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Jepson School of Leadership Studies Dean's Report 2020 - 2021

Sandra J. Peart

University of Richmond, speart@richmond.edu

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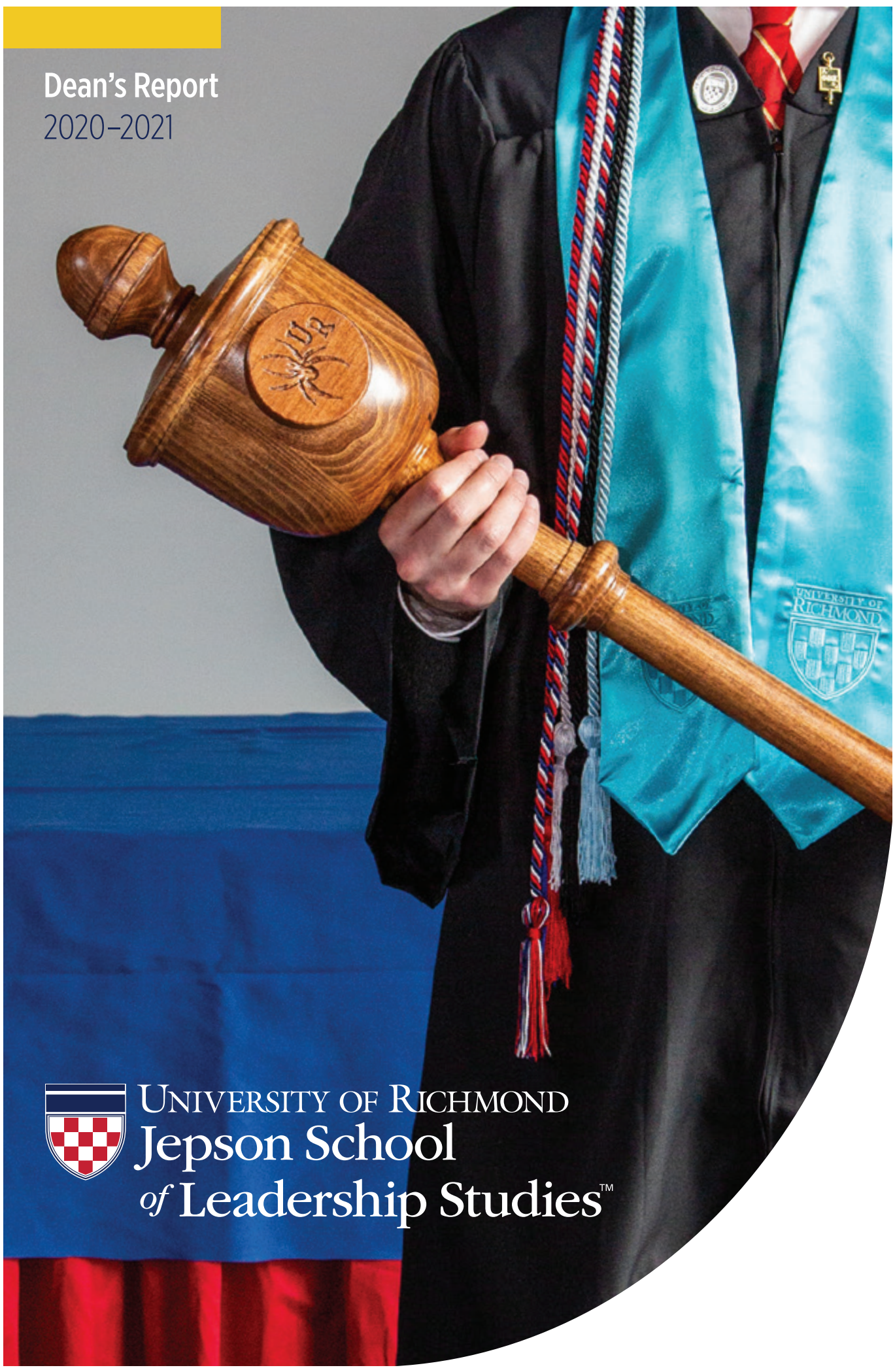
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Dean's Report
2020-2021



UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
Jepson School
of Leadership Studies™



Extraordinary Leadership

in an *extraordinary* year

Dear Friends,

Adjectives frequently used to describe the past year include *challenging*, *unprecedented*, *exhausting*, and *surreal*. I prefer the adjective *extraordinary* to describe the 2020–2021 academic year at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies. Extraordinary, surely, given the coronavirus pandemic and racial reckoning that roiled our nation. Extraordinary, also, given the collaboration, perseverance, and resilience demonstrated by our Jepson family.



