

University of Richmond Magazine

RICHMOND

**A SEMESTER
OF RESILIENCE**

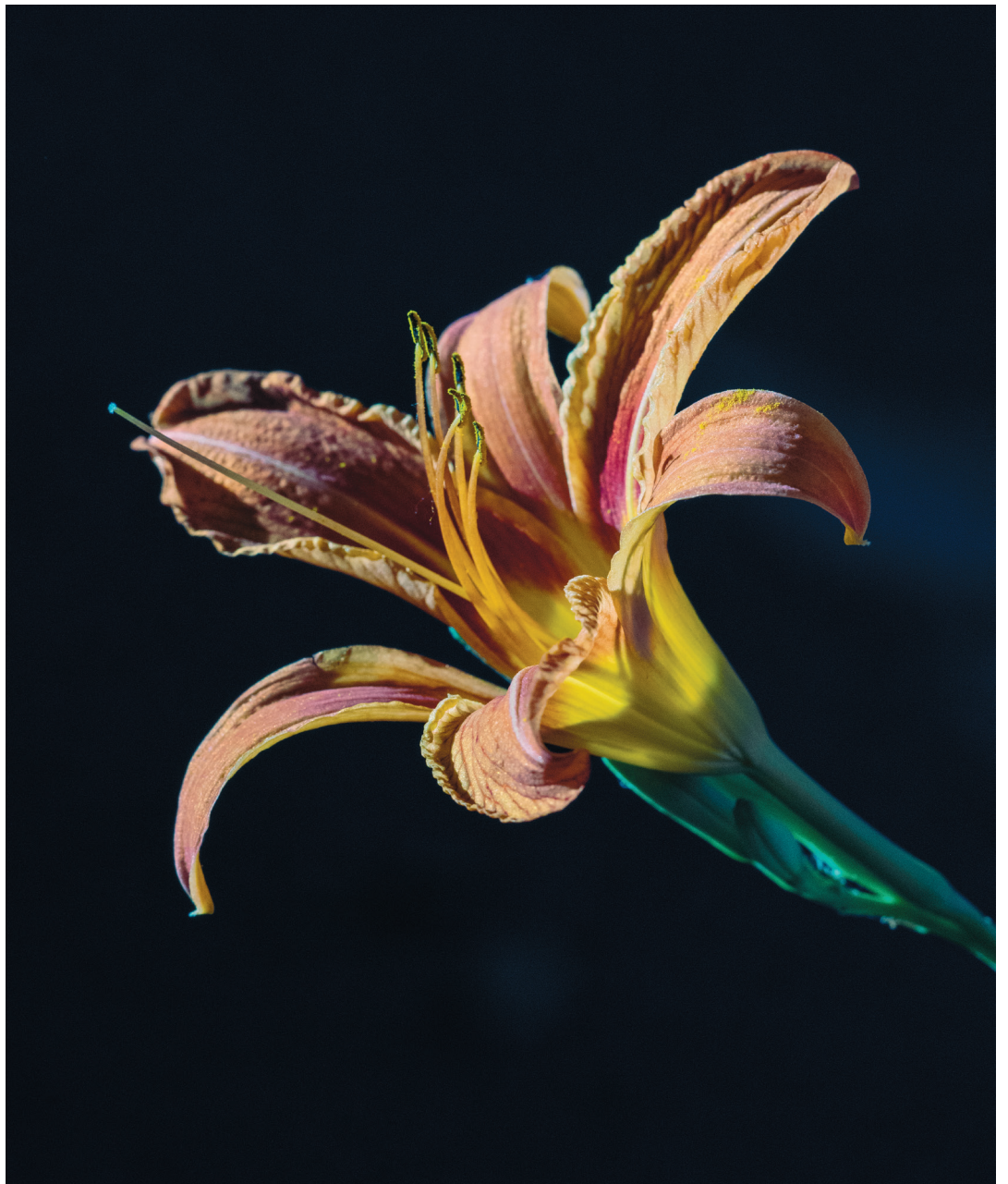
EYE





CAMPUS AT SUNSET
Need we say more?

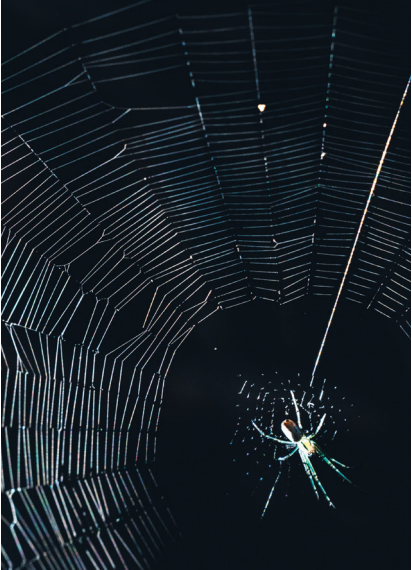
Photograph by Jamie Betts



TIME FOR A WALK

In a year when so much changed, these campus images by university communications photographer Jamie Betts remind us of the timeless comfort of natural beauty.

Photography by Jamie Betts



EDITOR'S NOTE

We walk together

A couple of months after my 18th birthday, my dad took me to vote in my first presidential election. I don't remember much of what we talked about as we walked along the cracked sidewalks of our modest neighborhood, but I remember what we joked about. We both knew that we were about to cancel out each other's votes. Inside the elementary school gym around the corner, he'd check one candidate's box, I'd check another's, and then we'd walk back home together. There was no question that we weighed the issues at hand differently, but also no question that we walked together as father and son.

I read the reactions to last issue's cover story in the same spirit. If you turn the page, you can see a representative sample of the messages we received. I welcomed them because I think Spiders' bonds strengthen when we commit to walking alongside each other, even across differences.

One of the unique things about this magazine is the breadth of the constituency it serves. Commercial magazines cater to narrow demographic segments — cosmopolitan 20-somethings, homeowners with garden projects, enthusiasts for quilts or guns — but this magazine goes to people who might be 22 or 82 years old. They are scientists, accountants, health care providers, fashion designers, executives, small business owners, graduate students, retirees, and everything else. Some are quite wealthy, while others are budgeting for next month's rent. What they have in common is that all are Spiders.

The role of the magazine is to share the stories, progress, and perspectives of Richmond's students, faculty, and alumni and to communicate the university's goals and progress to the Spider community. Some of these stories are

invariably wrapped up in politics and the issues that challenge our nation, just as last issue's cover story was. Other recent examples include a 2017 feature about an alumnus newly elected to Congress, a 2019 feature on an alumnus who secured a divisive conviction after the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, and a 2019 profile of a Jepson graduate serving on the staff of the nation's first lady. Readers wrote with their reactions after all of them, some agreeing with a perspective presented, others in strong opposition.

I hope readers will continue to share their kudos, disappointments, personal stories, and thoughtful reflections about these and other issues that affect and engage the campus community. Robust but civil debate, diverse viewpoints, and even sometimes uncomfortable conversations are hallmarks of a liberal arts education. By opening ourselves to challenging ideas, we open ourselves to one another and continue to walk together.

Matthew Dewald, Editor



Illustration by Gordon Schmidt

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ON THE COVER:
Photograph by Jamie Betts



Photograph by Jamie Betts

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INBOX



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 name you were known by as a student, 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.



STAY IN TOUCH AND SHARE YOUR PRIDE

Social media, hashtags, and sites:
• @urichmond
• #spiderpride
• #spiderspotting
• spiderpride.richmond.edu

COVER STORY

I am writing for the very first time because I was absolutely blown away by the cover of the Autumn 2020 *UR Magazine*. Richmond has a long way to go in the way of race relations; however, it is refreshing to see that my school is stepping out and leading the way toward justice and equity for all.

UR Magazine editors, staff, and all persons involved in making the decision to move with this cover, thank you, and again, thank you for seeking equality for all Richmond alumni.

—Chivonne A.S. Thomas, L'09
Christiansted, U.S. Virgin Islands

A picture of a vandalized historical monument, which included messages like “war” and “acab” (if you don’t know what that means, look it up), was a strange and disappointing choice for the most recent cover of the alumni magazine.

While issues of racial injustice in policing and unequal sentencing are certainly legit issues that can be the subject of a story and should be addressed in society, an image that seemingly affirms the destruction of property by lawless means as well as messages of war and hateful language toward police is really remarkable. Pretty thoughtless.

—Michael Petusky, B'91
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

I wanted to reach out to express my gratitude for your feature. This is an immensely important topic that everyone should be confronting, discussing, and educating themselves on. Particularly given the city of Richmond’s Confederate past and glorification of its racist history, this feature seemed exceptionally pertinent, to say nothing of U of R’s own less than sterling record with acknowledging and addressing racism on and off campus.

Keep doing what you’re doing. This isn’t a time to shy away from the difficult conversations.

—Adam Davis, '12
Brunswick, Maine

I firmly believe all Black lives matter, but I don't believe in the promotion of rioting, looting, destruction of property, etc. This is exactly, in my opinion, what the cover and interior photos promote. The cover photo could very easily have been “No America Without

Black America” minus the graffiti-desecrated photo of the Robert E. Lee monument.

If you desire peace and equality for all, you do not promote civil disobedience. You respect the rights spelled out in the Constitution of the United States and apply them to all, regardless of race. You offer respect to any human being as you would expect it to be offered to you. I am personally unaware of any location in my beloved country that promotes civil disobedience and rioting in order to right a wrong. We have a court system in this country to right wrongs.

—Andrew E. Gunn Jr., R'66
Glen Allen, Virginia

I am highly offended by the Autumn 2020 magazine cover.

I am disturbed you would choose a photograph which depicts multiple anti-law enforcement references, including “F12,” “ACAB,” and “FTP.”

—Bryan Evans, '04
Buffalo, New York

I wanted to say how happy and proud I am of the most recent cover of the magazine. It is poignant, timely, artful, and perfectly political. Every single Black alum I have spoken to about it was initially shocked but ultimately super-proud because we all know UR has a sordid and, frankly, racist history, so this feels like a full-circle moment of poetic justice. Thank you for being bold with this decision.

This was a powerful and extremely meaningful moment for many UR alumni.

—Kadeem Alphanso Fyffe, '13
New York City

While racial unrest is an important story, the despicable acts of violence on a tribute to a once-dignified general of a past country conflict as a show of “support” for the cause did not need to be glorified on the cover of the magazine and then again on the inside.

No doubt — at least I can only hope — there was considerable discussion around highlighting this destructive behavior by placing such an image on the cover. This type of news can be covered in a more dignified and respectable manner without splashy photos of a defaced monument originally placed in recognition of a mighty leader. This is not the UR approach I am accustomed to witnessing as an alumnus.

I’ll be canceling my magazine subscription and any further donations to an institution that prefers to overtly and recklessly emphasize vandalizing public structures as a means to demonstrate discontent.

—David Taylor, R'81
Apex, North Carolina

I’m sure that there are some alumni that are angry with the imagery on the cover but please know, it is necessary and it is wonderful.

—Keyona Ham Hargett, '01
Fort Washington, Maryland

I love your cover and applaud you for putting it front and center. Not only is it powerful artistically, but it is a powerful message. We need to change our old tired — not even sure what the word is; ethics doesn’t fit. Yes, my forebears fought in the Civil War, but we need to examine and update our approach. Black Lives Matter.

—Jo Burnette Cooper, W'70
Mill Valley, California

I have just received my Autumn 2020 copy and find the cover inappropriate and disgraceful, below the dignity of UR.

As an alumnus and father of an alumna, as well as a history major during my time at UR, I am appalled. If you knew the backstory of the BLM movement, you would never have printed such a cover. BLM is a Marxist, socialist movement bent on destroying our republic as founded. I am totally disappointed with my university.

—Keith Wayland, R'70
Richmond

Thank you for your Autumn 2020 issue. It reinforced my Spider Pride. The arresting cover, variety of topics, diversity of people and viewpoints, and blend of old and new all said, “Look at me. Read me next.” Great way to spend an afternoon.

—Ken Elsea, R'70
St. George Island, Florida



Illustration by Maria Fabrizio

Competing perspectives

We must push our students — and ourselves — to understand and consider viewpoints different than our own.

As a student, I always felt a tinge of excitement and nervousness when I walked into political science professor Reo Christenson's class. Dr. Christenson was the quintessential professor, always nattily dressed with rimless glasses sitting on his nose.

At first glance, he could seem intimidating. Amid an animated lecture, he might suddenly stop and call on students without warning. Such moments, however, never felt like a threat, but rather an invitation to explore competing perspectives on the issues facing 1960s America. "What makes you think that?" Professor Christenson would always ask us. "Others have suggested differently." Not once did Professor Christenson say, "I don't agree with you," or, "That's wrong." Whenever my classmates and I tried to goad him into divulging his own personal views, he simply looked at us quizzically, shook his head back and forth with a laugh, and said, "Not happening!"

Professor Christenson believed it was his job to help students understand all sides of an issue so that they could come to their

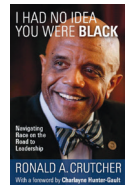
own conclusions. As a student, I found this approach challenging and even painful at times, but always instructive. I remember one class in which we had to tackle the subject of redlining, a segregationist practice of mortgage lenders and real estate agents to keep white neighborhoods white.

The issue was personal to me. My family was the second Black family to move onto our street in the Avondale neighborhood of Cincinnati in 1950. Shortly afterward, real estate agents began a scare campaign that prompted the flight of almost every white family within a decade. Seeing this appalling issue through its proponents' eyes helped me learn about the federal government's complicity in perpetuating this disgraceful practice. With this new knowledge, I was able to strengthen my own arguments supporting a more inclusive society.

Professor Christenson's class was a lasting lesson for me; some of the issues have changed, but the imperative to engage with competing ideas remains and informs my approach to education. Each year, I host the Sharp Viewpoint Speakers Series to

challenge our community to think critically about pressing issues of our time. This year, I welcomed pairs of thought leaders from across the political aisle, including Denis McDonough and Mike Sommers, former chiefs of staff to a Democratic president, Barack Obama, and a Republican former House speaker, John Boehner, respectively. My goal is not to suggest that there must always be compromise. Rather, at a time when any discussion around race or politics teeters on the edge of diatribe, we must provide students with role models who can engage in thoughtful, substantive, and constructive dialogue across divides.

