



LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP CITIZENSHIP

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

INITIATIVES

PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

Letter from the Chairman and President

*This past year was the 44th in the Foundation's history.
It was one of the most successful in our history, and it witnessed
the graduation of the 1,000th holder of a Jefferson Scholarship.
This letter will provide the impressive results that 2023–24 produced.*



William L. Polk Jr.
CHAIRMAN



James H. Wright
PRESIDENT

Undergraduate Programs

In May, the Jefferson Scholars Program finalized its 44th entering class, and the Walentas Scholars Program finalized its third. There will be 34 Jefferson Scholars and 12 Walentas Scholars in the Class of 2028. They hail from 20 different states and one foreign country.

Both competitions saw a record number of completed nominations: a total of 2,741 across both programs. Over 1,000 UVA alumni and friends of the Foundation were involved in our selection processes. There is no entity at any university of which we are aware that involves as many volunteers in such meaningful service.

The recruiting power of the two programs remains significant. Approximately 470 Jefferson and Walentas nominees will be members of the First Year Class, nearly 12 percent of those entering UVA. Our reach will expand further next year when we add Atlanta, Boston, and Los Angeles to the Walentas competition.

The contributions of our Scholars to the University community remain outstanding. This past year, one of our Scholars was named a Rhodes Scholar, the 13th in our history to receive this award. We also had a Scholar receive a Goldwater Scholarship; another received a Truman Scholarship. Scholars also received a Fulbright Scholarship and a James C. Gaither Junior Fellowship at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Next year, a Scholar will serve as the student representative to the Board of Visitors, and another will serve as the chair of the Judiciary Committee.

Scholar alumni continued to distinguish themselves as exceptional leaders in 2023–24. Maurie McInnis (JS '88) was named the first female president of Yale University; Jasmine Yoon (JS '03) was confirmed as Virginia's first Asian American federal judge; Xiao Wang (JS '08) joined the faculty at UVA's School of Law and received the Harold Berman Award for Excellence in Scholarship by the Association of American Law Schools; Marissa Reddy (JS '16) was named one of five UVA alumni on the Forbes "30 Under 30" list; and Nathan Abraham (JS '20) received a Knight-Hennessy Scholarship to study law at Stanford University.

Graduate Programs

Our Graduate Fellowship Program also produced outstanding results. There were 58 Jefferson and National Fellows supported by the Foundation last year. Twenty-seven new Fellows will join us in the fall. They hold degrees from 36 different universities and bring a wide range of interdisciplinary experience to the community. Of particular note is that one of our Jefferson Fellow alumni, Matt Pryal, was nominated by the chair of UVA's astronomy department for the Foundation's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He emerged as a winner this year, the first alumnus of the program to do so.

Holders of a Jefferson Scholarship

The Foundation's Distinguished Professorship Program made great strides in 2023–24. There were seven exceptional scholars on the faculty holding Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorships. Two more professors will hold Foundation-funded Professorships this coming year, and a third will be joining the faculty in 2025–26. As many as five new searches will be launched in 2024–25.

Foundation Initiatives

In Conclusion

The Jefferson Scholars Foundation throughout its history has benefited from the commitment of a strong Board of Directors. This year, three board members' terms ended. Robert Byron, Lonnie Howell, and Anna Nekoranec provided outstanding service, and their active involvement on the Board will be missed. Three new members will be joining the Board, and we look forward to the contributions that Teddy Kaplan, Rob Wadsworth, and Shan Wu will make.

Each year the Foundation suffers the loss of some of its loyal friends. Jim Bailey, Lee Brown, Everette Doffermyre, Sandy Gilliam, Jennifer Giotto, Al Horton, John Lillard, and Henry Valentine were steadfast and generous friends, and we are grateful for their unwavering commitment to, and confidence in, our mission. We also were deeply saddened by the death of one of our Scholars, Elijah Witt.

The success the Foundation continues to enjoy would not be possible without the generous support provided by our many friends and benefactors. The past year the Foundation received \$33.5 million in new commitments and matching funds. Such generosity has created a community defined by excellence and merit, and we are deeply grateful to all who continue to recognize the power of rewarding those individuals who demonstrate those traits.

As we look to the future, the Foundation will remain resolutely committed to identifying, attracting, and developing transformative and ethical leaders, scholars, and citizens. In so doing, the Foundation will advance its standing as a center of excellence that nurtures individuals with superior talent, character, and promise. ■

James H. Wright
James H. Wright
PRESIDENT

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation is to benefit the University of Virginia by identifying, attracting, and nurturing individuals of extraordinary intellectual range and depth who possess the highest concomitant qualities of

LEADERSHIP,

SCHOLARSHIP,

AND CITIZENSHIP.

AT A GLANCE

Overview

The Jefferson Scholars Foundation's pursuit of excellence extends to every aspect of its operation. The Foundation's careful investment and stewardship strategies ensure that it will retain ample resources to fulfill its mission and build on its success far into the future.

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Initiatives

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The Foundation supports initiatives that attract to the University experts across a wide range of fields, including world-renowned scholars, public servants, and leaders of industry. These initiatives are designed to facilitate a vibrant exchange of ideas among students, alumni, and faculty and contribute to intellectual life at the University.

SHADWELL SPEAKER SERIES

an annual speaker series featuring award-winning authors, political figures, and leaders of industry

JEFFTALKS

an ongoing speaker series featuring talks from members of the Foundation community on topics of personal and professional interest

CHAUNCEY LECTURE SERIES

an annual speaker series featuring historians and authors on topics pertaining to American history

GAGE

a hub for leading faculty and scholars to work collaboratively on the study of American statecraft

AGE OF JEFFERSON

a center of interdisciplinary research designed to examine scholarship on the era of Thomas Jefferson

Programs

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The Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to attracting to the University exceptionally talented students and faculty through its undergraduate, graduate, and faculty programs. The individuals supported by the Foundation’s scholarships, fellowships, and professorships are charged with using and developing their talents for the good of the University and beyond.

As we look to the future, the Foundation will remain resolutely committed to identifying, attracting, and developing transformative and ethical leaders, scholars, and citizens. In so doing, the Foundation will advance its standing as a center of excellence that nurtures individuals with superior talent, character, and promise.

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FACULTY

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

FACULTY FELLOWS

28

UNDERGRADUATE

WALENTAS SCHOLARS

JEFFERSON SCHOLARS

56

GRADUATE

JEFFERSON FELLOWS

NATIONAL FELLOWS



CHAIRMAN

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Strategic Planning Committee, Chair

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Capital One Financial Corporation
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Jennifer Brown Gwilliam (Col '91)
Evanston, Illinois

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Richmond, Virginia

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Prado-C
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Chicago, Illinois

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Houston, Texas

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Investure LLC
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Finance & Investment Committee, Chair

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Arlington, Virginia
Buildings and Grounds Committee, Chair

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Align Private Capital
Sarasota, Florida
Undergraduate Experience Committee, Chair

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New York, New York

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Charlotte, North Carolina

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Chairman, Royal Banks of Missouri
Law Offices of Thomas R. Green
St. Louis, Missouri

James E. Ryan (Law '92) ***
President
University of Virginia

Dave Stevens (Engr '85, Engr '87)
Senior Operating Partner
Francisco Partners
Atherton, California

Deborah H. Valentine (Col '80)
Richmond, Virginia

* BOARD OF VISITORS APPOINTEE
** BOARD OF MANAGERS APPOINTEE
*** UVA PRESIDENT APPOINTEE
**** EMERITUS MEMBER

2023-2024

Board of Directors

Development

The 2023–24 fiscal year represented a philanthropic milestone for the Foundation, raising over \$22.5 million in new funds and securing \$11 million in matching funds from the University. This notable combined total marks one of the most significant fundraising years for the Foundation in the past decade.

The impact of this year’s financial support will resonate for generations. Three new Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorships will spearhead innovative initiatives on Grounds. The William L. and Carolyn K. Polk Distinguished University Professorship will attract a world-class University Professor to the College of Arts & Sciences. The John A. and Anne M. Koch Distinguished Professorship and the Pausic Family Distinguished Professorship will elevate the Department of Systems and Information Engineering in the Engineering School, clearing the path for it to emerge as a global leader in the field. The Foundation’s relationship with the department is further strengthened by the creation of several fellowships designated specifically to support these Distinguished Professorships.

Moreover, philanthropy is expanding opportunities for Jefferson and Walentas Scholar candidates. Through a challenge from an anonymous benefactor, the Foundation raised over \$3 million to support outstanding finalists with financial need, enabling many outstanding Jefferson and Walentas finalists who did not receive the scholarship to attend UVA and, in turn, enrich the University community.

Additionally, this year’s financial support will allow the Foundation to expand its reach by launching new Walentas Scholarship regions in Atlanta, Boston, and Los Angeles in the fall of 2024.

The Foundation has played a pivotal role in the University of Virginia’s “Honor the Future” Capital Campaign. The University’s goal is to secure

\$377.8

MILLION

SECURED DURING THE
“HONOR THE FUTURE”
CAMPAIGN

\$33.5

MILLION

IN TOTAL NEW
FUNDS RAISED

funding for 10 University Professorships, and the Foundation has been responsible for securing funding for six of those \$10 million endowed professorships. To date, the Foundation has raised endowments that will fund 17 additional Distinguished Professors who will educate UVA students for many years to come. With one year of the Campaign remaining, the Foundation has raised more than \$377.8 million in new funds.

With an eye toward the future, the Jefferson Scholars Foundation remains steadfast in its pursuit of excellence. We are deeply grateful for the extraordinarily generous support from our many friends and benefactors. ■

Benefactors

The Jefferson Scholars Foundation offers its benefactors the opportunity to name Scholarships, Fellowships, and Professorships. Jefferson Scholarships may be created with gifts totaling \$1 million. Named Walentas Scholarships and Jefferson Fellowships may be created with gifts totaling \$500,000. Professorships have a naming level of \$5 million.

Jefferson Scholarships

Endowed Scholarships

Daniel S. Adler Scholarship
Lee S. Ainslie Scholarship
Jeffrey R. Anderson Family Scholarship
Arkansas Scholarship
Armstrong Family Scholarship
Arney and Scheidt Family Scholarship
Atlanta Alumni Chapter - Baxter Maddox Scholarship
James J. Bailey III Scholarship
Thomas J. and Hillary D. Baltimore Scholarship
Paul B. Barringer II Family Scholarship
Randolph P. Barton Family Scholarship
Margaret and George Basu Scholarship
Frank Batten Scholarship
Anson M. Beard Jr. Scholarship
Richard M. Berkeley Family Scholarship
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Birdsall III Scholarship
Betty and Jack Blackburn Scholarship
Reverend Calvin and Frances Blackwell Scholarship
William Fownes Blue Family Scholarship
Alan and Muriel Botsford and Crawford and Virginia Johnson Scholarship
Bowlin Family Scholarship

Brockenbrough Family Scholarship
Brooke/EBSCO Scholarship
Kevin Brown Scholarship
Charles L. Brown Memorial Scholarship
Stewart H. Brown Jr. Scholarship
Honorable W.L. Lyons Brown Jr. Scholarship
W.L. Lyons Brown Foundation Scholarship
Brunswick School/Greenwich Academy Scholarship
C. Austin Buck Family Scholarship
Burke Family Scholarship
Mary Catherine Hood Caldwell Scholarship
James K. Candler Scholarship
A. Macdonald Caputo Scholarship
Class of 1983 - David P. Carmack Memorial Scholarship
Edward C. Carrington Jr. Scholarship
John and Betsy Casteen Scholarship
M. Campbell Cawood Scholarship
G. David Cheek Family Scholarship
Christopher Family Scholarship
Luell B. Clay Scholarship
Cochran Family Scholarship
Connors Family Scholarship
W. James Copeland Jr. Scholarship
Mary Tilman Corson Scholarship
Stephen S. Crawford Family Scholarship
Richard S. Cross Scholarship
Robert P. Crozer Family Scholarship

Jeffrey Rockwell Cudlip Memorial Scholarship
Isaac Curry Virginia Omicron Scholarship
Theodor Miller Damgard Scholarship
Joseph R. Daniel Scholarship
Terrence D. Daniels Family Scholarship
Claude R. Davenport Jr. Scholarship
Deerfield Academy Scholarship
Delta Kappa Epsilon Scholarship - in memory of David J. Magoon
Deming Family Scholarship
Yvonne S. Dobbs Scholarship
Brenda and Robert Dolan Scholarship
Dordelman Family Scholarship
Downes Family Scholarship
Charles G. Duffy Jr. and Virginia Leahy Duffy Scholarship
William B. Dunavant Jr. Scholarship
Patricia Frist Elcan Scholarship
Elson Scholarship
Ernest H. and Jeanette P. Ern Scholarship
Sidonie K. Evans Family Scholarship
Thomas M. Falcey Family Scholarship
Farish Family Scholarship
Betsey Gamble Feinour Scholarship
T. David Fitz-Gibbon Scholarship
Reginald S. and Julia W. Fleet Foundation Scholarships - in memory of Alexander Frederick Fleet
Elizabeth M. Forsyth Scholarship
William Prescott Foster Scholarship
John Fowler and Corey Phillips Fowler Scholarship
Jane Harrison Garriott Scholarship
Harry W. Gilbert Scholarship
Jason A. Gill Scholarship
Fred C. Goad Scholarship
Leslie Goldberg Scholarship
Gregg and Freddy Goldenberg Scholarship
Graham Family Scholarship
E. Stuart James Grant Scholarships
Peter M. Grant II Family Scholarship
James J. Griffiths, M.D. Scholarship
George G. Guthrie Scholarship
Gwilliam Scholarship
G. Bernard Hamilton Family Scholarship
Davis and Winnie Hamlin Scholarship
Hancock Scholarship
Holbert L. Harris Foundation Scholarships
Frederick N. Harrison Sr. Family Scholarship
Mary Anderson Harrison Scholarship
Harvey Family Scholarship
Hathaway Family Scholarship
Havens Family Scholarship
Adolphus W. Hawkins Jr. Scholarship

A.J.L. Hebenstreit Scholarship
Heimann Family Scholarship
Frank and Ann Hereford Scholarship
Molly Hereford - Susanne Smith Scholarship
Robert R. Hermann Jr. Family Scholarship
C. Edward Hilgenberg Scholarship
William M. Hill Jr. Scholarship
Hilliard Family Scholarship
Warren W. Hobbie Scholarship
William A. Hobbs Scholarship
Douglas S. Holladay Sr. and Cary N. Moon Jr. Scholarship
Melissa Holland Scholarship
Hollis Family Scholarship
Holton-Arms School/Landon School Scholarship
John and Lynn Hooff Family Scholarship
L. David Horner III and S.W. Heischman Scholarship
Albert Gray Horton II Memorial Scholarship
Howell Scholarship
Ching-hsien & Laura Huang Family Scholarship
Frank W. Hulse IV Scholarship
William S. Hunter Scholarship
Joseph Chappell Hutcheson Scholarship
Ingrassia Family Scholarship
Glenn Ireland II Scholarship
Janet Dorsey Izlar Scholarship
Jefferson Scholars Alumni Scholarship
Eugenie and Joseph Jones Family Foundation Scholarship
John Paul Jones Scholarship
Paul Tudor Jones II Scholarship
Douglas M. and Peggy Shomo Joyner Family Scholarship
Roxanna and Ralph Joynes Scholarship
Kaplan Family Scholarship
KBR Foundation Scholarship
Cornelius Francis Kelley Scholarship
Janice Clark Kellogg Scholarship
Elbert A. Kincaid Scholarship
Mary and Donald Laing III Scholarship
Chiswell D. Langhorne Jr. Scholarship
Christopher G. Lanning Scholarship
Parker H. Lee Jr., M.D. Scholarship
Christopher A. Leventis - South Carolina Scholarship
George Lewis Scholarship
Lawrence Lewis Jr. Scholarships
William C. Lickle Scholarship
John S. Lillard Scholarship
Carl H. Lindner III Scholarship
Lintott Family Scholarship
Eric J. Lloyd Family Scholarship

Mary and Daniel Loughran Foundation Scholarships (Richard J.M. and Anne D.W. Poulson)

Michael P. and Barbara Golden Lynn Scholarship

Olive B. and Franklin C. Mac Krell Scholarships

John P. March Scholarship

Thomas E. Martin Jr. Family Scholarship

Elisabeth A. and Mark T. Massey Scholarship

James P. Massie Scholarship

Eugenia R. and Myron B. Mausteller Scholarship

William A. McClung Memorial Scholarship

C. Wilson McNeely III Scholarship

George J. McVey Scholarship

Mense Family Scholarship

Middendorf Foundation - Nicholas G. Penniman III Scholarships

J. Sanford Miller Family Scholarship

Minor Family Scholarship

E. Sclater Montague Scholarship

Claire Montaigne Memorial Scholarship

B.H. Rutledge Moore Family Scholarship - in honor of B. Allston Moore and Walter Bedford Moore

