BRIDGING THE DISCIPLINES
THE DA VINCI MODE
Art history associate professor Francesca Fiorani’s work epitomizes a successful marriage of digital and traditional scholarship.

MAPPING MORVEN
U.Va.’s Morven Farm offers students and faculty of the College a chance to delve into history—firsthand.

WANDERLUST: EIGHT THOUSAND MILES
Fourth-year environmental sciences student Michelle Henry’s global travels lead to her life’s vocation.

CARTER G. WOODSON INSTITUTE
The Carter G. Woodson Institute director contemplates its upcoming 30th anniversary.

EOLVOLUTIOARY ROAD
Andrea Berardi, a second-year Ph.D. student in biology, dedicates herself to researching plants and teaching students, cultivating growth in both worlds.

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ON THE COVER
Detail from Leonardo da Vinci’s Annunciation (ca. 1475, Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy), a painting that figures largely in art history professor Francesca Fiorani’s research into da Vinci’s use of shadow. See article on page 12.
CONTRIBUTORS

TRACY BREYFOGLE is a former employee at the U.Va. Library and until recently lived and worked in Wilmington, N.C. This spring she will finally get her chance to see more of the country as she packs up the car and drives west to Los Angeles. An East Coast girl at heart, she hopes the bright lights won’t keep her there too long.

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The Importance of Place

Technology, it is asserted, will revolutionize the way we teach and learn and, in the course of it, will fundamentally alter the university as we know it. That is true in one sense. Today the biggest university in America is for-profit and publicly traded on NASDAQ; and it is everywhere and nowhere—it is online. But it is also true that the traditional universities—the “places” with physical presence—are in greater demand than ever before. Students keep flocking to the College, nestled in the intimacy of the most beloved grounds in America.

The pithest explanation for this parallel explosion is given by John Sperling, the founder of the University of Phoenix. He once defined his virtual university as “a corporation, not a social entity,” and said that it is not trying to develop students’ “value systems, or even for that ‘expand their minds.’” If that is the case, the College is the obverse image of the future he created.

The issue is not technology, per se. At the College we understand that the possibilities technology offers are boundless, and we remain on the lookout for ways to take advantage of them. But the College is not primarily a dispenser of knowledge, but a community where learning is based on an intricate web of relationships that go beyond—or perhaps, before—“the digital.”

In this issue, you will meet Andrea Berardi, a second-year Ph.D. student pursuing research in evolutionary biology. She came to the College to study with professor Doug Taylor, a world-renowned expert on population genetics and molecular evolution. There is perhaps something antiquated in this, this master-apprentice relationship in graduate training. But it persists because there really is no other way to train minds as exquisitely accomplished as those of our graduate students. Professor Taylor, a Canadian scientist who chose to call Charlottesville his home, is as accessible and kind a mentor as one is likely to find.

John Dewey once said about learning that “the only way to develop curiosity, sympathy, principle, and independence of mind is to practice being curious, sympathetic, principled, and independent. For those of us who are teachers, it isn’t what we teach that instills virtue; it is how we teach. We are the books our students read most closely.”

Professor Taylor is the book that Andrea reads closely, and in time she has also become the book that our undergraduates read, and just as closely. In sections and labs, she makes sure that the undergraduates are comfortable in their settings. In addition to teaching them lab technique, she shows them the importance of group effort and teamwork. And she does not reside in a digital space, but on grounds, breathing the Findley humidity of the greenhouse outside Gilmer Hall.

Elsewhere in the issue, you will read about other relationships being forged in the College. Professor Deborah McDowell, an eloquent woman of great vitality who teaches African-American literature, is yet another book to our students and to the postdoctoral fellows at the Carter G. Woodson Institute. On any given day she is seen working with students at Minor Hall, a place that has produced a large number of the finest intellectuals in African-American history and culture, now teaching at some of the great research universities in the nation.

Finally, I am happy to introduce two alumni who have recently joined my office, bound also by their love of place. Maure Melinous (Art History ’88), who will oversee our undergraduate program, and Gene Schutt (Economics ’75), who brings decades of experience in the financial sector to direct the development operation for the College. I hope you will join me in welcoming them to New Cabell Hall.

Meredith Jung-En Woo
Buckner W. Clay Dean of Arts & Sciences
“Molecular spectroscopy” is the study of individual molecules of chemical compounds using light of various wavelengths. Vibrational spectroscopy employs infrared light absorption to stretch the chemical bonds in a molecule back and forth. Andrews taught at the College from 1966 to 2008 and has worked in the laboratory with all the nonradioactive elements in the periodic table. He has also authored or co-authored more than 764 papers, been cited in other papers more than 18,500 times, and taught more than 6,000 undergraduate students at U.Va.

But it’s the people he has met, taught, and done research with that make Andrews most proud. Honors and major students from his first-year chemistry course from 1972 to 1989 have gone on to careers that include medical and chemistry faculties across the country, including Brooks Pete, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Chemistry in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and also leader of U.Va.’s new Center for the Chemistry of the Universe.

Andrews himself says it’s the teaching, learning, and discovery that engage him, despite winning this lifetime achievement award. “I’m proud of all the thousands of new molecules we’ve made,” he adds, “but the most important thing is teaching and inspiring the people who made these molecules in my laboratory.”

Above: An illustration of the apparatus that Andrews and his researchers use to study metal-atom reaction products. A piece of uranium metal is placed on a rod (left), a laser is shot through the lens onto the metal, and the resulting metal vapor atoms are reacted with fluorine (CHF3) molecules.

The new reaction product—U2, with a carbon uranium triple bond—is trapped in frozen argon (Ar) that is sprayed onto a cold plate at 4 Kelvin (4K), or 269 degrees below zero Celsius. These investigations help us to understand how metal atoms react and to characterize the chemical bonds that they form.
Charlie Parker and Other Young Turks Could Be Heard

regularly at Minton’s Playhouse, on 118th Street in Harlem, which hosted some of the most celebrated jam sessions in Manhattan. Many of the innovations that took place there reflected its professional clientele’s hunger for musical challenge. Consider, for example, how bebop changed drumming. As Kenny Clarke (pictured right) once explained it, his technical breakthrough came when he was playing for a swing band led by Teddy Hill in the late 1930s. During an exceptionally fast arrangement of “Ol’ Man River,” he found it nearly impossible to keep time in the usual fashion by striking his bass drum for each beat. Suddenly it occurred to him to shift the pulse to the ride cymbal. This innovation gave him two new tactics: a shimmering cymbal that became the lighter, more flexible foundation for all of modern jazz, and the powerful bass drum, now available to fill in the holes in the band’s arrangements with its thunderous booms.

A passage from *Jazz*, a new book by professor of music Scott deVeaux and his co-author, Gary Giddins. The book is a comprehensive history of the development of American jazz and includes full biographies, listening guides, and advice on collecting jazz recordings.
The names sound like fictional lands: *Weltwischia, Silene vulgaris, Silene latifolia, Mirabilis jalapa*. And indeed, within the humid atmosphere of the Biology Department’s greenhouse, small plots of plants are positioned on tables and in pots like tiny countries—each with its own culture, customs, and laws.

Andrea Berardi, a second-year Ph.D. student in the College and Graduate School’s biology program, reigns sovereign in this environment. She casually detangles and grooms the stems and leaves of a batch of *Silene vulgaris* (Moench) Garcke, her current focus. Where some people might see white flowers on a weed, Berardi sees both beauty and unanswered questions.

As an evolutionary biologist, Berardi is studying the ways in which the plant species *S. vulgaris* (also known as “bladder campion” or “maiden’s tears”) evolved over time. Her research focuses on the ways flavonoids (plant pigments) can serve different purposes: One might be responsible for floral color, while another provides a defense mechanism against herbivores and disease, and still another produces the necessary “sunscreen” for the plant’s survival.

