

# Corey Simpson Booker, UVA C/O 2002

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

uva, professors, classes, women, sorority, year, friends, people, college, history, richmond, charlottesville, students, virginia, feel, group, remember, female, university, thought

## SPEAKERS

Corey Simpson Booker, Gabrielle Ringer

**Gabrielle Ringer** 00:00

okay cool so um if you could can you maybe say your name the year you graduated and what you majored in

**Corey Simpson Booker** 00:10

sure so my name is corey simpson, my maiden name, booker and i'm a call it we call it the college when i went to uva the '02 grad from the college i graduated in 2002 i was a history major and a religious studies minor

**Gabrielle Ringer** 00:27

cool okay

**Corey Simpson Booker** 00:28

yeah

**Gabrielle Ringer** 00:29

um so can you tell us a few things about yourself things this could be about like your family your job just generally the things that bring you joy

**Corey Simpson Booker** 00:38

the things that bring me joy well i am i live in richmond virginia and i am an attorney here and i have my husband gray is from richmond and although he did not go to uva he is a bigger fan than i am of all things university of virginia and we have two little boys colton who is seven and then Byrd who is two will be three in may so between that and a full time job i am very busy

**Gabrielle Ringer** 01:18

i'm from richmond too

**Corey Simpson Booker** 01:20

nice where are you from

**Gabrielle Ringer** 01:21

um my parents live in mechanic's vaults i went to high school there okay cool yeah what about you

**Corey Simpson Booker** 01:27

so we live we live on forest avenue so we live really close to like U of R are almost across the street from tuckahoe elementary

**Gabrielle Ringer** 01:35

cool i love that area i can see beautiful over there

**Corey Simpson Booker** 01:39

yeah

**Gabrielle Ringer** 01:40

um okay so like this this kind of like the umbrella question but like what's your uva story like how did you let's start with how did you decide to come to uva

**Corey Simpson Booker** 01:51

sure so um i am originally from lubbock texas so i grew up in west texas both of my parents went to texas tech university which is in lubbock and i as a like little kids and like elementary school middle school was really into history and when i was in eighth grade seventh grade i can't remember exactly we took like it for spring break one year we took a big family trip to washington dc and we my dad had a good friend from college who lives in alexandria and we stayed with them and we toured all the monuments went to mount vernon did all the things virginia historical you think about and part of the trip was we took we rented a car and we drove from dc to lexington virginia because we had friends who just moved there and spent a day with them and toured who and like all things were already late and then we drove to charlottesville to go to monticello because my dad loved thomas jefferson and so we absolutely had to go to monticello and so we went to monticello and my dad thought it was the greatest place on earth and the people at monticello were like well if you're if you really like it you it's worth your time to drive into charlottesville and go look at the university of virginia it was it's beautiful it's a beautiful place um and so we weren't in a hurry we were going to williamsburg we were not in a hurry so we drive into town all i remember is i was by this point i'd spent five days with my parents and i was annoyed i'm an eighth grader and i'm annoyed that we have to go do something that was not on the original itinerary and i remember i slept driving into charlottesville and we parked in the garage by take it away back there and we walked onto the lawn and i think it was spring break because there were a lot of students out there wasn't a lot of hustle and bustle for a week day but there was someone playing frisbee with their labrador on the lawn and i turned to my parents and i said i think i want to go to college here and i was so out of the blue so crazy but um they were like yeah whatever and so then we go like on the way back we go to mincers i remember buying like a virginia lacrosse t shirt because lacrosse is very cool like i didn't really know anything um and then didn't really think about it again until i started to apply to colleges and when i was applying to colleges in the late 90s uva and berkeley the university of california at berkeley were constantly competing to be the number one number one public

university and so by that point we knew it was like a really good like i didn't even know it was a good school and you know and it sort of fit a lot of my criteria of i knew i sort of wanted to leave texas um it was i didn't want to be somewhere super Small but I also wanted to be somewhere super, I wanted to be somewhere social. And so it sort of fit a lot of criterias. I applied early, the only time I had visited was that one time on the lawn in the eighth grade with the kids throwing the Frisbee. And I got in. And I remember my dad telling me when we mailed the application, it was binding at the time. So he said, you know, if you get in, you have to go and I was like, yeah, sure, whatever, dad, um, because I didn't think I'd get it. And then, you know, in December, they sent the letter I got in, and now I'm, I'm a Virginia resident, I'll never leave. So Wahoowa.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 05:41

um, so what were the kind of things that you did when you were a student like extracurriculars or just stuff you did in Charlottesville?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 05:48