Charles V. Moore Scholarship

Morgan Family Scholarship

Robin Ashley and Tracy Pendleton Morgan Scholarship

Charles Morse and Elisabeth Morse Giovine Scholarship

Stanley G. Mortimer III Scholarship

Virginia and Alfred L. Munkres Scholarship

Thomas G. and Joy P. Murdough Scholarship

Timothy J. and Diane H. Naughton Scholarship

Noland Scholarship

Norfolk Academy Scholarship

Oehmig Family Scholarship

Olsson Family Scholarship

John H. and Mary H. Owens Scholarship

William G. Pannill Scholarships

Paradis Family Scholarship

Parents Program Scholarship

Robert H. Parsley Scholarship

Payne-Harmon Scholarship

Albert Dorset Penick Scholarship

C.D.L. and M.T.B. Perkins Scholarship

Randolph Preston Pillow Scholarships

Pinho Family Scholarship

Robert S. Pitts Jr. and Elizabeth O'Brien Pitts Scholarship

Karen S. and Richard R. Pollock Scholarship

Joan and Philip B. Pool Jr. Family Scholarship

Probasco Family Scholarship

Martin A. Purcell Family Scholarship

Ralph James Quale Jr. Scholarship

Elwood R. Quesada Scholarship

Peter and Crisler Quick Scholarship

Ray R. and Eunice T. Ramey Scholarship

Jean Rayburn - South Carolina Scholarship

Renner Family Scholarship

Kenneth and Stannye R. Reutlinger Scholarship

J. Mack Robinson Scholarship

Roby and Louise C. Robinson Scholarship

Rodriguez Family Scholarship

E. Paul Rogers Jr. Scholarship

Tyler Harris Rose Scholarship

Loring W. Rue III, M.D. Scholarship

James E. Rutrough Jr. Scholarship

St. Elmo Hall (Delta Phi) Scholarship

W. Reid Sanders Family Scholarship

James Earle Sargeant - Seven Society Scholarship

Mamie and Louis A. Sarkes Jr. Family Scholarship

Todd R. Schnuck Scholarship

C. Porter Schutt Scholarship

W. Harry Schwarzschild Jr. and Kathryn Schwarzschild Scholarship

S. Buford Scott Scholarship

Thomas Gillespie Scully Scholarship

Shadwell Society Scholarship

Shinn-Mignerey Family Scholarship

Marc and Nancy Shrier Scholarship

James G. Simmonds Memorial Scholarship

Alexander J. Sloane Scholarship

Souder Family Scholarship

Stevens Family Scholarship

Peter and Julie Stott Foundation Scholarship

Ann Vernon and Gilbert J. Sullivan Scholarship

John B. Syer Scholarship

Owen and Margaret Tabor Family Scholarship

Donna and Richard D. Tadler Scholarship

Taylor Brothers Scholarship

Taylor-Tyree Family Scholarship

Thanksgiving Foundation Scholarship

R. Blair and Susan J. Thomas Scholarship

Jane A. and Harry A. Thompson II Scholarship

Lavinia H. Touchton Scholarship

Trainor Family Scholarship

Judith T. and Eli W. Tullis Scholarships

Eli W. Tullis Scholarships

University of Virginia Club of Richmond - Virginius Dabney Scholarship

University of Virginia Club of Washington - Thomas B. Worsley Scholarship

Peggy and Henry Valentine Scholarship

Vallar Family Scholarship

Brandt and Ruth Vaughan Scholarship

Nancy and Neal O. Wade Jr. Scholarship

L.S. Waldrop/T. Evans Wyckoff Scholarship

David Valentas Scholarship

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon W. Wallace Scholarship

Westend Foundation Scholarship

Westminster Schools Scholarship

Westmoreland Coal Company - Penn Virginia Scholarship

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin B. White Sr. and Claire C. Smith Scholarships

Virginia R. and William H. White III Scholarship

Wendy Whitlow Scholarship

Frederick W. Whitridge Family Scholarship

William C. and Frederick W. Whitridge Scholarship

Ralph C. Wilson Scholarship

R.E. Lee Wilson Scholarship

Herbert S. Winokur, Class of 1940 Scholarship

R. Halsey and Lisha S. Wise Family Scholarship

Frank Gardiner Wisner St. Paul's School Scholarship

David J. Wood Scholarship

Sally Dowd Wood Scholarship

Brian A. Wright Memorial Scholarship

Clarence S. and Florence F. Wright Memorial Scholarship

Studie and Zach Young Scholarship

William H.P. Young Scholarship

Zamoff Family Scholarship

Zeta Psi Scholarship

William Louis Zimmer III Scholarship

Anonymous (3)

Established Scholarships

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth N. Adatto Family Scholarship

Gary D. Allinson Scholarship

Jefferson Scholars Foundation Scholarship

Attison L. Barnes III and Karen Clarke Barnes Family Scholarship

Veronica M. and Anson Hill Beard Scholarship

Blake Family Scholarship

William A. Bowron Scholarship

John and Faith Burns Scholarship

Byron Family Scholarship

Warren Fulton Chauncey Scholarship

Class of 2016 Scholarship

Inis L. Claude Jr. Scholarship

Frederick C. Coble Scholarship

D'Arpino Family Scholarship

Edward J. Dobbs Scholarship

Eldred Family Scholarship

H. Mortimer Favrot Jr. Scholarship in Architecture

Kirkman Finlay III Scholarship

Daniel F. Fisher Jr., M.D. Scholarship

Raynelle Deans Grace Scholarship

Brenton and Lindsay Halsey Family Scholarship

Frank M. and Sarah Hamlin Scholarship

Christy Higgins Hooper Scholarship

Walker and Bill Jones Scholarship

Dr. Allison J. Kean Scholarship

Thornton Kirby Scholarship

Eleanor M. and Todd B. Kuhl Scholarship

Peter R. Lehrman Scholarship

Mackenzie Family Scholarship

George N. Markos Family Scholarship

Scott G. and Karen L. Martin Scholarship

Tracy V. McMillan Scholarship

Henry H. McVey Scholarship

Rachael H. and Matthew R. Miller Family Scholarship

P. Harris Morris Jr. Scholarship

Melissa Murray and Joshua Hill Scholarship

Anna M. Nekoranec Family Scholarship

Graham and Michelle Pierce Family Scholarship

William R. Piper Scholarship

Anne W. and Walker L. Poole Scholarship

Punterer-Rose Family Scholarship

Quarterman Family Scholarship

Weston Reynolds Family Scholarship

Rhodes Family Scholarship

Rosenthal Family Scholarship

Jaybird Clare Russell Family Scholarship

John R. Sette II Family Scholarship

Timothy and Robin Sheehan Scholarship

Todd M. Simkin Scholarship

Smiley Family Scholarship

Kristin and Jay Steen Scholarship

Sweeney Family Scholarship

Christopher G. Turner Family Scholarship

Shelley and Gregg Webb Scholarship

Kelvin M. Wey Scholarship

Thomas B. Whelan Scholarship

Tate and Webb Wilson Scholarship

C.S. Brent Winn Family Scholarship

Shan Wu and John Wise Scholarship

Anonymous

Walentas Scholarships

Endowed Scholarships

Baltimore Area Scholarship
Caperton Family Scholarship
Harvey Family Scholarship
James Joseph Scholarship
John G. Lert Jr. Family Scholarship
McCrickard Family Scholarship
Bruce A. and Susan M. Miller Scholarship
William L. and Carolyn K. Polk Scholarship
Ray Family Scholarship
JoAnn H. and Loring W. Rue Jr. Scholarship
David Walentas Scholarships

Established Scholarships

Battle Family Scholarship
Bennett Family Scholarship
Byron Family Scholarship
Katharine Scott and Alexander G. Gilliam Scholarship
Koster Family Scholarship
Chisholm Foundation Scholarship
Sara K. and William B. Luckert Scholarship
Matthews Sisters - Family Scholarship
James H. Patterson Scholarship
John H. and Cynthia Lee Smet Scholarship
St. Denis Family Scholarship
Wadsworth Scholarship

Jefferson Fellowships

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Endowed Fellowships

Laura S. Bailey Fellowship
Paul B. Barringer II Family Fellowship
D.N. Batten Foundation Fellowship
Kenneth L. Bazzle Fellowship
Trey Beck Fellowship
John A. Blackburn Fellowship
Brian Layton Blades Fellowship
Borrowed Earth Fellowship
Brockman Foundation Fellowship
A. Macdonald Caputo Fellowship
Irby Cauthen Fellowship
Penny S. and James G. Coulter Fellowship
Gregory L. Curl Fellowship
Terrence D. Daniels Family Fellowship
David Dean Fellowship
Doffermyre Family Fellowship
Groundbreakers Fellowship
Mary Anderson Harrison Fellowship

Harrison Family Foundation Fellowship
Eric M. Heiner Fellowship
Hilliard Family Fellowship
Jefferson Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Fellowship
Corydon M. and Ruth Leigh Johnson Fellowship
Eric P. and Elizabeth R. Johnson Fellowship
Paul T. Jones II Fellowships
John S. Lillard Fellowship
H. Eugene Lockhart Family Fellowship
Melville Foundation Fellowship
John L. Nau III Fellowship
Newman Family Fellowship
Elis Olsson Memorial Foundation Fellowship
Edward P. Owens Fellowship
C. Mark Pirrung Family Fellowship
William and Carolyn Polk Fellowship
Roselle-Huneke Dissertation Year Fellowship
Edgar Shannon Fellowship in Art History
Edgar Shannon Fellowship in Music
Richard G. and Alice C. Tilghman Fellowship
Elizabeth Arendall Tilney and Schuyler Merritt Tilney Fellowship
John E. Walker Jr. Fellowship
James H. and Elizabeth W. Wright Fellowship
Anonymous (3)

School of Engineering and Applied Science

Endowed Fellowships

Olive B. and Franklin C. Mac Krell Fellowships
Peter and Crisler Quick Fellowship

Darden School of Business

Endowed Fellowships

W.L. Lyons Brown III Fellowship
William D. and Ellen H. Cannon Fellowship
John L. Colley Jr. Fellowships
John Fowler and Corey Phillips Fowler Fellowship
Goodwin/Hardie Family Fellowship
Inglesby Family Fellowship
Peter and Eaddo Kiernan Fellowship
Macfarlane Family Fellowship
Melville Foundation Fellowships
Smith Family Fellowship
Lee Walker Fellowship
Wilkinson Family Fellowship in honor of Luly Wilkinson

Established Fellowships

Robert and Noelle Doumar Fellowship
Home Paddocks Fellowship

Lauren M. and William I. Huyett Family Fellowship
McFadden Fellowship
David Walentas Fellowships

National Fellowships

Endowed Fellowships

Birdsall National Fellowship
C. Austin Buck Family National Fellowship

Established Fellowships

Louis Galambos National Fellowship in Business and Politics

Walentas Fellowships

Darden School of Business

Established Fellowships

David Walentas Fellowships

Distinguished Professorships

Endowed Professorships

Brockman Foundation Distinguished Professorship
W.L. Lyons Brown Jr. Distinguished Professorship in Diplomacy and Statecraft
Elcan Distinguished Professorship
Leslie H. Goldberg Distinguished Professorship in Business Ethics
Harrison-Wood Distinguished Professorship
Paul T. Jones II Distinguished Professorship
Melville Foundation Distinguished University Professorship
Mary Ann Pitts Distinguished Professorship
William L. Polk Jr. and Carolyn K. Polk Distinguished University Professorship
Schenck Distinguished Professorship in Law
Edgar Shannon Distinguished Professorship in Art History
David Walentas Distinguished Professorship
James H. and Elizabeth W. Wright Distinguished Professorship

Established Professorships

Mac Caputo Distinguished Professorship in Leadership
Thompson Dean Distinguished College Professorship
Jefferson Scholars Foundation/College Foundation Professorship
John B. and Anne M. Koch Family Distinguished Professorship in Systems and Information Engineering
Pausic Family Distinguished Professorship in Operations Research and Financial Engineering
Massey Family Distinguished Endowed Professorship
Thomas A. Saunders III Family Distinguished University Professorships
Witt and Carol Stephens Distinguished Professorship
David Walentas Distinguished Professorship in Real Estate at the Darden School of Business
David Walentas Distinguished University Professorships
David Walentas Visiting Professorship
Anonymous - to be named

Awards and Grants

Endowed Funds

Award for Excellence in Teaching
Hartfield Excellence in Teaching Award
Jefferson Scholars Foundation Scholarship Alternate Award
Kim and Mary Kay Love Scholarship
Gregory A. McCrickard Scholarship
Pinho Family Scholarship
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G. Lawson Drinkard III Scholarship
Gowen Family Scholarship
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Trinity Polk Family Scholarship

Support Funds

Albert Wheatland Brown, M.D. Fund
Exploratory Fund
Battle Mousetrap Foundation
Scholar Necessity Funds
Warren F. Chauncey Lecture Series in American History
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Shadwell Speaker Series

Donors

Those who have contributed or committed \$10,000 or more to the Jefferson Scholars Foundation from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. A number of donors make commitments to the Foundation but wish to remain anonymous. The contributions of these generous, though unnamed, donors are important, and we are deeply grateful for their support.

Planned Gifts

Those who have made planned gift designations during the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for the benefit of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation.

A number of donors include the Foundation in their estate but wish to remain anonymous. The contributions of these generous, though unnamed, donors are important, and we are deeply grateful for their support.

Legacy Society

A benefactor society recognizing those individuals who have included the Foundation in their estate plans.

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Finance

Investment Return

The Foundation finished fiscal year 2023–24 with a weighted average return of 6.8 percent from its cash and investments portfolio. The investment performance of UVIMCO, which holds approximately 90 percent of the Foundation’s portfolio, continued to drive the Foundation’s rate of return. The Foundation’s total endowment value (including cash and investments, pledge balances, and deferred gifts) as of June 30, 2024 was \$874.7 million, an increase of \$53.8 million from fiscal year-end 2022–23.

Approximately 53 percent of the Foundation’s total endowment value is restricted to support for Jefferson and Walentas Scholarships. The remaining total endowment value supports Jefferson Distinguished Professorships (19 percent), Jefferson and National Fellowships (17 percent), and other purposes (11 percent).

During fiscal year 2023–24, the Foundation’s financial resources supported numerous noteworthy initiatives, including funding the second class of Walentas Scholars and seventh Jefferson Distinguished Professor; expanding the loan replacement awards offered to Scholarship finalists who enroll at the University; supporting Jefferson Fellows who assumed postdoctoral teaching positions in the new College Engagements curriculum; hosting two highly successful in-person recruitment weekends following the virtual selection of Jefferson and Walentas Scholarship finalists; and providing meaningful enrichment opportunities for Scholars, Fellows, and Distinguished Professors to build connections within the Foundation’s community.

Philanthropic support from the Foundation’s thoughtful, generous benefactors remained strong during the fiscal year. The Foundation received \$3.5 million in new gifts, \$3.6 million in new deferred gifts, and \$15.4 million in new pledges. The Foundation continues to leverage the University’s bicentennial matching funds program, receiving new commitments from the University in fiscal year 2023–24 for \$11 million.

Operational and Capital Spending

Similar to the previous fiscal year, the Foundation’s operating and capital expenditures were under budget in fiscal year 2023–24. Actual operational and capital spending was \$27.2 million, nearly 3 percent under the \$27.9 million budget. The allocation of expenses across functional areas resulted in 81.3 percent being used for program support, 10.2 percent for development needs, and the remaining 8.5 percent for administrative costs. The Foundation’s three-year weighted average endowment spend rate was 4.2 percent.

The approved operating and capital expenditure budget for fiscal year 2024–25 increased by approximately \$2.7 million to \$30.6 million. Over \$2.3 million of this increase represents additional spending on Jefferson and Walentas Scholarships, Jefferson and National Fellowships, Jefferson Distinguished Professorships, and undergraduate awards. We anticipate program spending will comprise approximately 83 percent of total expenditures.

Financial Principles

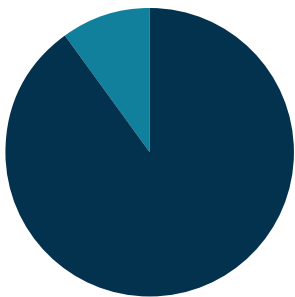
The Foundation’s funding model has been the key to its financial success. Since inception, we have invested almost every gift received, no matter its size. The Foundation utilizes the resulting investment earnings to fund its operating expenses. This conservative funding approach has supported over four decades of operations and should continue to provide a stable financing source for future generations of extraordinary students and faculty.

Conclusion

The Foundation’s financial position is strong. By remaining focused on long-term growth and our commitment to prudent fiscal management, the Foundation is well-poised to support the organization’s 2025–2030 strategic planning process.

