THE JEFFERSON TRUST funds new programs and projects that enhance the University of Virginia and enrich the student experience. Founded in 2006 by the UVA Alumni Association, the Trust is a donor-led organization carrying a $45.1 million endowment.

Every school, as well as many University organizations, centers and institutes have received funding, resulting in a total of $11.4 million granted to 286 Trustee-selected projects. Any student, faculty, or staff member may apply, with grants typically ranging between $1,000 and $300,000.
FROM THE CHAIR

Giving life to imagination. That’s what we do. With every dollar we give, every question we ask, every decision we make, we’re empowering ideas. Those ideas bubble up all across Grounds, from spur-of-the-moment inspiration in the mind of a student to a flash of brilliance grown from years of study by a professor. They flow to corners of the University to the Charlottesville community to the greater world beyond. They innovate in medicine, education, engineering, art, architecture, music, law - in every area and discipline you can dream of. In grant amounts small and large, the Trust makes ideas have impact.

We like to say that a large grant can change the world, while a small grant can mean the world. To us, the value lies in the benefit, as we know that impact and size aren’t necessarily the same thing. This year, our total grant funding of roughly $1.45 million ranged from a grant of $752 to one at $200,000, with the rest spread everywhere in between. Our Annual Cycle sees the bulk of our funding, while our spring Flash Cycle is designed to spur on smaller seed projects that themselves frequently generate larger programs.

When the Trust was first created, I was lucky to be among the earliest Trustees to join. In our founding year, 2006, our total grant funding was only $301,821, but we saw a lot of promise in those early efforts. Others within the UVA community saw the same vision we did, and as the organization and its funding have grown, its reach and importance have grown as well. The height of successes and the range of impacts our grants have had through the years tells us we are focusing on the right thing: funding ideas.

You will read about our most recent grants in this report. They illustrate the variety and the depth of the Trust’s contribution across Grounds. I hope they will inspire you.

Sharon Owlett
Chair

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Community-building is core to the Jefferson Trust. The Trustees span six decades of UVA graduates and over 8,500 miles around the globe, yet they still form a community. They are a tight-knit group of University alumni, parents, and friends who pool their talent and resources to make UVA an even better place. Their dedication brings them together.

Grantees are also a community. Grantees are students, faculty, and staff of the University who each saw a way to make the University or the student experience better. They also had the creativity and drive to act.

While grants are often viewed as siloed investments, with individual considerations and successes, the people behind them experience many of the same obstacles. With this in mind, we asked ourselves “what if grantees could meet to share challenges, learn from one another, and create better outcomes” and “what if Trustees could be part of the process, to provide counsel and support?” Answering these questions led to our first ever Grantee Summit.

The Summit featured roundtables, panel discussions, and networking opportunities for grantees to connect with Trustees and each other. Topics included scaling a project or program, promoting a grant project, community outreach programs, and working with a Trustee liaison. Each was discussed from the perspective of both the grant-maker and grantee.

By all accounts the event was a great success, and a value-added resource the Trust can provide to enhance grants beyond funding alone. Our hope is that this event can expand to include students, faculty, and staff who are not yet grantees but who might want to learn from, add to, and be part of this burgeoning community.

Within the Trust, there is a shared belief that great things happen when inspired ideas meet dedicated donors. The Trust has exemplified this throughout its sixteen-year history, and this year’s Summit was another step in demonstrating how truly wonderful that combination can be.

Brent Percival
Executive Director
ANNUAL GRANTS

Our 2022 annual grants set new records. Nearly $1.35 million was allocated to 14 new projects and programs, which includes the largest-ever number of $100,000+ grants. This funding will provide opportunities for student research and unique classroom experiences, as well as provide pathways to the University for future Wahoos.

Centering African American Life in Central VA: Community Engagement & The Holsinger Portrait Project: $73,000
In a joint effort with local community members, a team from the University Library and Department of History is creating an exhibition, community engagement program and digital humanities research program around a collection of photographs.

Side Hustles Micro Courses: Masterclasses in Contemporary Business Topics: $150,000
Side Hustles and Micro Businesses (SHMB) is a new series of micro courses to prepare UVA students with entrepreneur ambitions to develop profitable businesses.

Jefferson Trust Cozart Global Initiative Award Decarbonization Innovation Summit and Lab: $100,000
Through a summit event and subsequent student-led projects, Decarbonization Innovation aims to encourage interdisciplinary coordination and dialogue to advance solutions to the world’s decarbonization challenge.

