



# 2015 UCI Road World Championships Issue



ILLUSTRATION BY JUSTIN TRAN

The UCI Road World Championships are just days away.

Since its announcement in 2011, the competition has dominated conversations in Richmond. Would there be enough hotel rooms? Would the economic impact really reach into the tens of millions? Would parking, security and traffic run smoothly?

And now, it's here.

There will be 1,000 cyclists, the best in the world, hoping to win the Rainbow Jersey. Millions of television viewers are expected to watch them pedal up the cobble stone of Libby Hill and cross the finish line in downtown. Another 450,000 visitors are expected in the city itself.

Welcome, world.

Where will you watch the world? • 2

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In this section: Residence hall Q&A. Transportation update. Race week schedule. Economic impact on RVA.

briefs

LOCAL

DC’s delegate to Congress introduces bill on Redskins name

Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District of Columbia’s delegate to Congress, introduced a bill that would lift the NFL’s antitrust exemption if the Washington Redskins do not change their nickname.

In a news release issued Thursday, Norton was quoted as saying Washington “should always be associated with pride, not with a moniker that mocks and insults Native Americans.”

Legislation from the non-voting Democratic delegate stands little to no chance of being passed by the Republican-led House.

A statement sent by Redskins spokesman Tony Wyllie on Thursday said: “We disagree with Ms. Norton’s opposition to the Washington Redskins name. More than 85 percent of Ms. Norton’s constituents disagree as well, as recent polls have shown.”

Brief by the Associated Press

The Latest: Truck was waiting to turn before Amtrak crash

A trucking company says the driver of a tractor-trailer was stopped at an intersection waiting to make a turn before an Amtrak train smashed into it.

Officials say no one was seriously injured.

Linda Driver, the owner of Driver Trucking Inc. in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., said Thursday the driver did not see any trains coming as he waited to make the turn. She says he had to stop on the tracks to wait for an oncoming pickup truck to pass. She says a stoplight at the intersection, which she says is known to be dangerous, was blinking red.

Driver says the trucker hurt his knee and was shaken up but was not seriously hurt.

Brief by the Associated Press

NATIONAL

Striking teachers say pay gap makes Seattle tough to afford

Teachers in Seattle have gone on strike as living expenses skyrocket in one of the nation’s bastions of technology jobs, complaining it is increasingly difficult to afford living in the same city as the children they teach.

The educators, who have not received a cost-of-living pay raise in six years, have joined other workers pushing for higher wages as the city tries to balance its identity as a hub for tech talent while keeping housing and other costs within reach.

Seattle Public Schools, with 53,000 students who have been shut out classes for two days, has offered a pay increase of nearly 9 percent over three years. The teachers union countered with a 10.5 percent increase over two years.

Teacher salaries range from about \$44,000 to more than \$86,000 for more experienced educators with advanced degrees, according to the district. In comparison, tech workers can easily draw six figures.

Brief by the Associated Press

New York state OKs \$15 minimum wage for fast-food workers

New York state will gradually raise the minimum wage for fast-food workers to \$15 an hour — the first time any state has set the minimum that high.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s administration formally approved the increase Thursday, a move the Democratic governor announced at a labor rally with Vice President Joe Biden. Cuomo said he would work to pass legislation setting a \$15 minimum for all industries, a promise that comes as more and more cities around the country move toward a \$15 minimum wage.

The wage increase for fast-food workers in New York will be phased in over three years in New York City and over six years elsewhere in the state. It will apply to some 200,000 employees at large chain restaurants.

Brief by the Associated Press

Charging decision doesn’t end police killing cases

The decision by a local prosecutor to not charge three Pasco police officers with any crimes in the shooting death of a rock-throwing Mexican immigrant hardly concludes the matter.

The federal government is investigating the death of Antonio Zambrano-Montes, 35. The state of Washington plans to review the charging decision. The Franklin County coroner still plans an inquest. The Pasco Police Department has nearly completed an internal review. And several lawsuits are pending.

U.S. Attorney Michael Ormsby is examining whether any violation of federal law occurred in the Feb. 10 shooting death of Zambrano-Montes, who was throwing rocks at police when he was gunned down. Of particular concern is whether the civil rights of the orchard worker from Mexico were violated.

In addition, the Department of Justice separately is continuing to provide mediation services to reduce police-community tension in Pasco, Ormsby said.

Brief by the Associated Press

Where will you watch the world?

OPENING CEREMONY

Brown’s Island  
Friday  
September 18  
6:30 p.m.

FANFEST 2015

10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Richmond Convention Center  
403 N 3rd St  
Richmond, VA 23219

Site of the official UCI Awards Ceremonies; Live daily race coverage broadcast via Jumbotron; Live music, food and craft beers; Interactive exhibits and vendors; Restrooms available.

PODIUM AWARDS

As the action on the course concludes, the party will just be getting started. Head to FanFest to witness history as each World Champion receives the iconic Rainbow Jersey at the Official Podium Award Ceremony. Free and open to the public, FanFest features a beer garden, live entertainment and more than 100 exhibitors.

SUNDAY 09/20 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.  
4 – 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY 09/21 12 – 12:30 p.m.  
4:30 – 5 p.m.

TUESDAY 09/22 1 – 1:30 p.m.  
5 – 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 09/23 1 – 1:30 p.m.  
4 – 4:30 p.m.  
5 – 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY 09/25 12–12: 30 p.m.  
5–5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 09/26 12:30–1 p.m.  
5-5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 09/27 4–4:30 p.m.

INFORMATION SOURCED FROM NAVIGATE.RICHMOND2015.COM

How can I find out if my building is restricted to VCU faculty, staff and students?

Facilities not listed as “open to public” are considered restricted and will require VCU Card access during Sept. 19 – 27.

FAN ZONES

10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Prime viewing locations throughout the course; Jumbotrons; Bike valets available near start and finish; Food and beverages available for purchase; Beer Gardens are located within each Fan Zone; Restrooms available.

SUN – TUES 09/20 – 09/22 Starting zone at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Finish zone on Broad Street

WEDNESDAY 09/23 Finish zone on Broad Street, Kings Dominion

THURSDAY 09/24 Start/Finish

FRIDAY 09/25 Start/Finish, Libby Hill, 23rd Street

SUNDAY 09/27 Start/Finish, Libby Hill, 23rd Street, University of Richmond

SPECTATOR SPOTS

10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

While the Fan Zones are the best places to watch the races, there are additional spots along the course that offer great views:

SUNDAY 09/20 Richmond National Battlefield Park  
Virginia Capital Trail (between Downtown Richmond and Richmond National Battlefield Park)  
Main Street near Libby Hill  
Governor Street  
Monroe Park  
Monument Avenue

MONDAY 09/21 Monroe Park  
Monument Avenue  
Governor Street

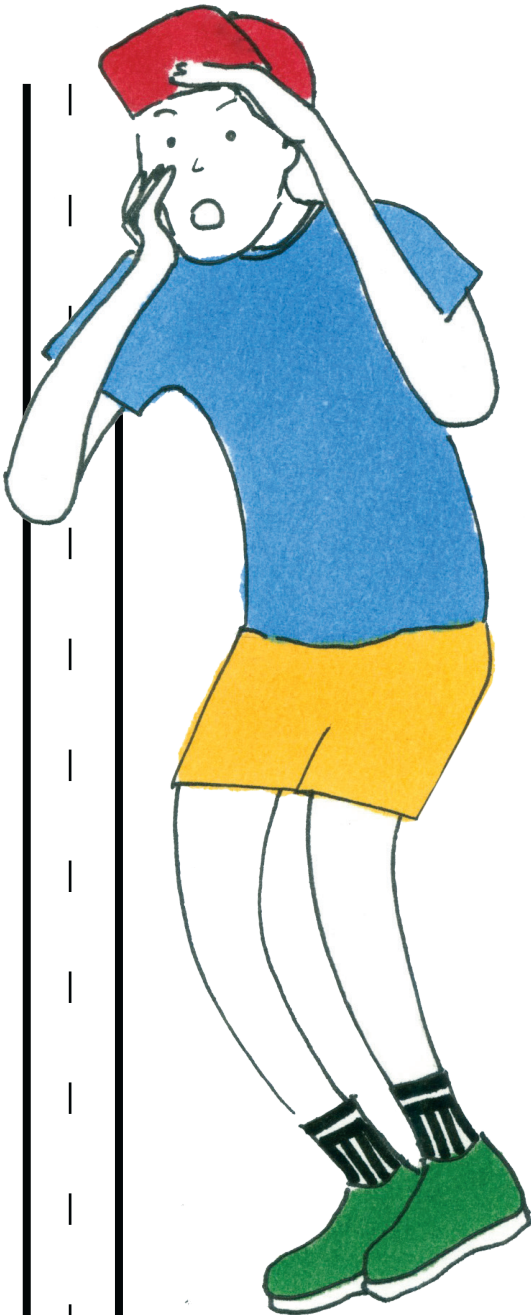
TUESDAY 09/22 Start on 3rd Street between Broad and Marshall Streets  
Broad Street between 2nd and Belvidere Streets  
Monroe Park  
Monument Avenue  
Governor Street

WEDNESDAY 09/23 Hanover Street Courthouse  
Monroe Park  
Monument Avenue  
Governor Street  
The turn at South 2nd and Main Streets

THURS – SUN 09/24 – 09/27 Broad Street between Belvidere and 2nd Streets  
Monroe Park  
Monument Avenue  
Corner of Lombardy and Main Streets  
Virginia Capital Trail on Dock Street  
Main Street Station  
Governor Street

What if someone loses their VCU Card during Sept. 19-27?

The VCU Card office at Sanger Hall (1101 E Marshall St., B1-0118) will be open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Visit <http://vcucard.vcu.edu/lostcard.html>



Which buildings are open to the public?

- Barnes & Noble @ VCU
- Barnes & Noble @ VCU Medical Center
- BioTech1
- Cabell Library closed Sept. 26–27
- Chili’s
- Gateway Building Einstein Bros. Bagels Wendy’s
- Larrick Center Jonah’s Starbucks
- Laurel & Grace IHOP Raising Cane’s Croutons
- Panda Express
- RamTech
- RamBikes
- Shafer Court Dining Center Einstein Bros. Bagels Market 810 Market 810-2
- Starbucks @ Belvidere and Cary
- Siegel Center
- VCU Medical Center clinics
- Wellness Resource Center
- West Hospital clinics
- Main Hospital entrance

Race pay-off still unknown despite city spending millions

ANDREW CRIDER  
Contributing Writer

Although the state and the city of Richmond have already spent \$2 million preparing for UCI, the larger economic impact on the city is still unknown.

