Alumni Gazette

1998 Alumni Medallion Recipients

Alvin P. Anderson '70, J.D. '72
H. Mason Sizemore '63
William R. Murphy '48
Sarah Ives Gore '56

Dedication Through the Decades
In The News

Dedication Through the Decades

This year's alumni medallion recipients span four decades of the William and Mary experience

by Jacqueline Genovese '87 and John Jackson

The 1998 Alumni Medallion recipients as they appeared in their senior year at the College of William and Mary. From left: Alvin P. Anderson '70, J.D. '72, H. Mason Sizemore '63, William R. Murphy '48 and Sarah Ives Gore '56. Photos courtesy of the Colonial Echo.

Editor's Note: The Alumni Medallion, the highest and most prestigious honor the Society can bestow on an alumnus, is awarded annually to not more than five members of the alumni body for exemplary accomplishments in their professional lives, service to their community, state or nation, and loyalty and commitment to the College of William and Mary. The Medallions will be awarded at the Homecoming Ball on October 23, 1998. Starting below are profiles of the 1998 recipients: Alvin P. Anderson '70 J.D. '72, Sarah (Sally) Ives Gore '56, William R. Murphy '48 and H. Mason Sizemore '63.

Love Your Neighbor

Since settling in Williamsburg after his graduation from law school, Alvin Anderson '70, J.D. '72 has lived up to the phrase, "Love your neighbor." In this case the College, Anderson's neighbor, has thrived because of that love. "I've been very lucky," Anderson says in his Southern drawl indicative of his Richmond heritage. "It's very easy to participate when you're near." Besides, Anderson has had a "lot of fun" helping William and Mary grow and change. His activities with the College detail a vast interest in ensuring the success of the entire College. From the Athletic Educational Foundation, to the Society of the Alumni's Board of Directors to the President's Council and the chair of the 25th Reunion Endowment Committee for the Class of 1970, you might say Anderson has "been there, done that."

Although his grandfather, father, three uncles and brother attended William and Mary, Anderson considered other colleges, including the University of Virginia. But while visiting his brother, William, Jr. '66, and uncle, Harper '40, J.D. '42, who also taught at the law school, Anderson chose William and Mary. "It was a place where you could be your own person," he says.

Attending college during the late sixties and early seventies usually meant witnessing or participating in demonstrations protesting everything from Vietnam to the perceived incompetence of college administrators. But Anderson says a different attitude prevailed at William and Mary. "We were riding the tide of the earlier generation, which means we were very happy at William and Mary," he says. "We didn't appreciate the need to demonstrate. So we didn't." As an ROTC student, it's easy to guess Anderson was an easy target for protests, demonstrations and outrages over Vietnam. But Anderson recalls only one time when he felt uncomfortable.

"It was during a march. We had stopped and several demonstrators began shouting at us," he remembers. But that's the only "low point" Anderson can recall. The rest of his days at W&M are filled with fond memories, including the time he met his wife, Betsy '70. "It was the second semester of my freshman year, and a Brown hallmate and I, had just finished an exam. We decided to visit his girlfriend, who lived in Jefferson, and tossed rocks onto the third-floor window. (Men weren't allowed in women's dorms AT ALL then.) The girlfriend brought down Betsy with her," he says, smiling. The rest, they say, is history. Betsy and Alvin were married in 1969 in Richmond, and now have two daughters, Mary Beth, a cum laude graduate of Wellesley College and a J.D. candidate at the law school, where she is a staff member of the William & Mary Law Review, and Sara, an undergraduate at Vanderbilt University. Betsy also came from a William and Mary family. Her brother, Philip Calvo, earned his M.B.A. from the College in 1976. Like his decision to attend William and Mary, family also played a role in Anderson's choice to become a lawyer. "My uncle, Scott Anderson '27, was a trial attorney in Richmond. I thought very highly of him," he says. He also held his Uncle Harper, who taught and practiced law in Williamsburg, in high regard. Since his uncle taught required courses at the law school, Anderson had to call his uncle "professor" for at least four semesters.

