Center for the Arts Planned for Ivy, Emmet Intersection

The Center for the Arts project, which encompasses more than 127,000 gross square feet, will be financed with private support. In April 2003, Carl and Hunter Smith of Charlottesville made a $22 million challenge gift for the Center for the Arts and also provided a gift to create the marching band.

Parking

A few blocks east, along West Main Street, the committee approved in concept a new 900- to 1,200-space parking facility on the current site of a parking lot between the Blake Center and Northern Exposure restaurant. Preliminary plans include retail space on the first floor, a four-story front on West Main and rear portions rising to seven stories. The committee also approved a 400-space parking structure near Culbreth Theatre to serve the Arts Grounds.

School of Nursing and Varsity Hall

With an unfeasible, the School of Nursing will expand into a new, 30,000-square-foot structure across 15th Street. The site had been slated to become the new home of Varsity Hall, but there were major logistical hurdles. Instead, the committee approved a much shorter, $6 million move: approximately 195 feet downhill to Hospital Drive.

University-owned buildings on the east side of Emmet Street will be razed, and an all-weather intramural playing surface will be installed on Carr’s Hill Field.

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College Foundation Emeritus Society Plans Weekend of Activities

In order to be part of one of the most exciting events to take place at the University this spring, please mark your calendars to attend the second College Foundation Emeritus Society Weekend, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, 2005, in Charlottesville.

The weekend promises to provide former trustees of the College Foundation and the Arts & Sciences Alumni Council Alumni opportunities to meet and talk with the individuals most responsible for determining the College’s future.

Last spring’s inaugural event earned rave reviews from the more than 75 attendees.

“The idea of emeritus gatherings and keeping the group together is brilliant,” wrote one participant in evaluating the program. “Every part of the weekend I attended was well done.”

This year’s program will feature updates from some of last year’s favorite presenters as well as a few additions. Here are some highlights:

Dean Edward L. Ayers will bring you up to date on the latest news at the College.

College Foundation President John L. Nau III will speak and welcome the group.

President and Mrs. John T. Casteen III will be your hosts for cocktails and dinner at Carr’s Hill.

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Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr., the University’s vice president and COO, will discuss news across the Grounds.

Gene D. Block, the University’s vice president and provost, will lead a working session on where the University is going and how the College fits into those plans.

David J. Neuman, the University’s architect, will offer an update on the South Lawn Project, complete with renderings and a model.

Chris Brightman, CEO of the U.Va. Investment Management Company, will discuss the challenges of managing the University’s endowment.

College Foundation Update

FUNDRAISING, finances and governance were on the agenda for the College Foundation Board of Trustees semi-annual meeting Nov. 5 and 6 in Charlottesville.

University Architect David Neuman gave an update on the South Lawn progress, complete with a display model and site plan that made visualizing the project much easier.

The Foundation’s Development Committee is actively working on plans to meet the next South Lawn fundraising goal, $40.8 million before Dec. 31, 2005. In addition, the Foundation trustees continue to endorse and support the Arts Grounds, graduate fellowships and the Arts & Sciences Annual Fund.

A presentation of the audited financial statements showed that the Foundation continues to strengthen financially. Net assets increased by more than $10 million during the year that ended June 30, 2004, from $332.4 million to $438.8 million.

In light of this maturation, the Foundation combined the Investment and Finance committees and established an Academic Affairs Committee. This new committee is helping the College with faculty recruitment, spousal hiring and fellowship support.

President John T. Casten III addressed the group and discussed the proposed Charter plan at length, and Karin Wittenberg, University Librarian, entertained the Trustees for dinner in the recently completed Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library.

The trustees and officers of the Foundation greatly appreciate the time and energy emeritus trustees have devoted and continue to provide to further the purposes and aspirations of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

University Launches Muslim Societies Lecture Series

Part of New U.Va. Program on the Changing Islamic World

University officials anticipate a repeat of last fall’s capacity crowd as a public lecture series that focuses on Muslims and features topics lifted from the front pages of newspapers worldwide continues this spring.

The series is being launched at U.Va. during the 2004–05 academic year as part of an interdisciplinary Muslim Societies Workshop that marks a major change in how the University approaches teaching about the world of Islam.

“Talented scholars from across Grounds lacked a forum to meet and exchange ideas in what is a rapidly changing body of scholarship on the region,” said Elizabeth Thompson, associate professor of history and the workshop’s organizer.

“We hope to build on the unusual spirit of cooperation that already exists between our Islamic studies and Jewish studies programs to host prominent scholars and community activists from Muslim societies and to showcase new scholarship from U.Va. faculty.”

The fall series featured two lectures: Juan R. I. Cole, professor of modern Middle East and South Asian history at the University of Michigan and author of the preeminent Weblog on Iraq, jauncol, spoke on Shiite religious leaders and politics in Iraq, and Mahmoud Mami, Herbert Lehman professor of government at Columbia University, spoke on the Cold War roots of terrorism.

The spring lecture series includes the following:

March 24–25, 2005

Soli Ozel, Istanbul Technical University, will discuss Turkey’s efforts to join the European Union. He will also participate in a panel with Charles Kurzman of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill on democracy’s past, present and future in the Middle East.

Arista Cirtauta, department of politics, U.Va., will comment on the European Union’s expansion into Eastern Europe.

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Mohamed Kenbib, University of Rabat Mohamed V, will speak about Arabs and Jews in Middle Eastern and North African history and will offer a seminar on the evolution of the Moroccan state.

Beyond the workshop, plans are under way to establish an interdisciplinary research center at the University during the 2005–06 academic year; the center would fund projects around Grounds and coordinate outreach programs across the Charlottesville community on Muslim societies.

In 2006, the University will begin developing an interdisciplinary master’s degree in Muslim societies. Before the degree program can be introduced, University officials will have to seek private funding for student support and create positions for new faculty, especially in Middle Eastern, South Asian and African politics and history and in languages such as Arabic, Turkish, Urdu, Persian, Swahili and Hausa.

“Northern Virginia is host to one of the more important Muslim communities in this country, and it is appropriate that U.Va., as the state’s top research university, promote the study of Islam,” Thompson said. “Plus, our students are asking for it. Enrollments have ballooned in our courses on Islamic religious tradi-