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ALUMNI MAGAZINE • SPRING 2026



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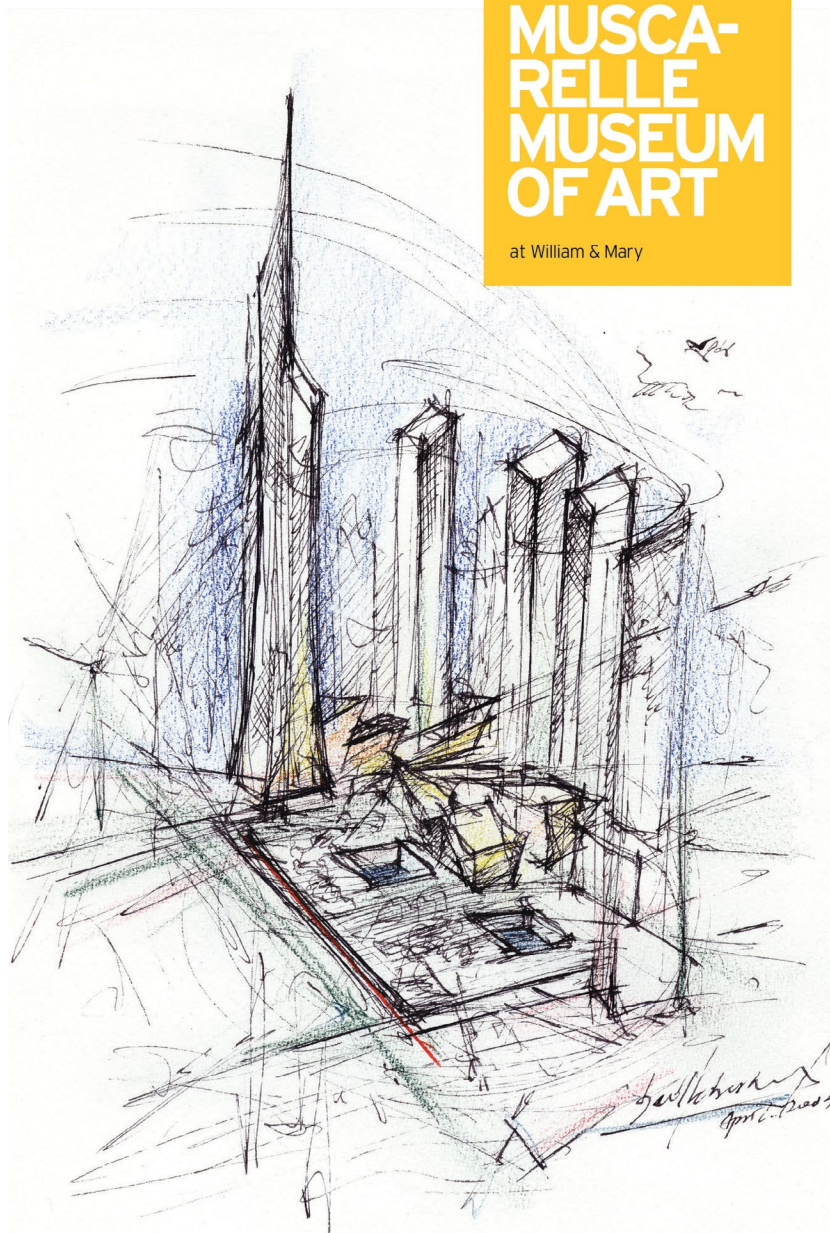
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Spring 2026

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SPRINGTIME SUN

Students enjoy a beautiful spring day on campus.





FROM THE ALUMNI HOUSE

Alumni Focus

BY MATTHEW "MATT" L. BRANDON '92
CEO, W&M Alumni Association

The best way to know what alumni are thinking and feeling about William & Mary ... is to ask them. So we did — and you responded in a big way. More than 6,600 alumni submitted the 2025 W&M Alumni Survey, which was sent to all emailable alumni last fall. A big thank you to everyone who filled out the survey!

Some highlights from the results (see more at magazine.wm.edu/alumni-focus):

- **92%** of respondents highly value their W&M education.
- **82%** of respondents rated W&M's trustworthiness as positive (vs. **75%** who rated higher education as trustworthy overall).
- **74%** of undergraduate alumni felt very or somewhat informed about W&M's strategic direction.
- **75%** listed W&M as a philanthropic priority with **28%** saying it is their Top 1 or Top 3. Top areas of interest included student success, internships & applied learning, civic leadership and conservation & sustainability.
- **79%** said email is their preferred method of receiving information, followed by this magazine at **62%** — with **39%** of young alumni ranking this magazine as their preferred method.
- **68%** of respondents say they reconnect with William & Mary because of the memories, with **44%** saying they would be more engaged if they lived closer.

These results, plus the many written responses we received, show us that we are moving in the right direction as a university and an alumni association. You also let us know where we can continue to serve you better. Many alumni are looking for ways to give time and talent, not just treasure. We heard a desire for micro-opportunities to volunteer, especially around sharing career insights and career opportunities with students and fellow alumni. You also told us we can do more to connect alumni who live far from campus. This important feedback is top of mind as we plan future opportunities to bring our community together and participate in the university's strategic planning process.

Our purpose at the W&M Alumni Association is to serve you by connecting you to fellow alumni and alma mater in ways that are meaningful to you. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us — the response was overwhelming and we are listening to and learning from you. My door is always open — if you have additional feedback, please email me anytime at alumniceo@wm.edu.



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FROM THE BRAFFERTON

An Agile Mindset

BY KATHERINE A. ROWE

William & Mary President

At the turn of this century, in 2001, gathered around a whiteboard, 17 software developers penned “The Agile Manifesto.” What they penned is concise: four values, 12 principles, designed for organizations that evolve with customer needs. Focusing on value, they prioritized people, collaboration, and adaptability. Their core principles included early testing of ideas and close listening. Back in my brief life as an ed tech entrepreneur, I learned this approach, called “Agile” design. It is similar to the theater rehearsal processes with which I was familiar as a Shakespeare scholar.

My column this June is about how an agile mindset can be useful for William & Mary in 2026 in our next strategic planning effort. This year, while holding long-term goals in mind, we are focusing on near-term actions that advance student outcomes. The process we are using prioritizes our people, collaboration, and adaptability.

Planning for the long term is one of the superpowers of a university. W&M’s Royal Charter famously establishes “a certain place of universal study ... in all times coming.” Through our long history, we have held to that vision for a university where breadth of knowledge provides essential preparation for the future, even (and especially) in tumultuous times. As a colleague commented this spring, our current moment is one of swift change. The advent of artificial intelligence, shifts in rankings, changing demographics, an unsettled political climate, and the uncertain world of NCAA athletics all make it difficult to forecast even six months out. Building agility into our planning process is an effective way to handle such uncertainty while holding to long-term goals.

We have designed a process with five clear areas of focus — throughlines that will last — and the flexibility for different parts of the campus to test and refine actions in each of those areas. A well-defined framework familiarizes our community with a key set of questions that we expect to keep returning to. Over the coming months, we aim to empower our community to advance concrete proposals that solve for the opportunities and challenges outlined in this framework.

As readers may recall from my column last fall, W&M identified four areas essential to sustaining our mission: student demand, academic excellence, research & innovation, and graduate & alumni careers and outcomes. These

mandates emerged from scans of the higher education and business landscapes and conversations with our leadership boards, students, faculty, and staff. Since I last wrote, we added a fifth imperative: a focus on recruiting and retaining talented faculty and staff. Picture these four mandates as pillars supported by a foundation of outstanding talent.

As you can see, these imperatives are evergreen. Through the mid-century and beyond, success in these arenas will be essential to sustaining W&M’s national preeminence. Over the next decade, we will advance W&M’s position in each area. Between now and next Charter Day, five working groups, each led by a senior administrator and a dean, will gather recommendations for near-term strategic actions from our community and identify those of highest potential.

We invite you to explore the timeline and work plan at our Strategic Planning website, wm.edu/strategicplanning. This spring, each working group introduced its key opportunity statements to the campus via brainstorming sessions. We have invited faculty, staff, students, and administrators to share their suggestions via a structured format by the end of May. Over the summer, the working groups will engage experts and stakeholders as they sharpen suggestions gathered in the spring. As this work advances, we will log our progress on the website.

Reflections of our alumni matter to this planning process. We hope to draw on your insights across many different walks of life. To that end, we invite you in: You will receive an email seeking your input in June.

Come the fall, we will share emerging themes and invite further feedback from campus and beyond. This phased process will shape W&M’s next strategic plan. Provost Peggy Agouris and Chief of Staff Carlane Pittman-Hampton Ph.D. ’03, strategic planning co-chairs, will circulate updates at each stage, so you can hear community input played back as we go.

Throughout this process, we hope you will contribute your perspectives on the key topics and questions around which we are planning.

Onward!

Read planning materials, watch videos, and bring us your best ideas at wm.edu/strategicplanning. We welcome your insights as a member of the W&M community. Each person who joins in helps the university evolve to meet the needs of our fourth century.



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The new William & Mary Athletics license plate is now available to order at Virginia DMVs.

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ELEVATING THE ATHLETICS EXPERIENCE

An additional \$6 million in gifts will further modernize Kaplan Arena and strengthen the broader W&M Athletics Complex. Generous support from Jane Thompson Kaplan '56, P '92, G '17, Jill Ellis '88, L.H.D. '16, P '27 and Betsy Stephenson P '27, and the late Garner Anthony '53 will ensure fans have the best seating to see the action, improved experiences in concession areas and more inviting hospitality spaces for gatherings. The funds will also allow for increased media broadcast capabilities so that fans can enjoy the games wherever they are. This additional investment builds on the leadership gifts from Katie Garrett Boehly '95 and Todd Boehly '96, and Jennifer Tepper Mackesy '91 and D. Scott Mackesy '91, which launched the athletics complex project and inspired many others to support it. The recent gifts bring the total amount of private funds raised for the complex to more than \$40 million.

—TINA ESHLEMAN





BY & LARGE

Campus Renewal

Updates on new spaces and renovations

BY UNIVERSITY STAFF

William & Mary continues to progress on improvements that transform facilities for students, staff, faculty and visitors.

On Feb. 6, during Charter Day Weekend, the W&M community celebrated the grand opening of the Mackesy Sports Performance Center — known as the Mack — a space that elevates the daily experience of all student-athletes with new strength training, sports medicine, mental performance, academic and practice spaces, as well as several new locker rooms.

Also during Charter Day Weekend, we reached a major milestone in the construction of Robert M. Gates Hall with the Topping Off Ceremony. Gates Hall will be home to five interdisciplinary centers, which generate research of national and international consequence: AidData, the Global Research Institute, the Institute for Integrative Conservation, the Whole of Government Center of Excellence and the Gates Global Policy Center.

In the center of campus, Integrated Science Center 4 (ISC4) was dedicated on April 23. Home to the new School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics, ISC4 features classrooms, a lecture hall, multiple collaboration spaces and more than 35 instructional and research labs. The ground floor is home to the university's new makerspace, with more than 8,000 square feet for hands-on design, experimentation and creative problem-solving.

As campus gains innovative new spaces, W&M is also preserving our distinctive historic campus. The Wren Preservation project is nearly complete. This yearlong effort addressed moisture-related and maintenance issues in the nation's oldest university building, replacing the nearly 100-year-old roof, repairing gutters, stones, plaster, wood, bricks and mortar, as well as waterproofing the foundation and installing a new in-ground drainage system.

ON THE COURT: *The women's basketball team practices on the Gerdelman Family Court in the Mack.*

BY & LARGE

SPACE TO WORK AND PLAY: *Top and middle left: Student-athletes train at the Mack; Middle right and bottom: ISC is the home of the new School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics.*



PHOTOS: TIMOTHY D. SOFRANICO



BY & LARGE

RENOVATIONS: *Top photos: Attendees at the Gates Hall topping off ceremony signed a beam that was installed in the building; Robert M. Gates '66, L.H.D. '98, for whom the building is named, gave remarks. Bottom photos: The "Wrenovation" project is almost complete. It included replacing the roof and repairing water damage to the brickwork, among other restoration work.*



PHOTOS: TIMOTHY D. SOFRANKO

BY & LARGE

Meeting Legal Needs

W&M's new Community Law Clinic serves region's low-income residents

BY EMILY WEBB



COMMUNITY OUTREACH: *Students and professors from W&M Law School take part in an event at the Chesapeake Public Library with Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia attorneys.*

WHEN HAMPTON ROADS RESIDENT JR* received an eviction notice from the owner of the mobile home park where he has rented a lot for the past four years, he knew he needed to fight back.

JR, a husband, father of two and military veteran, had never missed a rental payment. Instead, he believed that the eviction notice was retaliation for his family's complaints about the landlord's mismanagement of the property. Other residents were too afraid to speak up, JR said, but "the park owner didn't scare me."

JR searched far and wide for legal help, but he couldn't afford the thousands of dollars private attorneys estimated it would take to fight the eviction. That's where William & Mary's newest law clinic stepped in.

The Community Law Clinic launched in fall 2025 under the direction of Clinical Assistant Professor of Law Tyler E. Dougherty. The funding for the clinic came from W&M Law School

alumna Amy Rollins Kreisler J.D. '95 and her husband, Dr. Nevin Kreisler, as well as the Virginia General Assembly. The clinic provides holistic legal representation to low-income community members and, along with W&M Law School's seven other law clinics, forms a public-interest law firm where students represent clients under the supervision of licensed attorneys.

Each clinic specializes in a different area to address unmet legal needs in the community. The other seven clinics are the Appellate and Supreme Court Clinic, Domestic Violence Clinic, Federal Tax Clinic, Immigration Clinic, Innocence Project Clinic, Puller Veterans Benefits Clinic and Special Education Advocacy Clinic.

Different from the law school's other clinical offerings, the Community Law Clinic gives law students with their third-year practice certificates the opportunity to regularly represent clients in state court proceedings. Based on local needs, the clinic represents clients on a wide

PHOTO: EMILY WEBB

range of housing, consumer, reentry and family law matters.

Amy Kreisler, whose gift made the clinic's opening possible, says, "I was interested in supporting the Community Law Clinic so those in the community who might not otherwise be able to afford legal advice or counsel could receive assistance. The added benefit is that it helps the school's law students receive hands-on experience and understand the real-world impact of their work. I hope the clinic makes a tangible impact in Williamsburg and surrounding areas, and reinforces the school's broader mission of preparing skilled, thoughtful and service-oriented lawyers."

Before finding the clinic, JR appeared at his first eviction court hearing without an attorney. He quickly realized that going forward without an attorney could put his family in danger of losing their home. After an acquaintance put him in touch with Dougherty, JR learned that the Community Law Clinic would represent him at no cost.

"Once I was represented by the clinic, everything started going our way," he says.

Community Law Clinic students worked alongside Dougherty to gather evidence, formulate statutory arguments and prepare witnesses to testify in court. After a successful defense by the clinic team, the court found that the landlord had failed to prove JR and his family had violated the terms of their lease. The judge ruled in JR's favor, and his family remained in their home without further harassment.

The law clinic "was magnificent," JR says. "They did such a great job keeping me in my place."

Like many areas of the country, Hampton Roads has a large "justice gap," meaning the free legal services available in the area are insufficient

to meet the civil legal needs of low- and moderate-income residents, according to the Virginia State Bar. Without expert advice, many Virginians struggle to assert their rights and feel alone when facing complex systems.

"The barrier to justice is very, very real," third-year law student Aja Robinson says. "Sitting in landlord-tenant court for half an hour, you can easily see 20 evictions of unrepresented tenants. There's no way to know whether the tenants could have won their case, because there is no advocate there to help tenants tell their side of the story."

The new Community Law Clinic offers students their first opportunity to act as lead counsel on important legal matters, while helping those most disadvantaged by the justice gap learn to advocate for themselves. Under Dougherty's supervision, students are responsible for building a relationship with their clients, crafting legal arguments and making strategic decisions.

Second-year law student Breanca White '21, who grew up in Norfolk, was surprised and inspired by how much she loved the community-oriented work.

"We produce a lot of great lawyers, but at the core of William & Mary Law is the idea of the citizen lawyer," White says. "Being a citizen lawyer means being on the ground, helping people."

White, who plans to practice at a law firm in Richmond after graduation, says that she hopes to bring the lessons she has learned about collaborating with economically disadvantaged groups to her future pro bono work. "It's only right that I give back to the community that made me who I am today."

**Editor's note: JR is identified by a pseudonym for privacy reasons.*

BY & LARGE

ADVOCATES: *Left photo: Breanca White '21 (right) with fellow Community Law Clinic students (from left) Juliana Bachiri and Sofia Andia and clinic director Tyler E. Dougherty. Right photo: Law students review client records.*



LEFT PHOTO: EMILY WEBB; RIGHT PHOTO: DAVID MORRILL

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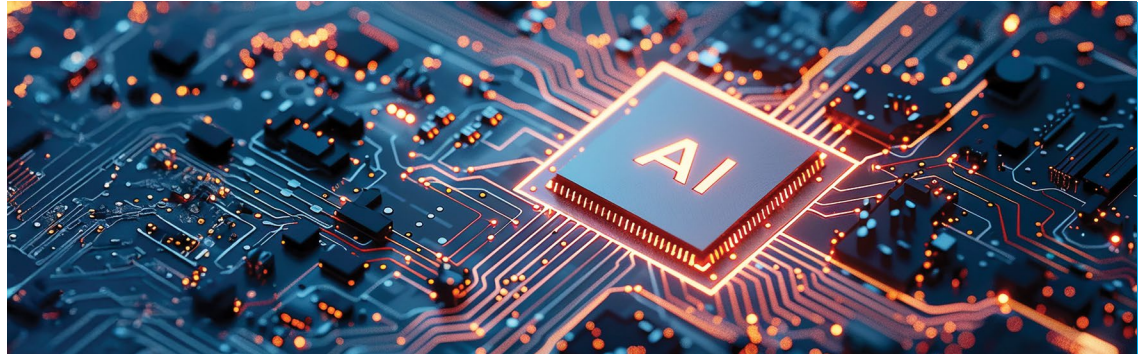
HUMAN-CENTERED AI

When technology and humanities meet

BY DANE PASCOE PH.D. '19 AND DAN RUNFOLA



CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: *Top: Dane Pascoe Ph.D. '19, deputy clerk to the Board of Visitors; Below: Dan Runfola, chair of data science*



IN AN AGE INCREASINGLY SHAPED BY ARTIFICIAL intelligence, the human capacities formed through the liberal arts and relationships become more essential, not less. William & Mary is committed to a human-centered approach to AI that prioritizes human needs, values and well-being. The university leverages its liberal arts foundation and interdisciplinary strengths to foster critical thinking about generative AI, promote responsible innovation and prepare students to be ethical leaders and engaged citizens.

THE VALUE OF SLOWING DOWN

You can ask a machine a question and get a reasonable answer in seconds. It will be clear, organized and probably correct. It will also cost you nothing — no discomfort or vulnerability. This is useful, but there is a quiet danger in it. We start to believe this is how all knowledge works: Frame the input correctly, get what you need and move on. This shortcut mindset doesn't stay in our AI apps; it bleeds into how we approach everything — including friendship.

There is an older tradition that works differently. The humanities are often dismissed as an outdated luxury in education, yet they offer something AI cannot: the discipline of the encounter. They hand us stories of people who lived in times nothing like ours — St. Augustine wrestling with a divided will, Frederick Douglass claiming his dignity, or Jane Austen revealing the quiet weight of social expectation. These aren't texts to be summarized; they are encounters that require a specific posture. They ask us to sit with the unfamiliar and resist the urge to immediately categorize, dismiss

or make it about us. This kind of reading trains a muscle: the ability to attend faithfully to a story that isn't yours. It is a habit, and it transfers.

This is where the humanities and friendship converge. The humanities invite us to be faithful readers of inherited stories; friendship asks us to become faithful readers of lives still in progress. But friendship asks something harder still — not only to read, but to be read. To be known is to give up control over how our stories are seen.

In our AI-shaped age, we are increasingly tempted to bypass the hard work of knowing. A machine offers something that looks like being known with no risk, and we are often lonely enough to take the deal. But the habit of bypassing difficulty doesn't stay intellectual; it becomes relational. Terence Tao, widely known as the world's best mathematician, compares AI to being dropped by helicopter at a destination you once had to hike to. Simply put, the view's better when you've worked for it. If that's true of mathematics, how much more is it true of the things that form us as people?

The shortcut is appealing because a machine offers attention without confrontation. But the risk of being seen is exactly where formation happens. A chatbot can remember every detail you've shared, but remembering isn't knowing. Knowing requires being changed by what you receive.

When a friend shows up, they show up with skin in the game. That mutuality is where friendship flourishes.

In a world that is getting faster and more complex, the most countercultural thing we can do is slow down. Read something hard. Stay in a conversation that is uncomfortable. Let someone know



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you before you've figured yourself out. The humanities give us the tradition for this; friendship gives us the practice. Neither promises a clean output, but both promise something better.

Dane Pascoe Ph.D. '19 is the deputy clerk to the W&M Board of Visitors.

USING TOOLS WISELY

The rise of AI has strengthened my conviction that human connections are what matters. As these technologies become more powerful, it is easy to focus on technical skills; we know how to teach those, and have done it for years. Certainly, students must understand what AI can do well and where the limits lie, but the deeper challenge is human, not technical.

What AI should not replace is empathy and responsibility. It should not decide what is worth caring about or how competing values should be weighed in a shared community. Those are human questions, and they require the kind of education that brings students into genuine relationships — and conversations — with other people.

That is why I believe preparing students for an AI-driven world means much more than just teaching them to use new tools. It means helping them become the kinds of people who can use those tools wisely. They need technical fluency, certainly, but they also need the relational intelligence to listen well, collaborate with others and understand lives unlike their own. They need critical habits of mind that lead them to question the easy answers and recognize unintended consequences. That is also the spirit in which we are preparing for a new bachelor's degree in applied AI: not simply as technical training, but as an education grounded in this human paradigm.

For me, this is where the liberal arts and data science most clearly meet. In an age of intelligent machines, the distinctly human capacities we cultivate through friendship and mentorship are what become indispensable.

Dan Runfola is chair of data science and Adina Allen Term Distinguished Associate Professor of Data Science in the W&M School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics.

BIG QUESTIONS

BUSINESS, AI AND THE LIBERAL ARTS

William & Mary's spring installment of the Tack Faculty Lecture Series, "Wisdom & Machines: How Liberal Arts & AI Learn From Each Other," asked a timely question: What happens when human judgment meets machine intelligence? • Drawing inspiration from the Jane Austen novel "Sense and Sensibility," Rachel Chung, clinical professor of operations & information systems management at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business, framed her May 7 talk around a familiar tension: logic versus emotion. But in her telling, the contrast is no longer just between two human perspectives. One side now belongs to artificial intelligence. • "Humans love creating and using tools. AI as a tool expands our ability to process information, to detect patterns, to extend what we can 'sense,'" Chung says. "But sense alone is not wisdom. It still takes human judgment, context and values to turn that information into something meaningful." • Her lecture traced the roots of modern AI back through disciplines often associated with the liberal arts, including political science, mathematics, psychology and linguistics. The talk challenged a common narrative that positions AI and the liberal arts in opposition to one another. Instead, Chung illustrated how human expertise remains central to guiding AI systems. • "AI systems do not simply produce answers," she says. "They reflect human choices about data, goals and values. The question is not only about how AI will shape our future. It is how we will shape AI." • Learn more about the Tack lecture at wm.edu/sites/facultylecture.

— ELIZABETH ELDREDGE '02, M.ED. '20

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Joining the Society of 1918 is an excellent way for 2026 graduates to become part of a dynamic community dedicated to growing the engagement, leadership and philanthropy of William & Mary women. Families can make this possible for graduating students through a membership gift at an 80% discount, about \$16.93 per month over five years. With more than 700 members, the Society of 1918 hosts frequent networking opportunities and supports important initiatives such as increasing women's representation on W&M Advancement leadership boards!

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THE W&M EFFECT

M. Brennan Harris '93 taps into his undergraduate experiences as chair of William & Mary's health sciences department

BY SADIE DOWNING '26

BY&LARGE

FROM STUDENT TO CHAIR: *Harris studied under Ken Kambis and later followed in his footsteps to become a chair of the W&M Health Sciences department.*



BRENNAN HARRIS '93 DIDN'T COME TO WILLIAM & MARY expecting to major in kinesiology, especially not to eventually become chair of what is now the health sciences department.

He knew when he enrolled in William & Mary that he wanted to major in a STEM-related field, but he first planned to do an engineering program that the university offers in conjunction with Columbia University, in which students spend three or four years at William & Mary and two years at Columbia. However, once he arrived on campus, his interests took him in different directions. While deciding what to major in, he immersed himself in activities. Having run track and field in high school, he threw himself into William & Mary's running club.

"I was really into training for triathlons," Harris says, "so I spent a lot of my time, maybe too much of my time, doing that." He'd always been interested in exercise, which he told his first-year advisor, Hans von Baeyer, now Chancellor Professor of Physics, Emeritus.

Von Baeyer suggested he take a course with the physical education department, which health sci-

ences was then named.

"And I ignored him for 2 1/2 semesters," Harris says. But in the second semester of his sophomore year, he signed up for his first kinesiology class.

Though he was interested in the material, the biggest draw of kinesiology for Harris was his major advisor, Ken Kambis, who would later become chair of the department. Now a professor emeritus, Kambis taught one of the core classes that Harris took, exercise physiology, and this had a defining impact on his career. Kambis quickly became Harris' mentor, helping him through much of his decision making, both in college and afterward.

"In all views, Brennan is exceptional," Kambis says. "He is easy to remember and hard to forget."

Kambis was aware of Harris' potential from the beginning of their partnership. "Brennan was probably the best student I had in my 30 years of teaching at William & Mary," he says. "In an environment that is as replete with great students as William & Mary is, he stood out."

It seemed like Kambis knew Harris would return eventually; when handing Harris his diploma during Commencement, he had said, "Maybe one day you'll join us!" Kambis' prediction was later

proven right, though Harris would receive two more degrees and complete a postdoctoral fellowship before returning to William & Mary.

While pursuing his postgraduate degrees in exercise physiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Texas at Austin, Harris continued to trust Kambis' advice, and the two of them talked frequently, with Harris often asking Kambis what he needed to do to return to the school that had shaped his life so much.

Besides his admiration for Kambis and his desire to get a job like his, William & Mary held personal significance for Harris, as the place where he met his wife, Terri Hamlett Harris '93. A fellow student, Harris' wife was in the choir with him, and shortly after their graduation the two of them married in the Wren Chapel.

As a graduate student, Harris dedicated himself to research opportunities, traveling a path he thought he would continue. Despite that, he was always teaching, either in an informal manner to his fellow students or as a paid instructor.

Eleven years after graduating, in 2004, as Harris was beginning his job search after completing his postdoctoral fellowship at Augusta University's Medical College of Georgia, Kambis called to tell him the kinesiology department was searching for new professors, and he needed to get his application in. While pursuing his postgraduate studies, Harris had realized that William & Mary provided a unique and fulfilling environment for faculty because of its balance between research and teaching. He jumped on the opportunity to apply, and soon he was back at William & Mary, this time as a faculty member.

"He was uniquely qualified, to say the least," Kambis says.

Harris' journey from his undergraduate years at William & Mary to becoming a professor and chair of his department was influenced not only by Kambis but by the health sciences department itself. Though the department has changed from its previous name, kinesiology, to health sciences in just the past year, the shift started with Kambis, who updated the name to kinesiology and health sciences in 2009.

"It better represents our work," Harris says about the most recent name change.

When Harris became chair, he wanted to continue Kambis' work of developing the department, leading him to add new degree programs in fall 2025. These programs, in human health & physiology and public health, now have about 155 declared majors. The department overall boasts on average 225 majors, making it one of the largest degree programs at William & Mary. Harris has also hired six new professors who have broadened the scope of the department, which currently has 11 full-time faculty members. Other programs, such as ones that required undergraduates to

take activity-based classes within the department, moved into the Student Health Center and the Department of Campus Recreation, and are no longer part of the degree. However, health sciences has made sure its doors are open for majors and non-majors alike.

"I can't say enough about Brennan," Kambis says. "I think he's done an exceptionally fine job as our department chair."

Though Kambis may have been Harris' most influential professor, he wasn't the only one. During his freshman year, Harris took a required English class, something he acknowledges was out of his comfort zone.

"In my first seminar, I did extremely poorly," he says. In particular, he struggled with writing essays, so much so that he kept the grading rubric from his first essay with him over the years as a motivating reminder of that difficult experience. He says that seminar has shaped the way he teaches his own freshman seminar and other classes. Part of it is how he gets students engaged with the material.

"What I tend to do is tell stories," Harris says. "The other principle is doing my best to take something with a complex value level, like cell signaling pathways, and relate that to actual impact in humans. Such as, 'Why do I need to know that this molecule is hydrophobic or hydrophilic? Why does that make a difference?'"

The reason it does, Harris says, is "because that means either it can, or it can't cross membranes easily. And then I get a little metaphysical — because we're all just stuff. But what makes the difference is the stuff that's on the inside versus the stuff on the outside and what that brings about."

Harris attributes William & Mary's liberal arts teaching style to his success as a professor. Students characterize him as engaging, caring and passionate about his subject.

"Because I had a liberal arts education, I knew that there were other ways to approach things," he says.

His own experience as a student also makes him an especially authentic proponent of William & Mary as a destination for students interested in health sciences careers.

"First of all, I think, you receive an outstanding education," he says. "And by that, I mean William & Mary teaches you how to learn and how to think critically. And how to be more open. No matter what you majored in, you come out with those skills, and they're useful."

William & Mary uniquely prepared Harris for the varied paths his academic career would take. As health sciences chair, his goal is to develop the department into the best it can be, and that path started with Ken Kambis and William & Mary helping him to develop into the professor, researcher and leader he is today.

BY&LARGE



FROM DAY ONE:
*Kambis and Harris
at Harris' graduation
in 1993.*

Honoring Civic Leaders

Four Receive Honorary Degrees

BY SADIE DOWNING '26

WILLIAM & MARY GRANTED HONORARY degrees this year to four Americans widely known for their community and national leadership.

During the 2026 Charter Day ceremony celebrating the university's founding 333 years ago and launching the Year of Civic Leadership, Emmy-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns received a Doctor of Arts (D.A.) and Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger received a Doctor of Public Service (D.P.S.).

Burns, whose documentary series about the American Revolution premiered last fall, encouraged students to "do something that will last and be beautiful."

Spanberger, a former congresswoman and CIA case officer who is now Virginia's first woman governor, emphasized the power of community in her speech, advocating to choose "service to

one another over self-interest."

At the Commencement ceremony on May 15, acclaimed political scientist and author Francis Fukuyama and journalist and Holocaust survivor Frank Shatz HON '15 received Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) degrees. Both "share William & Mary's dedication to our pluralistic democracy," President Katherine A. Rowe says.

Fukuyama, best known for his 1992 book "The End of History and the Last Man," serves as the Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

Shatz is a longtime weekly columnist for the Virginia Gazette whose memoir, "Reports From a Distant Place," was published in 2012. He helped establish the Reves Center for International Studies in 1989, expanding William & Mary's global reach.

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

2026 PLUMERI AWARDS

The 2026 Plumeri Awards honored nine faculty and one athletics staff member for their devotion to research, teaching and mentorship. Established in 2009 by Joseph J. Plumeri II '66, D.P.S. '11, the annual Plumeri Awards acknowledge the exceptional work of these W&M scholars and mentors. * The awards are Plumeri's tribute to the high-quality education that he received from W&M professors during his time as a student. Each awardee receives a monetary prize expended over three years to advance their research agenda and mentorship of W&M students. As of this year, 266 faculty and staff members have received Plumeri Awards. • The faculty recipients for the 2026 Plumeri Awards are: Inga Carboni (business), Carrie Dolan (health sciences), Chris Howard (government), Rowan Lockwood (geology), Vassiliki Panoussi (classical studies), Bin Ren (computer science), Justin Stevens (physics), Kevin Vose (religious studies) and Y. Joseph Zhang (marine science). The athletics recipient is Jasmine Sparrow (W&M Foundation, formerly Athletics). Read more at magazine.wm.edu/plumeri-2026.

—ANNIE POWELL M.A. '18, PH.D. '24

79%

OF ENROLLING FRESHMEN
RANKED IN THE TOP 10% OF
THEIR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

MORE THAN
\$63.5M

IN PLANNED GIFTS, PLEDGES AND CASH
DONATIONS WERE CONTRIBUTED TO
SCHOLARSHIPS AT W&M IN FY25

11%

OF W&M'S ANNUAL BUDGET
GOES TO FINANCIAL AID



Grace Harvey '27

PSYCHOLOGY

“

I chose psychology as a major because I am very interested in becoming a teacher. The classes I'm taking and the skills I'm learning are helping me to grow immensely. **Thank you so much for my scholarship!**”

AFFORDING OPPORTUNITY

WILLIAM & MARY

giving.wm.edu/scholarships

Scholarships have the power to transform lives. Learn more by contacting **Suzie Armstrong '93**, assistant vice president for development for campus initiatives, at smarmstrong@wm.edu or 757-221-7647.

IDEAS AND IDEALS: *W&M has attracted spirited minds and determined leaders for over three centuries to engage in conversations that have shaped the nation.*





1776

★ ★ ★ REVISITED ★ ★ ★

**W&M ALUMNI HISTORIANS REFLECT ON THE 250TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES**

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

ILLUSTRATIONS BY **LAURA BARRETT**

THE HISTORIANS

Emily Sneff Ph.D. '24 is an expert on the Declaration of Independence and a consulting curator for exhibitions marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration at the Museum of the American Revolution and Historic Trappe. She is the author of *“When the Declaration of Independence Was News,”* published by Oxford University Press in April, which follows how news of the Declaration of Independence spread to people throughout the United States and the world.

Michael Blaakman '09 is an associate professor of early American history at Princeton University. His scholarship focuses on politics, empires and borderlands during the age of revolutions. His book, *“Speculation Nation: Land Mania in the Revolutionary American Republic,”* was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2023, and examines the wave of land speculation that swept the United States in the first quarter-century after its founding.

Jim McClure M.A. '77, P '09 is the general editor of *“The Papers of Thomas Jefferson,”* an editorial project at Princeton University that is preparing a comprehensive scholarly edition of documents written or received by Thomas Jefferson. He led the production of a digital exhibition on the Declaration of Independence in preparation for the 250th anniversary of the United States.

IN JULY 2026, THE UNITED STATES WILL CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE. AT WILLIAM & MARY, WE HAVE BEEN REFLECTING ON OUR UNIVERSITY'S ROLE AS THE ALMA MATER OF THE NATION IN THIS MOMENTOUS YEAR.

William & Mary counts four presidents among its alumni, three of whom served during the founding and early republican eras: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe (the fourth, John Tyler, served just before the Civil War). The College Company — established by Patrick Henry on William & Mary's campus in October 1775, seven months after he delivered his famous “Give me liberty, or give me death!” speech at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia — participated in four documented military actions during the Revolution.

The author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, and fellow signers George Wythe, Carter Braxton and Benjamin Harrison V all shared close ties to William & Mary. Their lives reflected both the soaring aspirations and the unfinished complexities embedded within the nation's founding — including the enduring question of what the “pursuit of happiness” truly means, and for whom it must be realized in the continuing work toward a more perfect union.

Early American history isn't just a part of William & Mary's past; it's a critical part of the university's present and future as well. With the No. 1-ranked U.S. Colonial American history graduate program in the country and as the founding sponsor and host of the Omohundro Institute for Early American History & Culture, William & Mary is leading the way in understanding our nation's past and its connections to our present moment.

Historical scholarship is a conversation between experts, an exchange of ideas to approach as closely as possible to the most complete and accurate interpretation of the past. We gathered three historians of early America, all alumni of W&M's Harrison Ruffin Tyler



Department of History, for a virtual conversation to reflect upon the founding of the United States 250 years ago.

In their discussion, Emily Sneff Ph.D. '24, Michael Blaakman '09 and Jim McClure M.A. '77, P '09 shared their perspectives on the nature of the historical craft, the composition of the Declaration of Independence and the meaning of the United States' 250th anniversary. An edited transcript of that conversation is below.

The United States declared its independence from Great Britain in a document signed by 56 delegates to the Continental Congress. One of those signers was George Wythe — a Williamsburg lawyer who became the first law professor in the 13 Colonies when W&M established its law school in 1779. Thomas Jefferson, who studied under Wythe before graduating from W&M in 1762 and later drafted the Declaration, called Wythe “my earliest and best friend ... [to whom] I am indebted for first impressions which have had the most salutary influence on the course of my life.”

The Declaration of Independence is one of the foundational documents in the creation of the United States. Can you dissect this critical document for us?

MCCLURE: There are really three pieces to the Declaration: the prelude, the grievances and the actual statement that says that we're now free and independent states. Everything in the document leading up to that statement of independence provides the background to be able to say: We're done with Britain. It's important to understand the Declaration as a functional document that has to introduce its reasoning for separation before the actual declaration of independence.

