turn and go the other way.’”

Sometimes, depending what shirt Holland wore, the scars were still visible.
A DAD’S LIFE

Birthdays aren’t always a cakewalk.

By Mike Ward, ’01
Illustration by Katie McBride

“I’M GOING TO MISS BEING 4.”

On the eve of his 5th birthday, my son gently rocked on the same hand-me-down leather recliner he regularly treated like a gymnastics apparatus for years. And as he contemplated what it meant to get older while sprawled out on his sweat- and yogurt-stained throne, his face soured and his eyes welled up.

Nolan’s forecast for the future was cloudy with a chance of meltdown: tying his own shoeaces, a scary new school, the whispers of chores, and the specter of more sanitary bathroom habits. Meanwhile, his 2-year-old sister still shot through life willy-nilly, bouncing around like a blinding silver sphere in a roadhouse pinball machine.

Life wasn’t fair. Until Nolan’s gifts and cake arrived the next day, of course.

Nolan was learning that while they didn’t need to be, surely shouldn’t be, birthdays could be stressful. (Just wait until he starts planning birthday parties instead of attending them.)

But birthdays constitute some of my most vivid, oft-recalled memories. And I suspect the same will be true for him. Perhaps it’s because of the serious self-reflection they demand. Or who knows, maybe it’s the funnel shape of novelty party hats that compels just the right neurons to fire off in sync every few weeks or months, re-creating forgotten moments as lucid flashbacks?

That might explain why I still remember a classmate’s 9th birthday party celebrated at Chuck E. Cheese’s in Rochester, New York. We mowed through pizza, took turns dropping quarters in the now ancient “Dragon’s Lair” arcade game, and watched one of our friends punch out a kid from a rival birthday party in the Cheese Hole, a wooden underbelly of peepholes and hiding spots where bad things happened. It was a legendary act of pre-pubescent machismo still talked about in the halls of Victor Elementary School to this day.

Another theory: Maybe we remember birthdays because we’re so often surrounded by our friends and family. In August 2012, I rode around with my dad buying everything about in the halls of Victor Elementary School to this day.

As kids, we lose sleep over anticipated birthday booty and red-eyed sleepovers. As adults, we lose hair over losing hair — and getting the deposit for the kids’ party into the trampline warehouse on time. Our own annual celebrations of shameless self-promotion take a back seat to our kids’, not just their own, but the friends kind enough to drop an invite into their preschool cubby.

Nolan, my wife, and I have been everywhere these past two months, running through the fun but grueling pre-K summer birthday party gauntlet. Once there were three in 36 hours: at a bouncy-house hideaway, a semi-private pool, and an indoor soccer arena. At one, Nolan donned a chef hat and cooked up some green pizza at Young Chefs Academy, a refreshing change of pace.

Time will tell which soirées will make the slideshow in Nolan’s brain.

As for Nolan’s birthday, we went to Chuck E. Cheese’s to celebrate as a family (his call). No fights, but we spent $20 to “win” a plastic bookmark, a fun-size bag of Skittles, and a pocket-size plastic foam rocket launcher that broke in 30 minutes.

When we got home that night, Nolan and I sparred with his new superhero Rock’em Sock’em Robots. Then we heard a faint knock at the door. We opened it and quickly stepped back, spying a fist-sized winged bug of some sort. Its brilliant green wings were the size of a hummingbird, and its body resembled a caterpillar after a trip to the buffet. I had never seen anything like it. After a brief Google image search, we identified our new friend as the rarely seen luna moth. They live for a week, mate, and die.

Luna moths are seen by some as spiritual creatures, symbolizing intuition, rebirth, and even the soul. Others say they come to help us see the big picture in life. It’s pretty deep stuff, maybe even silly. Still, I couldn’t help but think that the visitor was a perfectly timed birthday gift in many ways — for both Nolan and me — and a birthday memory we would share forever.