“I enjoy the curiosity that undergraduates show.”

Andrea Berardi

Evolutionary Road

Text by Amy Woolard

Photography by Dan Addison and Stacey Evans
As a graduate student, you are often so buried in your work that you don’t stop to look around. Mountain Lake makes you appreciate what you’re doing on a different level.”

Andrea Berardi, second-year biology Ph.D. candidate

Silene vulgaris, in the biology department’s Greenhouse.

PAGE 8: Andrea Berardi cultivates a crop of Silene vulgaris, the Silene species that Berardi studies is thought to have made its way across the Atlantic in ships during the late 1800s, the seeds traveling in the soil or water stored within keels as ballast. After the plant arrived in North America, however, its consistency began to change, becoming “weeder and larger.” Berardi says, and it began to produce more seeds in its new environment. As the species moved into different climates and locations, Berardi speculates that its metabolism shifted in order to adapt. “If cer- tain metabolic pathways are responsible for, say, color, defense, and sunscreen,” she says, “then those pathways might change as the plant needs more or less of any one of those qualities.” For example, if the plant moves higher in elevation, and therefore closer to the sun, it might need more sunscreen, which, in turn, might affect the flavonoids it is able to generate in order to produce and maintain plant defense or floral color.

“It’s color variation that interests me the most,” Berardi says. She is intrigued by why certain plants keep producing multiple color variations such as pinks and whites when their pollinators only prefer the pinks. Berardi selected U.Va.’s doctoral program because its biologists were asking “broad ecological and evolutionary questions” (and the warm climate offered promise of “a greater selection of plants to research”). She chose to work with biology professor and department chair Doug Taylor, known for his work in plant genetics.

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TEACHING
In the spring of 2009, her second semester at U.Va., Berardi taught “Introduction to Biology Laboratory” to undergraduates, focusing on experimental research and lab and field techniques. It was in that class that Dana Lapato, Biology 102 met Berardi and appreciated her “happy personality” and “obvious commitment to her work.” Lapato approached her about possible research opportunities, and Berardi said yes. “If you’re a college student interested in biology,” Berardi says, “you should definitely try to do research first.”

Lapato agrees: “As an undergraduate, the best thing I can do to learn, if I want to be a researcher, is gain hands-on experience. Andrea was extremely proactive in getting me into the lab setting. Not only did she teach me lab techniques, but she also made sure that I knew everyone in the lab.”

Berardi and Lapato demonstrate how the typical academic hierarchies often dis- solve in a research setting. They are now collaborating on a project with another graduate student from a lab across the hall from Taylor’s.

Lapato, as a second-year undergraduate, is already following in the footsteps of her graduate mentor, even down to the qualities she values most in a program. Andrea works hard, helps out wherever and when- ever she can, and is just a very kind and approachable person. And those kinds—the happy and involved—are what attract other students to go to universities. They see how much other people love their work and realize that the school must be a great environment,” says Lapato.

ON LOCATION
The biology program gives its graduate students fellowships and teaching assis- tantships that allow them to focus on research without having to take on outside employment. Plant growth cycles, however, do not conveniently coincide with the academic year, so most students also seek opportunities to continue their research work throughout the summer months.

Berardi spent a summer at the Biology Department’s Mountain Lake Biological Station, a research and teaching facility located on 600 acres in southwestern Virginia. She explains that summers at Mountain Lake are not only valuable to graduate students for completing field- work, but they also bring students and more experienced scientists physically closer to their subjects.

“As a graduate student, you’re often buried so deep in your work that you don’t stop to look around. Mountain Lake, in a great way, makes you look up and appreciate what you’re doing on a different level,” Berardi says.

While the Mountain Lake Station is handy if you’re in Virginia, plant biologists must often meet their subjects where they live to garner the most helpful research. For Berardi, so far, that has meant Europe—specifically, an Alpine village in Guarda, Switzerland, in the summer of 2009. With funding from the Graduate School’s Huskey Travel Award, she was able to conduct comparative research on the Silene plants as they have evolved in North Amer- ican and European locales.

“Appalachia provides a certain level of eleva- tion to test the Silene plants.” Berardi says with a slight smile, “but the Alps give me just a little bit more of an altitudinal gradient.”

Because the European research plots are far from home and unable to be observed (or protected) on a regular basis, Berardi had to create a multitude of replicate plots to ensure that she would have enough meaningful data. Though she admits it wasn’t funny at the time, she laughs as she recounts the story of one of professor Taylor’s visits to his Oxford, England, site. As he approached the plots, he realized that sheep had circumvented the protective barriers and were munching on his research.

While the European destinations are an exciting ancillary benefit to research, the journey is not so simple. Funding, Berardi notes, is the key ingredient in turning inter- est into opportunity. She admits that mon- etary grants, both inside and outside of the University, can be plentiful but are always extremely competitive. Graduate biology students at U.Va. must often find their own funding streams or collaborate with professors or peers on grant applications.

FUTURE GROWTH
Berardi still has several years’ worth of research and writing ahead of her before achieving her Ph.D. Though the substance of her research may shift, Berardi is nearly certain that she will stay in academia, both as a teacher and researcher. She finds her daily interactions with other students and professors to be critical to her con- tinued work. “I enjoy the curiosity that undergraduates show, and their questions and ideas have sparked elements of my own research, as well.”

In the meantime, Berardi has her sights set on greener pastures: if she’s able to secure the funding, she hopes to travel back to the Alps this summer to continue her research on the Silene plants.

More on Andrea Berardi’s work can be found at http://people.virginia.edu/~wob3b/ Andrea_Berardi/ Home.html. Read about the Mountain Lake Biological Station at mlbso.org.
Nightfall at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy. The museum is dark save for the low security lights that will stay on until opening the next morning. Under the watchful eye of the curator, 20 workers carefully carry Leonardo da Vinci’s first painting, Annunciation, into a secure room where a woman anxiously waits. There, the cracked paint ripples in the light. Its scene of an angel blessing the Virgin Mary reflects in the glasses of the woman as she bends over the canvas. She stares quizzically at the painting for long, uninterrupted moments, as if waiting for it to share its secrets.

“‘I prefer an interdisciplinary approach to the relations of arts and science.’" 

Francesca Fiorani

Text by Deborah Heishman
Images supplied by Francesca Fiorani
This is not a scene from a Dan Brown novel but U.Va. associate professor of art history Francesca Fiorani conducting research for her upcoming book, Leonardo’s Shadows. A 2009 Guggenheim Fellow, Fiorani has immersed herself in da Vinci’s Florence, the site of his artistic training and early work as a painter, to demonstrate how his use of shadows parallels his ideas of the connection between the arts and the sciences.

An internationally recognized expert on da Vinci, Fiorani’s path to writing this particular book in Florence combines cross-disciplinary methods, traditional scholarship (using written and physical materials), and technological scholarship (using digital or other methods). Her approach parallels the spirit of the Renaissance painter himself.

Da Vinci’s use of shadows intrigued Fiorani from the very beginning of her career as she received her B.A. and Ph.D. in art history from the University of Rome (she was born and grew up in Rome). She has published several highly regarded essays on the subject, such as “The Theory of Shadow Projection and Aerial Perspective: Leonardo, Desargues and Bosse” in 1994. As Fiorani delved deeper into research for Leonardo’s Shadows in 2004, however, the limitations of traditional scholarship became an issue.

Integral to the study of da Vinci is the work A Treatise on Painting. A massive collection of notes by the painter that was abridged by his students and other artists of the Renaissance period. These manuscripts exist around the globe in assorted states of completion, and Fiorani found that the needed comprehensive study of the papers would be impossible without unlimited travel funds and extensive free time.

