

# W&M

ALUMNI MAGAZINE • SPRING 2025



'IT WAS ALL JOY' • **RIISING FROM THE ASHES** • HISTORY IN HINDSIGHT





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ECONOMICS AND PHILOSOPHY

“

I would not be able to attend William & Mary, which I have had such a great time at so far, without financial assistance. My scholarships have enabled my entire experience at W&M and everything that comes after it. **I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart.”**

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### A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

On May 16, the Class of 2025 celebrated Commencement, joining over 116,000 alumni worldwide. In keeping with the Year of the Environment theme, leading conservation scientist M. Sanjayan, CEO of Conservation International and host of the PBS series "Changing Planet," addressed graduates and received an honorary degree.





## ALUMNI FOCUS

# Wherever You Are

BY MATTHEW "MATT" L. BRANDON '92

*CEO, W&M Alumni Association*

**E**arlier this year, William & Mary's women's basketball team made history when they reached the NCAA tournament for the first time. Alumni, family, friends and staff traveled to Texas to cheer vociferously, while watch parties happened on campus and in multiple cities.

This outpouring of support was a quintessential display of what makes our community special: we show up for one another and we care deeply. At a time when the fast pace of life can make human connection difficult, we create opportunities for community — because we know that regardless of what life brings, a strong network of family and friends provides joy, fulfillment and security.

In this edition of my Alumni Focus, I wanted to highlight two ways the Alumni Association cares for you and serves each of its more than 116,000 members.

Working with our volunteers, we create meaningful opportunities for alumni and friends to connect, celebrate and strengthen the W&M community. In 2024, we helped host more than 100 regional events, including social gatherings, museum tours, service projects and more. We celebrated the winter holidays with 27 Yule Log ceremonies across the U.S. and abroad. Eight Welcome to the City Events helped our newest graduates find their local W&M com-

munity. In October, more than 4,000 people gathered for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, and this year, we hosted our inaugural Mosaic Weekend in June and will offer Women's Weekend ([womensweek-end.wm.edu](https://womensweek-end.wm.edu)) in September. See a full calendar of events at [magazine.wm.edu/alumni-calendar](https://magazine.wm.edu/alumni-calendar).

Collaborating with the Office of Career Development & Professional Engagement, the Alumni Association promotes the lifelong learning of our community. This February, we helped to support the annual Professional Development Week. If you missed it, see page 62 for highlights and links to the videos. To keep the conversations going all year, W&M offers One Network ([onenetwork.wm.edu](https://onenetwork.wm.edu)), an online platform exclusively for our community to connect, find professional resources and support each other's career journeys.

I love my job. At the Alumni Association, I get to help deepen W&M's value of belonging every day. I hope you'll take advantage of some of our offerings, wherever you are.

# W&M

## SPRING 2025

VOLUME 90, NUMBER 3

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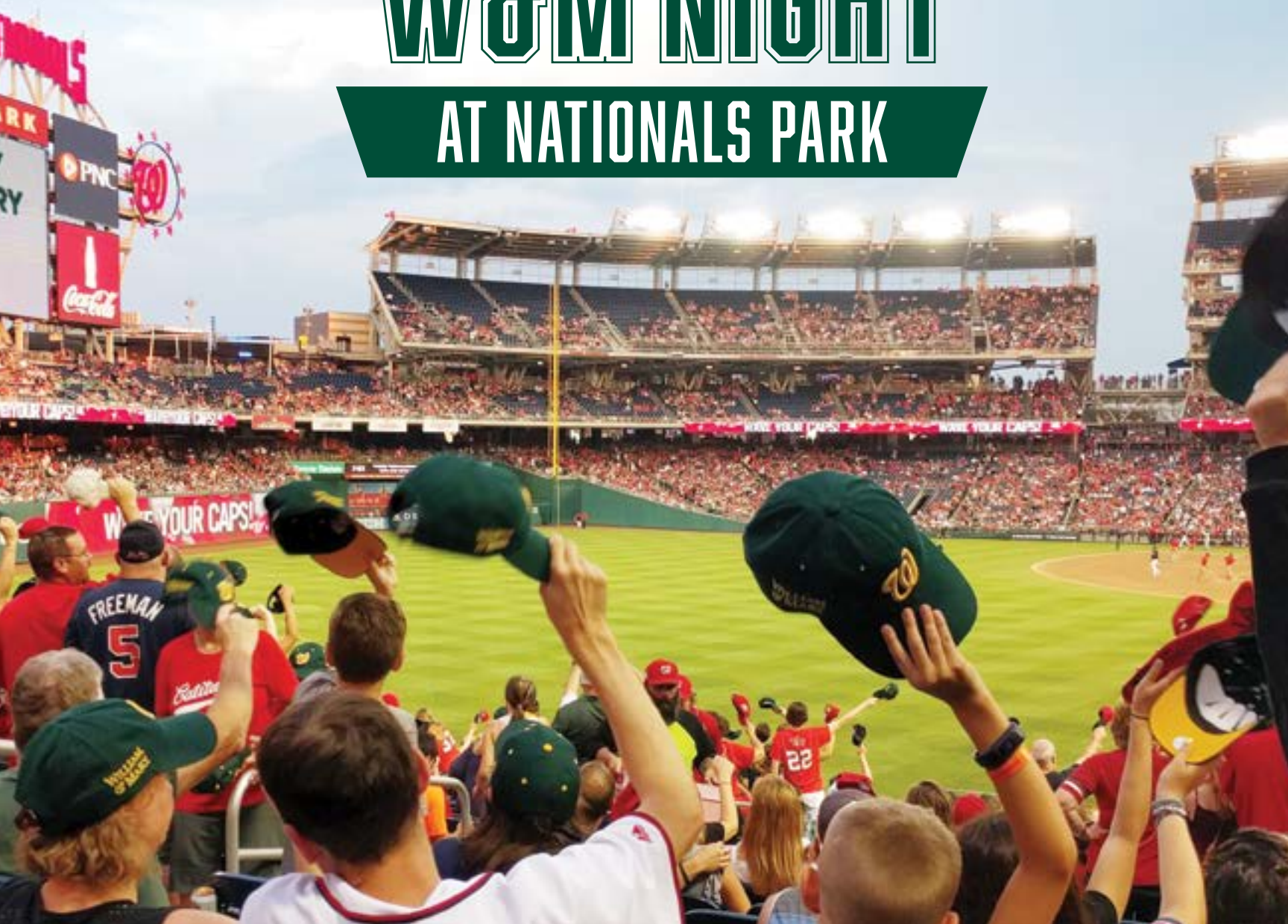
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# W&M NIGHT

## AT NATIONALS PARK



vs



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We're back for the 2025 season! Join W&M alumni, family and friends for this fan-favorite night at the ballpark as the Nationals face off against the San Diego Padres.

**Everyone who purchases a ticket through the link above will receive an exclusive Nationals and William & Mary co-branded hat.**



FROM THE BRAFFERTON

# When They Zig, We Zag

BY KATHERINE A. ROWE

*William & Mary President*

**A**s I write this column, William & Mary is closing out an impressive year. Despite national headwinds in higher education, we earned R1 designation from the Carnegie Foundation; received historic gifts for coastal & marine sciences education; cheered W&M Women's Basketball in the Big Dance. And we were ranked by Forbes in the top 20 U.S. schools employers love. This weekend, we will celebrate the Class of 2025 and close out our 332nd academic year.

Next year, in 2026, we will mark the country's 250th anniversary and conclude our current strategic plan. Even as we hit milestones in Vision 2026, we are looking ahead. It's clear that higher education must address some tough realities head-on.

Yet as we look at William & Mary's context and data, we also see opportunities. In general, William & Mary tacks against the wind. When they zig, we zag.

Here are a few examples of how William & Mary tacks against the dominant trends:

- In the higher education landscape, according to multiple polls, national confidence is low. Yet Virginia's polling shows that confidence is high in public higher education. Across the political spectrum, majorities of Virginians take pride in our higher education system. They believe that Commonwealth funding for higher education is the "most important investment our state can make."
- William & Mary is an outlier in NCAA athletics as well: the top university in the country for federal graduation rate among Division I athletes. We have adopted a "hybrid" approach to current NCAA disruptions, bringing W&M Football into the Patriot League so we can continue our centuries-long rivalry with Richmond.
- We stand out in public undergraduate education, involving undergraduates in cutting-edge research at the same rate as MIT.
- We are an outstanding arts and sciences university, and are also known as a top university for internships.

Our outlier status distinguishes William & Mary from the crowd. Yet tacking upwind can be heavy going. As readers may recall, William & Mary's

mission requires us to pursue "national preeminence": to be known for excellence, nationwide.

So, as we scan our strategic landscape, university leadership and the Board of Visitors are reflecting on the kinds of excellence we should seek to advance. We have begun to develop metrics to showcase what we value most. In a future column, I'll talk more about those internal measures. For the rest of this column, I want to speak to external measures.

## TURBULENT RANKINGS

By definition, preeminence is externally conferred, not internally defined. Historically, national rankings have served higher education as a reliable measure of comparison. In recent years, though, the rankings landscape has changed as dramatically as Division I athletics. Two primary factors are in play.

- New metrics: U.S. News & World Report eliminated key criteria for academic excellence (small class sizes, high school class rank) and alumni engagement. At the same time, USNWR added new criteria: social mobility, borrower debt, research and alumni salaries. Across the board, selective liberal arts universities dropped while large publics climbed up the rankings.
- More competition at the top: Alumni are surprised when I tell them that William & Mary's overall USNWR score has increased by 10 points, rising from 64 in 2010 to 74 in 2025. However, the rankings are more compressed than ever. Even a small score change produces a significant impact.

Meanwhile, new rankings have emerged. And inevitably, AI is changing how prospective students and their families hunt for colleges. They can now ask ChatGPT what schools suit them best and get a list in seconds.

Given this turbulence, I am often asked, "Are the rankings still relevant?" For William & Mary, the answer remains yes. Rankings matter to alumni who feel pride when their institution prevails. And for a few more years, they will guide prospective students and families. Yet, as the Great One (Wayne Gretzky) famously advised: We must skate to where the puck is going.

## WHERE IS THE PUCK GOING?

When we survey prospective students and families, their interests are clear. They seek affordability, stability and belonging. They want strong preparation for a purposeful career. William & Mary has a clear path to deliver on these hopes. First, invest in our core strengths: academic excellence, student success, broad arts and sciences with strong digital foundations. Second, innovate: continue to weave applied learning into all that we do. You will hear both refrains next year, as we lay the groundwork for future strategic planning.



# TRIBE<sup>1</sup> DAY

## Records Shattered

On April 2, William & Mary marked several milestones in the university's largest single day of giving with an extraordinary outpouring of support and engagement from our global community.

**5,924** ALUMNI

**4,187** NEW DONORS

**3,520** PARENTS

**1,262** STUDENTS

**869** FACULTY & STAFF

TOTAL DONORS  
IN 2025

**13,004**

**994**

DESIGNATIONS SUPPORTED

MORE THAN  
**\$4.4 MILLION**  
RAISED

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DAY, THERE'S STILL TIME TO  
MAKE AN IMPACT BEFORE OUR  
FISCAL YEAR ENDS ON JUNE 30.



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**MORE ROOM FOR ART:** *The Martha Wren Briggs Center for the Visual Arts has tripled the size of the Muscarelle Museum of Art, adding 42,000 square feet.*





# BY&LARGE

ARTFUL EXPANSION

## An Artistic Vision Comes to Life

*W&M dedicates The Martha Wren Briggs Center for the Visual Arts, home of the expanded Muscarelle Museum of Art*

BY JACOB A. MILLER '18

**E**XPANSIVE GALLERY SPACES, SWEEPING ARCHITECTURAL lines, a plethora of classroom and learning spaces, and a vibrant atmosphere of students and community members alike finding their passion through art — all were made possible thanks to an individual with an eye for both the arts and the future.

A 74-year journey, from the moment Martha Wren Briggs '55 set foot on campus as a student in 1951 to the realization of her visionary testamentary gift in 2025, culminated in the dedication of the new home for the Muscarelle Museum of Art during Charter Day this year.

The Martha Wren Briggs Center for the Visual Arts is the latest addition to the reimagined home for the performing and visual arts on William & Mary's campus, completing the trio of buildings facing Jamestown Road in the W&M Arts Quarter. Next to the Music Arts Center and Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall, the Briggs Center has tripled the Muscarelle's size with an additional 42,000 square feet.

The expanded museum is a state-of-the-art venue for the university community and the surrounding region to come together to experience robust

## BY&LARGE

**A CLOSER LOOK:**  
*The Briggs Center includes 14 galleries to display the museum's extensive collection and traveling exhibitions, in addition to classrooms and gathering spaces for art education and exploration.*

academic programs and world-class exhibitions, such as the inaugural exhibition, “Michelangelo: The Genesis of the Sistine,” which brought 25 rarely displayed drawings by the artist to William & Mary. Through Aug. 18, in addition to the ongoing exhibitions, visitors can view “Founding the Alma Mater of the Nation,” a show highlighting William & Mary’s Royal Charter and the individuals who were essential in the university’s founding, with selections from the permanent collection and loans from Swem Library’s Special Collections Research Center.

The addition to the original museum, which first opened in 1983, was designed by renowned architectural firm Pelli Clarke & Partners. As evidenced in the masterful completed project, Briggs’ vision for this space was clear from the beginning.

### MARTHA WREN BRIGGS ’55

Briggs, who passed away in 2017, came to William & Mary in 1951 and persevered in the face of challenges related to cerebral palsy. At a time when people with physiological and communicative difficulties faced even greater barriers to thrive, she possessed a tenacity to succeed and a true depth of passion for the arts.

Her spirit of determination saw her through graduation in 1955 with a degree in art history. She went on to earn her master’s degree in art history from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University, then published multiple academic articles and became an expert on the American stained glass master Louis Comfort Tiffany. She was also a librarian and art historian, and she

wrote a series of children’s books and was noted for her challenging holiday puzzles she would send to, and often stump, her friends.

Briggs spent most of her life dedicating her time, talent and treasure to advancing the arts on and off campus. Living directly across the street from the Muscarelle for many years, she kept a close eye on campus and noticed every detail. She also had a vision for the university and particularly the performing and visual arts. As a student, she enjoyed watching the “Common Glory” performance every summer at the Lake Matoaka Amphitheatre. As a result, in the early 2000s, she provided the funds to restore the venue to its former glory and the space now bears her name: the Martha Wren Briggs Amphitheatre at Lake Matoaka.

It was with that same passion for her chosen profession, the visual and fine arts, that she donated more than \$30 million — the largest gift for the visual arts in William & Mary’s history — to greatly expand the museum space. Her intention from the start was to ensure there were classrooms in this new space, focused on encouraging students to love and experience art. The Briggs Center is a place where students can find their passion, like she did, at the university which pioneered the study and collection of art in our nation nearly 300 years ago.

### NEW HOME, RENEWED MISSION

Established over four decades ago by the late Joseph L. Muscarelle Sr. 1927, G ’88 and Margaret Muscarelle G ’88, the central mission of the Muscarelle Museum of Art is to advance art and artists, to build a vibrant community, to promote thought-provoking dialogue and to encourage diverse and creative thinking. Through its new home in the Briggs Center, the museum has renewed vigor and greater resources to teach, display and advocate for the arts under the leadership of museum director David Brashear HON ’07.

The Martha Wren Briggs Center for the Visual Arts will serve more fully as a dynamic resource for the community, a working laboratory for the university and a platform for visiting exhibitions and the museum’s own collection.

The expansive new space features interactive technologies and a teaching center for research and engaged learning. The center has a modern event hall and gathering spaces to bring the William & Mary community together and serve as a regional center for art exploration.

Since the Muscarelle reopened on Feb. 8, thousands of visitors have already taken advantage of the exhibitions and resources now available. The core of the museum’s mission, though, just as Briggs envisioned, remains a focus on educating the next generation about the transformative power of art.

PHOTO: TIM SORRANO







**PASSION ON DISPLAY:** *Top: The new building expansion mirrors the lines and dimensions of original museum space, creating a welcoming courtyard to draw in visitors. Center: A museum intern sits in the new cafe space. Bottom: Made possible by a \$30 million gift from the late Martha Wren Briggs '55, the Briggs Center will allow world-class exhibitions to be shown on campus, such as this spring's "Michelangelo: The Genesis of the Sistine."*



BY & LARGE

# STRAVITZ SCHOLARS

*\$50 million historic gift fuels scholarships in coastal and marine sciences at*

*William & Mary's Batten School & VIMS*

BY JENNIFER PAGE WALL

**W**ILLIAM & MARY'S LARGEST SCHOLARSHIP gift — the biggest ever for a school of coastal and marine sciences and the first of its kind nationally — will empower the next generation to tackle the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

The \$50 million gift from Dr. R. Todd Stravitz '82 and the Brunckhorst Foundations comes at a time when global crises — such as rising seas, eroding coastlines and environmental degradation — are disrupting billions of lives. The R. Todd Stravitz Scholars Program will provide full tuition

support for students pursuing the new bachelor's degree in coastal & marine sciences at W&M's Batten School.

"We are deeply grateful to Dr. Stravitz and the Brunckhorst Foundations," says President Katherine A. Rowe. "This gift removes financial barriers, allowing the brightest minds to access the learning and tools needed to address our planet's urgent problems. These future trailblazers will craft solutions that safeguard ecosystems, economies and the communities that depend on them around the globe."

The announcement builds on the momentum of a \$100 million gift from Jane Batten HON '17, L.H.D. '19 in July 2024 to establish the Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences.

This transformational gift coincides with W&M & the Batten School's launch of Virginia's first public undergraduate degree in coastal & marine sciences, recently approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. The first cohort of selected students will begin their studies this fall, kicking off with the major's inaugural immersion semester experience, in which students will take classes on the Batten School & VIMS campus.

"This gift is about funding tomorrow's problem-solvers," says Derek Aday, dean of the Batten School and director of VIMS. "At William & Mary, we equip students with the skills to craft applied solutions to some of the biggest challenges of our time. This investment ensures our students can lead where the world needs them most."

"When I was a student, a degree like this didn't exist, and I want to create the pathway for today's students to experience the best of William & Mary so they are prepared for the greatest challenges of their generation," says Stravitz. "Our best hope for solving

**A PATHWAY TO SOLUTIONS:**  
*"Our best hope for solving the environmental crises we face is educating young people to care for and improve our planet," says Dr. R. Todd Stravitz '82.*

**+** **ONLINE:** For more information about ways you can support this effort, visit [giving.wm.edu/batten](https://giving.wm.edu/batten).



PHOTO: ALFRED HERCZEG '23



the environmental crises we face is educating young people to care for and improve our planet. Programs like this are critical to our future, and I'm honored to support this vital mission."

The Brunckhorst Foundations are dedicated to advancing important global causes, including medical research and environmental sustainability. With a focus on innovative solutions and initiatives, the foundations have been an important partner in supporting the Batten School & VIMS' efforts to promote resilience, conservation and education for the last several years.

"Generations of students will benefit from this tremendous gift," says Provost Peggy Agouris. "It paves the way for emerging scholars to

deepen their expertise in these critical research areas and become part of the vibrant academic community at W&M's Batten School & VIMS. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Stravitz and the Brunckhorst Foundations, there are incredible opportunities ahead."

This gift coincides with the start of William & Mary's Year of the Environment, which brings the entire community together to deepen W&M's shared commitment to safeguarding the environment and the communities that depend on its health. The yearlong observance will focus on advancing sustainability and conservation efforts on campus and furthering the university's impact around the world.

**BY&LARGE**

#### EXCELLENCE IN ACCOUNTING

## BACK ROOM TO BOARDROOM



Through a gift of \$15 million to establish the Estes Center for Excellence in Accounting at William & Mary's Raymond A. Mason School of Business, Rob W. Estes '74, P '06 and Jean Berger Estes '75, P '06 and their family seek to transform the image of modern accounting through enhanced student experiences, career understanding and networking opportunities. Their goal is to attract more students to the dynamic field by leveraging W&M's ideal size, top-ranked faculty and reputation as a leader in business education. "We want to bring accounting out of the back room and into the boardroom," Rob says.

Read more at [magazine.wm.edu/estes-center](http://magazine.wm.edu/estes-center).

—TINA ESHLEMAN

BY &amp; LARGE

# W&M in the News

*Faculty, staff and alumni make headlines*

## How William & Mary's unlikely women's NCAA Tournament bid started with one senior's speech

"Is this who we are? Are we quitters? Are we just going to lay down and fold?" [Senior guard Bella Nascimento '25] started calling out herself and all of her teammates on the bus on the way back to William & Mary. I think that sparked the energy that we needed going into practice for the [CAA] tournament and once we won that first game, we did it together." — Erin Dickerson Davis, head coach for W&M Women's Basketball

— *USA Today*, March 20, 2025

## THE NEW IVIES 2025: 20 GREAT COLLEGES EMPLOYERS LOVE

For the second year, Forbes New Ivies has selected 10 outstanding public universities and 10 top private schools that are "attracting the best and the brightest, and graduating students that are outpacing most Ivy Leaguers in the eyes of employers." The article describes William & Mary as "the most Ivy-like" of the 10 public schools listed and quotes college counselor and certified educational planner Chris Teare as saying the university is "a great option for more scholarly students who relish academic rigor."

— *FORBES*,  
MARCH 26, 2025

## Lost for centuries, Virginia school for enslaved children gets new life

"It's this huge burden we feel like we're carrying ... because we feel a responsibility to find these kids." — Tonia Cansler Merideth, oral historian with the William & Mary Bray School Lab and descendant of one of the Williamsburg Bray School students, discussing work by W&M and Colonial Williamsburg experts to uncover their stories. She emphasized that whatever the intentions of the school's founders, Bray School children were learning to read and sharing that power.

— *The Washington Post*, Oct. 30, 2024

## William & Mary lands \$100 million gift to expand marine sciences school

"There's just such a high level [of interest] among young people in environmental issues across all disciplines, and this helps educate a whole new army of young people to go out and attack this very critical problem." — Jane Batten HON '17, L.H.D. '19, speaking about her gift establishing the Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences

— *The Washington Post*, July 24, 2024

## THE NEW RULES GOVERNING STUDENT CONDUCT AT COL- LEGES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

"People are hungry for tools that can help us manage a really difficult time in our national history and on our campuses." — Ginger Ambler '88, Ph.D. '06, P '24, senior vice president for student affairs and public safety, commenting on William & Mary's Better Arguments Project

— *The Wall Street Journal*,  
Aug. 16, 2024

To read the full stories, visit  
[magazine.wm.edu/wm-in-the-news](https://magazine.wm.edu/wm-in-the-news)



# 2025 Plumeri Awards

*Faculty excellence celebrated by generosity of Joseph J. Plumeri II '66, D.P.S. '11*

**BY ANNIE POWELL M.A. '18, PH.D. '24**

**O**N MAY 9, THE WILLIAM & MARY COMMUNITY celebrated 10 faculty and athletics staff members who received the 2025 Plumeri Awards for Faculty Excellence. Joseph J. Plumeri II '66, D.P.S. '11 has sponsored the awards since 2009 in gratitude for the influence William & Mary professors had on him.

The Plumeri Awards recognize the multifaceted contributions of professors and coaches as teachers and mentors who guide student development and success inside and outside the classroom. After a highly selective annual application process, nine faculty members and one coach receive \$20,000 each, which can be

used for projects of their choice over the next three years.

The 2025 recipients span a range of disciplines across campus, exemplifying the educational excellence that students receive in every department. The faculty recipients of the 2025 Plumeri Awards are: David A. Dominique, music; Jozef J. Dudek, physics; David S. Johnson, marine science; Jennifer G. Kahn, anthropology; Saskia Mordijck, physics; Helen A. Murphy, biology; Margaret S. Saha, biology; Deenesh S. Sohoni, sociology; and Christopher S. Tucker, philosophy. The athletics recipient is Michael W. London, head football coach.

**BY&LARGE**



**ONLINE:** Read more at [magazine.wm.edu/plumeri-2025](https://magazine.wm.edu/plumeri-2025)

## ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE

# W&M CLASSIFIED AS ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Reflecting William & Mary's commitment to advancing knowledge through high-level, cutting-edge research, the university has been designated an "R1" research institution by the Carnegie Classification system. • Announced in February by the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation, the classification represents the highest level available to universities that grant doctorates. The R1 classification elevates W&M's stellar reputation for research and scholarship, allowing for expanded publication and grant opportunities. • William & Mary's research activities involve more than 20 research centers and institutes. Much of the research is interdisciplinary and includes students ranging from undergraduates to postdoctoral fellows. Between 2020 and 2023, the university conferred an average of 70 doctoral degrees each year and spent more than \$50 million on research annually. • "This classification is a well-deserved milestone for our outstanding students and faculty," says Provost Peggy Agouris. "It reflects our university's commitment to innovative research and scholarship and exemplifies William & Mary's mission as a research university dedicated to advancing knowledge and making a meaningful impact." Read more at [magazine.wm.edu/R1](https://magazine.wm.edu/R1).

—ERIN JAY

## BY &amp; LARGE

## Topping Off 'The Mack'

*Mackesy Sports Performance Center raises the bar*

BY TINA ESHLEMAN

WRITTEN ON  
STEEL: *D. Scott Mackesy '91 and Jennifer  
Tepper Mackesy '91  
join President  
Katherine Rowe in  
signing one of the  
beams for the  
"The Mack."*



Under a clear, blue February sky, a crowd of William & Mary alumni, faculty, staff, students, coaches and friends cheered as two green and gold steel I-beams signed by donors, student-athletes and other attendees were lifted to the top of the Mackesy Sports Performance Center under construction beside Kaplan Arena.

Officially dubbed "The Mack," the 36,000 square-foot structure will encompass new locker rooms, a strength-and-conditioning center, a state-of-the-art sports medicine facility, study spaces, a recruiting lounge and a full-size practice court. A key component of the reimagined W&M Athletics Complex, the center is expected to open by the end of the year.

The building is named for donors D. Scott Mackesy '91 and Jennifer Tepper Mackesy '91, both former Tribe student-athletes. The Mack represents more than a building, Scott Mackesy told the crowd: "It's about building a culture of winning and a culture of excellence. ... It's about setting a new standard for athletics at William & Mary, and we hope these tools and resources will improve the experience for all student-athletes with the ultimate goal of creating a mindset where W&M is not just out there to compete, we're out there with an expectation to win."



PHOTOS: TIM SOFRANKO



## VISIONARY LEADER

# STOTTLEMYER RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

During the Charter Day celebration of William & Mary's founding 332 years ago, former W&M Rector Todd Stottlemeyer '85, P '16, P '21 received an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree. • A leader in the rapidly changing technology sector throughout his career, Stottlemeyer serves as CEO of Acentra Health. Since graduating Phi Beta Kappa from William & Mary with a bachelor's degree in government, the former Tribe football player has given back to his alma mater in numerous ways, including his current roles serving as a W&M Foundation trustee and Global Research Institute Advisory Board member. He was appointed to the Board of Visitors in 2011 and served as the rector from 2013-2018. During his time in that role, the university launched its *For the Bold* capital campaign, enacted the W&M Promise tuition guarantee and hired President Katherine Rowe. In 2024, he received the Alumni Medallion, the most prestigious award given by the W&M Alumni Association. • In his remarks, Stottlemeyer praised Rowe's leadership and observed that at a time of deep political division nationally, William & Mary "is working to prepare the next generation of leaders to carry forward our founding principles and democratic ideals so that future generations can continue to enjoy the blessings of liberty."

—JACKSON MAYNARD '25



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## BY&amp;LARGE

## Safeguarding the Environment

*W&M students work with faculty and conservation partners to cultivate a sustainable future*

## 2025 HONORARY ALUMNI RECIPIENTS

During Commencement Weekend, the William & Mary Alumni Association recognized Kathleen Clem HON '25 and Linda A. Knight HON '25 with honorary alumni status. This designation is conferred to those who, although they didn't graduate from the university, demonstrate outstanding commitment and devotion to W&M. Clem is a charter member of the Society of 1918 and currently serves as a member of W&M's Annual Giving Board of Directors. Knight is W&M's executive director for health & wellness and director of campus recreation.

Read more about these awardees at [magazine.wm.edu/honorary-alumni-2025](https://magazine.wm.edu/honorary-alumni-2025).

—CATHERINE TYSON '20

BY ALEXANDRA "ALI" OTTO '27 AND CAYLEY SANTELLA '25

**W**ILLIAM & MARY OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED the Year of the Environment during the Charter Day Ceremony on Feb. 7, building on momentum from the university's Vision 2026 strategic plan and two major gifts. Last July, Jane Batten HON '17, L.H.D. '19 provided a \$100 million gift to establish the Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences. In February, W&M announced a \$50 million gift from Dr. R. Todd Stravitz '82 and the Brunckhorst Foundations that will provide full tuition support for students pursuing the new bachelor's degree in coastal & marine sciences.

"Our goal will be to highlight, emphasize and expand the influence that we have on environmental issues," Derek Aday, dean of the Batten School, director of VIMS and chair of the Year of the Environment committee, told the Charter Day audience. "We'll do so through the innovative and creative, scientific and artistic endeavors we engage in, and that enable us to better understand the world around us and tackle the challenges we face."

For a firsthand look at how William & Mary researchers are working to advance solutions to conservation problems, we asked two students who participated in programs through the Institute for Integrative Conservation to talk about their experiences. Established with a \$19.3 million gift in 2019, the institute prepares future leaders to drive policy and inspire action at local, national and international levels.

### UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF NIGHTTIME LIGHTING ON MIGRATING BIRDS

When you envision the ocean at night, you probably picture complete darkness. You might not imagine the bright lights of a 1,200-foot-long cruise ship or the intense LED glow of an offshore oil and gas platform. Unfortunately, that is the reality for many marine organisms, especially migratory birds. Millions of migratory birds fly over offshore environments and are susceptible to severe injury

and death caused by disorientation and confusion from artificial light at night. Birds are vital to ecosystems across the globe, and their migration is critical to the health of their populations, which is why action must be taken to protect them.

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of working alongside the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to understand the geographical overlap between offshore artificial light at night and migratory bird patterns. Last summer, we mapped the routes of major offshore activities, specifically cruise routes and offshore oil and gas platforms, and compared them with migratory bird patterns. We found that there was a significant overlap, predominately in the Gulf Coast region and around Florida. Our written report summarizing the results of this project was then given to the USFWS in the hopes that the information could serve as a foundation for migratory bird conservation efforts. Additionally, I have been working on the development of an informational tool kit with the Fish & Wildlife Service to provide offshore companies with suggestions for reducing their artificial light at night.

Working on this project with the Conservation Research Program through the Institute for Integrative Conservation (IIC) has allowed me to develop meaningful relationships with professionals in my field of interest, improve my skills, contribute meaningfully to current conservation efforts and explore a career in conservation. I was able to confirm that a career in conservation is within reach — I just have to keep working hard and taking every opportunity that might come my way. The ability to gain such important professional development skills early in my college career has also proven to be invaluable outside the scope of the project. I know how to send meeting summaries, create project timelines and write scientific reports.

If you had told me as an incoming W&M student that at the end of 2024 I would be leading meetings and presenting research in front of national conservation leaders in the USFWS, I would have laughed. I am forever grateful for the opportunity

PHOTO: TIM SORRANKO





## BY&LARGE

**CONSERVATION RESEARCHERS:**  
*Cayley Santella '25 (left) and Alexandra "Ali" Otto '27 are among the W&M students working to advance solutions to conservation challenges.*

to be a part of the Conservation Research Program and look forward to how it will shape the rest of my time at William & Mary, as well as my career in conservation.

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*Alexandra "Ali" Otto '27, from Waynesboro, Virginia, is a biology major, a Monroe Scholar, a member of the Marine Science Society and a participant in the IIC's Conservation Research Program.*

### REDUCING VEHICLE-WILDLIFE CRASHES ON BUSY ROADS

Have you ever read a research article so captivating that its findings left you reeling? I have experienced this many times at William & Mary. While I thoroughly enjoy learning new information, I often find myself returning to one persistent question: then what? What do we do with this knowledge to make an impact?

Last year, I had the opportunity to explore that question through a multiyear, collaborative project with an amazing team composed of William & Mary students, faculty and wildlife biologists from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. For the first time, I had the chance to step into the social science side of research and investigate the "then what" question in a real-world context. The project focuses on mitigating wildlife-vehicle collisions in Northern Virginia, with Loudoun County as our primary study area.

Wildlife-vehicle conflicts are increasing, especially in developing areas where roads intersect with wildlife habitats. This causes harm to animals, endangers drivers and results in substantial damage. While my partners investigated what's

causing these collisions and where they're most frequent, I focused on how to mitigate them, who needs to be involved and how to get decision-makers to support implementation efforts.

Our broader research project used scientific data to identify hot spots where mitigation strategies are most urgently needed. Our research highlights places where these efforts should be prioritized, considering the limited resources available. My role involved engaging with decision-makers and organizations such as the Virginia Department of Transportation to understand what needs to happen in order to implement a mitigation strategy such as roadside fencing or road signs. It's a complex process requiring collaboration, but we now have a report detailing the key factors influencing implementation.

Although a mitigation strategy has not yet been put into place, we have a better understanding of the process and how it can move forward with sufficient support. This research experience at William & Mary has allowed me to explore the lingering "then what" question and appreciate the interdisciplinary approach required for a research project to effect real change. Conducting a study that produces meaningful findings is an incredible feeling — and seeing real change happening in the world because of those findings would be even more rewarding.

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*Cayley Santella '25 from North Prince George, Virginia, graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in integrative conservation and environmental policy.*



BY ANNIE POWELL M.A. '18, PH.D. '24

# RISING FROM THE ASHES

**LOS ANGELES IN ASHES:** *In January, wild-fires raged across Los Angeles, devastating the city's neighborhoods and communities.*



THE W&M COMMUNITY IS LIVING WITH, LEARNING FROM AND  
PREVENTING DEVASTATING WILDFIRES

**A**s the frequency and intensity of wildfires accelerate, William & Mary faculty, students and alumni are stepping up to tackle this critical issue. By promoting healthy land management practices, training the next generation of wildland firefighters and engaging in research and philanthropic initiatives, the W&M community is ensuring healthier communities and ecosystems.

Jonathan “Jon” Layne ’75 wasn’t at home in his Pacific Palisades, California, neighborhood when uncontrolled wildfires broke out across Los Angeles in early January. He and his wife, Sheryl, were almost 7,000 miles away on a cruise to Antarctica that they had booked over a year earlier.

While on board the cruise ship, the Laynes received updates with nearly unbelievable descriptions of destruction. “We kept getting new reports,” he says. “Our grocery store — gone. Our bank — melted. Our grandkids’ school — destroyed.”

First, the Laynes needed to know that their family was safe. When they finally connected with their adult children, Scott and Shelby, who also live with their families in Pacific Palisades, they learned that Scott and Shelby’s families had safely evacuated but that both of their homes had been burned to the ground.

Satisfied of his family’s safety, Layne was still unsure about his own house. By checking the app connected to his electric vehicle, he could tell that the temperature inside the car, parked in a garage connected to his house, ranged from about 60 to 70 degrees. That gave him hope that his house was still standing.

He was right: After returning to LA two weeks later, Layne found his home severely damaged but not destroyed. He later spoke with other electric vehicle owners who had left their homes during the fires and who had similarly used apps to assess the danger to their property. When the temperatures in their cars soared from 70 to 80 to 90 to 100 degrees before losing the signal, the owners knew their cars — and, therefore, their homes — had burned.

Being on the other side of the world during the LA fires was unsettling for Jon and Sheryl. “There was a keen juxtaposition of the serenity, beauty and awe-inspiring landscape of Antarctica with the pain and suffering and loss of life and property that our family and community were going through in LA,” Layne says.

The exact reason for the start of the LA wildfires remains unclear. Some point to improperly grounded wires or downed transmission towers for the initial spark, but it was a combination of natural conditions that caused the fires to grow out of control. Limited rainfall during the previous year contributed to brittle vegetation, which can easily catch fire. The fires were further fueled by Santa Ana winds blowing

**STRONG WINDS:**  
*The Santa Ana winds — strong, dry winds from the desert — accelerated and intensified the impact of the wildfires in LA.*

at 100 mph from the deserts east of LA toward the western coast.

Infrastructure and public service issues also contributed to the magnitude of the devastating fires. Damaged reservoirs in the city hadn't been repaired, leaving firefighters without enough water flowing through hydrants. Cutbacks in the Los Angeles Fire Department's budget meant fewer personnel and less equipment. And the fire department's fixed-wing airplanes were grounded because the high winds were too dangerous for the pilots, leaving them unable to fight the fires from the sky.

When the Laynes visited their house in the fires' aftermath, they were astounded at the level of destruction in their neighborhood. Fire had gone right up their driveway, and the house was covered with ash and soot. "Our house smelled like a barbeque pit," Layne says.

But they were the lucky ones. Their house was still standing while the rest of their neighborhood was gone. Layne compares the scene to photos of the firebombing of Dresden, Germany, in 1945.

"Block after block, every home is wiped out," he says.

The lost homes were devastating for residents, but other losses were even more painful. When the Laynes' children fled their houses, they didn't have enough time to grab any possessions. Birth certificates, social security cards, wedding licenses, family photos — all are gone.

With property and capital losses estimated between \$76 billion and \$131 billion, according to UCLA's Anderson School of Management, the

task of rebuilding is enormous, especially in hard-hit areas like Pacific Palisades and Altadena. Yet there has already been an outpouring of support.

Hats and sweatshirts with the slogan "Pali Strong" reflect the Pacific Palisades community's resilience and motivation to push forward. Neighbors are organizing recovery efforts through Zoom meetings and webinars. Residents have had to become well-versed in subjects they previously knew little about, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which leak into air and water supplies from burned pipes.

"We're all very resilient," Layne says. "Our community will rebuild."

## PROTECTIVE FIRE

Uncontrolled wildfires bring unimaginable devastation. In the early 20th century, effective marketing strategies like Smokey Bear and the Disney movie "Bambi" attempted to reduce human-caused wildfires. These strategies were so effective, however, that the U.S. public came to view fires primarily as negative anomalies.

Bobby Clontz '89, statewide fire manager and longleaf pine specialist at The Nature Conservancy, would like to change that perspective.

It's time for a new era in the public's perception of fire, Clontz contends, one in which people recognize fire as a normal and essential component of healthy ecosystems.

Fire is meant to be on the landscape. For millennia, it was a chronic presence, whether

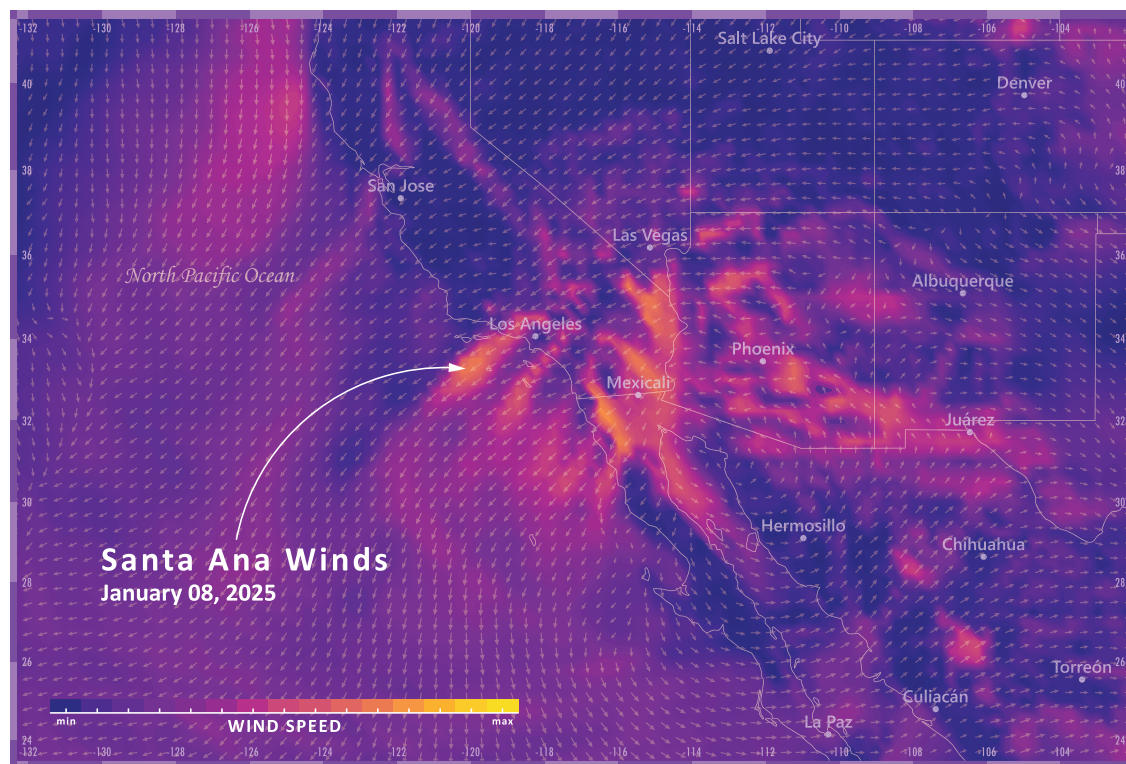


ILLUSTRATION: FRANK RAMSPOTT





through lightning strikes or Native American burning practices that managed wildlife and agriculture. But environmental changes such as drought and rising temperatures, combined with an overemphasis on fire suppression in the 20th century, have led to dangerous levels of uncontrolled fires.

