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ON THE COVER: William and Mary’s new mascot, the Griffin.
COVER PHOTO: STEPHEN SALPUKAS AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY
THE ABC OF DOG STREET
The four “students” sitting on the ABC store steps are: Joe Reynolds ’56, Bruce Rhea ’54, Joe Kinder ’54 and Pete Freeauf ’54. It was obviously winter, judging by their clothing, and the ABC store was not yet open. It opened later on Saturdays, and those guys were there to make certain of an appropriate purchase, probably because they had a date for that evening. The policeman, one of the six on the force, didn’t seem to mind that all were underage. Only the various deans really seemed to care. And, by the way, there are two indentations on the brick wall at the College Corner. Recently I discovered that my back side still fits neatly into those indentations. What fond memories.

JIM DUFF ’54
Richmond, Va.

INTERNET PRIVACY
Dear Ms. Pescatore:

Reading your excellent article in the latest Alumni Magazine [Spring 2010 issue] has inspired me to pass along to you a few thoughts of my own.

Part of the problem is that law always lags technological development. Back when companies first began to put customer information on computers, seemingly nobody raised issues about ownership of that data and what could (and should) be done with it. Lacking regulation of usage, many (if not most) companies took the position that they could use customer data in any way they chose, including selling it. The default was an automatic “opt in.” (“Opt out” wasn’t even available until recent years.)

Eventually, privacy policies and a chance to “opt out” became the norm, but these documents were discouragingly lengthy (for the average reader), full of legalese and one-sided. I once proposed a statement for opening an account that went something like: “I am choosing to begin doing business with you on the condition that (1) you will immediately encrypt any personal information I provide you, and (2) that you will not share this information with anyone (including subsidiaries) without my express permission. Failure to comply will terminate our business relationship, and may lead to legal action.” You can probably imagine how far I would get with this approach.

As your article implies, there is a great deal of naïveté among Internet and social network users. They need to fully understand what the threats are and how to minimize those threats. This requires individual responsibility for security of their personal information, and less depending on “the system” to provide protection. But if others abuse their trust or fail to provide adequate safeguards, there should be accountability with meaningful penalties. All too often releases of personal data seem to be treated as simply “unfortunate accidents.”

Users need to remember that there will always be someone out there (often overseas) who can hack into just about any system. (That’s why I am still reluctant to bank online.) Hackers are always one step ahead of security experts.

The latest in possible personal information exposure could result from revelations at the Facebook developers conference (sometimes known as “f8”) now ongoing (see www.sfgate.com for April 22 and later). As for the CDT “Take Back Your Privacy” campaign, lots of luck!

I just wanted to have my say on a subject I feel strongly about.

RICHARD S. MCKEE ’54
San Mateo, Calif.

We welcome letters from our readers and reserve the right to edit them. Brevity is encouraged. Please send correspondence to Melissa V. Pinard, Editor, William and Mary Alumni Magazine, P.O. Box 2100, Williamsburg, VA 23187 or e-mail alumni.magazine@wm.edu.

Remember campus in full bloom? Azaleas, flowering dogwoods, falling leaves on brick pathways — William and Mary’s natural beauty is etched in the memories of all its alumni.

Help preserve the breathtaking landscape of your alma mater by purchasing high-quality garden essentials online from Brent and Becky’s Bulbs!

Based in Gloucester, Va., Brent and Becky’s Bulbs will contribute a portion of every purchase toward new spring bulbs for the College. Visit www.bloominbucks.com and support the College of William and Mary!

For more information, contact John McFarlane, associate director of gardens and grounds, at 757.221.2556 or jdmcfa@wm.edu.
A Deep and Rich Relationship

Dear fellow alums,

Under President Reveley’s leadership, the College has undertaken a Strategic Plan with the goal of continuing to be one of the world’s great liberal arts universities. Working closely with the Alumni Association, one of the Strategic Plan’s key objectives is to build lifelong relationships and Tribe pride with current William and Mary students and alumni. Initiatives to make the W&M experience “not four years, but forever” are being implemented across campus; and we are exploring ways to better communicate this message to all alumni as well.

When I graduated from William and Mary in 1984, I think I can safely say that the last thing on my mind was having a lifelong relationship with the College. My primary goals were to make sure that I had my diploma in hand, a job lined up, and that all my belongings would fit in the back of my father’s sky blue Oldsmobile Delta 88. I may have given one last fond look as we turned off Richmond Road headed towards I-95 North; but I doubt it, I was much more focused on what was ahead than what I was leaving behind.

Since graduation, I have always read the Alumni Magazine and stayed in touch with many of my college friends, as well as several favorite professors; but I didn’t really reconnect with the College until I had been out of school for at least 10 years. In addition, although I was proud of my William and Mary degree, it was never something that I inserted in conversation on a regular basis — unlike many of my colleagues, who would often start off with, “When I was at [insert name of prominent university here]...”

In fact, it was more common for me to find out inadvertently that I was working with a fellow William and Mary alumn after months, or even years, of interaction.

Well, those days are gone, and it’s high time we all got “loud and proud” about our alma mater. There is so much to celebrate about William and Mary. We have had one of the best sports seasons in the school’s history; our national rankings are consistently high; our undergraduate research programs are exceptional; our application pool has never been stronger; and the list could go on and on. In fact, whenever I meet with current students and hear about the amazing things that they are accomplishing, I often wonder if I would even be able to get in if I applied today! Who wouldn’t want a lifelong relationship with such an extraordinary place?

So, I challenge each and every one of you to show your Tribe pride in every way possible — talk about our amazing school at your workplace or to prospective students, wear your green and gold, get involved in your local alumni chapter, hire or mentor other William and Mary alums whenever possible, and come back to campus and see for yourself all the ways that the College has evolved while staying true to its history and traditions.

I can tell you from personal experience that while I enjoyed my four years at William and Mary, I have benefited tremendously from reconnecting with the school. I have made friends across the decades and have a deeper and richer relationship with the College than I did even as an undergrad. I urge you to stay connected, or reconnect, with the College. You will get so much more than you give.

Tribe pride: Don’t just catch it — share it!

Janet Rollins Atwater ’84
President
William and Mary Alumni Association
The Matter of the Mascot

“Get me the Griffin,” I finally cried as our quest for a new mascot breathed its last. The quest had lasted longer than the gestation of a mastodon. It was time to decide. My vote for the Griffin has borne gratifying fruit. Every time the beast has appeared on campus, hearts and minds have melted. I relish the prospect of the Griffin unleashed next fall in Zable Stadium, Kaplan Arena and other promising venues.

Now, it’s well to be clear that the mascot is only one of three related symbols. They often get confused, though they are actually quite distinct. Let me try to shed some light. We have, first, William and Mary’s nickname; second, our logo; and third, our mascot.

The College’s nickname has been THE TRIBE for a long time. It is still THE TRIBE. This did not change with the selection of a new mascot. Nor did the NCAA trifle with our nickname. Our cry remains “GO TRIBE!” Our cry has not become, “Go Griffins.” We are the Tribe.

On the other hand, the College’s logo did change after the NCAA proscribed its feathers. There are now several variations of the logo, all featherless. The most prominent is a bare “WM.” Our recent quest for a new mascot had nothing to do with the logo. After a rocky start, the featherless logos seem to be getting some traction, though for many alumni the old “WM with feathers” will remain the only true logo. That, however, is a story for another day.

Then there is the mascot. Our penultimate mascot was Colonel Ebirt (that’s Tribe spelled backwards). The Colonel was an enormous green blob topped by a tri-cornered hat. He retired in 2005, is now living happily in the islands, and has no interest in re-entering the mascot business. When I became president, there were two mascot issues: (1) whether to search for an Ebirt replacement (some felt there was no need — fine to go mascot-less) and (2) if we were to seek a new mascot, how to go about the search (most advised a transparent, inclusive effort). I felt we should give it a try even though the likelihood of finding a mascot that, in concept, could command a consensus was remote. I also opted to invite all comers to participate in a very open process. More than 800 people submitted mascot proposals, 300 of them discrete. There were more than 22,000 comments on the five finalists. Our hardworking mascot search committee (15 students, faculty, staff and alumni) engaged all suggestions and comments. It was a remarkably thorough process, and, thanks to the wonders of the Internet, it was quite transparent. For more details, see the article on page 38.

We emerged with a beast, half-eagle and half-lion, that looks great on pins, T-shirts and in costume. Being part lion, our Griffin evokes the College’s royal origins in Britain. Being part eagle, the beast evokes the College’s seminal role in American history. The lion speaks to William and Mary’s strength and willingness to take on all comers, while the eagle evokes our vision and capacity to soar. From ancient times, griffins have guarded precious treasure. The alma mater of a nation is precious treasure for our Griffin to guard.

When the new mascot was rolled out to the campus community in Kaplan Arena, the response was enthusiastic. The beast has since gone to the spring football game, visited with the members of our Board of Visitors and the trustees of the William and Mary Foundation, and appeared in a number of other places, winning great acclaim. While people most passionately committed to other proposed mascots may never truly warm to the Griffin, experience to date suggests that most alumni and friends will. It’s a winsome beast with strong ties to William and Mary.

So, welcome Griffin! May you rouse the Tribe to new heights. May you guard our treasured College well.

W. Taylor Reveley III
President, College of William and Mary

To see the Griffin in action and to learn more about the mascot search, please visit www.wm.edu/mascot.
Graduating senior Scott Foster ’10 was elected to the Williamsburg City Council on May 4, becoming the first William and Mary student ever to win a seat on the council. The 22-year-old said his win was a victory for town and gown relationships. “Today, the people of Williamsburg demonstrated that our city is truly unified,” Foster said on election night. “When I decided to run for City Council, I hoped to receive the student vote. Now, I have been additionally honored and humbled to have received such strong support from across our city.” Foster received 1,559 votes in the election, 741 more votes than the next finisher, Planning Commission Chairman Doug Pons, who also earned a seat on the council. Five candidates, including one incumbent, ran for the two open positions. According to Foster’s campaign, approximately 67 percent of his votes came from students and the remaining votes came from residents. “This is not just a victory for me,” said Foster, a government major who graduated May 16. “This is a victory for Williamsburg, a victory for the William and Mary community, and a triumph for town-gown relations. I look forward to being a strong voice for the entire community over the next four years.” The election is an historic event for the College and the Williamsburg community, William and Mary President Taylor Reveley said. “This is a significant moment in our life together in Williamsburg,” he said. “The College is a vibrant and vital part of the city. In my view, it’s important to have a graduating W&M senior join the council, especially one with the civility and good sense that Scott Foster brings to the table. I offer my hearty congratulations to Scott as well as to Doug Pons. I look forward to working with both of them.” Foster benefited from a coordinated get-out-the-vote campaign by William and Mary students. Earlier this year, student
organizations, including the Student Assembly, worked to encourage students to vote in the election through a series of registration efforts. Approximately 300 students registered this year as a result of the drive. More than 2,100 students are registered to vote in the city of Williamsburg and early estimates indicated that roughly 50 percent of registered students voted in the election.

On election day, the Student Assembly provided transportation for students between the Sadler Center and the Stryker Building voting location. Sarah Rojas ’10, outgoing president of the assembly, also sent an e-mail to the College’s students, encouraging them to vote in the election.

While it’s not unheard of for students to be elected to city council seats in university towns, “it’s pretty unusual,” said John McGlennon, chair of the government department and a political scholar:

“Students were elected to city council in Madison, Wis., in the late 1960s or early ’70s for the first time; I think Berkeley has had some student representatives, but it’s rare for William and Mary to be mentioned in the same breath politically as those two cities,” said McGlennon, who also serves on the James City County Board of Supervisors.

Much of Foster’s campaign was run by students who utilized a website and social media outlets such as Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and YouTube. Foster also spent a good deal of time meeting city residents.

“This unexpected, but welcome, outcome is the product of five months of hard work and dedication from dozens of volunteers and supporters throughout the campus and city,” said Foster:

Foster, who is from Highland County, Va., majored in government at the College.

He served as senior co-chair of the student conduct council at the College. He plans on attending William and Mary Law School in 2011.
Class of 2010: Optimism Amidst Global Challenges

After taking one last walk across campus as students — through the historic Wren Building, down the brick pathways and across the Crim Dell Bridge — William and Mary’s Class of 2010 joyously entered Kaplan Arena on May 16 for the Commencement ceremony.

Though their time at William and Mary may have seemed to go by quickly, they will almost certainly be affected by what they learned and experienced at the university for many years to come, said Commencement speaker Christina Romer ’81, D.P.S. ’10.

“What I learned in those four years changed my life forever,” said Romer, one of the country’s top economists and chair of President Barack Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers. [See story on page 41.]

“I am guessing that the same is true for many of you. One amazing class in a new subject, some special professor, an all-night discussion with a roommate, and you finally realize what you love and what you want to be when you grow up.”

Romer received an honorary degree during the ceremony, along with former Secretary of the Treasury Paul O’Neill and Annette Gordon-Reed, one of the country’s leading presidential scholars and winner of a 2009 Pulitzer Prize.

