



Letter from the
Ridley Chair

Thanks to your generous financial support, the Ridley Scholarship Program continues to grow its impact within the University community. In close partnership with the Alumni Association, I'm pleased to announce an overall objective to raise \$10 million during the course of the Honor the Future campaign. This is an ambitious goal, but based on our assumption models, planning and newly available resources, we believe it is achievable. The funds raised through this campaign will allow us to award more scholarships and reduce the cost of attendance for our Scholars.

The programming we deliver through the Ridley Scholar Experience (RSX) continues to mature and would not be possible without several generous contributions. We view RSX as not only a key differentiator for prospective students, but a way to develop leadership skills that students can use throughout their lives.

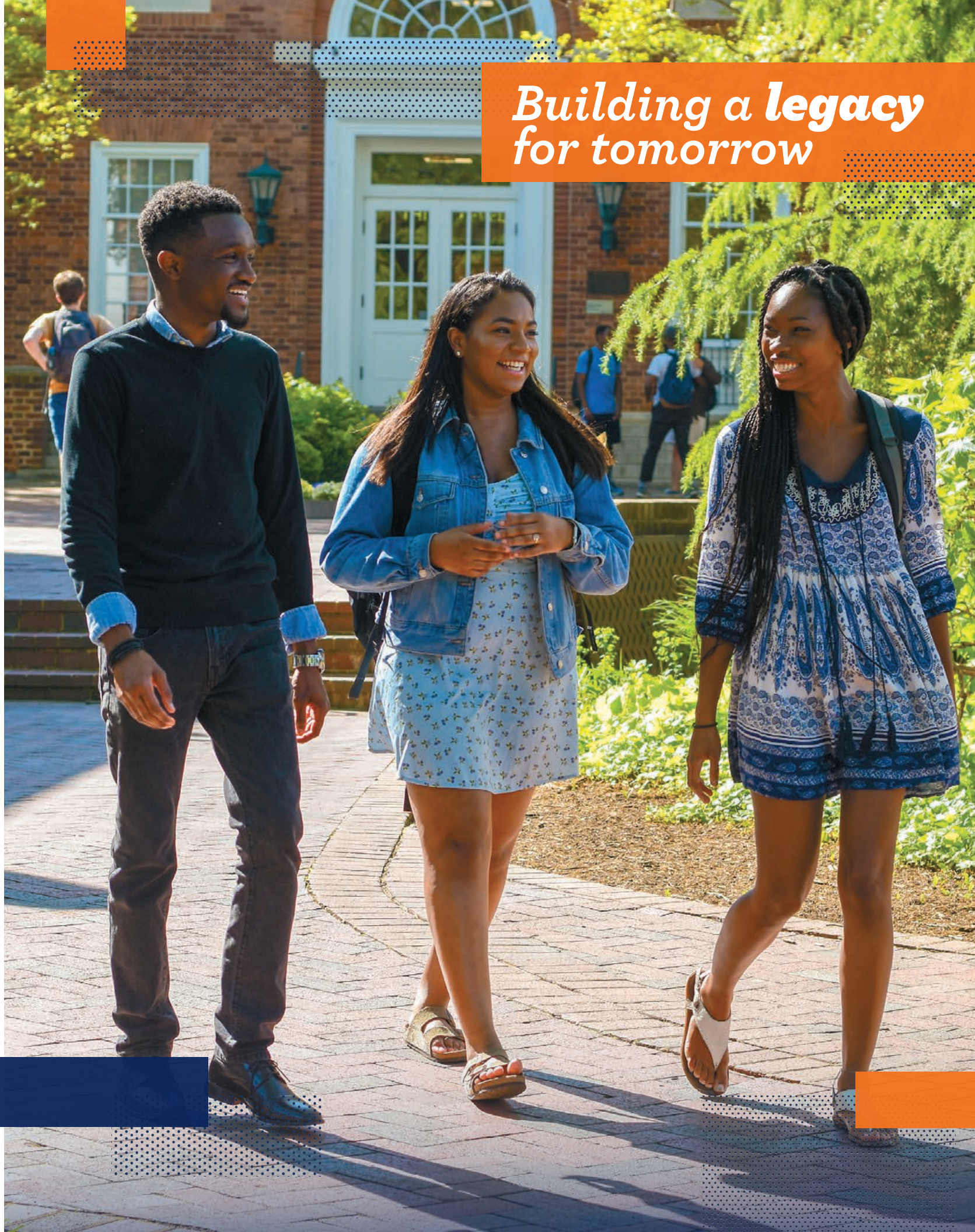
Additionally, we are pleased that the Board of Visitors voted to rename Ruffner Hall at the Curry School of Education in honor of Dr. Walter Ridley. This will help to preserve the legacy of our namesake, who was the first Black graduate of the University of Virginia.

