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# ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**FY 2025**

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September 2024

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**Please consider this non-exhaustive list of opportunities,  
recommend alumni in your network for opportunities,  
or reach out to student clubs, Centers, and partner  
departments directly to offer your assistance at anytime!**

**Post-activity, email [alumni@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:alumni@darden.virginia.edu) to let us know what you've done!**

*\*We cannot guarantee that matches will be made for each opportunity.\**

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[alumni@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:alumni@darden.virginia.edu)



# STUDENT CLUB ENGAGEMENT *Date-specific asks*

## 23-27 September: Pharma 101 Event

- **Healthcare Club** is looking for alumni to provide a 101 talk to students on how the pharma industry works, preferably alumni with at least 3 years of post-Darden pharma or biotech experience
- Kevin Dsouza MBA '25 [dsouzak25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:dsouzak25@darden.virginia.edu)

## 15 November: Sustainability Conference

- **Net Impact and Darden Energy Club** is looking for panelists to educate students on the intersection of business with sustainability, clean energy and social impact
- Andrew Yowell MBA '25 [YowellA25@darden.Virginia.edu](mailto:YowellA25@darden.Virginia.edu) & Kristen Cugini MBA '25 [CuginiK25@darden.Virginia.edu](mailto:CuginiK25@darden.Virginia.edu)

## 6 December: Healthcare Club AI Panel

- **Healthcare Club** is looking for alumni for an AI panel – ideally a founder of a healthcare AI start up (at least 5 years out of Darden), 1 Med-tech or pharma professional heading AI for their company (at least 10 years out of Darden, big pharma or medtech preferred), alum working at a healthcare data firm like IQVIA, KOMODO, EPIC at an exec level, 1 Darden alum who is an academic or AI researcher
- Kevin Dsouza MBA '25 [dsouzak25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:dsouzak25@darden.virginia.edu)

## 7 February: **Government Panel** (Sands Family Grounds)

- Looking for panelists in senior federal, state or local government positions to explore future careers in government
- Russell Kunze MBA '25 [KunzeR25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:KunzeR25@darden.virginia.edu)

# STUDENT CLUB ENGAGEMENT *Date-specific asks*

## 21 February: Business Ethics Conference

- Looking for speakers and panelists with insights into Generative AI's intersection with Business Ethics
- Luke Birdsong [birdsongL25@arden.virginia.edu](mailto:birdsongL25@arden.virginia.edu)

## March 28: Darden Disability Alliance

- Looking for a Keynote Speaker who has personal experience with disability (prioritizing long-term disability)
- Seiver Jorgensen [JorgensenS25@arden.virginia.edu](mailto:JorgensenS25@arden.virginia.edu)

## April: Building Goodness

- Looking for four panelists with background, current work or volunteer/board experience in the following sectors: housing, policy, construction, impact investing and real estate
- Jen Donovan [jl4nf@arden.virginia.edu](mailto:jl4nf@arden.virginia.edu)

## 7 June: D.C. World Pride Parade Event

- Professional Programs Pride Task Force is looking for event/program advisor, assistance with network, advocate and potential connection to corporate sponsorship opportunities ideally, LGBTQ+ identifying alumni or strong ally. Must have experience with non-profits and ideally large-scale productions
- Chris Mai EMBA '25, [maic25@arden.virginia.edu](mailto:maic25@arden.virginia.edu)

# STUDENT CLUB ENGAGEMENT

## Retail and Luxury Goods Club

- Looking for alumni leaders who recently graduated in the retail and luxury space to talk about different opportunities across different functions. Most of our members have expressed interest in brand management, marketing and retail ops
- Anisa Kabir, MBA '25 [kabira25@arden.virginia.edu](mailto:kabira25@arden.virginia.edu)

## Darden Photography Club

- Looking for alumni in entertainment and/or photography-related industry
- Ching Ma MBA '25, [maa25@arden.virginia.edu](mailto:maa25@arden.virginia.edu)