Mike Ward majored in journalism and rhetoric and communication at UR and is the founder and chief brand driver for MilepostOCreative. He writes the column “A Dad’s Life” for Richmond Times-Dispatch, where this originally appeared. Follow him on Twitter @MilepostOCreative.
On that morning

On 9/11, Ryan Frost, ’05, was three weeks into his first year at the University of Richmond. He remembers sitting in his room trying to process what was happening, watching the news in class, and even going out the weekend after, seeking some semblance of normalcy. But Frost’s strongest memories crystallized about 12 years later when he began writing his first screenplay.

“I had a weird realization around 2013 that some of my closest friends today are from freshman year, from the first few weeks of school,” Frost said. “And while 9/11 wasn’t always at the forefront of our minds, I think it had a role in building those friendships that have lasted.”

Once he landed on the idea, he said, the screenplay just flew out of him. Frost’s film, September Morning, follows five college students coming to terms with the events surrounding 9/11 as they unfold. They have deep conversations over pizza and beer, worry over loved ones, and bond over their shared experience.

The film’s distributor planned screenings in major cities around the country, but Frost also wanted to bring the film to Richmond. With the help of English and film studies professor Peter Lurie, Frost screened September Morning at the Byrd Theatre in downtown Richmond on Sept. 11, 2017.

“Through this film, I got to look back at people who have helped shaped me and my life — special people that I went to school with,” Frost said. “Richmond is where this story came from. It’s where I grew up, so to get to play my first movie at one of the most iconic theaters in Richmond was very special.” —Andrea Johnson Almoite, ’99

“I am stimulated by [Amy Terdiman Lovett’s, ’94] encouraging words to send thoughts your way.”

JIM HUTCHINSON, R’55, responding to Lovett’s essay in the autumn 2017 issue of University of Richmond Magazine. Lovett challenged alumni to bring more life to class notes. Alumni from across the decades responded. We hope you’ll keep sharing your news, no matter how big or small.
Data-driven

Every year, geographic information systems (GIS) users around the world take a day to showcase how the tool can combine data and visualization to solve problems like pollution, business inefficiency, and social inequality.

At Richmond, GIS Day takes a more localized outlook. The Department of Geography and Environment invites alumni working in GIS back to campus to talk to current students about career options in the field.

This year, Dillon Massey, ’15, talked about his work as an information designer at the Citizens Housing and Planning Council of New York, where he uses technology, mapping, and design to connect citizens to the organization’s work. Marissa Parker, ’16, described how she uses business, population, and geographic data to develop interactive regional maps for the Greater Richmond Partnership. Andrew Valenski, ’15, and Bridget Ward, ’11, also participated.

Preserve, protect

When Laura Doyle, ’06, decided to study art and business, the insurance industry was the last thing on her mind. But she found an unexpected fit in fine art.

She got her start at Chubb, which insures everything from antiquities and pre-Columbian artifacts to contemporary art, as well as sports memorabilia and wine. The company also helps clients manage and protect private collections — something Doyle is passionate about preserving.

“Our job is to help our clients protect those pieces,” she said. “We recognize they are custodians of cultural heritage, and we help them so their art can be passed down and shared with future generations.”

As part of the risk management team, Doyle advised collectors on everything from installation and security to the packing and shipment of art works. She also consulted on museum loans. Doyle was recently promoted to her “dream job” as collections manager at Chubb. She is responsible for underwriting large collections and overseeing the strategic direction of the practice. She travels throughout North America attending art fairs, auctions, and museum and gallery shows to stay on top of trends in the market. A current focus is the growth of online art sales and educating clients about the risks of buying in those venues.

Still, she says the best part of the job is talking to the collectors.

“Oftentimes, our clients were friends with the artists,” she says. “Our clients have really intimate stories of how their collections have grown over the years. The most interesting part is hearing all of the behind-the-scenes stories of the artists.”

—Pryor Green, ’06

Modern Art

Laura Doyle, ’06, proves museums aren’t the only way to preserve cultural heritage.

Modern Art

Laura Doyle, ’06, proves museums aren’t the only way to preserve cultural heritage.

Quotation

“Almost all lone wolves leave a memoir.”

