2022-23 Annual Report



Ridley
Scholarship Program

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UVA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Constant learning, continued growth



Letter from the Ridley Chair

I bring you greetings from the Ridley Scholarship Program's Board of Directors and present you with the 2023 Annual Report.

Now in its 36th year, the Ridley Scholarship Program has awarded scholarships to over 300 talented scholars and currently supports 17 Ridley Scholars on Grounds for the 2023-24 academic year. The program has grown from a book award, conceived by a group of Black alumni into a host of merit-based full tuition scholarships, professional development experiences, and networking opportunities. We are striving to increase the program funds so we can award more scholarships annually, which will enrich both Ridley and UVA over the coming years and decades.

I hope that you appreciate the impact of the Ridley Scholarship Program as you read this report, and that the achievements of scholars and alumni and the program's future potential inspire you to lend your financial support.

Ridley Scholars honor the legacy of Dr. Walter N. Ridley every day and have made an indelible impact on the UVA community. Let's work together to perpetuate the legacy of Dr. Ridley, fulfill the program's mission, and fuel the continuation of Black excellence on Grounds and beyond.

Simone Pollard (Engr '94)
Board Chair & Ridley Representative to the UVA Alumni Association Board of Managers



Letter from the

Scholarship Committee Chair

My name is Sherlonda Goode-Jones, and as the 2022-2023 Scholarship Chair, it is my pleasure to provide this update on the program's scholars and their experiences.

The Ridley Scholarship Program welcomed Tanise Cole, Madison DeLoach, Ava Godfrey, Simone Minor, Jordan Mondrey, and Taliya Moss-Melendez for the 2023-24 school year, and we can't wait to see the unique impact each of them will have during their time at UVA. We also celebrate graduating Ridley Scholars Tracy Agyemang, Kennedy Carter, Maxine DeVeaux, Selam Herring, Milan Marsh, and Alexis Stokes, who were the first class to be honored with custom Ridley graduation stoles.

This past year brought with it a significant milestone for the Ridley Scholarship Program: coordinating the application process in-house for the first time!

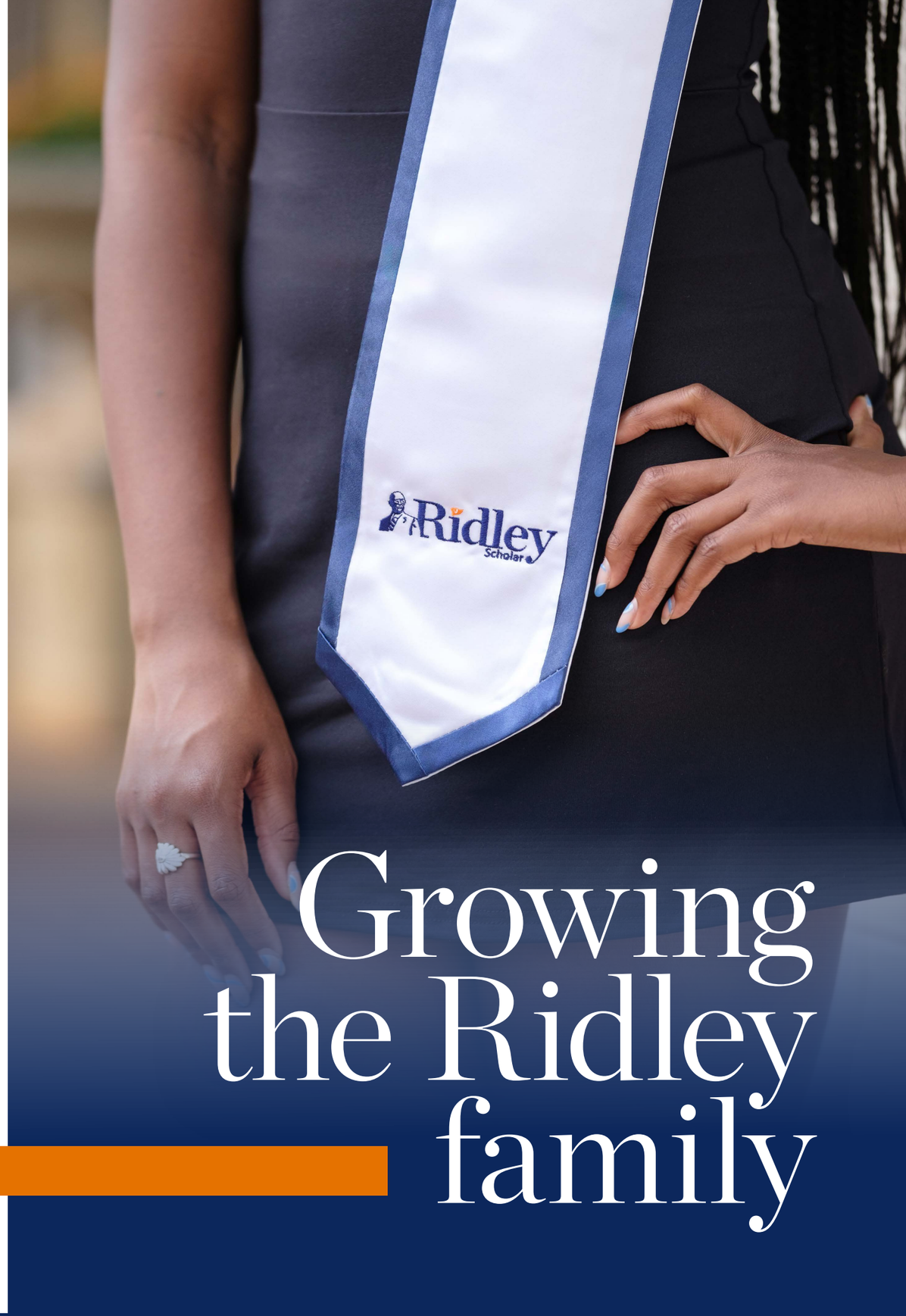
After years of the process being facilitated by the UVA Office of Admissions, Ridley staff collaborated with the Alumni Association's College Compass team, read over 200 applications, and selected 18 finalists from across the Commonwealth and the nation to host at Scholar Selection Weekend in April.

