College Foundation Update

The College Foundation met for its spring meeting on April 22 and 23, 2005. Fog blanketed Farmington Country Club as the attendees arrived on a chilly spring morning for the Friday sessions.

Dean Edward L. Ayers gave a State of the College address to the entire board. He reflected on his past four years as Dean of the College, especially praising the faculty for their dedication and perseverance through the hard years of the budget cuts. Dean Ayers summarized his remarks with optimism for the future, explaining that with the hiring of additional faculty the student-faculty ratio was on its way to where it belonged, around 16:1.

Other speakers included Foundation trustee Paul Hobby, who presented the Report of the College Budget Task Force to the group; Vice President and Provost of the University Gene Block, who discussed University issues of relevance to the College; and University architect David Neuman, who presented an update on the South Lawn Project.

The College Foundation elected five new trustees and said thank you to three departing trustees. Laura Parish Chadwick (Drama ’89) of Nashville, Tenn.; David M. Crowe (History ’79) of Hood, Va.; Lee Burleigh Harper (History, Rhetoric and Communication Studies ’85) of Memphis, Tenn.; Anthony F. Markel (Economics ’64) of Manakin-Sabot, Va.; and S. Sonjia Smith (Interdisciplinary-Echols ’79) of Charlottesville were welcomed as new trustees. Their three-year terms began upon their election during the April meeting.

Three of the founding trustees retired off the College Foundation board, thus becoming the newest members of the Emeritus Society. Thompson Dean (Foreign Affairs ’79) of New York, N.Y.; David E. Gibson (Economics ’62, Law ’65) of Somerset, Va.; and Paul W. Hobby (History ’82) of Houston, Texas, completed their three-year terms and were thanked for their service.

Looking Back

Two years ago, as the Foundation was considering additional ways to support the College, it recognized the great, untapped potential of its Emeritus trustees — a group of nearly 100 past trustees and Arts & Sciences Council members who have already made extraordinary personal and financial commitments to the University. An unfortunate thing generally happens when board members retire — for all practical purposes, they are largely forgotten and underutilized as an ongoing resource. So much is lost when this happens.

Individuals lose the enormous sense of personal gratification and pride gained from giving back, and institutions lose many of their most knowledgeable, dedicated, enthusiastic and committed supporters.

The Foundation believed there were many ways the College could benefit from successfully reconnecting with its Emeritus group and that a meaningful portion of this group would embrace the opportunity to renew their high standards of support, guidance and leadership. Its instincts were right. A broad survey of Emeritus members elicited an enthusiastic response.

An exciting new initiative is taking things to another level. The Foundation is sponsoring a series of forums in Charlottesville that bring Emeritus and Foundation members together with small groups of current College students. The theme of these forums is "A Liberal Arts Degree Can Take You Anywhere," and the focus is on providing these students with the opportunity to gain valuable insights and to learn firsthand about career choices and professional and social issues that they will face as they consider life after college.

The Emeritus initiatives provide meaningful opportunities to remain current with the affairs of the College and University that did not previously exist. Through these initiatives, Emeritus trustees can continue to actively support the College, spend quality time with the University’s faculty, administration and leadership, interact with outstanding students and, once again, gain the enormous sense of personal satisfaction we all feel from being directly involved and helping a place we all care so much about.

This is an exciting and pivotal time for the College, and it needs every bit of support you can give it. You have been, and can continue to be, a tremendous resource, and I encourage you to be as active as you possibly can. The Emeritus Weekend in particular is a great way for you to get back in touch with all of the people, initiatives and developments here, and I encourage all of you to attend. Please contact me any time with comments and suggestions you have regarding the Foundation’s efforts.

Thank you for all that you do.

Don Lating Trustee, Chairman of the Emeritus Society

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Dear Emeritus Trustees

Emersus Society Weekend

Make plans now to attend the 2nd Emeritus Society Weekend in Charlottesville on Friday and Saturday, April 6-7, 2006. Rooms of have been reserved at Farmington Country Club (434) 206-5660, and Residence Inn by Marriott, (434) 923-0300. The reservation deadline for booking rooms is March 6, 2006. Look for more details in the next issue of the Emeritus newsletter.

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College Foundation Emeritus Society

November 2005 • No. 4

College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
University of Virginia
Moving Forward with South Lawn

I’m pleased to be able to share with you that the new South Lawn architect is in place. The firm Moore Ruble Yudell, of Santa Monica, Calif., was approved at the Board of Visitors’ October meeting. They have hit the ground running, spending several days on Grounds in meetings with faculty and staff, student groups, and department chairs, to hear their needs and aspirations as they relate to the South Lawn Project. MRY has an ambitious schedule planned for producing an updated design, and we will eagerly share this update as soon as it is available.

I can never say enough how valuable it is to the College that Emeritus Trustees stay involved as you do. Your groundbreaking work made the Foundation possible, and your continued interest and involvement in the life of the College helps propel us forward. Your early, generous contributions to the fledgling South Lawn Project gave it a momentum that other donors were able to build on. That momentum has been invaluable.

We are now $26 million into our fundraising effort and a milestone is sharp and clear on the horizon. The College needs to raise at least $45 million in order to break ground on phase I of the horizon. The College Foundation is in a position to ask questions of their respective positions in the financial world. They then took questions from students.

Three of the panelists had worked in London, and there were several questions from the students about the advantages of beginning their finance careers there. Other questions ranged from the specific: determining whether a finance major is right for you, as well as the details of interviewing for a large financial corporation; to the more general: determining whether a finance career would be right for you. The panelists eagerly related their experiences and offered encouragement to their audience, but also cautioned the students on the rigors of the career and the importance of balancing the demands of the job with their personal lives.

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