Ugochukwu O. Etudo, ’10, professor of operations and information management for the University of Connecticut, in the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education. Etudo developed software that can search the Internet and the so-called “Dark Web” to identify websites that espouse radical views and violent behavior.
The doctor is in

In September, Kandace Peterson McGuire, ’98, returned to the Richmond area to become chief of breast surgery at Virginia Commonwealth University. It’s a path that started with childhood aspirations that took a turn in college.

At 21 years old, Kandace Peterson McGuire, ’98, had her first breast cancer patient. McGuire was a senior at Richmond studying biology and preparing for medical school when her mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. As the only person in her family with medical knowledge, McGuire took on the task of translating complex terminology into plain language for her parents.

The experience marked a turning point for McGuire. Medical school had been the plan since childhood. She pictured a future as a primary care physician with an interest in women’s health. But watching her mom participate in a clinical trial for drugs that likely saved her life helped McGuire see that the field of medicine had more possibilities. A rotation under a doctor with an “infectious love of surgery” and conducting research with a breast surgeon — an option McGuire didn’t realize existed — further shaped her direction.

Today McGuire specializes in breast cancer surgery and research with a focus on breast cancer in patients under 35. In these cases, she says, the disease is not only particularly aggressive, but also has wider ripple effects because patients are often raising families, caring for aging parents, and growing their careers. That means McGuire isn’t just looking at complicated science, but considering the social implications as well.

“Breast cancer hits them harder,” she says. “They have busy lives, and all of a sudden, they have this cancer diagnosis that wasn’t supposed to happen. It’s a sad double hit.”

Those days spent in hospitals with her mom shaped one more aspect of McGuire’s medical practice: her approach to patients.

“It made me a much better doctor,” she says. “I make a special effort to make sure that I am talking at a level that my patients can understand because not everyone’s going to have their college kid with them to tell them what the doctor meant.”

That thinking is permeating McGuire’s approach in her new role of chief of breast surgery at Virginia Commonwealth University and Massey Cancer Center. She’s combining her expertise in research, surgery, and clinical care with teaching the next generation of breast surgeons.

Just weeks after her arrival at VCU, McGuire started looking for ways to begin creating a comprehensive care clinic where a newly diagnosed patient can come to one office on one day and meet with every provider involved in his or her care.

“If they’re coming downtown and trying to park, they only have to do that once before they know what their plan is going to be for the course of their care,” she says. “If they’re wondering what chemo is going to be like or what radiation is all about, how they’re going to pay for everything, they can get all of those questions answered on one day rather than bouncing from clinic to clinic.”

Leading the department also gives McGuire a chance to shape a program from top to bottom.

“I’ve been absorbing like a sponge for the last 20 years,” she says. “Now it’s time to wring that sponge out.”
**In development**

Two recent University of Richmond graduates are on a mission to revolutionize the way society donates to charities by challenging the common perception of spare change as useless.

Pete Ghiorse, ’16, and Peter Tight, ’16, along with James Ghiorse, launched their GiveTide app in October. The app links to the user’s bank account and rounds up every purchase to the nearest dollar, creating a virtual pot of spare change that can be donated to U.S. nonprofit organizations with the tap of a finger.

Users can create goals for different nonprofits, invite friends to support the same causes, and set a cap on the amount that is collected each week.

“We’ve automated the boring parts and enhanced the fun parts. It reduces the barriers of giving to the bare minimum, both procedurally and financially,” Ghiorse said.

GiveTide targets the millennial generation, which they say is less wealthy but more tech-savvy.

“We’re trying to solve a problem by getting people to build a habit of giving into their lifestyle and positively reinforcing the habit,” Tight said.

—Sara Minnich, ’18, excerpted from The Collegian

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**TRENDING**

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**BOOKS**

**Tell Me More**

**KELLY CORRIGAN, W’89**

Inspired by a debate at Corrigan’s dinner table, the stories in *Tell Me More* are an argument for the power of the right words at the right moment to change everything.

In “I Was Wrong,” the New York Times bestselling author comes clean about her disastrous role in an epic argument. In “No,” she admires her mother’s ability to set boundaries and her liberating willingness to be unpopular.