Finalists toured Grounds, met with distinguished professors, and made connections with Ridley alumni. Current scholars were enthusiastically engaged as well, helping the newest members of the Ridley family by speaking about their experiences on panels and guiding them through the weekend's events.

We are also pleased to continue our partnership with Truist Bank. Around 30 Black students from across Grounds participated in the Truist Leadership Academy held at Truist headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina. Programs and seminars included "Purpose Planning," "Building Your Brand," and "The Art of Discovery," and participants earned an Emerging Leaders certificate upon completion of the academy.

I want to sincerely thank you for everything you have done to support the Ridley Scholarship Program. Being a Ridley Scholar is a lifetime commitment to the constant pursuit of excellence, and every dollar amount or moment of your time you give has an impact on hundreds of students now and in the years to come.

Sherlonda Goode-Jones (Com '95, Darden '01)
2022-23 Ridley Scholarship Committee Chair



Growing the Ridley family

Ridley Scholars

2022-23

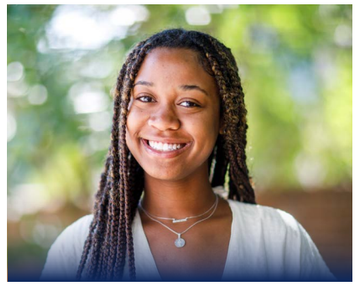


CLASS OF 2023



Tracy Agyemang
Gregory Ledford Scholarship
Woodbridge, VA

I am a fourth year pursuing a bachelor's degree in commerce with a concentration in marketing and information technology. I'm also on the advertising and digital marketing track. On Grounds, I am the president of the Black Commerce Student Network and a peer career coach with McIntire Career Services. After graduation, I hope to pursue a full-time role at Google as an associate product marketing manager, and I also aim to pursue higher education in marketing. I love helping people reach their goals and I love networking, so I hope to make a difference in many lives with my networking skills.



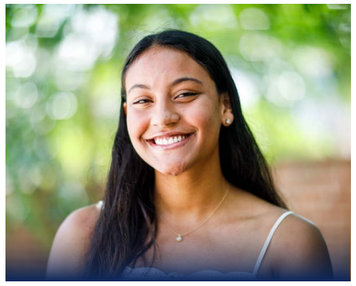
Kennedy Carter
Sylvia V. Terry Award
Goochland, VA

I am an architecture major with an interest in women and gender studies. I also have a growing interest in marketing and graphic design and hope to work in that field. On Grounds, I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a peer advisor, a room advisor and a VSPINK Campus Representative. This summer I am excited to move to New York to work as a concept design intern for the PINK brand and assist the team with design and marketing management. Most importantly, I am looking forward to a fantastic fourth year at UVA.



