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New 300-seat, $13.5 million Ruth Caplin Theatre will provide improved space for drama, dance, and film showings, Ruth Caplin said, also noting the importance of the flexible stage to dancers’ feet and performance. “Happily, it will also answer the cry for more performance space for the University’s exploding dance program.” In addition to the Caplins’ generosity, another donation of $1.6 million by drama alumnus Laura Chadwick and her husband will be used for the construction of a rooftop terrace garden. The current vision for the space is to transform it into a sculpture garden that can be used for pre-event receptions. A $4 million anonymous contribution was also made to complete other aspects of the new Arts Center.

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Source: The Cavalier Daily, Oct. 22, 2010

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entire alumni base, but it can be viewed online at www.virginia.edu/edumedthingshappen. If you haven’t seen it already, I think you’ll enjoy it.

One final note. All emeritus trustees are invited to attend the next meeting of the College Foundation board on Saturday, April 16.

If your schedules allow, please plan to come to Charlottesville the previous day for the inauguration of President Sullivan on the Lawn. We expect a large turnout for these events and will be sending you hotel and logistical information early next week. Many thanks to all of you for helping to make the South Lawn a reality and for all you do in support of the College. I wish you a very happy holiday season and best wishes for 2011.

—Jeff Nauheimer
Chair of the Emeritus Society

November 2010 • No. 14
College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
University of Virginia

Dear Emeritus Trustees

It was a pleasure seeing so many of you in Charlottesville on October 22–23 for the College Foundation’s board meeting and the dedication of the South Lawn.

Without a doubt, the South Lawn dedication was one of the most memorable events in the history of the College and marked the culmination of a decade of effort and support by past and present trustees of the College Foundation. Simply put, it would not have been possible without you. This newsletter contains extensive coverage of the dedication, including excerpts of impassioned speeches by John Nau, David Gibson, and Meredith Woo. The Friday afternoon dedication was followed by a spectacular gala that evening on the South Lawn’s terrace, which was attended by more than 300 supporters of the College.

I previously emailed all of you a copy of the dedication program, but please email me at jeff@uscip.com if you would like another copy.

Friday’s College Foundation board meeting was a joint meeting with the College’s Benefactors Society (which, under Preston Baldwin’s leadership, has set a goal of $1000 donors at the benefactors level by June 30, 2011). Dean Meredith Woo set the tone for the meeting with opening remarks that set forth her vision for the College. She spoke eloquently about the elements of virtue and character in education, the importance of relationship and place to the College experience, and the challenges that lie ahead. You can read Meredith’s speech in its entirety on her blog: http://meredithwoo.blogspot.com/2010/10/onefinalnote.html. The board also heard from President Teresa Sullivan and Rector John (’Dubby’) Wynne, who spoke about the College’s many recent successes and the challenges facing the University in the years ahead given declining financial support from the Commonwealth. We all look forward to working with President Sullivan in the future.

At lunch we heard from History Professor Elizabeth Varon. Elizabeth is an expert on the Civil War and the 19th-century American South. She is completing work on her next book entitled “Appomattox: Victory, Defeat and Freedom at the End of the Civil War.” Importantly, Elizabeth is one of four professors recently hired as a direct result of the Legacy of Distinction Fund, which so many of you have supported. Following her remarks, Board trustee and Treasurer Robert Byron again made the case for the bridging strategy that the fund supports, which led to College Foundation trustees, emeritus trustees, and members of the Benefactors Society board making on-the-spot pledges of more than $750,000. To date, the Legacy of Distinction Fund has raised more than $3 million towards its goal of $5 million. The Legacy of Distinction Fund is becoming a real triumph for the College and as emeritus trustees we all can be proud of our significant contributions to its success.

We also were treated to a new video at the meeting that the development office has produced on behalf of the College Fund. The video is being electronically mailed to our continued, page 4
South Lawn Dedication

On Friday, October 22, a beautiful fall afternoon in Charlottesville, the South Lawn was officially dedicated and celebrated. As dignitaries, students, faculty, and guests gathered on the South Lawn terrace, it was an occasion not only for gratitude for the present, but for reflection on the past and hope for the future.

In her opening remarks, Locke Ogens (History ’76), College Foundation president, welcomed all those present. In attendance were Governor Robert McDonnell, former Governor George Allen, U.Va. President Teresa Sullivan and former U.Va. President John Casteen, and College Foundation past presidents, current trustees, and former trustees. Also present were lead donors David Gibson (Economics ’62, Law ’65), and Barbara and John L. Nau III (History ’68), for whom the two principal buildings of the South Lawn are named. The already festive mood became even more exuberant when Ogens announced that, due to three recent and substantial gifts, the College Foundation had met its commitment to the Board of Visitors to raise $61.2 million toward the cost of the project. “We have now fulfilled our obligation,” she said, to cheers from the assembly.

Arts & Sciences Dean Meredith Woo and U.Va. President Teresa Sullivan both noted in their remarks that the South Lawn is an extension of Thomas Jefferson’s original vision of the architecture of his Academical Village, and a symbol of what Woo called “the unlimited future of knowledge.”

“By dedicating the South Lawn today,” said Woo, “we also open up in our minds our eye, the Lawn—and with it, the future.” President Sullivan quoted Thomas Jefferson’s statement in a letter to John Adams that “I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past,” and reminded the assembly that, at the University, “we always remember our past, our history, our traditions. But we face forward, we look to the future, together.”