Research from the National Interagency Fire Center shows that factors including warmer springs and drier summers have lengthened wildfire seasons in many areas. Worldwide, the frequency and intensity of the most extreme wildfires have more than doubled over the past 20 years, according to a study of satellite data published in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution*.

Land management techniques allow fire to play its natural role in keeping ecosystems healthy while minimizing the danger to people and property. One of those techniques, practiced by Clontz and The Nature Conservancy, involves conducting prescribed burns, which are deliberately planned and carefully supervised by fire management officials.

Managing a prescribed burn is markedly easier than fighting a wildfire. “For a prescribed burn, planning and preparation is completed ahead of time,” Clontz says. “The fire lines have been prepared in advance, and we’ve notified close neighbors, fire departments and, when required, received permits from regulatory agencies. Importantly, we have chosen the desired weather conditions, and

we don’t burn until the suitable weather conditions are forecasted.”

That careful planning stands in stark contrast to the rapidity of a wildfire response.

“In a wildfire, we don’t have the advantage of preparation. We are concurrently working to extinguish a wildfire while assessing weather, rate of spread and whether we have enough firefighters and engines, while also determining the risks to neighbors and traffic safety,” Clontz says.

When a wildfire breaks out in an area that’s recently had a prescribed burn, the fire will burn at a lower intensity and may burn itself out because of the reduced amount of debris.

“Used strategically,” Clontz says, “prescribed fire can be a very effective protective measure for people.”

In his role at The Nature Conservancy, Clontz uses prescribed fire as a tool for positive ecological outcomes, since many species evolved with fire and therefore developed adaptations to, or even a dependency on, fire.

The longleaf pine tree, for example, is a species that evolved with fire and requires regular burnings to maintain its health by removing brush competition. Native to the Southeastern United States, the longleaf pine’s range had collapsed from about one million acres in Virginia before 17th-century European settlement to only 200 individual trees

**A GLOWING SKY:**  
*Wildfires illuminate the hills of Southern California. According to researchers, wildfires have increased in frequency and intensity in the last decades.*

**PLANNING AHEAD:**  
*Prescribed fires, carefully  
planned and managed, help  
improve ecosystem health  
and reduce the damage  
caused by wildfires.*



by the 1990s. With careful ecological management, including regular prescribed burns, the longleaf pine range has been brought back to about 8,000 acres in Southeastern Virginia.

Clontz gravitated toward nature and the outdoors since his childhood on the Days Point peninsula near Smithfield, Virginia. His father and uncle were both outdoorsmen who showed him the beauty of nature. Clontz accompanied his uncle, a biologist for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, on adventures that once included taking measurements of a wild bear the department was studying. And his father, a watercolor painter, focused his art on waterfowl and marsh scenes.

“Between the two of them, I got to see the landscape through the eyes of a biologist and the eyes of an artist,” Clontz says.

When he arrived at William & Mary, Clontz was unsure of his direction, thinking that he’d perhaps pursue a major in business. But after a few semesters, he followed his passion for the outdoors toward an environmental science degree. Mitchell Byrd, director emeritus of the Center for Conservation Biology and Chancellor Professor Emeritus of Biology, and the late biology professor Ruth Beck were two of his most influential professors.

Clontz joined Beck’s group that traveled each spring to Grandview Nature Preserve in Hampton, Virginia, to post signs protecting the nesting areas of shorebirds. During the summer after graduation, he worked for Byrd as a hack site attendant, protecting and releasing peregrine falcon chicks.

Clontz enjoyed the ornithology work but knew his true interests were in the wetlands he had grown up around. He enrolled in a master’s program at Duke University, home of the renowned Wetland Center, and soon visited wetlands that recently had been burned.

“That was my introduction to fire ecology and the incredible diversity of plants that exist at this intersection of fire and wetlands,” he says.

After working in various consulting roles across North and South Carolina, Clontz joined The Nature Conservancy for a short-term internship in 2003 and as a full-time employee in 2007.

“When I came to the Conservancy, I was hired as a land steward to manage a site with red-cockaded woodpeckers that I had first learned about in Dr. Byrd’s class,” Clontz says.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers, an unusual species that excavates its cavities in live pine trees, had hit rock bottom in Virginia in 2002, with only two breeding pairs left in the state. Revitalizing the Virginia ecosystem, including bringing fire back to the landscape, has increased the number of red-cockaded woodpeckers to 94 as of December 2024.

## THE NEXT GENERATION

While fires burned across the Laynes’ Pacific Palisades neighborhood in January, nine W&M students started training to acquire Wildland Firefighter Type 2 certification as part of an internship program in land management and prescribed fire. The internship is led by Associate Professor of Biology Harmony Dagleish, who also teaches a fire ecology class.

To attain wildland firefighter certification and credit for the internship, students must complete coursework, training, a fitness test and at least 40 hours of volunteering on burn crews — including Clontz’s crew at The Nature Conservancy.

PHOTO: TIM SOFRANKO





**HANDS-ON TRAINING:**  
*Katie Barlow '26 participates in a prescribed burn during an internship program, gaining first-hand experience in land management strategies.*

“Uncontrolled fires cause loss of property and loss of life, as we’re seeing in places like California,” says Dagleish, who also teaches a fire ecology class. “If we do not change how we manage our ecosystems, then we’ll have more fire and will need more people to know how to manage it.”

The program she leads is therefore crucial to preparing for the types of environmental changes that scientists anticipate in the coming years.

Olivia Cunningham '25, a biology and environmental science major, was drawn to the internship program because she wanted an opportunity to help maintain ecosystems and habitats. This fall, she will begin a Ph.D. program at the University of Minnesota in ecology, evolution and behavior.

“Burning seems like a really destructive thing, but it’s necessary to maintain habitats that would otherwise not exist,” Cunningham says.

Fellow biology major Haytham Alsayed '25 also took part in the internship. Unlike most of the other students in the program, however, he is not new to firefighting. As preparation for medical school, he’s been volunteering as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and structural firefighter (combating fires in buildings) for the City of Williamsburg since the spring of his first year at W&M.

Alsayed has already noticed differences between wildland versus structural firefighting. “Structural firefighting is like a sprint. A structural incident usually doesn’t go more than a few hours in a normal single-family house. And maybe only a few minutes before the fire is under control,” he says. “Wildland firefighting is like a marathon. Those incidents can go for weeks or months, as we’ve seen in LA.”

Firefighters, both structural and wildland, undergo extensive training and education to minimize the risks to themselves and their colleagues while fighting fires.

W&M will provide replacement diplomas to any alumni who lost them in the LA wildfires. For more information, please contact Craig Anzalone '94, senior director of regional advancement for the western region, at [cranzalone@wm.edu](mailto:cranzalone@wm.edu).

There is an urgent need for trained wildland firefighters with hands-on experience, according to Steven Hubner, a retired forester from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service who serves as the expert supervisor for the internship.

The public is generally unaware of the benefits of prescribed burning. “People drive by the public road and see us doing a prescribed burn and call the fire department because they think there’s a wildfire,” Hubner says.

Dagleish says that many people who push back against prescribed burning worry about the fires getting out of control (a rare occurrence) and are unaware of the beneficial environmental impacts.

She hopes that students emerge from the internship with both practical, employable skills and a broader understanding that humans are not outside of the ecosystem but critical to its maintenance.

Hubner says that the internship program will give students a leg up in the job market: “If applications from students like these come in, and they already have fire training and they’ve already been out on some burns, those resumes go straight to the top.”

## COMMUNITY RECOVERY

If there is a need to change the narrative around fire, then there is also a need to change the narrative around fire recovery.

Haisu Huang, a Mellon Environmental Postdoctoral Scholar at William & Mary, studies the process of rebuilding and recovery in the wake of uncontrolled wildfires. Her approach from a sociological perspective, with an expertise in environmental sociology, enables her to think critically about the inequities involved in rebuilding, such as people’s access to resources and their needs for long-term recovery.

Huang’s dissertation research, conducted at the University of Oregon, focused on the community response to the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire along the McKenzie River in Oregon, about 50 miles east of Eugene. The wildfire started from a combination of downed power lines, extreme wind and dry weather close to the Holiday Farm RV Resort. It burned over 170,000 acres and destroyed more than 500 homes.

As a sociologist, Huang became especially interested in how the idea of “home” influenced the McKenzie residents’ decisions to rebuild.

The concept of home is subjective, but it has structures, Huang says: “There’s a physical dwelling, of course, but there are nonmaterial aspects as well, like social support and employment.”

Huang’s research focused on eight communities along the McKenzie River that were destroyed in the 2020 fire, including the town of Blue River. “It was very heartbreaking for the locals because there are a lot of historical and community landmarks in that town,” says Huang.

One landmark was the liquor store, a place that held more than alcohol. “It’s a place full of memories, full of connections,” she says.

Huang found that two groups emerged from their ethnographic fieldwork on the McKenzie. She called them the “old-timers” and the “newcomers.”

The old-timers often had strong generational ties to the place: They had either been born in the area or had moved there when they were young, with parents who worked in natural resource projects such as gold mining, timber logging and dam construction. In contrast, the newcomer community was drawn to the recreational nature of the area, a place popular for fishing and hiking, with mineral hot springs and resorts.

The two groups’ responses to the fires differed based on their understandings of the place.

“For the old-timers,” Huang says, “McKenzie was their one and only home. And because this place is home, they wanted to go back and rebuild.” Those residents’ identities were firmly tied to the place. Even though it had become a burn area, and even though there might be more fires in the future, they felt a familiarity and stability there.

In contrast, the newcomer group had a more tenuous connection to the place. Huang found that they prioritized economic factors, such as insurance, in their recovery efforts in addition to emotional factors.

Insurance was the first issue that newcomers raised in their conversations with Huang when they discussed rebuilding, for example, while it was less of a focus in conversations with old-timers.

The topic of insurance in fire recovery efforts is complex and plays a major role in rebuilding efforts.

“The fire survivors reported some insurance policies dictating that to get the maximum insurance benefits they would have to rebuild on exactly the same spot,” Huang says. “And if they don’t rebuild exactly where they were, they won’t get as much money.”

It’s a topic that has caused chaos and confusion in the wake of this year’s LA fires, too. Several major commercial insurance carriers pulled out of the market in recent years, including Allstate, Nationwide and State Farm.

Jon Layne has experienced the pressures and headaches of dealing with fire insurance in his own rebuilding efforts. “There’s not a day that goes by that I’m not dealing with insurance issues,” he says.

Ultimately, Huang argues, the choice to rebuild depends on a multitude of factors that center upon how the residents’ notions of home are embedded in the places where they live. Since the rebuilding effort takes years, residents must be deeply invested in the process.


## A GRAND CHALLENGE

The Laynes are determined to help rebuild their community. But they’re also focused on broader efforts to ensure a safe and healthy future for us all.

In late December 2024, the Laynes made a \$100,000 gift to William & Mary’s Institute for Integrative Conservation (IIC) to fund research for a regenerative agriculture project.

Regenerative agriculture focuses on sustainable farming practices that emphasize restoring





**HEALTHY FIRE:** Bobby Clontz '89 leads a prescribed burn at the Raccoon Creek Pinelands area in April. Clontz uses prescribed burning as a strategy to improve ecological health.



and enhancing soil health. Healthy soil (also a byproduct of fire) creates healthy ecosystems, healthy people and even a cleaner atmosphere through its carbon sequestration abilities.

Jon Layne believes improving soil health will be the key to solving a multitude of problems, including cancer — a cause to which he's become deeply devoted. "There's not a family I know without someone affected by that disease," he says. "My own father died of cancer, and my sister-in-law died of cancer." He currently serves on the Tower Cancer Research Foundation Board of Directors, chairing the board's development committee.

Layne's philanthropic interests — cancer research and agricultural health — are related, since a healthy environment yields healthy communities, he says. A documentary on regenerative agriculture opened his eyes to the importance of how food production influences both human and environmental health, and he's become interested in the links between food consumption and health.

"Sustainable food systems are central to effective conservation," says John Swaddle, faculty director of the IIC and professor of biology at W&M, who will be the faculty lead on the regenerative agriculture research project. "The production, distribution, consumption and waste generated from traditional food systems account for a large proportion of humanity's negative impacts on the planet — yet we obviously need to feed our growing human population with nutritious and healthy foods."

These are major issues that will require enormous effort. But Layne is undaunted. Recently retired from a corporate law career, he has no interest in a mundane retirement.

"I have a passion for solving grand challenges," he says.

His drive to solve these grand challenges stems in part from his background at W&M: "My William & Mary education gave me the analytical skills and ways of thinking that make me intellectually curious."

The IIC project's team will be particularly interested in the perspectives of farmers, the group that would implement regenerative agriculture practices but that is often left out of national conversations on the subject. Interviews, focus groups and shadowing the farmers will provide insights for the researchers to develop a

roadmap for adopting and scaling regenerative practices.

"Through the generous support of the Layne family, a multidisciplinary team of students and faculty from the IIC will investigate the barriers and incentives to scale regenerative agriculture practices in the mid-Atlantic region of the Coastal Plain, covering the Carolinas, through Virginia and up to Maryland," says Swaddle.

Layne, who served as a member of the Class of 1975's 50th reunion committee leading up to its celebration in late April, is enthusiastic about his collaboration with the IIC, calling its work "quite impressive." He is also impressed by the university's recent developments.

Two historic gifts to the university in the past year have shown Layne that W&M is in an electrifying time of growth: \$100 million from Jane Batten HON '17, L.H.D. '19 to establish the Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences & VIMS and \$50 million from Dr. R. Todd Stravitz '82 and the Brunckhorst Foundations to establish the Stravitz Scholars Program, which will provide full tuition support for students seeking a bachelor's degree in coastal and marine sciences at the Batten School.

"William & Mary is on a roll. It's exciting to see," Layne says.

## NEW LIFE, NEW HOPE

Fire can be a terrible force of destruction, and it can be a beautiful herald of growth.

In the wake of the LA wildfires, the Laynes grieved the loss of their children's homes and neighborhood. At the same time, they celebrated new life: Their daughter gave birth to a son at the University of California, Los Angeles hospital as the fires were burning out.

"That beautiful baby boy is a phoenix out of the ashes — literally," says Layne.

New life brings hope, a reminder of the beauty of the world and the need to take care of it.

As the Laynes and all of Los Angeles rebuild their lives and their homes, William & Mary is working beside them, proactive in the prevention of uncontrolled fire and the promotion of prescribed burning and sustainable land management practices. And through these efforts, the communities in which we live will continue to be resilient, rising anew from the ashes. 🌱

PHOTO: ALFRED HERCZEG P '23





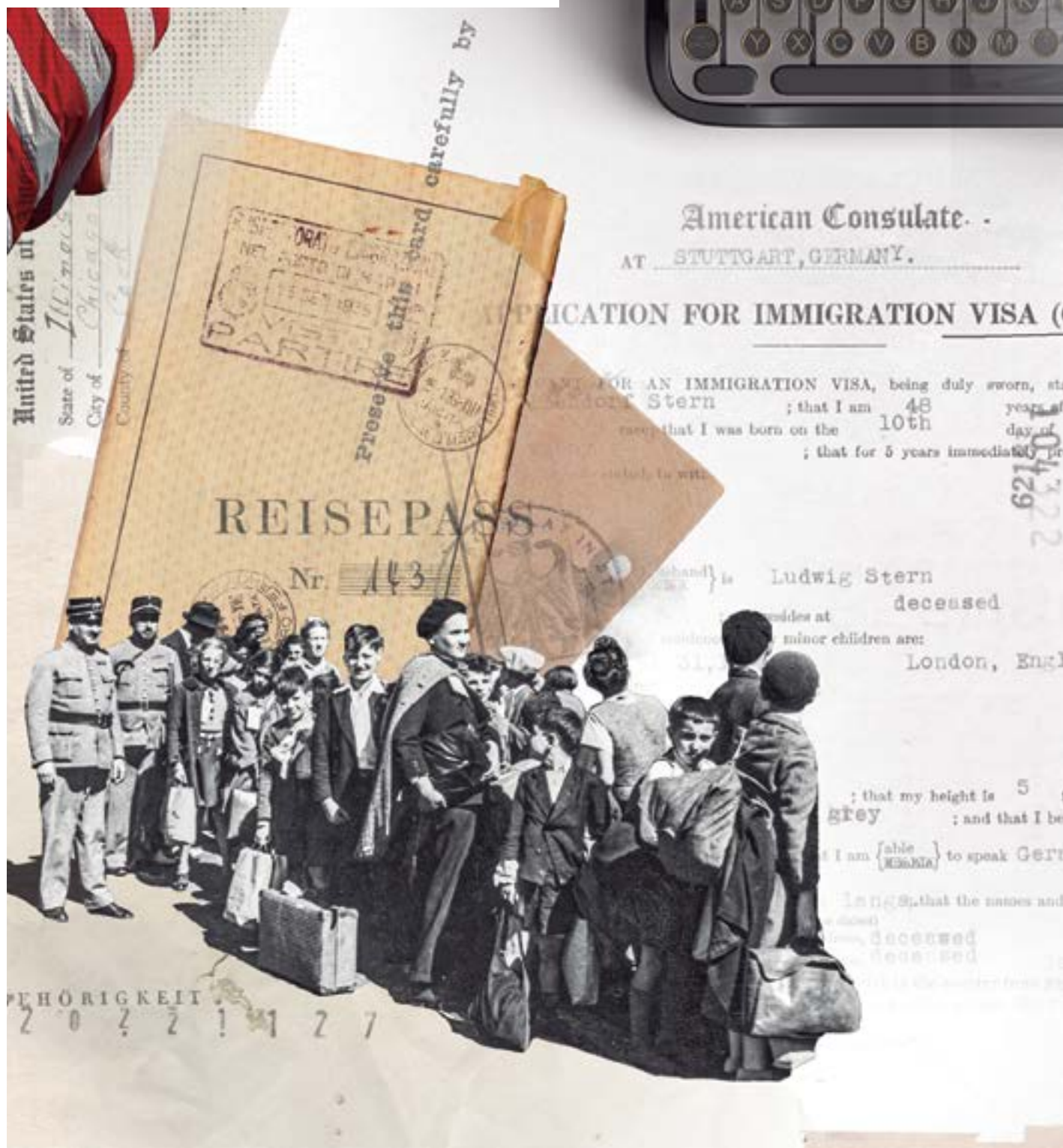


**REGENERATION:** *Pacific Palisades resident Jon Layne '75 and his family were deeply affected by the LA fires. He is supporting an Institute for Integrative Conservation project studying regenerative agriculture, which focuses on improving soil health and longevity.*



# HISTORY *in* HINDSIGHT

**CROWD-SOURCED DATABASE PROJECT  
COORDINATED BY ERIC SCHMALZ '10  
REVEALS WHAT AMERICANS KNEW  
ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST AT THE TIME**







WARNING SIGNS APPEARED EARLY. THEY WERE EVIDENT TO THE WORLD LONG BEFORE CROWDS AT THE 1936 SUMMER OLYMPICS IN BERLIN DISPLAYED "HEIL, HITLER" SALUTES. BEFORE GERMANY INVADED POLAND ON SEPT. 1, 1939, AND ENGLAND AND FRANCE DECLARED WAR SOON AFTERWARD. BEFORE AIR-RAID SIRENS BLARED DURING THE LONDON BLITZ, AND JEWISH RESIDENTS WERE FORCED INTO GHETTOS IN EASTERN EUROPE. BEFORE MILLIONS OF JEWS WERE DEPORTED TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN CROWDED CATTLE CARS.

An editorial in William & Mary's student-run Flat Hat newspaper on April 4, 1933, sounded an alarm about censorship: "The Hitler government has clamped a rigid barrier upon the sending of news stories to other nations."

It was just over two months since Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany and began forming a one-party dictatorship. Appearing under the headline "The Pogrom Program," the Flat Hat editorial followed reports of Hitler's Nazi Party organizing a nationwide boycott of Jewish-owned businesses on April 1, 1933.

<sup>1</sup> While the editorial acknowledged anti-German bias from some of the external news sources, the writer was troubled by the treatment of Jewish citizens and concluded, "There can be little doubt that race hatred in all [its] most malignant forms is rampant in the Reich." The editorial writer foresaw dark days ahead

*story* | *photo illustrations*  
**TINA ESHLEMAN** | **NADIA RADIC**

for Germany: “No nation, people or government can sow the seeds of hatred, bigotry, oppression, persecution and cruelty, and not be called to account sooner or later. The reckoning that they will pay will probably be in the form of bloodshed.”

The Flat Hat editorial is one of about 55,700 articles included in a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum project coordinated by Eric Schmalz '10, a former William & Mary history major and Monroe Scholar. Titled “History Unfolded: US Newspapers and the Holocaust,” the project looks at how newspapers across the country covered specific events in the 1930s and '40s with the goal of understanding what Americans might have known about the Holocaust during that time.

When the museum launched “History Unfolded,” Schmalz says, “there was a misperception that Americans in the 1930s and 1940s knew hardly anything about how Nazis persecuted Jews until the liberation of the concentration camps, or didn’t have access to that information. The museum wanted to test that hypothesis and ask how local newspapers were actually reporting on this. Up to that point, a lot of research had looked at larger newspapers. But we didn’t know as much about smaller daily and weekly newspapers. The research typically wouldn’t include places like Williamsburg, or like rural Iowa or Alaska.”

Over a nearly eight-year period, more than 6,400 high school and college students and adult citizen historians across the country contributed articles from their community libraries, historical societies and archives. Their research resulted in a searchable digital database at [newspapers.ushmm.org](http://newspapers.ushmm.org). The “History Unfolded” project helped to inform parts of the museum’s ongoing “Americans and the Holocaust” special exhibition in Washington, D.C., and a related traveling exhibition. The project also provided material for the 2022 PBS documentary film “The U.S. and the Holocaust,” directed by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein.

The project, exhibition and documentary provide insights into what people in the United States knew about the threats posed by Nazism. Domestic

conditions in the United States, including unemployment during the Great Depression and national security concerns, as well as antisemitism and racism, shaped Americans’ responses, Schmalz says. Now, 80 years after the end of World War II in Europe on May

#### **‘HISTORY FROM BELOW’**

As someone who grew up in the Washington area’s Northern Virginia suburbs visiting museums and Civil War battlefields, Schmalz says he’s always been interested in history, but he had little concept of what histori-

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**IT’S OFTEN A SHOCK TO STUDENTS TO SEE THAT REPORTING DIDN’T NECESSARILY PICK UP ON WHAT WE NOW RECOGNIZE AS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS OF THE HISTORICAL EVENTS AS THEY UNFOLDED.**

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8, 1945, democratic nations still wrestle with how to respond to international crises — and what their responsibility should be to people displaced by violence and persecution.

The museum avoids drawing parallels to current events, however, Schmalz says: “We find it is much more powerful to present the history and then allow people to draw relevance and make the connections themselves. Our curator of the exhibition often says we don’t tell people what to think, but what to think *about*. And I love that.”

ans do until he got to William & Mary. “I thought that the way historians did their work was they looked at other historians’ books, and they essentially rewrote them,” he says.

Classes he took with history professors such as Philip Daileader changed that perception: “Professor Daileader would get us to think critically about the past and history, and he would say, ‘If I could create as much doubt in you as humanly possible, I have done my job.’ The notion was to be a critical analyzer of historical documents and



not to take anything just immediately on face value.”

Most influential for Schmalz was Lu Ann Homza, the James Pickney Harrison Chair and Professor of History, who encouraged his interest in early modern European history, church history and

archival research funded through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

“I was studying the 16th-century church in Spain and some of the issues that parishioners were having,” he says, adding that priests were often absent because they divided their time among

not saying Mass correctly or who was drinking or gambling too much. That showed a side of Catholicism to him that I don’t know if he had been aware of yet in terms of the challenges that the Catholic Church was facing in those moments in time.”



Reformation studies. He recalls Homza showing him how to look up original documents about early church reforms on microfilm at Swem Library.

As a Monroe Scholar, Schmalz had an opportunity to spend part of the summer after his sophomore year delving further into the archives at Swem and exploring resources at the Library of Congress and Catholic University of America. The next spring, when he was in a study abroad program in Toledo, Spain, Homza invited him to join her in Pamplona as one of three students doing

multiple parishes. “It was so fascinating. I remember holding those original documents in my hands and thinking, ‘What an incredible experience.’”

Schmalz investigated “history from below as well as history from above,” Homza says. “He could read treatises by important theologians and bishops in Spain in the 16th century, but then he could also go to Pamplona and look at complaints by parishioners in tiny villages about their local priests, and how they really wanted their bishop to step in and help them with a priest who was

That research background later helped Schmalz secure a job at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2015 as the citizen history community manager for the “History Unfolded” project. After receiving a master’s degree in education from the University of Virginia, Schmalz taught high school history for about three years. When he read the museum’s job listing, he saw an opportunity to blend his research interests and background as an educator.

“They wanted somebody with teaching experience who had done historical

research and knew how to look into archives and databases,” he says. “What I thought was so cool when I saw that job description and when I interviewed was a specific project goal to help develop students’ research and analysis skills — and to foster a love of history.”

Homza sees Schmalz as well suited for his role at the Holocaust Memorial Museum. “It’s the best of both worlds in a lot of ways,” she says. “He gets to do what we call public-facing history and have an impact on the communities with whom he’s communicating, and also still do all the research that he loved to do when he was an undergraduate.”

### CROWD-SOURCED RESEARCH

As the museum started to plan the “Americans and the Holocaust” initiative, which would be centered around a new special exhibition, a team of educators at the museum reconsidered the usual pattern of creating an exhibition and then designing educational materials.

“They thought, ‘What if we invited students ahead of time to do authentic historical research in support of a forthcoming initiative? How interesting would it be if we created a program where we had students learn history by doing history, and perhaps some of the research might even be able to be incorporated into the exhibition?’” Schmalz says.

The project initially focused on high school students around the United States, but then extended to college students and adults. Participants researched newspapers on microfilm or online archives and uploaded documents to the museum’s database. Schmalz himself researched articles in the Flat Hat and contributed several of them to the museum’s digital database.

W&M History Department Professor and Chair Tuska Benes describes the “History Unfolded” project as “an intensely democratic approach to understanding the past, because it allows voices to come to the forefront that might be overlooked in more traditional approaches that rely on state archives or a top down perspective.”

As part of a summer course Benes teaches at William & Mary on Nazi Germany, she assigns students to look at how American newspapers reported on the emergence of fascism across Europe.

“We’re often struck by the disconnect between the way people were viewing these events as they unfolded and how we perceive them today,” she says. “So it’s often a shock to students to see that reporting didn’t necessarily pick up on what we now recognize as the most significant implications of the historical events as they unfolded. There are major milestones that, retrospectively, we realize indicated an escalation of Nazi racial policy leading up to the mass murders that took place in the concentration camps.”

Among those events were the Nuremberg Race Laws of September 1935, which denied Jews German citizenship and political rights because they were not considered part of what the Nazis deemed the superior “Aryan” race, Benes says.

“At the time, people were trying to normalize that,” she says. “They didn’t recognize just how drastic and pernicious the initiatives were.”

Snow College in Ephraim, Utah, was one of the schools that participated in the “History Unfolded” project. Carol Kunzler, an instruction and outreach librarian there, says the “Americans and the Holocaust” traveling exhibition came to the college in 2023 after being delayed two years by COVID-19. In the meantime, about 70 students participated in research for the project, contributing 160 articles to the database.

Some student researchers looked beyond Utah to other parts of the United States to help Schmalz’s team fill in geographic gaps. During the process, students would sometimes discover names of family members they recognized in sections of the newspapers not directly related to the research. In writing about the project, some of them reported being surprised by the fears and biases they observed in the newspaper articles, Kunzler says.

Kunzler herself looked at newspapers in Indiana and the Midwest, where her ancestors lived during the time of the Holocaust.

“It became a very emotional journey for me, seeing the amount of evil that was going on and Americans not realizing the full extent of what was happening,” she says. “In the exhibition, there was a quote from a soldier who was shocked at the horror of what they were seeing when they finally liberated people in the concentration camps.”

Kunzler was struck by how early Hitler began making changes in Germany before the official start of World War II and how he was able to seize power. She also found it interesting to see how newspapers reported the events.

“In smaller newspapers, there would be a tiny article that was maybe 10 or 15 sentences about what was going on in Germany, while those in bigger cities might have full-page spreads,” she says. “I was surprised, in some cases, by how little attention the events were getting.”

### LESSONS FROM THE PAST

In addition to how rural and small-town newspapers covered events, there are also articles from Jewish publications that covered events in more detail and from African American newspapers that made connections to racism and discrimination in the United States, Schmalz says.

Then, as now, Americans wrestled with questions of foreign policy and immigration, with some believing the U.S. should intervene and others taking a more hands-off approach.

Among other topics, researchers looked into news coverage of proposed legislation in 1939 known as the Wagner-Rogers bill, to admit 20,000 German refugee children to the United States.

“Americans as a whole were not in favor of working around that immigration quota,” Schmalz says, noting that the legislation died in the Senate Immigration Committee. Project volunteers found letters to the editor on the subject: “Some people said we should help our fellow humans who are living abroad; others said we should take care of our own children first.”

Opinion writers in the Flat Hat also expressed divergent views at various times. For example, editorial board member Sidney Jaffe ’39 wrote in an op-ed column on March 1, 1938, just before Germany annexed Austria, that “The time has passed for idealism and vague looking toward the future. The democratic countries must decide whether to unite for action or remain as individuals, preaching loudly but incapable of action by virtue of that very individualism. The former course may easily mean the restoration of world order;



The New York Times

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the latter may mean the domination of fascism.”

On the other hand, an unsigned Flat Hat editorial on March 11, 1941, expressed agreement with U.S. Sen. Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, who opposed U.S. entry into World War II. “There is a determined, organized minority at work using every clever device possible to push us into this conflict,” the editorial states. “We take our stand with the 81% of the American people who, with Senator Wheeler, want to keep peace for America.” It’s worth noting that the Flat Hat’s editor-in-chief at the time, Carl Muecke ’41, later served in World War II as a Marine Corps major who worked with German defectors to spy on the Nazi regime.

While the newspaper project is no longer collecting submissions, Schmalz continues to work with educators to incorporate “History Unfolded” research into their classrooms.

“We are an educational institution, so we want to be able to support teachers,” he says. “That’s something that I’m passionate about.”

Schmalz currently serves as community manager and project lead for the museum’s “Americans and the Holocaust” traveling exhibition tour, which is in partnership with the American Library Association. The exhibition is visiting

100 libraries across the country from 2021 to 2026. It will be at the Virginia Beach Public Library/Tidewater Community College Joint-Use Library through July 2, and the library is partnering with the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater (UJFT) on some of its programming. UJFT’s announcement about the exhibition notes that the organizations involved “aim to deepen a collective understanding of Holocaust history and encourage critical thinking about today’s challenges.”

As people around the world observe the 80th anniversary of the end of World

War II, “it’s imperative that all of us, as human beings, don’t lose sight of the large impact of the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity,” says Elka Mednick, director of the UJFT’s Holocaust Commission. “As [author and Holocaust survivor] Elie Wiesel said, once you learn a story from a survivor, you become a witness and you become a steward of those facts. So when we read the stories and see the photographs in the exhibition, we all become witnesses. It becomes our responsibility to make sure those stories are not forgotten.” ☺

“WE’RE OFTEN STRUCK BY THE DISCONNECT BETWEEN THE WAY PEOPLE WERE VIEWING THESE EVENTS AS THEY UNFOLDED AND HOW WE PERCEIVE THEM TODAY.”







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STORY BY  
**NATHAN WARTERS**

WITH REPORTING BY  
**TINA ESHLEMAN &  
CATHERINE TYSON '20**





# 'IT WAS ALL JOY'

WILLIAM & MARY'S WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM SAVORED EVERY  
MOMENT OF ITS HISTORIC JOURNEY TO THE NCAA TOURNAMENT



## It was a good night for a reflective walk.

William & Mary Women's Basketball coach Erin Dickerson Davis exited the Moody Center in the late hours of March 22 with her parents, Kim and Bryan, by her side. An hour earlier, her team capped its first trip to the NCAA Tournament with a loss to the Final Four-bound University of Texas.

The final game's result hardly seemed relevant as the three disappeared into the warm night in Austin, Texas, walking into the light of a skyline of towering buildings toward their hotel.

It was an opportunity to savor a quiet moment at the end of the pleasantly loud and sometimes chaotic experience of March Madness, the first for either of the university's women's or men's basketball teams.

As they walked toward the silhouette of a city that boasts one of the fastest-growing metro areas in the country, they could have easily drawn parallels to the meteoric rise of the W&M Women's Basketball program.

## PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS



### CASSIDY GEDDES '27

*Geddes tallied 14 points and five rebounds in the NCAA Tournament game against Texas. She was*

*a critical contributor throughout the postseason. Among her many highlights were 26 points, seven rebounds and five assists in William & Mary's 74-66 overtime win over North Carolina A&T in the second round of the CAA Championships.*

Nine days earlier, William & Mary embarked on an astonishing run in which the team won four games in four days to claim the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) Championship, which clinched a spot in the NCAA Tournament. The Tribe then cemented its foray into March Madness by defeating High Point in its inaugural tournament game on March 20.

The team's final contest two nights later against the mighty Texas Longhorns, who were ranked fifth nationally after sharing the SEC regular-season championship, was daunting, but the Tribe approached it with the same excitement and optimism.

William & Mary hung tough with Texas early before the Longhorns pulled away. That the Tribe reached this point was a credit to the belief the coaches and players had in themselves. They overcame great odds to make program history.

Belief became the team's rallying cry throughout its postseason run.

"For us to be able to compete against a team like Texas, it is just a testament to belief," Dickerson Davis said. "I know you guys have heard me say it a million times. I'll say it again. I'll get it tattooed somewhere at some point, but that's it. That's what this has shown us."

The walk toward the bright lights later that night was an opportunity to contemplate what the team accomplished and to look ahead.

"We were fighting to get here, and now we've had a taste of it," Dickerson Davis said. "We can't go backwards."

## A RESOUNDING REBOUND

Dickerson Davis' wardrobe choices throughout the season demonstrated the respect and admiration she has for her players.

Each game, she donned a different T-shirt emblazoned with a baby picture of one of her players. She wore images of her four seniors for the final home contest of the season, and then for the Texas game, she broke out a black T-shirt that featured images of the entire team bracketed with the words "Tribe 2025 CAA Champs."

"These are my babies," said Dickerson Davis, who is affectionately called "Coach E" by her players. "They have been through everything. They have given everything to be at William & Mary. They chose this place, and they have completely bought into me and my staff and what this university stands for. To see the success that they're having right now, I could melt."

Relaxing in the courtyard at the Downright Austin hotel during the late afternoon on March 18, Aislinn Gibson '27 and Monet Dance '27 affirmed the coach's comments.

"She cares a lot about us individually," Dance said. "Her coaching is only a fraction of what she does."

As an illustration of the team's close-knit nature, Gibson told how the players surprised Dickerson Davis by showing up at her house one night last summer for an impromptu sleepover. Unfazed, the coach welcomed them in, ordered some food and watched a Channing Tatum movie with them.

"It's such a family vibe," said Gibson, who grew up in Massachusetts. "We were all squeezed together on couches and the floor, bonding. We love each other a lot and we get along so well off the court. That streamlined how we were able to be on the court as well."

The road to the NCAA Tournament was filled with Texas-sized impediments that the Tribe cleared thanks to the leadership of a cadre of seasoned upperclassmen and the resilience of a steady young core.

The more experienced players kept the season afloat when things seemed to be spiraling out of control.

"My veterans stepped in when it was time," Dickerson Davis said.

BEN KENNEDY '05, FORMER MANAGING EDITOR OF THE W&M ALUMNI MAGAZINE, LONGED FOR THE CHANCE TO WRITE ABOUT THE TRIBE MAKING IT TO THE NCAA TOURNAMENT. READ HIS TAKE AT [MAGAZINE.WM.EDU/KENNEDY-HOOPS](https://magazine.wm.edu/kennedy-hoops).





## PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS



### BELLA NASCIMENTO '25

Nascimento scored 580 points in 2024-2025, capping her William & Mary career with the second-highest single-season scoring output in school

history. She netted 33 points and 11 rebounds in the team's comeback victory over Campbell in the CAA Championship game and then dropped 24 in the Tribe's NCAA Tournament First Four victory over High Point.

**WE'RE DANCIN':** The final buzzer of William & Mary's CAA Championship victory over Campbell on March 16 set off a wild celebration. From left, Tribe players Cassidy Geddes '27, Anahi-Lee Cauley '25 and Bella Nascimento '25 revel in their victory.



PHOTOS: JIM AGNEW





## PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS



### NATALIE FOX '28

*Fox logged the program's first NCAA Tournament field goal with a jumper in the first quarter of the Tribe's 69-63*

*win over High Point. Her contributions in the fourth quarter were critical to the win. She dominated in the paint, netting a pair of buckets, six rebounds and two blocked shots while making all six of her shots from the foul line.*

## PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS



### REBEKAH FRISBY- SMITH '24, M.S.B.A. '25

*Frisby-Smith finished as William & Mary's record*

*holder for games played (132). She started against Campbell in the title game of the conference tournament and contributed 12 points on four 3-pointers in 38 minutes of play.*

William & Mary closed out the regular season by losing seven of its final eight games, dropping to the ninth seed in the conference tournament in Washington, D.C.

The challenge was clear. To claim a championship, the Tribe would have to win four games in four days against opponents it went 0-6 against in the regular season.

Before W&M's rematch with Hofstra in the first round of the CAA tournament on March 13, senior guard Bella Nascimento '25 gave a fiery speech to help put the situation in proper perspective for her teammates.

She, along with the other three seniors — Kayla Beckwith '23, M.B.A. '25, Rebekah Frisby-Smith '24, M.S.B.A. '25 and Anahi-Lee Cauley '25 — didn't have much time left in their college careers, and fizzling out in the CAA tournament wasn't how they wanted things to end.

"I was like, 'Yo, are we quitters? Like, what's the vibe? Because this is like quitter energy. We need to band together, need to stick together ... We just need to play together and play for each other,'" Nascimento said.

Her message resonated clearly. William & Mary beat Hofstra, CAA regular-season champion North Carolina A&T, Drexel and Campbell on consecutive days to complete its miraculous run to the title. In the championship game, the Tribe trailed the Campbell Camels 14-0 to start and was behind by as many as 13 points in the third quarter before coming back to win.

"We believed in ourselves," Dickerson Davis said. "We believed in our coaches. We believed in our teammates. We believed in each other and what our capabilities are. We always knew we had the talent on the team, but we just had to put all the pieces together."

Nascimento, who posted the second-highest scoring output (580) in program history this season, was named MVP of the CAA Championships after averaging 18.8 points over the four contests.

"We knew going into CAAs that it was going to be four games in four days, and we kind of called it our 'Ultimate Revenge Tour,'" sophomore guard Cassidy Geddes '27 said.



“We wanted to see all the teams that had beaten us, especially the teams that beat us by double figures. We just took it day by day. We never looked too far ahead. We knew it was going to take belief and staying together.”