## Darden Outdoors Club

- Looking for a speaker who works in the outdoor industry
- Custis Coleman, MBA '25, [ColemanC25@arden.virginia.edu](mailto:ColemanC25@arden.virginia.edu)

## Humans of Darden

- Looking for older alumni with experience/passion in the space of org culture; interested in stories about how Darden community has supported you even after graduation. Welcome ideas for promoting bonding in small groups
- Elsa Joy, MBA '25, [joye25@arden.virginia.edu](mailto:joye25@arden.virginia.edu)

# STUDENT CLUB ENGAGEMENT

## Food and Agribusiness

- Looking for speakers in industries involving food and ag, sustainability or small business owners in these fields
- Erica Sciscoe, MBA '25, [Sciscoee25@darden.Virginia.edu](mailto:Sciscoee25@darden.Virginia.edu)

## Darden European Society

- Looking for speakers who have lived/worked in Europe to cover topics related to politics, economy, public markets and recruiting
- Gerardo Álvarez, MBA '25, [Alvarezg25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:Alvarezg25@darden.virginia.edu)

## Darden Christian Fellowship

- Looking for a speaker for “Faith in the Workplace” panel, ideally someone who was involved with DCF and who has prioritized their Christian faith in work
- Hannah Mendoza, MBA '25, [Mendozah25@darden.Virginia.edu](mailto:Mendozah25@darden.Virginia.edu)

## Darden Capital Management

- Looking for featured speakers in investment management/asset management
- Ian Thompson, MBA '25, [thompsoni25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:thompsoni25@darden.virginia.edu)

# STUDENT CLUB ENGAGEMENT

## Asia Business Club at Darden

- Looking for featured speakers for Emerging Market Conference, particularly speakers doing business in the East
- Jessica Wang, MBA '25, [wangj25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:wangj25@darden.virginia.edu)

## Darden Aerospace and Defense Club (formerly Aviation Club)

- Looking for speaker or panelist to provide industry overview, career options/paths; also trying to build out the alumni network to expose recruiting opportunities within the space
- Jon Karunakaran, MBA '25, [Jdk9b@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:Jdk9b@darden.virginia.edu)

## Darden Golf Club

- Looking for alumni in sports industry (agencies/teams, equipment/apparel, sports psychology/physical training)
- Kelly Okun, MBA '25, [okunk25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:okunk25@darden.virginia.edu)

## Hispanic American Network at Darden (HAND)

- Looking for alumni networking opportunities across all industries
- Nico Martinez, MBA '25, [martinezn25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:martinezn25@darden.virginia.edu)



# STUDENT CLUB ENGAGEMENT

## Community Consultants of Darden

- Looking for panelist with consulting experience at major firms and/or pro-bono consulting roles
- Patrick Shaia, MBA '25, [pcq7tq@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:pcq7tq@darden.virginia.edu)

## Social Refresh Initiative

- Looking for someone who is willing to support events that promote the inclusivity messaging of Social Refresh, ideally a founder of a non-alcoholic beverage company or someone from the DEI leadership of a sought-after recruiter at Darden
- Pratik Thakkar, MBA '25, [thakkarp25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:thakkarp25@darden.virginia.edu)

## Entrepreneurship through Acquisition

- We are hoping to hold an event in the spring with alumni and students who are interested in owning or operating a small business so want to engage small business owner/investors (ideally in VA-area)
- Richie Todd, MBA '25, [Toddr25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:Toddr25@darden.virginia.edu)

## Business & Public Policy Club

- Looking for featured speaker in public policy, government
- Rohith Chari, [ChariR25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:ChariR25@darden.virginia.edu)

# STUDENT CLUB ENGAGEMENT

## Marketing & General Management Club

- Looking for alumni in MGM-type roles across broad industries who are between 3-10 years out for recruiting related panels. 15+ years for industry expertise-type opportunities
- Spencer Holmgren MBA '25, [Holmgrens25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:Holmgrens25@darden.virginia.edu)

