

“As Spiders Do” – UR Alumni Podcast Season 2 | Episode 10

Mini Webisode: Live from Reunion

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Maggie Johnson

Welcome to [As Spiders Do](#), the University of Richmond podcast where we share stories about our amazing alumni. I'm your host, Maggie Johnson, from the class of 2018. This month, we're bringing you live interviews with alumni who attended [Reunion](#) this year. We swung by the parties for the classes of 2004, 2009, and 2019 to hear more about what makes Richmond special. And make sure you stay until the end for a special appearance from a 2023 grad!

Taylor Clark

My name is Taylor Clark. I was graduated in 2004 and I live in Atlanta, Georgia.

Maggie Johnson

Excellent! How was your travels up for your reunion?

Taylor Clark

It was fantastic. Glad to be here.

Maggie Johnson

Excellent. What's been your favorite thing about reunion so far?

Taylor Clark

I love seeing all the changes around campus and seeing everything that's going on and hearing about certain students' experience on campus from all these impactful things.

Maggie Johnson

Was there a change on campus that was really shocking to you?

Taylor Clark

I think that the fact that everything sort of blends together. And looks like it's been there the entire time. Even though it's something new, I have to question whether or not it was there when I was here.



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Maggie Johnson

Absolutely. What's your favorite thing about being an alum?

Taylor Clark

I think just reconnecting with our alumni network and actually coming back and seeing everybody and seeing how much they changed, seeing their families and getting to meet their wives and husbands and all of that.

Maggie Johnson

And what does it mean to be a Richmond Spider?

Taylor Clark

I think it means a lot. I take a lot of pride in it. I really loved my experience here and I recommend it to everybody.

Sydney Lake

Hi, I'm Sydney Lake. I'm class of 2019, and I'm actually from Richmond, Virginia.

Maggie Johnson

What does it mean to be a Richmond Spider?

Sydney Lake

Well, I actually come from a family of Spiders. Pretty much my entire dad's side of the family came here. So for me, a lot of it is about carrying on legacy.

Maggie Johnson

What's your favorite thing about alumni life?

Sydney Lake

The best thing, honestly, has been having a lot of close friends coming and moving back to Richmond and just transitioning into different adult life, post-grad.

Angie McDuff



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I’m Angie McDuff, maiden name Delgado. I am currently living in Buffalo, New York and I’m class of 2009.

Elissa Yorgey

And I’m Elissa Yorgey, also class of 2009, and I live in Washington, DC.

Maggie Johnson

What’s been your favorite thing about Reunion Weekend so far?

Angie McDuff

I go to bring my son, who is five years old, and have him experience the campus. And he is terrified of what might be living in the lake, which is a super great thing for him to take away from this experience.

Elissa Yorgey

That’s my fault. I told him there was an octopus in the lake, which I tricked my little brother with when I went here, and it worked. So... oh, my favorite thing was seeing her. I haven’t seen her in five years, and we roomed together our whole college career so.

Maggie Johnson

What was your favorite experience as roommates?

Angie McDuff

The slip and slide during the hurricane.

Elissa Yorgey

On Westhampton Green?

Angie McDuff

On the Green, yes, for sure. That was awesome.

Maggie Johnson

To you, what does it mean to be a Richmond Spider?



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Angie McDuff

I think it means feeling connected and prepared no matter where I go for whatever life is going to hold for me.

Elissa Yorgey

There's a sense of belonging, like you always have a place that you can go back to.

Angie McDuff

And it has been lovely to come back to.

Sean Sullivan

Sean Sullivan, class of 2004. I live in Washington DC.

Maggie Johnson

Excellent, and what do you love about being an alum?

Sean Sullivan

So it's funny. Being back this weekend, it creates a feeling of what it was like 20 years ago, and a different time in my life, and it's great to see all these folks, and it's a very special place, and I'm very lucky to be here.

Maggie Johnson

Absolutely. Do you have any favorite memories for your time at college?

Sean Sullivan

You know, we've, uh, there's been a lot of stories this weekend of certain professors. I went to the business school here and it's not really like one particular memory. It's just like the feeling of being here and the day-to-day it was, like I said, it's very, I'm very lucky to be a Spider.

Maggie Johnson

Excellent. And to you, what does it mean to be a Spider?



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Sean Sullivan

We have to be very smart. I think you have to be smarter now than when I went here. So you know, I think they do a great job of preparing you for life after college. I felt like I was ready to be able to be a working professional and I think I'm proud it's helping me to say I went to the University of Richmond.

Andrew Gross

My name is Andrew Gross. I graduated in 2019. I currently live in New York.

Maggie Johnson

What's your favorite thing about being an alumni?

Andrew Gross

I think the Spider network is incredible. I think we have people all over the country. I actually started in Dallas, went to Chicago, and then back to New York.

Maggie Johnson

And what does it mean to be a Richmond Spider?

Andrew Gross

I think it's just a great group of people who look out for each other. They help each other along the way. And if you're in a new city and you weren't close with people and you know you kind of reconnect with them then you build great relationships.

Maggie Johnson

What's been your favorite thing about Reunion Weekend?

Andrew Gross

I thought there was a great band yesterday at the Greek Amphitheater, so it was a really fun event getting to catch up with all my old friends.

Alex Young

Alex Young, Westchester, Pennsylvania, class of 2009.



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Caitlin Murray

Caitlin Murray, previously Leavy, class of 2009, Long Island, New York.