## NOTHING BUT NET

Throughout her career, Dickerson Davis has strived to prove that academic achievement and athletic success don't have to be mutually exclusive. Before taking her first head coaching job at William & Mary in 2022, she thrived at other academically distinguished universities.

A Chicago native, Dickerson Davis was a four-year captain at Northwestern and later worked assistant coaching jobs at a host of universities, including Georgetown and Wake Forest.

Upon her arrival at William & Mary, she told the players that her goal was to end the season as one of the top four teams in the CAA Conference, something she helped them accomplish in 2022-2023 for only the second time in 24 years. “They looked at me like I had a hundred heads ... but I said this is what I believe we can do,” she recalled.

The coach built up their confidence and instructed them to read books such as “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team” by Patrick Lencioni. When she laid the groundwork, Dickerson Davis set out to build a program that embraced success in the classroom and on the court with equal vigor.

“In my first meeting with the team, I said, ‘I don’t want people to think of us as the smart girls that just happen to play basketball. I want you guys to be ballers that happen to be brilliant,’” she said.

Beckwith, from Laurel, Maryland, is a prime example of that marriage of academic and athletic success. She could have walked after earning her undergraduate degree in three years in 2023, but Dickerson Davis persuaded her to return for two more seasons while earning her MBA.

“Coach E just kept reassuring me that she wanted me here. She was going to build her program and wanted me to help lay the foundation for what was to come, and I can definitely say now that I’m super glad I stayed,” Beckwith said.

Geddes, a finance major from Hickory, North Carolina, said playing at William & Mary — with its reputation for high achievement in and out of the classroom — is a privilege.

“I have the ability and the gifts to be able to do this, and not many people get to experience these high levels of academics and basketball,” she said. “I just feel grateful every day.”

During a gathering for alumni, family and friends in Austin before the High Point game, Geddes’ parents recalled that despite the team’s inconsistency throughout the regular season, their daughter predicted going into the CAA tournament that the Tribe would win.

“She said, ‘I know we’re better than we’re playing,’” said Leonard Geddes P ’27, a former football player at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

A basketball player since first grade, Cassidy Geddes contributed her skill and determination to winning teams throughout her elementary, middle and high school years. Her father recalled a game when 8-year-old Cassidy’s team was two points down in the final seconds. The coach called a timeout and told the players they needed to make a 3-point shot.

“Cassidy gets the ball. It’s the first 3-pointer she’s ever attempted, and she makes it,” he said, still a little awestruck.

“She has always been the most self-driven person I know,” said her mother, Cindy Geddes P ’27. “She’s driven in every area. She’s the student who sits in the front row of the class.”

That determination to achieve by Geddes and her teammates and coaches is what fueled the Tribe’s belief throughout the season.

## PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS



### MONET DANCE '27

Dance scored 27 points on 10-of-13 shooting in the Tribe’s 74-66 overtime win in the second round of the CAA

Championships against conference regular-season champion North Carolina A&T. Her layup in the extra period gave William & Mary its final lead, and then she nailed a 3-pointer to push the advantage to five.



**BRIGHT FUTURE:** The Tribe followed the lead of its quartet of seniors, but it also boasted a group of young players who elevated their play in crunch time. Sophomore guard Monet Dance '27, for example, posted the best single-season 3-point percentage in program history (43.6%) and was named to the CAA All-Tournament team.

It's also why they aspire to so much more. They see this year's success as a springboard for more achievement in the future for all of William & Mary's athletics teams.

That will be made even more achievable with the new W&M Athletics Complex that will include the 36,000-square-foot multiuse Mackesy Sports Performance Center. Dubbed "The Mack," the facility will include strength and conditioning areas, study spaces, a sports medicine area, a full-size practice court for basketball and volleyball, and refurbished locker rooms. (See photos from the "topping off" ceremony on page 16.)

The facility upgrade was made possible by the *All In* campaign for W&M Athletics, which raised \$57.2 million for the university's 23 Division I varsity teams.

"The school always talks about excellence, and excellence never settles," Geddes said. "You just keep setting the bar even higher, and I think that's what

William & Mary exemplifies right now — always pushing forward and breaking new ceilings."

## A WELCOME ASSIST

After William & Mary's final game, the Moody Center was mostly empty, save for a gathering of Tribe fans and family members who weren't ready for the experience to end.

After a brief cooling off period following the team's season-ending loss to the Longhorns, the players emerged from the locker room and ran back through the tunnel toward the court. They were showered with cheers.

The players climbed into the seats and hugged their loved ones while reveling in their last moments in the arena. Only minutes earlier, the place was packed — with the hometown Texas fans filling most of the seats — for the biggest game in William & Mary Women's Basketball history.

"It was all joy," Cauley said. "Yes, we lost, and I would have been way happier if we won, but I wouldn't have wanted to lose with any other team. We did not back down. We did not fold. We kept fighting, and we believed in one another.

"To get to this stage and play with an SEC team and realize they have All-Americans, they have all these high-level athletes. Well, so do we. And just to see that we were close in the game, it just gave us more confidence than we had before."

For Nascimento, one of the biggest highlights of William & Mary's time in Texas was the turnout of Tribe fans.

She said she was amazed by the sendoffs at the team hotel. William & Mary supporters lined the

## PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS



### ANAHI-LEE CAULEY '25

*Cauley, who led the Tribe with 2.3 assists per game, dished out four helpers in the Tribe's upset of CAA regular-season champion*

*North Carolina A&T in the conference tournament's second round. She put on a show in the team's final game, logging 11 points on 5-of-6 shooting against Final Four-bound Texas.*







entrance, and the W&M Dance Team and Pep Band performed as the players, coaches and staff made their way to the bus.

Former players were among the Tribe faithful who traveled to Austin for W&M's NCAA Tournament debut. Dr. Christin Gethers '04 made the trip from Louisiana and met up with her former teammate and roommate Kelly Ercole McMillan '04 from Northern Virginia.

"I'm so proud of them," said Gethers, an anesthesiologist with Ochsner Health in New Orleans. "I'm beaming like a parent."

When Gethers and McMillan played in the early 2000s, the women's basketball team wasn't known for its winning record. It went 8-20 in 2002-2003, for example.

"I think there are a lot of us who have paved the way to hope for this moment," said McMillan, now vice president of sales at American Express. "It's inspiring to see the group that did it. It's the right coaching staff with the right group of players."

Gethers was impressed by how well the team worked together. "They've been focused on supporting the 'hot hand' who's going to lead that night," she said.

At the arena, a lively fan section provided support during both games. William & Mary President Katherine Rowe was one of the most vocal, leading cheers and sharing her excitement throughout.

Jaclyn Iannucci '16 and her husband, Jack Wenzel, drove two hours from College Station, Texas, where Iannucci is a neuroscience postdoctoral fellow, to see the Tribe's first NCAA Tournament game on March 20 — a win over fellow 16 seed High Point in the First Four.

"Finally, one of the teams made it to the tournament," Iannucci said. "I had to be here."

Also attending was University of Texas School of Law professor and former W&M Law School faculty member Mechele Dickerson P '25, whose son, Josh McCormick '25, was on the W&M football and track teams. At the pregame reception in the Downright Austin hotel, she was wearing a sparkly yellow cowboy hat, Tribe T-shirt and yellow pants. "If things go the way I hope they do, I'll be back Saturday wearing burnt orange," she said. "But I am Tribe today."

Events sprang up all over Williamsburg for fans to congregate and watch the ESPN2 telecasts of the games. Hundreds of students packed into the Sadler Center during the matchup with High Point to cheer for



**METHOD TO THE MADNESS:** *William & Mary soaked up all the trappings of its first trip to the NCAA Tournament. Natalie Fox '28, who locked down the paint in the Tribe's First Four win over High Point, was a frequent visitor to the interview stage, along with many of her teammates. It was an experience packed with many memorable moments. Opposite page: W&M students watching a telecast at Kaplan Arena cheer as the Tribe takes on the Texas Longhorns.*

TOP PHOTO: JIM AGNEW; BOTTOM PHOTO: ABBY LACHANCE





**TOTAL TEAM EFFORT:** *The Tribe benefited from a cast of contributors during its run to the CAA Championship. When someone made a big play, the bench was ready to erupt with excitement.*

## PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS



**KAYLA  
BECKWITH '23,  
M.B.A. '25**

*Beckwith received her undergraduate degree in 2023 but decided to come back for two more years to help build the program. She finished her career ranked 13th in school history in blocks (60). She swatted two shots in the semifinals of the CAA Championships and made a pair of buckets in the NCAA Tournament game against Texas.*

the Tribe, and more than 800 fans filed into Kaplan Arena to watch a television feed of the Texas game.

Paul's Deli in New Town buzzed with activity at a March 20 gathering of W&M alumni, students, coaches and local residents.

"The fact that the women have made it this far really shows how important athletics is for our university," said Don Beck '64, P '90, P '93, G '23, G '26, G '27. "How many times do you get 100-plus W&M people, of all different generations and affiliations, in a room together to cheer on the Tribe? Athletics has the power to do that."

Former W&M cheerleader Carol Evans '64, G '19 sewed her varsity letter on her sweater for the occasion. "It's a really special night, and great exposure for William & Mary Athletics and the university," she said "These young people are truly amazing."

Robyn Lady '90 drove from Northern Virginia to be in Williamsburg for the watch party.

"I wanted to be with my people, with the Tribe," she said. "I watched the women's team win the CAA Championship game on Saturday and was choking up. What they did was so hard to do. They were down 14-0 early in the game. People thought it was all over, but I'm a loyal team supporter. I never walk out on my team until the game is over. And what do you know? They somehow turned it around and won. I get emotional just thinking about it. It's just phenomenal. Truly phenomenal."

Former W&M Pep Band member Caroline Semmelmeier '18 recalled watching the men's basketball team fall in the 2015 CAA Championship game with an NCAA Tournament berth on the line. "Going back to my dorm that night after the game, I remember wishing that I'd get to see us in the NCAA in my lifetime. And here I am, 10 years later, watching the women crushing their first game in the tournament. It's a dream come true for me."

At the Moody Center in Austin, parents grew hoarse as they cheered for their daughters. Geddes looked toward her parents and grinned as they celebrated one of her baskets against Texas. Cauley swished a 3-pointer in the closing minutes of the final game — her third made 3 of the season — and lit up at the cascade of applause.

PHOTOS: JIM AGNEW



Natalie Fox '28 had the fans on their feet with her clutch play in the fourth quarter against High Point. She also had fans back home going crazy.

"One of the things I'm probably never going to forget is all of the overwhelming support we're receiving from our school and our staff," Fox said. "There's watch parties all over Williamsburg, and we're just seeing videos of that. That's definitely going to stick with me."

## TO THE VICTOR GOES THE SPOILS

The Longhorns are accustomed to the Texas heat. It was William & Mary, however, that had them sweating in the first quarter of their March Madness showdown.

Beckwith made a layup in the final minute of the opening stanza to pull the Tribe to within 20-18. There was a lot of game left, but William & Mary continued to show the moxie that got the team to that point.

The Tribe made an impression on the home team. Texas head coach Vic Schaefer was full of praise for Dickerson Davis and her squad after the game. William & Mary scored 61 points against the Longhorns — more than any of the next three foes Texas vanquished on its way to the Final Four.

"She's got some really good players over there that whatever it took, she got them to figure it out," said Schaefer, who was in the running for his second national coach of the year honor.

"I thought her kids were really tough. They're competitors. I told her, 'You be proud of your team because they were really competitive, and they fought tonight. They did not back down.' They were not fazed by our crowd, and I just wanted her to know to be proud of that because I think that's a reflection of your head coach."

The Tribe hopes this year's success is a harbinger of long-term hardwood prosperity.

It will be hard to replace Nascimento, Beckwith, Cauley and Frisby-Smith, but the team also relied on a group of young players who performed at a high level during the late-season run.

That group includes guards Geddes, who averaged 12.3 points and 2.5 assists in the postseason, and Dance, who shot 61.3% and averaged 14 points per game in the CAA and NCAA tournaments.

"I think the sky is the limit for those two," Dickerson Davis said. "I think they needed this as a confidence booster to show that they can carry the load, that they can lead this team even when things are not going well."

The coach lauded Geddes and Dance for their leadership down the stretch. She said the two were instrumental in bringing the team together through team-building exercises and the like.

"Everything is starting to jell together, and that really sets the tone going into next season," Dickerson Davis said.

The success of this year's team should serve as ample motivation for next year and beyond, Dance said. "Our goal is to win another championship. Every single day, we'll focus on how to get better."

Sometime early in the 2025-2026 season, William & Mary's women's basketball team will raise a championship banner in the rafters of Kaplan Arena. It'll be a powerful reminder of what the program accomplished this season and a catalyst for what the Tribe aspires to be moving forward.

"It's going to be more motivation for us because we want to add more," Dance said. "We want to keep building and adding."

Like that walk toward the booming metropolis of Austin, Texas, William & Mary's women's basketball team appears headed toward bigger things. 🍀

## PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS



### KAYLA ROLPH '25

William & Mary's third-leading scorer and second-leading rebounder in 2024-2025, Rolph

grabbed 10 boards in the NCAA Tournament victory over High Point. It was her second double-digit rebounding performance of the season, along with the 13 she pulled down against Hampton on Feb. 9.



**BUILDING A WINNER:** *Kayla Beckwith '23, M.B.A. '25 elected to stay with the program two more years after receiving her undergraduate degree to help coach Erin Dickerson Davis build a winning culture.*









PHOTO: TIM SOFRANKO



# TRIBE

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## IN FULL BLOOM

*To visit William & Mary in springtime is to fall in love. While Historic Campus, including the Brafferton building, is a perennial attraction, the university is home to over 300 kinds of woody plants that are included in the William & Mary Arboretum.*









**'I FELT THE CHEERS':** *In 1993, Curtis Pride '90 became the first deaf player in Major League Baseball since 1945. He played 421 games with six teams, including the Los Angeles Angels.*

# Major League Mentor

FORMER TRIBE HOOPS STAR AND PRO BASEBALL PLAYER BECAME A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHERS WHO FACE CHALLENGES

**ALUMNI PROFILE** As a multisport athlete in high school, Curtis Pride '90 was offered a full soccer scholarship by Georgetown University and the University of Virginia, as well as a guaranteed spot on the basketball teams at both top-notch hoop programs. The Washington, D.C., native also had the opportunity to play soccer and basketball at the University of Pennsylvania — all this after also starring in baseball at John F. Kennedy High School in suburban Silver Spring, Maryland.

"He was a natural, way ahead of his time. I don't think I saw a young player as advanced other than Juan Soto," veteran baseball scout Mike Toomey says of Pride, comparing him to the outfielder who recently signed a historic contract with the New York Mets. But Pride decided to accept a full basketball scholarship to William & Mary.

"I felt totally at home when I visited the campus as a recruit," Pride says. "I liked the fact that I had a chance to play a lot right away as a freshman and get a quality education from one of the top academic schools in the country. In addition, it certainly did not hurt that William & Mary is one of the most beautiful campuses in the country."

Pride, who is 90% deaf, started 20 of 27 games as a freshman on the basketball team. He played in 94 contests over four years for the Tribe and scored more than 500 points in his career from 1986-90. But defense was the finance major's forte.

"He was the best on-ball defender I have had in 40 years of coaching at the college level," says Darrell Brooks, a former Tribe assistant coach who is now the head coach at Division II Bowie State University in Maryland.

"He was strong, quick and fast," says former pro hoopster and William & Mary head coach Barry Parkhill, who now works in athletics at the University of Virginia. Pride once played against Michael Jordan in a pickup game and hit a game-winning shot.

## A PRO IN THE SHOW

But that was just the tip of the iceberg for Pride's athletic achievements. Drafted out of high school by baseball's New York Mets, Pride spent his college summers in the minor leagues. After playing hoops at William &

PHOTO: JED JACOBSON



Mary, he was able to devote himself to baseball full time and broke into the major leagues on Sept. 11, 1993, signing with the Montreal Expos.

When he got his first hit in the major leagues — a double against the Phillies on Sept. 17, 1993 — the crowd of 45,757 fans at Olympic Stadium in Montreal gave him a standing ovation for about five minutes.

“Just days earlier, most of the fans in attendance had never heard of me,” Pride writes in his new memoir, “I Felt the Cheers: The Remarkable Silent Life of Curtis Pride.”

“I was a young African American whose minor league exploits had largely gone unnoticed,” he writes. “But word had spread quickly there was something unique about me, and the Montreal fans were responding to me as one of their own.”

Pride, an outfielder, would go on to play in 421 MLB games for the Expos, Detroit Tigers, Boston Red Sox, Atlanta Braves, New York Yankees and Los Angeles Angels through 2006. In doing so, he became the first deaf player in the majors since Dick Sipek in 1945.

One of his Angels teammates in 2005 was Paul Byrd, a pitcher who won 109 games in the majors from 1995 to 2009.

“There are people who bring good energy to the locker room and when they step in the batters’ box, and Curtis was one of those guys,” Byrd says. “He is just a really good person on and off

the field. I always knew I was in a dogfight when he stepped in the batter’s box; he was so fast. But what stands out to me is the kind of person he was. He never looked at his loss of hearing as a weakness. He never used that to get anybody to feel sorry for him. He was one of us, he has a really good sense of humor. I don’t remember Curtis’ stats. I remember him as a person.”

### A ROLE MODEL

After his playing career, Pride became the head baseball coach at Division III Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

While there, he served as a mentor and role model for many of his players — most of whom had some form of deafness.

“When I was growing up as a kid, I remember seeing coach Pride playing on TV with the Angels,” former Gallaudet outfielder Kyle Gumm says. “My father explained to me that coach Pride was deaf. It was a great experience that coach Pride was able to coach me.”

Gallaudet, citing a lack of players, canceled its 2024 baseball season and later dropped the program, along with women’s soccer. Pride had a record of 161-358-2 in 15 seasons with the Gallaudet Bison.

Pride writes in his memoir that while Gallaudet was the last place he expected to wind up, it turned out to be the right place for him: “During my 16

**VERSATILE ATHLETE:** *Pride scored over 500 points as a W&M basketball player and was strong on defense. He is shown at right with his wife, Lisa, and their children.*



LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBE ATHLETICS; RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY OF CURTIS PRIDE '90



“I FELT TOTALLY AT HOME WHEN I VISITED THE CAMPUS AS A RECRUIT.”



years as Gallaudet’s head baseball coach, I spent the better part of my days working with kids facing the same challenges I overcame to play baseball, on a field where we sometimes had to shovel snow.”

Sports are still a big part of Pride’s family life. In 2016, he was named “MLB’s Ambassador of Inclusion,” and he has made several appearances on behalf of Major League Baseball.

Pride, 56, plans to appear at several book signings and speaking engagements around the country this year to promote his memoir, co-authored by Doug Ward, former publications manager for the Angels. Baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. wrote the foreword to the 283-page book, released Feb. 25 by Kensington Publishing Corp.

Pride’s wife, Lisa, is a veteran broadcaster who does radio play-by-play commentary of minor league baseball in Florida. They met when she was reporting a story about a young student who was writing a paper about Pride.

Their daughter, Noelle, takes part in club rowing at The Ohio State University while their son, Colten, a senior baseball player at Wellington High in Florida this spring, hopes to be a walk-on player at a Division I school with a strong academic focus.

“Just a lot of communication, organization and supporting one another,” Lisa Pride says of their

marriage, which endured Pride commuting between Florida and Washington while he was at Gallaudet.

Pride’s mother most likely contracted Rubella when she was pregnant, leading to his hearing loss.

“I’ve had a lot of people doubt my abilities because of my deafness,” Pride told a Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, newspaper in 1993 while playing in the minors. “I’ve been trying all my life to show people I’m an educated person. I can speak well. I can read lips well. I can communicate with other people. ... I don’t want people to treat me different because I’m deaf. I want to be treated the same way as other people.”

Pride keeps in touch with some of his college friends — such as former wrestler Thierry Chaney ’91, who was inducted into the W&M Athletics Hall of Fame in 2011 (Pride was inducted in 2002). “He was an amazing kid to do what he did,” Parkhill says of Pride.

— DAVID DRIVER

**TIME WITH THE TRIBE:** *Pride meets members of the W&M Baseball team during a visit to Williamsburg in April.*



**ONLINE:** *Curtis Pride shares stories with the W&M American Sign Language Club about his time as a student. Read more at [magazine.wm.edu/asl-pride](http://magazine.wm.edu/asl-pride).*

*Editor’s note: A former sports editor at several newspapers, David Driver is the author of “Hoop Dreams in Europe: American Basketball Players Building Careers Overseas” and the co-author of “From Tidewater to the Shenandoah: Snapshots From Virginia’s Rich Baseball Legacy” with Lacy Lusk.*



# Asteroid Alarm Averted

FORMER NASA CHIEF SCIENTIST WEIGHS IN ON THE TERRESTRIAL OBJECT THAT HAD A HISTORIC CHANCE OF IMPACTING EARTH

**ALUMNI Q&A** Sixty-five million years ago, an asteroid struck the Yucatán Peninsula with enough force to trigger a mass extinction event. While nothing that catastrophic has entered Earth's atmosphere since, the risk of a large asteroid impact still exists. As a safeguard against potential threats, observatories around the world scan the night sky, searching for tiny glimmers that might evidence an Earth-bound object.

On Dec. 27, 2024, scientists in Chile discovered such an object. Using a powerful telescope, part of the NASA-funded Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System, they determined that a large asteroid had just passed Earth two days prior, coming within approximately 515,000 miles — about twice the average distance from the Earth to the moon. They also calculated that the asteroid would make two more traverses near the Earth in 2028 and 2032.

Named 2024 YR4, this asteroid quickly gained attention as calculations showed it had up to a 3.1% chance of hitting the Earth in 2032, the highest impact risk ever recorded for an asteroid of this size. However, in late February, that number was amended, and the risk fell to just 0.001%.

While no longer a hazard, 2024 YR4 raises important questions: What if an asteroid is discovered with a higher chance of hitting Earth? Would we be able to divert such a threat? W&M Alumni Magazine staff spoke with Ellen Stofan '83, D.Sc. '16, P '10, P '14, former chief scientist at NASA and current undersecretary for science and research at the Smithsonian Institution, to get her take on these questions and more.

**Q:** *Why did this asteroid get so much media attention?*

**A:** Honestly, I was surprised by how much attention it received. Observatories detect asteroids with a small, but nonzero, chance of hitting Earth every couple of years, and most don't make headlines like this. But I think two factors contributed to the heightened interest. First, the percentage risk of impact was higher than we typically see. Second, was 2024 YR4's size. Estimates place it between 40 and 90 meters in diameter. For context, the largest asteroid event in more than a

century was in 2013, when an asteroid estimated at between 17 to 20 meters across exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia, shattering windows and injuring over 1,000 people. So, you can imagine that an object like 2024 YR4 would cause a significant amount of damage.

**Q:** *How do scientists determine the chance of an asteroid hitting Earth?*

**A:** It starts with spotting it in the night sky. Observatories take long-exposure images, and since stars are light-years away, they stay fixed in place. But asteroids move. So, in the images, they show up as tiny streaks or smudges. That's what the observatory in Chile saw in December.

The challenge is that a single observatory only captures one perspective. To really understand an asteroid's orbit, we need observations from different locations around the world. By comparing those measurements, we can look at where the asteroid is headed in relation to the Earth's orbit and see if those paths overlap. As we gather more data and refine the orbit, the risk can go up before it goes down, which is exactly what happened with 2024 YR4.

**Q:** *Are we sure the risk of impact won't go back up?*

**A:** Yes. Once we've collected enough data about an asteroid's orbit, we can predict with near certainty whether it will or won't hit Earth. NASA and other space agencies will, of course, keep a close eye on 2024 YR4, but at this point, the odds will stay the same or drop even further.

**Q:** *What if we discovered an asteroid with a much higher chance of impacting Earth? How would we prepare?*

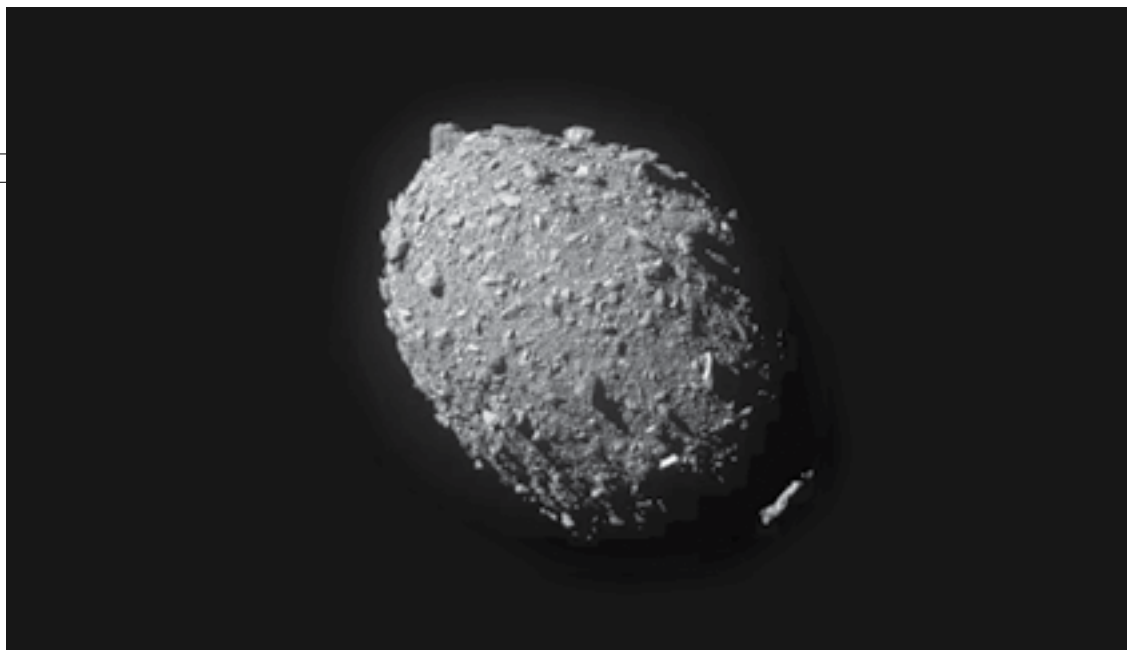
**A:** That really depends on how much time we have before the possible impact. Are we talking days? Weeks? The more time scientists can study the asteroid's size, density and composition, the better.

Those data points help predict exactly how an asteroid will interact with the Earth's atmosphere. Some asteroids are basically loose piles of rubble, which would break apart and burn up in Earth's atmosphere high above the surface — so they don't pose a huge threat. Other asteroids, especially



**SPACE EXPERT:** *Former NASA Chief Scientist Ellen Stofan '83, D.Sc. '16, P '10, P '14 developed her love of planetary science as a geology major at William & Mary.*





**REDIRECTED:** *The asteroid Dimorphis is seen two seconds before NASA's DART spacecraft struck its surface, altering its orbit.*

those that are metal-rich, are more resistant to the atmosphere and can punch through it, hitting the ground with a tremendous amount of energy. Across the Earth's history, asteroids are hypothesized to have caused craters in different places, including Canada, Russia and South Africa. One may have even created the Chesapeake Bay around 35 million years ago.

**Q:** *Assuming we did have enough time to understand an asteroid's size and composition, what tools do we have to try to prevent an impact?*

**A:** Lots of different techniques have been posited, some even involve blowing up the asteroid by launching a nuclear weapon at it. A little less dramatic is the idea that we can collide an object with the asteroid and bump it off its course. In 2016, this was tested with NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test, or DART mission. Basically, DART caused a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid, resulting in the shortening of its orbit by 37 minutes, which was a huge success and proved the theory could work.

**Q:** *How worried should people be about an asteroid hitting Earth?*

**A:** There is actually a whole group of asteroids called Earth-crossers that, at some point in their orbit around the sun, cross the Earth's path. We've done a good job of identifying and understanding the orbit of the largest of these. And thankfully, the Earth is safely in another location when these asteroids cross its orbit. What we need to be worried about are potential Earth-crossers that are small enough to make their identification difficult, but large enough to cause significant damage if they impacted the Earth.

**Q:** *In case there is a catastrophic event in the future, some people have raised the idea of settling Mars to preserve human life. What are your thoughts on that?*

**A:** Mars is not a nice place to live, and the surface of the planet is certainly not habitable for human life. People there would have to live in specially constructed bubbles or underground. So, at this moment, creating a settlement there is pretty far-fetched. However, NASA is interested in sending scientists to explore the surface and look for signs of life, either past or present. NASA had proposed 2035 to put the first humans on Mars.

**Speaking of Mars ...** William & Mary applied science research professor Joel Levine, assisted by some W&M students, has been closely involved in NASA's mission to put scientists on Mars. Levine, who has co-taught a planetary geology course with Geology Professor and Chair Christopher "Chuck" Bailey for years, served as the co-chair of NASA's Human Exploration of Mars Science Analysis Group, a panel tasked with coming up with the principal questions of investigation for the Mars mission. One of the questions the panel proposed is to understand what happened to Mars to make it the way it is today.

"We know that Mars looked very similar to the Earth about 4 billion years ago," says Levine. "It was covered in water in the form of oceans and rivers. But something happened in Mars' history that caused the planet to lose most of its atmosphere, evaporating the water and creating the conditions we observe today."

One hypothesis is that a massive asteroid impact played a role in Mars' transformation.

"If a massive asteroid was responsible for stripping away Mars' atmosphere and transforming the planet, studying that event could offer crucial insights into how these impacts occur — and how we might protect the future of our planet."

— CATHERINE TYSON '20



# *The Best Days Ever*

TRADITIONS WEEKEND GATHERS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS TO SHARE  
MEMORIES OLD AND NEW

**REUNITED:** *The Class of 1975 gathers for a group photo during Traditions Weekend after induction into The Olde Guard of Their Majesties' Royal Colledge in Virginia.*



**TRADITIONS WEEKEND** In the fall of 1971, a new group of students arrived at William & Mary. Fresh-faced and full of enthusiasm, they were quickly caught up in the bustle of classes, the excitement of parties and long conversations deep into the night. During Traditions Weekend, the Class of 1975 gathered again, to celebrate the bonds that continue to flourish after 50 years.

An annual signature event, Traditions Weekend is sponsored by William & Mary and the W&M Alumni Association. In addition to the 50th reunion class, this weekend brings together the Olde Guard (alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more) and the Boyle Legacy Society (those who have included W&M in their estate plans) for special events and programs.

In the Presidential Conversation, President Katherine A. Rowe and leaders from across the university delved into how William & Mary is harnessing its strengths in data science, conservation and coastal and marine sciences to tackle global environmental change. The Boyle Legacy

Society heard from a panel of W&M professors and students about the opportunities provided by the Charles Center and the Center for Geospatial Analysis.

The Saturday Night Bash held a special surprise for the 50th reunion class. Revelers gathered outside the Alumni House for a never-before-seen drone light show that recreated the Wren cupola, the Crim Dell and other alma mater imagery.

In a ceremony at the Wren Building on Sunday, members of the Class of 1975 donned graduation caps and gowns and were inducted into the Olde Guard. Sam Sadler '64, M.Ed. '71 provided reflections on the legacy of the class. The ceremony also included a Service of Remembrance for classmates who had passed away.

The weekend concluded with the Olde Guard Luncheon and an overview of the work of William & Mary's School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics from Dean Douglas "Doug" Schmidt '84, M.A. '86. James "Jim" H. Dillard II '59 was awarded the Olde Guard Distinguished Service

PHOTO: CAPTURE PHOTOGRAPHY



Award for his outstanding work serving his community, the environment and alma mater.

50th Reunion Committee Co-Chairs Lynn Melzer Dillon '75, Jean Berger Estes '75, P '06, Leanne Dorman Kurland '75, P '05 and Marilyn Ward Midyette '75 presented President Rowe with the Class of 1975 check. The gift totaled nearly \$35 million, representing 50% of the class, and included about \$12 million in planned giving, such

as through wills and estates.

Part of the gift funded the creation of the Class of 1975 School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics Speaker Series Endowment, which will support preeminent speakers to provide lectures, seminars and discussions at the school.

On Sunday afternoon, the last of over 570 attendees parted ways, warmed by memories of a weekend well spent. — CATHERINE TYSON '20

## The Hulon Willis Association

FURTHERING THE LEGACY OF BLACK AND AFRICAN ALUMNI AT W&M

**SPOTLIGHT** Nearly 75 years ago, the first Black student enrolled at William & Mary. His name was Hulon Willis. He obtained a master's degree in education in 1956, blazing a trail for future generations of Black students, including his son, Hulon Willis Jr. '77, P '13, and granddaughter, Mica Willis '13.

Today, the legacy of Hulon Willis Sr. M.Ed. '56, P '77, G '13 lives on through the Hulon Willis Association (HWA). Established in 1992, HWA is an alumni-focused organization that connects, engages and supports alumni of Black and African descent. Collaborating with current students and W&M Alumni Association staff, HWA elevates the experiences and voices of the Black community, providing a space to reflect on the past and shape the future.

“By preserving our stories and advocating for our future, the Hulon Willis Association enriches the William & Mary experience for Black alumni, current students and the campus community. It serves as a force for progress — amplifying voices, reclaiming narratives, uniting generations and shaping a campus culture where equity is not only valued, but centered,” says Jerome Carter '12.

The Hulon Willis Memorial Scholarship Endowment is a key part of HWA's mission. This scholarship provides assistance to undergraduate students with a record of leadership and service to the multicultural community at W&M and beyond with a preference for need-based support.

HWA also fosters community through programming both on W&M's campus and in the surrounding region. In 2022, William & Mary hosted its inaugural Black Alumni Reunion in



collaboration with HWA, offering a series of programs, ceremonies and receptions honoring the Black experience at W&M. In June, William & Mary's inaugural Mosaic Weekend brought together HWA and the university's other identity groups and their allies for discussion, learning and fellowship.

HWA welcomes all who identify with its mission — there are no requirements for membership. Alumni engagement and involvement are always encouraged, and the initiatives and events provided by HWA are open to the entire W&M community. Visit [wmalumni.com/affinity](http://wmalumni.com/affinity) for a list of W&M Alumni Association alumni groups and raise your hand to get involved.

— CATHERINE TYSON '20

**THE POWER OF COMMUNITY:** *Members of the Hulon Willis Association and other W&M Alumni Association identity groups met up during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2024. The inaugural Mosaic Weekend was held June 6-8.*



# *Embracing the Ampersand*

THE ARTFUL LIFE OF CONNIE DESAULNIERS '75, P '92

**ART & BUSINESS:**  
*"I'm getting back into art again," says Connie Desaulniers, a former cafe owner who plans to market her artwork, scarves and other items through Moonshadow Art & Design.*



**ALUMNI PROFILE** Connie Warren Desaulniers '75, P '92, doesn't just believe in the power of reinvention — she lives it. A former fine arts major with a head for business, a marketer turned entrepreneur turned full-time artist, she's spent a lifetime weaving together creativity and commerce to shape a life as colorful as one of her signature silk scarves.

Today, she channels that lifelong blend of artistry and entrepreneurship into a vibrant career as a painter, designer and creative force rooted in the Williamsburg community.

Desaulniers' heart has always been in Williamsburg, although the final stop on her path before arriving at William & Mary was West Lafayette, Indiana. Her connection to Williamsburg was shaped by childhood school trips and her mother's enduring affection for the area. That bond grew even stronger when her

father, William H. Warren P '75, G '92, was hired as a business professor at William & Mary during her senior year of high school. It was his guidance that ultimately led Desaulniers to pursue a liberal arts education at W&M.

"He convinced me it would open more doors," she recalls. And it did.

As a student at W&M, she dove into fine arts and business courses — an unusual combination at the time, but one that would define her career. She ran the Kappa Kappa Gamma eating club and worked at The Toymaker of Williamsburg in Merchants Square throughout college. Then, as Busch Gardens prepared to open during her senior year, a roommate tipped her off about a marketing job at the park. Desaulniers got the job and spent the next 14 years helping shape the identity of what would become one of the region's most iconic theme parks.

PHOTO: TIM SOFRANKO






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**W&M Memorial Garden**      **Expansion & Renovation Coming Spring 2026!**

The W&M Memorial Garden serves as the final resting place for many in our university community. Plaques on the surrounding brick wall commemorate each person whose ashes are placed in the garden. Beginning in 2026, the Memorial Garden will also feature a new zoo-niche columbarium, a second brick wall of remembrance for the garden, a welcoming entryway, additional seating and improved walkways.

**Find additional information at [wmAlumni.com/MemorialGarden](http://wmAlumni.com/MemorialGarden)**

**W&M | ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**



**EMBRACING THE UNEXPECTED:** *Bold, whimsical and expressive, Desaulniers' work reflects her preference to paint what she feels, not just what she sees.*

"It was very experimental at the beginning," she says. "The oldest person there was 32, and we thought he was ancient."

From Busch Gardens, she launched her own marketing firm, By Design Marketing and Promotions, focused on travel, food and the arts, which she ran for another 14 years.

"Eventually, though, I burned out managing people and couldn't use my creative juices," she says. "I needed something that was mine."

In 2005, she leaped — this time into full-time art. Her work is bold, whimsical and expressive. Trained to "paint what you see," she now prefers

to paint what she feels. "That's when art became fun again," she says.

Her commissioned portraits at William & Mary include President Emeritus Tim Sullivan '66, Ball Professor of Law Emeritus John Donaldson J.D. '63 and Edward Travis B.C.L. '54, the first Black graduate of W&M Law School.

"I love painting people doing what they love," she says. "Not just them sitting in a boardroom."

Williamsburg's culinary scene has also benefited from Desaulniers' creativity. She was the general manager of Mad About Chocolate, a beloved cafe and art gallery where desserts were decadent, the walls were colorful and laughter was the day's special.

She handled the marketing for the café while her husband, Marcel Desaulniers HON '01, P '92 — the legendary chef and "guru of ganache" behind the Death by Chocolate dessert and cookbook — developed the recipes. Marcel, who passed away last spring, was a towering presence in the culinary world, with a career that spanned Manhattan kitchens and Williamsburg charm. The Trellis, a landmark restaurant which he co-owned and operated for nearly three decades, was acclaimed for its inventive menu.

His passing marked a difficult chapter but also a turning point for Connie. "I'm getting back into art after some time," she says. "It's time for the therapy and joy that painting brings." Her recent shows, including a collaborative exhibition with Kathy Yankovich Hornsby '79 at the Stryker Center, have drawn attention for their vibrancy. Desaulniers' new art, scarves, prints and clothing will soon be available through her website, Moonshadow Art & Design.

Desaulniers remains deeply connected to William & Mary. Over the years, she has embraced numerous volunteer roles, including serving on the Class of 1975 50th Reunion Committee. Her commitment also extends to philanthropic support such as a generous gift to the Class of 1975 School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics Speaker Series Endowment — a meaningful investment in the future of her alma mater.

"Who knows where I would be if I hadn't gone to William & Mary?" she says.

For Connie Desaulniers, life, like art — is all about embracing the unexpected turns, blending beauty with strategy and never being afraid to paint over what's not working. After all, "There's no such thing as a failed painting. Just another layer to paint on."

— JEREMY NORMAN



PHOTO: TIM SOFRANKO



SOCIETY  
OF 1918

## THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

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# Seven Strategies for Success

TAKEAWAYS FROM W&M PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK 2025

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** The professional landscape is constantly shifting in response to new technology, policy changes, economic trends and more. That is why W&M annually hosts Professional Development Week, bringing the university community together to learn, spark new connections and advance careers of purpose. Now in its seventh year,

W&M Professional Development Week 2025 attracted nearly 1,000 participants, including generations of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends. Panels and presentations covered topics ranging from artificial intelligence to board leadership to building impactful partnerships.

— CATHERINE TYSON '20

# 1

## A good partnership can make the difference between a missed opportunity and a golden one.

From libraries to universities to banks, partnerships can transform an organization's ability to make an impact. Jane Carpenter-Rock '92, acting director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, has seen this in action. Throughout her career, she's capitalized on great ideas by cultivating relationships built on shared values, goals and needs. Her recipe for success? Relentlessly focus on relationship building. Be a connector. And watch your organization expand its reach, relevance and impact.



