

OAAA E-Weekly Newsletter

Office of African American Affairs

September 13, 2021

Special Announcement

OAAA/Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy Information Session
Tuesday, September 14 – 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm W.E.B. DuBois Conference Center - #2 Dawson's Row
Batten representatives will answer questions and give helpful tips on what it takes to be accepted into the "Batten School." Please [RSVP](#) as space is limited. If you cannot attend, contact [Ms. Carter](#) to schedule an advising appointment with Dean Thomas. Refreshments!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fall 2021 Academic Calendar

October 9 - October 12: Reading Days

October 22 - October 24: Family Weekend ([Go to Family Weekend](#))

November 24 - November 28: Thanksgiving recess

OAAA Announcements & Services

OAAA Announcements & Services – Fall 2021

OAAA/GradSTAR Lunch Series: Tuesdays @ DuBois

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday (**September 14**) – 12:00-2:00 pm - W.E.B. DuBois Conference Rm #2 Dawson's Row
Join Dean Antoinette Thomas for lunch and conversation. Space is limited. **You must [RSVP](#) to reserve your spot.**

Black Friday

Every Friday - 1:30 pm - W.E.B. DuBois Conference Rm #2 Dawson's Row
Come & join us for food & fellowship!

OAAA Tutoring for Fall 2021 – Contact: [Dean Thomas](#) for more information

OAAA tutors meeting dates & times via In-Person & Zoom:

OAAA Calculus & Statistics Tutoring with Travis Elliott

Tuesdays – 1:00 pm-3:30 pm – (in person) W.E.B. DuBois Conference Room #2 Dawson's Row
Thursdays – 2:00 pm-4:30 pm – [Zoom Room](#) Passcode: 082999

OAAA Chemistry Tutoring with Yvette Gamor

Thursdays - 5:00 pm-7:00 pm – (in person) W.E.B. DuBois Conference Room #2 Dawson's Row
[Email](#) for Zoom appointments if needed.

OAAA Organic Chemistry Tutoring
TBA

OAAA Biology Tutoring
TBA

Contact: [Dean Mason](#) for more information on:

- Black College Women (BCW) Book Club
 - Black Male Initiative (BMI)
 - Black President's Council (BPC)
 - Black College Women (BCW) - In the Company of my Sister
-

Quote of the Week

"I write to tell the truth about the black condition as I see it. Therefore, I write to offer a black woman's view of the world." – Sonia Sanchez

Mihret Niguse



Mihret is a 4th year student majoring in Psychology and Sociology on the pre-Med track from Alexandria, Virginia. She is the current President of the Ethiopian Eritrean Student association (EESA) and the First Chair for the Black Presidents Council (BPC) through OAAA. She also serves as a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Intern for the Echols Scholars program at UVA. Outside of the classroom, She is a current research assistant for Dr. Renata Arrington-Sanders at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. In her free time, she loves doing hair and getting to know students from all parts of the UVA community during her hair appointments (ig: hair_by_mehi). Next year, she plans on taking a gap year to explore different job opportunities.

You can nominate someone (not yourself) to be in the Spotlight. Send your nominations to Dean Antoinette Thomas (art8u@virginia.edu) every Thursday by 12 noon.

Quote's Corner



[Sonia Sanchez](#) (born Wilsonia Benita Driver;

September 9, 1934) is an American poet, writer, and professor. She was a leading figure in the Black Arts Movement and has authored over a dozen books of poetry, as well as short stories, critical essays, plays, and children's books. In the 1960s, Sanchez released poems in periodicals targeted towards African-American audiences, and published her debut collection, *Homecoming*, in 1969. Sanchez taught 5th Grade in NYC at the Downtown Community School, until 1967. She has taught as a professor at eight universities and has lectured at more than 500 college campuses across the US, including Howard University. She was also a leader in the effort to establish the discipline of Black Studies at the university level. Sanchez was the first to create and teach a course based on Black Women and literature in the United States and the course she offered on African-American literature is generally considered the first of its kind taught at a predominately-white university. She viewed the discipline of Black Studies as both a new platform for the study of race and a challenge to the institutional biases of American universities. Sanchez was the first Presidential Fellow at Temple University, where she began working in 1977. There, she held the Laura Carnell chair until her retirement in 1999. She is currently a poet-in-residence at Temple University. She has read her poetry in Africa, the Caribbean, China, Australia, Europe, Nicaragua, and Canada. The aim of the Black Arts Movement was a renewal of black will, insight, energy, and awareness. Sanchez published poetry and essays in numerous periodicals in the 1960s, including *The Liberator*, *Negro Digest*, and *Black Dialogue*. Her writing established her importance as a political thinker to the "black aesthetic" program. Sanchez gained a reputation as an important voice in the Black Arts movement after publishing the book of poems *Home Coming* in 1969. This collection and her second in 1970, titled *We a BaddDDD People* demonstrated her use of experimental poetic forms to discuss the development of black nationalism and identity. In 1993, she received Pew Fellowship in the Arts, and in 2001 was awarded the Robert Frost Medal for her contributions to the canon of American poetry. She has been influential to other African-American poets, including Krista Franklin.