Although he laughingly declined comment on his class performance, Anderson must have impressed his uncle enough for Harper to invite his nephew to join his Williamsburg law practice, known today as Anderson, Franck & Davis, P.C. "I was mail ing out resumes when my uncle approached me," he recalls. "His comment to me was, 'You've got to serve time in the Army, but after that, if Williamsburg can support another lawyer, why not take a chance and join the firm?'" He accepted the job on the spot. As the years have gone by, friends have told me, 'Boy what a great decision you made.'"

That great decision has not only benefited Anderson, but the College and Williamsburg as a whole. Through his work in eminent domain cases, estate planning and administration and land-use law, Anderson has had a front-row seat to Williamsburg's growth. His firm played a critical role in the development of Williamsburg Landing, a popular retirement community, as well as the area's continued success as a draw for...
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thousands of tourists and retirees. As a board member and president of the Alumni Society, Anderson took part in the expansion of the Alumni Center, established an endowed scholarship in his uncle’s honor and recently served on the dean search committee for the law school. Through it all, Anderson has made sure he’s had fun, something he thinks all William and Mary students know how to do. “The students at William and Mary today say to me, ‘We like working hard, and we like playing hard.’ That’s good,” he says.

Winning the Alumni Medallion couldn’t have come at a better time for Anderson, who found out on his way home from a Richmond hospital, where his father had just undergone open-heart surgery. Betsy reached him on his cell phone and told him the news. “It came at wonderful time,” he says, quietly. For him, Anderson says, next to his family, the Alumni Medallion is one of his proudest accomplishments. By the way, Anderson’s father, William ’38, celebrated his 81st birthday on July 4.

A Dream Achiever

When Sarah Ives Gore ’56 (Sally), found herself alone with three sons to raise in 1975, she experienced first-hand what she had previously only observed in society — discrimination. “Society was tough on single mothers,” she remembers. “I couldn’t even get a phone hook-up because everything had been in my husband’s name.”

Gore contends that things aren’t that much better today for single working mothers. “We want them to take care of their children, but we want them to get off welfare at the same time,” she says, distort evident in her voice. “I have so much respect for working moms, especially single, working mothers.”

That first-hand experience, along with Gore’s personal belief that individuals should give back to their communities, motivated her to donate funds for the Sarah Ives Gore Child Care Center on the William and Mary campus. “Let’s face it,” she says, “traditionally the people making decisions about child care for a business or institution haven’t even faced the challenge of finding quality child care. So the importance of quality child care isn’t always understood by the individuals who are in the position to do something about it.”

Gore has an enthusiastic fan club at William and Mary, including Margaret Saha, professor of biology and a mother of five, including Daniel, 3, who is enrolled at the Center. “I could not do my job if it wasn’t for the fact that I know my child is being well taken care of by close of. Having that Center was a determining factor in my choosing William and Mary.”

In addition to her understanding of the challenges facing working mothers, Gore, along with her husband Bob, are strong supporters of the “I Have A Dream” project in their home state of Delaware. Gore believes “I Have A Dream,” a program that provides college education for underprivileged youth, is one of the most tangible ways to make a difference in this world. “We’ve all heard the statistics about the earning disparity of a college graduate versus a high school graduate.” Imagine what a difference that makes for children who probably have no family members who ever went to college, and who, without “I Have A Dream,” would have no chance at a college education.

Gore’s enthusiasm extends to her career as well — she is the global human resources leader for W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc., but she could be just as easily work as its chief spokesperson. When asked about the company, one can hear the smile in her voice. “Fortune magazine just rated us the seventh best place to work in America,” she says. “We’re a pretty unique company. We don’t have bosses or employees here — we have mentors and associates.” Gore credits her father-in-law, Wilbert Gore, the founder of the company, for abandoning the traditional pyramid managerial structure for his company and instead using what he described as a “lattice” structure, with the emphasis on teamwork. “The emphasis here is on teamwork and the value of what each individual brings to the team,” Gore explains.