Yeah. So I was really big. I was in a sorority, I was a Kappa Kappa Gamma. Um, but I was really I worked at cav daily. Um, let's see, first year, second year. I can't remember if I worked there third year, I definitely didn't work their fourth year. And then I was I'm also really big into the University Guide service. So I'm my fourth year I was probie chair or, yeah, fourth year, first semester, I was probie chair. So like, really involved in all things guide service. Um, so those are sort of the big, like, big extracurriculars, they kept a lot of my time.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 06:28

Gotcha.Okay. What did you do a cav daily?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 06:32

So I was in the production department, which is the department that like, does the like, editing, you know, sort of puts the paper together every every day, which was really fun.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 06:44

Cool. Yeah. Did you feel like women were encouraged or discouraged to join extracurriculars?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 06:52

You know, like, I don't know. No, I mean, I sort of thought, um, yeah, I mean, for me, it was like everybody did, I felt, especially in my like, sort of group, like, everybody did something. And it didn't matter if you were male, or female. And when I really think about, like, my time at UVA, like, a lot of my friends were from my sorority or my dorm, or which are single sex. And so everybody was doing something. So I don't think that there was no, I don't think that they were discouraged. We weren't discouraged.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 07:25

Did you feel like some extracurriculars were maybe more welcoming to women than others?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 07:33

Um, no, I mean, no. Um, I like the things I did. I don't think we're really gender specific, if that makes sense. Like, I mean, I wasn't trying to be, I don't know what you would do that would be more like real athletic something or something where you would need to be one gender or something. So no.

**Gabrielle Ringer 08:01**

Okay, cool. And then can you talk a little bit about your experience in your sorority? And how that kind of factored into your UVA experience?

**Corey Simpson Booker 08:10**

Yeah, so, um, yeah, so my mother was a like, and she did not go to UVA. But she was in a sorority and was really, really important to her. And it was really, really important to her that I go to a school where I could be in a sorority. So that's sort of the backdrop on the whole thing. I was fortunate because I ended up in a group, our, our pledge class, we had 33 girls, and I ended up in a group, I would say, of those, the majority were out of state students. And so I think we sort of banded together in a way that maybe in state, you know, because we couldn't drive home on the weekends or do anything of that. So like, there was a little more banding together about that. And those are like truly my most close and like sustained relationships from UVA, like, those are the people. They were in my wedding, they're still who I talk to, like, on a on a very regular basis. And so I probably had a group of like, of that group of 30, probably 15 of us were really close in college and you know, there's eight or 10 that I'm still fairly close with.

**Gabrielle Ringer 09:31**

Cool. Um, what's your favorite UVA memory?

**Corey Simpson Booker 09:37**

While I was there?

**Gabrielle Ringer 09:38**

yeah. Or I mean, I think it could be at any time but um, I think many questions while you're there.

**Corey Simpson Booker 09:45**

Yeah. I mean, I was in Minneapolis two years ago now that I got much much that that's a lot of there was some some marriage troubles there when that happened, but um, because I booked the ticket and didn't and didn't have permission. for my husband to go but neither here nor there oh gosh favorite uva memory one huh i don't know um i mean like and i think this happens for a lot of people like spring of fourth year especially after spring break when it gets warm and everybody's doing all the fun things that nobody can do this year because of COVID um you know there there's lots of things that are fun there i mean i lived let's see i lived in a sorority house my third year and then my fourth year i lived in a house on U circle with 10 girls who are in my sorority so like there's just a lot of fun like funny things that happened you know during that time living together and things that would go on yeah so okay more than yeah i don't think i can pick down one specific time

**Gabrielle Ringer 11:00**

um what was a transformative moment for you at uva?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 11:05

a transformative moment hmm i um for me so for my my like experience at uva i think what i really appreciated was it was probably the first time i'm ever in my life that i had been around people who were as smart as me in in that sounds like cocky and that's not what i mean um um you know they were certainly they were certainly as smart as me and what i really mean about that is that like like i was i wasn't segregated for being the smart one who could only do x y and z it was like everybody was that smart so it didn't matter anymore it was like okay now we're gonna go you know because where i came from i was too smart to get invited to parties or i was too smart to do this or you know i sort of had excluded myself from some things that were now everybody around me sort of we were all in the same bucket and that was it was um so like from a transformative moment i think for me it was a really like socially i was able to grow a lot and sort of grow into my grow into myself a little bit is the way to put it yeah