Upcoming Events

Fellowships Series

There are awards for students at all stages (undergraduate, graduate, professional) – and even alumni. It is never too early to start learning about these opportunities. Special events and sessions with unique times or locations are marked with asterisks (*) below.

Introductory Workshop

Monday, September 13 – 4:00 pm-5:00 pm – Rotunda Multipurpose Room (121)

Don't know what fellowships are? Wondering what the point of pursuing any of them might be? Come enjoy a chance to envision yourself as an applicant for these incredible opportunities. This workshop is most appropriate for first and second

years or older students who have yet to be exposed to the Office of Citizen Scholar Development.

Truman Scholarship Information Session

Monday, September 20 – 4:00 pm-5:00 pm – Rotunda Multipurpose Room (121)

Are you a dynamic leader? An activist dedicated to positive change? Committed to public service? If you answered 'yes' to any of those questions, you should consider the Truman Scholarship, which provides \$30,000 toward graduate school and access to a network of incredible leaders. Come even if you aren't sure about the graduate school part. Apply as a third year.

Goldwater Scholarship Information Session

Monday, September 27 – 4:00 pm-5:00 pm – Rotunda Multipurpose Room (121)

Do you love research? Are you considering pursuing research science, mathematics, or engineering as a career? Are you simply a STEM student and want to at least explore an exciting opportunity? Come learn about the award and the process for nomination by the University of Virginia. Apply as a second or third year – so first years should definitely come!

Peer Financial Counseling Available!

Tuesday-Thursday – 1:00 pm-5:00 pm – Georges Student Center Room 245

Peer Financial Counseling offers all UVA students one-on-one help from trained peer counselors on a variety of topics including budgeting, student loans, personal credit, basic investing, and more. Our counselors understand the stresses that come with being a college student and want to help you better manage those factors while in school. [Write to us](#) at to schedule an appointment! [For More Information!](#) Contact Name: [Dustin Ciraco](#)

Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry Series

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday – 4:00 pm – Clemons Library Room 204

We will have a workshop to support undergraduate research and creative inquiry. Every first Wednesday is a session entitled, 'Getting Started in research and creative inquiry.' [Schedule:](#) (full schedule to be posted by September)

Opportunities with Deadlines

Ridley Scholarship Fund Awards Available to Non-Ridley Students Available

Ridley scholarships that extend beyond current scholars: <https://aig.alumni.virginia.edu/ridley/about/ridley-scholarships/>

Ravenell “Ricky” Keller III Memorial Fund

The Ravenell (Ricky) Keller III Scholarship Award was established to perpetuate the memory of Ravenell “Ricky” Keller. Ricky was a 1985 Honors graduate of the College, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the IMP Society of Leaders, the University Guide Service and the Board of Trustees for the Class of 1985. Upon his passing, it became known that he was also a member of the Seven Society. Ricky participated in the First Years Seminars program and received the First Year Academic Achievement Award, the Afro-American Scholars Award, the Fraternity Leadership Achievement Award, and the John Kenneth Crispell Memorial Award. He participated in the Study Abroad Program, which afforded him the opportunity to study at the London School of Economics. The Keller Scholarship is available to all African-American UVA students who qualify. Students are eligible to receive a one-time grant to supplement a study abroad experience during a semester, summer or J-term.

National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)

Students have the opportunity to embark on a fully funded wilderness expedition, and leadership training through the NOLS Gateway partnership. Since its founding in 1965, the National Outdoor Leadership School has aimed to provide the environment and training necessary to help participants discover their full leadership potential. Through the NOLS Gateway partnership, the organization has had the opportunity to collaborate with organizations across the country to award full-tuition scholarships to exceptional youth who would otherwise not have access to NOLS expeditions. Each summer, up to 150 youth from up to 50 official partner organizations expand their leadership and wilderness skills at one of NOLS' seven domestic operating locations. Thousands of Gateway Partner Program graduates are now leading others in industries from conservation to software development.

Ridley-Sabato Capitol Hill Internship Stipend (Not Yet Awarded)

At least one student will be provided with a \$5000 stipend as they pursue experiential learning in the fields of politics, government, and public service. The intent of this stipends is to relieve some of the financial burden associated with the acceptance of a political or governmental internship, and as such, recipients may use it to cover housing, transportation, food and business clothing expenses associated with said internships.

