

Interview Questions for Alumnae (Swap out UVA when interviewing non-UVA women)

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Class of 1984

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

Well, I am Toni Jackson, or Antoinette Jackson. I am a 1984 graduate of the University of Virginia College of Arts and Science. I was a double major and minor, kind of confused, did not know what I wanted to do. I came to college actually being a science and math geek, but knew since I was a small kid that I wanted to be a lawyer and nobody ever told me that I could combine math or science with going to law school so I kind of forged my way into liberal arts and did government and African American Studies with a history minor and enjoyed that, but really struggled through it, because like I said I was a math and science geek. So, calculus, chemistry, those things I loved and I did well without struggle, without problems, but the liberal arts were actually a struggle for me even though I enjoyed the classes. UVA was actually a last-minute decision for me, I thought I was going to college somewhere else and was actually going to run on a track scholarship. I was born and raised in Connecticut and then later on my parents moved us to South Carolina, so I was this kid who didn't know where I fit in even though I graduated at the top of my class in South Carolina, I dealt with a lot of racial issues and things in my class. So, I didn't know where I fit in and I applied to a bunch of schools, a couple of Ivy Leagues, a couple of smaller schools, you know the liberal arts schools, then I applied to places where they were looking at me for track, just all over the place thinking that they would be eliminated because I wouldn't get in anywhere. Then, I got in everywhere and then I was still kind of back and forth about my decision. I was going to go to the University of Georgia and had accepted a track scholarship there, then at the last minute, literally a month before school I

told my parents, “I think I want to switch and go to the University of Virginia. It’s kind of the best combination of academics and athletics.” That’s what I really liked about it. So, I ended up at UVA and never regretted the decision. I made my lifelong friends at UVA, people who I’m still in very close contact with, people who are part of my chosen family, so it was a really good decision for me.

2. What is your UVA story?

a. How did you decide to come to UVA?

Like I said, it was really kind of a last-minute decision. It was so last-minute in fact, that when I went home for Thanksgiving people were asking me, “How is Athens, Georgia?” So, it was a very last-minute decision. You know, again a decision that I have never regretted. I walked onto the grounds and I’ll never forget I walked onto the parking lot trying to unload our car and looking up at Fitzhugh, which was my dorm and watching students move in and I never looked back. I kind of said bye to my parents right then, they were like, “Want to have dinner tonight?” and I was like, “no.” You know, I have a couple of friends who I met literally day one and we’re still in touch. Oddly enough, just this morning I was texting the guy who was like my first boyfriend at school and we’re still friends. So, it was a good experience, but you know deciding to go there was last-minute. I knew something wasn’t quite feeling right about my decisions and I knew that it was really the combination of the things that were really important to me.

Admittedly, the things that I grew to really love, like the way students are empowered there, I didn’t really know much about before I got to UVA. You know, we didn’t have, almost forty years ago, the luxury of Googling places. You just had that one catalog and it told you some of the story, but you kind of jumped out there based on the things you had heard and what appealed to you in that catalog. I had a cousin who had gone there and I had gone there a couple years ago

to visit, but nobody was there, students weren't in, so I never got a feel for what it would be like there, but I just remember it being a beautiful place. So it was truly, like for a lot of us back then, a kind of leap of faith decision, but what was very cool is I was in what is known as that first large class of African American students. We were the first time it was over 200 Black students to come into UVA in one class. That was a big deal. I entered in 1980, so that was a big deal at that point. Actually getting there and all of that information wasn't at play because I didn't have that information because all I had was a catalog basically and a few things my cousin had told me, and she had graduated in the 70s.

3. What is your favorite UVA memory?

Wow, so many. On the athletics side, you know I definitely have to say traveling and hanging out before games. My fourth year, we went to the final four, my first year, we went to the final four, so we were a little spoiled in that regard. Going to football games, well some of us laugh now because our first couple of months there wasn't a fence around Scott Stadium, but the honor code is so ingrained in us and we're such honest students that we would still stand in line to get into the game. We didn't rush the field, but even the days there wasn't a game we'd go sit on the football field and just sit and talk and hang out. In terms of non-sports, one of the memories that stays with me is when the Black students came together in the amphitheater and protested because we wanted to see more Black professors in the classroom. At that time, Vivian Gordon, was the only full professor and we wanted to see more Black faces. We wanted the administration to know that. **Frank Tearraput** and some of the others did listen to us and pay attention to us. That was very empowering as a young kid, you know 18, 19, because those were some of the first decisions I made on my own about what I would be passionate about and how I would take a stand and how I would choose to allow my voice to be heard. So, you know, that