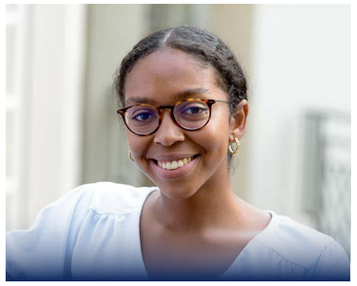
Kendall Davis (Dec. 2023)
Gregory R. Batipps Memorial Scholar
Arlington, VA

I am a biology major from Arlington, VA. I'm interested in public health, specifically disparities in healthcare based on race, gender, class and region, and I hope to pursue a graduate degree in healthcare or public health. On Grounds, I'm involved in ReMix A Capella and Human-Animal Support Services (HASS). Off Grounds, I volunteer at the Charlottesville Free Clinic and at the Charlottesville SPCA.



Maxine Deveaux
Holland-Blackburn Scholar
Takoma Park, MD

I am a fourth year pre-med student double majoring in global public health and sociology. On Grounds, I give admissions and historical tours through the University Guide Service and served as its spring 2022 Probationary Chair, volunteer as a peer health educator, and work as a research assistant in the Phad Lab (Promoting Healthy Adolescent Development). Off Grounds, I intern for Healthy Home Pediatric and maintain my EMT certification. After graduation, I'll be taking a gap year to apply to medical school and hope to become a pediatrician.



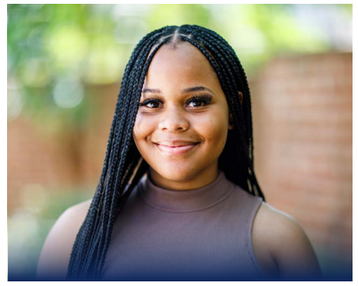
Selam Herring
Richmond Ridley Clarence Cain Scholar
Richmond, VA

I am a youth and social innovation major with a minor in psychology. I am passionate about equitable and trauma-informed education, and I also have a special interest in the work of doulas with regards to best care practices for BIPOC birthing people. On Grounds, I am an executive member of the Virginia Belles acapella group, and I was involved in a research project funded by the National Institutes of Health in the School of Education. I am excited to cherish every moment of my fourth year at UVA and solidify my post- grad plans.



Milan Marsh
Hoel-Perkins Scholar
Richmond, VA

I am a fourth year Hoel-Perkins Scholar from Richmond, VA majoring in mathematics and minoring in Spanish. I participated in the UVA in Valencia study abroad program during the spring 2022 semester, which was a truly life-changing experience. On Grounds, I am a member of the Environmental Justice Collective and I am excited to spend my last year being involved in the Ridley Scholarship Program and all it has to offer. I am planning on attending graduate school after graduation to obtain a PhD in math.



Alexis Stokes
Richmond Ridley Clarence Cain Scholar
Richmond, VA

I am a fourth year majoring in psychology with a minor in women, gender, and sexuality studies in hopes of becoming either a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist. On Grounds I am a member of BLK Monologues as well as X-tasee Dance Crew. Off Grounds I am a member of a collegiate all-star stomp and shake travel cheer team and a youth mentor at my recreational center in Richmond, VA. I am also a hairstylist, and I plan to join a cosmetology course to learn more about doing different styles. Once I graduate, I plan to enroll in a master's program, preferably at UVA.

Ridley Scholars
(CONTINUED)

CLASS OF **2024**



Jalon Thomas
Holland-Blackburn Scholar
Reistertown, MD

I am a computer science major with plans to minor in either data science or engineering business. I participated in remote research as part of the Shin Lab, during which our team used machine learning to help diagnose vestibular and neurological conditions in mice. I hope to continue working in the Shin Lab as well as further my involvement in the Google Developers Club and the Computer and Network Security Club.