Universities can and must serve as crucibles for learning how to live and participate actively in a democratic society. To succeed, we must follow the example of Professor Christenson and sharpen our students' skills to engage a variety of opinions and perspectives. If we can navigate our differences with curious minds and demonstrate patience, discipline, empathy, and intellect — the building blocks of civility — I am confident we will emerge from this turbulent time in American history better equipped to strengthen our campus community and a pluralistic democracy.



A MEMOIR

Crutcher tells the story of his life and leadership in higher education in a new memoir. In *I Had No Idea You Were Black: Navigating Race on the Road to Leadership*, he discusses his early life, career path, and presidencies at Wheaton College and Richmond. For more information, visit clydehillpublishing.com.

LEADERSHIP



Photograph by Jamie Betts

Ronald A. Crutcher plans to step down when his current term expires in 2022.

A new transition

The university will have a new president by the end of the 2021-22 academic year. In September, President Ronald A. Crutcher announced his intention to step down when his current term expires June 30, 2022.

Crutcher wrote that he made the announcement so far in advance because of the disruption and challenges to higher education due to the pandemic.

“I decided that it was important for the university to have as much time as possible to effectively identify and recruit the next president,” he wrote.

The remainder of his term promises to be busy. In March, he will become chair of the board of directors of the American Council on Education, the major coordinating body for the nation’s colleges and universities.

The appointment is the latest of several recent acknowledgments of his leadership. *Richmond Times-Dispatch* named him a 2020 People of the Year honoree; *Virginia Business* included him on its inaugural “The Virginia 500 — The 2020 Power List”; and he joined a new bipartisan task force on campus free expression.

Crutcher’s tenure at UR has focused on advancing the academic excellence for which the university is known. Under his leadership, the university established the Teaching and Scholarship Hub, increased the quality and diversity of the student population, improved retention and graduation rates, and completed a \$37 million, multiyear investment in arts facilities.

Other initiatives have increased Richmond’s reach and reputation, including the establishment of the Office of Scholars and Fellowships — which assists students applying for competitive national and international awards — and the launch of a national branding program.

He has also led significant efforts to make the university an inclusive community. “We are working to harness our rich diversity to foster a welcoming campus culture and to build a skilled intercultural community where constructive dialogue across difference is part of our institutional identity,” he wrote to the campus community.

ACCOLADES

#22

Ranking climbs

UR earned the highest ranking in its history in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* college guide, coming in at No. 22 among national liberal arts colleges. Last year, the university ranked No. 23.

For the third consecutive year, Richmond was named to the most innovative schools list, ranking No. 18 among national liberal arts colleges. This category highlights colleges that lead in making improvements for faculty and students in curriculum, campus life, technology, or facilities. The guide also highlighted Richmond in its study abroad category, putting it at No. 24, and placed it at No. 25 on its best-value list.

SUPPORT



Strong support

The Spider community stepped up for current students during this year’s Spiders Helping Spiders, donating more than \$400,000 during the November fundraising campaign. The total was a five-fold increase over last year’s effort.

All donations made during the seven-day campaign directly benefit students in need. Gifts are directed toward financial aid; the student emergency fund, which helps students meet their needs for urgent and unforeseen expenses; and the career opportunity fund, which gives students financial assistance to pursue internships, job interviews, or graduate school.



NEXT STEPS

In October, the board of trustees announced the members of the presidential search committee charged with selecting Richmond’s next president. More information about the search, including a position prospectus, is available at presidentsearch.richmond.edu.

QUOTATION

“I felt like we were breathing once again.”

PATRICK BENNER, director of residence life and housing, describing his reaction to seeing students return for the beginning of the fall semester to *Spider Insider*, a faculty and staff publication

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Business has been good for one Spider who took a gap year to develop his business in Vietnam.

A grande idea

During a gap semester at home in Vietnam because of COVID-19, Davis Nguyen, '22, saw an opportunity to grow his business.

“Everything changed drastically when lockdown laws and prevention methods applied,” he said.

He runs Teemay Coffee, which has two cafés in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Before the pandemic, his revenues totaled about \$26,000. When it hit, hotels in the area began quarantining travelers for weeks, and the need arose for catered food and coffee for their guests.

“My first client came to me out of nowhere,” Nguyen said. “I knew that the capacity of my business could supply the client’s request, so I jumped at the chance. After that, I realized this could be a new market for me, so I utilized the opportunity.”

Nguyen now has three clients, including the Holiday Inn, for which he provides catered food and coffee. His revenue has more than tripled.

“I never thought I could do catering service myself, but I can,” Nguyen said.

“This is a good example of how companies have to pivot during the pandemic to meet the needs of a growing business,” said Joel Mier, lecturer in marketing. “His café does very well, but the pandemic created an opportunity for him to provide food for incoming travelers.”

He hopes to gain more clients in the coming months and continue growing his business.

“I hope to use this service to support the main vision of my business: to provide knowledge about specialty coffee,” Nguyen 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:

elemental⁺

Leadership studies professor and social psychologist **DON FORSYTH** explained why even reasonable people sometimes bend COVID-19 safety rules. “Social forces have a strong hold on us and shape our choices even when we know better,” he said.

The New York Times

Law professor **MEREDITH HARBACH JOHNSON** commented about how divorced and separated parents are mediating pandemic-related co-parenting dilemmas on their own. “Courts are generally loath to make modifications because it interrupts continuity and stability for the kids,” she said.

The Washington Post

Physics professor **JACK SINGAL**, an astrophysicist, shared insight on a Chinese mission to the moon to collect lunar rocks. “It could set the stage to give us a better handle on dating rocks on the rest of the surface of the moon and other rocky bodies,” he said.

INSIDE HIGHER ED

ELLEN SAYLES, director of education abroad, talked about UR’s decision to reopen study abroad on

a limited basis in the spring. “There was more time to plan and to understand in this new reality what kind of support and structures had to be in place,” she said.

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Hundreds of outlets quoted finance professor **TOM ARNOLD** about online shopping’s pandemic-driven boost. “Retailers who still have a brick-and-mortar presence are advertising curbside pickup, so there’s no need to come into the store,” he said.

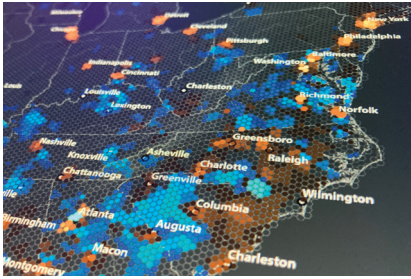
For the latest stories, go to news.richmond.edu/placements.



#SPIDERFAMILY

Want to support Spiders’ businesses during these uncertain economic times? See a list — and submit your own — at bit.ly/spiderbusinesses, courtesy of the Robins School of Business.

AROUND CAMPUS



Southern migration

A new collaboration between Edward Ayers, Justin Madron, and Nathaniel Ayers of UR's Digital Scholarship Lab uses nearly 100 maps to trace the history of migration to, from, and within the South from the nation's founding to today.

Southern Journey: The Migrations of the American South, 1790–2020 reinterprets the region's past with the help of sophisticated maps that illustrate the ways that indigenous, white, Black, and immigrant people have settled, unsettled, and resettled the South. Edward Ayers explains the major contours of these changes with his characteristic fresh perspective, which cuts across the usual geographic, thematic, and chronological boundaries that subdivide Southern history.

Ayers, Tucker-Boatwright Professor of the Humanities and president emeritus, also serves as executive director of New American History, which uses the power of digital media, curiosity, and inquiry to explore America's past. More information about this project and *Southern Journey* is available at newamericanhistory.org.

Burial ground marker

The university installed temporary signage to mark the sacred space of a former burial ground for enslaved persons. The signage also details Richmond's plans to permanently commemorate the site, which is located just behind Puryear Hall.

"The signage is an important milestone on our journey," said Keith McIntosh, university CIO and co-chair of a committee charged with steering university discussions about the site. "The full and accurate history of the land we currently occupy helps us understand the people who came before us and helps us understand how we might best connect our present with our past and future."

SPIDER FAMILY



LAW In honor of Veterans Day, Richmond Law students and members of the Veterans and Military Law Association lined the entrance of the law school with miniature flags.

Each flag represented one current student or faculty member who has served in the armed forces.

CAMPUS LIFE



Illustration by Mike Domina

Students created a forum focused on inclusivity on campus.

Voices for equity

This fall, the university's first Equity Summit brought together more than 450 students, faculty, staff, and alumni to focus on inclusivity. Students, led by Hijab Fatima, '21, and Tommy Na, '22, organized the event. Originally scheduled for spring, it was postponed because of COVID-19 and held virtually on Sept. 29 and Oct. 1.

"I'm a big believer in Tommy and Hijab, who led the Equity Summit, as well as [2019 alumna] Lina Tori Jan, who suggested the idea last spring," said political science professor Monti Datta, who helped the students plan the event.

"Moving the summit from an in-person model to a virtual platform was definitely very challenging as we only had three months to put everything together," Fatima said. "This included choosing the sessions, reaching out to potential facilitators

and the administration to get their support, as well as looping in numerous student organizations and student development bodies as allies."

Six sessions covered topics such as LGBTQIA+, xenophobia, violence prevention, anti-Semitism, white privilege, and Africana studies.

"This has also been a humbling moment for us because we realize we have so much farther to go in helping the UR community dive into much-needed but difficult conversations in the realm of racial and social justice," Fatima said.

The group wanted to take action on inclusivity efforts on campus, Fatima said, and normalize talking about those efforts among students. She said the plan is for the Equity Summit to become a yearly tradition designed to inspire and empower the community.



COMMON
GROUND

The Equity Summit is an example of how Richmond students are engaged members of the Spider community who advocate for changes that meet the needs of the student body. More information about racial justice events on campus is available at commonground.richmond.edu.

ADVANCEMENT *Martha Callaghan became the university's vice president for advancement in the spring of 2020 after serving in the role on an interim basis. She oversees alumni relations, career services, and fundraising. Her main charge is to build and sustain a broad-based culture of philanthropy and engagement that supports Richmond today and in the future.*



MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

I was a swimmer in high school here in Virginia and was fortunate enough to be recruited by Yale University.

I was lucky to receive significant financial aid that made my experience at Yale possible. I got an incredible education and made lifelong friends. My own experience gave me a deep belief in the value of a liberal arts education

and the importance of philanthropy to make it possible for students like me.

MY START IN FUNDRAISING

After college, I worked as a special programs coordinator at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky,

starting up K-12 programs and helping design exhibits for the planned museum.

Halfway through my tenure, the president called me into his office and said, "Look, we've got to raise \$60 million to build this museum. I only have one development person, so I have to add another."

I said, "Let's give it a try," and started cold-calling people who might be interested. It was a crash course in fundraising, and I really enjoyed it. After a



couple of years, I moved back to New Haven, Connecticut, to work in development at Yale, where I stayed until I came back home to Virginia and Richmond.

MY INTRODUCTION TO RICHMOND

When I looked at what Richmond had done since I left Virginia, I was blown away by its progress.

Richmond's ascendancy is unusual. We've had an incredible succession of leaders who have brought this institution along in a way that you rarely see. I am so happy that I can contribute to it in a real way.

MY DIVISION

The Spider network is incredibly close-knit and supportive. People here go out of their way to support each other. That's part of what you get when you step foot on campus as a first-year student.

Our job is to connect alumni with each other and with the ways they can support current and future Spiders. That's why we're called Advancement, right? We're here to help the institution step into the future, and we can't do that without alumni support.

There are multiple ways that alumni can engage with the institution, and they're all valuable. You can volunteer, attend events, hire Spiders, help recruit prospective students, spread the good word about the institution and, of course, give back.

MY APPROACH

I enjoy this work because of the relationships I build with people who want to support the university. I could never work for an organization I didn't believe in. When I'm asking people to support UR, it's because I believe it's incredibly important — this experience changes our students' lives.

MY MOTIVATION

I've talked to so many donors who, like me, received scholarships that made school possible for them.

The most poignant ones have stories like, "When I was a sophomore in school, my father passed away, and I wouldn't have been able to stay in school if UR hadn't come up with the financial aid to support me."



Conversations like that are at the heart of why I do what I do. That is the power of philanthropy — to say, "This is the experience that someone else made possible for me. I want to pay it forward to future Spiders."



REACH OUT

Here are three key links for staying connected to the university and supporting Spiders now and in the future:

- alumni.richmond.edu
- career.services.richmond.edu
- giving.richmond.edu

Photograph by Jamie Betts





FEELING ZOOMED OUT?

Forsyth isn't surprised by the fatigue, but he thinks our attitudes about video conferencing might shift.

He points out that most people didn't like telephones when they were new, but then we adapted over time. It's a predictable cycle.

"Who would have thought that texting would be so popular?" he says. "You type emojis and text to another person, and you feel pretty connected to them. It's kind of strange, but it might be because we're used to texting."

COPING STRATEGIES *Our need for social contact is powerful, says Jepson professor Don Forsyth.*

Social psychologist and professor Don Forsyth had ideas about how our social behavior would change when the pandemic hit. No one knows better than he does how important our social needs are, but he also knows that his field has long said that physical needs always trump them.

"Self-preservation — fight or flight — I expected that to dominate social needs," he says.

So he puzzled over how to explain people's response to this threat. Even those who took the threat seriously began venturing out, visited relatives, and otherwise tried to move on with life in ways that they knew experts were saying was risky.

"Much sooner than I thought it would happen, people got fed up with isolation," he says. "They needed to be with other people."

Ethical thought and moral judgment are two of the other areas that Forsyth researches and teaches about. In fact, he holds the Thorsness Endowed Chair in Ethical Leadership in the Jepson School

of Leadership Studies. When he started to consider how people were responding to the pandemic, the question for him was less, "How can reasonable people be so deliberately irresponsible?" and more, "How do people explain this behavior to themselves to make it feel reasonable?"