The honorary degrees were presented by William and Mary Chancellor Sandra Day O’Connor and Rector Henry C. Wolfe ’64, J.D. ’66. O’Connor received a standing ovation when she took the podium at the beginning of the ceremony to welcome graduates and the more than 10,000 family and friends in attendance.

“I have treasured my connection with this wonderful university,” she said. “The more I see of it, the more I like it. This is truly a special university, especially in the quality and dedication of the faculty.”

The chancellor added that if the graduates could work some public service into their lives, she would be “particularly proud” of them.

“Our nation needs help, and it needs help now,” O’Connor said.

Public service is a mantle often taken up by William and Mary graduates, and this year’s Commencement speaker is no exception. During her address, Romer spoke about the economic recovery work she’s been involved in since joining the White House. The “Great Recession” is far from over; she said, and the administration needs support as it continues to address it. William and Mary’s Class of 2010 will face many challenges — economic and other — as they enter the world, added Romer.

“But in talking to many of you and your professors, I feel a wonderful sense of optimism,” she said. “You are coming to the workforce with a first-rate education and with the values born of hard times.”

Along with Romer, Josh Goldman ’10 spoke during the ceremony, saying that everyone at William and Mary shared the same sense of community, the same Tribe pride.

At the main event, Reveley provided closing remarks, remarking on the surge of Tribe pride that followed a successful athletics season, both on the field and in the classroom. The College’s president also noted the Tribe pride that came as the result of the academic success of its students.

As the Class of 2010 prepared to leave William and Mary Hall, Reveley reminded them that they will be “a vital and cherished part” of William and Mary for the rest of their lives.

“Relatively few colleges and universities will thrive amid the enormous competition and change that will confront higher education in this century,” Reveley said. “One common characteristic of those schools that do thrive is going to be powerful alumni support. Without it, even great schools will circle the drain. With it, their juggernauts will roll. It’s our job, yours and mine, to ensure that William and Mary’s juggernaut rolls.”

—Brian Whitson, W&M News

[AWARDS]

Lord Botetourt Medal
Kira Allmann ’10, double major in linguistics and government (4.0 GPA) and W&M’s sixth Rhodes Scholar

James Frederic Carr Memorial Cup
Bailey Thomson ’10, double major in Middle Eastern studies and government

The Thatcher Prize for Excellence
Brian Daugherity Ph.D. ’10, history

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards
Jessica Kim ’10, Lamar Shambley ’10, and David Hindman, United Methodist campus minister

Thomas Ashley Graves Jr. Award
Joe Galano, associate professor of psychology, and Kate Slevin, Chancellor Professor of sociology

Charles Joseph Duke Jr. and Virginia Welton Duke Award
Thomaisone Lewis, Marketplace staff member

PHOTOS: STEPHEN SAPIKAS AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE SUMMER 2010
W&M and St Andrews to Offer Joint Degree

The second-oldest institution of higher education in the United States and the oldest university in Scotland are joining forces to offer an undergraduate joint-degree program.

The joint degree program between the College of William and Mary and the University of St Andrews is one of the few of its kind in the world. Students will be able to enroll in the program starting in the fall of 2011, according to a resolution approved by the William and Mary Board of Visitors. Students will complete two years at each institution and earn a single diploma — a Bachelor of Arts, International Honours — with the insignias of both institutions.

“William and Mary began more than three centuries ago as a transatlantic experiment and today we move forward with another international initiative, a quintessentially 21st-century one,” said William and Mary President Taylor Reveley. “Our partnership with St Andrews has vast potential to enrich the lives of our students and better prepare them to lead in a global society.”

The St Andrews William and Mary Joint Degree Programme (SAWM) will include joint degrees in four fields — economics, English, history and international relations. The curriculum is designed to combine the breadth of a William and Mary liberal arts education with the specialization offered at St Andrews, which was founded in 1413 and is the oldest university in Scotland and the third-oldest in the English-speaking world.

This new partnership builds on the two institutions’ long and productive relationship. For at least 25 years, William and Mary and St Andrews have bridged the Atlantic Ocean through study abroad and student exchange programs. The idea for a joint degree partnership developed a few years ago during conversations between faculty and staff at both universities. For the past two years, officials have been working closely on finalizing the necessary details, including curriculum, fields of study, scholarship and research possibilities.

The program will initially enroll 20 students at each institution for the fall 2011 semester, with an anticipated five students enrolled in each area of study. The students will spend their first year at their home school and the second year studying abroad at the host institution, officials said. The final two years of their studies would be split between the two institutions. Tuition will be equivalent to what it is for an out-of-state student, but financial aid and scholarships will be available.

“We want to combine our tried and true combination of a first-class liberal arts education and scholarship with the success of top-notch partners around the world,” said W&M Provost Michael R. Halleran. “St Andrews is a perfect fit for us and a natural place to begin as we seek to expand global relationships.”

—Brian Whitson, W&M News

College’s Lemon Initiatives: ‘A Model for Other Institutions’

In March 2010, Provost Michael Halleran appointed Kim Phillips, associate professor of history and American studies, and Robert Vinson, assistant professor of history and Africana studies, to serve as co-chairs of the Lemon Project Initiatives committee. Robert Engs, professor emeritus of history at the University of Pennsylvania, will continue to act as the consulting scholar on the Lemon Project as well as a committee member. The 32-person committee includes faculty, staff, students, alumni and members of the Greater Williamsburg community.

The William and Mary Board of Visitors passed a resolution in April 2009 and named the effort “The Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation.” According to the resolution, this will be a long-term research project “to better understand, chronicle, and preserve the history of blacks at the College and in the community and to promote a deeper understanding of the indebtedness of the College to the work and support of its diverse neighbors.” The project is named after a slave once owned by the College.

“I hope that the College community will take seriously this history and the long impact of it,” says Phillips. “The reverberation of slavery and segregation are still felt today in lots of different ways. These aren’t distant pasts, but concerns that have consequences in the present and the future.”

Initial goals to research the College’s involvement with slavery from a historical perspective, says Vinson, have evolved to incorporate how

William and Mary relates to the larger community now, how the university curriculum reflects the historical and present experiences of people of color and how the university supports faculty, staff and students of color today in real time.

“We will meet these goals through historical research, teaching and community outreach,” says Vinson. “Through the Lemon Initiatives, William and Mary will be a model for other collegiate institutions, especially in the South, as they too seek to come to terms with a past tainted by slavery and racism and face a future that must include all races equally.”

—Melissa V. Pinard
Board of Visitors Approves Tuition and Budget for 2010-11

In-state undergraduate tuition and fees at the College of William and Mary will increase by $1,088, or 9.8 percent for the 2010-11 academic year, according to the budget adopted May 15 by the Board of Visitors. The total cost for in-state undergraduates — including tuition, fees, room and board — will increase next year by 6.5 percent to a total of $20,872.

In a message to the campus community, President Taylor Reveley said the College continues to respond to the current economic downturn while protecting and enhancing the quality of a William and Mary education.

“The challenge before us is how to sustain this exceptional educational opportunity — and how to enable the university to remain a leader among liberal arts universities — even as taxpayer support for higher education declines,” Reveley said.

The tuition increase follows a trend over the past two years that has seen William and Mary base state funding reduced by 32 percent, or $16.7 million. In 1980, the Commonwealth provided nearly 43 percent of the College’s operating budget. That figure is now less than 14 percent and it is expected to drop to 12.5 percent in 2012.

In response, Reveley said, William and Mary has taken a number of actions to reduce costs, including eliminating positions, restricting hiring and freezing salaries since November 2007.

Revenue generated from tuition increases will total $7.8 million and go toward several pressing needs, including a significant increase in student financial aid, which will increase by 24 percent, or $2.75 million, said Sam Jones, vice president for finance. Student financial aid at W&M has increased by 81 percent since 2007-08, said Jones.

Jones also said there are several additional expenses that are unavoidable in next year’s budget. Additional operating costs, combined with increases in utility bills, will total nearly $1.8 million. “The College is responsible for 100 percent of those new costs,” he said.

The state is also requiring all public universities to create a salary reserve fund that will go toward possible bonuses for employees. The state has frozen salaries the past three years. If revenues improve, the Commonwealth is expected to provide 35 percent of a 3 percent bonus for employees. The College will be required to pay the remaining 65 percent, or $2 million, Jones said.

The remaining revenue will address increases in health insurance and critical staffing needs in emergency management, finance, development, information technology and the soon-to-be finished career center, officials said.

According to the 2010-11 budget adopted May 15, out-of-state undergraduates will pay a total (including room and board) of $42,448, a 67 percent, or $26,682, increase. Tuition and fees (alone) for out-of-state undergraduates will increase $2,500 to $28,764.

Tuition and fees in 2010-11 for in-state students in the College’s graduate and professional programs are as follows: graduate arts and sciences, education and marine science will increase $2,500 to $33,764.

The William and Mary Law School was ranked 28th in the nation in the U.S. News and World Report list released in April. The law school was tied with Boston College, University of California–Davis, University of Georgia, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill and the University of Wisconsin–Madison for its place on the list, which had not changed from the previous year.

Graduate degrees presented at Commencement exercises on May 16, combining the School of Arts and Sciences, Law School, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, School of Education and Mason School of Business.

Undergraduate degrees presented to the Class of 2010 at the ceremony in Kaplan Arena.

In March, BusinessWeek ranked the Mason School of Business 25th among all U.S. undergraduate business programs. Among public universities, it ranked as the eighth-best in the country.

The William and Mary School of Education improved its U.S. News and World Report ranking by nine spots in April, moving from last year’s 48th ranking to 39th place nationwide. The school was tied with the University of Georgia for the distinction.

Graduate degrees presented at Commencement exercises on May 16, combining the School of Arts and Sciences, Law School, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, School of Education and Mason School of Business.

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In March, BusinessWeek ranked the Mason School of Business 25th among all U.S. undergraduate business programs. Among public universities, it ranked as the eighth-best in the country.
Jeff Howard’s house is on the Terminator’s hit list, and it’s all his brother Todd’s fault. “I put his house in the game,” Todd Howard ’93 says. “It was a secret.”

The video game, 1995’s Terminator: Future Shock, was Howard’s first project for Bethesda Softworks in Rockville, Md., where he now serves as a game director. In that role, Howard works a lot like a film director: coordinating and directing the efforts of the 100 artists, writers, designers and programmers working on the same game.

“It’s one thing to have this big crazy idea for a game,” he says. “They’re very long projects with lots of people. The technical ins and outs of pulling it off onscreen are very, very difficult, but it’s fun to try and do something that no one else has done in a game.”

The company has come a long way from Terminator, which only had about a dozen people working on it. Today, Bethesda is best-known for games like The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion, which takes place in a meticulously crafted medieval landscape, and Fallout 3, set in post-apocalyptic Washington, D.C.

“What we tend to do is build a big virtual world,” Howard says. “We design the world first; it’s really up to the player to do whatever he wants.”

This is a complicated task in today’s gaming world. Building a simple bedroom in a game like Terminator only took the efforts of one person. For the simplest rooms in a modern title, the Bethesda team has to consider specifics like the reflectivity of a brass desk lamp and the opacity of a lightbulb. And a world like Fallout 3 is made up of lots more than just bedrooms; the player can explore terrain that covers an equivalent of 16 square miles, which is “enormous for a game,” Howard says.

“It is just really complicated, but it makes the game feel so much more alive. I love that stuff. I don’t mind that it takes longer to create.” Fallout 3 and The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion each took about three years to make.

Howard used to be a one-man shop, starting back in junior high. He taught himself programming on his Apple II computer and created games based on whatever interested him at the time: anything from Miami Vice to Indiana Jones. Growing up, he had planned on attending Notre Dame, but a high school trip to a William and Mary leadership camp changed that.

“I just loved it,” he says. “I thought: ‘This...
is where I needed to go to school. It was the only school I applied to; it was a great college experience.”

While in Williamsburg, Howard “stumbled” into a business major while continuing his interests in art and programming. Bethesda Softworks was already his first choice for employment. One spring break, he drove directly to their office and knocked on their door to offer his expertise. While they didn’t have a position for him then, he remained persistent. After graduation, he spent a year trying to get his foot in the door until he was hired in 1994. Since then, Howard says, Bethesda has not had to compromise its vision of open-world gaming, a philosophy that drew him to the company in the first place.

Most video games trap the player in a specific arena, using hallways or lines of trees. If there’s a mountain in the background, it’s usually only for backdrop purposes. In one of Bethesda’s open-world games, if a mountain is there, you can hike to the top, even if it means temporarily ignoring whatever quest you were on in the first place.

“If [the player] can say, ‘Well, I don’t want to save the world right now — I want to explore that mountain over there,’ I find that kind of game is a lot more fun to play,” Howard says.

The open-world philosophy also informs the sort of choices the game presents to the player. In a classic game like Donkey Kong, it’s completely obvious who the good and bad guys are; there is no moral ambiguity.

“For Fallout 3, every character must sacrifice to survive in an unforgiving environment, and their choices are rarely easy.