Starr Hill Pathways: $150,000
Starr Hill Pathways will improve student outcomes and close opportunity gaps ensuring that local youth: 1) are prepared for post-secondary education, 2) have access to enrichment opportunities and support networks, and 3) thrive socially and emotionally. Focused on historically marginalized communities and youth in grades 6-12, the goal is to build a system of support for students that leads them to admission to UVA or the college of their choice.

Optimizing pediatric donor heart utilization using big data analytics: $133,078
A team of pediatric cardiologists, data scientists, students and engineers are using big data analytics to optimize pediatric heart transplants – the right donor heart, with the right patient, at the right time. Analyzing data sets from the United Network for Organ Sharing, the most comprehensive representation of pediatric heart transplantation system in the world, will help to improve clinical practice and create predictive modeling to assess specific donors for specific candidates.

Walking the walk: Environmental Thought and Practice in Real Life: $120,000
Environmental Thought and Practice in Real Life (ETP IRL) will bring environmental leaders - thinkers, creators, entrepreneurs, innovators, and activists - to Grounds to engage with undergraduates in a non-traditional classroom setting, providing immersive learning experiences. Practitioners-in-real-life (PIRLs) will help lead classes focused on environmental practice, focusing on sets of projects that reach into the broader university community and beyond.

Deaf Orpheus: $100,000
A staged production, “Deaf Orpheus,” will unite the worlds of the Deaf and hearing in an unprecedented full-scale expression of Deaf Opera at UVA in March 2023. Opera singers, Deaf actors, directors, and instrumentalists of international prominence will partner with UVA’s USingers and Music Performance Faculty for this production. The production will also be made into a film.

Phytoremediation to reclaim farm and tribal lands from PFAS contamination: $93,000
This project allows a team of undergraduate students to demonstrate the full utility of industrial hemp as a tool for phytoremediation of PFAS-polluted agricultural soils and develop methods for implementation and training that can be shared with other communities affected by PFAS pollution.

Our 2022 annual grants set new records. Nearly $1.35 million was allocated to 14 new projects and programs, which includes the largest-ever number of $100,000+ grants. This funding will provide opportunities for student research and unique classroom experiences, as well as provide pathways to the University for future Wahoos.
The Cavalair Project: Smarter buildings for a healthier UVA community: $82,000
Students will conduct research to allow smarter approaches to HVAC system usage (occupancy levels and air quality metrics) that deliver a better, healthier environment for occupants at lower cost in several UVA buildings.

Roadmap Scholars Initiative: $200,000
This Law School initiative is designed to increase the number of underrepresented students attending elite law schools. From initial exploration of the legal profession to ultimate matriculation, the program will provide aspiring lawyers with the support, opportunities, and connections necessary to succeed on their journeys to law school.

Jefferson Trust John B. Syer Award
Integration of Virtual Reality (VR) in Training Medical Students: $54,973
A team of physicians, educators, and technologists seek to implement a new model of medical case observance training using virtual reality, cutting-edge 360-video editing techniques, and specially programmed VR headsets. This innovative approach will help to increase trainee comprehension and patient safety.

Jefferson Trust Daniel S. Adler Student Award
Search for Hidden Chambers in the Temple of Kukulcán at Chichén Itzá: $35,834
Undergraduate students are working to research, design, and fabricate detectors to help search for hidden chambers in the Temple of Kukulcán at Chichén Itzá. Through this work, students will gain a better understanding of particle and nuclear physics and be introduced to the new field of muon tomography.

Saving Athenian Democracy: $28,400
A hands-on learning experience to expose UVA students to the ancient roots of our modern democracy, this new, interactive undergraduate course will challenge students to study and role-play the lives of the ancient Athenians who worked to restore their democracy between 403-398 BC.

Charlottesville Zoning Design Workshop (CZDW): $28,184
This initiative aims to engage students across the School of Architecture in the design and policy questions raised by Charlottesville’s Comprehensive Plan. By exploring zoning through an architectural lens, CZDW will work with students to develop design-research with potential to impact local policy debates, while organizing public symposia on related issues of zoning policy and housing design.
Funding Ideas in a Flash! Distinct from the Annual Cycle, Flash Grants are capped at $10,000 and are awarded monthly, as long as funds last, beginning in January. They focus on short-term projects or immediate use opportunities, often for student organizations. Sixteen projects received funding at just over $98,000 through three flash cycles this spring. Half of the sixteen flash awards were made to students or student groups focused on improving the UVA experience, while another group of flash grants involve partnerships with community organizations.

