

GIFTS AT WORK

A Great Place to Work

Faculty and Staff Support Brings William and Mary Together

Fifty years is a long time to commit to working at one place, but Thomasine Lewis knew she had discovered a good thing when she joined the College's food services staff as part of a high school work program in 1960.

"When I started this job, I just latched onto it. I enjoyed it," recalls Lewis, who was first stationed in Trinkle Hall and recently retired from her position in the College's Marketplace.

William and Mary has greatly benefited from Lewis' service for all of these years. She was recently recognized with the Charles and Virginia Duke Award, given annually to an outstanding member of the College staff who exhibits exemplary service and dedication to William and Mary.

Established in 1997 by Charles Bryan Duke and Ann Evans Duke '57 in memory of Mr. Duke's parents, the award carries a \$5,000 prize. In addition to a reception held in her honor, Lewis was recognized during the College's Commencement exercises on May 16.

Lewis attributes her success and longevity on the job in part to possessing a positive attitude, which rubs off on co-workers and students. "I don't like a lot of bickering or fussing," she says. "I love to see everybody

get along. I'll do things to entertain everybody and get their spirits up. I want to see a smile on your face, not a frown."

Lewis' actions, in fact, go above and beyond just keeping everybody happy. She maintains a balance of her own funds on a W&M Express Card, which she uses to help students out when they're sick or cannot afford to do so themselves. "They always find a way to thank me," says Lewis. "They treat me with the utmost respect."

President Taylor Reveley affirms that the honor for Lewis was well-deserved. "One of the most valuable things a human being can do for others is to genuinely care about them and reach out to them in friendship and love," Reveley says. "Thomasine's life at William and Mary has been spent doing just this, and we are enormously grateful to her"

Lewis is thrilled about receiving the Duke Award. "I never would have expected something like this," she says. "I get more back — much more back — than what I put into this job," she says. "Being around the students and the employees: that's my glory"

Like Charles and Ann Duke, Joseph J. Plumeri '66 wanted to find a way to support people at the College whose contributions

exceed normal expectations. In 2008, he made a significant commitment to recognize exceptional faculty through the creation of the Plumeri Awards for Faculty Excellence. These awards, which include a \$10,000 prize for each recipient, are to be given to 20 William and Mary faculty members every year for a decade, beginning in 2009. These funds are applied toward research, summer salaries or other stipends associated with scholarly endeavor.

On April 30, the College honored 20 faculty members with the 2010 Plumeri Awards for Faculty Excellence.

"The College is well-known for its accomplished faculty," said William and Mary Provost Michael Halleran at the award ceremony. "To distinguish oneself among this group of peers, as recipients of the 2010 Plumeri Awards have done, speaks volumes to their talent and work ethic. They are truly deserving of this recognition."

This year's Plumeri Award recipients are leaders in their respective fields and, collectively, they represent a wide breadth of academic disciplines.

Carl Friedrichs, a professor of marine science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, is one of this year's Plumeri Award recipients. His research involves elucidating controlling factors and processes in the complex behavior of fine sediments in coastal systems. He is at the forefront of this field, which is one of the most challenging research areas for today's oceanographers. Friedrichs is also the only faculty member at William and Mary to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, which, according to the White House, is "the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on young professionals on the outset of their independent research careers."

Lu Ann Homza, a professor of history at the College and a 2010 Plumeri Award recipient, has attained international recognition as a scholar of Spanish history. In 2009 and 2010, she received a QEP-Mellon Foundation Grant for undergraduate research from the



College's Charles Center to take undergraduates to Pamplona, Spain, for archival research. Before their departure, Homza tutored the six undergraduates who participated in the Mellon grant in paleography, or the study of 16th- and 17th-century handwriting. While abroad, the students read handwritten manuscripts and conducted groundbreaking research on violence, popular religion and witchcraft; in 2010, they were invited to an audience with the Archbishop of Pamplona. Their studies in 2009 were chronicled via blog at <http://pamplona.wmblogs.net>.

Homza and Friedrichs are only two exceptional William and Mary faculty to receive 2010 Plumeri Awards. To learn more about this year's other recipients, visit www.wm.edu/plumeriawards.

— John T. Wallace



The 2010 Plumeri Award recipients are joined by Joseph J. Plumeri '66 (front, middle) during a reception at the Wren Building's Great Hall on April 30.

Duke Gift Provides Award for Exemplary Service

In 1997, Charles Bryan Duke and Ann Evans Duke '57 made an endowed gift to initiate the Charles and Virginia Duke Award, which annually recognizes individual accomplishment and outstanding service to the College by non-student, non-faculty employees.

The endowment was created to honor Mr. Duke's parents, Charles Joseph Duke Jr. '23 and Virginia Welton Duke, for their years of distinguished and loving service to the College.

Charles J. Duke Jr. received a bachelor's degree from the College in

1923 and served on the Board of Visitors from 1926–30. In 1934, he was appointed bursar and served as assistant to presidents John Stewart Bryan LL.D. '42 and John Pomfret. In both capacities, he also acted as liaison to the Virginia General Assembly and was instrumental in obtaining money from the legislature to expand the College.

Virginia Duke served as hostess at the President's House during the Bryan presidency. She and her husband hosted a series of gala events, including an 18th-century costume ball for the faculty and a Yule Log ceremony that involved more than a thousand students and townspeople.

Five generations of the Duke family have been closely associated with William and Mary, beginning with Julian H. Chandler, a member of the Class of 1861. Father of President J.A.C. Chandler 1891, M.A. 1892 and grandfather of President Alvin Duke Chandler, Julian Chandler was also the father-in-law of Charles J. Duke, Class of 1892, and grandfather of Charles Joseph Duke Jr. Other family members include Ann Welton Duke Croll '63 and Lee Welton Croll '95.

The Charles and Virginia Duke Award carries a \$5,000 cash prize and its recipient is acknowledged during Commencement each May. Thomasine Lewis is the 14th recipient of the Duke Award. To view a list of all employees who have received the honor, visit www.wm.edu/dukeawardrecipients.

— Development Communications



(L-r): Charles J. Duke Jr. '23 and Virginia Welton Duke join President John Stewart Bryan LL.D. '42 at the June Ball in 1937.