

# CLASSNOTES



*William and Mary Alumni Magazine Editor, Melissa Pinard (right), sits down for an interview with U.S. Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates '65, L.H.D. '98.*

## EDITOR'S NOTE ~ MELISSA V. PINARD

This issue was special to me because I had an opportunity that few people have — to sit in the office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon. It was a bit nerve-racking, but Secretary Robert Gates '65, L.H.D. '98 was easy to talk to and I greatly appreciate him giving me a half-hour of his time. Boy, did that seem like the fastest 30 minutes of my life. His dedication and service to our country should make every William and Mary alum proud. I hope you enjoy the article on page 36. Also in this issue is a Q&A with the chief of the William and Mary police department on page 104 and profiles of our Alumni Fellowship Award recipients on page 42. The inspiration for the show *House* just happens to be a *New York Times Magazine* column written by alumna Dr. Lisa Sanders '79. Read her story on page 48.

People sometimes ask me if my work is lighter in the summer or even if I get off for the whole summer like the students. Well, I usually smile and explain how we operate. The Alumni Association staff works hard over the summer — in the Communications office we finish the Summer edition of the *Alumni Magazine* in June and try to squeeze in a vacation before starting the Fall issue that needs to be finished by Labor Day. Down the hall in the Alumni House, the Programs office plans summer chapter events as well as Homecoming and tailgating activities. The Business office prepares for its end of the fiscal year audit. The Alumni House is bustling with all the summer wedding and rental events. The Records office is busy with the 2009 Directory that will be published this September. Of course, the New Media department is always updating your alumni Web site at [www.wmalumni.com](http://www.wmalumni.com). During the summer, many alumni and friends are traveling with us as part of our Alumni Journeys program.

Mitchell Benedict '80 contacted us with photos of him in Kenya with three other alumni who live in that area. [See page 83.] We decided to call it "Alumni Connection." If you have any photos from chapter events or connections with William and Mary alumni across the globe, please send them to us at [alumni.magazine@wm.edu](mailto:alumni.magazine@wm.edu). Enjoy your summer. Even if you don't have a three-month vacation like the students.