**Gabrielle Ringer** 12:39

okay cool um what was the most challenging thing about uva?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 12:46

challenging um you know like looking back at it now i mean probably some of my coursework that i didn't focus on as much as i probably should have you know like i think about how much i had to read or this or that but um you know i had a really good four years there and made some really really strong friendships um i mean i let's see challenging um i mean there were some things that like like i wanted to be a part of that i wasn't you know some some of the like like dealing with some of the loss of not getting some of this sort of what i would consider elite clubs or groups or this or that i mean some of that was sort of sad to deal with or like had to you know and there were probably a lot of learning experiences that went with that now that i think about um yeah i mean some things you know you'd run for an office and you wouldn't get it or um yeah that i had one time where i was at a party and sort of i'm fairly certain there was a lot of alcohol involved and somebody pointed at me and said "she's a nobody she shouldn't be here" so that was sort of you know had to work through some of that but that is what it is yeah okay well

**Gabrielle Ringer** 14:20

i'm sorry someone said that to you

**Corey Simpson Booker** 14:23

again i think alcohol was involved

**Gabrielle Ringer** 14:28

okay so tell us so tell me about a woman or women at uva who inspired you either now or during your time on grounds

**Corey Simpson Booker** 14:38

so who were who were are these professors or

**Gabrielle Ringer** 14:46

yeah they could be professors they could be peers they could be just like people you like maybe worked with you know while at the university whatever

**Corey Simpson Booker** 14:56

right um so like I had there were there were a couple of people who were like, probably the year ahead of me, um, who I really looked up to, um, Jody Slater. And then asked her bow, they were both from Texas and so I sort of knew them, like, had gotten connected to them early on in my like UVA career and then became friends with them and really appreciated sort of what they did. I'm trying to think there weren't like, of my professors. I mean, I certainly had women professors. I mean, it wasn't like noticeable all my professors are men. Um, but I can't think of any that super stood out. I did take a, um, a. Her last name was lefleur. I took a class on the history of UVA. So it was in the guide service there really like all things, UVA, going back to the eighth grade going to Monticello. And, um, so I took a class on like, the history of UVA. And the history. Yeah, which was really a good class. I enjoyed that class, and I feel like the professor was a female there. Um, yeah, I'm trying to think if there were others, um, that may be it. Okay.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 16:31

Um, I don't recognize the last name Leffler. I had a male Professor whose last name was Leffler, but I don't think he ever taught a course about like the history of UVA. So,

**Corey Simpson Booker** 16:41

yeah, I'm looking out. I'll get your name.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 16:43

Okay.

**Corey Simpson Booker** 16:48

Yeah. I'm sure that maybe Hitchcock was the one who were at the pictorial history of UVA. I'll figure it out.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 17:00

Okay. Yeah.

**Corey Simpson Booker** 17:02

Yeah.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 17:04

Okay. Yeah. No, if if you find it later, just send him my way. I would love to know,

**Corey Simpson Booker** 17:08

right? I mean, like, I'm thinking like the one the one class I have nightmares about still, like the 20 years later. I didn't do all my homework for was Roman history, which was a professor. I don't think that has anything to do with gender.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 17:28

I feel like I still hear horror stories about that class. I have a couple of friends who took it and it just seems so intense.

**Corey Simpson Booker** 17:34

Yeah, yeah. And yeah, why I was taking it I don't know.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 17:41

Okay, so what relationships Did you form with other women? And did you find it easy to make those connections?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 17:48

Yeah, so and I think I've already talked about that, like, I had good friends, sort of a good group of friends in my sorority that sort of mushroomed out. Some of those friends were also in the guide service with me. So I had like, sort of this overlap of good friends through those organizations. And I didn't feel I mean, I felt that like, that was, you know, UVA is a place where there's a ton of connections made. And I felt that that was really easy to do when I was there and made lasting friendships. Yeah.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 18:22

What was the presence or like was there a presence of like, women's groups? Or like movements on grounds?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 18:29

Yeah, there was some. Um, yeah. So I mean, there was I had a, I had a friend who was like a women's studies minor, I think she was minor. And so she was much more connected on like, those sort of what I would consider women's groups on grounds. Um, so they were certainly there, but I don't think anybody Well, I don't remember any protest of anything. You know, my four years at UVA were pretty rainbows and sunshine. And I say that, but you know, fourth year, I mean, 9/11 happened. September of my fourth year, and so that sort of changed the tone of the fall of fourth year a lot, but I'm not I don't remember, like an activist group of women's groups out there.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 19:22

Gotcha. Okay. Yeah. No, I was curious, because I remember, like lighting of the lawn the first one, I think was December of that year.

