



JEPSON
School of Leadership Studies™

Dean's Report
2019–2020

Leading *Change*





Dean Peart
leads an
online class
discussion

Dear Jepson Family and Friends,

This year began like many others and ended like no other. We eagerly dived into the academic year with its familiar rhythm of classes, speakers, alumni gatherings, research, and sporting and cultural events. Then came the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic presented a challenge unlike any we have faced as a School and a University. In mid-March, the University made the difficult decision to move to remote learning out of concern for the health of our community. The change was unanticipated and unwelcome. Yet together, we rose to the challenge. Our faculty and students adapted their teaching and learning to fit the new circumstances.

More change lay ahead. The pandemic triggered an economic downturn, exacerbated existing social inequities, and catalyzed social unrest. Your generosity during the University's annual UR Here Giving Day and our collective commitment to creating a more just, equitable society ensure we will emerge from these tumultuous times even stronger.

I am inspired by and grateful for the steadfast, courageous leadership I have witnessed from our students, faculty, and alumni. Members of the Jepson community are the leaders of today and tomorrow. Rest assured, we are in good hands.

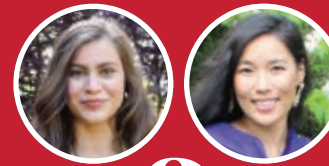
Sandra J. Peart

Sandra J. Peart

DEAN AND E. CLAIBORNE ROBINS DISTINGUISHED
PROFESSOR IN LEADERSHIP STUDIES
PRESIDENT, JEPSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION



JEPSON by the numbers



2

Jepson Scholars heading to Oxford

The Jepson Scholars Program awarded 2020 graduates Taylor Hoogsteden and Lina Tori Jan full scholarships to pursue master's degree programs at the University of Oxford.



1

105

inductees

98 sophomores and seven juniors — the largest class in our 27-year history — joined the School during Prelude, our annual induction ceremony.

"Jewel in the Crown"

The College Gazette, a national higher-education publication, gave the Jepson School this moniker when naming University of Richmond to its list of the 10 "Hidden Ivies."

6

at Cambridge

Six leadership studies students joined UR Law School students for Jepson at Cambridge, a Richmond law-and-leadership program at the University of Cambridge.

127

at EDGE

47 alumni and 80 students participated in the Jepson EDGE Institute, the School's alumni-led professional development program for juniors.

\$50K

in 36 hours

97 donors gave \$50,576 to the Jepson School during the second annual UR Here Giving Day. ▶



The New York Times

2.1 billion
media impressions

Our faculty were quoted in over 100 stories that appeared in news outlets such as The New York Times, CBS, and NPR and were accessed by consumers 2.1 billion times.

4 + 4 + 1 = 2,500



Four Jepson Leadership Forum events, four Marshall Center Lecture Series events, and the Leaders-in-Residence presentation drew more than 2,500 attendees from the campus and community.



Spider Women's Basketball forward Jaide Hinds-Clarke, '20, was a standout both on and off the court. Her leadership on diversity and inclusion initiatives, particularly in support of minority and LGBTQ individuals, won her recognition on campus and in the city of Richmond. The University awarded her the **Dr. Leonard S. Goldberg Award for Good Citizenship**.



Her **Jepson independent study**, "The Afghan Diaspora in Pakistan," took **Mehreen Usman**, '20, to Lahore, Pakistan, where she interned with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. She later presented her research at the **Jepson Research Symposium**. Mehreen was awarded a prestigious **Fulbright grant** to complete an English Teaching Assistantship in Malaysia in 2021.



Afghan native **Lina Tori Jan**, '20, championed the rights of immigrants, refugees, minorities, and women through her campus activism, community service, and **Jepson internship** with an international women's rights nonprofit. She received the School's **Servant Leader Award** and, thanks to the **Jepson Scholars Program**, a full scholarship to pursue a public policy master's degree at the **University of Oxford** this fall.

Student Changemakers

The leadership studies curriculum explores how leaders have navigated change throughout history. Students apply concepts learned in class to lead change on campus and beyond.

Dan Mahoney, '20, led campus-wide efforts to promote mental health awareness, sexual misconduct awareness, and recycling. The recipient of the **Mace Award** for the University's outstanding student, he hopes to lead positive social change by working in the political arena.



Eliana Fleischer, '20, the recipient of the **James MacGregor Burns Award**, the School's highest honor, sees law school in her future. She studied British law at the University of Cambridge through the **Jepson at Cambridge** summer program and explored American immigration law through her **Jepson internship**. Eliana received the School's **Fredric M. Jablin Award for Undergraduate Research** to undertake her **senior honors thesis** on how the criminal justice system fails to hold police accountable in the deaths of unarmed Black men.





The faculty of the Jepson School of Leadership Studies

Scholarly Innovators

Since the School's inception in 1992 as the nation's first undergraduate school of leadership studies, our interdisciplinary faculty have been at the forefront of innovative teaching and scholarship. Their research and teaching on leadership draw upon their expertise in the disciplines of anthropology, economics, history, literature, philosophy, political science, psychology, and religion.



