

Opportunity

Darden saw a growth opportunity as a lifelong learning partner, not just an MBA program. It aimed to highlight its rise in Top Ten rankings and its intellectual capital, including ideas like stakeholder theory, effectuation, and design thinking. With Yes & Lipman Hearne's experience in business school marketing, we helped define what "Darden-ness" is and its ROI, encouraging audiences to experience its values—relationality, perspective, practice, and social impact—align their brands, and return to the "mothership," regardless of program.

Insight

Testing revealed audiences were ready for a bolder Darden. Our campaign highlights that Darden responds to a 'world of business not as usual' by being "not business school as usual." Audiences also welcomed humor, feeling it was inclusive and reflected Darden's confidence. As we developed talking points, we found we had more than a tagline — a clear articulation of what makes Darden unique.



Solution

Our team began with a discovery phase which included a trip to campus, 30+ conversations with faculty, staff, students and board members, and a deep review of over 240 materials and five main competitors. Working with Darden's research partner, several different positionings were tested. This work informed our narrative and messaging for Darden and its varied MBA programs and the winning creative concept, "Not Business School as Usual," which was tested in stakeholder focus groups.

After the concept was solidified, our team developed a series of media assets for digital, print, and OOH placements. This creative production work is still ongoing as we expand to additional campaigns and audiences.

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BUSINESS SCHOOL AS USUAL



UVA BLUE

PMS 7611 C HEX #D7B0AB RGB 215 176 171 CMYK C 15 32 26 0

FUI

BUSINESS SCHOOL

AS USUAL

BUSINESS AS USUAL IS OVER. BUSINESS SCHOOLAS USUAL

SECONDARY COLORS

PMS Warm Gray1 C HEX #EFEFE9 RGB 239 239 233 CMYK C 5 3 7 0

NEW MAGNOLIA

UVA Darden School of Business

HEX #B6B1A8 RGB 182 176 168 CMYK C 30 26 31 0

VIRGINIA ASH

SLATE BLUE

PMS 547 C HEX #475929 RGB 70 89 34 CMYK C 69 43 100 3 PINETUM GREEN

HEX #EEE25F RGB 241 225 64 CMYK C 8 4 87 0

SUNFLOWER

DUSTY ROSE



VARIABLE CHARACTERS

Typography is at the forefront of our campaign. Variable characters are used to pique interest through the unusual nature of their sequencing but should be used sparingly to remain legible.

- When the headline is five words or less.
- When the execution is very large (like a billboard/OOH) When it is one of the only elements of the creative.

WHEN NOT TO USE IT

- Over top of an image
- For a paragraph of type or longer In small executions (like digital display)

AABBCCDD EEFFGGHH JJKKLLMM WWXXYYZZ

TAGLINE + HIGHLIGHT BARS

Highlight bars may be used to emphasize the tagline only when all other versions won't work for legibilty reasons.

Example: Overlaid on a photo.

Campaign Style Guide

BEING RANKED #1

REALLY MATTERS.

HIGI BAR

PADDING Padding on th bar should be Gothic ATF - I

BEING RANKED #1
REALLY MATTERS.

TAGLINE LOCKUP

Our tagline is foundational to the campaign and should be used on every asset.

In print, it should always be shown with the

BUSINESS SCHOOL AS USUAL

BUSINESS SCHOOL AS USUAL

VIDEO TITLE CARDS

Titles should be large and bold, yet balanced with ample

negative space. Ideally, titles should be centered both vertically and horizontally and remain within the video safe zone.

The background can be either the UVA orange or navy, with anchor bars in the contrasting color.

The title can be either static or animated, with each line appearing in a staggered sequence from left to right.

nights & Highlight Bars ETHE BING INERS

RINT AYOUT

n Style Guide

rout and type size are flexible and can push d pull in order to accommodate varying and can push of pull in order to accommodate varying agths of headlines. However, legibility is crucial headlines are foundational to the campaign in order to capture the audience's attention. Keep accessibility in mind when writing headlines for ertain ad sizes and assigning type sizes.



CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

"Glad you asked. Darden wanted the word usual stricken It's a simple statement. It needs no explanation to underst directions. Leaders have the ability to express complex ide a vision that is easy to follow. And this campaign gives Dar a leadership voice among top-level business schools.

UVA Darden School of Business

Campaign Style Guide



PROGRAM NAME

The program name should appear at the top of the creative, paired with the top bar.

It should always be set in Heavy Italic and

UVA Darden School of Business

The size can vary based on the execution but it should never be more than 50% of the **EXECUTIVE EDUCATION &** LIFELONG LEARNING

FULL-TIME MBA

HEADLINE TYPEFACE

FRANKLIN GOTHIC ATF

The UVA Darden campaign is a primarly headline-driven campaign utilizing a variation of typography weights and styles within the Franklin Gothic ATF family.

These are the acceptable weights and styles that can be

EXTRA LIGHT REGULAR MEDIUM BOLD HEAVY

> THIN ITALIC LIGHT ITALIC ITALIC MEDIUM ITALIC **BOLD ITALIC** HEAVY ITALIC

Preferred Background Color

BUSINESS SCHOOL AS USUAL

HIGI BAR

PADDING Padding on th bar should be Gothic ATF - I

PROGRAM NAME+ LOGO

To create a cohesive system for identifying each program in relation to the larger Darden brand, the program name should be

Campaign Style Guide

WE'RE THE CLIMBING PARTNERS FOR CAREER CLIMBERS.

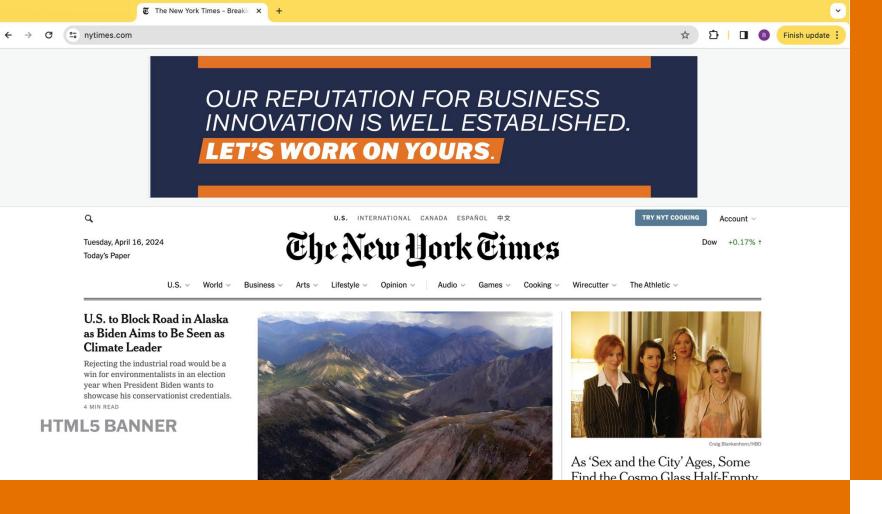
TAGLINE COLOR VARIATIONS

The tagline should only be used in these

The navy background is the preferred color variation.

BUSINESS SCHOOL AS USUAL

provided color variations.



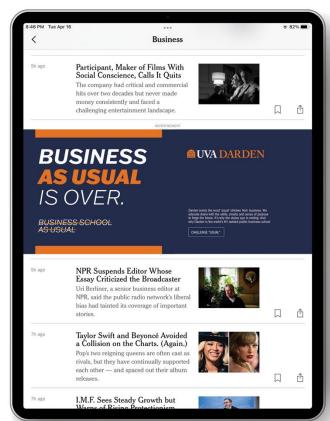




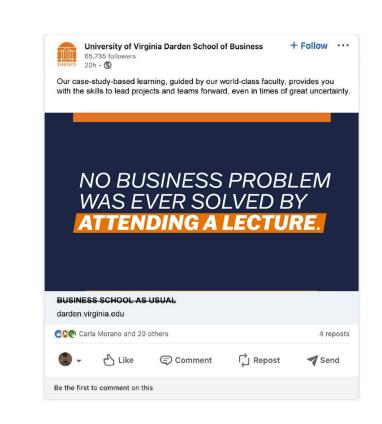


What You Need to Know

Darden spearheads the conversations impacting business and society in a fast-changing world and regularly publishes news, thought leadership and of course case studies. Read









