

Women in Leadership & Philanthropy

Since 2000, the Women in Leadership & Philanthropy (WLP) program has been reaching out to alumnae, family members and friends to help them find meaningful ways to expand and strengthen their ties to the University. Among other initiatives, the program has nominated women for membership on U.Va.'s advisory boards, boosting women's representation on these boards from an average of 10 percent to nearly 30 percent. Ensuring that women's voices are heard around Grounds will be increasingly important in the future. Women—80,000—now account for 43 percent of the University's total living alumni base. In the years ahead, women will make up the majority of alumni.



How to Get Involved

There are many ways that you can renew your connection with life at U.Va.. Here are some examples:

- *To sign up for Headline News, a daily email from the University, go to: <http://www.virginia.edu/topnews/subscribe.html>*
- *Check out UVA Today (www.virginia.edu/uvatoday) to keep up with life on Grounds*
- *Select www.virginia.edu as your home page*
- *Keep an eye out for upcoming WLP events in your area*
- *Volunteer or explore other U.Va. alumni activities through your local U.Va. Club at: www.uvaclubs.com*
- *Organize a U.Va. women's networking event in your community*
- *Consider mentoring a current U.Va. student*
- *Make plans to see old friends at your next big Reunion*
- *Include the University in your charitable giving this year*
- *Check the WLP website (www.virginia.edu/wlp) for current news and more ways to get involved*

For more information, contact:

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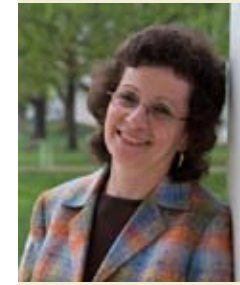
 UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

Women at the University of Virginia

The University of Virginia School of Nursing graduated its first class of three women in 1903, but it wasn't until 1970 that women began enrolling as full-time undergraduates in the College of Arts & Sciences. The University has never been the same. Women now make up 57 percent of first-time, first-year undergraduates and their contributions have helped make the University one of the best institutions of higher education in the country.

WLP Activities

Women in Leadership & Philanthropy is also working with other partners around the University to develop programs and events of interest to alumnae, family and friends. These may include panel discussions, professional networking opportunities, social receptions, and recognition of women who have been active supporters of the University. Check the WLP Web site for information on coming events.



Jill S. Tietjen 2007 U.Va. Women's Center Distinguished Alumna

Jill S. Tietjen, a 1976 graduate of the University of Virginia, was one of the first 10 women to graduate from U.Va.'s School of Engineering and Applied Science. A registered professional engineer, Tietjen is the founder, president and CEO of Technically Speaking, an engineering consulting firm and motivational speakers service. She also served as the national president of the Society of Women Engineers and is a role model for young women seeking careers in math and science.

Make a Difference!

U.Va.'s Current Campaign: Knowledge is Power

The University has launched a bold campaign to raise \$3 billion to secure its place among the nation's finest institutions, public or private. In previous campaigns, U.Va. alumnae have participated at about the same rate as alumni—55 percent. In the current campaign, we hope that women—alumnae, alumni spouses, parents, children and friends—likewise will find meaningful causes to support.

Alana Levenson (pictured on the cover), discovered such an opportunity, providing major funding for the Young Writers Workshop, directed by Margo Figgins (cover, right). Her gift of \$1.5 million will endow a director's position for the Curry School program for five years, or until 2012. The Young Writers Workshop Program grounds high school students in the literary arts, developing critical writing and creating thinking skills. Ms. Levenson (College '07) participated in the program as a high school sophomore, and it had a lasting impact on her.

Leaving a Lasting Impression

Val Ackerman (College '81), president of USA Basketball, leads the Women in Leadership & Philanthropy initiative's advisory committee. She believes it is important for women to leave their mark on institutions they care about. For that reason, she and the committee are working with the WLP staff and members of the U.Va. community to find new ways for women to participate in the life of the University and help shape its future.



Sheila Johnson with President John C. Casteen III

In December 2006, Sheila C. Johnson, an advocate for the protection of children and co-founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET), pledged \$5 million to the Curry School of Education to establish a center for human services at the school. The Sheila C. Johnson Center of Human Services will bring together the most significant outreach efforts of the Curry School, serving more than 7,500 children, adults and families annually.