stays with me. Another one in kind of a different direction, I was one of the earlier members of Black Voices. Black Voices existed when I got there, but our choir director and pianist was actually someone from one of the churches and we made a decision that we wanted to truly be a fully student-run organization and our pianist at that time that we selected to play was actually one of the football players and people were always shocked like, “This guy plays football for UVA?” But Reggie was a friend of mine, who unfortunately is no longer with us, was our pianist and those Thursday nights at Black Voices, performing or not, just the fellowship and it was a place that was so definitively ours as Black students and going back to your gospel roots and just singing and enjoying, so that was always special. It was recognized by the university, but it was ours and it was ours in how we chose to craft it and that was important.

4. What was a transformative moment for you at UVA?

5. What was the most challenging thing about UVA?

For me, being a working student. I had to work full-time, so to go to a school with that kind of academic rigor and work full-time like I did and make it out on time was a huge accomplishment for me. One that I’m still so incredibly proud of, but it was hard, it was definitely hard. I think outside of that, because that was a Toni personal hard part of it, but in terms of overall challenges, there were still those challenges because we were in such the minority. We were such a new minority to the university. I remember working in the development office at one of my earlier jobs and opening letters where people were telling us that they weren’t going to send money to UVA anymore because they had let those Black students in and you knowing that there were still places where we were still trying to carve out our place and figure out our place. You know, another example is my counselor who tried over and over to get me to stop working because she couldn’t appreciate that I had to work to go to school, so the advice that she gave me

was never in my mind advice that was encouraging, that really you know said I recognize you can be whatever you want to be. It was always in my mind discouraging, always second guessing me, so having to sometimes navigate that in a way by yourself or with your other 18, 19, 20-year-old colleagues because that's all you had, because we didn't always have the guidance part of being there. We might have been supported in terms of going to the amphitheater because we wanted to see more Black professors, but we didn't always have that person who we could go to and say, "Can you help me navigate my path?" I have been fortunate that I think I've always had the personality that I think I have always been able to internally find my strength and encourage myself, but I am very aware and cognizant that most people need that external reassurance and encouragement. For a lot of us, we didn't have that, we just had that with each other. So, when I look around now and when I look at the success of some of my classmates I am just so incredibly proud of how well we've done because I just know that was an uphill boulder that we were pushing because we did not have that, so that was probably the hardest part for us. You know, a lot of students it still is that way to some degree, but you guys have a generation or two in front of you now and we did not have that so we kind of had to figure it out and morph it along while we were there. Fortunately, I was one of those kids who pushed back against what my counselor said because a lot of it didn't sound encouraging and it just wasn't getting me to the path I wanted to go on. I didn't necessarily always have an alternative to what my advisor was telling me, but I just knew it didn't sound right. Very honestly, I always had relationships with my white classmates too, and I would listen to them and things they were talking about and being told and I would be like, wait they're not saying that to us and they're not saying that to some of my other friends, so I rode that wave a couple times as well.

6. Tell us about a woman/women at UVA who inspires you – now, or during your time on Grounds.

- a. What relationships did you form with other women and did you find it easy to make those connections?
- b. What was the presence of women's groups and movements on campus like?
- c. How many courses did you take at UVA that were taught by female professors? Could you talk a little about the courses they taught and the kind of diversity that the courses and the prof(s) represented?

Vivian Gordon without question. I had her in class and she was a force to be reckoned with. There was an instructor, Lois Smith Owens, who was also definitely a force to be reckoned with. She was kind of an advisor to many of us and helped a lot of us get comfortable with our blackness in this white world and encouraged us to be anything we wanted to be when we grew up. So Lois was always a very formidable woman that I saw there. **Ortez Hortens Hinton** was someone who opened up so many opportunities for a lot of us as well and we were all very grateful and thankful to her. Those are probably the three that come to mind first for me at UVA. I mean there were a few afterwards, but all three of them touched me from the first year and into those first couple of years and by the time I was a third year, fourth year, there were a few more around, but those three for me particularly.

