

Pillars



2022

A REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF GIVING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND



Welcome

to the first edition of Pillars, a new annual report dedicated to the impact of philanthropy at the University of Richmond. This first issue illustrates how the generosity of the Spider community carries forward the promise of access and opportunity to the next generation. Each section is themed based on President Kevin Hallock's five guiding lights and areas of opportunity where we can focus to build an even brighter future. We hope you are as inspired as we are by the incredible stories within these pages.

University of Richmond Mission

To educate in an academically challenging, intellectually vibrant, and collaborative community dedicated to the holistic development of students and the production of scholarly and creative work. A Richmond education prepares students for lives of purpose, thoughtful inquiry, and responsible leadership in a diverse world.

The purpose of Pillars is to convey the impact of philanthropy on the University of Richmond. This publication by the University of Richmond Advancement Office reflects our commitment to transparency as well as our sincere appreciation for those who give generously to the University through their service and philanthropy.

For a PDF version of this publication and to read more stories of impact, visit giving.richmond.edu.

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Contents

1	A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT: Martha Callaghan
	GIVING TO RICHMOND
2	Our Culture of Giving: Saif Mehkari, Littleton Maxwell, GB'84, P'94, and Mary Maxwell, P'94
5	Every Gift Matters: Ivana Marshall, '17
	THE ENDOWMENT
7	Investing in Excellence
8	Building a Legacy: Betty Gustafson, W'47, Mary Murphy, and JoAnna Ubiwa, '10
	ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY
9	Making a Difference: Brent Clark, '97, and Isaac Lee, '24
10	Paying it Forward: Kim Ford Moon, W'83
11	From Nepal to Richmond: Keshav Jha, '22
	BELONGING
12	A Spider for Life: Jaide Hinds-Clarke, '20
13	Learning to FLI: Brian Garcia, '24, Denis Velazquez-Mondragon, '26, Shay Harris, '25, and Chloe Goode, '26
	WELL-BEING
17	Dedication to Wellness: Makayla Callender, '22
19	A Measurable Impact: The Well-Being Center
	ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
20	Conducting Hands-on Research: Sandra Joireman
22	Embracing Diverse Viewpoints: The Gary L. McDowell Institute
	EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
23	Absurdly Inventive: Grace Mittl, '22, and Eli Bank, '22
25	Coming Full Circle: Ben Pearson, '23
27	THANK YOU



Dear Spiders,

We are thrilled to present you with our inaugural report on giving, Pillars. Here at the University of Richmond, the impact of your generous support can be seen all around campus, from the athletic arena to the classroom to the stage. Within these pages, you will find a collection of stories that demonstrate the many ways you have made a lasting difference in the lives our students, faculty, staff, and the Spider community at large.

A pillar is defined as a person or thing that has reliably provided essential support. Our alumni, parents, and friends are incredible partners in the University's success. This publication is named in honor of you, and all the ways you lift us up to new heights.

In his inaugural address in April 2022, President Kevin Hallock identified five key areas of opportunity for the University. With these priorities as guiding lights, Richmond is poised to build on its existing strengths to become known as, unquestionably, the best small university in the world. We are eager to advance:

- **Academic Excellence:** incentivizing excellence in teaching, mentoring, and research
- **Belonging:** building a community of care in which everyone feels welcome
- **Access and Affordability:** ensuring that all students can pursue the Richmond experience without feeling constrained by cost
- **Well-Being:** equipping students to flourish and lead resilient, well-balanced lives
- **Experiential Learning and Community Engagement:** deepening the ways we learn from and contribute to the greater Richmond area and beyond as part of a Richmond education

As you read this publication, I hope you will see how your support helps us advance these priorities every day. We look forward to further engaging with you as we work together to create a bright future for our students. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for the University of Richmond.

Martha

Martha Callaghan
Vice President for Advancement

“Richmond is poised to build on its existing strengths to become known as, unquestionably, the best small university in the world”

Our Culture of Giving

By giving to the University of Richmond, you join generations of Spiders in fulfilling the promise of a world-class education made to every student who comes here while fortifying the University's financial future for years to come.

The University would be a far different place without the generosity of our caring alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends. Each year, loyal Spiders sustain this legacy through annual giving. These gifts are essential to Richmond's continued momentum.

UR HERE GIVING DAY

In April 2022, Spiders across the globe showed their support for students during the University's fourth annual UR Here Giving Day, which took place over 36 hours. More than 160 individual funds were represented benefiting every area of campus, including scholarships, the student experience, well-being, academic excellence, athletics, and other high-impact areas.



\$1.6M
GIVEN BY 3,100 DONORS

FISCAL YEAR 2022

\$25.3M
IN TOTAL GIFTS
AND COMMITMENTS

8,000+
SPIDER ALUMNI GAVE BACK

\$6.2M
GIVEN TO FINANCIAL AID

\$350k
CAME FROM GIFTS OF
\$100 OR LESS

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Math-Econ professor champions fundraising outreach during UR Here

Dr. Saif Mehkari, associate professor of economics, played a significant role in UR Here's success by contacting a group of math-econ alumni and offering a personal fundraising challenge.

“It's important to us within the mathematical economics program to build a strong, connected community where everyone feels a sense of belonging, so we do many community bonding activities with students,” he said. “This engagement with alums provides us with a source of funding, especially as the program grows.”

Mehkari helped raise approximately \$1,750, establishing him as UR Here's top faculty-staff giving champion. He also sent personal thank-you messages to each person who gave and committed to doing this outreach again in 2023.

“I think it is important to build a community that transcends the four years in college,” Mehkari said. “The promise to students is that while you are here, we professors, along with alums, will invest in you. Once you become an alum, we ask that you pay forward by helping the next generation of students.”

continued



Dr. Saif Mehkari

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Martha Callaghan, vice president for Advancement, said she is grateful to faculty and staff for their dedication to students every day. In fiscal year 2022, 399 staff and faculty donors – 16% of the total staff-faculty population – contributed \$270,445 for the University’s students and programs. “Faculty and staff are among the University’s greatest advocates,” she said. “Through our own personal giving, we have another wonderful way to support the areas of campus that we care most about. I’m so grateful to my fellow Spiders for everything they do to give back, in so many ways.”

THE WEB EFFECT

Richmond’s dynamic culture of giving is built upon awareness that every gift matters and makes a difference. All gifts to the University are interconnected, because each gift is dependent on the giving of others to reach its full potential. We call this The Web Effect. We are thrilled to honor the collective power of connective giving through our four recognition groups that are critical to The Web Effect: Quatrefoil Society, Robins Society, Tower Society, and Charter Associates. We look forward to sharing how these groups contribute to The Web Effect and make a profound difference in our Spider community.



This annual fall initiative encourages gifts targeting specific areas of financial need. Support for Financial Aid, the Student Emergency Fund, and the Career Opportunity Fund enables Spiders to stay on track when they face financial difficulties or need targeted assistance to prepare for work and life after graduation.