## Darden Military Association

- Looking for Veteran, Darden graduate, active in the workforce for networking and spring events
- Tommy Busterud, MBA '25, [Busterudt25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:Busterudt25@darden.virginia.edu)

## Fintech Club

- Looking for speakers in the Fintech industry to provide more information to students looking into Fintech as their career path
- Ivan Gonzalez, MBA '25, [GonzalezI25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:GonzalezI25@darden.virginia.edu)

## Education Club

- Looking for panelists for showcasing careers at cross section of education and MBA
- Katie Herrmann, MBA '25, [herrmannk25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:herrmannk25@darden.virginia.edu)

## Darden Disability Alliance

- Looking for advisor to be a support and resource to students on disability topics mainly in an academic and professional context to help guide the direction of the club and how to best advocate for its members
- Rodrigo Delgado Santa Maria, [DelgadoR25@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:DelgadoR25@darden.virginia.edu)

# ONGOING STUDENT CLUB SUPPORT

**Review the full list of Student Organizations  
and reach out directly to share your expertise!**

- [Full-Time MBA Clubs](#)
- [Professional Degree Clubs](#)

# **SUPPORT INITIATIVES: *Entrepreneurship***

## **Support Darden student founders by sharing your expertise with these initiatives:**

- Serve as an online or in-person judge for the upcoming [E-Cup Concept](#) competition held in Oct/Nov. Experience as a startup founder or with seed-stage investments preferred.
- Become a mentor to an early-stage startup student founder, including with the [iLab incubator](#) program in summer 2025. Experience as a founder in startups or advising early-stage companies preferred.

**Contact: Anya Eisenfrats, Batten Institute, [eisenfratsa@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:eisenfratsa@darden.virginia.edu)**

# SUPPORT INITIATIVES: Tech

## Share your expertise and company connections!

- **Details:** Formal MBA hiring in the tech sector halved from 2022 to 2024 (recruiting teams, budgets and headcount dramatically reduced so market doesn't expect quick rebound)
- **Jobs:** Please forward any MBA (student or alum) internship or job opportunities from your teams to [recruiting@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:recruiting@darden.virginia.edu) to post
- **AI event December 6:** We welcome panelists in Charlottesville
- **Company trek visits (fall and spring):** MBA and MSBA programs send students on treks to Seattle, Bay Area, D.C. Metro Area and NYC – let us know if you can host at your company!
- **Talk to students:** We welcome panelists for tech topics and/or alum AMA's on your company, job function and/or current trends

**Contact: Jenny Zenner, Senior Director Tech Careers [zennerj@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:zennerj@darden.virginia.edu)**

# MAYO CENTER FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT

## Be a Private Equity or Real Estate Job Trek Host

**Details:** Host students for a company visit as part of a larger job trek. Visits can include meetings with executives and hiring managers, site tours, networking receptions and industry insights.

**All locations welcome for consideration.**

Existing trip locations include NYC (IB & PE), D.C./NoVA (RE), and Richmond (RE)

**Contact: Caitlin Boyer, [boyerc@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:boyerc@darden.virginia.edu)**

# MAYO CENTER FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT

## Be a Breakthrough Scholars Mentor

**Details:** Mentor current students in the Breakthrough Scholars program.

The Breakthrough Scholars program is a competitive scholarship initiative designed to foster a new generation of diverse leadership in private equity, venture capital (VC) and other areas of asset management.