The event, which is estimated to have an audience twice the size of the Super Bowl, has a total estimated cost of \$20 million. Fundraising from private and corporate donors began in 2011 soon after UCI was announced.

Originally, Richmond set a \$21 million goal for fundraising under Governor Bob McDonnell. So far, 60 percent of that goal has been raised.

In an interview with CBS 6, Richmond 2015 Vice President Lee Kallman said the race would bring \$160 million in revenue to the state, with 81 percent of the revenue going directly to the city of Richmond.

The Richmond 2015 website breaks down that \$160 million, saying “visitor spending can bring a \$129.2 million economic impact to the region in 2015.”

Officials from both the city and state have been coordinating with local business owners in advance of the bike race. In June, more than 90 local businesses met with officials to find out more about how the race will affect businesses. However, the impact of the race will be different

for each owner.

Alchemy Coffee on West Broad Street won’t be affected by road closures, but the change in customer base can’t be predicted.

“I think it will have an impact,” said Alchecmy owner Eric Spivack. “We will probably have some regulars that are not VCU-based that will be intimidated from coming down here.”

Spivack said he hopes the university’s closing will bring more students into his shop.

“We will have a lot of kids at VCU who won’t have class who will be looking for something to do and choose to hang out here, and we will have some people coming from out of town who are looking for places

to get coffee,” Spivack said.

Other businesses that rely heavily on VCU students are concerned they will make little profit during the week of the race. Famous Gyro, a food stand that operates on campus during the week, will be forced to close due to the race.

“We can’t go anywhere else because all the streets are going to be closed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.,” said Khalil Ahmad, Famous Gyro owner.

Other shop owners will also be affected by the road closures. Andrew Clarke, owner of 821 Cafe on Cary Street, said he is doesn’t know how the bike race will affect his business.

“I think it’s a crapshoot at this

point. We are going to take it as it comes. Thankfully we’re in a good location,” Clarke said.

UCI won’t just affect the operations on shop location; it will also change the dynamic for the business as it works to make and receive deliveries.

“The biggest effect it’s going to have on us is being able to deliver food to people and get our product and stuff in,” Clarke said. “We are having a lot of our vendors bring stuff in at 3 in the morning as opposed to 8 in the morning. Getting product here, getting the staff here — that’s going to be the biggest issue.”



# Airbnb hosts face legal limbo

MATT LEONARD  
Print Managing Editor

In 2011, the city announced it would be hosting one of the largest sporting events in the world — but there was an important question left unanswered: Where will all the visitors sleep?

Three out-of-towners from Wisconsin found the answer in a private bedroom in the Fan. Breakfast, complimentary bikes and tubes for the river are all included in their stay, as are two roommates, Jessica Eaton and her pitbull, Pip.

Eaton rents the extra bedroom in her apartment using the website Airbnb, which describes itself as a place to “book unique accommodations around the world.” Eaton charges \$58 a night and \$68 on weekends. However, for the upcoming UCI bike race she upped her price to \$170 a night.

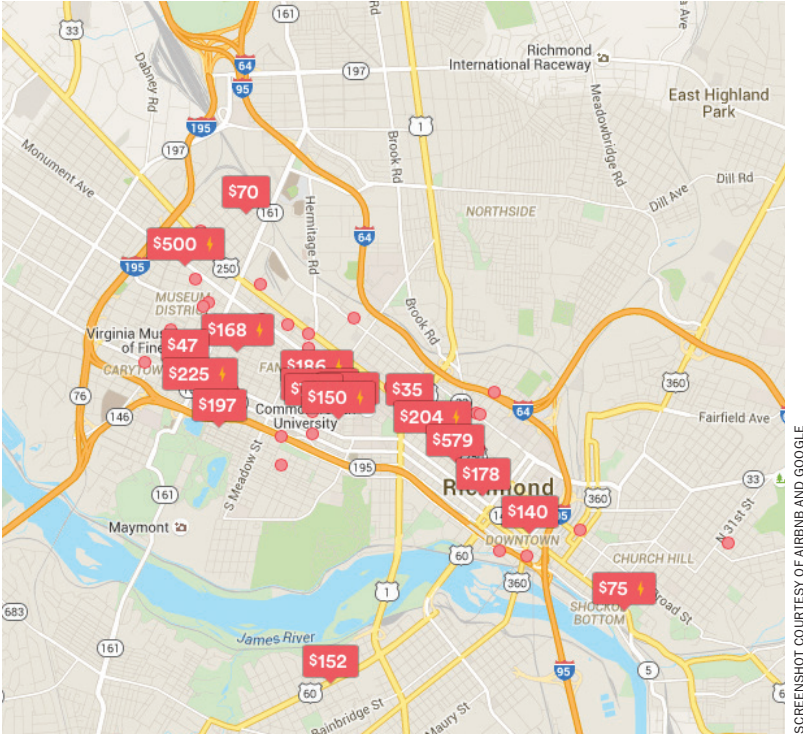
“It definitely takes a little stress off my life — in paying the bills and having recreational funds,” Eaton said.

She started renting out her second bedroom on the site in May of this year. Since then she estimates 45 guests have stayed with her, ranging from a single night to a nine-night stay. The experiences with her guests have been good: One gave her the parting gift of a basil plant while others have cooked her meals.

“The guests have been amazing,” Eaton said.

She is not the only one in River City listing her apartment on Airbnb. There are hundreds of people offering up entire homes or private rooms. Many advertise convenient access to the bike race: Some listings offer “HUGE windows directly on bike race,” an “Entire apartment on UCI race course,” or a “Cool comfy rowhouse 2 blocks from UCI.”

There’s just one small catch. Under Richmond city code, all of these people are in violation of the law. This is due to a zoning ordinance that doesn’t allow people to



Houses for rent on Airbnb’s website during the time of the bike race as of Sept. 11, 2015.

rent out their homes for less than a month — essentially outlawing Airbnb’s entire business model.

Richmond is working on changing the law, but there won’t be any changes in effect before the bike race takes place.

“I was disappointed the city was not able to address zoning issues regarding Airbnb and other online, short-term rental businesses in time for the race, but I am confident it will be addressed as quickly as possible while still allowing for maximum public involvement,” said Richmond city council member Charles R. Samuels in an email.

Steve Skinner, spokesperson for the Richmond City Council, said he doesn’t know of anyone who is opposed to the change, but amending the zoning law is a long process. Samuels introduced a resolution earlier this year to allow short-term renting. The resolution passed on June 22 with eight aye votes and zero voting in opposition.

The city’s planning commission is currently considering the resolution. The planning com-

mission did not respond to the request for comment.

As for enforcement of the law, which remains in place until city council passes an amendment, consequences for using Airbnb are at the hands of the Richmond Police Department. Skinner said he was unsure how the police department would enforce the law in the meantime.

A spokesperson from the police department said the general council for the police would be the only people able to answer the question on enforcement. The council was unavailable for comment prior to publication.

Eaton said she is aware of the current legal limbo involving Airbnb’s Richmond operations. But she also said she isn’t too worried about it being enforced, though if it was made legal it would take some stress off of her.

“That’s one of the reasons I didn’t want to meet where I live (for the interview). Like, what if it was some sort of sting operation?” Eaton joked.

# Local transportation amends routes

SOPHIA BELLETTI  
Staff Writer

During the bike race, VCU and the city of Richmond will be making slight alterations to students’ and residents’ access to transportation, housing and dining.

Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) buses will continue to operate during UCI, but routes will be modified to accommodate road closures and the race route.

On Sept. 21, a one-time-only special event pass will be available for \$35 on the GTRC website for unlimited rides anywhere GRTC travels from Sept. 18-27.

For students who plan to travel between campuses, Ram-Ride Campus Connector and buses connecting A/I Lot and M Lot to MCV will continue to run during the races. However, the schedules will be modified and routes will change to accommodate road closures.

VCU Parking and Transportation and the Office of Equity and Access Services will provide two ADA buses, one on each campus, to accommodate mobility-impaired students, staff and faculty, Monday through Friday. Call (804) 828-2890 to request pick-up.

RAMSafe will continue to run under normal hours, 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. each day, except Sept. 25 during the “Conquer the Cobbles” event scheduled from 7-10 p.m. The area that will be covered by RAMSafe will be the area within the boundaries of Lombardy, Grace, Laurel, Broad, Goshen and Leigh streets.

Transloc.com will provide bus routes during race days.

The VCU and Richmond community is urged to consult [navigate.richmond2015.com](http://navigate.richmond2015.com) when going out. The website provides parking information and locations to watch cyclists, in addition to updates on road closures and suggest alternate routes.



For those students staying on campus during the week of the race, security will be increased. A police officer will be in the residence hall 24/7 from Sept. 19-27.

# Q&A with residence hall directors Samantha Hill and Meg Sunga

LOGAN BOGERT  
Contributing writer

If you’re staying in a residence hall during the UCI Road World Championships (Sept. 19-27), there’s a lot to keep in mind during your stay. Resident Hall Directors Samantha Hill and Meg Sunga are here to answer any questions you may have:

**Why did I have to pre-register my guests for the bike race?**

**SH:** Safety and security are our top priorities. We are trying to figure out who’s going to be in the building. Basically, we don’t want people to bring in people from off the streets. So it’s trying to get an idea of not only who is going to be here but who’s supposed to be here. We will be providing the list to security and PD will be double-checking IDs to make sure people who are here are supposed to be here.

**What should I do if I forgot to register my guest or I said I was bringing someone and now I’m not?**

**MS:** They can email us. For Brandt, Samantha ([sahill@vcu.edu](mailto:sahill@vcu.edu)) and for Rhoads, Meg ([masunga@vcu.edu](mailto:masunga@vcu.edu)). Email us and let us know the situation and we have the ability to update the list as the weeks get closer. It’s okay to change your mind; it just needs to be communicated through email, that’s the best option.