Scholar spotlight

Simone Minor (Col ’26)

By entering UVA as a Ridley Scholar, I had a tight-knit support system on Grounds from the very start that was formed by love and merit rather than competitiveness. Older scholars always reach out to and support new scholars, showing them that they belong in the Ridley family and at UVA. That encouragement is something I’ve been able to give to others—I became an RA in my second year and helped Black first-years navigate Grounds in ways I could have only dreamed of. I have made this house into a home with Ridley’s support, and I’m so excited to give back to the program and my fellow scholars.

CLASS OF **2025**



Sophia Chambliss
Ridley Bryce Scholar
Mechanicsville, VA

I am a 2021 International Baccalaureate diploma recipient and one of the CEOs and founders of the non-profit Brown Ballerinas for Change. At UVA, I recently transferred to the Nursing School as part of the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program, and I am also a member of the Virginia Dance Team. Off-Grounds, I am a competition dance teacher and choreographer for younger dancers at Central Virginia Dance Academy in Richmond, Virginia. I am thrilled with my decision to transfer to the Nursing School and become a Registered Nurse immediately following graduation!



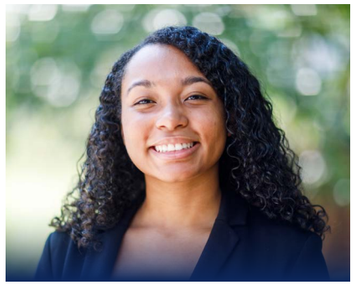
Mary Hall
Ridley Reid Scholar
Chesterfield, VA

I am a third-year double majoring in African American Studies and drama. I attended Monacan High School in North Chesterfield, Virginia, where I served as SGA Vice President, Theatre Club Vice President, and president and founder of the school’s BIPOC Student Union, an organization advocating for a multicultural curriculum in schools. I was also an active participant in Monacan’s choral program, the National Honor Society, and Beta Club. As I enter my last years on Grounds, I look forward to pursuing my passion for social justice and civil equity, as well as starring in the play Everybody with the UVA Drama Department in the fall semester.



Zoë Jenkins
Holland Blackburn Scholar
Lexington, KY

I am a storyteller, facilitator, founder, constant learner, and pie-baker. I am the founder and Executive Producer of Get Schooled podcast with the Kentucky Student Voice Team, an organization elevating Kentucky students as partners in education research and policy. As a part of my podcasting work, I was named a 2020 National Geographic Young Explorer. I was an inaugural fellow with Civics Unplugged and served as the Chair of the Civics 2030 Steering Committee. I also founded DICCE, which creates curriculum and resources for Gen Z to be more culturally responsive, empathetic, and equity-driven.



Gabriella Watson
Richmond Ridley Clarence Cain Scholar
Richmond, VA

I attended Maggie Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies in Richmond, where I chaired the Campus Life During COVID Committee and served on the Removing Structural Barriers Committee. On the School Advisory Council, I surveyed current students to improve the racial climate and presented recommendations to the school board. I have been a Girl Scout for the past ten years and love volunteering at the Chesterfield Food Bank. At UVA, I am majoring in Chemistry, with the ultimate dream of being a pharmacist by day and an author by night.



Taylor Whirley
Ridley Reid Scholar
Midlothian, VA

I am a third-year majoring in leadership and public policy major prior to attending law school. After completing my education, I hope to combine my passion for serving young children and my interest in public policy to help shape our country’s education system. I attended James River High School, where I was a part of the Center for Leadership & International Relations. I served as a council member for the Leadership Program, Secretary for our show choir, and President of our Spanish Club. I am an active member in my church community through volunteering at outreach events and working with young children.

Ridley Scholars
(CONTINUED)



Alumni spotlight

Lauren Boswell (Arch ’10)

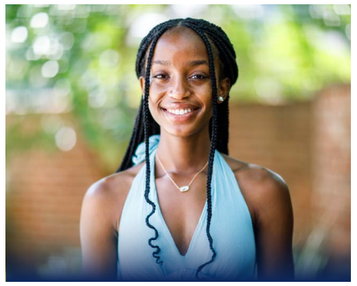
In being merit-based rather than need-based, Ridley changed how we think about Black scholarship. Both my parents were not admitted to UVA due to race when they applied, but being given a full ride Ridley scholarship showed them that I and other Black scholars had a home on Grounds. I took advantage of the opportunities Ridley gave me to make connections and learn professionalism, which grew into a sense of confidence that’s stayed with me through my career and in my current work with the Metropolitan Business League in Richmond. The Ridley Scholarship Program honors the whole student and ensures they’re given the full UVA experience without being excluded.

