First row: Kate Badgett (undergraduate assistant), Michael Scimeca (graduate assistant), Tiernan Low (undergraduate assistant), Eric Duong (undergraduate graphic designer)
Second row: Susie Bruce (Director), Jill Maurer (National Development & Program Coordinator), Holly Deering (APPLE Training Institute Program Manager & UVA Student-Athlete Mentors Advisor)
Third row: Miranda Gali (undergraduate assistant), Tia Mann (Health Education Specialist, Early Intervention & Recovery Support), Debra Reed (APPLE Training Institute Planner)

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DEAR FRIENDS,

We are delighted to share our new publication with you, our Gordie Center supporters! Your commitment to our mission and work makes a tremendous difference in the lives of the students with whom we are able to share Gordie’s lifesaving message. We are so appreciative of the encouragement we receive from you throughout each year, and wanted to share a sample of the inspiring stories we’ve heard through the interactions we have had with our supporters this past year.

In the pages ahead, you will learn how a mother found the Gordie Center as she works through her grief after losing her son to hazing. You will hear from one of our supporters in recovery about the critical value of the Gordie Center’s early intervention and recovery support efforts. You will follow the journey of two UVA student peer educators as they work to positively impact student culture.

You will feel the passion of a mother who viewed the Gordie Center film, HAZE, and made it her personal mission to bring HAZE to more high school audiences. You will hear how Gordie’s story continues to connect with a supporter who also attended Deerfield Academy. You will also learn how one school uses Gordie Center products to educate their students on the dangers of alcohol overdose.

Weaved into these profiles are examples of the efforts we at the Gordie Center undertake every year with your support, and the goals we have for the upcoming year and beyond.

We could not do what we do without you — thank you!

Sincerely,

Susan Bruce, Director  Jill Maurer, National Development & Program Coordinator

and all the staff at the Gordie Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
A Mother’s Love
In March 2012, Deborah Dunklin Tipton of Memphis, TN, lost her only son, Robert Eugene Tipton, Jr. He was Deborah’s “miracle child,” born after years of infertility and intervention. Twenty months later, the family grew with the birth of his sister, Mary. Growing up, Robert and Mary enjoyed traveling, sports, and spending time with their extended family and friends.

“He was especially kind to and protective of his little sister Mary, whom he adored. All our pictures show him smiling and happy. Robert was quite trusting, expecting the best from others and assuming that most people were honorable and loving in the ways his family, especially his grandparents, had always been to him,” Deborah says.

When Robert attended college at High Point University in High Point, NC, Deborah believes he was searching for a group of friends to provide the warmth he felt at home. His search led him to pledge a fraternity, even though he wasn’t a partier. In the weeks leading up to his death, Robert was severely hazed in the fraternity pledging process — he confided to his sister that he was worried the brothers were going to punish him for revealing a fraternity secret, but asked her not to tell their mom. On March 26, 2012, Robert was pronounced dead with blunt force injuries on his head, neck, and knees, including hemorrhages on his left eye after being found unresponsive in the apartment of one of the fraternity members.

“I live daily with the guilt of not having understood enough about the situation to save my son. Not a day goes by that I don’t wake up thinking about Robert. Mary, too, is working through her loss and devastation, but she, like I, will never be the same. Every day, I keep thinking he will walk in the door. I would like to help other parents by educating college students about the dangers they might face and how to escape from peer pressure and seek the help they need.”

Deborah was connected with the Gordie Center last year through her cousin, who was studying at the University of Virginia’s Darden School of Business. When he heard Gordie’s story, it reminded him of Robert’s, and he talked with Deborah about the Gordie Center’s efforts. She went to Gordie.org, and was inspired to give a donation. Deborah’s passion for the Gordie Center’s mission is evident:
HAZING PREVENTION NATIONWIDE

Our mission at the Gordie Center includes hazing prevention and education, and this past year was especially heartbreaking as we learned of the hazing death of Tim Piazza at Penn State. His story felt so familiar to us — a bright, young college student looking for friendship through a fraternity, overdosing on alcohol during a hazing event… just like Gordie did 13 years ago. We were heartbroken to see history repeat itself — which it unfortunately does across the country, on a regular basis, in the form of alcohol overdose and hazing-related deaths. Not all of these deaths receive the attention that Tim’s did, but all of them represent the completely preventable loss of someone’s child, someone’s sibling, someone’s friend. Enough has long been enough, and it’s frustrating that each new tragedy highlights the rampant lack of education about alcohol overdose symptoms, how to help a friend in trouble, and the horrors of hazing. Our message at the Gordie Center is so simple: Save a Life. Make the Call. When you see someone in distress, do not hesitate to call for help. Gordie, Tim, Robert Tipton, and so many others would be alive today had someone called for help.