**Will there be increased security in the residence halls?**

**SH:** Yes. Police will be in the buildings 24/7.

**About how many people will be remaining in the residence halls?**

**SH:** We have the people who have filled out the Google form that was sent out, which did not have a high participation rate. One of the reasons why we need (that number) in addition to security is so dining knows how much food to prepare and our campus partners know for campus programming.

**What can students expect when they leave their residence hall before the bike race? What can they expect upon returning?**

**SH:** We’ll do the same thing when we close for Thanksgiving and for winter break. People have more time to come back so they can come back at a time that works for them. We are not doing that check-in process, which takes a little bit longer, like getting your keys and paperwork. It’ll be more like packing a bag, parking on the street and hopping in the car. We usually do not have additional staff.

**Where can residents find information on road closures?**

**SH:** There’s the [richmond.vcu.edu](http://richmond.vcu.edu) website. You can also sign up for daily texts that they will send out at 5:30 - 6:00 a.m. saying, “Here

are the road closures and the times for the day.” The city is going to do that every day, so that’s a really good way to get information.

**Can residents expect delays on mail services?**

**MS:** We are here staffed for mail, but the conundrum is how are the mail people going to get to us? We don’t know that part yet. We’re going to be here ready for them, but how often or easily they are going to be able to come by we don’t know yet. Expect delays.

**SH:** The mailroom is generally open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. but during bike week will be open 4-9 p.m.

**Can residents still have food delivered to their residence halls?**

**MS:** It would depend on the time frame and road closures. They would have to call and ask first.

**SH:** But dining (Shafer and Jonah’s) will be open.

**What else should residents be on the lookout for?**

**SH:** We will have daily programs, like for example in Brandt we will have movie nights and game nights. There will also be other campus programs.



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To learn more, visit [BetterMedCare.com](http://BetterMedCare.com)

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Sun-Sat 8am - 8pm

## what’s happening

program details, rates, and locations at [recsports.vcu.edu](http://recsports.vcu.edu)





**ARC cpr/aed/fa full certification**  
[Sept 16 & 17, 5–10pm]

**AHA cpr/aed/fa**  
[Sep 19, 9am–4pm]

**adult swim lessons**  
register [9/14–9/28]  
session [9/28–10/23]

**children’s swim lessons**  
register [9/9–10/2]  
session [10/3–11/7]

[/recsportsvcu](https://twitter.com/recsportsvcu)

[/vcurecsports](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvurecsports)

[/vcu\\_recsports](https://www.pinterest.com/vcu_recsports)

[wp.vcu.edu/recsports/](http://wp.vcu.edu/recsports/)

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[vcurecsports.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/vcurecsports)

[/VCURecSports](https://www.instagram.com/VCURecSports)

[VCU RecSports](https://www.vcu.edu/recsports/)

[ios/android app](https://www.vcu.edu/recsports/)

Rec Sports facilities will have special hours Sept 19 - 27, during the UCI Road World Championships. Visit [www.recsports.vcu.edu](http://www.recsports.vcu.edu) for full information.





# sports



**STAT OF THE WEEK**  
Greg LeMond became the first U.S. biker to place at the UCI Road World Championship in 1982 (silver).

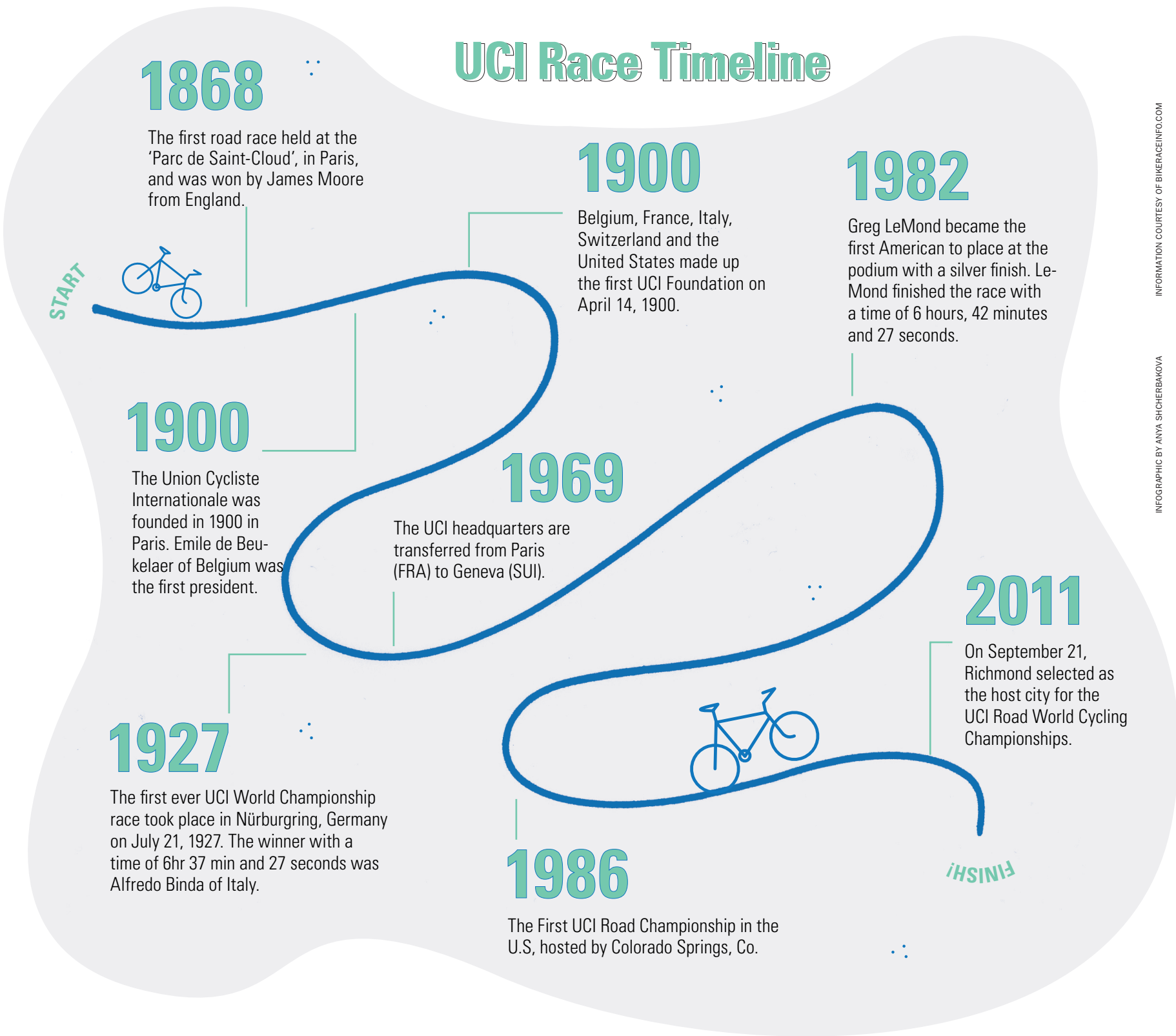
## The Road to the UCI championships

BRYANT DRAYTON  
Sports Editor

For the first time in 29 years, the United States is hosting the Union Cycliste Internationale. Here. In Richmond. And VCU is at the epicenter of it all.

Take a look at the history of the competition, before the races begin on Sept. 19.

### UCI Race Timeline

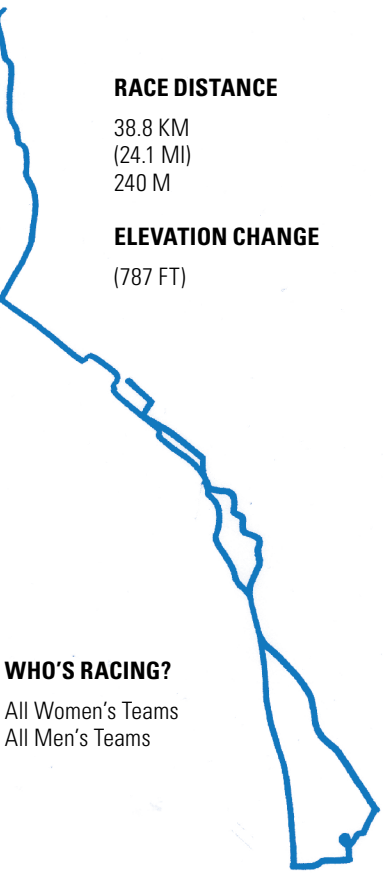


### UCI Race Course Breakdown

#### THE TEAM TIME TRIAL COURSE:

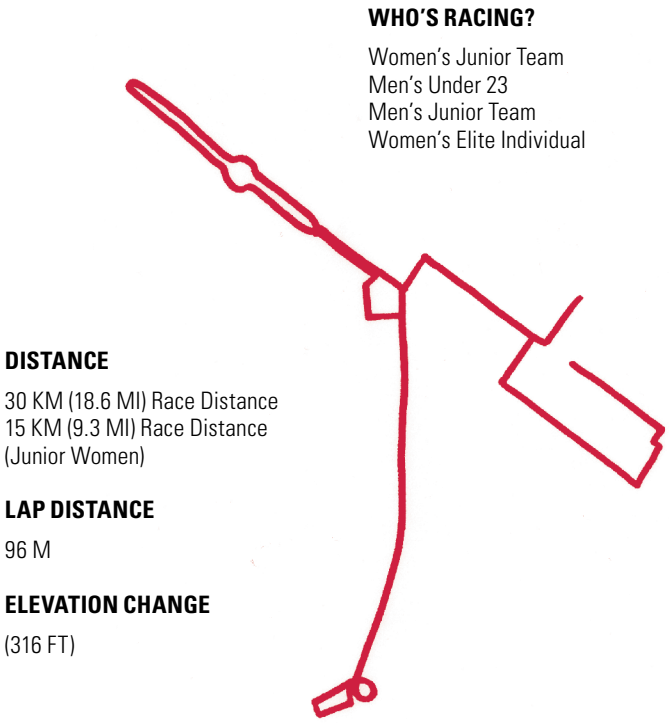
The race will start at Henrico County's Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, then the opening kilometers of the race will go through Richmond's North side neighborhoods leading into downtown. The course will continue down Route 5, parallelling the 50-mile Virginia Capital Trail. Bikers will then enjoy the luxury of open, scenic roads before eventually narrowing and winding roads through Richmond's historic Civil War site, National Battlefield Park. The race re-enters the city through Shockoe Bottom, where riders will be forced to make a sharp right turn on Governor Street to ascend 300 meters. At the top, teams take a sharp left turn onto the false-flat finishing straight, 680 meters to the finish.