**FEATURING:** *Jane Carpenter-Rock '92, Smithsonian American Art Museum*

## Sometimes the smallest companies have the biggest opportunities.

While they may not boast big names or high profiles, small- to mid-sized companies can provide the perfect ecosystem to accelerate your career. Their size presents valuable opportunities to work alongside senior leadership, try your hand at different projects and flex your creativity and initiative. How do you find an opportunity like this? Start by tapping into your W&M network. Don't be shy. Reach out on One Network ([onenetwork.wm.edu](http://onenetwork.wm.edu)) today!



**FEATURING:** *Aaron Mosby '05, TTEC Digital; Pam Krulitz '86, Optify; and Jaenya Cooper '27, William & Mary*

# 2

# 3

## Don't let your greatest strengths stand in your way.

When hijacked by stress and negative emotions, our biggest talents can turn into our greatest weaknesses — or, as StepOne owner and life coach Anne Powell Lyons '92 calls them, our internal saboteurs. A high achiever will push themselves to burnout. An organizer begins to micromanage. An energizer starts running in too many directions at once. The key to a more calm, productive and joyful life lies in recognizing these patterns and harnessing the power of positive emotion to bring our strengths back into our corner.



**FEATURING:** *Anne Powell Lyons '92, StepOne*



# 4

## Combat polarization with questions and curiosity.

Listen so actively you're burning calories. That's how Phil Wagner, clinical associate professor at W&M's Raymond A. Mason School of Business, recommends building bridges in polarized times. When interacting with those around you, don't settle for superficial questions such as, "How's it going?" or "Crazy weather, right?" True connection requires curiosity — asking deeper questions and bringing your full attention to the conversation. When we commit to this, others see it in our body language and feel it in our tone of voice. This creates space for vulnerability and meaningful discussion — the first steps toward bridging divides.



**FEATURING:** *Phil Wagner, William & Mary*

## Be part of a culture of authenticity and openness.

Belonging starts with authenticity. When we feel free to express our personalities, passions and even struggles at work, we're empowered to do our best. Finding an authentic workplace begins with choosing an organization that shares your values, but it also starts with you. Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) — employee-led communities built around shared interests or identities — can foster deeper connections and a culture of belonging. Don't have an ERG at your workplace? You might be the right person to start one.



**FEATURING:** *Jessica Chen '05, The Walt Disney Company; Pilar Mejia '04, GitLab; and Tunisia Riley '00, New York Life*

# 5

# 6

## Successful board leaders empower and unify.

For anyone considering board leadership, experienced board directors Julie Dobson '78, P '17, P '19, Kim Lopdrup '80, P '11 and Cindy Hughes Davis '80 offer one critical piece of advice: Understand your role. Too often, board leaders jump into "doing" instead of "advising," which can strain relationships, create barriers and foster mistrust. Great board leaders take a strategic approach, acting as unifiers and thought leaders. By offering guidance — not control — they build strong communication, trust and long-term success.



**FEATURING:** *Julie Dobson '78, P '17, P '19, Fortis Inc., Sunrise Senior Living; Kim Lopdrup '80, P '11, Botrista; and Cindy Hughes Davis '80, CHD Consulting*

## A new technological revolution is upon us. Leverage it to your advantage.

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are exploding in number and popularity. They create podcasts, transcribe conversations, code websites from scratch, put together PowerPoints and much more. In two sessions during Professional Development Week, W&M alumni gave advice on how to adapt your skillset to this rapidly shifting landscape.

- As technology evolves, human-centric skills such as empathy, strategic thinking and leadership will only grow in demand. Carve out a niche, become an expert and focus on growing competencies that can't be automated.
- AI doesn't have to be scary or overwhelming. Get your feet wet by trying out fun projects like creating a website or having a conversation with a chatbot.



**FEATURING:** *Elaine Turville '96, Accenture Federal Services; Greg Wallig '94, Agentic Advisors, THEIA Analytics Group Inc.; Isabel Hiram '14, M.S. '17, data scientists; and Jonny Mills '17, M.S. '18, data engineer*

# 7

To view presentation recordings, check out the online version of this article at [magazine.wm.edu/pdw-2025](https://magazine.wm.edu/pdw-2025).

# W&M | ONE NETWORK



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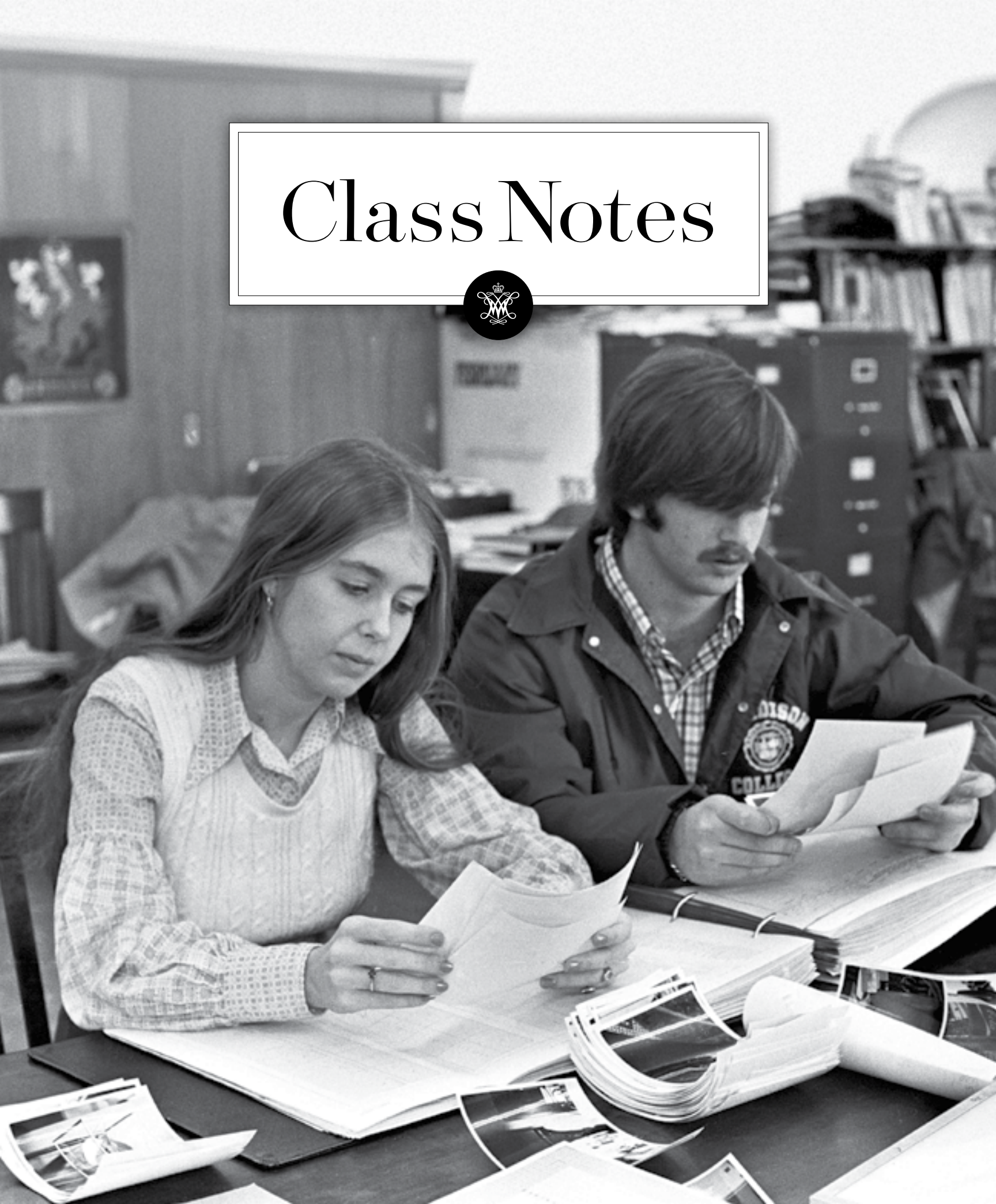
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# Class Notes



## WHAT'S THE STORY?

*Students assemble Colonial Echo yearbook pages by hand in this photo from 50 years ago. As part of their 50th reunion, each class now creates a digital and printed yearbook called the Re-Echo to share their journeys since graduation.*

— Photo by Richard Walker '79, W&M Alumni Association Archives

*Class Notes has been a William & Mary tradition for decades, made possible by the dedication of our volunteer class reporters. While we make every effort to collect columns and check facts, each column is the responsibility of the class reporter. To submit your news, contact your class reporter or email [alumni.magazine@wm.edu](mailto:alumni.magazine@wm.edu).*

## 1956 ☛

*Class Reporters*  
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## 1957 ☛

*Class Reporter*  
**PETE KALISON**  
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Really great to hear from you among The Great Class of '57. Let's get right away to everything.

A nice note from **Faye Burke**, who celebrated her husband's 90th birthday with more than 60 people at their home. She hears from **Jo Ann Abbott Hart** and **Boo Luck Bane**; she calls the three of them "the last of the Jefferson Minis." Faye is a big viewer of TV sports and offers "cheers to the Class of '57, keep on truckin'."

Did you know that one of our classmates, **Bill Ouseley**, is a famed FBI man who spent 25 years in the bureau, 21 of which he was in Kansas City, Missouri, investigating the Kansas City mob, ending up super-

visor of the Organized Crime Squad there. Bill has written books and been interviewed on numerous television programs. Many of you will remember Bill as "Fumbo" on our basketball team, which won the Big Six title in 1957 with a last-second shot at Blow Gym, defeating Richmond.

**Mary "Mickie" Curro**, always a contributor to this column, is thankful for her DNA that has kept her healthy and mobile. She is even the "Designated Driver" for several of her friends. Big news is that her oldest granddaughter, Brianna, gave birth in December to twin boys in Vermont. Another granddaughter, Mariah, is a freshman at Howard University. Mickie stays in touch with **Mary Ripley Barry-Harris** and **Lillie Kocher**. Mickie continues to paint and sing and has begun making greeting cards.

Heard from **Shirley Richardson Fitzgerald**, who now has a grandson at W&M Law School. Congrats, Shirley. Last fall, she attended several Tribe football games, where she tailgates. Shirley is looking forward to spring, when she gardens extensively

on her deck.

**Joyce Mitchell Seligson** dropped us a note for the first time. She tells us she has resided in Los Osos, California, since 2001, near her son and four grandchildren. She spent many years in the travel industry and continues to travel extensively.

I'll hit the Big 90 this April but am still able to "run" three miles in the early morning several times a week. Marsha and I had our 60th anniversary last October and celebrated by going to Williamsburg for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, where we saw our granddaughter, **Lily Stafel** '28. Third generation to attend W&M.

Let's hear from you next time.

## 1958 ☛

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Dear Super-Agers, all 104 of you who are still playing musical chairs on this planet. I hope you will go to the much more robust online version of

our alumni Class Notes to see a current listing. You will also find oral histories from **Meritt Ierley**, **Bob Bradley** and **Ed Walton '58, J.D. '63**, a tribute to **Peter Neufeld's** confederate **Linda Lavin '59, D.A. '09** and other goodies about her times at the College. There are many other documents and memorabilia of our class that are included because of the flexibility of space online. Look at the bottom of this page for a reference to the extended Class Notes. And don't miss photos of Bob's 90th with a German theme!

I enjoyed chatting with **Joyce Nunn McKnight** about finding a photo of her as a teenager on the internet. She was with a large group of Girl Scouts at Lake Matoka. She said that it was a fabulous experience, with trips to New York City and other places, plus working on badges. I noted that I also found an oral history in the Swem Library archives concerning her time with the City of Williamsburg. We also reminisced about Canadian media theorist Marshall McLuhan, whose name I recently came across in a current article, and how Professor Warner Moss had brought McLuhan's social media insights into our government class and opened a new door of knowledge.

Great to get a survey response back from **Mary Ann Breese Brendel**. She provided all of us with the following update: "I have kept in touch with my two Kappa sisters, **Hil Albiez Burke '58, M.A.Ed. '78** (with whom I had a welcome catchup lunch recently) and **Elaine Abbott '57** (with whom I visited the newly expanded Muscarelle Museum of Art on campus. Elaine's brother,

Carlton Abbott, was the architect for the original museum with its colorful columns.)

"I continue to live in my home close to the campus, which means I can walk over to the basketball games in winter and to the lectures and programs offered throughout the academic year. I have a regular Meals on Wheels route, am involved with Bruton Parish Church and the League of Women Voters' Great Decisions lecture series and voter registration efforts. I travel when the opportunity presents itself — just returned from a week at Captiva, Florida, with a friend who has a getaway there. I love to read and have a new favorite author, Niall Williams, whose writing creatively reflects his Irish upbringing.

"I have no scrapbook, nor do I remember a favorite W&M professor as each one I encountered challenged me to my limits! In my lifetime, medical science has made enormous progress in dealing with diseases. The Parkinson's diagnosis for **Jack Brendel '58, B.C.L. '65** was frightening, but lately new meds and studies have revealed more than we ever dreamed of knowing.

"My hope for the future of our country is that we can learn to live together in harmony, regardless of our political affiliations. The current toxic environment is unsustainable IMHO!"

Another survey respondent was **Meritt Ierley**. Since he has already donated much of his musical composition and other materials to Swem Library, he moved on to the next question: Who Was Your Favorite Professor? He answered, "Dr. Carl A. Fehr. We kept in touch almost until the time of his death.

KEY: ☛ OLDE GUARDE 25 REUNION



When he and 'Mammy' celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1983, I wrote some brief music that was performed by the alumni choir at a delightful alumni celebration."

Another query for Merritt was: What Has Changed in Your Life? Here, he stated, "Interesting question right at this time. A friend of mine, a lawyer in Maryland, has her 3-year-old Kia Telluride at the dealer's right now — getting a whole new engine. Fortunately, Kia is picking up the tab. Of all the cars I've had, my favorite was a 1962 Fiat 1200 Cabriolet, which, top-down, looked like nothing so much as a Ferrari. But oh, the woes! Everything imaginable went wrong. I finally wrote a letter that reached the desk, in Turin, of Gianni Agnelli, chairman of the board of Fabbrica Italiana Automobili di Torino (Fiat). The response, via an American agent: Take it into Fiat's executive repair shop in New York City's Queens borough. I left it there, taking the subway and bus back home, after being instructed to give a call in a week. I did. Not ready yet! Call again, which I did. Still not ready. This went on for three weeks, and I began to suspect the phoniest. Finally, 'Come and get it.' When I got back to Queens, via bus and subway, there was my car — so extensively repaired it even had a new ignition key. But not free. Explained the technician overseeing the work: We had to charge for something, so here's a bill for four quarts of oil." Merritt concluded, "So, what has changed in 60 years? Much ... and not much."

**Bill Mitchell** wrote to Bob Bradley and me, "Our friend [and classmate] **Tom Lightner** has been honored in April by a ceremony which added him to the Mount Soledad National Veterans Memorial in

San Diego — 'A Beacon of Freedom Since 1954.' Each veteran has a plaque which lists the veteran's accomplishments during his term."

**Bev Wilson Palmer** checked in and is thinking about doing her oral history. Stay tuned. Let's hear from the rest of you!

It's been a busy period for this reporter, as the political parties did their quadrennial dance in the fall of 2024 and the transition began to have an impact on Washington, D.C., political and other spaces. I will be working with my 19th U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) secretary and my 11th president. Adapting to change is always exciting as we also live in paradigm-shifting times. It's HUD's 60th anniversary year, so I am publishing a book on its inception and where it stands today to meet the country's housing needs.

My granddaughter **India Walsh '28** is loving W&M and will be spending the summer in Berlin, Germany, with the W&M German Department's program there. My grandson, Hayden, co-captained his high school basketball team to the state finals for the second year in a row. My daughter, Heather, received her No. 2 United States Tennis Association (USTA) national ranking in 55-and-over doubles. I continue to play in the USTA tennis tournaments whenever I can get away from my consulting practice here and abroad. I also taught an exhilarating course for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute/American University on decoding artists such as Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Annie Ernaux, Kendrick Lamar, Taylor Swift, Simon & Garfunkel and Mozart. An offshoot of that was to present two virtual "walks" of Cohen/Dylan and Mary Tillinghast New York City's Green-

wich Village for the Jane's Walk weekend, sponsored by the Municipal Arts Society.

## 1959 ☿

*Editor's note: We were saddened to learn of the passing of class reporter **Kathy Watson Lawler** on April 4, less than three months after the death of her husband and W&M sweetheart, **Jay Lawler**. We are looking for a new reporter. If interested, please contact alumni. magazine@wm.edu.*

## 1960 ☿

*Class Reporter*  
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**Jan Plummer Gerry** sent a great note: "A week after graduation, **Ed Gerry '59** and I were married in Maine and started on our 65 years of marriage. We have lived in Boston; Ithaca, New York; and McLean and Arlington, Virginia; and are now returned to South Freeport, Maine. In the process, Ed earned his master's at Cornell University and his Ph.D. at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After washing test tubes, etc., I decided chemistry was not for me and joined IBM, where I spent 33 years rising to executive level and helping them start a new business integrating systems to run businesses with other vendors' equipment, which IBM had not done before. While this was my occupation, we had a son, **Andrew Gerry '91**, and a daughter, Johanna. My next career move was working for the Scottish government setting up an office for Scottish companies to

visit and grow their products with U.S. clients. We were quite successful. Unfortunately, I joined one of the Scottish companies that suddenly lost their funding, and I was unemployed. After that I worked for the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra as executive director and then retired. We rebuilt my parents' house in South Freeport from 2000-2002 and moved here permanently in 2007. Our family has grown to three grandchildren: Andrew's daughter, Emma, is a second-year student at Tufts University's Cummings Veterinary School and his son, Alexander, has graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder's Leeds School of Business. Johanna's daughter is in second grade. Besides traveling internationally and in the U.S., we have a sailboat and motorboat, and we swim off our dock in front of the house in warm weather, spring, summer and fall. I have spent the past 15-plus years as a member of the Portland Symphony Orchestra (PSO) Board and the Freeport Historical Society Board. I had the challenge of being the president of the PSO during COVID-19 and am pleased to report we made it, grew and are celebrating the 100th anniversary this year!"

From **Bill Harrison**: "We moved from Fairfax, Virginia, to Laguna Niguel, California, six years ago and have settled into the relaxed California lifestyle. Our son, **Kevin Harrison '92**, lives nearby in Laguna Beach with our three grandsons. Our eldest grandson, Luke, is a freshman at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he really enjoys the college and outdoor activities. Our daughter, **Carrie Harrison '97**, is also living temporarily in Laguna Niguel."

Bill adds, "Thank you to all of you who contacted us regarding

the devastating fires, which fortunately did not threaten our community."

**Dick Neely** reports that he "just returned from my annual visit to St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. I continue to enjoy my 30 years of time on the Island ... hiking (the less strenuous trails now), kayaking and practicing what the Japanese refer to as 'the fine art of doing nothing.' My blue water days of ocean sailing and sailing the Sir Frances Drake are over since all my 'sailing brothers' have passed, save one.

"I recovered from a mild case of COVID late last year. As I was enduring the process of recovery, I got a laugh out of a quote: 'Only a woman who has experienced childbirth without an epidural can appreciate the pain a man goes through when he has a cold.'

"My daughter's husband, Colton Seale, completed his consulting contract with the Qatari government negotiating team, which was associated with the Israel-Hamas peace agreement. He worked with two other former CIA business partners and felt they made a significant contribution. My son, **David Neely '89**, just sold his residential construction and home repair business and has partnered with a commercial real estate and construction firm.

"The rest of the family is doing well, and I continue to hold on tight(ly)."

**Ann Perkins Colmo** (who was a professor of political science at Dominican University) reports that "we will be moving from Chicago (45 years) to Bellingham, Washington, to be with our grandchildren. They're not college age yet, but I am definitely going to tell them how great W&M is."

**Ken Rice** sent a short note: "Kay and I attend-

ed the wedding of our grandson, Adam, and his wife, Katie Berger, on Feb. 1 in Sevierville, Tennessee. It was a destination wedding with the bride and groom living in Richmond, Virginia. Talk about people with faith: planning a destination wedding in February in the Great Smoky Mountains, with the possibilities of snow, rain and bitter cold and an outdoor wedding. But the weather turned out to be very nice, allowing a beautiful ceremony and a memorable occasion."

## 1961

*Class Reporter*

**DIANA T. ALEXANDER**

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Some thoughts from an "old timer," **Don Weissman**: "Just musing over a cup of coffee while reading the news. I first met **Linda Lavin '59, D.A. '09**, when she performed in 'The Madwoman of Chaillot' at PBK Hall. Later, I was in the pit orchestra for several musical performances, e.g., 'The Boy Friend' — productions under the guidance of Howard Scammon, a genius and remarkably worthy influence in the world of theatrical life, resulting in enduring W&M affiliations with entertainment, including **Scott Glenn, Bob Wachs** (guiding Eddie Murphy), **Glenn Close '74, D.A. '74, H.F. '19, Jon Stewart '84, D.A. '04** and more than a few 'angels' behind Broadway productions. W&M's outsized influence on those whose giant achievements across all elements of society, government and 'the pursuit of happiness,' past, present and future, cannot be overstated."

From **Liz Rader O'Neill**: "I have moved

to Charleston, South Carolina, to be near one daughter and grandchildren and to be no farther away from the other daughter. It was time to downsize and move on, although after 49 years in Beaufort County it was a big decision. So far, I love it and hope that by the time your news comes out, I will have gotten rid of all the boxes and will have a bit of order back in my life."

**Ron Willard** has donated his Points of Light volunteer recognition letter signed by President George H.W. Bush to the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society. Ron is a native of Bethel, Maine, and nearby Bryant Pond. Ron and his wife, Joan, and their family have lived in Northern Virginia since 1973. He has two primary volunteer efforts: as a blood donor (giving 32 gallons to the American Red Cross) and as a volunteer speedskating coach for 24 years (with Special Olympics Virginia).

**Ken Lounsbury** says grandkids continue to be the focus in the household. "The eldest is using his Columbia University master's degree for work in the artificial intelligence sector. Conversations with his workmates seem to be in a foreign language. Second grandson is in his final year at New York University. Third grandson is entering high school, thinking about wrestling and football. Granddaughter will enter middle school, loving to read everything."

"Our home, as a gathering center, has given way to the beach, cheer team and field trips. Full retirement is nearing. Next year will be my 50th year of practicing law. We have admitted new, young partners capable of taking the reins. Family and friends convened to make certain that I didn't forget my 85th birthday."

Ken mentions frequent

exchanges with **Bob Spallone**, classmate and PiKA brother. He's retired in a Philadelphia suburb. "Conversations during the Super Bowl game were lively. He says the team is great; the fans, not so much. Travel has become less frequent, but we will be visiting our daughter, **Anne Lounsbury '85**, in Virginia. She and her husband, **John Scaife '85**, bought a vintage house in the Northern Neck, on one of the tributaries to the Chesapeake."

**Nancy Cote Kane '84** and Dr. Chris Kane kept alive W&M holiday traditions at the Yule Log ceremony in their Del Mar home. **Craig Anzalone '94**, W&M's senior director of regional advancement for the western region, reported on campus developments. The news prompted Nancy to think that she would not be admitted today. However, contrary to current trends, she still has her vintage green and gold bill cap emblazoned with "William & Mary Indians."

**Margaret Barnhart Gunn** wrote: "We just celebrated another William & Mary Charter Day! Can you believe: 332 years! Ceremonies, openings, jazz, cocktails! From our local Williamsburg-Peninsula Alumni Chapter, **Amy Smith '92, M.B.A. '96** was recognized for her many contributions, not the least being time and talent, with the Douglas N. Morton '62 Alumni Service Award. Amy has continued our tradition of Tribe Thursdays meetings at a local restaurant for happy hours most second Thursdays every month. We frequently have a speaker from College departments such as Swem Library, the Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences & VIMS and W&M Athletics, and an occasional dinner to spotlight an event such as the annual Colonial

Williamsburg Grand Illumination. Although our local chapter no longer has a board, a significant development of the chapter is a new scholarship for local students. Most of us know how to make donations; to make that privilege easier, go to [give.wm.edu](http://give.wm.edu) and search fund No. 5609.

"Like many alumni, Ken and I attend classes sponsored by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, under the auspices of the College. This semester we are learning more about Williamsburg leading up to the Rockefeller-Goodwin collaboration, early Colonial leaders and the Williamsburg Bray School.

"Alumni who have followed historic events in Williamsburg will be interested in updates on the Bray School. Around 2002, Chancellor Professor of English, Emeritus Terry Meyers identified the original structure of the school for enslaved and free Black children established in 1760. He convinced Colonial Williamsburg (CW) of its provenance, which led to the school moving to CW property in 2023 as the 89th original CW building. With activities managed by W&M and CW, the building restoration is heading for a spring 2025 grand opening, and descendants of the Bray School students are being identified. On Nov. 1, 2024, Ken and I attended the dedicatory events. You, too, can contribute to this significant Williamsburg development by donating to W&M fund No. 5032."

**Dave Bottoms** says, "everything fine here. I have moved to Columbus, Georgia, which is about 45 minutes from Auburn. I am now closer to my piano lessons at the Schwob School of Music and my friends at the school. Still have my apartment in New York City, which I visit on a quarterly basis when I can. I was in Williams-

burg recently and spent time with **Paul Verkuil '61, D.P.S. '17** and **Ron Monark** and his wife, Debbie. I will celebrate my birthday in March with my kids in New York."

**Allan Brownfeld '61, B.C.L. '64** sent a thoughtful note: "Our recent political developments have made me remember 50 years ago, when we were approaching the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. At that time, while working in Congress, I developed a lecture for high school students at Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

"Who would have imagined that 50 years later the Constitution itself is under attack: Separation of powers, the fear of excessive executive power, the role of the courts and judicial review — all carefully written into the Constitution — are now under attack. One of my sons works for a U.S. government agency. Each week, he and his colleagues receive letters urging them to resign."

"When I worked in Congress, Republicans and Democrats did not view one another as 'enemies.' Together, they defeated Nazism and communism, ended segregation and advanced civil rights. Think of the friendship between Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill. When I was research director of the House Republican Conference, our board had two members of Congress who went on to become president, Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush. They did not view their Democratic colleagues as 'enemies,' but spent their time trying to form coalitions — trying to convince their Democratic colleagues of the merits of their proposals.

"Democracy cannot work if those involved in it and in our system of public life do not view themselves as involved in a common enterprise."



What is happening today is unprecedented. I fear what kind of society my six grandchildren will inherit. In my lecture 50 years ago, I told students that other once-free societies, such as ancient Athens and Rome, had essentially given away their freedom. Many predicted that the same would happen to America.

"When Benjamin Franklin left the Constitutional Convention, he was asked by a woman, 'What kind of government have you created?' His much-quoted reply: 'A republic, if you can keep it.'"

"Hopefully, wise men and women throughout our society will rise up to defend and preserve our unique system of constitutional government.

"On a personal note. My six grandchildren are all doing well. My oldest grandson is now a student at the University of Padua in Italy."

## 1962 ☾

*Class Reporter*

**NANCY SINCLAIR HENRY**

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Thank you for sending news. **Barbara Aubrey Walsh** and Bill live in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. They have seven children and many grands. Two children live in Florida, two more live in Michigan, the others live in Virginia, Montana and Maine. Last Easter they were lucky to have almost everyone in Florida.

**Jane Noble Lundy** sent news of her family from California. Just before Thanksgiving her husband, Rich, died in his sleep at home. The children and grands who live all over the world were at home to be with Rich and Jane. All our sympathy goes to Jane and family.

**Beth Poole Radford**

sent me a note after Christmas saying that her husband, Wade, died in January. Both she and Wade moved into a senior complex near Columbia, Maryland. They have one son and two grands. To Beth and family, our deepest sympathy. **Linda Lester Hagen** lives in Des Moines, Washington, at the Wesley retirement community. Her children and grands live all over the country. This summer, Linda is going to Montreal and Quebec on a Road Scholar trip.

**Nancy Kent Young** is living at Westminster Canterbury in Lynchburg, Virginia. Her husband, Bill Young, is in the health care center there. Nancy keeps busy: She edits the W-C quarterly magazine, is in a creative writing group, plays bridge three times per week and volunteers for Lynchburg National Historic Sites at Old City Cemetery.

Please continue sending in your news.

## 1963 ☾

*Class Reporter*

**JUDY MURDOCK SNOOK**

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Thank you to everyone that took time to send me your news via Christmas cards and notes. Keep sending — any time of year!

**Lee Williams McBride** enjoyed a family reunion in Portugal. They traveled about enjoying the sights and pleasures of the region.

**Vi Sadlier Huse** and Ron moved to New London, New Hampshire, after years of thinking about it. Why does Vi love New Hampshire? She listed her reasons — lower cost of living, no traffic, surrounded by nature, air is clean and fresh, plus her neighbors have been welcoming. Sounds wonderful!

**Sherry Parrish**

**Swan** commented that she and Al were lucky when they returned to Florida from their cabin in Colorado to find the hurricanes had ruined their seawall and dock, but their house was intact. The big event of the year was adding an elevator to their house. The dogs don't like it, but it's great for people. They returned to Colorado and have had plenty of visits from family and friends. Sherry likes that because then they can do fun vacation things.

**Betsy Holland Lunger** and **George**

traveled from the top to the bottom of Minnesota, where Betsy's parents grew up and to New York state, where George's parents lived. Travel included visiting Betsy's sister in Boston and the New Jersey shore to see their son and his family. 65th high school reunions in Williamsburg for George and Arlington, Virginia, for Betsy were memorable.

**Dale Harris Cohen** and **Dick Cohen '61**,

**B.C.L. '63** are happy that their children and most of their grandchildren live nearby. In the fall, they toured the Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Monument Valley and Capitol Reef national parks, not hiking in the past but enjoying overlooks and short walks.

I am going to Williamsburg to spend a week with three friends quilting, going to a big quilt show in Hampton and seeing some of William & Mary and the colonial area. I'm curious to see the Bray School, especially.

## 1964 ☾

*Class Reporter*

**GINNIE PEIRCE VOLKMAN**

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Just a few notes this time...

**Blake Newton:** "I'm so glad the (60th) reunion was a success. Belle and I are in the throes of downsizing in order to make a move to an independent living unit in a retirement facility in Atlanta. After living in the same house in the Hudson Valley for a hundred years, the process is all consuming, but one way or another, we will spend the summer back in the South. Keep those air conditioners fine-tuned."

**Dick Goodwin:** "My wife recovered from her right-sided colectomy in October. Not to be outdone, I had an angiogram and catheterization on her birthday in December ... cleared out a 95% occlusion of one artery and a 50% occlusion on another artery. Good news: My 1999 heart grafts are still in good shape. We haven't done much traveling except to Napa since recovering from surgeries. One set of grandchildren visited from North Carolina over the holidays. We went to Phoenix in February for an American Bar Association meeting. Susan is due for additional back surgery in mid-March. Once she recovers, we hope to start traveling again. Growing old is not for wimps. Still working remotely." Dick also adds "Celebrating 30,294 days on the planet." See a photo in the online Class Notes.

So let me join Dick and offer a happy 83rd birthday to us all as the year progresses. Let the travels and family visits continue.

I don't usually have space to include my own news, but now I do. So ... "Al and I just returned from a children/grandchildren visit to Long Beach, California. We will go to Saint Petersburg, Florida, for a family wedding in March. In May, we have a cruise on the Columbia/Snake rivers. We have our annual Outer Banks family gathering in July ... and another cruise on the St. Lawrence River

from Quebec to Portland, Maine, to celebrate our 55th anniversary." No wimps here!

## 1965 ☾

*Class Reporters*

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More exciting news from **Trilby Busch!** We reported earlier that she was honored at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh for her experiences on her high school rifle team. Her team photo, letter sweater and 100-10X target are on display there. She was the national top scorer in junior small bore competition in 1961. Now she reports that she has been inducted into the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) Hall of Fame Class of 2025. If you search her name on the wpial.org website, you can find the article: "WPIAL Reveals 15-Member Hall of Fame Class of 2025." Way to go Trilby!

**Sam Martin** and his wife, Liz, are enjoying being close to their family and grandsons. Leaving the Pentagon and Fairfax County after 45 years, they moved into the Croasdaile Village retirement community in Durham, North Carolina, surrounded by his Duke and University of North Carolina graduates and professors. He's establishing a W&M outpost there, often sporting W&M clothing, and plans to fly the W&M flag soon. They plan to take the family this summer on a Caribbean cruise instead of going to Siesta Key, Florida, thanks to Hurricane Milton. They are looking forward to Homecoming & Reunion

Weekend next year. GO TRIBE!

Weather being what it was in the Shenandoah Valley, and needing a break from volunteer busyness, **Barb "Wamp" Melby** and Tom found refuge in California and Arizona for three weeks in January. No culture. No educational experiences. No nothin'. Just relaxation. (We do deserve that occasionally, don't we?) Melby family members are all doing well. Everyone came home for Christmas — 13 humans and four dogs. Riotous! They now have two out of three daughters living near them. Such a treat. Barb is looking forward to seeing lots of '65ers at our 60th reunion at Homecoming in the fall.

**Ginny Fluet** and her husband, Joe, are enjoying their golden years in their retirement community, Westminster Canterbury in Winchester, Virginia. But they still have the wanderlust, with a cruise to Spain, Morocco and Portugal over Thanksgiving and their annual Y'all Call in February (where they fly their Cirrus airplane south to mooch off friends and relatives and avoid the tail end of winter). Had a wonderful visit with **Glenda Anthony** and **Jay Anthony '65, M.B.A. '70** along the way! They, too, are looking forward to Homecoming!

**Glenn Hines Harding** has been elected treasurer of CALCRA (California Continuing Care Resident Association). There's a similar thing in Virginia for residents of these kinds of facilities. Good work, Glenn! Glenn is going to be helping **Pam Brown Michael** coordinate our 60th reunion and she hopes to be attending as well.

In case you've noticed a theme here, we have good news to report. We are having a 60th reunion at Homecoming this year from Oct. 16-19! Put it

on your calendar. We're hoping to see you there!

Unfortunately, as is often the case at this time in life, we also have sad news to report as well.

**Peggy Peacock Bartos** passed on Nov. 6, 2024, in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Peggy graduated from W&M with a degree in history, and she was a proud Tri-Delt.

**Martin Morris** passed on Dec. 9, 2024, in Marietta, Georgia. Martin was on the W&M men's basketball team and served as class president. We are so grateful to Martin for his friendship and outstanding leadership at W&M. You can find links to Peggy and Martin's obituaries in the magazine's online edition.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their friends and families.

## 1966 ☾

*Class Reporter*  
**SHARON COSMINSKY KERN**

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I want to thank my special classmates for your personal notes and memories of **Dick Kern '64**. Our lives together started at W&M, and friends made there are forever friends, many of whom are part of our memories. I had a note from **Dave Thomas '65**, and he mentioned moving in as a freshman in Taliaferro Hall (now Hulon L. Willis Sr. Hall) down the hall from Dick and his roommate, **Butch Plageman '64**. If those walls could talk ...

Info has been hard to round up, but I do have some Christmas notes to draw from. Boyd and **Pat Adams Clark** spent time camping, biking, visiting family and bird watching. Their Colorado starting point makes for special scenery right out the door. They had a 12-inch snowstorm in early No-

vember (that would have paralyzed our area for weeks!) but with plowed roads, they were able to stay put if they wanted but not because they had no other choice. Pat is now sporting a new hip and on the mend. Marilyn and **Dan Nase** combined his Big Birthday with a 57th anniversary traveling the East Coast from Philadelphia back to Florida.

**Carol Boysen** has the best plan ever for celebrating. The entire birthday month is celebrated and then the "day of" is celebrated every month. On her actual birthday this year, her W&M/Chi O friend, **Courtney Eley Somers '67**, planned high tea at The Queen's Library Tea Room in downtown Richmond for four. The surprise factor was to be five additional friends in attendance, but the weather and multiple closings, including the tea room, happened. Out-of-towners **Judy Hein Harrell** (Hickory, North Carolina), **Mary Ellen Downing Gordon-Scudder** (Lynchburg, Virginia) and Courtney (Charleston, South Carolina) had hoped the forecast would improve, but it did not. Not to be messed with, Carol and her cousin had a spa moment of their own getting "Fairy Hair" added to their locks. Carol does have plans for a European river cruise in 2025.

**Gene Griffin** and **Betty Bishop Griffin '67, M.A. Ed. '73** attended Charter Day to see their friend **Betsy Calvo Anderson '70, HON J.D. '15** awarded the Alumni Medallion. **Pete Nance** and **Judy Poarch Nance '69** were also in attendance. Betty said Williamsburg got 7 inches of snow recently — now doesn't that make your memory go into overdrive remembering "traying" on the hill by Barrett Hall in our day. **Mike Greenwood** reported that same storm

dropped a couple of inches at his beach house in Sandbridge, Virginia. We only got a dusting and it was gone the moment the sun came out. I mentioned being disappointed and the maintenance men here were ready to duct tape my mouth shut — probably not the first time someone had that idea!

I mentioned **Leon Bly's** recently published book, "A History of the Music for Wind Band" in the last issue. After 12 years of research and writing, this two-volume book was published by LIT Verlag and may be purchased in printed or electronic form. Ann Marie and **Kenny Williams '67** have five grandchildren in college now but are still chasing around to sporting activities, even going to Nashville, Tennessee, for a grandson's wrestling match where Kenny caught up with **Rick Newman '67**. The Williamses moved to a nearby 55-and-older community last year, after being in their home over 50 years. When you teach in a local high school you know everyone in town, so the move doesn't change things for them. Lou Bouvier and **Denny Kelly** are enjoying retirement at their mountain home near Blacksburg, Virginia. They have seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren, ages 1 to 32. Denny's 80th birthday was a winter trip to St. John, and they have a Columbia and Snake River cruise on the books for spring.

Sandy and **Keith Dauer** are making their trip to Florida in January and February an annual event. They also went to the Portuguese territories in the Azores — Terciera and São Miguel — and to Bermuda. At home in Connecticut, they are doing the rite of passage job of downsizing but are not ready to actually move yet. They are on the boards of the Fulbright

Alumni Association, Chester Historical Society, New England History Teachers Association and Camp Hazen. They have found their scholarships to Indiana State and William & Mary history students and professors to be very rewarding as they meet recipients.

Pictures will be on the online version of this column. **Martha Wessells Steger** recently traveled to Istanbul with her son, Michael, where she lectured on the "Seven Churches of St. John the Apostle" based on their trip to Istanbul in 2024 and the early Christian communities established by St. John. **Elaine Neam Starace** sent an 80th birthday shot and a picture of **Mike Greenwood's** snowy beach property.

I want to share a very special story. About two years ago, I got a big box from Amazon. Now, since moving to "the Home" I get lots of Amazon deliveries. But this was a large box, and I had no memory of ordering something that big. I opened the box to find two super soft fleece blankets and a sweet note — "An internet hug for you" — from **Carol Boysen**. This special, unexpected gift has been such a treasure. Dick and I wrapped up in it the first winter with one on the bed and one on the TV chair. This winter we have had some very cold temperatures so my "Velcro" puppy, aka Amazing Meg, and I spend every evening wrapped in the warmth together. Thanks to Carol, the comfort and hug are felt and loved.

Now, to avoid such a drive, when I ask for news next time — send it in! Love you lots.

## 1967 ☾

*We are looking for a new reporter. If interested, please contact [alumni.magazine@wm.edu](mailto:alumni.magazine@wm.edu).*



# 1968

*Class Reporter*  
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**Bruce Oliver** wrote:

"It was a pleasure to be at William & Mary for four days during Charter Day Weekend. In addition to attending the meetings of the board of directors of the W&M Alumni Association, I was able to go to the opening of the Muscarelle Museum of Art, attend the Charter Day ceremony and tour Monroe, my old dorm, which has been renovated. It's now coed, and the upgrades include stoves and refrigerators throughout the building and beautiful lounging areas on each floor. One of my favorite experiences was talking to 30 students about their time at William & Mary, and I was pleased with the variety of their learning opportunities and their positive attitude about our alma mater."