7. What were your experiences with sexism or misogyny on Grounds?

It existed, but I think that we stayed together and we stayed clustered as girls and as women finding our way. Very early on we made certain that we had created a buddy system and things like that. I had some situations where guys tried to be rough and did not respect women. There are situations I know of where a couple guys tried to put their hands on women, but we did a

good job I think of self-policing and that did a lot for us in terms of the social world and how we navigated the social world. If somebody was known for that they were immediately ostracized and not allowed to be a part of the circle. So, the self-policing helped us, but we were learning, like any student coming from home for the first time learning what was going on. No one talked about how if you say no, it means no and the kind of education that you get now. Sex was still a dirty word and you definitely didn't talk to your parents or talk to any other adults so again a lot of things we were learning with each other and we created our own systems. In terms of classroom and other opportunities, that was too often clear cut that the guys got the opportunities and the guys were encouraged and told that they could do these things and women weren't encouraged in the same way. Maybe we weren't blatantly laughed at, but we definitely weren't encouraged in the same way, particularly when you're talking about "I want to go to law school or med school. I see myself in this role or doing this thing." We still had a softball thrown to us, like, "Yeah, that's fine, but you know you want to make certain because you might want to get married or do this or that." So, the goals and discussions were very traditional. Those of us that were maybe more ambitious, and I know I was one of those, you know like I know one of my closest friends, all of our friends knew he wanted to be a judge, Toni wanted to be a lawyer. Sometimes he would get information and access to information that I wasn't getting and I latched on and he shared it and we found ways to get around it. The girls weren't always encouraged in the same way.

8. Was there an open LGBTQ+ presence when you went to UVA?

No, definitely not. That definitely wasn't the discussion in the early eighties. We had classmates that we suspected of that, but being gay, forget all the other initials, I mean just being gay was so new in the early eighties. We still were just trying to figure out what that meant and

what that was because that definitely wasn't something anybody was talking about. Then, you had that coupled with AIDS being on the horizon so people who thought they may be, definitely weren't talking about it. I had classmates who we suspected that may have been the case when we were all in college and it was years before they came out. They may have moved somewhere and were living their life openly somewhere else, but as related to UVA friends and classmates had still not let some of them know, or you had to be in their very close inner circle to know. When I look back, that's always probably one of my sadder thoughts is that we had friends that could not be themselves or even find a way to explore that comfortably, but that's just the way things were then. It was forty years ago and that's the way things were, we just didn't talk about it. Like, we had one classmate and we did not learn until he was close to being on his deathbed and some of his fraternity brothers learned about it and we started knowing about it. We've had other friends who were very late coming out or live their lives somewhere very far away. So, that again has just been unfortunate. I am happy to know or to at least believe, that those that are a part of my very inner circle, that they know that we love them and we can very comfortably talk about same-sex partners or whatever their situation and it's all good now, but there was not a discussion about that. You didn't talk about sex, so you darn sure didn't talk about same sex or what that even meant or what that looked like. I remember being in high school and having a high school classmate say something to me once and she called me and she was interrupting me and I said, "Look, I can't talk to you right now. Unless you're getting ready to come out or something, I've got to go." She was just like, "Actually that is why I'm calling." I, to this day, don't know exactly why I said that and she and I joke and laugh about this now. I guess I thought it, but I honestly didn't know what that meant as a kid. I just knew that she didn't like the same stuff that some of the girls like, but the thing for me is I've never been that girly-girl.

As I always tell people, florals and lace and pearls, I've just never been that girl either. So, when she said that and I threw that back, I can't tell you that my 18, 19-year-old self really knew what that meant. Through our lifelong friendship, she's always been my person that I can comfortably talk to, but she can comfortably talk to. You know, as she always said, she knew she could always come to me. In high school, it was three of us that were kind of running buddies and the third woman, it was probably almost 7 to 10 years later before she told her, even though she told me, "I had met girlfriends" and that kind of thing, but it was a long time before she told our other friend. Now, she's very comfortably out and she's married to a very wonderful woman, but that just shows you that was the age that we lived in. We were just trying to figure it out and then we had that coupled with all the stigma of AIDS and people didn't know how to navigate that one. I mean, at least now there's more resources and open discussion around it, but that doesn't make it any easier when there's still so much outside of that community saying that you need to be this. It's not even just about being straight versus gay, we still have so many, I won't call them stigmas, but notions about how things should be. For example, if you are going to be head of this organization or if you are going to accept this position, you should be married, you shouldn't be a single person. So, we still have these notions that make that discussion hard. I know, even me, when I was an early partner in the law firm and having people say, "Well, you don't want to go to certain things without a date because the wives will be a little concerned about you and they won't be comfortable with you around their men." So, we still have these stereotypes and notions about how people should walk and handle things.