CLASS OF **2026**



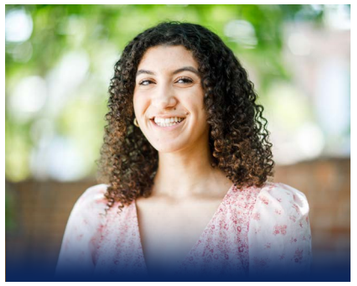
Tanise Cole
Ridley Reid Scholar
Norfolk, VA

I am a second-year student from Norfolk, VA majoring in nursing. After my four years at UVA, I plan on earning my master’s degree in nursing and becoming an OB/GYN nurse practitioner. I want to help those who are underserved through my work and uplift my community. When I’m not playing soccer, I love to go to the beach, go shopping, and watch all of my favorite Netflix shows.



Madison DeLoach
Richmond Ridley Clarence Cain Scholar
Richmond, VA

I am a second-year student majoring in chemistry with a minor in entrepreneurship. I serve on the membership committee of UVA’s Black Student Alliance and am a member of the new UVA chapter of the Undergraduate Student National Dental Association. Outside of class, I am a member of the UVA Cheerleading Team and am also a mentor and ambassador through the Echols Scholar program, where I help incoming and current first-year students transition smoothly to life on Grounds. In the future, I hope to own her practice as an orthodontist or prosthodontist and educate my community on the importance of oral health.



Ava Godfrey
Flagship-Graves Scholar
Reston, VA

I am majoring in cognitive science and plan to add a major in global studies (security and justice concentration) and a minor in Spanish. I am currently a research assistant at the Darden School of Business and in the Social Justice in Disability and Health Lab. Outside of the classroom, I am a part of Volunteers with International Students, Staff, and Scholars (VISAS) and can always be found coordinating events for our University Programs Council (UPC). My goal is to become a cognitive therapist and study how to reduce the stigma surrounding mental healthcare.



Simone Minor
Holland Blackburn Scholar
Bear, DE

I am a second-year planning to major in global public health and/or sociology with a minor in data science to explore the intersection between society and health. On Grounds, I am a Resident Advisor and I am involved with the NAACP and several pre-medical groups. In my free time I enjoy baking, crocheting, and poetry. I aspire to go into the medical field and believe it’s essential to be a well-rounded medical professional, and so the activities I pursue are part of my journey in understanding how to better serve a community from all angles.



Jordan Mondrey
Meikel Andrade Scholar
Chesterfield, VA

I am a second-year student from Chesterfield majoring in psychology and minoring in anthropology. I am passionate about helping others, and do so on Grounds by participating Remote Area Medical (serving underprivileged communities) and Virginia Ambassadors (helping incoming students). I am also part of the Mixed-Race Student Coalition, which provides community and support for mixed-race students at UVA. Off Grounds, you can find me hanging out with friends, being outside, and working at Anthropologie. In the future, I hope to attend medical or veterinarian school!



Taliya Moss-Melendez
S. Buford Scott Scholar
Richmond, VA

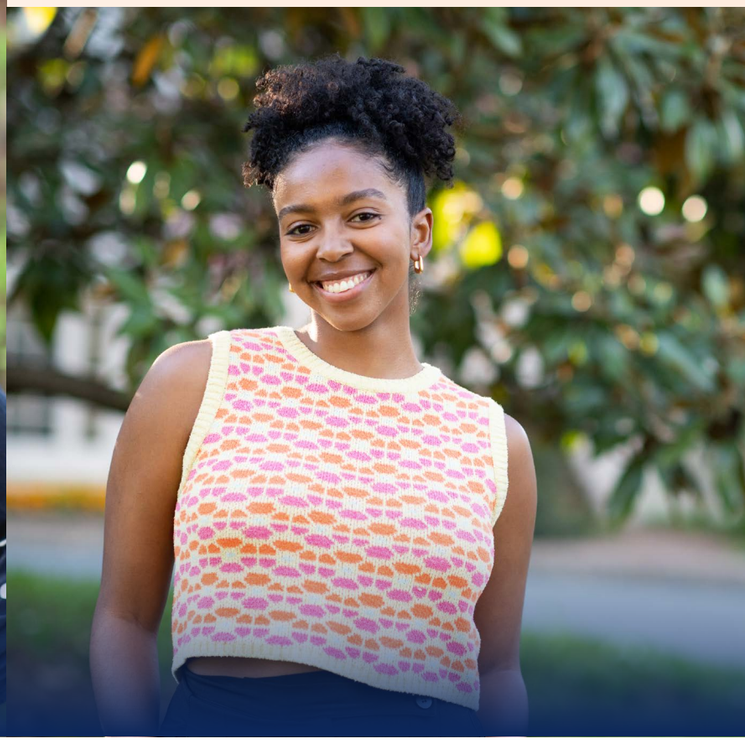
I am a second-year scholar majoring in chemistry, and prior to coming to UVA, I obtained my associate degree in social sciences. On Grounds, I am a part of the National Honors Society, Student Ambassadors, and Phi Theta Kappa, and outside of UVA I am also involved in Girl Scouts and work part-time at Home Goods. One of my goals is to obtain a degree in chemistry to become a pharmacist.