\* **THE WINNER IN EACH RACE — MEN'S AND WOMEN'S — IS AWARDED A RAINBOW JACKET**



#### TIME TRIAL COURSE:

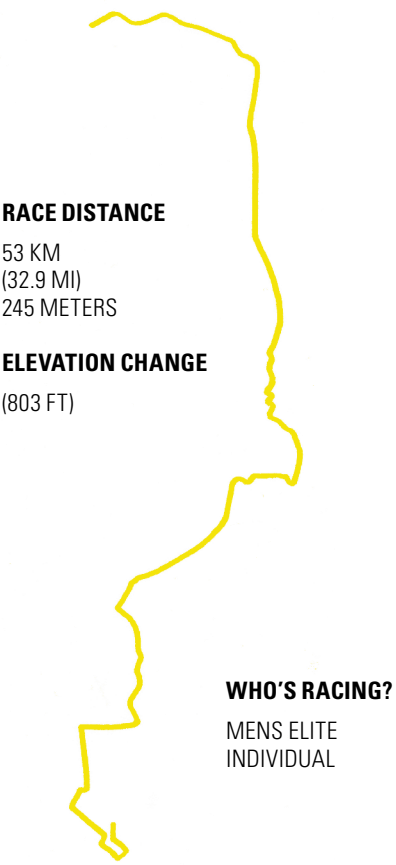
Bikers will race west from downtown to Monument Avenue and from there, the course makes a 180-degree turn at North Davis Avenue, continuing in the opposite direction. The race will then cut through the Uptown district before circling back around through VCU before crossing the James River. Turning around, the race comes back across the James and will bike through downtown Richmond, eventually heading up the 300-meter-long climb on Governor Street. At the top, riders will face a false flat 680 meters to the finish.



#### MEN'S ELITE INDIVIDUAL TIME TRIAL:

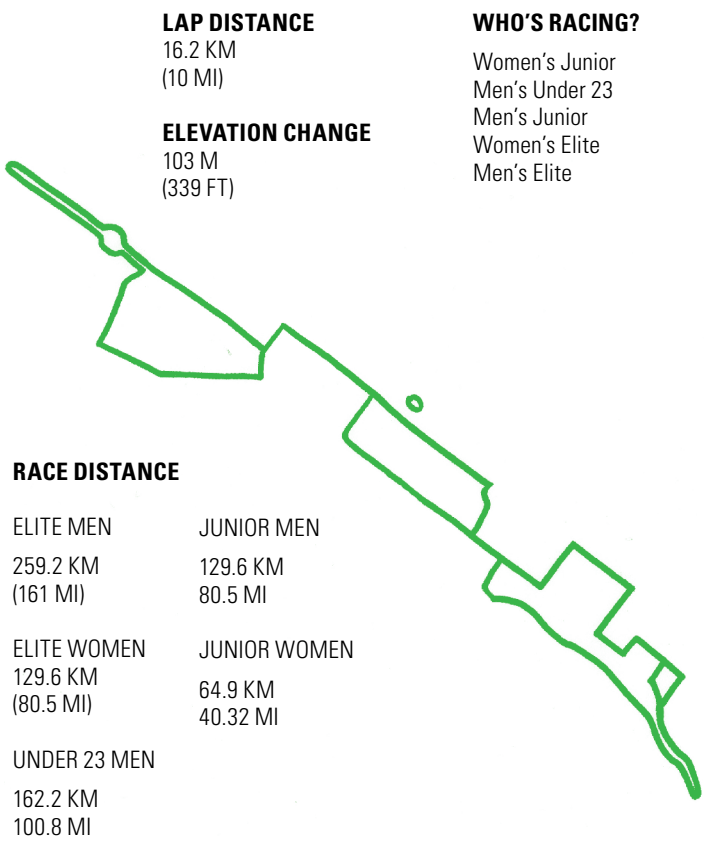
"The race of truth" will begin at Kings Dominion where racers will then race past Meadow Event Park. Racers will head south on long, open straights past the Hanover County Courthouse. After riding through Brook and Wilkinson roads, racers will head back into the city through Virginia Union University before turning into downtown. At the top, riders turn left and finally face a false flat 680 meters to race to the finish. Last year's winner, Bradley Wiggins (Great Britain) took home the rainbow jacket.

\* **THE FIRST THREE INDIVIDUALS OR TEAMS IN EACH CHAMPIONSHIP WIN GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE MEDALS.**



#### ROAD CIRCUIT:

The busiest of the four courses, the racers head west from Downtown Richmond, working their way onto Monument Avenue. Racers will take a 180-degree turn at the Jefferson Davis monument and maneuver through the Uptown district and VCU. The race then heads down into Shockoe Bottom before following the canal and passing Great Shiplock Park. A hard turn at Rocketts Landing brings the riders to the narrow, cobbled 200-meter climb up to Libby Hill Park. A quick descent and then three hard turns leads to a 100-meter-long climb up 23rd Street. Once atop this steep cobbled hill, riders will descend into Shockoe Bottom. This leads them to the final 300-meter-long climb up Governor Street. At the top, riders face a 680-meter false flat to the finish.





# After first win of season, a tough week ahead for men’s soccer



VCU looks to provide the same approach the 2014 team had going into the tough week ahead.

**FADEL ALLASSAN**  
Staff Writer

The stage is set differently for VCU men’s soccer heading into late September matchups this season than it was last year. In 2014, the 3-3-0 Rams were riding high after recording a win over Georgetown University, who at the time were ranked No. 6, and almost conceiving a draw to the University of Virginia, the eventual NCAA Champions. The performances encouraged VCU head coach Dave Giffard and almost earned the Rams a spot in the top-25 of the NSCAA Coaches poll. But that was then. Now, the Rams head into the tail end of the month with a 1-0-4 record. On Sept. 17, the team begins a stretch of games which sees them host the same two teams that gave them momentum a year ago: Georgetown, now ranked No. 25, and No. 5 Virginia. The Rams will subsequently travel to the West Coast to face the No. 8 ranked University of California, Los An-

geles, all in a span of eight days. Georgetown, U.Va., and UCLA all saw their national rankings drop from 3, 2 and 1 respectively in the span of two weeks as each team suffered underwhelming

“It was a good hard pretty win against a very good NCAA tournament-type team ... It was good for us to get the monkey off our back and get the results. Both teams are not used to not winning. There’s a lot of fight and battle to it, those are the kinds of games you’re going to have against these types of teams.”

— DAVE GIFFARD

starts to the season. Georgetown lost to University of South Florida and the University of Akron. U.Va. were held to draws against Duke University and the University of Tulsa, while UCLA has suffered losses to the University of Maryland and Georgetown. With three of their four losses coming against ranked opponents, VCU’s Giffard acknowledges that his team has faced an unusually tough schedule and problem injuries, particularly an injury to sophomore forward Ivan Sakou. Giffard hopes the return of the Cameroonian native, who played his first game in the team’s 2-0 win against the University of Hartford on Saturday, will help the offense in its big upcoming matchups. “Against good teams, it’s difficult to play without a striker,” Giffard said. “To have Ivan (Sakou) back into the team gives us a more bite. It’s a big boost.” Sakou, who signed with VCU in 2015 from Western Nebraska Community College, made his NCAA debut against Hartford

and recorded three shots on goal, but it was sophomore midfielder Jorge Andrade-Santos who gave the Rams the early lead when he chipped Hartford’s on-rushing goalkeeper on a breakaway in the 2nd minute. Giffard’s team, led by senior captain defender Dennis Castillo, fought to protect the slim lead as its sophomore goalkeeper, Perre Gardan was forced to make four saves. The Rams held on and doubled their lead four minutes prior to when junior forward Jorge Herranz dribbled past Hawks defenders and put away a near-post finish. Both of VCU’s goal-scorers fn the night, Andrade-Castillo and Harrez, opened their scoring account with the Black and Gold to ensure the Rams their first win of the season. “I think we were a bit unlucky to not get points in the past few games. We worked a lot in practice after those games and I think we deserved to win today,” Herranz said. “We have to keep playing our style and following the coach’s instructions and we will

continue to win for sure.” The Rams worked to get their first win of the season. Physicality was the staple of the game for VCU, receiving four yellow cards throughout the night. “It was a good hard pretty win against a very good NCAA tournament-type team,” Giffard said. “It was good for us to get the monkey off our back and get the results. Both teams are not used to not winning. There’s a lot of fight and battle to it, those are the kinds of games you’re going to have against these types of teams.” To add sentiment to the win, it was Giffard’s 50th career victory. The next match for VCU will be against Jacksonville University on Sunday, Sept. 13. “The guys are working hard,” Giffard said. “We’ve had a lot of very good players here in the last five years. This group is no different, it’s been a little bit of tough start to it for us this year. If you’re playing against top teams, the margin of error is very small.”

## Drexel defense stifles women’s soccer

**BRYANT DRAYTON**  
Sports Editor

VCU women’s soccer suffered a 1-0 loss against Drexel University at the Vidas Athletic Complex in Philadelphia. With the loss on Friday night, the Rams have now started the 2015 season with a 1-5 record. Despite earning seven corner kicks, VCU was unable to convert scoring opportunities into goals. The Rams’ main contributions came from redshirt-senior Emma Kruse and freshman Kelly Graves. Kruse recorded four saves on the night, continuing her consistent play on the season as her save tally has grown to 38 in six games. Graves continues to be a bright spot for the young Ram team, as her creativity continues to stifle opposing defenses. The Springfield, Illinois native placed three shots on goal, but none found the back of the net. Junior Dallas Smith also contributed to the Rams’ few scoring opportunities. VCU continues its road trip on Sept. 13, against Lynchburg College. Game-time is set for 2 p.m.

### TEAM STATS

VCU	DREXEL
SHOTS (ON GOAL)	
9 (3)	9 (5)
SAVES	
4	3
FOULS	
9	14
CORNER KICKS	
7	6



Jones’ power gives her an advantage against the opposition.

