Welcome Back!
The Rotunda is open for business. Thomas Jefferson’s iconic Rotunda returned to classroom duty after being closed for the most extensive renovation since its reconstruction following the fire of 1895. A central aim of the work was to provide a new experience for students and faculty by creating instructional space in the Lower West Oval Room and two classrooms in the southeast wing of the building.

On the first day of classes, Nichole M. Flores, an assistant professor of theology, ethics, and culture, conducted a College Advising Seminar in the Lower West Oval Room on “Religion in the 2016 Elections” for 18 first-year students. She said it was a wonderful opportunity for the incoming students to experience the unique character of the school. “The Grounds are flooded with historical significance,” she said.

“It’s really exciting to be a part of this history and be a part of the education Jefferson envisioned,” said student Emily Graffeo (Col ’20) of Greenwich, Connecticut.

Students are now using the Rotunda for study space and social activities. In late September, President Teresa A. Sullivan hosted an evening celebration in the Rotunda’s Dome Room to welcome and thank U200 donors and members of the state legislature.

The Rotunda—the University’s most cherished building—has returned to its rightful place as the heart of University life and student scholarship. On this historic occasion, for this momentous achievement, we couldn’t be more proud of our dedicated friends and supporters. We are grateful. We simply could not have done it without you.
The Rotunda stands proudly restored to its crown jewel status at the north end of the Lawn. But our commitment to the preservation of the Academical Village’s rich architectural legacy is just beginning. Private support is a crucial component of continued improvements as the University proceeds with the next phase of the restoration.

Brian Hogg, senior historic preservation planner in the Office of the Architect for the University, is one of the key players in steering the Academical Village’s renovation strategy. The level of care taken by him and others to complete the Rotunda renovations will serve as a model for future work on the remainder of the Academical Village. Below are a few examples of what’s in store.

**With the Rotunda renovation complete, we now turn to the rest of the Academical Village, including Hotel A, Pavilion III, and the Jeffersonian terraces.**

Eventually, Hotel A became a physiology lab and, most recently, home of the Virginia Quarterly Review. The original kitchen space in the hotel’s basement is largely intact, yet the interior of the building has undergone extensive reconfiguration over the years. It is now being renovated to house the Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation, whose mission is to advance global research, and will provide offices and spaces for faculty and students in the program. The building’s systems include, for the first time, central air conditioning and a bathroom in 1 West Range, the adjacent student room to Hotel A. The bathroom will also serve as a changing room for weddings at the University Chapel, providing a long-needed resource for that facility.

“The Hotel A project reinvigorates one of the original Jeffersonian buildings,” said Hogg. “It has recaptured long-abandoned space for a program that is key to the University’s future academic undertakings.”

**Writing a New History for Hotel A**

For the first 50 years of its history, Hotel A, located on the north end of the West Range, was rented out to a hotelkeeper and served as a student dining hall and boarding house. The faculty laid out the duties they expected the hotelkeepers to fulfill. These included providing three meals a day, lighting the fires and bringing water to the dormitory rooms by 6 a.m., and providing laundry and cleaning services. The faculty also specified that the hotelkeepers were to keep at least one enslaved person for every ten people they served.

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**Resurrecting Pavilion III**

Pavilion III is unoccupied now, but it served as a faculty residence beginning with law professor John Tayloe Lomax, who lived there from 1826-30. According to Jefferson’s original blueprint, law classes met on the ground floor and the professor lived upstairs. An interior renovation includes new bathrooms, a new kitchen, and an update to the central air conditioning. The work will be finished toward the end of the fall semester.

“This will include replacing cement stucco on the portico columns with lime-based stucco more appropriate for the building and less harmful to the original bricks that form the core of the columns,” Hogg said. “In addition, the Carrara-marble Corinthian capitals that Jefferson ordered will be cleaned and repaired.”