**Blood Brothers**

**JAMES P. O’MEALIA, R’80**

Blood Brothers, the sequel to O’Mealia’s Fiasco, combines financial intrigue with personal crisis to create a tense thriller about a friendship that runs bone deep. Roger Maydock and Thomas Morris have a fraught friendship dating back to their prep school days. Now, Roger needs his friend’s help to rescue his insurance company. Thomas tries to save the day, but a blockbuster secret brings unexpected complications.

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**Flight of Fancy**

**RANDY FITZGERALD, R’63 AND G’64**

Flights of Fancy is a collection of Fitzgerald’s columns and anecdotes, many first printed in the Richmond Times-Dispatch and other area publications. He writes humorously about his family, particularly his unpredictable and irresistible wife.

**Virginia Wine**

**ANDREW A. PAINTER, L’07**

Painter’s comprehensive history of the Virginia wine industry chronicles the dynamic personalities, diverse places, and engaging personal and political struggles that have helped establish the Old Dominion as one of the nation’s pre-eminent wine regions.
We welcome your news. Send information to your class secretary or directly to the magazine at classnotes@richmond.edu. Or you may mail it to the magazine at Puryear Hall 200 - 28 Westhampton Way • University of Richmond, VA 23173. Please include your class year and, if appropriate, maiden name. For your children, please include birth dates rather than ages. Photographs of alumni are also welcome and published at space allows. Please note that the magazine does not publish news of engagements or pregnancies. Information may take up to two issues to publish. Class notes do not appear in any online edition.

The magazine uses undergraduate degree designations for graduates through 1992, and law, graduate, and honorary degree designations for all years.

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University of Richmond Magazine

Class notes are available only in the print edition. To submit your news and photos, contact your class secretary or email us at classnotes@richmond.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

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JUNE 1–3, 2018
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For information about photos, see:
1. Jen Youghans Watty, '85
2. Scott Hurd and Diane Kraynak, '89
3. Leo Lantz, '89
4. Daniel Levin, '89
5. LeeAnn Courie Jacobs, '90
6. Kristen Almond Phelps, '94
7. Leslie Schreiber, '98
Class notes are available only in the print edition. To submit your news and photos, contact your class secretary or email us at classnotes@richmond.edu.

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The story of Lubanzi begins with a wandering dog on the Wild Coast of South Africa. Walker Brown, '16, and Charles Brain, a fellow exchange student from Vanderbilt University, were out on a six-day, 100-mile hike when a stray dog began to follow them. The locals called him Lubanzi, a Zulu word meaning "expansive." At the end of the trip, Lubanzi disappeared into the night, and Brown and Brain returned to Cape Town to finish their semester abroad.

But the spirit of adventure and partnership forged on that trip stuck with the pair. By the time they got back to the U.S., a half-baked idea had formed. They had fallen in love with South Africa and wanted to find a way to share it back at home. They had learned that South Africa is one of the world's largest wine-producing countries, but the U.S. market is expensive and difficult to access. So, they thought, "Why don't we start our own wine label?"

A month after Brown and Brain graduated, they were back on a plane to South Africa. The first thing they did was put a call out to South African winemakers. "We said, 'We're trying to build a brand of South African wine to distribute in the U.S., and we're going to run it as a social enterprise,'" Brown says. "'We're looking for someone who shares that ethos to help.'"

More than 100 people responded. Brown and Brain took every meeting. They spent their first month talking to people about their stories, their family histories, and how their farms came about.

"I don't know that we even knew quite what we were looking for," Brown says. "We were trying to learn, to get as schooled as we possibly could on this truly massive industry." On the last day, Bruce Jack walked in. Jack is an award-winning winemaker with decades of experience working with some of South Africa's top wineries.

Brown and Brain took every meeting. They spent their first month talking to people about their stories, their family histories, and how their farms came about.

"But he was moved by what we were trying to do. It was one of the many lucky breaks we've gotten through this whole process." Jack signed on, as well as Trizanne Barnard, a young, female, up-and-coming winemaker. The two bring a combination of old and new schools to winemaking. They named the fledgling company Lubanzi, in the spirit of that early adventure and the dog who shared it.

Lubanzi now has two wines — a chenin blanc and a Rhone blend — and Brown is hitting the streets to get them on shelves across the U.S.