PROGRAM NAME

PROGRAM NAME + LOGO

RINT AYOUT



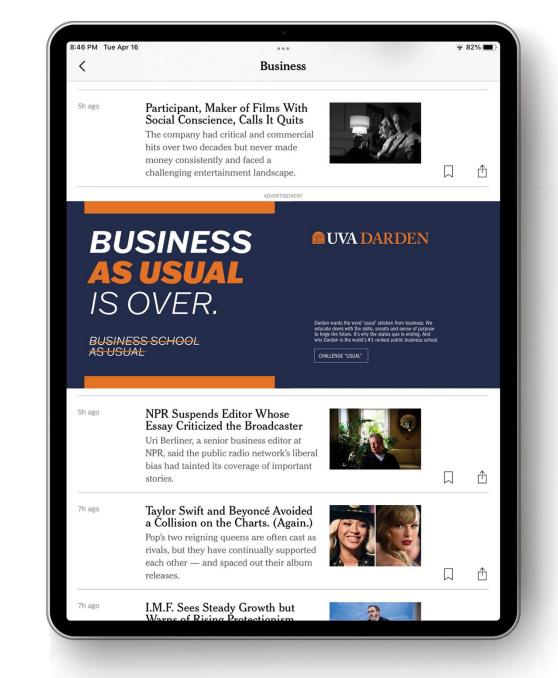
The tagline should only be used in provided color variations.