\$545k
GIVEN BY 1,037 DONORS IN 2021



“We are dedicated to supporting the hardworking students in the Robins School of Business. As former University staff members, we developed meaningful relationships with faculty, students, and staff. By establishing a charitable gift annuity, we can support the Business school in a mutually beneficial way while making a lasting impact on current and future Spiders.”

— LITTLETON MAXWELL, GB’84, P’94, AND MARY MAXWELL, P’94, CHARTER ASSOCIATES





Every Gift Matters

IVANA MARSHALL, '17, SHARES HER TIME AND RESOURCES TO ADVANCE THE SPIDER COMMUNITY

When it came time to apply to college, Ivana Marshall, '17, had no doubt in her mind that she wanted to be a Spider. "Richmond was my number one application choice," she said. "I was only going to apply to Richmond originally, but my mom said, 'if you don't get in and you don't apply anywhere else, you won't be going to college this year.'"

Fortunately, Marshall was accepted, and she flourished during her four years on campus as a leadership and international studies double major. "I had never heard of a school that designed a curriculum specifically around understanding the way the world works based on the leaders around us," she said. "I thought that was amazing."

She was actively involved with Westhampton College's *will* program and also served as a lead reunion student ambassador, multicultural pre-orientation advisor, and a participant in EnVision, a social justice leadership retreat.

After graduating, Marshall completed a summer fellowship in policy under former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe. In 2018, she began a career in higher education at Hampton University, and in 2019, she received a scholarship to attend a two-week seminar on global antisemitism and policy at St. John's College in Oxford, U.K.

Today, Marshall serves as associate director of alumni engagement and inclusion initiatives at William & Mary, from which she will soon receive an M.Ed. in higher education administration policy, planning, and leadership.

"When I was a student at Richmond, one of my jobs was in the Alumni Office," she said. "And that's what I'm doing now. At W&M, I focus on serving our minoritized alumni communities, to include Asian-Pacific Islander-Middle Eastern, LGBTQ+, Latinx, and W&M Women communities.

I spend much of my time learning about the experiences of our alumni and using these stories to re-connect them with their alma mater in ways that improve their future experiences."

Outside of work, Marshall remains connected with UR as a member of the Jepson School of Leadership's Executive Board of Advisors and the Jepson Alumni Corps, both of which engage alumni in a broad range of activities to advance the school's mission.

"One of my goals as a young Black woman is to make sure we are seeing more underrepresented minority students [at Jepson]," she said. "I want to be involved so I can share my voice and opinions to ensure we are supporting students as we should be."

Marshall is also a proud member of the Robins Society, which honors loyal donors who give to the University over an unbroken series of fiscal years, regardless of giving amount. Her gifts have supported the Jepson School of Leadership Studies Dean's Impact Fund, the *will* program, Thriving and Inclusion, the International Education Dean's Discretionary Fund, and more.

"My goal of giving back is to have the same impact on current and future students that Richmond had on me," she said. "I want to support the people who supported me, as well as those who will come after me."

Marshall said she is encouraged to continue this support knowing that every gift — large or small — makes a difference, and she hopes fellow alumni will consider giving back as well.

"My first gift to Richmond was literally \$5 for a UR-themed coffee mug my senior year," she said. "I haven't stopped since then. For me, the amount doesn't matter because I know it's about participation and contributing to something that's bigger than me. I see the important work being done at Richmond, and I know every little bit makes a difference."

Investing in Excellence

2022 ENDOWMENT PERFORMANCE

It has been a volatile and unusual time in the markets, with both bonds and stocks experiencing negative returns in the period ending June 30, 2022. Spider Management had a return of -3.02% for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2022. While losses are never desired, Spider Management's strategy of protecting on the downside and participating in the upside was effective when compared to much larger losses in the broader market. Spider Management's outsized returns of 45.20% in fiscal year 2021 were largely protected, and the two-year annualized return for the portfolio was 18.67%.

Your giving, coupled with Spider Management's disciplined investment strategy, enhances the University's long-term financial capacity. It provides a dependable and growing source of support and presents us with important opportunities to strengthen UR in ways that would not otherwise be possible without the generosity of the Spider community.

2022 ENDOWMENT PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

\$3.2B | ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE

\$867k | ESTIMATED ENDOWMENT PER FULL TIME STUDENT

9.59% | 10-YEAR ANNUALIZED RETURN

1,500 | INDIVIDUAL ENDOWED FUNDS

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Office of Donor Relations
804.289.8949
donorrelations@richmond.edu
giving.richmond.edu

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the endowment?

The University of Richmond's endowment is composed of approximately 1,500 individual endowed funds, designated to support scholarships, fellowships, lectureships, faculty chairs, and other important activities. Together, these funds provide a permanent source of support for UR's students, faculty, and programs, and represent the University's largest financial asset.

How does the endowment support UR's annual expenses?

Each year, the University's Board of Trustees approves a distribution from the endowment to fund operating expenses. This spending distribution comprises approximately 40 percent of the University's annual operating budget, followed by revenue from net student tuition and fees, auxiliary enterprises, and current use philanthropic contributions.

The annual distribution allows UR to pursue unique and critical initiatives, but it can only be spent in accordance with donor specifications. Current use gifts allow the University to provide increased access to the latest technologies, outstanding programs, and excellent facilities. Both annual and endowed giving are critically important to our ongoing success.

How does UR manage its endowment?

Spider Management Company, LLC is the University's investment management affiliate. It is governed by its Board of Managers, the majority of whom are Trustees of the University. The endowment has grown by more than \$2.1 billion over the past two decades thanks to generous donors and Spider Management's unwavering focus on generating strong absolute returns over the long term.

How do I support the endowment?

Donors may work with University Advancement to establish a fund that aligns with the donor's philanthropic interests, such as a scholarship or faculty chair. Contributions are invested by Spider Management Company, and each year, a portion of the fund's value is withdrawn to support the purpose specified by the donor. Earnings in excess of this withdrawal amount remain invested, building the fund's value to ensure that your gift continues to provide meaningful support for years to come. When an endowed fund is established, a permanent legacy of support is created for UR.

Alternatively, many of our donors choose to add to existing endowed funds in order to increase the fund's impact on students, faculty, and programs. Any gifts to an existing fund are bound by the same guidelines as the original gift agreement.

Building a Legacy

Betty Gustafson Scholarship supports generations of student-athletes



Mary Murphy and Betty Gustafson, W'47

A lifelong friendship between Betty Gustafson, W'47, and Mary Murphy has resulted in ongoing, critical support for Spider students. Endowed in 2005, the Betty A. Gustafson Scholarship provides financial assistance to a student-athlete who aspires to be an educator.

Gustafson, who passed away in 2016, was a student-athlete during her time at Westhampton College, excelling in basketball, tennis, field hockey, and track. During her junior year, she received the Blazer and Seal awards. Students lettering in three or more varsity sports earned the Blazer, while the Seal honored students for exceptional sportsmanship and enthusiasm. Her athletic achievements laid the foundation for a 40-year career as a P.E. teacher and athletic coach for Richmond Public Schools. In 2001, she was inducted into the UR Athletic Hall of Fame.