On the pavilion’s roof, a balustrade that Jefferson designed and had installed—and that survived into the late-19th or early-20th century—is being recreated in mahogany; the roof itself will be sheathed in metal shingles to recall its original appearance.

**Restoring the Terraces**

Above the student rooms between Pavilion V and Pavilion VII, the flat terraces that Jefferson designed for the Lawn and Ranges are being carefully recreated. He had originally intended for the terraces to be a kind of elevated pathway connecting the pavilions and enabling student-faculty interactions.

First, the existing slate roofs, added in the 1830s, are being removed, revealing the remaining portions of the original Jefferson-era roofs. The roofs will then be covered with sheathing and roofing membrane, and the final finished surfaces will be wood, retaining Jefferson’s original design.

“Around the perimeter of this block of student rooms, we are replacing the Chinese trellis railing with a new Chinese trellis that we believe more accurately recaptures the appearance in Jefferson’s time,” Hogg said. “We did a similar project south of Pavilion VII in 2010, and we hope to be able to continue this work around the entire Lawn.”

With the Rotunda renovation complete, sponsorship opportunities abound throughout the Academical Village, including the pavilions, the gardens, and the colonnades.
Calling all Lawn alumni! This challenge is for you...

With the Rotunda renovation complete, the building is once again serving as the heart of student life and scholarship. Now our focus is on fully renovating Thomas Jefferson's original Academical Village, including the student rooms of the Lawn and Ranges, colonnades, pavilions, gardens, and associated buildings and landscape.

Each year, 54 fourth-year UVA students are fortunate to call the Lawn their home. If you lived on the Lawn, you became a part of the history of this remarkable place and its unique experiences. Memories of waking to the shower on chilly mornings, fireside studying, and the excitement of Final Exercises are reminders that you shared the best front yard in the world. You also had front-door access to Halloween trick-or-treating, the Lighting of the Lawn, jazz concerts, and Founder's Day festivities. The Lawn Challenge is an initiative to engage past Lawn residents in an effort to protect the historic Grounds for future generations.

Lawn alumni can participate by making a gift to any part of the Jeffersonian Grounds Initiative. All contributions count toward Lawn room, class year, and West versus East totals—and are featured on the new Lawn Challenge website and its interactive leaderboard. Lawn alumni also have the opportunity to endow or sponsor their rooms so that these historic living quarters remain a part of the daily fabric of the University as safe, fully functional spaces for future Lawn residents.

While the Lawn is central to the UVA experience, Lawn residents are our leading ambassadors for the Academical Village. On the cusp of the University’s bicentennial, the Lawn is inhabited as originally intended and functions as the residential village our founder envisioned. The Lawn Challenge aims to keep it that way. We now look to Lawn alumni to help preserve this legacy and lead the Lawn into the University’s third century.

Lawn Challenge Goals

$1M PER ROOM
$54M OVERALL

Put Your Room on the Leaderboard

giving.virginia.edu/lawnchallenge

Since UVA’s founding in 1819, the Academical Village has stood for revolutionary thinking and collaboration. Rooted on either side by rows of student rooms and faculty pavilions, it represents a grand experiment in higher education.

And no element of the storied landmark better represents the result of this experiment than the Lawn. Comprising 740 feet of lush grass and towering trees, it’s the place where students gather to study, converse, learn, and celebrate.

For many students and alumni, the Lawn remains a critical part of their UVA experience.

Kirsten White, a fourth-year computer science major at the University, said the Lawn is the symbol of UVA. When she’s not in class or studying, she might be found watching one of the many UVA traditions unfolding on this sprawling green: she stalked, in Thomas Jefferson’s birthday, watching members of the Society of the Purple Shadows, clothed in purple robes, walk on the Lawn in single file as Jefferson’s statue, arms they hung a wreath and placed a letter. While says her favorite event is the Lighting of the Lawn. “I love Christmas,” and the Lighting of the Lawn always makes me think of the holidays,” White said.

