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A program of [vfh](#) Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

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Contact: Sarah Lawson, Virginia Center for the Book

Phone: (434) 982-2983

Email: sdlawson@virginia.edu

UVa President-Elect James E. Ryan Joins 2018 Virginia Festival of the Book Line-Up

January 31, 2018—Charlottesville, Va.—A program of Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH), the Virginia Festival of the Book announced today that **University of Virginia president-elect James E. Ryan has joined the 2018 Festival line-up for March.** Author of *Wait, What?: And Life's Other Essential Questions*, he will be featured in a FREE public program, titled “Life's Essential Questions: A Conversation with Jim Ryan,” on **Saturday, March 24 at 4:00 PM** at the Paramount Theater in downtown Charlottesville.

“This beautiful book describes how to ask questions of others and ourselves that lead to a deep understanding about what matters most in life. The lessons are timeless, providing powerful insights that are relevant in all parts of our lives.”—Tina Seelig, author of *What I Wish I Knew When I Was 20*

Jim Ryan is the eleventh dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and president-elect of the University of Virginia. Before joining Harvard, he was the Matheson & Morgenthau Distinguished Professor at the University of Virginia Law School.

Life's Essential Questions: A Conversation with Jim Ryan

Saturday, March 24, 2018, from 4:00-5:30 PM

The Paramount Theater, 215 East Main Street, Charlottesville, Va.

FREE to attend, but tickets are required; VaBook.org for additional details

About the book: Whether we're in the boardroom or the classroom, we spend far too much time and energy looking for the right answer. But the truth is that **questions are just as important as answers, often more so.** Asking a good question requires us to move beyond what we think we know about an issue or a person to explore the difficult and the unknown, the awkward, and even the unpleasant.

In *Wait, What?*, Jim Ryan celebrates the art of asking—and answering—good questions. Using examples from politics, history, popular culture, and social movements, as well as his own personal life, Ryan demonstrates how these essential inquiries **generate understanding, spark curiosity, initiate progress, fortify relationships, and draw our attention to the important things in life**—from the Supreme Court to Fenway Park. By regularly asking these **five essential questions**, Ryan promises, we will be better able to answer life's most important question: “And did you get what you wanted out of life, even so?” At once hilarious and illuminating, poignant and surprising, *Wait, What?* is an inspiring book of wisdom that will forever change the way you think about questions.

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About the Virginia Festival of the Book: A signature program of Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH) and the Virginia Center for the Book, the Virginia Festival of the Book brings readers and writers together for a five-day program of mostly free events including author readings, book signings, panel discussions, programs for children, and more. **The 24th annual Festival will be held March 21-25, 2018**, in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia. The Festival has consistently attracted audiences of more than 20,000 from more than forty states each year, with an estimated local economic impact of about \$4 million annually. To learn more, browse the full schedule, or purchase tickets to select programs, visit VaBook.org.

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About VFH: The mission of Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH) is to connect people and ideas to explore the human experience and inspire cultural engagement. VFH reaches an estimated annual audience of 23 million through Community Programs, Digital Initiatives, Scholarship, and the Virginia Center for the Book. For more information, visit VirginiaHumanities.org.