# VCU volleyball finds its “quiet storm”

**ERIKA ROBINSON**  
Contributing Writer

“The quiet storm.” That’s the nickname given to VCU’s Kalah Jones. Now a senior, Jones crept into the sport — like, supporters say, a quiet storm. Originally planning to run track in high school, her interest in volleyball moved her to try out for the team — she made it. Jones made enough of an impact to earn herself a Division I scholarship to Clemson University. Seeking a new environment, Jones chose to transfer from the Tiger program to attend VCU after her freshman year. “I chose to come to VCU because I just wanted something different, new scenery,” Jones said. “Clemson is in a college town and being that VCU is in the city, I like that a lot better.” On the court, she is the go-to option for the Rams, ready to hit and dig. After having a productive sopho-

more and junior campaign, Jones hopes to continue her success for her final season in a Rams uniform. She has already started on her quest

“With the talent we have on this team, we have more than enough potential to beat a lot of teams ... We will get down a little bit, we will lose momentum, but I know that once we pick it back up, nobody can stop us.”

— KALAH JONES

to have her best season yet, as she registered a career-high 23 kills in VCU’s home opener against the College of William and Mary.

Her individual athletic success makes her a leader on the court. Whether encouraging her teammates or getting a much-needed point, Jones gets it done. Her role on the court has changed upon her arrival at VCU but this year, with a young team surrounding her, Jones’ impact is critical for the Rams success this season. “This year I feel like I’m more calm (on the court) as opposed to previous years,” Jones said. “I feel more emotionally steady because since I have to be a leader, I have to be able to keep my emotions pretty even-keel.” As the season continues, Jones remains optimistic about the team despite its youth. “With the talent we have on this team, we have more than enough potential to beat a lot of teams,” Jones said. “We will get down a little bit, we will lose momentum, but I know that once we pick it back up, nobody can stop us.” The team is Jones’ main focus. Her individual success comes second to the team, but

her personal goal is to be better than she was last year. “For me, I want to be on the first team All Atlantic-10 team,” Jones said. “I’ve gotten second team twice, but I really want to be on the first team and to get a ring. That’s my biggest goal.” While Jones is still unsure about her future aspirations after VCU and volleyball, she said she hopes to play overseas or continue her education to become a physician’s assistant. Last season Jones led the team with 369 kills, averaged 3.27 kills per set and had six double-doubles. The next home match is Sept. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Siegel Center.

### SAT. SEP 12

VCU	0
vs. Seattle	3
@ Murfreesboro, Tenn.	
MTSU Invitational	





Spencer Tossone, Alexis Albright and Kendall Farino celebrate a goal Central Michigan University.

**ZACHARY JOACHAM**  
Contributing Writer

VCU’s first home-stand of the year forecasts a promising season to come. The pair of inter-conference matches provides an accurate idea of the competition ahead for the lady Rams.

VCU field hockey was victorious on Sept. 8 against Central Michigan University and was defeated by Ohio University on Sept. 6.

Ohio got on the board in the 6th minute to take an early 1-0 lead off a corner-kick. Freshman Emily McNamara evened things up for the Rams in the 16th minute off an assist by sophomore midfielder Spencer Tossone. The tie would hold through halftime, as both defenses buckled down and scoring chances became scarce. Ohio opened the second half aggressively, putting the VCU backline on its heels. Goals in the 38th and 42nd minute put the Bobcats up 3-1 before OU’s relentless attack toned down and the pace of the match remained conservative. The damage was already done and the Rams fell 3-2 to the Bobcats in a heated back and forth affair.



Albright scurries down the pitch

On Friday night, VCU defeated CMU 3-1 in its home opener at Cary Street Field. Chippewa sophomore Maria Russel scored her team-leading 3rd goal of the season. The Rams fought back, enjoying the majority of possession for the remainder of the match. Sophomore Jamee Albright cut the lead in half in the 60th minute by putting home a rebound off a save by Ohio goalkeeper Lina Trucco. Trucco would later seal the deal in the 70th minute with an athletic save on a shot headed for the corner of the cage by senior midfielder Taleah Scott. The Rams opened play on their home turf on a solid note, holding the majority of possession and outshooting out-of-conference foe CMU



Freshman midfielder Jessica Mays defends her turf against an Ohio attacker.

12-0 in the first half. Scott, an Australian transfer, looked to put VCU up early in the 5th minute with a powerful shot off a corner that went wide. The constant pressure eventually broke the Chippewa defense in the 14th minute when Emily McNamara put a beautiful assist from junior Kaylee Maunz in the back of the cage. Down 1-0 coming out of half-time, CMU flipped the script and took control in the second half. After taking four of the first five shots, Kady Gurtis tied the game at 1-1 in the 47th minute. VCU responded with a flurry of possessions facilitated between McNamara and senior Kendall Farino. The midfield duo worked with twin forwards Jamee and Alexis Albright to regain control of the game. A. Albright put away a feed into the box from Farino to retake the lead in the 59th minute. Three minutes later, McNamara would find Scott for her first goal of the season off a scramble in front of the net, giving the Rams a 3-1 cushion and the match. VCU’s first home-stand of the year forecasts a promising season to come. The pair of inter-conference matches provides an accurate idea of the competition ahead for the lady Rams. Next up is a weekend road trip in which VCU will travel to face out of conference foes Georgetown University and James Madison University before returning to conference play in Richmond against Pacific University Friday, Sept. 18.

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# spectrum

## Fun bike fact

Orville and Wilbur Wright used their bicycle repair shop to build their 1903 Wright Flyer airplane.

# Richmond exhibits pedal from past to present

## Local art spaces and museums feature RVA’s unique bike culture

### Pop-Up RVA

Various places on East Broad Street

Storefront for Community Design is putting on a pop-up event in abandoned spaces on Broad street to breathe life into the old buildings and sell local and international products. “This is a highly visible quarter, a few blocks from the finish line, and I think it’s definitely showing that (Richmond) is on an upward trajectory,” said Tyler King, program director for Storefront.

### In Gear: Richmond Cycles

The Valentine

The Valentine is a museum dedicated to collecting and preserving snippets of Richmond’s extensive history from centuries ago until now. This exhibit goes back to the 19th century to showcase photographs, illustrations and artifacts all about cycling. They’re open extended hours during the race.

### Bikes: Science on two wheels

The Science Museum of Virginia

The Science Museum goes into the history of the bicycle itself, from how it works to the innovations in materials and design. Hands-on exhibits and multimedia displays examine the science behind the machine that the entire Road World Championship is based around.

### New Normal Bike Bazaar

New Normal Apparel

New Normal Apparel will be hosting an event where local vendors are invited to come and sell products during the bike race. Some local businesses featured are SolarMill, Sweetest Stitch and Robin Grabinska.

### Pop-Up Revolution

Race Finish Line

Pop-Up Revolution will be hosting a huge range of vendors, featuring Art Works Richmond and their bike-orientated artwork, VCU fashion design major Clayton Storm Hall, the Richmond-based Pello Bikes and more.

### Go Bike! New bicycle racks around the city

Located all around the city

Featuring a bike rack design by VCU student John Sampson, thirty unique, individually painted racks have popped up around the city to celebrate the UCI. Look for the racks all along the course of the race.

### Cycles

Glave Kocen Gallery

Artists Matt Lively and Benjamin Frey are displaying brand new works in honor of the race.

AUSTIN WALKER  
Spectrum Editor

The approaching bike race is bringing to light the Richmond community’s growing bike culture, which is rooted in the city’s history.

Art exhibits, concerts, fundraisers and government support are all reinforcing the city’s long-standing and growing cycling culture, which has pervaded all aspects of Richmond in light of the approaching Road World Championship.

Cycling has been an integral part of Richmond since the late 1800s. Police officers patrolled

on bicycles as early as 1880, and 15,000 fans stood to watch a cycling race in 1892 on the land where the Science Museum of Virginia now stands.

Over a century later, commuters and enthusiasts now use bicycles for sport, utility and leisure in the city. The cycles themselves have been the subject of a lot of local art, and the city continues to increase cyclists’ accessibility on the roads.

Showcasing the community support and pride, here’s a list of exhibits and attractions around the city that center around cycling and the UCI Worlds Championship.



Bicycles on display at The Valentine for their In Gear: Richmond Cycles exhibit.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE VALENTINE RICHMOND HISTORY CENTER

# Storefront’s Pop-up event breathing life into abandoned spaces

KELLY MICKEY  
Contributing Writer

Local and international businesses alike are gearing up to fill some long-abandoned storefronts around Richmond for a pop-up vendor event during the bike race.

Richmond’s “Storefront for Community Design” has been working for the past few years to improve local establishments by helping businesses, nonprofits and universities redesign their spaces, and their newest venture is their “pop-up RVA” event happening during the UCI Road World Championships.

Storefront opened in 2011, and has since been working to improve the quality of life for Richmond residents and businesses. One of the integral locations for the both pop-up event and the race is the corner of 2nd and Broad Street. Tyler King, the program director, said that the pop-up event should help to bring new business to some of these decrepit retail locations.

“Every course turns at the corner of 2nd and Broad, yet three out of four corners at the intersection are vacant,” King said. “The opportunity to reactivate two of those is something that required the race to be that catalytic thing that gets everyone on board to say ‘Hey, let’s make that happen.’”

The unique opportunity for local community members to be able to rent out their own space during the week of the bike race is valuable for small businesses, community groups or individuals who now have the opportunity to rent out storefronts or portions of storefronts for daily or weekly rates to sell whatever they want.

“As a community engagement organization, I think we see this as our mission,” King said. “It promotes economic development in a lot of corridors. You’re filling in empty space and you’re putting eyes on the street, and that contributes growth to the community.”

This event, along with other pop-up events happening around the city during the race, gives the spectators a place to spend their money and it gives the shop owners a chance to make a profit they would not have otherwise.

Storefront has helped to open community parks, refurbish abandoned houses and assist community members in transforming their

entire neighborhood. These projects all arise from the need of the neighbors for a better planned and organized community.

Along with design projects, The Storefront for Community Design staff also holds workshops and seminars to educate the people of Richmond on how they can improve their neighborhood through advocacy and local government involvement.

The city of Richmond has more than 100

“As a community engagement organization, I think we see this as our mission. It promotes economic development in a lot of corridors. You’re filling in empty space and you’re putting eyes on the street, and that contributes growth to the community.”

