

TWO UVA JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FROM BULLIS C

Reflecting on Bullis and Next Steps

BRIAN MITCHELL '14



Brian Mitchell '14 is a self-described “data nerd, founder and digital creative.” However on poetsand-quantsforundergrads.com, University of Virginia’s

Associate Dean in the Undergraduate Program, Professor R. Ryan Nelson, said he and his colleagues describe Brian as “a modern-day renaissance man in the mold of our University’s founder, Thomas Jefferson.” This is appropriate given that Brian was a Jefferson Scholar at UVA.

Brian’s renaissance qualities were evident at Bullis as well, where he took advantage of the many opportunities offered, and even created some of his own. As part of the first STEM Capstone in Bullis’ Signature

Programs in 2013, Brian co-founded the Robotics Club with the help and encouragement of alumnus Richard Hayman '63. Brian also initiated the Bullis robotics team, which actively participates in competitions with other schools. “We have a robotics team today, and Brian is the reason,” says Faith Darling, Director of STEM. “He was a catalyst for recognizing that students want to learn in a very hands-on way. When he sees something new, he wants to learn as much as he possibly can and goes after it. He pushes himself to surpass even his own expectations.”

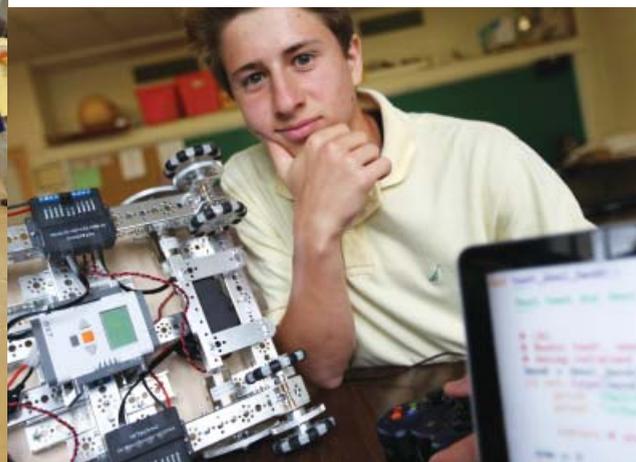
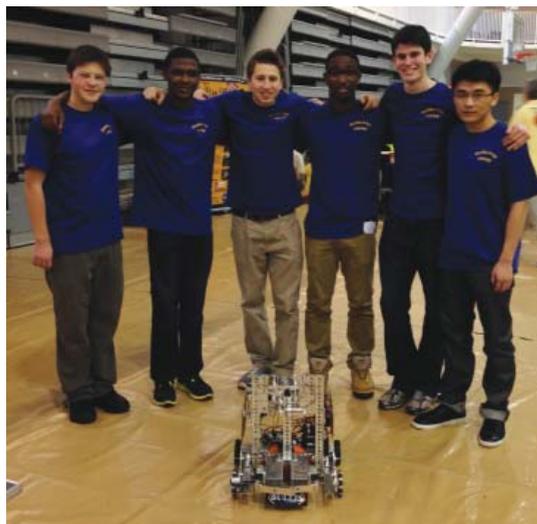
During a robust four years at UVA, he won several accolades and honors in addition to the prestigious Jefferson Scholarship, including membership in the Raven Society, the University’s highest

academic honors society; a Miniotas Communication Scholar, awarded to just eight students per year; an Echols Scholar, awarded to the top 8.5% of incoming UVA students; and first prize in the 2016 UVA Entrepreneurship Cup Discovery Competition for Jobocracy, a data analytics platform. Brian also served as director and co-founder of *The Pioneer*, an online publication and digital media education program, and was on the executive team at HackCville, a student-run nonprofit offering UVA student entrepreneurs free co-working space, skills classes, alumni mentorships, and internship opportunities.

“Brian’s leadership has resulted in the hosting of high-impact public events, networking and startup trips, an online publication and technology-related skill development for

hundreds of his peers,” says Professor Nelson.

Graduating from UVA in May with a bachelor’s degree in commerce, concentrating on finance and marketing, Brian now works as a business intelligence specialist at ICX Media, Inc., a venture-backed data science company in the video analytics arena in Washington, D.C. He recognizes that Bullis allowed him the opportunity to delve into different areas, fostering his curiosity in everything from sports to journalism to robotics. He offers the following advice to Bullis students, saying “There are tons of opportunities at Bullis to pursue an interest and find a niche in existing classes, clubs or teams. It’s important to look at every opportunity as an experience that can enrich your life.”



Top left: Brian’s senior portrait from the 2014 edition of *Roll Call*; right: Brian (third from left) with Bullis’ Robotics team at their first competition; far right: Brian with a robot he designed at Bullis.