Gordie Center staff collaborated with colleagues at the University of Virginia to develop a hazing prevention program for our students that focuses on the positive aspects of group membership and the hidden harms of hazing. We plan to adapt the “Positive Organization Expectations” program for our national audience in the coming year. To complement that program, we are creating materials for our GORDIEstore to give high schools and institutions of higher education nationwide a comprehensive hazing prevention campaign that is easy to implement. Donations to the Gordie Center help us move to the forefront of hazing prevention efforts nationally. Education and awareness around alcohol overdose and hazing can save lives. Together, let’s work even harder to prevent alcohol overdose and hazing tragedies.

“I read Gordie’s story and realized that another mother was suffering, as I was, the loss of her son during a fraternity initiation. I, like Gordie’s mother, felt that a mother’s job is to protect her child. I shared her feelings of pain and grief over having failed to protect Robert and the frustration of not being able to get justice for him. I so admire the Lanahans for being able to turn the tragic death of their son into something good by founding this Center that works to change the culture of campus drinking and drug use.”

With her donations to the Gordie Center, Deborah wants to help educate students, administrators, and alumni about how irresponsible behavior can and too often does

“We need to create healthier college campuses, dedicated to protecting students and educating young people to live compassionate and caring lives.”
lead to tragic consequences. She aims to assist programs that give meaningful help to students, and is especially happy about the Gordie Center’s emphasis on bystander intervention.

“Gordie and Robert lost their lives for no reason. Students need to realize this can and does happen. They need to know how to get out of a dangerous or potentially fatal situation. We need to create healthier college campuses, dedicated to protecting students and educating young people to live compassionate and caring lives.”

Deborah encourages others to support the Gordie Center because of the Center’s commitment to create and disseminate evidence-informed programs and materials to decrease the negative consequences of hazardous drinking and illegal drug use among college students.

“I am so impressed with the Gordie Center’s mission: Save a Life. Make the Call.”

Of hazing, and should be viewed by as many people as possible. The film demonstrates how crucial it is to call for help and prevent tragedy from happening.”

Coming from a close-knit family, Robert and his sister had planned to run the family farms together after college. The siblings wanted to raise their children in close proximity to each other to give them the warm family environment they so enjoyed growing up. Deborah describes Robert as thoughtful and affectionate, and always imagined him being a great father. Those future dreams died with Robert.

“Being Robert and Mary’s mother is the most wonderful thing to ever happen to me. Robert wanted to make everyone around him happy. His friends all remembered his generous nature, his easy sense of humor, his kindness. He said to me so often, “I love you, Mom.” Those were the last words he sent me in a text. He made our home and our lives shine.” ✽
Recovery Support

As a person in long-term recovery, Brian* is drawn to the Gordie Center’s efforts to support students struggling with addiction.

In his mid-thirties, Brian’s drinking took a turn for the worse. The University of Virginia graduate, a married father-of-three living in Northern Virginia, started happy hour daily when he got home from his work in software sales or after he put his daughters to bed. When he decided he needed to stop drinking, he found that he couldn’t stop.

“I knew I was in trouble, but didn’t know where to turn. My ego kept me from seeking the help of others, and I eventually had a seizure at the office.”

Today, Brian has been sober for 8 years, and has found a new life in recovery — a busy life filled with community volunteering and his kids’ extracurricular activities that wasn’t possible when he was drinking.

“Once I found the rooms of recovery, I wondered what on earth took me so long. Life in sobriety has been amazing. I want others to know there is help available.”