Forsyth has been riding out the pandemic from a small vacation home near the Shenandoah Mountains. As he taught classes via Zoom, he also got his first chance to watch patiently as the woods around him slowly changed. Spring's buds turned into thick green leaves and then dried and brightened before falling to the ground and disappearing under newly fallen snow. It was both beautiful and predictable. But what to make of the human behavior he was seeing?

With reflection, he realized that it, too, was as predictable as the trees adapting to the seasons. The threat posed by COVID-19 was severe but uncertain, while the drawbacks of isolation were all too immediate. Health guidelines changed frequently, especially early in the pandemic, fueling ambiguity. In this environment, people made their own calculations about probability.

"That sounds really rational, but people

were strengthening the improbability" of catching the virus, he says. "They were thinking about their buddy Frank, who hadn't changed his behavior, and he was just fine. They weren't saying it was a hoax, but they changed that probability in their minds so they could say, 'I need to get out. That's more important to me than this improbable disease.'"

These psychological tactics are complicated, he says. "I'm being kind of crude if I say, 'Oh we just need to be with people.'"

He points out that being with people is core to our sense of self. We form our identities and values in part through dialogue with the people around us. That's true in simple ways — what's a New Englander to think about Tom Brady leaving the Patriots to play in Florida? — but also for more complex issues such as, in his case, deciding what to think about UR's decision to open for an in-person fall semester.

"Is that a good thing or a bad thing?" he said. "It's hard to answer that unless you're with other people that you talk to about these issues."

QUOTATION

“The first date was just ice cream, and it was outside.”

CAMERON LEVY, '22, as quoted by *The Collegian* in a Dec. 7 story about the complications of pandemic-era college dating

BIOLOGY



A UR researcher is helping uncover a battle of the sexes in species of butterflies.

Be mine, little butterfly

A visiting lecturer in UR's biology department is involved in curious research about ways that the reproductive lives of butterflies are a kind of evolutionary arms race, with measures, countermeasures, and escalations that would make a Cold War spy blush.

Some male butterflies create — well, how to put this delicately? — a waxy barrier designed to ensure their paternity of the future offspring by sealing their mate's reproductive organs, i.e., a sort of chastity belt. Females, in turn, fight back by growing more complex organs. Males then respond with ever more creative strategies, the females adapt again, and the evolutionary cycle continues.

“Could this sexual one-upmanship ultimately result in new spe-

cies?” asks a press release about the research from the Florida Museum of Natural History, where several of the researchers are based. “It's a longstanding hypothesis and one that would help explain how butterflies became so diverse.”

UR's Kwaku Aduse-Poku, a molecular phylogeneticist, helped untangle the process. His expertise allows him to use DNA sequences to reconstruct the butterflies' physical changes over time.

He is an expert in the old world butterflies that the research focuses on, which are distributed across Africa, including in Ghana, where he grew up.

“I have seen most of them in the wild,” he said.



A WIDE LENS

Aduse-Poku's students get the benefit of his broad experience. He grew up in West Africa, earned his graduate degrees in Europe, and now teaches in the southern U.S.

“I'm able to draw contrasts,” he said. “Students like being able to compare what they know here with other parts of the world.”

AROUND CAMPUS



Study abroad offers spring opportunities

After a suspension of international travel, UR opened applications for spring study-abroad opportunities, offering a small number of programs in Asia and Europe. Dozens of factors informed the decision, including travel restrictions, embassy and consulate access, student housing options, and partner universities' capacity to provide a remote option should a program need to be canceled midterm.

For the fifth consecutive year, Richmond maintained its No. 2 ranking as a top baccalaureate college for the number of students studying abroad, according to the U.S. State Department-sponsored Open Doors annual survey, which drew on pre-pandemic data.

During the 2018–19 academic year, 589 students participated in study-abroad programming. UR also maintained its No. 7 ranking for international student enrollment.

Inclusion resources

The university is among the 51 inaugural member institutions of the new Liberal Arts Colleges Racial Equity Leadership Alliance.

The national alliance brings together liberal arts institutions and provides ongoing professional learning opportunities and resources around issues of racial equity. Through it, faculty and staff will have access to a variety of resources and opportunities on antiracism, diversity, and equity.

“These resources will provide multiple opportunities for the UR community to engage in our commitment to entrench the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion within our community so that every Spider experiences an authentic sense of belonging,” President Crutcher said.

AROUND CAMPUS



Ryland renovation

A long-planned renovation and expansion will transform historic Ryland Hall into a hub for the study of the humanities.

The expanded facility, which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2021, will continue to house the English and history departments and create space for the addition of the classical studies and philosophy departments. The departure of the latter two from their current home in North Court will open more residential space in that building for students.

Rhodes finalists

Two Richmond seniors were named finalists for Rhodes Scholarships for their outstanding scholarly achievements, character, commitment to others and the common good, and potential for leadership in their career pursuits.

Seniors Alec Greven, from Castle Rock, Colorado, and Kexin Li, from Chongqing, China, applied through the American and Chinese programs, respectively. Greven plans to pursue advanced degrees in philosophy and law and aspires to be a federal judge or district attorney. Li plans to pursue graduate degrees in women's studies and public policy and develop a career that seeks solutions to combat gender violence in East Asia.

"I am continually impressed by our students' curiosity in their areas of study and their commitment to leaving the world a better place than they found it," said Ronald A. Crutcher, president.

SHARP SERIES



DIALOGUE Cornel West and Robert P. George — thinkers who are ideological opposites and personal friends — will wrap up the 2020-21 Sharp Viewpoint Speakers Series in a conversation with President Ronald Crutcher via livestream March 25. Alumni are invited. For more information, go to richmond.edu/sharp.

UR IN RVA



UR will provide loan-free financial aid packages to City of Richmond students attending UR.

Expanding access

In November, the university announced a new program to support Richmond Public Schools students attending UR. The university committed to meeting the full demonstrated financial need for all RPS graduates who qualify to attend with grant aid — not with loans — up to the full cost of attendance at UR.

"The University of Richmond and the city of Richmond want to retain our best students in the region, and the no-loan program will further that effort," said President Crutcher. He added that loans can cause anxiety for families, particularly among first-generation students.

The announcement adds to an already active partnership between the university and RPS, including RPS-specific admission and financial aid workshops. UR Bonner Scholars and students from the Jepson School of Leadership Studies' class Justice

and Civil Society volunteer with RVA Future Centers. The student-led UR Mentoring Project brings UR students in to mentor students in the Armstrong Leadership Program at Armstrong High School.

"Our financial aid awards are only part of the story," said Stephanie Dupaul, vice president for enrollment management. She noted that Richmond offers funding for faculty-mentored research and internships, ensures that students are able to study abroad, and provides robust support for pathways to successful careers and graduate school.

The move reflects the university's commitment to the city whose name it proudly bears, Crutcher said.

"I am so pleased that we can expand our financial aid programs to make it possible for more RPS students to graduate as Spiders," he said.



AFFORDABILITY

UR also offers Richmond's Promise to Virginia, which provides full tuition, room, and board grants to all accepted students from Virginia who come from families with incomes below \$60,000.

HEALTH Charlynn Small is a clinical psychologist in Counseling and Psychological Services, or CAPS, and the co-editor of *Treating Black Women with Eating Disorders: A Clinician's Guide*, published in June.

How do the stresses of daily life impact the eating habits in people of color?

Appetite loss or binge-eating is not uncommon in response to daily tensions and stressors.

The daily lived experiences of many Black, Indigenous, and other people of color of-

ten include anxiety from invalidating, intimidating, and subtle microaggressions. BIPOC are also impacted by the daily effects of

macroaggressions such as housing discrimination, police misconduct, and other systematic social injustices.

Patterns of emotional eating to cope with the effects of these events can result in eating disorders.

How else can race contribute to disordered eating?

Identity is at the heart of eating disorders. Issues of colorism

— prejudice or discrimination against persons with dark skin by persons with fair skin, a remnant of the institution of slavery — are points of contention among Black women. Colorism's destructive effects contribute significantly to body image issues and are associated with elevated risk for developing eating disorders.

Your new book focuses on Black women. What unique concerns arise for this population when it comes to eating disorders?

For Black women in particular, eating problems evolved as ways to cope with traumas like racism.

Often, Black women in larger bodies are told — based on one-size-fits-all growth charts — to lose weight. We're warned about heart disease and diabetes — issues we should consider. However, there usually isn't any query about why we're overweight.

Black women are not monolithic. They have some unique issues and challenges that are often directly related to their eating patterns. In addition to colorism, our children are disproportionately affected by adverse

childhood experiences. For instance, Black children are more than twice as likely as white children to be sexually abused, and research shows an association between early childhood sexual abuse and eating disorders.

Why is it important to develop a guide for clinicians specifically around these issues?

Many practitioners take a colorblind approach to treatment, perhaps out of concern for being called racist, but assessments must be thorough and culturally sensitive. If practitioners aren't aware of correlations between Black women's unique issues and the increased risk of eating disorders, then these potentially deadly disorders won't be recognized in these groups, which decreases the chances of referral and treatment.

Additionally, most eating disorder assessment measures were developed and validated in samples that did not include Black women. The result is that we don't always meet criteria for eating disorders based on these measures when we should.

Because of the coronavirus, racism has become more widely discussed as a public health crisis. What are your thoughts on this?

Black communities are being disproportionately affected by the pandemic in many ways. We're dying at rates much greater than most other groups for numerous and varied reasons. The emotional response can trigger or increase unhealthy eating patterns.

For some Black women with eating disorders, perceptions of a scarcity of food and the fear of rationing are real. By contrast, some of those who restrict food intake restrict even more during quarantine. A common distorted thought for some is that because they have been less active during quarantine, they don't deserve to eat.

More than ever before, we as practitioners must be prepared to cultivate the therapeutic alliances essential for healing. By engaging, listening, and asking hard questions, we can learn about patients' lived experiences. This will lead to opportunities to educate and foster the sense of empowerment necessary to commit to recovery.



Photograph by Gordon Schmidt



CAPS

Small is among a dedicated group of practitioners who serve students in CAPS, or Counseling and Psychological Services. The CAPS office recently moved to the new Well-Being Center as part of a plan to consolidate and strengthen support services promoting student wellness.

SPORTS

QUOTATION

“This was not an upset.”

Lexington Herald-Leader sports columnist **JOHN CLAY** giving his No. 1 takeaway from the Spider men’s 76-64 win over No. 10 Kentucky in November. It was the program’s first-ever away win against a top-10 team.

HOOPS



Photograph courtesy Richmond Athletics

The Spider women are all in during their second season under coach Aaron Roussell.

Forward progress

As the calendar turned from 2020 to 2021, Spider women’s basketball continued to turn a page in its recent program history, continuing its rebuild under second-year head coach Aaron Roussell. After a 3-1 start, which included wins over Navy and William & Mary, the team stood at 3-3 at the holiday break.

“I like it when there may be a gap between a player’s skill set and what we see as their ultimate potential,” Roussell said in the preseason. He was speaking about recruits, but he could well have been talking about the program as a whole.

Even during tough games, the team’s ultimate potential is peeking through. In the final matchup of 2020, a 54-65 loss to Howard,

sophomore Elaina Chapman and freshman Siobhan Ryan each posted double-doubles. Freshman fly swatter Addie Budnik had six blocks, more in a game than any Spider since 2002 and tied for the third highest for a single game in program history.

For Roussell, the holiday break offered a chance to rest, regroup, and respond with renewed effort. “Hopefully, we come back after this break and look a lot closer to what we were to start the season,” he said.

As this issue went to press, the team was in the thick of the A-10 part of its schedule, an 18-game gauntlet that included some two-game weekends and three-game weeks.

“Whoever wins this league will have earned it,” Roussell said.

RUNDOWN



Poll appearances

The Spider men’s win over Kentucky vaulted it to No. 19 in the AP poll, the program’s highest ranking since 1957. The team received votes in the first six AP polls this season, tying a program record for consecutive poll appearances in a single season. The 2009–10 team received votes in that season’s final six polls, finishing at No. 24.

This year’s Spiders also debuted at No. 19 in the ESPN coaches poll, which began publishing in the third week of the season, and stayed in the top 25 for three weeks.

Spider smarts

NCAA Division I athletes across the country are earning their degrees at a record-high 90 percent. At Richmond, the rates are even higher.

Eleven of the Spiders’ 17 sport programs had 100% ratings in the latest Department of Education Graduation Rate Survey, or GRS. All 17 programs exceed the national averages for their respective sports.

Fans can warm up, too

Athletics is finding creative ways to bring Robins Center hype to fans, even though they can’t be there physically for men’s and women’s basketball games this season.

Fans can now watch pregame livestreams starting an hour before tipoff and leading up to starting lineup introductions. The live coverage features pregame warmups from courtside and, for men’s basketball, exclusive pregame analysis from the Voice of the Spiders, Bob Black, and Spider legend Greg Beckwith, R’86. A link and location for the pregame viewing is available before each game via the programs’ social media and richmondspiders.com.



ALL-AROUND PERFORMERS

Spider women’s basketball celebrated strong results during the fall semester. All 16 players earned a grade-point average above 3.0, and the team’s GPA was 3.52.

THE ROBBER OF ROBINS CENTER

Jacob Gilyard led Division I in steals last season and holds the Spiders' career steals record after just three seasons. This fall, he was one of 20 players in Division I named to the watch list for the Cousy Award, which is given to the top point guard in the country. He plans more disruption in 2020-21 as the Spiders seek a tournament bid and run.

Jacob Gilyard takes defense personally.

"I don't like when people score on me," the senior guard said. "Getting steals and getting stops, that's what I try to do."

Gilyard does more than try. The 2019-20 A-10 Defensive Player of the Year led all Division I players with 3.2 steals a game last season and tallied a school-record single-season 99 steals. With another season to play, Gilyard is already the Spiders' career steals leader — earning the distinction in January with No. 228 vs. Saint Louis.

Spiders head coach Chris Mooney is well aware that he has something special in his senior point guard.

"Having the mindset of being such an elite defensive player is rare, but having the ability is even more rare," Mooney said. "He has such an incredible feel for the game, and when you combine that with tremendous effort, it's incredibly unique."

Defensive savvy is a family trait as his dad, Rodney, holds the team record for steals at Ottawa University in Kansas.