**Corey Simpson Booker** 19:30

Yeah.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 19:31

Would you say like, the tone of that event was pretty somber, because I, in my experience, now, I don't think it's an extremely somber event, but I'm curious what it was like then.

**Corey Simpson Booker** 19:40

I mean, I think so like, I mean, I can tell you exactly where I was, what I was doing, like, who and like, I'd had a whole bunch of friends, who because we were fourth year, so I got a whole bunch of friends who'd worked in New York all summer. And we're like, Holy moly, like was at this place in this place in this place. And you know, we're watching it on TV. And then we also knew people who were in New York who worked on Wall Street, who, you know, all those things. So that was like, like, the day itself is really scary and sort of how we processed it. But then by December, I think there was still I mean, we're still college students. Um, so, you know, and, and the group that led it did a really good job of making it both somber, but yet fun at the same time. I don't remember. I don't remember it being like, super. I mean, I remember there was some memorial and maybe like, I don't remember it being a huge, like, sadness at that point, because it had been several months at that point when that happened.

**Gabrielle Ringer 20:51**

Gotcha.Okay.

**Corey Simpson Booker 20:52**

Yeah.

**Gabrielle Ringer 20:54**

kind of pivoting back to like, the kind of women on grounds kind of question, but, um, I know, you talked a little bit about this earlier, but like, like, how many courses at UVA Did you take that were taught by women? And then, if you can remember, could you talk a little bit about like, the courses that they taught and the kind of diversity that like, the courses and the professors kind of represented?

**Corey Simpson Booker 21:22**

You know, I should have thought of these questions more. And then when we talked. Um, I mean, I took, let's see, um, I mean, I was I was a really a history and religious studies major. So there are a lot of classes that I think were taught by women and like, now that I think about it, like, um, I took a couple of several religious studies classes my, that were that were taught by women, several history classes. So the history classes I'm thinking are the one, let's see, the history of UVA, there was one that was specifically about women in the late 19th century. It was all about like, all I remember from that classes, all we talked about was women's work, which sounds really silly, but like, what women did, how they were like, you know, what, um, let's see. The intro to religious study, or like, the history of Christianity maybe was a female professor. Um, then Roman history was a female professor. I probably had some English classes at, you know, I probably took English, I'd say, I'm certain I probably had some female TA, um, gosh, but like, my like, I don't remember any. I mean, here's, here's the thing is like, I don't know if this is good or bad, but I don't remember. Like when I think about who were my favorite professors. It's Joe cat and Ed Ayres. And Brian mallow, who are all males. Not that there's, like, not that that's really saying anything about the females. It's just sort of is what it is. I mean, I think I had my Spanish professor was probably, well was female. Um, but you know, that class because I only took Spanish, like, until I got done with the requirements, and then I was like, peace out. So, um, yeah, that's, I don't, I didn't take a ton of, I don't feel like I took a ton of classes where I was taking, you know, because sort of a theory I heard about about classes was you take classes based on the professor, so take the good professors, whatever subject they teach, it'll be a good subject. But I don't recall any

professors, any female professors that was like, Oh, you should take her class, whatever it is, it's going to be off. For what it's worth.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 24:19

Okay. Um, do you feel like you have a lot of classes that were taught by like, like people of color, like either women of color or men? Or were most of your professors pretty white?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 24:36

pretty white.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 24:38

It's the same now. So.

