INTRODUCING: The Susan Nelson Fleiss Endowed Scholarship at the University of Virginia

The Susan Nelson Fleiss Endowed Scholarship is an annual scholarship awarded on the basis of merit to exceptionally deserving undergraduate students studying at the School of Architecture. Susan Nelson Fleiss (BSArch ’98), during her time at U.Va. and in her life and work after graduating from the University, demonstrated her possession of two specific gifts. The first was a gift for the architectural process; a love not only for the design process but also for the pride, honor and thrill of turning a design into a reality through the building process. However, Susan’s deep love of architecture and unusual creativity were easily surpassed by a second gift. Susan possessed the gift of happiness; of a positive energy and boundless enthusiasm which she brought to her family, friends, and even her workplace. This award will honor a student whose love for the ageless process of construction—making architecture a reality—is paramount, but who also embodies the warmth in interpersonal relationships that made Susan so special. Funds awarded may be used for tuition and summer travel and study, such as the Veneto Study Program, which broaden the design experiences and personal development of the recipient. Her family, friends, and classmates in the Class of ’98 in celebration of their fifteenth reunion year, have come together to endow this scholarship at the School of Architecture Foundation to provide an enduring legacy for Susan and the lives she touched before her untimely passing in 2011.

Fundraising Goal: $120,000
Gifts may be paid over five years

- $100,000 to be endowed in perpetuity to yield approximately 5% annually for the scholarships
- $20,000 to be spent in equal amounts over four years beginning in 2013/14 to begin the scholarship.

Susan Nelson Fleiss (BSArch ’98), an architect living in Santa Monica, CA, passed away on April 18th, 2011, after a 3 month fight with colon cancer. She was 35 years old. Susan was raised in Mequon, WI and Lake Forest, IL. After graduation from the U.Va. School of Architecture, Susan worked for the Beau Clowney Design firm in Charleston, SC, and Richard Meier & Partners Architects in Los Angeles, CA. She then received her MArch from Princeton University in 2003, earning the Henry Adams AIA medal, awarded to the valedictorian of the class. Susan worked for Nicholas Budd
Design, taught architecture courses at the University of Southern California and ultimately established her own private practice, S-Fleiss Design. Susan married Eric Fleiss, the love of her life, and they have three children.

The University of Virginia School of Architecture continues to set the standard for an A-school education across the country. The School’s greatest Jeffersonian inheritances—progressive thinking, democratic ideals, and a global worldview—are clearly expressed its current work and forward direction. The School embraces progressive thinking by pursuing research and teaching that are responsive to new ideas, discoveries, and needs—and translate these into real solutions that benefit communities around the world. The entire A-school community remains committed to the democratic ideals of equality and liberty that run through the fabric of U.Va. and the country. Through more scholarships and fellowships, especially those dedicated towards research and travel abroad, the A-school education can be made available to as many of the most qualified students as possible. Finally, the expanding international programs—from ongoing connections in the Veneto and China to new initiatives in India and Ghana—are providing students and faculty with the broad perspectives needed to succeed in a fast-changing, globalized society, along with opportunities to serve and make an impact.