Brian first learned about the Gordie Center two years ago in a tweet by UVA Dean of Students Allen Groves. He read about the Gordie Center’s Hoos in Recovery (HiR) group for students, staff, and alumni in recovery or considering recovery and was compelled to give because he wants to help provide a safe space for anyone maintaining sobriety or struggling with alcohol or other drug use while at UVA.

As an undergraduate, Brian and his fellow fraternity members became concerned about the behavior of another brother, but they did not know how to approach him or seek help.

“If we had had access to the resources of the Gordie Center, we could have reached out for guidance. I want to make sure today’s students have a place to go to learn about peer intervention and help those in need.”

Brian joined the HiR listserv and hopes to make it to HiR events when he visits Charlottesville. Even though he stopped drinking well after college, he has met many young people in recovery and knows that social support is crucial for students maintaining and seeking sobriety. Brian wants students to know that recovery doesn’t have to wait until after graduation.

“If drugs and alcohol are a problem, it’s important to get help. You need the support of a recovery community. Once you find help and get into recovery, you can get your life back on track and achieve your wildest dreams.”

*Name changed to respect confidentiality.

Donations to HiR help support weekly meetings and social activities, and can help fund scholarships and recovery housing. Please visit www.virginia.edu/hoosinrecovery to learn more about HiR and how you can support the recovery community at UVA!
Hoos in Recovery (HiR) is a supportive, confidential community of UVA students, faculty, staff, and alumni in recovery or considering recovery from alcohol or other drug use disorders. All ages, academic levels, walks of life, and pathways of recovery are welcomed and valued.
Moved to Give

Gordie’s story drives Hannah Christian’s Gordie Center philanthropy.

Hannah Christian is a University of Virginia graduate working as a lawyer in Denver, Colorado. She attended Deerfield Academy at the same time as Gordie, although she never knew him personally.

“I knew of him. He was one of those incoming students that everyone talks about for all the right reasons. He was charismatic, enthusiastic, and nice to everyone. He was the new student everyone wanted to be friends with, and not because he was from the right place or fit into the right crowd.”

When Hannah learned of Gordie’s death in 2004, she was shocked and saddened. “To lose such an impressive person at such a young age from something so preventable is heartbreaking. And it could happen to anyone. Gordie’s story brings that home.”

In the onslaught of emails Hannah received during UVA’s first GivingToHoosDay campaign two years ago, an email from the Gordie Center caught her attention.

“I actually read that email, and the decision to donate was immediate. Gordie and I had overlapped at Deerfield, then I went off to UVA and he to Colorado…and here I was in Colorado getting this email about the Gordie Center from UVA. Our paths seemed connected, and I wanted to continue to support his.”

Hannah has followed the Gordie Center’s efforts ever since, and feels proud that her alma mater houses the Center bearing Gordie’s name. She felt even more connected to the mission after receiving a thank you phone call from a Gordie Center staff member, and feels that the Gordie Center is in good hands.

“Donations and support help the Gordie Center continue to expand its outreach, its programs, and its footprint and reach more college students across the country.”

“I hope that through its outreach and education, the Gordie Center will be able to have a positive impact on the drinking and substance abuse culture on college campuses and contribute to a decrease in the tragic outcomes of binge drinking. And I feel connected — connected to Deerfield, to UVA, and to an important cause that I think is doing great work.”

Hannah encourages others to donate to the Gordie Center because of her strong belief that Gordie Center donations translate into education and prevention work on a national level that can save lives. Continuing to share Gordie’s story with today’s students is important to Hannah.
“It feels great to donate to the Gordie Center — donations and support help the Gordie Center continue to expand its outreach, its programs, and its footprint and reach more college students across the country. The more support the Gordie Center receives, the more people it can reach. I think the Gordie Center has the capacity to make lasting change, and I look forward to watching its progress.”

GORDIE’S LEGACY

Gordie Bailey invested in friendships. He was a hugger who created the “Hug Club” while a student at Deerfield Academy. After his death, his parents and friends wanted his memory to live on through the lifesaving message to make the call when a friend is in trouble. Gordie was a beloved presence in the lives of those who knew him. His story and the work of the Gordie Center continues to inspire thousands of people who never had the pleasure of meeting him. His impact is felt when someone calls for help in a dangerous situation after seeing HAZE, when students can recall the signs of alcohol overdose after seeing a GORDIEposter or GORDIEcheck BAC card, and when someone like Hannah Christian is inspired to help Gordie’s story touch lives nationwide through a donation to the Gordie Center.