Truist Ridley Leadership and Financial Education Academy (Set to Begin in January 2022)

Partnering with the BB&T Leadership Institute in Greensboro, North Carolina, and the UVA Career Center, the academy program will feature participation by Truist executives in teaching students about financial services, asset management and advisory services, technology, data sciences and operating careers, as well as participation by partners from consulting, legal,

financial planning, accountancy and related fields. It will also feature leadership and well-being course instruction from the Leadership Institute's award-winning faculty. The initial funding will provide for two summer's worth of 3-to-4 cohorts of 15 students to participate. Over a two-year period, the pilot program will support up to 120 African-American students at UVA. This will provide these rising second year students with an early experience of Truist's commitment to teammates and diversity and inclusion, and a valuable addition to career resumes. For Truist, it provides a remarkable opportunity to connect with high-quality cohorts of students in an authentic setting and create brand awareness of the opportunities Truist is committed to providing.

Richmond Ridley Clarence Cain Endowed Fund

The Ridley Club of Richmond, Virginia sponsors a full tuition-and-fees award for an exceptional African-American student from the Richmond, Virginia area. This scholarship has been the result of the collective efforts of Richmond area alumni and businesses, and will provide four years of financial support for one of the Richmond area's best scholars. Richmond area alumni continue to raise funds toward this geographic scholarship – the first of its kind for the Ridley Fund – and encourage others to support this effort.

Michael Russell Engineering Scholarship

In 2007, School of Engineering and Applied Science alum Michael Russell of Atlanta, GA established a scholarship fund for African-Americans pursuing a degree in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at UVA. They are expected to possess the leadership and scholarship qualities that typify all Ridley Scholars.

The Gregory Ledford Endowed Fund

In 2007, McIntire School of Commerce graduate Gregory Ledford established the Gregory Ledford Endowed Scholarship to benefit a rising third year African-American Commerce School student. This scholarship provides full tuition-and-fees for two years for an African-American student who has been admitted to the School of Commerce. Preference is given for students concentrating in Finance. The chosen scholar must have a high grade point average and must demonstrate involvement in University, community or other individual extracurricular pursuits.

The Sylvia V. Terry Scholarship

Named for legendary OAAA Dean Sylvia Terry, the Terry Scholarship recognizes the scholastic and community achievements of Black or African-American students at UVA. The scholarship provides two years of full tuition-and-fees support for the recipient. Ideal applicants are rising Third Year students with strong grades, leadership activities, and community service. Because of Dean Terry's pivotal role in creating the Peer Advisor Program, preference is given to academically strong candidates with significant experience as mentors.

The Dr. Derek E. Brown Scholarship

The Dr. Derek E. Brown Scholarship was created to remember Dr. Brown's dream of helping African-American male students seeking admission to medical or dental school. This award is designed to help qualified male students defray the high cost of applying to medical or dental school. Ridley is currently in the process of restructuring this award to benefit recent UVA graduates.

The Paige Pre-Medical Fund

This scholarship is designed to help pre-med students defray the high cost of applying to medical school. The applicant must be a fourth-year African American student at the University of Virginia who has taken all pre-medical requirements and the MCAT. Applicants must be planning to enter medical school immediately after graduating. One winner will receive a \$1,500 scholarship (non-renewable), which they may use to pay for medical school application fees and interview expenses.

Annetta Thompson Fund

Family and friends honored the life of the first full-time administrator for the Walter N. Ridley Scholarship Fund by establishing this fund in 1999. The Annetta Thompson Scholarship is awarded to a deserving 4th-year Ridley scholar who exemplifies Annetta Thompson's commitment to education. Annetta Thompson received her bachelor's degree in education from UVA in 1973. She valued the role of education and the importance of creating opportunities for young people pursuing an education. Annetta's hard work and diligence during her tenure as the fund administrator contributed to the tremendous growth and success of the Ridley Fund.

This Week in Black History



Did you know? Edward Alexander Bouchet (September 15, 1852 – October 28, 1918) Bouchet was also among the first 20 Americans (of any race) to receive a Ph.D. in physics and was the sixth to earn a Ph. D. in Physics from Yale. An African American physicist and educator, he became one of the first African-Americans to graduate from Yale College in 1874. He was also the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. from any American university, completing his dissertation in physics at Yale in 1876. On the basis of his academic record, he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.



Did you know? Trumpeter and composer Miles Davis for years defined "cool." Born in 1926, in East St. Louis (where his father was a dentist), Davis received his first trumpet at age 13. The young prodigy deeply admired jazz legends Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Billy Eckstine and others. He reportedly accepted admission to the prestigious Juilliard School in 1944, so he could one day play with those musicians in New York City. He accomplished that goal within a year of getting to NYC and dropped out of school. In 1947, the Miles Davis All-Stars debuted on the Savoy record label. Davis developed his craft during the be-bop era of music and also helped define other styles, from cool jazz to jazz-funk. He also discovered jazz greats Sonny Rollins and Percy Heath. In 1996, he was inducted as a performer into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. On Sept. 28, 1991, Davis died of pneumonia, respiratory failure and a stroke at age 65.