2020 has been a tumultuous year in the United States and across the world. Many individuals and institutions have stepped forward and asked what they can do to make a difference. We believe that supporting the mission of Ridley is a meaningful way to take action and have an impact on the lives of Black students for generations to come.

Brandon E. Woods (Col '03)
Chair, Ridley Scholarship Program

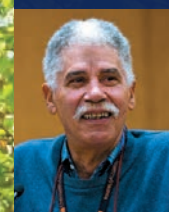


Building a legacy for tomorrow



In memory:
John Merchant

FEBRUARY 2, 1933 - MARCH 5, 2020



JOHN MERCHANT was an intellectual giant and a persistent, unapologetic,

and highly successful advocate for human rights and equal opportunity. Without the purpose and love of John Merchant, the Ridley Scholarship Program would not exist.

As we all mourn the loss of Mr. John Merchant, we ask that you pause for moment to reflect on his life's accomplishments, the values he possessed and the moral compass that drove his mission toward a better society.

As the Ridley Scholarship Program honors Mr. Merchant's legacy, our students are reminded of their role in carrying on the values and leadership of John Merchant.

Ridley Scholars



CLASS OF 2020



Micah Harris
Ridley Reid Scholar
Stafford, VA

This year I completed a Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering. While at UVA, I served as the president of One Way Intersivity Christian Fellowship and was a practice/scout team player for the UVA Varsity Women's Basketball team. I was also the mentorship chair for the Collegiate 100 at UVA, which is a high school volunteer mentorship organization for Black men. Following graduation, I will begin my career as a software engineer at CoStar Realty Group.



Christina Johnson
Holland-Blackburn Scholar
South Orange, NJ

This year I completed a degree in nursing. While in the School of Nursing, I pursued my passion for philanthropy as co-president of Diversity in Nursing for a Better Community (DNBC), which encouraged diversity in the nursing workforce. I served as the female talent director of CRAVE (Creative, Raw, and Very Edgy), an annual fashion show that raises money for the Boys and Girls Club of Charlottesville, for two years. I also completed a nurse externship at NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital.



Sydney Williams
Ridley Flagship Scholar
Haymarket, VA

This year I completed a degree in biology with a minor in philosophy. On Grounds, I served as a peer advisor through the Office of African-American Affairs, acted as a Medical Scribe at the UVA Emergency Medicine Department and was the head biostatistics teaching assistant. I also served as a teaching assistant for courses on the U.S. healthcare system. I am a former program director at Madison House, where I tutored students at the City of Promise. Upon graduation, I plan to attend medical school.



CLASS OF 2021



Liyon Afework
Gregory Ledford Scholar
Alexandria, VA

I am a McIntire student concentrating in finance and management with tracks in global commerce and real estate. Since entering UVA, I have served as the school's community development intern, the diaspora intern for the Ethiopian Embassy, a sales and trading summer analyst for J.P. Morgan, the COVID-19 relief response intern for the Salvation Army, and am now an investment banking summer analyst for Wells Fargo. I plan to establish my own self-sufficient nonprofit organization that will serve underrepresented communities similar to those I grew up in.