More importantly, they're already supporting the communities that make the wine, with more to come. Lubanzi has pledged 50 percent of its profits to the Pebbles Project, a nongovernmental organization that brings medical care and education to the children of laborers on South African wine farms.

"It's all about pushing forward this notion of a more complete and equitable supply chain," Brown says. "The idea is that when a consumer buys a bottle of wine here in America, a portion of the proceeds end up directly back in the hands of the real community working and laboring on the very farm that produces our wines."

Spirit of adventure

When Walker Brown, '16, founded Lubanzi, he wanted to bring more South African wines to America and support the country he says "took hold of him and never really let go."

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The more they looked into it, the more it felt like an opportunity to build a sustainable business, share their love of the country, and have a real impact on its communities.
When Will Johnson, '14, decided to leave the record label where he was working, he didn’t just quit his job. He left the whole industry. After a lot of soul searching, research, and networking with alums, he found his match in the field of data science.

My Life on the Road
I used to do live sound for The Cellar, and that’s sort of how I stumbled into my first job. I knew the manager of this bluegrass band, Sleepy Man. He said, “I need a live guy,” and I said, “I’m your guy.” It sounded like a good thing to do while I’m not married, don’t have a job, and have the whole world at my feet. I was with them from August until the end of November. We traveled around a lot in Midwestern states. We did a bunch of opening shows for bigger acts, like at the Opry in Nashville.

My Time in the Music Business
(Being on the road) was a good way to experience the music business and see all the different kinds of people we bumped into. A few were publishers, and that seemed like a good combination of my business administration degree and my music experience. So when the group moved out to Vegas and they couldn’t take me with them, I found an internship with K Loft Productions, a boutique music outfit that did theme music for television shows.

That led to a job with one of the major record labels. That was much more administrative. I was handling legal documents, making sure all the “I”s and all the “T”s were crossed and dotted during the execution of every record deal.

My Change of Course
I didn’t like where that job was leading me, so when I left, I dug deep into what kinds of talents I want to use in my career. I did a lot of searching, trying to get honest answers out of people who could tell me what I was good at. What I found was I have three talents: focusing on one thing so hard that time falls away, picking up something new, quickly, and taking complicated subjects and technical details and breaking them down for people.

My Realization
My brother is a developer at Google, and he told me I should give programming a try. I wrote him off at first, but then I found that it does take advantage of those first two talents. But I also wanted to make use of my ability to present concepts.

I went to LinkedIn and the UR alumni network and started reaching out cold to alumni, who helped me figure out what direction I should take this in. Eventually, I talked to a bunch of data scientists, and they all said there’s a huge demand for people who understand the importance of data as a tool and can explain to people who aren’t technical how to use it.

My New Job
After I graduated from Galvanize, I pretty quickly started networking with UR alumni. I connected with Caitlin Colbert, ’08, who works at Indeed, which is a search engine designed to help people find jobs. I went through one of the more intense interview processes I’ve ever gone through, and I’m happy to say I started there as a developer.

I get to go off on my own, collect the data set, make something interesting out of it, and explain it to people who can make use of it. Working here reinforces the idea that this is the role for me.

My change of course in the music business marked a change in how he approached his career.

“Before, I would take any job in the music industry that took advantage of my business degree,” he said. “I thought if I could lead with my passion, the right job would come along.

“But I found that I took any job I could find. I’d end up in a job that doesn’t take advantage of what I’m good at. I changed my direction by looking not at what I wanted to do, but asking, ‘What am I good at and how can I take advantage of that?’ Then, I looked at what companies are out there doing things I’m interested in and read my skills.”
In Memoriam

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See You at Reunion Weekend June 1–3, 2018

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University of Richmond

Magazine

Class notes are available only in the print edition. To submit your news and photos, contact your class secretary or email us at classnotes@richmond.edu.
BLACK JOY

New York City native Mariah Williams, ’13, has always been interested in exploring social issues in urban environments. After getting her degree in sociology at Richmond, she’s now pursuing a master’s degree in urban planning and cultivating a community of black women in Richmond called Black Girls Meet Up.

How would you describe black joy, and why is promoting and celebrating it important?