Though Murphy did not attend the University of Richmond, she felt like part of the Spider community because of her close friendship with Gustafson. "Over the years, I became kind of the class mascot," she laughed. "They would have these monthly luncheons that I would attend, and I got to know many of Betty's classmates."

After Gustafson's Hall of Fame induction, she and Murphy discussed ways to get reconnected and more involved with the University. Murphy established the scholarship to honor Gustafson's legacy while supporting access and affordability for deserving students. In addition, Murphy and friends of Gustafson gave significant gifts to the Spider Athletics Elevate Campaign that resulted in the naming of the Betty G. Court (Court 1) in the Westhampton Tennis Complex.

"We were so excited to meet the student recipients and get to know them," Murphy said. "We celebrated Betty's 80th and 90th birthdays with parties at UR and told guests not to bring any gifts, but to consider donating to the scholarship, and we got lots of contributions. Betty and I continued to fund it as well, so over time, the endowment has done very well."

The first recipient of the scholarship, JoAnna Ubiwa, '10, was a track and field sprinter who majored in psychology and communication studies. She received support from the scholarship for all four undergraduate years. Today, Ubiwa is a licensed clinical professional counselor with an M.S. in counseling psychology from Loyola University and a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

"What stands out most to me is that [Betty and Mary] paved the way for me to be at UR," she said. "I could focus on my training while passing my exams, which decreased anxiety and the financial burden on me. We stayed in touch for years after I graduated – they didn't just give me the scholarship, they cared about me as a person and a friend."

Both Murphy and Gustafson designated portions of their estates to support the Gustafson scholarship. With a combination of planned and deferred gifts to the University, the scholarship will be able to provide critical resources to generations of students, leaving a lasting impact on the Spider community.

"We were both deeply invested in helping young people not only become good athletes, but to fully enjoy their Richmond experience," Murphy said. "Betty and I believed in using our resources to make a difference in their lives – it just made sense to us."

JoAnna Ubiwa, '10, and Betty Gustafson, W'47



Making A Difference

BUSINESS ALUM'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO INAUGURAL RECIPIENT



Brent Clark, '97

"My dad and I were driving down what I call Snake Road [the winding road that leads to campus], and when we got there, he looked around and said, 'you're going here, aren't you?'" Clark said. "And I said, 'yeah, I think I am.' It was just that immediate gut feeling."

Due to a generous scholarship and financial aid package, Clark was able to afford a Richmond education and graduate with no debt. "As I progressed year to year, my grades got better and my loans got smaller and smaller," he said.

An economics and finance major, Clark decided to attend graduate school to pursue a Master of Healthcare Administration at Virginia Commonwealth University. "I ended up borrowing more per semester than [the total amount] I left Richmond with after four years," he said.

After graduating from VCU, Clark began a successful career in healthcare administration that led to his current role as vice president of capital deployment at HCA Healthcare, headquartered in Nashville, Tenn.

Clark has consistently supported his undergraduate alma mater through gifts to the UR Annual Fund and the Robins School of Business, among others. In 2018, he decided to make an even bigger impact. He pledged \$50,000 to create the Fleming Scholarship, honoring the memory of his maternal grandfather.

"I realized the opportunity that was given to me, and I wanted to help someone else receive the same opportunity," Clark said. "My grandfather did not graduate from high school — he was a tobacco farmer in Kentucky, but he was the smartest man I've ever met. He encouraged his children and grandchildren to get an education, and he instilled a love of learning in me."

The scholarship was awarded for the first time in fall 2021 to Isaac Lee, '24, a New Jersey native double majoring in

psychology and health studies. Lee is also the 2022-23 scholarship recipient. "I enjoy helping people, and it's the direction I see myself taking in the future," he said. "I think the field of psychology will blossom in the next 10 to 20 years as the stigma fades around [seeking] mental health care."

Lee said receiving the Fleming Scholarship felt very gratifying, given the hard work he's done in high school and so far in college. "On a personal level, [it's great] to feel like someone recognized me, especially during COVID-19. I am so thankful to Mr. Clark for the opportunity."

Clark said that by continuing to support the Fleming Scholarship, he hopes that his generosity will provide ample opportunities for students like Lee in the future.

Clark said that by continuing to support the Fleming Scholarship, he hopes that his generosity will provide ample opportunities for students like Lee in the future.

"I want to help the student that wants to come to UR but can't because of financial reasons," he said. "I want to help eliminate that obstacle because I don't think that should ever be part of the equation. Students should be able to experience everything that UR has to offer."

Isaac Lee, '24



Kimberly Ford Moon, W'83

Paying It Forward

Alumna's longtime passions inspired her to create a scholarship

When Kimberly Ford Moon, W'83, transferred to the University of Richmond, she had never traveled far outside of her home state of New York. "I was like a fish out of water," she said.

Moon grew up the youngest of three daughters and was the first in her family to attend college. Her parents didn't place particular value on higher education, so Moon and her sisters were encouraged to attend secretarial school. After a year on this path, Moon made the decision to transfer, joining Westhampton College as an English major.

In a community unlike any she had been part of before, Moon found herself opening up to new ideas and interests at Richmond. At the urging of friend and fellow alumna, Cammie Dunaway, W'84, Moon became involved with *will*, a nationally recognized four-year program for students interested in exploring gender and diversity studies. This interest ended up guiding her academic path — she was one of the first students to graduate from Richmond with a degree in women's studies, in addition to her English degree.

When Moon thinks back on her time at UR, she is certain of one thing: her experience changed her life for the better. "It connected me with lifelong friends and with the field of women's studies, [which] would inform all my career choices and personal viewpoints from then on."

Moon returned to New York after graduation, where she met and married her husband, Tom Moon, a professional musician and writer. She began a career in the non-profit

sector, working with many women-focused organizations and honing her expertise as a grant writer. Moon has remained active in gender equity issues for decades, and in 2017, she co-founded Impact100 South Jersey, a female-run collective grantmaking organization.

In 2012, Moon decided to give back to her alma mater by endowing the Kimberly Ford Moon Scholarship. Each year, this need-based scholarship provides financial aid for a student who is majoring in English or women, gender, and sexuality studies.

"[Women] are often discouraged from pursuing these types of majors because they don't seem practical, or that they [seem] limiting," she said. "I couldn't disagree more—[that's] why I created my scholarship. I want to affirm and support these choices in the hope that somebody else can benefit from all that these degrees can offer to impact one's heart and one's path in life."

Since the establishment of the scholarship, nearly ten students have benefited from Moon's gift. Her generosity will continue to support a student annually in perpetuity. Moon has also made provisions in her estate to build upon the existing fund, further ensuring that student financial need continues to be met at Richmond.

Looking back on her time at the University, Moon encourages students to make the most out of their undergraduate experience. "Embrace your time at Richmond, seize everything that it has to offer, and may your life be as changed as mine," she said.

From Nepal to Richmond

A GENEROUS GIFT MADE A RICHMOND EDUCATION A REALITY FOR KESHAV JHA, '22

It was around 1:30 a.m. in Kathmandu, Nepal, when Keshav Jha, '22, got the email that changed his life: he had received a full tuition, room, and board scholarship to attend the University of Richmond.