SNEFF: It's absolutely true that the document itself was an action. Thomas Jefferson wrote to Richard Henry Lee, a Virginia signer of the Declaration, and tried to get him to agree that Congress butchered the Declaration with their edits of it. And Lee told Jefferson (and I'm paraphrasing here): “Yeah, they butchered it. But you know what? The Declaration in itself is what matters. We declared

DRAFTING A NATION: *W&M alumnus Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence in June 1776 while renting the second floor of a house in Philadelphia, the city where the Continental Congress was in session.*

FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS: *The Declaration was filled with ideas from the intellectual movement called the Enlightenment. One of Jefferson's professors at W&M, William Small, was a major influence on Jefferson's intellectual development, along with George Wythe, who became the first law professor at W&M and in the nation.*



independence. That's the point." The document could have said anything, but the action it took was what was essential.

The American Revolution was a foundational event in United States history, bringing 13 separate Colonies that were united only by their Colonial status to Great Britain into a single political entity. Burned indelibly into American national memory, the Revolution has been researched by historians, studied by children across grade levels and mythologized in popular culture through literature, film, theatre and art.

What do you wish people understood better about the American Revolution and founding era?

SNEFF: So often, the Revolution is broken down into a patriot-loyalist binary that is just not accurate to lived experience. If we get back to the letters, the diaries, the firsthand accounts of what people are experiencing, you find that a lot of people just wanted to keep living the way that they were. They didn't want to experience revolutionary change. I think that is a very relatable perspective for a lot of people today. They just want their families to be safe, their businesses to be successful and their religious communities not to be broken up by political moments.

It's also important to acknowledge that people's so-called loyalties were shifting, very much based on the direct impact that the Revolution was having on their life. Quakers in Philadelphia could coast along until they started being threatened, or members of their community were being expelled, or they had to deal with a British occupation of the city. And the same things were happening in other communities all over the East Coast.

BLAAKMAN: One thing that I face with students coming into my classes all the time is that people tend to think that the colonists were aching to escape the big, bad tyrannical grasp of the British empire. But up until almost the very end, colonists were trying to fix the British Empire, not leave it. Up until late 1775 or very early 1776, independence was not the goal. Then suddenly it became the goal in a really fast turn of events.

This is to say that history changes very quickly. Attention to historical contingency is important for us as historians because it helps us build better arguments about change over time. But it's also something that I hope people will focus on at the 250th, because understanding how much history can change on a dime can be empowering, even if it's also a little unnerving at first. American independence was not inevitable. It was a last-minute decision. And when we recognize that the present wasn't inevitable, it helps us understand that the future isn't inevitable either, that it's ours to influence.

SNEFF: Absolutely. And that people are the change-makers. That can be unsettling, but it also can be inspiring.

There are over two centuries of scholarship about the American Revolution. A 2019 review published by The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography estimates that there have been over 900 books written about George Washington alone. Over the course of two centuries, historians' interpretations of the events that shaped that Revolution and the people who lived through them have evolved.

How have studies of the American Revolution changed or stayed the same over time?

BLAAKMAN: Although our perspectives on them have changed dramatically over the years, I'd say our field centers on a set of enduring questions: Why did the American Revolution begin? What were its consequences? In what sense was it revolutionary? Who was it revolutionary for? Those are questions that were debated right from the era of the Revolution itself.

MCCLURE: There has been a considerable deepening and broadening of questions, too. I was in grad school back during the U.S. bicentennial in 1976. Back then, what everybody understood and read about the American Revolution was all about texts and ideas of famous men.

But there was also this big shift happening in history, of moving toward community-focused social history. We started asking questions like: How do we understand the experience of people who weren't writing famous texts and were not full participants in the political process? What was the revolutionary experience for them?

BLAAKMAN: Yes, and that sense of whose stories matter has just kept expanding. So nowadays historians investigate the Revolution across lines of class and background and status — how women, and Native Americans and free and enslaved African Americans experienced the Revolution and influenced its course and meaning. The geography has expanded, too. We see the Revolution in the context of a broader Atlantic world, and a North American continent far beyond the seaboard. These evolving parameters are constantly changing the way we answer the big questions. One result in the latest scholarship is that the war itself has become much more central to the way we gauge the Revolution's impact than it was in the classic studies written in the 20th century, which focused mostly on intellectual and political history. The Revolution reached most ordinary people first and foremost as a war.

I think historians have also recently been trying to get past the dichotomies that structured the last century or so of debates about the Revolution: Was the Revolution sparked by political ideas, or was it sparked by material concerns? Was the outcome of the Revolution an expansion of political opportunity, or was it defined by the consolidation of elite power and wealth? A lot of new studies are finding ways to bridge those binaries or dissolve them. This is reflected, for instance, in recent scholarly energy on the histories of finance and money, which are political. Money is a political institution and a social institution.

SNEFF: That makes me think about the museum exhibit that I'm working on at Historic Trappe in Pennsylvania. I suggested we include different currency as part of the exhibit, like Spanish coin and paper money. The rest of the curatorial team was curious when I suggested this, like, "Why do we want these pieces of money in the exhibit?" I said, "Because it's a political story. Because the choice of whether to consider a currency as valid or not reflected your own politics." And we have these examples of people grappling with this decision, but I still don't think it's an expected part of the interpretation.

BLAAKMAN: We just had this conversation in my Revolution class the other day! We read an excerpt of the diary of Elizabeth Drinker, a Quaker woman in Philadelphia, from the period of the British occupation of Philadelphia. She's Quaker, so she's studiously neutral, right? The first time you ask students the question, "What side is she on?" they quite fairly say, "Well, we don't really know that she's on any side." But there's a moment in the diary when she makes a deliberate choice to exchange Portuguese half joes — gold coins — for Continental dollars, the patriots' troubled paper money. And BOOM! That is a political choice. The politics are inherent in the money.

Why are there these changes in interpretation?

BLAAKMAN: I think the reasons we come up with new interpretations or new arguments about the past can be boiled down to three impetuses:

“AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE WAS NOT INEVITABLE. IT WAS A LAST-MINUTE DECISION. AND WHEN WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE PRESENT WASN'T INEVITABLE, IT HELPS US UNDERSTAND THAT THE FUTURE ISN'T INEVITABLE EITHER, THAT IT'S OURS TO INFLUENCE.”



BEHIND THE SCENES: *After the Second Continental Congress voted unanimously to adopt the Declaration of Independence based on Jefferson's draft, John Dunlap of Philadelphia printed the first copy at his Philadelphia printing press on the evening of July 4.*

has these trends over time where public attention is most focused. In 1776, it's not Jefferson's Declaration, it's John Hancock's [known for his large signature on the document]. Hancock's is the only name associated with it. That reminder of looking at sources in their own time and tracing them in that way has been super influential for my work, in both the public-facing and more scholarly veins.

MCCLURE: As a documentary editor, in theory, I'm not providing interpretation, and I'm not telling stories. I'm simply editing each document in sequence as it goes. Now, what really happens is that we're always making decisions: What are we going to annotate in a document? How much are we going to say about these things? How is it going to develop as a thread over multiple volumes? In that sense, we are very much continually rethinking and looking at the documents in a very different way than our predecessors would have.

SNEFF: Total credit to the folks who are working so closely with those original documents. Documentary editors like Jim make them accessible and then make sure that the teachers and museum educators, the folks who are going to interpret the documents for the public, have the right context for them.

MCCLURE: Emily also raises a good point about the importance of tracking documents in their own time. That really came home to us in creating the digital exhibit about the Declaration, because neither Jefferson nor anybody else on the drafting committee documented the drafting process. We don't know very much at all about the chronology of the Declaration. We

1. We have new questions — questions that people didn't ask before, or questions that we're going to ask differently, and often that's inspired by our own experience in the present.

2. There are new sources, whether that be new documents or new archives that come to light, or sources that we can access more easily and understand better because of the forensic-style work that's been done over the years by editors like Jim.

3. There are new methods — new ways of analyzing sources, new digital technologies or even artificial intelligence. AI has posed challenges in the humanities classroom, but we are starting to see some examples of historians using it for good in research: to see new patterns and unlock new meanings in the sources we use.

You get those three things — questions, sources and methods — chugging along together, and what you wind up with is the whole basis of scholarly innovation, telling old stories in new ways and finding new stories that we didn't know existed. Historical scholarship is, by definition, revisionist. Because we can't just be satisfied with what we think we already know.

Historical sources — both textual (such as letters, account books, newspapers and diaries) and material (including tools, clothing and coins) — allow historians to access a time period that is otherwise inaccessible to us today. Analysis of these sources provides the foundation for the historians' interpretations of that previous era.

How have interpretations about the founding era been influenced by their source material?

SNEFF: A major help has been the increased access to digitized sources. I'm working with digital scans of newspapers in archives all over Europe that I would never be able to see in person. The access that we have to the primary sources allows new interpretations and new connections. And with the Declaration of Independence, it's a source that everyone thinks they know but, in reality,

GOING PUBLIC: *The first public reading of the Declaration took place in Philadelphia on July 8. On July 9, George Washington read his printed copy of the Declaration to his troops in New York.*





SPREADING THE NEWS: *Word of independence traveled quickly from Philadelphia. Williamsburg residents could read the full text of the Declaration on July 20, when it was published by the Virginia Gazette. On July 25, readings of the Declaration at the Capitol, courthouse and Governor's Palace were accompanied by cannon and musket firing and a parade of continental troops.*

have this document that's considered to be perhaps the most important document in American history and in order to understand anything at all about the drafting process, we have to reconstruct it from clues.

We know that John Adams was involved in drafting, at least twice. Benjamin Franklin [who received W&M's first honorary degree in 1756] was involved once or twice. There's one undated letter from Jefferson to Franklin, who was out in the Philadelphia suburbs in the summer of 1776 because he had gout. In the letter, Jefferson basically says, "OK, here's this thing I wrote. The committee's looked at it — would you look at it, too?"

The other thing is that Jefferson recorded multiple stages of that drafting process on the single set of pages that he called his original rough draft. And it's very difficult to unpeel those layers and sort through the sequence of them. This becomes important when you're looking at things like the phrase: "We hold these truths to be self-evident" — which in the original draft was "We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable." At what point did that change come in? And again, the record is silent: We have no idea who suggested that change or how it was done. [The change from "sacred & undeniable"

to "self-evident" was long thought to be an edit from Franklin. However, the change was made in Jefferson's handwriting.]

July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the establishment of the United States of America as an independent nation. Events across the nation — planned by the federal government, individual states and small towns — will honor the occasion. Virginia's 250th commission, VA250, is holding commemorative events throughout the year and taking a mobile museum with the exhibition "Out of Many, One" on the road across the state.

How do you see the commemorations for the 250th anniversary taking shape in the lead up to July 2026?

MCCLURE: It's interesting that a lot of the really good, solid activity that's going on for the 250th is happening at individual institutions. Groups are finding their own way for this anniversary, because there isn't a national set of guidelines as to how one should observe this. And there are a lot of institutions that are working on exhibits. [The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, led by McClure, has produced a

digital exhibit, and Blaakman curated an exhibition with Princeton University Library.]

SNEFF: I've been really impressed to see the efforts being made by 250th commissions in some of the Western states, where the Revolution seems a little more remote than in the Eastern states. Hawaii's 250th Commission, for example, is organizing public readings on July 8, which was the day of the first formal public readings of the Declaration, at 6 p.m. Eastern time, which is a time at which everyone from Puerto Rico to Guam can participate.

BLAAKMAN: I think that's a heartening takeaway, that so much good work is happening at the local level, and in particular institutions, and that the commemorative landscape is bigger than any political headwinds.

SNEFF: The flip side of this is that there is also a history of civic action on the Fourth of July. We can look back to the centennial anniversary in 1876 when the National Women's Suffrage Association interrupted the formal ceremonial proceedings. There is a kind of duality for these anniversaries — where it brings people together but also invites people to push for more.

W&M is currently celebrating its Year of Civic Leadership, honoring the university's enduring commitment to service, public stewardship and leadership in service of the common good. James Monroe, fifth president of the United States and William & Mary alumnus, showed that commitment to service when, as a student, he enlisted in the Continental Army's Third Virginia Infantry Regiment in 1776. Monroe accompanied George Washington in the famous Delaware River crossing, was wounded at the Battle of Trenton and retired from the military at the rank of lieutenant colonel. After decades of public service, he was elected president of the United States in 1816 and 1820. His home, Highland, is part of William & Mary.

What did civic leadership look like in the 18th century, and how does that compare to today?

MCCLURE: Jefferson said much later that his task with the Declaration of Independence was to capture the sense of what was thought at the time. And Jefferson believed that there would be a relative unity of thought, that thoughtful people would agree on many things. That's kind of the Enlightenment view that he had. But he understood also that what he and the Continental Congress were doing was helping to shape what people thought and fought about. And so, in a way, they were guiding and showing people how the formation of an independent government is done. In all of the Colonies, there was a tradition and an understanding of how things got done — with civic leaders meeting together in assemblies and putting words down on paper and taking certain formal steps. So, in terms of current civic leadership, we need to continually remind ourselves that the words matter, and the formal instruments matter, to be effective.

SNEFF: Williamsburg is a pretty good place to think about civic leadership. The resolution that ends up snowballing into the Declaration of Independence comes out of the Virginia Convention in 1776 in Williamsburg. There is a model, right down Duke of Gloucester Street at the Capitol, of taking action — not just making speeches or writing in private correspondence about what you wish might happen but actively pushing forward and banding together for the common good.

BLAAKMAN: In the late 18th century, civic leadership was about disinterest and virtue and vigilance. And, if we're talking about after 1776, it was about an understanding that republican self-government is a very fragile thing. To add one more Jefferson example onto the pile here: In the exhibit that I've been working on at Princeton, we have a letter written by Jefferson during the ratification debate. He was in Paris at this point. He had to sit out the Constitutional Convention, which I think was a bit of a bummer for somebody who probably would have loved that intellectual exercise. Anyway, Jefferson gets a copy of the proposed Constitution, and he reads it and writes a letter with some of his opinions back to Uriah Forrest, a delegate to Congress from Maryland. Jefferson thought the Constitution was an improvement on the Articles of Confederation, but he also was a little bit apprehensive about it. As he saw it, the whole framework was rooted in a belief among the framers that subsequent rulers would be as virtuous or as honest as themselves. And he pointed to that as a flaw in the constitutional framework. I think that's a very explicit illustration of what civic leadership meant to somebody like Jefferson in the late 18th century, and it's an enduring reminder for us today.

In 1776, William & Mary was a hub of activity. Students and professors filled the Wren Building with debates over the attraction of revolutionary ideas versus loyalty to tradition. The College Company drilled in the area near Kaplan Arena, preparing for armed battle. And one mile down Duke of Gloucester Street, at the Capitol building, politicians outlined the constitution for the new state — not colony — of Virginia.

We know about this bustle of activity because of the scholarship of historians like Sneff, Blaakman and McClure, who analyze the historical record to present the most accurate interpretation of the past to the public.

William & Mary produced the leading revolutionaries of 250 years ago and the leading scholars of those revolutionaries today. From past to present to future, American history is at the core of the Alma Mater of the Nation. ☺

To learn more about William & Mary's Year of Civic Leadership during the nation's 250th anniversary, visit wm.edu/250.



WISE WORDS

STORY BY TINA ESHLEMAN

Bob Wise '86 forged his path from William & Mary's computer lab to Nvidia, the world's leading artificial intelligence computing company.

Bob Wise still has his first computer, a 1979 Apple II that sits in his home office. It's the same computer on which he taught himself programming as a homeschooled student living on his family's farm about 20 miles west of Williamsburg. He brought it to William & Mary when he moved into a residence hall at age 16 in the spring of 1983.

While technology has advanced light years since then, the original equipment holds sentimental value for Wise. He is now vice president for engineering and operations at Nvidia, where he leads infrastructure management for artificial intelligence researchers. The world's most valuable company, Nvidia is worth more than \$5 trillion.

PHOTO: ALFRED HERCZEG P'23

Nvidia designs and sells advanced computer chips, systems and AI software frameworks that allow high performance computing across numerous industries. Its platforms support data centers, large language models, autonomous vehicles, gaming and robotics through hardware and software integration.

“Access to new technology matters,” Wise told the audience at William & Mary’s School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics Class of 1975 Speaker Series on April 23. For him, access to that first computer opened the door to independent exploration, which then led him to pursue computer science studies at the university.

Wise, who lives in Auburn, Washington, with his wife, Heather, and has four children, credits William & Mary with helping him develop not only his technological capabilities, but also a broad knowledge base and writing, communication and analytical skills that have advanced his career.

“Few technology businesses are only about the technology,” he says. “Every technology business is a global business and a people business. Having a wider understanding of the world is critical. Understanding other cultures, other languages and the way the world works is so important to everyone. A liberal arts education really helps people prepare for that.”

Seek Out Opportunities

By his own description, Wise was a computer nerd when he arrived at William & Mary: “I was very, very young and green.”

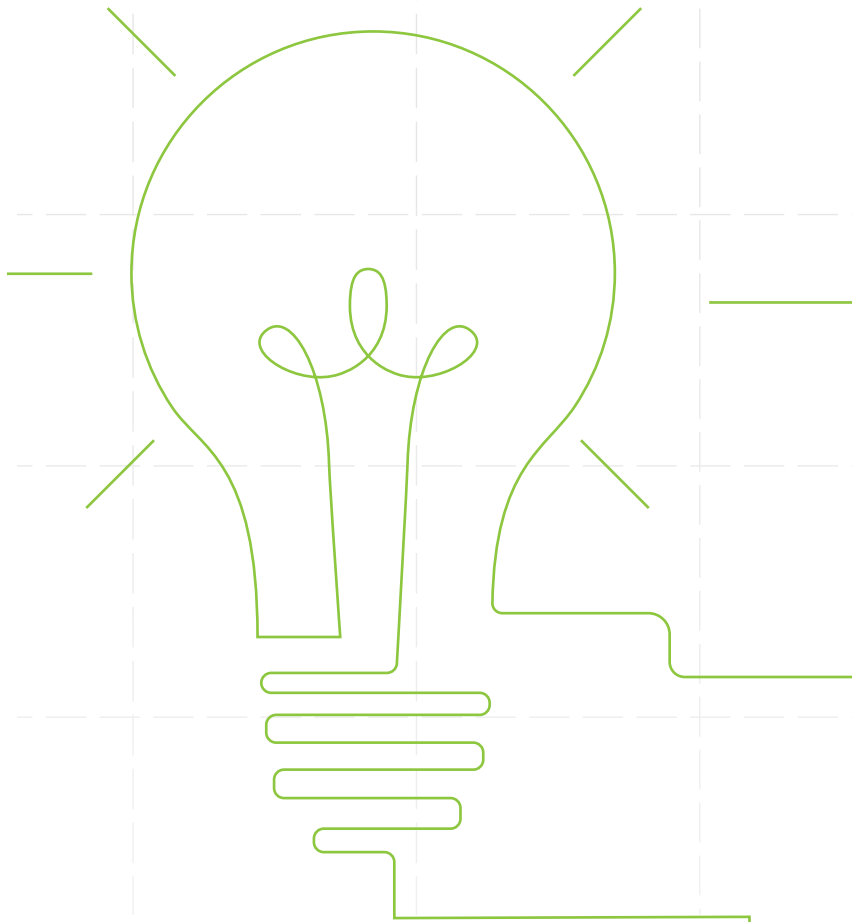
Wise’s parents had decided to teach him and his two sisters at home after realizing when they were early elementary school students that they were struggling in school because they were bored. Wise’s mother, Jessie Wise, became a leader in homeschool education and later co-authored the best-selling book “The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home” with his younger sister Susan Wise Bauer M.A. ’94, Ph.D. ’07. Bauer, who lives on the farm where she and Bob grew up, founded the Well-Trained Mind Academy and taught literature and composition at William & Mary for 15 years.

Wise and his siblings thrived in the homeschool environment, taking trips to the Williamsburg Regional Library and checking out as many books as they were allowed, and later exploring Swem Library at William & Mary. They also went on field trips, including one to visit their state representative, then-Del. George Grayson J.D. ’76, P ’96, who was also a longtime W&M government professor.

But by age 15, Wise wanted a new challenge. He had taken the PSAT and done well, so he met with the dean of admission at William & Mary and asked if he could take some college classes.

“He said, ‘Well, you’re kind of young, but I’ll let you in part time. And if you do OK, then we’ll talk about whether you can come in full time.’ So I took two classes, and I did OK. I went back, and he let me in full time.”

One of those first classes was with Grayson. “I did a thread of government classes after that,” he says. “It was



just so amazing to me that someone could be a professor and be involved in state government.”

Despite his parents’ reservations about his age, Wise moved into campus housing and jumped right into a full course load. At the time, computer science was a fairly new program, later splitting off from the math department in 1984.

“I lived for being in the computer labs,” he says. “I programmed all the time, and it was really just the best possible thing for me.”

Find People to Learn From

Wise had taught himself to program on his home computer, using books and magazines as references. His father, James “Jay” Wise Jr., who was a family physician and chief of emergency medicine at a local hospital, bought him a computer in part so that he could help with automating medical office records.

“I was writing lots of spaghetti code and I’d gotten in over my head,” Wise says. “I was trying to build bigger programs than I could really understand.”

He saw an opportunity at William & Mary to take his programming abilities to the next level. As a freshman, however, he had to get permission to take a computer pro-



“Every technology business is a global business and a people business. Having a wider understanding of the world is critical.”

MASTER CLASS: *Wise shared career insights and stories with students during his visit to William & Mary in April.*

gramming class, which typically enrolled more experienced students. Deborah Smith Noonan M.S. '81, a new faculty member at the time, accepted him into her CS 141 computational problem-solving class based on his enthusiasm and the programming he'd already done on his own.

“We started talking about structured programming, and I know structured programming is kind of an old thing now, but for me, it was amazing,” Wise recalls. “It was like the lights came on — oh, there’s a different way to approach this. I appreciated her for being so kind to me as a pretty immature young student and letting me take the class, and I took other classes with her as well. I would say she had the biggest impact on me.”

Noonan, now a senior lecturer emerita, attended Wise’s talk in April, which coincided with the dedication of Integrated Science Center 4 (ISC4), home of the new School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics. She recalls that Wise was an excellent student. She also remembers him as a bit of a practical joker who teamed up with his friend Jim Jones '82, M.S. '86 to pull a memorable prank.

“They took magnetic tape and strung it all the way down the main hallway at Jones Hall over the weekend, from side to side, up and down,” she says, laughing. “Then to make matters worse, they put this sign up that said, ‘This is an art project, do not remove.’ The janitors came in and they didn’t know what to do, so they left it. On Monday, no one could get in.”

In addition to the work experience Wise gained by providing information technology support for his father, he assisted William & Mary faculty members with technology needs.

“One of the business professors had written a large amount of Fortran code and needed help optimizing it,” Wise says. “He was doing things that I didn’t even quite understand, but I was able to take his code and help get it smaller and make it run better so that his large analysis jobs were able to run.”

One summer, Wise set up an office in the business school to do IT consulting, and during the academic year, he worked at the computing center help desk in Jones Hall.

“I put my nerdy skills to good use and made money that way,” he says. “One of the jobs I did then, I was making \$25 an

“I switched majors to computer science and haven’t looked back since. I guess the circle is complete because now I work for the most amazing computer hardware company on the planet.”



hour while I was a student doing programming work, which in those days was a lot of money.” For comparison, the hourly minimum wage in Virginia in 1986, the year Wise graduated, was \$2.65.

Noonan said she did not know until recently how far Wise’s career has taken him. Prior to his role at Nvidia, he also held leadership positions at Hewlett-Packard, MTN Satellite Communications, Samsung, Amazon Web Services and Salesforce.

“I was blown away,” Noonan says. “I’m very proud.”

Consider the Whole Picture

Wise describes the guiding philosophy behind his career like this: “The point is to build things that people use and find useful, and the more people, the better. The bigger the impact, the more fun it is.”

To ensure his work has as much impact as possible, he has learned to consider the whole picture. Otherwise, he says, a lot of time and energy can go into developing something that people aren’t ready to use. He wrote about such an example in an article published on Medium titled “The Most Innovative Thing I Did Was a Failure.”

In that case, he was working at MTN Satellite Communications on a way to provide less expensive and more effective internet service to cruise ships and

other maritime vessels. In doing so, he encountered resistance from stakeholders whose revenue was tied to the previous system.

“The mistake I made there was going and building a bunch of technology that was really amazing without understanding that it takes a whole company’s worth of people to do the whole job,” he says. “To be successful as an engineer, you need to have people that are being successful as salespeople, as marketing people.”

He took that lesson when he went to work for Amazon Web Services (AWS). “They hired me to start a new business for them, which is an amazing opportunity,” Wise says. He led the teams that built and operated Kubernetes, a kind of air-traffic control system that allows large-scale cloud applications like streaming services to operate without crashing. He was also responsible for the Amazon-wide Open Source Program Office.

Although his primary job was to build a product and make sure it ran efficiently, “I spent a lot of time making sure that we were doing the marketing well, that we were doing the sales well,” he says. “It was a very successful business.”

In his role at Nvidia, he draws on experiences throughout his career to make what promises to be the biggest impact yet. He leads one of the teams at Nvidia working on software for Vera Rubin, described as the



TECH TALK: *Wise addresses the crowd at the inaugural Class of 1975 Speaker Series.*

next generation of AI, which Nvidia introduced on March 16. Named in honor of an American astronomer, the platform includes seven chips designed to operate together as one AI supercomputer that the company says will increase computing power tenfold over the next decade. Shipments to major cloud providers such as Microsoft and Google are scheduled in July.

“I’m super happy to have a job where I’m able to bring some of my expertise in cloud computing and building big distributed systems to help Nvidia work and evolve that world, but at the same time be at this amazing place that has such an impact on the world right now,” Wise says.

Nail the Fundamentals

When he began his studies at William & Mary, Wise thought that he would go into electrical engineering.

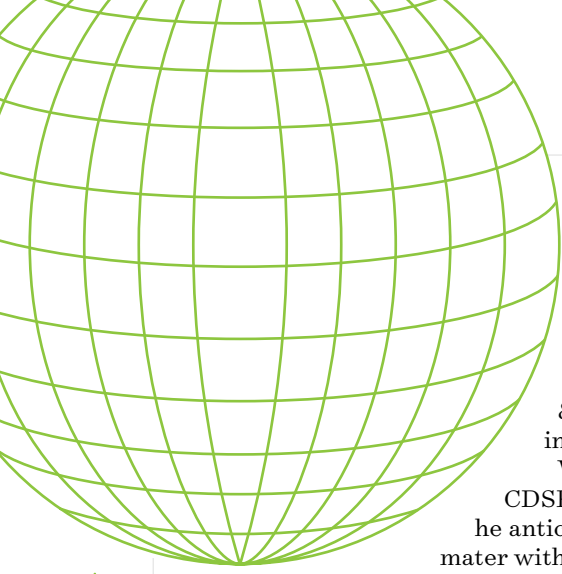
“My idea of being involved in computers was building hardware, building chips,” he says. “One of the ways you do that is to study physics and then go into elec-

trical engineering. My plan was — and I think this is still a good path — nail the fundamentals by getting a physics degree and then go into electrical engineering as a graduate student.”

As he took more programming classes, his interest shifted toward computer science. “I woke up one day and said maybe I shouldn’t be doing a physics major and go into hardware,” he says. “Maybe what I should do is software. I switched majors to computer science and haven’t looked back since. I guess the circle is complete because now I work for the most amazing computer hardware company on the planet. I got back there eventually, although what I do for Nvidia is all software based.”

As the youngest student in his first computer class, Wise formed a bond with Jones, who was the oldest, having graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology and returned to pursue computer science as a graduate student. “Jim very much took me under his wing, and I appreciate the mentoring and the kindness that he showed me during those days,” Wise says.

Wise remains in contact with Jones as well as other computer science alumni such as Farooq Butt ’86, who traveled from Austin, Texas, to attend Wise’s talk and the ISC4 dedication, and Doug Schmidt ’84, M.A. ’86, dean of the School of Computing, Data Sciences &



Physics (CDSP), William & Mary's first new school in more than 50 years.

Wise recently joined the CDSP advisory board, where he anticipates assisting his alma mater with positioning students for success in an AI-dominated world. This spring, Forbes again included William & Mary on its list of "The New Ivies" for the university's excellence in career readiness and leadership in AI adoption. (See magazine.wm.edu/new-ivies.)

Butt says the adaptability Wise has shown throughout his career — moving from telecommunications to satellite communications to cloud computing to AI — is a testament to his education at William & Mary.

"Things change, but what you need to have is the ability to learn and think, and that's probably the most valuable thing you get from an education at William & Mary," says Butt, a former vice president for business development and strategy for the End User Computing Solutions Group at Dell and founder of FMB Consulting.

"Bob's innate intellectual chops in computer science coupled with the kind of flexibility he developed at William & Mary is a wonderful combination," Butt says. "Usually people will burrow down into one thing, and what's cool with Bob is that he's managed to have an impact across so many different fields in computer science."

Schmidt says Wise influenced his decision to pivot from sociology toward a career in computer science as a graduate student at William & Mary.

"Bob embodies the magic of people and place," Schmidt told those gathered at the ISC4 dedication ceremony, which took place before Wise's talk. "During our time here in the mid-1980s, his friendship and mentoring helped shape the course of my own career in computing in ways I could not have imagined at the time. His journey from this campus to the forefront of technological innovation stands as a powerful testament to the enduring impact of the William & Mary community."

The speaker series that featured Wise is made possible through a 50th reunion gift from the Class of 1975, whose commitment to fostering innovation,

interdisciplinary learning and student engagement continues to enrich the academic experience at W&M.

"As the CDSP evolves from excellence to preeminence, the series will bring leading scholars and researchers to campus to engage students, faculty and the broader community in cutting-edge ideas, intellectual vigor and future-focused conversations of significance to this data-rich world," says James "Van" Black '75, speaking on behalf of members of his class's 50th reunion committee.

Pay It Forward

During his visit to campus, Wise enjoyed reconnecting with classmates and faculty members and marveled at the new Makerspaces at William & Mary and the achievements of the autonomous boat racing team, winner of the 2026 Promoting Electric Propulsion (PEP) autonomous division. He also offered informal career insights over pizza with students during a lunchtime roundtable that he called the highlight of his day.

Among the students was Olabisi Bashorun '27, a computer science major and Monroe Scholar. She says, "It has been very inspiring to see someone from William & Mary get so high up in the world of technology."

Celia Schaefer '28, a Monroe Scholar who is double majoring in computer science and computational and applied mathematics and statistics, adds that "hearing from someone who has their finger on the pulse" of the industry gives her studies more tangible meaning. She was particularly struck by Wise's work to bring Kubernetes to Amazon Web Services: "He's had such a big part in expanding a service that a lot of people use on a daily basis."

Wise says he looks forward to returning to his alma mater this fall for the CDSP advisory board meetings and he hopes to have more opportunities to talk with students.

"If I had to give advice to my younger self, it would have had to be a little bit more expansive in my own education: Understand economics a bit better. Take an accounting class," he says. "Pay a little bit more attention to the next step ahead and what you're going to need in order to get there." ☺

"The point is to build things that people use and find useful, and the more people, the better. The bigger the impact, the more fun it is."

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ROLLING THE DICE

From tech giant to board game startup to her own company, Catherine Fisher Carr '91 made bold career moves

Story by Isabella Dunn '28 • Photo Illustrations by Molly Socks

- ▶ **When faced with a crossroads between the security of the familiar and the pull of something new, Catherine Fisher Carr '91 chose to take the leap.**

After nearly six years as a multimedia editor at Microsoft, Carr left the stability of the large-scale tech corporation to join Cranium, a small board game startup. Walking away from the benefits of an established entity for an unproven venture that required building from the ground up was a risky decision, but one that excited her. The move shaped the trajectory of her career, eventually leading to the creation of her own company, Vitamin C Creative.



“She reflects the truism that William & Mary English majors don’t prepare for any one thing, they prepare for everything.”

Through Vitamin C, she has worked with a wide range of organizations, from consumer brands to technology firms and nonprofits. Her work has even brought her back to her alma mater, where she collaborates with William & Mary’s Entrepreneurship Hub and participates as a guest speaker during events such as Professional Development Week and W&M Women’s Weekend.

Playing Without a Rulebook

Carr did not always have a clear vision of where she would end up. As a child, she imagined becoming an astronomer, a writer or a teacher, and she even co-created a school for neighborhood children at age 10.

When she arrived at William & Mary, that sense of exploration remained. Rather than pursuing a specific career path, she studied what aligned with her interests and strengths. She majored in English, drawn to what she described as a natural fit and her love of reading and writing, as well as an appreciation for the artistry of language.

“I love wordplay and how a precisely chosen word or phrase really captures the essence of what we’re trying to communicate,” Carr says.

After enrolling in an art history survey course with Barbara Watkinson, now a professor emerita of art history, she decided to explore the subject more deeply by adding it as a minor. She was drawn to the intersection of visual art and history, appreciating both context and beauty, and briefly considered a career in teaching the subject. She spent a summer semester studying literature with John Conlee, now an English professor emeritus, packed with other students into a small van, visiting historical sites in England, Scotland and Wales.

Conlee recalls their trips — visiting castles, cathedrals and ancient archaeological sites such as Stonehenge, Avebury and Tintagel, King Arthur’s legendary birthplace — and says he is not surprised that Carr found success in her professional life.

“She reflects the truism that William & Mary English majors don’t prepare for any one thing, they prepare for everything,” he says.

Through her humanities coursework, Carr says, she learned to decode symbols and themes and to analyze ideas from multiple perspectives. She now sees how those skills connect directly to her current professional work. As founder of Vitamin C Creative, she works to define and reshape companies’ brands and bring them to life through powerful storytelling, messaging and visuals.

Although her liberal arts education sharpened her ability to absorb and synthesize large amounts of information, it took some time for her to see how those skills would translate into a career. As graduation approached, she watched peers commit to law school or medical school while she continued weighing her options.

She applied to be a college admissions counselor and considered being a paralegal, but eventually landed a job as a multimedia editor at Microsoft.

Carr says she didn’t have “the typical Microsoft skill set,” since her background was in the humanities. She worked on Microsoft’s Encarta Encyclopedia, a digital reference tool, and Encarta Virtual Globe, which later served as a baseline for many digital maps.

After a few years, she got a call from Whit Alexander, who had left the Encarta team to found Cranium with another “ex-Microsoftie,” Richard Tait. They were looking for someone to lead their

editorial team, and Carr's manager, Nancy Dixon, had recommended Carr for the role, which led to her career-altering decision.

Microsoft was a well-established tech giant that offered stability, benefits and a clear career trajectory, which were all things Carr had worked hard to secure. Still, Cranium felt "intriguing," she says, and she was excited at the prospect of being part of building a company and having a front-row seat to see where this quirky startup would go. Even in its early days, the company was gaining national attention after actor Julia Roberts mentioned on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that it was her favorite game, creating buzz around the brand.

With the tagline "The game for your whole brain," Cranium challenged players to compete in teams across a broad range of activities including trivia, charades, word games, drawing and sculpting. The company took innovative approaches to

game design, using Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences as a framework; hiring artist Gary Baseman to create a distinctive box that challenged convention; and marketing, securing trailblazing distribution partnerships with Starbucks and Barnes & Noble.

Although joining a small startup was not an easy decision, the timing would prove fortunate: As Encarta faced the rise of Wikipedia, Carr had already stepped into a new opportunity with what would become a highly successful, award-winning game company, including awards from the Toy Industry Association as "Game of the Year" in 2001 and again in 2003.

Molly Kertzer, a former Microsoft teammate who met Carr when they were in their 20s, remembers Carr's uncertainty about leaving the security of a global company. Kertzer, who became the 10th employee at Cranium, recalled that soon

GAME TIME: *A group of William & Mary students test their skills at playing Cranium.*





“Something fun was always happening”

PHOTO BY TIMOTHY D. SOFRANKO

after Carr joined as the 11th or 12th hire, the hesitation disappeared.

“She never looked back,” Kertzer says.

Cranium: Big Moves, Big Wins

Though Cranium was an unexpected choice for her, Carr says it was an opportunity she couldn’t pass up.

Cranium’s co-founder Tait emphasized a “consumer-centric” approach. From the company’s playful culture to its vibrant office — styled like an oversized game board — and deeply personal customer service, the brand “flowed through everything.” The team workshopped ideas to appeal to a range of audiences, from children to adults, and even created a “play-testing lab” where they could observe how people interacted with the games. That approach helped create a fun, energizing work environment that drew her in.

“It was a very special, tight-knit group of people and a place we all loved being. No one wanted to miss a day of work, because something fun was always happening,” Carr says.

She spent eight years at Cranium, a period marked by rapid growth. The company gained name recognition and launched new products in quick succession. It grew from a dozen employees to around 150.

As Cranium continued to evolve, its products ranged from adult board games to preschool games, as well as activity books, toys and video games. Its consumer base expanded to include a wide range of nationalities and cultures. The team had to “continually define what it meant to be a Cranium product,” Carr says.

This constant change made her role vital. Her job title was the “Keeper of the Flame,” charged with leading the content team and “keeping the soul of the brand intact” through a period of rapid growth. She accomplished this by documenting their unique brand formula to ensure consistency and continually evaluating the boundaries of the brand, leading conversations about what a Cranium product always, sometimes and never has.

She guided her team to operate on a global scale, selling in more than 20 countries, balancing efficiency with intentionality to ensure each market’s culture and sense of humor were represented thoughtfully.

“I learned an unbelievable amount in a short time,” Carr says.

Kertzer recalls a similar experience. For both women, Cranium nurtured their personal growth alongside the growth of the company itself.

She says Carr was a natural leader even in their early days at Microsoft, charismatic and impressive. But it was at Cranium that her friend and colleague “fully stepped into her power.” There, she built a thriving team, nurturing and supporting its members and sustaining a cohesive, joyful team culture even as the company expanded significantly.