Gordie was so much more than what happened to him on that night in September 2004, and when his birthday approached this past February, we at the Gordie Center wanted to create something to honor his kind, giving nature. #RememberGordie Kindness Cards were the result of that effort, and the cards went out into the University of Virginia community and beyond on Gordie’s birthday and in the months since. The cards spread Gordie’s message along with an act of kindness (like a hug!), encouraging everyone who sees them to #RememberGordie. Join us in spreading Gordie’s kindness and continuing his legacy — tear out the included #RememberGordie Kindness Cards and pass them along to a friend or stranger with an act of kindness!

LYNN GORDON
“GORDIE” BAILEY
FEBRUARY 22, 1986 — SEPTEMBER 17, 2004
“The fact that his death could have been prevented will always resonate with me. It’s crazy how if someone would have called earlier he could still be alive.”
— High School Student

“It could happen to anyone, myself included. Get help when it is needed — a life is more important than being afraid. One little call can save a life.”
— College Student-Athlete

HAZE

The Gordie Center’s HAZE documentary has been educating viewers on Gordie’s story and the dangers of alcohol overdose and hazing since 2008. The film is shown in over 620 schools nationwide, reaching more than one million students with Gordie’s lifesaving message. This year, the Gordie Center is updating the film and the facilitator guide with the support of your donations! The new HAZE will debut early next year, and can be purchased by schools or donated to a school of your choice through our donation page. A HAZE donation is tax-deductible! http://giving.virginia.edu/gordiecenter
Molly Ewald on the importance of viewing HAZE.

As a parent, Molly Ewald of Charlottesville, Virginia, has witnessed first-hand the pressure students today face. Her son is an 11th grader at Millbrook School in New York, and her daughter, Meme, is a Taft alumna (as are Molly, Gordie’s mother, and Gordie’s sister) currently in her second year at the University of Virginia. Last year, Meme viewed the Gordie Center film HAZE in one of her classes, and was profoundly impacted by the film. She was so moved by the tragic circumstances of Gordie’s death that she chose HAZE as her final paper topic for the class. When Molly received information about the Gordie Center’s participation in UVA’s GivingToHoosDay (GTHD) campaign this past March, she recalled her conversations with Meme about HAZE and wanted to learn more about the Gordie Center’s work. Reading Gordie’s story on Gordie.org, Molly realized that what happened to Gordie could so easily happen to her children.

“As a mother, all I want to do is protect my children,” she says.

Molly immediately went into action. She contacted Millbrook School about showing HAZE to their students, and upon learning they did not own a copy, she donated HAZE to the school through the Gordie Center’s GTHD campaign. She also contacted Taft and was instrumental in the reinstatement of annual HAZE screenings to Taft students every spring.

“I think HAZE is extraordinarily moving, and all high school students should view it. Sadly, the tragedy at Penn State demonstrates how relevant the important work of the Gordie Center is, and how crucial it is that more students see HAZE and stand up as a bystander. Gordie’s story resonates as much today as ever.”

“I encourage parents to make sure their children’s schools own HAZE and show it to their students.”

Molly is now volunteering her time with the Gordie Center, reaching out to boarding schools nationwide about HAZE.

“I encourage parents to make sure their children’s schools own HAZE and show it to their students. If not, donate to the Gordie Center so a copy of the film will be sent to their school. I know what an impact seeing HAZE has had on my children, and feel through my involvement with the Gordie Center, we can continue to get the message out there and educate students on when to call for help and save a life.”
STUDENT TO STUDENT

UVA students Sarah Sheffield and Brianna Cabrera discuss the value of peer education.
The Gordie Center supports the efforts of students nationwide through our evidence-informed, student-tested materials and resources. At the University of Virginia (UVA), we support the student peer education group ADAPT (the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team). Founded in 1999, ADAPT is dedicated to addressing the issues of alcohol and other drug abuse in the UVA community. As peer educators, they promote awareness, provide educational outreach, and serve as accessible resources for their fellow students. Their primary purpose is to minimize the abuse of alcohol and other drugs in an effort to promote a healthier environment at UVA. We talked with two ADAPT members to learn more about their experiences as peer educators.

