The Jefferson Trust allows great ideas at the University of Virginia to come to fruition and demonstrates the powerful benefits of donor-led, university-based grantmaking. The Trust was created as an initiative of the Alumni Association by the Board of Managers during the 2005-2006 academic year to provide an innovative source for new project funding. Since its founding, the Trust has grown exponentially and is now a multifaceted organization with over 70 Trustees, a $47.5 million endowment, $1 million in annual awards, and a history of 256 grants totaling upwards of $10 million in financial awards. Any UVA student, faculty member or administrator with a drive for excellence may apply for funding, with grants typically ranging between $2,500 and $150,000.

On the Cover: a local middle school student conducts an experiment while participating in UVA Brain Camp, a 2021 Jefferson Trust grant recipient. Photo by Derrick J. Waller.
This year has been a time of transition. The COVID-19 pandemic’s effect on the University community combined with a Trust leadership transition sparked concern in the Trustees about our grant-making and the organization’s future. Much like first-years arriving on Grounds, we felt a mixture of fear and optimism. Fortunately, like so many students, faculty, and staff, we pressed on and can see the opportunity that awaits.

We started the academic year under the heavy weight of the pandemic but continued our work and supported the University through a difficult time. With over $4 million in grant requests, the University community’s call for funding was evident, and we answered by granting over $1.1 million to 29 projects and programs.

In December, our long-time Executive Director, Wayne Cozart, retired. The Trustees selected our former Director of Development, Brent Percival, to lead the Trust into the next chapter. Brent asked that Wayne be made an Advisory Trustee over the next year so that both he and the Trustees may continue to benefit from Wayne’s counsel. It has been a privilege to include Wayne as a Trustee, recognizing his years of service to the Trust, the Alumni Association and UVA.

This transition is also marked with a significant milestone: the Trust’s 15th anniversary. While the pandemic did not provide the celebratory atmosphere we were hoping to have, our total grant-making continued throughout the year and helped us hit an even greater accomplishment: our grant-making has now eclipsed $10 million. It is a testament to the vision of our founders, the commitment of the Trustees and donors, the dedication of our staff, and the drive of the University community to make UVA an even better place.

I am proud of what we have accomplished and am excited for the next phase of Trust leadership.

Warmest regards,

Ashley Manning
Chair

“You have big shoes to fill.” It’s a sentiment I heard often from Trustees and colleagues throughout the University when I assumed the Executive Director role. Wayne Cozart built programs as well as people during his 45 years on Grounds, and I am proud to be one of those people. He has been a great mentor, one who helped me gain the experience and insight to expand my role within the Trust. I am forever grateful for his guidance and for the opportunity the Trustees have given me to lead the organization forward.

‘Forward’ has been a mantra this past year. Despite the pandemic’s negatives, we found time to pause, reflect, and refine our processes. In the coming year, the Annual Cycle will adopt a letter of inquiry (LOI), which we hope will create greater dialogue between grant-seekers and staff to develop the best proposals possible. We will also shorten the application, leading to simpler, more focused proposals where grant-seekers can explain rather than justify their ideas.

As exciting as it is to see the Trust reach $10 million in grant funding in its first 15 years, I am even more excited to meet the grant-making milestones we will reach over the next 15 years. The Trust is in a solid financial position with a phenomenal staff and exceptional Trustees, and this blend of the right resources with a powerful vision are a sign of great things to come.

I would like to thank Ashley Manning and James Aldigé for their service as Chair and Vice Chair, and the Trustees rolling off the board this year for their commitment to advancing the Trust and UVA. The Trustees’ willingness to give both time and treasure is an inspiration and an indication of how wonderful the alumni, parents, and friends of UVA truly are.

Wahoowa!

Brent Percival
Executive Director
Grants

In fulfillment of the Trust’s mission, Trustees solicit, review and award “catalytic grants in support of innovation and leadership.” Rather than funding defined, ongoing programs, the Trustees invest in “people whose efforts can have a positive impact on the student experience, the University community or society at large.” This focus on new, often untested projects and programs has led the Trust to be the premier ‘first-round’ funder on Grounds. The organization’s broad scope entices proposals from a variety of disciplines and funding levels.

For the first time, the Jefferson Trust has awarded $1 million to fifteen annual grant projects that will enhance the University of Virginia community, as well as a significant portion of the larger Charlottesville and Albemarle County communities.

**UVA Edge:** $100,000
UVA Edge is a new offering in higher education taking the form of a one-year undergraduate experience for working adults. A pilot cohort was launched in January, serving UVA staff and community members.

**Biomaterial Building Exposition:** $72,202
UVA Brain Camp will provide in-depth and hands-on education in neuroscience to local middle-school students, enriching their scientific network through one-on-one mentorships and inspiring young scientific minds.

**The Robertson Media Center Women’s Maker Program:** $44,980
This program aims to help promote greater confidence in female undergraduate students, improve their sense of belonging in STEM fields, and better prepare them for careers in the STEM workforce.