I am grateful for the efforts of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends to further our mission to educate for and about leadership.

Jepson faculty and students adapted to a mix of virtual and in-person classes. We welcomed 105 new students to the School — tying last year's record for the largest cohort of new students in our history. Our students completed internships and presented their research virtually at our annual Student Research Symposium and at several national conferences.

Commencement, which featured leadership studies graduates in leading roles, was a fitting tribute to, and celebration of, the School's extraordinary year. Indeed, we didn't just survive. We thrived.

That is leadership.

With gratitude,

Handwritten signature of Sandra J. Peart.

Sandra J. Peart

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

COVER PHOTO: Leadership studies senior and University Mace Award recipient Alec Greven carried the University mace during the 2021 Commencement.

1st

undergraduate school
of leadership studies
in the nation

285

declared leadership studies
majors and minors

33

peer-reviewed faculty articles
and book chapters published

23

students presented
research at the
School's annual
Research Symposium

80

alumni planned and led EDGE,
the School's annual
professional development
program for juniors

26,000

hours logged by Class of 2021
to fulfill class service-learning and
internship requirements

\$92,000+

raised during 36-hour
UR Here Giving Day

Student thriving

OUR STUDENTS NOT ONLY LEARNED AND ACHIEVED IN THE YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC, THEY EXCELLED.

Three named Jepson Scholars

The **Jepson Scholars Program** named three graduating seniors Jepson Scholars. Created in 2018 with the vision and generosity of Jepson School benefactors Robert S. Jepson Jr. and Alice Andrews Jepson, the program provides scholarships that cover tuition, housing, and living stipends for up to three graduating seniors to pursue one-year master's programs at the **University of Oxford**.



“Only a campus with freedom of expression can prepare students for a life in a democratic society.”

Alec Greven drafted a resolution on student freedom of expression that sparked a campus-wide discussion on free speech. The Rhodes Scholar finalist completed his Jepson internship at the Washington, D.C.-based think tank Institute for Free Speech and wrote his Jepson senior honors thesis on the moral foundations of freedom of expression. Greven will pursue a Master of Public Policy at Oxford.



“Religion or the lack of religion has a tremendous influence on leaders’ decision-making processes.”

Keeley Harris studied the connection between religion and leadership. She explored Asian religions during a study-abroad semester in Cambodia and Christianity during her Jepson internship at a Presbyterian church in Atlanta. Her Jepson senior honors thesis focused on the impact of a 16th-century Christian sect on the founding principles of American democracy. She will enroll in a Master of Studies in Theology program at Oxford.

“I feel an urgency to uplift the voices of survivors of sexual violence.”



Kexin Li used performance art in her native China and on campus to raise awareness of sexual assault. She interned with a nonprofit dedicated to eradicating human trafficking and researched sexual violence as a weapon of war. After completing a Master of Science in Contemporary Chinese Studies at Oxford, the Rhodes Scholar finalist hopes to start a nonprofit in China to support survivors of sexual assault.

University of Richmond's First Luce Scholar

The **Henry Luce Foundation** launched the nationally competitive Luce Scholars Program in 1974 to enhance the understanding of Asia among potential leaders in American society. The program provides stipends, language training, and individualized professional placement in Asia for 15–18 Luce Scholars each year.

Fiona Carter-Tod, '21, the University's first Luce Scholar, will spend the next year in Sri Lanka, researching the health hazards of open fires used for cooking. Eventually she plans to pursue a career in immunological research centered on social justice and the elimination of health disparities.



“Jepson gave me ethical and philosophical perspectives on how different systems of power have contributed to the issues that I, as a researcher, hope to solve in the future.”

News media turn to faculty experts

IN A YEAR DEFINED BY A GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UPHEAVAL, OUR MULTIDISCIPLINARY FACULTY WERE THE GO-TO EXPERTS FOR REPORTERS COVERING NATIONAL HOT-BUTTON NEWS. THE SCHOOL AND ITS FACULTY GARNERED 1.18 BILLION MEDIA IMPRESSIONS.