"He was my coach for a little bit when I first started playing, so he definitely was the first guy to teach me about the game," Gilyard said of his dad. "He taught me how to play the game the right way."

That's not to say it was all basketball all the time, as Gilyard tried his hand at football, soccer, and track.

"My parents threw me into a little bit of everything," the Kansas City native said. "Nothing else lasted more than a year or two."

Gilyard evolved from an energetic young player who loved nothing more than running around on the court into a hardcore student of the game who enjoys studying film.

"It's almost like he sees the game in slow motion, the way he can anticipate the next pass or next cut," Mooney said. "His quickness is incredible, and aided by his anticipation, when he pokes at a ball, more often than not, he winds up with the ball."

That basketball IQ will likely pay big dividends for a Spiders squad that college basketball analyst Andy Katz recently tapped as one of his seven "Final Four sleepers." NCAA.com also named Richmond's defense as one to watch in 2020-21.

"I hope there are high expectations for us because we have them for ourselves," Mooney said.

The Spiders have all the motivation they need after having their solid 24-7 season last year cut short by COVID-19.

"It was heartbreaking," Gilyard said. "We want another 20-win season, to get back to the tournament, to be successful."

While Gilyard's primary focus is the Spiders' team success, he has a few personal goals as well, including repeating as the A-10 Defensive Player of the Year and adding A-10 Player of the Year for good measure. He is also a candidate for the prestigious Bob Cousy Award.

The rhetoric and communication studies major has his sights set on playing basketball professionally when he graduates, but he will always be a Spider.

"Someday, I hope to have my jersey in the rafters."



GILYARD, BY THE NUMBERS

Total steals in 2019-20 season	99
Ranking in NCAA DI for total steals, steals per game that season	1, 1
Career steals at start of the 2020-21 season	276
Previous Spider career steals record	227
Current NCAA DI career steals record	385



ILLUSTRATED

DAYS

A LOOK BACK AT THE CHALLENGING — *and ultimately successful* — FALL SEMESTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND, like higher education institutions across the country, began the fall semester with an adjusted schedule, an ambitious strategy, and an uncertain trajectory. The plan was to get students, faculty, and staff through 117 days of a residential fall semester with low infection rates, high spirits, and as much normalcy as possible under the circumstances.

It worked. When, as planned, students moved off campus just before Thanksgiving to complete the final two weeks of the semester remotely, they completed a story of resilience in the face of adversity.

It was also a story of careful planning and shared responsibility. The substantial efforts and investments the university made in a variety of areas — deep cleaning, reconfigured learning spaces, prevalence testing, and overwhelming adherence to face covering and physical distancing policies — resulted in no known community transmission, which happens when you can't identify a source of exposure.

Rather, when the campus Rapid Response Team and health center staff, in coordination with the Virginia Department of Health, looked into the reasons for positive test results and completed contact tracing, they inevitably found links to breaches of guidelines, such as off-campus social gatherings. The effectiveness of the

safety protocols was, understandably, a point of immense pride for the many faculty and staff members who developed and implemented these safeguards over many months and reexamined them for the spring semester.

No one thought the campus community wouldn't see any positive test results. Indeed, it did. Still, the monthly positivity rate stayed exceptionally low, averaging just

1.2% of test-takers over the semester, much lower than national rates and what the administration had prepared contingency plans for.

Overall, the prevention strategies held, which allowed the semester to proceed. Despite the constraints, students did what students do. They went to classes and labs, studied in the library, performed Shakespeare, ate D-hall food, and saw their friends, even if it all had to be done a little differently for now.

"The students deserve so much credit," said Steve Bisese, vice president for student development. "This experience is not what they thought college was going to be like."

Perhaps Kelly Lambert — a behavioral neuroscientist who taught portions of her psychology seminar in a tent in the Queally Center's courtyard — summed up life on campus this fall as well as anyone when she said, "I guess this semester is a perfect time to teach a course on adaptive behavior."

The pages that follow offer a glimpse of what it looked like.



“[On the first day of classes,] my usual 10-minute walk across campus took 20 or 30 minutes. I was blinded a bit by hubris and the ability to talk to someone without a computer glitch. I did not want to pass up the opportunity to catch up on friends’ lives and to tell them how much I missed them. After all, an outbreak could occur tomorrow, for all I know.”

—Olivia Diaz, '21, writing for Richmond Magazine



A SOUND SOLUTION

Innovative thinking, industrial-grade sewing, and a little elbow grease came together to improve acoustics in a temporary classroom early in the semester.

The tall ceiling inside Jepson Alumni Center’s large meeting room created an echo that made it a tough spot for in-person and remote law school students to hear each other.

“It’s a big, voluminous room,” said Andrew McBride, associate vice president for facilities and university architect.

McBride and his team brainstormed solutions and created a sketch of cloth banners that would cut down the noise. McBride, who sails, used an industrial sewing machine he has for his hobby to stitch a prototype. It worked, so they took the next obvious step.



“We went out to a fabric store and bought out the store of all its fleece,” McBride said. In about a day, Vessela Stefanova, an administrative assistant in university facilities created 20 additional banners for the space. Electrical shop staff installed them over the Labor Day weekend, and telecom/media support added dozens of microphones.

“I think that it’s just a can-do attitude,” McBride said. “We’re here to help facilitate the educational mission of the university, and we want to help meet those needs.”

“ I asked each student what they liked about the pandemic — **YES, LIKED** — and their answers were great. Most cited **THE TIME THEY GOT TO SPEND WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR PETS.** They also noted that they were enjoying the outdoors more. Two of my classes are in the Halftime House at the football stadium. We all agree that it’s a really fun venue. **THERE MAY NOT BE FOOTBALL THIS FALL, BUT THERE IS AN ACCOUNTING CLASS IN A FOOTBALL STADIUM.**”

— NANCY BAGRANOFF,
accounting professor

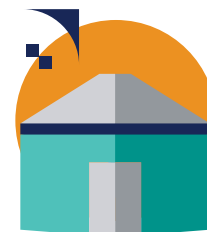
At the start of the fall semester, the university provided:



400
additional hand
sanitizer stations



800
sanitizing wipe
stations



12
tents across
campus

“We have a hybrid system. We meet in person on the IM fields from 1 to 3 p.m. every Saturday, and simultaneously we have a laptop there for people who want to join us remotely through Zoom if they don’t feel comfortable coming in person or if they are an international student or just remote in some other part of the United States. If they want to learn about our culture, they are more than welcome to participate remotely. We’re happy to have new members.”

—HOOR UL AIN, '23, marketing director of Bollywood Jhatkas, a student South Asian dance organization



“ [Students] were glad to be back on campus and happy to see their friends and professors, but at the same time they were nervous, confused, and uncertain about the future. **WE TALKED ABOUT HOW THESE EMOTIONS WERE NORMAL AND GOOD** to have and that research has shown that **IT IS VERY POSSIBLE TO EXPERIENCE CONTRADICTIONARY EMOTIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY.**”

—SCOTT ALLISON, psychology professor



Student development got creative with programming. Its offerings included this socially distanced night of painting, led by a soothing Bob Ross tutorial.



Q: Are you having some kind of a social life?

A: I have a roommate that I talk to, and we watch movies and do things. I have a friend who's never in her own dorm and just sits in the corner of my room. And we always talk. I have you, who I see at least twice a week, maybe. My neighbors, they drop by sometimes. That's actually really nice."

—Natalie Roman, '23,
interviewed by Josie Holland, '23

15,000
cloth face coverings for
students, faculty, and staff



10,000
disposable coverings for
those who forget their
face coverings

FINDING GRATITUDE IN TURBULENT TIMES: A CONVERSATION WITH UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN CRAIG KOCHER

» *How can we cultivate gratitude into our everyday lives — even in stressful times?*

Gratitude helps us see the abundance of life at a time when everything feels absent. When so much of what makes life normal is scarce — daily contact with others, travel, family gatherings and celebrations, simple routines — a posture of gratitude can serve to reframe and focus our attention on the abundance of what we have rather than on what is missing. We are likely to discover we have all we really need and more.

» *How has a year like 2020 affected our ability to show gratitude?*

I think particularly in the midst of incredible anxiety — from COVID-19 to the tumult of the election, to economic fragility and social injustice — practicing gratitude has the possibility to serve two purposes: It deepens our empathy and compassion for others. The more we are aware of how much heartache there is in the world, the more our hearts break for others and we are moved to action.

“We need poignant, life-affirming, joyful moments that reinforce the goodness of life, the joy of life, to help us see all that we have rather than what we don’t have.”

—CRAIG KOCHER, university chaplain



At the same time, we become more aware of the blessings that we enjoy in our own lives and thus become less anxious and more settled. Those are not mutually exclusive; they are mutually reinforcing.

» *What can we be grateful for during times of crisis?*

Oftentimes, they are really simple things. To be mindful of the gift of having a warm place to be on a cold, rainy day when you’re working from home. The gift of being around family 24/7 even when you want to strangle them. The gift of feeling connected via technology even when we’re all exhausted by Zoom fatigue. The gift of being a part of a community like UR where everybody is working so hard to accomplish a vital mission. The gift of health when we’re so profoundly aware of those who are not in good health. Such a posture of thanks lends itself to a deeper awareness of how others are struggling and to wonder, “How can my own gratitude become a source of compassion and encouragement for someone else?”

» *In a year that has seemed so negative, how can gratefulness lead to something positive?*

Maybe one of the gifts that can come out of this time of incredible negativity is a re-centering on that which really matters. Perhaps we’ll learn not to sweat the small stuff so much. I’m hopeful that when the new horizon dawns and some of this anxiety begins to dissipate, we’ll come out of it with a deeper collective sense of the things that really matter and try to shape our individual lives and communities toward those ends.

“Artists are collaborative and creative problem solvers.

It’s in our nature to look at what is possible instead of allowing ourselves to become stymied by what is no longer possible. Within boundaries, creativity can still flourish.”

—ANNE VAN GELDER, director of dance



Q ● What are you doing to make the best of the less-than-ideal situation this semester?

A ● Focusing on my studies, focusing on making money by working a lot, and focusing on making sure I know what I want to do in the future. There’s been a lot of self-reflection. “Is this university the right one for me? Is this major the right one for me? Is this class the right one for me?” A lot of emailing professors asking them their opinion on that as well. But really, to make the most out of it, I’ve just been saying, you know, we have what we have, and we’re gonna do our damndest.”

—Lily Dickson, '23, interviewed by Josie Holland, '23

ANCIENT



DNA IS REVEALING THE GENETIC LANDSCAPE OF PEOPLE WHO FIRST SETTLED EAST ASIA



BY MELINDA YANG,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY



THE VERY FIRST HUMAN BEINGS

originally emerged in Africa before spreading across Eurasia about 60,000 years ago. After that, the story of humankind heads down many different paths, some more well-studied than others. ¶ Eastern regions of Eurasia are home to approximately 2.3 billion people today — roughly 30% of the world’s population. Archaeologists know from fossils and artifacts that modern humans have occupied Southeast Asia for 60,000 years and East Asia for 40,000 years.

But there’s a lot left to untangle. Who were the people who first came to these regions and eventually developed agriculture? Where did different populations come from? Which groups ended up predominant and which died out?

Ancient DNA is helping to answer some of these questions. By sequencing the genomes of people who lived many millennia ago, scientists like me are starting to fill in the picture of how Asia was populated.

ANALYZING ANCIENT GENOMES

In 2016, I joined Dr. Qiaomei Fu’s Molecular Paleontology Lab at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. Our challenge: Resolve the history of humans in East Asia, with the help of collaborators who were long dead — ancient humans who lived up to tens of thousands of years ago in the region.

Members of the lab extracted and sequenced ancient DNA using human remains from archaeological sites. Then Dr. Fu and I used computational genomic tools to assess how their DNA related to that of previously sequenced ancient and present-day humans.

One of our sequences came from ancient DNA extracted from the leg bones of the Tianyuan Man, a 40,000-year-old individual discovered near a famous paleoanthropological site in western Beijing. As one of the earliest modern humans found in East Asia, his genetic sequence marks him as an early ancestor of today’s Asians and Native Americans. That he lived where China’s current capital stands indicates that the ancestors of today’s Asians began placing roots in East Asia as early as 40,000 years ago.

Farther south, two 8,000- to 4,000-year-old Southeast Asian hunter-gatherers from Laos and Malaysia associated with the Hòabìnhiàn culture have DNA that, like the Tianyuan Man, shows they’re early ancestors of Asians and Native Americans. These two came from a completely different lineage than the Tianyuan Man, which suggests that many genetically distinct populations occupied Asia in the past.

But no humans today share the same genetic makeup as either Hòabìnhiànians or the Tianyuan Man, in both East and Southeast Asia. Why did ancestries that persisted for so long vanish from the gene pool of people alive now? Ancient farmers carry the key to that answer.

(Previous page)
Skull of an
~8,700-year-old
individual from
Xiaogao, Shan-
dong, China
(location 1 on
map, Page 31).

(Above) Harpoon
found at the
Liangdao site
(location 4
on map)

Photos (by: Previous page (skull) Wei Gao, Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology; above (harpoon) Chungyu Chen, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taipei



DNA CARRIES MARKS OF ANCIENT MIGRATIONS

Based on plant remains found at archaeological sites, scientists know that people domesticated millet in northern China's Yellow River region about 10,000 years ago. Around the same time, people in southern China's Yangtze River region domesticated rice.

Unlike in Europe, plant domestication began locally and was not introduced from elsewhere. The process took thousands of years, and societies in East Asia grew increasingly complex, with the rise of the first dynasties around 4,000 years ago.

That's also when rice cultivation appears to have spread from its origins to areas farther south, including lands that are today's Southeast Asian countries. DNA helps tell the story. When rice farmers from southern China expanded southward, they introduced not only their farming technology but also their genetics to local populations of Southeast Asian hunter-gatherers.

The overpowering influx of their DNA ended up swamping the local gene pool. Today, little trace of hunter-gatherer ancestry remains in the genes of people who live in Southeast Asia.