I'm glad **Ronald Phillips** was in one place with internet capabilities long enough to send his update: "I left Williamsburg early; graduated in January 1968 and jumped into the Peace Corps to avoid the draft — a fortuitous decision as it eventually led to a career in international development. Agriculture cooperatives became my specialty: organizing African small-holder farmers to benefit from collective actions, extension systems to introduce new sustainable farming practices, collective bargaining to negotiate higher crop prices/lower input costs and small business startups to meet local needs. Initially, my only training was my B.A. in philosophy! I alternated living in

countries for extended periods, managing projects with popping over and back on short-term consultancies in all but seven African countries. Then with the fall of the Soviet Union, I moved east to spend several years meandering along the same path in Poland, Lithuania and finally Russia itself. Then when that world changed as Putin assumed power, I returned to Africa with my final project in Zimbabwe 2010. For a continental change, I rejoined the Peace Corps and lived in the Philippines luxuriously right on the South China Sea coast, managing the tourism office for the Miagao municipality before being pulled back to consultant jaunts in new countries — Uganda, Tanzania and Madagascar. Then in 2019, COVID-19 hit and we all were grounded for a while. I couldn't stay away, so once travel became possible in 2022, I volunteered with Farmer2Farmer, then managed to catch COVID in Uganda the following year. Since then, I have tried reconciling myself to staying at home [Vancouver Island, Canada, after immigrating in 2007]. In December of last year, I sent a letter to World Wildlife Fund Namibia, with which I had worked before, offering my volunteer services. I will be returning sometime in March to Caprivi, where I had lived before on the banks of the Zambezi River, watching crocs and hippos swim past. I camped in the bush with friends collecting wild memories: looking up through the tent top to see elephants reaching over to munch marula berries whose fermentation makes them slightly intoxicating — a bit disturbing to spend the night with a drunken elephant and waking up after spending the night on the top of the 4x4 to find lion prints on the edge of the vehicle."

**Linda Stickel Williams** emailed: "After graduating, I taught French in Fairfax County, Virginia, for four years. After marrying my handsome husband of 52 years, Norm Williams, I moved to Maryland, where we have been ever since. I taught in Howard County, Maryland, for four more years until the birth of our first child. I spent the next 11 years at home raising our two children, Jennifer and Ian, before returning to the classroom. Over the next 23 years, I taught French and Latin, with some English and reading thrown in for good measure. Overall, I spent 21 years as a classroom teacher and 10 more years as a teacher trainer and staff developer. Since retiring in 2010, I have been kept busy with home projects and my four grandkids: 13-year-old boy/girl twins and two girls, ages 10 and 7. There are lots of activities that keep us hopping: horse shows, recitals, plays, first communions, baseball and soccer games, etc. With more free time on my hands, I started making jewelry as gifts for friends and family. That soon got out of hand, so I went into business for 12 years, showing at local craft fairs and maintaining an Etsy shop. I retired from that about two years ago. I have also enjoyed getting back to drawing and painting. I joined the local art guild and have exhibited with them and, once in a while, even sold a painting. My email address is linwms@verizon.net, and I am on Facebook as Linda Williams. I'd love to hear from you."

# 1969

*Class Reporter*  
**WIN WHITEHURST '69,  
M.ED. '72**

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Dear Friends:  
It's a beautiful sunny February day with 6 inches of snow expected tonight. Yikes! We've had a rainy, snowy winter in Richmond, so I hope it's been nicer wherever you are.

News this time of year is scarce, although I did get a nice email from **Tom Miller**, who was inadvertently missing from the list of Homecoming & Reunion Weekend attendees. He is in Cumberland, Maryland, where the winter has been much whiter than here in Central Virginia, so he has taken advantage of the many frozen waterfalls in western Maryland to photograph the beautiful ice sculptures they produce. He is also busy with the local theater and day trips, so if you are there, be sure to look for him.

Also received some information from the alumni office about the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center in Oregon, which was founded in the early 2000s by **Diana "Dee" Curwen** and **Manuel Ramirez '18**. The center provides English language classes, community language partnerships, free legal aid clinics for immigrants and more. If you find yourself in Oregon, look them up!

Sadly, the rest of my news is bad. Three more of our classmates have died since my last column: **Marion Beers Fitzgerald**, **Roderick Frank Whibley** and **William "Bill" Stewart Crewe**.

Marion married **Bob Fitzgerald** in 1970 and followed him to Marine assignments during his active duty. She taught school in Northern Virginia and Jacksonville, North Carolina, and later was a sub in Williamsburg while he attended law school. They settled in NOVA, where she raised three children and numerous pets. She sang in the Reston Chorale and the Choral Arts Society of

Washington, as well as leading the Fitzgerald family Christmas Eve sing-along. She loved being a grandmother and never missed a game or activity. She is survived by Bob, two daughters and four granddaughters.

Rod loved traveling, biking and sports. Almost nothing could keep him from running, and he ran the Marine Corps Marathon and the Boston Marathon ... twice. Later in life, he embraced golf with the same enthusiasm. He married **Terry Waters** after graduation, and entered the Marines. He later earned an MBA and spent his career in medical practice administration, mostly at Eastern Virginia Medical School. When Terry attended medical school, he became Mr. Mom and happily took over the children. Later he was an ever-present grandfather, too. He is survived by Terry, a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Bill earned an MBA at Florida State University after graduation, and then entered the Army as a field artillery officer. He was an active reservist for 25 years, retiring as a colonel. He worked for Pricewaterhouse Coopers, IBM, HP and others. He married **Sandra Gill Crewe** after graduation and they had a son. They moved to California in 2017 following him and the wine industry. There, Bill loved Avila Beach and served on many local boards. He is survived by Sandi and his son.

Our condolences to all of these classmates and friends on the loss of their partners.

Milton and I are well, raising our Sheltie pup and trying to keep warm! Hope to see many of you at either Traditions Weekend (I'm a "maybe") or Homecoming in October. All the best for a nice spring and a great summer! Please write/email.

Go Tribe!

## 1970 ☼

*Class Reporter*  
**RANDY PEARSON**  
**VAN DAM**

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**Reid Williamson** and **Connie Scott Shepard** sent an announcement for the Class of 1970 55th reunion, which will be on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Alumni House, Hunter Hall B and the Class of 1965 Gallery. We'll gather during W&M Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2025 for an evening of friendship, music, reconnections, great food and more! Registration will open in late summer. Please make your hotel reservation ASAP. If you have questions, contact Connie Scott Shepard at [Shepardes1213@gmail.com](mailto:Shepardes1213@gmail.com) or J. Reid Williamson at [geopathman@gmail.com](mailto:geopathman@gmail.com).

**Bob Kenney '70, M.A. '73** and his wife have been living in "The 'Burg" for the past 21 years. His 25 years as a U.S. Army officer (seven years stationed in Germany and finishing as commander of the 7th Transportation Division of the U.S. Army, particularly enjoying working with Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf) facilitated Bob's following 26-year civilian career as logistician/vice president for a transportation startup, and a move to technology with four Fortune 100 companies doing supply chain security. Bob returned from the last position with Oracle in April 2024. While there, he coincidentally crossed paths with Gary Newman, president and CEO of the largest reseller of Oracle Solutions at the time. Bob's two sons attended W&M: **Patrick Kenney '09**, working in IT, has been with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a senior planner managing the life cycle of both surface and aviation

systems. His interests also include addressing air quality issues in the urban environment and indoor workplace and living space environments. In May 2025, he started a Ph.D. program at the University of Toronto. **Alex Kenney '18** is a senior analyst for Deloitte in Washington, D.C. He enjoys following his Irish heritage; he celebrated St. Patrick's Day this year on the "green river" in Chicago and is looking forward to visiting Dublin and London.

**Greg Pence** has broadened his bioethics classes and taught his first food ethics class last semester!

To be closer to daughters (coincidentally, they each have a daughter named Lauren) and growing grandchildren (i.e., football, soccer, dance recitals, school events, birthdays, snack with Santa, etc.), Janie and **Herb Armstrong '70, Ed.S. '89** moved to Frisco, Texas, three years ago. Herb missed the last Homecoming for the first time in 12 years as they took a late-October tour for three weeks starting with two days in Madeira. Herb wrote that it was not enough time to "visit a place with 27 microclimates from ocean to desert to mini rainforest!" Then three days in Lisbon followed by a cruise to Cadiz, Tangier, Casablanca, Majorca and ending in Herb's favorite — Barcelona! Loved the sites such as Gaudi's Church — but ESPECIALLY the paella! Though they miss being near the water in Frisco, he often sees **Don Gates!** And is planning on Homecoming this year.

My next deadline is in mid-June ...

## 1971 ☼

*Class Reporters*  
**LYNN GREENWOOD**  
**FRISCIA '71, M.S. '74 &**  
**JIM FRISCIA**  
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By the time you read this, the snow and ice that embraced the mid-Atlantic region this past winter will be a distant memory. When Jim Cantore of The Weather Channel is reporting from snowy Virginia Beach in February, then you know the weather is bizarre.

**Doug Brown '71, J.D. '74** sent us an update about his continuing support for the College and W&M Law School.

"I was elected not long ago an honorary trustee of the William & Mary Law School Foundation Board of Trustees. It's a wonderful opportunity to stay engaged with the law school and continue my service, since 2008, as a foundation trustee. It also facilitates more visits to Williamsburg for Escha and me, which we hugely enjoy!"

**Tom Cooney** emailed me about the retirement of Hubie Brown, an iconic basketball coach and long-time broadcaster, who got his start as a gym teacher at William & Mary in 1967-68. Tom and I both had the "pleasure" of being in Hubie's first volleyball/basketball class freshman year. We both agreed that Hubie was under the delusion that he was training aspiring professional athletes rather than decommissioned high school players and freshman men who were at the College for academics, not a professional sports career. Please see the online Class Notes for a link to a story by The Associated Press about Hubie Brown. For those who follow sports, it is amazing that Hubie Brown, Marv Levy and Lou Holtz were all part of the College athletic department in the late '60s at the start of their careers.

We had the pleasure of hosting **Kathy Plasmati Baldwin** and **Jim Baldwin '70** this winter in Florida. They spent about a month visiting friends and family from Connecticut to Florida. Kathy

and Jim described a wonderful experience on their first Road Scholar tour last fall. They visited three regions in Italy, one of which was Basilicata, which includes Matera, where Kathy's ancestors are from. It was their second visit to Matera, and they had a wonderful gathering with 50 Plasmati cousins. Matera, a UNESCO Heritage Site, is famous for its cave dwellings and dates back 30,000 years. It is considered "one of the longest continuously inhabited places in the world." Kathy said that "the trip was well organized, economical and educational."

The W&M Alumni Magazine staff scours the internet for stories about College alumni and forwards the results to us. This issue's find was **Carol Clayman Woody**. A W&M Charles Center article profiled Carol and her husband, Robert. Carol was a math major at the College and went on to a very interesting and diverse career in technology long before there were many women in that field. She currently works for the Software Engineering Institute, a research center for the U.S. Department of Defense. Aside from her professional life, Carol and her husband are avid art and antiques collectors with over 700 works of art lining the walls of their Williamsburg home. Please see the online Class Notes for a link to a W&M Alumni magazine article about the Woodys and how they support William & Mary students' passion for public history, art history and museums through the Woody Internship in Museum Studies.

On a sad note, we received the following news from Susan Bragg Riddle: "I just wanted to let you know that **Mike Riddle** died the day after Christmas if you need this for the Class Notes. He would always read them when he received

his magazine.

He received a B.A. in history from W&M and then went on to get an MBA from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. He became a successful banker for most of his career in Dallas, but also worked for the Small Business Administration processing disaster loans when hurricanes struck the U.S. in recent years. Mike was 76."

We are always looking for new material. So for those who have thought about writing but were too busy, take a few minutes and send us a note about what you have been doing for the last 53 years! Carpe diem.

## 1972 ☼

*Class Reporter*  
**PEGGY CORSO GOULD**  
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After a wintry winter, spring is arriving with all the beauty of blooming flowers and trees as well as the unfortunate ill-effects of pollen. Our notes are sparse, so maybe that will encourage you to share some of your recent experiences or just reach out to classmates who come to mind.

Congratulations to **Larry Bennett** on the publication of his most recent book, "Reclaiming Modernity: Essays on a Paradoxical Nostalgia," issued by the University of Illinois. Larry is a faculty member in the political science department at DePaul University in Chicago.

I stay in touch with **Doris Kidwell-Jerome**. She and her husband, Bob, recently welcomed a grandson into the family. Congratulations to everyone.

On a sad note, **Aubrey Lee Mason** passed away on Feb. 1 of this year. After graduation, he returned to his hometown of Lynchburg and followed in the footsteps



of his father and grandfather, starting his career as a financial advisor. He is survived by his wife, Sandi, their daughters and grandchildren.

Stay well and enjoy every day. We would love to hear from you!!

Peggy

## 1973 ☾

*Class Reporter*

**JAY A. GSELL**

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"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Charles Dickens' words never sounded more on point than here in early 2025. The U.S. Constitution and 230 years of our democratic experiment with three branches of government and separation of checks and balances have never been more uncertain. National and international chaos sewn by "our own" federal government or lack thereof is unprecedented. Now on to some good W&M-centric news.

Many of us have been experiencing real winter and extreme weather changes, like back-to-back hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, flooding, blizzards and droughts, but we hunker down, go forward and help our friends and neighbors when and where we can. Bravo.

**Joanie Spiegel Wachter** and **Bruce Wachter** were part of the Florida snowbirds gathering of Pi Phi and spouses, including **Judy McCusker Coblentz** and **David Coblentz '74**, **Mary Sammons Rordam**, **Sally Struckell Jenkins**, **Carol Flood Keane**, **Kitty Ammen Mortara** and **Teresa Boykin Anstey**, that posted a relaxed and blue-sky photo on our private W&M '73 group Facebook page.

**Tom Flesher**, "The Phantom of the Opera" keyboardist extraordinaire, was at Charter Day in the 'Burg, which includ-

ed the opening of the new Muscarelle Museum of Art. 50th wedding anniversaries recently celebrated include **Scottie Noel Alley** and **Chuck Alley '71, M.A. '72**; **Viola Osborne Baskerville** and her husband, **Archer**; and **Ron Singleton** and his wife, **Judy**. In Charleston, South Carolina, **Bob Gottke** and his wife, **Michelle**, lunched with the likes of **Charlie Jackson '69** and **Carol Christensen Jackson '72**, **Jimmy Mitchell '73, M.B.A. '76**, **Jack Hurley '72** and his wife, **Priscilla**, and **Bob Kelly '69** and his wife, **Barb**, while watching the temporarily revived Tribe men's basketball team beat Hampton. Bob G., always the Tribe's S.C. ambassador, also caught the W&M basketball game at the Charleston Sports Club against University of North Carolina Wilmington with **Bob Johnson '68**.

**Steve Lancashire** continues to regale us on Facebook with his interpretive renderings of the colonial campus — the Crim Dell and Wren Building in particular. New members on the private '73 Facebook page include **Ed Coleman** and **Bill Hargrave '69** (more on Professor Hargrave in a bit). The Olde Guard gathering in December 2024 included a busy weekend of updates on the Global Research Institute, being serenaded by the W&M Botetourt Chamber Singers and a visit to the new and improved Lake Matoaka Memorial Garden. Our own **Nancy Rowland** and **Ferris Allen** were part of the festivities, along with **Lynn Cole '74** and **William Powell '74, M.B.A. '81**.

**Steve "Mr. Geology" Snyder** in the Hershey, Pennsylvania, area is semi-retired, still doing consulting work on water quality/ground water supplies when he's not building a new guitar, fishing or humming along the Potomac River in his 250 HP Jet Boat. Steve and Bev, with three daughters who mostly live within 15

minutes of the homestead, have been blessed with 10 grandkids.

In addition to **Fred Toepke** and **Bob Stohner** passing recently, **Michael J. Graham** passed through the Pearly Gates in September of last year. Mike was a great student-athlete/track team stalwart, recruited as a pole vaulter with all-around decathlete skills that helped us win multiple Southern Conference and Virginia intercollegiate championships. A traffic engineer career saw him in NYC and Baltimore County, Maryland; the Annapolis, Maryland, native was back home at the time of his passing. His daughter, **Christina**, in New Jersey and son, **Michael Eugene**, carry on his legacy.

Finally, **Bill Harpine**, now in Texas (no doubt avoiding the measles outbreak) and married to **Elaine** for 47 years, retired in 2017 from his last university teaching post at the University of South Carolina-Aiken. Other ports of call in higher ed allowed him to display his W&M Debate Council and Flat Hat speaking and writing skills. This update got me to reflect on the number of our '73 and '74 classmates who have been regaling young collegiate minds for decades, included on this emerging list: **Dave Shields**, University of South Carolina, Columbia; **Lynda Butler**, W&M Law School; **Frank Scott**, University of Kentucky; **Carolyn "Biddy" Martin '73, L.H.D. '12**, Cornell University, University of Wisconsin and Amherst College; **Glen Clatterbuck**, Miami University and Illinois College; **John Vile**, Middle Tennessee State University; **Neil Kent**, Scott Polar Research Institute at University of Cambridge; **Nancy Dunbar**, Brown University; **James Klagge '76**, Virginia Tech; **John Morello '70**, James Madison University; **Dean Hewes '69**, University of Minnesota; **Steve Noll '74**, Univer-

sity of Florida; and **Paul Pavlich '74**, Southern Oregon University. My apologies to any of our classmates I've missed, particularly from '73 and '74 vintage — this will give you a reason to update us on your journeys for our next edition.

Getting back to **Dave Shields**, he was the subject of an article in the University of Chicago Magazine about how the now-retired University of South Carolina English professor rediscovered forgotten crops and preserved Southern culinary heritage, making him "one of the country's foremost culinary historians." Look for a link in our online Class Notes.

The grand finale on this theme being the recently departed: **Bernard "Bernie" Herman**, the ginger/King dorm survivor and noted University of Delaware (Blue Hens) academician from 1977 to 2009, when he migrated south to University of North Carolina Chapel Hill to continue his scholarly and professorial passion for American material culture, passed away in December 2024.

So there it is, another stream of consciousness thread from your class scribe. Hopefully some of the above will engender responses, updates, clarifications, a few photos or calls for impeachment! Be well, be safe, hug your loved ones.

## 1974 ☾

*Class Reporter*

**MARY MILEY THEOBALD '74, M.A. '80**

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Our class's favorite actor, **Glenn Close '74, D.A. '89, H.F. '19**, won the 2025 AARP Movies for Grownups Career Achievement Award. The annual award "honors veteran stars for their continuing

pursuit of excellence in filmmaking for the 50-plus audience." Glenn was delighted to accept because she, like the rest of us, gets frustrated when she turns on the TV and can't find something good to watch. We just watched her latest movie, an action-comedy called "Back in Action," and enjoyed seeing her in the role of a retired British spy. When she is not working, Glenn and her daughter and other members of her family live near Bozeman, Montana.

**Charles Nance** is pleased to be semi-retired now that he sold his law practice (estate planning, elder law, asset protection) to a colleague at Herndon Law. "I'm able to stay active in the practice as much as I'd like, and it's a relief to know my clients will be taken care of when I'm not here." Charlie and family live in Richmond, Virginia.

I remember when, shortly after graduation, **Geoy Ailstock Cameron** did something that was — to me, at least — wonderfully adventurous. She set off for the other side of the world and spent the next 30 years in Australia. She happened to have noticed an index card on a bulletin board at W&M saying that the New South Wales Department of Education was experiencing a severe teacher shortage, and that was all it took. In Australia, she taught first at a tiny two-teacher school in the middle of huge sheep properties and boarded with a local family; soon she got married and had two sons, continuing to teach (mostly kindergarten). It's a looooong way away, but she returned to the States seven times during those years, and her parents and sisters visited her a few times. In 2004, she moved back home to Virginia Beach to the house she grew up in near the ocean. Her sons and their families live

there now, too. In Virginia Beach, she continued teaching for another 16 years. She is now enjoying her three grandchildren and a well-deserved retirement.

Also living the active retirement life in Virginia Beach is Dr. **Rick Arnaudin**. After graduating from W&M, he spent three years in the Coast Guard based in New Orleans, then returned to the classroom in Richmond at the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University dental school. There he met his wife, Betsy, who was finishing nursing school. They ended up in her hometown of Virginia Beach, where Rick practiced family and cosmetic dentistry until his retirement in 2020. They have two sons, David and Douglas, and two granddaughters.

Eight years ago, **Jim Theobald** and I and four other couples bought a farm a few miles southwest of Charlottesville, where we planted four acres of grapes — thus was born Valley Road Vineyards. Over the years, we've expanded to nearly 20 acres in vines, spruced up the barn and outbuildings for weddings and social gatherings and watched our wines win numerous awards. But in 2025, we set a personal best when three of our wines won gold medals and two others won silver! If you happen to be in the Central Virginia area and want to visit, let Jim or me know and we'll meet you there, or at least arrange for the "W&M" discount!

## 1975

*Class Reporter*  
**LEANNE DORMAN KURLAND**

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By the time you read this, many of you will

have been to the Celebration of the Half Century and the BCE incredible 50th reunion! Whether you reconnected for the first time in 50 years or are on average practically every other week, like some of us, I hope each and every one of you had a truly wonderful time and are proud and impressed by alma mater.

**Barb Ramsey** won her seat on the Williamsburg City Council. It is Williamsburg's extremely good fortune to have Barb remain on the council!

**Karen Kennedy Schultz** is finally officially retired as professor emeritus at Shenandoah University, where she was a professor at their School of Pharmacy. She tried to retire three times, but the university kept calling her back. Sharon made a proud and profound observation ... only W&M can set up an art history major to go on to get a Ph.D. and become a full professor at a university pharmacy school!

**Sharon Pandak '75, J.D. '78** has had quite a few fun outings with classmates. These are somewhat old news due to my using the last issue (winter 2025) to focus on our 50th reunion, but among the outings were: a great time in New York with **Marcia Carl Simpkins '75, M.Ed. '77, M.B.A. '78, Joan Harrigan** and **Linda Cleek Gray** (this may become an annual event!); dinner with her freshman year DuPont 3rd suite mate Dr. **Debbie Omori '76**; dinner with **Heldur Liivak** and **Beth DiPace Liivak '76** and **Van Black** at the Williamsburg Winery during Van's annual summer trip to Williamsburg; and another Williamsburg gathering with W&M Debate Team members **Joan Harrigan** and **James Weekley**.

**Rose Marie Alley Browning** and her husband, **Bert Brown-**

**ing '73**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, last June with their three daughters and families joining in the celebration. Congratulations! Rose and Bert also participated in a church choir tour in the U.K. in August, singing in Exeter, Salisbury, Wells and Bath Abbey cathedrals.

**Ed Holt '75, M.B.A. '78** updated contact information: 599 Scarlet Drive, Daleville, VA 24083-3176, (c) 770-579-4658, (h) 540-591-7001, edholt3@att.net.

**Stephen Morewitz '75, M.A. '78** has published his 15th book, "Handbook of Understanding Terrorism" (Springer, 2024) together with Martine Herzog-Evan. The book examines "common theoretical conceptualization of terrorism, including these following dimensions: macro-criminological theories, psycho-criminological model of aggression; psycho-criminological model of risk and need (RNR)" and more. You can find more about Stephen and his works at [https://en.everybodywiki.com/Stephen\\_J.\\_Morewitz](https://en.everybodywiki.com/Stephen_J._Morewitz).

After graduation, **Diane Doyle** moved back to Northern Virginia and secured a position as a government contractor in the information technology (IT) industry. She married classmate **Steve Tamberrino**, who also worked in the IT industry, and they remained in Northern Virginia all these years. Steve officially retired in 2022 and is now enjoying playing bridge both in person and online. Diane has yet to retire, although retirement is on the horizon as she and Steve have a lot on their bucket list. On that list: attending baseball and hockey games in all the major cities, traveling to other tourist sites and some travel overseas. They have already checked off two

hockey stadiums, two baseball stadiums and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. They have two daughters, both world travelers since college graduation. Their elder daughter taught English in Korea and now lives in Ireland with her Irish husband, whom she met on her travels. Their younger daughter joined the Peace Corps, where she met her future husband, and is now an occupational therapist in the Durham, North Carolina, region. In 2021, Diane attended her high school 50th reunion along with other members of Tribe '75 **Kevin Jones** and **Carol Vogel Jones, Jim Monacell** and **Tracy Trentadue**. Kevin, Carol, Jim and Diane were all in the same high school class in Northern Virginia. Kevin and Carol both live in Northern Virginia, as do Diane and Steve. Jim and Tracy live in Georgia near Atlanta. Kevin and Carol's elder son, **Nathan Jones '04**, followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a lawyer. He moved to New York City, where he married, with the wedding taking place at the Central Park Zoo. Diane and Steve, along with Nathan's parents, were the witnesses.

In July of 2023, Diane and Steve's daughters planned a 70th birthday celebration for them, inviting many family members and friends. They gathered at a fun winery with the whole event planned and even financed by their daughters. The joys of having adult children! Birthday celebration festivities also included going out to dinner, but not on the same day as the winery birthday outing. At 70, they thought it best to pace themselves.

In the W&M family connections department, Diane has a cousin, **Anne Doyle '83**, and a niece from Steve's family, **Jerilyn Kent '08**. Go Tribe!

## 1976

*Class Reporter*  
**ROBERT (BOB) S. CAVALIERE**

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Hello, classmates. Hope everyone has survived the unusually cold and snowy winter. I know personally that, despite growing up in New England, I tolerate and like the cold less and less as the years go by. How about you? Do you snowbird for the winter? If so, how long have you been doing it, where do you go and how much time do you spend there? Would you like a visitor?

I have been writing this column, i.e., your column, for almost 39 years now and this is only the second time that I can recall not having a single bit of news to share. No emails from classmates, no news articles picked up by the College's information gathering sources, nada. So even more fervently than usual, I ask you to send in some news, any news, to share with the group.

As you may well be aware, next spring we are scheduled to be inducted into the Olde Guard, so please contact old friends and make plans to attend the weekend, or just get in touch with someone from your past to catch up. Just do it! You'll be glad you did. See you there.

## 1977

*Class Reporter*  
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"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." This saying from Ralph Waldo



Emerson captures the impact our classmates are making as reflected in their updates received through mid-February.

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend last fall began with the Sunset Ceremony on Friday, Oct. 18. Memorial candles were lit for four of our classmates: **James M. Bates, Susan C. Mingee '77, M.A.Ed. '86 and Hulon L. Willis Jr.** Deepest condolences to their families. May their memories be eternal. I thank **Claire De Lisle M.B.A. '21**, managing editor of the W&M Alumni Magazine and Tina Eshleman, assistant managing editor, for hosting our Class Reporter Breakfast on Homecoming Sunday. I commend them for their ongoing support to ensure our class updates are published in print and online.

Thanks to Richard and Maria Thomas, parents of **Mariana Thomas '28**, for hosting the W&M Atlanta Yule Log on Dec. 11 at their home in Brookhaven, Georgia, and to **Ashley Dustin Bronsky M.Ed. '20** for helping organize it for our Atlanta alumni.

I appreciate **Maggie Kneip** for writing a kind note of thanks for my "shepherding our class through our shared memories and stories and updates. I am sure I'm among the many who appreciate this." Congratulations to Maggie for doing a fourth performance of "Stuck in a Moment" at Don't Tell Mama on New York City's renowned Restaurant Row on March 5.

**Sandy Spicknall '77, M.B.A. '80** is making plans to go to North Dakota and South Dakota in June with her sister-in-law. She only has seven states left to visit and will knock those two and a few national parks out then. I look forward to receiving her update and photos when she returns.

Congratulations to **Diane Hull Gansauer**,

who wrote her first book that was published this spring: "The Waypoints: From 400 Farewells and 3,000 Miles." It is about the physical and spiritual adventure of hiking more than 3,000 miles on the Continental Divide Trail from Mexico to Canada while simultaneously honoring more than 400 life stories at the end of those lives. Diane's book is for sale online through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and all the major book outlets. This is her first book.

**Bob Thompson** shared that he and **Nancy Rasmussen Thompson '78, M.A. '08** have been living happily in Williamsburg for 22 years now. On Dec. 8 of last year, they went over to the former Pi Kappa Alpha house at Unit D of the old frat complex to celebrate their 49th anniversary of the day they met there. They were introduced by Bob's "little brother" in the fraternity, **Eric Scalise '78, M.Ed. '80, Ed.S. '90**, at a party in the basement and have been together ever since. The old frat complex (renamed Green & Gold Village in 2013) will be demolished at the end of this academic year.

**Jordan Adair '78** wrote a note of thanks for my reaching out for news. He entered W&M in the spring of 1974 to join the Class of 1977, but stuck around for an additional year to complete a double major in English and anthropology and to play another year of lacrosse. Jordan graduated with the class of 1978. He shared a great update with his class reporter, **Maryanne Nelson Smith '78** last year, who included it in her online fall report. During his 43 years as an educator, Jordan was the recipient of several teaching awards, including the Upper School Faculty Teaching Award (2007), the F. Robertson Hershey Distinguished Faculty Award (2021) and the Faculty and Staff Alumni Legacy

Award (2024). Jordan and his wife, Pamela, live just outside of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

**Barbara Leary Jones and Doug Jones** wrote that they are still living in Midlothian, Virginia, just outside of Richmond. Barb is retired and Doug is heading there by the end of 2025. Their daughter, Anna, is a school counselor in Dallas. Last fall they had a fantastic four-week trip to Australia and New Zealand. Everything fell into place perfectly ... great scenery, great weather and great people! They highly recommend visiting, especially the south island of New Zealand which is breathtaking. Their biggest surprise of the trip was running into their good friends from Richmond, **Mary Miley Theobald '74, M.A. '80** and **Jim Theobald '74** on the streets of Rotorua, New Zealand! As Barbara and Doug were finishing their trip and Mary and Jim were just staring theirs, none of them had any idea the others were traveling to New Zealand! Mary told Barbara later that she heard people calling "Mary!" from behind, but she did not turn around since no one would know her in Rotorua! They finally caught up with them and had a nice lunch, shaking their heads the whole time at the crazy coincidence.

**Kevin Greenan** shared that he and his wife, Lee, are celebrating 33 years together. They are focusing on becoming more environmentally conscious and are in the process of converting their house to solar and purchasing their first electric vehicle. Kevin has been involved in mentoring a couple of startup companies to help them navigate early-stage growth challenges. It's fun, both because his clients are in their 20s and 30s, and because their areas of focus (artificial intelligence and environmental solutions)

really interest him. Kevin recently re-connected with our PiKA brother **Dave Forrest**, while he was visiting his son in the Seattle area. In 2024, Kevin devoted time to his lifelong interest, long distance shooting. He explained he never aimed at anything or anyone living but really likes the physical and mental challenges of hitting a target 1000 yards away. He noted, "It's a very zen process and keeps me focused!"

In closing, I give thanks to my wife, Marinda, for our 45 years of marriage. Our three children are married and have blessed us with seven grandchildren, the newest being a grandson born last November. We had the privilege of taking Evie and Nicholas, aged 12 and 8 respectively, to Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, during their winter break as their parents, our daughter Katie and son-in-law Steven, celebrated their 15-year wedding anniversary in Norway and the northernmost inhabited island above the Arctic Circle.

Classmates, continue to send updates and know that the Class of '77 cares.

## 1978

*Class Reporter*  
**MARYANNE NELSON SMITH**

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Last November, W&M adjunct professor of finance **Carl Tack '78** delivered a community lecture on balancing financial interests and ethical concerns within corporations. Hosted by the Howard J. Busbee Finance Academy at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business, the lecture series aims to spark campus-wide engagement surrounding financial and corporate governance. Look for a link to the related Flat

Hat article in our online Class Notes. Carl maintains a Substack blog, "Banking and Beyond," at [substack.com/@carltack](https://substack.com/@carltack), where he dives deep into topics like corporate governance, public policy and financial institutions. Explaining his blog, Carl says, "we will explore together the fascinating world of finance with a focus on financial institutions, corporate finance and personal/civic financial literacy. This blog is written primarily for university students and young finance professionals and is designed to be educational as well as interesting and even fun at times."

An article in the winter 2025 W&M Alumni Magazine highlighted research taking place thanks to funding from the Applied Research & Innovation Initiative (ARII) sponsored by **Michael Foradas and Valerie Foradas HON '21**. Faculty, staff and students across William & Mary are tackling critical issues with ARII grants supporting multidisciplinary research projects that align with W&M's Vision 2026 strategic plan, including the key areas of data, democracy, careers and water. Another goal of the initiative is to increase student internships and work experiences. The grants in this five-year pilot program are hosted by the Global Research Institute, Institute for Integrative Conservation and Whole of Government Center of Excellence. You can read the article in the online magazine archive.

In February, **Julie Dobson** participated in Memorial Sloan Kettering's Cycle for Survival event in Washington, D.C. 2025 marked Julie's 10th year of participation — congrats!

It's always a pleasure to hear from **Steve Culp**. Last spring he was in Budapest and Oslo shooting "FBI: International." In August, he

was in Vancouver for the show "Tracker." As you may recall, Steve and his wife, Barbara, now have a home in Prince Edward Island (PEI). Steve says, "People ask me when I will move up to PEI full time, and my response is — um, good question. Despite the industry slowdown, my business phone continues to ring. When not filming, I'm usually doing some kind of theatre work in L.A. And I still very much enjoy the work. Even so, I did make a few extended trips to PEI this year and am looking to spending even more time there in 2025. I can't tell you how lovely it is to be up there. Barbara and I work pretty hard on the farm, but it doesn't feel like work. Who knew shoveling compost and planting beds could be so fulfilling? But it is."

What are YOU up to? Please let us know ... Carpe Diem!

## 1979

*Class Reporter*  
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## 1980 45

*Class Reporter*  
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I am enclosing a quick note just to say hi and that I hope everyone is doing well. Time is marching on, and winter is almost behind us. Tomorrow, we are going to be tempted with some hints of spring! I don't have any news to share, so I am using this column to send a gentle reminder to send me a note with your news to share with your classmates! I hope to hear from you soon. Until then, enjoy the spring weather and be well.

## 1981

*Class Reporter*  
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Hello again, '81ers!  
Well — sadly we did not receive any news/updates from our classmates this time around.

Please share some of your retirement adventures with us and/or all the news with your families.

Looking forward to hearing from you in the next round.

Go Tribe!

## 1982

*Class Reporter*  
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Greetings! I am so sorry I missed the last column. Eric's mom passed away over the holidays unexpectedly, and it was a bit chaotic. I guess the silver lining is that we have convinced Eric's dad to move from Galveston, Texas, to Dallas and found a nice retirement/assisted living situation for him. I'm sure many of you have found yourselves in similar situations, having to figure out how best to help aging parents and deal with their loss.

Meanwhile, I've received a few updates: **Roy Dunn** wrote about the annual Theta Delta Chi Golf Outing, which started in 1985 and has been going strong ever since, with four events a year. The last event, the April Harry Bufalo Invitational held in Williamsburg, was attended by many of our classmates, including **Joe Claytor '83**, who apparently won the championship (and was presented with a giant

trash can ... quite appropriate), **Steve Cooley**, **Bruce Patterson '80**, **Mike Shuler '83**, **Rich Choate**, **Dave Cooley '78**, **John Perkins**, **Tyler Leinbach '83**, **Dean Buckius '81**, **Jim Riley '81**, **Jon Huddleston '82**, **J.D. '86** and **Walt Lundahl '80**. The next event was held in September in Ocean City, Maryland — I hope to get an update as to the winners! I love that so many of our classmates get together regularly!!

**Trisha Flaherty Farrell** also sent an update. She had the good fortune of going on one of the W&M Alumni Journeys trips. This one was an eight-day/night excursion on the Windstar, a four-masted sailboat, hugging the French and Riviera coast. Trisha noted that the accommodations were top notch and the guides were exceptional. She highly recommends all of us considering one of these trips! Trisha also attended a track reunion in the spring of 2023 at W&M. **Catherine Sardo Weidner** and Trisha represented the Class of '82. Also attending were **Jane Romanczyk McNaught '81**, **Julie Gauthier Bradshaw '81**, **Jeanne Lull Hopke '80**, **Kathie Ellen Scherer Watson '81**, **Laura Sardo '80**, **Leslie Minnix-Wolfe '83**, **Diane Hawley Abshire '84** and **Allison Hawley Ewing '84**. Trisha noted that back then they didn't appreciate that they were pioneers for W&M women's track, and there was a well-deserved tribute to them at the reunion. Trisha also notes that she has retired after 34 years at the same company. She has a new email address, [trixiefarell@gmail.com](mailto:trixiefarell@gmail.com) (Trixie is her grandmother's name and what Trisha's high school friends called her).

**Lisa LaBanca Rogers** wrote with updates on her writing career. She was asked to write

"Elvis Presley: A Little Golden Book Biography," which was published in September 2024 from Random House Kids and has become a best seller! Lisa's picture book, "Beautiful Noise: the Music of John Cage," about the avant-garde composer for whom all sounds were music, won the prestigious Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Golden Kite Honor Award for 2024 and was recognized as a Boston Authors Club Notable Book. In February, another picture book, "Joan Mitchell Paints a Symphony," was published by Astra/Calkins Creek. Congratulations, Lisa!! How wonderful to have so much success as an author!

**Elizabeth McNey Sweet** sent in her first update! Having taught English for many years, mostly at the secondary level, she left the classroom in 2020 to copyedit for clients in the financial world, dividing her time between that work and her small farm in the mountains of North Georgia. In February 2025, a book she co-authored with the cofounder of the investment firm Cumberland Advisors, David R. Kotok, was published: "The Fed and the Flu: Parsing Pandemic Economic Shocks," a history of the economic and societal shocks that pandemics have delivered throughout history, with a section on the changing role of the U.S. Federal Reserve with regard to pandemics. Congrats, Elizabeth!

**Michael Canny** also sent me his first update. He writes, "While at W&M, I worked part time for the campus police. After graduation I became a Hampton, Virginia, police officer. My original plan was to relocate back to Northern Virginia or get into federal law enforcement but ended up staying with the Hampton Police Division for 34 years. I still live in Hampton. I

married a fellow officer, Susan, in 1989. She retired in 2015 as a captain. I retired as a road sergeant in 2017 after 34 years of service. We have one daughter, Megan, who married a Suffolk firefighter in 2022, and recently completed her doctorate in education administration at Florida State University." Michael has pursued other jobs in transportation post-retirement and now lives about an hour from Williamsburg. Great to hear from you, Michael!

**Peter Shea** recently joined the New York office of Seward & Kissel LLP as a partner in its Investment Management Group. Peter received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and earlier in his career served as a staff attorney in the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Enforcement. Congrats to Peter!

On a much sadder note, we lost two of our classmates recently, **Mary Przypyszny Pennington '82, M.Ed. '84** and **Laurie McAvoy Hissey**.

Mary lived in Haverford, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Mark. After graduating, Mary worked for Catholic University in the career development office. After moving to the Philadelphia area, she worked in the career center of St. Joseph's University and later Widener University. She left the higher education world to work in a variety of human resources positions at Comcast. She was a board member for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and was the LLS woman of the year in 2012. Mary touched many people and will be remembered for her vibrant smile, easy laugh and indomitable spirit. I only met Mary a few years ago, and she was all that and more.

Laurie lived in West Chester, Pennsylvania, with her husband Dave, and together they raised



four sons. Laurie was an avid tennis player and began teaching with her mother and playing regional and national tournaments. For years she was one of the top players in the Philadelphia area. She built a thriving tennis community, teaching adults and children and was affectionately known as "Coach Laurie." If you knew Laurie in college, you remember that infectious smile! I remember her during my summer in the Cambridge program — she backpacked all through Europe and never met a stranger. I know she will be missed by many, many people.

That's all the news I have! Please send me your updates! No bit of news is too small!

## 1983

*Class Reporter*

**SHERRI SELL PHILLIPS**

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Happy Spring/Summer!

The Tribe men's basketball team has inspired fans to Pack the Kap this winter. The games have been super exciting to watch. Such an improved fan experience than in recent years, with loads of students in attendance. It's great to see the student section back in action.

**Bob Newman** sent a note that **Kevin McGahren**, **Bob Jaeger '83**, **M.S. '88**, **Marv Shaw**, **Mark Voigt** and **Brad Angevine '84** met for a pregame brunch before the basketball game at Delaware (see a photo in the online version of the magazine). At the arena, they caught up with **Rob Guillen** and his wife, **Kim Clarke Guillen '83**, who live near the University of Delaware. Too bad the Tribe lost that game. They try to

get to a W&M basketball game and football game each year when the team travels in the mid-Atlantic area. The next get-together is planned for Sept. 27 when W&M football plays at Villanova.