Jha had recently graduated high school from St. Xavier's College, Maitighar, and was taking a gap year when he first heard about Richmond. He was one of only a handful of students in the country to be selected for assistance by EducationUSA, a U.S. Department of State network of international advising centers that provides higher education access and resources for meritorious high school students.



Jha decided to apply to UR in the summer of 2017 after speaking with an undergraduate admissions representative at an international college fair sponsored by EducationUSA. A few months later, he was overjoyed to be notified of his acceptance, but there was only one problem — the financial commitment.

"I was a first-generation student and my family could not support my education whatsoever," he said. "The fact of the matter was that if I didn't get a full ride, the University of Richmond and the U.S. as a whole would have been out of my reach."

Fortunately, Jha got the news he was waiting for in May 2018. One evening, he was having a hard time falling asleep, so he decided to check his email. He noticed a new message from Tamara Lapman, former senior associate

director of admission at UR, informing him that he had been awarded the Wellde Scholarship for International Students, offering Jha the financial assistance he needed to fund his four years at the University.

"I just started bawling," he said, laughing. "It was something I had waited so long for — almost a full year since my application. It was honestly one of the best moments of my life."

Jha, who had never traveled outside of Nepal before, arrived on campus in August 2018. He initially experienced culture shock being in the U.S., but he soon felt a sense of belonging. "I realized that there were other people on campus who were different," he said. "I wasn't alone. The friends I made on the first day of freshman orientation, I am still friends with today."

A mathematical economics graduate, Jha made the most of his time at UR by being highly involved on campus and in the community. He worked as a marketing promoter for Outdoor Adventure and Recreation (OAR), which offers students outdoor experiential learning opportunities. He served as an academic chair and mentor for Peer Advisors and Mentors (PAM), and he was a business development intern with the Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce, on top of working part-time jobs at the Robins School of Business' Lou's Café, Boatwright Memorial Library, and the Weinstein Center for Recreation to build his savings.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in spring 2020, Jha was not able to return home to Nepal. Luckily, Donna Geer Willis, W'69 — grandmother of Jha's friend, Ashton Paige Willis, '22 — graciously invited Jha to live with her for four months until he could return to on-campus housing in the summer.

"I had nowhere to go, and she took me in," he said. "It was amazing. She and Paige surprised me with a white chocolate chip cake on my birthday, and I got to go to the beach for the first time. It just shows that if you ask for help, people at Richmond are willing to help you."

As a new Spider alumnus, Jha remains deeply grateful to the Wellde family for helping to fund his education, and he is excited to utilize his degree to pursue a career in financial management.

"I'm a kid from a third world country, halfway around the world, and someone was gracious enough to pay for my school, even though they had never met me and had never talked to me," he said. "And they expect nothing in return. The Welldes made my education possible."

A Spider for Life

Jaide Hinds-Clarke, '20, supports Spider Athletics as staff member, donor, and industry volunteer

Jaide Hinds-Clarke came to the University of Richmond in 2016 and never left. A Westwood, N.J. native, Hinds-Clarke was an A-10 Women's Basketball All-Conference student-athlete. After graduating in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and leadership studies, she worked as a graduate assistant in Spider Athletics' Student-Athlete Leadership Development program while pursuing a Master of Sport Leadership at VCU, which she completed in May 2021.

Two months later, she began her current role as coordinator of student-athlete leadership development and engagement. "When I finished my senior year at UR, I knew I wanted to come back because it's such a great place," she says. "I think it's the passion I have for Spider Athletics, combined with seeing the passion that my colleagues bring to work every day, that fueled my desire to stay here."

In this role, Hinds-Clarke researches, plans, and coordinates programming that directly supports student welfare and development during their time on campus and beyond. She works closely with student-athletes daily to provide counsel and guidance on various topics, including navigating personal challenges.

"It's important for students to know that I'm accessible because that's what was provided to me as a student," she says. "I knew who I could turn to when I had questions or just needed to talk. Being able to witness students' personal growth is the greatest thing about my role."

Hinds-Clarke specifically focuses on implementing initiatives pertaining to diversity, equity, inclusion, and LGBTQ+ support for student-athletes. She has long advocated for inclusion on campus and in the greater Richmond community through her involvement with the University's Office of Multicultural Affairs and Common



Ground (now the Student Center for Equity and Inclusion), the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, and the City of Richmond's Human Rights Commission.

In recognition of her efforts, Hinds-Clarke received multiple honors from the University in 2019 and 2020, including the James A. Sartain Award and the Dr. Leonard S. Goldberg Award for Good Citizenship. She also received Diversity Richmond's 2019 Black and Bold Leadership Award, and she was nominated for the 2020 NCAA Woman of the Year.

She currently volunteers on the advisory board for Return on Inclusion, a virtual learning platform for coaches and athletic administrators, and she's a member of the A-10 Conference's Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission.

Hinds-Clarke's commitment to supporting causes she cares about has compelled her to make annual gifts to Spider Athletics, benefiting Women's Basketball and the Competitive Excellence Fund. Any gift, no matter the size, has a lasting impact on student-athletes, she says.

"Even though I'm no longer on the roster, I still care deeply about supporting women's basketball," she says. "I felt the impact of philanthropy as a student-athlete and a scholarship recipient, and I want there to be a continuous level of support for current and future players."

Engaging directly with student-athletes also leaves a lasting mark, Hinds-Clarke adds. "I remember attending alumni events as a student, and I was able to build connections with people who truly cared about supporting me," she says. "Now as an alumna and a staff member, I'm inspired to continue that tradition and give back in as many ways as I can."

Learning to FLI

First-generation and limited-income students find common ground through Spiders FLI

Hosted by the Student Center for Equity and Inclusion, the Spiders FLI program helps first-generation and/or limited-income students adapt to college life and succeed during their time on campus and beyond. The program offers general information, networking and mentoring opportunities, leadership experiences, and community-building events, all while recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of each student involved. Spiders FLI has recently received generous support from Cornelia and Charles Ellwein, P'24, and Kristy and Mihir Patel, '02. We spoke with four students who are grateful to be involved with Spiders FLI:

BRIAN GARCIA, '24

Second-time mentor and former mentee

MENTEE: Denis Velazquez-Mondragon, '26

HOMETOWN: Chicago, Illinois

MAJOR: Mathematics; minors in women, gender, and sexuality studies and secondary teacher education

Why did you get involved with Spiders FLI?

I was lost with the idea of college. I was clueless about life and academics here at the University. Spiders FLI provided me with guidance and support, whenever I needed it. [During] my freshman year, my mentors always knew how to support me, even if it was just listening to me talk about what I'm dealing with. My mentors allowed me to build a relationship with them to the point where I could be a resource of support as well. We would listen and give advice to each other because college was a new learning experience for the three of us.

Through my experience with my mentors, I knew I wanted to be that resource for others as well, which is why I decided to become a mentor.

What has your experience been like so far?

