

# REPORT TO THE HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY

August 17, 2023

*To the Hampden-Sydney College Community:*

As we welcome students to campus for the start of a new academic year, I am pleased to share that Hampden-Sydney is thriving and that the College is pursuing a robust and promising future.

The College's leadership team and I are guided by Hampden-Sydney's distinctive mission "to form good men and good citizens," a mission that has never been more important and relevant. I personally consider our mission to be the most exciting project in higher education. To live up to and into our mission, we must offer young men an extraordinary coming-of-age experience that emphasizes the simultaneous development of competence and character. Our ambitious goal is for the College to be so well known and so highly regarded for the experience we offer and outcomes we produce that every young man who is planning to attend college considers Hampden-Sydney.

Remarkable accomplishments over the last few years have fundamentally altered the College's trajectory.

## **Academics & Co-Curricular Programming**

*New curricular and co-curricular initiatives.* These include Compass—our experiential learning emphasis—as well as new majors in Biochemistry and Engineering Physics, the four-year Wilson Leadership Fellows Program, the Flemming Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and our High Adventure outdoor education program.

## **Student Life & Retention**

*Improved retention and students living more closely up to and into our mission.* Over 90 percent of our rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors have registered for classes and requested housing. This leaves us optimistic that our efforts to attract more resilient students who will persist from the start of their freshman year through graduation are working. And, as important as attracting talented and resilient students is attracting students who embrace our mission and our historic codes of honor and conduct. The following data reflect both greater selectivity in the admission process and our work to strengthen our student and campus cultures and to develop a stronger sense of responsibility and accountability among our students:

<b>Student Culture Indicators</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Code of Conduct violations	157	40
Alcohol abuse hospital transports	22	2
Drug/Alcohol arrests on campus	16/14	0/0

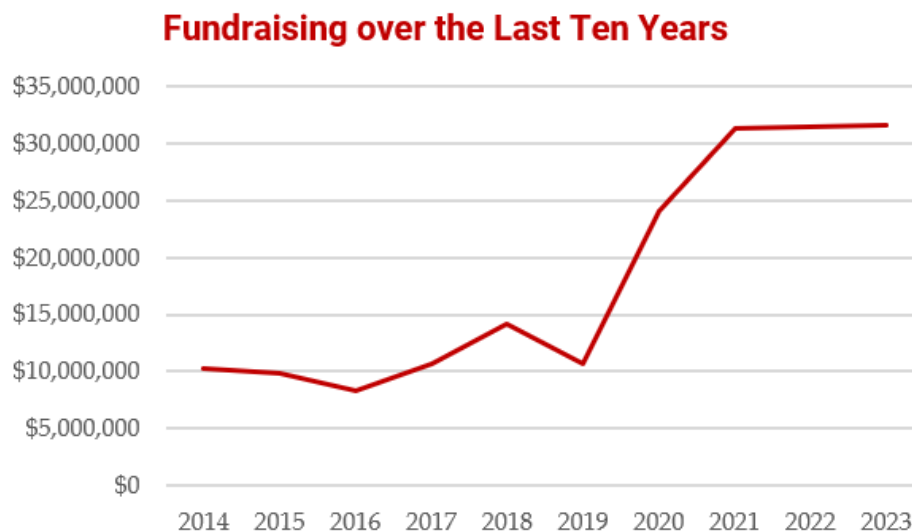
## Athletic Excellence

*A strong tradition of Hampden-Sydney athletics.* Our basketball team made it to the second round of the NCAA finals this year. Five of our teams made it to their conference tournament, and three of those teams made it to the semifinals. Three of our teams were ranked in the top 25 nationally at some point in their season. Four of our student-athletes were named Academic All-Americans. For a third year in a row, one of our students was a semifinalist for the Campbell Trophy—considered the “academic Heisman” and awarded to a college football player who excels in the classroom and on the field.

We expect a stellar 96 percent of our student-athletes will return this year to start their sophomore, junior, or senior year. Also, during this past year, alumni Ryan Odom '96 and Griff Aldrich '96 were among the 25 finalists for the Skip Prosser Award, given to a Division I basketball coach “who achieves success on the basketball court, while displaying great moral integrity off of the court.”