“If you’re dying of starvation, and these innocent people have this food they won’t give you, do you steal it? Do you kill them?” he says of the in-game situation. “The easy route is violence, but the world reacts to you as if you’re a bad person — even though you’re just trying to stay alive. The people you’re meeting, even if they seem bad, they’re probably sacrificing something else. The choices sometimes get grey.”

Socially, video gaming has come under harsh criticism when the player is forced (or encouraged) to choose violence. As the medium matures, Howard says, the criticism will fade away. Since 1994, games have been rated by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) for their target audience; his 7-year-old is only allowed to play games rated E (for everyone). Fallout 3 is rated M (for mature).

“These games aren’t for kids. I view them just like movies,” he says. “Just like there is entertainment for adults that is rated R, there are video games that are rated appropriately as well.”

The complexity of Hollywood films also inspires Howard as he manages the dozens of people who work on each game. The challenge is part of the fun, he says.

“I love the cross-section of art and creativity mixed with technical gadgetry,” he says. “I’ve worked with a lot of people here for 10-plus years. It’s pretty great: I come to work and make video games with my friends.”

For Fallout 3, IGN’s and the Associated Press’ 2008 game of the year, Howard and his friends found the time to incorporate elements of their Bethesda workplace into the virtual D.C. landscape.

“I always like movies when you see these big iconic things that have been changed in some way,” he says, citing film moments like the revealing of the Statue of Liberty in Planet of the Apes. “We felt that we could do this game really, really well, being that we live here. It’s a lot of fun to blow up your hometown virtually.” For the game, the Bethesda office was transformed into a giant vault of supermutants.

“Easter eggs” like that — hidden secrets left for the player to discover — have been common in video games for decades. When Howard began work on Terminator: Future Shock, he decided to take advantage of the game’s Southern California locale and include a replica of his brother’s home in Los Angeles. But the Terminator wouldn’t stand a chance: his brother’s bedroom secretly contained every weapon in the game.
What Babies Can Do

~ PETER M. VISHTON, Associate Professor of Psychology

A broad range of evidence has shown that early exposure to stimulating activities promotes infant mental development. Exposure to music, complex visual stimuli and, most importantly, interaction with other people stimulate and support the growing brain. The ideal characteristics and timing of these activities remain a topic of research and debate, but the basic finding has been clear for several decades. Infants come into the world already seeing, hearing and making some sense of the world around them. Early enrichment activities are associated with better health, higher intelligence and success in school. Despite this, surveys of new parents have shown that fewer than half provide enrichment activities for their young children on a regular basis.

There are a variety of possible reasons for this. Being a parent is a challenging activity. Adapting to irregular sleep patterns, diapers, feeding schedules, trips to the pediatrician and just meeting the basic day-to-day needs of a newborn require a lot of time and energy. It is understandable that an exhausted new mother or father might not be looking for extra challenges over the course of the day.

Can you have a conversation with a 1-month-old?

A bigger reason for the lack of enrichment activities, however, may come from a lack of understanding of just how intelligent and aware most newborns are. Young infants sleep a lot — about 16 hours per day at first. Even when they are awake, babies are often sleepy, crying or eating. At first, an infant may only be relaxed and alert for about 20 minutes every few hours. Even then, the behavior of a newborn can seem disorganized and random. All of this can lead parents to focus on the baby’s physical needs and to de-emphasize mental stimulation.

What is needed are activities that a parent can do that are stimulating to the infant and that are structured to enable the parent to observe the baby’s reactions. The development of a baby’s capacity for remembering and success in school. Despite this, surveys of new parents have shown that fewer than half provide enrichment activities for their young children on a regular basis.

For instance, parents can easily track the ongoing development of baby eye movements. If you shake an attractive, noise-making object — a keychain is ideal — about 12 inches in front of a newborn, she will typically look at it. If you then move it slowly to one side and then the other, her eyes will follow the target, but not right away. Newborns possess the ability to make abrupt, jerky eye movements called “saccades,” but cannot engage in the “smooth tracking” eye movements that older children make in this situation. The newborn’s eyes will follow the target but will lag behind it, making saccadic movements to catch up with it every few seconds.

If parents repeat this activity every few days, they will notice that the saccadic movements become smaller and faster during the first month of development. Around the age of 6 weeks, a remarkable shift occurs as the brain systems responsible for smooth tracking come online. One day, the baby will not be able to follow the target smoothly; the next day she will. This type of in-home developmental study is fun for both the baby and the parent. Watching the developmental shift occur is just plain exciting.

Another simple activity is “habituation.” If parents show a newborn an attractive toy, they can use a stopwatch to time how long she looks at it before looking away. If they repeat this process several times in a row, the duration of looking will decrease until the child only glances at the toy briefly before looking away. Babies become bored with repeated exposure to the same object — just like adults. The fact that newborns exhibit this behavior tells us that they can see and that they can control their eye movements. Even more impressive, it indicates that newborns have a basic capacity for remembering and recognizing familiar objects.

If parents follow this habituation procedure by showing the baby a new object, they will often find that the infant’s looking duration will increase again. If this happens consistently, it indicates that the baby can tell the difference between the two objects. With this developmental assessment tool, parents can start to ask their baby more complex questions. What types of differences can the baby see? What types of differences can’t she see? Differences in color? Differences between the faces of two similar teddy bears?

Activities such as these can enable almost anyone to be an at-home developmental psychologist. The activities are stimulating for the baby and fun for parents. As parents come to realize just how acute the perceptual and motor capacities of their infants can be, engaging in more typical reading, singing and talking activities may also start to seem more reasonable. It’s not at all crazy to have a conversation with a 1-month-old. She might not say much, but it’s clear that she makes sense of and learns from what is said a long time before she starts talking.

Peter M. Vishton is an associate professor of psychology and the creator of the DVD What Babies Can Do: An Activity-Based Guide to Infant Development. For more information, visit www.WhatBabiesCanDo.com.
A Capital Affair
First-Ever D.C. Auction Garners Rave Reviews ~ MELISSA V. PINARD

This year, the William and Mary Alumni Association decided to hold its fundraising auction a little closer to home in Washington, D.C. With nearly 200 attendees, the D.C. Auction raised over $75,000 on March 26 to support the Alumni Association’s Leadership Fund. The 31 live auction items included everything from beach house vacations to Red Sox tickets and, of course, dinner with President and Mrs. Reveley, who were in attendance. There was even a Wren classroom desk that caused a bidding war. ~ “The auction was a great opportunity for alumni to gather together,” says Karen Cottrell ’66, M.Ed. ’69, Ed.D ’84, “but perhaps more importantly, it reflected the generosity and support of alumni for the Association.” ~ The first-ever D.C. Alumni Auction: A Capital Affair was held at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. This year also was the first time the Alumni Association used BidPal, a wireless electronic bidding system that auction attendees used to place bids on the over 100 silent auction items. ~ “The space was beautiful and the food delicious,” says Theresa Thompson ’67. “I have heard rave reviews from many, many attendees.” ~ If you are interested in sponsoring the 2011 New York Auction, serving on the planning committee or donating an item, please contact Brooke Harrison, director of alumni programs, at 757.221.1172 or sbhar2@wm.edu. For a list of this year’s sponsors, please see page 18. For more photos from the auction, visit us online at www.wmalumni.com/group/vadc.
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Five Friends Recognized as 2010 Honorary Alumni

On May 14, the William and Mary Alumni Association recognized a select few friends who have demonstrated a lasting commitment to and genuine affinity for the College, even though they are not graduates. These five friends have a distinguished record of service and support for the College: Jean Beall, James and Wendy Carter; Zoe Ann Wasson Graves and Dixie Wolf.

As business manager for the Tribe Club, Jean Beall has put in extra work nearly every day to help promote the College’s athletic efforts. The Tribe Club is a group established in 1948 to create greater support for W&M student athletes. Noted as a “vast source of institutional knowledge,” Beall has been with the Tribe Club for 30 years.

“She has always shown a willingness to go that extra mile. She is among the most dedicated individuals who give so much to the Tribe family,” wrote Pete Stout ’64, former president of the William and Mary Alumni Association, in his nomination letter.

James Carter has been a volunteer assistant equipment manager and equipment van driver for the football program for 12 years. He also maintains the team’s sideline communication system and ensures that all is packed up for the long trip back to Williamsburg. His wife Wendy, too, has been a constant presence at Tribe football games, often providing snacks and refreshments for the team and personnel. She was instrumental in securing the sponsorship for the Zable Stadium field-goal nets, something which has resulted in thousands of dollars for the equipment program.

“There is no way we can pay them for what they have done or to show them how much they are appreciated,” wrote W&M head football coach Jimmye Laycock ’70. “They have not only saved us thousands of dollars, but they are a positive force for our players and staff.”

From 1971 to 1985, Zoe Ann Wasson Graves served as the College’s first lady during her husband Thomas Graves’ term as 23rd president, welcoming scores of people into the President’s House. With her husband, Mrs. Graves worked tirelessly to establish the Muscarelle Museum of Art. In 1996, she and President Graves served as Grand Marshals of the Homecoming Parade in recognition of their longstanding support of the College.

“She is well-known on campus and in the community for her kindness, gracefulness and continued support and advocacy on behalf of William and Mary,” wrote Michael J. Fox, assistant to the College president.

In a way, Dixie Wolf has been a member of the William and Mary family for quite some time, as she and her husband have been instrumental in helping to attract supporters for the Law School and the Muscarelle Museum of Art.

Dixie and husband Hank Wolf ’64, J.D. ’66 — who currently serves as the rector of the College’s Board of Visitors — have played a pivotal role in the shaping of many campus entities, most notably the Wolf Library at the Law School.

“Dixie has been willing to reach out — and many times gently twist arms — to encourage friends to support the College,” wrote Sally Kellam M.A. ’80, the Law School’s associate dean. “While she may not have attended William and Mary, Dixie Davis Wolf has been as loyal as any graduate of the College.”

—Alumni Communications

The 2010 Honorary Alumni Induction Ceremony was held at the Alumni House on May 14 to present steadfast friends of the College with the highest honor available to non-graduates. From left: Recipients James Carter, Wendy Carter, Dixie Wolf and Jean Beall are congratulated by President Taylor Reveley. Zoe Ann Wasson Graves was unable to attend the ceremony and will be honored at a later date.
Young Guarde Weekend 2010

The third annual Young Guarde Weekend was held in Williamsburg April 16-18 and featured a revamped schedule of events. The Jangling Reinharts played at Lake Matoaka Amphitheatre Friday night after a California Tortilla dinner as young alumni began to arrive in town. Saturday’s highlights included events for each participating class (2005-09) at the Green Leafé, the College Delly, Buskin-Robbins and the spring football game. The first-ever Mug Night Bash combined the popular Mug Night Dinner and Saturday Night Bash from years past, bringing all the classes together for drinks and dancing under the tent on Clarke Plaza. Breakfast and a Q&A with President Taylor Reveley finished out the weekend on Sunday morning. Be sure to join us for next year’s Young Guarde Weekend when we welcome the Class of 2010, April 15-17, 2011. For more on the weekend, visit www.wmalumni.com/group/youngguarde.

The Olde Guarde Returns to Campus

The Olde Guarde held their annual Celebration on May 2 with a reception and dinner at the Alumni House. On May 3, Olde Guarde Day took place at the Sadler Center with a special visitor this year — the Griffin, the College’s new mascot. Olde Guarde members heard a presentation from Dean of Admission Henry R. Broaddus, followed by the traditional Bloody Mary reception. During lunch Provost Michael Halleran spoke and Aubrey H. Fitzgerald ’56, chair of the Olde Guarde Council, presented Thomas M. Mikula ‘48 with the 2010 Olde Guarde Distinguished Service Award. Retiring Olde Guarde Council members Carol Achenbach Wright Hardy ’49 and Harmon Hoffman ’49 were honored. In addition, Mary Zimmerman Inskeep ’53 and John Munger ’53 (pictured bottom left with Karen Cottrell ’66, M.Ed. ’69, Ed.D. ’84) became council members at large after serving as class representatives. For more photos of Olde Guarde Day, visit www.wmalumni.com/?og_induction.
Class of 1960 Celebrates a Milestone Reunion

The Class of 1960 returned to campus April 30-May 2 to celebrate their 50th Reunion and induction into the Olde Guarde, joining those who graduated 50 years ago or more. Gathering with old friends, new friends and family, classmates kicked off the reunion with a welcome reception at the Alumni House, followed by a weekend of various activities. During the gift presentation luncheon on Saturday at Trinkle Hall, the class presented a check for over $6.2 million to President Taylor Reveley. Beneficiaries of the gift include the Cohen Career Center and the Alumni House Operating Endowment. The 50th Reunion ended with the Olde Guarde induction ceremony at the Wren Building on Sunday morning; each class member was presented with the Olde Guarde Medallion, symbolizing the 50th anniversary of their graduation. For more photos, visit www.wmalumni.com/group/og. Editor's Note: The Alumni Association would like to give special thanks to sponsors Windsor Meade, The Catering Company and My Favorite Things.