My experience so far has been amazing. I [have been] able to [meet] new people and build connections with everyone involved. The programmed events help me feel like I'm not alone on this journey. Additionally, I'm most excited to get to know my mentee and share advice with one another.

What does it mean knowing that Spiders FLI receives donor support?

It feels great. We're finally being recognized as a group who needs constant support, otherwise we would end up lost in an unknown world. It also puts into perspective that people outside of the University recognize that this is a problem in many universities, and slowly, we're trying to fix it.



Denis Velazquez-Mondragon, '26 and Brian Garcia, '24

How is Spiders FLI impacting your UR experience overall?

So far, Spiders FLI has made me feel more comfortable on campus. Being at a predominately white institution, it [can be tough] to feel a sense of belonging and that we deserve to be on campus. This program is a constant reassurance that my hard work and dedication have brought me here, and it will continue to do so until graduation.

DENIS VELAZQUEZ-MONDRAGON, '26

First-year mentee

MENTOR: Brian Garcia, '24

HOMETOWN: Bessemer, Alabama

ANTICIPATED MAJOR: Psychology with a concentration in neuroscience (pre-med)

Why did you get involved with Spiders FLI?

It allowed me to interact with a mentor to guide me through my transition into college. As a first-generation student, this process is very important for me, as having a connection with an upperclassman would allow me to have a support system and an individual to connect with on the struggles that I know they have gone through as well. It has been really exciting getting to know my mentor and connecting with him on various topics such as work-life balance,

homesickness, and time management. We have also shared our expressed love for Latinx food; we hope to try some in the Richmond area soon!

What does it mean knowing that Spiders FLI receives donor support?

I am grateful ... [for] donor support because it means there [are] individuals who care about the college transition for first-generation and limited-income students. This program has served me in many ways, such as finding close friends who I eat dinner with on occasion and successfully acclimating to life at UR. It was a very hard experience at first - being far from home with no idea how to ease into college life. But with Spiders FLI and my mentor, it has been a pleasure. He's not only available for me when I have any questions, but also when I am [stressed] about classes and homework. I'm also grateful [that] my mentor has become a friend who I can talk to when times get rough.

How is Spiders FLI impacting your UR experience overall?

Spiders FLI has impacted my UR experience in just a few short weeks, and I can't wait to see how I progress into helping and aiding students like me through Spiders FLI in the future. Without Spiders FLI, the transition into college life at UR would've been more complicated. I know I would still be struggling without this support.





Shay Harris, '25 and Chloe Goode, '26

SHAY HARRIS, '25

First-time mentor and former mentee

MENTEE: Chloe Goode, '26

HOMETOWN: Chesterfield, Virginia

ANTICIPATED MAJOR: Psychology; minor in education and society

Why did you get involved with Spiders FLI?

The thought of coming to a college like the University of Richmond without any support system was frequently on my mind after I was accepted. I was worried about what it meant for me to be going to a predominately white institution, not only as a Black person, but as a limited-income student. As soon as I received an email about this opportunity to not only meet other students in similar situations but to have mentors that would guide me, I decided to apply to the mentor-mentee program.

What has your experience been like so far?

My experience has been nothing but positive, as I was able to create and deepen connections with both upperclassmen and students my own year as soon as I got to campus. Coming into sophomore year, I am already reaping the benefits of the program, as I have a network of people I can learn from and go to for advice about situations that my parents are unable to help with. The part of the program I am most excited about this year is spending time with my mentees and helping them get adjusted to campus by creating a safe space for them to be heard. The most important thing to me is that my mentees know that they have resources and people to go to if/when they need to.

What does it mean knowing that Spiders FLI receives donor support?

Having donor support really means a lot [because] it shows that our needs as first-gen and/or limited-income students are actually being considered and efforts are being made to support us. It also signifies that Spiders FLI as an organization is expanding its reach to the point where people care enough to financially support us. It is truly surreal [to think] about how I am involved at a time when these big changes are being made.

How is Spiders FLI impacting your UR experience overall?

Spider FLI has done so much for me already and I have only just started my second year at UR. Being a mentee last year was probably the best decision I could have made going into college because it provided me [with] a community to turn to when I need the kind of support [that] I am unable to receive from a majority of my peers. Additionally, it's given me a safe space to grow and develop important skills that will aid me in my education. Of course, I cannot forget to mention [Associate Director, Student Center for Equity and Inclusion] Lisa Miles, who has been instrumental in my current direction of giving back to my community by becoming a mentor myself this year and hopefully until I graduate. Overall, I feel like Spiders FLI will greatly impact my experience at UR in a helpful way because of the main goal for first gen and/or limited-income students to have guidance on campus ... by creating a social network and holding events that make daunting academic pursuits such as internships more attainable.

CHLOE GOODE, '26

First-year mentee

MENTOR: Shay Harris, '25

HOMETOWN: Henrico, Virginia

ANTICIPATED MAJOR: Leadership and philosophy, politics, economics, and law

Why did you get involved with Spiders FLI?

I joined FLI to find a community of people with similar backgrounds as me. As I was in the process of committing to Richmond, one of my worries was feeling like an outsider because of my financial status. I thought that FLI could help connect me with individuals who may have shared the same fear before coming to college and are in the same boat as me when it comes to funding this new lifestyle.

What has your experience been like so far?

FLI has been an extremely welcoming and supportive group. It's been so amazing to connect with my mentor and all the other students. I've started to recognize individuals and make connections outside of our meetings. It makes me feel seen when I can walk around campus and know that I am not the only one who shares this identity. I'm really excited to continue to get to know everyone and make meaningful relationships.

What does it mean knowing that Spiders FLI receives donor support?

It makes me happy to hear that there are individuals who are willing to pour into the lives of those that they don't even know. It makes me optimistic about the people that I will encounter as an adult and assures me that the support that I'm receiving on campus is also available elsewhere.

How is Spiders FLI impacting your UR experience overall?

I think FLI will give me the opportunity to continually ground myself. Especially during this transitional period, it's been easy for me to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of school and forget to have consistent self-reflection, which is key for personal growth. FLI gives me the opportunity to lean into this part of my identity, and thus feel more connected with my background and essential self. 🕷️

BY THE NUMBERS

2014 : THE YEAR SPIDERS FLI WAS FOUNDED

STUDENTS IN THE SPIDERS FLI CLASS OF 2026 **120+**

40/20 40 MENTEES AND 20 MENTORS IN THE PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

HOME COUNTRIES REPRESENTED (INCLUDING THE U.S.) **21**



Makayla Callender, '22

Callender leveraged her passion for health and wellness by serving as a student instructor of WELL 100, an introductory course to fostering personal wellness that is required for all undergraduate students. “The classes were held on the second floor of the Weinstein Center for Recreation,” she said. “We talked about all of the facets of well-being and the resources we have available on campus. We also gave students a tour of the Well-Being Center so they knew about the building and where things are.”

A chemistry graduate who aspires to be a physical therapist, Callender said the opening of the Well-Being Center is a blessing to the Spider community, as it offers students, faculty, and staff a place to unwind



and reduce stress. While still at the University, she said her favorite way to relax was listening to podcasts while sitting quietly in the meditation garden.