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Grants

Skyscraper Gothic: $20,000
A collaboration between the Fralin Museum of Art and the Architectural History department, this exhibition will explore how skyscrapers, now rejected as emblems of modern American life, were originally embraced as emblems of modern student research and design work.

Workforce Development in Data Science for Autistic Young Adults: $99,200
This program prepares a new generation of adults on the autism spectrum to be data scientists. The program will strengthen systems, transform lives, improve science and change misconceptions about people who have different abilities.

“Knowing Better To Do Better” — Preparing and Sustaining Equitable and Anti-Racist Educators: $49,478
This one-year pilot program will provide professional development for Pre-K-12th grade teachers, their mentors and their coaches to build more equitable classrooms and teach through an anti-racist lens.

DevHub@Wise: $49,720
DevHub@Wise will train and educate students of UVA at Wise to be technologically literate and engage with the surrounding Appalachian community to take on real-world technology projects.

The Jefferson Trust Cozart Global Initiative Award
Climate Restoration Initiative: $110,000
The Environmental Resilience Institute will develop strategies for reversing climate change, focusing on restoring the climate by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This initiative will be the first of its kind to combine the disciplinary and policy perspectives needed to understand the feasible scope of negative emissions strategies, and will distinguish UVA on the global stage.

The Jefferson Trust Daniel S. Adler Student Award
Distinguished Major Project Musical Through Virginia Players: $2,500
Tentatively titled “Peace by Piece,” this original full-length musical will be produced through the Virginia Players Lab Series Production. The show focuses on mental health within the queer community and interracial relationships, demonstrating to those with family members or friends in the LGBTQ+ community what a queer person might be going through.

Pediatric Mental Health in the COVID-19 Era: $40,148
UVA Children’s Hospital will launch a telehealth program for group therapy for children, adolescents and their caregivers.

Democracy at UVA Internship: $75,000
This program is a collaborative internship for people in underserved populations across units at UVA that focuses on the study of democracy and governance.

Building a Sustained Commitment to Community-Engaged Teaching: $130,000
This initiative, in partnership with the Office for Academic Outreach and the Center for Teaching Excellence, will launch a website with UVA-tailored resources to support new community-engaged courses, a two-day faculty institute and monthly learning community, one-on-one pedagogical assistance for faculty in developing courses, and course-development grants.

Awards

Early Career Excellence in Community Engagement Award: $10,000
This year’s recipient is John Holbein, Assistant Professor, Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy.

Madison Lane and Rugby Road Charitable Visual Arts Prize: $2,500
This year’s recipient is Kimberly Rose Salac for her short film Someone else’s.

Jefferson Trust John B. Syer Award Leadership Skills for a Diverse and Divided World: Developing Leaders Who Facilitate Change: $64,900
Designed and taught by Batten School faculty and facilitated by students, this program for rising high school juniors advances the dual goals of training and empowering current UVA students while inspiring and building a leadership pipeline for the next generation.

Affordability and Equity: Open Educational Resources: $77,400
This program will offer grants to support faculty in the creation of new, or adaptation of existing, open educational resources in collaboration with instructional designers, librarians and student interns.
Flash Funding

Flash Funding was created to meet the more immediate needs of the University, with a focus on student grants. The funding cycle opens in January and grants are awarded on a monthly basis as long as funds last, with a maximum of $10,000 per award. This year, the Trust awarded $109,800 to 14 projects through three cycles, with a majority of grants focusing on the student experience at many levels.

2020: Extraordinary Moments: $7,131
“2020: Extraordinary Moments” will dive into the year 2020 from the perspective of the UVA community, focusing on the positive moments that made the year special. It will showcase a documentary featuring interviews from UVA students and a magazine featuring writing and art submissions from the UVA community.

Extending Jefferson’s Vision on Leadership: Learning How To Discuss Race and Racism Through Humility: $5,189
This project seeks to teach UVA students strategies to improve communication and listening skills and reframe frame race and racial inequalities as an opportunity to learn across racial boundaries.

Virginia Medical Review: $1,400
The Virginia Medical Review will provide an online platform for the publication of scientific and medical articles written by student contributors, with a goal of creating professional and academic articles that remain accessible to all with an engaging, plain-language voice.

Hands-On History: the Letters of a Civil War Chaplain: $10,000
This student-led project, collaborating with both the Nau Center for Civil War History and the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, is engaging a team of undergraduate researchers in the digitization, transcription and curation of private letters written by the Rev. John W. Alvord, a Civil War Army Chaplain and Freedmen’s Bureau Superintendent of Schools and Finance.

COVID-19 Pandemic Education and Support: Children’s Book Collection: $8,739
This project builds and catalogs a children’s book collection that can be used by UVA students in the classroom, in counseling settings and at home to address issues of loss, trauma and anxiety due to the pandemic. In addition to the core collection, the project will develop community partnerships with local school districts to host drive-through book fairs, which will be open and free to all in targeted communities with low vaccination rates.

Girls Who Code at UVA: $7,700
Girls Who Code (GWC) provides hands-on experience workshops, creating a gender-inclusive community for anyone interested in coding at any level of experience.