As an undergraduate, Marion Roehse (Col ’88) spent time on the Lawn, often meeting friends in between classes. Now living in Germany, she recently visited Charlottesville with her daughter, where the two of them visited the historic site. “This is the heart of UVA,” Roehse said, standing on the Lawn in front of the Rotunda. “It’s what you associate with the University.”

Fourth-year student Sydney Rubin also enjoys spending time on the Lawn. She can often be found sitting under one of its many trees—relaxing, studying, or simply enjoying the surrounding beauty. And like many Rubin is quick to convey just how much the Lawn means to her. “It’s one of the best things about this place,” she said. “Sometimes I’ll make my route to class longer, just so I can walk through it.”

Visitors to the Lawn are not restricted to UVA students and alumni. Each year, thousands of visitors from all over the world come to UVA to learn more about America’s public University.

Recently, Santiago Ibarguen and his parents traveled from their home in Washington, D.C., to Charlottesville, because they wanted to see the Academical Village firsthand. As his mother walked around the Lawn, snapping photos of the Rotunda and other historic landmarks, Ibarguen stood motionless, reveling in the beauty of his surroundings.

“The Academical Village was so unconventional, it brought together students and teachers, and it allowed people to study and interact,” he said. “To this day, it stands for the values Jefferson envisioned.”

As the proud home of one of the world’s distinctive landmarks, the University is committed to stewarding the Lawn and Academical Village soundly into the future. With the help of generous gifts from alumni, parents, and friends, we’re ensuring that future generations of students, scholars, and visitors can experience the unique power of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
**Ben Phipps (Col ’55, Law ’58)** is mindful of the day-to-day needs of preserving old buildings. A long-time tax attorney in Tallahassee, he first became professionally involved with historic preservation in Florida’s capital city as tax counsel to the Florida Heritage Foundation.

He knows that the first order of preservation is to manage the mundane tasks of upkeep and repair before structural issues become major problems. That’s why he’s made a generous provision in his estate plans for the Jeffersonian Restoration Endowment Fund, an unrestricted endowment devoted to maintenance of the Jeffersonian Grounds.

“I’d been making small donations every year to the Academical Village and I decided that, with my expertise in historic preservation, I could help do more to maintain this particular historic property,” he says. “It’s important to pay for the upkeep.”

As a UVA student he lived at 23 West Lawn. “I remember Pavilion VI—we called it the Romance Pavilion—not for any romantic story, but because it was where they taught romance languages,” he says. “It’s a wonderful place, with big windows and nice light. We’d use it as a place to study.”

Memories of the 1950s-era Lawn spurred his decision to help address the issues inherent to a historic site that is in daily use. “When I was a student, the bricks were disintegrating because the modern cement used to repoint them was the wrong pH and it was causing damage,” he recalls.

The art of preservation has come a long way since then. Now the University has an array of critical items, including updating the pavilions, conserving the historic gardens and landscapes, restoring the Lawn and Range rooms, and repairing the hotels and colonnades. Thanks to Phipps, this undertaking has an eminently practical underpinning.

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**JGI UPDATE**

Woody Wingfield has been promoted to Director of Major Gifts for the Jeffersonian Grounds Initiative. As program lead for JGI, Woody will head fundraising efforts to support historic preservation at UVA in preparation for the Bicentennial period and upcoming campaign and will act as development liaison to the Office of the Architect.

“Woody has shown exceptional dedication and I am excited to see where he leads the Jeffersonian Grounds Initiative in this next critical phase as we approach the historic Grounds bicentennial in 2017,” said Amy Yancey, assistant vice president for development.

Woody joined the JGI team in 2014 from Marymount University where he began his fundraising career. He is a graduate of the University, with a bachelor’s degree in psychology from UVA’s College of Arts & Sciences.

Please contact Woody for information on supporting the Jeffersonian Grounds Initiative:

434-924-0266  
woody.wingfield@virginia.edu  
virginia.edu/jgi

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