Following the company’s acquisition by Hasbro for \$77.5 million in 2008, the founders departed and Cranium was transformed into a much smaller team with a radically different feel. Carr remained for two years to assist with the transition and help integrate the brand into Hasbro.

Despite it being a bittersweet end to an era, Carr described the transition as an “important chapter” in her career. When she met the chief strategy officer for Hasbro’s agency, it clicked for her that the work she had been doing for years at Cranium opened up a new path centered on brand strategy.

“We had put so much heart, blood, sweat and tears into building the brand, and change is inevitable in these kinds of situations,” Carr says. Eventually, she felt it was time to move on.

Strategizing Her Next Move

After Hasbro, she entered what she calls the “messy middle,” a time of uncertainty about what would come next. After serving in a variety of roles at Cranium, from overseeing artists to leading publishing, she says she did not “fit in anybody’s box” and wasn’t sure she wanted to work for anyone else.

“It’s easy to look at where something ends up, and you don’t always realize the building that went into it,” Carr says

Starting her own company, Vitamin C Creative, felt like another bold move. The brand strategy practice applies what she learned at Cranium to help other companies define and build their brands.

“We help brands get clear on their unique story, and then bring it to life everywhere with creativity, excellence and heart,” Carr says.

After founding her company, her professional path crossed with Kertzer’s once again. Kertzer was a client of Vitamin C Creative and now works closely with Carr as a senior brand strategist. She says Carr remains the same “creative brain” she was decades ago and is able to think expansively while staying deeply attentive to detail.

“She’s a beautiful writer,” Kertzer says. “She can take something that feels complicated and jargony and make it clear.”

FOR FURTHER READING

Look for links to these articles at magazine.wm.edu/carr-brand.

A Master Class in Brand from Cranium's Grand Poo Bah

Catherine Fisher Carr and Molly Kertzer delve into their personal experiences during the early, high-growth phase of Cranium, where they received what they describe as a master class in branding from Richard Tait, one of the company's founders.

Blackbird Health Brand Strategy and Visual Identity Development

Carr outlines her process working with Blackbird Health, including the development of brand strategy, activation and the steps taken to reach the final product, as well as its impact.

Icertis Brand Strategy

Carr describes the planning and activation stages of her work with the tech company Icertis, highlighting specific examples of how she refined the company's vocabulary and elevated its voice, and showing each step of the process along with the final outcomes.

That clarity, and the ability to uncover the heart of a brand's story, has become a staple in Carr's career.

Through Vitamin C, she has worked with a wide range of organizations, from consumer brands to nonprofits, portfolio companies, major technology firms. In each case, she said, the goal is to "bring the brand into focus and express it creatively." The work allows her to return to her love of storytelling by asking founders, team members and customers to share what inspires them, what their vision is and what they love most about the company.

This method shaped the development of a powerful new brand platform, visual identity and updated website content for Blackbird Health, which focuses on mental health for children and young adults.

This work resulted in a more cohesive brand and a powerful purpose statement: "To help as many kids and young adults as possible spread their wings and soar." By 2024, Blackbird Health was able to raise \$17 million in funding.

Through her brand work, Carr says, she continues to learn and synthesize as she did as a student to immerse herself in wide-ranging businesses from producing sparkling wine to precision diagnostics and video game analytics.

"I love it when a brand I'm working with enriches and overlaps with my lived experience," she says.

Her education at William & Mary still informs that process, Carr says, as she looks for overarching themes and works to uncover what she calls the brand's "real story," which is often buried.

"It's really about listening and paying close attention to the use of language and drawing on powerful language to build upon," she says.

Carr looks for what she describes as "those little golden nuggets" that capture a company's authenticity, something many organizations struggle to articulate, and then builds branding around those core truths, just as she did for Blackbird Health.

By synthesizing a company's business goals and market context into a clear, simple brand platform, one that spells out why the organization exists and what makes it unique, she helps bring clarity to brands.

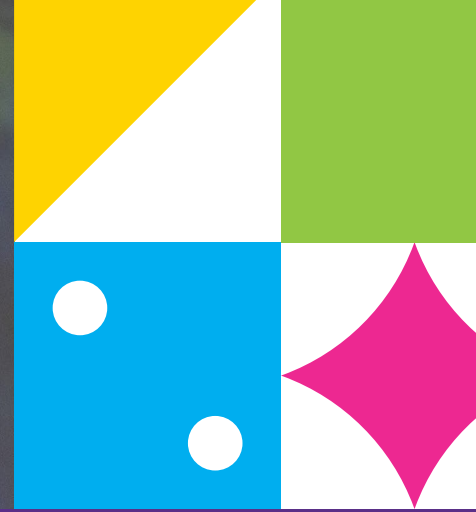
"The process is very energizing for the teams. They're like, 'Yes, this is what we've been trying to say!'" Carr says.

Vitamin C Creative also helped Icertis, a technology company specializing in contract management, elevate its brand and set itself apart in an increasingly crowded competitive landscape. This paved the way to a planned IPO by embracing a bold new position centering on contract intelligence. By shifting from "contract-centric" to "consumer-centric" language, Icertis could more clearly communicate the value of its offering to a wider audience.

Another brand Carr has helped reshape is William & Mary's Entrepreneurship Hub.

After she gave a talk as part of the Hub's Topic Talks series, Graham Henshaw, W&M's assistant provost for entrepreneurship, said he was struck by her expertise and approached her afterward about helping articulate the organization's brand. Henshaw is pleased with the progress and the Hub's team still meets with Carr to finalize and implement the brand. Through working with her, he has gotten to see the process in real time and says that a key element in her work is a "tolerance for ambiguity."

"Building a brand for a company is like chiseling a sculpture. You have some idea of what you want it to look like and the form emerges along the way," Henshaw says.



“If we’re not having fun, we’re not doing it right.”

KEEPER OF THE FLAME: *During W&M Women’s Weekend, Carr reflected on her career at Cranium and taking a chance on a new opportunity.*

Working with Carr allows him to realize his vision through a deliberate creative process — one that gradually refines the broad ideas they began with into a clearer, more defined brand.

Over the past few months, that process of gradually chiseling away, refining ideas and bringing clarity from ambiguity is what he described as an example of “entrepreneurial thinking in action.”

Back to Home Base

Carr has also returned to William & Mary to share her career perspective as someone who followed a nontraditional path.

At W&M Women’s Weekend last fall, she delivered a “Mary Talk” titled “Playing the Game,” reflecting on her career at Cranium and highlighting the “messy middle” stage. She closed the talk with a quote from Cranium co-founder Whit Alexander: “If we’re not having fun, we’re not doing it right,” a philosophy that still influences her decisions and the advice she gives to those seeking more fulfillment at work.

In February, she participated in a Professional Development Week discussion called “The Price of Ambition,” in which she spoke about the risks she took in joining Cranium and the path that followed. What seemed like a risk at the time ended up open-

ing the door to unexpected experiences that were both intellectually and creatively fulfilling.

Although she loves the work she does now, she misses her time at Cranium and the community feeling it fostered. As a “solopreneur,” she says the work can sometimes feel isolating. Reconnecting with William & Mary has helped her rediscover a sense of professional community, which led her to join the Society of 1918, an organization dedicated to increasing the engagement, leadership and philanthropy of women at the university.

“When I came to Women’s Weekend, it was very energizing, just seeing all these women who are at the top of their fields,” Carr says.

Living in Seattle, she also missed having a lot of William & Mary connections close by. The university remains a grounding place for her, she says, particularly because it is where she met her husband, Scot Carr ’91. For a period of time, she returned regularly when his band, The Flannel Animals, performed on campus.

If she could tell her younger self anything, she says it would be to “trust the process.”

“I have no regrets about those leaps that I’ve made,” Carr says. “I think if you adopt a mindset of continuous experimentation and learning and growth, you can take yourself to places that you might not have initially imagined.” ☺

PHOTO BY KATIE WARNER





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NEW PERSPECTIVES

In the Photomania class taught by Eliot Dudik, associate teaching professor of art, students examine photography as an intersection of technology, history and human experience. For one recent project, the class documented a walk through campus using their phones before assembling the images into a collaborative collage inspired by memory, movement and place.

PHOTO: TIMOTHY D. SOFRANKO



The Work of Being Funny

EMMY-NOMINATED COMEDY WRITER
JENNY HAGEL '98 HAS SOME ADVICE

ALUMNI PROFILE Like a lot of first-year college students, Jenny Hagel '98 arrived on William & Mary's campus in 1994 without a clear idea of what she wanted to study. "I changed my major six times, so I didn't come in with a lot of direction," Hagel told students during a workshop at the 2026 Ampersand International Arts Festival in March. "It turns out that's perfect for comedy because I had a lot of different inputs before realizing 'This is not for me.'"

In other words, if your job is writing jokes, you need material.

Hagel, now an Emmy-nominated writer for "Late Night With Seth Meyers," credits the university's strong sense of community — and emerging campus improv scene — with helping her discover her path.

"Improv was new and niche at the time," she says. "Not every campus had it yet. I was really lucky to land at a college that helped me find my way to theatre and comedy."

Not that the journey was completely smooth.

VIRGINIA ROOTS

The child of a federal judge from Indiana and a Puerto Rican mother, Hagel grew up in Northern Virginia. Her career reflects years of persistence.

After graduating from William & Mary with a B.A. in theatre, she moved to Chicago seeking work in the city's thriving improv and sketch comedy scene. After a decade there, she enrolled in the MFA program at Northwestern University. "All my training had been in live theatre," she says. Earning a graduate degree in stage and screenwriting "forced me to do a ton of writing. The output was insane. The writing muscles became very strong."

For five years she wrote and performed sketch comedy with Chicago's The Second City before moving to New York City, where she struggled financially while building a portfolio. Early jobs included

JOKES ASIDE: Hagel, a performer, author and writer for "Late Night With Seth Meyers," credits W&M's improv scene and strong sense of community with helping her discover her path.

PHOTO: TIMOTHY D. SOFRANKO



“I WAS REALLY LUCKY TO LAND AT A COLLEGE THAT HELPED ME FIND MY WAY
TO THEATRE AND COMEDY.”





writing jokes for awards shows and TV projects she now describes as “bad but valuable. Each bad job led to a slightly less bad job,” she says. “So by the time I got to late night, I had learned a lot of skills.”

She estimates she applied to about 35 comedy openings over six years before finally landing a job on Meyers’ show. “I kept getting closer and closer but never got hired,” she says. “I have lost more jobs than I have gotten.”

At one point, she considered returning to school to become a Spanish teacher. “After all, I had been an education major at William & Mary for about a minute,” she says.

Her break came in 2016, when she got a text from a friend, fellow comedian Amber Ruffin, already a writer on Meyers’ staff. “She said, ‘Hey, I think we might be hiring. Do you want to send me a packet and I’ll pass it along?’” That final submission led to Hagel’s hiring at “Late Night.”

Hagel later became head writer for “The Amber Ruffin Show” and created the recurring

“Late Night” segment “Jokes Seth Can’t Tell,” highlighting jokes from lesbian and Black perspectives that Meyers could not comfortably deliver himself.

“Most careers aren’t one big break,” Hagel says. “They’re a lot of small steps forward. It took a lot of weight off of me when I realized that is most people’s experience.”

DEBUT AUTHOR

Now back home in Brooklyn, she’s preparing for the launch of her first book, “Advice No One Asked For” (published by Gallery Books, June 2), which is a collection of comedic essays based on her stage show, “Jenny Hagel Gives Advice.” Students and W&M community members had a chance to see her show when she performed during the Ampersand Festival on March 21 at Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall, her old stomping grounds. The show invites audience members to submit anonymous questions about topics ranging from relationships to career choices.

VOICE OF EXPERIENCE: *Hagel talks with students during her visit to campus. “Most careers aren’t one big break,” she says. “They’re a lot of small steps forward.”*



PHOTO: TIMOTHY D. SOFRANKO

“I’M NOT A KNOW-IT-ALL. I JUST LOVE THE IDEA THAT I MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION THAT COULD MAKE SOMEONE’S LIFE BETTER.”



COMEDIC MATERIAL:
“I changed my major six times,” Hagel told students during a workshop at the 2026 Ampersand International Arts Festival, while sharing a few of her grades. “It turns out that’s perfect for comedy.”

“I’m not a know-it-all,” Hagel says. “I just love the idea that I might have information that could make someone’s life better.”

Her boss, Meyers, blurbled the book this way: “Jenny is very funny and also very bossy. Please enjoy her bullying her way into your life!”

For Hagel, appearing at the festival combined work with a homecoming. She spoke fondly of college traditions — from late nights watching “Saturday Night Live” to road trips with the improv troupe. “We would rent a van from the college and drive to other universities to meet up with improv groups,” she recalls. “I can’t recommend that highly enough.”

She’d been back to campus when she was part of The Second City’s national touring group. “It was a while ago, though,” she says. “The Hearth memorial hadn’t been built and I wanted to see that.”

She also says the thought of revisiting favorite local spots is always irresistible. “A cheap pitcher of beer at Paul’s is always a must, bread ends and house dressing from The Cheese Shop, 11 out of 10,” she says. “Just being there makes me think back on the days when improv was a new art form on campuses — and then celebrate how far it’s come.”

— SUSAN CORBETT





Bridging Divides

JACK THOMAS '22, M.P.P. '23 HELPS LEGISLATORS FIND COMMON GROUND AND REACH POLICY SOLUTIONS

ALUMNI PROFILE Jack Thomas '22, M.P.P. '23 graduated during what he describes as a “forest fire of polarization,” a time when division in the country increased animosity and left many Americans feeling “viciously angry” at those who disagree with them.

He observed these fires of polarization in social media interactions, in public meetings and in how politicians traded personal attacks across the aisle. As decorum continued to degrade on the congressional floor, Thomas saw a contrast between the intense political climate and the culture of civility emphasized at William & Mary. This inspired him to pursue a career where he bridges divides by working with people of diverse perspectives inside and outside of government and politics.

Thomas is the director of congressional engagement and public policy at the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD) in Washington, D.C. He works to “try and equip the nation with the tools

to engage its political differences more constructively” by creating an environment for civic discussions among legislators across political differences and connecting them with everyday Americans to find solutions.

He and his team create comprehensive policy briefs that accurately capture the strongest arguments for and against legislative proposals under active debate in Congress. They send them out to about 90,000 members from across the political spectrum, who provide their informed opinions on the best approaches to solve policy problems. That input is then shared with Congress during briefings with legislative staff.

Among the key issues identified by members was expanding Pell Grants to cover short-term career training programs such as software boot-camps and surgical technician certificates. By gathering feedback on the logistics of the plan, such as creating quality metrics for for-profit institutions, they helped demonstrate broad grassroots agreement among Americans.

The survey results were shared in a bipartisan news release from leaders of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

“We have had many successes like that,” Thomas says. “That’s just one of my favorites, because you can see both Republicans and Democrats finding a solution together.”

Thomas also works with state legislators, leading workshops and experiences designed to help them become more collaborative, bipartisan and civil. During one session in Georgia, for example, he facilitated a trust-building exercise that helped a narrowly divided, partisan group of lawmakers develop relationships and skills that lead to successful legislation.

“They came out as better legislators, more equipped and ready to work across the aisle and recognize a good idea when it came from anyone, whether they were a co-partisan or a cross-partisan,” Thomas says.

He says a common misconception is that his team simply lectures legislators on “how to be nice to each other,” but the work instead focuses on honoring others’ values and putting in the effort to understand a range of perspectives.

CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT:

Thomas works across political lines in his role with the National Institute for Civil Discourse in Washington, D.C.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK THOMAS '22, M.P.P. '23



Help Talent Meet Opportunity

W&M is committed to guaranteeing funding for unpaid and underfunded internships for every undergraduate who seeks one. In 2023, 2024 and 2025, the university met all qualified requests for internship funding. **Your support helps sustain this momentum and expand access.**

RECRUIT Hire for internships, externships, full-time roles and more.

ENGAGE Participate in informational interviews, career panels and meetups.

GIVE Support the Career Center Student Internship Fund.

#6

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for internships

The Princeton Review



Learn more at wm.edu/employers
and give today at impact.wm.edu/internships.

WILLIAM
& MARY



His mission to find solutions within areas of division is not only a professional one but a personal one that developed during his formative years at William & Mary — starting with the national tensions during the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing through graduation.

He says that William & Mary, a university with roots tied to the nation’s democratic beginnings, reflects that legacy in its culture that keeps “civic engagement enshrined” — providing a strong emphasis on why students should get involved. Thomas says his alma mater helps people see how individual actions connect to real-world impact.

Civic engagement practices students develop at W&M often carry over into their careers. In Thomas’ experience, this is evident in the number of William & Mary alumni in the Washington, D.C., area, where he has friends working in fields such as health policy and international relations. Those whose careers are not directly tied to politics maintain active civic lives by volunteering on local boards or attending community meetings.

“It surprises me how often I’ll run into good friends from William & Mary on the streets or at work events,” he says.

As a student, Thomas became involved in local politics as communications director for

the campaign of Caleb Rogers ’20, who was elected to Williamsburg City Council days after graduating from William & Mary. Thomas also saw politics in action on a larger scale during his intensive 10-day winter seminar with the W&M Washington Center, which — despite being virtual during COVID-19 — provided a direct connection to the political life of Washington, D.C.

Another influence for him was Alexandra Joose, a public policy professor who specializes in social network analysis. Her class blended practical work — using real-world data and metrics — with big questions such as “How are systems of government interacting with one another?” and “What is the relationship between these large, complex organizations of governments and people?”

While a student, he gained firsthand experience in policy in action through a legislative internship with then-Virginia Del. Michael Mullin, whose district included Williamsburg, while helping pass bills in Richmond and advocating for the community. That experience helped prepare Thomas for his work at the National Institute for Civil Discourse, where he serves as director of congressional engagement and public policy. He also completed his master’s in public policy just one year after graduating.

When he pursued his M.P.P. at William & Mary, he had the opportunity to apply what he learned by working with the Election Law Program at W&M Law School. There, he helped build a comprehensive dataset of election litigation challenges being brought across courts in four states. Through that work, he and two M.P.P. teammates identified gaps that the nation’s democratic systems are not yet fully equipped to address, challenging them to develop the tools, resources and training needed to help the judicial system respond to these growing issues.

“There’s a world that’s kind of aching for smart, educated people who can approach a problem from a variety of perspectives,” Thomas says.

In his work, Thomas has found that one of the biggest barriers to civic discussion today is the psychological bias leading people to look for flaws in others’ arguments rather than the value in their viewpoints. To combat this bias, he advocates for active listening, which involves “listening for understanding” and demonstrating empathy — a skill that can help build understanding across political divides as well as in personal relationships.

SPEAKER’S GAVEL:
Thomas helps with an orientation for new state representatives in South Carolina.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK THOMAS '22, M.P.P. '23

“IT IS DEEPLY IMPACTFUL FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO GRADUATE FROM W&M AND GO WORK ON SOMETHING THAT TRIES TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY BETTER.”

His advice echoes the five principles of W&M’s Better Arguments initiative. Launched in the fall of 2021, the initiative provides students, faculty, staff and alumni with a toolkit for ways to navigate disagreement through community expectations on respectful language when engaging in discussion and community values surrounding civic engagement.

In his professional life, Thomas plans on continuing to make a difference in American politics by attending law school in the fall. He hopes to keep working with legislators and use his legal education to strengthen his understanding of policy.

Thomas has remained engaged with his alma mater by returning to the W&M Washington Center to speak to professor Xiaowen Xu’s psychology class, where he discussed the effects of cognitive biases on political polarization. He finds it refreshing to engage with students who are passionate about making a difference. He sees that same energy in W&M students who intern at the NICD, who he says are able to “hit the ground running” in their work.

He adds that he enjoys connecting with fellow alumni, even those he was not close with in college, because “it means something to have gone to William & Mary.”

“It is deeply impactful for me to be able to graduate from William & Mary and go work on something that tries to make our country better,” Thomas says.

— ISABELLA DUNN '28

W&M ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD NOTES

Visit magazine.wm.edu/board-notes for a summary of the Feb. 5-6 and May 28 meetings of the William & Mary Alumni Association Board of Directors.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

To nominate deserving individuals for W&M Alumni Association awards, please **visit** wmalumni.com/awards.

For Love That Lasts, Give a Gift That Will LAST A LIFETIME

Our Love Story, Commemorated on Campus

We met in February 2020 right before the start of the pandemic. Basketball was a major common interest for us from the start. That summer I brought Maren home to Virginia and we spent time with my grandparents in Williamsburg (classes of '60 and '61). Maren was totally drawn in by the Wren Chapel. A few years later when we were engaged (which also took place in Williamsburg), we knew without a doubt that we wanted to have our wedding in the Wren Chapel. We return to Williamsburg as often as we can. Now it's a special place for both of us. — Maren & Tripp Harris '18

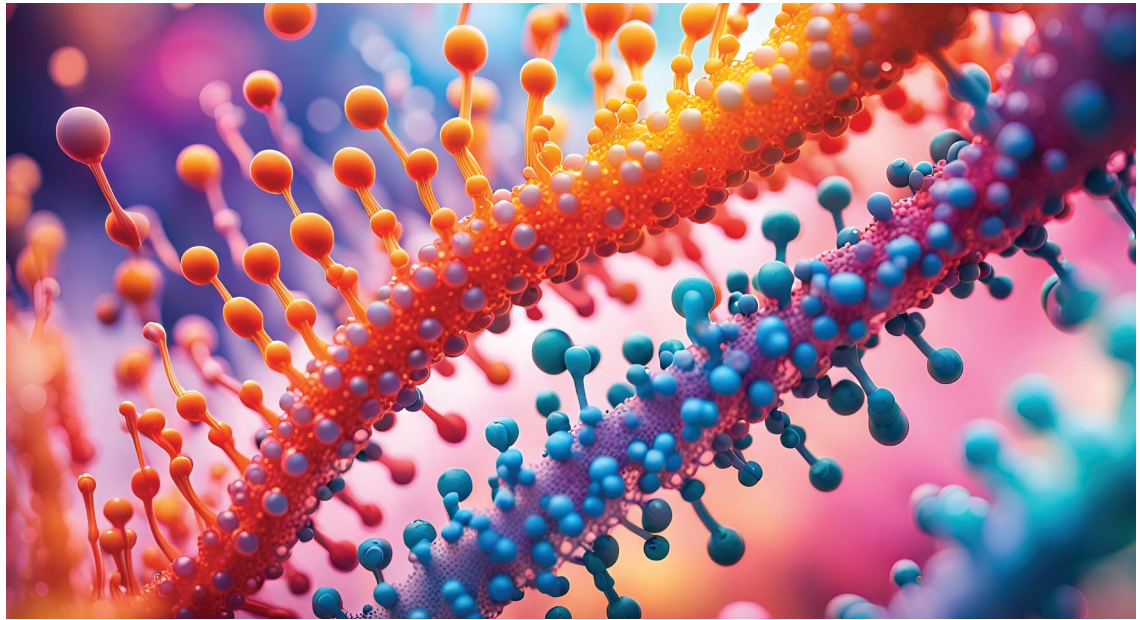
Your \$500-plus tax-deductible gift will support alumni engagement projects and programming, ensuring your legacy for future generations of William & Mary alumni.





Engineering Cures

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT WILLIAM & MARY LED RUI YIN '19 TO HER CAREER IN BIOENGINEERING



BUILDING BLOCKS:
A 3D illustration shows a protein structure or macromolecules consisting of a chain of amino acid residues.

ALUMNI PROFILE Rui Yin '19 always wanted to do work that benefited others. At William & Mary, she found the research environment to pursue what she was drawn to: developing proteins that can be used to treat diseases such as cancer and autoimmune disorders.

"I figured that one way I could be useful for society is to help save lives, and being able to cure disease is one really effective way of saving lives," she says. "That drive came with me from home."

Yin grew up in Guangzhou, China, and came to the U.S. to attend college. She had become aware of William & Mary and thought it would be a good choice.

As well as the education William & Mary gave her, Yin gives the university credit for preparing her culturally to work in the United States. "There's this really rich cultural exchange between people from all over the world," she says. "That's the type of soft skill that's hard to replace."

Coming to Williamsburg as an international student with no family or connections in the country might be daunting for many people. Yin, however, wasn't worried.

"What was there to be afraid of?" she says. "It might sound daunting, but I always knew where I came from. That grounding gives you confidence, and you make a family for yourself wherever you land."

As an undergraduate, Yin worked in the lab of biology professor Oliver Kerscher, where she got her first hands-on experience engineering proteins, studying how they are modified and regulated within living cells.

Proteins are molecules that are critical to the functioning of our bodies. Cells run on the complex work of proteins, which accomplish different tasks depending on their structures. For example, some proteins are antibodies, protecting the body from foreign viruses and bacteria, while others are messengers, sending signals between cells, tissues and organs that coordinate biological functions. They are essential for cell and tissue growth, and are constantly being repaired and replaced over time. Proteins also play a role in diseases when they are mutated or dysfunctional.

Before working with Kerscher, Yin saw two possible paths to achieve her goal of helping save lives: becoming a doctor or developing drug ther-

3D ILLUSTRATION: CHRISTOPH BURGSTEDI

apies. Her research in Kerscher's lab inspired Yin to continue working on developing proteins.

After graduating from William & Mary, Yin went on to earn a doctorate in biological sciences from the University of Maryland. She now does research for the Vancouver, Washington-based biopharmaceutical company Absci, continuing to expand her knowledge in the field of protein engineering.

Recently, she has been harnessing the power of artificial intelligence, a possibility that she was already investigating as a W&M student. Yin started considering how AI could be helpful in the last year of her undergraduate program, when a breakthrough moment hit her one day while doing work in Swem Library.

"I was pulling up multiple images, so much that it froze the computer," Yin remembers. "I was painstakingly counting cells. That's when I came across a tool called ImageJ." Developed to accelerate the lengthy process of counting cells by hand, ImageJ could also pick up patterns that were nearly impossible to spot with the human eye.

"It was just game-changing. I suddenly came to realize that computational tools, when applied to biology research, really have immense power," Yin says. During her graduate studies at the University of Maryland, she continued to learn about computational tools that improved the speed and accuracy of biology research.

Her graduate studies introduced her to the algorithm MaSIF, which used computer vision technology to characterize protein surfaces, with implications for drug discovery, further reinforcing for Yin that computational tools could be a powerful accelerating force in biology research.

What she describes as the biggest epiphany for her came in 2020, while she was participating in the CASP14-CAPRI50 competition. The competition challenged the researchers to accurately predict protein structures. During the competition's final presentations, participants witnessed the results of AlphaFold2, which dominated the broader CASP14 challenge because its predicted accuracy was leagues above any of the other tools, she says.

"People have used AI for some time in this field, but AlphaFold2 really demonstrated the power of AI," Yin says.

Yin sees artificial intelligence as a tool that can help advance the speed and accuracy of biology research. However, she cautions against thinking AI will replace foundational steps such as wet lab experiments.

"With AI, you are able to generate hypotheses much faster, but you need something to test the hypotheses you generate. Then you also need more data to train your AI models, so you need some way of getting those data," Yin says. "For those two reasons combined, wet lab experiments have become even more important."

Yin emphasizes that AI isn't perfect.

"We really need domain knowledge in order to use AI properly," she says. "What we humans possess that AI doesn't, at least not yet, is intuition. And the intuition only comes from you knowing things yourself. It's even more important that you become a domain expert."

Her research focuses on using AI to analyze targets for specific proteins that are nicknamed "undruggables" for their resistance to conventional methods of adherence. AI allows her to engineer antibodies that can target these "undruggables" more effectively and accurately.

Yin believes William & Mary's environment played a major role in preparing her for her career. W&M's student-faculty ratio is 11:1, with 99% of classes taught by faculty. In 2026, U.S. News and World Report rated W&M the No. 2 public school for undergraduate teaching.

She remembers her time at the university with fondness, beyond her research there. Yin met her husband, Jiacheng Song '17, M.S. '18, at an event organized by W&M's Chinese student community in Nanjing, China, and she counts many of her W&M classmates among her closest friends today. "Being at William & Mary was one of the happiest times in my life," she says.

But for Yin, the story is far from over. In the future, she plans on continuing her research in this vein. "I just have so much to learn!" she says. "It's a broad field that contains so much stuff."

She describes her research like a snowball, accumulating more and more over time, broadening the scope of her knowledge. "Once you solve one problem," Yin says, "something else just unlocks itself."



EMBRACING AI: *Yin says AI can advance the speed and accuracy of biology research, but wet lab experiments remain important.*



A Tradition of Generosity

AT TRADITIONS WEEKEND, THE 50TH REUNION CLASS CELEBRATED
THE LARGEST CLASS GIFT EVER

COOLEST CLASS EVER: *Members of the Class of 1976 processed through the Wren after receiving their Olde Guarde Medallions. Below: Light-up sunglasses were a gift for classmates to wear on the dance floor at the 50th Reunion Bash from Martha “Marty” Murphey Parrish ’76, P ’09.*



TRADITIONS WEEKEND The Class of 1976 chose the moniker “the Coolest Class Ever” for their 50th reunion, but they could have used “Most Generous Class Ever.” On April 25, as part of Traditions Weekend, the class presented President Katherine A. Rowe with a check for more than \$36 million — the largest class gift ever recorded at William & Mary. Their final total: \$36,098,180.08.

“The Class of 1976 earned their degrees during the U.S. bicentennial. They recognize that duty to others is core to civic leadership,” said Rowe. “We joyfully celebrate the ‘coolest class’ at the country’s quarter millennium. Their generosity ensures that investing in future leaders remains a hallmark of the Alma Mater of the Nation.”

The gift supports areas across the breadth of the university and includes \$24.7 million in planned/legacy giving. 43% of the class — 413 alumni — contributed. A portion is designated to the Class of 1976 Scholarship Endowment, which the class created during its 25th reunion.

“The entire Class of 1976 — the Coolest Class Ever — has shown up in a remarkable way,” said

50th Reunion Chair Sue Hanna Gerdelman ’76, P ’07, P ’13. “Your participation, your generosity and your spirit have made this reunion something truly special.”

The check presentation was just one part of the 50th Reunion celebration, which also included a welcome reception at the Muscarelle Museum of Art, a happy hour at local favorite College Delly, yoga in the Sunken Garden, a pickleball tournament and even a drone show over Zable Stadium. The reunion was planned with the help of the 50th reunion committee — 16 members of the Class of 1976 who reached out to classmates and planned events.

The annual Traditions Weekend celebration each spring brings together the 50th reunion class, the Olde Guarde (alumni whose undergraduate class graduated 50 years ago or more) and the Boyle Legacy Society (those who include William & Mary in their legacy plans). The 55th and 60th reunion classes also hold celebrations during the weekend.

The weekend featured many opportunities for members of these groups to reconnect with

PHOTOS: KATIE WARNER



each other and alma mater, including then-and-now tours of campus, a Special Collections open house at Swem Library and more. The Presidential Conversation highlighted the Better Arguments framework used by William & Mary students, faculty, staff and alumni, with opportunities for attendees to participate in civil discourse around timely questions.

“This has been a remarkable weekend. Not just because of what we’ve celebrated — but because of what we’ve remembered. The friendships, the shared experiences, the small moments that somehow stayed with us ... and came rushing back the minute we saw each other again,” said Gerdelman.

The Boyle Legacy Society gathered during the weekend for their annual signature luncheon. This year, members heard from Dean Doug Schmidt ’84, M.A. ’86 and three W&M students who are campus leaders in organizations related to the new School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics — Allyson Morris ’27, chair of the Association of Computing Machinery; Tucker Peters ’28, president and founder of the AI Club; and Celia Schaefer ’28, treasurer of Women in Computing. They shared how their liberal arts & sciences education is preparing them well for their future careers.

This year also featured a special dedication ceremony for the newly expanded W&M Memorial Garden — which now features a columbarium, new entryway, additional seating and more — and for Garrett Way, the road leading to the garden. Garrett Way is named in honor of the late Capt. Jack Garrett ’40, P ’67, P ’70, G ’93, G ’95 for his leadership in creating the garden. Learn more about the Memorial Garden at wmalumni.com/memorialgarden.

On Sunday, the Class of 1976 was inducted into the Olde Guard in a formal ceremony at the Wren Building, complete with graduation caps and gowns, reminiscent of the way current students process through the Wren at Convocation and Commencement. At the ceremony, classmates



received their Olde Guard Medallions, and members of the Olde Guard greeted them with noisemakers, pom-poms and signs.

“Traditions Weekend was such a memorable experience for me, especially since I didn’t ‘walk’ for my graduation in 1976,” said Beth DiPace Liivak ’76. “Receiving a medallion was very special and it makes me proud to be a member of the Olde Guard. I encourage alumni to attend theirs in years to come.”

At the ceremony, the Olde Guard recognized this year’s recipient of the Olde Guard Distinguished Service Award, Dorothy “Dottie” Nowland Gabig ’61, P ’89 (see page 63 for more).

“You have had a momentous journey from students to the people you are today,” said Brian Focarino ’11, J.D. ’15, president of the W&M Alumni Association, at the Olde Guard Induction Ceremony. “Your William & Mary family is proud of you — and we thank you for your dedication and support throughout the years.”

— CLAIRE DE LISLE M.B.A. ’21

REUNITED: *More than 240 members of the Class of 1976 returned to campus for their 50th Reunion during Traditions Weekend. The 50th Reunion Committee presented President Katherine Rowe with a check for the largest class gift in W&M history.*



Passionate Arts Proponent

JUDITH 'JUDI' STARKEY IS NAMED AN HONORARY W&M ALUMNA



**INVEST, INSPIRE,
INFLUENCE:**
*These three principles
guide Starkey's ser-
vice to the Muscarelle
Museum of Art and the
university.*

HONORARY ALUMNI Judith “Judi” Starkey has been a dedicated supporter of William & Mary for more than 15 years, especially through her involvement with the Muscarelle Museum of Art.

During Commencement Weekend, Starkey was inducted as an honorary alumna in recognition of her outstanding service, support, advocacy and commitment on behalf of the university. She was selected by the W&M Alumni Association Board of Directors for this distinguished award based on nominations.

Before retiring and moving to Williamsburg and then Richmond, Starkey served as president and CEO of a large business association and as an executive with a national health care company in Fairfax County, Virginia.

As a leader on the Muscarelle Foundation’s board of trustees, Starkey helped shape the museum into the important cultural resource it is today. She joined the board in 2017, becoming vice chair in 2023 and chair in 2025. Under her leadership, the Board embraced a three-word guiding principle — Invest, Inspire, Influence — values that Judi exemplifies through her exceptional commitment and leadership.

While also serving as a member of the MCV Foundation board, she was instrumental in

connecting the Muscarelle with the MCV Foundation and VCU Health as lead sponsors for the museum’s annual Wine & Run for the Roses fundraising auction and has been a generous sponsor herself. Starkey has hosted numerous events in the Richmond area to help promote the Muscarelle Museum of Art and has introduced dozens, perhaps hundreds, of people to the museum by bringing them to exhibitions and special events.

Starkey and her husband, James “Jim” H. Starkey III, invested in the Muscarelle’s capital campaign leading to its recent renovation and expansion as part of The Martha Wren Briggs Center for the Visual Arts; the museum’s North Skybridge will be named in their honor. They have sponsored exhibitions including “Michelangelo: The Genesis of the Sistine” and “Abstract Expressionists: The Women” and helped facilitate corporate sponsorships. In addition, the Starkeys are helping to expand the museum’s art collection through outright and planned gifts.

In nominating her for honorary alumni status, former museum board chair Tom Gillman M.B.A. ’93, P ’07, P ’18 wrote, “Judi’s love for the Muscarelle and for William & Mary is palpable, and she carries the flag with grace and passion.”

—SADIE DOWNING ’26

PHOTO: ALFRED HERZEG P. ’23

An Ardent Champion

DOROTHY “DOTTIE” NOWLAND GABIG ’61, P ’89 RECOGNIZED AT TRADITIONS WEEKEND FOR HER SERVICE



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE: *Dottie Nowland Gabig ’61, P ’89, pictured here with her husband, Albert “Jack” J. Gabig HON ’05, P ’89*

AWARD HONOR Enthusiastic, thoughtful, attentive, compassionate — all describe Dorothy “Dottie” Nowland Gabig ’61, P ’89, this year’s Olde Guarde Distinguished Service Award winner, but the word that comes up again and again is “dedicated.” Over more than six decades, Gabig has served her alma mater as a volunteer leader, generous donor and beloved friend to many.

“Perhaps it stems from her undergraduate years as a W&M cheerleader, but Dottie has never stopped being an ardent champion for William & Mary,” says her nominator, Micki Leef Stout ’65.

Gabig has served on the W&M Alumni Association Board and the W&M Libraries Board. She helped lead class gift efforts for her 40th, 45th and 50th reunions and is a charter member of the Society of 1918, W&M’s giving society committed to growing the engagement, leadership and philanthropy of women at the

Alma Mater of the Nation.

She is also a devoted Delta Delta Delta, known for sending hand-written notes to her sisters and opening her home to them. She brings her ability to build relationships and her delightful sense of humor to everything she does.

Gabig shares her love of alma mater with her husband, honorary alumnus Albert “Jack” J. Gabig HON ’05, P ’89, her daughters Laurianne Gabig Dragelin ’89, M.A.Ed. ’91 and Karyn Bowman, and her sons-in-law Timothy “Tim” J. Dragelin ’89 and Keith Bowman.