Fourth Year Reflections









Tracy Agyemang

Ridley changed the trajectory of my life, enabling me to freely pursue my passions on Grounds because I knew the program had me covered. And even more importantly, the program made me feel seen and honored as a Black student at UVA. I don't think I truly understood what community meant until I became a Ridley Scholar, because the bond that holds the Ridley family together is something that's hard to come by. Every life I've crossed paths with, I've encouraged them to be a better version of themselves, and I look forward to giving back so I can have the same impact on future scholars.

Kennedy Carter

The genuine and honest connection among the Ridley cohort had an incredible impact on my time at UVA. After becoming a Ridley Scholar in my second year, I felt an undeniable sense of community being in a group of likeminded students going through the same things I was. I now know I have these scholars and alumni in my corner no matter where I go, and seeing their success is inspiring. I'm so proud of the amount of growth I've experienced as a Ridley Scholar, and I'm excited to keep growing and making new connections.

Maxine Deveaux

The guarantee of community offered by the Ridley Scholarship Program meant that I found a home on Grounds with an engaged, diverse group of Black scholars from day one. Because the program offers financial support that's merit-based and not need-based, we never had to struggle with impostor syndrome—we all knew we'd earned the right to be there and so much more. Through Ridley, I had access to not only to professional and academic opportunities in my premed field, but also the confidence to take full advantage of them and become a more engaged learner in any endeavor I pursue after graduation.

Selam Herring

Ridley was why I chose UVA. The academic and professional community has been a powerful entity to have access to during my four years here, and seeing fellow Black scholars achieving such success is a thing of pride. It's important to Ridley and the program staff that scholars understand they can tailor their experience to what they need, and I've been so proud to see my cohort and those after continuing to make UVA into a space for them. The holistic support offered by the program (especially during the pandemic) helped me make and uphold an intentional commitment to constant growth.

Financials

for Fiscal Year 2022-23



Letter from the Treasurer

We ended the fiscal year with a powerful accomplishment: the attainment of a fund balance of $19.5 million. Although the period presented certain economic and financial challenges, including a high inflationary environment and slower fund performance, continued generous donations and prudent cost management made this possible. The Ridley Scholarship Program supported 19 scholars in 2022-23, totaling $536,680.

In the upcoming fiscal year, we are focused on maximizing fund efficiency to provide as many scholarships as possible. With your support, we will be able to continue to grow our endowment, increase the number of scholars receiving full and partial tuition and fees, while continuing to provide robust academic programming and community-building opportunities to an elite group of students.