At the men's basketball game vs. Hofstra, **Kathryn Kostel Litten** was presented with the Director's Chair in honor of her tireless efforts on behalf of W&M Athletics. Kathryn is former director of the Tribe Club. You can see her along with her husband, **Jay Litten '82**, **J.D. '85**, at most home basketball games in "Litten's Lair," court-side on the floor adjacent to the Tribe bench. She is close enough to give the refs an earful when they make bad calls, which seems to happen a lot!

Congratulations to **Michelle Taylor Ferebee**, who was elected to Hampton's City Council with 57% of the vote. She has served on the council as an interim appointee and is now duly elected. In addition, she is the deputy director of the Strategic Partnerships Office at NASA's Langley Research Center.

In February, **Vic MacCagnan** and **Deborah Norris MacCagnan** participated in the 33rd annual Polar Plunge along with **David Thomason** and 4,148 other people to support the Special Olympics. All these people ran into the Atlantic Ocean in the middle of winter (and that's saying something since we've had an unusually chilly winter this year). This year had the largest turnout in the 33-year history of the event. The event raised \$1.7 million for Special Olympics Virginia. After 35 years with Special Olympics, David became the CEO of Special Olympics Virginia in 2022.

**Jeff Barnes '81**, **J.D. '86** was the guest of honor at the home of **Cyndy Huddleston '83**, **M.Ed. '86** for the

February meeting of the Griffin's Roost Book Group as we discussed his book, "Mingo." We had a robust conversation, and the addition of Jeff and his slideshow featuring all the research he did made for an enlightening evening. "Mingo" is thoughtfully researched and beautifully written. Set against the backdrop of coal-rich, hardscrabble West Virginia and "civilized," segregated Richmond, Virginia, it is the story of two brothers "tragically fated to divergent paths." Highly recommend "Mingo" for its nuanced characters and coverage of a difficult topic of the coal mine wars in West Virginia. Other alumni in attendance were **Elizabeth Armistead Andrews '84**, **Betsy Pendleton Crockett '85**, **Julie Doolittle Andino**, **Pam Krulitz '86** and **Marcia Seymour Horst '82**, **Jon Huddleston '82**, **J.D. '86** and me.

W&M celebrated its 332nd birthday during Charter Day Weekend, having recently completed "The Year of the Arts," and is now kicking off "The Year of the Environment." The yearlong observance will celebrate W&M's estuarine campus and renew commitments to healthy ecosystems. The new Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences & VIMS announced a \$50 million gift from Dr. **R. Todd Stravitz '82** for the purpose of providing full tuition scholarships for undergraduates to study marine science for FREE! Read about the gift in an online-exclusive story on the W&M Alumni Magazine website and on page 12.

As part of the weekend, the Muscarelle Museum of Art re-opened with a lovely reception kicking off Charter Day (see the story on page 8). It was lovely to see **Hodan Seagar '18** and **Chase Jordan '15**, who both serve on the

W&M Alumni Association board, and **Johnny "Mick" Mickens P '14** — all in town from NYC. Always fun to see **Nancy Cote Kane '84**, who came all the way from San Diego, and **Lois Korb Peterson '81** with her husband, Dick, who now live in Utah. Johnny, Nancy and Lois serve on the Annual Giving Board with me. One Tribe One Day is one of the Annual Giving Board's initiatives, so I hope everyone gave something. If you missed it there's still time to get your gift in by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

The Muscarelle just completed a major addition and renovation. This spring, the Muscarelle featured an exhibition called "Michelangelo: The Genesis of the Sistine." According to the curator, Adriano Marinazzo, the exhibition "offers an unparalleled opportunity to step into the mind of one of history's greatest artists and stress the creative process behind a masterpiece widely considered the pinnacle of artistic achievement." The expansion was funded by a bequest from **Martha Wren Briggs '55**. An interesting fact about the Muscarelle is that it is completely privately funded.

On Friday of Charter Day Weekend, W&M Athletics hosted a "topping off" ceremony for the Mackesy Sports Performance Center that's being added onto Kaplan Arena. Attendees got to sign their name or write a message on a steel beam bearing the American flag. The beam was then lifted by a huge crane to the top of the steel frame of what will become the Mackesy Sports Center. At one point some alumni started singing "Our Alma Mater." It was quite a moment. (See the story on page 16.)

During Charter Day Weekend, **Beth Sala Covin** received the

Douglas N. Morton Alumni Service Award for her engagement as a class ambassador over the years, support of club rowing, involvement with the West Coast Regional Campaign and her tireless promotion of the Sorority Centennials. Up next was the Pi Phi Centennial, April 4-6, 2025. More details in the next issue!

## 1984

*Class Reporter*

**ALISON HORROCKS MILLER '84, M.B.A. '88**

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Greetings to the Class of 1984! I am always appreciative when classmates take the time to send in updates, and I promised in the last Class Notes to include news that I had gratefully received but had not yet shared here.

I loved hearing from **Lisa West Alpert**, who compiled updates from a group of Pi Phi sorority sisters who have stayed close over the last 40 years. Here is what she shared: **Judy Kavjian Owens** and her husband, Bill, live in McLean, Virginia. Judy retired last year from her work in trusts and estates, and she and Bill are traveling like crazy. **Lynne Helms Foreman** and **George Foreman** are in Richmond. Lynne is a practicing psychiatrist in student health at Virginia Commonwealth University, and George is a realtor with Joyner Fine Properties. Lynne sees **Margee Krebs '85** all the time. Margee is a nurse practitioner, also in student health at VCU. **Monica Johnson Deaver** lives in Hamilton, Virginia, with her husband, Eric. **Luanne Spruill Guterthuth** and her husband, Mike, didn't get the memo about

relaxing in retirement. They built and opened a winery and a beautiful guesthouse in Round Hill, Virginia. You can learn more about their winery at [goodspiritfarmva.com](http://goodspiritfarmva.com) or go for a visit! **Julie O'Neill Kloo** is retired from her life as a professor of English at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She and **Juergen Kloo '83** are grandparents, three times over. Juergen retired last year from his position as sales director of the Joy Cone Co. They see **Anne Kirk Gensheimer** and her husband, Mark, frequently. Anne runs her own professional photography firm in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. She and Mark are grandparents, eight times over! Anne and Julie also stay busy comparing notes about caring for their moms who also live nearby. **Julie Beringer** is a managing director of financial crimes risk management at Wells Fargo. She and her husband, Bob, live outside Chicago and travel extensively. **Melanie Morgan '84, J.D. '87** lives in McKinney, Texas, with her partner of 13 years, David, and works for Legal Aid of North-West Texas representing victims of domestic violence. **Val Anderson Zander** has lived in the Bay Area for 25 years. She teaches at ICA Cristo Rey in San Francisco. **Lisa West Alpert** lives in New York City on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with her husband, Mark, a novelist and science journalist. She is the senior vice president of development and programming at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, a National Historic Landmark and cultural institution. **Valerie Stiffler Suessmith** lives in the Atlanta area and recently retired from human resources in the public education arena, although consulting is now keeping her busy along with a 21-month-old grandson.

**Sandy DeSilvio Witt** lives in Holland, Ohio, with her husband, Dave. After a career in podiatry, she switched gears four years ago and now works for The Victory Center, a nonprofit that provides free services to cancer patients and their families. Sandy and Dave have four grandchildren. Many thanks to Lisa for sharing all of these great updates! I would like to add that **Lynne Helms Foreman** and **George Foreman** recently celebrated their 40 wedding anniversary — congratulations!

**Andrew "Drew" Dolson, '84, J.D. '88** wrote to announce that his first grandson, James Lakeman Dolson, was born on Feb. 3, 2024. James' parents, **Bernadette Aylward '14** and Drew's son **Brennan Dolson '14, M.S. '19**, are very proud and excited, as are grandmother **Theresa "Terry" Lancaster Dolson '86**, aunties **Mary Kate Aylward '08** and **Aileen Aylward '10**, and uncles **Max Lazar '12** and **Cullen Dolson M.A. Ed '22**. Drew noted, "If we play our cards just right, and talk about the College enough, but, you know, not too much, the boy will arrive in the 'Burg one very steamy day in August 2046." That seems like a strong possibility! Congratulations!

**Bill Joyner** wrote just before our reunion as he was not able to attend due to the wedding of his daughter the following week. He shared that he was elected vice chair of the University of North Texas Faculty Senate last spring, which is keeping him especially busy. He has been a member of the faculty there for many years. He shared that he was in Williamsburg in August to participate in the international convention of his fraternity, Theta Delta Chi. As William & Mary hosted this national convention, Bill said it was truly fantastic to see

so many brothers from our W&M years there, including **Chris Kontos '84, M.A. '85, Greg Wagner, Will Gimpel, Alan Ashworth '85, Jim Lovegren '85, Mike Shuler '83, Steve Cooley '82, Jim Riley '81, Brian Ledwith '81** and **Hank Wood '81**. Greg and Alan received awards from the national fraternity for their service. Bill was asked to sing on several occasions during the convention; he says the one that meant the most was singing at the Omega Service, held in the Wren Chapel, for all the Theta Deltas who had passed away since the 2023 convention.

Thanks again to those who sent along updates; it is always so nice to hear from you and share your news! Please send along any other updates you'd like me to share in the next Class Notes.

## 1985 40

*Class Reporter*  
**ELIZABETH WISEMAN**  
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Hard to believe, but May marks 40 years (!!) since we made our way across campus to celebrate Commencement at William & Mary Hall. I am writing this column on Feb. 15, the 40th anniversary of the release of "The Breakfast Club," if that helps you realize just how much time has passed! June is also the 40th anniversary of the release of "St. Elmo's Fire," which was more on point for our situation! However you mark the passage of time, whether by the movies you watched, the music you listened to or the people you met, 40 years is indeed quite a milestone for us all.

**Fred Caprio** was mentioned in the article "A Mission of Empowerment" in the winter 2025 edition of the W&M Alumni Magazine,

concerning his work with members of the Afghan Female Tactical Platoon. Read more in the online version of the magazine.

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Board of Trustees welcomed **Ted Decker**, president, chair and CEO of The Home Depot, as its newest board member in March. "Ted deeply appreciates the importance of Colonial Williamsburg's educational mission, and the central role of this colonial capital city in America's founding story," **Cliff Fleet '91, M.A. '93, M.B.A. '95, J.D. '95**, president and CEO of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, says in the announcement. "We are very fortunate that he is joining our Board of Trustees, where he will lend his vast expertise to our work to present a complete, fact-based history of our nation."

That's all I have for you this time. I would love to hear from you and find out how you have spent these past 40 years. Please send me a quick email or find me on Facebook. I enjoy writing this column and would like to hear from more of you. Valeté, omnes!

## 1986

*Class Reporter*  
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Hello classmates! Last September, **Mike Atherton** and his friend **Read Sulik** canoed in Minnesota along the United States/Canada border on the Boundary Waters. In late January, they returned to the same area for a little taste of "real winter," with temperatures expected to remain below zero. Next on Mike's list is a trip to the Arctic Circle in the fall.

Five Kappa Kappa

Gamma sisters, from Chicago all the way to Florida, met for a weekend reunion in Williamsburg to tour the campus and enjoy the festivities of the Dec. 7 Grand Illumination in Colonial Williamsburg. The alumnae group included **Sarah Botoms Magnus-Sharpe, Deborah Fetterman Moyer, Betsy Burr Elliott, Elizabeth Kling-Franke** and **Laurie Gardiner Seril**. They were amazed by all the new construction and hope the natural beauty of the surrounding woodlands can be retained. On their last night out, at The Hound's Tale, a restaurant near sorority court, they were excited to learn their waitress was a current student and a new pledge at Kappa. She received a hearty tip!

**Alison Seyler Nagel** and **Bill Nagel '90** spoke with **Sean Reilly '89** at the Yule Log reception at the Cornell Club. Sean updated them on his advertising production company. If you're in the New York City area, you may have seen his recent commercial for visiting Williamsburg. Bill works as a lobbyist for the Bricklayers and Tile, Marble & Terrazzo unions in New York City. Alison is at MIA Shoes as their sales director, managing imports and private label development. She and Bill have two teenage sons in high school in New York City (LaGuardia and Brooklyn Tech). The family spends their summers on the beach in New Jersey, and they ski when the weather cooperates. Alison connected with **Pam Cunningham** in Florida in January. Pam owns and runs a bed-and-breakfast inn on the Maine coast during the summers; in the off-season, she catches up on her reading and sleep in Ormond Beach, Florida.

**Terry Boyle McDougall's** oldest son, Brady,



graduated from Syracuse University last year with an M.F.A. Their family attended to celebrate with him. After 19 years in Chicago and newly single, Terry moved in October to Virginia Beach, Virginia. She enjoys hiking, walking on the beach and boardwalk, and spending time with family and friends in the area. She continues to lead her executive coaching business, Terry B. McDougall Coaching, helping corporate leaders be happier and more successful at work. When she wrote in January, she and her daughter were planning a two-week trip for May, including an Alaskan cruise and exploration of Alaska and Vancouver, Canada.

In May 2024, **David Benton** took “the joyous path to retirement.” He had been with Hubbard Peanut Co. in Sedley, Virginia, for 35 years. He and his wife, **Cindy Taylor Benton ’87**, now live full-time on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, where David is busy catching up on the “honey-do” list. Their oldest child, Chad, lives about a mile away. Their daughter, Emmy, is a rising junior at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Their son, Wade, is a rising ninth grader. They are fortunate that Cindy’s siblings and dad all live within a few miles of them at the beach. They are looking forward to traveling (just bought their first camper) and spending time with family and friends.

**Mike Doucette** and his wife, who live in Williamsburg, have four grandsons, including two new ones since the fall. Their daughter and son-in-law, of Holly Springs, North Carolina, had their first child in October 2024. Their son and his wife, of New Kent County, Virginia, welcomed their third son in January. Mike still works for Riverside Health in Newport News, Virginia. He and his wife enjoy

spending time with the grandkids and traveling.

**James Boswell**, a member of the W&M Libraries Board of Directors, was featured in a W&M Alumni Magazine online exclusive, “Circulating Back to Swem.” Look for a link in the online Class Notes.

**Ken Downer** continued his triathlon training and racing in 2024. At Ironman Lake Placid in July, he placed high enough to qualify for the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii, in October. This was his third time racing on the big island, where he managed to place 40th in the world in his age group. Lots of family were there to cheer and help him celebrate. A week together on nearby Kauai to recover and explore made the whole adventure even better. When not training, Ken has been exploring the world of military archaeology. From 2023-2024 he partnered with an archaeologist friend to publish five papers reconstructing first-century battles involving the Roman army in the eastern empire. In the summer, to better understand his subject, he made a sling (think “David and Goliath”) and spent many mornings at a nearby baseball field hurling tennis balls at a target. As simple as it is in concept, the sling turns out to be frustratingly hard to master in practice. Ken lives with Marcelyn, his wife of 33 years, in Victoria, Minnesota, where she works as a social work supervisor. Their son, Nathan, lives with his wife in Nashville, Tennessee, working as a data analyst and rock climbing in his free time. Their daughter, Laura, lives in D.C. and works as an economic analyst and apparently has caught the running bug from her father — they raced the Myrtle Beach Half Marathon together last spring.

**David Nygaard** cared for his dad, who had

Alzheimer’s, for nine years. Following his dad’s death last July, at age 90, David is relocating part-time to be with family in the Twin Cities. He’ll be splitting his time between Virginia Beach, Virginia, and St. Paul, Minnesota, and will be operating his custom jewelry business in both places. His six kids have scattered, so he will also spend time visiting his daughter and her husband in Tampa, Florida; his son and daughter-in-law and three grandchildren in Traverse City, Michigan; another daughter and a son with three grandchildren in North Carolina; a son in Richmond, Virginia; and his youngest son, still in Virginia Beach.

**Andrea Connell McGee** has been teaching fifth grade in Henrico County, Virginia, for over 20 years, and plans to continue for a while. Her husband, **Doug McGee ’85**, works as a traffic and defense attorney around the state. Their three grown sons live in Richmond, Virginia, Miami and Chicago.

I received a brief hello from **Anne Detterer Bomhardt**.

After more than 20 years as a college professor, **Mike Stinson** recently started a new job as senior ornithologist with Edge Engineering & Science.

Tri Delta sisters **Jeanne Marie Cherundolo McPhillips Dolan** and **Diane Inderlied Pyle** have crossed paths through the years. Most recently, they discovered that each is publishing a book for release this year. Diane and her husband, Allen, live in Virginia Beach, Virginia. They and their two sons and daughter-in-law run Pyle Realty. Their daughter is a nurse practitioner. Diane is excited about a grandchild on the way and the anticipated activity associated with her book, “She Smiles at the Days to Come: Rediscovering Beauty, Value, and Hope After Abortion.”

Stay tuned! Jeanne Marie’s book is “Be Your Own Hero: A Girl’s Guide to Launching from College to Life.” Jeanne Marie has been inspiring and empowering young women since 2014 as a college professor at New York University, Parsons School of Design and, currently, Savannah College of Art and Design. Her work in education has revealed a giant white space between what we learn in college and how we take that to the streets post-graduation. Her graphic novel workbook is a vivid roadmap to enlighten the path and was largely inspired by the incredible bonding experiences with Tri Delta on campus at William & Mary. Without that sisterhood, she doesn’t know what could have happened. Jeanne Marie resides at the Jersey Shore with her husband, Jim, cat Lucy, and dog Rocky. Her son, Mark, has successfully launched to the other ‘burg — the Williamsburg neighborhood of New York City’s Brooklyn borough. Jeanne Marie has had the tremendous honor of chilling with **Debbie “DebDog” Perry Bayly ’87** and **Julie Miller Engleman** over the last year — weekends at the beach, just the girls, the dogs and the wine.

## 1987

*Class Reporter*

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## 1988

*Class Reporters*

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In 1984, **Sharron McPherson** met **Pleasant S. Brodnax**

**III J.D. ’86**, who was attending the Marshall-Wythe School of Law (now W&M Law School). They dated Sharron’s entire college career and several years thereafter. Everyone thought they would marry, but they wound up living in different cities and eventually marrying others and having wonderful daughters. Sharron became an attorney, clerked for a justice in the Supreme Court of South Africa and has lived and worked in South Africa for 26 years. Unfortunately, Sharron and Pleasant also both wound up being divorced. They reconnected in 2014 during a visit to the U.S. when Sharron’s daughter, **Tattiana Bamba ’14**, graduated from W&M as a legacy. After nine years of long-distance dating (Pleasant in McLean, Virginia, and Sharron in Cape Town), they got married in Cape Town on Dec. 29, 2023. This past December, they spent the holidays enjoying summer and reliving one of the best times of their lives in South Africa. **Kendrick Ashton ’98**, a member of the W&M Board of Visitors, was their officiant.

In November, **Jennifer Blount Sanford ’88, M.B.A. ’91** celebrated the marriage of her younger daughter to her college boyfriend. **Katy Chapman ’87**, who has remained very close to Jennifer and her daughters, helped celebrate. Jennifer’s older daughter continues to live in Milan, Italy, in a postdoctoral fellowship on climate change awareness. She completed her Ph.D. in environmental data science at Oxford University. Jennifer and her husband, Rick, still live in Norfolk, and Jennifer is leading marketing and sales enablement teams for a software company based in New York City and loving it. It is truly a very blessed life!

## 1989

*Class Reporter*  
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Thanks to **Alan Adenan**, I have a copy of our class photo hanging above my desk at home. My heart is still full of joy thinking about our wonderful 30th reunion last fall in Williamsburg. A very special thank you to all who came back to help us celebrate! It was fun reconnecting with so many classmates.

**JoAnn Adrales Ruh and Colin Ruh '89, M.B.A. '94** headed to Miami right after Homecoming & Reunion Weekend to catch a Taylor Swift concert. Earlier in 2024, they traveled to Spain and toured Barcelona, Sevilla, Ronda, Cordoba, Madrid and Toledo. Their kids, Dalton and fiancée Mythili, **Ethan Ruh '22, M.A.Ed. '23** and Cameron, met up with them in Sevilla too. At home, Colin continues cycling, gardening and supporting Feed More, Central Virginia's food bank. JoAnn serves on several boards, including the William & Mary Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Scott Rhodes** has recently joined the Reves Global Engagement Board, which promotes global perspectives and advances global engagement at W&M. If you're interested in learning more about W&M boards or other ways to be involved, look up the "volunteer" tab at advancement.wm.edu.

**Anne Humphries Arseneau '89, M.A.Ed. '92** was a recipient of the William & Mary Faculty & Staff Service Award. As the director of student leadership development at W&M, Anne helps students collaborate

with others and create positive change in their communities ... and she's been doing that for nearly 30 years. Anne coordinates student engagement at Homecoming, supports Students for University Advancement and helps build future engaged alumni. Congrats!

**Monty Mason** is now the senior director of community affairs and partnerships at William & Mary. Monty came into W&M's baseball program as a freshman and was recently the keynote speaker at its First Pitch Dinner.

**Kim DiDomenico Duty** and Steve are going nomad spending the year exploring; their first stop is Guadalajara, Mexico.

Doug and I spent a month in Costa Rica over the holidays, meeting up with Carter and Quinn in the Osa Peninsula, touring Parque Nacional Corcovado, whale watching and swimming in waterfall pools. It was great to explore our old stomping ground near Montezuma and see Carter's classroom, where he teaches International Baccalaureate English at the same school he attended when he was in fourth grade.

Please take a moment and send me your updates for our next column. I know we have more news to share!

## 1990 35

*Class Reporter*  
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Hello, hello. A reminder that our 35th Homecoming & Reunion Weekend is this Oct. 16-19. Block your calendars, make travel arrangements and come hang out with your Tribe in the 'Burg.

**Molly McFarland Pieroni '90** was named one of "The Top 50 Women Leaders in

Investment Management for 2024" by Women We Admire magazine. Molly, a partner and president of Yackman Asset Management, a boutique investment firm based in Austin, Texas, previously founded two companies: MC2 Institute, an executive advisory firm, and JatoTech Ventures, an early-stage technology venture capital firm. JatoTech's portfolio companies were acquired by Broadcom, Silicon Labs, Intel and Qualcomm. Prior to that, Molly was a principal at Boston Consulting Group, part of the team that established the firm's Dallas office. She began her career as an investment banking analyst in New York after earning her MBA from Harvard University.

Albemarle County, Virginia, hired **Andrew Herrick '90, M.B.A. '93, J.D. '94** as its newly appointed county attorney. Andy brings more than 30 years of legal experience with him, including 26 years in local government. As deputy county attorney, he gained experience working in the Community Development, Finance and Social Services departments. In addition, Andy is the president of the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia. Before his service in Albemarle County, he served as James City County's assistant county attorney.

Norton Rose Fulbright announced in December that **Michael Kaplan '90**, who has significant in-house counsel experience, has joined its corporate, mergers & acquisitions and securities practice as senior counsel in Denver. He joins the firm after serving as the senior vice president, chief legal officer and general counsel at real estate developer MDC Holdings. Michael has represented private equity firms as well as public and private companies across multiple industries for more than

30 years. He has served as outside counsel, in-house counsel and on the executive leadership teams for several leading companies with particular experience in the restaurant, consumer markets and aerospace/defense industries.

A little light on the updates this time, but these are great — hearty congrats to Molly, Andy and Michael!

## 1991

*Class Reporter*  
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**Craig Cackowski** and his wife, Carla, performed in the second annual Last Word Comedy Festival in Williamsburg in February. Craig is a Los Angeles-based actor, teacher and improviser. He and Carla, who normally perform under the name Orange Tuxedo, combined forces with another husband/wife team, Stephanie Weir and Bob Dassie, known as WeirDass. Their combined group, called WeirDass, included character monologues and spin offs into unexpected scenes. This year's festival featured 200 performers in 70 acts, up from 50 acts last year.

**Cary Fedei** was featured in the "Meet Virginia" series created by Virginia Public Radio. The series shares stories of everyday Virginians across the state. Cary talked about how he transitioned a hobby of cleaning and restoring antique furniture into a full-time job, leaving his corporate graphic design job behind. Before he starts restoring a piece of furniture, he researches its age, style, provenance and possible value. And he has found some random items as well when doing his work —

from foreign stamps to glass paperweights to a lot of dirt.

That is all I have! If you have never written me before, please do — would love to hear from you.

## 1992

*Class Reporter*  
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Greetings, classmates! As I write, we're having a mild February day in Charlottesville; the snow from a few weeks ago is all but gone. There may be more next week ...

**Terry Wise** owns Uncle Johnny's Hostel and Outfitter along the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee. Having hiked the more than 2,000-mile trail himself, and developed a curiosity about lodgings along the way, Terry has given back to other hikers by spending many hours expanding and refurbishing the hostel. Regrettably, his work was substantially damaged by Hurricane Helene; Uncle Johnny's will cost over \$200,000 to rebuild. While he awaits a Small Business Association loan and other grants, Terry has set up a GoFundMe effort to get started. He has raised about half of his goal, much of it from our fellow alumni. Peak hiking season is in swing as you read; perhaps Terry will have been able to make progress on the rebuild with support from fellow hikers. Read about W&M alumni helping the hurricane recovery efforts in the W&M Alumni Magazine online exclusive story "After the Storm."

**Charles Bowery** continues to serve as executive director of the U.S. Army Center of Military History and is honored to serve our alma mater as the president of the Association of 1775,



William & Mary's affinity group for military and civil service alumni. He was preparing for an incredible opportunity as a guest lecturer on an Alumni Journeys cruise along the Seine River in France. During this May 12-20 event, Charles planned to discuss the historic relationship between France and the United States and its roots in the American Revolution as we begin the country's 250th anniversary commemorations.

**Kerry Deal** was honored to sing at a concert at Old South Church in Boston with the William & Mary Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Richard Marcus, during their February spring tour. She shares: "Singing two songs by Richard Strauss that I had first learned and performed at William & Mary felt like a type of homecoming." Kerry has been a professor of voice at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee for more than 20 years. This fall, she will be on sabbatical to study South African song repertoire and to present a class in American music at the University of Cape Town. She also hopes to have time to travel to the 'Burg and give another master class for the music department!

**Sharon Kech Attwood** majored in economics at William & Mary, earning her degree as a 41-year-old single parent. After graduation, she worked at W&M in University Development Research and later in Academic Advising. In 2000, Sharon married Geoffrey Attwood, an Englishman, and relocated to Cornwall, England, where she lived and worked for six years. They moved to rural central France as early retirees in 2006. Sharon shares: "Life here is an interesting change from Williamsburg and Cornwall, but we are thoroughly enjoying our quiet life."

Have a wonderful summer! Please mark your calendar for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend from Oct. 16-19.

## 1993

*Class Reporter*  
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For this edition, there were no news clippings for the class of '93. No email updates either. Despite this lack, I was able to catch up with three alumni and friends on two separate occasions this winter. Both mini-reunions were so fun and gratifying, you really must scare up some fun for yourselves and then share a picture or story for your former classmates. As Tom Waits reminds us in "New Coat of Paint": "Fishing for a good time starts with throwing in your line."

In my case, for example, I was fortunate enough to catch up with **Catherine Fisher Carr '91** and **Scot Carr '91** in Chicago in December 2024. Scot was there to receive an architecture award for a building on Mercer Island that I was able to see in person several years ago.

Be sure to check out the website from Scot's firm, PUBLIC47 Architects (public47.com), and the numerous other award-winning projects his firm has completed. I'm recommending that the editorial staff reach out and tell their story ... Catherine over the years has worked for Microsoft, Cranium and many other organizations.

Anyway, meeting up with them the day after the award ceremony, we got our steps in walking around downtown Chicago, with stops at the National Poetry Foundation and a Mavis Staples 80th birthday concert at the Auditorium Theater, another

remarkable building. Go to the online edition, and select the link for "I'll Take You There" by this sensational octogenarian and her amazing band. There is also a link to "The Weight," a classic song from The Band, for which Mavis Staples and The Staple Singers provided original backing vocals.

Then, near the end of February, I got a last-minute invitation to meet in Chicago with **Dan Polis '93**, who had spent the last seven months or so at a rocket laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. He and **Crystal Anderson Polis '93** are still based in Westminster, Colorado, but Dan tells me that they are empty nesters now, with their son a junior at the University of Wisconsin and their daughter at the University of Oregon. Dan and I also got our steps in, 30,000 according to his watch. With winter easing up a little and allowing for a sunny day, we explored quite a bit of ground with plenty of time to catch up.

Dan updated me on a number of our mutual friends and told me of an upcoming reunion of folks at a Pearl Jam concert in Pittsburgh. I updated him on a few folks that I'm in touch with, and I also tried to fondly remember as many people as I could from Dan's freshman dormitory, Monroe Hall — Elizabeth, Betsy, Justine, Lauren, Kate and other women I recalled; among the guys on Dan's hall were Brent, Kevin, Amit and two Mikes. Forgive me if I left some folks out, I certainly did not know everyone, but I remember Monroe being a fun, lively place to visit. It may sound silly, but can you conjure up the names of everyone on your freshman dorm hallway?

All for now. Please share more about yourselves so I can share less about myself. Remember to reach out to your old friends: We're not getting any younger. What other

events and gatherings are you creating with your friends and former classmates?

## 1994

*Class Reporter*  
**STEVE NEWMAN**  
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Despite Punxsutawney Phil seeing his shadow, spring is peeking past winter and giving us all renewed hope for recovery and rebuilding our region in western North Carolina. Thank you to everyone that reached out and shared their well wishes. Sadly, catastrophe struck again and a pair of friends were impacted by the fires in L.A. We hope and pray **Craig Anzalone**, **Ryan O'Quinn** and their beloved friends and community are safe and make a swift recovery.

Following our last update, **Stephanie Frankel Szostak** spoke at the Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall and shared her experiences being an athlete, actor and writer. There is a delightful article in the Virginia Gazette highlighting and sharing more information. Look in our online Class Notes for a link to the Gazette story and articles in the Flat Hat and W&M Alumni Magazine about Stephanie's accomplishments.

Lastly, **Sara Gottlieb** was highlighted in the cover story for the winter W&M Alumni Magazine: "For a Flourishing Planet: William & Mary Women Lead the Way Toward a Future Where Humans and Nature Thrive." Sara is a conservationist at The Nature Conservancy and works on preserving freshwater life and habitats in the Southern Appalachians (conveniently, where I live). You can read the article in the online edition of the magazine.

As always, it would be a pleasure to hear your news and updates. Reach on out, or you can

respond to my appreciation emails — for those that continue to give to the school.

## 1995 30

*Class Reporter*  
**SHANNON E. KREPS**  
skreps2000@yahoo.com

**Tony Pham** has been appointed the assistant secretary for border and immigration policy at the United States Department of Homeland Security's Office of Strategy, Policy & Plans. He previously served as the principal legal advisor for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of the Principal Legal Advisor and earlier held the position of ICE acting director for several months at the end of 2020. A native of Vietnam, Tony fled that country with his family as Saigon fell in 1975. You can read more about his life and career in his profile on the Homeland Security website.

Please drop me a line and let me know what you've been up to. It's always great to share news, either happenings in your work or life, or if you've caught up with anyone recently from our school days. Bella Ciao!

## 1996

*Class Reporter*  
**BETSY ROSENBLATT ROSSO**  
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While taking my high school senior up and down the East Coast for admitted student days at various colleges, we spent a weekend in Boston, where we were delighted to stay with **Susan Lacefield** (my next-door neighbor freshman year and colleague at the Flat Hat) and her husband **Liam Sullivan '95** and their fantastic kids, Peter and Kay. Susan and I enjoyed a lunch date with Flat

Hat legend **Matt Corey '93**, who is a geriatrician in Boston.

**Ellen Youel Ahmad** is back in the U.S. after taking a family gap year. She convinced her husband, Mazher, and kids to take a year off, and they traveled to 39 countries in eight months: "We homeschooled our sixth grader but spent most of our time exploring, trying new foods and appreciating the beauty of some amazing places like New Zealand, Nepal, Tanzania and Croatia." They now live in Northern Virginia to be closer to family.

**Rosalinda Freeman Gomez** has been living in Paris and working as an international recruitment strategist for a business school. "I was able to intersect with current William & Mary students, as well as **Mike Tierney '87, M.A. '88**, when they were visiting Paris with the Global Research Institute's Global Scholars Program. It was so fun sharing with them what it is like to live and work abroad." Check out a photo of the group in the online edition of the magazine.

**Jennifer "M.K." Krause** traveled to Taiwan over Thanksgiving with her love to visit his parents' families. "Friendly people were met, too much good food was eaten, and many stray cats were petted."

Last fall **Bridgette Trela** traveled to Eastern Europe to celebrate her 50th birthday. "I started my journey in Vienna, and as luck would have it, I found out my W&M roommate and Chi Omega sister, **Darcey Bittner Crawford '95**, had just moved to Vienna! I spent the day exploring Vienna with Darcey and it was a great W&M reunion. I also explored the beautiful countries of Slovenia and Hungary. It was a trip worthy of a milestone birthday!"

**Matt Siano** wrote

that he, **Rob Kennedy '95, Michael Dowd, Matt Wilson** and **Craig Hammond '94** traveled to Napa Valley to celebrate their 50th birthdays: "It was a fun three days of wineries, good food and a nice lodge. The group is still going strong after 30 years." While he primarily lives in New York and practices law there, Matt bought a second home in Richmond to shorten his commute when he teaches at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business at William & Mary.

**Diane Stocks Munroe** lives in Vermont with her husband, Jeff, and works as the assistant director for community-based learning at Middlebury College. They recently celebrated their 25-year wedding anniversary, 50th birthdays and almost 25 years of living and working in Vermont. Diane wrote, "I am active in several local, regional and state-wide energy and climate organizations, co-lead our church's senior youth group and still find my peace on my morning runs. Travel remains a passion, and we are just back from our second sabbatical year living in Innsbruck and Vienna, Austria, and exploring all corners of Europe. Love my regular contact with **Jenny Roahen Rizzo** and stories of her daughter's first year at W&M. My step-nephew will be starting at W&M in the fall, so the connections continue! Hope everyone is well and can't believe we are coming up on our 30th reunion!"

**Mark Roberts** recently joined the Kirk Gibson Foundation for Parkinson's in Michigan, where he leads a national strategy to raise awareness and funding for movement-based therapies in the fight against Parkinson's disease. He's spent time with a few of his roommates — **Ben Auzenne** and **Forrest Pritchard** — but can't get **Steve Hitlin** to

return a phone call.

Thanks for all your messages! Keep them coming!

## 1997

Class Reporter

**MATT GIBERT**

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I hope your 2025 is off to a great start. I received several updates, and 50th birthdays are a common theme as our class rolls through that milestone!

**Karen Jupiter** wrote in to share that both of her sons will be students at William & Mary in the fall: Aaron Kopp '26 will be a senior, and Eli Kopp '29 will be an incoming freshman. As they follow in family footsteps, it's been fun for her to see the campus with a whole new set of eyes. She recently connected with her Barrett suitemates from freshman year — "the Suites" — **Dani Barbour Zimmerman, Stacy King Miller** and **Marsha Bischoff Foos**. Karen lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and works as the vice president of development for a health care nonprofit in Washington, D.C.

Speaking of D.C., **Pamela Smith Wise** is living and raising her family in Adams Morgan. She runs a wealth management practice at Merrill Lynch. Her family recently bought a historic property near Williamsburg. During the renovation, they discovered 100-year-old handwritten W&M paystubs in the walls.

**Matt Kopans** recently began a three-year term as a school board trustee for the Saratoga Springs City School District in New York. He works in fundraising for Planned Parenthood of Greater New York. Matt's twins turn 16 this year, "and yet somehow our class remains youthful!" Both are following in his theater footsteps

— Zachary in the cast of "Legally Blonde" at the local public high school and Eden on the crew of "The River Bride" at Emma Willard School in Troy. He's eager to see the newly renovated PBK Memorial Hall on a college tour sometime soon.

**Kay McElveen Orzech** shared that she never sends in updates since she's past the "milestones" stage. But I'm grateful that she did write, and I hope you will too if you feel similarly. No update is insignificant! Kay and her husband Paul celebrated their 20th anniversary last October. Their daughters are 16 and 13. She changed jobs in late 2023; still on staff at the University of Arizona, she now coordinates an undergraduate research program instead of doing program evaluation — a welcome change. Paul is a sculptor, and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park recently commissioned him to create two life-sized giraffes. The entire family got to see them installed shortly after Christmas last December! She doesn't get back to Williamsburg very often, but she thinks fondly of her friends from W&M — especially choir folks! She's planning a trip this summer with long-time friend, choir member and hallmate **Margaret Walsh Rudmann** to celebrate their 50th birthdays.

**Steve Jolley** and his wife, **Pilar Mancini Jolley '98**, will also celebrate their 50th birthdays this year in addition to toasting their 25th wedding anniversary in November. Their three kids — Tatum (17), Liam (15) and Caitlin (13) — have taken an interest in heading down to Virginia for college in the coming years after 13 years of Philadelphia winters. This has meant more frequent trips to the 'Burg as they take a "no-pressure" approach to attending W&M: "In

saying this, if you happen to see us on campus the next couple years, we actively encourage you to put on the hard press. Beers on me at the Delis if you're successful. Kidding, of course. Well, maybe." Pilar has gotten back into teaching, and Steve just started his 29th season with Major League Soccer — the last 19, after playing, have been dedicated to the TV and radio side. Currently, he is providing color commentary on radio for Red Bull New York. "And before anyone makes a comment about 'a face for radio,' fair game," he writes.

**John Berry** was recently profiled in Attorney at Law Magazine. After two decades of serving in the United States Army and Nebraska National Guard, he now uses his military experience and leadership lessons in trial law. He runs Berry Law, the firm founded by his father, in Omaha, Nebraska.

Have a great summer, and please keep the updates coming!

## 1998

Class Reporter

**ALEXIS COX**

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Hi everyone! Our Class Notes were light this issue. Please keep those updates coming! If you've recently moved or changed jobs, landed a promotion or achieved a special honor, we'd love to hear about it. Please send your update my way. Now on with our latest news!

**Sheyna Burt '98, J.D. '01** was recently featured in Northern Virginia Magazine's October 2024 issue. Sheyna, a Prince William County Bar Association member and new Pro Bono Committee chair, was included in the magazine's list of "The 50 Most Influential People in Northern Virginia."



The list featured community-minded leaders from a wide variety of sectors shaping life across the region.

**Deanna Reina** recently published her memoir on Amazon titled "MENTal: A Preposterous Pursuit of Love." The book takes place in the Washington, D.C., area and follows her journey through life and love against a backdrop of music and dance. It was featured in the W&M Alumni Magazine's December 2024 Alumni Book Roundup.

## 1999

*Class Reporter*  
**MAUREEN HOLBERT**  
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Thanks to all who gave to One Tribe One Day on April 2. There are so many ways to give back to the college, and you can pick a fund that means the most to you. Need a suggestion? Consider giving to the Adrienne Vaughan Memorial Scholarship Endowment (Fund No. 5454) in memory of Class of 2000 graduate and Kappa Delta member **Adrienne Vaughan '00**.

**Jimmy Davis** continues to develop beach houses in Honolulu, along with coaching his kids in youth sports and teaching at the Hawaii Nature Center. He recently caught up with **Erik Musiek** in the islands for a medical conference and connected with **Justin Solomon '00** in Richmond and **Pat MacElroy '96** in New York.

**Wendy Olesen Dykema** just finished a 3 1/2 year stint with the Army. She is back on Reserve status with three purposes: to launch her senior daughter well, be more present for her middle daughter and homeschool her son. It's exciting and a blessing to be in this stage of life.

**Catherine Higgins**

was promoted after eight years at Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) to senior vice president of science programs. Her work has been pivotal in advancing groundbreaking research and fostering collaborations that brings SU2C closer to their ultimate goal of accelerating cancer treatments and improving patient outcomes. She resides in the metro Richmond, Virginia, area with her daughters Valerie, age 16, and Gwyneth, age 13.

**Julie Rogers Murawski** has been promoted to partner at CohnReznick as of Feb. 1. She is the chief marketing officer at this advisory, assurance and tax firm, where she has spent the majority of her career.