In addition to its unusual corporate structure, Gore is immensely proud of the breakthroughs her company has made in the medical field. “Most people are familiar with Gore-TEX® clothing and camping products, but we have a whole variety of other products and applications in medical and industrial fields.” Those applications include synthetic arterics, sutures, electronic cables and industrial filters and sealants.

W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc., today posts global sales of over $1 billion. Gore’s husband, Bob, who is president of the company, saw a need for his wife’s skills at Gore in 1989, and asked her to join. “I had been home taking care of the children — between the two of us we have seven! My graduate degree is in counseling psychology, and I came to work to help address critical issues of the human resources department.” Over the past 18 years, Gore has led efforts to restructure the benefits program, professionalize recruitment and strengthen training. She now leads a truly global human resources team with members in 12 countries supporting Gore’s 7,000 associates.

Gore’s expertise and enthusiasm are well known in the state of Delaware, and she has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the League of Women Voters, the Governor’s Commission on Health Care, the Delaware Access to Care Foundation and the Delaware Trust Company. Her involvement at William & Mary includes lifetime membership in the President’s Council, and service on the Endowment Association Board and the National Campaign Steering Committee. In nominating Gore for the Alumni Medallion, Dennis Sion, vice president of development, wrote, “Sally makes her truest convictions take flight through volunteer activism and generous financial support... Sally is a true giver, she is motivated from the heart to support efforts that are crucial to her.”

Gore says when she got the call from Clyde Culp ’65, president of the Alumni Society’s Board of Directors, she was truly surprised by her selection as a Medallion recipient. “Of course, I was delighted. I’m fortunate that I’ve been able to contribute to William and Mary in a way that is personally so meaningful to me.”

“There is a chorus of William and Mary voices, including infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents, who would agree whole-heartedly.”

The Honorable Teacher

Retired Chief General District Court Judge William Murphy ’48 is sitting in the Alumni Center on a warm July day, explaining why he has given back so much of his time and energy to his alma mater. “I don’t know what I would do without this place.”

At the Endowment Dinner, Murphy was one of the best feelings I ever had in my life was as a principal, handing out diplomas to kids who were on the verge of dropping out of school. (Please see “Dedication” page 8)
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and I managed to talk them into
sticking it out and graduating. That’s a
great feeling.”

Reflecting on his experiences as a
judge, Murphy chooses his words
carefully. “I think people think a
judge keeps his or her distance when
making a decision, but we are very
aware that what we decide affects
many lives, not just the life of the
person in court,” Looking out the
window, Murphy says quietly, “Sitting
in a courtroom where family mem-
bers are sobbing and heartbroken
just tears you up inside.”

Murphy’s legacy as a judge was
recognized shortly after his retire-
ment when his portrait was unveiled
in Courtyard Room of the General
District Court. At that time, Sen.
Chuck Colgan, D-Manassas said of
Murphy, “He is one of those few men
in my life I could truly put the label of
greatness on. I think he really is the
pride of Prince William County,
Manassas and Manassas Park.”

One could easily add William and
Mary and the Society of the Alumni
to that list. Murphy has been active
in so many aspects of the College,
from serving on the Board of Visitors
to serving on the board of the
Athletic Education Foundation and
the Northern Virginia Chapter of
the Society of the Alumni, to serving as
a member of the Order of the White
Jacket, the President’s Council, the
Cypher Society and the Alumni
House Expansion committee, that it’s
hard to find an area that he hasn’t
been involved in. In nominating
Murphy for the Alumni Medallion,
one alumnus wrote, “Both a football
and baseball player while at the
College, Bill Murphy possessed a
burning desire to excel at whatever
he did and I always assumed that his
greatness would be accomplished
in the sports arena. Little did I dream
that he would prove to be one of the
most talented individuals in so many
disciplines... His love for William and
Mary has been uncomprising...”