## Philanthropic Support & Financial Strength

*Unprecedented support from the College's alumni and friends.* More intensive outreach and your generosity have contributed to record-setting fundraising success over the last few years as shown on the following graph:



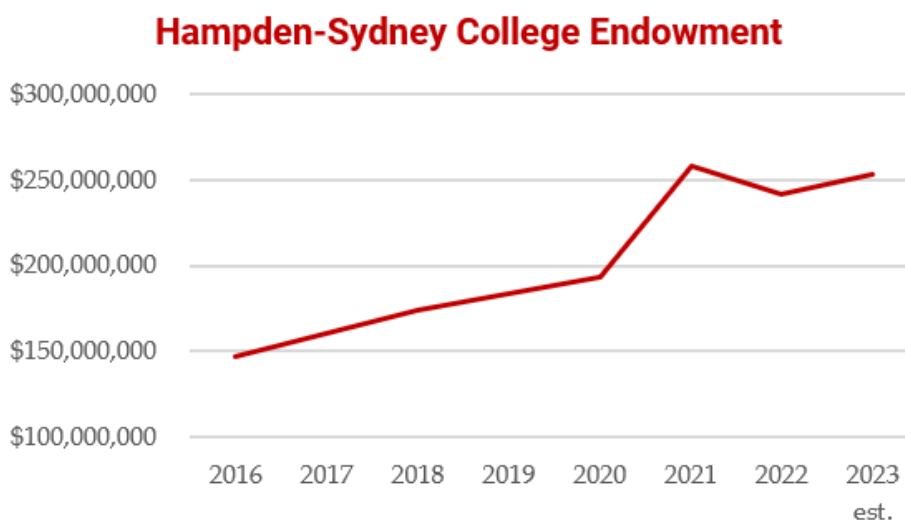
The College's most significant fundraising successes include:

- A gift of \$30 million from Stanley F. Pauley, protégé of E. Rhodes Carpenter '29, which made possible the Pauley Science Center, one of the most ambitious building initiatives in the College's history. We have subsequently been fortunate to receive over \$15.2 million in additional gifts and commitments, including a recent gift of \$8.5 million, to support this wonderful addition to our academic program.
- A \$6 million gift commitment from Rob '89 and Cindy Citrone to fund the launch of Compass—the College's experiential learning initiative.

- Completion of the Carpenter Foundation grant challenge, which added over \$20 million in new need-based scholarships to the College's endowment.
- Two bequests totaling \$24 million, one from the estate of Lucille Dickinson (widow of M. Blair Dickinson '37), and another from the estate of the late W. Glenn Hurt '60, which is funding the new Hurt Scholars Program.
- An anonymous gift of \$15 million to bolster our residence hall renovation plan. This was the fourth eight-figure gift commitment the College has received in the last four years.
- Over \$6 million in gifts and commitments to fund the renovation of the Kirby Field House.
- A commitment of \$9 million to bolster our admissions operations, expand the geographic footprint of our recruiting efforts, and raise the College's stature.

We are grateful for these and many other major gifts and commitments, but we are equally grateful for gifts of all sizes, which we rely on to fund and support the extraordinary educational program we offer young men.

A growing endowment of \$250 million, up from \$146 million in 2016, is a testament to our fundraising success, a mostly favorable investment environment, and dedicated stewardship. The growth of the endowment has strengthened the College's balance sheet, contributing to the recent reaffirmation of the College's "A" credit rating by Standard & Poors, and the high ratings of financial strength Hampden-Sydney has earned from [Forbes](#) and in a recent study by [Bain & Company](#) on the financial health of the nation's colleges and universities.



## Campus Enhancements

*New and renovated facilities.* In addition to the Pauley Science Center, these include the Brown Student Center, the Viar-Christ Center for the Arts, the Pannill Center for Rhetoric and Communication, and The Grove residence complex. Renovation of the River Apartments (formerly the "Alphabets") will be largely complete before the start of the fall semester. We are also renovating the Kirby Field House, Venable Hall, and Whitehouse. We'll next renovate the Carpenter Houses as part of our comprehensive student residence renovation plan.