[WEB EXCLUSIVE]
Want more on the 50th Reunion and Olde Guarde induction ceremony? We have a special website set up that includes a photo gallery, slide show and complete video from the Class of 1960 induction: www.wmalumni.com/?og_induction
Alumni Induction Ceremony

The Alumni Induction Ceremony was held during Commencement Weekend for the first time ever this year, drawing thousands of graduating seniors and their families on the Alumni House lawn on May 15. President Taylor Reveley and invited speaker Chris Renjilian ’05 gave remarks, but the real star of the ceremony was Chancellor Sandra Day O’Connor, who provided some of her own words of wisdom to the Class of 2010. Each senior was presented with an alumni pin that symbolizes their membership in the greater William and Mary alumni family. For more photos, visit us at www.wmalumni.com/group/2010. For complete video of the event, visit www.wmalumni.com/?vid_aluminduct2010.

Senior Spring Day 2010

The Class of 2010 turned out on a beautiful April evening for Senior Spring Day on Clarke Plaza at the Alumni House. Complete with drinks, pizza and subs, the event drew a record crowd to celebrate their time at William and Mary before classes ended. Graduating students enjoyed Geico games, prizes and complimentary William and Mary Alumni Association glass mugs — just in time for the last day of classes and the onset of final exams. For more photos, please join us online at www.wmalumni.com/group/2010.

W&M's Top Academic Talent Honored at Ceremony

The semiannual meeting of the William and Mary Alumni Association Board of Directors was held at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Building in Washington, D.C., March 25-26, 2010.

The full board meeting began on Friday with a presentation from the staff of the William and Mary in Washington office — Adam Anthony ’87, Roxane Adler-Hickey ’02, Jaime Dunn ’03 and Katie McCown ’09. Currently, they are running six programs and expect 200 students to take classes in Washington, D.C., in 2010. McCown, a half-time Alumni Association employee, gave an update on her work with the Washington, D.C., Alumni Chapter. There are over 15,000 alumni living in the greater Washington, D.C., area.

Also during the meeting, outgoing members of the Board of Directors — past president Betsy Calvo Anderson ’70, treasurer Billy Barnes ’82 and Sharon Pandak ’75, J.D. ’78 — were honored for their service to the Alumni Association.

In further action, the board:
• Chose Carol Achenbach Wright Hardy ’49 as the 2010 Homecoming Grand Marshal.
• Approved R. Marc Johnson ’04 and Julie Rogers Murawski ’99 as the 2010 Young Alumni Service Award recipients.
• Selected Celia Cohan Fenolietto ’80, Frederick P. Gibbs ’58, Troy D. Keen ’96 and Douglas S. Wood ’63, J.D. ’72 for the 2010 Alumni Service Awards.

The officer nominating committee proposed the following slate of new officers, which was voted on and approved by the full board:

President
Janet R. Atwater ’84

Vice President
James B. Comey ’82, LL.D. ’08

Secretary
Nancy W. Mathews ’76

Treasurer
Peter Nance ’66

During the meeting, the full board also passed Resolution 2010-01 in appreciation of Connie Kearns McCarthy for her service and leadership to the College.

The next meeting of the Alumni Association Board of Directors will be Sept. 16-17, 2010.

— Melissa V. Pinard
Making a Splash
Katie Radloff ’10 Swims Into the Record Books ~ BEN KENNEDY ’05

In a past life, Katie Radloff ’10 might have been a fish. She can’t breathe underwater; but she seems able to do everything else. In three consecutive days last year, Radloff set three all-time William and Mary freestyle swimming records: the 50-yard, 100-yard and 200-yard events. It would be easy to argue that she is the best female swimmer in College history. ~ “I never ever imagined I would do as well as I have,” she says. “I surprised myself and kept surprising myself for the four years here.” ~ Her résumé shows few reasons for modesty. Her 96 career victories stand head-and-shoulders above the nearest competitor’s mark of 74. In addition to the three school freestyle records she holds, every record-holding Tribe relay team included Radloff as a member. ~ “People told me that they’d be watching a relay, and if it was kind of close, they’d say, ‘It’s OK, Katie will catch her,’” says Radloff, laughing. “Of course it didn’t happen all the time.” ~

Radloff began swimming at age 9 as a way to spend more time with her friends. As she got older, she began to recognize her innate talent for the sport and started to swim competitively in high school in Arlington, Va. While she was originally opposed to coming to the College, her father “forced” her to come down and meet then-coach McGee Moody, who encouraged her just to “get a little bit faster.” ~ “I dropped the time and [Moody] called,” she says of her official visit. “I came and I loved it. I pretty much decided then that I was going to come here. It’s not just the swimming; the school is also great. I got to sit through classes and do the tour — it just felt right.” ~ Swimming under new head coach Matt Crispino, Radloff continued to earn accolades in the pool. CollegeSwimming.com has named her a Mid-Major All-American for all four of her years at William and Mary; she was the first Tribe swimmer in history to automatically qualify for the NCAA championships, where she has competed all four years. She’s won...
six gold medals at the Colonial Athletic Association conference championships, all while “completely not thinking about it,” she says.

“I don’t think. I am just racing — my heart’s pounding and I’m ready to go.”

Racing with a team, though, is a lot easier for Radloff. She greatly prefers the extra motivation of swimming to benefit the entire team, rather than more solitary pursuits at a tournament like the NCAAs.

“It’s extremely different mentally,” she says. “You put a lot of pressure on yourself to perform well for the team ... I’m not as hard on myself if I don’t do very well [individually]. I usually don’t swim as well when I’m on my own.”

This, of course, is not to say that Radloff is a high-stress individual normally. As she matured from a talented freshman to a senior leader, her attitude about the sport began to stretch beyond the pool, jumping and cheering,

“Sometimes, however, the motivation just happens. I’m just excited that I’m doing as well as I am.”

Sometimes, however, the motivation just appears. At the 2006 Terrapin Cup Invitational at the University of Maryland, Radloff, then only a freshman, swam in what she views as one of her weaker events: the 200-yard freestyle.

“I’m always so nervous for that race,” she says. “I don’t like it. It’s too long for me.”

The race began and Radloff quickly found herself trailing Maria Mayrovich, a swimmer for Kansas University. Mayrovich’s lead lasted for most of the race, and as the final stretch began, Radloff noticed something.

“I remember very distinctly as I was taking a breath, I could see the Kansas team on the side of the pool, jumping and cheering,” Radloff says. “I was like, ’No way.’ So I just sped up and gave it all I had.”

Showing an early flash of the talent that would propel her through the rest of her William and Mary career, Radloff caught up and won. She out-touched her opponent by less than a tenth of a second.

“I love being in that position,” she says. “I love someone to be just a little bit ahead of me and just fight for it. I get so excited to do that.”

With a kinesiology degree in hand — and with the smell of chlorine finally out of her hair — Radloff looks to enter the public health field. She’ll remember her time at William and Mary fondly as she looks back on friends and her swimming career, but there’s one swim from college she doesn’t ever care to repeat.

“We did the Crim Dell swim,” she says. “All the way from the bridge to the walkway. It was pretty gross.”
Tribe Honors Newest Athletic Hall of Fame Members

The College of William and Mary's Athletics Department inducted six standout athletes to its Hall of Fame in a ceremony on March 27, 2010.

Wade Barrett '98, Men's Soccer

Erica Walsh '97, Women's Soccer
Walsh played soccer at the College from 1993-96 and her defense helped lead the Tribe to a record of 57-25-2. During her years on the team, the College earned three CAA titles and made four NCAA tournament appearances, including the Elite Eight in 1994. Walsh was named to the All-CAA First Team in both 1995 and 1996, and was also named All-Region in 1996.

In the record books, Walsh's 1996 Atlantic 10 title season, which saw the College advance to the national quarterfinal round of the NCAA Playoffs.

In the record books, Cook graduated first in career touchdown passes (62 — now second) and second in all-time passing yards (7,295 — now fourth). He threw for 26 touchdowns in both 1996 and 1998, which ties him for the second-best single-season effort in school history.

Steve Swift '94, Track and Field/Cross Country
Swift was recently named as one of the 25 greatest cross country runners in the 25-year history of the Colonial Athletic Association. He earned a pair of All-American honors, the first coming at the 1991 cross-country championships and the second coming at the 1994 track championships (at the 10,000m distance).

Swift was recognized as the CAA Athlete of the Year in cross-country two times in his career and was the conference cross-country champion in 1993. He continued to pursue distance running after graduation and competed at the 1999 world track championships in the marathon and was a U.S. Olympic Trials qualifier in the marathon in both 1996 and 2000.

Anders Christiansen '99, Track and Field/Cross Country
Christiansen graduated as one of the greatest middle-distance runners in the Tribe's history, as he ended as a three-time All-American at 800m. His best NCAA finish came as a runner-up at the 1997 outdoor championships. He claimed a pair of CAA Championships at the 800m distance, winning the event in both 1998 and 1999. His runner-up performance during the 1997 NCAA Outdoor competition earned him the league's Track Athlete of the Year award.

An Olympic Trials qualifier at 800m in 2000, Christiansen holds the College's record for 800m both indoors and outdoors and was part of the record-holding 4x400m relay both indoors and outdoors.

Michael Cook '99, Football
Cook ended his career as one of the school’s most successful quarterbacks, as he finished with a career record of 21-7 as a starter, including a 12-5 lifetime mark in conference play.

In 1998, Cook was a finalist for the Heisman Trophy Award, which annually honors the FCS (then Division I-AA) Offensive Player of the Year. He also led the team’s 1996 Atlantic 10 title season, which saw the College advance to the national quarterfinal round of the NCAA Playoffs.

In the record books, Cook graduated first in career touchdown passes (62 — now second) and second in all-time passing yards (7,295 — now fourth). He threw for 26 touchdowns in both 1996 and 1998, which ties him for the second-best single-season effort in school history.

Barrett was named the CAA Player of the Year. He earned a pair of All-American honors and was named the CAA Player of the Year. He capped his career as one of only six Tribe players to amass over 100 career points, finishing with 102.

Wade Barrett is in his ninth season in Major League Soccer (MLS) and has been part of three MLS Cup titles during his career. He has also spent time training and competing with the United States Men’s National Team, and garnered International caps for the squad in both 2005 and 2007.

Brant Weidner '83, Men's Basketball
Weidner played on the squad during the 1980-83 seasons and finished his career ranked ninth on the W&M single-season blocked-shot list with 31 in 1983 and seventh on the W&M career blocked shot list with 76. He led the Tribe in rebounding in 1982 and 1983, and led in blocked shots in 1980, 1982 and 1983. The 1983 team went 20-9 overall, earning the Tribe’s first-ever post-season appearance in the National Invitational Tournament — one of just five teams in school history to amass 20 or more wins.

Weidner finished his career with 483 rebounds and 773 points in 111 games. Weidner was drafted with the 20th pick of the fourth round (90th overall) in the 1983 NBA Draft by the San Antonio Spurs and played for one season with the team.

—Sports Information
Two Decades of Khakis and Blue Blazers
Celebrating the Gentlemen of the College ~ ALEXANDRA HART '11

Ask any girl on campus and she will tell you that the Gentlemen of the College is more than just an all-male a cappella group. These blue-blazered, khaki-wearing, handsome young men truly live up to their name. ~ The Gentlemen was started in January of 1990 by a group of friends dedicated to music and looking for a fun, casual singing style. At the time, the only other small singing groups on campus were the strictly classical Christopher Wren Singers and the Botetourt Chamber Singers. In the beginning, there were no auditions and no set practice schedule. Despite their humble beginnings, the Gentlemen received several gigs that spring, appearing several times at “Change of Pace,” singing at a William and Mary basketball game and even serenading a marriage proposal. ~ “Our final concert that first year was at Ewell Recital Hall, and we were so worried that no one would show up,” says Mike Fitch ’93, one of the founding members of the group and its director for three years. “As it turns out, the entire hall was filled and the back was standing-room only.” ~ Since then, the Gentlemen have appeared on TV shows like ABC News’ Good Morning Charleston and The Price Is Right. They have also performed at a variety of venues including the White House, the United States Capitol, the National Constitution Center and the Greenbrier Hotel. ~ The weekend of their final concert this spring was a historic moment for the Gentlemen, marking their 20th anniversary. Many alumni came back to the College to catch up with old friends, meet the new Gentlemen and share stories with fellow members. The Gentlemen Banquet, hosted at the Hospitality...
more than just an a cappella group. A long tradition of skits and their famous final “movie” make their concerts entertaining even for non-music lovers. This year’s final concert featured the Gentlemen’s production of *The Chronicles of Narnia* with some slight deviations from the original plot. For example, the all-male cast takes on female characters such as the White Witch and Lucy Pevensie with apparent zest. The audience loved seeing Christian Pelfrey ’11 appear in a tiara and wand for his role as the witch.

In the Gentlemen’s rich history of concerts peppered with skits, one moment has stood above the rest. In a feat fondly known as “the toothpaste skit,” each freshman member of the Gentlemen is required to brush his teeth and rinse using a shared mug of water. After all of his friends have finished swishing and spitting back into the mug, the last unlucky freshman is required to drink the entire mug of toothpaste water to a resounding cheer from the audience.

