



2021-22  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  UVA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION





# Building a legacy for tomorrow



## Letter from the 2021-22 Ridley Chair

**On behalf of** the Ridley Scholarship Program's Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to present the Ridley Scholarship Program's 2022 Annual Report. This year's report comes to you at a momentous and exciting time in Ridley's history, as 2022 marks the 35th anniversary of the program.

What began as a scholarship fund created by Black alumni to provide small book awards for Black students is now a full-fledged merit-based program attracting exceptionally talented students to the University, supporting over 300 Black scholars throughout the years. For the 2021-22 academic year, the program had 17 Ridley Scholars on Grounds, the majority of whom received two- or four-year scholarships covering full tuition and fees. Our scholars excelled academically and made valuable, transformative contributions to the University community through their leadership and engagement in various student organizations.

Although Ridley has accomplished so much over the past 35 years, with our corpus growing to \$19.6 million, we still have more work to do to ensure that the Program is the premier Black scholarship organization in the nation. Additional donations as well as fund growth will enable us to support more Ridley Scholars and elevate the Ridley Scholar experience.

The Ridley Scholarship Program would not be the organization it is today without your dedication and generosity. Thank you for believing in Ridley's mission to build a community of learning, leadership and legacy for Black students at the University of Virginia.

**Consuelo A. Kendall (Col '03)**  
*Chair, Ridley Scholarship Program*





Letter from the 2021-22

# Scholarship Committee Chair

Our 35th year continues to be an exciting time for the Ridley Scholarship Program. We welcomed five incoming first years and three upper-class students to the program, and every scholar remained admirably focused on their aspirations while managing unexpected hurdles connected to the coronavirus pandemic and beyond. Our scholars have relished the unique task of rebuilding their UVA experiences, and their curiosity, resilience, and devotion to achieving excellence “in spite of” never ceased to amaze me.

This new normal meant returning to more in-person events in addition to hybrid activities, connecting scholars with our board and each other. In honor of our four graduating scholars, we hosted our first ever Ridley Scholar Send-Off. Prior to walking the Lawn, we celebrated the achievements of Isaiah Jenkins, Takara Washington, Garvey Cummings and Andrea Parrish with their families in late April. Graduating scholars received a \$500 Annetta Thompson Award, a ceremonial Jefferson Cup and a graduation stole to commemorate their achievement. This event also highlighted the inception of our Ridley Scholar Oath, which was administered to the graduating class during the celebration.

We held an in-person Scholar Selection Weekend for the first time in two years, with a host of students from across the Commonwealth and the U.S. visiting Grounds to explore both UVA and Ridley. This fall, we will welcome six new first-year scholars to Grounds selected from a highly competitive pool of students.

Thank you for everything you have done to support Ridley over the last 35 years. Serving this monumental program at such a critical juncture in its history has been meaningful and fulfilling, and it is our hope that the stories of our current scholars and Ridley alumni inspire you as you reflect on your impact.

**Javona L. Braxton (Col '99)**  
*Ridley Scholarship Committee Chair*

CLASS OF 2022




**Garvey Cummings**  
**Holland-Blackburn Scholar**  
 Maynard, MA

I was Holland-Blackburn Scholar who graduated with a degree in human biology. I worked in the Bouton and Miller Labs researching cancer and cardiovascular science solutions, respectively. Additionally, I worked as a medical scribe recording doctor-patient interactions in the UVA Emergency Medicine Department. On Grounds I was a tour guide for the University Guide Service, an undergraduate teaching assistant for introductory chemistry and put on bi-annual performances as the vice president of the Virginia Dance Company. After graduation, I plan to work as a healthcare consultant in New York and become a physician.



**Isaiah Jenkins**  
**Ridley Flagship Scholar**  
 Danville, VA

I was a pre-med student who majored in sociology with a minor in African and African American studies. Outside of the classroom, I was a four-year member of the University Guide Service and its fall 2022 Probationary Chair. I also spent my fourth year working as a Rotunda ambassador, volunteering at the Charlottesville Free Clinic, and serving as the co-director of finance for Fashion for a Cause. This summer I am studying for my MCAT exam and preparing to apply to medical school next cycle. In the fall I'll be staying in Charlottesville to complete UVA's accelerated Master of Public Health program.



# Ridley Scholars

## 2021-22



**Andrea Parrish**  
**Richmond Ridley Clarence Cain Scholar**  
 Midlothian, VA

I completed a degree in systems engineering with minors in engineering business and data science. On Grounds, I was a resident advisor, served as student manager at the Rotunda, and gave tours of the School of Engineering to prospective students and their families. Additionally, this past year I was a part of a research team studying hurricane evacuations in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Upon graduation, I will begin my career as a cybersecurity consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).



**Takara Washington**  
**Hoel-Perkins Scholar**  
 Gordonsville, VA

I completed a degree in nursing and served as Co-President of Diversity in the School of Nursing. I was also President of Diversity in Nursing for a Better Community, which promotes diversity and inclusion within the field. I volunteered with the University's Office of Admission and the Maxine Platzer Lynn Women's Center to provide advice for prospective students. Upon graduation, I will begin my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree on the nurse-midwifery track at the University of Washington while working as a triage registered nurse at Country Doctor Community Clinic in Seattle, WA.