**Accesibilizing UVA Health: A Navigational Experience:** $7,480
A student-led initiative of the Health Sciences Library, this project aims to create an accurate virtual map of the UVA Health System. The app will provide step-by-step walking instructions to promote patient independence and familiarity with the hospital. This work will also create the foundation for streamlined processes to expand both outpatient clinics as well as other University buildings.

**STEM-Themed Art Contest for Chemistry Building:** $5,500
This art contest will blend art and science by bringing student- and faculty-produced art to the walls of the chemistry building.

**“One Size Fits All” Short Film and Impact Campaign:** $7,834
Funding supports a short film exploring satirical commentary on body image, social media, and how companies manipulate us. In response to efforts at UVA to build and improve relations with Native Nations across Virginia. A team of faculty, staff, and students will work with the Tribe to assess their needs and desires for development, and to provide UMIT with a professional study and land-use report to guide their efforts.

**From Chaos to Chaos: Documenting Afghan Women:** $10,000
This project includes a support and wellness program for Afghan women in the local and UVA communities and a film amplifying and sharing their stories.

**Charlottesville Analog Film Festival:** $5,320
This student-led project will create a series of short analog films, which will premiere at an open-community film festival in Charlottesville in fall 2022. The project will involve community partners Visible Records and Light House Studios.

**The Historical Landscape of North Grounds:** $6,735
The UVA Law Library is creating and installing interpretive panels along the Rivanna Trail in UVA’s North Grounds to inform and bring awareness of the people – free and enslaved - who lived and labored on this UVA property.

**Large Format 3D Printer:** $1,000
This student-led experimental project aims to explore how 3D printing can be scaled from small-scale desktop machines to large desk-sized machines while maintaining accuracy and precision.

**Upper Mattaponi Land Use Study:** $10,000
A collaboration between UVA’s Native & Indigenous Relations Community (NIRC), the School of Architecture, and Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe (UMIT), this project was developed to promote patient independence and familiarity with the hospital. This work will also create the foundation for streamlined processes to expand both outpatient clinics as well as other University buildings.

**Developing Future Leaders in Autism Healthcare Through Emergency Medical Training:** $9,973
This project aims to develop and distribute evidence-based, community-informed Autism Response Protocol (ARP) to EMTs across Virginia through various trainings. Creating hands-on opportunities for students to learn about autism spectrum disorder (ASD) will fill a major gap in current curricula and facilitate their future leadership in medicine.

**Zora’s Daughters Choosing Brilliance Lecture:** $1,000
Zora’s Daughters is a popular podcast focusing on contemporary issues from a Black Feminist lens, using anthropological concepts and key texts. Students interviewed Zora’s Daughters creators about their production process, as well as the cogency of anthropological thought in public discourse.

**Tangential Timber: Non-Linear Wood Masonry:** $7,000
This project seeks to demonstrate an application for irregular blocks. The project will culminate in a physical prototype process cross sectional slices of logs (“cookies”) into structural blocks. The project will include a physical prototype demonstrating the novel construction and material strategies developed.

**Psychology School Outreach Days:** $9,963
Eighth graders from across central Virginia will come to UVA for a day of hands-on learning to explore psychology and brain science.

**History of Law Enforcement with an emphasis on UPD:** $2,800
Bringing UVA students, faculty, and citizens of Charlottesville together, UPD will host and participate in a panel discussion and workshop to discuss African American and Monacan Tribal Nation relationships around the history of law enforcement, while promoting and fostering healing to both law enforcement and citizens.

**Taste of Home Open Fair:** $752
Two chefs from diverse, underrepresented backgrounds will cook meals that UVA community members can enjoy at the Taste of Home multicultural fair, to introduce unique cultures through ethnic cuisine.

**3D Scanning at the Visual Resources Center:** $8,660
Funding will purchase a 3D scanner for the Visual Resources Center at the Art Department, a hub of 3D modeling, printing, and other digital creative services for students, faculty, and staff.

**Darden African Business Conference:** $7,000
Funding supports a conference focused on “Emerging Trends in Africa’s Creative Economy.” Conference attendees will improve their knowledge of the interplay between Africa’s economic development and its creative sector, gain an awareness of the difference in various African countries, and increase the number of African Business Cases studied in Darden classrooms.