Farther north, a similar story played out. Ancient Siberian hunter-gatherers show little relationship with East Asians today, but later Siberian farmers are closely related to today's East Asians. Farmers from northern China moved northward into Siberia bringing their DNA with them, leading to a sharp decrease in prevalence of the previous local hunter-gatherer ancestry.



(Top) Whole skeleton of an ~8,700-year-old individual from Xiaogao, Shandong, China (location 1 on map). Together with Bianbian, the Xiaogao individual represents a northern ancestry that can be found along the Yellow River and up into the eastern steppes of Siberia.

(Bottom) A bone powder tube

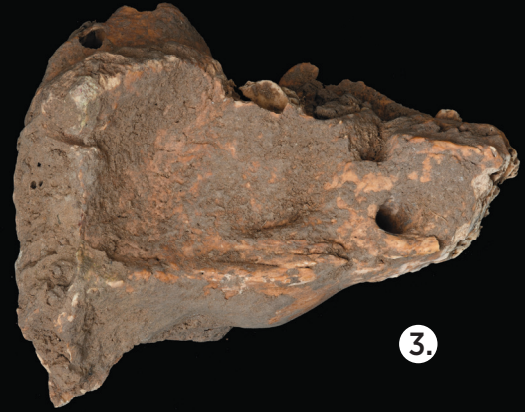
[2.] Whole skeleton of an ~8,400-year-old individual from Qihe cave, Fujian, China. This individual's southern ancestry can be found along the coast of mainland southern China and islands in the Taiwan Strait. Comparisons to ancient individuals like Qihe show that the deep roots of Austronesian-speakers is in Neolithic populations from southern China.

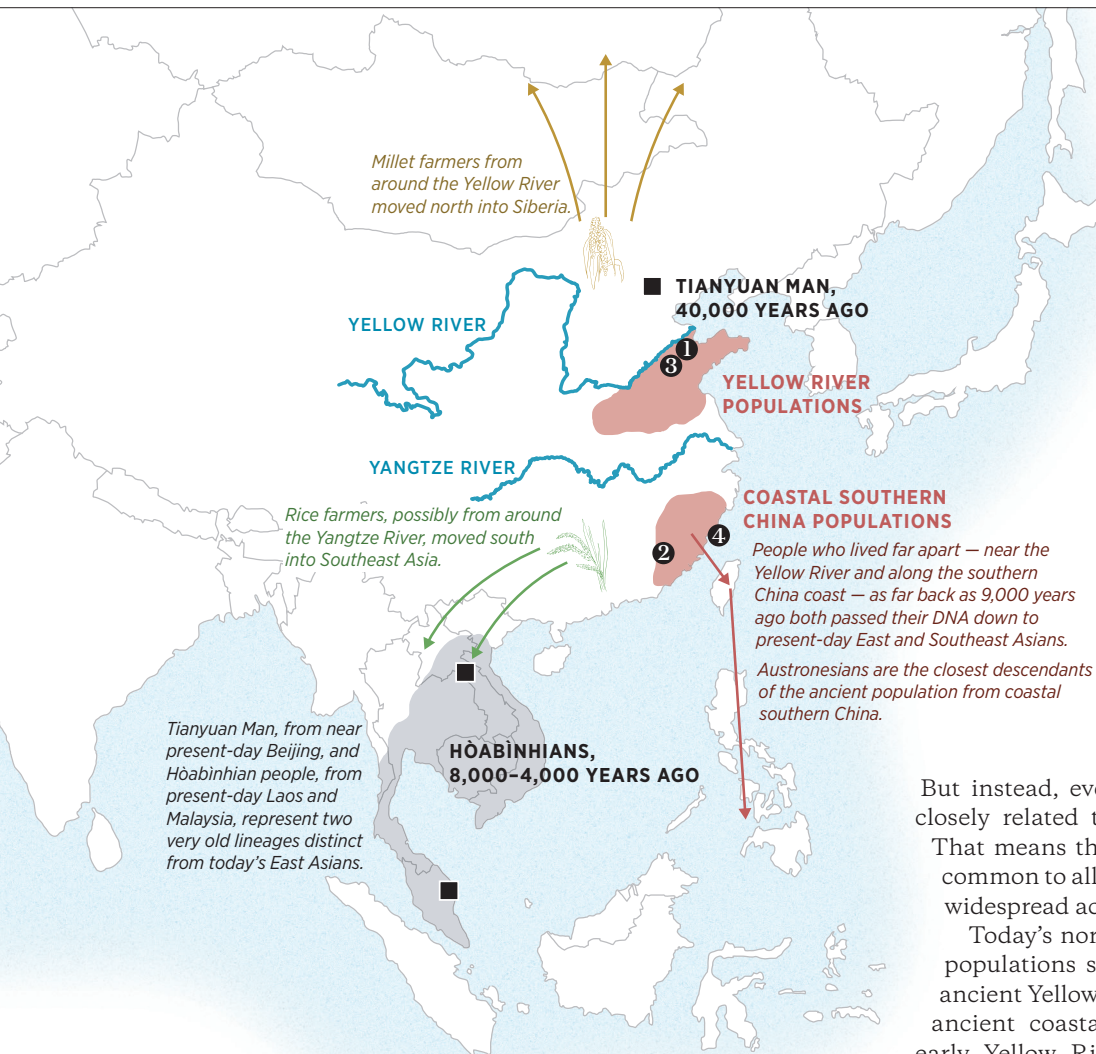
[3.] Piece of petrous bone from a ~9,500-year-old individual from Bianbian Cave, Shandong, China. This individual represents a northern ancestry found along the Yellow River and up into the eastern steppes of Siberia.

[4.] Whole skeleton of a ~8,300-year-old individual from Liangdao, an island in the Matsu archipelago 24 km offshore from Fujian, China, in the Taiwan Strait.

The Liangdao individual has a southern ancestry that can be found along the coast of mainland southern China and islands in the Taiwan Strait.

Comparisons to ancient individuals like Liangdao show that the deep roots of Austronesian-speakers is in the early Neolithic period of Southeast Asia.





Ancient DNA reveals RAPID SHIFTS IN ANCESTRY over the last 10,000 years across Asia, likely due to MIGRATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE.

PAST POPULATIONS WERE MORE DIVERSE THAN TODAY'S

Genetically speaking, today's East Asians are not very different from each other. A lot of DNA is needed to start genetically distinguishing between people with different cultural histories.

What surprised Dr. Fu and me was how different the DNA of various ancient populations were in China. We and others found shared DNA across the Yellow River region, a place important to the development of Chinese civilization. This shared DNA represents a northern East Asian ancestry, distinct from a southern East Asian ancestry we found in coastal southern China.

When we analyzed the DNA of people who lived in coastal southern China 9,000–8,500 years ago, we realized that already by then much of China shared a common heritage. Because their archaeology and morphology was different from that of the Yellow River farmers, we had thought these coastal people might come from a lineage not closely related to those first agricultural East Asians. Maybe this group's ancestry would be similar to the Tianyuan Man or Hòabínhiàn.

But instead, every person we sampled was closely related to present-day East Asians. That means that by 9,000 years ago, DNA common to all present-day East Asians was widespread across China.

Today's northern and southern Chinese populations share more in common with ancient Yellow River populations than with ancient coastal southern Chinese. Thus, early Yellow River farmers migrated both north and south, contributing to the gene pool of humans across East and Southeast Asia.

The coastal southern Chinese ancestry did not vanish, though. It persisted in small amounts and did increase in northern China's Yellow River region over time. The influence of ancient southern East Asians is low on the mainland, but they had a huge impact elsewhere. On islands spanning from the Taiwan Strait to Polynesia live the Austronesians, best known for their seafaring. They possess the highest amount of southern East Asian ancestry today, highlighting their ancestry's roots in coastal southern China.

Other emerging genetic patterns show connections between Tibetans and ancient individuals from Mongolia and northern China, raising questions about the peopling of the Tibetan Plateau.

Ancient DNA reveals rapid shifts in ancestry over the last 10,000 years across Asia, likely due to migration and cultural exchange. Until more ancient human DNA is retrieved, scientists can only speculate as to exactly who, genetically speaking, lived in East Asia prior to that. ✨

This article is republished from TheConversation.com, where it first appeared.



THE POWER OF **A MENTOR**

By Dr. Leslie Mark, '16



At the age of 3, I knew I wanted to be a doctor. I loved to fix things, and my early memories involve helping my dad while he fixed cars. My father is a brilliant senior mechanical engineer, and my mother an astute accountant. Their strong work ethic and support of one another served as strong role models to me in my formative years in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Growing up with a younger sibling with autism was also an incredibly formative part of my childhood. It taught me to be empathetic and to see the world from other people's perspectives. My father always reminded me that our success is tied to our interactions with others. "People remember how you make them feel," he would say. I used this as my mantra in my pursuit of becoming a doctor.

As a Richmond Scholar with both Boatwright and Oliver Hill designations, mentorship was a part of my program at UR. But this was just one way I found mentorship at Richmond. I acquired many mentors, and they all helped foster my growth in different areas of my life.

Biology professor April Hill was a mainstay from early in my time at Richmond. She gave me the opportunity to work in her lab, which led to my first publication in a major scholarly journal and helped prepare me for medical school. Tinina Cade, associate vice president for student development and multicultural affairs, was an essential personal mentor who made sure I knew the important legacy of Oliver Hill, a lawyer who laid the groundwork for the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision. This particularly resonated with me because my mother grew up in the same county that Hill represented.

Other mentors were every bit as exceptional, including John Vaughan, Bertram Ashe, the late Bill Myers — a mentor who believed in me from my beginnings as a science student — and many professors in the School of Business.

Make no mistake: To do well, I had to put in the hard work necessary to succeed as a science major and incorporate my interests in business with a minor. These individuals and others at Richmond showed me how connections with those who have walked a path before us can help shape our own journey.

Before leaving Richmond, I was able to begin one more mentorship that was essential to my success in medical school: Betty Neal Crutcher, our presidential spouse, a cross-cultural mentor, and a powerhouse in the health sciences in her own right. At the time, I could not imagine how important Dr. Crutcher would become.

When pursuing medicine, you face obstacles and are forced to push past failures and fears. The people tasked with advising you are not always encouraging and can be negative. With the wrong advice, you can be steered toward a specialty that will tolerate you rather than a specialty you truly love.

Having the right person in your corner is invaluable because they can show you the light at the end of the tunnel even before you can see it. That is what the mentorship of Dr. Crutcher was like. Yes, I learned the material,

learned how to care for patients, and studied for test after test, but that additional bit of hope and encouragement of hers made the difference that kept me going. She helped me understand that I was not the first person to go through it, nor was I alone.

We had phone conversations once a month. Regardless of where she was, Dr. Crutcher made the time, which showed that she valued the relationship. I valued it as well and made sure to respect her time. I recorded takeaways from each call and sent them to her before our next meeting so we never lost time catching up. This structure ensured that neither of us was too burdened. By reflecting on what we discussed, we could see growth and progression.

HAVING THE RIGHT PERSON IN YOUR CORNER IS INVALUABLE.

Over time, our mentoring relationship became more personal as we learned more about each other's backgrounds and families. She taught me the "3 V's": values, virtues, and vision, components of mentorship that she has written extensively about. We were testing this theory in our interactions and seeing its benefits.

Cross-cultural mentoring is another element she discusses in her writings. As a Black woman interested in pursuing surgery, I knew I could not assume that I would find only mentors who looked like me. Black physicians make up just 4% of the physician workforce in the U.S. Black women make up less than 2% of the American physician workforce. I also did not want only mentors who looked like me, as I would be treating a diverse population of people. It was important for me to find mentors from as many backgrounds as possible. It also became important to me to research the reasons that matriculation rates for African Americans into medical school have remained stagnant and even declined — and to help change it.

Medical school is a balance of ability and opportunity. Many aspire to go, but very few get the opportunity. Staying in medical school requires learning to study efficiently and having mentors along the way who help student doctors navigate future situations. For me, the recurring challenge was not ability or finances, but access to mentorship. Having at least one mentoring relationship in which both parties saw value, virtue, and vision was instrumental in my success to graduation.

With time, I have developed my own cross-cultural mentorships with deans, program directors, and other world-renowned physicians. On the path to my M.D., my family, Dr. Crutcher, and other mentors reminded me of my potential, and their support inspired me to never give up. ✨

Dr. Leslie Mark, '16, graduated from Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in May 2020. She is now a general surgery resident in Morristown, New Jersey.



ASK BETTER *QUESTIONS*

Bestselling author Kelly Corrigan, W'89, says a simple but powerful idea is driving her latest projects: Great questions are the secret to connecting more deeply with one another. She shows us how with a short essay and interview excerpts from her new PBS show, *Tell Me More with Kelly Corrigan*.



W

e were hiking The Dispea, a famous 8-mile trail in Marin County, California, that starts with 1,000 steps. My 17-year-old, a casual athlete who might amuse herself with a swim, a run, and a speed bag session all in the same long pandemic day, was forever just up around the next corner. Finally, the lunch break that was my *raison d'être* was upon us, and we sat down side-by-side looking at the Pacific Ocean. After a few deep breaths, Claire passed me my egg sandwich and said, "So I was thinking on the trail, what do I need to know from you before I go to college, and here's question No. 1: What is the biggest thing you've learned? Like, ever?"

"That's getting right to it, isn't it?"

"No time to waste," she said, needling me with the idea of her imminent departure, which will leave me and my husband alone in a nest I feathered for four.

"It's about the people. That's the biggest thing. Every job, every trip, every project — with the right people, it's a dream. With the wrong people? Oy. The wrong people can ruin paradise. The wrong people could ruin this," I said, extending my arms to frame up the world-class view.

"Got it," she said, squirreling it away as she mowed down some chips.

On the long ride home, it occurred to me that there's something else I believe, a related belief that is crucial to living a full life: If you want better connections, ask better questions. It's problematically easy to mistake one kind of person for another. And the only way to know if you're teamed up with the right people or the wrong people is asking questions. My husband tells a funny story about a very strange guy he was seated next to at a work dinner. The guy was so strange, in fact, that Edward texted me from the bathroom "brutal, be home sooner" but then somehow they got talking about Thailand, where we had been on our honeymoon, which led them to Madagascar, where this man — wait for it — had been a political prisoner for 90 days.

