The College Foundation Welcomes New Trustees

The College Foundation Board of Trustees underwent a significant transition this past year. As noted in our last issue, Helen Drags ’84, Darden ’88 replaced Tim Robertson ’77 after twelve years of service to the Foundation as the Board of Visitors representative. In addition, the following eleven Trustees rolled off the Board after completing their terms and are now members of the Emeritus Society: Paul B. Barringer II ’52; Margaret Sarr Beer ’80; Marvin P. Bush ’79; Frank K. Byrum, Jr. ’85; Philip S. Coulter ’82; Everett L. Duffeymer, Jr. ’70; Law ’73; M. Manower jai ’83; LemuL E. Lewis ’69; Darden ’72; Charles Longley ’65; Mary Bland Love ’74; Law ’78 and F. Clarke Murphy ’84.

The new Trustees who have been elected to serve on the Board are:

Kenneth B. Botsford ’75, Medicine ’79, is Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of HealthSpring of Alabama. Ken has served on the past Capital Campaign Steering Committee, and serves on the current NCOUR Campaign Committee. He recently served on the Benefactors Society Board for the College. He and his wife Nina live in Birmingham. They have three children: Charlotte, Dino (Architectural ’07), and Bruce, currently a fourth year at the College. Charles (Carlson) W. Duncan, III ’82 is President of Duncan Equities, Inc. and Duncan Partnerships, Inc.; both are private investment firms. In addition to a BA in Economics and its operating subsidiary Branch Properties, LLC. He holds a BA with distinction from U.Va., Carlos earned an MBA from the University of Virginia. Tim and his wife Lindsay and their two daughters reside in Charlottesville.

John C. Peoples ’88 is the President and General Manager of S.C. Johnson and Son, Limited, where he is responsible for all of the company’s operations in Canada. John and his wife Greta have two daughters, Mara and Sydney. He and his family live in Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

Eugene R. Schutt, Jr. ’75, was most recently the Chairman of the Board of Citrix Trust Bank. Gene’s 34-year career has included 23 consecutive years of President/CEO positions with several organizations, mostly in diversified financial services on a global scale. Gene and his wife Cindy recently retired an old home in Charlottesville. They have two married daughters, three grandchildren, and two dogs.

Robert H. Swindell III ’82 is a Partner at Watch Hill Partners, a boutique investment banking firm specializing in mergers and acquisitions and capital raising. Bob has a BA in Economics from U.Va. and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He lives in Greenwich, CT with his wife Betty and their four children.

Dear Emeritus Trustees

I’ve just arrived back home from a wonderful visit to Charlottesville for the Emeritus Society Weekend. This year’s weekend in part combined the Emeritus Society meeting with the College’s Benefactors Society Board, which focuses on annual giving. It was a pleasure to see those Emeritus Society members who were able to make the trip, including past presidents Alan Roberts and Jeff Nuechterlein, and to meet the Benefactors Society Board members, many of whom are young alumni becoming active in the College’s volunteer leadership.

Our meeting began Friday morning with a series of informative updates on College business. Jackie Ovens, Vice President of the College Foundation, and Greg Pollard, the Director of Major Gifts, briefed us on the College Foundation and the Development effort, respectively, and Richard Myers spoke on the finances of the College. Rick is the Senior Associate Dean of Administration and Planning, and he has a knack for explaining complicated financial matters in terms that any A&S alum can easily grasp.

Dean Meredith Woo addressed the group at lunch, sharing with us her plans for the future of the College. Dean Woo outlines these plans in her letter to trustees on page 3. We also heard from Dr. Tim Garson, Provost of the University. Dr. Garson shared his views on various topics of interest, not the least of which is management of the University in this economic climate. He stressed that despite the financial challenges at the University, the spirit of U.Va. remains unshaken. After Dr. Garson’s talk, Greg Roberts, Dean of Admission, described how the in- and out-of-state ratio, the decision to drop early admissions, and other factors affect the admissions process.

A highlight of the day was a tour of the South Lawn Project. Many of us have been following this project since its inception, and to see it so close to completion is a real thrill. Please see page 3 for an update on the progress of construction as well as some recent photographs of the site.

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On Saturday we concluded the weekend’s activities with a pre-game football game reception before heading to the game itself. Morning rain moved the reception from Dean Woo’s Pavilion Garden to Newcomb Hall, but the weather cleared up in time for the football team to provide a rousing end to the weekend—a 47-17 drubbing of visiting Indiana University. This was the Hoosier’s first visit to the Commonwealth and certainly one they’d like to forget.

For those of you who were unable to attend last weekend, I hope this letter serves to fill you in at least a little on the weekend’s activities, and I hope you will be able to make our next meeting. For those who were able to come, I hope you enjoyed the weekend, and I hope you were able to stay to watch the game too!