**Creating hands-on opportunities for students to learn about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) will fill a major gap in current curricula and facilitate their future leadership in medicine.**

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**A collaboration between UVA’s Native & Indigenous Relations Community (NIRC), the School of Architecture, and Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe (UMIT), this project was developed in response to efforts at UVA to build and improve relations with Native Nations across Virginia. A team of faculty, staff, and students will work with the Tribe to assess their needs and desires for development, and to provide UMIT with a professional study and land-use report to guide their efforts.**
Trustees are UVA alumni, parents, and friends from around the world, representing almost every school, a variety of professional disciplines, and ranging in age from 24 to 82. Their unique backgrounds and skillsets combine to form a board that is fun, engaging, collegial and collaborative. There are now more than 70 Trustees who make grants, govern the organization, and provide strategic direction, while a four-person staff manages day-to-day operations.

Giving Commitment
Donors who make gifts or pledges of $150,000 or more (payable over five years) may serve a five-year term as Trustee, review proposals and vote on which projects to fund.

Time Commitment
Trustees have the opportunity, but are not required, to participate in three in-person meetings per year, serve on one or more committees and serve as a liaison to funded projects.

Meetings: October, January, & April
Committees: Proposals, Outcomes, Engagement, Development, Finance & Governance

Grants
Annual cycle proposals are accepted through October 1. The Proposals Committee forwards the best proposals for full board review and selection at the Winter meeting. Decisions are announced in February and the grantees are celebrated at the April meeting.

Flash Funding runs on a monthly basis in the Spring term and makes grants to smaller, often student-led, projects.

Staff
Trustees provide oversight and strategic direction, while a staff of four manage the day-to-day operations; primarily proposal sourcing, fundraising, promotions, event planning and administration.

Trustees
- Sharon M. Owlett, Chair
  - Law ’75
  - Williamsburg, Virginia
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  - Arlington, Virginia
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- Stefan H. Cushman, Col ’92
  - Saint Petersburg, Florida
- J. Duncan Burn, Darden ’07
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- John A. Burns, Col ’14, ’15
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“We are using our strengths to support ideas and innovations at UVA.”

-Alex Arriaga, Trustee and Vice Chair
The Jefferson Trust is comprised of grants and operating endowments. The Finance Committee uses a ‘smoothed model’ of endowment management, averaging the fund levels over the previous twelve quarters to mitigate fluctuations in the market and provide stable grant and operations funding. Only four to six percent of the endowments may be withdrawn each year. All endowed accounts are invested with the University of Virginia Investment Management Company (UVIMCO) with accounting and gift processing services from the UVA Fund.

Over $1.57 million in cash donations were added to the endowments in FY22, but due to a market loss of 4.7%, the Trust endowment fell to $45.1 million. However, UVIMCO outperformed benchmark indices, which were down 13.2% for the fiscal year. A downturn of some form was expected, based on macroeconomic conditions. Fortunately, grant and operations funding was not affected thanks to additional, spendable gifts from Trustees and other donors. The Trust’s unique donor experience has allowed for continuous cash investment in UVIMCO’s long-term pool. This continuous investment has led to dramatic growth over the past ten years.

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AT A GLANCE

- Roughly 2/3 of the total endowment is designated to grants
- Annual Cycle accounted for 93.2% of grant funding with 6.8% for Flash Funding
- Named grant funds make up over 10% of all grant endowments

Three-year endowment growth: over $14mm

Expenses: 72.5% personnel, 14.5% operations expenses, 13% special events

Three-year endowment growth percentage: over 45%

NAMED GRANT FUNDS

Similar to naming a scholarship fund, donors may give $500,000 or more to create grant funds to add additional support to an area of the University that is meaningful to them. Thank you to the people behind these funds who have made this additional investment in the Jefferson Trust and ideas at UVA.