Rikia Freeman
Hoel-Perkins Scholar
Suffolk, VA

I am an aerospace engineering major born in Belleville, Illinois. I spend my time outside of the classroom training for half marathons, serving as the president of UVA's chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and serving as the secretary and publicity chair of marketing for the High Powered Rocketry Club at UVA. I am also a member of UVA's chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. After graduation, I will be working in the spacecraft field as a systems engineer.



Jolie Magenheimer
Ridley Andrade Scholar
Leesburg, VA

I am majoring in architecture with a concentration in design thinking. At UVA, I serve as a tour guide for the University Guide Service and am a member of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students, as well as the Outreach Student Advisory Committee. This past year I produced an admissions video about the Black student experience that has been used by the University's Office of Admissions.



Danielle Muriel
Sylvia V. Terry Scholar
Virginia Beach, VA

I study biology and women and gender studies on a pre-medical track, and I am passionate about medicine, women's liberation and empowerment, and the educational development of children and young adults. I will be serving as the program planning chair of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and as president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council at UVA. I will be an executive board member of the Black Student Research Network, working to improve various aspects of Black student life at UVA. Upon graduating, I plan to take a gap year to scribe before attending medical school.

CLASS OF 2022



Ja'Mel Reed
Ridley Bryce Scholar
Middlesex, VA

I am studying cognitive science with a concentration in linguistics, as well as poetry. On Grounds, I am involved in several organizations, including the Office of African-American Affairs, the University Guide Service, the Culture of Respect Educators and the Echols Advisory Committee. I am also a 2020-2021 co-chair for Housing and Residence Life, and a tour guide at Monticello. This summer, I was the student member of the committee planning a safe return to Grounds, and worked with L2K and the Meriwether Lewis Institute. Upon graduation, I plan to work for several years before pursuing a graduate degree.



Garvey Cummings
Holland-Blackburn Scholar
Maynard, MA

I am majoring in human biology with a minor in bioethics on the pre-med track. With the help of the Double Hoo Grant, I spent this past year working in the Bouton Lab to help isolate specific cellular pathways that influence triple negative breast cancer therapies. I've also been training to work as a medical scribe at the UVA Emergency Medicine Department. At the University, I serve as a tour guide for the University Guide Service, work as an undergraduate Teaching Assistant for introductory chemistry, and put on biannual performances as the Vice President of the Virginia Dance Company.



Andrea Parrish
Richmond Ridley Clarence Cain Scholar
Midlothian, VA

I am studying systems engineering (with a planned concentration in human factors and interactions) with a minor in engineering business. Over the summer, I had a virtual internship at the National Science Foundation through the School of Engineering's Policy Internship Program. On Grounds, I serve as a resident advisor for Housing and Residence Life and I work at the Rotunda. Additionally, I am a member of the National Society of Black Engineers and I give tours of the School of Engineering to prospective students and their families.

CLASS OF 2023



Kendall Davis
Gregory R. Batipps Memorial Scholar
Arlington, VA

I attended St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School where I was the leader of the French Club and of Sisterhood, an affinity group for students who identify as African American and female. Additionally, I was a member of my school's a cappella group, Gospel Voices, and was part of the set production crew for several school musicals. Outside of the academic setting, I volunteered at a local hospital and tutored students at Patrick Henry Elementary School. I plan to major in human biology and minor in bioethics, with the goal of attending medical school in the future.



Selam Herring
Richmond Ridley Clarence Cain Scholar
Richmond, VA

I am hoping to major in psychology with a French minor. I am a member of the Virginia Belles a capella group and the Eritrean Ethiopian Student Alliance. During my first year, I volunteered at a local elementary school through Madison House. I also volunteered in a childcare program through UVA Habitat for Humanity, and I hope to continue working with the organization in the coming years. This past summer, I worked at Partnership for the Future, which is a nonprofit that offers college preparation and counseling to high school students in the greater Richmond area.