Dean Sandra Peart (far right) with (left to right), Jessica Flanigan, Javier Hidalgo, Crystal Hoyt, and David Wilkins

THE UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED FOUR JEPSON FACULTY MEMBERS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR:

Associate professor **Jessica Flanigan**, appointed the Richard L. Morrill Chair in Ethics and Democratic Values, is collaborating with leadership studies student Alec Greven, '21, on a free speech initiative for college campuses.

Associate professor **Javier Hidalgo** received the University's Distinguished Educator Award in recognition of his creative teaching techniques on argument mapping and historical role playing.

Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs **Crystal Hoyt** was appointed the Colonel Leo K. and Gaylee Thorsness Endowed Chair in Ethical Leadership. Her ground-breaking research on growth mindsets explores how people's beliefs in their ability to modify their behavior can help them achieve desired results.

David Wilkins, who joined the faculty in August as the most recent E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Professor in Leadership Studies, is a leading scholar of Native politics and governance.



Rana Dajani, a molecular biologist from Jordan and the School's 2019–21 Zuzana Simoniova Cmelikova Visiting Scholar, brings a global perspective to campus. She has received international recognition for her research on the genetics of trauma, her advocacy for women in science, and her promotion of global childhood literacy through the nonprofit she founded, We Love Reading.

Associate professor **Julian Hayter**, an expert on African-American history and politics, has been the go-to scholar for reporters covering the removal of Confederate statues and the Black Lives Matter protests in Richmond. He has shared his insights in interviews with CNN, CBS, NBC, NPR, National Geographic, The Economist, USA Today, the Associated Press, and the Richmond Times-Dispatch among others. In April, he appeared in episode six of "The Innocence Files," a Netflix docuseries on wrongful conviction.



Statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee on Monument Avenue, Richmond





The program manager of the Primary Care Innovation Lab in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington, **Victoria Lyon**, '13, and her team developed and deployed a rapid-test system for COVID-19 for the Seattle area, the first U.S. epicenter of the pandemic.



"How do we give patients a good death during a global pandemic?" asked **Lindsay Flanagan**, '14. The pediatric oncology nurse practitioner took some time away from her job at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to work with adult COVID patients in a N.J. hospital intensive care unit.

Alumni battle COVID-19

Whether in the business, nonprofit, education, or government sector, Jepson alumni have been leading their organizations in the rapidly evolving response to the coronavirus pandemic. Featured here are four Jepson alumni in health care who are on the front lines of the war against the virus.



"Medical students have tried to help during this pandemic, from creating face shields and acquiring PPE donations for hospital staff, to organizing a program to help facilitate remote communication between folks caring for coronavirus patients and their families," said **John Sobieski**, '14. He is a rising fourth-year medical student at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in Camden, N.J.



"The leadership I brought to bear was to remain calm," said **Patrick Oliver**, '98, about his experience working as an emergency room physician in the initial phase of the pandemic, when hospitals were facing heightened anxiety and uncertainty.

Change Influencers

The campus community and the broader public flocked to the School's signature speaker events to gain new insights into how the world is changing and adapting on multiple fronts. Topics included the delivery and consumption of news, interaction with the internet and social media, and democratic politics and governance.



Describing the Electoral College as "the devil you know," University of Notre Dame political scientist **Joshua Kaplan** kicked off the annual **Marshall Center Lecture Series** with a discussion of the pros and cons of Electoral College reform. He was one of four speakers who discussed leadership and democracy as part of this year's lecture series.



During classroom visits and a public presentation, the School's 2019-20 **leaders-in-residence**, Richmond Times-Dispatch columnist **Michael Paul Williams** and NPR White House correspondent **Ayesha Rascoe**, stressed the critical role of a free press in a democratic society.

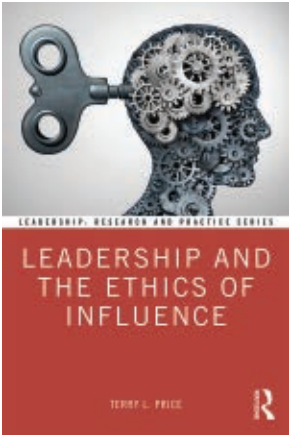


Four speakers addressed the topic "**Digital Dystopias: Truth and Representation in the Internet Age**" as part of the annual **Jepson Leadership Forum**. One speaker, **Derek Thompson**, staff writer at The Atlantic, told a captivated Forum audience, "Consumer spying is a natural part of life in the digital world."