How could I have missed it — asking people questions is my life's work. I mean, I wrote a book called *Tell Me More* that encourages more questions and less answers. I have a children's book coming out in April called *Hello World!* that makes the case for curiosity as a way of being and asking questions as a way to make more of wherever you are and whoever you're with. I interview people every week for my podcast, *Kelly Corrigan Wonders*, and sit down for extended sessions for my PBS show, *Tell Me More with Kelly Corrigan*.

Of course, it's funny to think I was so worried about conveying all this to Claire, who had just proven she already understood intuitively the potential of one good question to change any moment, any conversation, any day, any life.

—Kelly Corrigan, *W'89*

TELL ME MORE WITH
KELLY CORRIGAN

EPISODE 1

BRYAN STEVENSON

KELLY CORRIGAN: You go to Harvard Law School, and you're also taking classes at the Kennedy School. ... And a first impression you had was, there's not much connection here between the people that we're making these policies about and the work that we're doing.

BRYAN STEVENSON: It was interesting because I went to law school because I was concerned about inequality and injustice, and it didn't seem like those were priorities in my first year of law school. And it was really only in my second year of law school that things turned around.

There was a professor there named Betsy Bartholet, and she had this idea to use the January term not keeping people in the classroom, but to send them to human rights and civil rights organizations. And so I signed up for that and ended up coming to Atlanta, Georgia, to work with this group, which was then called the Southern Prisoners Defense Committee.

I had been there a couple of weeks when one of the lawyers said, "Bryan, we need you to go to death row and explain to someone that he's not at risk of execution anytime in the next year."

KC: How old are you?

BS: I'm, like, 22. But I drove down to Jackson, Georgia, which is where death row is.

KC: Just by yourself?

BS: By myself. I was trying to rehearse exactly what I was going to say to this man, and I felt so unqualified.

KC: And how old was he?



BS: He ended up being exactly my age. And they brought this man in, and he had chains everywhere. They asked me whether I wanted him to be unshackled. And I said yes, because it just seemed rude to say no, and they unchained this man.

And I got so nervous that when he walked over to me, I just said, "I'm so sorry, I'm just a law student. I don't know anything about the death penalty. I don't know anything about criminal procedure, but they sent me down here to tell you that you're not at risk of execution anytime in the next year."

And I never will forget that man just slowing me down and saying, "Wait, wait, wait. Say that again." And I said, "You're not at risk of execution any time in the next year." And he closed his eyes and he said, "Wait, wait. Say that again." And I said, "You're not at risk of execution any time in the next year."

And that's when that man grabbed my hands. And he looked me dead in the eyes and said, "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. You're the first person I've met in the two years I've been on death row who's not a death row pris-

oner or death row guard," He said, "I've been talking to my wife and kids on the phone, but I haven't let them come and visit because I was afraid I'd have an execution date, and I didn't want them to have to deal with me. Now because of you, I am going to see my wife. I'm going to see my kids." He said, "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

And I couldn't believe how even in my ignorance, just being present, just showing up can make a difference in the quality of someone's life. And it taught me something really important about being present, about proximity. ... It's so clear to me that we are all more than the worst thing we've ever done. I think if someone tells a lie, they're not just a liar, and they should not have to go through life branded only as a liar. I think if someone takes something, they're not just a thief. Even if you kill someone, you're not just a killer, and we can't do justice until we understand the other things you are.

EPISODE 2

JAMES CORDEN

KELLY CORRIGAN: When you see 27-year-olds in Hollywood going bananas with their new moment, are you super-empathetic?

JAMES CORDEN: I'm empathetic for anybody, certainly today now in this current climate of social media. I'm empathetic to anybody who gets blasted into a world of recognition. Bill Murray said, "When anybody becomes well known, when anybody comes famous, you've got to give them 12 months of grace." Because the whole world's changed, and you're the same. You're getting showered with praise. People want to talk to you who didn't want to talk to you before. People want to be around you who didn't want to be around you before. People want to spend the night with you who didn't want to spend the night with you



before. It's an unnerving mix.

My only regret is that the work that I was putting out at that time just wasn't nearly good enough. I started making a sketch show with my friend Matt, who played Gavin in *Gavin and Stacey*, and the BBC were like, "You should make a sketch show. We were like, "That's a great idea. Yeah, we can do this." And we didn't do nearly enough work for it, and it got judged accordingly.

KC: Kind of half-assed.

JC: Yeah, and you can't do that.

KC: You can't be hung over and think hard thoughts.

JC: You can't take any of it for granted. You can't think, "This is my life now," because it isn't. You're only as good as the work that you're doing. And I've learned way more about myself in criticism. You learn next to nothing in praise.

KC: Do you look at the criticism?

JC: I have, yeah, for sure. Not online sort of criticism because I think that's a whole other thing. But I mean, yeah, like reviews of work and things. And I

do think it's different if you're an actor. I think being an actor, you're at the mercy of a lot of other people. I think stage is an actor's medium. I think television is a writer's medium. And I think film is a director's medium.

KC: Do you like being at the mercy of a director?

JC: I do.

KC: You do?

JC: Mostly because I just enjoy the doing of it.

KC: You're a team person.

JC: There are two trains of thought. Some people are in it for the legacy. They're in it for the legacy of "What do I leave behind?" and I have great respect for that. I'm in it for the experience. I'm in it for the journey of it. The doing of it's the thing. Everything else is a bonus. The doing of it's the prize.

KC: You said something about *Cats* that I saw, that it wasn't your favorite end product?

JC: Well, I haven't seen it, and I will say this, genuinely. When I came

back from shooting *Cats*, my friend said, "How was it?" I was like, "I had the best time. I have no idea what it's gonna be. No idea whatsoever."

KC: I just thought it was admirable that you could separate the doing of the thing and the joy in working on that set, and whatever outcomes there may be.

JC: You have to because you cannot judge the success of something on its success. There's got to be what it did within you because if you're only defined by things that are outside of you, that I think is a lost cause. This is something I struggle with all the time. It's something I try to tell myself, that you are not your career. You are separate to that. You are here, and your work is here, and they are linked but not joined at the hip. I try to remind myself of that all the time.



EPISODE 3

JENNIFER GARNER

KELLY CORRIGAN: Tell me about growing up in West Virginia.

JENNIFER GARNER: I feel like the luckiest ... I mean, first of all, it's not unusual for you to tell me that I'm the only West Virginian you've ever met because statistically speaking, you're less likely to meet someone from West Virginia outside of the state than from anywhere else. There aren't very many of us, and we don't tend to leave. It was a real childhood. Marge down the street had the extra key if the door was locked when we got home from school. I was raised by a community.

KC: I grew up on a street where all the Irish Catholics lived. So it was like the Walshes and the Kellys and the Connors, and any one of those parents could smack you on the bottom or feed you dinner or remember it was your birthday. Tell me about your parents.

JG: My parents are just salt of the earth. My mom grew up really poor in Locust Grove, Oklahoma, on a farm. I

said to her, "Mom, does it bother you when I talk about your poverty as a child? Does that bother you?" And she said, "I'm never ashamed of growing up poor. Rather, I am amazed by the grace and dignity that my parents had throughout my childhood."

I just thought, "Oh, OK." She was a mom and went back to school and got her graduate degree when I was little, and then she taught at West Virginia State for a long time. She taught kind of remedial reading, where she had a lot of kids who had traveled through the public school system in West Virginia and were in college but were also illiterate.

KC: And what's your dad like?

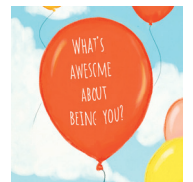
JG: My dad is, he's so great. He's Billy Jack. When I was younger, I would have just said Bill, but I feel like the older he gets, the more the Texan just spills out of him. He is Billy Jack Garner. When I was little, my dad could be in South Africa — and in West Virginia, like I said, no one leaves. I'm now realizing that he had to take a connecting flight from our tiny airport to this tiny airport to this to this, but he was all the time, he has really traveled the world.

KC: I think of you as a pretty worldly person, in terms of your point of view, like you're interested in things

well beyond yourself. I think to have people in your house who are telling stories about other places is really valuable that way.

JG: Oh, for sure. I think my mom was so poor that it is just unbelievable that she managed to leave. As a matter of fact, when I moved to New York after college, my mom said, "Jennifer, no matter what you do, it will never be as big of a deal as it was for me to leave that farm."

She just wanted to travel. She babysat for somebody down the road who had a little bit of money. They had five kids. She'd get \$1 a day on Saturdays to babysit them for 12 or 14 hours, and they had *Life* magazines. In *Life* magazine, she saw pictures of other places, and she just wanted to go. She found an ad to be a Girl Scout counselor in Maine, and she applied and got on a bus and went to Maine. It was kind of the beginning of my mom's real itch to see and understand the world, and now she has been to 50 states and to seven continents.



Corrigan is offering children a guide for asking great questions in a new book set for publication this spring.

Hello World! promises to help children become "the best question-asker the world has ever seen" with colorful illustrations and questions that are good for kids and grown-ups alike.

ALUMNI

CAREERS



Illustration by Mike Dominica

Career services is offering a variety of virtual programs as part of its lifelong services to alumni.

Time to network

These are tough days to be seeding the ground for future opportunities, says Becca Shelton, a career adviser in the alumni and career services office. Professional conferences and other large-scale events where networking opportunities were a built-in feature have gone virtual. In their place is often a laptop screen, an awkward portal for nice-to-meet-you small talk.

“We’ve never been forced to have this much distance from each other,” she says.

Since March, as part of the lifelong services her office provides to alumni, Shelton has been hosting regular virtual sessions focused on how to navigate the current professional landscape. They have ranged from how to job search in a tough economy to workshops on résumé writing and remote interviewing. Another challenge she has tackled is how to network in a professional environment gone virtual.

She focuses on several challenges. The first is the need to establish clear boundaries.

“Work is now home, and home is now work,” she says. “Now it’s all

blended, and the lines are blurred. Carving out time for networking activities is more difficult now.”

She also encourages people to map out a deliberate networking strategy.

“Be very purposeful and intentional about how you’re going to do this,” she says. Schedule specific time blocks on your calendar. Identify who, specifically, you want to add to your networking circles, since you can’t currently count on serendipitous meetings.

“When we think about all of our networking contacts, we need a lot of different people,” she says. “Sometimes, we just need cheerleaders in our lives. Sometimes we need people who can refer us out to other people or provide sage advice.”

Lastly, pay attention to etiquette. Not everyone is in the same headspace about what is safe. Offer up various ways to connect, and then be patient.

“If they’re working from home, they’re probably juggling a lot,” she says.

Shelton and her colleagues have a full slate of virtual events planned for the spring. For more information, go to careerservices.richmond.edu.

STAY CONNECTED



Spider connection

Erin McCracken Ottmar, '05, wrote to share “how Richmond brought me full circle.”

After earning her doctorate at the University of Virginia, she returned to Richmond as a postdoctoral research scientist in the psychology department from 2011. Two of the students she mentored then became her first and then second master’s students after she moved on to become an assistant professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts.

One of those students, Taylyn Hulse, '13, is now a user experience designer at Google. The other, Avery Harrison Closser, '15, is now a doctoral candidate.

“The Spider networks and undergraduate research opportunities provided a means for superb training to prepare them for graduate school and provided me with mentoring opportunities that still continue today,” she wrote.



Current plans

Decisions about Reunion Weekend were being discussed as we went to press. Watch your Inbox for more information, or go to reunion.richmond.edu for updates.



TAP THE SPIDER NETWORK

Shelton highlights another resource available just to Spiders: the alumni directory, which is available via UR Online (uronline.net). It allows searches of more than 40,000 alumni profiles by geography, industry, and major.

LINKS



TEEING OFF Kyle Engelken, '08, has been on a pandemic roller coaster since March, when he launched, then closed, then re-opened X-Golf Richmond (xgolfrichmond.com), where players can tee off on virtual courses and take lessons via state-of-the-art simulators. Business has been good, he said. The facility's generous spacing is ideal for getting out safely. "We've had a lot of Spiders coming out for league play, which we do on Tuesday and Wednesday nights," he said.

LEADERSHIP



Photograph courtesy Columbus Crew SC Communications

As team president, Bezbatchesko led the Columbus Crew to its second MLS Cup.

A league champion

Former Spider soccer player Tim Bezbatchesko, '04 — whom we profiled in the Spring/Summer 2019 issue — has a major new update and impressive new hardware.

In his second season as the Columbus Crew SC's president and general manager, Bezbatchesko lifted the MLS Cup. The team won the 2020 championship in December with a decisive 3-0 win over defending champion Seattle Sounders.

"From the start, our ambition has been that we want to be consistent contenders," he told the *Columbus Dispatch* at the start of the playoffs. "Why can't we be great? We've been ambitious from the start."

This is the second time Bezbatchesko has led a team to a champi-

onship. He was general manager of Toronto FC in 2017 when it won the MLS Cup, the Supporters' Shield (for best regular-season record), and the Canadian Championship.

In Columbus, he is a key architect of the team's renaissance. When he arrived, Crew fans had just prevented its relocation and forced an ownership change. Now, Bezbatchesko has led them to a championship.

"For so many reasons, 2020 has been miserable, with few bright spots," Austin Lindberg wrote for ESPN. "The Crew's championship, on the back of their fans' righteous, successful campaign to keep their club — the league's original club — in town, is a sliver of sunshine we could all do with more of."

OF NOTE



On Out100 list

Kadeem Alphonso Fyffe, '13, joined cultural figures such as Lizzo and Apple's Tim Cook on the 2020 edition of *Out* magazine's Out100 list, which recognizes "members of the LGBTQ+ community for their groundbreaking, ripple-inducing, and culture-shifting impact around the world," according to the publication.

Fyffe was honored for his role as founder of Muxe New York, a gender-free fashion label.

"The brand's 'Equality' T-shirt was everywhere in 2020," the magazine wrote, "which Fyffe attributes to the fact that 'now more than ever, people understand the need for equality. The shirt is political, fashion-forward, and a perfect conversation starter, because it champions a universal message.'"