“Through my years in college, it was nice to have such a tight-knit group of friends that sometimes you loved and sometimes you couldn’t stand,” says Tim Honeycutt ’00. “Even though rehearsals are just two hours twice a week, somehow it becomes much more than that.”

The experience of having a close group of friends with a shared interest has kept many Gentlemen coming back over and over again. Fitch remains as dedicated to the Gentlemen today as he was when it first began. He has not missed a final concert since the group’s conception, and although he enjoys watching the changes in the group, he knows that the fundamentals are still the same.

“One thing that hasn’t changed over the last 20 years is that moment at the final concert where they give the seniors away,” says Fitch. “You get a glimpse into what it means for each of those guys to have been a part of this organization. The one thing that is the same is the commitment to each other and to the Gentlemen.”
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

In Voice-Over Voice Actor: What It’s Like Behind the Mic (Bug Bot Press 2009), Yuri Lowenthal ’93 and Tara Platt engage the reader with an overview of what it takes for aspiring voice actors to enter the industry. Lowenthal has performed in over 200 video games and in television series such as Ben 10: Alien Force and Wolverine and the X-Men. His and Platt’s book details the preparation required for successful voice actors, as well as the ins and outs of a competitive and behind-the-scenes industry.

BIOGRAPHY

Josh Sundquist ’06 tells his unique story in the bestselling Just Don’t Fall: How I Grew Up, Conquered Illness, and Made It Down the Mountain (Viking 2010). At age 9, Sundquist lost his left leg after a battle with Ewing’s sarcoma. Since then, he has set his sights on becoming a champion skier while pursuing a successful career as a motivational speaker. Throughout Just Don’t Fall, Sundquist relates the thought processes of a young boy undergoing difficult medical procedures while simultaneously having a “normal” adolescence en route to becoming a young man.

EDUCATION

Kathy Kuhl’s ’79 latest book, Homeschooling Your Struggling Learner (Learn Differently LLC 2009), offers advice and help to those parents of children with learning disabilities. Kuhl discusses the option parents have of homeschooling children who would otherwise struggle in the public and private educational realms, but also helps those parents already encountering the challenges of this task to decide whether this is their best option. Providing goals, resources and encouragement to families pursuing homeschooling as an option, Kuhl also offers insight from 64 interviewees across North America, each with their own experience of homeschooling a child with learning disabilities and each with their own message to send.

ETHICS

When workplace conduct begins to cross the line from normal to unethical, employees frequently are at a loss on how to proceed. Giving Voice to Values: How To Speak Your Mind When You Know What’s Right (Yale University Press 2010) is Mary C. Gentile’s ’75 way to prepare readers for such conflicts before it’s too late. As the director of the “Giving Voice to Values” curriculum at Babson College in Wellesley, Mass., Gentile offers her expertise on how to align your ethics and beliefs with your principles in the workplace.

HISTORY

American literature professor Susan Wise Bauer’s M.A. ’94, Ph.D. ’07 latest book, The History of the Medieval World: From the Conversion of Constantine to the First Crusade (W.W. Norton & Co. 2010), explores the struggle for power, the intertwining of church and state, and the quest for nationhood during the crucial era between 312 and 1129 A.D. Not only does Bauer discuss the despotism of such western historical figures as Constantine, Augustine, Charlemagne and Henry IV, but she also incorporates the histories of Persia, India and China as their own dynasties clashed with the overlapping Roman and Byzantine empires. In particular, Bauer investigates the impact of world religions on medieval politics and, ultimately, the course of history.

NONFICTION

Al Albert ’69, M.Ed. ’71, former team member and coach of Tribe soccer, has recently released a pictorial history book entitled William and Mary Men’s Soccer (Arcadia Publishing 2010). Through 200 vintage photos, Albert chronicles the William and Mary men’s soccer team from its humble
begun as a club team in the 1960s to the exemplary intercollegiate program it is today. With a foreword from former Tribe soccer player Jon Stewart '84, D.A. '04, the book recounts several decades of memories which the team and its members experienced, and makes readers aware of the lasting influence the W&M men's soccer program has had on the development of soccer in the region.

A series of nine essays edited by Jonathon Daniel Wells and Sheila R. Phipps M.A. '96, Ph.D. '98, Entering the Fray: Gender, Politics, and Culture in the New South (University of Missouri Press 2010) explores the multifaceted role gender played in the lives of both black and white Southerners from the late 19th to the early 20th century. More particularly scrutinized in these essays are the roles played by black and white women during this time as they became more prominent in political and economic realms, yet still maintained their gendered place within society as it had been determined. Through their book, Wells and Phipps provide a new insight into the meanings and representations of gender in the post—Civil War South.

Poetry
Brian Henry's '94 most recent poems have been collected into Wings Without Birds (Salt Publishing 2010), and through various poetic forms, he explores the everyday and commonplace occurrences that fill all our lives. From marriage and parenting to the house and its general upkeep, Henry's poems consider ways of being simultaneously singular and plural.

Social Science
A New Science of the Paranormal (Quest Books 2009) by Lawrence LeShan '42 argues for the place of psychic phenomena within the scientific community. Through empirical findings and accounts of psychic events, LeShan explains how psychical research contains the key to unlocking the mystery of human potential.

In Distant Provinces in the Inka Empire (University of Iowa Press 2010), Michael Malpass '75 details how the Inka attended to their political and economic goals in their interactions with their conquered peoples and how their subjects responded, producing a richly textured view of the reality that was the Inka Empire. Malpass incorporates archaeological and ethnohistorical research, among other fields, as he discusses the provinces of the vast Inkan empire. From Bolivia to southeast Argentina, to southern Chile and Ecuador; to the central and north coasts of Peru, Malpass examines the various ways in which conqueror and conquered interacted.

Theology
James G. Cobb's '69 new book, Lutheran DNA (Wipf and Stock Publishers 2010), chronicles the Reformation's Augsburg Confession of 1530 and relates it to what the Lutheran church teaches today. Through stories, illustrations and reflections of his own experiences as a parish pastor and seminary administrator, Cobb asks how this historic and fundamental Christian text has translated over the years from Augsburg to Baltimore.

Young Adult
The second volume of the Cassaforte Chronicles, The Buccaneer's Apprentice (Flux 2010) by V. Briceland '85 tells the story of young Nic Dattore on his first sea voyage away from the magical city of Cassaforte. When his ship is overrun by pirates, Nic throws a lighted torch into a cache of gunpowder, blowing up the ship. Washed up on a deserted isle, Nic and the remainder of the crew commandeer the pirate ship and begin their journey battling assassins, pirates and a cursed ship with a dark and powerful secret, all the while racing against time to save Cassaforte from an evil coup.

Kathryn Dobbs Erskine's '80 book Mockingbird (Penguin/Philomel Books 2010) follows Caitlin, a young girl with Asperger's syndrome, and her father as they cope with life after her brother Devon's death. Caitlin, who sees the world in black and white, attempts to deal with her grief by turning to textbooks and dictionaries. After reading the definition of the word “closure,” Caitlin knows that is what she and her father need. As she sets out to find it, she discovers that the world is messy, colorful and beautiful.

The William and Mary Alumni Magazine features recently published books by alumni and faculty, as well as works by alumni painters, sculptors, musicians and other artists. Please send any publicity materials, books and samples to: William and Mary Alumni Magazine, P.O. Box 2100, Williamsburg, VA 23187. Due to limited space, it may be several issues before a review is published.
A Great Place to Work
Faculty and Staff Support Brings William and Mary Together

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

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

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

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

Lewis attributes her success and longevity on the job in part to possessing a positive attitude, which rubs off on co-workers and students. “I don’t like a lot of bickering or fussing,” she says. “I love to see everybody get along. I’ll do things to entertain everybody and get their spirits up. I want to see a smile on your face, not a frown.”

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

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

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

Like Charles and Ann Duke, Joseph J. Plumeri ’66 wanted to find a way to support people at the College whose contributions exceed normal expectations. In 2008, he made a significant commitment to recognize exceptional faculty through the creation of the Plumeri Awards for Faculty Excellence. These awards, which include a $10,000 prize for each recipient, are to be given to 20 William and Mary faculty members every year for a decade, beginning in 2009. These funds are applied toward research, summer salaries or other stipends associated with scholarly endeavor.

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

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

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

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

Lu Ann Homza, a professor of history at the College and a 2010 Plumeri Award recipient, has attained international recognition as a scholar of Spanish history. In 2009 and 2010, she received a QEP-Mellon Foundation Grant for undergraduate research from the
College's Charles Center to take undergraduates to Pamplona, Spain, for archival research. Before their departure, Homza tutored the six undergraduates who participated in the Mellon grant in paleography, or the study of 16th- and 17th-century handwriting. While abroad, the students read handwritten manuscripts and conducted groundbreaking research on violence, popular religion and witchcraft; in 2010, they were invited to an audience with the Archbishop of Pamplona. Their studies in 2009 were chronicled via blog at http://pamplona.wmblogs.net.

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

— John T. Wallace

Duke Gift Provides Award for Exemplary Service

In 1997, Charles Bryan Duke and Ann Evans Duke ’57 made an endowed gift to initiate the Charles and Virginia Duke Award, which annually recognizes individual accomplishment and outstanding service to the College by non-student, non-faculty employees. The endowment was created to honor Mr. Duke’s parents, Charles Joseph Duke Jr. ’23 and Virginia Welton Duke, for their years of distinguished and loving service to the College.

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

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

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

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

— Development Communications
MEET THE
GRiffin
BY MELISSA V. PINARD

MASCOT PROFILE

Name: To Be Determined
Height: 6’4”
Weight: 200 pounds
Position: Mascot/Ambassador of Tribe Pride
Mentor: The Phillie Phanatic
Favorite Movie: Sergeant Cheerleader
Favorite Song: “One Tribe” by The Black Eyed Peas
Favorite Food: Asparagus and Cheese
Favorite Class: The World of Thomas Jefferson
Likes: High fives, chest bumps and doing the robot
Dislikes: People pulling my feathers, cheaters and blue colored hens
Did You Know: I am half eagle and half lion, representing the College’s ties to both the United States and Great Britain.
From February 2009 until April 6, 2010, William and Mary went through an arduous process to decide on a new member of the Tribe family — the mascot. The result? The Griffin is the College’s new mascot and part of the Tribe, which will remain the nickname for William and Mary. One look at the Griffin in person could melt the heart of the most strident fan of Wampanoag or the Indian warrior … well, most hearts.

“The Griffin has joined the Tribe,” says President Taylor Reveley. “With its arrival, we now have a mascot that unites strength with intelligence, recalls our royal origins, and speaks to our deep roots in American history.” [For more from President Reveley on the Griffin, see page 7]

The Griffin, a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of an eagle, made his grand appearance at William and Mary Hall on April 6 and has been showing up at different activities around campus ever since. He was one of 300 unique ideas offered on the College’s mascot website (www.wm.edu/mascot), where 800 individuals submitted ideas, around 50 percent of whom were alumni.

The process began in 2009, when President Reveley appointed a 15-member committee of alumni, students, faculty and staff to coordinate the mascot selection process. With a desire to include as many people as possible, the committee created a website and also utilized other means of communication, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and a special mascot blog.

“We learned our lesson from the logo committee,” says Terry Driscoll, athletic director and mascot selection committee chair. “The goal of this process was to be as open and inclusive as possible.”

The committee had its job cut out for it. After narrowing down the 300 ideas to five that worked for the College, the committee sent out a survey in December 2009 with sketches designed by Torch Creative, a company that specializes in team branding, corporate identity and collateral. There were over 11,000 responses to the survey that was sent out and over 22,000 comments.

“We read every single comment,” says Susan Evans, director of creative services. “And most people didn’t write just one sentence.” Evans and her team made regular posts on the mascot blog to keep everyone informed and updated.

“For each concept there were comments from lovers and haters,” says Driscoll. “Eventually the committee came to a consensus.” Once the decision was made, Torch Creative began to design a logo, while the committee hired Street Characters to create a costume for the Griffin.

In the meantime, there were tryouts for the student performer who would wear the costume. Who better to help with the selection and

MASCOT SURVEY

A breakdown of the 11,183 individuals who completed the Mascot Search feedback survey:

- 31.0 percent were current students
- 49.7 percent were alumni
- 3.8 percent were parents
- 11 percent were faculty
- 1.6 percent were staff or administrators
- 12.8 percent were friends of the Tribe (i.e., not one of the above categories)

COSTUME FUN FACTS

- Parts of it are machine-washable, which is a good thing after a hot day.
- The person wearing the costume has to be between 5’7” and 5’11”.
- The person inside wears a cooling vest, but can only wear the suit for about 25 minutes at a time.
- Costumes can cost up to $20,000, but the Griffin’s was around $9,600.
- The person does not see through the eyes of the Griffin, but he/she can see.
training of the William and Mary mascot than the original Phillie Phanatic, Dave Raymond? Raymond, who owns Raymond Entertainment Group, gave input into the selection and then spent time training the mascot on how to develop the Griffin's personality. The committee decided it was important to keep that student's identity a secret.