So she took another approach. A digital one. “The digital project started as an offshoot of traditional scholarship, and, in fact, it came about precisely because traditional scholarship was unable to take me where I wanted,” she says. Fiorani contacted Worthy Martin, director of U.Va.’s Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH), and together they began building an online collection of the manuscripts, eventually named “Leonardo da Vinci and His Treatise on Painting.” “Instead of having to travel to distant and widely dispersed archives for maybe a single viewing of each original, professor Fiorani and her collaborators will be able to view the page scans of all the originals from their offices,” Martin says.

Numerous graduate students in art history were beside Fiorani throughout the archive’s creation. Fiorani says that the complement to traditional training “provided them with digital experience and an excitement for research that ‘goes beyond classroom teaching.’” Yoko Hara, a Ph.D. candidate in art history, was one of those students. She says of a course in 16th-century Italian paleography (deciphering and dating of historical manuscripts) that Fiorani encouraged her to take: “I found the same combination of the archival and the digital Francesca utilizes in her own project a successful educational tool. Had it not been for her encouragement, I don’t think I would have attempted to participate in such a program.”

In 2009, “Leonardo da Vinci and His Treatise on Painting” was awarded a $250,000 grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. Currently the project has traced more than 40 manuscript copies of da Vinci’s Treatise on Painting from around the world and, after all copyright issues are cleared, will open the digital archive to scholars and the public. Comparing and studying the documents will afford discoveries to many, including art historians, librarians, scientists, and linguists.

It is not surprising that Fiorani decided to move outside of her comfort zone of traditional scholarship to solve her research conundrum. Academically, she is open to a multidisciplinary approach, expanding her training “to fields outside of art history, to the history of science and ideas, philosophy, and literature.” Fiorani’s interests also include culture, visual communication, and phenomenology. It’s this all-encompassing approach to academia that is a hallmark of today’s successful professors, as they recognize the need to eliminate barriers between disciplines and embrace the opportunities in digital scholarship.

Fiorani’s self-described “interdisciplinary approach to the relations of arts and science” resembles the mode of approach favored by da Vinci and other Renaissance masters. Da Vinci pursued knowledge in any and all disciplines, including mathematics, astronomy, anatomy, botany, weaponry, and machinery (his inventive drawings include a flying machine resembling today’s airplanes). Da Vinci brought all of his knowledge to bear on his paintings, and he saw that as a necessity, according to Paolo Giovio’s Leonardo Vinci Vitae (c. 1527). “He laid down that all proper practice of this art should be preceded by a training in the sciences and the liberal arts.” Possibly the best example of da Vinci’s comprehensive methods is his Vitruvian Man. One of the most iconic images of all time, the drawing is scientifically accurate and instructive while qualifying as a work of art in its striking beauty.

Professors like Fiorani are the lifeblood of the College, tearing down the boundaries between disciplines, embracing the opportunities technology has to offer, bringing new ideas to students, strengthening scholarship nationally and internationally, and creating communities and vehicles for scholars to share their work. Fiorani is also known for her hands-on approach to working with students. As Emily Franceschi (Ph.D. Art History ‘12), a graduate student who worked on the digital archive with Fiorani, says, “Francesca is a prodigious and inspiring scholar whose input on my work is always immensely helpful and welcome. When it comes to being a role model for young scholars, I really couldn’t ask for a better one than Francesca. Her passion and energy are infectious.” Fiorani also directs two U.Va. study-abroad programs—one to Rome and one to Florence—and she passionately promotes travel as an important educational experience for students.

Now that Fiorani has the digital archive underway, she’s back to a more traditional research experience as she writes Leonardo’s Shadows in Florence. But instead of seeing her technological experience as a deterrent to her initial project, she says, “They’re really deeply connected. A few years into both projects … I see how they fit each other, how the results from one inform the other.”

Fiorani has more to say about an interdisciplinary approach. “[Jefferson agreed with the interdisciplinary approach, as did the Renaissance masters. Art and science were not separated in the Renaissance, and we should encourage students to cross between disciplines. It will give them a different perspective.” Da Vinci would have agreed.

The Dawn of Digital Scholarships

PAGE 12-13: Leonardo da Vinci’s Annunciation, ca. 1475, Oil on Canvas, Florence, Italy

OPPOSITE: Leonardo da Vinci’s Virgin and Child with St. Anne, ca. 1506-1507, Louvre Museum, Paris


BOTTOM: Francesca Fiorani at U.Va., 2009; photo by Dan Addison

We should encourage students to cross between disciplines.”

Francesca Fiorani, professor of art history
“I didn’t go looking for Morven. Morven came looking for me.”
Laura Voisin George

When the university acquired Morven Farm, administrators envisioned it as a place where students, faculty members, and others could dig for knowledge. They had no idea how right they were.

Text by John Kelly / Photography by Charlottesville Camera Club, Deborah Heishman, and Rivanna Archeological Services
traced to a number of owners including the Stone family, who raised thoroughbreds there in the 1920s, and philanthropist John Kluge, who purchased the property in 1988 and donated it to U.Va. in 2001. But it is the story of one particular owner that caught the Morven project’s attention. Records show that Thomas Jefferson purchased the land in 1795 on behalf of his friend William Short. The deed at the time refers to the property as “a tract called Indian Camp.”

Morven’s recorded history dates back to a 1730 land grant awarded to John Carter, son of the wealthy and powerful Robert “King” Carter, a colonist who owned more than 300,000 acres and 1,000 slaves and is known as “America’s first millionaire.” The property’s long history since then is

The spectacular 3,000-acre property, located just over a mile from James Monroe’s Ash Lawn-Highland and just a few miles from Monticello, has already yielded a vast, interdisciplinary array of programs and seminars (known as the “Morven Project”) ranging from the fine arts to the art of leadership and from problem solving aimed at a better future to the clues of a corner of the past that history has all but forgotten. The Mary and David Harrison Institute for American History, Literature, and Culture of the U.Va. Library manages more than 300,000 artifacts from the historic Flowerdew Hundred estate at Morven, where they are being newly re-evaluated in a lab. The property has in fact served as a sort of historical fulcrum, allowing students a chance to explain the past and shape the future. A big key to understanding the past arrived in the form of a map that came from out of the blue to the U.Va. Foundation offices in August 2008. Its bearer told officials there that it was something they should look into, and a little bit of legwork and consultation with experts confirmed that he was right.

“There was a plat requested by Thomas Jefferson that not only showed the outlines of the property, but also the individual agricultural fields, each containing initials and in a few cases, what was planted in them,” says Steve Thompson of Rivanna Archaeological Services, brought on to lead a year-long archaeological research project.

The revelation is a tantalizing clue to a transient civilization almost completely ignored by history.

“We know a lot about the people at the top of the social ladder, and over the past 20 or 30 years through archaeology and history...”
we’ve learned a lot about the people at the bottom, the enslaved people,” Thompson says. “There has been considerably less interest or research focused on people such as these, who may have been landless or didn’t own a lot of property. They were sort of a class unto themselves.”

The implications of such a discovery provide a fascinating and new window into Jefferson, the community in which he lived, and perhaps even his later views on the agrarian nation. Thompson and the research team brought their preliminary findings to some of the College’s archaeology experts in the Anthropology Department, including Jeffrey Hantman, associate professor and director of the U.Va archaeology program, and lecturer Fraser Neiman, who is director of archaeology at Monticello.

So in the summer of 2009 the digging began. A group of seven U.Va. students embarked on a two-month dig on the property along with Thompson, his team, students from Washington & Lee University led by assistant professor and College alumna Alison Bell (Ph.D. Anthropology ’00), and U.Va. student leader, Elizabeth Bollwerk (Ph.D. Anthropology ’11).