## National Recognition

The quality of the educational experience we offer is recognized in many publications and websites, but I'll share here how Princeton Review assesses Hampden-Sydney among its 389 best colleges and universities:

- #1 most active student government
- #2 best college library
- #3 best alumni network
- #3 most politically active students
- #6 friendliest students
- #8 best schools for internships
- #9 students love their school teams
- #12 best career services
- #12 happiest students
- #12 lots of Greek life
- #13 best college newspaper
- #14 their students love these colleges
- #18 most engaged in community service
- #19 lots of race/class interaction

We're also included in Princeton Review's lists of "best southeastern colleges" and "best value colleges."

## Priorities for the Future

As we build on the accomplishments of the last few years and pursue an ever more ambitious future for Hampden-Sydney, our highest priorities include:

- **Pursuing our important and distinctive mission and maintaining our unique identity.** Our mission requires steadfast commitment to the simultaneous development of competence and character, and so we expect every member of our campus community to live up to and into our mission and our codes of honor and conduct. As we have been since our founding, we are committed to rhetoric, freedom of expression, and civil discourse. Further, we believe our students' residential experience can and should model what it means "to form a more perfect union" and promote a pluralistic campus community that not only values but extols its common brotherhood.
- **Preparing our students for outstanding career and graduate school placement.** To demonstrate that we provide young men with an extraordinary educational experience, we need to enhance the placement of all of our students in the best career and graduate program opportunities. To accomplish this goal, we will be raising additional funding to support internship, research, and off-campus study opportunities, and mobilizing, as never before, the power and potential of the country's third best alumni network.

- **Growing our scholarship endowment to ensure access to the benefits of a Hampden-Sydney education.** We want to ensure that any talented young man who wants to attend Hampden-Sydney can do so regardless of his family's financial circumstances. If we are to meet the financial need of all of the admitted students who want to attend Hampden-Sydney, we will need to grow our scholarship endowment by \$200 million or more.
- **Having facilities that match the quality of the College's educational program.** Even as we work to complete the ambitious building renovation projects we have underway, we are eager to raise funds to renovate Gilmer Hall, our former science facility, to serve as a new and impressive home for our Economics & Business and Government & Foreign Affairs Departments.
- **Being an employer of choice.** Knowing that we fulfill our mission through the College's people, we always want to be an employer of choice, both for our current talented and dedicated faculty and staff members, as well as for those employees we will need to recruit to the College in the years ahead.
- **Having everyone invested in the work of the College.** Hampden-Sydney and its distinctive mission are worthy of investment. This is a moment when the College can make the leap to national prominence, but to do so we will need the enthusiasm we all have for Hampden-Sydney to translate into action—sharing the Hampden-Sydney story with prospective students, providing current students with internship and career placements, and providing financial support needed for access, for enhancements to our educational program, and for the renovation of our physical plant.

To close, I was struck by what Henry Kissinger has to say about higher education and its preparation of the leaders that the world needs and will need in the future in his recent book, *Leadership*:

*The West's secondary schools and universities remain very good at educating activists and technicians; they have wandered from their mission of forming citizens—among them, potential statesmen. Both activists and technicians play important roles in society, drawing attention to its faults and the various means by which they might be corrected, but the broad and rigorous humanistic education that shaped prior generations of leaders has fallen out of fashion. The technician's education tends to be pre-professional and quantitative; the activist's hyper-specialized and politicized. Neither offers much history or philosophy—the traditional wellsprings of the statesman's imagination.*

I feel very proud and privileged to lead a college that has not wandered from its mission of forming citizens and leaders. And, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member of this College community, who—through your study, teaching, coaching, mentoring, leadership, financial support, and devotion—fulfills our mission “to form good men and good citizens.” Working together, we will continue to uphold Hampden-Sydney's mission and ensure that the College thrives for another 250 years.

Sincerely,  
Larry Stimpert