Best regards,

Juliana Schulte O’Reilly
Chair of the Emeritus Society
Dear Friends

I began this semester by simultaneously welcoming some of the brightest undergraduates the College has ever seen and grappling with the effects of the financial crisis. As we respond to the shortfall, I am paying close attention to those undergrantees and what matters most in positioning Arts & Sciences among the top tier of research universities: faculty quality, research infrastructure, and graduate support.

Faculty quality

As you well know, the breadth and quality of our undergraduate offerings stem directly from the remarkable commitment of our faculty to creating genuine, life-altering relationships with their students. Faculty growth to complement decades of student growth must be at the root of our initiatives and fundraising. Protecting our historical strengths in selected humanities and social sciences programs, building the sciences, and supporting emerging cross-disciplinary initiatives have emerged as priorities.

As one strategy to address this issue, we hope to exploit the soft hiring market by raising money for Bridge Professorships for new faculty in the near-term, endowments that provide a sustainable funding source for this critical need in the long-term, and gifts to build essential infrastructure in the sciences.

In the same spirit, the College hopes in the coming years to create an Academic Venture Fund, a distinctive initiative that will allow us to seed promising ideas for faculty research, particularly those involving collaboration across disciplinary and even school boundaries.

Graduate support

One of the attributes separating the world’s most distinguished research universities from lesser institutions is the quality of a school’s graduate students. Their laboratory work and dissertations form the backbone of academic progress around the world. And at every large research university, these young scholars share responsibility with faculty for the quality and rigor of the undergraduate classroom experience.

The faculty in the College consistently, and almost universally, say graduate student support is the most urgent priority for Arts & Sciences in our quest to become a world-class research university. To ensure the vitality of the scholarly community in Arts & Sciences, we must increase the size and duration of the President’s Fellowships, our signature graduate financial support packages, and offer more of them.

By attending to what matters—faculty quality, research infrastructure, and graduate support—we will make this year of financial adversity into a year of strengthening the College, the core of our great University. I welcome your help along the way.

As we contemplate the future of Arts & Sciences, we at the College would like to take a moment to look back and extend a heartfelt thanks to the Emeritus Trustees for all that they have already done on behalf of the College and for the Campaign. As you can see from the graph on the facing page, Emeritus Trustee participation has been vital to the success of the Campaign. And as of mid-September, Emeritus Trustees have donated over $35 million to the Campaign for the College—over a third of all alumni giving and almost 16% of total giving over the life of the Campaign.

Looking ahead, the trustees have given not only financially but of their time and resources as well, the accomplishments of this group on behalf of the College is truly astonishing. Your efforts to promote the College and its initiatives to fellow alumni and friends of Arts & Sciences cannot be overstated. You have consistently helped the College improve its standing and reputation as a world-class institution, and for that we are sincerely grateful.

Meredith Jung-En Woo
Buckner W. Clay Dean of Arts & Sciences

South Lawn Project Nears Completion

Completion of the University of Virginia’s South Lawn Project is ahead of schedule. The University expects faculty to move into New Holland and Gibson Hall in late December. Classes will commence there in January, while work in the Commons Building and in exterior areas will remain outstanding.

Construction on the South Lawn Project is approximately 80 percent complete. Ceiling framing, millwork installations, electrical finishing, window trimming, painting, and a variety of interior work in the buildings is underway. Also underway is construction for a Starbucks Café, which will be located on the first floor of Gibson Hall. In addition, groundwork of the terrace crossing has started, and future work on the crossing includes the laying of stone pavers and landscaping.

Additional photography of ongoing progress can be viewed on the University’s Facilities Management site at this address: http://www.fm.virginia.edu/fpc/FeaturedProjects/SouthLawn/PhotoGallery.htm.

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As one strategy to address this issue, we hope to exploit the soft hiring market by raising money for Bridge Professorships that will enable us to hire replacements now for key senior faculty due to retire in the next three to five years. This lets the retiring faculty members mentor their successors, setting the stage for their research to continue for another generation. And the countercyclical timing lets us recruit some of the nation’s best scholars when few other schools are searching.

We also will establish endowed Discovery Professorships to be awarded for three-year terms to faculty members engaged in visionary, frontier research and teaching. The awards will free up salary money for other hires, and provide support for research and curriculum development. And we will continue to seek traditional endowed professorships to be held for the long term by our most accomplished faculty.

Research infrastructure

The reputation of our faculty is based not only on their teaching, but also on their research. Launching a new faculty member’s research, however, is expensive—particularly in the sciences. The College needs expendable money to support research start-ups for new faculty in the near-term, endowments that provide a sustainable funding source for this critical need in the long-term, and gifts to build essential infrastructure in the sciences.

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