**Ellen Quarles** happily lives and works in Málaga, Spain. She would love to connect with other alumni in Spain.

In the news: Alexandria City Council Member **Sarah Bagley** won the most votes in the November election, making her the next vice mayor-elect. Read more in the online edition of the magazine.

## 2000 25

*Class Reporters*  
**KELLY SCANLON & MIKE ANDERSON**  
williamandmary2000@gmail.com

As we write, the snow is falling in Virginia and we can't help but think how much warmer you'll be when you're reading this than we are now. We're also dealing with our first broken bone, an exciting combination of teenagers and trampolines that will leave us out of the pool and off the basketball court for a bit. Fortunately, several of our classmates wrote in with more pleasant news.

**John Cole Scott** reports that he is still

living in Richmond, Virginia, where, two years ago, he took over as owner and president of the investment firm Closed-End Fund Advisors. Shortly thereafter, he married Katherine Herrera in her native homeland, Peru. Wedding attendees included **Dave Scott '93**, **Michael Whaley**, **Rebecca Herbig** and **Matthew Johnson**, who officiated.

**Michelle Potter** wrote in with fun news. Her oldest son, **Aidan Potter '28**, has joined the Tribe as a member of the Class of 2028! Congratulations all around. Check out the online Class Notes to see a picture of the current and future Potter alumni.

Continuing with the William & Mary connections, **Milan Chakraborty** is teaching a one-credit course this spring at W&M in the film & media studies program to students focused on a career in entertainment. He thinks (and we would agree) that Professor Chakraborty has a nice ring to it. Two of his films, "Black Barbie: A Documentary" and "She Taught Love," were nominated for the 2025 NAACP Image Awards.

After a successful year of business and teaching ventures, **Megan Rudolph Sever** and **Jessica Reeder** have decided to chuck it all and buy a ranch so they can avoid the world and live in peace among animals. Their children are on board. Their husbands aren't. Yet. Sounds like a good life plan to us. If only we weren't hampered by allergies.

Fresh off of her New York City theater experience, **Judy Fontana Minkoff** was cast as an ensemble member in a production of "Carousel" at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando, Florida. Her family just moved there and will be splitting time between Florida and New

York. Judy reports that her kids were also cast in the show, so it is a family affair!

Speaking of acting and theater and the arts, remember to make plans now for W&M Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, Oct. 16-19. We're excited to see the new performing arts space, although Kelly still has fond memories of dance classes and Orchestral Modern Dance Company rehearsals upstairs in Adair Hall, and Mike enjoyed that one time they let him on the mainstage at Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall.

Keep those updates coming. We look forward to hearing from you at williamandmary2000@gmail.com. — Kelly and Mike

## 2001

*Class Reporter*  
**LAUREN MORGAN**  
**ELLERMAN '01, M.S. '23**  
lellerman@frithlawfirm.com

**Sarah Glass** just welcomed her second daughter, Mary Marjorie. Sarah lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and continues to serve in private sector engagement. She is surrounded by W&M love and lives next door to **Jennifer Rich Henel '02** and **Chris Henel '03**.

**Leena Holt Baran** was named as one of "The Top 50 Women Leaders in Hospitality for 2024" by Women We Admire magazine. Based in Northern Virginia, Leena is senior director of food & beverage category management at Hilton Worldwide.

**Chris Donald '00** was just named university chaplain at Wake Forest University after serving at Vanderbilt University for the last few years. He and his wife, Rebecca, and two precious daughters have returned to North Carolina.

**Jason Ciejk** is an associate dean at Emory

University in Atlanta, where he supports undergraduate academic affairs and the honor code. He and his husband, Andy, adopted their son, Zack, eight years ago. Zack is a junior in high school now and participating in the Atlanta Fire Rescue Foundation's Junior Recruit program. Jason and family went to New York City for the first time over the holidays and had a blast connecting with **Beth Edwards Kapsner**.

**Phil Woodward '01, J.D. '04** went to W&M in April to meet **Curtis Pride '90**. Curtis came to campus with support from the American Sign Language Club and did a book signing for his new book, "I Felt the Cheers: The Remarkable Silent Life of Curtis Pride." Look for pictures in our online Class Notes, including one of Curtis speaking that shows an autographed photo he sent to Phil when he wrote to him after Phil was accepted into W&M in 1997. Curtis also signed baseball cards for people who wanted one. Read more about Curtis in our Tribe section profile in this issue.

## 2002

*Class Reporter*  
**LEAH WOOD NELSON**  
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My update this issue involves a classmate serving a national sporting organization. According to Swimming World Magazine, **Scott Rosman** was elected to serve on the USA Swimming Foundation Board of Directors starting in 2025. He is also giving back to his alma mater by mentoring current Tribe athletes on life after swimming. According to the article, he operates Roz Records, which advises companies on integrated multiplatform and multi-cultural-focused brand

partnerships. Access the full article in our online Class Notes.

## 2003

*Class Reporter*  
**NINA R. STRICKLAND**  
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Congratulations to **West Garrett!** He and his wife, Jenny, welcomed a son, Stephen Westfall Garrett, on May 20, 2024. West and his family live in Arlington, Virginia, and he works at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

**Kelly Capron** checked something off MY bucket list: Walking the Camino de Santiago! She shares this: "I'm currently living in San Diego and spent August 2024 hiking the John Muir Trail, covering over 230 miles from Yosemite Valley to Mount Whitney. In September, I walked the Camino Primitivo in Spain, traveling from Oviedo to Santiago de Compostela. Wishing everyone well and saying hello!"

My former DuPont 3C hallmate, **Lien Tran**, graciously responded to my summer swim team prompt with this update: "While I myself was on summer swim team for a few years back in my youth, my daughter Ruby (age 7) was anti-swimming until very, very recently: two weeks after the summer pool season ended. She's now voluntarily putting her head in the water, diving for rings and working on her strokes. Not sure she will be ready for the swim team next summer, but I'm hopeful we will be spending more time in the pool by then."

Lien also shared some exciting professional news: "I began a new professorship at DePaul University's Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media and moved to Chicago in June 2021. It was a very welcome change and a big one

after nine years in Miami. I received a promotion to associate professor with tenure in July 2024, and soon after, I was elected chair of our game design program. Oh yes, I teach game design, and my own creative practice is collaborating with subject matter experts, including human rights lawyers and health educators, to design games and other interactive experiences for social impact. One of my recent projects is designing an educational experience on the first "Dreamer" as critical Asian American history that also intersects immigration/reform and civics." (The term "Dreamer" is derived from never-passed legislation in Congress called the DREAM Act, short for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors.)

Everything I know in life I learn by reading fiction ... and my knowledge of game design is entirely from the book "Tomorrow, Tomorrow, Tomorrow" by Gabrielle Zevin. Thank you, Lien, for humoring my thoughts and questions about this book — clearly this wasn't the first time. I'm blown away by what you are creating and teaching.

All work matters and everything all of you are doing is valuable and beautiful ... but Lien might win for doing the coolest stuff. (We were all thinking it.)

THREE of you sent in unsolicited updates for this issue, a recent record. Let's get it up to five next time. Your challenge: Send an update and try to convince us that your job is cooler than Lien's. This is what maturity looks like. Go Tribe.

## 2004

*Class Reporter*  
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It seems like almost a lifetime ago since our last column, pre-election. No matter what political affiliation you associate with, you cannot deny that things have changed and are changing drastically. I know a lot of friends who work for the federal government (as you all do, no doubt), and even though they are not probationary employees, they are shocked and anxious since this process of mass layoffs/firings has not been seen in their entire career (and some have worked for the government more than 20 years). For all those who have been let go, not only from the federal workforce but from any job, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. Being in the oil and gas industry, I am no stranger to layoffs and downsizing. In the immediate aftermath, your family and friends are there to help you. Always keep those family and friends close throughout this journey, even by bouncing ideas off of them and weighing their input. There is always light at the end of the tunnel. OK, serious time will be suspended for a brief moment as we delve into Class Notes!

West of the Rockies in the Beehive State, **Elizabeth Tittrington Craft** published her book "Yankee Doodle Dandy: George M. Cohan and the Broadway Stage" with Oxford University Press. It has been described as "a brilliantly nuanced tapestry that illuminates and celebrates her subject's extraordinary contributions not just to the American musical theater but also to continuing perceptions of nationhood, patriotism, and identity." Elizabeth was also awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of Utah, where she received a 2024 university teaching award. Elizabeth has been teaching at the University of Utah since

2016. It is so amazing that Elizabeth wrote a book about George M. Cohan. I remember back in Advanced Placement American history during my junior year in high school, we watched some documentary about World War I, and the intro song was "Over There" by Cohan. It was so haunting. In college, during the Napster days, I downloaded not only his famous song but his other tune, "Oui, Oui, Marie." Besides Colonial American history, my other favorite time period is World War I, and so the music from that era is so fascinating to me. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

Coming back to the East Coast, **Laurie McManus** presented a lecture at the Library of Congress on March 26, titled "Happy Little Seahorses: Brahms' Unwritten 'Melusine' Opera," as part of the American Musicological Society's Library of Congress lecture series. Since 2011, Laurie has been coordinator of music literature and associate professor of music history & literature at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. Laurie's music specialty is 19th-century music and culture, especially in relation to Johannes Brahms and Richard Wagner. Her book, "Brahms in the Priesthood of Art," was published by Oxford University Press in 2021. As a fun fact, while at W&M, I had the privilege of hearing Laurie play the harpsichord during a recital at Bruton Parish Episcopal Church. What a treat! It seems we have a very talented cadre of music professors in our class.

Right as I was about to send in my Class Notes, **Claudine Waigenfeld** sent me an email about some classmates in the Tampa, Florida, area. **Liz Workman Barker** was elected to the Sarasota County School

Board District 2. She was Claudine's R.A. in Harrison Hall (Randolph Complex). Claudine was also working on that election in which Liz won. Claudine's friend, Cindy, opened up a yarn shop and had been a student of **Jason Giersch '94**.

I hope this column finds you all well and thriving (Well, more like flirty, 40 and thriving. Call back to "13 Going on 30," which premiered right before we graduated college.). As always, let me know how life is treating you or how you are treating life.

Take care, Owen

## 2005 20

*Class Reporter*  
**BEN BALDWIN**  
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Hello Class of 2005!

Our 20th reunion is now rapidly approaching! It's time to reminisce, get that green and gold attire all spruced up and get ready to party like it's 2005!

**Emily Bludworth de Barrios** has published "Rich Wife," described as "a collection of expansive long poems whose structures echo the cluttered charm of a dresser adorned with hats and hairpins, vials and scarves ... the poems traverse the interlaced landscapes of motherhood, marriage, wealth and the unspoken contracts of domestic life ... She folds personal experience into far-ranging meditations on beauty, nostalgia, power and privilege."

The Williamsburg Yorktown Daily reported that twin brothers **Will Rhymes** and **Jon Rhymes**, who played baseball for the Tribe, both recently won a World Series as staff members for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

**John Sakon** married Kimin Fox at Ridgeland Mansion in Fairmount



Park in Philadelphia on Oct. 12, 2024. **Francis Giknis** officiated. Check out the online edition for a photo with 22 W&M grads! Besides John and Kimin, they include: **Karen Vassar Brown '07, Robert Brown, Seth Finck '05, M.Ed. '08, Ned Rice, Caroline Gilpin, Brad Pearson, Danny Cuthrell, Francis Giknis, John Sampson, Joe Fuscald'06, Michelle Perry Pais, Grant Jacobsen, Kristen Omori M.S. '15, Ph.D. '21, Dan Weinberger, Fatima Sharif Sparger '06, Adam Sparger '06, Klaus Schultz '04, Mimi Woo Schultz '07, Melanie Schrage Sebens '04 and Aaron Sebens '04. Amal Aboulhosen Giknis** sadly could not attend but had an outsized impact on the ceremony.

And as a personal update, Kimin and John moved to Los Angeles in 2023 for John to start a job as a neuroscientist studying human memory at the University of California, Los Angeles.

In October 2024, **Krystal Clark** started a new role as the organizational learning specialist in the Center for Leadership & Organizational Change at the University of Maryland, College Park. In November, she began working as a front desk associate at Barre3 in Bethesda, Maryland, and in August 2024, her company, Equip To Thrive, celebrated four years in business. Equip To Thrive provides learning and development experiences for “talented and imperfect” people in the form of workshops, keynotes and coaching.

**Ariel Baska** is working on “Monstrous Me,” a horror-positive feature documentary about their experiences growing up as a disabled and disfigured child who found themselves in the face of “A Nightmare on Elm Street” character Freddy Krueger. Ariel,

a disabled filmmaker, examines their personal connection to horror genre monsters, revealing how these misunderstood creatures mirror the lived experience of people with disabilities, opening secret gateways to empowerment. The project recently won \$15,000 from the Southern Documentary Fund and \$20,000 from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. More about the project can be found at arielbaska.com.

**Erin Masterson Swiatocha** has a new baby girl, Abigail Lorraine Swiatocha, as of Jan. 9. Abigail joins her older brothers Timothy (6) and Josh (4). Erin's husband is Greg Swiatocha, and they live in Annandale, Virginia. So far, three kids are no harder than two kids, but she'll probably eat her words at some point!

**Meghan Ewell Powers** spoke at the Adobe Summit in Las Vegas in March. She's in her third year as an Adobe Analytics Champion, a select group of people who are recognized as experts. Since it's near Valentine's Day at the time I'm writing this, she and her husband, **Chris Powers '04**, will celebrate their 15th anniversary in August. They met at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business but became better friends through Spanish classes and playing club baseball and softball. They started dating during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, got engaged at Homecoming and then got married at the Alumni House. They love visiting their wedding brick each year. Tribe love!

**Leslie Cochrane** welcomed twin sons, Rory James and Torin Clancy Cochrane, on Aug. 10, 2024. She is now back at work as a teaching professor of English and linguistics at W&M and looks forward to seeing everyone in Williamsburg for Home-

coming!

The law office of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP announced the election of **Ann Weber Langley** as partner. As a member of Wyatt's litigation and dispute resolution service team, Ann concentrates her practice on civil and commercial litigation. Prior to joining Wyatt, she was a trial attorney for the Department of Justice.

James Moore & Co. announced the promotion of **Chris Elton**, CPA. He has been promoted to tax senior manager at their Gainesville, Florida, office. Chris joined James Moore in 2022.

## 2006

*Class Reporter*  
**AMBER WALKER GIDDINGS**

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Hi! We only had one submission this time! We have to do better, Class of '06! I know how busy and frantic life can be sometimes. So stop what you are doing right now and send me an email or Facebook message with your news. I know how very talented and studious we W&M alumni are, and therefore, we have career, social and family news that is more than worthy of sharing. So get on it!

I was so excited to hear from **Stephanie Glotfelty**. She has never had a part in the Class Notes before, and we are thrilled she chose to write in. She let us know that she earned a Master of Science in genealogical, paleographic and heraldic studies with distinction from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. She went there to graduate this past November. Because she completed the program in a modular version, she was able to continue teaching full

time at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Falls Church, Virginia, where she taught English and multilingual learners. A neat fact is that Stephanie is now a qualified genealogist through the Register of Qualified Genealogists ... So, if you have questions, she has answers! We are thrilled for you, Steph, and hope that this opens up some wonderful opportunities for you and your students!

Until next time, I am signing off. This Tribe pride gal is juggling a class of 15 kindergarten kiddos, a pair of daughters, 14 and 11, a snake, a turtle, a gecko, an axolotl, a cat, a dog and a husband in a pear tree.

Green and Gold for Life,  
Amber Walker Giddings

## 2007

*Class Reporter*  
**COLLEEN SCHNEIDER CAMERON**  
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**David Bisaha** won the Oscar G. Brockett Golden Pen Award, sponsored by the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) and the Oscar G. Brockett Center for Theatre History and Criticism at the University of Texas at Austin. He was honored for his 2022 publication, “American Scenic Design and Freelance Professionalism.” According to USITT, this award is given to the author of an outstanding, major, recent publication in the field of design and production for the performing arts. Find out more about David at davidbisaha.com.

**John Bell and Leah Giles** now have 14 Massachusetts winters under their belts. Leah continues to serve as director of development at the Insight Meditation Society, a Buddhist retreat center. John recently got tenure

at Assumption University, where he teaches history. Their daughter, Juniper, is 5. While green and gold are not currently among her favorite colors, there is still time.

**Art Burdick** is enjoying retirement. He volunteers at the Liberty Lounge in Colonial Williamsburg, which is a great place for those students and alumni with ties to the military to stop by and connect with others. He would love to see others with connections between the campus and the military stop in. He also recently had an opportunity to sit with Kim Van Deusen, who works in the W&M Office of Undergraduate Admission. She had provided guidance that helped Art get in to W&M and she served as faculty advisor for the Transfer Student Ambassadors, which he joined and eventually led as president. They had a great time talking about old times. Make sure to check the online Class Notes so you can see the amazing W&M-themed pumpkin that Art carved this past fall. He says it will last as long as he takes care of it. Art adds, “My time at William & Mary was amazing — attending college later in life gave me a different perspective than most undergraduate students.”

**Katie Field Johnson** was promoted to full professor of mathematics at Florida Gulf Coast University last August. This summer, she will be the founding academic director of Camp Sierpinski, part of the new nonprofit National Math Camps. Her husband, Brian, and kids, Luke (9) and Leif (6), are excited to soon move back into their house, which was flooded in September 2022 by Hurricane Ian. Also, this year she is the chair of the executive committee of the Learning Assistant Alliance.

Since graduation, **Sara McClure** earned a master's degree in choral conducting from East Caroli-

na University, where she met her husband, Steve Lewis, a French horn player and orchestral conductor. They moved to Kansas City in 2012, and she completed a master's in musicology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2017 and a doctorate in musicology from the University of Kansas this past September. She's done a variety of things along the way, but is settling into work as an undergraduate academic advisor at the University of Kansas. She continues to conduct a couple of choirs and give pre-concert talks. She's also planning "Dr. McClure's Musical Tours," a venture with a travel agent friend, to take visitors to concerts and historic musical sites in Europe (partially inspired by touring with the Botetourt Chamber Singers in 2005)!

**Lanora Pettit** left the Office of the Texas Solicitor General and assumed a position as deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 2017, **Branden Polk** launched an executive coaching firm, Arrowhead Advising, the goal of which is to build "a game-changing movement of authentic and courageous leaders who are committed to healing themselves and the broken places of our world." They have been hiring new coaches and working globally with business leaders in different parts of the world, from the U.S. to Turkey to Colombia to France. He moved to New York City after being in the Washington, D.C., area for 12 years. He also published a book of poetry and prose called "Chrysalis," which explores his thoughts and revelations about identity after the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, he's getting a doctorate in social work at Simmons University in Boston and is set to graduate next year. A lot of movement!

In May 2024, **Emily Gerdelman Ridjaneck** and her mom, **Sue Gerdelman '76**, traveled on a William & Mary trip to South Africa that was truly the trip of a lifetime. They spent several days each in Cape Town, the &Beyond Ngala Safari Lodge in Kruger National Park and the Tswalu game reserve in the southern Kalahari Desert. Highlights of their mother-daughter adventure include visiting two UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the same day (Robben Island and Tabletop Mountain), leading a yoga session with an elephant in attendance, an up-close experience with a black rhinoceros as part of conservation efforts at the Tswalu game reserve, seeing the real-life version of every animal in "The Lion King" and dining at Restaurant Klein JAN. The people, the animals and the landscape of South Africa were spectacular. Sharing this remarkable journey with members of the Tribe made their adventures even more memorable.

**Jarrett "JT" Thomas** joined the Season Nine cast of Bravo TV's "Southern Charm" in 2023 and has continued to be featured in Season 10, which began airing in December 2024. According to an article on the BravoTV website, he is a real estate professional and owns The Inns, luxury rental properties in Charleston, South Carolina, where the show is set.

## 2008

*Class Reporter*  
**ASHLEY JEAN PINNEY**  
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Dearest Gentle Readers ... (for you "Bridgerton" fans)

Hello, Class of 2008! This update is packed with good news! Award winners, authors, marriages, new children and

more. Thanks to everyone who submitted an update. It is always nice to hear from our peers.

Lt. Col. **Jennifer Purser**, 1st Lt. **Erin O'Hara '21** and 1st Lt. **Mackenzie Corcoran '21** were profiled in a W&M online exclusive in December. They all graduated from the Army's top leadership school, the Ranger School, and are some of the first women to do so. Jennifer, an international relations major, was a part of the Revolutionary Guard Battalion (RGB), an ROTC unit at W&M. She was also involved in Ranger Challenge, ROTC's varsity sport and played on the women's Division I soccer team. You can read more in the online Class Notes.

In January, **Joe Pirro** won a Sundance Institute Producers Award at this year's Sundance Film Festival, where his latest project, "The Wedding Banquet," had its world premiere. It was scheduled to be released in theaters in April.

**Colin Fuller** and his wife, Jenny, welcomed their third child in November, Isaac William Fuller, completing their family of five. Colin continues to work as a pediatric otolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat surgeon) at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

**Brittany Bonney** married James Boyman on Feb. 16 in Red Bank, New Jersey. Two alumni, **Robert Bonney '15** (man of honor) and **Steven Hayet '09** (bridesman), were in the wedding.

**Roslyn Haynie Banks** was profiled in the winter issue of W&M Alumni Magazine about her family's rich farming legacy in Virginia. Read more in the online Class Notes.

**Lindsey Beste-breurtje** was mentioned in the W&M Alumni Magazine's December 2024 Alumni Book Roundup for her new book, "Built by the People Themselves."

Bestebreurtje examines the critical involvement of the African American community in developing Arlington, Virginia, from the 1860s to the 1960s.

**Olivia Lucas** has been an assistant professor of music theory at Louisiana State University since 2019. Last year, she received the Society for Music Theory's Emerging Scholar Award for her article "Performing Analysis, Performing Metal: Meshuggah, Edvard Hansson, and the Analytical Light Show." It was Olivia's experiences with her professors at W&M that made her want to become one, and she is grateful for their continued influence and mentorship.

Please send updates my way any time at ajpinn08@gmail.com. Feel free to send photos, too, for the online edition. Thank you and have a great spring!

## 2009

*Class Reporter*  
**ANDREW FOILES**  
afoiles@gmail.com

Hello Class of 2009!

Like you, I am tired and overwhelmed by, well ... (gestures broadly to everything). So let's pause here, unclench our jaws and enjoy the milestones our classmates, and the other class years surrounding us, have sent in to be celebrated.

My kids have discovered jokes recently, specifically very surreal knock-knock jokes, and what kind of father would I be without sharing a good joke with you here as I build up my portfolio of absolute zingers?

How does a train eat?

It goes chew chew.

Thank you to those of you who shared your wonderful pieces of news with me so that the rest of our class can celebrate along with you. It is always so uplifting to receive your emails

and hear you brag about yourselves.

Be sure to send me any updates and life milestones you are celebrating so they can be featured here and in the online Class Notes. Your class wants to hear from you, whether it is a new job, a wedding, a new family member or something outside of the norm. It is all important and worth sharing! Just send them to me at afoiles@gmail.com. There is also an online version of the Class Notes, which supports photos, so feel free to send those in along with your updates. While you're at it, send me your favorite jokes too!

Orange you glad I didn't say "banana"?

Andy

Updates:

**Julie Horsting** sent news that she was getting ready to marry Andrew Wilkins in April, and together, they welcomed the cutest pup, Cabernet, "Cabby," to their family.

**Amanda Vtipilson** and her husband, CeJae, welcomed their first child, Dorothy Alexandra, in 2024. "She's a healthy 9-month-old now (time flies!) and living up to the adventurous spirit of her uncle and namesake, **Alexander Johnson '13**. She may never get to meet him, but she'll know him through our visits to campus and stories of his adventures around the world as a geologist!" Amanda continues her work in her local community, managing programs with the Lamb Center for Arts and Healing, a nonprofit arts center in Hopewell, Virginia.

## 2010 15

*Class Reporter*  
**IRENE DAVIDSON**  
wm2010classreporter@gmail.com

Hello Class of 2010! I've received such a positive response as the new class reporter. It reminds



me why I love this community. (See our online Class Notes for photos.) Looking forward to your updates over the coming months.

I was married this past December in New York City's Brooklyn borough, with a guest list overflowing with alumni, although I won't name names.

In July 2024, **Bailey Thomson Blake** and her husband relocated to New Haven, Connecticut, and Bailey joined the Class of 2028 at the Yale School of Medicine in early August. They are also reportedly investigating whether New Haven is, in fact, America's best pizza city — as a New Yorker, I look forward to the results of this investigation.

Former Virginia Del. **Jay Jones** launched his campaign for attorney general. W&M alumni and Virginia residents can learn more about his campaign at jayjones.com.

**Lindsay Rubio** has been living in South Florida since 2011 and recently found her calling to be a social worker. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in social work at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida, and, upon licensure, wants to work closely with the veteran population. Way to go, Lindsay!

Wishing you all the best in these hectic times. Please be in touch and send Class Notes to [wm2010classreporter@gmail.com](mailto:wm2010classreporter@gmail.com).

## 2011

*Class Reporter*

**KATE FOILES**

[katefoiles@gmail.com](mailto:katefoiles@gmail.com)

**Jeni Anderson** and **Mike Crump** are living in Northeast Washington, D.C., with their dogs, Georgie and Bingley. This October, they will celebrate 10 years since getting married

on campus. Mike is the vice president of digital media at Moore — a firm that focuses on omnichannel marketing and fundraising for nonprofits, and Jeni is associate director of sustainability at Global Facility Solutions, where she works on energy auditing for commercial buildings and solar and electric vehicle charger installations. In their free time, they enjoy planning trips to exciting places, gardening and cooking. Additionally, Jeni tends to a veritable rainforest of houseplants and Mike enjoys singing with the Washington Men's Camerata. He encourages tenors and basses in the D.C. area to audition and invites interested folks to check out [camerata.com/audition](http://camerata.com/audition) for more info!

**Jordan Bloom** reports that he is being sued on two continents now, by a purveyor of Israeli facial recognition software here in Virginia and by an associate of two sanctioned Russian businessmen. In the latter case, the Italian prosecutor has been asked to seize his publication.

**Ginny Bray** and her husband welcomed a baby boy, Jordan Wiseman Ho, on Dec. 13, 2024. They are all doing well, thanks to Tribe volleyball alumni who have visited and provided advice and support to their family of three.

**Caitlin Clements** just graduated from her master's program in the U.K., earning her Master of Arts in writing for young people. Next up, she's putting the finishing touches on her cohort's anthology, "Inkland," before their official launch event at the flagship Waterstones bookstore in London this May, where the first two chapters of her young adult novel, "The Nostalgia Train," will be featured. The anthology will also launch online this spring, via their official website, should

anyone want to check it out. Get the link in our online Class Notes.

**Kelly Cotton** (my former roommate!) got engaged to **Kevin Doyle '12** in December! The couple is planning a wedding for fall 2025.

**Katie Danner '11, M.A.Ed. '12** married Christopher Barbuschak on Oct. 14, 2023, at Nativity Catholic Church in Burke, Virginia. Fellow alumna **Angela Dugas** was a bridesmaid.

A few years ago **Joshua Karp** co-founded Liftoff Campaigns, a political consulting firm. Last year, they helped elect U.S. Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware and U.S. Sen. Andy Kim of New Jersey, along with winning ballot initiatives to protect abortion rights in Missouri, Arizona and New York.

**Matthew LaBrie** got engaged in October 2023 to his fiancée, Trevor Hill. Their wedding is planned for June 2025 in Healdsburg, California. After proposing, Matthew made sure he took Trevor to W&M to walk with him over the Crim Dell bridge, which is only the third time Matthew has crossed the bridge: once senior year with his W&M roommates, once at graduation and once with Trevor. Matthew and Trevor split their time between Boston and San Francisco, where Matthew is a partner at the law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe.

**Allison Mickel** is giving a talk for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art on June 30 as part of the Charles K. Wilkinson Lecture Series. In August, she'll be moving to Atlanta to be the H. Bruce McEver Chair in Archaeological Science and Technology at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Allison will be starting up an archaeology program for the first time at Georgia Tech!

**Karla Bercaw Sep-**

**tember and Quincey September '14**

welcomed a son, Sacha Musawenkosi September, on Dec. 1, 2024.

**Isabelle Thibau** and family have been blessed with one crazy and beautiful year as a family of three. Their daughter, Mirabelle, turned 1 this February.

**Keri Voke** was named one of "The Top 50 Women Chief Product Officers of 2025," according to Women We Admire magazine! Read more in the online Class Notes.

## 2012

*Class Reporter*

**MADELEINE BRADSHAW ROWLEY**

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Hello Class of 2012, I hope everyone is having a lovely spring! This time of year always brings back fond memories from William & Mary, with the campus gardens sprouting, sunshine hanging in the Sunken Garden and spring rain showers sprinkling on cobblestoned streets.

Those were simpler times — especially as I compare it to what life looks like now: scrambling to sell our house in Maryland and move an hour south to Northern Virginia, where my husband and I grew up. I have mixed feelings about moving home — not because of any "bad" memories, but because I just know it will feel different. Like the local Giant, for example — growing up, I couldn't pop in without running into one of my friends or a friend's mom. Recently, while we were in Virginia looking at houses, I ran to the Giant to grab some milk, and I didn't recognize a soul inside the store. Places look familiar on the outside, but inside, they're filled with the ghosts of the past.

There's a song by country singer Miranda Lambert that goes, "I know they say you can't go home again; I just had to come back one last time." And I suppose that's what we'll be doing — coming back one last time to make new memories in old places.

In Tribe We Trust, Maddie Rowley

Here's what's new with our classmates:

**Matthew Becker** was mentioned in W&M Alumni Magazine's December 2024 Alumni Book Roundup for his debut thriller, titled "Run." Read more in our online Class Notes.

**Tess Davis Donovan '12 M.B.A. '20**

married Maj. Brendan Donovan, U.S. Air Force, on Dec. 8, 2024. Many W&M and U.S. Air Force Academy alumni were in attendance! At the end of the wedding, the W&M alumni gathered for a group photo and shut down the house with a rousing rendition of "Our Alma Mater!"

## 2013

*Class Reporter*

**LAURA BROND DZIUBAN**

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Hello, Class of 2013! A big thank you to everyone who reached out and sent me your news and updates. These Class Notes are a great way to stay connected, but it can't happen without you! No news is too small to share, so feel free to contact me anytime at [laura.brond@gmail.com](mailto:laura.brond@gmail.com).

Visit our online Class Notes for a link to an October article in the Flat Hat discussing William & Mary Libraries' inaugural Draw the Line Comics Contest, of which Instruction and Research Librarian **Liz McGlynn Bellamy** was one of the chairs. Students who participated in the contest were asked to create a comic

showcasing a real example of student activism on college campuses. The contest gave students an opportunity to creatively display information while gaining real knowledge about how students have exercised advocacy over the years.

VPM News shared a Q&A podcast with **Har- rison Roday**, who ran for mayor of Richmond, Virginia, last fall. Follow the link in our online Class Notes to hear the discussion or read a transcript.

**Melanie Levine, Matthew Muller '12** and their son, Cam- erton, relocated from Chicago to Amsterdam in November 2024 for a new position with Melanie's employer, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. They are excited about the opportunity to live abroad again and welcome any outreach from other alumni who live in Europe or are passing through!

**Katherine Arce- ment** and Aaron Potkay welcomed their first child, Arthur Potkay, on Nov. 23, 2024, in Minne- apolis.

**Graham Bryant '13, J.D. '16** and his wife, **Mary Seward Bryant M.S. '16**, welcomed their daughter, Skye Emma Bryant, on Jan. 9.

**Megan Lyons Hinkle** and **Eric Hinkle '16** baptized their daughter, Ellie, at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Richmond, Virginia, on Jan. 11. Many friends and family were in atten- dance, including fellow alumni **Brendan Otten '16, Katie Ingebretsen '16** and **Greg Thomp- son**.

**Kevin Deisz New- ton** and **Avery Newton** welcomed their daugh- ter, Lily Nona Newton, to the world on Feb. 2. She joins big siblings Henry and Natalie in what Kevin describes as a very noisy (but this class reporter knows to be a love-filled) house.

**Sophia Corrigan**

has been working as a physician assistant at The Johns Hopkins Hospital for the past seven 1/2 years. In 2024, she passed her medi- cal Spanish exam to be able to speak directly to Spanish-speaking patients during their internal medicine visits. She is honored to be one of the Hopkins Hospital's 2024 Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award recipients. She lives in Baltimore with her husband, **Andrew "Harry" Hall '15**, who is a public service lawyer. Sophia would be happy to be a resource or mentor to local W&M alumni who are aspiring health professionals!

## 2014

*Class Reporter*  
**THOMAS E. VEREB**  
tvereb@wcchapel.org

Greetings, Class of 2014! Please write in and tell us what you've been up to. Here are a few classmates who've been in the news:

**Rebecca McCray '14, M.A.Ed. '15** was spotlighted in the Richmond Free Press for being named the 2024 Richmond Pub- lic Schools Teacher of the Year. Rebecca is a reading interventionist at Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School in Richmond, Virginia.

**Erin Spencer**, a com- munications manager for the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, was highlighted in the winter W&M Alumni Magazine cover story, "For a Flourishing Planet."

**Delia Folk** was the subject of an entrepre- neurship profile in the winter W&M Alumni Magazine titled "Fash- ioning a Business." As the co-founder of the fashion media and styling company The Style That Binds Us, Delia is work- ing to educate women on the power of fashion

to accomplish their pro- fessional and personal goals.

## 2015

*Class Reporter*  
**CHRIS PAPAS**  
christopher.d.papas@gmail.com

Hello, Class of 2015! It's been exciting watch- ing all the great things happening on campus from afar. I'm particu- larly proud of William & Mary for achieving the coveted "RI" designation as a research institution by the Carnegie Classifi- cation system, signifying our school's commitment to facilitating research. It's a great sign not just of the great work happening right now but of more good things to come!

Now for your updates! **Julia O'Connell** has been promoted to pub- licity director at Penzler Publishers, an indepen- dent press specializing in mystery and thriller novels. In this role, she arranges book tours and runs publicity campaigns for authors such as former FBI director **James Comey '82, LL.D. '08**, whose third crime novel "FDR Drive" was scheduled for release in May.

**Leland Murphy** writes in that she and **Charlie Kern** got mar- ried Aug. 3, 2024, in Big Sky, Montana. Congrats!

**Trevor Parkes** joined the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers as the counsel & project director of its First Step Act Resource Center in October 2024. The center advocates for the full implementation of the 2018 First Step Act, including running the Compassionate Release Clearinghouse in collab- oration with Families Against Mandatory Minimums. The clearing- house recruits and trains pro bono attorneys to represent ill, elderly and

abused people in prison, and those with excessive sentences, in sentence reduction motions in federal court.

**Tess Higgins** has been on the film festival circuit recently, includ- ing a stop in Richmond, Virginia, last September, showing her new film, "Him," which she co- wrote and co-produced.

Lastly, special shout out to **Margot Lubows- ky**, who sent in the following roundup of a number of life events that have occurred in our class recently. Margot, you have my vote to take over Class Notes if I ever stop!

**Nikolai Morse** and his wife, Jalei Celik, welcomed their first child, Aydin Nikolai Celik-Morse, a boy, on Nov. 11, 2024. Margot and **Jake Silver** are honored to be Aydin's godparents.

**Drew Wilke** and his wife, Kalyn, welcomed their first child, a girl, on Aug. 21, 2024.

**Zander Meitus** and **Amanda Williams '16** welcomed their first child, Casey Jane Meitus, a girl, on July 10, 2024.

**Emilie Clark** and **Henry Durbin '16** made the big move to London in December 2023 to be closer to Hen- ry's family and recently celebrated their first year in their new city!

**Thomas Obermeier** proposed to his amaz- ing longtime girlfriend, Grace Esposito, on Aug. 3, 2024.

**Anna Jay** and her husband, Chad Hudnut, celebrated their first wedding anniversary in March; they married in March 2024 in an intimate ceremony in Charleston, South Caro- lina, where they share a home for part of the year.

And finally, as he works towards his doctorate in epidemiol- ogy, **Kevin Silverman** has fulfilled a lifelong dream of his to become a professor! He is currently an adjunct lecturer at

York College of the City University of New York System.

Congrats to everyone! Hope to be able to see you all in Williamsburg in October for our 10-year reunion!

## 2016

*Class Reporter*  
**EMILY NYE**  
emilynne01@gmail.com

Class of 2016, I hope everyone has been keeping safe and well! I'm excited to share some new updates from mem- bers of our graduating class below:

**Aine Cain** and her husband, Kevin Greenlee, have a nonfiction book coming out this year. The title is "Shadow of the Bridge: The Delphi Murders and the Dark Side of the American Heartland." It is a deeply reported accounting of the investigation into a horrible double homicide in Indiana. It is published by Pegasus Crime and distributed through Si- mon & Schuster. It comes out in August 2025. Con- gratulations, Aine!

**Max Mohr** has taken the reins as CEO of Gig Strategic, a digital mar- keting company based in Charlottesville, Virginia. Gig Strategic helps busi- nesses power their online presence and boost their growth through search engine optimization, website development and digital advertising. He also remains active as a solo musician under the name "Max Mandu," per- forming acoustic guitar, vocals and piano in ven- ues around Virginia. Con- gratulations, Max!

And finally, **Justin Loeb '13** and **Maggie Corry '16** were married on Sept. 14, 2024, at Waccabuc Country Club in Waccabuc, New York. Many alumni were in at- tendance, including **Allie Harokopos, Annabel Hess** and **Olivia Jallits**, who were in the bridal party.



Thank you to everyone for your updates! Best wishes until next time.

## 2017

*Class Reporter*

**CAPRIELLE D'ULISSE**

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Class of 2017, Former William & Mary footballer **Nick Dorka** was interviewed about his role on Season 7 of the "Love Is Blind" show, set in Washington, D.C. Read more in the online Class Notes.

**Ingrid Under-Scharin**, one of my former W&M Phonathon supervisors, is now living in Stockholm and working as a project coordinator in a Swedish international development organization, supporting its program in Ukraine. In between graduating from W&M in 2017 and this new role, she worked in Washington, D.C., for almost three years and completed a master's degree at Uppsala University in Sweden and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. Last year, Ingrid lived in Armenia and volunteered at a youth organization as a project management and fundraising specialist.

I also received an update from **Ryan Perry**: "My wife and I are expecting our first child in April. I'm graduating OB-GYN residency in June, and then I am moving my family back to Williamsburg, where I have joined a private practice (Williamsburg OB-GYN) where I will be providing obstetric and gynecologic care. I couldn't be more excited to raise my daughter in Williamsburg and introduce her early to my alma mater."

## 2018

*Class Reporter*

**PHOEBE BRANNOCK**

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Class of 2018,

Our almost-30s are strange: We have had almost a decade to figure out this whole "life after college" thing. Some of you have truly excelled at becoming responsible adults ... and we'll address my antics later.

So many of you have been getting married: **Lauren Hoak Ambers** is a newly married as of this past fall. **Hunter McConville**, **Matt Phillips '17**, **Anna Wilson '19**, **Sarah Anderson '17** and **Ryan Harriss** all attended the wedding.

**Katie Kernen Kelly** and **Charles Kelly '16** likewise married this past fall; their wedding party included **Emma Munis '18**, **M.A.Ed. '19**, **Jenny Horner** and **Augie Haam '17**.

**Genevieve Hammer-sley** and **Sean Hamill** tied the knot in the heat of July of this past year; **Nora LeValley** officiated the wedding. The wedding party included **Will Kelly** and **Paige Darby**, **Jake Seefeldt '18**, **M.S. '19**, **Rachel Plescha**, **Sean Wong**, **Jack Nicol**, **Cece Hurtado '17** and many other W&M-ites attended.

**Katie DeMaillie** married **Nick Falcone** in Williamsburg.

Some of you are engaged: Social media told me that **Heather McShea** is among that number. The save the date for the wedding of **Matt Phillips '17** and **Anna Wilson '17** is magnetically affixed to my refrigerator.