Christopher D. Ford (Engr '87)
Treasurer, Ridley Scholarship Program

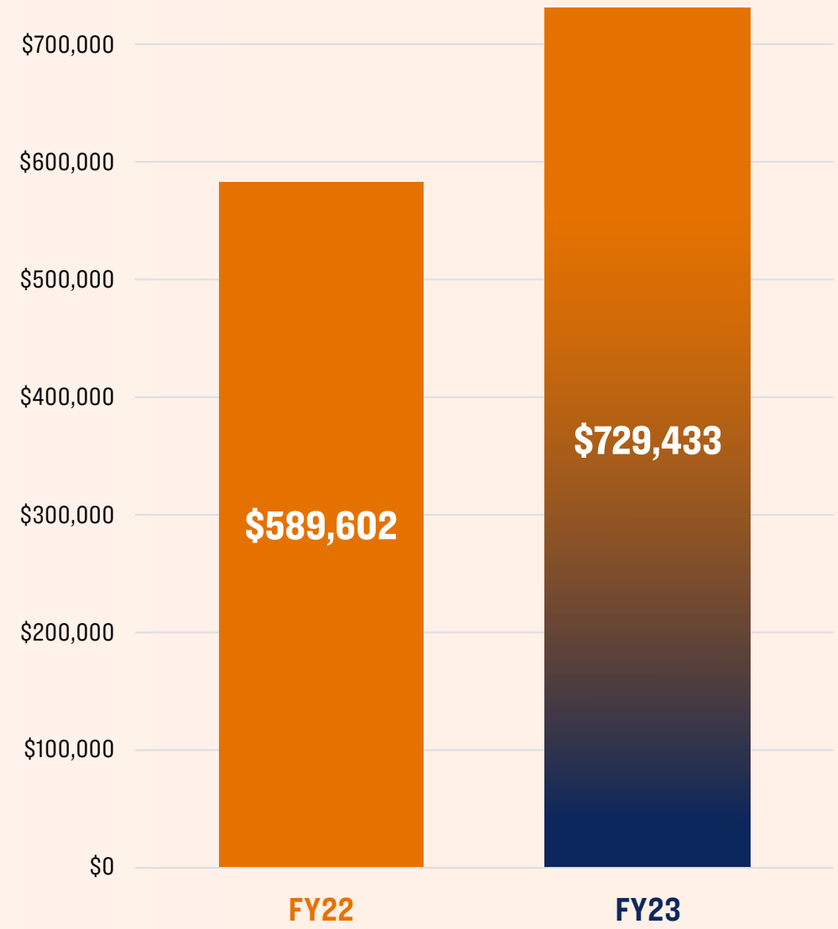
$729k
Total dollars received

$19.5m+
Ridley Program Funds total value

19
Total scholars supported

$536.7k
Total dollars that flowed to scholars

Contributions to Ridley Scholarship Program



DOLLARS RECEIVED YEAR OVER YEAR

Board of Directors

2022-23

Simone Pollard ‘94
Chairperson

Rashida MacMurray-Abdullah ‘95, ‘97
First Vice-Chairperson

Stacy Hawkins ‘93
Second Vice-Chairperson

Christopher D. Ford ‘87
Treasurer

Consuelo Kendall ‘03
Immediate Past Chair

Crystal Brown ‘95
Anthony L. Covington ‘90
Kelly Garnes-Pages ‘03
Sherlonda Goode-Jones ‘95, ‘01
Shavonne Gordon ‘95
Kristiane Crane Graham ‘79
Colette Gresham ‘93
Bryan Myers Jr. ‘09
Hosea Mitchell ‘81
Kazz Pinkard ‘00
Warren Prescott ‘93, ‘09
Darrick Robinson ‘96
Dr. Barbara Savage ‘74
Sherry Thompson ‘94
Aaron Wilson ‘12, ‘20

EX-OFFICIO:
Lily West (Darden ’12)
President & CEO,
UVA Alumni Association

2023-24

Simone Pollard ‘94
Chairperson

Rashida MacMurray-Abdullah ‘95, ‘97
First Vice-Chairperson

Stacy Hawkins ‘93
Second Vice-Chairperson

Christopher D. Ford ‘87
Treasurer

Tyler Ambrose ‘18
Dr. Eugene L. Anderson ‘98 & ‘01
Dr. Paula Anderson ‘94
Miles Braxton ‘18
Tony Covington ‘90
Kelly Garnes-Pages ‘03
Sherlonda Goode-Jones ‘95, ‘01
Shavonne Gordon ‘95
Colette Gresham ‘93
Dr. Dexter Love ‘97
Dr. Francine Olds ‘79
Kazz Pinkard ‘00
Darrick Robinson ‘96
Dr. Barbara Savage ‘74
Sherry Thompson ‘94
Quentin Washington ‘04
Aaron Wilson ‘12, ‘20

EX-OFFICIO:
Lily West (Darden ’12)
President & CEO,
UVA Alumni Association





Ridley

Scholarship Program

ridleyuva.org

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UVA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION