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Muscarelle Museum of Art | The College of William and Mary

This year
The French Burgundy theme featuring the renowned Leroy Wines will be a rare wine lover opportunity. The event will begin with a diverse tasting of the finest Virginia wines and conclude with the running of the 139th Kentucky Derby. The live auction and silent auctions will feature exclusive Burgundy wines and other unique lots available only through this event.

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In so many ways, William & Mary is proud to stand apart. Join us in advancing this tradition of inspired independence.
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ON THE COVER: Nicole Lewis ’03, founder and CED of Generation Hope.
COVER PHOTO BY EMILY WEISS
GOOD FRIENDS
I’ve been enjoying the [Winter 2012] Alumni Magazine. One of these days I’ll send my news to my Class Reporter; she will faint because I keep promising. For some years I was our ’61 class editor; way before email, so it should be much easier these days!

[In the photo of the] A&E Council from page 20 is my daughter, Nancy Gunn ’88 … sitting in front of my classmate Bob Wachs ’61! Aaron De Groft ’88 and Sheri Holman ’88, a good class! As was mine!

I also enjoyed the article about Bob Flinn ’62, a good friend. Great that you spotlighted him as he is a dedicated alumnus, but most people don’t know him unless they are also in the Jamestowne Society or from southern Virginia as he and I are. I’ve attached a much more recent photo of Bob with me and an elderly cousin of mine, whom I didn’t know about before Bob got us together. Turned out she had a crush on my father back in the ‘30s but they had lost touch and she didn’t know about me!

MARGARET GUNN ’61
Williamsburg, Va.

DALAI LAMA
Always interesting to see how critical reflection seems to give way to worshipfulness in the presence of the Dalai Lama; even a giggle gets read as profound. Let’s not forget that His Holiness represents a theocracy that has kept its people in a state of feudalism for centuries. He proclaims his friendship and love for the president who brought us Guantanamo Bay and an expanded acceptance for state torture. In response to a recent question regarding LGBT rights, he offered tolerance with the observation that such a lifestyle wasn’t morally acceptable to Buddhism, humbly assuming the role of spokesperson for all of Buddhism. One wonders whether a spiritual leader holding similar views and representing a different religious tradition would be so reverentially received.

BRUCE GARSHIDE ’62
Montreal

We welcome letters from our readers and reserve the right to edit them. Please send correspondence to Editor, William & Mary Alumni Magazine, P.O. Box 2100, Williamsburg, VA 23187 or email alumni.magazine@wm.edu.

Accepting Nominations for Alumni Board of Directors

The William & Mary Alumni Association calls for nominations for its Board of Directors. The Board represents all alumni in its capacity of general and financial policymaking for the Alumni Association. Meeting at least twice per year, the Board has specific powers to promote the general welfare of the Association’s membership and its affiliation with the College. Other responsibilities include serving on ad hoc committees, participating in the Alumni Association’s major fundraising programs including the New York/DC Auctions and the Alumni Leadership Fund, advancing the Alumni Association’s mission both on campus and in their home areas and assisting in stewardship and cultivation of alumni for leadership and volunteerism.

At least 16 members will comprise the Board of Directors, and elections are held annually by the membership of the Association. All alumni are eligible to vote. Directors serve one term of four years. Directors may not serve consecutive terms but may be re-elected to the Board if at least one year elapses between terms.

The form is available at www.wmalumni.com/awards, or call 757.221.7855 for assistance.

The deadline for submission of nominations is June 1, 2013. Elections will be held from September to October, 2013.

Call for Nominations: Alumni Medallion Awards

The William & Mary Alumni Association calls for nominations of candidates to receive the 2014 Alumni Medallion.

The Alumni Medallion is the highest and most prestigious award the Alumni Association can bestow on a graduate of the College. This award recognizes individuals who have exemplary accomplishments in their professional life, service to the community, state or nation, and loyalty and commitment to William & Mary. The Board will consider all three areas when they select the Medallion recipients. However, there may be an occasion when they consider an individual based on extraordinary achievement in only one or two areas.

Nominations must be submitted on the form provided by the Alumni Association. It can be downloaded from the Alumni Association’s website at http://www.wmalumni.com/awards or it can be requested by either calling 757.221.7855 or emailing alumni.evp@wm.edu. Include any news articles, vitae, biographical sketches or additional information that are available as supporting documents. Up to two supporting letters may be included with the nomination form; additional letters will not be reviewed. Incomplete nominations will not be considered. Deadline for submission of all nominations for the 2014 award is July 1, 2013.
Always Connected

It is important for the William & Mary Alumni Association to serve the entire alumni community and foster lifelong relationships with all alumni, not just our generous donors. It is the importance of these lifelong relationships that makes our Alumni Association different from many across the nation. We are both a voice for alumni and a voice to alumni. Most importantly, we don’t ask for dues or have any other membership criteria. Through this tradition, we serve the entire community of alumni. You are the Alumni Association.

Alumni play an essential role in the present and future life of W&M. A vibrant alumni engagement program is one that fosters the relationship between our alumni and their alma mater. Engaged alumni support the university to the extent of their ability through both their time and personal resources. They build positive awareness of the university — supporting admissions efforts, creating internship and job opportunities, forging bonds with other alumni, serving as volunteers and giving to annual and capital campaigns.

Fostering strong, lifelong relationships with our alumni is essential to the strategic vision of the university. It is for this reason that I am pleased to welcome Kelly Holdcraft to the Alumni Association (see p. 104). Kelly will lead our Office of Alumni Engagement. She was most recently director of and an adjunct professor in the paralegal studies program at Georgetown University. Since 2010, Kelly has served as a board member for the Michigan State University Alumni Association and currently is the chair of their career services committee. Kelly recently completed her master’s degree in strategic communications from Georgetown University. In addition, Kelly earned her bachelor’s degree in social science from Michigan State University.

The Alumni Association routinely coordinates and hosts alumni engagement events to connect alumni to the College. These events are in the form of Homecoming, engagement activities, geographic gatherings, local chapter events, career networking, student-oriented get-togethers and various other connection opportunities. Alumni engagement takes many forms, from event attendance to volunteer activities on committees and boards; from contacting College officials to updating your information on wmalumni.com or interacting on Facebook. Alumni engagement occurs on a daily basis between individual alumni and the College and Alumni Association.

Alumni Chapters also represent the opportunity to maintain the College’s brand nationally, to keep alumni connected to place and one another, and to allow mutual support between the College and its alumni. For more information on W&M Alumni Chapters, see page 18. I encourage you to get involved with your Tribe wherever you are.