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

I was, like I said, I had advisors kind of suggesting I don't do what I wanted to do, but I knew since I was like 11-years-old that I wanted to be lawyer. So, by the time I got to UVA nobody was moving me off of that path. I did not know exactly how to totally get from point A to point B, that part I needed some help on. When I found myself not getting in, it was like, "oh well, I'm going to figure this out." I wasn't being swayed, but I wasn't being encouraged either. At least, not from advisors particularly and girl lawyers, it was almost synonymous with saying if you're going to be a girl lawyer, you're going to give up all the feminine stuff. You don't plan on getting married or having a family, but it doesn't have to be one or the other. That's kind of how it was seen, if you're going to be this professional, you know women were encouraged to be the nurse not the doctor. So, yeah, I was not necessarily encouraged from my advisors per se, but I had the encouragement from other places because I walked into UVA on that path and I was not going to be swayed.

10. What was relationship/hookup culture during your time at UVA?

It was hookup culture. It was straight hookup culture. Some of us, like you heard me mention my first boyfriend earlier, some of us had little girlfriends or boyfriends, and our little relationships, but we were hooking up and there was no shame in it. Like I said, you knew where student health was, the girls were probably having more bladder infections than STDs actually, but you knew where to go. AIDS was still thought of as a gay disease and other than, "oh you might get syphilis, but there's a pill for that," there was nothing big that was saying, "oh don't just go run and do it." We were still, toward the end of maybe, but still in that very free period. You're learning, you're exploring, and you know you're figuring it out, but it was definitely hookup culture going on. I will say, I think something that some of us talked about recently, unlike some of my friends who did not go to UVA or who went to other places, I can't

tell you or point you to how this is or why this is, but women felt as comfortable to approach the men as men to approach the women. So, somewhere we got that empowerment. How that came about, I could not point to one thing in particular, but I will say that in hookup culture, it wasn't just the women very coyly sitting back and waiting for the guy to approach. We were just as upfront to approach a guy and as bold about it as the guys were.

11. Was there any talk about consent and respect on campus? If so, do you think it was thorough/helpful?

There was absolutely none. That is something that was definitely not discussed. Again, 40 years ago, we were basically expected, you shouldn't be having sex at 18. No one talked about condoms or consent, but the irony of it when I got there is that the legal drinking age was 18. So, we were drinking and people pretty much knew sex was coming with the drinking or sometimes the other irresponsible stuff. No, I mean we got little hints about you can say no, but that still wasn't meant or understood the way it is now. You got directed to student health to go get birth control and condoms and for many of us, that was the first conversation and introduction we had with that because it didn't come from home and our parents. Things like the conversations now with young women and young men about consent and being able to say no and having a say over your own body, no, those are the today conversations. They weren't happening then.

12. What was your journey after leaving UVA?

I worked for a few more years because, as I mentioned, I worked full time. So, I worked a few more years because I knew I wanted to go to law school, but I was trying to wait for that perfect bank account balance, but I finally realized there was just not going to be any such thing, so I finally went, but I took a few years out. I moved to D.C. and was working for a law firm. I actually worked for two different law firms between college and going to law school because I

said, “hey I know I’m going to law school, so I want to stay in the profession if possible.” So, I was a paralegal at two different law schools and I finally made the decision to go back to law school when I decided that my bank account balance was never going to be perfect so I made the decision to attend law school here in Houston at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. By that time, I had decided I wanted to get out of D.C., needed to because I would have probably partied my way out of there because a lot of my friends were there. I had begun my little adult life there, so I wanted to see something different and kind of remove myself from my familiar grounds. Then, once I had gotten a little bit away of UVA, I did make the very conscious decision that I wanted to go to an HBCU. I made the decision that I wanted to see more faces that looked like me in the classroom. It was the only time in my life that was probably going to happen because I was probably going to go back to a world that looked more like UVA, but I made a very conscious decision to go to an HBCU, so I moved here to Houston to go Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.