**Contact: Caitlin Boyer, [boyerc@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:boyerc@darden.virginia.edu)**

# AFFINITY ENGAGEMENT

## Help engage a variety of communities

- Support Latinx engagement opportunities
  - Explore involvement in UVA's [Juntos](#) event, 11-13 April 2025
- Support students at the NBMBA, Prospanica and ROMBA career conferences
- Mentor Consortium students
- Host Women@Darden regional events
- Connect with incoming students
- Share your story to be featured in publications
- Support student club initiatives across all programs
- Join the [Black Alumni LinkedIn](#) group
- Learn more about [Inclusive Excellence](#) at Darden

**Contact: Christie Julien, [julienc@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:julienc@darden.virginia.edu)  
and [alumni@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:alumni@darden.virginia.edu)**



# ADMISSIONS SUPPORT

## Help Recruit and Yield the Class of 2027!

### Admitted Student Calling

- **Congratulate and connect with an admitted student after their offer of admission (November-May).** We want to connect admitted students with our amazing alumni based on criteria they find to be important in their decision-making process. To identify thoughtful matches, it is imperative that we have a broad and diverse group of alumni to make calls for each of the admission rounds. The expectation is you will be available for each of our 4 rounds of admission.

### Event Support

- Admissions is back to hosting and participating in events across the globe. We love having alumni with us to talk with prospective students. These events typically take place on a weekend or weeknight and it's usually about a 2-hour commitment. We will also be continuing to offer virtual events like coffee chats, webinars and panel discussions. Again, alumni add another dimension to these discussions, and we'd love to have you join us.

**Contact: Wendy Huber, [huberw@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:huberw@darden.virginia.edu)**

# ***ALUMNI CAREER SERVICES PANELIST***

## **Share your expertise on an upcoming panel**

Submit your name to be considered for opportunities to moderate, participate or suggest virtual panels, webinars and lunch and learns!

**Contact: Sallie Lesemann, [lesemanns@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:lesemanns@darden.virginia.edu)**

# UVA PARTNERSHIP FOR LEADERS IN EDUCATION

## Make connections to your local school system

Darden and the UVA School of Education and Human Development created the Partnership for Leaders in Education (PLE) to provide the most innovative thinking in business and education to prepare and strengthen K12 education leaders for the unique demands of managing schools and school systems. The PLE developed the one-of-a-kind signature Core Partnership as the only research-proven effort that establishes system conditions ripe for change and builds transformative leadership capacity to achieve that change.

**Learn More:** [See PLE featured in UVA Today](#) with a video from our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary forum.

**Details:** Are you connected to a K12 school system that may benefit from accelerating leadership capabilities and student outcomes? If so, we'd love referrals and exploratory conversation.

**Contact: William Robinson, [robinsonw@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:robinsonw@darden.virginia.edu)**

**All locations welcome for consideration.**

# DC INITIATIVES

**Who are we?** Based out of Sands Family Grounds (SFG) in Rosslyn, we curate thought-leadership events, student networking opportunities and manage local and D.C. metro business connections. We are the thread that uses many facets of the D.C. metro area and weaves it into student, alumni and business relationships.

## Upcoming events:

- [National Black MBA Conference Darden D.C. Networking Event](#) | Sep 19 | 5:30 p.m. | The Park at 14th
- *Leadership Unscripted: [Leading Through Conflict](#) [Israel/Gaza Discussion]* | Oct 25 | 12:00 p.m. | Zoom
- *Leadership Unscripted: MLK Panel focused on Affordable Housing* | Jan 24 | 9:00 a.m. | SFG

## Other ways to get involved

-Want to host an event? Network with students? Manage a think tank for a start up? We can make it happen at SFG.

**Contacts: Sherri Norman, [watsons@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:watsons@darden.virginia.edu)**

**Samantha Palmucci, [palmuccis@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:palmuccis@darden.virginia.edu)**

# REGIONAL CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

## Support regional alumni activities!

Locations needing additional leadership:

- Atlanta
- Austin
- Baltimore
- Bay Area
- Boston
- Chicago
- Dallas
- Houston
- LA
- Miami
- Nashville
- Tidewater
- Richmond
- Women@Darden (All Markets)
- Black Alumni Affinity Groups (All Markets)
- Other Alumni Affinity Groups (All Markets)

**Contact: Kristen Messina, [messinak@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:messinak@darden.virginia.edu)**

# CLASS VOLUNTEERS

## Support class communications and community!

Classes needing additional leadership:

- Reunion committee members: All Classes ending in '0s & '5s
- Class Agent
  - 1999
  - 2005
  - 2023
- Class Secretary
  - 1988

**Contact: [alumni@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:alumni@darden.virginia.edu)**

# CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

## Planned Giving

Let us know if you're interested in learning more about joining the [Cornerstone Society](#) through a planned or estate gift.