Few universities are more critical to the well-being of our nation than William & Mary. And fewer still boast an alumni community of such prestige and distinction. Your Alumni Association is focused on targeting and extending W&M’s reach, while supporting and highlighting the College’s presence in regions across the country, and renewing ties and channels of communication with alumni.

It is our goal and our responsibility to shape the next generation of alumni and foster our lifelong relationship with current alumni. It is their character, talent and leadership ability that will define and chart the future of William & Mary. We owe it to all of you to foster the relationship with your Tribe to the extent of your ability through both their time and personal resources, creating internship and job opportunities, forging bonds with other alumni, serving as volunteers and giving to annual and capital campaigns. Go Tribe!

Executive Vice President
William & Mary Alumni Association
STANDING APART

“The material I teach keeps me motivated, but the really powerful force is the students’ motivation. It creates a dynamic — a cycle of enthusiasm — that feeds on itself. That enthusiasm turns teaching from a task into a passion.”

NANCY COMBS
PROFESSOR OF LAW, VICE DEAN AND DIRECTOR
OF THE HUMAN SECURITY LAW CENTER

WILLIAM & MARY
Learn more about how William & Mary stands apart by visiting ringingfarandnear.wm.edu.
Globalized Education

When the U.S. Agency for International Development announced a series of major awards last fall at the U.S. State Department, senior officials from leading universities took turns summarizing their work. When it was William & Mary’s turn to describe our AidData Center for Development Policy that had won a huge $25 million award, Alena Stern ’12, the only student to speak for her university, captivatingly described the scope and importance of the huge databases the AidData Center has created, and will now expand, to allow much more effective tracking of foreign aid dollars. One observer exclaimed, “Is that a student?!” Months later, USAID Administrator Raj Shah continued to cite Stern’s speech.

This is another illustration of our undergraduates’ deep immersion in important research. It also makes clear that a research university W&M plays in leagues dominated by schools much larger and better funded than we. And it is an example of W&M’s growing global reach and influence. Our global impact has also been expanding because of the effectiveness of our Reves Center for International Studies, which helps to coordinate and catalyze internationalization across our liberal arts university. Next year it will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

But, of course, W&M has been a global enterprise since its founding in London in 1693. Alumni such as Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe were international as well as national leaders — as are contemporary alumni such as Robert M. Gates ’65, L.H.D. ’98. Our reputation as a university that couples a distinguished history and together, we do. This is a bold claim.

Yet the faculty, students, staff and alumni of our great liberal arts university do make our world a better place. And we’re more international than ever. This year W&M enrolled more than 500 undergraduate and graduate students representing 47 countries. Among all public universities, W&M ranks second in terms of percentage of undergraduates studying abroad. On every continent, W&M is engaged in collaborative research, innovative teaching and community engagement to promote understanding and to solve problems.

Take, for example, the work of Professor Scott Ickes (Kinesiology) in Malawi and Uganda. He has been developing the East and Southern African Nutrition Initiative (ESANI), a partnership including W&M, the Medical College of Malawi and the Makerere University School of Public Health to conduct research and develop an education program in the area of child nutrition and global health. The partnership is expected to create regular opportunities for W&M students to conduct independent and collaborative research and to expand our engagement in the Eastern and Southern Africa region.

The new W&M joint-degree program with the University of St Andrews in Scotland, now in its second year, has already attracted dozens of outstanding students who are forging a new kind of bicontinental liberal arts program focusing on four fields — English, economics, history and international relations, fields in which both W&M and St Andrews have international reputations for excellence. When the first joint degree students receive their diplomas in May 2015, in both St Andrews and Williamsburg, they will be very well prepared to enter the global job market of the 21st century.

W&M is forging new ties in the Middle East. Thanks to W&M’s close relationship with the Sultanate of Oman, we have already attained major funding to augment our offerings on Chinese language and culture. By partnering with Virginia’s public schools over the years to come, the WMCI open opportunities for K-12 teachers throughout southern Virginia to study Mandarin language and to travel to China.

Then there are W&M’s longstanding service learning programs in Bosnia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Nicaragua. Or the recent W&M study abroad program in Russia in which undergraduates produced documentary films about St Petersburg in the Russian language. With VIMS polar research projects, the Tribe Pride has even reached the Antarctic.

Enough! The picture is clear.

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

ALUMNI MAGAZINE SPRING 2013
Michelangelo: Sacred and Profane
Muscarelle Museum Hosts Landmark Exhibition ~ BY KELLEY FREUND

A lightly sketched Mary nurses a muscular baby Jesus. While the illustration of the Madonna seems barely there, Jesus is etched in sharp relief, looking as if he were carved out of stone.

This drawing, “Madonna and Child,” is one of the best-known illustrations by renowned Renaissance artist Michelangelo. And currently it’s not hanging in one of the world’s major museums. It’s hanging in the Muscarelle Museum of Art at William & Mary.

In keeping with its tradition of attracting high-profile art pieces, the Muscarelle is hosting *Michelangelo: Sacred and Profane, Masterpiece Drawings from the Casa Buonarroti*, a showcase of 25 drawings by Michelangelo. This landmark exhibition celebrates the 30th anniversary of the founding of the museum in 1983.

In addition to the anniversary celebration, the Italian government and the U.S. Department of State have named 2013 as “The Year of Italian Culture.” The Muscarelle has been named an official participant in this cultural exchange, along with a limited number of other American museums, including the Museum of Modern Art, whose director, Glenn Lowry D.A. ’09, was the first director of the Muscarelle.

The works of art are on loan from Casa Buonarroti in Florence, Italy. The museum, housed in a palazzo that Michelangelo once owned, holds the most extensive and important collection of Michelangelo material in the world — about half the Michelangelo drawings in existence.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and William & Mary's Muscarelle Museum is thrilled to celebrate our anniversary with this international Michelangelo exhibition,” says Aaron De Groft ’88, the museum’s director.

Since there are only about a dozen drawings by Michelangelo in the United States, the exhibition at the Muscarelle is considered to be the largest and most significant Michelangelo exhibition in America in over 20 years. The 25 drawings selected for the exhibition are divided between studies for paintings and designs and plans for churches and
military fortifications, including several major sheets never previously exhibited in the United States. Also included are several plans too ambitious and costly to be realized, such as the façade of the church of San Lorenzo in Florence, the ground plan of the church of San Giovanni dei Fiorentini in Rome and a new balustrade for the dome of the cathedral in Florence.

Throughout his career, Michelangelo alternated between interpretations of the divine and the worldly, or the profane. The exhibition investigates the artist’s innermost philosophy as revealed in his drawings.

John T. Spike is the Muscarelle’s assistant director, an Italian Renaissance scholar and curator of the Michelangelo exhibit. “Michelangelo’s drawings capture the sacred parts of life — such as the divine beauty of ‘Madonna and Child,’” says Spike. “But he’s also showing us the darker side of mortality. The contrast and coincidence of these two basic elements fascinated Michelangelo, and we can follow his thinking in his drawings.”

It is believed that in “Madonna and Child,” the baby was drawn to look more realistic and perfect and therefore connected to the sacred, while the Madonna was drawn more imperfect, like the world she is connected to.

Another example of this duality is Michelangelo’s double-sided drawing of Cleopatra. On one side the artist portrays her as serene and divine. Twenty years ago, curators discovered a hidden and completely different drawing on the back. Here Cleopatra is displayed in anguish.

“It’s the same Cleopatra as some horrible wraith or banshee,” says Spike. “This terrifying drawing is to remind us that we mustn’t give in to the allure of sensuality.”

Several of the exhibition’s drawings are unfinished, something Michelangelo did throughout his career.

“He left things unfinished to show us the limitations of our human ideas,” says Spike. The exhibition came to the Muscarelle thanks to the friendship between W&M’s Chancellor Professor Emeritus Miles Chappell ’60 and Dr. Pina Ragionieri, director of the Casa Buonarroti. Ragionieri worked with the Muscarelle back in 2010, when it hosted another Michelangelo exhibit. Michelangelo: Sacred and Profane is dedicated to Ragionieri for her contributions to the study of Michelangelo.

The exhibition runs through April 14. Cost is $15 for the public and free to museum members, children under 12, and William & Mary faculty, staff and students.
W&M Celebrates its 320th Birthday

Alumni, faculty and staff members, students and other friends filled William & Mary Hall on Feb. 8 for the annual Charter Day Ceremony. This year’s ceremony included speeches from Chancellor Robert M. Gates ’65, L.H.D. ’98 and President Taylor Reveley, both of whom made W&M’s 320th birthday the best to date. Other highlights of the weekend included the Athletic Educational Foundation Lord Botetourt Auction (p. 31), the Alumni Medallion Ceremony and the Charter Day concert.

Gates focused on the value of higher education, condemning the government’s increasing lack of support for it. Higher education is a public good that should be supported by the government for the benefit of society as a whole, said the former secretary of defense. “We will all pay the price for short-changing education, research and other investments in the future,” said Gates. “It will be felt in the decline of America’s quality of life, standards of living and global influence.”

During the weekend, prizes and awards were presented to faculty, students, alumni and friends who make a difference at W&M and in our nation and world.

Taylor Nelson ’13 was 3 years old when her mother became the founding executive director of the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic near her hometown of Weems, Va. She spent many hours in the clinic and learned how to count by calling out prescription numbers. Nelson was honored for the work she has done as a result of that inherited passion for helping others as the recipient of the 2013 James Monroe Prize for Civic Leadership.

In his final semester, Brian Rabe ’13 is finishing up a major in biology; he already has completed work on a chemistry major. He’s been an active and productive researcher and a campus leader, serving as both a teaching assistant and a resident assistant. Rabe is the 2013 recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Prize in Natural Philosophy.

Dean for Educational Policy Teresa Longo received the Thomas Jefferson Award. The award is presented to a person who “has demonstrated a deep devotion and outstanding service to the College and whose life, character and influence on the College exemplify the principles of Thomas Jefferson.”

Michael Tierney ’87 received the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award. The award is a tribute to several members of the 18th-century faculty who influenced and encouraged Thomas Jefferson. The award is intended to recognize today’s teachers on the faculty. It is given annually to a younger teaching member of the College community who has demonstrated, through concern as a teacher and through character and influence, the inspiration and stimulation of learning to the betterment of the individual and society as exemplified by Thomas Jefferson.

Lois Critchfield HON ’06, a longtime friend of William & Mary and former CIA employee, received an honorary degree during Charter Day. Since moving to Williamsburg in 1996, Critchfield and her late husband, James, have been among William & Mary’s most stalwart friends, especially to the Wendy and Emery Reves Center for International Studies. She has been instrumental in expanding Middle Eastern Studies at the university. In 2005, Critchfield received William & Mary’s Lord Botetourt Award, which is presented to non-alumni friends of the College who have contributed to its success. The next year, she was named an honorary alumna of the university.

On Feb. 9, Alumni Medallions were awarded to D. Bruce Christian ’73, Nancy W. Mathews ’76 and Donald G. Owens ’65, J.D. ’71. Awarded every year since 1934, the Alumni Medallion is the highest and most prestigious award given by the William & Mary Alumni Association.
Alumni Medallion recipients have distinguished themselves through exemplary professional accomplishments, service to the community, state or nation, and loyalty and dedication to the College of William & Mary.

To top the weekend off, singer and songwriter Gavin DeGraw performed at the third annual Charter Day concert with opening act Good Old War. The event was held in William & Mary Hall's Kaplan Arena and was sponsored by Global Flight Relief, a non-profit organization based in Newport News, Va. A packed house illuminated by glow sticks and neon bracelets jumped up and cheered thunderously as DeGraw took the stage.

To view the entire Charter Day ceremony, visit http://www.wm.edu/sites/charterday/watchtheceremony.

— W&M News
Healing History
Justin Reid’s ’09 Homeward Journey

Justin Reid ’09 leaned forward as he spoke in the old auditorium where, 61 years earlier, the students of Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, Va., decided to walk out in protest.

“This school, which was built for 180 students, had almost 500,” he said. “They didn’t have science laboratories; they didn’t have a cafeteria. They were having makeshift classes in tar paper shacks. ... So 450 students, some of them as young as 12 years old, decided they’d had enough.”

Today, the modest brick building houses the Moton Museum, where Reid works as associate director of museum operations. A National Historic Landmark since 1998, it remains one of the most important sites of the modern civil rights struggle. It is also one of the least known — as Reid can attest, having learned little about it while growing up just a few miles away.

He is part of a small but determined team working to change that, and in a way that unites, rather than divides his hometown.

“We’re a community still wrestling with, and coming to terms with, our role in history,” Reid reflected. “Our battle wounds are still deep, and very real, and four decades of concealment and relative silence haven’t helped us heal. The Moton Museum is inspiring a new movement of collaboration, openness and honesty. That’s a movement I want to be a part of.”

The two-week boycott that the students launched on April 23, 1951, landed the all-black school at the center of the national firestorm over school segregation. NAACP lawyers filed a lawsuit on the students’ behalf that, three years later, became one of the five cases decided in Brown v. Board of Education, the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark ruling against school segregation.

Virginia’s Prince Edward County responded in the extreme, closing its entire school system in 1959. The Supreme Court forced the schools’ reopening in 1964, but nothing could restore five years of public education lost to thousands of students.

The Moton Museum, Reid explained, honors both the county’s “walk-out” and “lock-out” generations. The museum is unveiling six new galleries this spring to tell their stories.

Last November, Reid returned to William & Mary with three lock-out generation members to give an oral history presentation at Swem Library. More than 100 people, including College President Taylor Reveley, attended.

Reid was both nervous and excited about bringing his work to the College. “It was really at William & Mary that I became conscious of what had happened in [Prince Edward County],” he said. “I slowly began to realize the things I cared about most — cultural sustainability and identity, community development, education — were things I could build a career around here, in my home community.”

When Prince Edward County’s story surfaced in classes about civil rights and constitutional law, Reid began asking more questions. He soon learned about his own relatives’ decisions to leave the county because of the school’s lockout, and about the close friendship between his great-uncle Warren “Kaiser” Reid and Rev. L. Francis Griffin, a local civil rights leader. Griffin filed the lawsuit that forced the county’s schools to reopen in 1964.

Griffin is among those honored on the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial in Richmond, Va. Reid attended the memorial’s dedication in 2008 before spending the summer studying in South Africa. It was an experience that, ironically, compelled him to look homeward even more.

“Here I was in post-apartheid South Africa, learning about the work being done there in terms of reconciliation and really coming to terms with history,” he said. “This was something that I realized my own community was just starting to grapple with.”

When he returned, he switched majors to American studies. “I slowly began to realize the things I cared about most — cultural sustainability and identity, community development, education — were things I could build a career around here, in my home community.”

Reid joined the Moton Museum as special projects manager in 2011 and became associate director for museum operations last year. His duties are a daily changing mix of outreach, programming and event hosting.

Working at the museum, he said, has helped him to understand why his community has remained largely mum about its past. “There was so much hurt wrapped up in that history, you just didn’t talk about it.”

He and his colleagues are trying to frame that conversation in a way that encourages participation from all sides. “We say that this is not a black history museum,” he said. “We view ourselves as an American history museum.”
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To receive a complete brochure on this or other Alumni Journeys, or to make a reservation, contact Susan Bowe ’85 at the William & Mary Alumni Association at alumni.travel@wm.edu or call 757.221.1165.

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William & Mary’s alumni chapters are one of the best ways to engage with the College and reminisce with other alumni. Check out where and how you can connect, no matter where you may roam after graduation.

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Chapter-Area Population Count

KEY

GREATER METRO WASHINGTON DC
GREATER RICHMOND
LOWER NORTHERN NECK
BOTETOURT
LOWER PENINSULA
SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS
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PITTSBURGH 600 FACEBOOK.COM/WMALUMNIPITTSBURGH
SAN FRANCISCO/BAY AREA 1300 FACEBOOK.COM/WMALUMNIBAYAREA
SEATTLE 900 FACEBOOK.COM/WMALUMNISEATTLE
ST. LOUIS 300 FACEBOOK.COM/WMALUMNISTLOUIS

ALUMNI MAGAZINE SPRING 2013 19
Greetings from the Alumni House! I am thrilled to introduce the newly formatted “Alumni Spirit” section of the William & Mary Alumni Magazine. This section now provides our William & Mary alumni chapters and constituent groups with a dedicated gallery to showcase their wide and wonderful Tribes. It also gives alumni an opportunity to see and share how to create lifelong connections with each other and with the College.

William & Mary alumni chapters and groups help the College’s alumni “find their tribe” once they leave campus. Sir Ken Robinson, an education, creativity and innovation leader notes in his book *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything* that one of the key requirements in developing your life’s passion is finding your tribe — connecting with people who share your same passions and commitment. Tribes provide members with validation, inspiration and what Robinson calls an “alchemy of synergy.” This synergy is “created when groups of people with similar interests come together and create something much greater than any one of them could create individually.”

Each time William & Mary alumni find and connect with fellow Tribe members who share their same passion for and commitment to the College, great things happen. In Boston, a newly revived chapter gathered to cheer on W&M Tribe athletics on the road. Houston alumni met to spend a day at the races. The Metro DC chapter brought more than 250 alumni together for Yule Log, and also hosted 25 people to paint portraits of iconic campus landmarks. Charlotte and Chicago chapters have spent evenings together at Tribe Thursdays, and weekends collectively giving back to their communities.

You can see and feel the Tribe pride and alumni spirit at each chapter event and experience. As you know, Tribe pride is a powerful emotion that lasts long after the few years spent on campus. The College is a vibrant entity that has nurtured leaders of our nation for hundreds of years, and provides its students and alumni with a lifetime of opportunities in the future. It is this lifelong relationship of giving and receiving between William & Mary and its alumni that generates alumni spirit. By joining your local chapter either through your leadership or participation, you become an engineer of Tribe Pride!

Kelly S. Holdcraft
Director of Alumni Engagement
kholdcraft@wm.edu
757.221.1172

Chapter Happenings

Donna Evans ’72 and Judi Lownes ’60 at the Williamsburg Alumni Chapter’s February Tribe Thursday.

The Houston Alumni Chapter spent a night at the horse races at Sam Houston Race Park in February.

Tim Brown ’98 takes a break during the Greater Charlotte Alumni Chapter’s volunteer event at the Second Harvest Food Bank in March.
William & Mary and You: The Bond that Never Breaks

The William & Mary Alumni Association is not an historic house. It is beyond reunions and Homecoming. It is more than a place, a time or an event. The William & Mary Alumni Association is you. All of you. You are the face and the voice of William & Mary wherever you may be.

Many years ago, when you first stepped on campus, a lifelong relationship was established. William & Mary was here for you then; the College is here for you today and will continue to be tomorrow.

The College recognizes that alumni engagement is essential to the strategic vision of the university. Our goal is to cultivate vibrant, lifelong relationships with W&M alumni by routinely coordinating and hosting events that connect you to the College, your community and to each other. Events such as the one in Naples, Fla., in February that featured President Reveley (see photo).

You have heard the call from key members of university leadership, from Chancellor Gates to Rector Trammell to President Reveley and many others. Now is the time for alumni to be engaged in supporting and preserving the College of William & Mary that you know and love for future generations of students and alumni.

Engaged alumni go beyond showing up for drinks at Tribe Thursday chapter events; engaged alumni support the university through their time, talent and treasure. William & Mary alumni build positive awareness of the university throughout the nation by forging bonds with other alumni, creating career and internship opportunities for students and alumni, serving as chapter leaders, volunteering in their communities, and giving to annual and capital campaigns.

Whether it is a regional alumni engagement event, or local alumni chapter gathering, we want to see you there. You have heard the call — now is the time!

If you are interested in planning a W&M alumni event in your area, email engagement@wm.edu. For more information on events across the country, visit http://www.wmalumni.com/events.

For One Weekend Only: Alumni of All Ages Return to Campus

The last weekend of April will be a time to reunite with friends from the recent as well as the distant past. Alumni young and old(e) will descend upon Williamsburg beginning April 26, filling the campus with an energy driven by memories shared and memories made.

The Young Guarde will start their weekend off on Friday night with a Welcome Reception at the Alumni House. In addition to the traditional Cheese Shop Luncheon on Saturday, alumni will be treated to an inspirational comedy show by Brett Leake ’82.

Members of the Class of 1963 will celebrate their 50th Reunion that weekend as well. The ever-popular Olde Guarde Induction will take place on Sunday. Current members of the Olde Guarde are invited to the Olde Guarde Celebration and Olde Guarde Day, that Sunday evening and Monday, to reunite with friends and welcome the new class.

To learn more about your reunion weekend, check out the information to the right.

Want to go?

YOUNG GUARDE WEEKEND APRIL 26-28, 2013
Registration deadline: April 24
More information: www.wmalumni.com/ygw

50TH REUNION WEEKEND APRIL 26-28, 2013
Registration deadline: April 17
More information: www.wmalumni.com/50th

OLDE GUARDE CELEBRATION APRIL 28, 2013
Registration deadline: April 22

OLDE GUARDE DAY APRIL 29, 2013
Registration deadline: April 22

The W&M Alumni Association partnered with the Southwest Florida Alumni Chapter for an alumni engagement event featuring President Taylor Reveley on February 28, 2013.
HOMECOMING
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· 2013 ·

OCTOBER
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FICTION

*Face of the Earth* (GreenPoint Ventures, 2012) by Doug and Linda Raber ’84 tells the fictional tale of a smallpox outbreak in the United States, allegedly brought about by a terrorist attack. When reporter Sarah Lockford and medical researcher Jake Overman team up to study the outbreak, they are surprised to discover the true source of the deadly disease’s rapid spread and must warn government officials before any retaliatory action is taken.

As Holly Reese’s high school reunion draws closer, she begins to remember the person she once was in Angie Moses’ ’87 *Flying Home* (Angie Moses, 2011). As the big day comes closer, she begins to regret abandoning her own goals to raise a family. Caught in a crossroads, she must choose between her duty and dreams — nesting or taking flight. Although set on a fictional campus, William & Mary alumni will notice a few references to their alma mater.

FITNESS/HEALTH

Keep those New Year’s resolutions on track with Jay Cardiello ’99 and Pete Williams’ workout guide *Cardio Core 4x4* (Jay Cardiello and Pete Williams, 2012). Guiding you with hundreds of photographs and step-by-step instructions, these 20-minute workouts are designed to be done in the comfort of your own home. Cardiello bases his program on four pillars of success: the spiritual, the emotional, the nutritional and the physical, to help you become your best self in 2013.

HISTORICAL FICTION

*Darkness Visible: A Novel of the 1892 Homestead Strike* (Trilby Busch, 2012) reimagines the strike of Carnegie steel workers in Homestead, Pa., in 1892. Author Trilby Busch ’65 pulls knowledge from her own family’s history in Homestead to write the story of a young immigrant looking to make a fresh start in the booming American steel industry before the calamitous strike takes place.

LAW

W&M law professor James Heller, along with Paul Hellyer and Benjamin Keele, have released the second edition of *The Librarian’s Copyright Companion* (William S. Hein and Co. Inc., 2012). This guide to current copyright laws explains how the laws are changing in the digital age and how not only the creators of information have rights to their data, but those who use the information have their own rights to protect.

MEMOIR

Brad Lesher ’57 compiles his own humorous tales from living and working in Tehran, Paris and Hong Kong in “Don’t Forget the Peanut Butter, George”: *Fun and Funny Times Abroad* (Brad Lesher, 2010). Both a heartwarming account of a tight-knit family discovering how to handle life in a variety of settings and a practical guide for doing business overseas, Lesher’s account encourages everyone with the chance to live and work abroad to “Go for it!”

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

*Sonidos en Contexto* (Yale University Press, 2010) by Terrell A. Morgan ’79 will teach the reader not only how to speak Spanish, but how to speak the language like a native. A comprehensive description of phonetics and phonology for the intermediate to advanced student, *Sonidos en Contexto* uses real-world examples of spoken Spanish to model native pronunciations and provides hands-on activities to interest and instruct the reader.

*Teaching History in an Uncivilized World* (Apple Ridge, 2012), by Philip Bigler M.A. ’84, chronicles his career experiences, from his first years working in education to his selection as the 1998 National Teacher of the Year. In this book, Bigler traces the development of his teaching methods and philosophies in addition to supplying advice for improving the quality of the American public education system.
NONFICTION

In *Air’s Appearance: Literary Atmosphere in British Fiction, 1660-1794* (The University of Chicago Press, 2012) Jayne Elizabeth Lewis M.A. ’84 traces the elusive emergence of “atmosphere” in print works throughout the course of the 18th century. She demonstrates how diverse contemporary concepts regarding this literary air during its development have come together in British fiction to produce the modern sense of atmosphere and link the material and immaterial worlds.

John Dougan’s M.A. ’98, Ph.D. ’01 *The Mis- takes of Yesterday, the Hopes of Tomorrow: The Story of the Prisonaires* (University of Massachusetts, 2012) reveals the story behind the 1953 hit “Just Walkin’ in the Rain.” Recorded by five inmates who called themselves the “Prisonaires,” the single became Sun Studios’ biggest pre-Elvis track. By exploring the tensions caused by creating music in a hostile environment, Dougan sheds light on the Prisonaires’ use of song as an attempt to ensure cultural and personal survival.

The secret and scandalous lives of early Americans are explored in M. Michelle Jarrett Morris’ ’95 *Under Household Government: Sex and Family in Puritan Massachusetts* (Harvard University Press, 2013). Through pregnancies, cases of infidelity, paternity suits and even murders, Morris illustrates how New England families fought for their kin in a society driven by morality but plagued with mortal sin.

PSYCHOLOGY

Understanding and Managing Behaviors of Children with Psychological Disorders: A Reference for Classroom Teachers (Bloomsbury, 2013) offers a series of set behavior management strategies for a wide range of issues experienced by children and young adults. Edited by Jered B. Kolbert Ed.S. ’95, Ph.D. ’98 and Laura M. Crothers, this text provides descriptions of mental health diagnoses, a review of the features of prominent disorders and classroom management techniques. With articles contributed by experts, the compilation is an essential field guide for educators.

Lawrence LeShan ’42 delves into the study of human consciousness in *Landscapes of the Mind: The Faces of Reality* (Eirini Press, 2012). A respected expert in the field of consciousness and behavior, LeShan provides an in-depth taxonomy of the realms of consciousness and a new theoretical model for understanding topics like psychotherapy, philosophy, technology, medicine, religion, politics and even modern warfare.

SPIRITUAL

In his book entitled *Bridges: Reconnecting Science and Faith* (Tate Publishing and Enterprises, LLC, 2012), Rev. Stephen Parker ’78 seeks to bridge the gap between the scientific and spiritual worlds. Parker believes the key to a better understanding of our world can be found using both religious and scientific means, and his book brings people of various backgrounds and beliefs to see a common ground in faith.

CORRECTIONS

The following books were incorrectly attributed in the Winter 2012 issue of the *Alumni Magazine*. The magazine staff regrets these errors.


Carol Cujec Ph.D. ’88 collaborates with Dianne and Peyton Goddard in *I Am Intelligent* (Skirt!, 2012), the account of a mother and daughter’s breakthrough in understanding autism. Dismissed as worthless by many, Peyton was finally able to reveal her brilliance after 22 years through electronic communication. *I Am Intelligent* sheds light on autism and speaks to the value of all those affected by it.
In the spring of 2008, Joseph Plumeri ’66, D.P.S. ’11 made a significant commitment to the quality of education at William & Mary. He created the Plumeri Awards for Faculty Excellence, providing $10,000 stipends to 20 faculty members each year to help advance their scholarly projects. His goal, he said, was to empower professors “to work passionately to challenge the minds of our exceptional students.” In other words, Plumeri chose to support great teaching through an investment in research.

The strategy, which has now benefited dozens of faculty members, recognized a distinctive strength at the heart of the university — the seamless integration of the work professors do in the classroom with their endeavors in the lab, the library and the studio.

“At William & Mary, our faculty members embody the ideal of the scholar-teacher,” explains Kate Slevin, vice provost for academic affairs. “They are committed both to discovering and to sharing knowledge, and we tend not to draw sharp distinctions between these two missions.”

It is a model that offers compelling advantages. Faculty members who are active in research bring unique authority and currency to their teaching. By involving students as apprentices in their research, faculty members introduce students to the enterprise of scholarly investigation, with all its thrills and challenges. The experience provides students an invaluable preparation for life after William & Mary, says Slevin. “Certainly for all our many students whose plans include graduate study, the chance to take part in substantive research as undergraduates is an enormous advantage. But even for those headed in other directions, what could be more useful than this in-depth exercise in investigation, problem solving and the pursuit of complex, open-ended projects?”

Faculty-student collaboration takes many forms, in the lab and far beyond. In the Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences, Professor Michael Deschenes has published 49 articles in peer-reviewed journals, with undergraduate students as co-authors on 45 of them. In the Department of Theatre, Speech & Dance, Assistant Professor Leah Glenn says the student role is different but vital. “When I choreograph a new work, my students are deeply involved. They are the bodies in space, and in that sense my co-creators, with a real sense of ownership.”

For faculty members, collaboration offers rewards as well, the most frequently cited being the chance to work with inspiring young people. “These students are unique,” says Assistant Professor Paul Bhasin, director of bands in the Department of Music. “I’ve never seen another group invest so much of their energies into their studies. If I ask them to explore a topic, I’m shocked at how far they go.”

Ravi Gupta, associate professor of religious studies, concurs. “There’s always a bottom 10 percent — except at William & Mary. Every person in my class does the work and does their best. Teachers love working with students who take their subjects seriously.”
An Inspiring Commitment
Hunter J. Smith '51 Gives $10 Million to William & Mary for Freshman Seminars

The Hunter Smith Family Foundation, located in Charlottesville, Va., has established the Hunter J. Smith Endowment for Freshman Seminars with a gift of $10 million to William & Mary. The gift strengthens one of the core characteristics of a William & Mary undergraduate education — the freshman seminars.

“This magnificent gift from an alumna of the College, Hunter Jones Smith, provides vital support to a cornerstone of undergraduate education at William & Mary — our freshman seminars,” said President Taylor Reveley. “They have an essential role in teaching our new students to think rigorously and critically, develop a breadth of perspective and write effectively. Hunter’s gift will do enormous good at the College for generations to come.”

By John T. Wallace

Providing support for freshman seminars was particularly attractive to Smith, a member of William & Mary’s Class of 1951 and a native of Martinsville, Va. “The idea of making a gift in support of freshman seminars appealed to me on many levels,” she said. “The seminars fit the profile of William & Mary very well and will give freshmen important experiences that develop independent thinking and writing skills.”

Freshman seminars began at William & Mary in 1993. Class size is limited to 15 students, enhancing the interaction between professor and student.

“Freshman seminars are so important to the liberal arts,” said Kate Conley, dean of William & Mary’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences. “They introduce students to in-depth topics, teach them to think and write analytically, teach them how to write at the college level and teach research methods in a particular field.

“They often can form the basis of mentoring relationships between faculty and students and are foundational to a student’s introduction to the academic experience,” Conley added. “I join our faculty in applauding Hunter Smith’s decision to sustain the fundamental academic mission at the heart of William & Mary.”

About 100 freshman seminars are offered at William & Mary each year, across the full range of arts and sciences. During the spring 2013 semester, freshman seminars include such topics as from cavemen to kings, anthropology of food, astrophotography and emerging diseases.

A member of Pi Beta Phi Sorority, Smith majored in philosophy at William & Mary.

“Hunter Smith’s support of the liberal arts at her alma mater is a wonderful tribute to her relationship with William & Mary,” said Earl Granger ’92, M.Ed. ’98, interim vice president for development.

“I believe that her dedication will inspire others to consider how they, too, may make a difference at the College.”
SERVING SUCCESS
Multi-National Team Makes a Racquet

By Shannon Crawford '13
William & Mary women’s tennis may have a new head coach, but he’s hoping to bring back their old ways. While the Tribe was once a name to be feared on regional courts and in national competition, recent seasons have found the team matched against strong competitors in the Colonial
TRIBE SPORTS

Athletic Association. This year, Coach Thomson and his team are proving they can handle anything they’re served.

Although the wins have certainly begun to stack up for the Tribe, Coach Thomson’s goals aren’t outcome based. He and assistant coach Jesse Medvene-Collins feel they’re more consultants for the team than anything else. When describing his take on the job description, Thomson said, “We just let them steer the ship, and tell them what we notice.”

Perhaps looking past the W-L columns has contributed to the team’s success. Although Maria Belaya ’14 is already looking forward to potentially breaking into the sweet 16 at the NCAA championships, they all agree the team is what’s most important.

“We’re all very honest with each other. We value each other and each person’s opinion on the team,” Sydney Smith ’14 said of the Tribe. Teammate Hope Johnson ’14 followed, “We’re just a big group of friends.”

While the team is united in their love for baking, Ultimate Frisbee and pre-match pep talks (especially those given by Jeltje Loomans ’14), they vary immensely in their backgrounds. The eight-person roster represents Russia, Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, the United Kingdom and various parts of the United States. The team agreed that this diversity not only broadened their perspectives, but also gave them excellent vacation destinations.

Of course, the Tribe doesn’t have much time to relax. Their season takes place in the spring, but fall weekends are filled with tournament play. When they do have a spare moment, the team volunteers with the Red Cross and helps fundraise with other Tribe athletes. When asked if the schedule ever seemed too daunting, Anik Cepeda ’13 responded, “That’s why we have summer and winter break.”

Although the team might be booked solid with matches from September to May, Coach Thomson doesn’t let the Tribe lose their focus. By reminding the Tribe to think of their progress and count their reasons to be thankful, Hope Johnson says “he brings out the best in everyone on the team.”

For Coach Thomson, “the primary goal is to enjoy the process of improving.” In this case, this season has given the women’s team — and their fans — plenty to appreciate.
Lord Botetourt Auction Raises $170,000 for Tribe Club

The theme of “Green and Gold” and a combination of tuxedos and sneakers made for a great evening of fun and fundraising for the William & Mary Athletics Department, as its annual premier event The Lord Botetourt Auction raised over $170,000 for the Tribe Club.

The event was hosted in the spectacular setting of William & Mary’s Mason School of Business’ Miller Hall and was sold out for the ninth time in the last 10 years, with over 350 friends, family and alumni of the athletics program in attendance.

The total was near the event record ($172,000, set last year), with all proceeds going toward the Tribe’s Athletics programs, which receive no state funding.

Auction chairs Lauris Zeni ’72 and Betsy Anderson ’70 led a volunteer group of 28 people in organizing the event in association with William & Mary’s Director of Special Events Lisa Starbuck and her staff. Overall, there were 25 sponsors for the event, led by Marilyn Brown HON ’07 and Doug Morton ’62, who pledged at the “Green and Gold” level.

William & Mary President Taylor Reveley was present for the festivities as well and was seen sporting a very trendy set of sunglasses and promoting the new “Griffin” pin and tie.

One of the biggest moneymakers during the silent auction portion of the event was four flight hours on a Tempest Corporate Jet, which brought in $5,000. The largest single auction item price was $7,500 raised for a week on beachfront property at Bald Head Island, N.C.

— Tribe Athletics

[SPORTS BRIEFS]

Five Tribe Legends Named to the W&M Hall of Fame

Five of the Tribe’s finest will be inducted to the William & Mary Athletics Hall of Fame this year.

Al Albert ’69 (Men’s Soccer), Emily Furia ’01 (Women’s Cross Country, Track and Field), Jeanne Foster Kuyper ’89 (Women’s Gymnastics), Jeff Hough ’92 (Track and Field) and Johanna Sones ’97 (Women’s Tennis) make up the Hall of Fame Class of 2013, and will be honored during an event held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House. Although many of the athletes’ names can still be found at the top of the Tribe’s record books, induction to the Hall of Fame ensures their legacy will be remembered.

Webb Represents the Tribe at NFL Combine

All-American cornerback B.W. Webb ’12 became the third Tribe player invited to attend the NFL Scouting Combine. After turning heads at the 2013 Senior Bowl, Webb hopes to have the same effect on the coaches and staff members representing all 32 professional football teams at the combine. A highly decorated CAA athlete, Webb garnered nine postseason all-conference honors and a first-team all-league selection during each of the past three seasons. Additionally, he holds the school record for starts (48) and is ranked among the Tribe’s top 10 in interceptions and punt return yards. Webb looks to join the six W&M alumni currently listed on NFL rosters: Adrian Tracy ’10 and David Caldwell ’10 (New York Giants), Derek Cox ’09 and Jonathan Grimes ’12 (Jacksonville Jaguars), Mike Leach ’00 (Arizona Cardinals), and Sean Lissemore ’10 (Dallas Cowboys).

Drew Leads USA Field Hockey Team to First Gold Medal

The Tribe’s Wesley Drew ’10 and the U.S. national indoor field hockey team brought home the championship at the RohrMax Cup, the team’s first-ever international gold medal. With Drew dominating at center midfield, the team won four out of five of the matches. Although the Americans fell to the Czech team in the first match, Team USA and Drew took their next four matches, including a 3-2 win over Slavia Prag in the final round.
LET’S GET IT STARTED
PHOTO BY BOB KEROACK ’79
See more images at http://a.wmalumni.com/tribe_lax
It was a hard act to follow.

What could possibly be a follow-up to a group of freshmen discovering a new form of life and finding new genes in its genome? The discoveries were made in the phage lab, part of a science education and research program at William & Mary sponsored by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). The idea is to immerse a group of the university’s youngest students in a real-world research experience. This particular experience centers on bacteriophages — phages for short — a class of viruses that infect bacteria.

In 2008, the first freshman phage lab discovered a set of bacteriophages, including one phage found in Crim Dell that was previously unknown to science. They dubbed their discovery CrimD and began to study the genome of the virus, which revealed some genes that were strikingly different from any viral genes ever seen. As that first big year was winding down, there was a shared sense of not wanting it to end.