Despite earning the Alumni
Medallion and the respect and admi-
nation of so many Virginians,
Murphy remains modest about his
accomplishments, saying simply, “Whatever I have given to William and
Mary, it is not equal to what I
received here.”

From the Flat Hat to
The Seattle Times

W

why not? Those two words
might be used to describe
H. Mason Sizemore’s ’63
outlook on life. They were the words
he used when he sent a letter seek-
ing employment to the Seattle Times
after attending journalism school at
the University of Missouri. They were
the words he used during his ascent
from copy editor to president and
date operating officer of the latest
almanac newspaper in the United
States, a paper that won two Pulitzer
Prizes last year. Those words could
be used to explain his motivation to
move to the Pacific Northwest and
still involve him with the College.

Sizemore’s connection to the
College didn’t start with his enroll-
ment. Both parents, the late Hazel
Johnson Sizemore ’35 and the late
H. Mason Sizemore, Sr. ’35, gradu-
ated from William and Mary, along
with several uncles, aunts and
cousins. Despite this history, the
choice to attend William and Mary
was entirely his own. “My parents
were probably secretly hoping (my
brothers and I) would go to W&M,
but there was no pressure. It was
strictly a personal decision on my
part.”

Coming to William and Mary
“opened doors” to a world that
would take Sizemore far beyond his
rural, tobacco-farming hometown of
Halifax, Va., population 800. “I left
William and Mary with a sense of
what I wanted to do with my life.”

While at the College, Sizemore
was a member of the Baptist Student
Union, played intramural sports and
was an orientation sponsor. But his
main activity outside of the class-
room was with the Flat Hat, where he
worked as a reporter with the
student newspaper during his
freshman year and was promoted to
production manager in his junior year.
“I saw it as an honor to reconnect with the
College.” While on the board from
1990 to 1996, Sizemore never missed
a meeting, including those held in
New York and in London to meet
Queen Elizabeth. “There’s more to
contributing to the College than get-
ing on a plane and travelling to
Williamsburg,” he says.

A member of the Alumni
Society’s Circle of Friends, Sizemore,
along with his late mother, estab-
lished an Order of the White Jacket
Scholarship in his father’s honor.
Sizemore’s dedication extends to his
community, too. He is a board mem-
ber of the King County United Way,
the Downtown Seattle Association
and serves on the advisory council of
the Puget Sound Blood Center
Program.

In nominating Sizemore for the
medallion, one alumnus noted,
“When his professional and civic
achievements are readily known, his
devotion to his alma mater has been
exceptional... His career and his
devotion is marked by integrity,
fairness, leadership and commitment.”

Sizemore was “surprised” when
Clyde Colp ’56, president of the
Alumni Society, that passed him the
staff together. “We were on our own,”
he says, smiling. “College is a time
to explore new ideas. That’s what we
were doing. We had no faculty over-
seers. We learned by doing.”

During the summers, Sizemore
worked as a reporter with the
Northfield Ledger-Star. This experience, along
with his work on the Flat Hat, took
Sizemore, a history major, to the
graduate journalism program at the
University of Missouri. When it was
time to find a job, Sizemore got out a
map and picked Seattle. “The
Northwest was the only part of the
country I hadn’t seen,” he explains.
Shortly after sending a letter to the
Seattle Times, the managing editor
called Sizemore, and after a brief
interview, hired him “right away.”
Sizemore told his wife, Connie,
Cutterton ’62, that they would stay in
Seattle for a few years and move on.
But after spending 16 years in the
news department at the Seattle Times,
where he rose from copy editor to
managing editor, Sizemore was pro-
moted to production manager in
1981, and was eventually named
president and chief operating officer,
a position he’s held since 1986. Not
bad for a self-described “C student”
in college.

The move to Seattle may have
put 3,000 miles between Sizemore
and his alma mater, but he didn’t let
the distance prevent him from stay-
ing involved. He was a cofounder of
the Seattle alumni chapter and was
elected to the Society of the Alumni’s
Board of Directors in 1990. “I saw it
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