Outfitting the Montessori Lab School: $10,000
The Toddler’s House is a joint initiative of the psychology department’s Montessori Science Program (MSP), the UVA Equity Center, and community partners. The Toddler’s House will offer high-quality, evidence-based childcare in the Montessori tradition for low-income children. It will also provide a demonstration and research site for UVA faculty.

Teaching Writing and Anti-Racism in the ENWR 1510 Classroom Project: $6,200
Faculty and graduate students from UVA’s Writing and Rhetoric Program will produce a syllabus for an ENWR 1510 course that focuses on Thomas Jefferson, UVA, Charlottesville and their relationships with colonization, slavery and white supremacy. This will encourage and support instructors who wish to teach such a course and promote its widespread adoption.

Time Tables: Leveraging our Material Past: $9,605
A team of students, with faculty support and oversight, will make meaningful use of a series of logs from a 125-year-old poplar tree that was taken down near the Alderman Library. A single large table from a slab of this wood will be crafted and installed in the outdoor classroom of Campbell Hall, while the remainder of the heritage wood will be milled and preserved for use in future pieces.

The Toddler’s House: Material Past: $9,600
A new fellowship will provide hands-on learning experiences of printing and papermaking, creating a unique, year-long academic leadership experience for two undergraduate UVA students interested in arts administration, public relations, project management and community engagement.

The Architecture of The Green Book: a Digital Database: $10,000
The Negro Motorist’s Green Book, made famous most recently by the 2018 film of the same name, was an essential print resource for African American families who wished to travel by car from 1936 to 1966. By 2026, this project seeks to recruit scholars from all 50 states to document all of the surviving buildings and sites across America, making them available to the public on a single, searchable online platform.

Ultracold Multipurpose Molecular Manipulation and Imaging Laboratory for Undergraduate Research: $8,310
Construction of an undergraduate-led multipurpose laboratory for experimental research spanning several subfields of physics and chemistry. Over the next five years, undergraduates working with the setup will gain valuable experience with cryostats and advanced optical technologies, including lasers for imaging and ablation.

The College Scoop Textbook Loaner Library: $10,000
This library will be operated by The College Scoop’s executive leadership and will serve as an alternative to purchasing expensive textbooks every semester.
Trustees

THE JEFFERSON TRUST BOARD consists of alumni, parents and friends of the University who want to play an active role in shaping the institution’s future, through both their philanthropy and their expertise. The Trustees are responsible for grant selection and oversight, as well as providing strategic direction in finance, development, communications, events and governance. Through their service they engage directly with, and invest in, the people and projects that advance UVA. Donors who commit $150,000 or more to the Trust can serve up to five years as a Trustee.

UVA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Finance

This fiscal year has been exceptional for advancing the Trust’s financial position. Higher investment returns and endowment contributions, combined with dramatically reduced operating expenses, have positively altered our five-year forecast. Thanks to a 49% return from the University of Virginia Investment Management Company (UVIMCO) and donor cash contribution to the endowment of $1,227,542, the Trust’s endowment has eclipsed $47.5 million.

The Trustees also welcomed ten new donor Trustees to the board and recorded $1.5 million in new commitments. This development is incorporated into a five-year forecast that increases our grant amounts each year (drawing 5% on the endowments) and lowers the draw on operating endowments to 4% annually.

Impact

We are thrilled to reach the $10 million mark in dollars awarded this year! It is a quantifiable measure of the impact our 256 projects and programs have across Grounds. Since 2006, grants have been made to every school and many organizations, centers and institutes. A few of our most transformative grants from students, faculty and staff are highlighted below, along with a graphical representation.

Developing Student Leaders for Leadership in Data-Intensive Research (2013; $100,000) led to the creation of the Data Science Institute ($10M gift to establish), and the recently established School of Data Science ($120M gift to establish).

Ignite (2015-16; $50,000, $75,000) provided new faculty with the knowledge, skills and supportive community they need to develop into exceptional teachers; a successful pilot led to full funding from the Provost’s Office.

Medical Design Thinking Program (UVAMDP) (2016, 2019; $71,500, $81,500) equips future physicians with the skills, confidence and experience to address complex patient care & public health challenges. UVAMDP has grown to offer additional courses, virtual workshops, and received national recognition and publication for their forward-thinking work.

Hoos Connected (2018; $39,000) brings together groups of students to build cohesive and supportive relationships while discussing key components of making meaningful connections. Additional funding has been received from the President and Provost’s fund to expand the program.

Reshaping Archival & Public Space in School of Nursing (2019; $32,000) supports a partnership with the community to publicly recognize African American graduates from the School of Nursing, known as the “Hidden Nurses.” The program has gained national attention and similar projects are starting at other universities.
VISION: To allow great ideas at the University of Virginia to come to fruition and demonstrate the powerful benefits of donor-led, university-based grantmaking.

MISSION: To foster a dynamic community of alumni and friends of the University of Virginia who provide catalytic grants in support of innovation and leadership. This donor-led initiative invests in people whose efforts can have a positive impact on the student experience, the University community, or society at large.

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