

Annie Weissbach (formerly Ungrady), University of Virginia, Class of 2013

- a. Tell us a few things about yourself (family, job, things that bring you joy).
 - i. I am the oldest of four children, my family is very close. I'm married to a wonderful man who I met here in Boston where I live. I work in investment banking, which is something I never thought I'd say but I enjoy the work a lot. I spend a lot of time getting to do a lot of things I like in the healthcare space.
- b. What is your UVA story?
 - i. How did you decide to come to UVA?
 1. It honestly wasn't a school that I was super excited about until I visited it. I went for the scholarship finalist weekend and just absolutely fell head over heels in love with it. I knew UVA would be a place where I grow as a whole, not only academically.
 - ii. What did you do when you were a student at UVA?
 1. I was really involved in French, I lived at the French house for a year. I was also an RA for a couple of years, and those skills have really helped me throughout my life. I was involved in flash seminars, I was a rotunda guard, and then I was also really involved with Student Council.
 2. Were women encouraged or discouraged to join extracurriculars? I would say women were expected to join. It was more common to see women involved in activities than it was to see men. You just saw women in all sorts of extracurriculars.
 3. Were some more welcoming than others?
 4. Greek life experience?
 - a. A couple of women from my high school who went to UVA they all joined greek life. I didn't like the concept of greek life very much. I didn't join but I did go to a lot of fraternity parties.
- c. What is your favorite UVA memory?
 - i. It's really hard to just pick one. The people who are from UVA are the people who were in my wedding. I think graduation weekend was just such an amazing event. Everyone was having such a good time and it was just nonstop fun.
- d. What was a transformative moment for you at UVA?
 - i. I think generally there were multiple flash seminars that really expanded my understanding of race related issues. I came from a very conservative high school. A lot of my formative conversations in my first and second year of school were really important to how I understood race relations in

the United States. I realized this more so when I went home and would try to engage in these topics with my parents with a lot of pushback.

- e. What was the presence of women's groups and movements on campus like? Frankly pretty minimal - certainly always a conversation but I actually can't remember any one big women's group while I was on grounds.
 - f. How many courses did you take at UVA that were taught by female professors?
 - i. Many actually - had a number of female public health and French professors.
 - ii. Could you talk a little about the courses they taught and the kind of diversity that the courses and the prof(s) represented?
 - iii. My topics were by nature pretty conducive to diversity - my courses included everything from immigration issues in France, health and human behavior, medical anthropology, global public health, etc. Lots of lessons centered around diversity of thought and oppression; we learned the history of medical mistreatment against the black community in the US, to sex education considerations in South Africa, etc. Of course there are mountains more to learn and I wish I could have done more, but I was able to expand my understanding of various cultures during my time.
1. What were your experiences with sexism or misogyny on Grounds?
 - a. While nothing blatant or egregious sticks out (besides one male classmate once commenting on my weight in ways that were extremely uncomfortable), there was no doubt understated sexism/misogyny. Perhaps the most striking was my campaign for vice president for administration for StudCo, in which I was campaigning against 3 or 4 other candidates - all men. I was constantly being asked about my role as a female, and unfortunately the narrative I stuck to at the time was that my gender should not be a topic for consideration - I was by far the most qualified, with the most years and leadership experiences in StudCo. But as I once heard Ursula Burns explain, my gender cannot be ignored - it is a key discussion topic and needs to be brought to the forefront of the conversation.
 2. Was there an open LGBTQ+ presence when you went to UVA?
 - a. There was, although very few openly gay women. A number of women came out after college, but not during school. But I did have a number of openly gay male friends who did not question their treatment in the community
 1. Did you feel pressured to go into a certain field or avoid a certain field during your time in college?
 - a. Luckily no, although I attribute that to my scholarship. Without the financial security, I have no doubt I would have felt differently.
 - b. Did you notice a disparity in the population of men and women in your major?
 - c. More women than men in my French major, and especially French Honors

- d. Do you know of any efforts your institution has made since you graduated to make their classes more inclusive? I do not.
2. What was relationship/hookup culture during your time at UVA?
 - a. Almost entirely a hookup culture with the rare couple who dated. That said, there was definitely a dating culture in the more religious-based communities
3. Was there any talk about consent and respect on campus? If so, do you think it was thorough/helpful?
 - a. Very much, especially in my RA circles/trainings. Those sessions were definitely helpful. What I found to be less helpful was the male-led groups who were preaching consent and who were known on grounds to be borderline predatory in their own sexual pursuits - really unfortunate and frustrating. Then, the very year after I graduated, the Rolling Stones article came out and I'm sure a lot of important conversations occurred.
4. What was your journey after leaving UVA?
 - a. I joined a startup in my home town in Florida, which was acquired. I moved with the company up to Boston, where I met one of my now closest friends who was a UVA grad two years ahead of me. I then went back to school and now work in a profession I never imagined working in.
5. Is there something you learned at UVA that you apply to your life now?
 - a. So many things! Almost entirely related to how to work with other people. Group projects, communicating, etc. Also, time management. Had a lot of hard learned questions in school.
 - b. What does the UVA alumnae community mean to you? How have fellow alumnae affected your life/career/journey?
 - c. I'm not a part of any official organization, but my fellow alumnae have been with me through every single important milestone/decision in my life, from work/career decisions to romantic questions and decisions.
6. In your opinion, what is the legacy of women at UVA?
 - a. Strong, powerful, opinionated, informed, tested, persistent
7. If you could impart a piece of advice to a female student on Grounds today, what would you tell her? Literally every element to life can be improved if you learn how to listen to yourself and understand that you can edit your life accordingly. Once you fully understand how to trust your gut, and how to pay attention to it, and then most important how to act on it, you will get answers.
8. Is there anything related to women's history at the University that you would like to learn more about? It would be great to hear more about women's history - I frankly don't know much if anything.
9. What do you think the biggest difference was in terms of your experience at UVA and what is going on now in 2021?

- a. I would like to think it's a much more improved culture. I represented StudCo at an event with schools across the nation, and I remember a really crazy conversation about how there was a 'golden standard' for avoiding sexual assault cases - and that golden standard was Ole Miss, which had the fewest reported assaults. I could not BELIEVE how horribly misinformed that was. To think that people actually believed that no sexual assault happened at Ole Miss was absolutely abhorrent to me. While UVA's high number was incredibly disconcerting, I remember actually feeling a sense of hope that we had a system in place that at least some women trusted enough to help. That said, the process needed a lot of work. I'm hoping that in recent years, the University has done what it has needed to do. I wish I knew, actually. Would be cool to hear progress reports.