**Corey Simpson Booker** 24:39

Yeah, I mean, I don't um, yeah, I can't I mean, I know I had, um, religious studies or my like, history majors all had to do with thesis and my thesis professor was was black. Mmm hmm. No other than that, I don't think there were a lot of that, like, yeah. I don't know if I ever paid attention to that either, which, for what that's worth

**Gabrielle Ringer** 25:17

on. Okay, yeah. Um, so this question, you can kind of be as specific or not specific as you want to just whatever you're comfortable with. But, um, what were your experiences with sexism or misogyny on grounds?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 25:34

So like, I don't I don't remember any like, like blatant like, sexism again. Like, I, I thought, like, with my peer group, you know, everybody was sort of everybody did things was involved. Um, but I do like, this is one of the things that stands out is I so I rush the when I was there. So recruitment for sororities, was in January in February of my first year. So I started working at the Cavalier daily, like, right when I got to school, so I already had like a group of friends and this and that. I'm at the Cav daily, and I go through rush, I pledge a sorority, and I'm like, back at Cav daily work and doing my thing. And I'll never forget, like, coming to me and said, "Now that you've joined a sorority, are you going to become a slut?". And I was like, What? Like, but that's literally was his, because he didn't have a lot of friends that were in sororities. So that was his perception of sorority girls. And it was, and so that, like, is never appropriate. And if my son's ever say that to anyone, we got problems. Um, but that I mean, that's probably the most like, the most, like real example I have of it is sort of in that way. More than any more than anything else. Like, I don't feel like I felt that in classes really? Um, yeah.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 27:05

Okay. Was there an open LGBTQ plus presence when you went to UVA?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 27:16

Um, it was there, but like, like, I don't, I didn't. I didn't know anyone who was out. And I do, like, I do now, like, of that same peer group? I do. You know, and so I think, um, it is, it was certainly while there was a presence and knew very few people who were comfortable enough to be out in college.

**Gabrielle Ringer 27:47**

Okay. Did you feel pressured to go into a certain field or avoid a certain field during your time in college?

**Corey Simpson Booker 27:59**

I'm, like, go into a certain major or,

**Gabrielle Ringer 28:03**

yeah, yeah.

**Corey Simpson Booker 28:05**

Um, no. Um, so I, I was one of those people that like, the dean's office is calling to be like, you need to pick a major. Oh, I gotta do that now. Um, no, I sort of always knew going to UVA. I wanted to be a government or history major. And frankly, like, if I were to do it again, I would have been an American studies, like I would have done that American Studies, which is a interdisciplinary major, if I'd been really smart about it, but you live and you learn.

**Gabrielle Ringer 28:37**

So did you feel like in your, like history in your religious studies classes that there was like a disparity in the population between men and women? Like, were there more men or more women in your classes?

**Corey Simpson Booker 28:50**

Oh, I feel like that friends, sort of men and women in both classes. I mean, a probably some point, there were more boys in the class, but there were probably more boys. I mean, I'm trying to think we were probably 50/50. Like, when I was there, it was probably very close. Like maybe 52% women 49% men. So there were, I mean, no, I had girlfriends who were also history majors. So we would always try to take at least some classes together. So you had some backup or some something. So, um, yeah. I don't feel like there was a big disparity one way or the other. Okay.

**Gabrielle Ringer 29:32**

Um, what was relationship or hookup culture, like during your time at UVA? And did you feel like UVA tended towards one or the other?

**Corey Simpson Booker 29:42**

Yeah, um, relationship or hookup culture? Is that like, I mean, I, I know that. Um, are they are they in this question? Are they supposed to be opposites? Like, I certainly knew um, Yeah, it's funny, like, this is like the one part of UVA that somehow I missed a little bit. Um, but I knew people on both sides of the spectrum, right, like, I knew people who were in like, very serious, like, relationships, like, some of them are married. I'm a man, I knew people who would call on Saturday morning and be like, I'm here, can you come get me? Right? I need to leave this place. Um, I did not like my fourth year was the first year,

like, people had cell phones. And there was no texting, like nobody had texted. So there was, um, when you went to a place on, you went to a party, like it was like, I'm going, I think person x is going to be at this party and I have to go here, if I want to hook up with him. The person x might not have been there. Right. And so, you know, sometimes, there we went to lots of places one night trying to find person x. Um, I don't think it was like, one way or the other. I think it depended a lot on the people.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 31:15

Okay, yeah. Um, so Was there any talk about consent and respect on grounds? And if so, did you think it was like, thorough and helpful?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 31:27

Yeah, so there was certainly like, you know, we had the, I mean, the first year like, dorm, I guess it was, SARA came into the fame with all the groups and like, I remember very distinctly, um, the other thing that happened, when I was a second year, I'm a member of my sorority who was a fourth year at the time. It was a week before school started, she was raped at gunpoint. Um, and that sort of, you know, it was just a really scary thing, it sort of changed, you know, certainly changed her personality and how she acted the rest. Rest of was such a dramatic event sort of changed her sort of path in college, but, you know, to watch sort of from a zoomed out lens on what was happening. I mean, I think that was really scary to begin with. Um, but I guess, you know, I'm thinking like, once we got past her to that first year, dorm, and like, sort of that experience, there wasn't a lot more, because there's not a lot more times where you're actually all together where people were talking about consent, per se.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 32:41

Did you so but did you feel like the information that you got was like, helpful, though.