13. Is there something you learned at UVA that you apply to your life now?

Oh, absolutely. I tell people all the time UVA gave me my first and best lessons in networking and connecting with people and making intentional connections, but not in a negative way, not in an “I’m using you” kind of way, but definitely intentional. There are some people that make connections and it’s all about it being one way and it not being reciprocal, just I’m getting what I can get from you. That’s not what networking is about; networking is making this intentional connection and learning from each other and being in touch. It doesn’t mean it’s someone that you’re in touch with daily, but it’s a connection such that if I pick up the phone and haven’t talked to you in six months, you know that I’m not just picking up the phone because I never had a real genuine connection with you. No one really taught us or teaches us how to really network

and Black people particularly, we're often times made to feel like networking is negative and like "oh I don't want to call that person" or "oh I don't want to use them for that." There's nothing wrong with networking or relying on a relationship and connecting some dots, saying, "hey, you may not remember me, but we were at UVA together," or you, Lisa, calling me saying, "you may not know me, but my parents and you were in school and they suggested I give you a call." There's nothing wrong with that and stuff. You never know where people are going to end up. One of my mentors when I got to law school said to me, he said, "look, you have essentially three sets of people in your life. You have your own peers, then you have your mentors, then you have your mentees. You stay in touch with that group of people because you never know where people are going to end up." You never know when you, as the mentee, are actually helping the mentor out or one of your colleagues and you are able to connect and do something. You stay intentional and you check in on your relationships. That's what it is, you check in with people and you stay intentional with connecting so that if that's something you ever need or if there's ever something I can do for you because you say, "Hey, Toni, I'm trying to look at such and such." And I say, "Oh, I know someone there, let me pick up the phone and call that person." And I'm willing to do that on your behalf. We don't learn that lesson well as Black people, and I learned that watching white classmates and colleagues. My earlier lessons of that were at UVA listening to some of my white classmates talk about their family relationships or who had helped them with this or do this and that. It was a natural part of my personality staying in touch with people and connecting with people and I just learned to hone those skills and more importantly learned that it is not a negative, but a positive thing to connect.

14. What does the UVA alumnae community mean to you? How have fellow alumnae affected your life/career/journey?

Oh, my chosen family. I have a crew of about twenty-two of us that have been on Zoom every Friday night since the pandemic and we have leaned on each other, you know we're our family. When you look at that Zoom and you look at the success of the people on there, who don't have to be doing that on Friday night, but because of our success and the things we've accomplished, that's our one place where we can just go back and revert to those 18-, 20-year-olds without judgement and don't have to be overly impressed with oh you're a judge, oh you're a CEO, but I can just be myself. The person knows they don't have to keep their guard up and what happens in that Zoom is staying in that Zoom so you can be your craziest self, you can be your whatever, and that's your safe place. You've got to have that safe place. So, my UVA friends, as I say over and over, they're my safe place, the place I can always go home to, whether it's a bad day, a scary day, a great day, they're going to celebrate with me, they're going to cry with me. When I'm in this office, when I'm out in the big world, I've always got to have this armor up, but those are the people I know I can go home to and have that Toni moment. I saw something on *The Root* a couple days ago and it's so cool, the guy Daniel Kaluuya, he just won an Oscar for *Judas and the Black Messiah*, and there's a clip that he put on Twitter or Instagram of him and his three boys celebrating his Oscar. We all have to have that place with our people where we can go, "Yeah, I nailed it" and celebrate and that's what my UVA family is to me. They've been there through the highs and the lows, I know it's my safe place. When there were tough days during this pandemic, I never felt alone because I knew I had those Friday nights that I would get to. I had a couple girlfriends, a smaller group of us, and we created our bat signal and if it was a really bad day, when you're just feeling anxious and overwhelmed by the pandemic, we just knew everyone was going to drop whatever and check in. So, that's what my UVA family has been. In terms of professionally, I mean saying UVA is still huge, it's a big deal. My last law firm,