For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

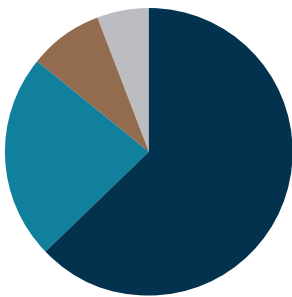
SOURCES OF INCOME



Foundation Endowment \$24,564,640
Other Endowments \$2,683,184

TOTAL \$27,247,824

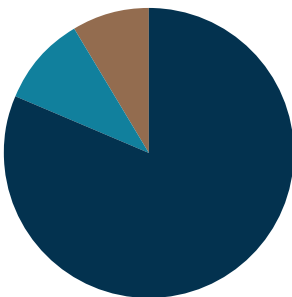
EXPENSES BY CLASSIFICATION



Scholarship, Fellowship, and Professorship Awards \$17,054,423
General & Administration \$6,342,247
Other \$2,321,431
Selection/Recognition/Enrich. \$1,529,723

TOTAL \$27,247,824

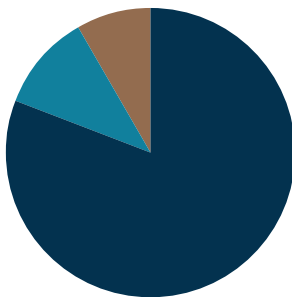
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



Program \$22,145,099
Development \$2,784,082
Administrative \$2,318,643

TOTAL \$27,247,824

SCHOLAR / FELLOW / PROFESSOR SUPPORT

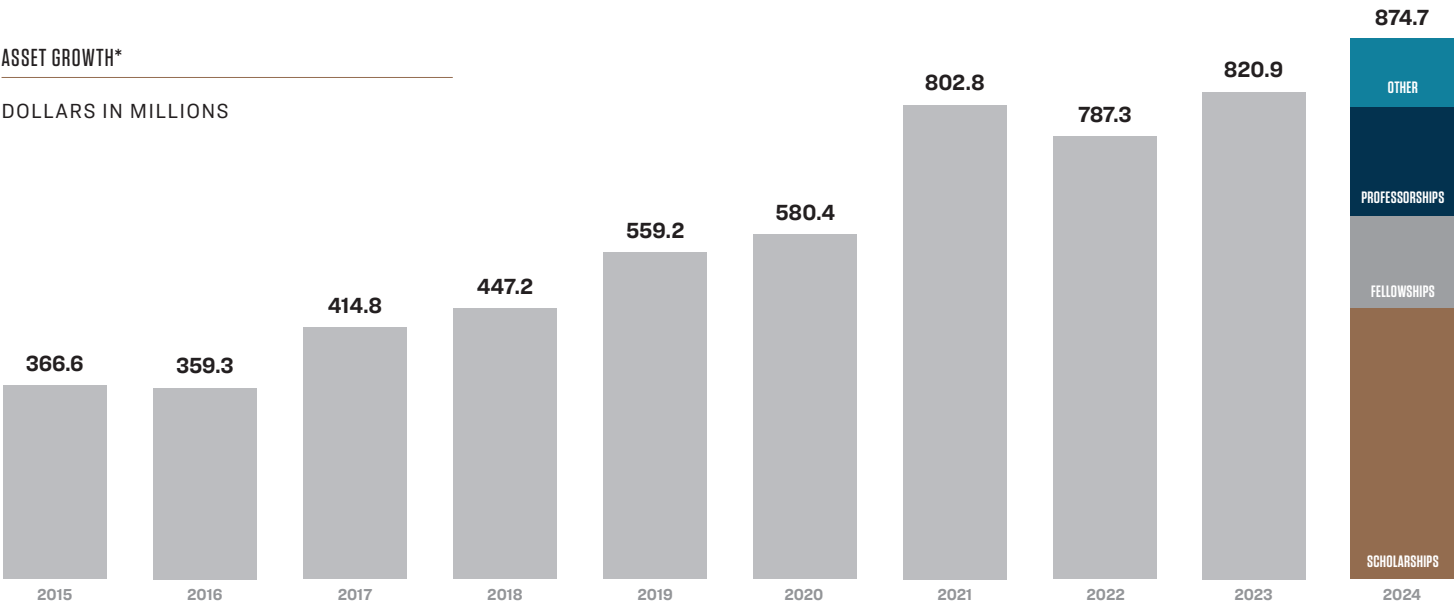


Stipends/Awards/Research \$15,044,713
Professorships \$2,009,710
Selection/Recognition/Enrich. \$1,529,723

TOTAL \$18,584,146

ASSET GROWTH*

DOLLARS IN MILLIONS



*INCLUDES CASH AND INVESTMENTS, PLEDGE BALANCES, AND DEFERRED GIFTS



INITIATIVES



>> The Foundation supports initiatives that attract to the University experts across a wide range of fields, including world-renowned scholars, public servants, and leaders of industry. These initiatives are designed to facilitate a vibrant exchange of ideas among students, alumni, and faculty and contribute to intellectual life at the University.

The mission of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation is to benefit the University of Virginia by identifying, attracting, and nurturing individuals of extraordinary intellectual range and depth who possess the highest concomitant qualities of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship.

Jeff Talks

Featuring members of the Foundation community on relevant topics of personal or professional interest.

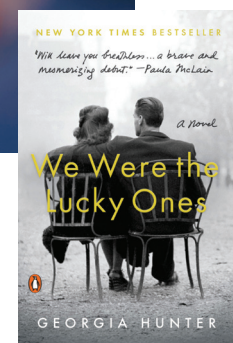
UPDATE: On August 7, 2023, Dr. Kimberly Osagie (JS '05) spoke to second-year Jefferson and Walentas Scholars as part of the 2023 Institute for Leadership and Citizenship. Osagie, who began her career as an educator in Harlem and has spent nearly two decades developing educators' ability to teach and lead for racial equity, delivered an engaging talk that emphasized the importance of looking inward and discovering what motivates and fulfills you before setting out to make a mark on the world.



Kimberly Osagie currently serves as vice president of programs at Echoing Green, a nonprofit organization that supports emerging social entrepreneurs and invests in the growth of their ideas and leadership.



Georgia Hunter's personal essays have been featured in the *New York Times*, *travelgirl*, and on *Equitrekking.com*. Georgia also has written adventure travel pieces for outfitters such as Austin Adventures and The Explorer's Passage.



Shadwell Speaker Series

Featuring world-renowned authors, political figures, and leaders of industry on current global issues.

UPDATE: On September 21, 2023, the Foundation presented a special evening with UVA alumna and *New York Times* bestselling author Georgia Hunter. When Georgia was 15 years old, she learned that she came from a family of Holocaust survivors. Her book, *We Were the Lucky Ones*, was born of her decade-long quest to uncover her family's staggering history. Today, the book has landed in the hands of over one million readers, having been translated into 16 foreign languages. Recently, it was optioned by Hulu as a limited series. Georgia shared her story—and what it was like to write it.

Warren F. Chauncey Lecture Series in American History

Featuring renowned historians, authors, or public officials on a range of topics pertaining to American history.

UPDATE: On February 22, 2024, the Foundation presented the 2024 Warren F. Chauncey Lecture Series in American History featuring UVA alumnus and historian William G. Thomas III. Thomas delivered a lecture entitled “Dred Scott’s America: Law and Freedom from Virginia to Upper Mississippi.” In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision in the Dred Scott case, shocking Americans and fueling the national crisis over slavery. Thomas explored the story of this landmark case and the continental struggle over slavery, sovereignty, and citizenship in the years leading up to the Civil War.



William G. Thomas III is a professor of history and the John and Catherine Angle Chair in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska.

Age of Jefferson

The Center for the Study of the Age of Jefferson approaches the ideas and legacies of Thomas Jefferson through a wide lens by bringing together experts on the Atlantic World, the colonial era, and the early American Republic.

Under the direction of Professor Christa Dierksheide, this interdisciplinary institute is funded by the Jefferson Scholars Foundation and embraces a new approach to training the next generation of early Americanists. The Center enables UVA doctoral students to expand their expertise in a wide variety of methodologies, including digital history, material culture, and public history. A hub for scholarship, teaching, and public engagement, the Center fosters a vibrant intellectual community at the University of Virginia and contributes to a richer understanding of the American past.

The Center awards several fellowships in order to provide support for early career scholars to develop and revise works-in-progress.

The Center awards several fellowships in order to provide support for early career scholars to develop and revise works-in-progress.

PROFESSORSHIP FELLOWS:

Amelie Hopkins

AGE OF JEFFERSON FELLOW

Bates College (B.A.)

Columbia University (J.D.)

Aoife Hufford

AGE OF JEFFERSON FELLOW

College of William & Mary (B.A.)

Bethany McGlyn

AGE OF JEFFERSON DOCTORAL

ENHANCEMENT FELLOW

Towson University (B.A.)

University of Delaware (M.A.)

Alyssa Penick

AGE OF JEFFERSON POSTDOCTORAL

FELLOW AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Dartmouth College (B.A.)

University of Michigan (M.A.) (Ph.D.)

GAGE

Supported by the Jefferson Scholars Foundation in partnership with the College of Arts & Sciences, Governing America in a Global Era, or GAGE, is an interdisciplinary research initiative that examines the United States from a global perspective and studies the contemporary challenges of American politics and world affairs.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

William Hitchcock is the James Madison Professor of History at the University of Virginia, and the Director of GAGE: Governing America in a Global Era. His work and teaching focus on the international history of the 20th century, in particular the era of the World Wars and the Cold War.



PROGRAMS



>> The Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to attracting to the University exceptionally talented students and faculty through its undergraduate, graduate, and faculty programs. The individuals supported by the Foundation's scholarships, fellowships, and professorships are charged with using and developing their talents for the good of the University and beyond.

The mission of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation is to benefit the University of Virginia by identifying, attracting, and nurturing individuals of extraordinary intellectual range and depth who possess the highest concomitant qualities of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship.

22**FACULTY**DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS
FACULTY FELLOWS**28****UNDERGRADUATE**WALENTAS SCHOLARS
JEFFERSON SCHOLARS**56****GRADUATE**JEFFERSON FELLOWS
NATIONAL FELLOWS

Faculty

FACULTY PROGRAM

1/2

Distinguished Professorship Program

The Foundation's commitment to attracting exceptional faculty to UVA is evidenced by its substantial \$185 million endowment for the Distinguished Professorship Program. This year, four new hires have expanded the Foundation's roster to a total of 10 Distinguished Professors. Active searches are ongoing for five additional professors. Looking ahead, the Foundation aspires to support 25–30 outstanding faculty members at the University.

New Hires in 2023–24

1

TATIANA FLORES specializes in modern and contemporary Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx art and brings to UVA an impressive body of work as an award-winning author, curator, educator, and advocate for marginalized communities and their artistic traditions. She received her Ph.D. in art history from Columbia University and taught at Florida State University in Tallahassee and Rutgers, The State

University of New Jersey prior to joining UVA.

Flores served as curator-at-large for the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, California and was named the Cisneros Visiting Scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University. She curated the critically acclaimed exhibition *Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago* for the Getty Foundation's Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative and was director for the Rutgers Center for Women in the Arts.

Flores also served as president of the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present and is currently senior editor of *ASAP/ Journal*. She has served on the editorial boards of *Art Journal* and *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture*. Her book, *Mexico's Revolutionary Avant-Gardes: From Estridentismo to ¡30-30!*, was awarded the 2014 Humanities Book Prize by the Mexico Section of the Latin American Studies Association. She was awarded the 2016 Arts Writers book prize from the Andy Warhol Foundation for her manuscript in progress, *Art and Visual Culture Under Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution*.

Tatiana Flores

Edgar Shannon Jefferson
Scholars Foundation
Distinguished Professor
in Art History

Department of Art
Joined in fall 2023



Alexander MacKay

James H. and Elizabeth W.
Wright Jefferson Scholars
Foundation Distinguished
Professor

Department of Economics
Will join in fall 2024

2

ALEX MACKAY comes to UVA from Harvard Business School, where he taught and co-led the Pricing Lab at the Digital, Data, and Design Institute. MacKay is a distinguished researcher whose work combines theory and practical measurement to uncover new insights about price competition and consumer preferences. He explores how strategic pricing decisions are influenced by factors like algorithms, long-term contracts, vertical restraints, and changing consumer behavior.

His work has important implications for both businesses and regulators and has garnered citations in major media outlets, such as *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *TIME*, and National Public Radio. It also has been featured

in the Economic Report of the President, an annual report produced by the Council of Economic Advisers.

MacKay holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago. Prior to his doctoral studies, he gained valuable experience at a consulting firm specializing in the design and analysis of business experiments. He also holds a B.A. in economics from UVA.



3

Andrew Preston

W.L. Lyons Brown Jr.
Jefferson Scholars
Foundation
Distinguished Professor
in Diplomacy and
Statecraft

Corcoran Department
of History
Will join in fall 2025



ANDREW PRESTON has spent the last 20 years teaching history at Clare College at Cambridge University. He specializes in the history of American foreign relations, primarily since 1898. His teaching and research interests lie in three main areas: the ideas and concepts that motivate and shape America’s behavior in the world at both the elite and popular levels; the mechanics of foreign policymaking in Washington; and the intersections between the national and the international, the foreign and the domestic, including the influence of domestic politics and culture—particularly religion—on the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

In addition to his scholarly work, which includes several books, book chapters, and articles, Preston is a frequent contributor to the *Toronto Globe & Mail*, and he has also written for the *Washington Post*, *The New Republic*, *London Review of Books*, *USA Today*, *History Today*, *Boston Globe*, *New Statesman*, *Foreign Affairs*, and the *TLS*, among others. He serves on the editorial boards of the journals *Modern American History*, *The Historical Journal*, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, and *Diplomacy & Statecraft*. He also sits on the Scholarly Advisory Board of the Gilder Lehrman Institute and is a Distinguished Lecturer of the Organization of American Historians.

Preston earned a master’s in international history at London School of Economics and holds a Ph.D. in history from Cambridge University.



4

Evan Scott

Thomas A. Saunders III
Family Jefferson Scholars
Foundation Distinguished
University Professor

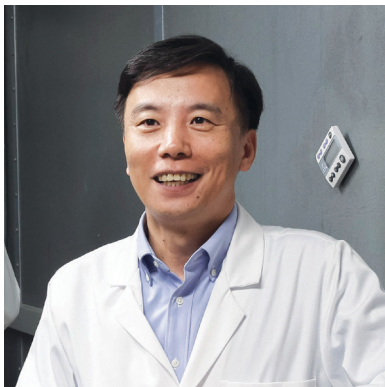
School of Medicine and
School of Engineering and
Applied Science
Will join in fall 2024

RENOWNED FOR HIS pioneering work utilizing nanotechnology to combat cancer, glaucoma, and heart disease, among other diseases and ailments, Dr. Evan Scott is set to lead UVA’s Institute for Nanoscale Scientific and Technological Advanced Research, or nanoSTAR, amidst the launch of the Paul and Diane Manning Institute of Biotechnology.

Scott brings to UVA more than a decade of experience teaching and spearheading groundbreaking research at Northwestern University. His work, which has been generously funded by the National Institutes of Health, applies principles from biomaterials science, nanotechnology, and tissue engineering towards the development of translational immunotherapies.

With over 80 publications, 21 patents, and nearly 30 career-affirming awards, including the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the Nano Research Young Innovator Award in Nanobiotechnology, the Biomedical Engineering Society Mid-Career Award, the BMES Young Innovator of Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering, Scott brings a wealth of expertise and scholarly recognition to UVA. He will hold dual appointments in both the School of Medicine and the School of Engineering and Applied Science. In addition, he will support UVA’s Cancer Center and will work to foster interdisciplinary collaborations across Grounds.

Yearbook



Jianhua 'J.C.' Cang

Paul T. Jones II Jefferson Scholars
Foundation Distinguished Professor

Departments of Biology and Psychology
Joined in 2017

—
PROFESSORSHIP FELLOWS**
Chuiwen Li
Lu Yang



Danielle Citron

Jefferson Scholars Foundation
Schenck Distinguished
Professor in Law

School of Law
Joined in 2021



Christa Dierksheide

Brockman Foundation
Jefferson Scholars Foundation
Distinguished Professor

Corcoran Department of History
Joined in 2019



Dorothy Leidner

Leslie H. Goldberg Jefferson
Scholars Foundation
Distinguished Professor in
Business Ethics

McIntire School of Commerce
Joined in 2023



Kevin Pelphrey

Harrison-Wood Jefferson Scholars
Foundation Distinguished Professor

**School of Medicine and School of
Education and Human Development**
Joined in 2018

—
PROFESSORSHIP FELLOWS**
Samantha Brindley
Minah Kim



Vivian Riefberg

David Walentas Jefferson
Scholars Foundation
Distinguished Professor

Darden School of Business
Joined in 2020

—
PROFESSORSHIP FELLOW**
Julia Stein

10
DISTINGUISHED
PROFESSORS

**The Foundation supports fully up to two fellows to work alongside each Professor. These graduate students, selected by the Professors themselves, provide much-needed research assistance and are welcomed into the Foundation community.

Hartfield Excellence in Teaching Award

FACULTY PROGRAM 2/2

Faculty Awards

FIVE RECIPIENTS WERE SELECTED to receive the Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Hartfield Excellence in Teaching Award, with the Foundation awarding a total of \$25,000.

The Foundation called on department chairs and deans from across the University to nominate full-time faculty for its Award for Excellence in Teaching. Additionally, department chairs from the Engineering School were encouraged to nominate faculty for the Hartfield Award. A panel of previous award recipients selected this year’s winners, who were recognized at a ceremony held at the Foundation.



Brian Helmke

School of Engineering and Applied Science, Biomedical Engineering

RESEARCH FOCUS: Professor Helmke examines the relationship between cell mechanics and cell function using new tools in materials science and molecular biology, with a focus on cardiovascular disease.

NOMINATION HIGHLIGHT: “Professor Helmke approaches teaching with tremendous creativity and passion. He brings these attributes both to the classroom setting and to the advising of undergraduate research in his laboratory. He had the idea for and mentored the creation of the Starting an Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program in BME, which helped dozens of undergraduate students gain research experiences they might not otherwise have had. In the past three years, he has mentored 31 undergraduate researchers.”



Natasha Smith

School of Engineering and Applied Science, Mechanical Engineering

RESEARCH FOCUS: Professor Smith studies systems engineering and the design process, reliability assessment and design, prediction of material properties, and structural system responses using statistical methods.

NOMINATION HIGHLIGHT: “Professor Smith is the most dedicated and hard-working professor I have ever known. She routinely and voluntarily carries twice the teaching load expected of general faculty. In addition, she teaches the most intensive laboratory courses, which require supervision of several graduate student teaching assistants, shop technicians, and a wide variety of experimental laboratory equipment. Such off-the-charts levels of contribution would seem to completely preclude high-quality teaching, but she is one of the most admired teachers by students, by staff and by her faculty colleagues.”