“Recipients of this award show exceptional dedication, involvement and continued service to the university,” said Katherine “Kathy” Burge Callaway ’68, chair of the Olde Guarde Council. “Dottie epitomizes what the Olde Guarde represents for our alma mater.”

— CLAIRE DE LISLE M.B.A. ’21

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Looking for career connections with alumni in similar fields? Want to get back in touch with your classmates? Eager to serve as a professional mentor to others? Then W&M One Network is the place for you. This platform is free and part of William & Mary's commitment to being your career partner for life. **How will you harness the power of connection?**

Join today at onenetwork.wm.edu

Class Notes



WHAT'S THE STORY?

A snapshot of William & Mary's old bookstore on Jamestown Road circa 1965, just across from the Wren Building: Students crowd the aisles, browsing textbooks and school spirit wear amid the hum of campus life and the rattle of the cash register. The store is now in the Triangle Building at Prince George Street and Armistead Avenue. — 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.

1957

Class Reporter
PETE KALISON
pkalison1@verizon.net

To the Great Class of 1957: We had a very good response to our letter requesting information, so here we go.

We heard from an old friend, **Shirley Richardson Fitzgerald**. Shirley continues to sing in her church choir and enjoys Williamsburg and W&M Athletics (she remains a true Tribe fan). Her children live nearby in the Williamsburg area and also in Annapolis, Maryland.

One granddaughter, Shelby, expects their first great grandchild this spring.

Faye Jones Burke tells us in a long email that she and her husband, Tom, continue to live at the Bishop Gadsden Retirement Community in Charleston, South Carolina. They attended a family wedding in Richmond, Virginia, this past November and afterward drove to Williamsburg just in time for the city's Grand Illumination. As part of the festivities, Faye's grandson, **Tim Koch '11**, was there

among the 18 family members who also traveled to the 'Burg. Not to mention 2 inches of snow! Faye keeps in touch with **Boo Luck Bane** and had a visit from **Jo Ann Abbott Hart** and her husband last August. Faye still misses the old Jefferson mini reunions.

We had a great note from **Joyce Mitchell Seligson**, who has been living near San Luis Obispo, California, on the West Coast for the past 24 years. She recently celebrated her 90th birthday in December, which her children and four grandkids attended. Joyce keeps in shape by continuing to kayak, tending to a garden and enjoying the beach.

Lillian Kocher sent a note telling us she recently moved, after 30 years, from her large home to a new, smaller place in Novato, California, 20 miles away from her old abode. Lillian has six siblings, two daughters and grands and great-grands spread out in Atlanta, the Catskills in New York and Maui in Hawaii. She continues to remain close in contact with our classmate **Mickie Curro**.

And, speaking of Mick-

ie, she remains a close correspondent of this column. She wrote to tell us of her recent 90th birthday (which all of us have, or will have very soon). She very much enjoys her great-grandchildren, plus one more on the way (No. 6).

Mickie continues to paint, make greeting cards and do everyday stuff like shop and drive. One granddaughter is currently studying in London.

As for Marsha and me, we enjoy our residence at Windsor Run Community in Matthews, North Carolina, outside of Charlotte. And one of our seven grandkids, **Lily Stafel '28**, is currently a sophomore at William & Mary. She loves the College.

1958

Class Reporter
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Dear Super-Agers, as always, the news I report here is a tiny portion of what you will find if you go to the much more extensive online version of

our alumni Class Notes.

First, I received a wonderful note from **Alice Perry Linker** that I wish you all would emulate even just a little bit and share with me how you have been and are doing. Here it is:

"Hi, Kent: Hope this finds you and your family well and happy. Thank you so much for continuing to write the '58 news for the W&M Magazine. As for me, my husband of 63 years, Ray Linker, sadly died March 7, 2024, after a long bout with kidney disease. Of course, my children and I miss him terribly, and I treasure our years together.

"I now live with my son and grandson, Alex and Cooper Linker, in Gresham, a suburb of Portland, Oregon. I stay pretty busy with regular household chores, and I go to the gym for exercise classes about three times a week. I also belong to the American Association of University Women and go to several activities with them, including bridge, a few times a month.

"I volunteer every Wednesday with a Multnomah County charitable organization that provides food and clothing to those in need. It's easy and my fellow volunteers are friendly and pleasant. Also, I have a friend who is a bird watcher and is considered an expert on the bald eagle. He and I drove out to the Columbia River Gorge a few weeks ago to look for eagles, and we saw about 10 more than I've ever seen in my life. We plan many more trips if the weather in the Northwest U.S. ever improves! Surprisingly, here in the Portland area we have had almost no freezing weather this year, and not one flake of snow. Very unusual.

"Recently, I talked to **Joyce Nunn McK-**

night, who still lives alone in her house near W&M. She has a lot of support and seems to be doing well. I also email **Carter Cowles** and **Suzanne Proudman Cowles '65**, who now live in Colorado, near their daughter. That's all for now. Keep up the good work."

And now the sad news, which will be extended for each classmate in the online version. Please read about their lives, as they certainly all lived interesting ones. I wish I had been part of their world after W&M. Please let me know if you would like me to do a Zoom life interview! Join the others who have volunteered.

Robert "Bob" G. Hardage died March 13. **Robert "Bob" Borden Cromwell Jr.** died Feb. 7.

Barbara Doan Streitfeld passed away on Jan. 12, in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Julia Vakos Nordstrom of Williamsburg died Aug. 10, 2025.

Alice Eck Stritzinger of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died on March 18, 2024.

In the last note, I described my wonderful trip to China after 15 years of not doing any consulting there. I had 19 meetings in four cities on artificial intelligence, robotics, porcelain ceramics, high-speed trains and modular building construction, plus catching up with my former involvement with sister cities, Olympics, urban planning and architecture and world expositions. When I returned, I taught a five-day speed course on contemporary China at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University and now I am teaching a regular semester course on the history of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

KEY:  OLDE GUARDE  25 REUNION

for its 60th anniversary. I will be returning to China as head of a delegation of college table tennis players to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Ping Pong Diplomacy incident that opened the bamboo curtain for then-President Nixon to commence diplomatic relations.

I finally had a cataract operation and can see beautiful colors and am looking forward to playing in the national tennis tournaments and the Maryland and national Senior Olympics in 15 different sports categories!

1959 ♀

*Editor's note:
We are looking for a
new class reporter. If
interested, please
contact alumni.
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1960 ♀

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Carol Ridgeway Hall reports that “Art and I are still living in Raleigh, North Carolina, and continue to enjoy retirement. Our three children and five grandchildren all live in North Carolina, so we keep busy with family activities. Last May, we celebrated our youngest grandson’s graduation from UNC Wilmington with a wonderful weekend at Wrightsville Beach. In December, we spent a wonderful week in Key West, Florida, celebrating our oldest granddaughter’s wedding. Aside from spending time with family, we keep busy with church, friends and some volunteer activities. At our age, we also spend

too much time with doctors’ visits, but we are fortunate to be healthy enough to continue living independently and enjoying our lives!”

David Mowry sent a great note about his post-W&M years: “After graduation, I married **Susie Tubaugh ’61**, with two of my Pi Lambda Phi fraternity brothers, **Al Athearn** and **Peter Yahr ’61, B.C.L. ’63**, as groomsmen. I then headed for Andover, Massachusetts, where Susie and I resided for five years, and worked in a family business. Unfortunately, Susie contracted aggressive multiple sclerosis and passed away from complications in 1971 after being in assisted care for an extended period.

“In 1965, I joined Merrill Lynch, helped by having had professor Anthony Sancetta nominate me for The Wall Street Journal Award for achievement in investments. I spent 34 years with Merrill in Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Portland, Maine, and Boca Raton, Florida, having had several positions in the firm and retiring in 1999. I also spent 1996-2016 as an arbitrator for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

“I enjoyed many years fishing and golfing in Florida before moving to Bluffton, South Carolina, in 2020. I was also active in volunteer organizations along the way. My current wife, Suzanne, and I have been married for 33 years, and she worked with me in executive positions for 18 years at Merrill. We have five children and five grandchildren between us. Life has had its occasional challenges but has been pretty darn good. W&M was a highlight that I reflect on.”

Wilma Fowler Bergfeld’s summary of her activities is concise but information-rich: “I have been on the staff at the Cleveland Clinic for over

62 years. I am a professor of dermatology and pathology and director of the dermatopathology fellowship. In 2025, I was honored with a Dermatology Symposium in honor of my accomplishments and two Lifetime Achievement Awards from the American Dermatologic Association (Dermatology Honorary Society) and the Hair Health Symposium. My husband, Dr. John Bergfeld, now retired, was an orthopedic sports medicine surgeon and doctor for the Cleveland Browns for 30 years. We have lived in our house for nearly 50 years, where we raised two daughters, Onee and Sigrid, both married with daughters. We have five granddaughters, four with master’s degrees in public health and one in mortgage lending, all doing well. Sadly, none of my children or grandchildren attended W&M.”

Ralph Crutchfield is a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of The Explorers Club, which is a group of explorers and adventurers who are passionate about the advancement of field research to preserve the instinct to explore. The club provides expedition resources and encourages public interest in exploration and the sciences through its public lectures program, publications, travel program and other events.

Miles Chappell wrote in February that he was “on St. Eustatius watching our grand annual salute of Charter Day. It is impressive to think that Tom Jefferson, our predecessor in the Wren Building, could do his degree requirements at the College so that, in turn, he could inspire the First Salute of his new country. In November 1776, the American brig Andrew Doria sailed under the Continental Colors of the fledgling United States into the anchorage below St.

Eustatius’ Fort Oranje. The captain announced his arrival by firing a 13-gun salute, and the St. Eustatius governor replied with a salute from the cannons of Fort Oranje. It was the first international acknowledgment of American independence. The ship was carrying a copy of the Declaration of Independence, which was presented to the governor.”

Miles added, “I keep busy researching and writing about art history problems and being a cheerleader for the Muscarelle Museum. Anyone coming to town and wanting a brief tour has only to contact me.” (Class reporter’s note: We visited the Muscarelle during Charter Day Weekend 2026 and can testify that it is spectacular — a must-see.)

Finally, I was saddened to receive a note from **Bill Harrison** that his wife, **Ann Fox Harrison ’62**, passed away on Jan. 2. She was in memory care in San Juan Capistrano, California. She is survived by her children, **Carrie Harrison ’87** and **Kevin Harrison ’92**, and three grandsons, all of Laguna Beach. Bill recently moved from Laguna Niguel to Rancho Mission Viejo.

1961 ♀

Class Reporter
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Our last Class Notes brought many nice comments, which are appreciated. Thanks to everyone who helps keep our class together.

Liz Rader O’Neill says that she loves living in Charleston, South Carolina: She has a pretty apartment, good activities with the other 55-plus folks, a

beautiful church (she teaches Sunday School and music to kids) and lives 10 minutes from her daughter, Laura, and two grandchildren (a grandson, who graduates high school this year, and a beautiful granddaughter, who keeps her up to date on the latest fashions). She’s doing well and hopes you all are also.

Joan Costabell Austin writes: “Keith and I had a wonderful trip this fall. We spent about a week in Venice, which included a day trip to Ravenna to see the mosaics, which are late Roman and early Byzantine. I studied them at W&M in the history of art course and had always wanted to see them. They are the finest mosaics I have ever seen, and I’ve seen many mosaics. Then we took a small boat cruise on the Adriatic with stops in Croatia and Montenegro. The coast is spectacular, and the history of the area is fascinating. We stopped off for a few days in Paris on the way home, mainly to see Notre Dame all cleaned up after the fire. It did not disappoint. News flash: the interior of Notre Dame is not dark (anymore). The stained-glass windows have all been cleaned as well.”

From **Ken Lounsbury**: “The San Diego W&M contingent (some 30 strong) gathered at the home of **Nancy Cote Kane ’84** in Del Mar, California, to replicate the college’s Yule Log ceremony in December. In an open patio, next to a lighted pool, we celebrated around a large, gas-lit fire pit. No trees were sacrificed. Every person there was younger and smarter than I. That includes my fraternity brother **Robert “Robin” Reighley ’63**. Robin is now fully retired, both from his Navy command and captaincy of sea-going ships. He and his wife remain close to his career roots in a house



looking across San Diego Bay to the North Island Naval Station. **Dorcas Miller Lounsbury '62** and I focus on our four grandkids (two in NYC, two in San Diego). This is my 60th year of practicing law, and I'm slowly transferring my case load to other members of the firm. Retirement is in the near future."

Dave Bottoms continues to work every day. He will be at the Nov. 7 football game with his daughter, **Sarah Bottoms Magnus-Sharpe '86**, and her husband, **Marc Magnus-Sharpe '85**. He continues to take piano lessons at the Schwob School of Music in Columbus, Georgia, and will give his annual piano recital at Barge-music in New York City on Sept. 11. Barge-music is on the Brooklyn side of the East River. He will play the usual suspects and some of his own music."

Sue Bruton Cole writes: "Just being alive with a sound mind and sense of humor intact is the most remarkable thing that has happened to me. Statistically, I am obviously a winner. So are all of you who are able to read this."

In 2024, my three adult children decided that I could not live alone anymore, and I moved in with my oldest daughter. It's been quite a transition, for sure."

A note from "down under" from **Dan Link**: "Life is good here in Sandringham, a suburb of Melbourne, Australia. I keep busy with Pilates and lawn bowls each week. I may come back to this year's Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Hope to see some of you there."

Joe Alexander '60 and I enjoyed celebrating the 333rd birthday of the College in February. We caught up with friends **Dottie Nowland Gabig** and **Jack Gabig HON '05**, **Ron Monark** and **Debbie Monark**, **Lucy Lawler Huggett '63**

and **Bob Huggett Ph.D. '77**, visited the incredible Muscarelle Museum of Art and went to a new yarn store in Colonial Williamsburg!! We are very lucky to have W&M friend **Jay Morgan Rutherford '59** and his partner living close by in Tucson, Arizona.

Jerry File received this recognition: "On behalf of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, I would like to offer our congratulations on your selection as a 2026 Service Beyond Service Award recipient. We will make the official announcement at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., on March 29, National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Your continued service to your community after returning home from Vietnam should be commended."

Paul Verkuil '61, D.P.S. '17 writes: "I'm attending graduation this year to join my friend and renowned political theorist **Francis Fukuyama L.H.D. '26**, who is W&M's speaker this year. I just made a video to show in connection with his honorary degree award. Francis is at Stanford and we are working on trying to save the civil service together."

1962 ☉

Class Reporter
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Barbara Aubry Walsh and Bill live in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. In November, the entire family came from all over the USA to celebrate Barbara's 85th birthday. Barbara and I are from Alexandria, Virginia, where we graduated from the same high school, came to W&M and were roommates our first two years. We have

known each other for about 71 years!

I received an email from one of our classmates, **Mark Groothuis**, who left our class after two years. He graduated from New York University, got into law school and now lives in Delray Beach, Florida. He has kept up with many of his W&M friends. He wrote that he belongs to a group in Florida that calls themselves the South Florida Basketball Fraternity. At their lunch, they honored Jay Wright, a great coach at Villanova who was coached by **Charlie Woollum '62, M.Ed. '64**. Charlie sent a video to honor Jay at the luncheon. Mark still gets our news from reading the magazine.

Send news for the next column. We would love to hear from you.

1963 ☉

Class Reporter
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Vi Sadlier Huse wrote that **Amy Rodabaugh Bays** died just before Christmas. Vi and Amy were roommates in college. Vi, Amy, **Emily Renzel**, **Sally Siegenthaler Liechtenstein** and **Dotty Shaw Boyle** held reunions every three years for quite a while. Emily and Vi are the only two left.

Dale Harris Cohen and **Dick Sidney Cohen '61** haven't traveled as much as they would like, although they spent a few weeks in Hilton Head, South Carolina, in the spring. Their two children live nearby. Five out of six of their grandchildren live in New York City, while the sixth lives in Ashville, North Carolina. Dale and Dick feel fortunate to be able to see their whole family often. Dick gets his ex-

ercise from walking and grocery store shopping, while Dale prefers exercising on machines such as the elliptical. Dale keeps busy socializing with mahjong, bridge and book club.

William Francis is now retired and not very happy about it. He practiced corporate litigation and criminal law all over the East Coast. He is a retired special education Virginia Supreme Court hearing officer.

Lee Williams McBride celebrated Christmas with family friends in Burlington, Vermont.

I especially loved hearing from **Karen Harkavy Toker**. She traveled a lot in 2025 to various grandchildren's graduations and a bar mitzvah. Karen read from the Torah at her synagogue as a special event of gratitude for living 13 years after the biblical life span of 70 years. Tradition says a bar or bat mitzvah is to take place, although this was Karen's first. A very special time. Karen is hoping for the ability to continue to travel in 2026, perhaps to some "bucket list" locations.

Hearing from all my '63 classmates is great. I love hearing from you, and I love having something to write about for the W&M Alumni Magazine.

1964 ☉

Class Reporter
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Hello, '64 classmates. Spring is here, and my thoughts are of the Sunk-en Garden surrounded by all those crepe myrtle trees in bloom ... remembering the beauty of our stunning campus.

Greg Presnell: "I have reduced my caseload, but I am still taking cases as a senior

U.S. District Court judge. As you can imagine, the court has been inundated with immigrant petitions for a writ of habeas corpus. Otherwise, we are doing well. In March, I have enlisted to crew on a 50-foot ketch, sailing from Jamaica to Isla Mujeres, Mexico. After that, we will visit NYC for a long weekend and spend a week in the Bahamas in May. In June, we are taking one of our granddaughters to London as her high school graduation present. No plans yet after that, but I recently purchased an interest in a Cirrus Vision Jet, which will allow us to travel more conveniently. I am also still involved in the race car team — Level 1 racing — that I founded in 2013. I am a sponsor and senior advisor, and I serve on the crew as the fireman. We compete in the Champcar Endurance series, road races that are 12-24 hours long. Our last race was 14 hours at Sebring, Florida, in December. We finished first in class A and sixth overall out of 90 cars. We would have had an overall podium finish but for the fact that, with four hours left, we were hit hard by a BMW going into turn seven. That required a pit stop with body work and a tire change that cost us about nine minutes. Our next race is in Daytona, Florida, in April."

A New Year's note from **Sue Trice Fieglein**, in Leander, Texas: Sue and Mike joined family members, including new and older grandchildren, throughout the year. In May, they traveled to the U.K., explored the Shetland Islands and hiked around Moussa (an uninhabited island). They returned to Austin, Texas, for a hot summer and more family visits. In August, in San Francisco, they contracted COVID-19. Upon recovery, they went on a cruise to Ireland — Guinness, Dublin and

Londonderry. Fall was the annual Trice family Thanksgiving in Pismo Beach, California, with a Turkey Trot, wine tasting and swimming.

Dick Goodwin: “I FINALLY retired on Nov. 29, 2025, after 69-plus years of full- or part-time work — including 45-plus years of federal service credit, 34 plus-or-minus years of military service, 29-plus years as a federal administrative law judge and 17 years of private practice. Now to plan the next 69 years of my life. Next big trip is Peru in September.”

I’d like to thank **Don Beck** for sharing with me a letter he received from **Matthew Lambert ’99**, senior vice president for university advancement. The letter was a “thank you” for our class’s continued support of the Class of 1964 50th Reunion Scholarship Endowment fund through the William & Mary Foundation. The income from this endowment fund provides need-based scholarship support for students at W&M. The endowment performance noted the market value on the last activity report on June 30, 2025, to be \$319,456.54. Don has been serving as our local class representative to the endowment fund and has received thank you letters from recent scholarship recipients. The online version of the 2025 Financial Report is available at wm.edu/financialreport. The Class of 1964 continues to support this important endeavor that was established in 2013-14 as our class gift during our 50th reunion. Thank you to everyone.

1965

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Well, everyone must still be holed up in hibernation, since we only got a few responses this time! Hope everyone is beginning to thaw out and kick up their heels again.

Judy Pollard Harned and her husband, Dave, are just emerging from weeks of being cooped up due to piles of snow and ice. The grandkids had a ball slipping and sliding down the hill in front of their house! Judy spent the days on a treasure hunt, rummaging through the drawers of the giant secretary given to her by her Aunt Helen. It was filled with old family letters, documents, wills and photos. Sweet memories! Among the best treasures were letters she wrote as a child and letters that her father wrote to her mother while he was in the army in England. The latter were particularly precious since he died when his plane went down over France in 1943!

Glenda Hudgins Anthony, Jay Anthony and others reported that the 60th class reunion in October was a wonderful affair! The class of 1965 had a great turnout, an excellent cocktail party in the room we donated and a great visit with our classmates. The football game started with a slow first half but the Tribe came alive after half-time and stormed to an exciting winning finish! Glenda and Jay had a visit from **Jim Korman** and **Babs Lewis Korman ’66** in February while they were visiting in Sarasota, Florida. They also hosted **Ginny Blount Fluett** and Joe Fluett in February when Ginny and Joe were tootling around Florida.

In other news about the Fluets, Ginny and

Joe have been grounded! Their son has sold the Cirrus plane that they’ve been cruising around in for the last five years. It’s just time to retire the plane and the pilot, but it’s not without a bit of sadness. So, they flew commercial to Florida and drove a rental car to visit friends and family on their “y’all call.” Still, great fun and welcome WARM weather!

Lyons Hardy Burke sent in news for the first time ever! Great to hear from you, Lyons! After about 25 years of summer sailing around the Chesapeake Bay and as far north as Maine, she and her husband sold their cruising sailboat. With increased time at home, she has returned to her longtime interest in quilting. Since she is bored by making multiple identical quilt blocks, she works on making small art quilts, usually showing animals, landscapes or scenes she has photographed on her sailing trips. It can be quite creative, or frustrating, as the case may be, but it keeps her busy and happy.

Barbara Wampler Melby and her husband, Tom, hung out in Palm Desert, California, recently, visiting with friends and family and leaving me with this class news job! They had a great time and were happy to be warm again!

You can tell the theme of this news is warm! I hope this finds you all well and happy, experiencing a grand and glorious spring!

1966

Class Reporter
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As I write this, we are at the end of February, and what a seesaw month this has been.

Many of us in areas that get very little snow had a deep, beautiful snow, and around here, the only complaints were from those charged with keeping us safe and the roads clear. I loved it — “snow days with power” has been my mantra for years, and I hunkered down and actually cooked.

Pete Nance and Judy Poarch Nance ’69 enjoyed beautiful Central Park as a fairyland while in their NYC home. In April, they go to Charleston, South Carolina, and then on to our 60th reunion. After DNA testing, Pete learned he is 43% Irish, so they will head to Ireland for two weeks and reconnect with their roots. **Tony Brodie** will not be attending the reunion. He sold his house in California in December 2023, and moved to Bonn, Germany, with his German wife, Brigitta. They enjoy river and ocean cruises without the jet lag that we in the U.S. encounter on European visits.

Dan Nase began his note with “2025 was the year of cancer.” His wife, Marilyn, reported that Dan completed radiation treatments and “rang the bell” at his treatment center. Their daughter and granddaughter were also bell ringers last year. They are moving from Tallahassee, Florida, to the Tampa Bay area. Dan still works in prisons with the Hispanic population and though their Spanish Bible shipments have decreased with changes in immigration laws, they continue to send them to different facilities.

Maureen Strazdon and **Vic Bary** always have travel news to report. Recently, they returned to Costa Rica and the Pacific Coast, and though not specifically mentioned, I’m sure diving was involved. Faithful correspondents Elaine and **Woody Caine** did an old-fashioned car trip and visited family

in Ohio and Tennessee. **Linda Johnson Morris** outsmarted many of us and headed to Florida from Charlottesville, Virginia. I’m beginning to sound too much like an old lady talking about the weather!

Jim LoFrese and Marylou Jenkins LoFrese ’68 had a great family Christmas in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Their oldest granddaughter is in George Washington School of Medicine and their other grands are at Furman and in high school in the Atlanta area. Jim brought up a subject we all are encountering now — the loss of dear friends. He mentioned **Mike Weaver ’66, M.Ed. ’70** and **Dick Korn ’68**, mutual friends from Dick’s football days. The suffering and loss of friends and relatives is an aging reality that hurts more and more each year. Classmates lost in 2025: **Judy Sullivan McKnight, Sally Christian Brumbaugh, Dana Gaebe, Craig Smith, Dottie Hutton Tudor and Colt “Rocky” Worcester**. Just reading the list makes me think of special times we shared.

Jake Smith ’66, J.D. ’74 and **Ginger Graef Smith ’69, M.Ed. ’74** are finding that some concessions to aging are not easy. They sold their sailboat of 27 years and are remembering all their sailboat adventures. Fortunately, they have many memories of times on the Chesapeake and the Intracoastal Waterway, races and lots of social times. They do stay busy with grandkids’ sporting events. **Gigi Guin Cramer ’66, M.F.A. ’67** continues to win awards for her book, “Miracle Warrior,” the story of her life after a very tragic car accident that killed her husband and put her life on hold for years of surgeries. The book has received several special top-rated author awards.

Lou and **Denny Taylor Kelly** spend as much time as possible in their mountain cabin just over the Virginia border. Denny said that witnessing the Buddhist monks' Walk for Peace on their way to Washington, D.C., with the silent reverence of thousands of well-wishers was a moving experience. They will be traveling to Boston to see their grandson captain the lacrosse team, hoping to win their third NCAA championship. Sandy and **Keith Dauer** spent two weeks in the Caribbean and then started out 2026 with a very moving trip to Jordan. One fun part was "bobbing like corks" in the Dead Sea. At home, they are tackling a huge downsizing agenda. Their home is 6,000 square feet, and they are on 3 acres. Yikes — I'm so glad that part of our lives is over and the memories have dimmed.

Now I have a real "whatever happened to?" story. In January I received a two-page letter from **Isaac Freeman**. Isaac was our freshman class president but had disappeared by the end of our sophomore year. Here's the rest of the story. Isaac graduated from the University of Tennessee in '66 and then worked for a congressman in Washington before heading to law school at the University of Memphis. He opened a law office in Marion, Virginia, was later appointed as a judge and served the 28th Circuit Court until mandatory retirement at age 70. Thirty years ago he went "pro" as a storyteller and traveled all over the country. He and his wife, Alice, have four children and 12 grandchildren. Since I'm in Davidson, North Carolina, literally blocks from the college, Isaac shared his family connection to the area — his father, brother and both daughters are graduates of Davidson. He must have wanted a

co-ed school when he picked our alma mater.

My turn ... This past year I have been writing one of the "Storybook" books advertised on the internet. A friend recommended it as a way to go back and remember the great life I have had with **Dick Kern '64** rather than mope about. It has been very therapeutic, and I now celebrate our 59 wonderful years together and the 21 I had before he entered my world. Now, will my kids ever read my drivel? I really don't care. Hope you are reading this after a very successful 60th reunion.

1967 ☺

Editor's note: We are looking for a new reporter. If interested, please contact alumni.magazine@wm.edu.

1968 ☺

Class Reporter
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A big thank you goes to **Bruce Oliver**, who wrote the winter column while I was in rehabilitation.

Thank you, also, to all who sent updates. I think this has been the best response ever! If you do not see your update in this issue, it will appear in a future one.

Paula Fleming wrote from Wilton, Connecticut: "About six years ago, I started taking painting classes. After a 40-year career focused on writing, it's been fun to trade a keyboard and screen for paints and canvases. W&M has been a source of inspiration; I'm on my second painting of the Crim Dell bridge, working my way up to the Wren Building. Last fall, I started playing mahjong,

which is wildly popular here. It's easier than bridge, but with enough complexity to keep your mental muscles engaged. Getting together with fellow retirees, reading and going to the gym fills up the rest of my calendar.

From **Robin Russell Gaiser**: "Gordon and I still enjoy the many venues in Asheville, North Carolina, especially the symphony and the classes. We survived the horrors of Helene with no damage, but no water, electricity, cell or internet service for several weeks taught us what it is like in less privileged lifestyles. Our entire family of 13 gathered for five days in Beaufort, South Carolina. The five grands are now 17, 15, 13, 4 and 2. We marvel at the range of ages and stages. Gordon takes classes from opera to physics at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of North Carolina Asheville. I just completed an advanced poetry class as well as another enneagram class. My third book is with my publisher/editor; it ought to be released by early spring. At this point, it is called "The Possible Book." Gordon and I made a huge and difficult decision to move to Givens Estates nearby when a condo we like becomes available. This community ranks No. 1 in North Carolina for Life Care Communities, so we are impressed with what awaits us."

Johnne Whicker Armentrout and her husband have moved. She emailed: "In November 2025, **Jim Armentrout '66** and I moved into a cottage in a continuing care community only eight minutes from the house we built in 1979. It was quite a task to move from 4,300 square feet to 2,000, but we're really happy with all the amenities, terrific staff and our friends here. I've even started line dancing classes! Jim and I continue to work part time and

enjoy that. We also enjoy traveling and are trying to decide which trip to take this year. We have eight grandchildren ranging in age from 15 to 24. The oldest is getting married in June. They are delightful young people, and we love spending time with them when they are in town. We feel blessed to have found each other at W&M and have such a wonderful life together. It's so hard to believe that it's been so many years. We still think of ourselves as young people even when our bodies don't quite cooperate, and people's names don't come as quickly as they once did."

It was so nice to see **Scott Langhorst** and **Diane Mims Langhorst** at Charter Day 333. Scott wrote, "I continue to be very active with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary, both teaching and taking courses. I am currently teaching a course titled "TechnoTapestry: A Boomer's Journey Through Technology and Culture," which is a narrative about our shared boomer history. Diane is very active with our church and local social service agencies. We both remember and continue our '60s social activism experiences with involvement in the local 'Indivisible' organization, i.e., No Kings. Diane and I were able to take a trip to London and southern England in October (our fourth journey to England). We are planning a trip to take the kids and grandkids to the Grand Canyon in late spring." A picture of Diane and Scott appears with the column online.

1969 ☺

Class Reporter
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Hope this finds everyone well and off to a good start for 2026. I promised a report on Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, but I have to admit that I only saw a handful of classmates, and no one had anything to tell me.

Had my semiannual note from **Jim Onderdonk** and **Mary Timmins Onderdonk '73** this summer as they completed another trip, from Chicago to Santa Monica, California, via U.S. Route 66, and then home through Taos, New Mexico. Jim describes Route 66 as "relics and nostalgia for an America that may have never existed except in our imaginations ..." I'm always glad, though, to know that they are still traveling and enjoying it.

Also, a nice email from **Dave Spaulding** outlining his past 50 years. After W&M and "three years at sea with Uncle Sam," he earned two degrees at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and then spent 17 more years in the Navy. He served in Hawaii, where he competed in Hobie Cat races, and the Gulf War (where he didn't). After retiring, he taught at The University of the South in Seawane, Tennessee, where he was director of the Counseling Center and taught psychology. For the last nine years, he has lived in St. Augustine, Florida, where he recently moved to a Westminster community. There, he has already become the co-director of a senior support group and is keeping involved in psychology. Dave has two daughters, but no grandchildren ... yet.

Phyllis Kline Appler also wrote this summer with lots of news of family and travel. She and **Dave Appler '68** remain active in their church and community. Phyllis received a 50-year pin from the General Federation of Women's

Clubs, and Dave received a lifetime membership in the Hudson Lions Club. They traveled to Universal Studios in Florida with both children, their children's spouses and their grandson, Sam, in January. It appears that they will soon be putting their time into a Christmas Cookie Tour ... which sounds great to me!

Jim Rhem sent a nice note to tell me about his book that was published in December: "Anne Brigman's Songs: Her Life, Her Photographs, Her Poems." He spent 15 years researching this first critical biography of Anne Brigman, an early feminist photographer/poet. Available on Amazon, it discusses her sexuality and its effect on her work, and includes a reprint of her book "Songs of a Pagan" along with companion volume "Wild Flute Songs," which has never been published before. He says the rest of his life is filled with rehab for the various health setbacks that come with our age. He and his wife were headed for Italy in February on a long-planned trip.

Sharon Quillen Adams writes that she has retired from paid work but remains very busy working with unoused children with other economic challenges, advocating on a variety of topics at the General Assembly and mentoring young women at W&M. She would like to talk with other women in our class about what the Society of 1918 is doing, and maybe get you to join her.

I had a huge response to my January email composed using AI. So many that they will fill the next column, so thanks for writing, and please tune in again in the fall for their news.

And now for the bad news: Since my last column, we have learned of the deaths of classmates **George Goode** and

Myer "Butch" Reed Jr. Unfortunately, I have a limited word count for the column, so I cannot include more information here. Please refer to the online version for more information.

Our condolences to all the families and friends of these classmates. They will all be missed.

Milton and I are mostly well in Richmond. I stay busy painting and working in the garden, while he "supervises" the local Starbucks.

Please write when you have a minute. Emails and texts are gratefully accepted. Go Tribe!

1970 ☽

Class Reporter
RANDY PEARSON
VAN DAM
201-803-4790

Virginia Business magazine's first annual Virginia Icon Honors Awards last fall 2025 included **Tom Frantz '70, J.D. '73, M.L.T. '81**, Williams Mullen's chairman emeritus of the board and former president and CEO (2010-2015). A longtime Virginia Beach-based corporate attorney and community leader, Tom is active in regional and statewide initiatives including numerous economic development and civic leadership roles. Tom co-chairs RVA757 Connects, chairs GO Virginia's Region 5 Council and serves on the board of directors and executive committee of the Hampton Roads Executive Round Table.

The Virginia Icon Honors Awards recognize the achievements of Virginia leaders from business, government and higher education over the age of 60 whose track records of leadership and commitment to excellence have left a lasting impact on their organizations and their communities.

We did lose several of our classmates listed

below over the last year and several months. You can find links to their obituaries in our online Class Notes. They all had significant careers and were dear friends of many of us:

Kenneth "Ken" Unzicker, March 2026
Judson "Jud" Mason '70, M.Ed. '76, Dec. 25, 2025

Gwendolyn A. Moore, November 2025
Mary Wakefield Buxton, Nov. 7, 2025
Ethel Nold Newell, May 19, 2025

Linda Thacker Cavanaugh, Sept. 16, 2024.

Please send updates via text to me at 201-803-4790 for my next deadline, which is June 17.

1971 ☽

Class Reporters
LYNN GREENWOOD
FRISCIA '71, M.S. '74 & JIM FRISCIA
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Greetings. Our hope is that you all have withstood the very cold and snowy winter that many of us experienced.

Our 55th reunion at Traditions Weekend will have come and gone upon reading this column. It is our understanding that the College will only recognize one more Class of 1971 reunion (our 60th) in 2031. As of this writing, we have no idea who may be in attendance in April, but we hope to have a trove of information (wishful thinking) in our next report. It has been a feast or a famine. Either we are word count limited, with too much to report, or we have very little.

We did receive the following from **Lew Johnston**. Thank you, Lew! Let your submission be an example to our reticent classmates.

"I figured it is finally time to write ... and let you guys know 'what's up' with Lew after (during) all these years

since graduation. Here we go: After a 43-year career as a high school head football coach here in Tidewater Virginia, I retired so **Nancy Bryan Johnston '73** could travel. In the midst of it, Nancy was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. As noted in the obituaries in the W&M Alumni Magazine, she passed away in October of 2021. The Lord blessed me with a new wife (we were married in April of 2023), and we have enjoyed traveling and spending time with my granddaughters.

"I just published my fourth book recently. Three of them are specifically for high school football coaches, and the fourth is my memoir of a successful career as the head football coach at Western Branch High School in Chesapeake, Virginia. I taught high school psychology for 10 years, earned my M.Ed. from ODU, and was a school counselor for the last 28 years in Chesapeake Public Schools. "I'm not fully retired. I still help high school coaches around the country via the internet as a consultant and mentor. I plan to burn out ... not rust out!!!"

John Hempel emailed a note about a PBS show, "Frontline: Contaminated: The Carpet Industry's Toxic Legacy," which aired in February. **Betsy Vail Southerland** was interviewed at about minute 43 of the production. Betsy was the director of the EPA's Water Protection Division for more than 30 years. For those who might be interested in viewing the program, log on to pbs.org and search for the title, or search the title on the internet.

For those of us bio majors who were lucky enough to take "Intro Bio" or "Evolution" with Dr. Brooks, RIP Garnett "Jack" Brooks. He was a one-of-a-kind professor at the College.

Over the years, we have heard from many of you how much you enjoy reading about your fellow classmates in places other than in the obituary column. While we are still on the planet and remember who we are, it would be great to hear from more of our classmates.

1972 ☽

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1973 ☽

Class Reporter
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Classmates and fellow conspirators: I trust that your first quarter of 2026 has gone better than the likes of the Buffalo Bills and their self-named fans/mafia. Fall 2024 W&M Alumni Magazine cover boy **Sean McDermott '98** is out as head coach and **Joe Brady '13** was elevated from offensive coordinator to replace him. Also going forward so far are **DJ Mangas '12** and **Christian Taylor '07** as part of JB's next five-year contract "to reach the Super Bowl." One other W&M/Bills connection, **Daniel Darragh '68**, who spent two years as a Bills QB before he went into a significant legal career, passed in September 2025. He also volunteered relentlessly with the Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh's efforts.

Back to the more "mundane," **Denise Trasatti Sellers**, a true Jersey girl, was part of a Friday the 13th No ICE rally near her home in Stratford, New Jersey.
Bob Gottke and

Michelle Gottke in Charleston, South Carolina, joined a large gathering of W&M Charleston alumni for a Yule Log Ceremony that included **Carol Christensen '80** and **Karen Gray Burnett '72**. As many of us continue to age gracefully to No. 75 remember, as the song says, "Diamonds are a girl's best friend." **Matthew Asai** continues to chronicle our wedding anniversaries while **Steve Lancashire** regales our Facebook page with 21st-century digital imagery of the campus, such as Crim Dell and Wren Building, and messages of hope and praise on the eve of our country's 250th anniversary.