**Corey Simpson Booker** 32:47

Yeah, sure.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 32:52

So what was your journey after leaving UVA?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 32:56

So after UVA, I moved to Chicago for a year and went to Northwestern and I have a master's in broadcast journalism from Northwestern. And so I did that that program was a program it started in, um, it started like June, I graduated in May of 2003. And it started in June of 2002. And went through like, May of the next year to 2003. So I graduated from Northwestern in 2003. And then I moved to Richmond, and I went to law school, the University of Richmond and from 2003 to 2006. And then I've been a lawyer in Richmond ever since.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 33:42

What kind of law do you practice?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 33:44

I am a commercial litigator and bankruptcy litigator.

**Gabrielle Ringer 33:49**

Cool.

**Corey Simpson Booker 33:50**

Yeah.

**Gabrielle Ringer 33:51**

Um, is there anything that you learned at UVA that you apply to your life now?

**Corey Simpson Booker 33:57**

Um, well, yeah, I mean, I think I think I learned a lot about myself and a lot about, like, friendships and like, what matters and what doesn't matter. I learned, you know, confidence in myself and like, the ability, you know, it's really the first time you're sort of away from your parents near, you know, your own abilities and what you're able to do. Yeah, and I mean, I, I think I made I certainly learned, you know, I think from a, I have knowledge about like, my, you know, what I what I learned in class, probably more than anything, though, is I learned how to, like, think about problems from different perspectives. And so, you know, something about the college about the fact that I had to take some astronomy classes, and I had to take a sociology class, and I had to take a couple things that are sort of not really what I'm interested in, and I took some of those business classes. Um, you know, I think I'm able to write and To analyze things, which are really what helped me every day.

**Gabrielle Ringer 35:05**

Okay. Um, so what does the UVA alumni community mean to you? And how have your fellow alumni affected your life, your career, your journey?

**Corey Simpson Booker 35:17**

Um, well, I'm, um, I mean, I think you notice that I got hooked up with you through the Alumni Association. So I mean, I have, I mean, I think I have used that the, like, my time at UVA to make relationships outside of the people, I knew when I was there. And that's been very sort of important to me. Both professionally, and, you know, socially, I have a lot of friends here in Richmond, who I probably wasn't friends with, well, I know, I wasn't friends with them at UVA. I didn't know them at UVA. But we were there at the same time, or like, overlapped by a year or something. And we're now very good friends. And so So I think, you know, that network is really important to me. We are big, athletic supporters. At my house, I have to add my husband there, cuz, again, he's, he's like, you didn't even like UVA, when you were 12. And I might nope I didn't. Um, yeah, but I'm from, I mean, but then Personally, I've invested a lot in the Alumni Association, I was on Young Alumni Council for six years. And, you know, it's interesting, there's I made relationships with UVA, again, alums, that I wouldn't have known any way else. And those, some of those have worked into, you know, networking opportunities, or, you know, just some, some people that I have a lot in common with, because of our experience our common experiences, but wouldn't have gotten to know any other way.

**Gabrielle Ringer 36:57**

Cool. Um, so in your opinion, what's the legacy of women at UVA?

**Corey Simpson Booker 37:05**

Um, well, you know, this is funny, because we're like, in a lot of ways, we're, we're the trailblazers, I mean, if you, if you really think about UVA, before the women came along, it was like, a little, I mean, much probably similar in academics and things, you know, to, like a Hampton Sydney wasn't it was when the women sort of came to the undergraduate, um, and sort of started challenging the guys that they realized they had to step it up. Um, and then he think about, I think about, you know, there's a lot of women in leadership positions, now they're making a really important change. And, you know, President Solomon, is, is a good is a good example, but there are others throughout the you know, whether it's teaching or, or whether they were the, the dean of the college or you know, that that have had important leadership roles. Um, you know, I think in a lot of ways, women are the change makers and the driving force behind when I think, you know, frankly, the thing, what I think about, like, what I'm focused on, right, like, what my alumni network is focused on right now is, um, there have been some signs on the lawn that are that that have curse words on them. And you know, those are women, they're not men leading that charge. And whether you like it or not, that sort of, I think there's something to be sad about that to that woman in a lot of ways are sort of shaping what happens.