Like most important people, the Griffin has his very own personal assistant. Spencer Milne, who was recently promoted to director of marketing, promotions and ticket services, manages the Griffin's schedule. Currently the fees for a Griffin appearance are $50/hour for on-campus, $150/hour for nonprofits and $250/hour for private events. Proceeds go to funding a scholarship for the students performing as the mascot.

Eventually there will be a mascot team, so more than one student will be able to wear the suit, and the team can rotate handler duties. Right now, Milne acts as the handler, attending events with the Griffin — fielding any questions and making sure he doesn't bump into anything, most of the time.

In an exclusive one-on-one interview with the Griffin, he discussed his role on campus and why he loves his new job.

“// I hope to unify the campus more around sporting events, “ says the Griffin. “ My favorite part of the job is going around campus acting like I know everybody, and rubbing the Provost's head. “

Although he was embarrassed when he knocked over a glass while meeting the Board of Visitors, he says, “No one can get mad at the Griffin.” And it is true. Even the most diehard traditionalists at Olde Guarde Day swarmed the Griffin to get their photo taken with him.

He loves posing for photos, and says the most popular questions people ask him include “Are you hot?” and “Where do you see from?” To answer that one, he points to his eyes.

The Griffin has quickly become enamored with the College and says his favorite spot on campus is the belfry in the Wren. And what about those wings? Are they just for show? “I do fly,” he says coyly. “But not when anyone is looking.”

A HISTORY OF W&M MASCOTS AND NICKNAMES

For more information, visit the Swem Library Special Collections Research Center Wikipedia page at http://scrc.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Mascot.

The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines a mascot as “a person, animal or object adopted by a group as a symbolic figure especially to bring them good luck,” while the nickname for athletic teams is generally a “descriptive name given instead of or in addition to the one belonging to a person, place or thing.”

1924 The term “Tribe” was first referenced in the 1924 edition of the Colonial Echo. Other nicknames that were given to the College’s teams during this time period and the years following it include Big Green, Braves and Warriors.

1927 A 17-foot alligator named “Cal” served as W&M’s mascot.

Late 1930s to 1942 An Indian pony WAMPO was used on the sidelines as a mascot. The pony often carried a rider in full Indian attire. WAMPO’s name was derived from “William And Mary Pon’y.”

1947 One sports writer dubbed the W&M football team “The Big Green Indians” during its first postseason bowl bid.

1953 The team became known as the “Iron Indians” after the name appeared in a Richmond Times-Dispatch article.

Mid-to-late-1960s to mid-1970s A caricature similar to that used by Major League Baseball’s Cleveland Indians was used as a logo.

1974 A “WM” with feathers logo first appeared in a 1974 football yearbook and then on the helmets of the 1977 football team.

1978 The Indian images were removed from the athletic logo. The term “Indian” was phased out by the early 1980s. The “WM” with two feathers became the College’s official new logo, and the term “Tribe” continued to be used.

1989 A committee to examine school spirit and tradition was convened to discuss whether the Tribe nickname should be phased out.

2001-2005 A green costumed character named Colonel Ebirt began serving as an unofficial mascot. The character’s name is derived from the word Tribe spelled backwards.

2006 In May, the National Collegiate Athletic Association determined that William and Mary could keep its Tribe nickname, but had to do away with its logo because it could be offensive. The College appealed the NCAA decision but received notice in August that the appeal had been denied.
Shortly after the November 2008 election of President Barack Obama, economist Christina Duckworth Romer ’81, D.P.S. ’10 received an e-mail from an unknown sender, asking to discuss the Obama transition. Romer and her husband, David — both economics professors at the University of California at Berkeley — had worked as advisers for the Obama campaign, though neither had met the candidate.
“I thought, ‘This person must think I know someone and can get them a job,’” she remembers. “I wasn’t going to answer it. “My husband had the good sense to Google the name of the sender,” she continues. “It was the head of economic personnel for the transition.”

Romer responded to the e-mail, and soon found herself face-to-face with President-elect Obama — being asked to accept the position of chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) during the worst economic downturn since the 1930s. She didn’t hesitate.

“Halfway through our interview, he asked, ‘So, do you want the job?’ I said, ‘Yes.’ He was a little surprised. ‘Don’t you have to talk to someone first?’

“I told him, ‘No, you’re the person I’ve supported and believed in.’

“I don’t think there’s ever been a candidate I felt as strongly about. I was honored to be there.”

The reality of what she’d undertaken soon sunk in. “Normally, I don’t have any trouble eating,” Romer says. “But I remember the two weeks between the time I was interviewing and the time my appointment was announced, just the terror of having taken this job, I think I lost 10 pounds.

“We all knew things were bad. What was true also was that they were deteriorating incredibly quickly. When we got the November [2008] employment numbers, we really saw for the first time, my God, we lost 500,000 jobs,” Romer says.

“And I often tell the story — I was pulled out of a meeting, and they put me on the phone to brief the president-elect about the employment numbers. I said, ‘It’s terrible. I’m so sorry.’ He said, ‘It’s not your fault — yet.’”

The actions taken by the president and his economic team to pull the country out of the Great Recession will be studied and debated for years to come. Romer, an expert on the history of the Great Depression, is now making history herself.

In May, Romer shared her inside view of White House economic policy with William and Mary graduates as the 2010 Commencement speaker. She was also awarded an honorary degree. [For more, please see page II.]

A COMPLEX ROLE

As chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, Romer is a member of the president’s cabinet and is charged with providing economic advice to the chief executive. “CEA chair is probably the most academic of government jobs — often the way that we’re helpful is to write a report, or do an analysis for a particular policy,” she says.

Unlike the specialized focus of an academic economist, however, the CEA chair’s scope is incredibly broad. “Someone once described it as economics pinball,” Romer says. “Everything comes at you — it can be health care, it can be financial regulatory reform, it can be the oil spill. And you’ve got to have your economics down well enough that you can give wise advice on a range of things.”

Romer’s expertise made her a natural choice for the position. The Class of 1957-Garff B. Wilson Professor of Economics at Berkeley, she also served as co-director of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) program in monetary economics and as a member of the NBER’s business cycle dating committee. She is former vice president of the American Economic Association, a Guggenheim Fellowship recipient and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She and her husband, who met while Ph.D. candidates at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, are frequent research collaborators.

Romer works closely with other members of the president’s economic team, including Secretary of the Treasury Tim Geithner; Larry Summers, director of the National Economic Council; and Peter Orszag, director of the Office of Management and Budget. The team meets with President Obama for a daily economic briefing, which Romer calls “a mixture of firefighting and strategic thinking.”

“In terms of interaction, it’s a team of all strong personalities,” Romer says. “One of the good things about us being appointed early is that we were together during the transition for a month, and it was really helpful to have offices next door to each other; to be with everybody before we went to our individual agencies.

“We all flew out to Chicago in the middle of December to meet with the president-elect in the middle of a snowstorm. We got trapped at the airport — it was like our Outward Bound experience.”

There are disagreements, of course. “We naturally interact with each other like economists do, which is that we argue,” Romer says. “It’s the way my husband and I talk to each other when we’re doing economics — sort of no holds barred.”


“I was pulled out of a meeting, and they put me on the phone to brief the president-elect about the employment numbers. I said, ‘It’s terrible. I’m so sorry.’ He said, ‘It’s not your fault — yet.’”
"I think the president enjoys it. One of the ways he likes to make decisions is to watch us debate differences among us. He’ll jump right in and ask questions.

"The other thing that's really nice is that there are no alliances. On one issue, Tim and I might be on one side, and Larry on the other, then there'll be a different group taking sides on another issue. In this White House, it's very much that you win people over by the strength of your arguments."

In addition to her work advising the president and writing reports and position papers, Romer is often called upon to be a public spokesperson for the administration. She gives speeches throughout the country and appears on television news shows such as NBC's Meet the Press.

Romer's experience and natural abilities as a teacher — she is a winner of the Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award — enable her to discuss complex economic issues in layman's terms. "I've taught introductory economics for almost 20 years, and that's probably the best training for the job I have now: trying to explain what we're doing and why we're doing it."

'ECON CHRISTY'

William and Mary played a pivotal role in shaping Romer's career as an economist and teacher. She came to the College from Canton, Ohio, with the intention of majoring in government and becoming a lawyer. As a potential government major, she was required to take introductory economics. "There was a fabulous professor, Allen Sanderson, who made the subject come alive. After about two weeks, I said, 'This is for me.'" (Romer reconnected with Sanderson, now at the University of Chicago, several years ago, and was able to tell him firsthand the influence he'd had on her life.)

Because she'd gotten a late start as an economics major, Romer attended summer school after her sophomore year; where she took an intermediate macroeconomics course as an independent study with Professor Robert Archibald. "It was the most amazing intellectual experience. I can remember walking up and down Duke of Gloucester Street, trying to understand this curve doing this and that curve doing that. That's the course that just made my mind up, even though it almost made my head explode."

After spending her junior year abroad studying economics at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, Romer became a teaching assistant for the introductory economics class as a senior: "I was known as 'Econ Christy' by the freshmen," she says with a laugh. "It was both knowing that I loved the material and that I loved teaching that made it obvious that this was the right thing to do."

The intellectual drive that fueled Romer's walks up and down DoG Street as a college sophomore remains very much with her as CEA chair: "This job has forced me to look at a lot of things that were new to me," she says. "The example I often give is health care, which was certainly not my specialty.

"Because I was the last person to study it, I became the most passionate about it — I hadn't yet gotten jaded. And actually coming at it as a macroeconomist turned out to be helpful, taking a step back to say, 'If you just slow the growth rate of costs a little bit year after year, that adds up to a huge impact on standards of living, on what's left over for investment.' I'd love to keep working on the issue, because I've gotten the health care bug."

As a provision of the 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, Romer is required to report to Congress each quarter on the effects of the government's stimulus spending and other fiscal measures. She would like to continue studying the impact of the stimulus even after she leaves government service and returns to academia. Her experience at the center of the storm has already altered her views and those of other economists in a number of areas, including the realization of just how important the role of credit is in the economy, as well as the limitations of monetary policy when interest rates get close to zero.

"Certainly we're going to keep learning, and this particular episode is something we'll all be studying for a number of years because it has just been so intense."

Editor's Note: While visiting campus last year, Dr. Romer sat down with Ben Kennedy '05, assistant director of alumni communications, for a conversation. Go to https://www.wmalumni.com/romer to view their discussion.
CRACKING THE CASE

William and Mary Faculty and Students Team Up to Solve the Mystery of the Rusty Blackbirds

By Joseph M. McClain
The rusty blackbird is a species only an ornithologist can love. Even when they’re in breeding plumage in the boreal region of Alaska and Canada, “rusties” are extremely nondescript-looking birds. Their undistinguished plumage takes on its eponymous rusty look when the birds are on their wintering grounds in the eastern half of the United States. They keep pretty much to wet, woody areas, shuffling through sodden leaves, looking for the soft food they prefer. Even their call is unremarkable; it sounds like a couple of seconds of a cassette tape on fast forward.

For all its lack of traditional avian aesthetics, *Euphagus carolinus* is a creature of interest, even mystery, within ornithological circles. The continent’s population of rusty blackbirds has declined by as much as 90 percent over the past few decades.

“No one can tell you why,” says Dan Cristol, professor of biology at William and Mary. “It’s the most dramatic decline of any northern bird, the most dramatic decline of any really common bird — and it’s the most mysterious decline.”

Cristol leads a faculty-student team of ornithologists who have put together a clue or two in the mystery of the rusty blackbirds. It’s a double mystery, in that the birds are in decline all across their range — yet a flock wintering each year on the College campus seems to be doing just fine.

**A Student Takes the Lead**

Student-faculty research teams are common at William and Mary, but most often the professor initiates the project. The blackbird group, however, grew around an undergraduate, Jacob Armiger ’10.

“Jacob came to me as a freshman,” Cristol says. “He told me that he loved birds and wanted to study birds.”

Cristol gave Armiger some articles on various ornithological problems to help him decide on a topic. He came back and told Cristol that he wanted to take on the case of the rusty blackbirds. Any conversation with Cristol is punctuated by jerks of his head whenever a bird enters his field of vision, so of course he knew about the wintering rusties on campus.

“Very few people know they’re here, even though you see them over by the sundial in front of Swem Library,” Cristol says. “Students going between classes step on the acorns of the willow oaks that grow over there and the birds love it. They swoop down and pig out on the cracked acorns once the next class period starts. Our students are helping a threatened species and they don’t even know it.”

Cristol arranged for Armiger to apprentice with the International Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group to get some experience working with the birds, a species that offers challenges to even seasoned scientists.

“They are very neophobic. They don’t like new things. They’re skittish and that means that they’re not going to adapt quickly to changes,” Cristol says. “You put a leg band on them and they sit there pecking at it for two hours and they might get eaten by a hawk during that time. If anything unusual happens, they might get eaten by a hawk, because they just don’t respond that well to change.”

The neophobia of the birds makes them hard to catch. After Armiger returned from the international group, Cristol set him to work with the campus flock. “Just follow the birds around campus,” he told Armiger. “Find out how to catch them. Because whatever we do with these birds, first we’re going to have to catch them.”