David Shields is going media legit in May with his TV program "The Savers of Flavors," on PBS/ETV. The food historian is also based in Charleston, South Carolina.

William Harpine, aka "Grits," and **Neil Bockoven '74**, a geologist/journalist in Spring, Texas, have joined our private W&M '73 Facebook group, now 165-plus strong.

A Pi Phi gathering in early February in Florida included the likes of **Teresa Boykin Anstey**, **Sally Struckell Jenkins**, **Carol Flood Keane**, **Kitty Ammen Mortara**, **Judy McCusker Coblentz** (married to **David "Cobie" Coblentz '74**), **Joanie Spiegel Wachter** (married to **Bruce Wachter**) and **Mary Sammons Rordam**. Speaking of Greeks, **Margaret Ann Dahlman Martin** (married to **Ron Martin '74**) is looking for fellow Alpha Pi members of Kappa Delta to plan a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the W&M chapter in 2028. Connect with her at pheriby@gmail.com.

Steven Noll '74, a University of Florida history prof, and his

daughter, **Jody Noll**, teamed up at the University of Florida to present a lecture on **Jody's** new book about the 1968 Florida teachers strike. The video is 90 minutes in length, and a hoot! It shows how New York moxie and Florida/Georgia Southern charm combine on the academic stage.

Amalia "Ami" Gisela Cuervo '74, M. Ed. '77, C.A.S.E. '79, who had enough credit hours to graduate with us in '73, couldn't declare a double major back in the W&M good old days and was a Kappa suite mate of **Deb Prillaman '73, J.D. '76**, started me down the road of the struggles and self-made opportunities that Cuban refugees dealt with coming to the U.S. in the '50s and '60s. **Ami** and her brother, **Herminio Cuervo '68**, and daughter **Ellie Cuervo Kaufman '13** are all W&M degree holders. The parents/grandparents of this family tree are all accomplished university grads, e.g., doctors, teachers, government professionals and Fortune 500 company leaders, with deep roots dating back to 1842 in Cuba and survivors of the Castro regime and its persecution mind bent. **Herminio** was an accomplished W&M gymnast, winning a Southern Conference Rings competition; he recently passed away on Feb. 6 after a two-year battle with cancer, at home with his family at his bedside. **Ellie** is an Emmy-winning TV producer, previously at CNN and now with ABC as an international editor and producer for ABC News. I'll stop here for the time being on all things **Cuervo**, but know that this is just a teaser for a much broader, nuanced and unique journey; so apropos for these 2026 times.

Joanie Spiegel Wachter sent a fantastic synopsis of '73 Pi Phis' gatherings over

25 years — a tribute to lifelong friendships and lasting sisterhood:

"Turning 50 seems like eons ago, but it was the perfect time for the '73 Pi Phis to begin what has become a great yearly tradition. **Teresa Boykin Anstey** started the ball rolling when she suggested that we get as many of us together as we could find for our Big Birthday celebration. We didn't know where everyone was, but we managed to round up 13 of us. We stayed at The Inn at Warner Hall in Gloucester, Virginia, a great location. We had a wonderful time visiting our old stomping grounds, including the Pi Phi House. It was summer, and the painter who was refreshing the house let us in. We must have looked trustworthy. We wandered by our old rooms, and ended up on the third floor ... the location of the archives. We wondered if the minutes from our meetings were in the files and guess what!? They were! We borrowed them, and after **Scottie Noel Alley** made 13 sets of copies, she stealthily returned them to the House.

"We had no idea in 2001 that we'd still be gathering 25 years later, but here we are, celebrating our 75th birthdays. YIKES!! Again, we will head to Williamsburg, but this time we will stay at The Cedars of Williamsburg on Jamestown Road. Thankfully, we will have the whole place to ourselves so we won't disturb anyone when we stay up past our bedtime, which could be as late as 9:30.

"Besides Williamsburg, we've had reunions in a number of great locations. After a few years in Virginia, we branched out and had our first outside-of-Virginia reunion at an inn in Annapolis, Maryland. The owners thought a group of 50-plus-year-olds were trustworthy, so they left the house

and the keys, and off they went. Clearly a bad decision; luckily we got the fire in the oven extinguished before there was any catastrophic damage. We've had reunions in Boston, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, Philly, Chicago and St. Augustine, Florida. Periodically, we've returned to Virginia, and we've added Richmond and Wintergreen to our list of Virginia destinations. Washington, D.C., was the last reunion before the pandemic. We accidentally planned our gathering at the same time as the celebration of the Nats' World Series win. It was very fun and interesting to watch the parade and all that went with it. When the pandemic hit, we Zoomed our way through it. Luckily, by the time we were celebrating our 70th birthdays, it was safe to travel again. We escaped to the Market Square Tavern on DoG Street. Recent venues have included Southport, North Carolina; Winter Park, Florida; and last year, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

"Along the way, we discovered some of the missing '73 Pi Phis, so our total number has kept changing. We live all over the U.S., from California to Connecticut to Florida, Colorado and (of course!) Virginia. Sadly, there are two who are no longer with us: **Nancy Bryan Johnston** and **Linda Stayton Rivetto**. We miss them.

The current cast includes **Scottie Noel Alley**, **Sharon Truesdell Blanton**, **Teresa Boykin Anstey**, **Sally Struckell Jenkins**, **Kitty Ammen Mortara**, **Cathy Stone Rolfe**, **Connie Burbage Jones**, **Joanie Spiegel Wachter**, **Judy McCusker Coblentz**, **Kathleen Perka**, **Mary Mays Zussman**, **Carol Flood Keane**, **Su Beck Folkins**, **Tamara Lucas Copeland** and **Pam Billy Light**.

"It's been a wonder-

ful tradition. We leave husbands, children, grandchildren, pets and responsibilities behind. We laugh a lot, drink wine, make fun of each other, stay up too late, explore and reminisce. We're looking forward to our return to the 'Burg, and whatever future destinations we discover. Here's to 75 and beyond!"

Be well, be safe, and have a great 75th birthday! Write and post updates for all of us to enjoy. Roger Out!

1974

Class Reporter
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Last fall, I was speaking at a women's club in Hopewell, Virginia, where I chanced to meet **Rita Everett Joyner**. I hadn't seen her since we overlapped in our employment at Colonial Williamsburg, where Rita was director of retail from 1988-2002. After that job, she moved to Georgia to be vice president of retail at Callaway Gardens resort. From there she worked as a retail consultant until retiring to Hopewell. But not for long! In 2022 she was elected vice-mayor of Hopewell — a job that, she says, is keeping her young. Guess that government major was good for something, eh, Rita?

Back in November, W&M held a reception for area alumni at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. **Leslie Slemmer Clark** and **Rick Clark '73** attended. Also there from our class were **Rich Lafferty** and **Steve French**, plus **Mindy Wolff '75**. "The reception was first class," reported Leslie. "Do we expect any less from W&M?! There was an exciting Q&A style

presentation on the College's strategies and new programs. Rick and I remain close to **Mark Ritter** and his wife, Sandy. We've traveled with them and met them for dinner every month. Mark is fully retired and enjoying golf, singing in the Greater South Jersey Chorus, playing with grandchildren and visiting their place at the Jersey shore."

Sheri Bulmer Elston shared the news that **Larry Pulley** had recently been named interim general manager for W&M's Athletics. "It's a new position that a lot of universities are adding to their athletic departments." Sheri transferred to W&M from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. "I was wait-listed for our freshman year so I had to go elsewhere, but I finally made it." Better late than never, Sheri, and thanks for the news.

An inspiring documentary produced by **Ted Dintersmith**, "Multiple Choice" reimagines high school by integrating academics with career prep to transform education. The film was set to be screened March 2 at the W&M School of Education. See more about the film at multiplechoicefilm.com.

In appreciation for **Earle MacKenzie's** donation to Swem Library to update their old theatre, the space was christened the **Glenna Bowman MacKenzie** Theatre to honor his late wife. The place had meaning for both. "We started dating our sophomore year, and we spent almost every day together, studying on the second floor of Swem." Interestingly, Glenna's college scrapbook devoted two pages of pictures to Swem library with the note "Perhaps one day they'll erect a monument to us." They did just that, Glenna.

By the time you read this, **Cornell Christian-son's** new musical, "Marilyn Exposed," should

be in rehearsal at the historic Actors Temple Theater, an off-Broadway venue located just one block from Times Square. "We've scheduled opening night for June 1 — Marilyn Monroe's 100th birthday," he writes. Break a leg, Cornell!

Congratulations to **Jim Schillinger** and his wife **Marlene Robinson Schillinger '77** who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 28, 2025. They had a party at a banquet hall in Dearborn, Michigan, where they moved after retirement. After graduating from W&M, Jim earned an M.A. in anthropology at the University of Connecticut; Marlene got an M.A. at the University of Rhode Island. Jim taught sociology at Virginia State University from 1981-1987, then finished his career teaching high school Spanish, primarily in Prince George County, Virginia. Marlene spent her entire career in Southampton County schools. "Except for six years when I was a special education supervisor, I served as a school psychologist. We have two sons, both married and both graduates of William & Mary. We moved to Michigan in 2024 to be closer to our newborn grandson."

And, on the topic of new grandchildren, **John Hollis** and **Elizabeth Shank Hollis** had their fourth grandchild in December. Two of the three Hollis children are W&M grads: Dr. **Caroline Hollis Cox '04** and the new father, **John Hollis Jr. '12**, as well as the new mother, **Carrie Shafer Hollis '11**. Congrats to all!

1975

Class Reporter
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Happy spring, classmates! And summer is just around the corner.

Jay Wilcox and his wife, **Carrie Lukeman Wilcox '77**, now live in California and definitely don't miss our East Coast winters! Jay is the director of music at an Episcopal church as well as an accomplished composer, conductor and singer. His newest choral work, "Canticle of Creation," premieres June 6 in Scotland. Using the words of St. Francis of Assisi and a Native American blessing, it is scored for choir, two pianos, vibraphone, timpani, glockenspiel and tam-tam. One of Jay's earlier works, "Welcome all Wonders," has been performed by the Choir of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in New York and the Choir of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Lindy Grass Poling enjoys her continued service on the W&M School of Education Development Board and is also in her eighth year supervising student teachers in W&M's secondary social studies master's program. She taught secondary social studies for 35 years, mostly in Raleigh, North Carolina. And Lindy needs our help. She is looking for anyone who remembers being in a photo with actor Fred MacMurray during his visit to campus in 1974 or 1975. He was visiting Colonial Williamsburg for a Greyhound Bus AmeriPass commercial, and a group of W&M students were chosen (randomly) to be in the photo with him taken at the Wren. Lindy was one of those students and is hoping someone has that photo and, if so, would share a copy with her. The photo became a Greyhound advertising poster, and her friend saw it in 1976, but her searches at Swem, Greyhound and Google have turned up empty. You can reach Lindy

at lgpoling@juno.com or 919-805-0749.

Barb Ramsey shared news of a new living learning community initiative the university plans to launch in fall 2026 — Democracy Scholars. It is patterned after Project Plus, which I'm sure you remember was the first living/teaching experiment on campus, in which many '75 classmates participated. It ran from 1972-1981, and Project Plus alumni have given input on this new program. It will be housed in Cedar Hall, a new dorm on Jamestown Road, with initially 24 freshmen of all different interests. The program will fall under the Charles Center, and Rebekah Sterling, a government professor, will be the inaugural faculty director. As with Project Plus, the emphasis will be on creating community along with the opportunity for unique experiences and special speakers.

Gene Schultz and **Karen Kennedy Schultz** had the joy to witness their daughter, **Katie Kennedy Plum '06, M.Ed. '12, Ph.D. '26**, successfully defend her doctoral dissertation at the W&M School of Education last December. Katie, a mother of three, is a third-generation educator. Her grandmother, Helen Kennedy, taught elementary school in Texas, and her mother, Karen, taught at Shenandoah University, where she is now professor emerita. Katie has taught third through fifth grade at Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools for 20 years. I know I speak for all of us when I say we are grateful for the role Katie plays in so many children's lives.

Marcia Carl Simpkins shared a fun picture of her annual holiday theatre week-end gathering in New York with **Linda Cleek Gray** and **Sharon Pandak**. Missing from

their usual foursome was **Joan Harrigan**. Go to the digital Class Notes to check it out: magazine.wm.edu/classnotes/1975.

And always go to the digital version (see above!). It has unlimited word count and room for pictures. I needed more news for this copy! Didn't reach my word limit, so send me news and pictures anytime. And watch for All Class emails keeping you updated and connected to BCE events and more!

GO TRIBE!
~Leanne

1976

Class Reporter
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Greetings classmates! By the time you read this, we will have celebrated our 50th reunion, and I will try to report on that next time.

In the meantime, a few people chimed in this time. **Steve Staples** reported that when he and his wife were having dinner in a restaurant in Quebec City at the end of a cruise through parts of New England and Canada last year, they ran into **Stephen Burton '78**. They learned that they started their careers by teaching in neighboring counties, one in Prince George, Virginia, and one in Sussex, Virginia. Fellow math major and actuary **Dave Syrett**, who has loyally served as a fundraiser for our class for many years, sent along some photos and some remembrances regarding concerts held in W&M Hall (now Kaplan Arena) during our years. As a photographer for The Flat Hat, Dave sometimes got free admission but sometimes had to buy his own ticket. For one show, he bought a

ticket on the day of the concert and was told that he was in the last row on the floor. When he arrived for the show, he told the usher that he was in the back row, but the usher took one look at his ticket and said, “No, you’re in the front row.” See the online version of the column to look at some of Dave’s fantastic concert photos.

Please send me your remembrances and impressions from Traditions Weekend so that those who were unable to attend might have some memories triggered as well. Hope you’ve had a relaxing summer; maybe you can tell us about that as well. Until next time ...

1977

Class Reporter

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I’m delighted to share the latest chapter of our class story — updates that showcase the talent and heart of our classmates. Visit my online report to view photos and read complete updates.

Mina Hoover Kerr wrote that she and Brad have stayed busy in the 10 years since retiring—volunteering locally, traveling to Peru, Egypt, the “Stans” (Kazakhstan, etc.) and Croatia, and enjoying life at home in Wheaton, Illinois, where they cherish time with their two granddaughters, Maddie and Dottie.

Jim Schillinger ’74 and **Marlene Robinson Schillinger** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 28. They marked the milestone with a Jan. 3 celebration at a banquet hall in Dearborn, Michigan. The couple recently relocated to Michigan to be near their 2-year-old grandson.

Retired Army **Maj. Thomas L. R. Smith** shared that in December he completed his maiden voyage as a Viking resident historian aboard the Viking Vela. The itinerary took him from Rome to Istanbul and back, and during each of the four one-week cruises, he delivered three lectures and led a weekly seminar. He returns to sea this summer on the Viking Vesta for a voyage from Barcelona to Istanbul.

Rick Reinhard shared that over the past year he taught a three credit, upper-level undergraduate public policy course at the W&M Washington Center titled “Spiritual Brownfields,” focusing on how faith properties can be reused and redeveloped as community assets. Students engaged via Zoom with more than a dozen national experts and visited seven D.C. area houses of worship that are pursuing projects such as affordable housing or historic preservation.

Susan Cleghorn ’77, M.B.A. ’79 has been happily retired in Southwest Florida for the past seven years. Susan enjoyed a wonderful visit in October 2025 to Richmond, Virginia, where our classmate **Wanda Shelton Coleman** organized a lovely luncheon in her honor at Amuse Restaurant at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Those at the gathering included **Beth Johnson Ruch, Wanda Shelton Coleman, Maggie Rollins Stanton, Susan Cleghorn** and **Nancy Nugent Cheely**. Susan also shares that our classmate **Cindy Bennett Jarboe** has a home near her in Florida. Susan enjoyed hosting Cindy and **Frank Wood ’74**, for brunch last year. The couple married before year’s end, and Susan looks forward to celebrating with them at an upcoming party

at Cindy’s home, where our classmate **Kathy Durdin** is also expected to attend.

Garry Killmon writes that he’s now enjoying his second year of retirement — and says it’s a very good way to live. Life post-retirement has been fantastic and he and his wife celebrated their 41st anniversary. They continue to make their home in Bridgeton, Delaware, near their two grown daughters and four grandchildren, who keep them busy.

Craig Hoffman shared an update from **Gerald Bullock M.Ed. ’97**, on the recent Project Plus gatherings held in Washington, D.C., and Williamsburg. Gerald offered special thanks to **Barb Ramsey ’75** and to Craig for opening their beautiful homes for the events. Both evenings were filled with stories from years past, renewed friendships, new connections and lively conversations about the future of the Democracy Scholars program.

Wayne Studer ’77, M.A. ’78, reports that his fourth book — and his first since the mid-1990s — was published this past October by Fonthill Media, an imprint of Pen and Sword Books. “Pet Shop Boys: Song by Song,” Volume 1 (1984–2004) is part of the publisher’s popular and growing Song by Song series, which examines the complete catalog of major recording artists. As the title suggests, Wayne’s book is the first of two volumes; the second is scheduled for release this spring or summer.

My wife, Marinda, and I will be traveling to Greece this summer with our family. While there, I’ll have the joy of officiating the wedding of one of my parishioners — someone I’ve had the privilege of guiding in my current parish since his early elementary

school years.

Continue to send updates and know that the Class of ’77 cares.

1978

Class Reporter

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It was delightful to hear from **Rita Soler Ossolinski**: “The long loyal Class of ’78 Government Group and friends from adjacent years gathered during the holidays, thanks to the hospitality of Ricarda and **Storm Simenson**. As always, the well-traveled Simensons opened their beautifully decorated home for all of us to enjoy. Among the attendees: **Betsy Page Sigman** and her husband, Chuck; Rita and her husband, Matt; **Christine Zvosec Westbrook ’80** and her husband, Ken; and **Tom Snow ’77**. Storm and Ricarda are looking ahead to a special milestone birthday for Storm in 2026. Betsy and Chuck shared stories of their summer cruise in the British Isles and Scandinavia. They are looking forward to welcoming three more grandchildren in 2026, God willing, bringing the total to 12. Rita and Matt both retired in early 2025 and traveled to Japan and Greece. Tom has eased into retirement after his 30-plus years as an immigration judge with the U.S. Department of Justice. Conversations are always stimulating when this group gathers. We hope to gather early and often in 2026!”

Henri Cole had a new book of poetry published in 2025. “‘The Other Love’ meditates on aging and the passage of time through explorations of portraiture, everyday domesticity

and, interestingly, plant and animal life. ... The poems are also political snapshots of the current era in the U.S.,” according to Diego Baez on Booklist. “‘The Other Love’ is Cole’s 12th book of poetry, following 2023’s “Gravity and Center,” which embodied his most favored form — the unrhymed sonnet or 14-liner.

Gray Oliver writes from Richmond that, subsequent to his previously published collection of poems, “Walking in Williamsburg,” he is “knee deep in my next effort ... ‘The Little Business that Could and Did.’” Good luck with this new endeavor, Gray!

Kathryn Bova McQuade reached out to suggest I remind classmates that our 50th reunion celebration is coming up in the spring of 2028. It’s not too early to start getting the word out for planning purposes to ensure we have a phenomenal turnout! According to the W&M Alumni Association, “The 50th reunion for the Class of 1978 will be during Traditions Weekend in 2028. Typically that is held the last weekend of April, but the date is not officially set as of now.” I will try to keep you posted on any new details as they emerge. In the meantime, enjoy every moment of spring and please send me YOUR news ... Carpe Diem!

1979

Class Reporter

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As I write this, we have turned the corner on winter, days are getting longer and spring is on its way. By the time you read this, summer will be here!

I was happy to hear from and about a few of

our classmates.

Linda Bresee McLaughlin sent news that she retired in 2021 and is enjoying "Mimi" time with her six grandchildren. Linda also enjoys her church, reading (she read 34 books last year!) and playing mahjong. She belongs to two mahjong groups which meet weekly. Linda's husband of 42 years, Michael, retired this past December, and they have made plans to travel extensively. Linda and Michael have lived in Highland Village, Texas, since 1996 and enjoy the lake and walking trails in their neighborhood. Their two sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren live nearby, so Linda and Michael host many family gatherings throughout the year. Linda's 92-year-old mother still lives in Virginia, and Linda and her two sisters alternate visiting her every month. Linda keeps in touch with **Patti Pfeifer Knapp, Cindy Pfeifer '81 and Barb Busch Hilton,** and hopes to see them at an upcoming W&M Homecoming & Reunion Weekend!

History was made in the Commonwealth of Virginia this year with the election of its first woman governor, Abigail Spanberger, and the Class of '79 was there! Classmate **Bill Mims,** senior justice of the Virginia Supreme Court and former Republican member of the General Assembly, administered the new governor's oath of office at her swearing-in ceremony. The two became friends after a chance encounter at an Amtrak station, bonding over a shared respect for civility in public discourse and notions of servant leadership. They also each have three daughters. Bill is now semi-retired from the bench and serves as director of the pre-law program at Christopher Newport University, where he teaches cours-

es on law, leadership and the U.S. Constitution. He also writes essays for the Richmond Times-Dispatch about the importance of civility and morality in public affairs. Bill was the subject of an article in The Washington Post describing his friendship with Gov. Spanberger. You can find a link to the article in our online Class Notes.

Several photographs by **Bob Keroack** were displayed recently at the Stryker Center, the government building that houses Williamsburg's City Council chambers, as part of the collection "Shelf Expression," featuring works by employees and volunteers of the Williamsburg Regional Library, where Bob is a program services assistant. Bob started his career in photography as a W&M student taking photos for The Flat Hat. As a sophomore geology major, he got his first yearbook assignment: to shoot a concert of "some guy named Springsteen." We would all love to see those photos, Bob! For the last 20 years, Bob has traveled with W&M's football team to take game action photos. Two of his best action shots were on display in the exhibition, along with seasonal shots and a panoramic view of Lake Tahoe.

On a sad note, **John "J.B." Ford** sent word that our classmate and his wife of 46 years, **Carol Habich Ford,** died on Nov. 28, 2025, from complications of congestive heart failure. **Peter Bortner** and **Jeff Patton** both participated in her December memorial service in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where J.B. and Carol made their home. Please accept sincerest condolences from all of your Class of '79 classmates, J.B.

That's all the news I have this time. Drop me a line and let us know what you've been up to. Until next time ...

1980

Class Reporter
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Happy 2026! I hope the new year has been good for you and your family thus far. Between the weather and all of the global news it is starting off as quite the year.

I receive a lot of mail and as I was going through it, I was very pleasantly surprised by a mailing from a successful law firm in Northern Virginia, a bit unusual for me up north. I opened up the package, and it was an inspirational book titled "LiveLifeBig" by none other than our classmate **Ben Glass.** Luckily, Ben included a delightful letter with most of his news to catch us up, so I am including all that news here. Thank you, Ben — I appreciate the assist and thank you for writing my column! Ben and his wife, **Sandi Rich Glass '81,** will be celebrating their 45th anniversary this summer. An early congratulations to you both! They have nine children — five biological and four of whom were adopted from China. They have blessed Sandi and Ben with 10 grandchildren and counting. As Ben puts it, life has been a journey — I am guessing a wonderful, busy and at times stressful journey, but overall a wonderful journey.

Ben graduated from the law school at George Mason University (now Antonin Scalia School of Law) when its law program was newly accredited by the American Bar Association. From reading his book, it was after spending a few years and making partner at a small firm that Ben decided to start his own law firm, BenGlasLaw, which specializes

in personal injury and disability. He is now in partnership with his oldest son, **Brian Glass J.D. '08,** who graduated from William & Mary Law School. While Ben has now "retired" from litigation of cases, he is still the firm's visionary, brand leader and mentor to the young attorneys and other staff. Which brings us to Ben's other main interest, of many. Twenty years ago, he started a company, Great Legal Marketing, which coaches lawyers on how to build practices that, in Ben's words, "make their families happy they became law firm owners." In short, he is coaching others to "LiveLifeBig"! In his capacity at the company, Ben speaks at various law firm growth events all over the country and hosts podcasts on various facets of law practice; look for "The Renegade Lawyer Podcast."

He has found the time to write almost 20 books, and he co-authored a major work titled "No B.S. Time Management for Entrepreneurs" with Dan Kennedy, as well as one with his son Brian, "Renegade Lawyer Marketing." He even wrote a book for teenage soccer referees, building on his love of soccer and 52 years of soccer refereeing and work with the Commonwealth Soccer Officials Association. His commitment to international adoptions goes hand-in-hand with his past service on the board of directors for Love Without Boundaries, an international charity focused on providing hope and healing to orphaned and vulnerable children. In his spare time, Ben is a CrossFit athlete and involved at the local gym. Well, I think it is time to wrap this column up. I thought it was going to be a quick shout-out to Ben, but ... was I wrong! Ben definitely has found the secrets to "LiveLifeBig"!

Have a good spring,

when it gets here. After a couple of big storms, we had a short tease of spring, but back to winter. Please remember to drop me a note. Be well and stay safe!

1981 ⁴⁵

Editor's note:
We are looking for a new class reporter. If interested, please contact alumni.magazine@wm.edu.

Amy Stearns sent news to the W&M Alumni Magazine that she retired this year from the federal government after more than 40 years of service. For most of that time, she worked on university research grants for the U.S. Department of Transportation, and in January the private Council of University Transportation Centers awarded her its lifetime achievement award. Amy previously worked at the American Enterprise Institute think tank and at the Colbert Artists Management classical-music management company. She credits her W&M liberal arts education with allowing her to transition through careers in music, economics, public policy, city planning and engineering.

1982

Class Reporter
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Greetings friends! It is the end of February as I write this: The Winter Olympics just finished, the East Coast is getting battered by yet another snowstorm, and midterm elections are around the corner ... I just had a total knee replacement two weeks ago and am

ambling about with a cane. Looking forward to having a good knee again! Everyone says they wished they'd done it sooner ... I'm not there yet, but I'll let you know!

I heard from **Michael McKiernan** and **Don Scofield** for the first time. Don and **Donna Pierce Scofield '84** hosted their daughter's wedding at Fontana Village Resort on Nov. 8, 2025, with **Jim Scofield '88**, **Melody Pitts Scofield '88**, **Nan Keller Bryant '80** and **Michael McKiernan** in attendance. Michael and Don wrote that it was a joy to be together with longtime friends sharing some hyperbolic stories.

Michael also writes that he was added to The Winchester Star's list of "Handley Notables." John Handley High School in Winchester, Virginia, recently celebrated its centennial, and the newspaper published "One Hundred Handley Notables" highlighting 10 individuals from each decade of the school's history. Michael was praised as having a reputation as an outstanding educator, mentor, coach and friend. The paper went on to say that "his peers know him as a serious professional who constantly seeks improvement. He is innovative and tries new things, such as starting the Latin American history class at Handley. He is the recipient of the Stewart Bell Excellence in Teaching Award for exceptional performance in classroom teaching. A graduate of William & Mary, he holds master's degrees in classical history and in education administration. A member of the social studies department since 1998, he has also coached girls cross country, indoor track and outdoor track. His cross-country teams participated in the state meet six of the seven years he coached. His teams have won one

state championship, five regional championships and 21 district titles." Congratulations to both Michael and Don!!

And speaking of Handley High School: Another graduate, **Beth Alford Wolfe**, and her husband, Tommy, joyously welcomed a new granddaughter, Adelyn "Addie" Jean Burton, on Feb. 13 — a true Valentine's Day gift! So excited for them and the parents, Patrice and Matt. Congrats!!

And that's all the news I have! Please be sure to send me YOUR update! Have a wonderful spring!

1983

Class Reporter

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As we dig out of another snow, Williamsburg is buzzing with excitement about America 250 and VA250: America Made in Virginia. As part of the ongoing celebration, **Ken Burns D.A. '26**, who has a new documentary about the American Revolution out, spoke at Charter Day. He's a great storyteller onscreen and in person. If you haven't had a chance to participate in Charter Day, put it on your bucket list. It's always a special day/weekend to delight in W&M and the unusual way it came to be and honor those who contribute in myriad ways. One such honoree was **Nancy Coté Kane '84** (my roommate one year). Nancy and her husband, Chris, have hosted the San Diego Yule Log holiday party for several years. She has served on the W&M Annual Giving Board, has been a volunteer (and sometime employee/manager) for Feeding San Diego for 20 years, an avid garden club member and owns her own longarm quilting business that she

runs out of her garage. Nancy was awarded the Douglas N. Morton '62 Alumni Service Award at this year's Charter Day Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to Nancy and all the other awardees, about whom you can read online or in the winter edition of the W&M Alumni Magazine.

If you're on Facebook, you likely have heard that **Anne Richter** had cranial surgery to repair a cerebral spinal fluid leak. After five hours of surgery, she spent five days in the intensive care unit. She describes it as feeling like she's been hit with a baseball bat. Classmate **Skip Rowland** keeps us updated with posts on her progress and was instrumental, along with **Wendy Rilling LeBolt**, in setting up a GoFundMe account. Anne has been overwhelmed by the generosity and support given to her and her daughter, Eliza, from many of her classmates and W&M community, especially her Alpha Chi Omega sisters. Special shout out to **Patty Whitmer Puglisi**, who brought many meals and "way too many" treats to Anne and Eliza. You can follow Anne's progress on GoFundMe (search "Anne Richter").

Great to hear from **Ruth Ann Fuqua Clark**. She informed me that she had interviewed my daughter, **Samantha Phillips '14**, for a summer internship after junior year at W&M. I had no idea. Ruth Ann has recently retired as managing director at J.P. Morgan, managing the mid-Atlantic region and the national Aerospace Defense and Government Services Industry. She and her husband, Michael, have moved to Virginia Beach. They have three daughters: Addie in Charlottesville, Katie near Denver and Emily in Chicago. Their family had two weddings last year: Katie married Jordan Christianson

in October, and Emily married Charlie Otterbeck in June. Ruth Ann and Michael are planning a river cruise with fellow W&M classmates **Becky Voslow**, **Mark Forde** and **Mary Obata Forde '84**, and **Doug McDonald '81** and his wife, Margaret Kerfoot.

On a cold February night, a group of alumni met at The Frothy Moon for a Mardi Gras-themed trivia contest. It was put on by the W&M Williamsburg-Peninsula Network and organized by **Jon Huddleston '82**, **J.D. '86** and **Suzie Lee-Bailey Sterrett '79**. Folks in attendance included Jeff Sterrett, **Don Beck '64**, **Carol Evans '64**, **Steve Huebner '76** and **Diane Arnold Huebner '76**, **Angela Taormina '78**, **Jack Horst '81** and **Marcia Seymour Horst '82**, **Fraser Hudgins '84** and **Christie Baty Hudgins**, **Hollis Mathis '23**, **M.B.A. '25**, **Suzanne Alvis Bisczat**, **Tony Opperman '80**, **Bob Stephens '81**, **Melissa Gill Thompson '82** and Joe Thompson, **Becky Samuels Paquet '89** and Paul Paquet, **Bud Phillips '82** and me, to name a few that I can remember.

Did you follow the Walk for Peace? **Skip Rowland** and his camera did, along with thousands of others. He spent two weeks documenting a group of Buddhist monks on their 2,300-mile odyssey that started in Texas and wound through Virginia to D.C. from October to February. Check out Skip's Facebook page to see the journey from rural back roads of Virginia, through Richmond's city streets, to the Lincoln Memorial in D.C. Skip, in his W&M hoodie, braved the cold along with the monks. On the way he connected with several Tribesters, including **Bill Mims '79**, **Carol Coates Sylvester '82**, **John Thompson '86**, **Betsy Dolan**

'84 and **Tom Brooke '82**, **J.D. '90**. Skip even met a Class of '24 alumna who is working as a National Park Service officer. According to online research, the aim of the Walk for Peace is to promote mindfulness, compassion and unity to counter societal division, fostering inner peace and kindness rather than political protest. The walk, led by Venerable Bhikkhu Pannakara and organized by the Huong Dao Vipassana Bhavana Center, hoped to show that "peace is not merely a destination, but a practice that begins within and radiates outward." You can find out more on their website: dhamma cetiya.com.

1984

Class Reporter

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Warmest greetings to the Class of 1984! I am currently in Bali with my family, including my husband, **Greg Miller**, and my son, **Alec Miller '19**. We had the opportunity to experience the Balinese holiday of Nyepi yesterday, which is a silent day of reflection to start the new year. On this day, everything is closed, including the airport, and no one is even allowed out on the streets. Spending a day at home with family, with limited access to media, no noise and even limited lights, was an extraordinary experience!

Debra Young Mule was sworn in for a fifth term representing the Nassau County Legislature's District 6 on Jan. 8 at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, Long Island, New York. Debra has represented the district since 2015 and now serves as alternate deputy minority

leader, a leadership role within the legislature's Democratic caucus.

According to a report in the Long Island Herald, Debra has focused on issues affecting her South Shore district, including infrastructure, public safety and economic development, while advocating for policies promoting equity and effective local governance.

It was great to hear from **Scott Anderegg**, who shared that he and **Ginger Stair '87** married on Dec. 13, 2025. **Jeff Tinnell '85**, **Mark Sweeney '86**, **Karen Griffith Gryga '87**, **Lucy Kimbrough Henry '87**, **Kristi O'Brien Gelsick '87**, and Scott's children **Isabella Anderegg '21** and **Andrew Anderegg M.Acc. '22** were in attendance. Warmest wishes to Scott and Ginger!

Mark your calendars for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, planned for Oct. 22-25. This will be the 100th anniversary of Homecoming celebrations at William & Mary, so I hope to see many of you there!

It is always great to hear from you, so please send along any other updates you'd like me to share in the next Class Notes, or you can post your own update by joining the W&M online community at my1693.com.

1985

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1986

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Hello classmates!
It's reunion time! Save

the date for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, Oct. 22-25. Thank you to **Patricia Baker Kegel** for reminding me to encourage attendance and early hotel reservations.

In the fall, I heard from **Peter Quagliano** and his spouse, **Kay Gross Quagliano '85**. Peter stated that he "continues to suffer from a psychosis that compels him to seclude himself in a small, dark room, staring at black-and-white pictures and talking to himself all day." He is a radiologist, apparently with a creative sense of humor!

Debbie Fetterman Moyer recently displayed an oil painting at the New Britain Museum of American Art in New Britain, Connecticut. She and her husband, Kurt Moyer, own a pharmaceutical contract lab. Her oldest son, Nathan, is majoring in molecular biology at The George Washington University. Her younger son, Jayden, graduates from high school this year. In October, she joined **Libby Kling-Franke** and **Laurie Gardiner Seril** to celebrate with **Betsy Burr Elliott** at the wedding of Betsy's son, Peter.

Ann Patane Harvey's daughter, **Mary Harvey '27**, was completing her junior year at W&M. Ann and her husband, David, planned to visit their daughter in April in Paris, where she was studying for the spring semester. Their son, Rob, was set to graduate in May from Vanderbilt University. He plans to begin training as a commercial airline pilot.

Dennis Di Mauro is celebrating the births of his fourth and fifth grandchildren: a granddaughter, Juno, on Dec. 23, 2025, and grandson, Max, on Jan. 6. Congratulations!

David Nygaard has moved part-time to St. Paul, Minnesota, to be with his partner. He

enjoys visiting his large family and is expecting his eighth grandchild this summer. He met **Jacob Frey '04**, mayor of Minneapolis, at the opening of a friend's restaurant.

Stan Clarke sent news of a Lodge 12 reunion last September in Nags Head, North Carolina. Participants included **Kevin Bullcock**, **Joe Quigley '86**, **J.D. '93**, **Rick Nixon**, **Chris Comey**, **Kevin Lewis '88** and **Steve Rosenberg '87**.

Jeanne Cherundolo McPhillips Dolan's new book, "Be Your Own Hero," is available on Amazon. You can find a link in our online Class Notes.

Julie Wallace Dunn and her husband, **Tom Dunn '87**, live in Greenwich, Connecticut. Tom works in M&A law at Cravath Swaine and Moore, and Julie volunteers regularly, acquiring books and organizing author lectures for the Colony Club library in New York City and serving on the board of her local garden club. Their daughters, Caroline and Elizabeth, live and work in New York City. Their youngest child, John, is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. Julie and Tom regularly get together with **Alison Sellin Weiskopf '85** and her husband, Dan. Alison still enjoys working at J.P. Morgan. Alison and Dan's two children, Victoria and Will, have graduated from college. Julie keeps up with **Mary Kosko Oates**, who still works in medicine and lives with her husband, fellow doctor **Dave Oates**, in Arroyo Grande, California. Julie recently caught up with **Tom Noble M.B.A. '88**, who lives in Melbourne, Australia, with his wife, Tina. Julie reports that she and Tom keep up with **Kristen White**, who works for bestselling author

David Baldacci. The Dunns catch up regularly with **Jim Brady '87** and **Mary MacInnis Brady '87**, who have four children.

Chris Olson J.D. '92 and his wife, **Jenni Marmorino '92**, enjoyed a very W&M-heavy wedding last October. They, along with **Jane Tucker '78**, **J.D. '86** and **Phil Russo J.D. '84**, celebrated the marriage of their children, **Ange Olson Russo '20** and **Ben Russo '20** at Woodlawn in Alexandria, Virginia. The Rev. **Dennis Di Mauro** officiated the ceremony.