Alexis Stokes
Richmond Ridley Clarence Cain Scholar
Richmond, VA

I attended John Marshall High School and graduated as the 2019 valedictorian. I was a member of the TRIO Talent Search, the Superintendent's Student Advisory Cabinet, and Project Discovery. I was also a TRIO Ambassador and a mentor to a class of elementary school girls. Every summer I volunteer at a local recreational center as a summer camp counselor. I have an interest in healthcare, but I also want to learn more about how children's minds work. I hope to find a field of study at UVA that encompasses my interests.



Salem Zelalem
Ridley Flagship Scholar
Burke, VA

I am a double major in economics and English (Global and Modern Studies, Distinguished Major Program) with a math minor. I have interned at BB&T Scott & Stringfellow, and I am currently a research assistant at the Darden Institute for Business in Society. On Grounds, I am an Echols Ambassador and a two-time member of UVA's College Union Poetry Slam Invitational Team. I am also heavily involved with Flux Poetry and Spoken Word, the only CIO on Grounds dedicated to poetry, and I use that platform to help foster a welcoming environment for marginalized voices.



Isaiah Jenkins
Ridley Flagship Scholar
Danville, VA

I am studying sociology and African & African-American studies with a minor in bioethics. Additionally, I am on the pre-med track and hope to go to medical school after graduation. On Grounds, I am a tour guide through the University Guide Service, an active member of the Black Student Alliance and a practice/scout team player for UVA's Varsity Women's Basketball Team.



Takara Washington
Hoel-Perkins Scholar
Gordonsville, VA

I am pursuing a degree in nursing and I serve as co-president of Diversity in Nursing for a Better Community (DNBC), which promotes diversity within the nursing profession. I also serve as a peer advisor for the Office of African-American Affairs and am a member of the Mahogany Dance Troupe. After graduation, I plan to pursue a career as a psychiatric nurse practitioner to care for those who struggle mentally and emotionally.



Maxine Deveaux
Holland-Blackburn Scholar
Takoma Park, MD

I plan to major in global public health with a minor in sociology. I am on the pre-med track and hope to attend medical school after graduation. On Grounds, I give tours through the University guide service and am an active member of the National Honor Fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi. Additionally, I serve as a peer mentor through the Echols Scholar Program.



Milan Marsh
Hoel-Perkins Scholar
Richmond, VA

I attended Open High School, where I was the Scholastic Standout of my school and a member of my school's environmental science club. I am a member of the National Honor Society. This past summer, I took place in the UVA Launchpad program, where I took courses in sustainability, marketing, multi-media production and other career developing skills. I plan to major in mathematics while at UVA and I hope to one day obtain a PhD in mathematics.



To learn more about our Ridley Scholars and their contributions to UVA and their communities, please visit ridleyuva.org.

Reflecting on an unusual ending



Letter from the
**Incoming
Chair**

The class of 2020 Ridley Scholars — Micah Harris, Christina Johnson and Sydney Williams — are very special to me. We started our Ridley journeys together: they were eager first years ready to make their marks on Grounds, and I was the new board member responsible for creating enriching programming for our Scholars. Over the past four years, I observed in amazement how the class of 2020 Ridley Scholars used their unique talents to transform the University and make it a more inclusive place for Black students. Because the COVID-19 pandemic brought their final semester to an unexpected end, we wanted to give the class of 2020 Ridley Scholars the opportunity to reflect on their time at the University and their Ridley experience. It has been a true pleasure supporting them over the past four years as co-chair of the Scholarship Committee and I wish them all the best with their future endeavors!