— TYLER KING

different neighborhoods, all with different cultures and different needs. The Storefront for Community Development has been working to improve the lives of people in the city for almost five years. All of the design work and physical labor associated with each project that Storefront works on is done by volunteers.

This continues with Storefront’s mission of strengthening the community through design. Storefront works beside a VCUarts team of graphic, fashion and interior design students in their “Middle of Broad” division to come up with the physical plans to renovate the city.

“I’m glad that (the race) has emboldened a lot of us to do things that we thought were originally impossible, whether or not they’re all related to cycling I’m not sure,” King said. “On the other hand, part of me does question why it takes an event of this scale to meet basic needs like activating our streets and providing safe paths for cyclists.”



A sign on display on one of “pop-up RVA” spaces on Broad Street where vendors will open up a temporary shop. The event was designed to try and rebuild interest in the area’s economy.

PHOTO BY BROOKE MARSH



# Go Bike! community project installs artfully designed racks

**ADRIEL VELAZQUEZ**  
Contributing Writer

For an unconventional place to lock up bicycles around the city, the Go Bike! project has facilitated the design of 30 individually designed bike racks to be installed all throughout Richmond.

The shape and design of the bike rack toppers is the work of John Sampson, a VCU graphic design student. Sampson's design was chosen from a pool of more than 80 applicants.

"Art and bikes are huge in Richmond," Sampson said. "This GoBike! project combines both

to welcome the world to the UCI Road World Championships. The contest was a great opportunity to get creatively involved in the event."

His wheel-like design includes 75 evenly spaced marks that point inward to represent the 75 nations that will be coming to Richmond next week.

The toppers were made locally at OK Foundry, with patterns created by Tektonics. The bike racks were made at the City of Richmond's Center for Workforce Innovation's program which teaches welding to students.

There will be 30 bike rack toppers spread out among 30 loca-

tions around the city for the UCI World Championships, and each one will feature a unique design by a local artist and feature sponsor company branding. The participating artists are being curated by Ronald Johnson of the painting department at VCU.

"The artists did amazing work," Sampson said. "Many of the concepts and processes were mind-blowing."

For companies who want to purchase a bike rack, it costs \$5,000 for a regular sized bike rack and \$10,000 for a larger bike corral. According to the website, each rack will feature an

engraved plaque with the sponsor's name or logo.

The money made from sponsors buying racks will go towards a design contest and the \$2,500 award for the winning design that will distinguish all of the racks.

The organizers will manufacture the winning design using a local artisan, and provide a \$1,000 stipend to each of the 30 local artists to create an original work of art based on the selected design.

For more information on the bike racks, including instructions on sponsoring one of the racks, visit the Go Bike! community project website.

## Designer profile: John Sampson

**AUSTIN WALKER**  
Spectrum Editor

One VCU Graphic Design student won \$2,500 and the opportunity for his design to be featured throughout Richmond in the latest GoBike! Design Contest.

John Sampson, a junior graphic design major, won the contest, which involved designing the bike rack for the upcoming Union Cycliste Internationale Road World Championship. Currently, 75 participating countries will be coming to Richmond to compete for the international title.

"In the end, for the contest, they were asking for something that represented Richmond," Sampson said. "What I was inspired to do was something beyond that. To represent the world coming to Richmond."

His design is likely to be seen by hundreds of thousands of viewers, as the World Championship is expected to bring nearly 450,000 spectators and over a thousand participants. International attention will be directed at the streets of Richmond, and his name will be featured on a plaque below each of the racks.

"Art is generally subjective," Sampson said. "I'm expecting many people will love it and many people to not be big fans of it, but that's just the nature of things."

The design featured a bicycle wheel, with the spokes at angles representative of the streets of Richmond. Around the rim, 75 evenly spaced marks represent the many countries that are all meeting for the championship.

The design contest was held by i.e., a local community initiative aiming to bring artists and creativity recognition in the city. Their Go! Bike contest received over 80 submissions which were judged on

specific criteria and voted on by a committee. Sampson's design was chosen for its appeal and practicality, as well its powerful message about the convergence of the world into Richmond.

Sampson said he received the call telling him that he'd won the contest while he was in class, and was unable to answer it immediately. He'd been anxiously waiting for word on whether his design has been chosen or not.

"All I was thinking was 'Oh my God, I think I won,'" Sampson said. UCI holds the annual Road World Championship in a different country each year, and it has not been in the United States since the 1986 competition in Colorado Springs. Richmond placed offers, much like countries do when bargaining to host the Olympics or World Cup, against other cities after officials decided it would be held in the U.S. In 2014, the championships awarded nearly \$250,000 of prize money total and almost half a million spectators are expected to attend the event.



**VCU graphic design major John Sampson.**



**A mural that was painted by community volunteers on a wall on Belvidere Street in honor of the Road World Championships.**

# New Normal Apparel hosts Bike Bazaar for local vendors

**SOPHIA BELLETTI**  
Staff Writer

New Normal Apparel is hosting a Bike Bazaar in honor of The Richmond 2015 Road World Championships Sept.19-27 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

Space for \$1,000 for all nine days is still available for purchase until Sept. 15. Sale items from the vendors range from jewelry and yoga pants to cutting boards.

"We're so close to the Convention Center and it made sense. Why not utilize our space and offer a really affordable

space for businesses that are the same position as us?" said Kelley Blanchard, cofounder and executive creative director of New Normal Apparel. "It was less of a risk than paying ten grand to be somewhere else."

Currently, Sacred Waters Holistic Spa & Boutique, Superfun Yoga Pants, SolarMill, Sweetest Stitch and Robin Grabinska have all agreed to be vendors.

New Normal Apparel, an American-made apparel and accessories store on E. Cary Street, planned to be a vendor at Pop-up Revolution at Plant Zero or the Convention

Center, but the rates were too high for a small local business.

New Normal Apparel is a community-based fashion and lifestyle store that sources its products from local businesses. Blanchard explained how a lot of the vendors participating in their bazaar event have worked with them in the past.

"We collaborate with Superfun Yoga Pants and Sacred Waters a lot," Blanchard said. "Whenever we do a pop-up or an event we invite them. They have also wholesale stuff with us before. And Solar Mills, we col-

laborate with him on our bullet casing necklaces. It's just from our relationships with other local business owners."

The bazaar will also hold two fundraising events. On Sept. 23 from 6-9 p.m. an "Aid Our Veterans" fundraiser will take place. There will also be a bike race celebration and benefit gathering for Amy's Army, an organization which treats victims of spinal cord injury, on Sept. 25 from 6-9 p.m.

"We're not really sure what to expect, but we're promoting it and the vendors are excited," Blanchard said. "The risk isn't

too high."

Although this is the first nine-day-long bazaar New Normal Apparel has participated in, this is not their first time hosting.

In the past, there has been a Mother's Day bazaar and a Last Minute Shoppers bazaar a week before Christmas 2014. Six vendors were at the Christmas bazaar and were open for about eight hours long.

Although this bazaar is far more extensive than past events for New Normal Apparel, Blanchard is excited to see how it plays out, and he believes that

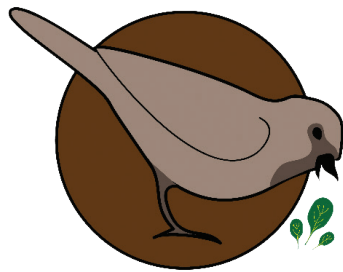
both New Normal Apparel and the vendors will profit.

"I think it will be fairly successful since we're right here next to the convention center," Blanchard said. "We're also going to be at Viva-la-Local, which is more around the finish line of the race."

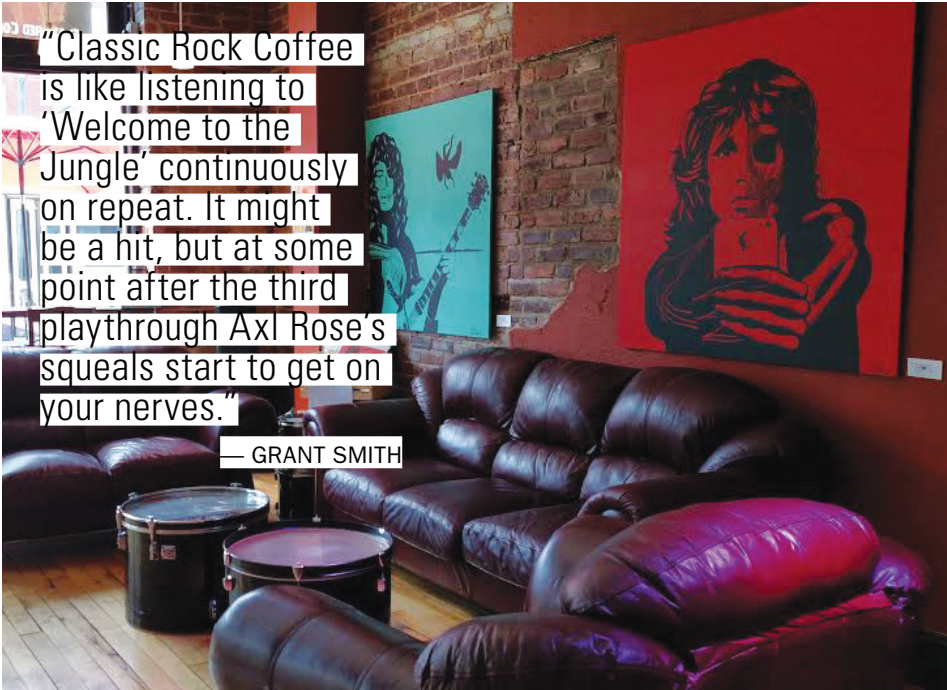
Blanchard added that the company will also have people on foot handing out flyers, and that they have also been promoting through local outlets.



**New Normal Apparel's storefront at 212 E. Clay Street. The company organized a bazaar to feature local clothing and accessory stores.**



## Shaferbird Feature: Classic Rock Coffee



**Interior of Classic Rock Coffee at 1322 W. Broad Street.**

Shafer Bird is part of the Mesh Media Network, a division of VCU Student Media. The Shafer Bird team works to bring the VCU community menu updates and original content, including reviews of on- and off-campus restaurants. [www.shaferbird.com](http://www.shaferbird.com)



# Byrd Theater raises curtain for film noir classic

**SAM GOODRICH**  
Contributing Writer

In a break from the blockbuster summer season, the Bijou Film Center and Byrd Theater presented the 1949 classic noir film “The Third Man” in a new 4K restoration on Sept. 6 to raise money for the “Journey to the Seats Foundation.”

