

GIFTS AT WORK

Expanded Opportunities

Emerging programs open up educational and research experiences

In nearly every academic discipline at William and Mary, programs give students opportunities to do research, pursue learning opportunities and produce original scholarship. Behind many of these programs, private gifts are driving success.

Such is the case with the recently established marine science minor, which is offering world-class learning and research experiences to undergraduates, as well as fueling significant collaboration between W&M Arts and Sciences and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

"VIMS is the leading marine science education facility in the world," says Carroll Owens '62, president of the VIMS Foundation Board of Directors. "The marine science minor will give William and Mary undergraduates greater access to its offerings."

Owens has provided seed money to help develop the minor, which will begin as a three-year pilot program that can accommodate 20 students each year.

"Undergraduate students have wanted greater access to marine science courses and faculty for years," says VIMS Professor Elizabeth Canuel. "Over the past decade, we have witnessed a growing number of

William and Mary undergraduates interested in pursuing research projects with our faculty, participating in our summertime Research Experience for Undergraduates program, and enrolling in undergraduate and graduate-level courses taught by VIMS faculty."

Canuel and Chancellor Professor of Geology Heather Macdonald are serving as co-chairs of the Marine Science Minor Advisory Committee. The committee is administering the minor in marine science, which began in January 2010.

According to Owens, the response from undergraduates thus far has been overwhelming.

"The applicant pool at William and Mary is already strong, but the marine science minor will further strengthen the appeal of the College to prospective students," he adds.

Owens also believes that the minor will give positive exposure to VIMS' educational offerings, serve as a reminder that it is part of William and Mary, and help advance the marine science work being done by offering research to undergraduates.

VIMS Dean and Director John Wells says the new minor is "an exciting new chapter in

VIMS' long history of providing an exemplary education in marine science, and will help satisfy the growing national demand for qualified marine science professionals."

Marine science is not the only area at William and Mary where program support is making a difference. In 2008, Ted Dintersmith '74 provided funding for five faculty-mentored honors projects, which students worked on the summer before their senior year. Last year, the William and Mary Honors Fellowships were established and, combined with another round of Dintersmith Fellowships, a total of 12 undergraduate honors projects received funding.

Annie Brown '10, a women's studies major who was studying abroad in India in spring 2009, learned that her research project had been selected for an honors fellowship.

"The funding I received allowed me to stay in India and do a more in-depth project," she says.

Brown's project, "Indian Cosmo," explored globalization and the influence of the media on Indian women. Her research included several interviews at *Indian Cosmopolitan* magazine as well as a month-long internship at *Manushi* magazine, which is a women's rights journal in



The Virginia Institute of Marine Science has partnered with W&M Arts and Sciences to create a marine science minor, which will allow William and Mary undergraduates greater access to learning and research.

PHOTO: STEPHEN SALPUKAS AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

India. Brown also stayed in a hostel while abroad, and there she was able to interact with Indian women and gain their perspectives.

Brown's research has become the basis for her honors thesis, which seeks to "explain issues that feminists have with women's magazines, especially regarding economics and health," she says. "Public health is a big focus of the project."

She recently presented her research during William and Mary's 11th annual Honors Colloquium. The colloquium is sponsored by the College's Charles Center, which works closely with undergraduates throughout the honors research process.

According to Brown, her research has the potential to make a positive difference. She

hopes to present her findings to *Cosmopolitan* and influence the way that the magazine interacts with the media.

"The thing I love about women's studies is its focus on real-world applications of feminist theory," she says. "As I see it, the goal of women's studies research is to make people's lives better."

Students whose research receives Dinter-Smith and Honors Fellowships funding maintain blogs about their work on the Process for Undergraduate Research Web site, which can be found at <http://research.blogs.wm.edu>. For more information about William and Mary Honors Fellowships, visit <http://honorsfellowships.wm.edu>.

— Anna Mahalak '12 and John T. Wallace



An interest in examining women's magazines within the framework of gender construction and global consumerism led Annie Brown '10 to India.

Patty '62 and Carroll Owens '62 Help College Excel

Carroll '62 and Patty Bayliss Owens '62 helped make the recently established marine science minor a reality by providing operating funds to support its launch as a three-year pilot program.

"With the Marine Science minor, these undergraduates will have access all over the Chesapeake Bay with VIMS' Eastern Shore Lab and Barrier Island," say the Owenses, who have long been advocates for cleaning up the bay. "As the minor grows and includes more undergraduates, they will become ambassadors for the bay."

The ability to look at the big picture allowed the Owenses to see the potential impact of their support of the marine science minor, but it is one of many projects they have helped bring to fruition that have made a substantial difference in the quality of the College.

Patty, who is a docent at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., has served on the Muscarelle Museum Board of Directors since 2000. When budget reductions threatened the museum several years

ago, the Owenses not only stepped up and helped support the museum financially, they provided their leadership and even lent pieces from their American painting collection to the museum for exhibition. Today, the Muscarelle, which currently is host to a Michelangelo exhibit, "Anatomy as Architecture," is enjoying more visibility on campus and in the community, as well as building a reputation for itself in the art world.

The Owenses have also helped support the Wren Building renovation and the Alumni House renovation and expansion. During the College's Tercentenary celebration, they oversaw the creation of a new statue of Lord Norborne Berkeley, Baron de Botetourt, the popular royal governor and friend of the College.

"The statue was shipped over piece by piece from Carrara, Italy," recalls Carroll, "and I prayed that nothing had been broken or cracked in transit."

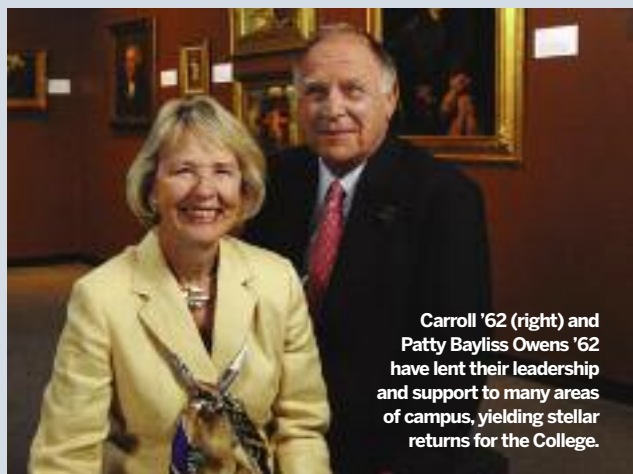
The Owenses also established the James Monroe Prize in Civic Leadership in 2005. Named in honor of the fifth President of the United States and alumnus of the College, the Prize annually recognizes the William and Mary student who best demonstrates sustained leadership combined with initiative, character and an unflinching commitment to leveraging the assets of the William and Mary community to address the needs of society.

Both of the Owenses are recipients of the Alumni Medallion, which is the highest honor alumni of the College can receive; Carroll was presented with the Medallion in 1997 and Patty was honored in 2008.

Recalling their extensive involvement at William and Mary, Patty and Carroll are hesitant to call any single project a favorite.

"We can't identify one thing in particular that we have enjoyed working on most," the Owenses say. "We have enjoyed all of the projects we've worked on at William and Mary. We have no regrets."

— John T. Wallace



Carroll '62 (right) and Patty Bayliss Owens '62 have lent their leadership and support to many areas of campus, yielding stellar returns for the College.