Sarah Sheffield, a 21-year-old from West Point, VA, is currently student teaching as she completes her Masters in Teaching. Her focus is on Secondary English Education and Special Education.

During her first year at UVA, Sarah learned about Gordie’s story when she signed the GORDIEday pledge to be an active bystander and look out for her friends. Her interaction with the ADAPT members working the pledge drive encouraged her to become an ADAPT peer educator herself.

“Peer education is a great way to find common ground and have an open conversation. One of the most rewarding things for me is when I ask a group to which I’m presenting to tell me the signs of alcohol overdose and the whole group can easily list the signs. It’s exciting to see how many of our conversations have actually reached students and potentially affected decisions that they make.”

In addition to serving as an ADAPT co-chair, Sarah has also been a member of the Gordie Center staff as a student assistant.

“Working at the Gordie Center has been an awesome experience and has given me the opportunity to meet and work with some truly wonderful people. The Center’s work is really important because they make it easy for high schools, colleges, administrators, and students to teach content. The Gordie Center helps increase conversation nationwide, and therefore increase awareness.”

“Peer education is a great way to find common ground and have an open conversation.”

Sarah’s goals in life include being the best teacher she can be, and having a positive impact on the people she meets. Being a member of a peer education group like ADAPT has helped her meet those goals during her college experience.

“What’s really exciting is that my work with ADAPT and the Gordie Center ties in really well with my education interests. Being part of a peer education group is awesome because it gives you a lot of new communication skills. Learning how to talk non-judgmentally with peers is great for becoming a better person and friend to others. Also, you get to see your impact on the community — it’s a great way to be involved in creating the culture that you want to see at your school.”

Brianna Cabrera, a 20-year-old from The Bronx, New York City, is a senior majoring in sociology. She loves anything to do with music, food, getting to spend quality time with her family and friends — and chocolate.

Brianna became an ADAPT peer educator two years ago, and served as co-chair of the group this past year. She learned about ADAPT through a friend who was a member, but she wasn’t sure about joining the group at first.

“Then one day, I met an upperclassman who told me about a time they fell off a house roof and nearly died from having consumed too much alcohol. After that incident, they decided...
to stop drinking, and I remember thinking to myself, ‘It shouldn’t take something like that happening for someone to decide to make safer choices.’ That is what truly motivated me to join ADAPT.”

After joining the group, Brianna and other ADAPT members learn the ins and outs of peer education through a required training class. The class teaches them alcohol and other drug information, as well as soft skills, such as how to present comfortably and confidently and how to engage with others in a non-judgmental way.

“Peer educators are people you can turn to as a resource, who you know are going through similar environments as you and to whom you can relate.”

“Peer educators are people you can turn to as a resource, who you know are going through similar environments as you and to whom you can relate. I know I usually feel more comfortable talking to a peer about certain topics than I do with adults. Having a peer group makes these issues more relatable and helps form a stronger bridge of trust.”

Brianna describes her time in ADAPT as extremely rewarding.

“My face lights up every time we’re tabling and someone asks us what we’re doing and says something like, ‘Wow, this is such important work you guys are doing...thank you!’ It just re-affirms my choice to join this incredible group of people in trying to create a safer community.”

Brianna says that joining ADAPT has been one of the greatest choices she’s made as a college student, and she encourages other students to become peer educators on their campuses.

“You learn so much about yourself and others, and gain so many skills that are useful in all aspects of life: working with different kinds of people, comprehensively presenting information, dealing with various kinds of situations, and just talking to people in different ways. I will always be grateful for the skills I’ve learned and the people I’ve met as a result.”

