

THE STEPHEN VINCENT PEARCE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Gyift Foundation established The Stephen Vincent Pearce Memorial Scholarship at the University of Virginia in January 2021. The scholarship was created to honor Stephen (Steve) Pearce (May 10, 1970 – April 19, 2020) who passed at age 49 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was a disciplined follower of Christ, a loving husband, and the caring father of two beautiful daughters.



The scholarship pays tribute to how Steve lived every aspect of his life: with love, passion, determination and tremendous courage.

In 1989, Steve was initiated into the Kappa Alpha Psi® Fraternity Inc. at the Eta Sigma Chapter at UVA. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from UVA McIntire School of Commerce and an MBA from A.B. Freedman School of Business at Tulane University.

Steve moved to South Africa in 1999 where, for two decades, he grew his financial services career. Beginning his career as an associate for McKinsey & Company, he ultimately became a senior Vice President and investment Banker for Musa Capital. Also in South Africa, he met and married his soul mate, Toa. He embraced her culture with enthusiasm and joy. Steve also embraced the tenets of freedom, justice, equality, and inclusion that define the rainbow nation of South Africa.

Steve was truly anointed in building meaningful relationships and served throughout his life as an inspiration to so many people. It is our hope that the memory of how he lived will continue to inspire future trailblazing scholars at the University of Virginia.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The Stephen Vincent Pearce Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to an incoming African American Freshman student who is enrolling at the University of Virginia. The recipient must demonstrate achievement in a variety of academic areas and humanitarian pursuits. He or she will also display history of significant servant leadership and community service.

Scholarship amount: \$5000 (non-renewable). The scholarship will be awarded to a different incoming student each year.

Additional applicant requirements:

- Applicant must be a graduating high school senior from one of the following states: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina or South Carolina, or the District of Columbia.
- Applicant must display some financial need and/or qualify for federal assistance.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We have a ten year projected capital raise, beginning in 2021, for the Stephen V. Pearce Scholarship Fund endowment. The minimum amount necessary to fund the endowment account with the University of Virginia Fund is \$100,000. We are currently raising the \$100,000 endowment in partnership with the University of Virginia Fund and Alumni Association.

Until the endowment is fully funded, the Gyift Foundation will continue to raise the annual \$5,000 award that is given to each year's Stephen V. Pearce Scholarship recipient.

There are two ways to give. Here's a brief description of each.

A donation to the University of Virginia Fund is a direct gift towards our capital campaign raise of \$100,000 for the endowment account. [Access this site by clicking here](#). Be sure to select the Stephen V. Pearce designation where indicated.

A direct donation to the Gyift Foundation will support the \$5,000 annual Stephen V. Pearce Scholarship given to a freshman scholar at UVA each year until the scholarship endowment goal is finally met.

Your donation makes a difference.

Give online: visit our website at www.gyift.org and [select the donate button](#).

Give by mail: send a check made payable to Gyift Foundation, 6019 Loynes Drive, Long Beach, CA 90803.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!