Kevin Grise

College of Arts & Sciences,
Environmental Sciences

RESEARCH FOCUS: Professor Grise examines atmospheric dynamics and their role in variability and long-term change in the climate system.

NOMINATION HIGHLIGHT: “Professor Grise meets students wherever they are academically, tailors projects to the interests of every individual, and facilitates student engagement with the material in productive ways through thoughtfully crafted, hands-on assignments. Often, he prepares his materials months in advance to give himself the opportunity to think deeply about the organization of his courses and refine his approach.”



Matt Pryal

College of Arts & Sciences, Astronomy

RESEARCH FOCUS: Professor Pryal completed his Ph.D. at UVA in 2020 as a Jefferson Fellow. His research focuses on the atmospheres and orbits of hot Jupiter exoplanets.

NOMINATION HIGHLIGHT: “Professor Pryal has a fabulous combination of teaching qualities: youthful energy and enthusiasm, humor, respect for his audience, and a brilliant clarity of expression which is so important in a technical subject like astronomy. I have watched him both in a class setting and in a public setting and been so impressed (indeed, envious) of his ability to hold his audience, react spontaneously, sprinkle humorous asides, and instill awe and excitement.”



Sylvia Tidey

Pan-University Global Studies Program

RESEARCH FOCUS: Professor Tidey’s areas of specialty cover a wide spectrum and include corruption, bureaucracy, the state, kinship, sexuality, gender, HIV/AIDS, phenomenological anthropology, and Southeast Asia.

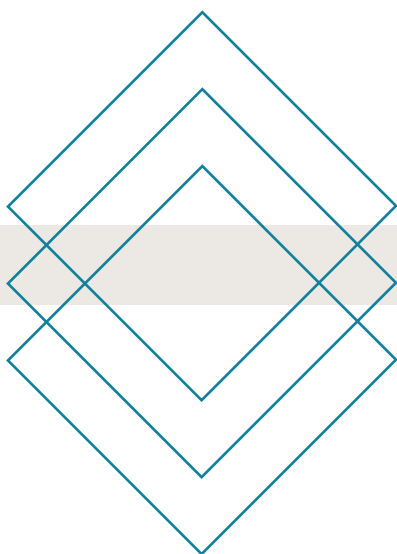
NOMINATION HIGHLIGHT: “I have watched students respond to Professor Tidey’s infallibly positive classroom presence and demeanor many times. She is remarkably flexible and quick to adapt the format of a class to students’ interests and needs. Her adaptability is on display in individual settings as well as a larger class setting. One of her skills I have come to admire most is her responsiveness to students’ differences. She is able to diagnose a struggling student’s problem and help them through it, but she is equally able to help accelerate an advanced student’s intellectual growth.”

Award for Excellence in Teaching

FEATURE STORY

Scholars of Extraordinary Range and Depth

Five Jefferson Scholars and one alumnus received an array of international awards this year, exemplifying the community's intellectual diversity and characteristic excellence.



IS IT POSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE THE AVERAGE

Jefferson or Walentas Scholar? Participants in the competitive undergraduate program excel in a wide range of disciplines, and that academic diversity is by design. Rather than encouraging all Scholars to study the same handful of subjects, the Jefferson Scholars Foundation empowers each student to choose their own path.

“We don’t care what their area of passion might be, but we want them to find it and pour their energy into it,” says Jimmy Wright, president of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation. “We don’t have any cookie-cutter model here—other than exceptional talent.”

This year, five Jefferson Scholars and one alumnus earned prestigious international awards:

the Rhodes, Truman, Goldwater, Fulbright, and Knight-Hennessy Scholarships, as well as the Carnegie Endowment’s Gaither Junior Fellowship. The recipients represent a broad spectrum of fields, from public health to poetry.

Across the Foundation’s history, about 10 percent of all graduates have earned similar honors. Maintaining that level of achievement starts with the selection process, where volunteers search for students who have multiple interests—and possess the drive to explore them in depth. “Our selection committees are comprised mostly of UVA alumni and, like the high school students who are nominated for Jefferson and Walentas Scholarships, they come from all walks of life,” says Ben Skipper, vice president of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation. “They aren’t looking for just one type of success. They are looking for students who possess both depth and range, existing in tandem.”

Rigorous curiosity and a range of intellectual interests only form part of the

equation, however. The Foundation seeks not only excellent scholars and leaders, but also outstanding citizens: students who aspire to support their peers and improve the world. “When you’re surrounded by people who are good-hearted, you can take risks that you might not have been willing to take otherwise,” says Jimmy. “You don’t win these kinds of awards without taking risks.”

In the company of such peers, and with the Foundation’s support, Scholars can make the most of their talents and pursue their true passions. “The Jefferson Scholars community provides an affirmation that your journey is your own to take,” Ben says. That journey has looked different for each of this year’s six award-winners, who demonstrate that there is no average Jefferson or Walentas Scholar—in any sense of the word.

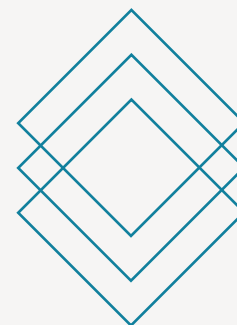




“Math makes
you stronger.”

Catherine Cossaboom
JS '25, Mathematician
and Advocate

**BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLAR | J. MACK ROBINSON
JEFFERSON SCHOLAR**



When Catherine Cossaboom first interviewed for the Jefferson Scholarship, she already saw mathematics differently

than most people. “I find math beautiful,” she says. “Mathematicians come up with new and creative ways to approach problems. If you’re saying anything truly interesting, you’re inventing a line of reasoning that no one else has used before. It is very much like art.”

At the time, Catherine had only read about the beauty of high-level math, so she felt nervous as she signed onto Zoom. “Reading about it and doing it are two entirely different things,” she notes. But her selection committee in Atlanta was supportive. “It was great to have my interviewers believe in me,” she says. “They affirmed that this was something that I could pursue.”

The committee’s confidence was far from misplaced. This year, Catherine was awarded the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, one of the most significant honors for undergraduates studying math or science. In her research at UVA, she has forged novel connections between Fields Medal-winning theorems, and Ken Ono, STEM adviser to the provost and Catherine’s mentor, has described her as an “international star undergraduate in mathematics.” Among other topics, Catherine studies prime numbers, which are fundamental to mathematics but remain difficult for mathematicians to analyze, since there appears to be no regularity in the prime number sequence at all.

Catherine has led UVA’s Association of Women in Mathematics chapter since she arrived at the University. In that time, she has virtually built the organization from the ground up, growing membership from around 10 to 120. “I care deeply about uplifting women who wish to pursue mathematical careers,” she says, adding that she hopes the Goldwater Scholarship will inspire other undergraduate women to “dream big.”

“Math makes you stronger,” she continues. “You do one of the scariest things that a person can do, which is try to tackle some ancient, unknown problem. I want people to be able to find empowerment in it.”

“I didn’t want to sacrifice the passions that gave me joy.”

Grant GianGrasso

JS '24, Multilingual Researcher
in Public Health

RHODES SCHOLAR | DR. RANDOLPH PRESTON
PILLOW JEFFERSON SCHOLAR



To say that Grant GianGrasso has many interests is an understatement. A public health researcher working to become a physician, he is proficient in French, Spanish, and Bengali. He also plays jazz trumpet, dabbles in stand-up comedy,

and has served as a volunteer firefighter.

Grant told his interviewers for the Jefferson Scholarship that he wanted to pursue all of these interests. “I didn’t want to sacrifice the passions that gave me joy,” he says. One of the interviewers seemed amused by his “audaciousness,” he remembers, but she quickly turned serious. “She said if there was anywhere I could make progress toward my career without losing sight of my other passions, it would be here,” he recalls.

This year, Grant was one of 32 Americans to receive the coveted Rhodes Scholarship, which will help him pursue a master’s degree in genomic medicine at the University of Oxford. A double major in human biology and French, he graduated in just three years and completed a master’s degree in public health at the School of Medicine this May.

During his time as a Jefferson Scholar, Grant researched cryptosporidium, a lethal parasite for infants in low-income countries, and founded *The Virginia Medical Review*, a student medical journal. He also played lead trumpet for UVA’s Jazz Ensemble, won the University’s

Comedy Knight competition, and served as head resident of the French house.

The Jefferson Scholarship allowed Grant not only to follow his passions, but also to find connections between them. Through a study abroad experience funded by the Foundation, for example, he traveled to France, where he took a five-week course that helped him understand how the history of French colonization continues to influence global health issues.

Grant looks forward to a career where he can blend his various interests, treating diseases while also investigating their cures and communicating with patients in their native languages. As a Jefferson Scholar, he loved the opportunity to “study creatively,” he says: “Rarely does anybody tell you that a particular combination of your passions won’t fit together well. Instead, they help you brainstorm how your different interests interlock with each other.”

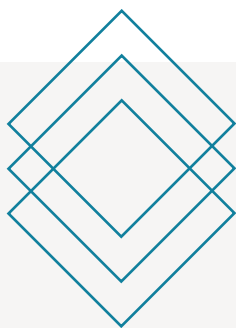


“We need judges who are empathetic.”

Lisa Kopelnik

JS '25, Former Judiciary Committee Chair and Aspiring Judge

HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLAR | WILLIAM S. HUNTER JEFFERSON SCHOLAR



Lisa Kopelnik has long known that she wanted to study law. But in her first year at UVA, she started wondering if she should major in commerce instead. “It’s easy to get overwhelmed by the number of options and the pressure coming from different directions,” she says.

Then she ran into Ben Skipper, vice president of the Jefferson Scholars

Foundation. The two of them sat down together to discuss what was on her mind. “He said, ‘There are people for whom business is their passion,’” Lisa recalls. “‘But it’s something you’ve never expressed interest in.’ That was a pivotal moment for me.”

Lisa went on to serve as the youngest chair of the University Judiciary Committee to date. She speaks warmly of former Jefferson Scholars who served on that committee and continue to act as her mentors, explaining that they inspired her to join by sharing their own excitement about law.

“They demonstrated an immense amount of passion for the work,” Lisa says. “They told me how every single day, there’s something different, and how you can impact people’s lives for the better.”

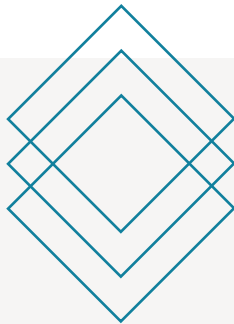
This spring, Lisa, who was recently appointed as the student representative to the Board of Visitors, became the 34th Harry S. Truman Scholar in UVA history. She will receive funding for graduate studies, leadership training, and career counseling, as well as special employment opportunities within the federal government. The award will support her on her path to public service, which Lisa says became clearer during her time at UVA: She now aspires to become a judge.

As chair of the Judiciary Committee, “I loved the chance to look students and staff in the eye and listen to what they had experienced, then figure out a resolution that made sense,” she explains. “People coming through the court system are often at their most vulnerable, and I think we need judges who are empathetic. That’s one of the main motivating factors for me.”

Kristin O'Donoghue

JS '24, Gender and Technology Researcher

JAMES C. GAITHER JUNIOR FELLOW | JOHN PAUL JONES JEFFERSON SCHOLAR



Kristin O'Donoghue was surprised to hear the word “love” come up multiple times in the talk she was attending. The speaker was information privacy expert Danielle Citron, the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Schenck Distinguished Professor in Law.

“She framed artificial intelligence as impacting not only on our civil liberties, but also the way we experience our private

lives,” Kristin recalls. “She was saying that it was harming our ability to love fully.”

Drawn to this “distinctly human” framing of AI, Kristin began collaborating with Danielle as a research assistant. In that capacity, Kristin has examined threats that AI poses to female public figures, including journalists, politicians, and celebrities.

“A significant part of our relationships takes place online at this point in time,” she says. “The public sharing and

spreading of nudes or doctored images, or even menstrual health data, is truly harmful to our ability to feel protected and express ourselves.” For women in the public eye, Kristin notes, pornographic deepfakes and other deceptive online content pose very specific dangers: They could deter would-be politicians from running for office or even create a national security threat for officeholders, for example. “Gendered disinformation is having a real impact on women’s roles in the public sphere,” she says.

Kristin is co-founder of Students for Equity and Reform in Virginia, an organization dedicated to fighting for equitable state legislation, and has served on the board of the Charlottesville chapter of the National Organization for Women. She has also written for the *New York Daily News*, *VPM News*, *Cavalier Daily*, and *C-VILLE Weekly*.

Next year, Kristin will be one of 16 James C. Gaither Junior Fellows at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. She was selected from a pool of students nominated by hundreds of universities and will act as a research assistant in the Technology and International Affairs Program. Although she has not yet learned the specifics of her research, she looks forward to deepening her understanding of technology and policy.

“While technological innovation solves problems, it usually creates new ones in the process,” Kristin says. “We need to seriously consider the harm that artificial intelligence might produce and who will be affected by it.”

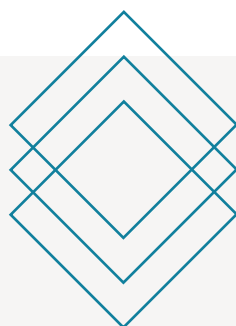
“We need to consider the people that artificial intelligence will affect.”



Madeline Stokes

JS '24, Poet and Future
English Teacher in
South Korea

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR | PARADIS FAMILY
JEFFERSON SCHOLAR



Maddie Stokes took five different classes in five different departments during her first semester on Grounds. “I have always loved school,” she says, “so I thought, ‘This is my opportunity to explore.’”

Maddie planned to eventually focus on studying politics, but she increasingly found that those courses felt like the wrong fit. After taking more English

classes, including a poetry workshop, Maddie realized she had discovered a better match.

“I am very enamored with language, but I didn’t know that consciously until I started studying poetry,” she explains. Still, she felt nervous to depart from her original plan. “I had convinced myself that politics was more important and more applicable,” she says. Staff at the Jefferson Scholars Foundation were encouraging, however. “One thing the staff emphasized that really stuck with me

was the value of pursuing paths that might not be linear but that can help you grow,” she says.

That wisdom also prompted her to accept a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in South Korea, rather than choosing to enter a literature Ph.D. program immediately after graduation. The Jefferson Scholars Program has produced 18 Fulbright Scholars over the years, and Maddie benefited from their example. “I would have never considered a program like that if I had not seen older Jefferson Scholars do it,” she says.

A recipient of the English Department’s Michael Wagenheim Memorial Scholarship, Maddie held various leadership positions within the Jefferson Literary & Debating Society starting in her second year at UVA. She was also a Lawn resident and enjoyed posting a “Poem of the Week” on her door to spark discussion.

The Jefferson Scholarship has helped Maddie orient toward the path that is right for her, she says: “No other opportunity would’ve given me people who were so deeply engaged in my development as a person.”

“There is value in pursuing paths that might not be linear.”

“I felt a great sense of injustice.”

Nathan Abraham JS '20, Future Change Agent for the Criminal Legal System

KNIGHT-HENNESSY SCHOLAR | DAVID P. CARMACK MEMORIAL
JEFFERSON SCHOLAR



In middle school, Nathan Abraham found himself on a distinct path from many of his peers. As a student on the pre-AP track, he was told that college was in his future. A good number of his friends, however, did not receive the same message. “If you’re told as a sixth grader, ‘College is maybe not the right fit for you,’ it doesn’t take much to believe that,”

Nathan says. “This was my first exposure to a massive racial wealth and opportunity gap in Arkansas.”

Nathan reflected on this more deeply after he became a Jefferson Scholar. “I felt this sense of great injustice that I had gotten to study at UVA,” he continues. “I explored questions like ‘why did I have this opportunity when so many others didn’t, and how can I spend the rest of my life trying to make sure that’s not the case for future generations?’”

Nathan started talking with former Scholars from a wide range of backgrounds who were passionate about these same questions, and he was quickly drawn to the world of criminal justice, especially public defense. This spring, Nathan was awarded the prestigious Knight-Hennessy Scholarship, which will support him in obtaining a law degree from Stanford University. “I plan to spend my career helping to change the criminal legal system for the better in places like my home state of Arkansas,” he says.

Since graduating from UVA, Nathan has worked at Bain & Co., the Bail Project, and the law firm Atticus. But when he accepted the Knight-Hennessy, he had his experience as a Jefferson Scholar in mind. Belonging to a cohort of students with diverse academic interests enriched his experience, and he knows the Knight-Hennessy—which brings together students to pursue degrees across Stanford’s seven graduate schools—offers something similar.