“Coming to college is such a huge transition period,” she said. “Your mental and emotional health can decline if you’re not careful. The Well-Being Center places all of the qualities of wellness into one space and introduces them to students early on so they learn what it means to be a healthy person.” 🕷️

Dedication to Wellness

Donor support funds opening of comprehensive Well-Being Center

For years, national rates of mental illness among college students have been steadily increasing, reaching what some consider crisis-level proportions. In a 2021 survey by the Healthy Minds Network, nearly half of students screened positive for clinically significant symptoms of depression, anxiety, or both.

The University of Richmond aims to combat this crisis in the Spider community through UR Well, a holistic and integrated approach to creating a thriving culture of well-being on campus. A key aspect of this initiative is the Well-Being Center, a comprehensive facility that includes all campus health care in one location, providing easy access for students and a calming space for all to enjoy.

The idea for the center came about in 2017: the space would bring campus service providers together under one roof to share resources and expertise around mental health. In order to reflect an “upstream” approach to well-being, the center would provide programs and activities that are associated with healthful decision making and prevention.

Plans for the \$20 million building kicked off in April 2018 with generous support from University trustees, alumni, parents, and friends. Opened in 2021, the Well-Being Center houses the Student Health Center and Counseling and Psychological Services, as well as health promotion and nutrition services. It has a meditation



garden, labyrinth, salt spa, and relaxation area with massage chairs and sleep pods. The Organic Krush Café offers healthy food options and has a demonstration kitchen where classes are held to teach participants how to prepare nutritious dishes.

Makayla Callender, '22, spoke about her personal experience with health and well-being at an event held in October 2021 to celebrate the opening of the Well-Being Center. In her speech, she bravely shared her own struggles with different facets of her mental health. “I have mainly struggled with an eating disorder, for which I’ve received help here on campus,” she said. “I’m also a very involved student, so it can be hard to juggle the number of things I have to do. But I’ve become empowered to speak up about my struggles to normalize these conversations.”



Friends and supporters of the Well-Being Center gathered for an opening celebration (2021)



A Measurable Impact

The Well-Being Center strengthens the University of Richmond's ability to support high achievement and a well-balanced life by providing an environment of diversity and inclusion for students with its welcoming space. Bringing together all services for health and wellness under one roof eliminates many barriers students typically encounter. We are proud to be at the forefront of colleges exploring modern approaches to health and well-being.



Here are some highlights demonstrating the success of the Well-Being Center since its opening:

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

- Clinical capacity in Counseling and Psychology Services (CAPS) increased by 40% and Student Health Center (SHC) by 60%
- Expanded hours to address the record number of students seeking care in 2021-22
- CAPS Training Program saw the largest cohort of trainees in 2021-22, which allows for increased clinical hours, expanded services, and adds more diversity to staff

DEMONSTRATION KITCHEN

- 250 students and 140 faculty and staff participated in various offerings
- Classes were held three times a week, the most popular being Cooking Basics
- Monthly nutrition education events highlighted relevant topics for students such as: nutrition and immunity, food and mood, and how to build a balanced plate
- Special events were held for coffee tasting, a Valentine's Day Friend dinner, and unique demonstrations by guest chefs

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 2022 Loyal E. Horton Dining Grand Prize — Organic Krush
- 2021 Cigna Culture and Well-Being Award
- 2020 Active Minds Healthy Campus Award



Conducting Hands-on Research

WEINSTEIN CHAIRHOLDER ENGAGES STUDENTS IN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

In 2010, Marcus M. Weinstein, R'49, H'02, and Carole M. Weinstein, W'75, G'77, H'04, established the Weinstein Chair in International Studies, supporting a professorship in the School of Arts and Sciences that is awarded to a faculty member with a specialty in an international subfield.

In 2013, the chair was awarded to Dr. Sandra Joireman, a political scientist who focuses on international development, property rights, and post-conflict return migration. She is the author of six books and numerous scholarly articles, and she has conducted field research in developing countries throughout Africa, eastern Europe, and the Middle East.

At the University, Joireman teaches classes in the political science and global studies departments while also keeping an active research agenda. She often takes the opportunity to engage students in her research – in 2019, Joireman co-authored an article on property loss and restitution in Syria with Emily Stubblefield, '19, who is currently a student at Fordham University School of Law.



Dr. Sandra Joireman (bottom left) with UR students and members of the National Lands Commission in Kenya (2018)



Dr. Sandra Joireman

“Emily came up to me after class one day and said, ‘I would really like to learn more about this issue,’” Joireman said. “So, we published a paper together examining the actions that the Syrian government took during the Syrian civil war that essentially stripped property rights from citizens who fled.”

Joireman’s collaborations with students extend beyond Richmond’s campus. In summer 2018, she and three students traveled to Kenya to conduct field research as part of the Kenya Settlement Scheme Project. Over the course of a month, they partnered with Kenya’s National Lands Commission (NLC) to compile data about settlement schemes – strategic land transfers granted to citizens by the Kenyan government – that have taken place over the past five decades.

In November that year, NLC representatives visited the University and worked with students in the Weinstein International Center’s Spatial Analysis Lab to build out and formalize the dataset. The representatives also

talked with various groups on campus about the work they do with NLC and the goal of the Kenya Settlement Scheme Project. “Not only did our students have the opportunity to live and work in Kenya, they helped publish a significant dataset that’s now available for the whole world to use,” Joireman said. “It was a vibrant collaboration that impacted the University in many different ways.”

In addition to publishing her latest book, Joireman recently completed a research fellowship with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations investigating how communities are impacted by climate change and violent conflict. She looks forward to applying her learnings to the classroom.

“This chair position has enabled me to take on research experiences that I would not have been able to do at another institution,” Joireman said. “The impact that the Weinstains have had is profound, ranging from what I do every day to the lives of the students that I teach.” 🦋

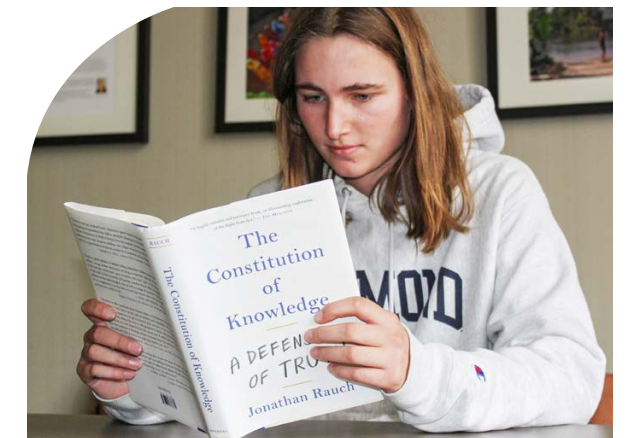
Embracing Diverse Viewpoints

The Gary L. McDowell Institute, founded in 2020, encourages free inquiry, thoughtful deliberation, and rigorous discussion of classical texts and issues in political economy. Housed in the Jepson School of Leadership Studies, and named after Dr. Gary McDowell, former professor of leadership studies, the Institute supports the exchange of ideas and diverse perspectives of faculty and students across the across campus.