University Rector John O. Wynne provided a short history of the project, remembering its genesis in 2001 when then-Rector John P. Ackerly III (History ’57) and former College Foundation president Alan Y. Roberts (English ’64) led members of the Board of Visitors on a tour of New Cabell Hall. According to Wynne, what they saw “surprised them . . . some board members were shocked.” It was at this point that the group was convinced that new facilities for learning in the College were long overdue. Wynne went on to thank all the volunteers and donors who advanced the project at various stages over the course of its conception and construction.

Governor McDonnell described some of the challenges higher education faces in the Commonwealth, acknowledging that the state has not been able to contribute generously to operational costs at its universities. However, he praised the South Lawn as “an expansion of the opportunity for achievement” higher education offers, and provided a broad outline of how the state is working “to be able to invest in the next generation of young Americans who will choose the University of Virginia and other great schools.”

Echoing the sentiments of other speakers, Governor McDonnell lauded John Nau and David Gibson as “visionaries” whose leadership and commitment made the South Lawn Project possible. After a stirring speech of gratitude on behalf of students from current fourth-year Jeffrey Webb, Nau and Gibson spoke movingly about what the South Lawn Project and the University mean to them. John Nau recognized the South Lawn as a continuance of Jefferson’s educational vision of the relationship between people and space, but noted that the bricks and mortar of the South Lawn are only a part of how the College must measure success. The true measurement, said Nau, is the quality of the College’s graduates, and he put forth a charge to “invest in the intellectual capital needed to fulfill the promise of the South Lawn” and reduce the student to faculty ratio.

Nau personally thanked David Gibson for his “eloquence and passion” for the South Lawn, qualities that Gibson displayed in his own remarks. Reminding the crowd that Jefferson viewed education as a means of freedom for the populace, Gibson imagined a future in which the University of Virginia no longer existed, history had receded into myth, and Thomas Jefferson was remembered as “the great lion” whose roar impelled a people to “rise up against their plight in the name of freedom.” As sons and daughters of the University, Gibson said that alumni of U.Va. “are the roar of the great lion of freedom. May our roar be heard through the ages.”

Both Gibson and Nau stressed their personal belief that, as Arts & Sciences alumni, they felt themselves duty-bound to support their alma mater. Speaking of the South Lawn and Thomas Jefferson, Nau noted, “This is the type of stewardship I believe he would have expected of us as graduates.” Gibson reiterated this feeling when, labeling U.Va. Jefferson’s “great continuing enterprise,” he said that “Ours has been an unsurpassed privilege however fortuitous our own joining of the enterprise. Privilege gives rise to duty; great privilege, to great duty.”

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Governor McDonnell described some of the challenges higher education faces in the Commonwealth, acknowledging that the state has not been able to invest in the intellectual capital needed to fulfill the promise of the South Lawn and reduce the student to faculty ratio. “How will we know if we have achieved success? It isn’t just by finishing the bricks and painting the wood. Our concern is indeed the quality of the graduates that will learn here and leave the University and the South Lawn. We know that the stature of the University is the result of all the academic units, yet without a successful College, it is difficult to envision a University of Virginia that sustains its national position. We all believe that the College is indeed the heart of U.Va. Yet as we celebrate our achievements here today, let’s not forget that we still have a challenge in front of us—the challenge of reducing our student/faculty ratio. We must now invest in the intellectual capital needed to fulfill the promise of the South Lawn. It is indeed the caliber and quality of our faculty that impacts and improves the quality of what is our end product, our graduates.” —John Nau

I would also submit to you that there are still few who can take the mountain of data being generated, turn those data into information, information into knowledge, and knowledge into wisdom. In the College our research and teaching grows out of a different measurement, said Nau, is the quality of the relationship between people and space, but noted that the bricks and mortar of the South Lawn is only a part of how the College must measure success. The true measurement, said Nau, is the quality of the College’s graduates, and he put forth a charge to “invest in the intellectual capital needed to fulfill the promise of the South Lawn” and reduce the student to faculty ratio.

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In addition to the Caplins’ generosity, another donation of $1.6 million by drama alumna Laura Chadwick and her husband was used for the construction of a rooftop terrace garden. The current vision for the space is to transform it into a sculpture garden that can be used for pre-event receptions. A $4 million anonymous contribution was also made to complete other aspects of the new Arts Grounds.

Construction will begin in January pending approval of the design by the Board of Visitors.

Source: The Cavalier Daily, Oct. 22, 2010

On October 21, 2010, the University broke ground on the $13.5 million addition to the drama building, which will include the Ruth Caplin Theatre.

The theatre will be located between the 600-seat Culbreth Theatre and 150-seat Helms Theatre. The Ruth Caplin Theatre will contain a 300-seat thrust stage—a stage surrounded on three sides by an audience. College Dean Meredith Woo noted the importance of this addition to the advancement of the arts at the University.

“The Ruth Caplin Theatre is a vital addition to the Drama department’s repertoire,” Woo said. “A performance in the Ruth Caplin Theatre, where members of the audience surround the players on three sides, will create an immediacy and connection we could never accomplish in the Culbreth and on a scale not possible in the Helms.”

Drama department chair Tom Bloom expressed similar sentiments, noting the new facility’s ability to change the drama experience for the entire alumni base, but it can be viewed online at www.virginia.edu.

The donation will thrust our audiences into an intimate and engaging relationship with actors and dancers who appear on that stage,” Bloom said in an e-mail.

The theatre is named after Ruth Sacks Caplin, wife of Mortimer Caplin, an alumna who graduated from the College in 1937 and the Law School in 1940. In addition to donating $4 million for the construction of the facility, the couple has funded many visiting professors and contributed to the Law School.

“I’m thrilled by the concept and design of the new thrust stage theatre available for

entire alumni base, but it can be viewed online at www.virginia.edu.

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