“It will enhance my exposure to ideas that are different from what I’m learning in a legal classroom,” he says. “I don’t come across many aspiring engineers, astronauts, or marine biologists in my current life, and it’s exciting to know that’s about to change.” ■



Walentas Scholars

CLASS OF 2026

Sydney May Alphin

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Kempsville High School
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Youth & Social Innovation

Zoey Aniya Brooks

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

First Colonial High School
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Media Studies; Minor in Sociology

Katherine del Carmen Olivar Flores

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Monticello High School
Charlottesville, Virginia
Nursing; Studio Art

Justin Kendel Gregory

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Dinwiddie High School
Dinwiddie, Virginia
Psychology

Daniela Andrea Leiva

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Waynesboro High School
Waynesboro, Virginia
Economics; Foreign Affairs

Robert James May

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Richmond, Virginia
Government; pursuing a Master of
Public Policy & Leadership

Niki Jitendra Patel

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Cosby High School
Midlothian, Virginia
Medical Anthropology;
Global Public Health

Yossra Samghouli

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Lake Braddock Secondary School
Burke, Virginia
Political Philosophy, Politics & Law;
Minors in Arabic and Spanish

Caitlin Ashley Shifflett

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Orange County High School
Orange, Virginia
Psychology; English

Alex Micheal Taylor

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Heritage High School
Lynchburg, Virginia
Computer Engineering; Electrical
Engineering

Malcolm E. Whitfield

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

J.R. Tucker High School
Glen Allen, Virginia
Economics; Global Development Studies;
Minor in Sociology

Sarah Zeffouni

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Riverside High School
Leesburg, Virginia
Neuroscience; Medical Anthropology

CLASS OF 2027

Micah Grace Andrews

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Altavista High School
Altavista, Virginia

Jennifer Elena Argueta

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

William Monroe High School
Stanardsville, Virginia

Zahra Arshadi

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Randolph-Macon Academy
Front Royal, Virginia

Kasey Wyatt Chadwick

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Blue Ridge School
St. George, Virginia

Anisha Jarang

WILLIAM L. AND CAROLYN K. POLK SCHOLAR

Clayton High School
St. Louis, Missouri

Samia Madiha Khan

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

The Calhoun School
New York, New York

Curtis A. Lawson Jr.

MCCRICKARD FAMILY SCHOLAR

Gilman School
Baltimore, Maryland

Aliyah Annmarie Oakley

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Granby High School
Norfolk, Virginia

Savannah Rae Overby

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Halifax County High School
South Boston, Virginia

Frederic Ramirez-Melenciano

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Phoebus High School
Hampton, Virginia

Blanly Teresa Rodriguez

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Monacan High School
Richmond, Virginia

Zilan Dear Saadi

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Battlefield High School
Haymarket, Virginia

Giovanni Santana

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

School Without Walls
Rochester, New York

Mercy Sisco Soly

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Loudoun Valley High School
Purcellville, Virginia

Mekelet Worku Suraphel

JAMES JOSEPH SCHOLAR

Hylton High School
Woodbridge, Virginia

Chance Arion Woodson

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Buckingham County High School
Buckingham, Virginia

Ziyi Zhang

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Oakton High School
Vienna, Virginia

CLASS OF 2028

Doraine Barbara Buluma

BRUCE A. AND SUSAN M. MILLER SCHOLAR

Monticello High School
Charlottesville, Virginia

Alissa Lorena Chapman

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Indian River High School
Chesapeake, Virginia

Jason Chen

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Jefferson Forest High School
Forest, Virginia

Michael Javonne DeVeaux Jr.

JAMES H. PATTERSON SCHOLAR

Henrico High School
Henrico, Virginia

Ashley Lynn Hayden

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

King George High School
King George, Virginia

Rosemary Isabel Henriquez

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Mountain View High School
Stafford, Virginia

Taneya Sharice Jackson

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Fluvanna County High School
Palmyra, Virginia

Hareem Mubashar

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Richmond, Virginia

Nicholas Jaehyun Oh

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

James W. Robinson Secondary School
Fairfax, Virginia

Molly E. Simpson

JOANN H. AND LORING W. RUE JR. SCHOLAR

Western Branch High School
Chesapeake, Virginia

Hannah Swird

CAPERTON FAMILY SCHOLAR

Pikesville High School
Baltimore, Maryland

Lance Adrian Toapanta-Sanchez

DAVID WALENTAS SCHOLAR

Salem High School
Salem, Virginia

Jefferson Scholars

CLASS
OF 2024



Andrew James Hay Alexis

DAVID VALENTAS SCHOLAR

Harley School
Rochester, New York

Gilliard Group, main group chemistry researcher; University of Rochester, Branche Lab researcher; The Academical Village People, president, vice president, alumni liaison; Hablemos Spanish Conversation Club, treasurer; Area 3 Special Olympics; Distinguished Majors Program, choir member; The University Singers; UVA Chamber Singers; Alpha Chi Sigma Chemistry Fraternity; National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers; Echols Scholar; Ridley-OAAA Academic Achievement Award; Robert Bryan Undergraduate Teaching Award in Chemistry

DEGREE: *B.A. Chemistry with Distinction; Minors in Biology and Mathematics*

FUTURE PLANS: To work as a research and development associate at Pfizer in Groton, Connecticut



Jackson Peter Arnberg

LAWRENCE LEWIS JR. SCHOLAR

American Heritage School Plantation
Plantation, Florida

Alternative Investment Fund at McIntire, chief information officer, head coverage director; McIntire Private Equity, president; YMCA, 3rd and 4th Grade Flag Football coach; Batten Global Policy Center, researcher; Proem LLC, chief executive officer, founder; Cov-Aid LLC, chief executive officer, founder; International Relations Organization, Virginia Model United Nations, chair, senior staffer; UVA Club Basketball; Dean's List; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *M.S. Statistics; B.A. Computer Science and Statistics with Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To work at Alpine Investors in New York City



Elizabeth Rachel Berman

JAMES J. GRIFFITTS, M.D. SCHOLAR

Breck School
Golden Valley, Minnesota

Radio Music Society at the University of Virginia, president, vice president, violinist, music arranger, treasurer; Cville Tulips, English circle leader; Center for American English Language & Culture, instructional assistant; Women in Economics Club, co-founder; Outdoor Adventure at UVA Recreation, trip leader; Volunteers with International Students, Staff, and Scholars, language consultant, instructional assistant; Madison House, volunteer; Sin Barreras/Without Barriers, volunteer; Virginia Consulting Group, project member; Student Entrepreneurs for Economic Development, project member; University Salsa Club; Echols Council; Department of Economics, Best Undergraduate Public Policy Paper award recipient; Dean's List; Tadler Fellowship

DEGREE: *B.A. Economics and Spanish with Distinction; TESOL certificate*

FUTURE PLANS: To teach English in Manresa, Spain for a year through the Meddeas Program, before returning to the U.S. to pursue a career in economics and public policy



Kayla Ann Blalack

TAYLOR-TYREE FAMILY SCHOLAR

Mountain View High School
Mountain View, California

The Wesley Foundation at UVA, leadership council; Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Tao Sun Lab, research assistant; Physics Department, lab teaching assistant; Madison House, tutor, translator; Virginia Threads Project, marketing team; Rodman Scholars Council, class representative; Jefferson Community Fellows, mentorship co-chair; The ANGELS Society, social chair; Society of Women Engineers; Student COVID Coalition; University Salsa Club, Salsa Fest publicity lead, merchandise designer, showcase performer; Solar Car Team; HooHacks 2021, Best Sustainability Hack runner-up; Rodman Scholar; Raven Society; Lawn resident

DEGREE: *B.S. Mechanical Engineering with Highest Distinction; B.A. Spanish; Minor in Applied Math*

FUTURE PLANS: To pursue a Master of Arts in Design Engineering at a joint program with Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design



Charles Edward Burton

OLIVE B. AND FRANKLIN C. MAC KRELL SCHOLAR

Winchester-Thurston School
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Charlottesville Symphony at UVA, violinist; UVA Green Bandana Project; BAW Piano Trio, violinist; St. Anne's College (University of Oxford), visiting student; Undergraduate Research; College Science Scholar; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *B.A. Neuroscience and Music with Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To work in molecular neuroscience research before applying to medical school



Reilly Aren David

DAVID J. WOOD SCHOLAR

Hampton Roads Academy
Newport News, Virginia

Virginia Mock Trial; Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, Best Probationary Presentation; UVA Climbing Team; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *B.A. Religious Studies with Distinction; Minors in Mathematics and History*

FUTURE PLANS: To pursue a career in trading with SMB Capital in New York City



Louis Andre Diment

ADOLPHUS W. HAWKINS JR. SCHOLAR

The Harvey Grammar School
Kent, United Kingdom

Alternative Spring Break, executive board, treasurer, outreach chair, development chair, team leader; Department of Chemistry, teaching assistant, researcher; American Chemical Society, Indianapolis, San Francisco, and New Orleans national conferences, presenter; Department of Environmental Science, researcher; Housing and Residence Life, resident advisor; Habitat for Humanity, volunteer; International Student Panel, panelist; Lester Andrews Undergraduate Summer Research Scholarship for Chemistry 2022, recipient; Echols Scholar, Royal Society of Chemistry Certificate of Excellence; ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry

DEGREE: *M.S. Chemistry; B.A. Chemistry Distinguished Majors Program with Highest Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry at Stanford University



Charles Clement Ellison

WESTMORELAND COAL COMPANY —

PENN VIRGINIA SCHOLAR

Mills E. Godwin High School
Richmond, Virginia

Kesem at UVA, director; UVA Barbell Club, president; Club Powerlifting, founder, president; Department of Kinesiology, clinical research coordinator, laboratory assistant; USA Powerlifting Collegiate Nationals 2022, ranked eighth in Collegiate 82.5kg Powerlifter; USAPL Commonwealth Cup, Virginia State Powerlifting Champion; USAPL Collegiate Nationals 2023, 17th place; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *B.A. Chemistry; B.S.Ed. Kinesiology with Highest Honors*

FUTURE PLANS: To finish a Master of Science in Exercise Physiology prior to pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical exercise oncology



Grant James GianGrasso

DR. RANDOLPH PRESTON PILLOW SCHOLAR

Clarence High School
Clarence, New York

The Virginia Medical Review, founder, editor-in-chief; Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire Department, firefighter; Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad, day crew captain, water rescue technician, advanced emergency medical technician, ambulance driver; International Relations Organization, Model United Nations travel team, Falklands War, Theranos, and JFK committee chairs; UVA School of Medicine, Petri Lab, Marie Lab, undergraduate researcher; French House, resident advisor; French Department, peer tutor; Madison House, Hoos Helping Spanish Speakers, tutor; UVA Jazz Ensemble, lead trumpet; TEDxUVA, student speaker; Global Medical Training; The Sailing Association at UVA; SCUBA Club at UVA; UVA Futures Initiative; Hoos in STEM Podcast; Z Society First Year Recognition Dinner; Comedy Knight Scholarship; Critical Language Scholarship; Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, Astronaut Scholar; Harrison Undergraduate Research Award; Truman Scholarship Finalist; College Science Scholar; Echols Scholar; Raven Society; Rhodes Scholar

DEGREE: *M.P.H. Public Health; B.A. Human Biology Distinguished Majors Program with Highest Distinction and French; Minor in Spanish*

FUTURE PLANS: To pursue a Master of Science in Genomic Medicine at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar followed by an M.D. at New York University School of Medicine



Grace Alden Gray

BROCKENBROUGH FAMILY SCHOLAR

Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire

Nis'to-UVA Cultural, Ecological, and Architectural Dakota Revival Project and Bundle Carriers Camp, student co-lead, research lead; Outdoors at UVA, service chair; High Atlas Foundation, participatory development intern; Climbing Team at UVA; Effective Altruism Fellowship, attendee; Minerva College Council Research Grant; Congregation Beth Israel, Forest School, substitute teacher; Wilderness First Responder Certification; Trilogy 50k Ultramarathon, 2023 record holder; Echols Scholar; Dean's List; Raven Society

DEGREE: *B.A. Environmental Thought & Practice and Global Development Studies with Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To farm at the 20-acre organic Jericho Settlers Farm in Jericho, Vermont before pursuing a Master of Arts in Food Studies at the American University of Rome in Rome, Italy



Mackenzie Adin Green

HOLBERT L. HARRIS FOUNDATION SCHOLAR

Foxcroft School
Middleburg, Virginia

Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire Department, firefighter; Loudoun County Fire and Rescue, firefighter, Advanced EMT, NAEMSE-Certified Emergency Medical Educator, COVID-19 vaccinator; Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, research assistant; UVA College Council, First Year representative; TEDxUVA, speaker; Remote Area Medical; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *B.A. Psychology with Distinction; Minors in Health, Ethics & Society and Sociology; Post-Baccalaureate Degree in Pre-Medicine*

FUTURE PLANS: To pursue a career in healthcare reform and medicine



Morgan Emerson Hughes

JAMES J. BAILEY III SCHOLAR

Captain Shreve High School
Shreveport, Louisiana

Housing and Residence Life, chair, senior resident, resident advisor selections assistant vice-chair of training; Charlottesville Debate League, Teaching committee, Outreach and Retention committee, teacher; McIntire School of Commerce, teaching assistant; Moot Court Team, secretary; Moot Court, Windy City Regional Tournament, 6th overall speaker; American Moot Court Association, 2024 national tournament qualifier; Kappa Delta, standards chair; Undergraduate Research; Echols Scholar; John L. Nau III Award for Most Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis on 19th Century American History; Raven Society

DEGREE: *B.A. History Distinguished Majors Program with Highest Distinction and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies*

FUTURE PLANS: To pursue a J.D. at University of Virginia School of Law beginning in the fall



Luke Alexander Lamberson

DR. RANDOLPH PRESTON PILLOW SCHOLAR

James River High School
Midlothian, Virginia

University Board of Elections, chair; Echols Council, head Echols ambassador; Camp Kesem, treasurer; UVA Department of Statistics, Sports Analytics and Statistics Lab, intern; Catholic Hoos; McIntire Investment Institute, analyst; Special Olympics, workout buddy; Run Your City, coach; Club Running at UVA; Club Spikeball at UVA; Beta Gamma Sigma Commerce Honor Society; Dean's List; Echols Scholar; Raven Society

DEGREE: *B.S.C. Commerce with Distinction; B.A. Mathematics; Minor in Computer Science*

FUTURE PLANS: To work as a quantitative trader for Optiver in Chicago



Kasra Lekan

JUDITH T. AND ELI W. TULLIS SCHOLAR

University High School
Irvine, California

Honor Committee, School Honor representative, Selection/Recruitment committee, Statistical Transparency working group, counselor, investigator; McIntire Investment Institute, Portfolio Management committee, analyst; University Salsa Club, choreographer, instructor, executive board member; University Judiciary Committee, first year judiciary committee, judge; UVA Student Council, appropriations committee; Data Science and Analytics Club, website development lead; Brazilian Jiu Jitsu; Double Hoo Research Grant; Educational Data Science and Learning Engineering Fellowship at the University of California Berkeley; Generative AI for Education NeuroPS Conference 2024, published author; AI4Ed AAAI Conference, published author; University of Virginia Entrepreneurship Cup Concept Competition, finalist; Dean's List; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *M.S. Computer Science; B.A. Computer Science and Economics*

FUTURE PLANS: To pursue ideas at the intersection of artificial intelligence and education before joining Bain & Company in New York City as an associate consultant



Sydney Hannah Levy

PALM BEACH SCHOLAR

Boca Raton Community High School
Boca Raton, Florida

UVA Brain Institute, researcher, lab assistant; Special Olympics, coach; ETB Consulting, inflation/macroeconomics research; Department of Mathematics, teaching assistant, Math Collaborative Learning Center, consultant; Challah for Hunger, president, weekly sales chair, vice president of sales; Kindness Café, ambassador; Chi Omega, meal plan coordinator; Autism Allies; Sailing Association at UVA; Dean's List; Order of Omega; Echols Scholar; Raven Society; Range resident; Duncan Clark Hyde Award Recipient

DEGREE: *M.S.C. Commerce; B.A. Statistics and Economics with Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To work in investment banking at Morgan Stanley in New York City



Ethan Grey Denmark Marsh

CLARENCE S. AND FLORENCE F. WRIGHT MEMORIAL SCHOLAR

Grimsley High School
Greensboro, North Carolina

Seriatim Journal of American Politics, editor; McIntire Investment Institute, analyst; T.I.L.K.A.; Pi Kappa Alpha, president, philanthropy and recruitment chair; International Relations Organization, Virginia Model United Nations; UVA Jazz Ensemble; Undergraduate Research; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *B.A. Philosophy and Government & Foreign Affairs Honors with High Honors; Minor in French*

FUTURE PLANS: To join Bain & Company as an associate consultant in Atlanta



Hayes Wold Miller

ROBY AND LOUISE C. ROBINSON SCHOLAR

Riverwood International Charter School
Atlanta, Georgia

Center for Brain Immunology and Glia, Gaultier Lab research assistant, Coutinho-Budd Lab research assistant; UVA Pre-Med advisor; Charlottesville Free Clinic, interpreter, front desk staff; UVA Hospital, certified nursing assistant; Crisis Text Line, operator; Sociology Department, teaching assistant; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *M.P.H. Public Health; B.A. Echols Interdisciplinary Major in Biology, Sociology, & Spanish with Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To attend the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin



Sean Murray Miller

FRANK BATTEN SCHOLAR
Norfolk Academy
Norfolk, Virginia

Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, vice president, secretary, Pen and Ink Committee, Jefferson Society Distinguished Speaker Series coordinator; Floodwatch Project, networking team lead; Department of Drama, season selection committee, Virginia Players, artistic director, lab series producer, principal actor; Shakespeare on the Lawn, lead actor; Virginia Mock Trial, National A-Team competitor; Department of Computer Science, researcher; Department of Mathematics, teaching assistant; 2024 Clay E. Delauney Memorial Award for Singular Achievement in Playwriting; 2022 Jefferson Society Harrison Cup Humorous Debate, winner; 2022 Jefferson Society March Madness Debate Tournament, winner; 2021 Jefferson Society Great Orators Competition, winner; 2021 University of Florida Mock Trial Tournament, winner of Outstanding Witness; 2020 Duke University Mock Trial Tournament, winner of Outstanding Witness; College Science Scholar; 2024 Clay E. Delauney Memorial Award for Singular Achievement in Playwriting; Echols Scholar; Raven Society; Phi Beta Kappa

DEGREE: B.A. Mathematics with Distinction and Computer Science with Distinction; Minor in Drama
FUTURE PLANS: To work as a consultant for Oliver Wyman in Washington, D.C.