Liz Tobin Williams and **Ian Williams** are inching toward retirement. After 31 years in Atlanta, they are working on moving to their 1880s row house in Oxford, Maryland. Last summer they loved seeing **Debbie McDaniels** and **Peter Trippi '87**, who was in town to judge the Plein Air Easton art festival.

1987

Class Reporter
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I hope everyone is having a nice and healthy 2026 so far. It's been a very cold winter here in Northern Virginia, but by the time you read this, hopefully we'll all be enjoying a nice spring day. Matt and I have made it to several W&M basketball game weekends this season and have enjoyed seeing progress on so many of the construction projects around campus and so many now finished. We finally got to experience the (still new to me at least) Glenn Close Theatre in January when **Chip Puskar** (aka Charles Esten) performed there during a comedy festival as

part of the "Whose Live Anyway?" tour show. We are looking forward to being in Williamsburg this spring and taking in a few W&M baseball games.

I got a great news update from **Michael Hecht**, who is an anesthesiologist living in Tucson, Arizona. Michael still keeps in close touch with a lot of his fellow PiKAs and Lodge 1 mates including **Dave Berg '88**, **Mike Cole**, **Mike Dutton**, **Drew Daniele**, **Kurt Witzgall** and **Mike Ford '89**. His younger brother, **David Hecht '89**, is not far away as he is a Scottsdale-based plastic surgeon. Michael had a year full of wedding excitement. Both his children, **Sydney Hecht '19** and **Trevor Hecht '20**, recently married their William & Mary sweethearts in front of many W&M friends. Trevor played golf for the Tribe and married fellow athlete and gymnast **Lauren Winkler '21** in St. Andrews, Scotland. His daughter, Sydney, married **James Harkless '18** in Tucson.

The Campbell's Co. announced in an October 2025 news release that **Todd Cunfer** was appointed their new executive vice president and CFO. Most recently Todd served as CFO for Freshpet Co. for several years. Prior to that, Todd worked for Simply Good Foods Co. from 2017-2022 and had more than two decades of experience in senior financial roles at Hershey Co. Todd earned his B.A. at W&M in finance, and his M.B.A. from UVA's Darden School of Business.

1988

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1989

Class Reporter
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Anne Bowling Reynolds is enjoying mountain life in Southwest Virginia, but she likes it even better when her work for George Mason University periodically brings her to the Fairfax area, particularly if old friends are involved. Just before the winter holidays, Anne joined William & Mary friends **Anne Jansen Wardinski**, **Rachel Edelstein** and **Lana Yan Chen '87** for dinner, where they caught up on life events, talked about their kids and parted with a vow to do it again soon.

Ginny Parsons Lee spent last October in New Zealand to celebrate the retirement of her husband, Ian, after 30 years of Army service. They drove 3,000 miles in a camper all around the North and South Islands. Definitely a bucket list box ticked. Ginny and Ian continue to live the dream in Oahu, Hawaii.

Wendy Miller Preyssler celebrated 21 years of marriage to her husband, Thierry. She is also celebrating her 11th year as an International Coaching Federation (ICF) Master Certified Coach and, after 18 years in practice as a full-time coach, has never regretted leaving her role as a Global Strategic Alliance executive in corporate America. Wendy and Thierry are looking forward to a three-week trip to Europe in May, where they will visit Wendy's aunt in the U.K. and Thierry's siblings in France, and have a romantic getaway to Barcelona. Oh yes, and they will attend an ICF Conference in Paris.

Randy Reynolds was appointed by the gov-

ernor of Virginia to the VCU Board of Visitors as chair of the Real Estate Committee, and by the rector as a crossover member of the VCU Health System Board of Directors. Randy stays busy, as he is also a member of the Blue Ridge Bank Board of Directors, chair of the Wealth and Trust Board and chair of the Compensation Committee. Blue Ridge is a publicly traded NYSE community bank.

James McDowell reports changes at home — his daughters are off to college. Lara will be attending UNC Chapel Hill and Julia will attend Wellesley. James is now senior vice president and deputy general counsel for Alliant Insurance Service. James' wife, Caryn, is chief learning officer at Terns Pharmaceuticals. James and Caryn reside in the San Francisco area and so enjoyed the shared Homecoming & Reunion Weekend photos.

Even though they live far apart, **Cindy Little Jordan** enjoyed spending time with her William & Mary roommates this past year. It was wonderful to meet up with **Kathleen Durkin Waller** and her husband, Peter, in British Columbia in July 2025. They were visiting from their home in Auckland, New Zealand. Cindy and husband, Mark, made the drive from Northern California. They explored Victoria and Vancouver Island. Cindy's favorite time together was the early morning coffee chats and sunrise overlooking the bay. Cindy has also been fortunate to see **Karen Tisdell Butterfield** and **Amy Englund** several times when passing through Richmond on trips to Williamsburg. Karen and Cindy attended W&M Women's Weekend together in September 2025. The programming was engaging, and they loved the connection and energy throughout the

whole weekend. Karen, Amy and Cindy also recently got together in January in Pennsylvania to attend a swim meet at Gettysburg College, where Karen's son is a freshman on the swim team. Cindy is thoroughly enjoying her first year on the W&M Alumni Association Board. She likes meeting and working with her fellow board members to support our university. Cindy was excited to celebrate W&M Weekend in Washington, D.C., in May.

1990

Class Reporter
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Just a couple of news items, this time. Please send your updates for the next issue!

Matthew A. Chapman '90, M.S. '99 is the new associate director of cybersecurity education and workforce development for the William & Mary Cybersecurity Center. In the new role, he is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity education, expanding workforce development initiatives and enhancing cross-campus collaboration. He said his focus is to prepare students to enter the global cybersecurity workforce.

Jonathan Biedron sent news via the economics department at W&M that he attended Harvard Law School and has owned his own firm since 2001. He is married and has two children, one of whom, **Hanna Biedron '28**, is a sophomore at W&M.

1991

Class Reporter
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Congratulations to **David Bulova!** He was named Virginia's secretary of natural and historic resources by Gov. Abigail Spanberger, as reported by the Virginia Mercury. Known for his work on water quality, Chesapeake Bay cleanup and conservation policy, he had represented the city of Fairfax and parts of Fairfax County for 19 years in the Virginia House of Delegates. David holds a master's in public administration from Virginia Tech and is a graduate of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership.

After 30 years in Charleston, South Carolina, as a television meteorologist and then lawyer, **Ben Pogue** began the third chapter of his career as a member of the faculty of Indiana University's Maurer School of Law as the director of the Family Office Program and professor, teaching legal skills. He and his wife, Nina, still maintain a presence in Charleston, but he said the fall in Bloomington reminds him of those in the 'Burg and is a wonderful second home.

The Stairwells, of which he was an original member, recently reconnected in Williamsburg for the legendary a cappella group's 35th anniversary. The group's founder, **Hunter Old**, and **Adrian Felts '94** represented the original members at the gathering, in which the alumni all sang the original work "Glory," first composed by the original class.

Over the summer, Ben was honored to attend the wedding of his niece, **Brooke Haseltine Paganussi '14**, and **Matt Paganussi '14**. His sister, **Amy Pogue Haseltine '88**, as well as many other alumni (young and more seasoned alike) were present at the beautiful wedding in Ogunquit, Maine.

Ben and Nina still

catch up — nearly every Thursday evening — for a weekly online game night with their dear friends and fellow slightly nerdy (Ben's words, not mine!) alumni: **Mark Smith** and **Jen Noble Smith '90**, **Dean Thornton** and **Tracy Taylor Thornton '90**, **Dennis Updegrove** and **Suzanne Gibson Updegrove**, and occasionally **Pete Oelkers** and **John Briggs**.

Paula Jeffrey Puckett and **JoAnn Adrales Ruh '89** have been planning annual gatherings of Kappa Deltas around our class year. This year's lunch was snowed out, but we were able to gather on Zoom so some people in more far flung could join. Some of our classmates on the call included: **Debbie Levine Snyder**, **Beth Speakman Bortz '91**, **M.P.P '93**, **Kim Dietrich Westrich**, **Derika Wells Mercer**, **Hollis Clapp** and **Mary Beth Reed**.

Paula and her husband, Blake, co-founded Cambridge House Christian Study Center at W&M, which just celebrated its five-year anniversary. Blake is very excited following his retirement from the Department of Defense to begin teaching in the university's history department — military history and a course titled "The Great Game" (history of Central Asia). They are excited that **Sandra Wild Adams** and her husband, Carl, have joined the many W&M alumni living in Williamsburg.

Derika had added a Kappa Delta advisor retreat in Williamsburg earlier in January. Also in attendance were **Zelda Hinkle '23**, **Jeanine Burgess Gilson '90**, **Paula, Margaret Ann Dahlman Martin '73**, **JoAnn, Wendy Edwards Delph '94** and **Jen Burgess Welham '90**. She was also able to spend some time with **Kim Cathey Kaminer**

'92. A group is beginning to plan the Kappa Delta chapter's centennial celebration, which is in 2028. If there are any KDs that would like to help with the planning (you do not need to be living in Williamsburg!), reach out to Drika at derikawm@gmail.com.

And just as I was finishing this column, **Stacy Osborn White** let me know she is now a grandmother (or in her case, a Mimi)! Her daughter Morgan and son-in-law Tanner welcomed a baby boy, Riley, in February. Riley's grandfather (or Pappaw) is **Burt White**. Congrats to the whole family!

Please send me any news you have!

1992

Class Reporter
BARRY KEITH

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Greetings, classmates!

It was good to hear from fellow freshman Nicholson resident **Geoff Suiter**. He is unretired from the National Park Service and is teaching at a brand new classical Catholic Christian high school, the Chesterton Academy of the Divine Family, in Hagerstown, Maryland. Geoff welcomes the opportunity to catch up with other William & Mary folk; you can reach him at geojeff81@hotmail.com.

Chris Ralston is stepping outside his comfort zone after 25 years at his previous law firm. He is excited about opening an office for Spencer Fane as it expands its Southern presence into New Orleans and is honing his administrative skills. Chris continues to value insight from trusted colleagues and friends.

In December, **Nicole Wagner** was named the new assistant vice

president of gift planning at Virginia Tech. In this role, she oversees the Office of Gift Planning, a 10-person team responsible for collaboratively securing a quarter of the university's overall annual fundraising.

Amanda Allen Beheler '92, M.A.

'95 participated in an interview about her experiences working on a decades-long peregrine falcon population restoration project. Look for a link to the article in our online Class Notes.

Mike Fratantoni is the Mortgage Bankers Association's chief economist and senior vice president of research and business development. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing industry surveys and benchmarking studies, economic and mortgage originations forecasts, and policy development research for both single-family and commercial/multifamily markets.

Craig Armstrong shares: "I am currently a fixed income portfolio manager at Insight Investment, a subsidiary of BNY, in New York. I also serve as treasurer of the Board of Directors for Providence House, a housing-focused nonprofit in Brooklyn, which serves and advocates for women and families at risk of harm who have histories of homelessness or justice-related involvement." Craig has renewed his connection with W&M recently and is on the Boehly Center Advisory Board at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business. He and his wife, Wendy, have two daughters, Samantha and Isabel.

I will return to Williamsburg at the beginning of August to play in the Word Cup, which is the Word Game Player Organization's annual Scrabble championship, to be held at the Williamsburg Lodge. I will enjoy staying with my aunt, meeting and playing with other

participants, and getting onto campus as opportunity allows.

I'd be happy to receive more updates so we might have a more robust column. Please share!

Have a great spring and summer!

1993

Class Reporter
BRYAN FOSTER

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Happy spring everyone! I am serving as our new class reporter. First, a big thank you to **Greg Imbur**, who held this role for five years and did a nice job keeping us informed.

For those of you who may not know me, I graduated with dual degrees in economics and public policy and spent 30 years working for several local governments in Virginia as a department head, town manager, county administrator and city manager. As a student, I was active in Alpha Phi Omega, Wesley Foundation and the percussion ensemble, and sang three years in the William & Mary Choir. I'm married to **Mona Hargrove Foster '91, M. Ed. '92, Ed. S. '94**, and we're the sometimes proud parents of our persnickety 11-year-old dog, Oliver.

In November, I learned of the appointment of **Chris Lloyd** to serve as co-chair of newly elected Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger's economic development transition team and shared with him my thoughts as a retired city manager about key issues affecting local government. Chris stated his transition advisory duties were complementary of his work leading the infrastructure and economic development team at McGuireWoods Consulting, one of the nation's largest public affairs firms, based in Richmond, Virginia, which he helped found in 1998. Chris and his

wife, Megan, have two children and live in Richmond, though Chris acknowledges much of his time is spent on planes flying around the country working on corporate relocation and expansion projects.

Sara Habeck McGuffin currently serves as president of the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA), the state professional association for county, city and town managers, and senior management professionals. Sara is currently the town manager for Amherst, where she has worked since 2018. In addition to her local government management career, Sara served one term on the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors and is adjunct faculty in the local government management certificate program at Virginia Tech. Sara and her husband, Dennis, love spending time with their combined five adult children and having a variety of age defying adventures, and she still rides a motorcycle, though now it's just a dirt bike on their 30 acres. Last year, she had a great time catching up with **Lisa Grace Friel**. Lisa lives in Buffalo, New York, and manages research projects in the health industry to help us all live better lives.

Matt Erickson, a Washington, D.C., political consultant, writes for the first time to note that the podcast he co-hosts, "Chet by Lightning," has become "America's No. 1 Chester A. Arthur podcast, admittedly against minimal competition."

Dwayne Eanes sent word and a photo via the W&M economics department that he recently changed positions and is now the director of operations and quality management at the South Carolina Office of the State Auditor. Congratulations Dwayne!
Brennan Harris is

professor and chair of the W&M Department of Health Sciences. He and his wife, **Terri Hamlett Harris**, have been back in Williamsburg since 2004 where they raised their three children. Brennan and I both attended the University of North Carolina for graduate school, and I remember having a conversation back then about life goals. His was to return to W&M as a professor. I love how he made his goal a reality. (Read more about him on page 18.) Their youngest is in college, so they are adjusting to being empty nesters. Brennan and Terri are fellow choir alums now singing with the Williamsburg Choral Guild, which was started 50 years ago by our late W&M choir director Frank "Doc" Lendrim.

Jill Fujisaki Rodeffer is calling all Alpha Pi Kappa Deltas interested in helping to plan the chapter's big centennial celebration in 2028 to contact her at Jill.Rodeffer@gmail.com.

I enjoy hearing about what our classmates are up to so please share news and updates. You are doing so many great things. While the printed column is space limited, the online version is not, and I can include photos as well as text. Be sure to check that out too.

1994

Class Reporter
STEVE NEWMAN
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We've got a very light update for this magazine, and I'll simply take the time to remind everyone to reach out to me with your updates. If I don't get any updates, this is a very brief article, and all the other classes take up the page. It is nice to share the space but equally as fun sharing our lives.

From **Wendy Edwards Delph**: We are

beginning to plan the Kappa Delta chapter's centennial celebration, which is in 2028. If there are any KDs reading this that would like to help, please contact me! Email: wendy.delph@gmail.com. AOT!

Brian Hubbard and Carol Anderson Hubbard created a research endowment in honor of Chancellor Professor of Chemistry Chris Abelt. The endowment will provide research support for students and faculty, with an emphasis on summer research.

Lastly, from yours truly, on June 4-5, my team is hosting the fourth annual AI Summit — brAln Hub. This year's two-day conference will be held at the Sherrill Center at UNC Asheville. Four years ago, when I helped start this initiative, artificial intelligence was a fun utility that I did not think would ever become intelligent. Today, I know otherwise. This year, our summit will attract folks from all across North Carolina, and next year throughout the Southeast. If anyone is interested, look up brainhubsummit.com.

As is my standard conclusion: It would be a pleasure to hear your news and updates. It's been way too long — let's change that. Send me a quick blurb about what's happening in your world. Big news, little news or just "still standing" — I'd love to hear it!

1995

Class Reporter
SHANNON E. KREPS
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Mike Tomlin '95, L.H.D. '08 recently stepped down as the Pittsburgh Steelers' head coach after 19 seasons at the helm of one of the NFL's most storied franchises. He is best known for not having a losing season in nearly two decades and winning Super

Bowl XLIII — congratulations, and we can't wait to see what you do next!

Christine Eibner is the Paul O'Neill Alcoa chair in policy analysis at Rand Corp., as well as the director of Rand's Health Care Financing and Organization program. Her career has spanned 20 years at Rand doing work on health care policy and economics.

Bella Ciao!

1996

Class Reporter
BETSY ROSENBLATT ROSSO
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I was pleasantly surprised by the abundance of Class Notes submissions this time around. Keep them coming!

One of the most honest and heartfelt notes I received was from my friend and freshman hallmate, **Karie Wratchford**, who wrote: "I've never written in to Class Notes before. Perhaps I always felt some shame for some of my life choices since college. I didn't get a master's or Ph.D. I had kids young. I stayed too long in two bad relationships. However, I raised three wonderful children who are successful and decent human beings. And I know I make a difference in someone's life every day at work or play. I think about folks from William & Mary often and see both joy and sorrow. We've dealt with beautiful and terrible things. Among my closest friends from William & Mary, we've sadly experienced abuse, miscarriages, addiction, death, depression, cancer, aging parents, unemployment and parenting struggles. Life has also given us growth. When my mother took off to heaven without warning, I inherited her strength. When my adult daughter gave me exceptional life advice, I gained her

resolve. I'm finally free from abuse. I'm healing. I feel like myself again. I'm laughing and I'm loved. Whatever you have going on, pause, breathe, smile. Express gratitude. Give yourself grace. One Tribe!"

Every year **Brantley Gasaway**, in his 17th year as a professor of religious studies at Bucknell University, leads students on a journey of experiential learning and self-reflection. Brantley created a month-long study abroad program along the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain, one of the world's most historic pilgrimage routes. He guides Bucknell students in their exploration of "the modern revival of this medieval pilgrimage and why it attracts hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world." Brantley and his students have often encountered groups from William & Mary on the Camino.

Dallas resident, **Emily Nemmers-Mantooth**, took a shorter, but still meaningful, trip where she carried her own pack and peed outside during a five-day hike in the Grand Canyon. Emily will return to Virginia soon to visit her and her husband Kevin's son, who is interning as a student journalist at the U.S. Capitol, covering Missouri politics. "Crazy fact," Emily noted. "One of the other four students on his program from the University of Missouri is the niece of my W&M roommate, **Becca White Gibbs**."

After 18 years home raising four children, when her oldest headed to college, **Laurel Shroyer Hanke** went to nursing school. "I graduated and passed my boards in 2020 and have been an inpatient oncology nurse at Inova Fairfax for almost six years. It is an honor and privilege to walk alongside patients and their families in such hard

times." Laurel also trains new nurses. She happily noted, "We finally have a child at W&M! Our daughter, **Helen Hanke '29**, is a freshman studying public health and biology. Last winter she sent us videos of sledding down a hill near the business school. We have LOVED visiting her!" Laurel and her husband, **David Hanke '94**, also have two older sons who are married and a younger son in high school. Laurel and David have lived in Arlington, Virginia, since 2006, where David is the senior pastor at Restoration Anglican Church.

Yonce Shelton recently completed his role as interim senior minister at Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ in Bethesda, Maryland. Previously, he led the Catholic Volunteer Network and provided coaching and spiritual counseling. Yonce said, "Our son is a high school junior, tennis player and comic collector with no interest in William & Mary. Our second grade daughter has no interest in anything but Mr. Beast and pigs. But she was a mushroom in the Washington Ballet's 'Nutcracker.'"

Visit our online Class Notes for updates on **Eric Sivers, Bryant Cafferty, Kiya Winston Tomlin, Meredith Bourgard Glenn, Laura Keyt Kelley, Mark Ryan, Bridgette Trela, Thomas Brzozowski '96, J.D. '02** and **Colin Willett**.

1997

Class Reporter
MATT GIBERT
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Greetings, Class of 1997!

Here in Houston, we've been enjoying unseasonably warm weather since early February. I hope that spring has sprung

wherever you are, too. Thank you to all those who took time to share news this quarter.

Perhaps the most adventurous update I've received since becoming a class reporter came from **Lee Duncan**, who dropped a line while mildly seasick on the Bay of Bengal. Lee is currently on a voyage around the globe aboard the sailboat Athena with his wife, Tamar, and youngest son, William. They left Virginia in November 2022 and hope to complete their circumnavigation by April 2027. If you're interested in following their travels, look up their blog at athenareaching.com. Lee also offered a shout-out: "Hugs to Flip and **Mike Snow**, wherever you are."

Congratulations to **Brent Midwood** and **Christine Weismantel Midwood**, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last September. They used their milestone as an excellent excuse to celebrate in Australia, kicking off the New Year in style from the steps of the Sydney Opera House! What an accomplishment, Brent and Christine!

Matthew Sheiffer retired from the Army in March 2025 after nearly 29 years of active duty service. After spending the past three years in Germany, he and his wife, Tami, have now settled in Albany, New York. Upon return to the States, Matthew had a 60-day corporate fellowship with CVS followed by some much needed time off in December before starting the new year as the director for strategic planning and public relations at the Research Foundation for the State University of New York. While W&M didn't work out for their oldest daughter, who is in her first year at Brock University in Ontario, they're still working hard to convince their youngest children to consider Dad's alma mater!

On the other hand, **Scott Boyer** and **Lisa Hagen Boyer '99** have had great success convincing their boys to attend W&M. Their oldest, **Clay Boyer '28**, is a sophomore, and their son Brennan will matriculate this fall. Scott and Brennan recently traveled to Alaska to hike glaciers, dodge bears and celebrate Brennan's last year of high school.

Ray Dingledine also has a son at W&M. He wrote in to share that his son, **Talon Dingle-dine '29**, is a freshman on the W&M golf team.

Allen Fawcett is the director of the Joint Global Change Research Institute (JGCRI) — a partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and the University of Maryland at College Park — and is jointly appointed as a research professor in the UMD School of Public Policy's Center for Global Sustainability. JGCRI brings together expertise in research, modeling and analysis to advance scientific understanding of the ways in which human, energy and environmental systems interact. Before coming to PNNL in January 2024, Allen served as chief of the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Economics Branch. Allen has a long history of collaborating with the Stanford Energy Modeling Forum (EMF) and the Integrated Assessment Modeling Consortium, and he is a past member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council's Climate-related Financial Risk Advisory Committee. From 2010-2011, Allen was deputy associate director for energy & climate at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. After graduating from W&M, Allen received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Texas in 2003.

Have a happy summer

and keep the news coming! Go Tribe!

1998

Class Reporter
ALEXIS COX
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Hope you're all enjoying a lovely spring, especially after all the snow and ice we had this winter. Unfortunately, I didn't receive any news this time, so I thought I'd share a quick personal update of my own.

I was able to get down to Williamsburg this past fall with my husband, **Scott Pugh '98, M.A. '99**, for several W&M home football games — and Cheese Shop sandwiches. We had a great time with our good friends **Greg Cota**, **Pat Rooney**, **Jane Eisinger Rooney**, **Barron Sopchak** and their families.

If you have news to share — no matter how big or small — we'd love to hear from you. I'd especially love to know how you're celebrating your 50th birthday. We could all use a little inspiration! And if you've never written in before, now is as good a time as any to let us know what you've been up to since we graduated. We're also able to post pictures for the online version of our class notes so if you have any photos you'd like to include, send them my way.

Last but not least, be sure to save the date for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend: Oct. 22-25. We'll be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Homecoming at William & Mary. Hope to see you back on campus!

1999

Class Reporter
MAUREEN HOLBERT
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I'm nerding out on all

the America 250 commemorations happening between now and 2031 (the anniversary of the siege of Yorktown), and hopefully you're able to attend some observances in your hometowns! In December, after 26 years in defense contracting, I'm taking some time off for genealogy research and spending time with Brian and Stella.

Gayle Holt Bates shared that she and **Chad Bates** are still living in Kingsport, Tennessee, and practicing medicine. They are expecting their first grandchild in March!

Wendy Olesen Dykema wrote that her family moved this summer from Raleigh, North Carolina, to Huntsville, Alabama, to find margin (found it: Mission accomplished). Her husband, Dave, is working with missiles, and she's on active duty orders working Army logistics. She writes book reviews in her free time via Instagram, where her handle is @wendyscape.

Alisha Graves moved to the board of OASIS - Organizing to Advance Solutions in the Sahel. She founded the nonprofit, whose mission is to advance education and choice for women and girls in the West African Sahel, where she served as the executive director for 10 years. **Alisha and Kathleen Mogelgaard '95** are highlighted in an online W&M Alumni Magazine article, "Agents of Change." Prior to this, Alisha worked to improve access to essential medicines for women's health. She received a Master of Public Health from UC Berkeley (a long time ago). She is married, has two teenagers and enjoys dancing and snowboarding. She lives in Berkeley, California, and loves it, but misses Williamsburg and is sometimes nostalgic for parties at the Foxhole and Hippie House!

Eric Haas is busy

at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, though he will retire effective Jan. 1, 2027. The intent is to move back to Charlottesville, Virginia (where they kept their house), and hopefully use his post-9/11 GI Bill to attend UVA and earn a Ph.D. in history.

Nicole Reyes had an article published last year, which was the extension of her thesis for her Master of Public Health degree: "Understanding the Transition Between Age-Specific Measures of Health-Related Quality of Life: Evidence on the Relationship Between and Comparative Performance of the EQ-5D-Y-5L and EQ-5D-5L." She lives in Australia, where February is the summer, so she's been enjoying the sunshine and warm weather as she dives outdoors from the one and three-meter springboards. She was also fortunate enough to watch the men's and women's doubles finals of the Australian Open this year, which is held just a few kilometers from her home in Melbourne.

Sara Solfanelli wrote that she reunited with **Angela Elder**, **Liz Cherry**, **Liz Kuster Oberschneider** (all in Northern Virginia), **Jennie Daley Andrejewski** (Richmond, Virginia) and **Katherine Saul** (Asheville, North Carolina) on a fantastically fun four-day Virgin Voyages cruise to return to their senior year spring break destination, Key West, Florida.

Sara Rablin Shelton closed 2025 with her third year running her professional coaching firm, PassionFruit LLC, and serving as U.S. chief human resources officer for both Aptia and her daughter, Nathalie (8 years old), who played a Little Mouse in the Richmond Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker"! She chats often with **Sarah Spink Benish**, who continues to thrive as a

neurologist in Minnesota despite the frigid temperatures!

In the news: **Allison Orr Larsen** was elected to the American Law Institute. She is the Taylor Reveley Research Professor and Alfred Wilson & Mary I.W. Lee Professor of Law and director of the Institute for the Bill of Rights Law at William & Mary. She is a leading scholar of constitutional law and legal institutions, with a focus on how information dynamics shape both.

Drew Polly received the 2026 Alumni Civic & Humanitarian Award from the W&M Alumni Association on Feb. 7, in recognition of his service to his community and the thousands of students positively impacted by his work as a professor in the elementary education program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Read more about his contributions in our winter issue article "The Teacher's Teacher" (linked in our online Class Notes).

2000

Class Reporters
KELLY SCANLON & MIKE ANDERSON
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Hi Class of 2000! We have a lot of updates this time, and it has been fun to catch up with so many of you. With that, let's dive right in.

We caught up with **Kevin Byrne** at Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, and learned about his talent for Halloween decorations. Check out the links to some of his creations in our online Class Notes. Kevin also reports that he has been living in Chicago for 25 years now — minus a yearlong stint in Miami — and has worked in college admissions, theatre and now advertising. He has been with his husband for over 20 years

and married for 11. Some of his highlights since W&M include living in Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry for a month and competing on "American Ninja Warrior" and "Squid Game: the Challenge."

Eric Chen was recently elected to the board of directors for the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians and will transition into the role of chair for the Department of Family Medicine at UNC Blue Ridge in Morganton, North Carolina, in the fall of 2026. On the personal side, he had a great time seeing so many classmates at Homecoming in October, as well as seeing so many of his Monroe 3rd hall-mates, both there and at New Year's in Roanoke, Virginia. He also met a fellow alumnus, **Danny Habersetzer '10**, on a group trip to Bamberg, Germany, this past summer. He was also happy to have the chance to see several close friends this past year, including **Betina Chan-Martin '99**, **Karen Chin Repsher '03** and **Emily Bonham '01**.

Jason Moore recently published a new book titled "Letters from the Empire" and wanted to share the news with the W&M community. "Letters from the Empire" is a cinematic sequence of short letters that trace how Napoleon's France — and the idea of empire itself — continues to echo through places, power and memory long after the cannons fall. It's meant to be engaging and insightful, without all the calories of a typical history textbook.

Tunisia Riley says "Homecoming 2025 was great for the class of 2000. A bunch of us met up in the 'Burg to celebrate our 25th college reunion, including Barrett Hall girls **Carrie Phibbs Crisman** and **Roberta Hatchett**. We also enjoyed connecting with **Curtis Spriggs II**

and his wife, **Tamara Glover Spriggs '02**, **Courtney Grant, Dara Dugger '00**, **M.Ed.'02**, **Carmen Anthony '00**, **M.B.A.'17**, **Cheri Boschulte Green**, **Tony Gyapong**, **Dwayne Smith**, **Dameon Muhammad**, **Jason Sam**, **Jason Brooks** and **Adam Ayers**. It was a great time, and although they were missed at Homecoming, I caught up online with **Andrea Seiffert**, **Rebecca Fleming**, **Mariko Chambers Semetko** and **Mary Kirby** after Homecoming." Additionally, in January, for MLK Day, she and **Ashley Mizell-Edey Davis '03** met up at a literary tea.

Kelly Taylor Langford is enjoying life with her husband, Mike, and their four kids, ages 12-19, in the Seattle area, where they have been since '08. She is a hospital chaplain, and he is a theology professor, and she can't believe they now have a college freshman.

A correction from last issue: **Jonathan Randall Weiss** earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. in geology and geophysics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, studying rapid continental extension in the Gulf of Corinth, Greece and central Andes mountain building in Bolivia. Between graduate degrees, he spent many days aboard research vessels as a seafloor mapping specialist with the NOAA Coral Reef Ecosystem Division. Jonathan was also a research fellow at the University of Leeds and the University of Potsdam. He is currently a senior geophysicist and lead duty scientist at the NOAA/NWS/Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. When not monitoring global earthquakes and conducting applied research, Jonathan enjoys surfing, skateboarding and spending time with his wife and children.

We love hearing from

so many of you; if we didn't get to your update this time, you'll see it next issue. Please continue to send updates to williamandmary2000@gmail.com.

2001 ²⁵

Class Reporter
LAUREN MORGAN
ELLERMAN '01, M.S. '23
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Abigail Just sent news via W&M's economics department that she is now serving as the director of portfolio management at West Financial Services. Reflecting on her career path, she writes that her W&M economics degree has been key to understanding the macro environment and allowing her to both make decisions on a daily basis and to explain what is occurring in the market and the economy to clients. Abby lives in Great Falls, Virginia, with her husband and two children, a dog and two cats. She remains an avid equestrian and is currently training her mare, Waitara, in the sport of dressage.

SAVE THE DATE: Class of 2001, this October will be our 25th reunion. Yes, we are that old. Please plan to be in Williamsburg and join the celebration the weekend of Oct. 22-25. Our class reunion committee is already busy planning events, receptions and more. You can register with the W&M Alumni Association this summer, but make plans to be in Williamsburg now!

2002

Class Reporter
LEAH WOOD NELSON
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Before we get into this issue's updates, I have an update of my own. In January, I began a

new position with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). I am now the regional manager for a program called GEAR UP Virginia (for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), promoting college access for underserved populations in schools across the Commonwealth. I am excited to support the same opportunities I relished during my time at William & Mary for a new generation of students.

Travis Nels also started a new position as chief risk officer at the AES Corp., a multinational energy company. He sent this news via the economics department in October 2025: "After graduation, I served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, left active duty to get an MBA and have been working in the energy industry since, either in general management or corporate finance roles. I recently completed a yearlong, nonresident fellowship of the Atlantic Council in which I was part of a team studying defense installation energy resilience. I also began another term as a member of the advisory board of the William & Mary Washington Center."

2003

Class Reporter
NINA R. STRICKLAND
SIMONE
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Hey Hey Class of '03! I think I've been doing this for about a decade, have run out of friends and updates, and am ready to develop my succession plan. Are YOU my succession plan? Think about it! It's a fantastic way to give back if your financial plan isn't allowing you to start an endowment just yet. Email me if you are interested in being our

next class reporter!

Sean Conway rejoined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld as a partner in the Telecommunications, Media and Technology practice in Washington, D.C. Sean started his legal career as an associate at Akin and had most recently been deputy chief counsel at the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. But his biggest life update is that he and his wife, Brooke Padgett, welcomed their son, Bobby, in August. Bobby joins big brother Jack (2 years old), who is thrilled to have a sibling.

Suzanne Berman, with whom I was able to connect at a brunch in December, shares that she is running for Virginia Beach School Board, District 9. **Shree Kurlekar Junk** and I met up at The Cheese Shop while she was in town in November. Shree has recently started as the director of philanthropy and alumnae relations at North London Collegiate School, the No. 1 girls' private school in the U.K.

Also, maybe this is the wrong place for this (come for my job if you have feedback), but I couldn't let this entry pass without acknowledging the passing of James Van Der Beek on Feb. 11. Was he our classmate? Yes. No. Kind of? Big shoutout to the crew who gathered every Wednesday night on Dupont 2W to lose themselves in the world of Capeside, Massachusetts, and pump up the WB's ratings. I heard from classmates near and far on Feb. 11, expressing sadness and offering gentle, mid-40s reminders to get those colonoscopies scheduled.

Ending on a note of CELEBRATION from my Dupont 3C (4EVA) pal, Libby:

On Nov. 15, 2025, **Elizabeth "Libby"**

Williams and George Clark were married in Norfolk, Virginia, in a joyful waterfront celebration that reflected their faith and love. They were surrounded by family and dear friends, a beautiful fall sunset and an evening full of laughter, fun and dancing. Elizabeth was especially grateful to celebrate with three fellow '03 alumni: **Suzanne Berman, Shree Kurlekar Junk** and **Allyson Harrell Webb**.

2004

Class Reporter
OWEN GRIMES

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A few months ago, I was pleasantly surprised when some “green & gold” showed up in my day-to-day land work (my main profession). While in Salt Lake City, I ran into **Vincent Cunningham '16**. He is currently working as a geologist in Vernal, Utah, with the Bureau of Land Management. He and I shared stories about W&M geology (note: Even though I was a history/government major, I did take geology and its accompanying lab course as one of my science requirements). Since my geology professor was Vincent's advisor, I shared with him the most impressionable saying I remember from Professor Bailey: “In order to distinguish the difference between stalactites and stalagmites, as the 'tites go down, the 'mites go up.” Say it out loud. You get the picture. That geology class is also memorable as it was the class I was attending as the events of 9/11 were unfolding (even though I would not know what was going on until my next class, Hispanic Studies Literary Criticism). Enough with

my rambling, let's get to the info you really came to read!

As you all know, 2026 started very grimly with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shootings in Minneapolis. Whatever media outlet you choose to receive your news, you may have seen and heard Minneapolis' mayor, **Jacob Frey**, speak out in response. Due to his high-profile job, Jacob was profiled by Time magazine about his leadership in the wake of the fatal shootings during Operation Metro Surge in which some 3,000 federal agents were sent to the Twin Cities area. Look for a link to the article in our online Class Notes.

It seems that the mood of this year has also dampened this column this time around. This is all the news collected. However, with all the happenings and vacations that usually occur in the spring and summer, I am sure to hear from you with all your good news, like promotions, grandbabies (yes, we are now “elder millennials”) and just whatever you want to talk about/share what's going on in your life. Hope to hear from you soon.

Your friend and fellow classmate,
Owen

2005

Class Reporter
BEN BALDWIN
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We have some really exciting updates for this round! I hope everyone has a great summer.

Kay Floyd and **Pierce Blue '06** welcomed Rosamund Dimorier Blue into the world on Jan. 10. Big sister Beatrix is already dressing Rosie in green & gold, regardless of how much her little sister likes frequent outfit changes.

As president of the White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA), **Weijia Jiang** was set to preside over this year's annual dinner in April. She is the first woman of color to be president in the WHCA's 112-year history.

Brad Pearson congratulated Weijia for her accomplishments! Brad is also currently tied with **Luke Neilans** for third in a W&M fantasy music league. I am currently last in that league — my music tastes are eclectic.

The Kitchen brewpub, a second location of The Virginia Beer Co., has officially opened in York County, Virginia. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Jan. 29, followed by a public grand opening the next day. Founded in 2016 by William & Mary classmates **Chris Smith '07** and **Robby Willey**, The Virginia Beer Co. has grown from its original microbrewery in The Edge District into one of the region's most respected and decorated craft breweries. The new location is expected to employ 35 to 40 new staff members, most of whom have already been hired, complementing the 20 to 25 employees who regularly work at the Williamsburg brewery. You can watch the ribbon-cutting ceremony online.

Jacqueline Langholtz is still married with one kid, occasionally misspells her name and loves a good dance music playlist — although sometimes the playlists I send her are a little too eclectic.

After experiencing our 20th reunion, hearing about how we are all aging and some of us getting CPAP machines, **Adam Gismondi** had the great idea for a caption contest for our class. Check out the online edition of Class Notes for the AI-generated cartoon and send me your caption ideas.

