

Luke Grant Fountain

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EDUCATION

Washington and Lee University | BA in Journalism and Politics | Minor of Education Policy | Lexington Va. **Class of 2025**

- Johnson Scholar (merit scholarship covering full tuition, room and board, and summer enrichment funds)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Charlotte Observer | Reporter | Charlotte, N.C.

June 2024-August 2024

- Uncovered and explained millions of dollars in private equity investments in charter schools statewide
- Spearheaded a series of articles on roadway safety including lane markings, roadway trash and police stops
- Broke story on dozens of teachers missing pay and who were threatened with retaliation for speaking out
- Published live updates and breaking news stories on Donald Trump rally in Charlotte

Washington Business Journal | Reporter | Washington D.C.

April 2024-June 2024

- Conducted in-depth profiles on university presidents, D.C. police chief and local business owners
- Revealed security flaws and suspended alcohol license of a business involved in mass shooting
- Wrote breaking news stories on leadership changes at real estate conglomerate CoStar
- Explained Washington D.C. city plans for business to profits from 250th anniversary of Independence Day

Rockbridge Report | Education Beat Reporter | Lexington, Va.

September 2023-December 2023

- Produced a series of video packages on the fight to ban the book *Kiss Number 8* from Lexington City Schools
- Conducted in-depth interviews, including an exclusive with a local school librarian targeted by right-wing activists
- Provided real-time, on-the-scene live coverage of a bomb threat at a local high school and in the weeks following uncovered critical security failures that revealed there was two bomb threats
- Wrote scripts, shot B-roll, and produced live footage on deadline from the scene of a deadly wildfire that ravaged Southeastern Virginia

The Daily Progress | Reporter | Charlottesville, Va.

June 2023-August 2023

- Awarded best public safety reporting in Virginia in 2023 for story explaining challenges that inmates face while incarcerated and new commissary and phone contracts
- Uncovered the status of Confederate monuments removed across Virginia, winning second-best investigative reporting in the state of Virginia in 2023
- Exposed potential conflicts of interests of university board appointments by analyzing financial documents

United States House of Representatives | Congressional Intern | Washington, D.C.

June 2022-August 2022

- Conducted research into multiple policy areas, such as energy and education, to be used in high-level meetings with members of Congress, interest groups and policy strategy briefings
- Addressed constituent concerns by facilitating multi-office responses to issues, such as social security payments and responded to over 500 correspondents on controversial issues like abortion and gun control
- Corresponded with members of Congress, staff, interest groups and committee staff to develop policy solutions to pressing national issues, such as inflation, energy independence and educational policy

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Ring-tum Phi | Editor and Reporter | Lexington, Va.

May 2022-Present and August 2021-Present

- Design, draft and lay out online publication of about 15 stories every two weeks to present stories in a compelling and informative way, as well as edit numerous stories to fit AP Style guidelines
- Compose weekly newsletter and social media posts that increased engagement with stories by 150% since implementing

Career and Professional Development | Career Fellow | Lexington, Va.

August 2022-Present

- Assist students in professional development for 15 hours a week through resume and cover letter review, interview preparation, networking and career exploration
- Presented professional resources and skills to a class of 30 first year students

Contact Committee | Member | Lexington, Va.

September 2021-Present

- Conduct hour-long interviews with celebrities like Giancarlo Esposito from hit television series *Breaking Bad* for audience of over 500 students, staff and community members
- Oversee contracts and the allocation of over \$200,000 to bring speakers to campus, including Bob Woodward, Brendan Hunt and Ben and Jerry

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Skills: proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite; knowledge in podcast and audio production
- Interests: cooking, hiking, volleyball, tennis, photography, winemaking, skydiving, Barcelona, London