Welcome

Presentation of Awards

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards
Jordan E. Arnold
Rehan A. Baddeley
Jane Mills

Seven Society Awards
Louis A. Osenty Memorial Scholar-Athlete Award
Rehan A. Baddeley
Jane Mills

Seven Society Awards
Louis A. Osenty Memorial Scholar-Athlete Award
Anna K. Redding

James Earle Sargeant Award
The Living Wage Campaign at UVA

Class of 2019 Awards
Class Award for Community Service
Corinne N. Singh

Class Award for Cultural Fluency
Rahmele Evans

Bicentennial Leadership Award
Austin L. Walker

The Society of the Purple Shadows’ Award
Gordon E. Rainey, Jr. Award for Vigilance to the Student Experience
Claudrena N. Harold

Presentation of the Class Gift

Acceptance of the Class Gift

Presentation of Special Appreciation

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

2019 Valedictory Address

Farewell Remarks
The Class of 2019 would like to remember the following members of our class:

Rehan A. Basdeliyamage (1997-2019)
John Paul Popovich (1996 - 2015)
Rouzbeh Rastgarkafshgarkolaei (1991 - 2018)

* * *

Pharrell Williams

Pharrell Williams is an American producer, songwriter, philanthropist, designer, and entrepreneur. He and childhood friend Chad Hugo comprise the music production duo, The Neptunes. Mr. Williams is also the lead vocalist of N*E*R*D, and is a prolific solo artist and collaborator. He has earned thirteen Grammy Awards, ASCAP’s Golden Note Award, and several BET Awards, BBC Music Awards, and Billboard Music Awards. He has been an Academy Award, Emmy, and Golden Globe nominee, in addition to numerous other recognitions.

Mr. Williams has worked in numerous artistic genres and explored the worlds of design and business. He has excelled as a fashion designer and launched several fashion brands, including Billionaire Boys Club and Ice Cream and has co-designed with Louis Vuitton, Moncler, Chanel, Marc Jacobs, and Adidas. He runs the innovative textile company Bionic Yarn and the Dutch denim brand G-Star Raw. Together, the two companies collaborate on the eco-conscious fashion project RAW for the Oceans, which is a denim collection made from recycled plastics retrieved from the ocean. Additionally, Mr. Williams has created sculptures, designed furniture, and published books, while creating platforms for other artists to make and share their work. He has curated art exhibits, produced film and television, opened a restaurant and cocktail lounge called Swan and Bar Bevy, and launched the Something in the Water music festival this year in his hometown of Virginia Beach.

In addition to his creative endeavors, Mr. Williams founded a non-profit organization called From One Hand to AnOTHER (FOHTA), which provides primarily at-risk and low-income elementary and middle school students with resources and services to help them succeed. The organization currently operates summer camps focused on S.T.E.A.M. – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Motivation – for more than 1,700 students nationwide. FOHTA continues to expand each year, including partnerships with Eastern Virginia Medical School and NASA.

In addition to his work through FOHTA, Mr. Williams recently announced a new partnership with Verizon to launch a tech-focused music curriculum to under-resourced middle schools and funded a $35 million resource center and safe space for children in Virginia Beach. Mr. Williams’ other philanthropic activities include support of Musicians on Call, the United Negro College Fund, the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Get Schooled Foundation, and others.

Mr. Williams is married to Helen Lasichanh, and they have four children.

Benefactors of the Class of 2019*

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* Donated $150 or more toward the Class