The Pandemic



DEAN AND PROFESSOR **SANDRA PEART**,
ECONOMIST, **COMMPRO**:

“Our message to risk takers who refuse to wear a mask should not be that they are putting themselves in harm’s way, but rather that they are harming everyone else, friends and family.”



SENIOR DISTINGUISHED LECTURER **KENNETH RUSCIO**,
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS EXPERT,
THE CONVERSATION:

“The absence of trust [in political leaders] jeopardizes an effective response to a health crisis. But it also creates a political crisis, a loss of faith in democracy as a way to govern ourselves.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR **JESSICA FLANIGAN**,
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND BIOETHICS SCHOLAR, **NPR**:

“Libertarians believe, or they should believe, that people should wear masks because infecting someone with a harmful illness violates [that person’s] bodily rights.”



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR **THAD WILLIAMSON**,
POLITICAL SCIENTIST, **DIVERSE ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION**:

“Many people will die unnecessarily before the crisis subsides. Decisions made or not made by leaders will impact its ultimate magnitude.”

PROFESSOR **DONELSON FORSYTH**,
SOCIAL AND PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGIST, **DAILY BEAST**:

“We are so quick to think it is ‘us vs. them’ that we use any difference among us to create divisions: Baylor vs. Gonzaga, morning people vs. night owls, Chevy drivers vs. Ford drivers, Moderna vs. Pfizer — I won’t even mention thrill-seeking J&Js.”



Race and Racism



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR **JULIAN HAYTER**,
HISTORIAN, **CNN**:

“Those [Confederate] monuments ... are part of a larger propaganda campaign designed to rewrite the history of the Civil War and slavery in many ways to control the present.”

PROFESSOR **DAVID WILKINS**,
POLITICAL SCIENTIST,
WASHINGTON POST:

“We [Native Americans] became citizens [with the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924], but it was a partial citizenship. Our race still determined that we were less than full citizens.”



Women as Leaders

PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN **CRYSTAL HOYT**,
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGIST, **USA TODAY**:

“Not only do women and people of color experience barriers to leadership, women of color also can experience what social scientists term ‘double jeopardy’ — suffering a heightened disadvantage due to the effects of both gender and racial animus.”



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR **CHRISTOPHER VON RUEDEN**, ANTHROPOLOGIST,
THE CONVERSATION:

“Organizations that have a more equitable mix of male and female leaders have access to more diverse leadership styles. This is a good thing when it comes to tackling all kinds of challenges.”

Alumni lead during the pandemic



“Sometimes you work your entire career for a moment in time like this. I take tremendous pride in looking back at all the work teams across Walgreens have done to prepare for this moment.”

Ed Kaleta, '95, Walgreens Group Vice President for Government Relations, partnered with the federal government in Walgreens' COVID-19 testing and vaccination rollouts. Thanks to the round-the-clock efforts of Kaleta and his Walgreens teammates, the pharmacy chain had administered more than 17 million COVID-19 vaccine doses as of mid-May 2021.



As CEO of Del Sol Medical Center, an acute-care hospital in El Paso, **David Shimp**, '01, led his organization through the crisis by consulting with experts and adapting quickly to patient surges and new treatment protocols.

“During a 12-week period, we worked seven-day weeks, addressing staffing needs, bed capacity, oxygen supplies, and communications with our staff and physicians —everything we needed to cover to best support our community. At Jepson, I learned the critical thinking skills needed to manage such a crisis.”

“I have an innate sense of responsibility to raise both awareness and funds to create educational and employment opportunities for marginalized BIPOC communities.”

As unemployment skyrocketed during the pandemic, **Kimberly Bowers Rollins**, '05, ramped up efforts to meet Goodwill of Greater Washington's mission of supporting workforce development for people with challenges to employment. The GGW vice president of development raised funds to open a virtual career center and pay for health insurance for the nonprofit's employees who were furloughed during the height of the pandemic.



Jepson welcomes new faculty

THE JEPSON SCHOOL WELCOMED ASSISTANT PROFESSORS OF LEADERSHIP STUDIES
VOLHA (OLGA) CHYKINA AND LAUREN HENLEY TO THE FACULTY.