'Ready to scale'

Investors have put more than \$1.1 million of seed funding into a Richmond-based startup founded by John Failla, '15.

His company, Trilogy Mentors, started as an in-person tutoring company but grew quickly when it decided to build its own online platform to enable educators to tutor students remotely. The new infusion of funds will be used for platform development, team growth, and marketing, according to a company press release.

"We were in a position to help educators through digital transformation when the pandemic hit," said Failla, CEO. "We are ready to scale with confidence."



CV

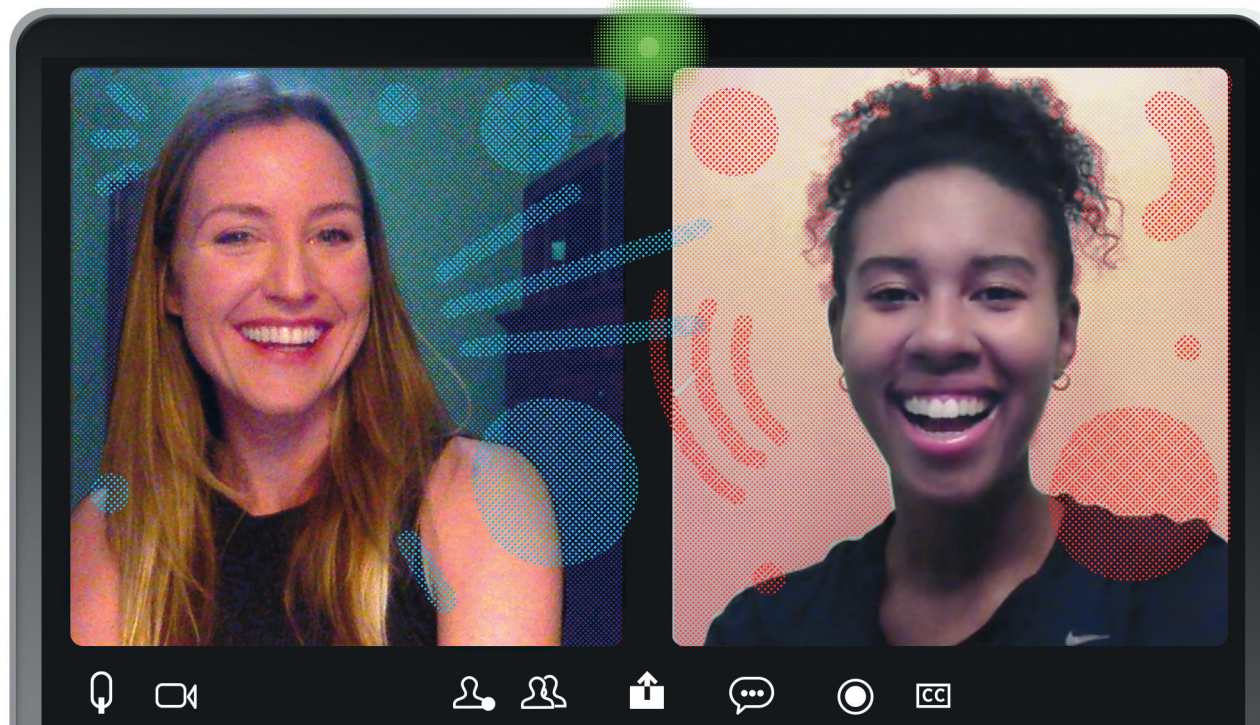
Bezbatchesko knows about leadership. He was a team captain when he played soccer at Richmond and graduated with a major in economics and a minor in leadership studies. Today, he serves on the executive board of advisors for the Jepson School of Leadership Studies.



MORE INFO

Tori Whitcher's live webinars, including a list of resources from her program with Meghan Stocks, '13, are available at sporteurotour.com/coachtori.

So Field Hockey, Stocks' organization, is online at sofieldhockey.org. The organization works to increase the visibility, affordability, and accessibility of field hockey.



SPIDER CONNECTIONS *Two Spiders are creating new opportunities in their sport by relying on their Spider network for ideas and support.*

Tori Whitcher, '11, (above left) has been in a group text with the seven field hockey teammates from her graduating class since freshman year. They are her rock and her sounding board. So when she was recently confronted by major professional challenges, she knew where to turn.

Whitcher's company, Sport EuroTour and World Camp USA, connects elite American field hockey players with international coaches and peers. As the communications and marketing lead, she organizes international and national training camps for high school-aged hockey players. When COVID-19 suddenly made these camps impossible, she turned to her Spider family.

"During this whole COVID thing, we all got together, and we did a brainstorming session," she says. "Like, these are some things that you can do for the girls right now."

Inspired by her conversation with her teammates, Whitcher began hosting webinars to bring together international field

hockey experts, coaches, and players of all ages to discuss college recruiting, mental health, self-care, nutrition, workouts, and at-home hockey training.

"I kept doing it because a handful of girls told me it was like their church every single week," she says, "A couple of them called me crying, saying they don't know what they would do without these webinars. Some parents told me it was the one thing getting their daughter through COVID."

Their work paid off, and the webinars became a hit, eventually reaching more than 10,000 players and earning Whitcher Humanitarian of the Year from USA Field Hockey.

But Whitcher's most impactful webinar session came from another Spider collaboration. After the killing of George Floyd, former teammate Meghan Stocks, '13, (above right) made a video describing some of her experiences as a Black player in a predominantly white sport and white privilege in field hockey. Stocks, the first Black field hockey player at UR, also shared her thoughts and experiences with her UR field hockey teammates, including Whitcher.

Whitcher was moved and recognized that

Stocks' message had the potential to affect a lot of people, so she arranged for Stocks to co-host a webinar, which they called "Athletes, Allies, and Advocacy."

During it, Stocks discussed her experiences as a player and coach and her work increasing accessibility to field hockey by redistributing gear and offering training camps and clinics via her company, So Field Hockey. She received an outpouring of support and positive feedback.

"Because of the webinar, we've started a Black field hockey network to connect people and create a safer, more welcoming and more comforting environment where you can discuss things," Stocks says. "We can also work in tandem with NFHCA, which is the National Field Hockey Coaches Association, to help provide educational seminars and webinars on different life situations."

When times get tough, both Stocks and Whitcher have both found they can rely on their alumni network.

"It's one big family," Stocks says, "You can pick up the phone and contact people at any time. Even if it's been 10 years, the minute you're actually taking the field together, it's just like yesterday."

QUOTATION

“We help businesses do well by doing good.”

PETER FADOUL, '16, talking about his work at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Corporate Citizenship Center, during a podcast interview. He is an associate manager of the Sustainability and Circular Economy program.

#SPIDERFAMILY



Alumni offer a friendly face and practical advice to Spiders moving to new cities.

Welcome, Spider

When Faizan Chaudhry, '17, moved to New York City after graduation for his job at Bloomberg, it wasn't like he'd never been there before. But all of his visits had been vacations.

“When you come to New York City as a tourist, it is very different than actually living here,” he says. “So I really had to adapt.”

The move was more familiar for his classmate Yadeni Abagaro, '17, who grew up in New Jersey and had two New York City summer internships in college before moving to the city for a position at PNC. But she understands why it can feel daunting. “It’s obviously very different from being in the suburbs of Richmond,” she said.

To help other Spiders making the move, the pair participated in a

“Welcome to the City” panel hosted by alumni and career services. They offered practical advice on picking neighborhoods, building a social circle, and adjusting to the city’s rhythms. More importantly, they offered the comfort of knowing Spiders are there to offer support.

“To me, one of the most valuable parts of going to Richmond is just how tightknit and helpful of a community it is,” Abagaro says. “Everyone’s very welcoming, and I wanted to give back in the way that I felt [is] like [what] I have gotten [from] the community.”

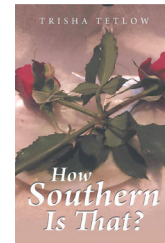
Both say random encounters with other Spiders aren’t unusual.

“To run into someone from college is definitely a good coincidence,” Chaudhry said.



MORE INFO
 “Welcome to the City” events are highlighting a number of cities where alumni live. For a current schedule of these and other virtual alumni events, go to alumni.richmond.edu.

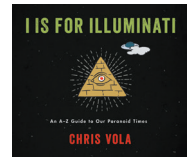
BOOKS



HOW SOUTHERN IS THAT?
TRISHA GRIZZARD TETLOW, W'66
 Tetlow offers an uncompromising look at the South in her book. “No matter where you live, how you vote, your likes and dislikes, this book gives you the ultimate tour of civilization of the South [and] what makes it tick,” she writes.



HOLLY HOLDEN'S PEARLS OF PALM BEACH
HOLLY EASON HOLDEN, B'78
 Holden's book offers “a tour into eight lovely private residences which are understated, well-appointed houses in Palm Beach,” she writes. They include the houses of two ambassadors and a former Canadian prime minister.



I IS FOR ILLUMINATI
CHRIS VOLA, '07
 Vola's latest book, which is subtitled “An A-Z Guide to Our Paranoid Times,” is a fully illustrated primer on the world's biggest conspiracy theories. Chapters include “F Is for Fluoride,” “L Is for Lizard People,” and “R Is for Roswell.”



CHRISTMAS COOKIES ON A CRUISE SHIP
JENNIFER MARSHALL MCILQUHAM, '94
 Writing under the pen name Parker Fairchild, McIlquham spins the tale of a budding romance writer who finds love in the Caribbean with the help of a heaping dose of Christmas magic.

NOTES

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 • 118 UR Drive • University of Richmond, VA 23173. Please include your class year and the name you were known by as a student, if different than today. For your children, please include birth dates rather than ages. Photographs of alumni are welcome and encouraged. 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 on the magazine's website.

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

- B Robins School of Business
- C School of Professional and Continuing Studies
- G Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- GB Richard S. Reynolds Graduate School of Business
- GC Graduate School of Professional and Continuing Studies
- H Honorary Degree
- L School of Law
- R Richmond College
- W Westhampton College

'44 **IN MEMORIAM**
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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.

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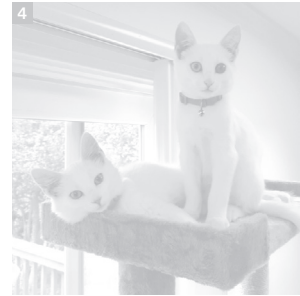
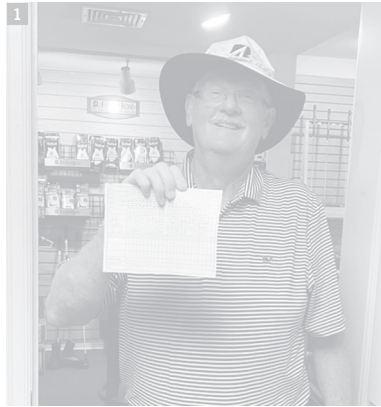
'50 **WATCH FOR NEWS ABOUT YOUR RESCHEDULED REUNION WEEKEND**

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'51 **HAPPY REUNION YEAR! WATCH FOR NEWS ABOUT YOUR REUNION WEEKEND**

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For information about photos, see:

1. Richard Sinclair, R'67
2. Ed Sobey, R'69
3. Barb Hancock Crockett, '74
4. Ann Gordon, '74
5. Ellen Taylor Sisson, '75

WILLIAM MACKAY, B'78



The challenge of a career

A difference of \$50 nearly stopped Bill MacKay, B'78, from taking his first job in sports, his dream career. In 1980, he interviewed for an entry-level job at Richmond's Parker Field — now the Diamond — but they offered to pay him just \$400 a month, a sum he couldn't survive on.

The general manager told him to go home, write out a budget, and come back the next day. He did, and they settled on \$450.

"When I look back on it 40 years ago, \$50 probably would have kept me out of sports," he said.

That job led to more opportunities as he rose through the ranks working for sports teams and the companies that operate their facilities. Among his successes: He helped lead the 1993 move by the Red Sox from Arizona to Florida for spring training.

Today, the pandemic poses the biggest challenge of his career. As a vice president at Hertz Arena in Estero, Florida, MacKay is part of an executive team reinventing its business model to survive the pandemic. His company has three major pieces: a 7,000-seat arena for concerts and other events, home ice for the Florida Everblades minor league hockey team, and a recreational rink for youth and adult league hockey and figure skating. All of them rely on in-person gatherings.

With safety protocols in place — extensive cleaning, touchless ticketing and concession transactions, and more — they've largely reopened the recreational ice activities. The Everblades season is also underway, with a mask requirement and socially distanced seating sections. Concerts are a tougher challenge, MacKay says.

"It's going to take a long time to come back," he says. "Performers may not tour, or people may not feel comfortable coming to a concert to watch."

He's determined to see it through.

"I don't have a crystal ball, and hopefully the vaccine's here soon, whether it's three months, six months, or a year to end this," he says. "We're evaluating our operations daily."

—Matthew Dewald

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'56 HAPPY REUNION YEAR! WATCH FOR NEWS ABOUT YOUR REUNION WEEKEND

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JIM MALONE, R'88



Strumming through COVID

Outside of his log cabin, Jim Malone, R'88, adjusted the camera before sitting back on his stool and picking up his guitar. Malone was about to play a set for the University of Richmond Alumni Virtual Happy (Half) Hour, an event alumni relations has been hosting via Facebook Live since the start of the pandemic.

For Malone, the performance gig was a reprieve from the stress of quarantine and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was one of the highlights of my summer, to perform that show. It got me thinking about making more music and performing more," he said. "It was very unexpected, and ultimately, it was just such a rewarding experience."

Despite the distance and the global pandemic, Malone says that the comments during his short set reconnected him with many classmates. "It was hard to imagine that that would have happened had there not been something like COVID to put the brakes on everything and force the University of Richmond alumni office to be creative like that."

Like so many small businesses, his company CounterEv Furniture has taken a hit during the pandemic, but despite the challenges, Malone tries to look on the bright side.

"It gave me an opportunity to slow things down," he said. "My business was closed for a couple of months, and it's still not back to the capacity that it was before. But it kind of forced a general pause in my life, which was great. In that time, I was able to reconnect to the things that mattered most, and music was one of those things."