In 2021, the University received a generous grant of \$500,000 from the Pauley Family Foundation to develop and implement the Institute’s programs: outstanding guest lecturers, engaging seminars and conferences, and a thriving group of Student Fellows, who gather regularly to discuss important books on political, social, or economic thought.

During the 2021-22 academic year, the McDowell Institute hosted a lecture series featuring Rita Koganzon, associate director, Program on Constitutionalism and Democracy, and assistant professor of politics at the University of Virginia, and Jonathan Rauch, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, award-winning author, and contributing writer at *The Atlantic*. The student fellows met with Koganzon and Rauch to discuss their books.

“The McDowell Institute is an academic gem... [with] the kind of spirited curiosity and fearless exploration that denote liberal arts education at its best,” Rauch said. “It fosters an esprit de corps that sets it apart as a unique



McDowell Fellow Annie Michael, '24

part of the university community. I hope to return, and I know I’ll be reading future news articles about the thoughtful, accomplished students I encountered.”

This year, the Institute is hosting a faculty workshop on the effects of moralizing on the pursuit of truth, as well as three public lectures. One of these lectures will be given by Roosevelt Montás, author of *Rescuing Socrates*, who will also serve as Scholar-For-a-Day in conjunction with the Institute’s Student Fellows Program.



Absurdly Inventive

Bench Top Innovations alumni build on success of launching their own snack brand



Eli Bank, '22, Aerin Kalmans, '22, Daniel Wolfeiler, '22, Grace Mittl, '22, and Jeffy Joshy, '24

IT ALL STARTED WITH A QUESTION: Are there snack food products widely available that are both nutritious and safe for consumers with nut allergies?

The answer? Not really, according to Grace Mittl, '22, Daniel Wolfeiler, '22, Tyler Quinlivan, '22, and Jeffy Joshy, '24, who participated in Bench Top Innovations, a year-long entrepreneurship program in which students ideate, develop, and commercialize a food or beverage product within a company that the students manage.

“The inspiration came from Daniel, who has a severe nut allergy; he once went into anaphylaxis from eating a packaged food product that had one of his allergens in it,” Mittl said. “We dug deeper into the issue and found out that there are very few nutritious, sustainable snack options for people with common food allergies.”

To solve this problem, the four teammates created Spill the Beans, a bean-based trail mix that is high in protein, low in sugar, and free of the FDA top nine food allergens. They presented the product at a bake-off at the end of the fall 2021 semester in which they competed against three other teams of four. Leaders from campus and the

Richmond entrepreneurial community taste tested the different options, and they selected Spill the Beans as the winner to move forward.

In the spring, the entire class worked to produce and market the product. It was rebranded as Absurd Snacks and was manufactured at Hatch, a Richmond food-and-beverage incubator co-founded by Brad Cummings, B'92, and then packaged on campus, delivered to retailers across the region, and shipped to online customers.

At the end of the course, the winning team was given the intellectual property of the business. Mittl decided to pursue Absurd Snacks full time as CEO and brought on fellow Bench Top Innovations classmate Eli Bank, '22, as COO. “Because we were working on the product for a year, it seemed like a natural transition,” Bank said. “We were already so excited and dedicated to it during the school year, so we just kept going with it. We have the best jobs and we feel so lucky to have this opportunity.”

Today, Absurd Snacks is available for purchase in multiple local groceries and retailers around Richmond. But Mittl and Bank — assisted by two student interns, Arden Tierney, '23, and Isabella Furnaro, '23 — are actively working to grow

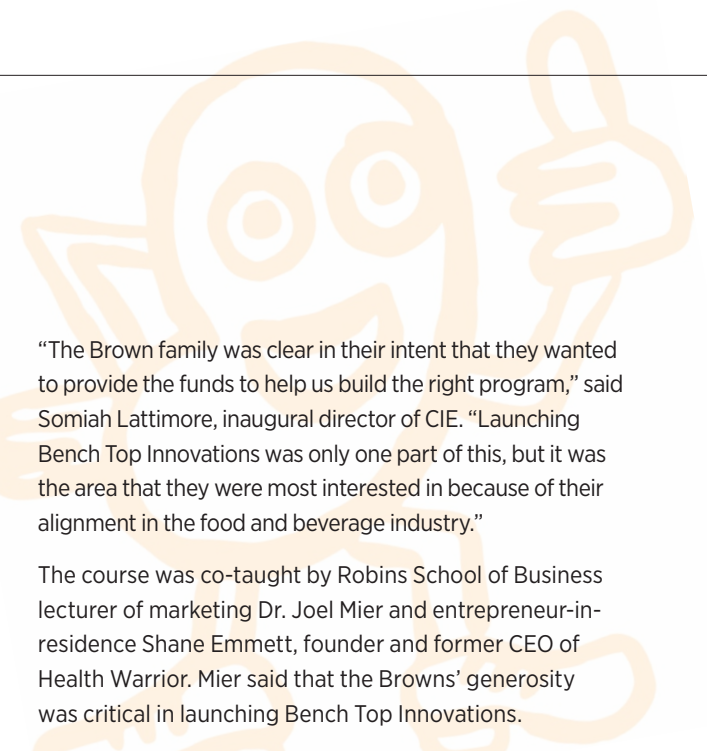


their product footprint. The company was recently selected as a semifinalist at the annual NOSH Pitch Slam 12 competition in New York,

and they participated in the Idea Factory and the Innovation Commercialization Assistance Program (ICAP), two Virginia-based programs aimed at supporting aspiring entrepreneurs.

In addition, they are working with a major national retailer that is interested in carrying the product in the near future. “We’ve been able to work with many amazing founders and people in the industry who are a great support system and help inform our brand,” Mittl said.

Bench Top Innovations’ expenses are covered by part of a \$1 million donation from the Jason & Jamie Brown Family Foundation and RB Charitable Foundation for entrepreneurial programming through the University’s Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (CIE) initiative, launched in early 2021. CIE’s partnership with Startup Virginia and ICAP was also part of an inaugural incubation offering from the University funded by the Browns. In addition, Absurd Snacks will be participating in another inaugural Brown-funded opportunity as the University’s first Startup-in-Residence.