Consuelo A. Kendall (Col '03)
Incoming Chair 2021



**Micah
Harris**

My time at UVA has been filled with new experiences, disappointments, struggles, blessings and breakthroughs. It has certainly brought me closer to God and helped me understand His purpose for me. The friendships, life lessons and passions I have pursued at and beyond the University have made the experience one with few regrets. From competing in basketball tournaments, helping coach the women's basketball team and playing with them as a student practice player at JPJ Arena, to hearing Michelle Alexander, Jesse Jackson and Spike Lee speak, pursuing God with Black students, and earning a belt in karate, I have had so many opportunities to learn and grow at UVA. I will carry the lessons into my next opportunity as a software engineer at CoStar Realty Group.

My first day at UVA, I doubted my belonging. I met countless girls with blond hair and pearl earrings, but only 7 out of 87 classmates looked like me. I questioned how I would “find myself” in a place where I didn't even see myself. Thankfully, I found my voice, passion, and security in my Blackness. I found my voice through Ridley, which allowed me to become a leader through mentorship, cultural events, participation in NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) and studying abroad in Honduras. I found my passion through nursing, learning technical skills from my professors, and compassion and empathy from my patients. Lastly, I found my Blackness through my involvement in CRAVE and Diversity in Nursing for a Better Community, where I met lifelong friends and discovered the importance of cultural preservation. Although my fourth year came to an abrupt end, I am so grateful for the experiences that helped to shape me.



**Christina
Johnson**



**Sydney
Williams**

I am so grateful that Ridley took a chance on me, allowing me the economic freedom to explore my interests while I narrowed my career focus, served the UVA and Charlottesville community, grew into myself as a leader and found my passions. Ridley afforded me opportunities to study abroad in both St. Kitts-Nevis and Guatemala, where I learned more about how access to and quality of medical care are intimately related to socioeconomic status. This motivated me to focus my research and career on public health and medicine. Through my work as a medical scribe, I learned aspects of medical decision making and patient care. I designed my pre-medical academic path not just by studying the intersections of biology, chemistry and physics, but also by studying the underpinnings of patient care which concern equality, equity and ethics. I am so excited to continue on my journey to medicine, and I am thankful for the knowledge, friendships and memories I gained from my time at UVA.

Alumni spotlight

Justin Steele (Engr '04)

UVA nurtured me in many ways for which I will be forever grateful, but it also presented me with formative “crucible” moments that challenged me in ways I had never been challenged. In the most trying of times, my second family at the Ridley Scholarship Program carried me through financially and emotionally. I came out of those experiences stronger and wiser, and the lessons I learned form the foundation for the work I do today at Google.org to leverage Google's resources to bring greater justice and belonging for people who have been socially and economically excluded.



Micah Ariel Watson (Col '18)

Ridley made it possible for me to not only dream big dreams, but to actually pursue them. The financial support I received in undergrad and the community support and mentorship I continue to receive today alleviates so much of the burden that can come with being a young artist. In May I graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts with my MFA in dramatic writing, and I recently received four awards from the Kennedy Center for my new play Alaiyo. Currently, I am working on my first independent feature film, Preserves, and my web series Black Enough (streaming on YouTube) is inspired by my time as a Black Hoo.



Financials

For additional financial information please visit ridleyuva.org or contact Marcus Martin Jr., Director of Development, at mlm5p@virginia.edu



Letter from the Treasurer

Total commitments of \$1,328,835 during 2020 was a significant step up from the prior year, and put the Ridley Scholarship Program on the path to achieving its campaign objectives. Total scholarship and grants disbursed was a record amount of \$362,000, benefitting 18 Scholars. We have also received generous donations to provide endowment funding for the Ridley Scholar Experience (RSX), which provides the necessary stability toward long term programmatic support. On the investment management results, over 92% of Ridley's total assets are invested in long term pools at UVIMCO. The UVIMCO Long Term Pool posted a 5.3% return, which exceeded their policy portfolio return of 3.3%. As we look ahead to the new fiscal year, we are encouraged and ask for your continued support as we remain on pace to achieve our Program goals, which will continue to increase support for the best and brightest Black Scholars.