More still are traveling: **Marina Schlosser '20** (Phi Mu little No. 1) is taking advantage of her fully remote job and has traveled extensively in the past year, including a recent trip to Peru with **Claudia Segura '20**. **Sarah Anderson '17** is currently in Japan with **Luke Maclay '17** as I type this. **Trinity Torres '18** visited Hungary this past summer. **Briana Ford '19** moved to Spain, where she is working as a language assistant.

In typical "love to work" W&M fashion, some are focused on careers: By the time you read this, **Elizabeth Pokol '20** (Phi Mu little No. 2) will have graduated from Boston College Law School, and she'll be diligently studying for the Massachusetts Bar Exam. **Caitlin Dumm '21** (Phi Mu grand little) has become a physician assistant. **Ryan Harriss** finished his stint in the Navy in March. **Tanner Holland '18**, **M.B.A. '24** and **Madi Free Holland '19** have relocated to College Station, Texas, so that Tanner can pursue a master's degree in public service and administration at Texas A&M University.

And me? I've been left unsupervised for far too long and am completely reverting to the 16-year-old version of myself. In March 2023, I started riding horses again after nearly a decade. After high school, I stopped riding, even though horses were largely responsible for any semblance of sanity during childhood and adolescence, but I promised myself I would get back in the saddle when the time was right. Last spring, I connected with The Rockbridge Hunt (of which I am now a member), and they recommended a wonderful trainer in Natural Bridge, Virginia. My trainer is not an alumna, although she is a fellow Phi Mu, but her sister, **Trudy Reeves Melvin '80**, was a geology major and Kappa Delta at W&M. I so enjoy seeing Trudy when she takes her granddaughter to the barn for lessons and at hunt club events.

In September of 2024, I achieved a childhood dream and bought a horse of my own. Now, I schedule my life around making the hourlong drive (sometimes while on work calls with **Scott Foster '10**, **J.D. '14**) from Roanoke to Natural Bridge roughly four times a week to see Blu,

my blue-eyed, red bay, unregistered pinto mare. Blu has followed hounds through scrappy hunt country enthusiastically for me, and having her has brought me immeasurable joy. Although I have so much for the two of us to work on, my childhood self would be thrilled with every bit of it (and would probably laugh at Blu's bucking because the ground hurts less when you're in your teens). See a photo of me and Blu in the online Class Notes.

## 2019

*Class Reporter*

**CONNOR GLENDINNING**

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## 2020 5

*Class Reporter*

**DEVON BORTZ**

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Hi there, Class of 2020!

I'd like to start this note with a message of support to our classmates who have been impacted by the federal government's mass layoffs. If you're looking for a new position, connections to local William & Mary alumni or someone to talk to about everything that's going on, please feel free to reach out to me. I'm happy to do what I can to help identify potential openings, put you in touch with colleagues in similar industries/roles or lend a listening ear. We're here for you!

And now, here are some updates from our classmates:

Last September, **Anna Rader** and **Aaron Groves '19**, **M.Ed. '20** were married in Atlanta, where they currently live. They loved celebrating with friends and family in the place they call home and are thankful for the long nights in Swem Library and walks around

Colonial Williamsburg, where their relationship started freshman year!

**Carl Scholl '20**, **M.Acc. '21** began working in transaction advisory for buy-side and sell-side financial due diligence engagements in Grant Thornton's office in New York City's Manhattan borough last April. Previously, Carl worked as an auditor with Grant Thornton. Outside of work, Carl likes to walk his golden retriever.

On June 21, **Katie Brownfiel** will be getting married to Thomas McDonald. The couple's wedding will be at Saint Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Fort Monroe, Virginia. They got engaged in Colonial Williamsburg and crossed the Crim Dell bridge beforehand. Of course, they celebrated with champagne and sandwiches at The Cheese Shop afterward!

**Hannah Hrcncir** got engaged to her partner, Victor Okereke, in December.

**Cameron Bray** is excited to be heading back to Edinburgh, Scotland, and the University of St Andrews for his first visit since the pandemic. If you're currently a student in the St Andrews William & Mary Joint Degree Programme or studying abroad in Scotland, feel free to get in touch with Cameron through Facebook Messenger or LinkedIn!

**Wenzhi Pan** moved back to Washington, D.C., from Nashville, Tennessee, and received her professional counselor license.

Sadly, **Shengxin "Echo" Chen** of Shanghai, China, passed away on Aug. 30, 2024. Echo studied computer science and philosophy during her time at W&M and had been working as a software engineer at Audible. She was buried in the Qingpu District of Shanghai, China. Our sincerest condolences go out to her friends and family.

As always,  
Devon

## 2021

Class Reporter  
**MISO PARK**  
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Hello Class of 2021!

I hope you have all been enjoying 2025 so far. I started volunteering recently at one of the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinics, operated by Catholic Charities. Also, I found out that I work at the same non-profit as **Maddi Nicol!** We hope to meet up with other William & Mary alumni and eat lunch together at work one of these days. This is the only update from me!

Here are your fellow classmates' notes.

**Chris Varvaro** would like to share the following news: "I recently had the opportunity to officially remix the legendary track from 2000 'Dancing Queen' by the A\*Teens, which was featured in 'Venom: The Last Dance.' Working with Universal Music Group, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Marvel Entertainment and the A\*Teens was an incredible experience." Check out our online Class Notes for a link to Chris' Instagram.

Lt. Col. **Jennifer Purser '08**, 1st Lt. **Erin O'Hara** and 1st Lt. **Mackenzie Corcoran** were profiled in a W&M online exclusive. They are among the first women to graduate from the Army's top leadership school, the Ranger School. Read more in the online Class Notes.

**Wei Qian Lim**, my former suitemate in Chandler Hall sophomore year, is in her second year, second semester at The George Washington University for her doctorate of physical therapy!

**Katie Kasperson**, my freshman-year roommate, has a big life update — she's officially moved back home to New Jersey for a bit while

she navigates an exciting transitional phase. Next stop? Boston! She's also taken a creative pivot into wedding and lifestyle photography! So far, she has had the joy of capturing two weddings, a proposal and a family portrait session — with more in the works. Katie also mentioned that our fellow freshman Griffin D dorm mate **Sophia Sabardine** is currently in Switzerland to get her master's degree!

**Nyla Pollard** created a sports technology startup called Ballin AI, which recently launched! Her basketball-focused company builds predictive models that identify patterns to improve player performance and player selection, equipping athletes and athletic departments for success. Nyla is the founder and CEO. Her fellow William & Mary alumna and former W&M basketball teammate **Bianca Boggs '19** is the chief operating officer. Additionally, a fellow William & Mary alumna, **Danielle McTeer '24**, is their operations intern.

## 2022

Class Reporter  
**SELAM BERHANE**  
wm2022classreporter@gmail.com

Hello Class of 2022!

Thanks to everyone who responded to my request for news! It was so lovely seeing the submissions pour in over the last few weeks! I'm so grateful that you all are doing well and have news to contribute. If you happened to visit W&M during the spring, please send me pictures of the beautiful spring foliage so I can include it in our next set of Class Notes. I'm itching for a visit but until then, I'll live vicariously through you all. In the meantime, here are the things your amazing classmates have been up to:

**Nima Bryan Afzalirad** graduated from Harvard University, where he earned his Master of Education in human development. Congratulations, what an amazing accomplishment, Nima!

**Claire Hogan** has continued working as a journalist in New York City and recently attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, thanks to a grant from the Erd Redson Foundation. On a more personal note, her pet tarantula, Griffin, was third runner-up for "Best New World Terrestrial" at the British Tarantula Society Exhibition last year! Personally, I'm getting goosebumps thinking about a competition full of arachnids, but I love to see my classmates (and their pets) win!

Speaking of spiders, **Jake Silliman**, a W&M applied science doctoral candidate, was interviewed for an article about research he is conducting into spider silk. Read more about this amazing research in the online Class Notes.

**Sierra J. Johnson** is a recipient of the 2025 CCCC Richard Braddock Award for her work on "Black Linguistic Justice from Theory to Practice," published in the June 2024 issue of College Composition and Communication and co-authored with Hannah Franz, Michelle Petty, Angela Rowell, Marie Tano and Anne Charity Hudley. This award is presented for an outstanding article on writing or the teaching of writing. Congrats, Sierra, this is super impressive! Way to make us proud!

That's all for now, folks. I hope you have an excellent summer and conjure up some more amazing things to share for the next column. Till we chat again!

## 2023

Class Reporter  
**JULIA DEKORTE**  
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## 2024

Class Reporter  
**MARY BETH BAUERMANN**  
mbbauermann@gmail.com

Happy Spring, Class of 2024! Just a few updates to share this time around:

The public dedication of the Williamsburg Bray School took place on Nov. 1, 2024 — 250 years after the school closed. Dedication speakers included **Lonnie G. Bunch III L.H.D. '24**, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and retired Supreme Court of Virginia Justice **John Charles Thomas HON J.D. '16, HON '18, LL.D. '24**, the court's first Black justice. Read more about the event in our online Class Notes.

While neither of these men graduated from W&M, they both received honorary degrees in 2024.

**Katie Oles** was mentioned in an article for the W&M winter Alumni Magazine for her work on a project studying the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy at local, national and international levels. Read more in our online Class Notes.

**Kate Balint** writes: "Since graduation, I'm continuing at W&M for my master's degree. I'm working as a techie for the W&M computer science department, and I adopted two cats named Vex and Vax!"

Kate is also featured on the newly available "Honey & Wine Premiere Cast Album," the cast recording of "Honey & Wine," an original musical written by **Ryan Vincent '23, M.A.Ed. '24** that debuted at W&M in April 2024. **Katie Richardson** and **Matthew Capel '23, M.A.Ed. '24** are also featured on the album. **Abby Paras** was stage manager for the show. I was also involved as choreographer, so I can

personally recommend listening to this lovely album that my friends worked so hard to make! Check out our online Class Notes to stream it on Apple Music.

On my end, it's been a busy spring! **Alice Baughman** and I enjoyed a few snowy days here in Charlottesville, Virginia. This semester, in addition to coursework for my Ph.D., I am the teaching assistant for a class called "Meet the Beatles." As a lifelong Beatlemaniac, it's my dream class! Outside of school, I'm excited to be a DJ trainee in the rock department at WTJU 91.1 FM radio station in Charlottesville. Catch me on the air sometime soon!

I would love to hear from more of you for the next edition of our Class Notes! Send me an email with your news!

## Arts &amp; Sciences

Graduate School  
Reporter  
**DR. JONATHAN R. SKUZA PH.D. '11**  
jskuza@emich.edu

*We are looking for a new reporter for graduate alumni in the Arts & Sciences. If interested, please contact alumni.magazine@wm.edu.*

**Ron Hurst M.A. '89** (history), chief mission officer and senior vice president of education and historic resources at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, received the Prentis Award back in November, as featured in W&M News. Among other projects, he has had a hand in bringing to life the expansion of the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, the creation of a new archaeology center, the relocation of the Williamsburg Bray School and ongoing



efforts to preserve the iconic buildings of William & Mary's Historic Campus.

**Jamie Atkinson M.P.P. '10** was appointed as the new director of revenue for the city of Richmond, as reported by the Richmond Times-Dispatch back in October. She has 15 years of financial experience at federal, state and local agencies, including an eight-year role as budget director for Austin, Texas.

**Warren W. Buck III M.S. '70, Ph.D. '76, D.Sc. '13** (physics) was awarded the Alumni Medallion during Charter Day Weekend in February. It is the highest and most prestigious award given by the W&M Alumni Association that recognizes outstanding alumni. You can read more in the winter 2025 issue of the W&M Alumni Magazine.

**Lingfei "Teddy" Wu Ph.D. '16** (computer science), co-founder and CEO of Anytime AI, was also featured in the winter issue of the magazine.

## Mason School of Business

*Graduate School  
Reporter*

**LEE C. RUSSELL  
M.B.A. '81**

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I am excited to be your new graduate school reporter for the Raymond A. Mason School of Business. I graduated from W&M's MBA program (before the business school was known as the Raymond A. Mason School of Business) in December 1981 — so I really consider myself to be part of the Class of 1982, since this was the class that I started with in 1980. Back then, all of my classes were in Jones Hall before we moved to Blow Memorial Hall

and Chancellors Hall and then, of course, to Alan B. Miller Hall. I spent the bulk of my professional career with EY (formerly Ernst & Young) in Philadelphia and New York and retired from the firm as a managing director in 2015. My wife, Ruth, and I live in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and we have two adult daughters who live in Baltimore and Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. But enough about me.

These Class Notes are such a great way to reconnect with classmates and to stay connected with W&M. I invite you to share your news, both professional and personal achievements, and notable life events. I would especially like to hear from those who were able to attend the MBA Alumni Reunion Weekend in March. Please email me and include your update, name and year of graduation and I'll be sure to add your update to the next issue. I look forward to hearing from you!

**Lisa Atherton M.B.A. '04**, CEO of Bell Textron Inc., an aerospace manufacturer specializing in helicopters, was profiled by D Magazine.

**Lorrie Asker M.B.A. '91** was named as one of "The Top 50 Women Leaders in Banking for 2024" by Women We Admire magazine.

**Shawn Tibbetts M.B.A. '13**, Armada Hoffer's president, chief operating officer and CEO designate, was selected to become CEO on Jan. 1, earlier than previously announced. Albemarle County, Virginia has announced **Andrew H. Herrick '90, M.B.A. '93, J.D. '94** as its newly appointed county attorney.

To read more about the four news items above, check out our online Class Notes.

**Richard K. Wingo M.B.A. '82** retired in 2020 from his controller position at Micron

Technology. Following W&M, Rick spent quite a few years in finance with IBM before moving to Dominion Semiconductor and then Micron. Rick and his wife, Annette, live in Moseley, Virginia, and enjoy traveling and worldwide cruises. They have two adult daughters, one in Virginia and one in Indiana.

Sadly, I have learned that **Trudy Gilleland O'Connell M.B.A. '82** passed away in January 2024. Trudy was married to **Mark O'Connell M.B.A. '82** for 41 years, and they spent their early years together in St. Louis before moving to Ocala, Florida, and then Gainesville, Florida. As stated in her obituary, Trudy was one of the nicest people any of us has ever met. Our condolences to Mark and the family.

## School of Education

*Graduate School  
Reporter*

**PARKER MERCER  
M.ED. '22**

parkermercerc346@gmail.com

Hey SOE Alumni, I hope this message finds you well!

As your class reporter, I'm excited to share important announcements and updates from our vibrant alumni community. Whether it's career and life updates about fellow graduates, upcoming events or opportunities to reconnect, don't hesitate to reach out and share. Stay tuned for our latest news, and let's continue to foster the bonds we built during our time at William & Mary!

Several W&M alumni were profiled in a story about how W&M alumni have been seeking and offering help in areas devastated by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The

story included a section about **Flavia Zappa Medlin M.Ed. '90** and how she has coped with multiple natural disasters. Flavia plays violin for the Sarasota Orchestra and was involved in planning the W&M Southwest Florida Yule Log celebration that was on Dec. 12, 2024. She is quoted saying, "After everything we've been through this fall, I'm looking forward to celebrating the holiday season with our W&M alumni community."

In November 2024, **Patricia Popp Ph.D. '01** was honored with the Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth in recognition of her unwavering support for students experiencing homelessness. Her efforts as the state coordinator for Project HOPE-Virginia, a role she assumed in 2003, have profoundly impacted the lives of countless children and families across the Commonwealth.

**Amanda Barth M.Ed. '06**, associate dean of graduate admissions and recruitment at William & Mary's Raymond A. Mason School of Business, recently visited The Tide 92.3 FM radio studio for an interview. Amanda spoke about the programs and educational opportunities for local professionals with W&M's business school, and she explained how W&M's graduate business programs are designed with Hampton Roads professionals in mind.

In November 2024, **Meghan Whitehead Perry '06, M.A.Ed. '07** released her debut novel, "Water Finds a Way," which follows ex-convict Blake Alvares as she returns after her release from prison to a small Maine town where she had lived as a teenager. Seeking peace

and redemption, Blake begins working on a lobster boat, but her plans take an unexpected turn. Meghan's novel has positive reviews and even has a discussion guide to inspire conversation for book clubs! She currently directs a writing center at an independent secondary school on the North Shore of Boston, where she continues to engage and encourage student writers.

**Rebecca McCray '14, M.A.Ed. '15**, a reading interventionist at Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School in Richmond, Virginia, was spotlighted in the Richmond Free Press for being named the Richmond Public Schools Teacher of the Year. Rebecca is a specialized educator, trained in evidence-based assessments and interventions to support students struggling with reading. She works with small groups or individual students, delivering interventions to improve foundational literacy skills. She is quoted saying, "I am deeply honored to receive this recognition. This award represents not just my work but the collaboration, support and inspiration I receive daily from my students, colleagues and our school community. I am proud to be part of a district that values the power of education and invests in the success, experience and voice of every child."

**Charlie Foster M.Ed. '17**, director of the Office of Student Veteran Engagement, was among the faculty members inducted into the first-generation honors society Alpha Alpha Alpha on Sept. 27, 2024. These faculty members will eventually serve as mentors for first-generation students at W&M. Charlie shared that many student veterans also happen to be first-generation students and expressed his joy that they were being

celebrated: “I’m a military veteran, and there’s a really high incidence of first-generation students inside the veteran population. So, to me, it’s a really nice celebration of both kinds of students who are often together in both categories.”

## Law School

Graduate School  
Reporter

**MATT WIDMER J.D. '05**  
morrolan77@gmail.com

**Bessida C. White J.D. '80** gave a public presentation, “Recognizing and Sharing Family Treasures,” on Feb. 15 at First Baptist Church in Mathews, Virginia. She is currently the president of the Middle Peninsula African-American Genealogical and Historical Society.

**Mark Herrmann J.D. '92** was appointed general counsel of Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri.

**Jason Davis J.D. '94** was featured in a Q&A for the Virginia Business magazine. Jason serves as president and CEO of Kaufman & Canoles.

**Wyman Duggan J.D. '94** was reelected to the Florida House of Representatives, representing the residents of District 12.

**Susan Sieger-Grimm J.D. '94** was elevated to partner at Brown Rudnick. Susan represents creditors in complex Chapter 11 cases and trustees of bankruptcy-related and non-bankruptcy settlement trusts, frequently involving mass torts. She is a co-author of several well-regarded treatises in the areas of fraudulent transactions, suretyship and commercial law.

Albemarle County, Virginia, appointed **Andrew H. Herrick '90, M.B.A. '93, J.D. '94** as its county attorney.

In January, **Jennifer T. Wexton J.D. '95** retired as the representative for Virginia’s 10th Congressional District. She was featured in the January 2025 issue of the Washingtonian magazine.

**Jeffrey H. Geiger '92, J.D. '96** has been named president of Sands Anderson. Jeff focuses his practice on business litigation, eminent domain and legal malpractice defense/legal ethics.

**John Mills J.D. '05** has launched Mills IP Law, a boutique law firm providing services in strategic patent counseling (including the development of patent portfolios), freedom-to-operate analysis and patent diligence in connection with corporate transactions.

Virginia Attorney General **Jason Miyares J.D. '05** was the featured speaker for James Madison University’s 2024 Winter Commencement. Before law school, Jason graduated from JMU with a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

**Andrew Smith J.D. '07** was featured in an article by the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service, the military media publishing unit of the U.S. Department of Defense.

**Jason Kane J.D. '15** is an assistant director for the Watershed & Land Management Office of Policy and Technical Development within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

**Elizabeth Larner Leonard J.D. '16**, of Cranfill Sumner, was named in the 2025 North Carolina Rising Stars list.

Hemenway & Barnes, one of Boston’s preeminent legal and fiduciary firms, announced that **Emily Wagman J.D. '17** joined the firm as an associate in the Nonprofit Group. She advises tax-exempt organiza-

tions, including private foundations, public charities and colleges on tax rules and procedures, governance, contracts, research and licensing agreements, and compliance matters.

**Shannon Murphy J.D. '20** joined the Raleigh, North Carolina, office of Cranfill Sumner as an associate attorney. She focuses her practice on administrative, regulatory and government law, and white collar, government investigation and special matters practice groups.

**Ciera Killen '18, J.D. '24** has joined the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General as a special assistant attorney general with the Criminal Division. She previously worked in the office as a 2024 Honors Fellow.

Delaware law firm Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell welcomed **Trevor York J.D. '24**, who joined their Commercial Law Counseling group.

## Batten School & VIMS

Graduate School  
Reporters

**ELIZABETH HINCHEY  
MALLOY**

**M.A. '96, PH.D. '02**  
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**JANET NESTLERODE M.A.  
'96, PH.D. '04**  
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*Editor’s Note: Last summer, Jane Batten HON '17, L.H.D. '19 established the Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences at W&M and VIMS with a \$100 million gift. Read more at magazine. wm.edu/batten-gift.*

Roving reporter **David Kerstetter M.P.P. '98, M.S. '02, Ph.D. '05** ran into several VIMS alumni at the 7th International Billfish Symposium last October in San Diego, including

**Dan Crear Ph.D. '20, Jiangang Luo Ph.D. '91, Jan McDowell Ph.D. '02 and Jackson Martinez M.S. '21.** Dave was promoted to full professor in Halamos College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Marine and Environmental Sciences at Nova Southeastern University in August 2024.

While leading a study abroad program in New Zealand, **Art Trembanis Ph.D. '04** caught up with **Mal Green Ph.D. '87** during a field trip to Tairua Beach. Art is a professor in the School of Marine Science & Policy at the University of Delaware and spent the month of January with his students exploring the landscapes, beaches and culture of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Nearly five decades after her arrival at VIMS as a graduate student in 1976, **Linda Schaffner M.A. '81, Ph.D. '87** retired in December 2024. Linda joined the VIMS faculty in 1988, was promoted to associate professor in 1998, full professor in 2006 and led the academic program as associate dean of academic studies from 2011 until 2023. Throughout her career, Linda’s interdisciplinary research helped to build a solid understanding of the relationship among benthic organisms, sediment and flow in marine benthic ecology. At VIMS, she advised six doctoral students and five master’s students, served on advisory committees for 50 graduate students and mentored more than 20 undergraduates as part of the institute’s Research Experience for Undergraduates program, which she launched in 1997.

Congratulations, Linda!

Readers: We need your news to make this column a fun read, so don’t be shy and call in your “quips” (classic glo-quips-style readers’ call-in news stories are

always welcome!) to your class reporters, Scoop Hinchey and Newshound Nestlerode, to share with fellow alumni — y’all know who you are!

# An Action-Packed Journey

DR. JEFFREY WILSON '88 DRAWS ON HIS MILITARY AND MEDICAL BACKGROUND TO CRAFT NOVELS ABOUT COVERT OPS AND DANGEROUS MISSIONS

**ALUMNI PROFILE** From William & Mary biology student to combat surgeon to best-selling author, the life of Dr. Jeffrey Wilson '88 could be the inspiration for a character in one of his adventure thrillers. With co-author Brian Andrews, Wilson has written for Tom Clancy's "Jack Ryan" series in addition to their own franchises, such as "Shepherds Series" and "Tier One."

Wilson grew up in the Williamsburg area and became a paramedic after high school. A year later, he decided to attend William & Mary because of its location and reputation. In addition to the science courses he took as a biology major, Wilson values William & Mary's emphasis on holistic liberal arts studies. He remembers an anthropology course he took that, he says, "broadened my mind and interest in how the world works and in the history of the world."

After graduating, he joined the Navy and worked in government before applying to medical school. Prior to attending Eastern Virginia Medical School, Wilson took graduate-level classes at William & Mary, where he served as a teaching assistant in the biology department and as a lab assistant for the late Professor of Biology Henry Aceto Jr.

"William & Mary helped me with that transition, not just to boost my application, but also because I had been out of school for a while," he says. In recent years, the university has expanded its programs for veterans and military service members, including the Veteran-to-Executive Transition program.

After medical school, Wilson became a vascular surgeon and planned to teach classes at universities while serving as a Navy reservist. In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he returned to active duty and served in Iraq as a Forward Resuscitative Surgery System (FRSS) team surgeon participating in battlefield surgeries.

Throughout his Navy career, he says, writing became a form of respite — "a fun creative outlet during some high-stress jobs." He began writing short stories for competitions and eventually started working on novels. He met Andrews at a writing conference in New York for thriller authors. Wilson noticed Andrews' background as a Navy veteran and former submarine officer and initiated a conversation with him.

Wilson says he believes their Navy backgrounds have been crucial to their success: "The idea of



team and mission before self is bred into you in the military."

Their military experience also helped lead to their involvement in the Tom Clancy series after longtime author Marc Cameron stepped down from the role. The duo's specialty is military and covert operations, but they have expanded to technological and scientific elements, as well as supernatural and spiritual themes. Legendary Entertainment is creating a TV show for their "Tier One" series. Additionally, their "Shepherds Series" is in development for production with Sony, and stories including "Portal," "The In Between" and "4 Minutes" are in development as films.

"My goal in my work now is to honor the lives and sacrifices of my Navy teammates — and everyone who answers the call to protect our nation — reflecting their honor, commitment and sacrifice in the stories that Brian and I tell," Wilson says.

— JACKSON MAYNARD '25

*Editor's note: Many engaging stories are told in the Class Notes section. After reading news about Jeffrey Wilson's career as an author and combat surgeon in the previous issue's 1988 Class Notes, the magazine team interviewed him for this story, which first appeared as an online exclusive.*

**IN HOLLYWOOD:** Brian Andrews (from left), Jeffrey Wilson '88 and Josh Stanton of Blackstone Publishing.



# In Memoriam

READ FULL OBITUARIES ONLINE

Below are the names of members of the William & Mary community whose passing was reported between Oct. 2, 2024 and Jan. 31, 2025.

**To read extended obituaries, please go online to magazine.**

**wm.edu/in-memoriam.** Please send information to Alumni Records, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187, call 757-221-1167 or email [alumni.magazine@wm.edu](mailto:alumni.magazine@wm.edu).

## UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI

**Virginia "Burnsie" Weston Slaughter '48** of Tappahannock, Virginia, died Oct. 22, 2024.

**Janet Adele Axford Foster '49** of Camden, South Carolina, died Oct. 20, 2024.

**Carol Achenbach Hardy '49** of Irvington, Virginia, died Nov. 30, 2024.

**Sallie Adams McBride '49** of Chicago died Nov. 2, 2024.

**Jerry Harry Kaplan '51** of Ocean Township, New Jersey, died June 30, 2024.

**Ralph Erickson Francis '52** of Louisville, Kentucky, died Nov. 20, 2024.

**Mary "Sue" Douglass Biederman Graham '52, P '86** of Franklin, Tennessee, died Oct. 5, 2024.

**Elaine Diehm Guilfoyle '52** of Duxbury, Massachusetts, died Nov. 22, 2024.

**Hilda Beckh Sherman '52** of Newport News, Virginia, died Oct. 16, 2024.

**David Dean Wakefield '52** of Wilmington, Delaware, died Dec. 11, 2024.

**David "Dave" Lee Belew '53** of Hamilton, Ohio, died Oct. 5, 2024.

**Elizabeth "Betty" Gayle Jeter '53** of Mechanicsville, Virginia, died Jan. 10, 2025.

**Dolores Ann Onifer Worth '54** of New London, Connecticut, died Jan. 6, 2025.

**John Charles Kepley '55, P '82** of Roanoke, Virginia, died July 25, 2024.

**Robert William Stern '55** of New York City died Oct. 26, 2024.

**Jane Topping Underhill '55** of McLean, Virginia, died Jan. 3, 2025.

**Ann Sibley Barney Johnson '56, P '73** of Newport News, Virginia, died Jan. 3, 2025.

**Barton "Bart" H. Tayer '56** of Brookline, Massachusetts, died Jan. 17, 2025.

**Robert "Bob" Arthur Baumann '57** of Friendswood, Texas, died Dec. 22, 2024.

**Earl Wayne Jackson Jr. '57** of Gloucester, Virginia, died Jan. 17, 2025.

**James "Butch" Edward McHugh '57** of Zanesville, Ohio, died Nov. 10, 2024.

**Hewlett Hurt Appelbaum '58** of Waynesboro, Virginia, died June 26, 2024.

**Donald Lawrence Dew '58** of Lake Placid, New York, died Oct. 18, 2024.

**Ernest "Ernie" Lee Cox III '59** of Easton, Maryland, died Oct. 14, 2024.

**Donald "Don" Howard Engelken '59, M.Ed. '64, P '90, G '19** of Williamsburg died Sept. 30, 2024.

**James "Jim" Whitney Godfrey '59** of Matthews, North Carolina, died Dec. 25, 2023.

**Wendy Hoffman Gray '59** of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, died Sept. 11, 2024.

**Daphne "Dede" D. Sheets Jeffers '59** of Decatur, Georgia, died Dec. 5, 2024.

**Linda Lavin '59, D.A. '09** of Los Angeles died Dec. 29, 2024.

**Joseph "Jay" W. Lawler '59, P '83, P '85, P '88, G '13** of Midlothian, Virginia, died Jan. 12, 2025.

**Joan Kittrell "JoKitt" Brothers Vinson '60** of Wichita Falls, Texas, died Nov. 10, 2024.

**Martha "Carole" Waller Welborn '60** of Williamsburg died Dec. 2, 2024.

**Ann Patterson Willoughby '60** of Madison, Wisconsin, died Dec. 25, 2024.

**Alan Vance Briceland '61, P '85** of Richmond, Virginia, died Aug. 16, 2024.

**Grace Jordan Longworth '61** of Raleigh, North Carolina, died Nov. 28, 2024.

**Patricia "Pat" Ann Vipperman '61** of Moneta, Virginia, died Jan. 11, 2025.

**Dan McMurray Walker '61, P '87, P '87, G '25** of Vienna, Virginia, died Jan. 16, 2025.

**Joan Beck Willis '61** of Henrico, Virginia, died Jan. 20, 2025.

**Harold Chandler "H.C." Thaxton Jr. '62** of Richmond, Virginia, died Oct. 27, 2024.

**David B. J. Adams '63** of Lacey, Washington, died May 1, 2024.

**Richard Oliver Bas-suener '63** of Denver died May 4, 2024.

**John Otto Gette '63** of Des Moines, Washington, died Aug. 12, 2024.

**Philip "Chico" Field Herrick Jr. '63** of McLean, Virginia, died Dec. 25, 2024.

**Gale West Parmentier '63** of Fort Pierce, Florida, died Oct. 23, 2024.

**Willard Randolph Weaver Jr. '63** of Williamsburg died Jan. 6, 2025.

**Linda Lanell Rogers '64** of Lake Wales, Florida, died Oct. 26, 2024.

**James "Jim" Arthur Roy '64, J.D. '69, P '88** of Chesapeake, Virginia, died Oct. 29, 2024.

**Anne Morris Zepkin '64** of Williamsburg died Nov. 12, 2024.

**William "Bill" Iglehart Barton '65** of Arlington, Virginia, died Jan. 1, 2025.

**Margaret Elizabeth Peacock Bartos '65** of Royal Oak, Michigan, died Nov. 6, 2024.

**Mary Elizabeth Biddlestone '65** of Danville, Virginia, died Dec. 23, 2024.

**Martin Matthew Morris Jr. '65** of Marietta, Georgia, died Dec. 9, 2024.

**Kenneth Burl Nichols Jr. '65** of Tampa, Florida, died Aug. 26, 2024.

**Rebecca Buchanan Chandler '66** of Richmond, Virginia, died Oct. 3, 2024.

**Garrett "Garry" Grant Neice '66, P '07** of Adrian, Michigan, died Oct. 9, 2024.

**Christine Ann Coggins Rowland '67, P '93, P '98, G '27** of Chesapeake, Virginia, died Nov. 26, 2024.

**Terumi Joseph Tokita '67** of Forest Hills, New York, died Nov. 27, 2024.

**Shannon Kay Patterson McCall '68, G '28** of Hampton, Virginia, died Jan. 26, 2025.

**James "Jack" Robert Tompkins '68** of Roanoke, Virginia, died Jan. 21, 2025.

**William "Bill" Jacob Tropf III '68** of Silver Spring, Maryland, died Sept. 25, 2024.

**William "Bill" Crewe '69** of Avila Beach, California, died Dec. 21, 2024.

**Marion Beers Fitzgerald '69, P '93, P '97, G '25, G '27** of Reston, Virginia, died Nov. 30, 2024.

**Robert "Bob" Edward Kieffer '69** of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died Jan. 1, 2024.

**Roderick "Rod" Frank Whibley '69** of Norfolk, Virginia, died Dec. 15, 2024.

**Robert "Bob" Frederick Works '69** of Cincinnati died Nov. 13, 2024.

**Robert Lewis Hicks '70** of Suffolk, Virginia, died Feb. 10, 2023.

**Michael "Mike" Thomas Riddle '71** of Arlington, Texas, died Dec. 26, 2024.

**Dennis T. Walsh '71, M.A. '74** of Dennis, Massachusetts, died Nov. 8, 2024.

**Mary Anne Maher '72** of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, died Dec. 28, 2024.

**Kenneth "Ken" Ogren '72, M.B.A. '79, P '91** of Seaford, Virginia, died Dec. 21, 2024.

**Bernard Lania Herman '73** of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, died Dec. 30, 2024.

**Richard Morris Bagby Rennolds '73** of Richmond, Virginia, died Dec. 7, 2024.

**George W. Snead Jr. '73** of Stamford, Connecticut, died Jan. 19, 2025.

**Ted Calvin Germroth '74** of Kingsport, Tennessee, died Nov. 28, 2024.

**John Bentley Myers III '74** of Staunton, Virginia, died Sept. 10, 2024.

**Cary Stephenson Peet '74** of Williamsburg died Dec. 21, 2024.

**Stephen Paul Benda '75** of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died May 3, 2024.

**Susan Teresa McCormack '75** of Silver Spring, Maryland, died Sept. 28, 2024.

**Earl "Chuck" Logan Wynings Jr. '75** of Carrollton, Virginia, died Jan. 13, 2025.

**John Noble Iurino '76** of Tucson, Arizona, died Nov. 18, 2024.

**Patricia "Pat" McMahon McCutcheon '76** of Easton, Pennsylvania, died Feb. 22, 2023.

**William "Bill" Keller Geiger '77** of Yorktown, Virginia, died Jan. 14, 2025.

**Mark Chelsey Pugh '77** of Glen Allen, Virginia, died Sept. 27, 2024.

**Randall "Randy" William Culp '78** of Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania, died July 31, 2024.

**Sherrill Chapman Jones Edwards '78** of Springfield, Virginia, died Nov. 24, 2024.

**Barbara Irene Nicoll '78** of New York City died Oct. 27, 2024.

**Anne Elizabeth Schmutz '78** of Rochester, New York, died Oct. 21, 2024.

**Shelby Latimer Ochs Owen '81** of Richmond, Virginia, died Dec. 1, 2024.

**Elizabeth "Beth" Forbes St. John '81** of Chesapeake, Virginia, died Jan. 16, 2025.

**Mary Katherine Przypyszny Pennington '82, M.Ed. '84** of Haverford, Pennsylvania, died Jan. 25, 2024.

**Paul David Sagan '82** of Willits, California, died Nov. 10, 2024.

**Linda Jeanette Sterling Kemp '84** of Gloucester, Virginia, died Oct. 3, 2024.

**Susan Gail Howe '85** of Tucson, Arizona, died March 23, 2024.

**Amy Elizabeth Stetson '85** of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, died Jan. 25, 2025.

**Robert Earl Carr Jr. '87** of Garner, North Carolina, died Oct. 10, 2024.

**Mark Francis Costley '87** of Raleigh, North Carolina, died July 6, 2024.

**Aaron Herbert De Groot '88** of Williamsburg died Jan. 18, 2025.

**Lisa Sue Kim Shereck '93** of Greenwich, Connecticut, died June 13, 2024.

#### GRADUATE ALUMNI

**Thomas Vaden Rooks M.A.Ed. '59** of Henrico, Virginia, died Nov. 20, 2024.

**Benjamin "Coach" Cam Rich M.Ed. '66** of Newport News, Virginia, died Jan. 5, 2025.

**Francis "Frank" Lewis Schneider M.S. '66** of Elkins, West Virginia, died Oct. 30, 2024.

**Jean Hogge Shackelford M.Ed. '67** of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died Jan. 6, 2025.

**David Appler Glocker M.S. '69** of West Henrietta, New York, died Jan. 2, 2025.

**William "Bill" Frank McConnell M.A. '70** of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, died Oct. 5, 2024.

**Frances Heath Scott M.Ed. '72** of Newport News, Virginia, died Dec. 30, 2024.

**Alfred "Al" Edward Nordgren Jr. M.Ed. '73** of Canton, Massachusetts, died Nov. 24, 2024.

**Charles Robison Allen Jr. J.D. '74** of Roanoke, Virginia, died Jan. 12, 2025.

**William "Buster" Ryland O'Brien J.D. '74** of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died Sept. 30, 2024.

**Helene Statfeld Ward J.D. '76, P '91** of Williamsburg died Oct. 16, 2024.

**Fay Salmon Clark M.Ed. '80** of Richmond, Virginia, died Jan. 21, 2025.

**Loftin Wilson McLamb Jr. M.A.Ed. '81** of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died Oct. 23, 2024.

**Edwin Randolph "Randy" Leach J.D. '82** of Roanoke, Virginia, died Jan. 12, 2025.

**Tony R. Auby Sr. M.Ed. '83** of Newport News, Virginia, died Nov. 28, 2024.

**Patsy Rainey Joyner C.A.S.E. '83, Ed.D. '89** of Daleville, Virginia, died Nov. 25, 2024.

**Carolyn Lewis Mosby Ed.D. '83** of Richmond, Virginia, died Oct. 1, 2024.

**Mary Joanne Sutlive M.Ed. '85, P '77, P '85, G '15** of Wilmore, Kentucky, died Oct. 5, 2024.

**Kenneth "Ken" Finkelstein Ph.D. '86** of Marblehead, Massachusetts, died Sept. 14, 2024.

**Alan Alexander Bartlett McDowell J.D. '90** of Larchmont, New York, died Nov. 10, 2024.

**Robert "Rob" David Martin III M.S. '92, Ph.D. '98** of Anthem, Arizona, died Nov. 9, 2024.

**Gregory "Greg" William Sparrow M.B.A. '94** of North Chesterfield, Virginia, died Jan. 9, 2025.

**Michael "Mike" Fitzpatrick Cox J.D. '95** of Salem, Virginia, died Dec. 21, 2024.

**Molly Ryan Negus M.B.A. '95** of Richmond, Virginia, died Nov. 17, 2024.

#### STUDENTS

**Rose Way '25** of Chesterfield, Virginia, died Oct. 17, 2024.

**Lana Danielle Fellows '28** of Kissimmee, Florida, died Nov. 24, 2024.

**Leah Birku Yoseph '28** of Chesapeake, Virginia, died Jan. 7, 2025.

#### FACULTY & STAFF

**Paul Reade Bonniwell** of Quinby, Virginia, died Nov. 29, 2024.

**Charlene Stant Engel**  
of Nashua, New Hampshire, died Nov. 26, 2024.

**Laurastine A. Logan** of Williamsburg died Oct. 10, 2024.

**Michael Thomas Madison** of New York City died Oct. 1, 2024.

**Gloria Alicia McIntyre** of Williamsburg died Oct. 29, 2024.

**Charles Richard Terman P '80** of Shoreline, Washington, died Oct. 29, 2024.

#### FRIENDS OF W&M

**Lois Ehrhart Byrd** of Williamsburg died Oct. 22, 2024.

**Charles "Chuck" Robert Longworth L.H.D. '86** of Concord, Massachusetts, died Jan. 8, 2025.

**Flavio Ettore Mangini P '09** of Williamsburg died Oct. 13, 2024.

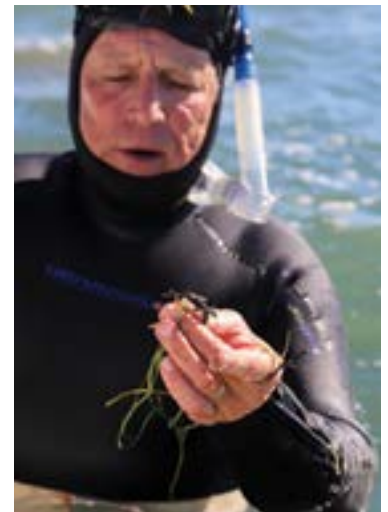
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