Kristin Cuomo O'Donoghue

JOHN PAUL JONES SCHOLAR
Marymount School
New York, New York

Students for Equity and Reform in Virginia (SERV), co-founder, president, head of partnerships; Virginia Review of Politics, junior editor; Cavalier Daily, senior writer for news; University Judiciary Committee, counselor; High Atlas Foundation, intern; Resilience Education, intern; Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, intern; Charlottesville chapter of the National Organization for Women, board member; Student Advisory Council of the Democracy Initiative member; CIVILLE Weekly, news reporter, news intern; Washington Writers Network, intern; UVA School of Law, research assistant; International Relations Organization; Outdoors Club; Club Running at UVA; Miller Center Essay Competition, honorable mention; Virginia Journal Essay Competition, winner; Echols Scholar; Raven Society; Lawn resident
DEGREE: B.A. History and Political & Social Thought Distinguished Majors Program with High Distinction
FUTURE PLANS: To work as a research assistant in the Technology and International Affairs Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace as a James C. Gaither Junior Fellow



Avaneen Pinninti

NEW JERSEY SCHOLAR
Edison Academy Magnet School
Edison, New Jersey

Department of Statistics, teaching assistant; Department of Computer Science, researcher; TEDxUVA, curator; Phi Delta Theta, president; Cavalier Autonomous Racing; Forge; Echols Scholar
DEGREE: M.S. Computer Science; B.A. Computer Science with Distinction; Minor in Economics
FUTURE PLANS: To work as a software engineer for General Atomics in Herndon, Virginia



Tess Scott Robertson-Neel

R. BLAIR AND SUSAN J. THOMAS SCHOLAR

Flintridge Preparatory School
La Canada Flintridge, California

Echols Council, Echols ambassador; Planned Parenthood Generation Action, peer health educator; The Whethermen Improv Comedy, vice president; Climbing Team at UVA; Alpha Delta Pi, chaplain; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *M.P.H. Public Health; B.A. Global Public Health and Spanish with Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To continue research on endocrine disrupting chemicals at the University of Michigan and pursue a career in environmental health



Dhruv Krishna Rungta

HEIMANN FAMILY SCHOLAR

Walnut Hills High School
Cincinnati, Ohio

Students for Equity and Reform in Virginia, head of administration, co-founder; University Salsa Club, showcase choreographer, performance team, Latin Dance instructor; Charlottesville Symphony Orchestra, bassist; Madison House, Montanova Stables volunteer; Virginia Model United Nations (VAMUN), undersecretary general of finance, undersecretary general of logistics, chair; Virginia International Crisis Simulation, deputy secretary general of operations, chargé d'Affaires, chair; International Relations Organization, executive board member, travel team member; Cavalier Symphony Orchestra, treasurer, Fundraising & Outreach chair; Batten Graduate Council, class representative; Echols Council, treasurer, First Year liaison; McIntire Credit and Restructuring Club, upperclassmen advisor; Virginia Riding Team at UVA; McIntire School of Commerce, graduate teaching assistant, graduate research assistant; Club Swim at UVA; Echols Scholar; Raven Society; Tri-Sector Leadership Fellow

DEGREE: *M.P.P. Public Policy; B.A. Cognitive Science with Distinction; Minor in Business Leadership*

FUTURE PLANS: To pursue a career in special situations advisory in San Francisco before returning to school for continued graduate studies in law and business



Isabella Weeks Sheridan

HILLIARD FAMILY SCHOLAR

Greenville Senior High School
Greenville, South Carolina

First Year Players, director, publicity chair, assistant producer, actor, stage manager, Diversity & Inclusion chair; Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, programs committee, probationary committee; Charlottesville Debate League, tournament committee; *Cavalier Daily*, translation staff; Camp Kesem, outreach coordinator, counselor; Youth and Social Innovation, major executive team, logistics coordinator; Young Women Leaders Program (YWLP), mentor; School of Education & Human Development, research assistant; Madison House, Sin Barreras tutor; Housing & Residence Life, Association Council; Albemarle County Public Schools, substitute teacher; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *B.S.Ed. Youth & Social Innovation; B.A. Government with Highest Honors*

FUTURE PLANS: To teach 2nd grade at a Title I elementary school in Alexandria City Public Schools



William Burch Smythe

NORFOLK ACADEMY SCHOLAR

Norfolk Academy
Norfolk, Virginia

Cavalier Daily, sports columnist, Virginia Men's Basketball, beat writer; Wahoops, research and content intern; Power Five Press, founder, editor; 31 and Counting, founder, podcast co-host; WUVA, sports reporter; U.S. Sports Reporting textbook, student researcher, Club Roundnet; Virginia Men's Lacrosse, student manager; Special Olympics, volunteer; St. Anthony Hall; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *B.A. Government with High Distinction and French Distinguished Majors Program*

FUTURE PLANS: To serve as a Hardy Fellow at the Bryanston School in England



Madeline Vara Stokes

PARADIS FAMILY SCHOLAR

Sacred Heart Academy
Louisville, Kentucky

Charlottesville Alliance for Refugees, ESL Tutor; Kentucky Refugee Ministries, ESL intern; Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, room 7 resident, alumni relations chair, probationary chair, Pen and Ink chair, probationary committee; Charlottesville Debate League, head teacher, teaching committee, teacher; *V Magazine*, creative writing editor; Effective Altruism, teaching assistant; Morven Summer Institute, research assistant, teaching assistant; Kappa Delta; Dean's List; Echols Scholar; Raven Society, scholarship chair; Pillar of UVA Award; Department of English, Michael Wagenheim Memorial Scholarship; Lawn resident; Fulbright Scholar

DEGREE: *B.A. English Distinguished Majors Program, Poetry Writing and Modern & Global Studies with Highest Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To teach English in South Korea as a Fulbright Scholar before pursuing a Ph.D.



Luke Wallace Stone

ELI W. TULLIS SCHOLAR

Woodberry Forest School
Woodberry Forest, Virginia

Catholic Hoos, Bible study leader; Third Year Council, marketing committee chair; Second Year Council, marketing committee chair; 31 and Counting UVA Sports Podcast, co-host; Kappa Sigma, president; Inter-Fraternity Council, alumni and faculty relations chair; *Cavalier Daily*, staff writer; *Virginia Review of Politics*, production manager; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *B.S.C. Commerce*

FUTURE PLANS: To work as a management consultant at McKinsey & Co. in Atlanta



Karen Yang Sun

ELSON SCHOLAR

Phillips Academy
Andover, Massachusetts

University Guides Service, Big Guiding chair, probationary co-chair, treasurer; Mock Trial, tournament director; Reflections Oral History, research fellow; Kappa Delta; Asians Revolutionizing Together; 2023 All-American Mock Trial Attorney; 2024 Mock Trial National Champion; Echols Scholar; Lawn resident

DEGREE: *B.A. Political & Social Thought Distinguished Majors Program with High Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To work as a paralegal at Kostelanetz LLP in New York City



Alyssa Kelle Underwood

JAMES K. CANDLER SCHOLAR

E.C. Glass High School
Lynchburg, Virginia

Madison House, Elementary School Tutoring Program program director, tutor, youth mentor; University Board of Elections, vice chair for marketing; Department of Environmental Sciences, undergraduate researcher, Halsey Lab aid; American Red Cross Club at UVA; Camp Kesem at UVA, director; Special Olympics; Sustainability Advocates; Echols Scholar; Raven Society

DEGREE: *M.S.C. Commerce; B.S. Environmental Sciences Distinguished Majors Program with High Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To work as an energy development associate at an energy conservation service firm in Washington, D.C.



Amit Jay Vallabh

HAVENS FAMILY SCHOLAR

Newton North High School
Newtonville, Massachusetts

Department of Computer Science, research assistant; Club Pickleball; Waffle Wednesday at UVA; Delta Sigma Phi; Echols Scholar

DEGREE: *M.S. Statistics; B.A. Applied Statistics with Distinction*

FUTURE PLANS: To work as a business analyst for McKinsey & Company in San Francisco

CLASS OF 2025

Rachel Caroline Bohannon

HARRY W. GILBERT SCHOLAR

Princess Anne High School
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Environmental Science; Environmental
Thought & Practice

Ryan Nicole Brady

DR. RANDOLPH PRESTON PILLOW SCHOLAR

Hathaway Brown School
Shaker Heights, Ohio
Economics; Foreign Affairs

Catherine Brooke Bundon

RICHARD M. BERKELEY FAMILY SCHOLAR

Myers Park High School
Charlotte, North Carolina
Echols Interdisciplinary: Language &
Humanity in Healthcare

Emily Elizabeth Carder

**IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN B.
WHITE SR. AND CLAIRE C. SMITH SCHOLAR**

Douglas S. Freeman High School
Richmond, Virginia
Economics; Political & Social Thought

Leah Elizabeth Carroll

**L. DAVID HORNER III AND
S.W. HEISCHMAN SCHOLAR**

Windsor High School
Windsor, Virginia
Government; Religious Studies
Distinguished Majors Program

Campbell Riddick Coleman

PATRICIA FRIST ELCAN SCHOLAR

Father Ryan High School
Nashville, Tennessee
Neuroscience Distinguished Major
Program; Physics

Pierce Hart Corson

MENSE FAMILY SCHOLAR

Ocean Lakes High School
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Chinese Language & Literature

Catherine Hazel Cossaboom

J. MACK ROBINSON SCHOLAR

Chamblee Charter High School
Chamblee, Georgia
Mathematics; Cognitive Science

Anushka Dar

**HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL/LONDON
SCHOOL SCHOLAR**

Holton-Arms School
Bethesda, Maryland
Biology; Global Public Health

Serena Evy Ding

DOWNES FAMILY SCHOLAR

LaGuardia High School
New York, New York
Statistics; Commerce

Elisabeth Doty

RENNER FAMILY SCHOLAR

John Burroughs School
St. Louis, Missouri
Environmental Science; pursuing
a Master of Public Policy

Margaret Foley Doyle

BROOKE/EBSCO SCHOLAR

Mountain Brook High School
Mountain Brook, Alabama
Economics Distinguished Majors Program;
English; Minor in Global Sustainability

Loretta Christine Dredger

**MOLLY HEREFORD — SUSANNE
SMITH SCHOLAR**

Spotswood High School
Penn Laird, Virginia
History; Political Philosophy, Policy, & Law;
Minor in Public Policy & Leadership

Tre'Mon Xavier Edmonson

ROBERT H. PARSLEY SCHOLAR

Mickey Leland College Preparatory
Academy for Young Men
Houston, Texas
Government

Sophia Belle Gibby

PROBASCO FAMILY SCHOLAR

Signal Mountain Middle/High School
Signal Mountain, Tennessee
Environmental Sciences; Global
Development Studies

Sarah Tanvir Goraya

**THOMAS G. AND JOY P.
MURDOUGH SCHOLAR**

Hathaway Brown School
Shaker Heights, Ohio
Global Studies; Economics;
Minor in Leadership

Kurali Wade Grantham

HANCOCK SCHOLAR

Clarke Central High School

Athens, Georgia

Public Policy & Leadership; African
American & African Studies

Syrell Akeem Grier

THOMAS J. AND HILLARY D. BALTIMORE SCHOLAR

Gar-Field Senior High School

Woodbridge, Virginia

Economics

Manvi Hemang Harde

ARIZONA SCHOLAR

Hamilton High School

Chandler, Arizona

Political & Social Thought; Minor in
Global Studies in Education

Mikayla Beth Havison

RODRIGUEZ FAMILY SCHOLAR

Homestead High School

Fort Wayne, Indiana

B.A. English with Distinction; pursuing
a Master of Public Policy

Ava Hollis

JOHN S. LILLARD SCHOLAR

York Community High School

Elmhurst, Illinois

B.A. Neuroscience Distinguished Majors
Program with Highest Distinction; pursuing
a Master of Public Health

Harper-Claire Corroon Jones

BRUNSWICK SCHOOL/GREENWICH ACADEMY SCHOLAR

Greenwich Academy

Greenwich, Connecticut

Political & Social Thought; History; Minor
in Government

Kishan Vijay Kalaria

MICHAEL P. AND BARBARA GOLDEN LYNN SCHOLAR

Trinity Valley School

Fort Worth, Texas

Philosophy; Commerce; Minor in Spanish

Lisa R. Kopelnik

WILLIAM S. HUNTER SCHOLAR

Head-Royce School

Oakland, California

Government & Foreign Affairs Honors;
Economics

Baeza M. Lakew

LAVINIA H. TOUCHTON SCHOLAR

Kentlake High School

Kent, Washington

Global Development Studies

Ethan Rayfield Marx

LINTOTT FAMILY SCHOLAR

Indian Hill High School

Cincinnati, Ohio

English; Media Studies Distinguished
Majors Program

Lauren Marie Metters

RHODE ISLAND SCHOLAR

Moses Brown School

Providence, Rhode Island

History; Religious Studies Distinguished
Majors Program

Daniel Alexander Newlands

JEAN RAYBURN — SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOLAR

Porter-Gaud School

Charleston, South Carolina

Human Biology Distinguished Majors
Program

Claire Novak

C.D.L. AND M.T.B. PERKINS SCHOLAR

Arizona School for the Arts

Phoenix, Arizona

Systems Engineering

Lara Shaan Ojha

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA CLUB OF WASHINGTON — THOMAS B. WORSLEY SCHOLAR

Montgomery Blair High School

Silver Spring, Maryland

Materials Science and Engineering;
Minor in Engineering Business

Millie Bhargav Pandya

ROXANNA AND RALPH JOYNES SCHOLAR

Academies of Loudoun

Leesburg, Virginia

Human Biology Distinguished Majors Pro-
gram; Minors in Bioethics and Data Science

Ashleigh Patterson

RANDOLPH P. BARTON FAMILY SCHOLAR

Seneca Valley Senior High School

Harmony, Pennsylvania

Neuroscience; Economics

Owen Robert Selden

B.H. RUTLEDGE MOORE FAMILY SCHOLAR — IN HONOR OF B. ALLSTON MOORE AND WALTER BEDFORD

Porter-Gaud School

Charleston, South Carolina

Human Biology Distinguished Majors
Program; Minor in Health, Ethics & Society

Ansley Claire Skipper

OWEN AND MARGARET TABOR FAMILY SCHOLAR

St. Mary's Episcopal School

Memphis, Tennessee

History; Government; Minor in English

Hannah Cannon Slayton

MARY TILMAN CORSON SCHOLAR

St. Anne's-Belfield School

Charlottesville, Virginia

English; Archaeology

Helen Elizabeth Teti

DR. RANDOLPH PRESTON PILLOW SCHOLAR

Princeton Day School

Princeton, New Jersey

Art History Distinguished Majors Program;
Music

Benjamin J. Ueltschey

C. WILSON MCNEELY III SCHOLAR

Tupelo High School

Tupelo, Mississippi

Political Theory; Minor in Sociology

Olivia Jean Yang

VALLAR FAMILY SCHOLAR

Canyon Crest Academy

San Diego, California

Echols Interdisciplinary; Minor in
Data Science; pursuing a Master
of Public Health

Alexis Ann Yeager

CORNELIUS FRANCIS KELLEY SCHOLAR

The Meadows School

Las Vegas, Nevada

B.A. Sociology with Distinction; pursuing a
Master of Public Policy

CLASS OF 2026

Ella Rosemary Abney**W.L. LYONS BROWN FOUNDATION SCHOLAR**

Frankfort High School
Frankfort, Kentucky
Global Environments & Sustainability;
pursuing a Master of Public Policy
& Leadership

Molly Meghan Canipe**WILLIAM FOWNES BLUE FAMILY SCHOLAR**

Myers Park High School
Charlotte, North Carolina
Global Development Studies;
Foreign Affairs

Madeleine Mary Cotter**JOSEPH CHAPPELL HUTCHESON SCHOLAR**

Allendale Columbia School
Rochester, New York
Mechanical Engineering; Minor in
Computer Science

**Thomas Scott
McMicking Davies****DAVIS AND WINNIE HAMLIN SCHOLAR**

Wakeland High School
Frisco, Texas
Political Philosophy, Policy, & Law; History

João Vitor de Andrade Lima**WILLIAM C. LICKLE SCHOLAR**

Colégio Bom Jesus Centro
Paraná, Brazil
Foreign Affairs Distinguished Majors
Program; Economics; Minor in
Entrepreneurship

Maria Susan Dolan**TODD R. SCHNUCK SCHOLAR**

Ladue Horton Watkins High School
St. Louis, Missouri
Neuroscience; Computer Science

Sarah Eve Dowling**DR. RANDOLPH PRESTON PILLOW SCHOLAR**

The Lovett School
Atlanta, Georgia
Anthropology; Art History

Margaret Eleanor Dykstra**WILLIAM LOUIS ZIMMER III SCHOLAR**

Ponte Vedra High School
Ponte Vedra, Florida
Computer Science; Cognitive Science;
Minor in Data Science

David Dzul**JANICE CLARK KELLOGG SCHOLAR**

Michael E. DeBakey High School for
Health Professions
Houston, Texas
Neuroscience; Chemistry

Katherine Lawrence Fidler**FREDERICK N. HARRISON SR.****FAMILY SCHOLAR**

James Monroe High School
Fredericksburg, Virginia
Systems Engineering; Minors in
Applied Mathematics and Science
& Technology Policy

Kathryn Amanda Geoffroy**MORGAN FAMILY SCHOLAR**

Augusta Preparatory Day School
Martinez, Georgia
Aerospace Engineering

Diya Dutt Gupta**STEVENS FAMILY SCHOLAR**

Los Altos High School
Los Altos, California
Global Environments & Sustainability;
Commerce

Abhinav R. Karri**DANIEL S. ADLER SCHOLAR**

Hidden Valley High School
Roanoke, Virginia
Human Biology

Eujine Kim**ELIZABETH M. FORSYTH SCHOLAR**

Heritage High School
Lynchburg, Virginia
Spanish; Global Security & Justice;
Minor in Data Science

Michael Alan Kish

ZETA PSI SCHOLAR

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Richmond, Virginia
Commerce; Economics

**Simone Megan Marijic
Buljubasic**

WILLIAM G. PANNILL SCHOLAR

Marymount High School
Los Angeles, California
History; Music; Minor in Public Policy &
Leadership

Allison Elizabeth McVey

RICHARD S. CROSS SCHOLAR

Spring-Ford High School
Royersford, Pennsylvania
Government; Political Philosophy, Policy &
Law Distinguished Majors Program

Sofia Elizabeth Megert

L.S. WALDROP/T. EVANS WYCKOFF SCHOLAR

South Eugene High School
Eugene, Oregon
Chemistry; Minor in Biology

Esme Elizabeth Merrill

CHARLES V. MOORE SCHOLAR

Greenwich High School
Greenwich, Connecticut
Art History; Political & Social Thought
Distinguished Majors Program

Abigail Milne

RANDOLPH P. BARTON FAMILY SCHOLAR

Woodside Priory School
Portola Valley, California
English; Drama

Cecilia Rose Murphy

PARKER H. LEE JR., M.D. SCHOLAR

The Episcopal Academy
Newtown Square, Pennsylvania
History; Spanish

Abigail Mae Nickelson

ELI W. TULLIS SCHOLAR

Caddo Parish Magnet High School
Shreveport, Louisiana
Economics; Mathematics

Evan Jonah Nied

HARRY W. GILBERT SCHOLAR

Kempsville High School
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Government; Minor in Entrepreneurship

Seamus Oliver

JOHN AND BETSY CASTEEN SCHOLAR

Salesianum School
Wilmington, Delaware
Mathematics; Political Philosophy,
Policy, & Law

Gregory Duane Perryman Jr.