“It was particularly interesting for students to be involved in this early stage of the process,” Bollwerk says. “The nice thing about Morven was that students got a more holistic sense of archaeological field work. Frequently, by the time students get involved in a field school, the site has already been chosen and it has been dug in previous years. Here students got a sense of how there can be a progression, so they got to participate in the first phase of doing shovel test pits just to help see if there were even sites out there.” Hantman adds that the experience taught students “real-life lessons of days of exciting discovery surrounded by some long quiet times.”

Also joining the group was Laura Voisin George, a graduate student whose dogged determination had put the team on the right track in the first place. George happened on the project on her first day in Charlottesville and became legendary for her cross-country pursuit of the original map document and for an impromptu hike that ended up identifying some of the project’s most promising sites.

The field school focused on seven such sites, with some chosen for possibilities of prehistoric era Native American artifacts and others for the later, historical period that included the potential tenant farms. Just as civilizations are not built in a day, they are not unearthed in three weeks. The results at the conclusion of the field school were, 1,956 shovel test pits later, much like the potential for Morven itself: far from complete but extremely promising.

“This 250-acre archaeological survey and documents from the William Short-Jefferson period of ownership provide an opportunity to link Morven with the essential work of the University,” Tim Rose, CEO of the U.Va. Foundation, says. “This project, in addition to courses utilizing Morven as a research laboratory, has already enriched the academic life of our students and faculty and given new energy and purpose to Morven.”

These days, thanks in part to the excitement and findings of this project, Morven is full of more energy and promise than ever, according to Director of Morven Programs Stewart Gamage.

“Jeffrey Plank, associate vice president for research, took an interest in the project and brought together a multidisciplinary group of faculty members to go beyond the mapping of Morven and look at the culture, the landscape, the architecture, environmental science, forest and timber, and more. So suddenly you have a critical mass of faculty members, some of the most respected at U.Va., and once a week their classes all come together there.”

In spring 2010 five faculty members offered four separate courses at Morven in architecture, environmental sciences, and history that collaboratively investigated the contributions of ecosystem services, from forests and carbon sequestration, to ecosystem stability and public health. The courses were geared toward developing solutions for preserving the benefits of those ecosystem services through appropriate land use, including development and forest management.

The impact of Morven on students goes far beyond the study of the land itself and extends to the sheer possibility of the thoughts and ideas that will be hatched upon it. “For the 2009–10 academic year we have had more than 70 programs,” says Van Smith, programs and events coordinator for Morven. “And we are really open to the universe of thought and ideas that will be hatched upon it. ‘For the 2009–10 academic year we have had more than 70 programs,” says Van Smith, programs and events coordinator for Morven. “And we are really open to the universe of thought and ideas that will be hatched upon it.”

Clearly word is traveling fast about all Morven has to offer, and it seems more and more people will soon be seeking it out. Then there are the cases like that of Laura Voisin George. The California native arrived in town with no idea of what was in store for her and no knowledge whatsoever of a property that would soon become a major chapter in her academic life.

“Being able to work at Morven, with these faculty and these researchers, enriched my academic experience like nothing else. I didn’t go looking for Morven. Morven came looking for me.”

Thanks to a partnership with the Provost’s office, Morven has already gained an excellent reputation in the area of leadership development. “We have hosted 26 leadership development programs,” Smith says, “where you’ve got faculty from different parts of the University engaged in a yearlong process to help give them a sense of how they might acquire the skills to help them take on additional leadership roles.”

Given its unique combination of natural beauty and outstanding facilities, Smith says Morven is also a perfect destination for leaders who work far outside the walls of the University.

“So you are looking at Morven,” he says, “you can easily see it as a destination for critical thinking for people who come from other places, national or international, that might want to come for a sort of time out to discuss things that are hard to talk about in the confines of Washington or wherever they are.”

Students learn real-life lessons of days of exciting discovery surrounded by some long quiet times.”

Jeffrey Hantman, associate professor and director of U.Va. archaeology program

OPPOSITE FROM LEFT: An Indian pottery sherd, a shell-edged pearlware plate, and a copper alloy pull plate, all found at Morven.

ABOVE: Quentin Ross (Archaeology ’10) participated in the summer 2009 Morven dig.

Read more about Morven at uvafoundation.com/morven.

Jeffrey Plank, associate vice president for research
/ STUDENT ART

PAVILION IX GARDEN
By ALLI MCKEE
(studio art/American studies ’09)

PINK DOGWOOD IN GARDEN III
By ALLI MCKEE
(studio art/American studies ’09)
ANY GIVEN DAY IS QUITE DEMANDING.

Deborah McDowell

Carter G. Woodson Institute

text by Lucy Whittle Goldstein
photography by Stacey Evans

THE HISTORY OF SAFARI IN TANZANIA. Nineteenth-century African-American newspapers. The preponderance of disability in the era of slavery. These are just a few of the research projects currently being pursued by fellows at the College’s Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies. Woodson, a Virginia native, son of former slaves, and Harvard Ph.D. for whom the Institute was named, would be proud that his legacy of research and study into the rich history of African Americans lives on so vibrantly at U.Va. —and has for 29 years.
Founded in 1981, the institute, which promotes research of African-American and African topics, and also administers an undergraduate major and minor in African-American and African Studies (AAS), will celebrate 30 years on Grounds next spring.

Though Woodson was himself a history scholar, the Woodson Institute is fully interdisciplinary, sponsoring scholars from all over the country—and a few from abroad—who come to study African-American and African issues in the fields of history, anthropology, literature, music, and sociology, to name a few.

Shuttling back and forth daily between Minor and Bryan halls, where she has been a professor of English at the college since 1987, is Deborah McDowell, the Woodson Institute’s director for the past four years. A specialist in African-American literature, McDowell is responsible for shepherding Woodson Fellows through their two-year term, providing them the space and opportunity to complete their research. She also plans and executes the institute’s colloquia, which have recently included panel discussions on the crisis of mass incarceration in the United States and the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Though her background is in teaching undergraduates and training graduate students, McDowell has found the directorship “to be an interesting career development, one that I had not sought, but that has enabled me to exercise a different kind of creativity.”

“Any given day is quite demanding,” says McDowell, who, in addition to directing the Institute, has a full complement of English graduate students under her wing as well as a couple of classes to teach each year. “The fellows constitute a kind of graduate program. We are helping to secure appointments for them in colleges and universities. We meet weekly with them on what is known as ‘Woodson Wednesdays’ and help them shape the chapters they are writing.”

A serious and varied scholar in her own right, McDowell has studied “within the parameters of African-American literature,” researching fugitive slave narratives, post-mortem photography, and Southern American literature. She was one of the editors of The Norton Anthology of African American Literature, and the founder of Beacon Press, an African-American female writer series. One of her books, Leaving Pipe Shop, is a study of her father’s life and community as a black steel mill worker in Birmingham, Ala., during the civil rights movement. It’s a project that inspired her current work in the area of what she calls the “racial space of feeling.”

With all of this on her plate, McDowell still finds time to host receptions for her fellows after they give public lectures, bring members of many departments together to meet the Institute’s fellows during gatherings known as “Fourth Fridays,” and even invite fellows into her home for dinners. Says McDowell, “Ours is a modest program run historically on a shoestring, but the Fellows all say it’s made an enormous difference in their studies, and they have been very warmly welcomed by the broader U.Va. community.”

McDowell is already looking ahead to the Institute’s 30th anniversary. An international symposium is planned for the first week of April 2011 involving former and current fellows and current U.Va. faculty. McDowell says, “Our goal is to involve all the schools: law, public policy, architecture, business, and medicine. It’ll be a challenge to involve someone from engineering.”