I think it was built out of resistance to the social institutions that exist and that have shut black and brown people out. Black joy is about creating a space for black girls to come together and support each other and to talk, and to engage in self-care.

I tried to make it very structured, but I’ve also tried to plan events that speak to the needs of black women. So creating this organic space of coming together in what I like to call spaces of just being as black women. That’s really what Black Girls Meet Up is all about.

How would you explain this to somebody who hasn’t experienced not having a place to exist?

I think to understand that, it’s important to understand the work I’m doing in urban planning. I’m in my second year of a master’s of urban and regional planning program at Virginia Commonwealth University. And urban planning is really about developing the urban environment, thinking about growth over time. Traditional planning has taken a very top-down approach: a bunch of men — typically white, upper-class men — sitting in a room saying these buildings need to be here, and this is for commercial use and this is for residential. That approach didn’t always get at the idea that people make these spaces and places.

The idea and the importance of having a group like Black Girls Meet Up, or having ideas of black joy and self-care space, is really about understanding that we live in a country where black bodies haven’t always been welcomed into a lot of public spaces, and so we’ve had to create our own.

What do you hope to achieve with Black Girls Meet Up?

One of my goals and passions is bringing more black women into the (urban planning) profession and creating a pipeline. I don’t know the exact percentages, but there are very few black women who go into fields of urban planning, urban design, and architecture. I’d like to go into middle schools and high schools and do some workshops on urban planning, to explain, “What does it even mean?”

What I think is interesting about Black Girls Meet Up is, how do we formalize it, how do we start to talk about it? I definitely want Black Girls Meet Up to become a platform where we’re talking to black women, and talking to black people about urban planning, urban design. Because the goal is, ultimately, how do we develop spaces in an equitable way? Where black women’s voices and where black people’s voices are heard, and where spaces for us are carved out in the midst of all of this development?

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University of Richmond Magazine

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The University, like any enterprise, needs buildings, people, and equipment to run. These all require one key resource: money. One critical source of Richmond's funding is our endowment. It's also one of the least understood.

So to explain the endowment, we're turning to another common resource: water.

The qualities that make Richmond what it is — need-blind admission, generous financial aid, small classes, the Richmond Guarantee, and a wide range of student organizations, all in an inspiring environment equipped with electricity, Wi-Fi, and more — require a certain amount of water.

Let's say it's 100 gallons.

Where do they come from?

If water is our resource, then think of the endowment as our aquifer. An aquifer has an abundant supply and a steady replenishment mechanism, but draining it too quickly will deplete it forever.

For the current fiscal year’s budget, our aquifer contributed 40 gallons to our target 100. This is a very strong contribution relative to other universities.

Why not, as some ask, draw even more from the aquifer? Doing so would be irresponsible over the long term. We have both a legal and a moral obligation to steward it for perpetuity.

The next 50 gallons come from bottles of water that students bring in tuition and fees. At universities with less productive aquifers than Richmond’s, the water burden shifts more heavily to bottled water.

Seven of the remaining 10 gallons come from miscellaneous sources — licensing and research grants, for example.

The rain and snow that supply the critically important final three gallons are philanthropy, including the annual fund. If the aquifer provides steady, long-term stability, then this fresh water provides immediate resources for the students here today. Both come from the generosity and commitment of generations of alumni investing in the next generations of Richmond students.

Our aquifer offsets far more gallons of bottled water than at most institutions, but its responsible contribution is maximized. More precipitation would further increase institutional access and affordability and provide even more flexibility for responding to emerging needs and opportunities.

That's why, even with our large endowment, every single annual fund gift matters. When alumni give steadily, their generosity saturates everything.
DENMARK COMES TO RICHMOND For November’s International Education Week, UR flew Denmark’s flag, highlighted its culture, and hosted its ambassador for events on campus. Whether during a silly sock walk or a lecture on business practices, Danish values and thinking were central.

Why Denmark? Danish students were among UR’s earliest exchange students, and they continue to be part of the campus community. Spiders go to Denmark and around the world. Nearly 70 percent of undergraduates take part in study abroad programs.

Photographs by Jamie Betts