ELISABETH A. AND MARK T.

MASSEY SCHOLAR

Beachwood High School
Beachwood, Ohio
Government & Foreign Affairs Honors

Sanjitha Prabakaran

TYLER HARRIS ROSE SCHOLAR

Stone Bridge High School
Ashburn, Virginia
Computer Science; Minor in
Entrepreneurship

Yukta Ramanan

KAPLAN FAMILY SCHOLAR

Chantilly High School
Chantilly, Virginia
Economics; Political & Social Thought;
Minor in Entrepreneurship

Naima Elan Piker Sawaya

DR. RANDOLPH PRESTON PILLOW SCHOLAR

Lafayette High School
Williamsburg, Virginia
Religious Studies

Aishwarya Sivasubramanian

THE MARY AND DONALD LAING III SCHOLAR

Academy of Information Technology
& Engineering
Stamford, Connecticut
B.A. Cognitive Science with Distinction;
Minor in Data Analytics; pursuing a Master
of Public Health

Finn Sjue

JANET DORSEY IZLAR SCHOLAR

The Pembroke Hill School
Kansas City, Missouri
Economics; Minor in Entrepreneurship

Isabelle Victoria Tindall

ARKANSAS SCHOLAR

Thaden School
Bentonville, Arkansas
English; Youth & Social Innovation

Collinn Long Tran

FREDERICK W. WHITRIDGE FAMILY SCHOLAR

George Washington High School
Charleston, West Virginia
Foreign Affairs

Reeya S. Verma

E. PAUL ROGERS JR. SCHOLAR

Lakeside High School
Evans, Georgia
Political & Social Thought

Eli Jonathan Weinger

SHADWELL SOCIETY SCHOLAR

Saddle River Day School
Saddle River, New Jersey
Government; pursuing a Master of Public
Policy & Leadership

Leah Allyson Winston

GLYNN D. KEY SCHOLAR

Edmund Burke School
Washington, D.C.
Political & Social Thought

Phoebe Mulhollan Zamoff

ROBIN ASHLEY AND TRACY PENDLETON

MORGAN SCHOLAR
Edina High School
Edina, Minnesota
Public Policy



Elijah Berlin Witt

GWILLIAM SCHOLAR

Elijah Berlin Witt of Crozet, Virginia passed away on May 15, 2024. Elijah was a second-year student who pursued studies in engineering, astronomy, and psychology. In his time at UVA, Elijah was involved in a variety of organizations, including the Astronomy Club, the UVA Solar Car Team, and the Balz-Dobie Association Council. A Jefferson and Rodman Scholar, Elijah was a resident advisor, an engineering teaching assistant, and he continued his long-standing relationship with 100 Black Men of Central Virginia, serving as a mathematics instructor and mentor during the M-Cubed Summer Math Academy. Elijah will forever be remembered for his welcoming smile, sharp intellect, and genuine kindness to all fortunate enough to cross his path.

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Graduate

Jefferson Fellowship

The Jefferson Fellowship is the premier graduate fellowship offered at the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, the Darden School of Business, and the Graduate School of Engineering and Applied Science. Recipients demonstrate outstanding achievement and the highest promise as scholars, teachers, public servants, and business leaders in the United States and beyond.

\$3.2M

MILLION AWARDED IN GRADUATE SUPPORT IN
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

233

TOTAL STUDENTS APPLIED TO THE JEFFERSON
AND NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

36

UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTED BY THE
INCOMING FELLOWS

4

NATIONAL FELLOWS WILL JOIN THE FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY IN FALL 2024

23

JEFFERSON FELLOWS WILL JOIN THE
FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IN FALL 2024

55

FELLOWS IN TOTAL WILL BE SUPPORTED
IN 2024-25



FEATURE STORY

Reimagining the Jefferson Fellowship

25 Years of Adapting to the Changing Landscape of Graduate Education



IN 1998, then-dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Mel Leffler, approached the Jefferson Scholars Foundation with a proposition. Leffler and other administrators felt that UVA was losing top Ph.D. prospects to peer institutions and asked the Jefferson Scholars Foundation for assistance in helping to reverse the trend. At the time, the best fellowship package offered by the University was \$12,000 annually for three years, while many peer institutions were offering up to \$16,000 annually for five years.

“The Foundation’s role, if we were to accept the dean’s proposal,” says Jimmy Wright, the president of the Foundation, “would be to underwrite a competitive financial package, which of course would require a substantial fundraising effort. We also would need to devise and administer the selection process.”

It was a big ask. But the idea of forming a new merit graduate fellowship at UVA was compelling.

“The Foundation’s Board of Directors ultimately came to see it as a natural extension of our mission. So, after some consideration, we agreed to help,” says Wright.



Jefferson Fellow alumna Jamala Massenburg addresses this year's departing Jefferson Fellows as newly appointed director of the Foundation's Graduate Fellowship Program.

In fairly short order, the Foundation was able to secure approximately \$6 million—enough to launch the new Fellowship. In 2001, three years after the dean's request, the inaugural cohort of Jefferson Fellows matriculated at the University, and the Foundation officially ventured into the world of graduate support.

By 2006, UVA's Darden School of Business also approached the Foundation with a request to partner. And in 2012, the Graduate School of Engineering & Applied Science followed suit.

The Foundation quickly discovered that success in the graduate arena, especially across three schools, but most especially in the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, would require a willingness to think creatively and strategically about how it operates. A 'one size fits all' approach was not going to work.

The Jefferson Fellowship for students in the arts and sciences was initially devised as a three-year and later a five-year package awarded at the point of admission. Candidates were nominated by department chairs and invited to make a 15-minute presentation and interview with a panel of UVA alumni and faculty. Those awarded the Fellowship received tuition, health insurance, and a living

Recognizing the value of a competitive financial package, the University eventually made graduate funding a priority and increased its own standard package for incoming graduate students.

stipend that started at \$16,900 in 2001 and gradually increased to \$30,000 by 2007. They also received a research stipend ranging from \$3,000 to \$7,500.

These multi-year packages allowed the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences to compete with offers from peer institutions and rapidly elevate the quality of its incoming graduate cohort—the number one priority of the school at the time.

Recognizing the value of a competitive financial package, the University eventually made graduate funding a priority and increased its own standard package for incoming graduate students. In doing so, the Jefferson Fellowship, in its original format, no longer provided the same competitive draw. Driven by both market forces and the changing needs of the University, the Foundation, in close partnership with school administration, reconfigured the Fellowship for the first time in 2016 and continued to fine-tune it over the ensuing years.

Today, the Jefferson Fellowship addresses a different set of issues than it did in 2001, providing much-needed dissertation completion and postdoctoral support. Current fifth-year Ph.D. candidates at

UVA can apply for the Fellowship, and, just as in the early years, they must make a 15-minute presentation followed by an interview as part of the selection process. Recipients are relieved of their departmental teaching requirements in the first year to ensure they have time to complete ambitious dissertations. In year two, they are given the opportunity to design their own courses and gain independent teaching experience as post-doctoral fellows at UVA.

The new format gives students the resources and, perhaps the most important commodity of all, the time to finish strong and prepare to enter the job market as competitive candidates.

Ben Skipper, who led the Jefferson Fellowship Program for nearly 10 years before the newly appointed director, Jamala Massenburg, took on the role, believes the Foundation's adaptability and willingness to restructure the Fellowship package is the very thing that has made the Jefferson Fellowship something of a secret weapon for UVA.

China Scherz, associate dean for graduate education in the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, agrees.

"Today, many students find themselves at the end of their program needing just one more year to get it done. That's often precisely when they are left hanging, with no options for financial assistance. But the new format of the Jefferson Fellowship ensures that they can finish strong," she says.

Scherz adds that as important as financial support is, it is far from the only benefit of the Fellowship. One feature that has defined the Fellowship since the early-2000s is the fact that Fellows have access to—and in fact become an integral part of—the Foundation community.

"Graduate students don't typically have a platform to interact with scholars outside their department, and writing a dissertation is particularly isolating work. Jefferson Fellows don't have that problem," says Scherz.

The Foundation's building was designed to serve as a vibrant, interdisciplinary hub where Fellows could convene daily. The building's crown jewel, the Fellows Center, is equipped with state-of-the-art teaching and conference rooms, a reading room, a multi-purpose event hall, and informal communal spaces. Most notably, it features more than 20 offices that Fellows are invited to utilize if needed.

Kathryn Babineau, a Jefferson Fellow in sociology whose research examines labor rights, temporary migration, and public and private regulation, says one of the best parts about the Fellowship is working alongside historians, economists, and environmental scientists who help her reframe questions and expand the scope of her research.



The new format gives students the resources and, perhaps the most important commodity of all, the time to finish strong and prepare to enter the job market as competitive candidates.

Babineau was one of the Fellows selected to receive funding to organize the Forum for Interdisciplinary Dialogue, a conference held at the Foundation that brings together scholars across a wide range of fields and universities to address a selected topic of social or cultural significance.

"I was able to pick the theme and presenters. It was amazing to have scholars fly in from all over the world, engaging in conversations related to my research. It was an incredible networking opportunity and great experience to go through the process of planning and organizing a major academic conference," says Babineau.

The Foundation also gives Fellows the opportunity to edit and manage an academic journal if they wish, as well as prepare and deliver academic talks as part of its ongoing symposia.

"The Jefferson Fellowship has come a long way over the last two decades, and we are confident that we are supporting these exceptionally talented graduate students exactly the way they need to be supported right now," says Wright. ■



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**THE CHRONICLE
OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Jefferson Fellows



Kathryn Claire Babineau

GROUNDBREAKERS FELLOW

Department of Sociology

University of Virginia (B.A.) (M.P.P.) (Ph.D.)

University of Oxford (M.Phil.)

Kathryn studies the political economy of globalization, labor rights, temporary migration, and public and private regulation. She is particularly interested in the changing structure of global agro-food supply chains, and the impacts on the workers whose labor drives them. Her dissertation, “Retaking Control? Sending States and the Regulation of Temporary Labor Migration,” traces the regulation of temporary labor migration programs in American agriculture. Kathryn’s work, funded, in part, by the National Science Foundation, has been published by openDemocracy, the Social Science Research Council, The Brookings Institution, and *Harvard Business Review*. Kathryn is a member of the Raven Society and was named a Groundbreakers Fellow.



Diego Andres Briones

JOHN E. WALKER JR. FELLOW

Department of Economics

University of Connecticut (M.P.P.)

University of Virginia (B.S.) (M.A.)

Diego’s research focuses on K–12 and post-secondary education policies, such as the human capital and labor market effects of grade school English learner interventions. In other work, he has studied the impacts and distributional implications of student loan policy changes including the federal payment pause and waivers for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Diego will return to UVA next year to complete his Ph.D.



Frederik Brondsted

MARY ANDERSON HARRISON FELLOW

Department of Chemistry
West Virginia Wesleyan College (B.S.)
University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Frederik's dissertation, "Rational Design of Xanthene-Based Photoacoustic Probes," delves into designing small-molecule dyes for photoacoustic imaging. In his work, he explores various strategies to create dyes that produce clearer and louder signals and demonstrate their potential for precise activation within acute myeloid leukemia cells. The Stains Lab's ongoing efforts aim to improve patient quality of life by potentially reducing the need for frequent bone marrow biopsies in monitoring acute myeloid leukemia. Frederik's work has been featured in respected publications such as *Chemistry—A European Journal* and *Photochemistry and Photobiology*. Next year, Frederik will be joining Oregon Health and Science University as a postdoctoral research fellow.



Lydia Grace Brown

JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION FELLOW

Department of English
The College of William & Mary (B.A.)
University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Lydia spent this year as a postdoctoral fellow in UVA's Engagements Program. Her dissertation, "Its Radiant Arms: Lyric and Novel in the Nineteenth Century," theorizes how the short lyric poem shaped the novel's forms, wants, and futures in the 19th century. Her research has appeared or is forthcoming in *ELH*, *Victorians Journal*, *Palgrave*, and *The Edinburgh Companion to the Arts*, among other publications. Her work has been supported by UVA's Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Fellowship and the Academy of American Poets Prize, and her teaching has been recognized at the university level with the Class of 1985 Fellowship for Creative Teaching. After the fellowship period, she will continue finalizing her monograph for publication and beginning her second book project, a study on the novel and optimism.



Xinlun Cheng

EDWARD P. OWENS FELLOW

Department of Astronomy
Tsinghua University (B.S.)
University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Xinlun's dissertation, "Galactic and Extra-galactic Astronomy in the Age of Large Sky Surveys" delves into his interest in galaxy evolution, galaxy formation, deep learning, and artificial intelligence, and his research extends to physics-informed deep learning with the School of Data Science. Next year, Xinlun will be a postdoctoral researcher at the UVA School of Data Science, continuing his work of developing a new architecture and training strategy for applying AI in computational fluid dynamics and other challenging numerical simulation problems.



Creighton Dugan Coleman

ELIS OLSSON MEMORIAL FOUNDATION FELLOW

Department of Religious Studies

Wichita State University (B.A.)

Biola University (M.A.)

Saint Louis University (M.A.)

University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Creighton's dissertation, "From Contempt to Encounter: Pentecostal Political Theology and Democratic Life," examines Pentecostal political theologies that make contempt, rather than, for instance, tolerance, equality, or forbearance, seem spiritually useful. Creighton's work further engages Pentecostal theologies to imagine a Pentecostal politics beyond contempt. Creighton is currently a postdoctoral fellow in UVA's Engagements Program and has also organized several university-wide and public-facing events, including *An Age of Extremism?* and *Christian Faith and Prison Industries*.



Emma N. Cook

JEFFERSON ARTS AND SCIENCES DISSERTATION YEAR FELLOW

Department of Chemistry

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.S.)

Emma's dissertation, "Developing Improved Earth-Abundant Electrocatalysts for the Reduction of Dioxygen through Mechanistic Insight," focuses on understanding how synthetically modifying iron, manganese, and transition metal-free-based systems affects the catalytic conversion of dioxygen to water or hydrogen peroxide. Her work has been published by the American Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry. During her time at UVA, she was awarded the Lifetime Service Award and the Adam Ritchie Award from the Department of Chemistry, as well as the Young Investigator Award from the American Chemical Society Division of Inorganic Chemistry. She is interested in the broader impact of science and making scientific topics more accessible to the general public and hopes to pursue these goals in her career.



Kelly E. Dunham

JOHN A. BLACKBURN FELLOW

Department of Chemistry

Tennessee Technological University (B.S.)

University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Kelly's expertise is in electrochemistry, biochemistry, and molecular genetics. Her dissertation, "Improving real-time fast-scan cyclic voltammetry serotonin detection to understand different antidepressant and genetic effects in *Drosophila melanogaster*," uses electrochemical techniques to measure rapid serotonin changes and *Drosophila* models to understand genetic effects with antidepressants. Kelly also teaches the Empirical Engagements course "EGMT 1520: Can a Pill Make You Happy?" which focuses on the history of antidepressants, clinical research, and their use in contemporary American society. Outside of the lab, Kelly mentors graduate and undergraduate students in writing and career development.



Benjamin Gregory Friedlander

PETER AND EADDO KIERNAN FELLOW

Darden School of Business

University of Oklahoma (B.A.) (B.S.)

University of Virginia (M.B.A.) (M.Ed.)