2006

Class Reporter
AMBER WALKER GIDDINGS
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Hi. I hope this submission finds everyone well. Life is busy and full of blessings. As I write this, it is February and my family has just ended the varsity basketball season, Beta (junior and senior) convention and cookie sales for Girl Scouts. Softball is in full swing, our oldest just got her driving permit, and the start of spring is just out of reach. Life is constantly changing and charging on. We are so very thankful for God's guidance in a world full of challenges and deadlines. As busy as the Giddings family of four is, I know you guys are too! But send me an email, text or Facebook message and let me know how life is treating you and yours. These little updates mean the world to your Tribe friends and just may spawn the little pick-me-up you need to trudge on through a tough week.

This time I heard some good, surprising news. It was a surprise because her friends pulled off the update. Erin and friends sent in the following buzz: **Katie Sheridan** married Samuel Lee on Oct. 25, 2025, in Richmond, Virginia. The bridesmaids in the wedding included **Diana Dass, Hannah Diaz, Katie Heffner** and **Emily Mah Rogers**. Other W&M family in attendance were **Erin Catlett '06, M.S. '08, Alyssa Holt, Jordan Lazzari, Rick Schlauch, Emily Carper Sterrett '05, Ian Sterrett, Jimi Wilson** and **Tamara Rivera Wilson**. The green & gold pack had a great time celebrating Katie and Sam and catching up on all of life's

adventures. They are all looking forward to getting together again soon with their families at the 20th reunion next year in Williamsburg.

Congratulations to Katie and Sam. We pray for the very best first year of marriage and just the start of many, many years of happily ever after. Until next time, take care and make your mark on the day. Leave it a little brighter and a little better than it started.

Tribe Pride Always,
Amber Walker Giddings

2007

Class Reporter
COLLEEN SCHNEIDER CAMERON
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Not many updates this time around. Thank you to those of you emailed me. Please consider sending in your news, big or small. Especially for people like me who live far away from other alumni, hearing from W&M friends is a wonderful way to remember our time together. Life is good for me. I am loving my job as a high school library media specialist, and I spend a shocking amount of time reading books. I'd love to hear what you are reading! I am sending well wishes to everyone; I hope you and your family are happy and healthy.

Kristen Englund Katz is a very grateful organ transplant recipient. After several months in the hospital pre- and post-surgery, she is home in Connecticut with her husband, Daniel Katz, for an extended period of recovery. She is attempting to put aside her Type A tendencies as she prioritizes rest and is learning the various limitations associated with transplant and the post-surgical state. She is also very grateful to family, friends (including Chi Omega sisters **Lucy**

Mears Beadnell '05, Jessica Maddux '08, and Alexandra KIELTY Grimes '08, strangers, her doctors and nurses for their support. Please consider becoming an organ donor if you are not already one. When not recovering, Kristen works as a quality manager for a small biotech based in North Carolina.

On Aug. 24, 2025, **Mark Maloy and Lauren Andersen Maloy** welcomed to the world their third son, Charlie! He will soon join his brothers Sam (9) and Thomas (4) on regular trips to the campus and lunches at The Cheese Shop!

Emily Russell started a new job at Better Markets as director of development. She's excited to contribute to the organization's mission to advance economic and social justice. As a proud Washington, D.C., resident, Emily is also always looking for ways to contribute to her community, from serving on local boards to taking part in mutual aid.

The Kitchen brewpub, a second location of The Virginia Beer Co., has officially opened in York County. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Jan. 29, followed by a public grand opening the next day. Founded in 2016 by William & Mary classmates **Chris Smith** and **Robby Willey '05**, The Virginia Beer Co. has grown from its original microbrewery in The Edge District into one of the region's most respected and decorated craft breweries. The new location is expected to employ 35 to 40 new staff members, most of whom have already been hired, complementing the 20 to 25 employees who regularly work at the Williamsburg brewery.

Meghan Townes Behny successfully defended her dissertation in American studies at Boston University in September 2025. In

October 2025, she and her husband, Robert, welcomed a daughter, Madeleine Alice Behny.

2008

Class Reporter
ASHLEY JEAN PINNEY
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Hello, Class of 2008! I know most of us are turning 40 this year. How did that even happen? Sometimes it feels like I was just in college with you all. If you are celebrating your milestone birthday in a fun way or with any fellow classmates, I'd love to add it to our next issue. Until then, there is a lot of good news to report.

Case Jernigan is humbled that many of his W&M friends are involved with the production of his series of animated short films about healing and life with multiple sclerosis. Last year's project, "Noggin," played over 30 festivals (like Slamdance in Los Angeles) and won 10 awards in various categories. The sequel, a happy and sad mixture using paper puppet animation and ink over glass, is underway in his studio in Florence, Italy. He feels lucky.

Summer Marion is an assistant professor of international relations and global health at Bentley University. She lives outside Boston with her husband, 2-year old son, and fur baby — all of whom road-tripped to Williamsburg last summer to experience the joy of The Cheese Shop (dog included). She is excited that her first co-edited book, a handbook on human security, will be published this fall by Oxford University Press.

Artist **Laura Steadman** has been busy creating beautiful artwork. Check out the website and sign up for the newsletter at steadyheartist.com.

Tina Ho's family of

four celebrated all their February birthdays, including a wonderful "Bonjour to Forty" trip to Paris and Nice, France.

As always, send me updates anytime at ajpinn08@gmail.com. It is really nice hearing from everyone.

2009

Class Reporter
ANDREW FOILES
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Hello Class of 2009! As I am writing this, I am wondering if future me is still vocal stinging Bad Bunny post Benito Bowl.

It is a small price to pay for him sealing the Honmoon.

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 celebrate yourselves.

Be sure to send me any updates and life milestones you are celebrating so they can be featured here and on 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 that supports photos, so feel free to send those in along with your updates. While you're at it, send me your favorite jokes too!

Go Tribe,
Andy Foiles

Updates:
Ryan Lintelman wrote his first co-authored book, "Funny Stuff: How Comedy Shaped American History," published by Rutgers University Press on May 12.

Nick Patin welcomed

his second son, Elliot Patrick Patin, on Nov. 14, 2025, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Douglas Hurson and his wife, Johanne, are expecting their second child in July.

Kelly Tiernan Et-tari is currently living in Baltimore, working as a physician assistant in an emergency room. She and her husband, James, welcomed a baby, Owen James, this past April.

From **Emily Cunningham**: It's the end of an alumna era. For nine years, a core group of **Emily Cunningham Maja Lojanica, Caroline Moh '11** and **Gagan Jindal '11** have met for ladies' brunch in and around the nation's capital. Sometimes monthly, sometimes less and sometimes at our own homes while group texting about trash TV during COVID-19. In January 2026, one of our number moved halfway around the world — where she'll hopefully remain until a better health care system emerges from the ashes. It's the end of one era, but the beginning of another. We're already planning the first international brunch.

Danielle Derringer Zhang took her daughter, Olympia, age 7, to see "Wicked" for her first Broadway show, sharing the soundtrack that got her through many nights in undergrad.

Rebecca Lowdon married Ben Busby in April. They met in real life through their jobs five years before — they are both computational biologists. Their ceremony was at Cacapon State Park outside of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. W&M friends who celebrated with them were **Dani Derringer Zhang, Katelin Lee, Jess Unger, Samantha Grill, Lara Curtis, Julie Collins, Sandy Gililand Givens** and **Chris Givens '10**. Ben and Rebecca live in Pitts-

burgh, Pennsylvania, with Ben's two kids and their two dogs.

2010

Editor's note:
We are looking for a new class reporter. If interested, please contact alumni.magazine@wm.edu.

2011

Class Reporter
KATE FOILES
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Hey Class of 2011! Happy New Year! Hope you're thawing out from all the crazy winter weather. After 10 (yes, ten) straight snow days for my kindergartener last month, Blacksburg, Virginia, enjoyed a delightful false spring last week. I'm truly shocked at how much snow and ice has melted already, as I imagined our driveway luge track would stick around until at least April.

Speaking of luge, I'm currently living in a post-Olympics haze. No longer will you find me livestreaming the multiview on my third monitor, saying things like, "Oooh, his sled skidded on that curve, that'll cost him some time" or "Yikes, that axel was under-rotated, he's gonna lose some points there" or "Why is the men's gold medalist skating in a full body panda costume to selections from 'Kung Fu Panda'?" You will, however, find me holding my breath waiting for Beyonce to announce a release date for her new album "Act III," as the internet sleuths are convinced it's coming soon.

I recently both won and lost battles with Ticketmaster for the upcoming summer concert season. You can find me at the Noah Kahan concert in July, but trag-

ically not the Hilary Duff concert in August (which is very much NOT what dreams are made of). I also will be rocking out at the Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live “Glow-N-Fire” show. Hashtag boy mom!!!! Let me know what concerts you’re seeing this year and what your favorite monster truck is!

Holla at ya later,
Kate

Andrew Gooding and **Adia Shmorhun Gooding** welcomed their second daughter last year, June, on Nov. 12, 2025. Big sister Ana is thrilled to have a future playmate. The Goodings moved to Arlington, Virginia, this past summer.

Christina Preville Krakoff is proud to share that she was elected a director of McLane Middleton effective Jan. 1. McLane Middleton has offices in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Christina continues to practice in trust and estates law and serves as chair of the firm’s Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Nicole Leger Starbird got married in May of last year to John Starbird in New Jersey. **Missy Montagna Goodwin** and **Laura Visochek ’11, M.B.A. ’17**, served as bridesmaids in the ceremony. Nicole also recently started a private practice this year as a mental health therapist.

2012

Class Reporter

MADELEINE BRADSHAW ROWLEY

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Hello Class of 2012! I took a hiatus from Class Notes after my son, Jack, was born in September, but now that he’s 5 months old, I’ve emerged from the newborn fog (look for a photo in our online Class Notes). I hope you all

are having a great 2026 so far!

Over Christmas break, my husband’s uncle, who works at Mount Vernon, gave us a special tour of George Washington’s estate and its grounds. While walking through Washington’s office, the docent pointed out his swivel chair, which, to my surprise, looked like something one might still use today.

Then I realized that if George Washington came back to life for a week in the year of our Lord 2026, that swivel desk chair might be the only thing that looks remotely recognizable.

Imagine Washington’s shock if he saw, for example, a Ford F-250, for the first time, or learned that an artificial intelligence chatbot can build an app overnight that he could use to sell his famous whiskey, or if he watched a B-2 bomber fly over an SEC football stadium.

It’s hard to know what he would say, since he was famously a man of few words, but I think, besides the swivel chair, if there’s anything he would recognize in a modern countryman today, it would be patriotism.

I’m writing this after the U.S. men’s hockey team just beat Canada for the gold in a game that will go down in history. In a postgame interview, Jack Hughes, who scored the game-winning goal in overtime, told the interviewer, “It’s all about our country right now.” Despite a missing tooth and bloody mouth from taking a hockey stick to the face, he went on, “I love the USA, I love my teammates. ... I’m so proud to be an American today.”

These sentiments would certainly resonate with Washington. As he said in his Farewell Address in 1796: “The name of AMERICAN, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just

pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same Religion, Manners, Habits & political Principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together — the independence & Liberty you possess are the work of joint councils, and joint efforts — of common dangers, sufferings and successes.”

In Tribe We Trust,
Maddie Rowley

Here’s what’s new with our classmates:

Sarah Fiorito Brennan and **Shane Brennan** announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Claudette Brennan, on Dec. 31, 2025. The Brennans are enjoying life as a new family of three in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Michelle Tillman Kinz completed a swim across the English Channel on Sept. 29 as part of a four-person relay team. Team Jawsome finished the crossing in 13 hours and 56 minutes, with Michelle completing the swim in Audresselles, France, after covering 11.18 miles.

Adrian Bravo, an associate professor of psychological sciences at W&M, recently published a piece in the Substance Use & Misuse journal with **Isabela Ortiz Caso ’25** that explores why certain students are more vulnerable to alcohol use disorders. Look for a link in our online Class Notes.

Tigist Tamir was profiled by ASBMB Today for her scientific research and career. Tigist opened her own lab at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the department of biochemistry and biophysics in 2025. Her lab employs a multidisciplinary approach using biochemistry, multiomics and computational models to investigate the intricate regulation of

oxidative stress response within complex signaling and metabolic networks. One of her major goals: finding better therapeutic options for triple-negative breast cancer, an aggressive form of the disease that disproportionately affects women of color and tends to resist chemotherapy.

Jessica Kyle shared this news via the economics department at W&M: “Since leaving W&M, I have worked largely in the international development sector — primarily with nonprofits supporting the rights of vulnerable women and children around the world. I am now the vice president of program development at Redeem International — a sub-Saharan women’s rights organization — where I oversee program strategy, research and evaluation and data quality. It is just wild to me that I get to do this kind of work and advocate for greater access to justice and services for vulnerable communities. Part of my role is to lead our program expansion efforts to new countries, and as a relatively young startup organization, we excitedly launched a new country presence earlier this year!”

“William & Mary was an incredible training ground where I was able to explore complex problems and ask questions. The rigor of W&M’s academics taught me to continually press deeper and further — to take a theory or hypothesis to its furthest extreme before moving on. Now I spend much of my time thinking through how to push our programs to be the leanest, most clear, most efficient they can be while maintaining impact; a puzzle with no clear way to solve, but W&M gave me a method for beginning to figure it out — and I am so very grateful!”

Austin Strange shared news via the

economics department at W&M that he is an associate professor in the department of politics and public administration at the University of Hong Kong. At HKU, he researches and teaches international relations, international development and Chinese foreign policy. Currently, he directs the master of international and public affairs (MIPA) program.

Matthew Sonnenfeld sent this news and a photo via the theatre & dance department: “In September 2025, I started as the executive director of Huron Station Playhouse, a new theatre in Los Angeles that aims to bring new and contemporary plays to Eastside LA while building a creative home for playwrights, actors and directors to return to their theatrical roots.”

2013

Class Reporter

LAURA BROND DZIUBAN
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Hello, Class of 2013! Thank you to everyone who shared their updates. It’s such a treat for me to be able to spread good news; I hope you all enjoy reading these joyful updates as much as I did, and please continue to share by emailing me any time!

Congratulations to all of our classmates welcoming new additions to their families:

Kathryn VanDeveer Gioia and her husband, Chris, welcomed their second child, a daughter named Izzy, in March 2025. She is much loved by her parents but especially by her big brother AJ, age 2. See our online Class Notes for an adorable photo of the two little ones!

Delaney Janson Carpenter and **John Carpenter ’14** welcomed their third child, a daughter named Anna Catherine, on Nov. 1,

2025.

Emil Iqbal and his wife, Jennifer Iwerks, welcomed their second child, a daughter, on July 11, 2025 (weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces, funnily enough!). According to Emil, big brother Sammy is fully embracing his promotion and could not be a better big sibling to little sister Anya. Emil's job at Merck brought the family up to the Philadelphia suburbs in 2023 for his position as an associate principal scientist supporting the company's vaccine portfolio. The family is also happy to be reunited, by way of the Pennsylvania move, with **Steve Dachert** and his wife **Kaya Patel '14** who now live right down the road. Go Birds!

In other job-related news, **Jane Rabinovitz Raleigh** recently started a new role as director of museum programming at National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. Follow the link in our online Class Notes to read a profile of Jane by The Forward about her dance career and previous role as director of dance programming at the Kennedy Center.

The Washington Post recently interviewed **Curt Mills**, editor of the American Conservative magazine (and former W&M Student Assembly president) about his critiques of current U.S. foreign policy. Follow the link in our online Class Notes to read the article.

Jill Quinlan started her business, Luna Rose Integrative Massage & Healing Arts, in Williamsburg last August. She relocated to Williamsburg three years ago and says that W&M was a big factor in her decision. She fell in love with the area as a student and had always wanted to return. After moving a lot in her lifetime, she finally feels like she's found her forever home and community. She's enjoying making connections in the area

and hopes to attend the local alumni networking group soon.

Speaking of home, **Melanie Levine** and **Matthew Muller '12** purchased their first home in Amsterdam, where they live with their 2-year-old son, Cameron Howard Levine. They are happy to connect with any alumni who pass through town!

Finally, the Buffalo Bills named **Joe Brady** to be the team's next head coach, a promotion coming after two seasons as the offensive coordinator. Joe is a former William & Mary wide receiver and assistant coach. He becomes the third former Tribe player to lead an NFL franchise in recent years, as **Mike Tomlin '95, L.H.D. '08** (Pittsburgh Steelers) and **Sean McDermott '98** (Buffalo Bills) recently concluded their successful tenures as head coaches. Follow the link in our online Class Notes to read more on the W&M Athletics website.

2014

Class Reporter
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2015

Class Reporter
CHRIS PAPAS
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Hello, Class of 2015! **Kathleen Swift-Papas '14, M.A.Ed. '15** and I were lucky to be two of the many, many W&M alumni in attendance at **Nuha Naqvi's** wedding to Viren Kumar on Nov. 8, including bridesmaids **Chloe Miksovic Szabo, Stephanie Winslow '14, Lynn Nakamura, Danielle Olson, Rachel Sillcox, Amanda Williams '16** and **Sky Sprayberry. It**

was a beautiful weekend and truly felt like a mini reunion thanks to so many of our classmates brought together by Nuha!

In other news, so many of you sent in updates this season — it's great to hear what you're up to! (Look for photos in our online Class Notes.)

Scott Vierick married Megan Little on Nov. 1, 2025, in Leesburg, Virginia. Celebrating with the happy couple were several W&M alumni, including **Ryan Warsing '14** (groomsman), **Shaan Sharma, Taylor Schwabe, Isabel DoCampo, Madeleine Murphy '16, Kirk Fedder '77, M.B.A. '80,** and Scott's parents, **Bob Vierick M.B.A. '81** and **Sue Hetherington '75, M.B.A. '80.**

Daniel Mollenkamp was recently named a 2026 Chauncey Bailey Investigative Reporting Fellow for Investigative Reporters and Editors, one of the largest and oldest associations of investigative journalists in the world. He will be reporting on recent expansions in the "school choice" movement. He is also a member of the Education Writers Association's 2026 Special Education Cohort, which focuses on improving the depth of special education coverage, and is working on a book, "Unwelcome: How the 'Lost Boys' of Sudan revealed the limits of America's churches and schools," which explores how ideological shifts and the dissolution of community-based church organizing have impacted life outcomes for South Sudanese immigrants.

Naomi Parr Millen wrote in with updates on her and her husband, Spencer: "We keep in touch with a few other classmates, including **Ted Westrick '16, Heather Hoskins, Hillary Kennedy Stubblefield '14,** and **Christina Hecker**

Zhang '12. We have three kids and welcomed our youngest — a baby boy — in December. Spencer completed a fellowship in neonatology at Lurie Children's Hospital last summer and is now a neonatologist at US Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan, where we'll be living for the next few years. While living abroad, I am working on a second master's degree in clinical mental health counseling, with a specialization in military and veterans, through William & Mary School of Education's online program. It's fun to be part of the Tribe again, even from across the world."

Edward Abrahams sent this news for our online Class Notes: "Working in GIS and Python development for a government contractor out of Richmond, Virginia. Living together with my wife who is a fellow W&M alum **Surekha Carpenter** (married in 2021), and our cat Mo." **Greg Kirwin** finished a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison last year.

Finally, **Chase Jordan** and **Adam Farris '24** connected in NYC for Climate Week events hosted by their firm, EY.

2016

Class Reporter
EMILY NYE
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Class of 2016, I hope everyone has been keeping safe and well! I'm excited to share some new updates from members of our class:

Kellie Strand Camarda and **Matthew Camarda** welcomed their first child, Nora Barbara Camarda, on Sept. 11, 2025.

Noella Handley was set to graduate in May from California State University, Sacramento with a master's in public

policy and administration. They are completing a culminating project titled "The Creative Process of Policy Actors," supervised by professor Amal Kumar.

The alumni-heavy band Midamerican Elevator is holding strong and preparing to record an album and go on tour. The band was started by two Class of 2016 alumni, **Paxton Long** and **Beni Yuzawa. Greg Taylor '17** and **Brendan Helm '18** are also in the group, keeping the Chicago W&M foothold strong.

Thank you to everyone for your updates! Best wishes until next time.

2017

Class Reporter
CAPRIELLE D'ULISSE
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My friend **Kristiana Plumb Neiswender** and her husband, Karl, welcomed their daughter Nora Jude on Dec. 11!

Devon DeYoung Reilly sent this news via the economics department at W&M: "I am an editor and digital content writer for S&P Global Ratings. My team covers economic and credit research, financial services, sovereigns and all sectors in Latin America. I also ghostwrite annual summaries of our North American Insurance Conference and Credit-Week, a weekly LinkedIn newsletter that provides our forward-looking insights on emerging credit risks and the questions that matter to markets today. Before coming to S&P, I worked as an editor at Continuum Economics, where I wrote about Federal Reserve policy, and as a macroeconomics and debt reporter at a financial newswire. I use what I learned at William & Mary — particularly in money and banking, financial economics and various development

economics classes — every day. As an editor, I'm not usually conducting my own economic analysis, but understanding the concepts and being able to translate them into plain English has served my career. I also met my husband, **(Sean Reilly '16)**, who has B.A. degrees in English and economics), in a development economics class. (Well, OK, we met at a party, but we got to know each other because of the class!) We have two daughters, Quinn (projected class of 2044) and Josephine (projected class of 2046)."

Michael Martocci shared with me: "We sold our company SwagUp in December 2024 and moved our family to Austin, Texas; second kid on the way, loving Texas and recently went to a UT game with my old roommate **Jacob Young**."

Kristen Larrick sent me some really exciting updates: She and four other former W&M Division I volleyball players played in the Charlie Saikley 6-Man Beach Volleyball Tournament in Southern California together back in August. She got the opportunity to play against Olympic beach players like April Ross and more! Kristen played in a pickleball tournament in June and qualified with her partner to play in the upcoming U.S. Open in April in Naples, Florida. Kristen is always in touch with W&M friends, including Tri Deltas at her recent 30th birthday and volleyball teammate weddings in recent years.

2018

Class Reporter
PHOEBE BRANNOCK
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My apologies for my absence last issue. My excuse: I started a new job, bought and immediately started renovating

an antebellum house, and moved back home to the Shenandoah Valley. Last summer, I was offered a job in Miles & Stockbridge's Richmond, Virginia, office, where I would have the option to work from home most days. Obviously, I jumped at the chance to re-orient my work around my life. These days, I squeeze in meetings and emails around trips to the barn and phone calls with my contractor.

Now that I've moved back to God's Country, I'm about 30 minutes away from **Hunter McConville** and his wife, Sophie. **Matt Phillips '17** and **Ryan Harriss** visited all of us one Saturday when Ryan flew back from Texas for a few days. As is the prerogative of a single woman with large antiques, I asked them to move furniture for me. My spindly little settee now sits under the window in the upstairs hallway on creaky floorboards worn with time. It's my favorite spot in the house, and I sometimes work there so I can watch the tractors and livestock trailers drive through my sleepy storybook village. The hound and I have walked to the hamlet's cemetery at the top of the hill and found one of my home's previous owners interred there, a Confederate officer who fell at the Battle of Piedmont. I often wonder what my history professors would think of the property.

Somehow, we all turn 30 this year. I couldn't have predicted my days would revolve around horses, hounds and historic homes at this age; I thought I would still be stuck in a city waiting for retirement to actually start living. Has anyone's life unfolded how they predicted? Please let me know.

Daniel Burns and **Larissa Sloniewsky Burns** married in Westchester, New York,

surrounded by fellow Brown Hall folks from freshman year, including **Jimmy Brown**, who gave a blessing at their reception. Larissa wrote that she and Daniel "feel lucky and honored to have met at W&M and to have stayed in touch with wonderful friends." **Hannah Rennolds '17** is engaged. **Anna Rozelsky Waldo** is married. **Ellie Manspile** wrote to me to report that **Lindsay Dahlgren** and **Luke Pascual '20** tied the knot in Chicago.

Lauren Hoak Ambers and her husband are expecting their first child. As I write this, I am counting the days until **Elizabeth Pokol '20** flies from Boston to Virginia so that we can attend **Hollie Soave's** baby shower. **Hollie** and **Doug Jiang '16** are expecting their first, too, due to arrive in June.

I think I'll stick to my unique brand of chaos for now. I can't imagine throwing a husband and child into the mix. If I did, I'd be running a veritable zoo. Instead, I'll buy some chickens ... and maybe a miniature donkey.

Cheers, PMB

2019

Class Reporter
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2020

Class Reporter
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Hi again, Class of 2020! Here are some updates from our peers: **Ben Russo** and **Ange Olson** married on Oct. 25, 2025, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Melissa Webb Cazzell is currently a third-year medical student at the Eastern Virginia Medical School of Old

Dominion University. She recently attended the Society for Maternal and Fetal Medicine Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, and presented two posters: one on machine learning to predict adverse outcomes of pregnant patients with diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), and another on the area deprivation index and severity of DKA in pregnant patients with pre-existing diabetes.

Jonah Casale has been spending this year serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in Billings, Montana. He works with the Native American Development Corp. doing economic development and empowerment for Native communities and entrepreneurs. He's been enjoying his time in Billings, noting it's been "a cool experience and time of growth." Jonah was also a breakout speaker at the ServeMontana Symposium, which is an AmeriCorps networking conference where all volunteers in Montana come together to meet, share fellowship, and celebrate service accomplishments.

Katie Brownfiel McDonald and her husband were excited to welcome their daughter at the end of April. Katie is currently working as a freelance writer, mainly writing about the military spouse community and life in Guam — all while preparing for a move to Okinawa, Japan, later this summer!

After graduating from law school and passing the bar in 2025, **An Shen** is now an international trade lawyer at a law firm in Washington, D.C. He asks that you please reach out if you are in the area and want to get food!

Juliana Salcedo and her husband, Travis Vandewarker, welcomed a baby boy named Theo last May. Congratulations!

Spencer Gilbert is currently working as a

legislative correspondent (tax, energy, trade and environment) for U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner. He shares that immediately after graduating, he began serving as a special assistant to the secretary of transportation in the Office of Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam. In 2022, Spencer began working as Sen. Warner's deputy scheduler and personal aide, and he has been in his current role since May 2023. He also was the lead staffer for Warner's "Employer Participation in Repayment Act," which made permanent an Internal Revenue Code provision that allows employers to contribute up to \$5,250 tax-free to their employee's student loans each year. This legislation passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by the president in July 2025.

Until next time!

2021 5

Class Reporter
MISO PARK
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Dear all,

I attended my first baby shower! My sophomore year roommate at Chandler Hall, **Gabby Baasandorj '20**, was expecting her first baby boy on March 15.

Now, our classmates!

Chloe Allen said, "I just hit 3.5 years as the administrative coordinator in the College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Office at William & Mary, where part of my role includes event programming and coordination. This past February, for our Open Inquiry Speaker Series, we brought the 24th U.S. poet laureate, Ada Limón, to campus for a poetry workshop and keynote poetry reading. It was great to be part of an event that celebrated the arts and concluded W&M's Year of the Environment!"

Aria Austin has

transitioned from almost five years of working on Capitol Hill into the private sector in December. She is now a public affairs advisor at Holland & Knight. She is also Miss Cherry Blossom 2026 and will be competing at Miss District of Columbia in June. Lastly, she traveled to Italy for two weeks: "One of my fav stops was in Orvieto where I met Il Mago di Oz or The Wizard of Orvieto. Spending time in his magical little shop is one of my most fav travel memories."

Corey Bridges said, "October marks four years since I joined National Public Radio, where my journey began in 2021 as an intern on the podcasts 'Planet Money' and 'The Indicator.' After my internship, I became a full-time producer for 'The Indicator,' covering stories on current economic trends from recent high inflation to the current administration's ongoing trade war. I've also had the great opportunity to lead the production of two successful series for 'The Indicator.' The first came in 2023, chronicling the origins of the online creator economy and what it means for Gen Z's future. The second was published a year later and detailed several of the pillars that make up the multibillion-dollar video game industry. Working at 'The Indicator'/'Planet Money' was and still is a dream job for me. That's been the case going all the way back to my early years at William & Mary. And this only crystallized for me when I was able to combine my interest in the dismal science of economics with my participation in WCWM. I honestly don't think I'd be where I am today without both the economics department and my favorite college radio station."

Sarah Farney and **Drew Weber** got engaged on Nov. 29, 2025. They are planning a May 2027 wedding in Wil-

liamsburg.

Shianne R. Randolph '21, J.D. '25 has joined the Richmond law firm of Christian & Barton LLP as an associate. She will focus her legal practice on electricity, natural gas, water, telecommunications, cable television and other public utility regulatory matters.

Ryan Vossler shared that his wedding to **Sophia Kruk '23** is scheduled for this September in Virginia. "One thing I learned at W&M is whom I want to spend the rest of my life with," he wrote. "We met at William & Mary and have been together ever since."

Madeleine Walker is currently a third-year Ph.D. student in agricultural and resource economics at UC Davis in California! Before starting the doctoral program, she worked for two years at W&M's AidData research lab. She says, "In large part thanks to the enriching, diverse experiences I had during both my time in undergrad in the W&M economics department and working at AidData, I received the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship in 2023 which fully funds me for three years of my Ph.D. I am super thankful to the excellent professors, small class sizes and unique opportunities at William & Mary that encouraged me to envision a career path in academic economics that seemed completely impossible when I started college."

Ryan W. Weber '21, J.D. '25 and **Alex Liubinskis** were named as new associates for the Wood Rogers law firm.

2022

Class Reporter
SELAM BERHANE
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Hello everyone!
I hope you've been do-

ing well and taking care of yourselves! After a harsh winter here on the East Coast, I think it's fair to say we are all welcoming the warmer weather with open arms. But until it arrives, let me keep you entertained with some updates from members of our graduating class:

Eli Gnesin took a new job as a data scientist at Rippling, has moved back to New York City and is looking forward to reconnecting with old William & Mary friends. It's always a good time to reconnect and reminisce with your besties!

In January, **Brian Wu** went on a ski trip to Massanutten Ski Resort in Virginia with fellow 2022 classmates **Franklin Liu**, **Spencer Bao** and **Penny Zhang**. It was his first time skiing, which began as a daunting and challenging task. Once he got the hang of it, it quickly became enjoyable and helped him to get out of his comfort zone. Now I'm inspired to get out and try something new, thanks to Brian!

Jack Thomas '22, M.P.P. '23 is director of congressional engagement and public policy at the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD). Since graduating, he earned his master's in public policy at William & Mary, and began working at NICD, where he manages public policy research and strives to engage America's political differences more constructively, primarily by bolstering bipartisan coalitions in Congress. Recently, the organization championed grassroots bipartisan agreement on extending Pell Grants to shorter-term career-connected learning opportunities. The proposals aimed to make economic mobility more affordable and increase access to higher paying, more meaningful jobs. Jack's time as an economics major at William & Mary undoubtedly set him up for success in a field where critical thinking,

research literacy and understanding the broad implications of economic policy are essential. He's even been able to absorb social science studies and conduct more quantitative polling because of the broad and deep economics curriculum. Even in a policy-first job, he has felt incredibly lucky to have taken courses from the faculty at W&M. Way to go, Jack! (Read more about him in the "Bridging Divides" story on page 54.)

Christian Marsh '22, J.D. '25 made his onscreen sports commentary debut for the 2026 Winter Cup Feb. 21-22 in Louisville, Kentucky. Christian is a six-time USAG Collegiate All-American from William & Mary who has experience in front of a microphone as co-host of the "Podnastics!" podcast. "I am both humbled and excited by the opportunity to join the 2026 Winter Cup livestream," he says. "This is truly a dream opportunity for me. I hope my knowledge, experience and love of the sport enhance what is sure to be a fun viewer experience."

"In the fall, I'll be headed back to school to attend Georgetown University for law school! I'll just be a hop, skip, and jump across the river from my current stomping grounds. It won't be like my dear alma mater W&M, but I'll try my best to make new memories! Hopefully, I'll be able to reconnect with some W&M alums who find themselves there as well."

That's all for now. Please get out and do something marvelous this summer so you can keep sending stories in! It's always a pleasure to reconnect with you all.

2023

Class Reporter
JULIA DEKORTE
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Happy spring, class of 2023! Just think, three years ago we were embarking on our final walks through CW as students, waiting for the arrival of the baby lambs and the Second Sunday festivals.

As I'm writing this, we're still deep in the trenches of winter, and in New York it's been brutal. By the time you're reading this, we've all made it out alive — happy spring, indeed!

Other than nearly losing my fingers to frostbite in January (only half kidding!), no major updates from me! Still living in New York, regularly catching up with my girls: **Caroline TenEyck '21** is finishing up at Georgetown Law as we speak (!), **Kate Vermilyea '22** is finishing up her first year at Georgetown Law, **Rebecca Rogers '22** is beginning her fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Richmond this fall, **Deirdre Ambrosi '24** has taken her boards and is ready to become New York City's newest registered nurse! So proud of all my friends.

William Tatum passed along his update: "Post-college life has been certainly interesting. I have created a children's book for the Children's Museum of Richmond as a part of their residency program; I interned as a graphic designer with Greater Richmond Transit Co.; led youth in meaningful workshops intended to give them tools to reflect on their community and society as a whole; and I hosted my own art exhibition to a pretty engaged audience. I have been working hard as a visual artist post-W&M and now find myself as an art teacher at a local middle school. Still working to find a balance between my practice and teaching, but I find myself getting closer to it week by week!"

Caitlin Chang moved to Pittsburgh and got

engaged to **Jesse Der-ringer '22, M.S.'24!** Congratulations!

Aanchal Goenka gave a TEDx William & Mary talk titled "Wonder Isn't Lost, It's Simply Waiting For You to Re-discover It."

Kathryn Webb is serving in the Peace Corps as a volunteer in Moldova, where she teaches English, personal development and career preparation at a youth center.

Congratulations to everyone on all their achievements, big and small. No achievement too small to report to the Class Notes — send me your news! Go Tribe!

2024

Class Reporter

MARY BETH BAUERMANN
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Hi Class of 2024,

It was so lovely to hear from so many of you! We have lots of exciting news to share and many congratulations are in order.

Katie Richardson shares: "I recently moved to Jacksonville, Florida, for work, and am looking forward to getting involved with the community and meeting any W&M alumni who live in the area."

Karina Burton shares: "I've chosen to attend VCU to get my Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and will join their class of 2029 starting in June. I'm excited to move from Northern Virginia to the Richmond area for this new adventure and maybe see some old classmates there as well!" Congrats, Karina!

Jason Bao wrote: "I'd like to share that I graduated with a master's degree in management from Georgetown University last year and have started working as a financial analyst at the Mitre Corp. in McLean, Virginia." Congrats, Jason!

Nia Austin writes: "Currently living in Basque Country Spain teaching English at a secondary school. I've had the opportunity so far to travel in Spain, Germany, Ireland and the U.K.! I think my favorite was seeing my classmate Lili in Dublin this fall."

Chloe Goodsell published a paper in the Journal of Experimental Zoology with W&M professor Jon Allen and collaborators from the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology about the discovery of the oldest known ribbon worm. Look for a link in our online Class Notes.

Anna Marie Flatt '24, M.P.P. '25 shared this news with the economics department at W&M: "Started as a program analyst at the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) in August after earning my M.P.P. at W&M; from May-August, before starting at DPB, I had a contract position with the American Public Health Association, and a paper I wrote on 'Food Is Medicine' programs is now published on their website."

Shaun Mathew '24, M.P.P. '25 sent this news and a photo via the economics department at W&M: "I graduated with my M.P.P. from W&M in 2025. I joined the Virginia Department of Energy's Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank, a state program that funds clean energy projects in the Commonwealth."

Adam Farris sent a photo via the economics department at W&M of himself and **Chase Jordan '15** in NYC for Climate Week events hosted by their firm, EY.

Alec Veit sent this to the W&M Alumni Association via an online form: "I graduated from W&M in 2024. Being in touch with fellow alumni, I learned that many are still actively looking for or interviewing for jobs, whether for

entry-level roles or for more experienced roles as people look for a new challenge. I partnered with a former Global Fortune 500 executive to build Skillity (skillity.ai), an adaptive and tailored artificial intelligence interview practice platform that helps job-seekers practice interviews and receive clear, actionable feedback for any industry or experience level. To support and give back to the W&M alumni community, I am offering all alumni a discount for our platform. Just enter the code WMALUM25 at checkout."

So many members of our class are doing exciting things!

I have some news of my own to share as well: This May, I will receive an en-route master's in music, which brings me one step closer to finishing my Ph.D. program! I also had a lovely opportunity to connect with the W&M alumni community here in Charlottesville recently. **Alice Baughman** and I enjoyed a W&M Alumni Association event in January, which was held at UVA's McCormick Observatory. It was a great evening, even though the astronomy professor leading the tour said that UVA was the best school in Virginia ... Don't worry, we all boomed.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you with updates for the fall column. Have a wonderful spring and summer!

2025

Class Reporter

JACKSON MAYNARD
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Hope you all stayed warm and enjoyed your winter! Here is some news from the winter leading us into spring.

Kyle Lewis-Johnson worked last summer with the Camp Launch program through W&M School of Education's

Center for Gifted Education. Kyle also finished working at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond and moved to Norfolk, Virginia, where he has been enrolled in a Ph.D. chemistry program at Old Dominion University since July. Kyle returned to campus this fall for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend and has participated in numerous W&M traditions and events whenever he can. He says, "This winter, I went back to Richmond, met up with alumni and close friends from my time on campus and also started researching in my research lab. I most recently went back to campus to tour the ISC4 expansion, and many of the construction projects at William & Mary were in the process of finishing."