Merrill Greulich

Merrill Greulich, class of 2009, Jersey City, New Jersey.

Alex Young

We were roommates like all four years.

Caitlin Murray

Yeah, we met our freshman year. I lived across the hall and they were roommates and we were instantly BFFs.

Maggie Johnson

What's your favorite thing about being alums?

Caitlin Murray

I think it's getting a chance to do this, right? Like being all together. I feel like we were saying, driving down, we're now kind of past the age of, like everybody's getting married and we're not getting together as often as we used to. So driving down, being together with people who I love and click with so well, even after all these years.

Alex Young

I also think Richmond is a really special city and university where people ask all the time, like, where'd you go to college? Or I'll say, like, I'm going back to my college reunion, and they're like, well, where'd you go to college? And I say, Richmond. Everybody immediately would be like, oh, the Spiders! So, and it never fails that, even people that don't go to Richmond have a story or know somebody who went to Richmond. So like, we have a really good alumni network, a really good brand.

Brian Goertemoeller

Brian Goertemoeller from Cincinnati, Ohio, class of 2019.



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Maggie Johnson

Excellent, and what to you does it mean to be a Richmond Spider?

Brian Goertemoeller

To me, it's the community that's around you, the reason I came back here, seeing all my classmates, and getting to catch up with people after five years.

Maggie Johnson

What do you love about alumni life?

Brian Goertemoeller

Running into Spiders in the wild.

Maggie Johnson

Do you have any good in the wild stories?

Brian Goertemoeller

Yeah. Ran into an alumni that I think is class of 2001 at a Wawa at 11 PM in Washington, DC. And that was a good moment, just seeing a Richmond hat and making that connection.

Melissa Larimer

My name is Melissa Larimer, I'm the class of 2004 and I live now in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

Maggie Johnson

And to you, what does it mean to be a Richmond Spider?

Melissa Larimer

Oh, that's a hard question. To me, being a Spider is being part of a lifelong family. I bring my own children back to campus all the time and I always feel like we're welcome. My dad was a UR graduate. My kids are looking forward to being future Spiders, so it's a family tradition for us.

Maggie Johnson

Oh, we love that. What's your favorite thing about being an alumna?



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Melissa Larimer

I love the way U of R reaches out into the community. I was a [Bonner Scholar](#). That program still continues today. And I feel like U of R is making great strides to impact the community.

Maggie Johnson

Do you have any favorite memories either with your dad or your kids that revolve around campus?

Melissa Larimer

Our favorite memories are definitely basketball games. So I would come with my dad after graduating and now that I have kids, we bring the kids and my dad, and really enjoy watching men’s basketball.

Sarah Jacobson

I’m Sarah Jacobson. I’m class of 2019 and I’m from Houston, Texas, but I just recently moved to Boston, Massachusetts.

Maggie Johnson

To you, what does it mean to be a Richmond Spider?

Sarah Jacobson

I feel like being a Richmond Spider means just like strong friendships to me. It’s where I feel like I came into my own and found some of my best friends for life. So yeah, good relationships.

Maggie Johnson

Fabulous. What’s your favorite thing about alumni life?

Sarah Jacobson

Reunions. Reunions with friends. No matter where, like even the small ones. A weekend together is amazing too.

Maggie Johnson

Excellent. Do you have any traditions for reuniting with people?



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Sarah Jacobson

I feel like we always have some sort of Asian food together, whether it's Chinese food or Thai food. That is our thing.

Aaron Trusler

I'm Aaron Trusler from Melbourne, Australia, class of 2023.

Charlotte Haneke

Now, you have a unique position here as an alum this year at Reunion. Describe your experience as a Reunion Student Ambassador.

Aaron Trusler

It's been awesome. This is the second time that I've done this. I love seeing all the people that come back, seeing all the happy faces, everyone's giving each other a hug. It's great to see everyone. I'm kind of picturing myself in a few years time, thinking, hopefully that's me, you know, in every five years or so. So yeah, it's been really, really cool.

Charlotte Haneke

How has your experience been, you know, you just graduated last year with your business degree. Now you're getting your master's degree while also being on the football team. What has that experience been like for you as an alum, but also still going to school here?

Aaron Trusler

It's great. I'm enjoying this transition. So, the grad school's a lot of night classes, so I can work throughout the day, so I get that mix of work and school. And I'm really in that phase of my life now where I'm ready to get a bit of both. So yeah, I'm really enjoying it. It's definitely the right time for me to start working a little bit and finish my studies.

Charlotte Haneke

Awesome, and last but not least, what does it mean to be a Richmond Spider?

Aaron Trusler

It means everything. It really means everything.



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Thanks for listening to [As Spiders Do](#), from the University of Richmond Office of Alumni Engagement. We hope you enjoyed hearing from our alumni and learned a little bit more about what it means to be a Richmond Spider. This episode was edited and produced by Charlotte Haneke, Assistant Director of Student and Young Graduate Programming, and me, Maggie Johnson, Associate Director of Regional and Young Graduate Engagement. This episode’s music is by [Dmitry Taras](#) with sound effects from [Pixabay](#). You can subscribe to *As Spiders Do* wherever you get your podcasts. Rate our show and leave us a review to let us know what you think. We’re always looking for new stories to share, so let us know who else we should feature by emailing us at alumni@richmond.edu. That’s all for this episode. Talk to you soon, and remember, there are Spiders everywhere, and that’s a good thing.