Benjamin received dual degrees from the Darden School of Business and the School of Education. While at UVA, he served as president of the Darden Running Club and vice president of Darden Education Club. After graduation, Benjamin will serve as the senior treasury analyst at Investure, a Charlottesville-based investment office serving school endowment and private foundation clients.



Kayleigh Erin Granville

PAUL T. JONES II FELLOW

Department of Environmental Sciences

University of Connecticut (B.S.)

Kayleigh's dissertation, "Gas Exchange, Carbon Flows, and Ecosystem Metabolism in a Restored, Temperate Seagrass Meadow," examines how greenhouse gas fluxes from Virginia's seagrass meadows affect carbon sequestration. Her published work can be found in *Limnology and Oceanography: Methods*, *Limnology and Oceanography: Bulletin*, and *Wetlands*. While at UVA, Kayleigh worked with policymakers to apply her greenhouse gas flux measurements to the world's first seagrass carbon crediting project and with teachers to improve students' science learning experiences.



Josephine Lamp

OLIVE B. AND FRANKLIN C. MAC KRELL FELLOW

Department of Computer Science

Arizona State University (B.S.)

University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Josie's research is at the intersection of healthcare, artificial intelligence, and privacy. Her dissertation, "Trustworthy Clinical Decision Support Systems for Medical Trajectories," develops a suite of robust, explainable, and private machine learning and artificial intelligence frameworks for health, applied to improve outcomes for patients with heart failure and diabetes, among other diseases. Her research has been published in top-tier machine learning and clinical venues, and she received a 2020 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and Dexcom Dissertation year grant. She will move to industry and lead an AI research team as a senior AI researcher at Dexcom this summer.



Emily Mellen

EDGAR SHANNON FELLOW; NEWMAN FAMILY FELLOW
McIntire Department of Music
University of California, Los Angeles (B.A.)
University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Emily spent this year as a postdoctoral fellow in UVA's Engagements Program, teaching the course, "Evil Tunes," on the ethics of music and music used for evil. Her dissertation, "Through the Waves: Radio Bari, the Fascist Radio Heard Across the Mediterranean," examines the music of Radio Bari, a Fascist propaganda radio station broadcasting in Arabic from Southern Italy from 1934–1943. She is the communications assistant for UVA's vice provost's Office for Global Affairs. She has received numerous travel grants, including grants to attend the Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching at Indiana University and Purdue University.



Jirayu Mongkolkiattichai

MELVILLE FOUNDATION FELLOW
Department of Physics
Chiang Mai University, Thailand (B.S.)
University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Jirayu's research specializes in many-body quantum systems. His dissertation, entitled "Quantum Gas Microscopy of Frustrated Quantum Many-Body Systems," examines the behavior of fermions on a triangular optical lattice, where theoretical predictions suggest the presence of exotic phenomena and numerical calculations pose a challenge at low temperatures. Jirayu received the first-place Outstanding Graduate Research Award in Physics. He is currently working as a research associate on "Quantum Computation in a Cryogenic Ytterbium Tweezer Array" at UVA.



Taylor L. Nystrom

MELVILLE FOUNDATION FELLOW
Department of Biology
University of Colorado (B.A.)

Taylor's dissertation, entitled "Nutrition, Natural Genetic Variation, and Neural Stem Cells—Building an Integrative Model of Early Life Neurogenesis," focuses on how neural stem cells integrate nutrient signaling and natural genetic variation as they progress through neuron production. Taylor co-led the founding council of the Biology Outreach and Inclusion Program, co-founded Saturday Science at the Farmer's Market, and is the recipient of a National Science Foundation Research Traineeship. She has also contributed to articles in the *Journal of Comparative Physiology*.



Gertrude Katherine Pavur

PETER AND CRISLER QUICK FELLOW

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology (B.S.)
University of Virginia (Cert.) (Ph.D.)

Gigi's dissertation, "A Down-to-Earth Examination of Hydrological Natural Disasters and Risk Using Earth Observations," explores applications of hydrological remote sensing with a focus on natural disasters. Gigi has interned with NASA, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. She is the recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, the Advancing Science in America (ARCS) Endowed Fellowship, the Carlos and Esther Farrar Fellowship, and the Outstanding Doctoral Student in Civil and Environmental Engineering Award.



Thomas Wayne Pfeifer

PETER AND CRISLER QUICK FELLOW

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
University of Wisconsin (B.S.) (M.S.)

Thomas's research focuses on studying nanoscale heat transfer. Before pursuing an engineering degree at UVA, Thomas studied polymers, composites, and additive manufacturing. Following three years in the software development industry, Thomas returned to academia, where he is currently developing new measurement techniques for studying thermal properties on the atomic scale.



Bridget T. Reilly

JOHN LILLARD FELLOW

Department of English
Trinity College (B.A.)
University of Virginia (M.A.) (Ph.D.)

Bridget's dissertation, "Cholera's Clock: Race, Illness, and Time in Nineteenth-Century American Literature," explores how a series of cholera pandemics impacted cultural constructions and lived experiences of time in the 19th-century U.S. Her work has been supported by the Huntington Library's Molina Fellowship in the History of Medicine and the UVA Dean's Fellowship, among other grants and awards. An article adapted from a chapter in her dissertation is forthcoming in *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*. She is currently a College Fellow in the Engagements Program at UVA.



Hannah Richstein

HILLIARD FAMILY FELLOW
Department of Astronomy
Texas Christian University (B.A.) (B.S.)
University of Virginia (M.S.) (Ph.D.)

Hannah is a Dissertation Year Fellow and successfully defended her dissertation, “Near-field cosmology with deep Hubble Space Telescope imaging of ultra-faint dwarf galaxies,” April of this year. Her research explores how the Milky Way’s smallest and faintest satellite galaxies could inform us about similar systems throughout cosmic time. Hannah has accepted a Department of Energy Program Fellowship at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.



Christopher David Robinson-Lyons

DOFFERMYRE FAMILY FELLOW
Department of Biology
Trinity University (B.S.)
University of Central Arkansas (M.S.)
University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Chris’s dissertation, entitled “Hormonal responsiveness underlies trait diversification in *Sceloporus* Lizards,” explores the evolution of hormonal regulation of trait development. Chris was a National Science Foundation Research Trainee on the EXPAND grant, a multi-departmental graduate training program that aims to foster interdisciplinary research and professional development. Chris also completed an internship with DataClassroom, a statistics education software company developed by a Jefferson Fellow alumnus with support from the Jefferson Scholars Foundation’s Exploratory Fund.



Yaolong Shen

**ROSELLE-HUNEKE JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION
DISSERTATION YEAR FELLOW**
Department of Mathematics
Peking University (B.S.)
University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Yaolong’s primary area of research revolves around the captivating field of representation theories of quantum groups, Lie superalgebras and categorifications. During his time at UVA, he has had three published papers in top journals and three preprints on arXiv. His dissertation, entitled “Chur Dualities Arising From Quantum Symmetric Pairs,” concerning various dualities between *i*-quantum groups and Hecke/Brauer algebras. He will be a postdoc at University of Ottawa beginning in fall 2024.



Jessica Ann Swoboda

IRBY CAUTHEN FELLOW

Department of English
Villanova University (B.A.)
Boston College (M.A.)
University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Jessica's dissertation, "Relational Criticism," challenges standard characterizations of argument by recentering it as a type of relation that can help create stronger, more cohesive intellectual communities. Jessica is a contributing editor at *The Point Magazine*, where she co-hosts the podcast "Selected Essays" and manages their Program for Public Thinking at the University of Chicago. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in the academic journals *Contemporary Literature* and *Textual Practice* and the magazines, *The Point*, *Commonweal*, and *ASAP/J*. Jessica's work has been supported twice by the Jefferson Scholars Foundation as well as by fellowships from UVA's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, PhD+, and the english department. Starting in July, she will be an Advising Fellow in the College of Arts & Sciences at UVA.



Vasfiye Betul Toprak

D.N. BATTEN FOUNDATION FELLOW

Department of Sociology
Hacettepe University (Turkey) (B.A.)
Florida International University (M.A.)
University of Virginia (M.A.) (Ph.D.)

Vasfiye's research interests are in political authority, religion, cultural theories of the state, modernity, and the Ottoman Empire. Her dissertation, entitled, "Reforming the Ottoman State: Authority in the Struggle for Modern Legitimacy in the Ottoman Empire, 1789–1826," traces the constitution of political authority throughout the late 18th- and early 19th-century Ottoman Empire in the context of transitions to modernity. Vasfiye has served as a Doctoral Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, a Junior Fellow at the Society of Fellows, and a Fellow at the Institute for Critical Social Inquiry at the New School for Social Research. Her work has appeared in the *Handbook of Classical Social Theory* and the *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*. She will start a new position as a Collegiate Fellow at the University of Maryland-College Park in Fall 2024.



Victoria Josephine Velasquez

GOODWIN/HARDIE FAMILY FELLOW

Darden School of Business
University of Notre Dame (B.B.A.)
University of Virginia (M.B.A.)

While at Darden, Victoria served as president of the Consulting Club, the largest student-run club at Darden, and helped more than 250 students get recruited into careers in consulting. She was awarded the William Michael Shermet Award for being in the top five percent of her class academically and for demonstrating a responsible competitive spirit in the classroom. She also received the C. Stewart Sheppard Award for exceptional service of a non-academic nature and the Faculty Award for Academic Excellence. After graduation, she will join Bain & Co. as a management consultant in Washington, D.C.



William Robert Whitehurst Jr.

JOHN L. COLLEY JR. FELLOW
Darden School of Business
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.A.)
Harvard University (M.P.P.)
University of Virginia (M.B.A.)

While at Darden, Will has focused on venture capital and engaging the local entrepreneurship ecosystem. His summer internship as a Darden Venture Fellow was with Trestle Partners, an early-stage business-to-business, software-as-a-service investment fund in New York. Will also served as a board observer for CvilleBioHub, a local accelerator. His capstone project has been working with the CHIPS and Science Act’s Research and Development Office on its public-private capital partnership strategy to support the launch of America’s National Semiconductor Technology Center. After Darden, Will plans to return as an associate in McKinsey & Co.’s Washington, D.C. office.



Jia Jun Yan

TERRENCE D. DANIELS FAMILY FELLOW
Department of Mathematics
University of Southern California (B.S.) (M.A.)
University of Virginia (Ph.D.)

Jia Jun is a postdoctoral fellow in UVA’s Engagements Program. Her research explores gauge theory and its interactions with low-dimensional topology, representation theory, and singularity theory. Jia Jun’s dissertation, “A New Construction of ALE Spaces via Gauge Theory,” is a project that lies at the intersection of the aforementioned subfields of mathematics. She will begin a three-year postdoc at Rice University in fall 2024.



John Zwick

W.L. LYONS BROWN III FELLOW
Darden School of Business
University of Michigan — Ann Arbor (B.S.E.)
University of Virginia (M.B.A.)

During his tenure at Darden, John was a leader within the entrepreneurship community and worked with faculty to shape the school’s evolving entrepreneurship through acquisition (ETA) curriculum. John is excited to begin a portfolio executive role with Evergreen Services Group, a private equity-backed holding company.

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San Francisco State University (M.A.)
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University of Rochester (B.A.)
Selected in 2024



The Revival of Political History

How the National
Fellowship is bringing
a field of study back to
the forefront

P

POLITICAL HISTORY is deeply embedded in nearly every aspect of American society. From education to healthcare, politics plays a powerful role in shaping the lives of Americans. Even popular culture is inextricably bound to politics. Countless films and television series gain critical and commercial success by drawing on the political turmoil of a given time. Late-night talk shows and satirical news programs rely on a daily influx of political fodder. The American public, it seems, has an insatiable appetite for consuming political content.

And yet, with history departments finally devoting long-overdue attention to subdisciplines like the history of gender, Black history, and cultural history, by the 1980s, American political history as a field of study began to enter a state of decline.

Brian Balogh, a professor at the University of Virginia, was determined to do his part to revive the field. He set out to establish a new graduate fellowship that would support doctoral candidates completing ambitious dissertations on topics pertaining to U.S. politics at home and abroad.



Scan to read the full article on:

**THE CHRONICLE
OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

The National Fellowship, as it was aptly named, was launched in 2000. From the outset, it was national in scope, supporting talented Ph.D. students at some of the world's top universities, not just at UVA, and pairing them with renowned senior scholars. These senior scholars, affectionately referred to as “dream mentors,” would be handpicked by the Fellows and would play an integral role in reviewing and providing feedback to their research.

The program was designed by Balogh to create a network of historians, political scientists, and sociologists who sought to understand politics from a historical perspective. It also defined politics capaciously, drawing upon the energy and stature of fields like legal history and environmental history.

Today, the National Fellowship has engaged more than 150 dream mentors and supported approximately 200 rising historians and social scientists, 75 percent of whom have gone on to teach at major universities and hold tenure or tenure-track positions. Other National Fellows have forged equally successful careers in public service, the nonprofit sector, government, and other public-facing professions. Collectively, the National Fellowship community has published hundreds of books with major presses, many of which have garnered major awards.

Now under the leadership of James Sparrow, a history professor at the University of Chicago, and the Jefferson Scholars Foundation, the National Fellowship Program promises to retain the signal features that have made it a success, as well as introduce new features in response to the changing landscape of graduate education.

“Graduate students who are getting tenure-line jobs today are getting them with sometimes two or three articles in top journals, before they even complete their Ph.D.,” said Sparrow.

“Not that long ago, it wasn’t a requirement or expected to have that type of coverage and experience under your belt.”

That is partly why Sparrow is giving National Fellows more time, offering up to two years of support instead of just one.

American political history, it turns out, is more than just the perfect backdrop for the latest blockbuster biopic. “U.S. political history has always been central to a healthy civic culture,” said Sparrow, “and we need it to grapple with our volatile, politically polarized world.”

Based on the exceptional talent in this program, the National Fellowship Program will continue shining a bright light on that truth far into the future. ■



Jim Sparrow, director of the National Fellowship Program, addresses Fellows and guests in Foundation Hall.

DEPARTING
IN 2024

National Fellows



William Angus McLeod IV

**BIRDSALL FELLOW; LOUIS GALAMBOS
FELLOW IN BUSINESS AND POLITICS**

The University of Texas at Austin (B.A.)
The University of Pennsylvania (M.A.) (Ph.D.)

Angus defended his dissertation titled “Unequal by Design: School Finance and State Development in Texas, 1821–2016,” in which he uses a case study of a Texas school’s finance system to highlight how the U.S. system of school finance developed over time. In addition to the National Fellowship, he received the National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship. Angus has accepted a position as an assistant professor in American Studies and Education Studies at Amherst College starting in 2024–25.

DREAM MENTOR: Adam Nelson, Professor of Education Policy Studies and History, University of Wisconsin



William Robert Billups

**AMBROSE MONELL FOUNDATION FELLOW
IN TECHNOLOGY AND DEMOCRACY**

University of Notre Dame (B.A.)
University of Cambridge (M.Phil.)
Emory University (M.A.) (Ph.D.)

Robert’s recently defended dissertation, “‘Reign of Terror’: Anti-Civil Rights Terrorism in the United States, 1954–1976,” explains how racial violence shaped the civil rights movement and U.S. political life more broadly. In the 1950s, hardline segregationists increasingly turned to clandestine acts of terror in order to suppress African American activists and their allies. From interviews, print and digitized sources, and records from 26 physical archives (including four overseas archives), Robert has compiled a dataset of nearly 900 anti-civil rights arsons and bombings—two of the most common terror tactics used against the movement. He argues that such terrorism was a national phenomenon that had international dimensions, varied according to local contexts, and contributed to the federalization of U.S. law enforcement. Robert has received support from 13 external fellowships and grants, and he has published public-facing scholarship in the *Washington Post* and peer-reviewed articles in the *Journal of American History* and the *Journal of Southern History*. In August, Robert will join the University of Florida’s history faculty as an assistant professor.

DREAM MENTOR: Matt Dallek, Graduate School of Political Management, George Washington University

NATIONAL FELLOWS CONTINUING

Syrus Solo Jin

University of Chicago

—

C. AUSTIN BUCK FAMILY FELLOW

Washington University in St. Louis (B.A.)

Dream Mentor: **Gregg Brazinsky**, Professor of History and International Affairs, George Washington University

Sam Schirvar

University of Pennsylvania

—

BIRDSALL FELLOW

Cornell University (B.A.)

Dream Mentor: **Andrew Needham**, Associate Professor of History, New York University

NATIONAL FELLOWS INCOMING IN 2024

Nahomi Linda Esquivel

University of Chicago

—

JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION FELLOW

University of California Los Angeles (B.A.)

Dream Mentor: **Deborah Kang**, Associate Professor of History, University of Virginia

Brian Davee Highsmith

Harvard University

—

BIRDSALL FELLOW

Furman University (B.A.)

Yale Law School (J.D.)

Dream Mentor: **Bill Novak**, Professor of Law, University of Michigan

Jason Ludwig

Cornell University

—

AMBROSE MONELL FOUNDATION FELLOW IN TECHNOLOGY AND DEMOCRACY

Drexel University (B.A.) (M.S.)

Dream Mentor: **Dan Bouk**, Professor of History, Colgate University

Maia Rose Silber

Princeton University

—

LOUIS GALAMBOS FELLOW IN BUSINESS AND POLITICS

University of Oxford (M.Phil.)

Princeton University (M.A.)

Dream Mentor: **Sarah Milov**, Associate Professor of History, University of Virginia



Appendix

National Advisory Board

Appointed annually by the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Board of Directors, members of the National Advisory Board serve as the Foundation’s chief ambassadors and meet once a year with the Foundation Board.

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