Armiger spent months following rusty blackbirds around campus, learning their daily habits. Even though the birds are seen around the sundial, he found that a much better bet was the low, wet, wooded areas of the campus wildflower preserve, downstream of Crim Dell.

“We usually find them in the forest-y areas. It is best to find them at early morning or sunset,” Armiger says. “They don’t really like the sun shining on them or the wind. It’s the same with an open-area habitat versus being in a closed habitat. They’d rather have some things around them.”
After getting to know the birds, Armiger took Cristol to a spot in the campus wildflower preserve, and said, “Put the nets right here.” Cristol was skeptical.

“I thought I was going to have to go out there and help him more,” Cristol says. “But where he placed the nets, he caught birds. That’s an accomplishment in itself.”

A Different Kind of Tailgating

The blackbird project began in earnest the following year when Andy McGann arrived at William and Mary to begin a master’s degree program in biology. McGann was interested in rusties as well, and began working with Cristol and Armiger. McGann and Armiger have separate, but overlapping, projects. Armiger works on the more general question of why the birds are on campus. McGann focuses on the birds’ diet, drawing blood to analyze what the birds have been eating.

The two students spent the winter working the hot spots Armiger had scouted, trying to catch and process as many rusties as possible before the flock migrated north.

Ornithology usually involves a car drive, followed by several trips schlepping equipment. The rusties like the bottom of the gully that Ukrop Way crosses near Landrum Drive, so Armiger and McGann just had to make sure they had a good spot in the handy faculty lot — not a problem when you must have nets and a banding table set up by dawn. They often set up in late afternoon as well as the morning.

“To catch them, we use a series of mist nets, which are kind of like a volleyball net with a pole on either end and trammel lines that go horizontally through the mesh, which is really fine and hard to see,” Armiger explains. “The birds fly into these pockets and they get tangled up.”

Their parking lot setup looks as if McGann and Armiger are tailgating before a football game. They sit in collapsible chairs near a card table that holds a tackle box of banding equipment, rather than a pregame spread. They watch their nets with the relaxed expectancy of fishermen who expect a bite any second now.

Mist-netting action is never fast and furious; when you’re after rusties, a good day yields only a few birds. Tending their nets one February afternoon, Armiger points out a lurking red-shouldered hawk. “She’ll scare off any blackbirds that might happen to be around,” he says with professional resignation. McGann reminisces about their biggest day of the year: they netted eight birds. There is some bycatch as well — wrens, robins, redwing blackbirds. They band the male redwings for comparison purposes. When a bird hits the net, they go into action, making their way down the slippery slope.

“Once you get a bird, you take it out and put it in a drawstring bag,” Armiger says. “You bring it up here, and there is a little protocol where McGann takes a bunch of biometrics — measurements, basically: wing length, tail length, length of their tarsus (lower leg bone), bill measurements. We also band it with the federal aluminum band with the serial number. Then we put a unique combination of colored plastic bands on it so we can identify the individual from a distance. Then, blood samples.”

More Than Cracking Acorns

Though a challenge to catch, a rusty blackbird in the hand is no trouble at all. “They don’t bite very hard,” McGann says. “These are even easier to work with than chickadees or titmice. They are just a nice, convenient size to have in hand.” The birds don’t bite hard because their jaw muscles are weak compared with other similar-sized birds, he explains. Cristol says the weak jaw muscles explain the rusties’ fondness for small willow oak acorns, especially when pre-cracked by student feet.
The acorn-cracking doesn’t fully explain why the wintering rusty blackbirds thrive on campus. Cristol points out that the acorns are only available in mast years — years in which the oaks bear heavily — and they’re only available for a few weeks of the wintering period. “This highly disturbed, modified habitat” of our campus offers no apparent advantages for wintering rusty blackbirds, he says. And yet, the blackbirds come back. McGann said this year’s campus flock of around 200 was larger than most reported by birders throughout Virginia.

The results of Armiger’s and McGann’s data collection are yielding some additional clues, while making the case of rusty blackbirds even more mysterious.

The first two years of blood samples are being analyzed for ratios of stable isotopes of carbon, nitrogen and sulfur that occur naturally in the food. Corn is a C4 plant, while oak trees are C3, McGann explains, referring to different photosynthetic pathways. The relative presence of stable carbon isotopes in a bird’s blood shows what it has been eating. Isotope analysis will shed light on another diet-related factor. Rusty blackbirds have a varied diet and males may have different food preferences from females. One intriguing preliminary finding is in the gender makeup of the campus flock, which is three-quarters male. As Cristol points out, “A population will go down very fast if the females are disappearing.”

The ornithologists say there are several possible reasons for the predominantly male campus flock. Cristol says the females could be “getting hammered” on the nest by predators or perhaps there’s a problem with the diet of the females. McGann has his own ideas.

“It’s likely that this is a species that exhibits a differential pattern of migration, where females go farther south than males,” he says. “We are on the northern end of their wintering range, so that makes sense for what these guys are doing. Right now, no one has really published anything saying for sure that they are differential migrants.”

Through the International Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group, William and Mary’s blackbirders have been sharing their data with other groups across the U.S. and Canada. The three worked on what Cristol calls a “side project,” testing the birds for mercury. Cristol, McGann and Armiger are co-authors — with other blackbird researchers — on a paper to be published in an issue of Condor. Though a few of the campus birds had high mercury, Cristol says, the mercury was in the bird’s feathers, indicating that it had been ingested on their breeding grounds. The paper suggests that mercury contamination is unlikely to be a major element in the birds’ decline.

Other suspects have been eliminated as well. Disease has been crossed off the list, as have blackbird-control programs run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“A smoking gun would be a virus that only affects these birds, but no one has found such a thing,” Cristol says. “I suspect that what we’re going to find is a perfect storm, and not a smoking gun.”

Elements of the storm could include predation by hawks. Cristol notes that hawks — particularly bird-hungry Cooper’s hawks — have increased dramatically over the years. (There’s even a pair nesting in a beech tree by the Sunken Garden.) The destruction of wetlands likely plays a part, as do contaminants and competition with other bird species, he says.

“Part of this complex combination is going to be the very nature of this bird, their personality if you will,” Cristol says. “Because they’re really, really strange birds.”

Unsolved Mystery

So as of now, the double-barreled blackbird mystery remains unsolved. Armiger will continue studying birds in grad school at Villanova. Cristol and McGann await results from the lab on the stable isotopes. Other undergrads have helped out with the rusties and one may take over Armiger’s study next winter.

Despite the many unanswered questions, however, one thing remains relatively certain. As long as William and Mary students continue cracking acorns underfoot while rushing to class, these birds will likely continue to flock to campus. And that continues to provide College students and faculty with the unique opportunity to be the lead detectives in the mysterious case of the disappearing rusty blackbird.

Joseph M. McClain is editor of Ideation, the research and scholarship magazine for William and Mary.
The UNRELIABLE LEGEND
of the Batchelors Delight

How Three Imprisoned Pirates Helped Fund the Wren Building

By Ben Kennedy ’05  Illustration by Laslo Kubinyi
In 1691, the Rev. James Blair was sent back to England. If he and the other colonial leaders wanted to secure enough funding to build a college in Virginia, Blair was going to have to talk to the king and queen, and possibly some less savory characters as well. Little did he know how unsavory those characters would be — or how important a contribution from seafaring scoundrels would become.

A few years earlier, pirate captain John Cook was determined to go back to Panama. Having just been hired to lead a small ship of aspiring privateers in 1682, he knew the key to a successful voyage was an experienced doctor: Cook traveled to Panama in search of an old colleague, the surgeon Lionel Wafer, who had been abandoned there by his last captain. Wafer’s leg had been badly burned in a gunpowder accident and he had disappeared amongst the native Cunacuna for months.

When Cook arrived in Panama, he came across a white man dressed just as the Cunacuna were. He did not immediately recognize that man as Wafer; whose wound had been entirely healed by the Indians’ herbal medicine. Armed with that additional expertise, Wafer and his companion John Hingson decided to join Cook’s new ship — the seaworthy but unremarkable *Revenge* — and continue recruiting their former cohorts along the Atlantic coast. As privateers, they were licensed by the English government to attack enemy ships in wartime, but commonly, they were known as pirates.

What likely drove these men to piracy in the first place? “In a word, poverty,” says Kris Lane, professor of history at William and Mary. Many famous pirates sought refuge in Virginia during the late 17th century because the numerous ships and increasing commercial activity in Chesapeake Bay made blending in easy — yet countless unsettled inlets and islands made for plenty of secret refuge as well, he says.

In Hampton, Va., the *Revenge* picked up William Dampier and Edward Davis, who had traveled with Cook and Wafer on previous adventures. Dampier, who would one day serve as inspiration for both *Robinson Crusoe* and *Gulliver’s Travels*, was an experienced sailor; writer and reluctant pirate who was hiding in Hampton from the unfriendly Caribbean authorities. He and the capable Davis joined the *Revenge* crew of around 70 men and sailed east across the Atlantic in August 1683.

**Unscrupulous Activities**

The stories of these buccaneers are, as one might expect, less than fully truthful. Books written by pirates have always been embellished by their own quests for personal glory, and conflicting reports — and spellings — abound. The tale of Cook, Wafer, Dampier and Davis is outlined to varying degrees in Lane’s book *Pillaging the Empire: Piracy in the Americas 1500-1750* and in many other publications, such as J.R. Morpurgo’s *Their Majesties’ Royal College and Dampier’s A New Voyage Around the World*. The pirates’ personal writings and contemporary, sometimes official correspondence all provide different perspectives on what actually happened. John Fitzhugh Millar M.A. ’81, a historian and colonial maritime enthusiast, has made it a particular mission to consolidate the finer points of a story that brushes so much history, but that so few are familiar with.

“I wanted to nail down all the details so that people couldn’t dismiss it that easily,” he says. “If it has legs in so many different places, it’s definitely a real story.”

The real story began when the *Revenge* left Virginia. In November 1683, the pirates sailed their decaying ship into the Sierra Leone River in West Africa. They found exactly what they were looking for: A newer, better-built ship with a Danish crew was anchored there, near what would later become Freetown, Sierra Leone. One version of the story claims Dampier challenged the Danes to a high-stakes card game with the ship as a wager — and won. Another version indicates that the crew stole the other ship and traded the larger *Revenge* for the Danes’ cargo of female African slaves. The crew boarded the formerly Danish ship and christened it the *Batchelors Delight* — having taken at least some of the slaves as consorts.

The more experienced pirates among them knew that the Caribbean was crawling with Spanish military patrols, making it a less-than-profitable choice. Instead, the *Batchelors Delight* sailed west across the Atlantic, rounded the treacherous Cape Horn — most of the slaves died of hypothermia in the process — and arrived at the west coast of South America. Sea trading routes existed between the coastal towns at the foot of the Andes, as the mountainous terrain made road-building too difficult.

The Spanish felt Cape Horn was enough of a deterrent to pirates, so ships carrying precious metals from the South American interior traveled up and down the coast with little protection. *Batchelors Delight* piled the west coast of the Americas from Chile to California, raiding when they could and hiding amongst the numerous coastal islands. Dampier in particular made extensive notes of the Galápagos Islands wildlife that Charles Darwin would find valuable a century and a half later.

**Disaster and Debauchery**

Unfortunately, not all of the ship’s voyages were unaccompanied. A coordinated attack on a Spanish treasure convoy went sour; allied French privateers did not support *Batchelors Delight* and the ship took heavy damage before being chased west by the Spanish government. Millar believes the crew became the first Westerners to see the east coast of New Zealand while in retreat.

By now, Cook had died, leaving the ship without a leader. Edward Davis was elected captain and was said to be one of the few leaders to keep a crew together for more than four years. Davis sailed the *Batchelors Delight* back to South America and resumed raiding its coastal towns. Towns
such as León and El Realejo in what is today Nicaragua, as well as Paita and Guayaquil in modern-day Ecuador were sacked. While the treasure from such activities was great, the pirate crew was always shifting. One raid resulted in the capture of a slave ship and the taking of the slaves aboard the Batchelors Delight. Even Dampier left to join a slightly more honorable cause: as navigator on the Cygnet, an occasional ally of the Delight, while attempting to complete his second circumnavigation of the world. He would eventually be marooned on an island 800 miles east of Sri Lanka, only to find his way back to civilization in a homemade canoe.

**RETURN TO RESPECTABILITY?**

By 1687, the Batchelors Delight crew had had enough. Since they had left England to flee the reign of King James II, the news that William and Mary were poised to ascend to the throne encouraged them to return home. Furthermore, King James had signed a proclamation granting amnesty to pirates that registered in England. Their enthusiasm for the two new monarchs would eventually mark their return home with some considerable irony.

At the outset, the men had not intended to remain buccaneers forever, but some had a change of heart while living a life of piracy.

“When they finished this voyage, some of them said, ‘We’re done,’ but others had gotten piracy into their blood,” says Millar, who has been leading efforts to build a replica of Batchelors Delight for sail training, along with 11 other historic ships. “They bought the ship and then took it out to India to continue being pirates. So that shows that human beings can be tempted.”