when I started there, people were teasing me, they were like, “Oh, you’re in” because the managing partner was UVA and the number two was UVA. I actually went through our law firm directory and did an email to the UVA people, just like hi, and they were like let’s get together. Two people I learned we were at UVA at the same time and we just always had that extra connect. So, that UVA connect just always continues to stay true and ring forward. I’m still involved with UVA. Just last Monday I had a celebratory dinner with a young man who has just been accepted to come to UVA and is a Jefferson Scholar. He got the Jefferson Scholarship and he went to one of the urban high schools here. Then, he’s also coming up with his posse crowd, so he’s in posse, but he’s also a Jefferson Scholar, so a couple of us took him to dinner to celebrate because we don’t have enough Black Jefferson Scholars. So, I stayed in touch and I continue to with Jefferson Scholars because that’s a big deal for me. Jefferson Scholars didn’t exist when I was there, it wasn’t even created until I had graduated, but I have been involved with the Jefferson Scholars interview committee for about 12 or 15 years now. I’m always very much pushing for us to increase our numbers in terms of diversity. It is full circle for me. UVA gave me a lot, there were bad times and there were tough times, but no place is perfect, but you get from it what you put into it. I’ve always been that person of the attitude that I stay involved because if there was something I didn’t like or something I felt that need to be changed or something that could be improved upon, I can’t do it by sitting back bitching about it, I have to step up and do my part, so I stay involved with the Alumni Association. I stay involved with Jefferson Scholars and Ridley. I’ve served on different committees and different boards at UVA and if I have someone reach out, if something like this comes up, I’m going to say yes if I can make the time for it.

15. In your opinion, what is the legacy of women at UVA?

Well, you know, even though women at UVA came late, we have come to UVA and absolutely just kicked butt. We've been encouraged and even when we haven't been encouraged in the sense that we would like to be, women have found their space and they've found their voice. We have learned from the lessons going on around us, so none of that has ever been lost on us. So, I think even before women were at UVA, you hear the stories about the women who were in the men's lives who actually had a fingerprint and a thumbprint on UVA. I think the legacy of women at UVA is incredibly strong and will continue to be so because UVA for some reason, whether it's been encouraged or it's just in the air, we have gone to UVA and found a way to just spread our wings and flourish.

16. If you could impart a piece of advice to a female student on Grounds today, what would you tell her?

Find your authentic voice, your authentic self. Use this time to find out who that is, first of all, because once you get out here in the real world, there will be noise coming from so many different directions and you will feel like you have to morph into something that others suggest that you need to be. Use this time to find out who you are and hold true to that and stay true to your authentic self because that's where you're going to get it right. Surround yourself with people who support that, who encourage that. Recognize that people come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Don't feel bad if you find that you have to shed a person or two to stay true to your authentic self and to who you are and who you want to be and to know that's okay too. For women particularly, I think that's a hard lesson to learn and understand because we feel like if we've been someone's friend we're supposed to always be someone's friend or we're supposed to always be in their life. You're going to find over time that sometimes people don't necessarily grow with you and that's okay. It sounds like you have probably found that

core group and then you have that next core, you know, that's a little bigger and you'll probably look up and find that that's going to be, no matter all your other journeys, those are going to be the people that are going to be with you and those are the people that are going to know Lisa and remind Lisa of who she's determined she is and wants to continue to be.

17. Is there anything related to women's history at the University that you would like to learn more about?

I'm a history buff, so I'm always interested to learn. I love hearing the stories and stories continue to be uncovered, which is great to hear. I really enjoyed the dedication recently, and from a woman's standpoint was really excited to see President Sullivan's role in that and that she participated in that as our first female President. That was exciting for women, so yeah, always interested in learning and hearing more.

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

Again, probably technology. What you guys have at your fingertips, but again, use it to where it can advantage you, where you can learn more and take the initiative and learn more information. Don't allow it to get you lost in that place of immediate gratification, remember to enjoy the ride and be patient and take your time with it because you only get this time once and we only get this life once. So, don't forget to enjoy the ride. I think because we did not have some of the technology and the phones and all the things that you guys have now, we didn't find ourselves lost looking down and not looking up and experiencing that which was around us. I would say that's probably the biggest difference and if there's anything that I would wish for you guys, it's that you don't lose the opportunity because you're so busy caught up in the technology or expecting something to happen more quickly or more immediately that you forget to enjoy the

lawn or hang out with your friends and be present at the moment with them and create those genuine connections with each other.

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

To see examples of self-submitted stories on the [Retold Share Your Story platform](https://virginia.brightcrowd.com/retold/sign-in/) go to <https://virginia.brightcrowd.com/retold/sign-in/> The access code is **retolduva**