All Background BUSINESS SCHOOL AS USUAL

BUSINES









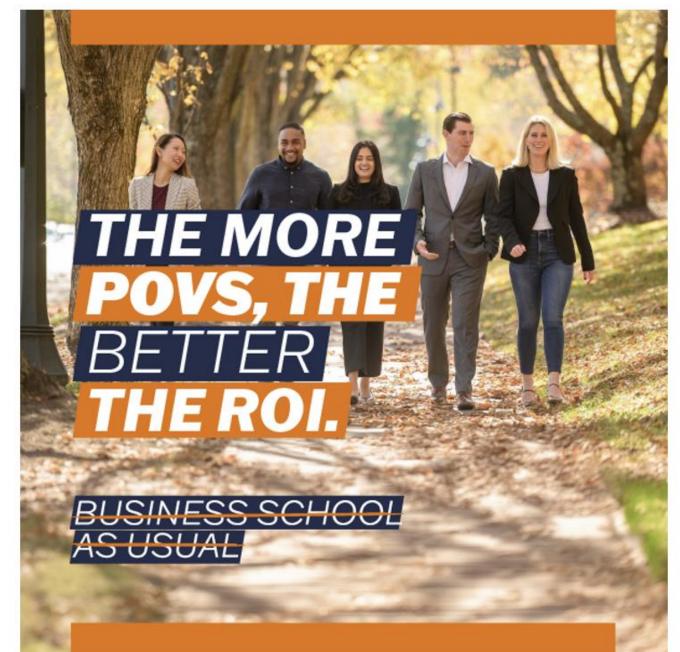
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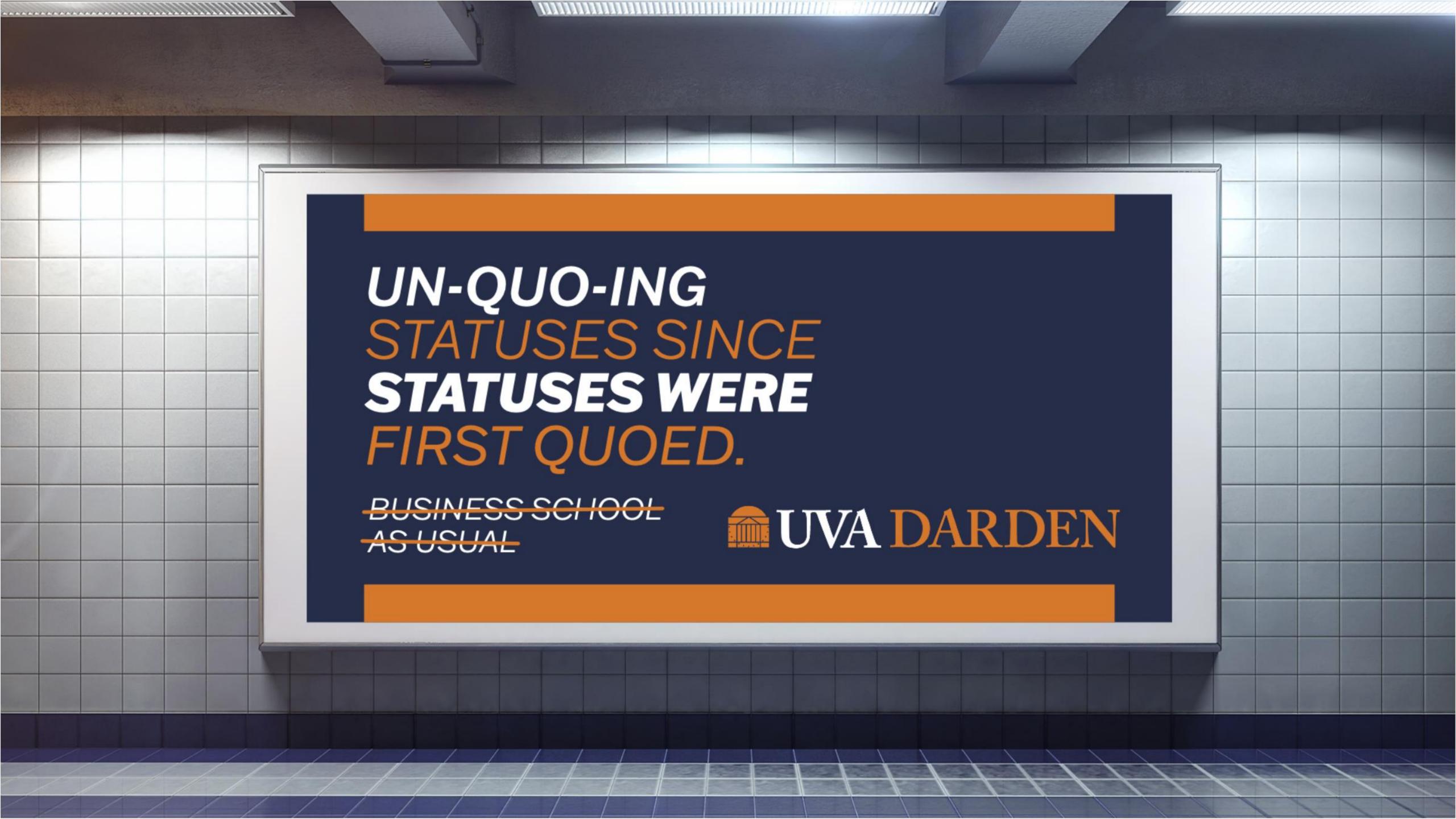


WE DON'T JUST SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF BUSINESS, WE INVENT IT.

BUSINESS SCHOOL AS USUAL AI COULD BE THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS OR ITS END. GUESS WHICH ONE WE'RE WORKING ON.

BUSINESS SCHOOL AS USUAL





THE RESULTS



Total impressions and 11.1K total clicks/page views with a 0.20% CTR.

The client received a new campaign and set of messaging to help expand the idea of "Darden-ness" and talking points that amplify the momentum of their ascension in ranking to the world's #1 public business school, while gaining internal buy-in along the way.



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