Bryan Myers Jr. (Com '09)
Treasurer

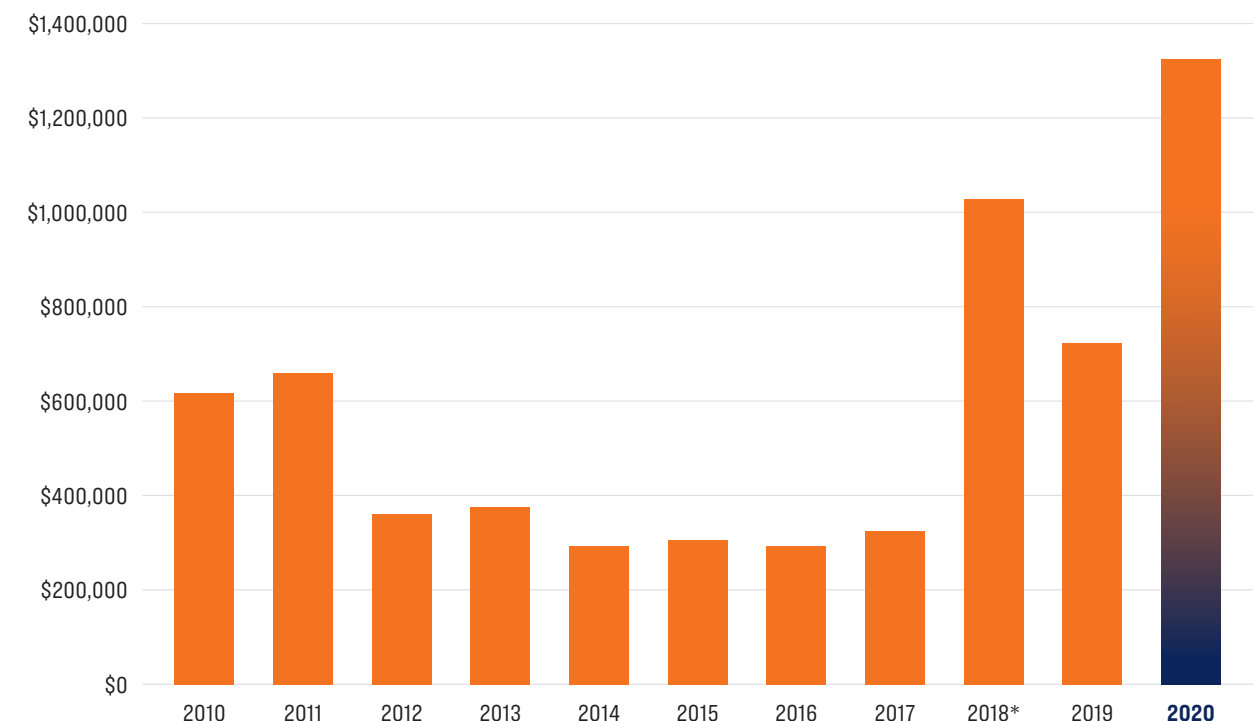

\$1.3m+
Total Dollars Raised in FY20


\$15m+
Ridley Program Funds Total Value


18
Total Scholars supported
in 19-20 year


\$362k
Total Dollars that flowed to
Scholars in 19-20 year

Contributions Ridley Scholarship Program



* conclusion of 30th Anniversary Capital Campaign

Thank you to our generous leadership donors who established new, endowed funds this fiscal year:

KC Graham established the Ridley Program Experience Fund with generous endowment and current use gifts to support the programmatic efforts in support of our Ridley Scholars.

Sharon Thornton, Esq. established an endowed full tuition and fees scholarship with an estate commitment of \$500,000.

Teresa Bazemore established the Larry J. Sabato and Walter N. Ridley 22nd Century Scholar Capitol Hill Internship Stipend Fund with a gift of \$100,000 for an endowment and a \$20,000 current use gift to enable impact this year.



UVA Alumni Association
211 Emmett Street S.
Charlottesville, VA 22904



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