The remaining, now former pirates thought they had a plan. They claimed to have buried some of their treasure on tiny Cocos Island off the Costa Rica shore and rounded Cape Horn that fall. On their way north along the Atlantic shore, Dr. Wafer explained to the crew that it looked too suspicious to arrive in England with a boatload of pirates. Instead, the Batchelors Delight would anchor in ports from Jamaica northward, dropping off crewmen with their shares of the loot before the last of them would sell the ship in Philadelphia. The men would then find their way back to England individually. In Port Royal, Jamaica, Capt. Davis obtained a pardon from the governor and revealed that the total remaining treasure was in excess of 50,000 Spanish dollars.

Davis and Wafer were deposited in Virginia along with seaman John Hingson and Peter Cloise, one of the former slaves who had joined the crew. Upon their arrival at Jamestown, however, their carefully constructed plan began to fall apart within hours. The pardon Davis got in Jamaica was useless in Virginia, and all four men were captured by the Royal Navy and imprisoned without charges. They all claimed to have been mere merchants, but Hingson slipped up and began to reveal inconsistencies in their story. Cloise sold them out entirely.

The legal system at that time was hardly rigid. The judge at Jamestown feared retribution from other pirates if he found the four men guilty in Virginia, never mind the confusion over whether they knew about King James’ amnesty program. While the authorities ignored the English constitution’s guarantee to a speedy trial, Davis, Wafer, Hingson and Cloise remained at Jamestown for three years.

On a writ of habeas corpus, their lawyer managed to secure their release with the help of brand-new governor Francis Nicholson. Cloise died in the interim. The three men were extradited to London for their trial in 1690, despite a constitutional guarantee that trials must be held close to the location of the arrest.

“Constitutional law was not a prominent field at that time,” says Millar:

**DUELING STRUGGLES**

Meanwhile, James Blair had arrived in London in late summer of 1691 with directives for a new college in Virginia on his mind. England and her allies had just engaged French king Louis XIV in the Nine Years’ War; nearly all of the friends Blair was expecting to see were unavailable or away from London when he arrived. He was forced to seek funding and assistance from strange places. While he waited for the powerful to return, Blair passed the time by collecting donations from London merchants who were familiar with Virginia. By November, the monarchs were ready for him. While William and Mary endorsed the plan for a college in the Virginia colony by royal charter, the demands of the war meant any financial support would be much delayed. Blair continued to wait — and search.

Free on bail in the streets of London, the three ex-pirates were not tried until 1692. The British judge was no more grounded in law than his Virginian counterpart; while personally convinced that Wafer, Davis and Hingson were pirates, he lacked the appropriate evidence to convict them. Caught in between, he suggested a deal. If the supposed pirates would donate a substantial portion of their treasure to a charitable purpose, they would be exonerated. The ex-pirates complied. As the pirates had been arrested in Virginia, it seemed only appropriate that some portion of their treasure be reappropriated to Blair’s newly endorsed college. In 1692, Wafer, Davis and Hingson contributed £300 of loot to the College of William and Mary — over $900,000 in 2010 dollars. Thanks to their coerced generosity, King William would eventually issue a royal proclamation restoring the remainder of their treasure to them and ensuring their freedom. Thereafter, Wafer was involved with the failed Scottish colony at Darién, Panama; Davis returned to piracy in Madagascar and was ultimately hanged.

In Virginia, the plan began to take shape in the years to come, forming the beginnings of the College of William and Mary. Not long after, Gov. Nicholson moved the colony’s capital from swampy Jamestown to Middle Plantation, renaming it Williamsburg after his king. The foundations of the College’s first building — now known as the Wren, after its supposed architect — were built in part with the proceeds from a life of piracy on the high seas.

But if the rest of the Batchelors Delight treasure is, in fact, still buried on Cocos Island, it has never been found. ■

For John Millar’s extended take on the pirates’ tale, visit us online at www.virginiamuseum.org?summer04. pirates. For more on his efforts to build 12 replica colonial ships for sail training, visit www.colonialnavy.org.
Capturing Nature in BRONZE

By Melissa V. Pinard

Trio of Herons Fountain, Town Center of Virginia Beach
If you walk into the studio of wildlife sculptor David Turner ’83, you may not know where to look first. There are clay maquettes — small-scale, 3-D models of sculptures, ranging from 3 inches to over a foot tall — not to mention numerous images of animals from around the world and a few mounted animal heads. Turner considers himself a naturalist, and it is in this room that he brings ideas to life that might have been milling around in his head since he was a child.

“My work is a combination of all the observations I have made over the years,” he says. “I don’t just reference one image and then sculpt it.”

His styles and interests have evolved over the years. He now experiments with using less realistic forms, such as his three stylized herons at the Town Center of Virginia Beach, which have a slightly more modern flair.

“You can get caught up in the details that don’t really add to the sculpture,” says Turner. “Now I am striving to capture the essence of the piece.”

Although he creates many bird sculptures, he says he has had a fascination with river otters over the past couple of years and also has been working on a quail pair; another animal that harkens from his youth. “I had a pet quail for seven years,” he says.

Turner also just completed a project for Jamestown: a group of sails that are in front of the Jamestown Settlement’s main exhibition building. There were more than 100 pieces cast separately for that project, which took over a year to complete — including three months to make the models, a month to make the molds and four months to cast, pour and assemble the bronze. More than 3,000 pounds of bronze were used. The sculpture was dedicated at a ceremony on May 15 and named A Fair Wind.

Creating a sculpture is a multi-step process. The Turner Sculpture gallery and foundry on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, which David co-founded with his father, William, in 1983, currently employs 11 people.

“These are local people whom we train as artisans in specific aspects of the lost wax process of bronze casting,” says Turner. “Most of them have worked for us for 15 to 20 years.”

Each person becomes an expert in a certain area that’s an essential part of the whole process. The first step is making the molds around the clay model, which Turner creates, to capture the details. The next step is pouring the 225-degree molten wax into the mold to create a pattern. The wax is then shaped and corrected by hand with tools. The next step is called spruing, which involves attaching wax bars to allow for future metal to flow through and for gases to escape. Then the wax figure is dipped anywhere from six to 12 times in a ceramic liquid, depending on the size of the piece, to form a mold around it. The wax melts out in the 1,500-degree kiln as the mold hardens. Later, 2,000-degree molten bronze is poured into the hollow ceramic mold. After the metal cools, the ceramic mold is hammered off to reveal the bronze castings, which are joined together in the welding room. Finally, a patina is applied to create the effect that Turner desires for that particular piece.

Growing up on the Eastern Shore, Turner remembers poring over nature books well before he could read. Today, his bronze sculpture creations are an amalgamation of images he has seen, either in person or print. His father, a University of Virginia grad, began sculpting in the mid-1950s, mentored by renowned sculptor Robert Rockwell, while his main livelihood at the time was dentistry. William Turner
took his sons hunting and fishing and exposed them to the great outdoors at an early age. David began creating clay images of the natural world at the age of 6.

Today, David and his wife, Pamela, split their time between Arlington, Va., and a home on the Eastern Shore, which they call the “Misty House” because it was the house that was used for exteriors in the film *Misty*, based on the book *Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry. The couple, who is expecting a child this fall, enjoy taking their boat out to the serene barrier islands. “I learned to drive a boat before a car,” says Turner. “I enjoy the islands now even more than I did when I was a kid.” Turner also has three grown children: Jason, 26, Rachel, 22, and Rebecca, 19.

During his high school days, he played football and was on the 1978 Onancock High School team that made it to the state championship for the first time in the school’s history. A recruiter from William and Mary under head coach Jim Root encouraged him to play at the College. After a year, he switched from football to the College’s rifle team.

During college, Turner majored in biology and minored in studio art. “I took as many whole organism and field biology courses as I could,” he says. “I also took Carl Roseberg’s sculpture courses several times.”

While most of his classmates were interested in pursuing medical degrees, he was interested in animals and nature. For two months one summer, Turner had an internship on an island in the Chesapeake Bay, where he studied and released six young peregrine falcons into the wild. “I lived a Tom Sawyer kind of life,” he says. “It was the buggiest place I have ever been.”

Following graduation, after six months of working at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., he knew he had enough of the sterile lab environment. Up to this point, sculpting had been a hobby for Turner; but he decided to return to the Eastern Shore and pursue his art as a career.

Although Turner Sculpture is located on a rural stretch of Highway 13 in Onley, Va., next to Tammyn and Johnny’s famous chicken restaurant, the Turners attract a lot of customers who just happen to be driving by. Around 25 percent of the Turners’ business comes from walk-ins to the gallery, with the rest of their sales coming from the newsletter they send out, art shows and commissioned pieces.

Customized pieces can cost anywhere from $20,000 to $250,000. Considering bronze currently costs $4 a pound and a sculpture like *A Fair Wind* at Jamestown is composed of nearly 3,000 pounds of bronze, it is understandable that the materials and labor alone could be a hefty sum.

Turner has designed over 300 pieces in his career and has sculpted over 50 public commissions, from the *Bald Eagles* in the College’s Sadler Center to *Spadefish* in front of three North Carolina aquariums. Turner’s art can be seen in many places, from Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., to the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago.

“I used to focus on one piece at a time,” he says. “Now it could be up to three or four.”

Another of his sculptures will be displayed at William and Mary sometime in the fall — a stylized dove to mark the College of William and Mary Memorial Grove.

Whether an eagle with a wingspan of 13 feet or a small penguin that can fit in your hand, of the many creations he has made over the years Turner says, “My favorite piece is usually the one I am working on. I sculpt because it is a way I can express my passion and love of nature.”

For more information or to see more of Turner’s works, visit www.turnersculpture.com.

Left: *Taking Flight* earned Turner Best in Show for Sculpture at the 40th Anniversary Ward World Championship Show in 2010. Right: David (left) and his father, William, sit in front of Turner Sculpture gallery and foundry on Route 13 near Onley, Va.
Well, by the time you read this, I will have just returned from my honeymoon in Costa Rica. I generally avoid personal references in this note, but with marriage being such a monumental moment, I thought it deserved a mention. It’s also a good segue to request wedding photos. When recently reading the Re-Echo, a publication the Alumni Association produces for 50th Reunion, I noticed just how many members of the Class of 1960 have been married for 40 or 50 years. It impressed upon me the notion that it can be done, despite odds that say otherwise in this day and age.

In an effort to gather more on-campus historical photos, if you were married at the Wren and have been married 50 years or more, please do send us a photo from your wedding day. We would love to print those in Class Notes. We would also like to encourage groups of current alumni who attend weddings to take photos showing their Tribe pride and send them to us at alumni.magazine@wm.edu or mail them to the William and Mary Alumni Magazine, P.O. Box 2100, Williamsburg, VA 23187. We cannot promise to print every one, but we will make an effort to put them in the magazine and, if not, post them online. We look forward to seeing those images.

Have a wonderful summer and see you in the fall. Don’t forget to mark your calendars for Homecoming, Oct. 21-24, where you may get a chance to see the Griffin in person. Regardless of how you feel about past traditions, which will forever be a part of this College’s great history, once you get a glimpse of the Griffin, he is sure to win you over as a great new addition to the Tribe.
Shelia E. Harris

~ Executive Housekeeper at the President’s House

Hometown: Charles City, Va.
Family: Son Lorenzo Harris Jr., three grandchildren

How long have you worked at the College? This year makes 24 years, so it has been a long time. I actually was hourly for a year, so if they counted that I would have been here for 25 years.

Why did you come to work here? My mother, Elenora Robinson, was a housekeeping supervisor and she let me know they were hiring at Yates dormitory, where I worked hourly. My friend and sister in Christ, Catherine Bartlett, was working at the President’s House. After her assistant left, she asked the housekeeping manager to bring me over to work with her. I really didn’t want to come, but the manager said I was the only one she knew would make it here. “With your attitude you can work with anybody,” she said.

What’s the transition like between the four presidents you have worked for? For me, it’s fine. I don’t let anything get next to me. I just go with the flow. A lot of people say, “I don’t see how in the world you do it,” but I always put God first. As long as I have God in my life, everything else follows.

Who was your favorite visitor to the House? It was very, very exciting meeting Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She was awesome. She shook my hand with her glove on and I was the one who gave Nick the gift he was going to be giving to her — President Nichol, but everybody called him Nick. The whole family was on a first-name basis. They were just low-key.

What does your average day look like? I come in running and go straight to work. There are challenges to cleaning an old house, but it comes so easy to me. I enjoy doing it. I also run errands and go to the grocery store to pick up things. I know what each and every president likes and doesn’t like. President Reveley, his favorite is navel oranges. There is never a dull moment. If we have a student lunch, then I will take a break from the ironing board and the cleaning because I go up and help. I am usually in the back of the House. I don’t care that much for being out in the front.

What do you like to do when you are not working? I enjoy reading and relaxing and looking at movies. I have all of Tyler Perry’s movies and I just read Steve Harvey’s book. I am going on a cruise to Bermuda and I am taking my grandson with me. I go to all of his basketball games too.

Interview by Melissa V. Pinard