In times of trouble, Malone often turns to music. "Whenever I've needed to feel some greater inspiration, music has always been there for me."

—Josie Holland, '23

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'58 IN MEMORIAM

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Photograph by Keystone-France/Gamma-Rapho via Getty Images

Postwar justice

Approximately 75 years ago, David Nelson Sutton, a 1915 graduate of the university's law program, wrote the editor of UR's *Alumni Bulletin* to describe his ongoing work as a prosecutor during the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, the Pacific theater's counterpart to the Nuremberg Trials. The following is an excerpt from that 1946 letter:

We are now in the midst of the trial of 27 top-ranking Japanese. The indictment returned after some months of investigation and intensive study charges them with planning, initiating, and waging wars of aggression and wars in violation of treaties, agreements, assurances, and of international law. It charges the defendants with crimes against peace, conventional war crimes, and crimes against humanity. ...

In addition to working with other counsel on several different phases of the war against China, I am solely responsible for the section dealing with "Atrocities against Civilians and Others by Japanese Troops in China." I have already put on the stand some of the witnesses who have described the conduct of Japanese soldiers in Nanking following the fall of that city on December 13, 1937, commonly called "The Rape of Nanking." Other witnesses ... as

well as evidence of alleged atrocities in all parts of occupied China covering the period from 1937 to 1945 will be introduced next week. One witness has also testified to the shooting of prisoners of war by Japanese at Hankow in October 1938.

The proceedings are necessarily slow. Seventy copies of each document offered in evidence must be made and copies served on the defense counsel 24 hours before it is offered. When a witness testifies in the Chinese language, the question is asked in English, repeated in Japanese and then in Chinese. The answer is in Chinese, and then is repeated in English and then in Japanese.

There is enough hard work to keep you out of mischief, but it is intensely interesting.

We are trying to get the facts straight and are more interested in what historians a century hence will say of the trial than what the American people and some of the

citizens of the other countries taking part in the trial may say of it at this time. We hope to establish as a precedent the principle that a person or group of persons who lead a nation into a war of aggression or a war in violation of treaties and assurances is an ordinary criminal and may be dealt with as such. We also cherish the hope that this cooperative effort on the part of many nations seeking to administer equal justice under law may prove one step forward in the closer cooperation of all nations in the maintenance of world peace and order. It is the long view that keeps the daily task from being tedious and routine.

How long will the trial last? No one can say, but it will very likely be in progress the remainder of this year.

I was walking along a street in Shanghai, China, one afternoon the first part of June when a familiar voice called out, "Nelson Sutton, what are you doing here?" It was Jesse M. Johnson, '22, of Richmond, then an officer in the Army on duty in China. You find Spiders everywhere.



FURTHER READING

After Sutton's death, his family donated his personal papers to Richmond Law's Muse Library.

Among them are approximately 200 letters he exchanged during his time in Japan as he continued to manage his personal interests, community relationships, and law practice in West Point, Virginia. He frequently describes his work in Japan in these letters.

ROB DAVIS, '00



Sparking change

Time and experience have proven that when investigative journalist Rob Davis, '00, uses his reporting to explore an issue and tell a story, meaningful change can follow.

Davis didn't expect to become a journalist, but what began as coursework and articles for *The Collegian* became a joy and a passion. He wrote the first defining story of his career at *The Free Lance-Star*, in Fredericksburg, Virginia. It explored life in Dawn, Virginia, a small community founded as a freedmen's town after the Civil War that, even in the 21st century, lacked public services as vital as indoor plumbing. "It was not a story about outhouses," he recalled. "It was a story about a forgotten community that had been overlooked by people in power." It wasn't forgotten much longer; within months of his coverage, \$2 million in state and federal funding was granted to rebuild homes and add plumbing.

At *The Oregonian*, where he now works, Davis recently completed the four-part, multimedia series "Polluted by Money," which explored the relationship between unlimited corporate campaign contributions and environmental policy in Oregon. The series revealed how unchecked corporate interests had led to widespread harm to the air, water, land, and people, even in a state known as an environmental leader.

Davis received numerous national awards, including the Columbia Journalism School's 2020 John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism, for his work on the series, and a measure to allow limits on campaign contributions appeared on the Oregon ballot in November. It passed with the support of nearly four in five voters.

"The job is not all impact and societal change," Davis reflected. "But it provides a unique opportunity to spotlight intractable problems and speak truth to power."

—Cheyenne Varner, '13

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'70 WATCH FOR NEWS ABOUT YOUR RESCHEDULED REUNION WEEKEND

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'71 HAPPY REUNION YEAR! WATCH FOR NEWS ABOUT YOUR REUNION WEEKEND

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Bridging Asia and Europe

By the time European political adviser Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy, '03, arrived at UR for undergrad, she knew four languages — Hungarian, Romanian, English, and French. To date, she's added Spanish, German, and Greek, and she is working on Chinese.

Ferenczy's love for languages propelled her into political science with an international lens. In particular, she has explored the relationship between Europe and China — the book she wrote on the topic, *Europe, China, and the Limits of Normative Power*, was published in 2019 — as well as Taiwan, India, and the Korean Peninsula. "The book is a self-reflective examination on EU-China relations, based on a commitment to learn from each other as we seek to build a sustainable international order," Ferenczy explained.

As a political adviser in the European Parliament, Europe's lawmaking body, her work ignited her conviction that healthy political relationships require understanding people within their contexts. After completing her doctorate at Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium, Ferenczy now works as a consultant seeking to bridge Europe and Asia.

One of the rewards of Ferenczy's career has been her ability to propose initiatives and bring visibility to people and issues that may be overlooked otherwise. One example close to her heart involved a book written by Bandi, a North Korean author, smuggled into South Korea and published in the West. After learning of the book at a conference in Seoul, South Korea, she hosted a launch event in the European Parliament with the author's representative to give voice to people living under a dictatorship.

"This is the kind of work where you believe that your work matters," she said. "It might not make an immediate impact, but it's part of a bigger effort to make a change."

—Cheyenne Varner, '13

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For information about photos, see:
6. Beth Wheeler Nelson, W'77
7. Nate Hulley, '01
8. Sonja Madera Robie, '02
9. Craig Weiss, '04, and
Alanna McManus Weiss, '06



Breaking new ground

As an obstetrician and gynecologist with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Dr. Tajh Ferguson, '10, is facing head-on the COVID-19 pandemic and the pandemic of racism in America.

"Multiple patients have told me I'm the first Black doctor they have seen," said Ferguson, who is based at a community health center in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. Her patients' frequent statement does not surprise her.

"When I started at the hospital in Boston last year, I was the only Black attending physician on labor and delivery" she said.

Ferguson serves a community that is primarily Afro Caribbean, Latinx, and African American. She says that in America, Black women are two to three times more likely to die in childbirth than white women, so she works to address this disparity and to educate wider audiences about the significant role that systemic racism plays in medicine generally and her field in particular.

Her recent work on this front includes co-founding the Diversity, Inclusion, and Advocacy Committee for the residents from Harvard Medical School at Beth Israel Deaconess. She also teaches at Harvard Medical School and shares her medical expertise widely. In recent articles in *InStyle* and *Glamour* magazines, for example, she offered tips for relief from morning sickness and a guide for what patients need to know about giving birth by cesarean section.

A dual citizen, Ferguson originally came to Richmond from Nassau, Bahamas, to study science. A career in medicine was always her plan.

"I have always had a vision and worked toward this," she said. "I've been involved in this work since UR, where I participated in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute fellowship and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc."

—Nathan Bullock, '10

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'86 HAPPY REUNION YEAR! WATCH FOR NEWS ABOUT YOUR REUNION WEEKEND

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**HAPPY REUNION YEAR!
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“I join many of my fellow alumni in being able to add ‘homeschool teacher’ to my resume.”

—Jessica Kitchin Murphy, '05

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JENNIFER HUFFMAN, '10



Next-generation leader

When Jennifer Huffman, '10, purchases a pack of soda, the bottles may have scuffs or scratches on the outside, but she doesn't mind. In fact, for her, it's normal. That's because Huffman lives and works as a strategic communications and public affairs consultant at Brunswick Group in Germany, where many companies use a circular economy. In this case, consumers can return bottles to the store for the companies to clean and reuse in future products.

"If we had [American] government invest in this kind of recycling, it would be incredible for sustainability, and it reduces costs," she says. "That's the thing about sustainability so often, and what you call circular economy. Instead of going from take-make-waste, you take the end product and put it back into the take and make processes."

As an American in Germany, she finds that her international perspective "shows you what's possible in very specific concrete ways: This is what I, as an individual citizen, can do in my personal way on a daily basis."

As the climate crisis becomes more urgent, Huffman sees millennials as the new industry leaders in sustainability. They are well-positioned to take meaningful long-term steps to promote corporate sustainability and purpose-driven economies.

"We're a generation that, compared to previous generations ahead of us, are saying, 'I see the writing on the wall. Short-termism doesn't work, and I'm footing the bill. The can keeps being kicked down the road, but I'm going to be the one that first has to deal with it.'"

While the situation is fast approaching the point of no return, Huffman is hopeful. "It's only with radical change and radical system restructuring that we can reverse the trend. It's just a mammoth task. That being said, you would be shocked how many incredible organizations are working on it."

—Josie Holland, '23

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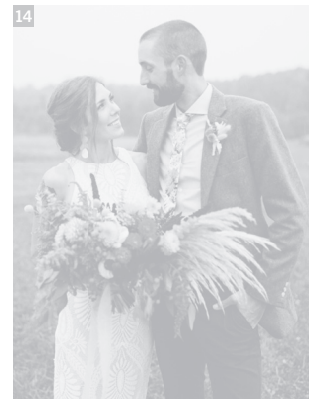
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For information about photos, see:
10. Matt Fortin, '05
11. Jessica Kitchin Murphy, '05
12. Sherilyn Notte, '07
13. Christopher Michel, '16, and
Arianna Ciuffo, B'17
14. Lindsey Campbell, GC'20



MARY MORGAN, '11



Fighter for rights

“Ever since I was a little kid, I wanted to help change the world,” said Mary Morgan, '11.

That lifelong fervent desire landed Morgan in the unlikeliest of places: Beirut, Lebanon, working for the British government during the Syrian civil war.

After graduation, Morgan was working at global public affairs firm Qorvis Communications in Washington, D.C., handling the firm's media relations and communications for the Syrian opposition. During peace talks in 2016, her expertise caught the eye of the UK Special Envoy. Three weeks after a job offer, she arrived in Beirut working for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

“I've always been quite passionate about how we can make the world better by coming together and fighting for freedoms and rights for everyone,” she said. “That's what first took me toward Syria.”

It was also the driving force behind her departure as she looked to use her personal experience to start conversations around rape culture and “the lack of body autonomy that our society grants women.” Morgan, a survivor of a 2016 rape, looked to “reclaim the narrative” and ultimately eradicate sexual assault from our society.

Morgan is now based in London and focuses her efforts on body politics and pushing for social change through a combination of writing, research, and visual arts. In August 2020, she released a short art film, *This Is Not for You*, in which she addresses her attacker for the first time. She also has a body politics website and newsletter, and is writing a book about these issues.

“I've always known the world was unjust ... and the more frank we are with the reality of what things are, the more likely we are to change them,” Morgan said. “We need to actively fight for a society that is free and equal for all, not just for some. I am unapologetic in my fight to change culture for the better.”

—Cheryl Spain

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'15 WATCH FOR NEWS ABOUT YOUR RESCHEDULED REUNION WEEKEND

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How've you been?

Spiders' notes have been in the magazine since 1936. Be part of the tradition.

Random Spider encounters • Births and deaths • New degrees and jobs — retirements, too • Fabulous vacations • Weekend getaways • Classmate reunions • Community service • Weddings and moves • Job losses, setbacks, and fresh starts of all kinds • Revelations, revelry, and reflections • Good reads • Photos, photos, and more photos • Simple notes to say hello

CLASSNOTES@RICHMOND.EDU

Post-pandemic dreams

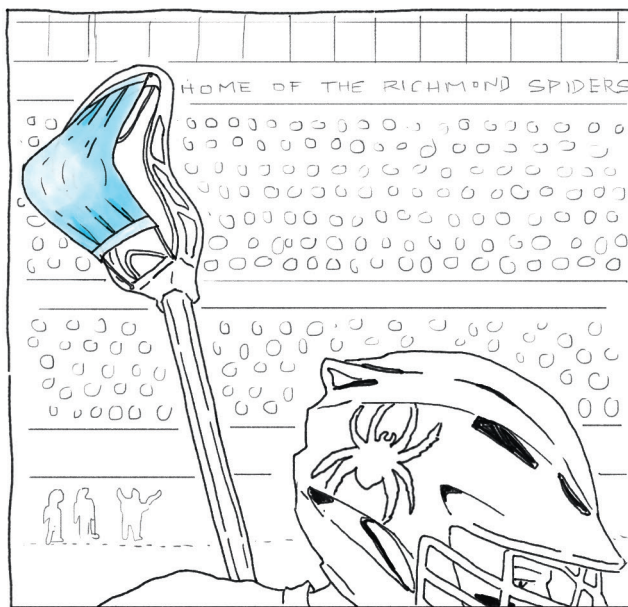
The day will come when this pandemic is a memory. Sometime soon, we'll again sit next to strangers at the movies and reach past them to grab a drink at cafés. We'll join masses of strangers and friends for concerts, weddings, services, and 10Ks. Until then, we can dream about what we will do with the relics of these times. There must be hundreds of millions of masks by now. Here are some uses for the coming surplus in a happier future.



HAMMOCKS FOR REAL SPIDERS



8:15 COFFEE SLEEVES



NETS FOR LACROSSE STICKS



BACKPACKS FOR SQUIRRELS

We are all Spiders.

AND WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.

OUR SPIDERS ARE MANY THINGS: strong, adaptable, compassionate, resilient. When confronted with difficulties, we do not falter. We lean in and we overcome, employing resourceful solutions to push forward. Even when miles separate us, we come together as a Spider community to celebrate the web that connects us. Simply put: We have each other's back — and we take heart knowing nothing can weaken our 63,000-strong Spider family.

See what's within us and the impact we make.
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