“My research on immigrant students shows they achieve more in schools and careers when they live in countries with more pro-immigrant policies. This finding is particularly relevant in light of the rise of populism around the world.”

Originally from Belarus, **Volha (Olga) Chykina** received her M.Ed. in educational leadership from DePaul University and her Ph.D. in educational theory and policy and comparative and international education from The Pennsylvania State University. She researches educational inequality and social justice.

“I started studying young Black girls who were sentenced to reformatories, girls who were destined for pregnancy, prostitution, and prison. This is just potent language for girls who didn’t fit within Black middle-class ideals of respectability and whose parents didn’t have enough money to give them an education.”



Richmond-area native **Lauren Henley** received both her M.A. and Ph.D. in history at the University of Texas at Austin. She researches youthfulness, race, gender, religion, and crime in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

“When you’re playing a character, you learn a lot of lessons about empathy and humanity. You have to listen to what the other characters are saying and do the work to understand their motivations. This connects to leadership.”

A leader among leaders

India Henderson, '21, leads from the stage. She performed in and helped direct numerous University shows, many with social justice themes, and wrote and performed a play for her Jepson senior independent research project. She was named the recipient of the 2021 James MacGregor Burns Award, the School's highest honor, and the 2021 National Leader of the Year in Creative and Performing Arts by the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society.



Jepson launches the McDowell Institute



Reflecting the commitment of its namesake and professor emeritus of leadership studies, the **Gary L. McDowell Institute** launched in October 2020 with the goal of bringing the diverse viewpoints of faculty, students, and visiting scholars to bear on the most important questions in ethics, law, and politics. Co-directed by leadership studies professor Terry Price and political science professor Daniel Palazzolo, the Institute offers a signature speaker series, academic conferences, and symposium. It features a fellowship program for undergraduates interested in reading about and discussing political, social, and economic thought. The inaugural class of student fellows comprised 11 students representing 11 majors from across campus. The Institute is a fitting tribute to the life and legacy of a beloved and accomplished scholar, professor, and colleague, who died Aug. 6, 2021.



The School's first **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**, chaired by assistant professor Marilie Coetsee, collects information on student impressions regarding belonging and makes recommendations for inclusive practices at the School.



2019 National Teacher of the Year **Rodney Robinson** served as the 2020-2021 Jepson School leader-in-residence. A veteran Richmond Public School teacher turned senior advisor, Robinson made virtual visits to Jepson classrooms and gave a public Zoom presentation on educational equity. He inspired several leadership studies students to consider careers with Richmond Public Schools and others to explore social justice issues more deeply.

National Teacher of the Year serves as leader-in-residence



Jordanian molecular biologist **Rana Dajani** brought an international perspective to campus while serving as the School's 2019-2021 Zuzana Simoniova Cmelikova Visiting International Scholar. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees named her the 2020 regional winner for the Middle East and North Africa for the Nansen Refugee Award in recognition of her work promoting reading and education among refugees.

Commencement

LEADERSHIP STUDIES graduates played leading roles in the 2021 Commencement and exemplified the School's and University's resilience and flourishing during an extraordinary year. Our 2021 graduates, comprising 81 majors and eight minors, swelled the ranks of our alumni to just over 1,800 worldwide. They accepted jobs with diverse organizations, including Barclays Investment Bank, Cigna, Dominion Energy, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, KPMG, Teach for America, and the U.S. House of Representatives. Others will attend graduate school at Columbia University, Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Oxford, and elsewhere.



As the recipient of the Mace Award, the University's highest student honor, **Alec Greven**, Jepson School Class of 2021, led the Commencement processional and recessional.

“This past year was a trial in our heroic life journey, but I am proud to say we came out on top.”

Ana Paula Alvarado, Jepson School Class of 2021, gave the student Commencement address.



“[The University of Richmond] experience is a shared experience that shapes us in profound ways, that animates and informs much that we do throughout our lives, that makes us part of an extended family that spans generations.”

Ken Anderson, a 2017 Jepson School graduate and 2020 Richmond Law School graduate, greeted the new alumni.



India Henderson, '21, recipient of the James MacGregor Burns Award, the Jepson School's highest student honor, carried the Jepson flag during Commencement.

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University of Richmond
Jepson Hall
221 Richmond Way
Richmond, VA 23173

(804) 289-8008
jepson.richmond.edu

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