

## **Interview Questions for Alumnae**

1. Tell us a few things about yourself (family, job, things that bring you joy).

**My name is Mary Wright Baylor. I was a nurse for 45 years and a whole variety of different jobs.**

**Retired when my first grandchild was born. Got activated to be able to vaccinate people now. I am a leader in the state of Virginia for gun sense in America.**

2. What is your UVA story?

a. How did you decide to come to UVA? **My parents were alumnus and they wanted me to follow in their path. I was rejected from my first choice so I fell back to UVA and fell in love. My best high schools went there as well.**

b. What did you do when you were a student at UVA? **I was a part of the second class and so there was no sorority. The dorms were all male dorms. It was very focused on males. I did a volunteer program at Madison house as a big sister. I did swim one semester and mostly focused on my pre-med route. Spend a lot of time parting and on rugby road meeting friends.**

3. What is your favorite UVA memory? **When I was at school one of my favorite would have to be when I was at school for the spring and I would study at the lawn and I just admired the beauty. The trees are gorgeous and specifically for the spring they had a party called Easters and they would have a concert and it was so fun.**

4. What was a transformative moment for you at UVA? **I think sitting in orientation and hearing people talking about the honor code and what that means about being trusted as a student. The honor code culture has stayed with me throughout my personal and profession career. I also met my husband at UVA during mu time.**

5. What was your journey after leaving UVA? **To strive for excellence so I pushed myself to do staff nursing and I worked a lot within the medical field. I went to graduate school and I**

**taught at UVA school of nursing, loved being in an academic environment. Then I got an opportunity in the 90s to help run the health care program in Northern Virginia.**

6. **Is there something you learned at UVA that you apply to your life now? Honor code, striving for excellence, public service, so many things it is so hard to pick.**
7. **What was the most challenging thing about UVA? I encountered so much misogyny and sexism throughout my time and that really killed me how much girls were mistreated. Professors whistled at us and treated us terribly. Being a woman I had zero voice. My roommate got raped during my time at school and no one helped her because she felt she had no support from the university. There were no systems for women and that is why I support the women center so much. No sports or anything for women at my time.**
8. **Tell us about a woman/women at UVA who inspires you – now, or during your time on Grounds. For over 10 years I worked with a girl named Janet Lancaster who was the president of the nursing program and we helped run the 100-year anniversary of nursing. She had a way with people that inspired and mentored me. She knew how to bring out the best in other people and she taught me a ton about communication and the power behind your words.**
9. **What does the UVA alumnae community mean to you? How have fellow alumnae affected your life/career/journey? I married an alumna and I gave birth to one lol. A huge part of my heart is all about UVA, to be able to work for various parts at UVA is truly a gift. We go to grounds almost twice a year and have countless friends from UVA that are truly my best friends. I know I can trust my UVA alumnae and it will forever be a part of my life.**
10. **In your opinion, what is the legacy of women on UVA? The women made it a far better university we brought creative thought, diversity, all the talents of femininity character traits and I think it's much better because of it.**

11. If you could impart a piece of advice to a female student on Grounds today, what would you tell her? **I would tell her to think about the founder of the university and the writer of the declaration of the independence and understand that they made mistakes and were still successful. They were great leaders as men and women can be great leaders too. In your school experience my advice would be to be bold and go big and be confident and know you'll make mistakes along the way. We don't strive for perfection we strive for inspiration from others.**
12. Is there anything related to women's history at the University that you would like to learn more about? **No, because I truly think I have seen it all and asked all the questions I need. I like to write history and supporting these women programs at the university. I hope to help write this history till the day I die, I am not done yet.**

To see examples of responses to these questions go to <https://retolduva.com/alumnae/alumnae-profiles/>

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