**Contact: Mary Katherine Barbour,** [barbourm@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:barbourm@darden.virginia.edu)

# **SUPPORT DARDEN PHILANTHROPICALLY**

## **Setup your Five-Year Pledge & Reoccurring Gift**

Easily support the [Darden Annual Fund](#) with reoccurring gifts across a five-year commitment!

**Contact: Brad Neathery, [neatheryb@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:neatheryb@darden.virginia.edu)**





**Register & Attend!**

Date	<u>September – December Events</u>
19 September	<u>NBMBA Student/Alumni Networking in DC</u>
19 September	<u>Master the Behavioral Interview</u> (Alumni Career Services)
21-27 September	<u>India Events with Beardsley &amp; Freeman</u>
25 September	<u>Boston Admissions/Alumni Networking with Grushka-Cockayne</u>
26 September	<u>Tri Sector Fellows Event: Media on Policy &amp; Power in D.C.</u> <u>D.C. Real Estate Trek Reception</u>
8 October	<u>NYC Admissions/Alumni Event with Beardsley</u>
10 October	Seattle Alumni/Student Trek Social
15 October	<u>San Francisco Admissions/Alumni Event with Beardsley</u>
25 October	Batten D.C. Tech Connect <u>Leadership Unscripted: Leading Through Conflict</u>
8 November	<u>UVA Real Estate Conference</u> Admissions Women's Symposium & Diversity Conference
14 November	<u>UVIC Conference</u>
18 November	Austin Alumni/Student Networking (Matt Reintjes MBA '04)
2 December	Charlottesville Holiday Party at The Forum Hotel
5 December	D.C. Holiday Party with Freeman (Porter White MBA '01)
11 December	Charlotte Holiday Party (Shannon Smith MBA '90)
12 December	Atlanta Holiday Party (Michelle Horn MBA '95)
Ongoing	<i>Alumni Career Services, UVA Events &amp; More!</i>

# DARDEN REUNION 25-27 APRIL 2025



Welcoming '0s, '5s, 2024  
MBA/(G)EMBA and  
Abbott Society  
classes back to Grounds



Faculty Programs  
Class Events  
Networking



Save the Date &  
Volunteer for your  
Reunion Committee



- Foxfield Races
- New Registration Technology
- Bundled Pricing & Early Bird Offers
- More events at The Forum Hotel
- Young alumni "Cold Call Cookout"
- Volunteer & Donor Recognition Luncheon
- Saturday Afterparty at The Forum

Registration  
Opens in 2025



# ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

## Participate and engage with Darden!

- Host a regional/affinity event at your home, club or office
- Share internships or full-time career opportunities for students and alumni
- Refer prospective students to all programs (Residential, Part-Time, Executive, Future Year Scholars, MSBA)
- Activate the brand on social media and join [Darden's LinkedIn Group](#)
- Submit class notes and recommend interesting alumni stories for publications
- Make Executive Education & Lifelong Learning connections to colleagues and your organization
- Connect Darden with global companies for visits and consulting projects
- Remind classmates of Alumni Career Services' offerings
- Update your [Alumni Directory](#) information
- Complete and share the Alumni Interest Form



Alumni Interest Form

**Contact:** [alumni@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:alumni@darden.virginia.edu) or

**Visit:** [www.darden.virginia.edu/alumni/engage-with-darden](http://www.darden.virginia.edu/alumni/engage-with-darden)

# ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Visit: [www.darden.virginia.edu/alumni/engage-with-darden](http://www.darden.virginia.edu/alumni/engage-with-darden)**

**Then scroll down to “Menu of Opportunities” to review deck!**