Tenacious and a “fierce advocate” for the causes she believes in, no doubt McDowell will find a way.
Among his most popular texts is The Quantum and the Lotus, which muses on connections between Buddhism and science in describing reality. A week of dialogue between Thuan and renowned Buddhist monk Matthieu Ricard in the south of France provided the basis for the co-authored volume. In November 2009, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization honored Thuan’s career-long dedication to exploring the intersections between science, society, and culture with the Kalinga prize for the popularization of science. The distinction, founded in 1952 and named after a 2,000-year-old Indian empire, recognizes experts who are exceptional in making their field accessible to the general public. Kalinga’s hall of fame includes such formative thinkers as Margaret Mead, Nobel laureates Louis de Broglie and Bertrand Russell, and now, Thuan.

“I very much admire the idea of the Renaissance man, people who are complete in everything. They look at everything in life and they excel in everything in life. Those are my ideals of man.”

Thuan, who was the first French-educated researcher of Vietnamese heritage to receive the Kalinga Prize, is arguably a Renaissance man of his own time.
Meredith Jung-En Woo, Buckner W. Clay Dean of Arts & Sciences, has completed her team of able administrators who guide the life of the College through its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. Meet two alumni who are joining the dean’s leadership team: Gene Schutt, the new associate dean of development, and Maurie McInnis, the new associate dean of undergraduate studies.

Gene Schutt
Associate Dean of Development
Graduate of the College of Economics ’75
Currently Reading
For work, I’ve been reading books that help me understand the changing landscape in higher education, such as Shakespeare, Einstein, and the Bottom Line: The Marketing of Higher Education by David Kop. There’s an entire chapter on U.Va. For pleasure, I’ve just started The Happiness Hypothesis by Jonathan Haidt, who’s a professor of psychology here at the College.

Biggest Challenge
There have been lots of good challenges along the way—some short-term in nature, others longer, and one or two even permanent. I guess challenges are what make us girls need something tough to work for. The fiscal challenge facing the College is tough but manageable—and it’s important. That’s why I’m here.

In 10 Years...
I’d like to complete a decade of successful work for the University. After that, who knows? That will begin a different stage in life and I’m sure what urges will be waiting at the next step. That probably is looking for a challenge!

Gene Schutt

The Happiness Hypothesis by Jonathan Haidt

Maurie McInnis
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Graduate of the College of Art History ’88
Currently Reading
Richard Russo’s Shaughn McManus, a satirical novel set in a small, under-funded college with a protagonist who is chief of the English department.

Best Known For
Being a national champion in the Scottish Highland Fling—many years ago.

Biggest Challenge
Beating breast cancer when I was 35.

In 10 Years...
Still trying to perfect my crème brûlée recipe.

Maurie McInnis

The Landscape of Slavery

“...it’s a rare opportunity. We write books and they go out there, but an art museum is a way to engage a much larger public, many of whom would never pick up an academic book but would come to a museum and benefit from that experience.” She used her research from the project for a seminar for her students, and later had another group of students research and write the entire catalog for a second exhibit.

Approaching her new role as associate dean of undergraduate studies, McInnis is committed to seeing that, even in spite of the significant challenges all institutions face today, these types of opportunities and interactions remain at the core of the College’s undergraduate experience.

“We are very unique for an institution of our size, not only for the level of involvement faculty have in the education of undergraduates, but the way in which students and faculty interact and work together. The opportunity to ensure that we continue that into the future and do it the best we can is something I am really looking forward to.”
Most of us think of seeing an object in very concrete terms. There is a 10-foot oak tree in the front yard, and we can look at the tree and offer a reasonable estimate as to its height. Work being done in the College’s Psychology Department, however, suggests that the way you see things has everything to do with how you perceive them. Seeing is not necessarily believing.

According to associate psychology professor Bethany Teachman, people who are anxious or fearful often “see” a situation in terms that are influenced by the anxiety or fear. For instance, people with acrophobia—fear of heights—can stand on a 26-foot balcony and, especially if they imagine the possibility of falling, can overestimate the distance from the ground by an average of five feet. These perceptual and cognitive biases can affect our “seeing” in astounding ways, causing those with a fear of spiders to jump at a black dot on the floor, or those afraid of snakes to scream at the sight of a stick on the hiking path. In the study, “Eye of the Beholder: Fear and the Perception of Spatial Layout,” Teachman’s colleague Dennis Proffitt, Commonwealth Professor of Psychology, found that assessing the height of a tall hill with friends will cause your estimate to be much lower—being comfortable with those around you affects what you see.

Teachman’s work in perceptual and cognitive biases with Proffitt and alumna Jeanine Stefanucci (Ph.D. Psychology ’06), associate professor at the University of Utah, has won more than a million dollars in grant money from the National Institute of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health.

Illustrated spiders from Léon Becker’s *Les Arachnides de Belgique*, 1882.

For years, the Arts & Sciences Annual Fund has been the cornerstone of giving to the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. Providing flexible funding that is immediately available to support the priorities of Arts & Sciences, it’s been the best way that alumni can help protect the heart of the University: the quality educational experience that is the hallmark of the College.

That priority will never change, but the name has: the Arts & Sciences Annual Fund is now The College Fund. We feel it’s time to simplify the name in order to emphasize that this fund is the best way to directly support the College. Gifts to The College Fund provide flexible funding that is immediately available to Meredith Woo, dean of Arts & Sciences, to ensure programs that enrich the academic student experience are properly supported and to make sure faculty start-ups and other needs are sufficiently addressed.

The College needs your support. Please consider using the enclosed envelope to make a tax-deductible gift to The College Fund today. Our fiscal year ends in June and your gift this year will benefit students immediately. If you prefer to give online, simply visit www.artsandsciences.virginia.edu/give.

Thank you.
IT'S A UNIVERSAL IMAGE: A child looks out her bedroom window, elbows propped on the sill, wondering if, at that very moment, another child from a far-away place can see the same stars. Perhaps earlier that evening she'd seen a PBS documentary on the Great Wall of China, the pyramids of Egypt, or the wildlife of Africa. And, just like that, it’s born. The wanderlust.

text by DEBORAH HEISHMAN
photography by MICHELLE HENRY AND CLASSMATES
Philadelphia native Michelle Henry was no exception. Growing up, she dreamed of traveling the world and managed to squeeze in trips to Belize and Chile during her busy first year at U.Va. But it was a study-abroad class, taught by research associate professor Robert Swap in the College’s Department of Environmental Sciences, that began Henry’s journey to find her life’s calling.

A PASSION IS BORN: UPPER LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA
Swap’s class took Henry to South Africa’s Upper Limpopo Province in the summer of 2007 to research how land-use patterns had affected soil fertility. As Swap’s research assistant, Henry was exposed to groundbreaking research techniques—such as using a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) machine to assess the condition of dirt and roots—and saw the potential that scientific progress holds for struggling communities. Local villagers depend heavily on land use, and seeing their concerns yet hopeful faces as the students ran x-rays of underlying root systems, the issue of future land viability suddenly became more than a research problem to Henry. “When I was exposed to the issues the villagers were dealing with, I started to change,” she says. As Swap puts it, “Sometimes you have to travel 8,000 miles to see 8,000 feet.”

Henry wanted to continue and expand on the ideas she’d observed in the field. “I started developing my own questions about the connection between the people and the land,” Henry says. She met with her advisor, professor of environmental sciences Stephen Macko, to discuss tracking the effects of diet on anemia, which affects up to 70 percent of all people in Africa. A few months later, the resulting collaborative project received a Harrison Undergraduate Research Award, which supports undergraduates and their faculty mentors in pursuing promising research opportunities. Henry also won a $5,000 Udall Scholarship to support her research.