**Gabrielle Ringer 38:42**

Um, if you could impart a piece of advice to a female student on grants today, what would you tell her?

**Corey Simpson Booker 38:50**

Um, get involved in things that are your passion, and if there's not a passion, find a way to start it? Mmm. Take professors, not classes. Which do they still say that? I don't even know. Do you still say that?

**Gabrielle Ringer 39:08**

Um, I think I think to a certain extent, I don't think they say directly that but I usually recommend professors instead of classes,

**Corey Simpson Booker 39:17**

right? Take professors not classes. So get involved, take professors, not classes, and figure out a way to make a community whatever that community is, but that's what's gonna carry you through the four years there to make it a good, good four years.

**Gabrielle Ringer 39:34**

Um, is there anything related to women's history at the university that you would like to learn more about?

**Corey Simpson Booker 39:40**

Um, no. I mean, I think I've got a good, good, good handle on that.

**Gabrielle Ringer 39:47**

Um, and what do you think the biggest difference was in terms of your experience at UVA and what is going on now in 2021?

**Corey Simpson Booker** 39:57

What's the biggest difference?

**Gabrielle Ringer** 39:59

Yeah.

**Corey Simpson Booker** 40:03

Wow, there's lots of differences. Gosh, it's very different. Um, and I think that's also really hard for alumni to understand that it's not exactly like it was, like, I'm really struggling with the fact that I graduated almost 20 years ago, and that it's not exactly like it was when we were there. Um, I mean, I think social media, which sounds cheesy, but the way that you all can, that, that students now communicate, um, is very different than what I did when I was at UVA. Um, I mean, do you still have come? Are there still computer labs?

**Gabrielle Ringer** 40:43

Yeah, they still have a couple of computer labs, like scattered across the libraries. But

**Corey Simpson Booker** 40:47

now like, like, that was like a place you would go to, like, run into people you wanted to see, right? Because everybody had to go check their email, at a computer, we didn't have it on our phones, we didn't have it in class, the one type notes on your computer, um, you know, everyone had like, spiral notebooks and took handwritten notes. And, um, I think it just totally sort of changed our interactions. It also meant that, you know, one of the things I think students now struggle with is you, um, if, if I made a bad decision, I had to deal with it. And I had to deal with the people that it might affect, but then we could move on. And it wasn't written in history in stone sort of sort of the way some things like if you put something out there on social media, and then later you decide it's a bad decision. Really hard to take that back. And it's, it's, I think that makes everything harder. Yeah, but I don't know, I'm not a student.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 41:53

No, I feel like a lot of what you said is, is probably what I would have said, I thought was different between now and then just like, again, social media totally changes the college experience.

42:03

Again, we didn't have text like you couldn't text someone and be like, are you at? Are you at coups are Buddhists? Like there was no like, which bar Are you like, there was you just had to go and figure it out. Maybe somebody you know, but that also meant that sometimes everything wasn't so planned, and it wasn't. So like, I'm going to meet person x, you ended up in a place and you were like, this will do. And you made new friends, right? And like you it interactions were a little more fluid because you didn't have such. It just made it easier to just sort of continue to meet people and do things.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 42:42

That was actually my last question, but I wanted to give you some time, or like some space to talk about anything else you wanted to add before I stop recording.

**Corey Simpson Booker** 42:54

I don't. But it's my experiences at UVA. Yeah, no, I think I've given you a lot. A lot or vague. A lot of vague answers. Yeah, no, I mean, generally. And it might be some of the like, glory days of the like, late, early to that late, late 90s, early 2000s. Um, in a way, like, I feel so old, saying it was a simpler time. But in some ways it was I mean, I think that there was a lot of like, when I look back there was there's a lot of alcohol and, and you know, that probably put people into some, some situations that we probably shouldn't have been, you know, things that like everyone be like, Oh, we wouldn't do that now. But, you know, I think it was such a, like, we were like, I felt like it was a very my time there and sort of where I fit in was very much a community that tried to have a lot of fun together and work hard during the day but played pretty hard too. So. Yeah.

**Gabrielle Ringer** 44:19

Okay, cool. Um, well, if there's anything else you want to add, if not, I'm going to stop recording.

**Corey Simpson Booker** 44:26

Yeah, no, you can stop recording