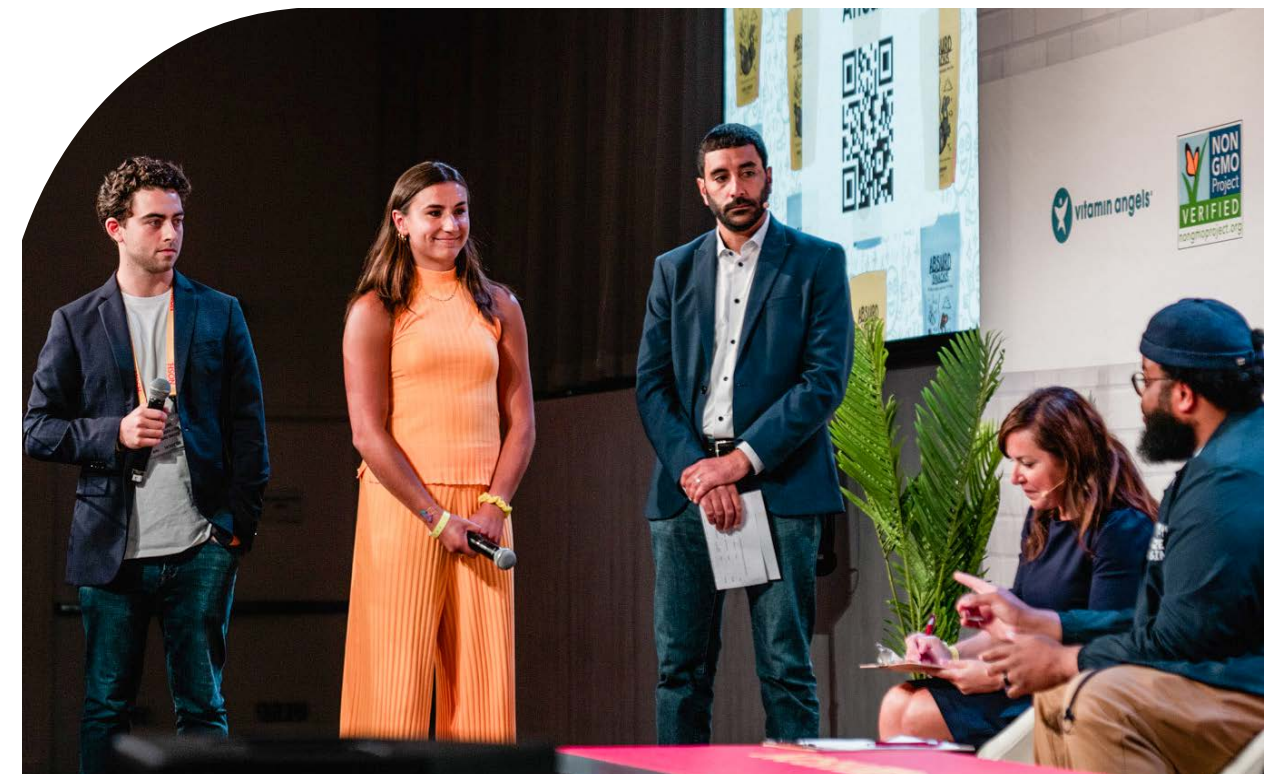
“The Brown family was clear in their intent that they wanted to provide the funds to help us build the right program,” said Somiah Lattimore, inaugural director of CIE. “Launching Bench Top Innovations was only one part of this, but it was the area that they were most interested in because of their alignment in the food and beverage industry.”

The course was co-taught by Robins School of Business lecturer of marketing Dr. Joel Mier and entrepreneur-in-residence Shane Emmett, founder and former CEO of Health Warrior. Mier said that the Browns’ generosity was critical in launching Bench Top Innovations.

“We really didn’t have to worry that first year about anything other than providing quality instruction and quality opportunities to the students,” he said. “We could focus on the most important things – the program, the deliverables, and the student experience.”

Mittl and Bank said they remain grateful for the course funding and the continued support they have received from their alma mater and the greater Richmond community.

“We can’t stress enough not only how supportive the Brown family has been, but how supportive our entire ‘web’ has been,” Bank said. “They really embraced us, and I don’t think our success would have been possible without this amazing community.”



Coming Full Circle

Childhood cancer survivor conducts research at the hospital that treated him

At Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, nurses recognized Ben Pearson, '23, in the hallways. Oncologists bragged about him to colleagues. New doctors dropped by to see him in person.

Diagnosed with pediatric cancer at age six in that same hospital, Pearson returned in the summer of 2022 for a clinical research internship with Dr. Nicole Baca, one of the oncologists who treated him in recent years. During this time, Pearson authored a study that appeared in a peer-reviewed medical journal, *Pediatric Blood and Cancer*, in the fall.

"The doctors said people in infectious disease have read part of my manuscript because it came out really well," he said. "Career-wise for me, this is amazing."

Pearson survived acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), a common and aggressive form of pediatric cancer that causes massive cell accumulation and bone microfractures. He spent long stretches of time at Cedars-Sinai undergoing testing and treatment. Chemotherapy decimated his immune system to the point where catching a cold could be deadly, so every few months, doctors performed spinal taps to protect his central nervous system.

"I was diagnosed on May 8, 2007, and treated up until August 29, 2010," Pearson said. "Since then, I've wanted to go into pediatric hematology and oncology."

Most kids in his shoes would probably try to avoid the hospital, but for Pearson, it became his second home. At 10 years old, doctors let him draw his own blood from a peripherally inserted central catheter line. He invited his anesthesiologist to demonstrate an ultrasound machine on him in front of his classmates. By high school, he was volunteering at Cedars-Sinai and learning how to suture.

"Luckily I wasn't too damaged by my chemotherapy," he said. "My doctors let me get involved in my treatment, which I think is the reason why I love it so much."

For more than a decade during annual oncology checkups, Pearson kept asking his Cedars-Sinai doctors about opportunities to do cancer research. Then, in 2021, Pearson learned about an internship made possible by the UR Summer Fellowships program. This program offers students the opportunity to pursue the research or internship experience that best complements their academic pursuits — in any field of endeavor, and in any part of the world.

"Donor support of UR Summer Fellowships is critically important to the student experience as they enable Spiders to engage in a wide range of opportunities in research, nonprofit organizations, start-ups, for-profit businesses, and government agencies that they may not otherwise have had access to," said Brendan Halligan, senior associate director, experiential learning and assessment. "The experiences that these fellowships make possible set students up for future success during their college career and in their next steps after UR."

Pearson was able to use his six-week internship to begin a retrospective study about chemotherapy's effects on long-term protection from primary series vaccines. Many chemotherapies, especially for ALL, are heavily immune-suppressing, wiping out long-term immune memory cells from common childhood vaccines for diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough, Pearson said. As part of the study, he collected antibody data, collaborated with a statistician at the hospital to analyze the data, and drafted a manuscript.

The hospital team plans to present their findings to the Southern California Pediatric and Adolescent Cancer Survivorship, a consortium of major hospitals. If the group decides to conduct a larger study, it may lead to new national guidelines on when and how to revaccinate pediatric cancer survivors, Pearson said.

After graduation, Pearson plans to pursue doctor of medicine and master of public health degrees. "I can't think of work that's more fulfilling," he said.

The original version of this article appeared in the UR Now news digest and website.



Thank You

We are deeply grateful for your generosity to the University of Richmond. With your support, we are one step closer to becoming, unquestionably, the best small university in the world.



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110 UR Drive
University of Richmond, VA 23173

(800) 480-4774
giving.richmond.edu

On November 3, the Spider community came together to celebrate donor generosity as part of the third annual Gratitude Day. Participants wrote down the things for which they are most grateful, and their responses were displayed for the whole campus to see.