MAKINGS OF A SCHOLAR: THOHOYANDOU, SOUTH AFRICA
Henry’s interest in tracking the diets and health of the Thohoyandou villagers fit nicely with her faculty advisor’s expertise. Macko, also known as the “hair detective,” is the expert when it comes to revealing diet from hair strands. (He was featured in the documentary King corn, in which he uncovered the fact that the filmmakers’ diets were composed of more than 50 percent corn.)

In a remarkable case of collaboration between schools, Henry teamed up with four students from the U.Va. School of Medicine and used Macko’s techniques to collect close to 100 hair samples of mothers and their children. The amounts of nitrogen and carbon in the strands act as a “tape recorder” of six months’ worth of diet. Macko and Henry’s findings will be presented in an upcoming paper.

THE DUMP: BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA
According to Macko, “The unforeseen outcome of travel is that you don’t realize what you’re going to see.” By the time Henry arrived in Nicaragua as part of McIntire School of Commerce associate professor Brad Brown’s course, “Sustainable Development Practicum,” she’d seen extreme poverty in Africa and, while knowing that Nicaragua is the second-poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, didn’t expect to see anything she hadn’t already observed. However, nothing had prepared her for Bluefields.

The group’s project was to work with city officials to create a composting system to reduce the amount of garbage being burned at the local landfill. As the sole environmental sciences major, Henry was, according to Brown, the “team’s technical expert.” Macko remembers seeing the landfill for the first time: “We drove out a rocky little dirt road, past palm-leaf homes no bigger than a dorm room. At the end of the road we came to the dump, which was a massive trash heap, and among the enormous pigs rooting around in the trash were people—adults, little kids—all looking for aluminum and plastics to recycle for money. They would run up and pull the trash bags off of approaching trucks.”

Horrified by the scene at the dump, a situation brought on by lack of energy resources, Henry began thinking of ways to improve the quality of local life through renewable energy. In Nicaragua there is often no electricity, which then leads to crime. The one resource plentifully available is trash, so Henry began investigating the possibility of turning waste into energy. She met with local officials and engineers to discuss firing coal with waste, turning waste into soil, and using agricultural residue for fuel. This combination of service and science felt like home to Henry. “I knew I wanted to do this for the rest of my life,” she says.

“CITIZENS OF THE PLANET”: EVERYWHERE
Both Macko and Swap encourage their students to travel as much as they possibly can. Swap sees traveling students become “more confident, more appreciative, more aware after a taste of real-world experience.” Macko points out that all students are eligible for study-abroad classes. Students can also participate in Alternative Spring Break or the Peace Corps (U.Va. students have one of the highest volunteer rates in the nation) to combine service and travel. Macko says, “The students need to get out of Charlottesville, out of Virginia, out of the United States to grow as citizens of the planet.”

Henry will graduate in the spring with a bachelor’s in environmental sciences and her master’s degree will be conferred in August 2010. She knows for sure from her travels that she wants to use her knowledge to help people. “That dump changed my life,” she says. As Macko observes, “You can’t travel and not be changed by it.”

What’s next for Henry? More travel. She just won the prestigious Luce Scholarship and will be spending her first year out of school working with renewable energy in Thailand.

The students need to get out of Charlottesville, out of Virginia, out of the United States to grow as citizens of the planet.”

Stephen Macko, professor of environmental sciences

“Sometimes you have to travel 8,000 miles to see 8,000 feet.”

Robert Swap, professor of environmental sciences

PAGE 26 Alternative Spring Break 2006
Henry with students in Thailand, where she taught English in a school damaged by the 2004 tsunami.

OPPOSITE TOP: The local dump in Bluefields, Nicaragua

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: The local dump in Bluefields, Nicaragua

TOP RIGHT: Henry and teammates clean trash from a beach in Cayos Mountains, Alternative Spring Break 2009

TOP RIGHT: The local dump in Bluefields, Nicaragua

Bottom: A call to service: the 2004 tsunami,

(opposite page) The local dump in Bluefields, Nicaragua

“Sometimes you have to travel 8,000 miles to see 8,000 feet.”

Robert Swap, professor of environmental sciences

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"Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop."

Ovid, from *Ars Amatoria*
It must have cast an amazing shadow as it flew overhead, the enormous 33-foot wingspan momentarily blotting out the sun. The prehistoric reptile known as the pterodactyl, or pterosaur, ruled the skies 60 million to 230 million years ago.

“The largest pterosaurs were 15 to 18 feet tall, about the size of a giraffe. The thing we haven’t been able to determine is how they were able to become airborne,” explains Michael Habib (Biology ’01, M.A. Biology ’04), assistant professor of biology at Chatham University. “Up until the time I presented my findings, there had been no rigorous analysis of pterosaur launch.”

Habib began researching pterosaurs for a paper recently published in the European Journal of Palaeontology. He took CAT scans of the fossilized bones to generate new ideas on pterosaur flight. “To really understand how something works mechanically, you need to look at the inside as well as the outside. Looking at a bridge may give you an idea of how something spans a river, but the true engineering lies within its structure.”

In the past, most scientists assumed that pterosaurs either had a running start or pushed off from two legs. But upon analyzing the bone strength of several species of pterosaurs, Habib came to a different conclusion. According to his findings, they took off much the same way vampire bats do today: pushing off of the ground with all four limbs. His paper was so revolutionary that it earned Habib a spot in Discover magazine’s top 100 stories of 2009 and sparked new discussions about the oldest flying vertebrate.

Habib’s research may also be representative of how the definition of paleontology itself is changing. “It is rapidly becoming a cross-disciplinary field,” Habib explains. “For example, I’m a paleontologist, but I’m also a biomechanist. Students wanting to go into the field today might also study engineering or medicine or geology.”

Habib began his career at U.Va., earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biology. He turned his focus to paleontology with his research as a doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University. What’s your encore after a groundbreaking study? In another case of one discovery leading to a wealth of new ones, this summer Habib will journey to a pterosaur conference in Beijing, where he will present a paper he is co-authoring on another aspect of pterosaur launch—only this time, from water. Up, up, and away!

TABITHA BROWN
TEXT BY TRACY MERRING
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN KENNEDY

Rafael Nunez
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN KENNEDY

TABITHA BROWN

GRADUATED FROM THE COLLEGE
Sociology ’96

HOPE TO BE BEST KNOWN FOR:
Focusing on the community and being committed to do work
for the people I live with. Right now HopeJustice.com is
focused on my local community; I would love to take it to
the next level and create a really useful national program out of it.

CURRENTLY READING:
My Sister’s Keeper by Jodi Picoult. The legal
and ethics issues are really interesting. I
don’t want to give too much away, but there
are some good leads and turns as well.

IN 10 YEARS...
I want to brand and promote HopeJustice, but I would also like
to publish some of my own work, hopefully
something that can be put into the hands of people
no matter where they are in life and
have them draw some sort of inspiration or
empowerment from it.

It is so important to let people know
that they aren’t limited, that there are possibilities
available to everyone regardless of age, race,
or gender. I want people to feel more empow-
ered in their own lives.” If tough times call for
tough measures, Tabitha Brown (Sociology
’96) is working hard to provide a little extra
toughness to members of her community.

Recently admitted to the Supreme Court Bar,
Brown is using her skills and experience as
a lawyer, a mother, and an entrepreneur
to affect positive change.

A few years ago, Brown created HopeJustice,
a website devoted to providing resources
to people hit hardest by the current economy.

As the nightmare of foreclosure and eviction
becomes a daunting reality, many people
who originally had no difficulty securing
bank loans may suddenly feel abandoned and
lost. “A majority of my clients are women,
especially young, single women, who don’t
understand what they have been pulled
into and are facing horrific situations,”
Brown explains. Her goal is to help people
learn what to do and where to go and, in
turn, take some of their power back.