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.



CLASS OF 2023 CONTINUED



**Kendall Davis**  
**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 Deveau**  
**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.

CLASS OF 2025



**Sophia Chambliss**  
**Ridley Bryce Scholar**  
Mechanicsville, VA

My name is Sophia Chambliss, and I am majoring in biology in hopes of transferring to the nursing school. I hope to one day be a nurse practitioner or a certified registered nurse anesthetist. I am also on the Virginia Dance Team!



**Mary Hall**  
**Ridley Reid Scholar**  
Chesterfield, VA

I am double majoring in drama and African and African American studies. I am passionate about activism, social justice, and making theatre and other forms of art more accessible to the BIPOC community, as well as how Black studies makes way for that. I would love to teach a CavEd course on making theatre accessible sometime in my undergraduate career. On Grounds, I am a DJ for the student radio station WXTJ and I acted in two of the drama department's "Overcranked!" short films. I'm excited to explore both my academic and artistic abilities over the next year.



**Zoë Jenkins**  
**Holland Blackburn Scholar**  
Lexington, KY

I am studying youth and social innovation and economics, along with a potential major in political and social thought. On Grounds, I am involved in Mock Trial. Off Grounds, I stay involved in education re-imagination through being on the board for the Kentucky Student Voice Team and my organization, DICCE (which creates accessible training, curriculum, and guides for anti-racism and co-liberation). This upcoming year, I hope to get more involved with the Black Student Alliance and other organizations aligned with my interests. I am excited to continue my path toward affecting education policy and politics.

CLASS OF 2024



**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.



**Jalon Thomas**  
**Holland-Blackburn Scholar**  
Reistertown, MD

I am a computer science major also pursuing a minor in engineering business. On Grounds, I participate in research as part of the Shin Lab, in which our team uses machine learning to help diagnose vestibular and neurological conditions in mice. Additionally, I tutor various computer science and math courses through the School of Engineering. This summer I will complete an internship as a software engineer for the air systems sector of Textron Systems, which will hopefully help me determine my future area of focus.



To learn more about our Ridley Scholars and their contributions to UVA and their communities, please visit **RIDLEYUVA.ORG.**



**Gabriella Watson**  
**Richmond Ridley Clarence Cain Scholar**  
Richmond, VA

I am studying chemistry with hopes to matriculate into pharmacy school. Over the summer, I will be working as a math coach for incoming first years through the CONEX program at UVA. On Grounds, I work as an intern for the Ridley Scholarship Program at Alumni Hall. I am also involved in Flux Poetry and Spoken Word Club and just recently wrote and performed a comedy sketch at an open mic. I spend my spare time dancing and working on my novel I plan to finish before I graduate.



**Taylor Whirley**  
**Ridley Reid Scholar**  
Midlothian, VA

I plan to major in public policy and leadership or youth and social innovation. My goal is to impact our country's education system through public policy work. During the summer of 2021, I worked as a camp counselor/teacher at my church and plan to do so again in 2022. I will also be serving as a 22nd Century Scholar with the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. On Grounds, I serve as the graphic design coordinator for the Seriatim Journal of American Politics and have recently begun working with Madison House's Division for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEIJ).



# Fourth Year Reflections

## Garvey Cummings

**I can't begin** to explain how grateful I am for the opportunities that Ridley has offered me over the past four years. With the awarded financial opportunities, I was able to pursue a multitude of my passions without burden. Ridley provided me with a community before and during college. Most excitingly, the Ridley community will stay with me as I explore this new phase in my life. Without Ridley, I would not have come to UVA, and would never have had the opportunity to achieve such greatness at the university I now call home.

## Andrea Parrish

**The past four years** have been an incredible journey, and I cannot thank Ridley enough for it. The number of lessons I've learned from either board members or other scholars has definitely made my time here at UVA easier, as there was always someone I could turn to if I needed anything. Furthermore, the friendships and connections that I've made through Ridley have helped me grow into the person I am today. I am so grateful for all the experiences that Ridley has provided me, and I am excited to see what the future holds.

## Takara Washington

**Throughout my years** here at the University of Virginia and within the Ridley community, I have experienced extensive support and kindness from my fellow scholars, mentors, and many others within the University space. The opportunities for me to learn more about myself, my professional goals, and what type of life I'd like to cultivate have been endless and very helpful. I am beyond grateful for the growth I have gained here, and I would like to thank the Ridley Scholarship Program, its donors, and my family and friends who have supported me along the way.

“This special community has pushed me out of my comfort zone and challenged me to be the best version of myself...”

- Isaiah Jenkins



## Isaiah Jenkins

**I honestly don't know** where I would be without the Ridley Scholarship Program at UVA. The program and the community within it has supported my academic endeavors ever since I arrived on Grounds. This special community has pushed me out of my comfort zone and challenged me to be the best version of myself, providing me and other scholars with the confidence to step into any space and leave it better than we found it. I know the friends and relationships we have cultivated and cherished these past years will continue to shape my world and be a source of true happiness.