Daniel S. Adler Student Award
Wayne D. Cozart Global Health Award
John B. Syer Award
Ashley Thompson Manning Health Innovation Award
Flux Poetry Series: 2019, $21,800
“This project has allowed students to learn from renowned, innovative poets from around the country. These are our most popular events, drawing in both students and professors. In addition, the Flux Poetry Series also increased UVA’s visibility as a hub for poets. We now receive requests from well-known artists to perform here as a stop on their book tour, which had not occurred before.”
-Olivia Keenan, Flux Poetry student leader

Hoos Connected: 2018, $39,000
“The program is growing steadily toward a goal of serving half of all UVA entering students each year (which will make it the single largest course at the University) … Jefferson Trust seed funding has been the element that launched this now highly successful program, prior to our gaining support from any other sources.”
-Nicole Ruzek, Director of Counseling & Psychological Services

Skyscraper Gothic: 2021, $20,000
“Skyscraper Gothic was a profoundly successful collaboration between The Fralin Museum of Art, our faculty colleagues, and our students. It is the model of what a university art museum exhibition can and should be. The Trust’s support was instrumental in extending opportunities for student involvement and in allowing the printing of the free gallery guide so that all visitors could continue to reflect on the major themes of the exhibition after their visit.”
-Matthew McClendon, Project Co-Director

Engaged Writing Program: 2020, $100,000
“Community engaged writing at UVA has, under this grant, begun to develop a national reputation...It has also become central to the way faculty and graduate student instructors understand the teaching of composition here.”
-Victor Luftig, Project Co-Director

Guiding Student Research to solve Global Air Pollution Problems: 2020, $100,000
“The project has been a wonderful experience in working with the students of multiple disciplines to create novel materials of social significance.”
-Gina Giri, Project Co-Director

Religion, Race & Democracy Labs: 2019, $100,000
“We have witnessed how this project is changing students’ lives by helping them cultivate new skills for lifelong learning and/or professional pursuits.”
-Martien Halvorson-Taylor, Project Director

“Community engaged writing at UVA has, under this grant, begun to develop a national reputation...” -Victor Luftig
With the Jefferson Trust funding and the expertise from faculty, administration, students, and local community members, we are providing a place for scholarship from diverse perspectives to combat racist stereotypes and false narratives while celebrating the Black self-representation in art and in nursing.

-Dominique Tobbell

Reshaping Public & Archival Space in the School of Nursing: 2019, $32,260

“...The reception of more students of color in our buildings and in our archives goes beyond mere physical space. Historical education, accurate preservation, and a true reckoning with the past and present are critical first steps to moving beyond cursory understandings of how race has affected nursing. With the Jefferson Trust funding and the expertise from faculty, administration, students, and local community members, we are providing a place for scholarship from diverse perspectives to combat racist stereotypes and false narratives while celebrating the Black self-representation in art and in nursing.”

-Dominique Tobbell, Project Co-Director

Cavalier Autonomous Racing: 2020, $50,000

“The support from the Jefferson Trust is how it all started for us, and we have been able to accomplish so much in such little time...The team has received worldwide media coverage for their accomplishments! This effort has established UVA as an epicenter of autonomous racing research in the world and will catalyze the University to support bold initiatives in autonomous systems.”

-Madhur Behl, Program Director

UVA Edge: 2021, $100,000

“The pilot program has had a profound effect on members of the University community. We have already heard from several students who completed the program in December 2021 and have been promoted or hired for new jobs within the University...It has given students the opportunity to start toward a degree, and many of them have indicated a desire to continue with their education beyond Edge now that they have the confidence in their ability to achieve their educational goals.”

-Alexa Jeffress, Program Manager

Transformative Autism Biomarker Research: 2020, $122,928

“We’ve experienced dramatic expansion due to high interest from faculty in multiple schools, which has allowed us to capitalize on the incredibly valuable data we are collecting and to expand the scope of the project from a sole focus on identifying early emerging autism biomarkers, to investigate additional disorders and challenges facing NICU graduates such as gross motor delays, visual impairments, and other intellectual disabilities. Our team also consists of 18 undergraduate and 3 PhD students who are participating in the study through data collection and/or data processing and analysis.”

-Meghan Puglia, Project Director

Medical Design Thinking Program (MDP): 2016, $71,463; 2019, $81,500

“We launched a for-credit elective for 4th year medical students in Feb 2022! Covid adaptations helped us think about online learning curriculum that will be most useful as long-term educational offerings...Fall 2022 will mark the 4th year that the medical design program (MDP) has a ‘formal’ spot in the School of Medicine orientation schedule to announce the program to incoming first-year students...In addition to impacting medical students and faculty, UVAMDp is providing a center of multi-disciplinary collaboration focused on improving public health and healthcare, through design thinking and other design approaches. Our team has been nationally recognized for our work, published peer review articles, and has presented widely about MDP and its impact at UVA Health.”

-Dr. Matthew Trowbridge, Program Director
Special thanks to Tom Daly Photography for his partnership in photography.