In addition to having positive connotations,
the hope in HopeJustice is an acronym for
Health, Opportunities, Pursuing justice,
and Education. As a pro bono lawyer offering
advice to members of her community in
Prince George’s County, Md., Brown realized
she was frequently directing people to the
same agencies or websites. She decided to
create a central site where people could locate
information that they often didn’t know was
available to them, including help with con-
sumer rights, education, or health care.

Brown credits U.Va. with pointing her in her
professional life also serves as a
testament to her drive. she opened her own
law office, the law Offices of Tabitha R. Brown,
in 2006, and was admitted to the Supreme
Court Bar in 2009. “It was a tremendous
honor, shaking hands with the justices and
family was there to share the experience with
me, which was so amazing. And one day,
maybe one of my cases will make it to the
Supreme Court, where I could continue my
work advocating homeowners’ rights.” Given
everything we’ve seen so far, there can be
no doubt.

Locke Ogens (History ’76) is not new to
planning winning strategies. A quick glance
over her professional background includes
working with well-known investment firms
including Morgan Stanley and Paine Webber,
and managing portfolios for Shriver Invest-
ment Management. Ten years ago, Ogens
retired to spend more time with her hus-
band and twins, but still finds time to put
her management skills to work, directing
and supporting community projects.

Her recent efforts include serving on the advisory
board for Greater Boston Salvation Army as
well as volunteering as an assistant trea-
surer for her church in Weston, Mass.

As the new president of the College Foun-
dation, Locke finds herself drawing from
experiences in both the public and private
spheres. “I spent my professional life ana-
lyzing businesses and how they run, which
is very different from working with non-
profits. It turns out there are aspects from
both that come into play when working for
the Foundation. There is also a definite
learning curve when you’re working with a
university, and one of the most fascinating
things for me is seeing how higher educa-
tion institutions run.”

Ogens says she still calls on the skills she
learned while an undergraduate at the College.
and credits her experiences there with help-
ing her throughout her life. “My courses at
U.Va. taught me to pull a lot of data points
together, to think critically, and find a path
connecting them. Things like that make a liberal arts education invaluable.”

As the South Lawn Project nears comple-
tion, Locke and the board will focus their
next campaign on similar aspects of the
college experience, what she refers to as its
“intellectual capital.”

“The board is looking at things such as student-
faculty ratios, building up the sciences, and
finding more graduate funding. We’re called
to protect and help grow the College; we have
to think about where we want it to be in the
next five, 10, 20 years and figure out a path
to get there. It is all very exciting.”

Another item on Ogens’ agenda is creating
more awareness of the College Fund, pre-
viously known as the Annual Fund. “If we
could raise the participation rate of the fund
by even 10 percent, that would go a long
way to furthering the College.”

Tabitha Brown
Graduated from the College
Sociology ’96

Read more about Brown’s work and volunteering opportunities at HopeJustice (hopejustice.com), Madison House (madisonhouse.org), and Big Brothers Big Sisters (bigbro.org).

LOCKE OGENS

TEXT BY TRACY MERRING
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY LOCKE OGENS

LOCKE OGENS

GRADUATED FROM THE COLLEGE
History ’76

CURRENTLY READING:
Right now I’m actually reading a book that my
daughter’s 5th grade class is reading. Chutes by Laurie
Anderson. It is about a 12-year-old slave in
New York during the Revolutionary War
and is really a very interesting story. I recommend it highly.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:
Successful completion of the Capital Campaign and
increasing annual giving. The biggest thing the board is
focusing on right now is maintaining the academic excel-
ence of the College as we go forward.

IN 10 YEARS ...
Honestly? Charleston, SC. Lockes’
professional career has taken her to Los
Angeles, Chicago, and Boston.

AFTER LOCKE and her Husband, David
REMNANTS: Brown in front of the Supreme
Court building in Washington, D.C.
Landing in Southern France on D-Day. When Richard Henry (Economics ’38) looks back on his life, he recalls his time at the University of Virginia with a special fondness. His years at the College let him carry on a family legacy, hone his tennis skills, and gain the language skills that led to accomplishments and honors far beyond what Henry envisioned for himself as a student.

He recalls growing up on stories about his father’s and grandfather’s U.Va. experiences; their U.Va. legacy extends back to the 1860s. Richard’s father, Robert Randolph Henry, attended the University during the Civil War but left, along with many of his classmates, to fight for the Confederacy. Charles Samuel Ashby Henry (Astronomy 1899), Henry’s father, also attended the University, eventually becoming president of the Alumni Association during the 1930s.

Henry was a well-rounded student, branching out from economics to take multiple language classes in the College (he’s fluent in French and Spanish and also speaks German, Italian, and Portuguese, among others). “The languages I learned at the University have helped me my whole life,” Henry says, citing his service in France as a U.S. Naval captain during World War II. Not to mention that when a young French woman named Paulette was asked if she’d like to meet the young officer, she declined, then added, “Well, does he speak French?” The two have been married for 62 years with two children and four grandchildren.

Henry’s extracurricular activities while at the College also prepared him for what was to follow. It was his acting with the Virginia Players at U.Va. that made him “stage ready” for the role of Sandy opposite James Whitmore (The Shauershank Redemption, The Majestic) in The Philadelphia Story during a Navy production in the late 1940s. An avid tennis player and captain of the U.Va. tennis team, in 1951 Henry became one of the few U.Va. alums to play at Wimbledon, losing a doubles match to Janslov Drohny and Eric Sturgess (both of whom went on to win Wimbledon in later years).

Captain Henry’s post naval career as an international tourism consultant for the United Nations was also informed by what he learned on Grounds. Henry says he chose the field of tourism because it’s “a passport for peace and prosperity.” He cites the influences of College professors as one of the reasons he’s a success, and why he’s remained a staunch Hoo and donor for more than half a century.

Henry’s grandfather, Robert Randolph Henry, in the green dining group. In her five years at U.Va., Kendall Singleton has the unusual distinction of starting her career at the University of Virginia before she even graduated. As a third-year environmental sciences major, Singleton started the still-active Green Dining Group and conducted a study on food-based waste in U.Va.’s dining halls.

That study was integral to the decision to remove trays at Runk, Observatory Hill, and Newcomb dining halls, resulting in a reduction of 25 percent in food waste. The excitement of running this group and steering the “trayless” initiative showed Singleton the way: she knew agricultural sustainability was “the one” for her.

After graduating and completing an eight-month internship on a Virginia farm, Singleton was offered the position of sustainability coordinator for U.Va. Dining Services/ARAMARK, which she says, “was in some ways a continuation” of her work in the Green Dining Group. In her five months in the role, Singleton launched the reusable-to-go containers (students receive two containers and, after use, exchange them in the dining hall for freshly washed containers), created a blog on U.Va. Dining Green Actions, and facilitated a program offering discounted coffee to students who bring their own mug. She is also active in sharing her story in classrooms and conferences about sustainable dining practices.

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Because of her unique perspective and successes as a student, Singleton knows how important it is to include students in the sustainability process, and she has been impressed with their willingness to get involved. Several students mentioned that environmental actions and initiatives on the part of U.Va. were a factor in their decision of which college to attend. After a recent sustainable-themed meal at the Observatory Hill Dining Hall, in which grass-fed beef from Grayson Natural Beef was served, a student told Singleton, “This is the first time I’ve eaten meat in this dining room.”

While Singleton has many plans for continued improvement in U.Va.’s sustainable processes, she notes that most important is “critical mass”: buy-in from students, faculty, and staff. It is key, she says, for us all to participate, and the best way to start is to throw away one less thing each day.

Singleton believes that, in addition to education, sustainable action needs to be fun. “You can’t have sustainable action without some capacity—I’ve found my life’s calling. Maybe I’ll start my own CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)!”