# Alumni spotlight

## Horace Ballard, Ph.D. (Col '06)

I am the Theodore E. Stebbins Associate Curator of American Art at the Harvard Art Museums/Fogg Museum. As a student from North Carolina, Ridley's impact on me has been profound. The award nullified the cost of my education, making UVA equivalent to attending an in-state school. It gave me a network of other BIPOC students during a cultural and political shift around race, sexual orientation and gender. Lastly, Ridley allowed me to study abroad at Oxford in my third year, which showed me that a humanist life as a steward of cultural memory was a path I could choose. Ridley whetted my appetite for graduate work at Brown and at Yale and I am forever grateful.



## Taylor Harris (Col '05)

From my nerve-wracking interview weekend where I met Dean Gregory and several future close friends, to graduation day where I walked down the Lawn confident that I belonged anywhere life would take me, Ridley made it possible for UVA to be my home. And the late nights writing papers paid off: my debut memoir, *This Boy We Made*, was published last January to kind reviews from *Publisher's Weekly*, *The Boston Globe*, *L.A. Times*, and more. *Essence* named it a most anticipated read for 2022, and singer Amerie selected it as her January book club pick! I am so grateful.



# Financials

for Fiscal Year 2021-22



### Letter from the 2021-22 Treasurer

We ended the fiscal year with a powerful accomplishment: the attainment of a fund balance of \$19.6 million. Generous donations, strong fund performance and prudent cost management made this possible. The Ridley Scholarship Program supported 17 scholars in 2021-22, totaling \$436,000. With your support, we will be able to continue to grow our endowment and fulfill our goal of increasing the number of full tuition and fee scholarships and providing robust Scholar programming to phenomenal students.

**Bryan Myers Jr. (Com '09)**  
*Treasurer, Ridley Scholarship Program*

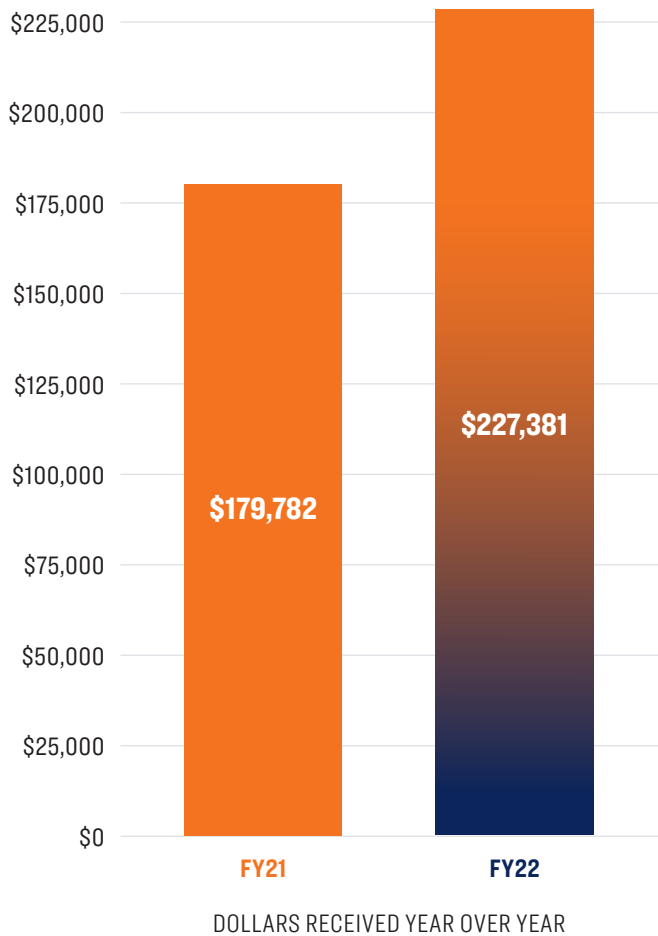
  
**\$686k**  
Total dollars received

  
**\$19.6m+**  
Ridley Program Funds total value

  
**17**  
Total scholars supported

  
**\$436k**  
Total dollars that flowed to scholars

### Spotlight on the General Fund



The **Ridley Scholarship Program General Fund** was launched in 2020 to provide flexible, current use funds that can be used immediately for the most strategic needs of the program, including Ridley Scholar enrichment. The General Fund grew by 26% from FY21 to FY22 thanks to support from generous donors.

### Thank you to our generous leadership donors

**Shawn Grain Carter (Col '82)** made a generous \$100,000 pledge to create the **Lindsay Grain Carter Memorial Scholarship Fund** in memory of her daughter, Lindsay Grain Carter. This new fund will allow the Ridley Scholarship Program to grant one additional full tuition and fees scholarship in the coming years, and we are thankful for her kindness.

**David (Col '80, '81, Med '87), Louise (Col '81), and Jacob Uskavitch (Col, '17)** provided a generous \$100,000 gift to support the **Sylvia Terry Scholarship Fund**. Through their generosity, the Terry Fund will be able to support a full tuition and fees scholarship for any school at UVA for a student from Virginia.



UVA Alumni Association  
211 Emmet Street S.  
Charlottesville, VA 22903

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