Drew Withers is continuing his journey at William & Mary by pursuing a master's in accounting, while simultaneously studying to take the certified public accountant exam. He has also been hired to work at PBMares, an accounting firm that works in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina.

Adrian Bravo '12 recently published a piece in "Substance Use & Misuse" with **Isabela Ortiz Caso**. Look for a link to an article in our online Class Notes.

Sophia Famiglietti has begun her physician assistant program at South University in Savannah, Georgia. She will complete 15 months of didactic training, followed by 12 months of clinical rotations. She says, "I'm already learning so much from my professors at South and performing my first patient physical exams."

Clayton Emge has begun working as a government & public services consulting analyst at Deloitte in Rosslyn, Virginia. Clayton shares his praise of the economic department, "William & Mary and the econom-

ics department helped me so much to succeed and be a well-rounded applicant for jobs. The work ethic and skills I learned is something I carry with me at work!"

Rachel Oduntan has begun her career in economic consulting at KPMG US, where she works in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. She is also preparing to pursue her M.S. in applied economics at Boston College, which she will be starting part time and remotely in August. Rachel says, "My time and education at William & Mary prepared me for the tenacity of the economic consulting world, specifically the advanced econometrics classes I took in the economics department, which allowed me to learn the necessary quantitative tools and data techniques that are vital for my job. Pursuing an honors thesis sharpened my data management, writing, and research skills, which is why I am currently contributing to a white paper. William & Mary also fostered my curiosity — my liberal arts education is the reason I now consider myself a lifelong learner. I am excited to make significant contributions to industries and develop into an economist who can improve decision making, enhance welfare and encourage prosperity."

Arts & Sciences

Graduate School Reporter

JULIA KAZIEWICZ COLLIER PH.D. '15
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Hello A&S grads! I am happy to be serving as your new class reporter. All of our stories are important, so please send in any news you'd like to share so we can celebrate YOU. Photos would be great, too. Looking

forward to your emails!
Julia xx

Jody L. Allen Ph.D. '07 (history) was profiled by Virginia Public Media in coordination with the publication of her new book "Roses in December: Black Life in Hanover County from Civil War to Civil Rights" (UVA Press, 2025). Look for a link to the article in our online Class Notes.

Amanda Allen Beheler '92, M.A. '95, Bryan Watts M.A. '87 and Dana Bradshaw '81, M.A. '90 detailed their experiences working on a decades-long peregrine falcon popular restoration project in an article for W&M News published December 2025.

Susan Wise Bauer M.A. '94, Ph.D. '07 published a new book, "The Great Shadow: A History of How Sickness Shapes What We Do, Think, Believe, and Buy" (St. Martin's Press, 2026), which uses extensive historical research and first-person accounts to tell a vivid story about sickness and our responses to it, from very ancient times until the last decade. Read a review from The Wall Street Journal that's linked in our online Class Notes.

Matthew A. Chapman '90, M.S. '99, is the new associate director of cybersecurity education and workforce development for the William & Mary Cybersecurity Center. In the new role, he is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity education, expanding workforce development initiatives and enhancing cross-campus collaboration. He said his focus is to prepare students to enter the global cybersecurity workforce.

John Fitzhugh Miller M.A. '81 has a new book out called "Colonial Black and Indigenous Cultural Leaders" (Resource Publications). The book contains biographies of 82 people who were music composers,

master builders, architects, sculptors, painters, potters, silversmiths, writers, poets, teachers, actors, diplomats, businesspeople, clergy, political leaders and military heroes. The text expands our knowledge of black and Indigenous folks from the 18th century forward.

Matt Strickler M.P.P. '07, M.S. '07 announced his bid for the Democratic nomination for Virginia's 2nd Congressional District. Matt lives in Northampton County with his wife, Laura, in the same Eastern Shore farmhouse where his grandparents helped raise him. He has spent his career in government service, including roles at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and as deputy assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Holly Stevens White M.A. '12, Ph.D. '17 (history), a William & Mary history department adjunct instructor, wrote her first book, "Constructing American Childhood" (UVA Press), which was set for release May 1. Through analyzing historical documents and records, Holly writes of a history of age-based laws in America to answer the question of why subjective age restrictions still exist today and who these laws benefit through the intersections of race, gender and class.

Mason School of Business

Graduate School Reporter

LEE C. RUSSELL
M.B.A. '81

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By the time you

receive this issue, our Graduate Business Alumni Celebration (scheduled for April 24-26) will have taken place, but I am hoping to have seen many of you at the various events and activities scheduled for that weekend, including Dean Mooradian's Welcome and Reception, a Milestone Reunion Dinner, classroom sessions, a reception for Dean's Circle donors and Quittmeyer Society members (those of us who graduated 40 years or more ago), and fun local activities.

As always, I'd appreciate your sharing with me your news, both professional and personal achievements, and notable life events. I look forward to hearing from you!

Tricia Jewell M.B.A. '81 retired from NASA in 2020 after 28 years as a schedule/risk analyst supporting the Earth System Science Program office. Tricia's somewhat circuitous career route started at Eastman Kodak in Rochester, New York, following graduation from the MBA program. Her adventures in upstate New York lasted three and a half winters until she decided that enough was enough, and she then returned to Virginia and Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS). Her positions at NNS involved production control but also diverted into the rapidly emerging world of computerized scheduling as both a user and developer — the person who, while in the MBA program, shut down the developing computer systems at W&M, learned how to program properly! In retirement, Tricia spends her time quilting, cross-stitching, gardening and traveling. Along with her daughter, she also helps her neighbors with animal rescue.

Lee Powell '74, M.B.A. '81 has been elected to the W&M Alumni Association

Board of Directors, and will begin serving a three-year term. Lee built a career leading corporate teams with AMF Corp. and Capital One, focusing on business growth and performance turnarounds in the U.S., the U.K. and India. He became a managing director at Morse Capital Partners, focusing on the benefits of different types of investments in the energy sector. Lee has remained closely connected to W&M as a lead class ambassador and represents the Class of 1974 on the Olde Guard Council as co-chair and also as chair of its College Relations Committee.

Howard Turner Jr. M.B.A. '02 was recently profiled by the W&M Alumni Magazine (fall 2025 issue). Howard joined McKinstry in 2024 as senior director of preconstruction and risk management. He obtained engineering degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Virginia, and began his career with McKinney Co. during the late-1990s construction boom. He then spent 20 years with Trane, advancing through various positions and eventually becoming director of energy preconstruction with Trane Technologies. In 2000, Howard entered W&M's Mason School of Business Executive MBA (EMBA) program, which he credits as a turning point in his career, providing the tools to lead a business, the language to connect across disciplines and the perspective to navigate complexity with purpose. Howard remains a strong advocate for the EMBA program, recommending it to colleagues and even his wife, **Hanna Phair Turner M.B.A. '04**. **Cathie France Vick M.B.A. '17** was selected as one of Women We Admire's "Top 50 Women Leaders of Virginia Beach for 2025." In

November 2025, Cathie started in a new position as strategic negotiator for market development advocacy with Google's Global Infrastructure and Energy team. Prior to joining Google, she was the vice president of government and corporate affairs for Transurban North America, where she led government affairs, corporate governance, marketing and communications, and sustainability. Before that, she served as chief development and public affairs officer for the Port of Virginia. Cathie is past president and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and takes an active role in political and civic life by serving on several boards, including Sentara Health Plans, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, TowneBank Virginia Beach and Virginia Clean Cities.

School of Education

Graduate School Reporter

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Law School

Graduate School Reporter

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The W&M Law School family has lost the following friends and colleagues: **Nicholas St. George '60, B.C.L. '65** (8/21/25); **Walter A. Smith III J.D. '68** (10/22/25); **David K. Sutelan J.D. '68** (1/30/26); **Michael Brittin J.D. '79** (4/8/25); **Karen M. Kennedy J.D. '79** (12/22/25); **David K. Ziemer J.D. '91**

(12/31/25) and Professor Emeritus John W. Lee.

Sara A. Austin J.D. '90, has been inducted as a fellow in the Community Associations Institute's (CAI) College of Community Association Lawyers (CCAL).

The Hon. **Brendan Shannon J.D. '92** received the Norton Award for Judicial Excellence from the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges in September 2025.

Charles L. Young III J.D. '97 has been confirmed as general counsel of the U.S. Department of the Army.

Melinda B. Kaufmann J.D. '98 has been elected as a member of Pullman & Comley, LLC.

Nikki Wilson Crary J.D. '01 has been elevated to principal in the Orange County, California office of Jackson Lewis.

Thomas Brzozowski '96, J.D. '02 launched a new consulting practice, Redoubt Advisory LLC.

Daniel D. Rounds '04, J.D. '07 has joined Fox Rothschild in Washington, D.C., as a partner.

Robert "Rob" Poggenklass J.D. '10 was awarded the 2025 Leadership and Service Award by Cornell College's Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Steven G. Poppo '06, J.D. '10 returns to McGuireWoods as a partner in Richmond, Virginia, and co-leader of the firm's State AG Investigations & Enforcement team.

Thomas C. Moyer '08, J.D. '12 has joined Bracewell's Washington, D.C., office as a partner in its government enforcement and investigations practice.

The 2026 Virginia Black Film Festival, founded by **Bryan Thompson J.D. '12**, moved from Hampton to Williamsburg for its third year.

Valentine Uduebor J.D. '12 has been promoted to partner at

Spencer Fane.

Joshua D. Stiff J.D. '13 was promoted to partner with Whiteford Taylor Preston LLP.

Joseph A. Figueroa J.D. '14 has joined Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law (LMU Law) as an assistant professor of law.

Ravi P. Patel J.D. '16 was promoted to partner at Troutman Pepper Locke.

Amber R. Will J.D. '16, M.P.P. '16 has been promoted to partner at Morrison Cohen LLP.

Katherine Lennon Ellis J.D. '17 has been promoted to principal at Woods Rogers in the firm's Norfolk office.

Elizabeth J. Plowman J.D. '17 has been promoted to partner at Herrick Feinstein LLP.

Savannah G. Kingery J.D. '25 has joined Williams Mullen's Labor, Employment & Immigration Section in the Virginia Beach office.

Christian Marsh '22, J.D. '25 made his onscreen sports commentary debut for the 2026 Winter Cup in Louisville, Kentucky.

Shianne R. Randolph '21, J.D. '25 has joined Christian & Barton LLP in Richmond as an associate.

Ryan W. Weber '21, J.D. '25 has joined Woods Rogers in the firm's Norfolk office.

Batten School & VIMS

Graduate School Reporters

ELIZABETH HINCHEY MALLOY

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JANET NESTLERODE

M.A. '96, PH.D. '04
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Joseph W. Smith M.A. '80 called in a quip that he published a book, "Menhaden, A Biologist's Thirty-Two Year Journey

With the Fish and the Fishery." This extensive review of menhaden life history and the fisheries that harvest them is available for purchase through online retailers. According to the publisher's news release, "Smith draws on journal publications, bench science and field work to provide a comprehensive view of menhaden research and status of the fishery stocks. Written with both academic precision and a delightful, humorous tone, 'Menhaden' is easy reading that stays engaging even when diving into technical topics." Joe worked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration laboratory in Beaufort, North Carolina, for over three decades and retired in 2015. While at the Beaufort Lab, he managed the fishery-dependent data for the menhaden fisheries, one of the nation's oldest and largest fisheries.

Joe also shared news of the passing of former VIMS faculty member **John V. Merriner** on Jan. 6 in Winchester, Virginia. John began his VIMS career in the anadromous fish program in the early 1970s. Later, he became a senior marine scientist, head of the ichthyology department, and associate professor of marine science at W&M and the University of Virginia. John left VIMS in 1983 for the position of chief of fisheries at NOAA's Beaufort Lab. John guided numerous master's and Ph.D. students through W&M's degree programs.

We learned of three recent retirements of alumni from VIMS' 1988 matriculating class.

Marty Cavalluzzi M.A. '92, Ph.D. '00

retired in October as president of Olympic College in Bremerton, Washington, where he oversaw college leadership and operations and led Olympic through the COVID-19 pandemic and transitions to online

learning and services. Marty's career in higher ed includes roles as dean of math and science at Seattle Central Community College, vice president of instruction and chief academic officer at Edmonds Community College, and president at Pierce College. Marty reports that his tactic of writing "bake chocolate chip cookies for Marty" in friends' and colleagues' calendars still gets results. **Laurence Libelo Ph.D. '95** retired in December 2025 and **Kathryn Gallagher Ph.D. '95** retired in January after both served more than 28 years at EPA. Kathryn held a number of positions during her EPA career, most recently as chief of the health and ecological criteria branch in the Office of Water, where she led her team to develop aquatic life water quality criteria. She served as chief of the science support branch in the Office of Pollution Prevention in Toxics, executive director of the Risk Assessment Forum, Science and Technology Policy Council staff team leader, toxics coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Program and an ecological risk assessor in the Office of Pesticide Programs. While a post-doc at the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, she conducted research in comparative toxicology. During Laurence's EPA career, he provided expertise on the fate, transport and exposure of fluorochemicals and pesticides. He served in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance, in the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation as chief for the Science Policy Branch, and in the Toxic Risk Assessment Division in the Office of Pollution Prevention. Prior to joining EPA, he studied contaminant hydrogeology and remediation of fuel, solvent and

Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) chemicals at the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory and worked for the U.S. Geological Survey and a private contractor on groundwater transport, environmental monitoring and microwave interaction with silicon and oxide crystal structures. Kathryn and Laurence are empty nesters with two kids in college.

Readers: This column doesn't get written without your input, so we need your news to make it a fun read. Don't be shy and Call-in your "Quips" to your class reporters, Scoop Hinchey and Newshound Nestlerode. Classic Glo-Quips Readers' Call-In style news stories are always welcome, and please include "VIMS Quips" in the email subject line so we don't miss it — y'all know who you are!

Business Accelerator

Dustin Dunbar '09 led soldiers before he led startups. Now he draws on his experience to invest in up-and-coming businesses

BY JEREMY NORMAN



FULL CIRCLE:
After years of military service and a pivot into finance, Dunbar now calls Richmond, Virginia, home and helps young founders build theirs.

DUSTIN DUNBAR '09 CAN TRACE HIS CONNECTION to William & Mary back to a third-grade field trip.

Growing up in a military family, he moved often. His parents were both Air Force officers, and by the time he was in elementary school, he was living in Northern Virginia. A school trip to Williamsburg left an impression on Dunbar.

"I absolutely fell in love with Williamsburg," he says. An elementary school teacher who accompanied Dunbar on the trip — Renee Kriz Brodnik '94 — made the university feel even more personal. "She was one of the foundational people in my life at a very young age."

Even as his family moved to Oklahoma and later Texas, the idea of William & Mary stayed with him. However, his path to the university was anything but direct.

After high school, Dunbar attended the U.S. Naval Academy, influenced in part by his goal of becoming a Marine. When things did not go as planned, he left and enrolled at McKendree University in Illinois. Dunbar focused on his academics, determined to earn another opportunity.

William & Mary was now his goal. When he visited again, he found himself remembering details from that first trip and earlier tours. "It just reintroduced me to my love for Williamsburg," he says.

He applied, was accepted and finally made it back to what he calls his "first love."

At William & Mary, Dunbar studied marketing at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business, drawn to the field because it combined creativity with data and decision-making.

"I was always fascinated by advertising," he says. "I wanted to understand how companies

PHOTO: TIMOTHY D. SOFRANKO

decide who they're going to sell to and how they're going to do it."

At the same time, he was a member of the ROTC. Dunbar's original plan was to enter the Army Reserve after graduation while pursuing a civilian career. However, as the job market tightened during the 2007-08 financial crisis and the military expanded its need for active-duty officers, that plan changed.

"I just kind of felt the call," he says.

Dunbar transitioned to active duty in the U.S. Army in 2010. Over the next several years, he served in Germany with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and later at Fort Campbell with the 101st Airborne Division, completing three deployments to Afghanistan.

His military experience shaped how he approaches leadership and problem-solving.

In the Army, responsibility comes quickly. At 24, he was leading about 50 soldiers. By 30, he was directing around 100 people across multiple locations.

"You are thrown into leadership positions at a very young age," he says. "You learn how to run an organization and how to build a culture."

He also learned to question assumptions and prioritize turning ideas into results. It was not enough to believe something would work; Dunbar had to understand how it would work and what would happen if it did not.

"That operator lens really stuck with me," he says.

After leaving the military in 2018, Dunbar and his wife decided to settle in Richmond, Virginia. He pursued a master's degree in finance and began looking for opportunities. However, breaking into the field was challenging.

His William & Mary network made a difference.

At a "Breakfast, Bagels and Business Cards" alumni event, he met James "Jim" Ukrop '60, L.H.D. '99, P '85, G '25, who, inspired by Dunbar's service, encouraged him to share his résumé. That connection led to interviews and, within a couple of weeks, a job at Capital One.

"The William & Mary network is one of the biggest reasons I have a job," he says. "I will never forget that."

At Capital One, he spent two years learning the fundamentals of banking and finance, developing a better understanding of how money moves and how institutions evaluate risk. Over time, he realized he wanted to move closer to the companies themselves.

That interest led him to venture capital.

Dunbar, who now serves as senior investment associate at Virginia Venture Partners, was drawn to the long-term relationships involved in investing and the opportunity to work directly with founders as they build their businesses.



"You're investing in people," he says. "And you're helping them grow over 10 or 12 years."

His portfolio includes such companies as Electra.Aero (aircraft that take off and land in just 150 feet), Brandefy (duplicates of luxury skin care and fragrance products), Applied Impact Robotics (robots that can operate in crude oil sludge) and Tiga AI (artificial intelligence-driven business-to-business sales tools). Dunbar looks for entrepreneurs with deep knowledge of their field and a clear understanding of their customers. Strong ideas matter, but so does knowing how to bring those ideas to market and scale them effectively.

"You need a go-to-market motion that is repeatable and scalable," Dunbar says. "If you don't have that, you just have a product and a dream."

He also encourages founders to stay focused on the problem they are trying to solve, rather than becoming too attached to a single solution.

"The good companies pivot," he says. "If you're focused on the problem, you'll find the best solution."

Dunbar remains closely connected to William & Mary. He regularly speaks with students and participates in professional development programming, sharing what he has learned along the way.

For him, the motivation is simple.

"It's about paying it forward," he says. "People did that for me, and I want to do the same."

Looking ahead, Dunbar hopes to continue building connections across industries and communities. He wants to help bridge gaps between entrepreneurs, investors and institutions, making it easier for people to access the resources they need.

"I want to be a super connector," he says. "I want to be someone who can help align all the different pieces."

INVESTING IN PEOPLE: *Dunbar says the W&M network was instrumental in advancing his career. He pays it forward by helping others make connections.*

In Memoriam

READ FULL OBITUARIES ONLINE

Below are the names of members of the William & Mary community whose passing was reported between Sept. 16, 2025, and Feb. 1, 2026.

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.

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI

Frank V. Emmerson '48, B.C.L. '58 of Williamsburg died Dec. 23, 2025.

Mary "Tuga" Wilson Adams '49 of Gastonia, North Carolina, died Aug. 7, 2025.

Stuart Ashman '49, G '26 of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died Nov. 9, 2025.

Betty Davis Miller '49 of Tallahassee, Florida, died Jan. 2, 2026.

Margaret Brewer Young '49 of Roanoke, Virginia, died Nov. 30, 2025.

Edward "Ed" D. Brown '50 of Sarasota, Florida, died March 4, 2023.

Owen N. Taylor '50 of Billings, Montana, died Nov. 17, 2025.

Virginia "Ginie" Crosby Underhill '51 of Winston Salem, North Carolina, died Jan. 22, 2026.

Paulette Chambers Van de Zande '51, P '80 died Jan. 18, 2026.

Kathryn "Kay" Byers Haggard '52 of Centennial, Colorado, died Feb. 2, 2021.

Virginia Cottrell Linkenauger '52, M.Ed. '69 of Lanexa, Virginia, died Sept. 24, 2025.

Carroll Walker Sultan '52 of Honolulu, Hawaii, died Oct. 5, 2025.

Camille Grimes Whitcomb '52 of Naples, Florida, died Nov. 26, 2025.

Nathanael "Nat" G. Herreshoff '53 of Westhampton, New York, died Nov. 25, 2025.

Treasure Rissinger Johnson '54, P '79, P '91 of Mattaponi, Virginia, died Oct. 29, 2024.

Catherine "Trink" Stewart McCarthy '54 of Tappahannock, Virginia, died Sept. 27, 2025.

Gloria Smith Potter '54 of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died Dec. 3, 2025.

Earl Linwood Cox '55 of Herndon, Virginia, died Oct. 25, 2025.

Frederic "Fred" S. LaCroix '55, P '94 of Des Moines, Iowa, died Jan. 20, 2026.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Johnson Ormerod '55 of Palm Harbor, Florida, died Oct. 1, 2025.

Frank W. Riley '55 of Mahopac, New York, died Oct. 18, 2025.

Patricia "Patti" Beggs Westberg '55, P '77 of Williamsburg died June 13, 2025.

Howard L. Golwen '56, P '83, P '86 of Memphis, Tennessee, died Jan. 13, 2026.

Shirley Ross Blaes '57, P '80, P '84, G '14 of Williamsburg died Sept. 26, 2025.

Ronald "Ron" S. Clark '57 of Fairfax Station, Virginia, died Sept. 24, 2025.

Anne Callis Jones '57 of Williamsburg died Sept. 26, 2025.

Robert "Bob" O. McClintock '57, P '82, G '17 of Jacksonville, Florida, died Dec. 21, 2025.

Richard H. Moiel '57 of Houston, Texas, died Sept. 13, 2025.

Sally Darner Nicholas '57, P '78 of Vienna, Virginia, died Nov. 18, 2025.

Elizabeth "Liz" Mitchell Day '58 of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 20, 2025.

Mary "Di" Dianitia Hutcheson '58 of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, died Nov. 25, 2025.

Barbara Doan Streifeld '58 of West Hartford, Connecticut, died Jan. 12, 2026.

Lois Garrison Branch '60 of Randolph, New Jersey, died July 2, 2025.

Judith "Judy" Dickerson Bullock '60 of Atlanta, Georgia, died Oct. 5, 2025.

Atwell Thomas Hamilton '60 of Richmond, Virginia, died Oct. 14, 2025.

Margaret "Margie" Fitton Hixon '60 of Montgomery, Alabama, died July 22, 2025.

Abigail "Abbe" Furst Newbury '60, B.C.L. '62 of Denver, Colorado, died Dec. 20, 2025.

Mary Louise "Mary-Lou" Hagen Taylor '60 of Midlothian, Virginia, died Aug. 17, 2025.

Carol "CL" Krider Vaughn '60 of Canton, Ohio, died Nov. 14, 2025.

Judith Leach Whitcomb '60 of Mechanicsville, Virginia, died April 28, 2025.

Brynn F. Aurelius '62 of Houston, Texas, died Nov. 30, 2025.

Susan "Griggsey" Griggs Braman '62 of Titusville, Florida, died Dec. 21, 2025.

Elwood F. Harrison '62 of Mechanicsville, Virginia, died Nov. 30, 2025.

Stephen K. Anderson '63 of Rockville Centre, New York, died Sept. 23, 2025.

Amy Rodabaugh Bays '63 of Marietta, Ohio, died Dec. 22, 2025.

Linda "Lynn" Cooper Hutton '63 of Newburyport, Massachusetts, died Nov. 16, 2025.

Sharon Heffington Dearth '64 of Newport News, Virginia, died Dec. 27, 2025.

Helen Mageras Elks '64 of Chesapeake, Virginia, died Dec. 24, 2024.

Ann Parks Fredd '64 of Edenton, North Carolina, died April 2024.

Alice Hall Lynn '64 of Ashburn, Virginia, died Sept. 16, 2025.

Nancy Baumgardner Pakter '64 of Berkeley, California, died July 7, 2025.

Patricia "Pat" McHenry Sullivan '64 of Shenandoah, Virginia, died Oct. 20, 2025.

Carl "Phil" P. Tutschek '64 of Saint Augustine, Florida, died Dec. 8, 2025.

Lawrence "Larry" E. Bolton '65, J.D. '68 of Raleigh, North Carolina, died Nov. 12, 2025.

Susan Roberts Chadd '65 of Northfield, Illinois, died Sept. 8, 2025.

Virginia "Ginny" Rose Cherry '66 of Stony Creek, Virginia, died Sept. 29, 2025.

Julia “Judy” Sullivan McKnight ’66 of Arlington, Virginia, died Dec. 23, 2025.

Brenda M. Robertson ’66 of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, died Sept. 1, 2025.

Ray Gowin ’67 of Johns Island, South Carolina, died Sept. 27, 2025.

John R. Gilliss ’68 of Chincoteague, Virginia, died Nov. 12, 2025.

Grover C. Howard ’68 of Frederick, Maryland, died 7, 2025.

Douglas “Doug” E. Jacobson ’68 of Valrico, Florida, died Oct. 26, 2025.

Carol Roller Litchfield ’68 of Cary, North Carolina, died Nov. 5, 2025.

Charles E. Shreeves ’68 of Lone Tree, Iowa, died Jan. 7, 2026.

Nancy Guthrie Summers ’68 of Lexington, Virginia, died Dec. 13, 2025.

Michael “Mike” B. Chesson ’69 of Belmont, Massachusetts, died Dec. 14, 2025.

George W. Goode ’69 of Winchester, Virginia, died Oct. 8, 2025.

Michael T. Jones ’69 of Fountain Hills, Arizona, died May 1, 2025.

Everett “Tim” D. Marvin ’69 of Spokane, Washington, died Aug. 15, 2025.

Myer “Butch” S. Reed ’69 of Phoenix, Arizona, died Oct. 16, 2025.

Donald “Joe” J. Wingo ’69 of Newport News, Virginia, died Sept. 15, 2025.

Mary Wakefield Buxton ’70, P ’07 of Cleveland, Ohio, died Nov. 7, 2025.

Leroy P. Kelly ’70 of Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, died Nov. 6, 2024.

Robert “Bob” H. Campbell ’71, M.S. ’73 of The Woodlands, Texas, died Nov. 6, 2025.

Stephen “Steve” H. Mitchell ’71 of Ellcott City, Maryland, died Jan. 14, 2026.

Michael L. Wood ’72 of Yorktown, Virginia, died Dec. 9, 2025.

John E. Oliver ’72 of Henrico, Virginia, died May 9, 2024.

Linda S. Etheridge ’72 of Chesapeake, Virginia, died June 14, 2024.

Douglas “Doug” A. Hartwick ’72 of Charlottesville, Virginia, died May 22, 2025.

James Allen Grant ’72 of Chaptico, Maryland, died Feb. 13, 2025.

Merritt W. Foster ’73 of Richmond, Virginia, died Aug. 8, 2024.

Edward S. Fraley ’73 of Richmond, Virginia, died Dec. 28, 2023.

Thomas “Tom” V. Harris ’73 of Benicia, California, died Dec. 31, 2025.

Dena Donigian Leadbetter ’73 of Midlothian, Virginia, died Oct. 14, 2025.

Mary “MJ” Gregory Conway ’74 of Kilmarnock, Virginia, died Dec. 30, 2025.

Michael “Mike” K. Pilgrim ’74 of Norfolk, Virginia, died Sept. 26, 2025.

Charles D. Mattox ’75 of Lynch Station, Virginia, died Dec. 1, 2025.

Jean White Pohling ’75 of Carrollton, Virginia, died Nov. 25, 2025.

Biagio A. Sancetta ’75, M.B.A. ’79 of Coupeville, Washington, died Jan. 2, 2026.

Deborah “Deb” L. Mayer ’77 of New York, New York, died Jan. 13, 2026.

Brian D. Coad ’79 of Brooklyn, New York, died Sept. 23, 2025.

Carol Habich Ford ’79 of Brownstown, Pennsylvania, died Nov. 28, 2025.

Kathryn T. Graham ’80 of Vallejo, California, died Nov. 6, 2025.

John “JK” P. Kelly ’80 of Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, died Nov. 4, 2025.

Liane Armstrong O’Donnell ’80 of Beals, Maine, died Aug. 7, 2022.

Laurie McAvoy Hissey ’82, P ’18 of West Chester, Pennsylvania, died Jan. 9, 2025.

Steven “Steve” W. McDaniel ’82, M.B.A. ’85 of Chantilly, Virginia, died Sept. 15, 2025.

Michael Hobbs ’84 of Hampton, Virginia, died Oct. 13, 2025.

Timothy “Tim” J. Curran ’89 of Washington, D.C., died Feb. 9, 2025.

Gregory P. Riddick ’91 of Richmond, Virginia, died Aug. 23, 2025.

Caron S. Thompson ’92 of Orlando, Florida, died Oct. 13, 2025.

Austin B. Wiles ’06 of Richmond, Virginia, died July 19, 2022.

Joseph “Joey” E. Thomas-Warguleski ’10 of Chicago, Illinois, died Dec. 26, 2025.

Jared A. Grooms ’19 of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died March 2, 2024.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

Rocco D. Manzo M.T.S. ’66 of Washington, Pennsylvania, died Aug. 28, 2024.

Tom R. Tiller M.Ed. ’67, P ’90 of Gwynn’s Island, Virginia, died Jan. 11, 2026.

Walter “Gus” A. Smith J.D. ’68, P ’91 of Potomac, Maryland, died Oct. 22, 2025.

Douglas “Doug” K. Bergere J.D. ’70 of Sunset Beach, North Carolina, died Aug. 16, 2024.

Cheng-Shong “John” Hsieh M.S. ’70, Ph.D. ’74 of Las Vegas, Nevada, died July 2025.

Charles “Chuck” F. Midkiff J.D. ’70 of Montpelier, Virginia, died Nov. 29, 2025.

David C. Ostrom M.Ed. ’70 of Newport News, Virginia, died Sept. 8, 2025.

George L. Farris M.T.S. ’71 of Saltville, Virginia, died Dec. 6, 2025.

Harold D. Gibson C.A.S.E. ’71, Ed.D. ’81 of Gloucester, Virginia, died Oct. 3, 2025.

Robert “Bo” S. Robertson M.B.A. ’73 of Williamsburg died Sept. 19, 2025.

Earl Q. Thumma J.D. ’73 of Mathews, Virginia, died Sept. 20, 2025.

Carson H. Barnes J.D. ’75 of Williamsburg died Sept. 18, 2025.

Herbert Carlyle Gravely M.B.A. ’75 of Newport News, Virginia, died Nov. 7, 2025.

Sandra “Sandi” D. Yoder M.A. ’75, M.B.A. ’80 of West Des Moines, Iowa, died Aug. 24, 2025.

Richard “Rick” E. Damon J.D. ’77 of Aptos, California, died Aug. 29, 2025.

Howard K. Rose M.B.A. ’77 of East Hartford, Connecticut, died.

Karen M. Kennedy J.D. ’79 of Palm Bay, Florida, died Dec. 22, 2025.

Robert K. McCarter M.A.Ed. ’79 of West Chester, Pennsylvania, died Aug. 30, 2023.

Harold J. Laurent M.Ed. ’80, A.C.E.A. ’82, C.A.S.E. ’82 of Newport News, Virginia, died Nov. 11, 2025.

Ronald A. Whitenack M.A.Ed. ’86 of Newport News, Virginia, died Nov. 22, 2025.

Beverly P. Hundley M.A.Ed. ’87 of Williamsburg died Oct. 26, 2025.

Sheila A. Core M.A. ’88 of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, died Sept. 26, 2025.

Jeffrey “Jeff” W. Porter J.D. ’88 of Wilmington, North Carolina, died Oct. 16, 2025.

David K. Ziemer J.D. ’91 of Cody, Wyoming, died Dec. 31, 2025.

Michael L. Powell M.B.A. ’92 of Lincoln, Maine, died Sept. 17, 2025.

FACULTY & STAFF

Patricia “Pat” N. Burdette of Williamsburg died Jan. 5, 2026.

Lewis “Lew” C. Cohen of Santa Barbara, California, died Nov. 10, 2025.

Gregory “Greg” S. Hancock of Williamsburg died Jan. 16, 2026.

John W. Lee of Williamsburg died Nov. 11, 2025.

John V. Merriner of Beaufort, North Carolina, died Jan. 6, 2026.

Gail A. Pascaris of Yorktown, Virginia, died Nov. 11, 2025.

Theodore “Ted” R. Reinhart of Williamsburg died Aug. 6, 2025.

Carol W. Sherman of Williamsburg died Dec. 27, 2025.

FRIENDS OF W&M

Natalie Z. Davis L.H.D. ’97 of Toronto, Ontario, died Sept. 2023.

Robert W. Dellinger of Leesburg, Virginia, died Feb. 1, 2022.

Larry M. Foster of Williamsburg died Oct. 30, 2025.

E. Jane Nichols of Gloucester, Virginia, died June 13, 2023.

John Parent of Williamsburg died Dec. 2025.

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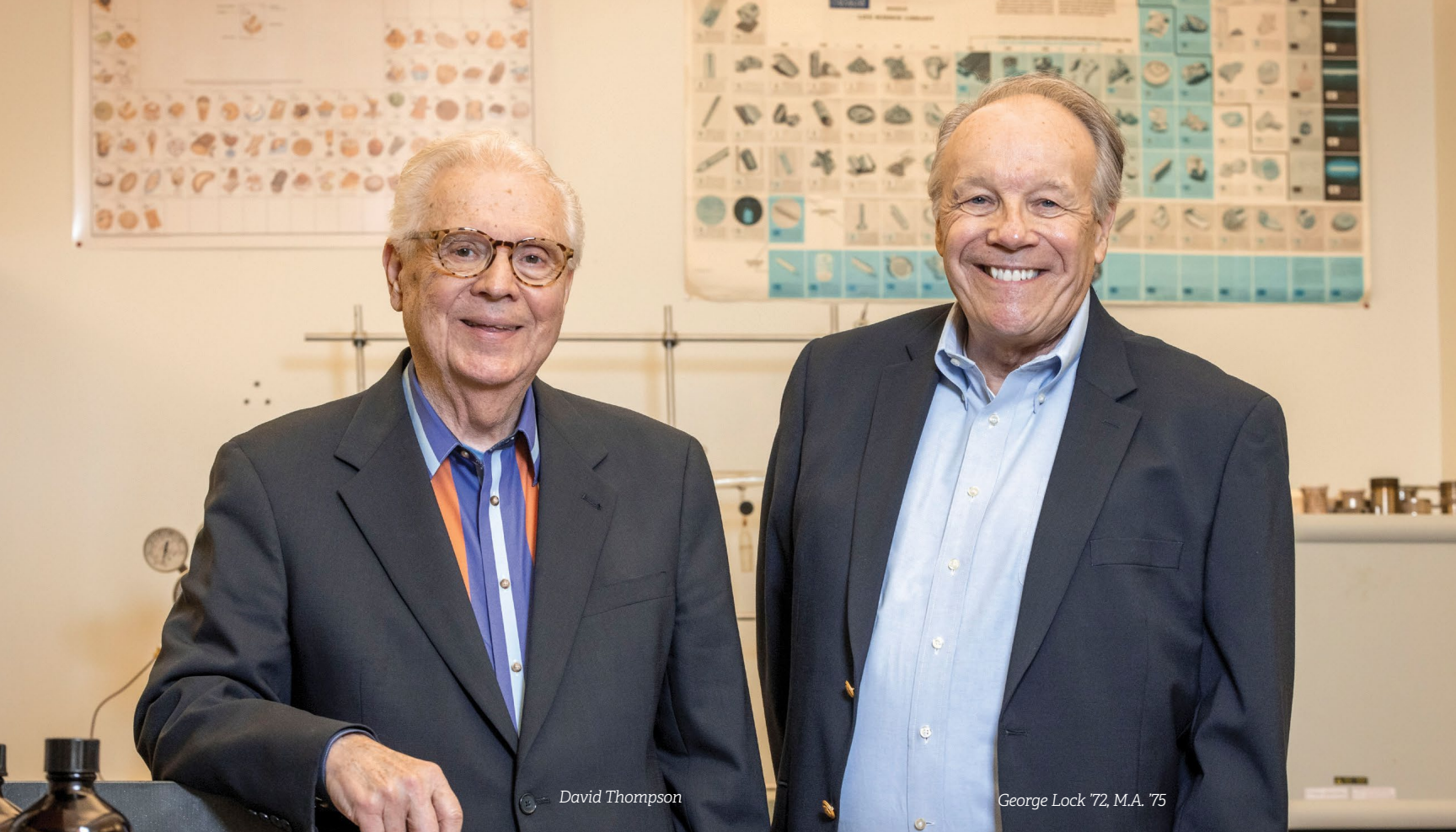
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David Thompson

George Lock '72, M.A. '75

“The education I received at William & Mary allowed me to build a successful life for me and my family. I don’t know where I would have ended up without the mentorship of Professor David Thompson. The career I enjoyed got me thinking about how I can help other people be successful as well.” **George Lock '72, M.A. '75**

YOUR LEGACY FOR ALL TIME COMING.

When George Lock '72, M.A. '75 was a senior at William & Mary, he knocked on David Thompson’s door and asked him to take him on for a senior research project. Thompson, now Chancellor Professor of Chemistry (emeritus), hadn’t taught Lock as a student — but he took a chance on him and said yes.

Under Thompson’s mentorship, Lock discovered his strength in hands-on work, problem-solving and real-world research. He earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in chemistry, then went on to a successful career at Hercules Incorporated, earning several patents.

Lock thinks often about that turning point with Thompson. Through an estate gift to William & Mary to establish the Thompson Chemistry Research Endowment, he aims to create the same kind of transformative opportunities for future students.

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