KENDALL SINGLETON

TEXT BY KENDALL SINGLETON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STACEY EVANS

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KENDALL SINGLETON

GRADUATED FROM THE COLLEGE

Environmental Sciences/Environmental Thought and Practice ’07

CURRENTLY READING

The Plague of Doves by Louise Erdrich and Alphabet Soup by Roy Blsurt Jr.

IN 10 YEARS...

Doing sustainable agriculture work in some capacity—"I’ve found my life’s calling. Maybe I’ll start my own CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)"

BIGGEST CHALLENGE

Being an intern at Waterpenny Farm in Rappahannock for eight months. Working 55-hour weeks during manual labor was certainly the hard work thing I’ve ever done.

ABOVE: Singleton in the newly opened Fine Arts Dining Café

OPPOSITE TOP: Henry, 1938, from the U.Va. yearbook, Corey and Curtis

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Henry (right) plays at Wimbledon in 1951. Photo by Paulette Henry

Move-in day at Emmet dormitory, I was shaking in my sneakers, far from my home state of sandy Florida. I heaved my most valued possessions up three flights of stairs into a bright white room with cinderblock walls and a musky scent. To me, Emmet suggested the histories of generations of students who’d lived and studied at U.Va., and I was part of the newest class to experience Jefferson’s grand educational vision.

By second year I had expanded my familiarity with Grounds and sought to continue involving myself in the student operations at the University. I joined a sorority and worked in the Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library, scanning images for archives. I joined Student Council, co-chaired the Student Arts Committee and also sat on the University Public Arts Committee. At meetings, my committees would talk about the state of arts at U.Va., encourage students to use their Art$ Dollars, and approve visiting artists’ use of Grounds. School, of course, was still in full momentum. I took classes in music and history and declared a major in anthropology, a far cry from what I thought I would study in college. I liked the way anthropology required me to look at the world from a new angle, like an infinitely expanding kaleidoscope of points of view, and I knew it was the way I wanted to think for the rest of my life.

My circle of friends grew and grew with each group I joined. With them, I explored more of the city and went camping in the county. I became a Virginian. I still spent time at the Corner, meeting friends at Buddhist Biker Bar and the Virginian, but also saw Charlottesville for what lay beyond the grounds of U.Va.

In my third year, I ventured even farther: to Greece, where I studied Athenian ruins and the archaeology of an ancient civilization. After a few years of college, I was hungry for another geographical adventure. I blame that yearning on the thrill of coming to U.Va. from out of state and the success I had making friends, learning and living joyfully, just by taking myself out of my comfort zone and moving somewhere new.

Despite my amazing journey across the sea, I was eager to return to Virginia, to Grounds. Now in my fourth year, I walk more slowly around Grounds, committing to memory the serpentine walls and their gardens, knowing I will miss them when I am no longer walking on the Lawn.”

Sara Sparks
(Anthropology ’10)
Charitable giving, like investing, is done with an expectation of careful and thoughtful use of funds, and our alumni often ask how money contributed to the Annual Fund is used.

The long answer is that the Annual Fund—now renamed The College Fund—has made possible, over the last two years, the launch of the College Arts Scholars program, start-up funding for the incoming English Department chair, research support for new faculty in the Politics Department, the creation of a History Department Speakers Series, various programmatic needs in anthropology, philosophy, music, media studies, religious studies, American Studies, and the sciences, and support for a variety of other initiatives.

The short answer is that annual funds are spent to directly enhance teaching, research, and scholarship at the College. Every student in the College is helped by The College Fund. Although more than 90% of our 100,000 College alums rate their affinity for the University as high or very high, fewer than 15% give back to the University, and only 6.7% actually give back to the College. Your gifts matter, and the best way to directly support the College experience is through an annual gift to The College Fund.

The College needs your support, and we encourage you to consider a gift to The College Fund. For your convenience, we have enclosed a pledge envelope. If you prefer to give online, simply visit www.artsandsciences.virginia.edu/give.

Thank you.
Remember your iambic pentameter? How about your catalexis, caesurae, strophes, and trochees? “For Better For Verse” is an interactive website created by Herbert Tucker, John C. Coleman Professor of English, that lets you “scan” the poetry of William Wordsworth, Emily Dickinson, John Keats, and others.

“Prosody,” or the analysis of the rhythm and sound of a poem, “illuminates the life in poems,” says Tucker. Scanning a poem is an exercise in illustrating—through symbols—the structure of how the poem sounds. Tucker’s site guides you through each poem, lets you enter the symbol that best describes each syllable and automatically corrects you if you get it wrong.

This is a recreation of a page on the site showing the John Keats sonnet from 1819, “Bright Star.” Keats wrote the poem for his betrothed, Fanny Brawne (their romance recently hit the big screen in the Jane Campion film Bright Star).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIST OF POEMS</th>
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<td>+ By Title</td>
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- A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal (1800) — William Wordsworth
- Adonais (stanzas 54–55) (1821) — Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Paradise Lost (IV.222–44) (1667) — John Milton
-Hyperion I.1–14 (1820) — John Keats
-Jabberwocky (1855) — Lewis Carroll
-Kubla Khan (1798) — Samuel Taylor Coleridge
-Meeting At Night (1845) — Robert Browning
-Mowing (1913) — Robert Frost
-Renouncement (1893) — Alice Meynell
-Slow, Slow, Fresh Fount (1601) — Ben Jonson
-The Brain Is Wider than the Sky (1862) — Emily Dickinson...
May of 1970: a time of great change and great passions. Riots and protests rocked campuses across the United States, suspicions toward the government and the military swept the nation, and Charlottesville was no stranger to these sweeping tides. The University’s student body bristled with energy and activity, reflecting the political tumult of the time: some plotted a strike to protest the U.S. incursion into Cambodia, many mourned the losses at Kent State.

Boots Mead kept the peace. Knowing the United States Marine Corps band had been invited to play at graduation, he called a meeting of leading students, whom he educated about the history of the band. “We can turn to some other group, but it will not be the same thing, it would not be the same style, and you certainly want the best,” he remembered telling them. After a lengthy meeting with the professor, students promised not to protest the band’s performance during graduation.

But there was a twist. Mead then learned that the ROTC, without consulting school leadership, had invited the Marine drum and bugle corps to play on campus during Armed Services Day. A military band honoring a military holiday was unlikely to win support among the student body. Thinking quickly, Mead dialed the drum and bugle corps’ director and asked a favor.

Boots Mead offered to meet the band near the old medical school and accompany them up past the East Range and onto the Lawn. Once assembled on the steps of the Rotunda, the band would play “Bridge Over Troubled Water” while Mead stood beside them in his crimson Harvard doctoral robes, indicating a connection between the band and the faculty and serving, in a small way, as the band’s protector.

Students studying and socializing on the lawn that day looked up in surprise as the touching Simon and Garfunkel melody penetrated the air. “The atmosphere was really something,” Mead mused. “The band gave the most beautiful performance of that song that you could possibly imagine.”

With the song finished, the band quietly packed up its gear and left, having honored its cause, and Boots Mead returned to his work.

Desktop publishing?

If you attended the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences any time over the last 50 years, you probably spent a fair amount of time in a desk bolted to the floor in New Cabell Hall. Maybe you even expressed yourself on a desktop. Maybe your chewing gum is still there.

Well, times have changed, and now’s your chance to trade in your old desk for a new one. With a combined gift to the South Lawn Project and The College Fund (formerly the Arts & Sciences Annual Fund), you can sponsor a lecture hall chair in the South Lawn Commons…and provide a place for generations of students to come to listen, learn, and express themselves.

Interested? Want a desk? Contact Erin Hall at (434) 243-9180 or hall@virginia.edu to find out more.