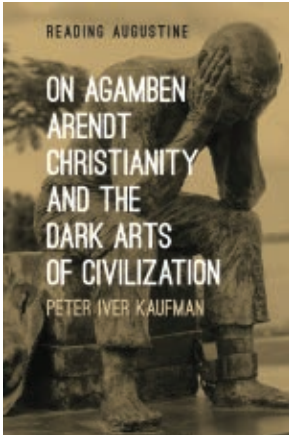


FACULTY BOOKS

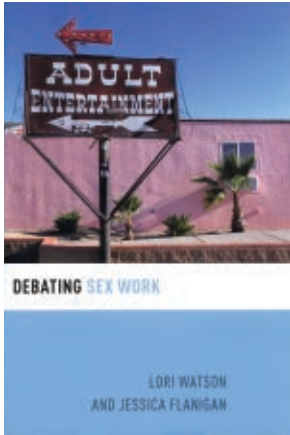
The Jepson faculty published seven books and 20 peer-reviewed chapters and articles between July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. In addition, they penned 12 opinion pieces that appeared in local, regional, and national media publications.



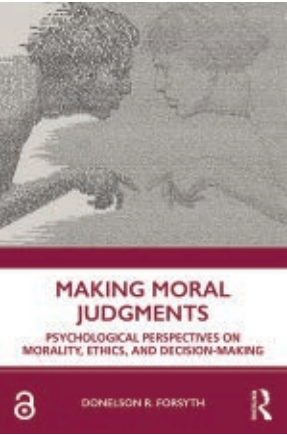
TERRY PRICE wrote “Leadership and the Ethics of Influence.”



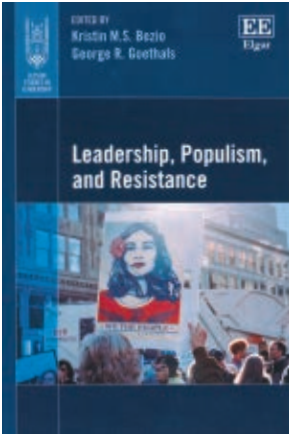
PETER KAUFMAN wrote “On Agamben, Arendt, Christianity and the Dark Arts of Civilization.”



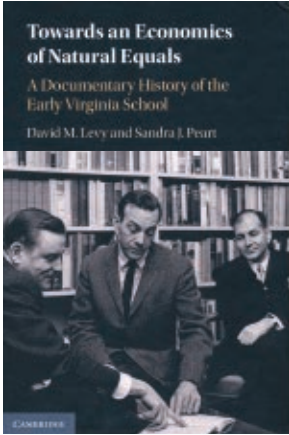
JESSICA FLANIGAN co-wrote “Debating Sex Work.”



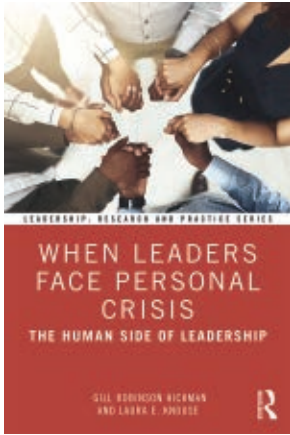
DON FORSYTH wrote “Making Moral Judgments: Psychological Perspectives on Morality, Ethics, and Decision-Making.”



KRISTIN BEZIO and GEORGE GOETHALS co-edited “Leadership, Populism, and Resistance.”



SANDRA PEART co-wrote “Towards an Economics of Natural Equals: A Documentary History of the Early Virginia School.”



GILL ROBINSON HICKMAN co-wrote “When Leaders Face Personal Crisis: The Human Side of Leadership.”



Jepson School benefactor and University of Richmond alumnus **Robert S. Jepson Jr.** was inducted as a Georgia Trustee at the Georgia Historical Society’s Trustees Gala in Savannah on Feb. 15. Pictured here with Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (left) and Georgia Historical Society President and CEO W. Todd Groce (right), Jepson (center) received Georgia’s highest honor in recognition of his visionary leadership and lifelong commitment to bettering the lives of others.

CLASS OF 2020 TRIBUTE

Members of the Class of 2020, comprising 75 majors and 15 minors, logged just over 29,000 hours fulfilling their course service-learning requirements and Jepson internships. In addition, 54 studied abroad, 13 were Science Leadership Scholars, and two received a full scholarship through the Jepson Scholars Program to pursue a one-year master’s degree at the University of Oxford.



Seniors quickly adapted to **Zoom classes** when the coronavirus pandemic necessitated a move to online learning in mid-March.



Although our Spiders celebrated **Commencement** virtually this year, the School will invite them back to campus for an in-person celebration when it is safe to do so.



Twenty seniors presented their research, including 10 honors theses, at the **Jepson Research Symposium**, held virtually this year. In February, Professor **Crystal Hoyt, Ayele d’Almeida, ’20**, and two recent UR graduates co-presented research on beliefs about criminality at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention in New Orleans.



Seniors completed their required **Jepson internship** in business, education, finance, government, health care, journalism, law, and science and research. Angling enthusiast **Jamie Tyler** interned in the sales department of Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures in Bozeman, Mont.



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