This Oscar-winning film starring Joseph Cotton, Alida Valli and Orson Welles has been critically acclaimed ever since its release more than fifty years ago.

This, and many other films, have been brought to Richmond thanks to the Bijou Film Center, a local organization dedicated to bringing arthouse cinema to the area. Their mission is to establish a theater dedicated to screening independent and foreign films, mixing in classics and film festivals between releases.

The foundation was founded by James Parrish and Terry Rea, two local film enthusiasts who are involved in the Biograph Theater and James River Film Society respectively.

“The Third Man” is just the latest in a line of films shown by the duo. Last summer, they screened “A Hard Day’s Night” on its 50th anniversary, drawing a crowd of 800 people. With screenings of classic films like those, the duo hope to raise enough money to open an art-house theater in the downtown Richmond area.

“We need a place where we can see great little films,” Parrish told Style Weekly in an interview last

fall. “A place where we can eat, drink and talk about these films.”

“Their mission is to establish a theater dedicated to screening independent and foreign films, mixing in classics and film festivals between releases.

All proceeds not only went towards the Bijou Film Center, but also the “Journey to the Seats” foundation, which provides much needed repairs to the Byrd Theater.

Film critic Roger Ebert praised the movie’s cinematography. The film is full of tilted angles and odd lighting choices which Ebert said “makes the city into an expressionist nightmare.”

“The Third Man” uses its unique cinematography choices to show post World War II Vienna where our film takes place. It follows an out-of-work pulp novelist Holly Martins (Joseph Cotton) as he travels to Vienna after being invited by an old friend named Harry Lime (Orson Welles) to pick up a wiring job. Yet, when Martins arrives, he discovers that Lime has died in a bizarre accident. He tries to figure out the details of the death, and he aims to find the truth about his friend’s killing.



Patrons wait at the box office for the Byrd Theater in Carytown. The historic theater regularly hosts events showcasing a wide variety of cinema.

Michael Wilmington of the Chicago Tribune called the acting in “The Third Man” “magnificent” and “highly charged.” Both

Cotton and Welles started their film careers in “Citizen Kane,” in which they also played estranged old friends.

“The Third Man” screening began at 7 p.m., with a happy hour at the Portrait House before the film. Afterwards, there was an

event at the New York Deli which provided “The Third Man” themed foods, with a free performance by The Gypsy Roots.

## SHOWTIMES



Monday, September 14

Terminator Genisys 7:15 PM  
Ted 2 9:35 PM

Tuesday, September 15

Terminator Genisys 7:15 PM  
Ted 2 9:35 PM

Wednesday, September 16

Terminator Genisys 7:15 PM  
Ted 2 9:35 PM

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Ted 2 9:35 PM

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For more information, please contact the UVA Asthma and Allergic Diseases Center via email at [ddm9q@virginia.edu](mailto:ddm9q@virginia.edu) or 434.982.3510. (HSR#12656 and 14427)



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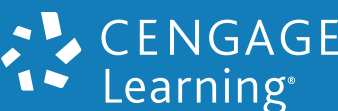
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# Richmond isn't prepared for the World

STAFF EDITORIAL

With the exception of public relations specialists and the VCU administrators pumping out emails regarding this “unique opportunity” to “showcase our global, urban, public research university and its premier academic medical center,” it seems very few Richmonders are genuinely excited for the brouhaha just five days away.

For us meager city-dwellers who don't make a six (or even five) figure salary, this seems more akin to a “unique opportunity” to showcase hell.

For three years, Richmond 2015, the nonprofit organizing the UCI World Championships, has worked with the cities of Richmond, Henrico and Hanover county to welcome 1,000 cyclists from seventy countries, an anticipated 450,000 visitors and 300 million worldwide television viewers with big smiles and half-open arms.

In an alternate universe, parking and transit plans would have been finalized months before this “pinnacle event in cycling” takes course. Residents, students and community members would have had many weeks to plan their lives around the onslaught of more visitors than there are residents in the first place. The city, Richmond 2015 and VCU would have worked in synergy to effectively inform the community as well as develop plans of action and preparedness.

Instead, on Aug. 5, the city of Richmond held a “Transportation Plan Briefing,” hosted by Richmond 2015. Here, the organizers unveiled “navigate.richmond2015.com” — a color-coordinated platform with high-resolution photos of excited cycling fans. Shortly

after the transportation briefing, the VCU Police Department emailed the community explaining that VCU Parking and Transportation officials will use this freshly released information to finalize the VCU transportation plan.

Almost a half million people from outside the city would be in Richmond a little more than a month from when this email hit inboxes ... and there wasn't even a finalized transportation plan?

That's okay though, because on Sept. 1 (18 days away!) VCU Human Resources sent out an email to faculty and staff letting “you know that university officials have approved the liberal use of telecommuting during the entire UCI bike race week,” but that telecommuting is especially encouraged on Friday, Sept. 25, and for the remainder of that weekend.

This is a strange contradiction to the message the school had been sending students, which strongly encouraged students to stay through the races and take special bike-race-specific courses, or volunteer, or generally enjoy their lack of mobility as 300 million viewers worldwide get glimpses of the city from their front row seat on the couch, in a country far, far away.

According to Richmond magazine, \$1.42 million is budgeted for police, fire and rescue services overtime pay during the week of the races. Do the city's public safety departments even know what to expect? Students and residents certainly don't. Sure, if you can afford a VCU parking pass, or your job downtown allows you to park in an unaffected lot, then it seems you're taken care of.

But what about all the tenants who unfortunately signed their



ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL TORRACA

leases before the Aug. 5 launch of navigate.richmond2015.com and had no idea that Monument Avenue and Franklin Street from Boulevard to Belvidere, along Broad, Main and “various cross streets downtown” would be shut down? Or the people who use the city bus lines as their primary form of transportation?

These parking restrictions and road closures manage to essentially encapsulate the entirety of the off-campus student population who aren't commuters.

Have no fear, though! As of Sept. 13, the Richmond 2015 website explains that, “other

supplemental parking locations are being developed to increase parking capacity across the city.” Very proactive.

Surely we can walk from place to place, though? Yes! Not only are pedestrians encouraged to use sidewalks, the UCI website even says you should bike. This goes back to the original point about only PR specialists sounding excited about next week's happenings.

This year, 4,050 freshman acquainted themselves with higher education, and in the process proved that very few of their parents taught them how to properly cross the street.

## Quote of the week

“For us meager city-dwellers who don't make a six (or even five) figure salary, this seems more akin to a “unique opportunity” to showcase hell.”

Multiply that number by 100 and we're in the ballpark number of people who are expected to walk (or bike!) down the sidewalks (has anyone thought to fix the bricks-of-death that cobble some of these streets?) in an orderly and expedited fashion.

A spotlight went out downtown a few weeks ago and intersections turned into functional death traps, complete with an eloquent car-horn-blaring-brakes-screaming-profanity-yelling soundtrack. Now add thousands more people, many of whom are likely intoxicated from an overindulgence in the downtown “beer gardens” and you've got the makings for a really awful comedy — or horror flick.

Luckily, not all hope is lost. Just two weeks ago, VCU announced the installment of two “temporary pedestrian bridges” to allow spectators and people who generally just want to get across the street a way to do so. These structures went up in a matter of hours and are by no means handicap-accessible, because their height requirement restricts the implementation of any feasible ramp.

The Office of Equity and Access services has, however, implemented a shuttle system to alleviate this hindrance. RamSafe and the campus connector will also continue to run, with a round-trip time of somewhere around 90 minutes, and the GRTC bus lines will be in service, although only two city bus routes remain unaltered. Maybe a better solution could have materialized if the event organizers had given the school more than a month-and-some-change of notice to finalize a transportation plan?

But all this last minute scrambling is really just the icing on the

cake. Anyone naive enough to believe Google Maps' projected arrival time for locations within the “high impact areas” is familiar with the street construction that made them perpetually late these last few months. In fact, according to Richmond magazine, this construction stretched 27 miles in total and cost the city around \$2.7 million.

Add that number to the \$1.42 million budgeted for emergency service personnel and it seems like maybe there would be enough for the city or state to drop some scratch on making sure the Richmond public school system has things like teachers who are paid on par with the national average — not an average of \$6,800 less a year, which is currently the trend across Virginia.

Alas, even if the city's cycle of poverty and lack of access to fortifying public education remains unbroken, we can all rest assured that the children of our future created the “parade flags” for the Opening Ceremony at Brown's Island this Friday. And while all indicators point toward a very cumbersome week for the people who will still be in Richmond after the colorful flags come down and streets reopen — there's no doubt that the River City is on the come up.

Our city is the first in the U.S. in nearly three decades to host an event that organizers liken to the scope of the World Cup. Richmond 2015 Vice President Lee Kallman said the event will bring in \$160 million to the state, with 81 percent allocated to the city. Let's hope he's right, and that the long-term gains outweigh the short-term “uh-ohs.”

# Not just a number

MONICA HOUSTON  
Opinion Editor

Virginia Commonwealth University has welcomed its largest freshmen class for the 2015-2016 school year. Admitting about 4,050 freshmen, 1/3 of those being first-generation students, making VCU's total number of students 31,500 students. That is a lot of people on one campus.

In 2012 I transferred from Norfolk State University. I was extremely overwhelmed by the number of people on campus. Coming from a smaller school you greeted the same people every day even if you didn't know their names,

I personally appreciated the quaintness of my colleges. I am quite often described as shy and quiet, so it was much easier to meet and get to know people around campus and even easier to know when something was happening on campus. My first year as a college student was so much fun because there was always

something to do. And then I got to VCU.

Welcome Week was the highlight of my transfer experience. Thank goodness I knew someone who already attended the school, otherwise I would have been a little loner. Yet even Welcome Week didn't measure up to the experience I had as a freshman at Norfolk State.