ADAPT

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team (ADAPT) has been an integral part of the Gordie Center’s work with students over the last 18 years. Susie Bruce, a national expert on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug education and the Gordie Center’s Director, teaches the ADAPT class every fall to the newest ADAPT peer educators. Through that 3-credit class, Susie guides the team through the information they need to know to present to student groups all over the Grounds at UVA and at local high schools. ADAPT members are called on by their peers to share their knowledge and message of safety an average of 50 times every year, on topics such as bystander intervention, hazing, and basic alcohol and/or other drug education. In addition to these presentations, ADAPT also impacts student culture through their 4 major campaigns throughout each year — Halloween safety, Substance Abuse Prevention Week, Safe Spring Break, and a safety campaign for students attending an annual equestrian race in Charlottesville.
The APPLE Training Institute is an amazing and impactful program. The model just makes so much sense and is well laid out. The Institute was such a great picture of how to structure and carry out programs.”

“No other training program empowers and excites students enough for change like APPLE!”

— Athletics Administrators

APPLE 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

3 Training Institutes

611 participants

111 NCAA member schools

42 schools (38%) were new APPLE attendees

98% rated APPLE good – excellent

1,651 teams representing 606 NCAA member schools have attended APPLE since 1992
Davidson College is a liberal arts institution of approximately 1,800 students, who are required to live on campus for four years. Davidson's Residence Life Office oversees residential education, and has utilized Gordie Center products for the last four years. Over that time, they have purchased GORDIEcheck BAC cards and GORDIEmagnets with the PUBS signs of alcohol overdose to distribute to all first-year students, GORDIEposters to place in cafeterias, Greek houses, and residence halls, and GORDIEclings for all first-year residential room mirrors.

“Davidson College has great success in educating their students through GORDIEstore products.”

“Davidson’s student staff members respond to emergencies, including alcohol overdose, and are excited to learn more about how to prevent high-risk alcohol consumption. Gordie Center products are frequently discussed at hall meetings and during staff members’ individual interactions with residents. Davidson Health Educators and Peer Health Educators also refer to Gordie Center products and use the PUBS acronym during their educational talks. Student feedback shows that Davidson students appreciate the consistent messaging about BAC and PUBS across campus.

“We are trying to teach our students how to recognize the signs of alcohol overdose and how to seek medical assistance. The Gordie Center products have assisted us in this process — when questioned, most students were able to successfully answer questions about the signs of alcohol overdose and provide safe drinking practices as a direct result of reading Gordie Center posters and mirror clings,” says Shaffer.

“After researching several different companies, we decided to use Gordie Center products because of the wide range of educational tools they provide, which meet many different institutional needs. The Gordie Center’s products provide bright, engaging, and comprehensible information that colleges and universities can utilize to reach students in repeated, yet subtle, ways.”

“We decided to use Gordie Center products because of the wide range of educational tools they provide.”
GORDIEstore

GORDIEcheck BAC cards
Evidence-informed laminated 8-panel wallet card that provides blood alcohol concentration (BAC) charts for men and women as well as a standard drink conversion chart, the signs of alcohol overdose, and tips for a lower BAC.

Standard or Student-Athlete versions available.

GORDIEmagnets
4” x 4” magnets displaying the signs of alcohol overdose (PUBS)

GORDIEclings
Vinyl static mirror cling (no adhesive!) in 3” x 5” or 4” x 6” sizes, displaying the signs of alcohol overdose (PUBS)

GORDIEbrochure (PDF)
Available in PDF only, for you to print yourself!
Safer drinking guidelines brochure with tips on how to avoid alcohol overdose.

DID YOU KNOW...
The GORDIEstore offers a variety of educational resources, just like the items utilized by Davidson College, to help spread the message about low-risk drinking and hazing prevention to students.

GORDIEposters
Six different educational poster designs displaying evidence-informed graphics on blood alcohol concentration (BAC) and standard drink conversion.

Visit www.Gordie.org/GORDIEstore to order or to see more items!
Thank you

The Gordie Center relies on the generosity of donors for many of our programs, including our national outreach, hazing prevention efforts, product development, ADAPT, and Hoos in Recovery. We extend our immense gratitude to Leslie and Michael Lanahan for sharing their passion for saving lives through Gordie’s story, and for their strong commitment to the Gordie Center. We are incredibly grateful for the support of the following donors this past year!

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A huge thank you to the 63 donors
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Above: Pictures of Gordie over his lifetime in a mosaic that forms a picture of him as a young boy.

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