As time progressed, campus got more boring and more overwhelming: too many students in one class, too many students walking through Shafer Street, too many students walking on the wrong side of the sidewalk. It was all just too much! Except the diversity — that was great! That was about two years ago.

There are 2,125 transfer students at VCU. Now the question is, will they last? After two years at VCU, I noticed a tremendous difference in the number of students walking around campus in fall semester and those during spring semester. There were significantly fewer students around campus

than the semester before.

I could only wonder what happen to everyone. Before I started doing some digging, I assumed it was simply because the academia of VCU was too hard for students. Now that seemed plausible for me and my friends as we had discussed numerous times wanting to drop out because we felt like we could not succeed here.

Apparently we weren't the only ones to feel this way. VCU has been struggling to increase their retention rate. They were recently awarded a five-year \$1.1 million federal grant from TRIO Student Support Services to increase second and third-year retention rates and fourth-year graduation rates. The program is intended to reduce student loan debt and enhance personal finance knowledge for low-income individuals, first-generation students and students with disabilities.

An article on VCU's news website says that “the goals will be achieved through personal coaching and financial planning

services, tutoring, financial aid workshops and academic and non-cognitive skills assessments.”

In order for these goals to be successful, VCU needs to get in touch with its students on a more personal level. Yes, I chose to attend a large university, but I also don't want to be just a number. I find it ridiculous that I was welcomed during my orientation with the statement that your V-number is your identity, not your name. I would like to be known by name by all of my teachers. How else can they ensure my success?

There are a ton of services that students are unaware of. VCU has three different career centers that assist students with exploring career interests, job and internship searches, resume and cover letter development, interview preparation, networking skills and exploring graduate study.

VCU says they are concerned with student success and offer multiple services to better that success. However, if no one knows about it, it doesn't count.



ILLUSTRATION BY DOUG FUCHS

Every once in awhile, you will see a representative come into the classroom and talk about a new student organization or study abroad program. There should be one of these representatives in classrooms throughout the year reminding students of all the different services provided by VCU.

I would love for all of VCU's

students to succeed as they go through their academic career. With the right tools provided equally to all students, there should be no reason why VCU's goals can't be achieved.

# The Intern Life: Students must learn to value their work

HIBA AHMAD  
Contributing Writer

This past summer, I along with thousands of students across the United States participated in an internship. In the beginning, everyone was bright-eyed and hopeful, but as the weeks passed, the reality of the glamorized idea of the “intern life” set in.

It's easy to get caught up in the hype or feel as if you don't have a say because you hold a temporary position, but that is not true. While students chase after these positions they often compromise themselves and the effort that goes into the work they produce.

Many internship programs, such as federal internships, require interns to commit 40 hours a week similar to an entry level position but don't treat their interns with respect or recognize their work.

For example, in 2013 Conde Nast, the publisher of popular

magazines such as Vanity Fair, Vogue and the New Yorker was subjected to public scrutiny. Interns sued the media conglomerate for the lack of pay and possible labor violations during their time with the magazines. Conde Nast eventually settled for 5.8 million and has since canceled their internship program.

This lack of appreciation and representation within an organization combined with long hours leads to exploitation. Interns, paid or unpaid, have the right to voice their opinions and concerns. However, if an intern fails to speak up they are only hindering themselves.

The goal of an internship is to give young adults the chance to gain experience in their prospective fields. Due to the drastic rise in competition in the job market having an internship or prior experience in your field has become absolutely necessary.

This does not give companies or organizations the right to misuse their workers, whether they are unpaid, paid, temporary or permanent. It is a privilege to be able to have an internship and appreciation should be shown towards your administrators, but voicing your concerns is important.

As an intern you go in to learn something you felt you could not gain in the classroom. Some interns will make sacrifices or commitments to support their internship. For example, since my internship with Voice of America was unpaid, I had to get a side job to pay for the extra expenses of working in a big metropolitan city.

If you feel as if you are not gaining skills or experience despite the effort and time you are putting forward then let your program leaders or administrators know. More often than not, they will help cater the program to your goals.

The job market has changed. With more graduates than available jobs it can be challenging to find a job and internships are a great way to better prepare yourself for that reality. Do not be afraid of committing and putting in the extra mile to differentiate yourself from the crowd. There is no shame in working a second job or commuting two hours into the city, but make sure you are getting what you need to get out of the internship you are working for.

The perspective I gained from my time at Voice of America is something I will never take for granted. Though I worked almost every day between work and interning along with classes, the lessons in discipline and work ethic are far more valuable to me. Being able to voice not only my concerns, but my ideas and perspectives made my experience with the journalists at Voice of America a positive one.



ILLUSTRATION BY RANEN SMITH



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It saddened me that your recent article, “Post-grad (un) employment” made no mention of the free career and professional development services available to all VCU students and new alumni.

I agree with your lamentation that education and preparation should be enough to land a college graduate job, however, it’s unfortunately not the way the world works.

No employer creates a job just because a person needs to work. An employer creates a job because they have a problem that needs solving. As a job seeker, you must convince the employer you are the solution to that problem.

I believe VCU students receive an excellent academic education that provides them with the knowledge necessary to succeed in their chosen career field. However, while striving to earn their degree and gain practical experi-

ence, they often fail to develop the skills necessary to conduct and effective job search.

These skills include: How to write a targeted resume and cover letter; conduct a focused search; build contacts, answer interview questions and negotiate etc.

As you said in your article, “the college classroom is not your only source of knowledge.” All of those skills can learned for free through one of the university’s three career centers: VCU Career Services, School of Business Career Services and School of Engineering Career Services.

Career skills are not something that can be taught in a single class, but instead are developed and honed over time and through practice.

Our staff is incredibly committed to the success of students. One thing we consistently hear from alumni is that they wish they had come to see us sooner, so we encourage students to come in

early and often.

Students may meet specifically with a VCU Career Service adviser by calling 804-828-1645 or visiting the University Career Center in the Student Commons during Drop-in hours. We also host numerous events throughout school year including 14 industry-specific career fairs.

As career advisers, we understand the frustration the some students face searching for job. We know that moving on to the next phase of one’s life is one part exciting and one part terrifying.

We strive to teach students (and new alumni) the skills to become effective and savvy job seekers.

Respectfully,  
Brian Nicholas  
VCU Career Services

The CT welcomes respectful and well formed letters to the editor in response to print or online articles.

To submit, email our opinion editor or executive editor with subject line “letter to the editor” and corresponding response in the body of the email.

If you’d like your response considered for print publication, please submit 300-500 words by the Wednesday before the CT’s next print date.

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COMICS

Final Lap by Sarah Butler



International Roomies by Christine Riddle





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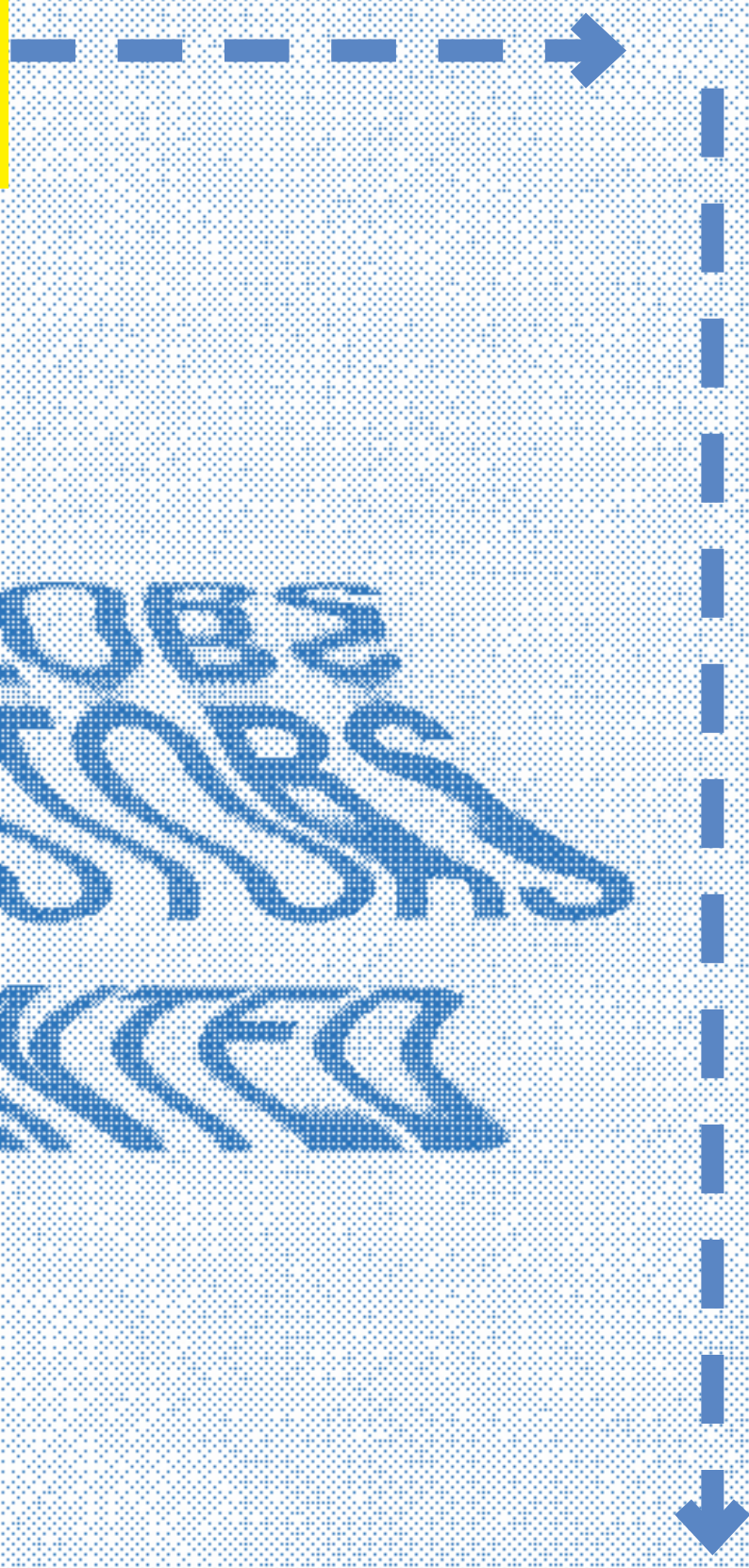
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