“We kind of just stared at one another and said yes, that’s a really good idea,” recalled Margaret Saha. Saha, Chancellor Professor of Biology, is the program director for the HHMI initiatives at William & Mary. She has taught the phage lab in collaboration with fellow biologists Mark Forsyth and Kurt Williamson.

The biologists talked it over and decided the next logical step from bacteriophage genomics would be to investigate bacteriophage proteomics. Proteomics is the study of the structure and function of proteins, the molecules that carry out basic cellular functions. It lies in the increasingly hazy borderlands between biology and chemistry.

They enlisted J.C. Poutsma from the chemistry department. Together, the group sought funding from HHMI in its 2010 Science Education Grant application for extending the successful phage lab concept into a year-long, upper-level undergraduate proteomics lab.

“We were very pleased that our grant was funded,” Saha said. “HHMI is very interested in fostering interdisciplinary research — and we thought it would be enormous fun to work with J.C.”

In addition to being a vibrant collaborator, Poutsma is a virtuoso at mass spectrometry, a technique used for identification of chemical compounds at the molecular level. The examination of any of the hundreds of thousands of proteins that are the chemical building blocks of all organisms absolutely requires mass spectrometry and an interdisciplinary focus.

Poutsma doesn’t use the word interdisciplinary, but rather describes the proteomics lab as “trying to tear apart the whole biology-chemistry dichotomy,” as William & Mary’s chemistry and biology majors are able to conduct research at a point where their fields overlap. He noted that other boundaries have come down, as well.

“I thought when we first started that this was probably going to be a senior-level lab, but it turns out that we’ve got sophomores and juniors and seniors in there,” Poutsma said. “There are not very many opportunities for majors across years to be actually interacting with each other, so it’s good to have not only the chemistry-biology thing but also this lab puts the younger students with the ones that are getting ready to go to grad school.”

The proteomics lab studies proteins from bacteriophages discovered by phage lab students. Williamson is a virologist and explains that genes program the various processes phages need to make a living.

“All living organisms have to take in nutrients, they have to grow, they have to reproduce, they get rid of waste,” Williamson explained, but he noted that different organisms use different strategies.

“The multitude of forms that you see on planet Earth is just one indication that there are many ways to be successful,” he said. “Viruses, same thing: They have to infect a host and get inside, they have to express their genes in the right order, they have to make their progeny and they have to escape the cell. But there are many ways in which to accomplish that.”

The lab is working to determine the function of individual phage genes by examining their proteins. Forsyth said their strategy starts by looking at individual proteins that show up at different points during the process in which the bacteriophages infect bacterial hosts.

“If we can identify at what point in the cycle they’re expressed, that may give us our first clue as to their function,” he said.
said, adding that there are some rules of thumb to start with. “Genes that are expressed late are often involved in maturation of the virus, so they’re not needed at the beginning,” Forsyth explained. “Genes at the beginning maybe are more involved with DNA replication.”

Working in the third-floor labs in William & Mary’s Integrated Science Center (ISC), the proteomics students isolate proteins from phage specimens, using a laboratory technique known as gel electrophoresis. Once the proteins are isolated, the students use an enzyme process to break them down into peptides — chains of amino acids.

Once a protein is chopped into peptides, it’s ready to go down to the first floor of the ISC and Poutsma’s mass spectrometry lab. Poutsma described a mass spectrometer as a “really, really big balance,” accurate enough to weigh teeny fragments of protein. He teaches the students how to recognize peptides by the way they split and by their weight.

“Peptides generally fragment in very recognizable and repeatable ways,” he said. “Since each amino acid has a different side chain and each one of those side chains has a different molecular mass — a different weight — you can actually figure out the sequence of amino acids in your peptide. It’s sort of like putting a puzzle together.

As in all “real” research, the students don’t know if their work will assemble enough pieces of the phage proteomics puzzle together to get near a solution. Neither do their professors, who point out that uncertainty of outcome is part of the life of a scientist.

“I think it’s important to teach these students that research doesn’t always work,” Poutsma said. “Sometimes we have great ideas and they don’t always pan out the way that we think they’re going to. But then you have to look at why it didn’t work. Did it not work because I didn’t put all the chemicals in or is it because I need to look at this from a whole new direction?”

Students working in the labs of W&M’s Integrated Science Center study bacteriophage proteomics. The course combines biology and chemistry concepts and allows younger and older students to work together.
RAISING

NICOLE LEWIS '03 EMPOWERS TEEN PARENTS TO COMPLETE COLLEGE
hen Nicole Lynn Lewis ’03 became pregnant at 17, it felt as though everyone around her thought her life was over. “People would tell me, ‘You’re not going to college. You’re not going to make it. Everything you’ve worked for is over,’” she remembers. But Lewis did make it. She applied and was accepted to college and graduated from William & Mary four years later with a bachelor’s degree in English.

Now, Lewis lives in Maryland with her husband and two daughters. She has a master’s degree in public policy and is the founder and CEO of an up-and-coming nonprofit organization. But Lewis has not forgotten the obstacles she had to overcome as a single parent; instead, she has dedicated her life to helping other young women who are trying to balance parenthood and school-work. Generation Hope, the nonprofit organization she founded in 2010, provides emotional and financial support for young single parents pursuing higher education.

Although it has been 10 years since her graduation, Lewis remembers the conflicted emotions that overwhelmed her when she arrived at the College with her 2½-month-old infant daughter, Nerissa. “My first memory is stepping on campus for the first day as a freshman and being overwhelmed because it had taken so much for me to get to that point,” Lewis says. “I remember kind of looking down at my feet and feeling like these feet didn’t belong on this campus.”

Despite her challenging circumstances, Lewis thrived at William & Mary. “It was a wonderful place to raise Nerissa,” she remembers, “and for me to come into my own and learn what kind of person I wanted to be.” She found support in professors and a close group of friends, who quickly became such a part of her extended family that her daughter calls them her aunts to this day. She even met her husband, Donté ’03, a football player at whose games she remembers cheering.

Even with her friends’ support, life as a teen mother was challenging. Lewis received emotional encouragement from her parents and a favorite high school teacher, but had difficulty finding a support system in Williamsburg. “At times, it was a very lonely experience. As much as I had great, wonderful friends, being a parenting student is an experience that not everyone can understand. There were times when I felt very much alone.”

After graduation, Lewis got a job working in public relations for a top insurance company. When her co-workers found out about her background as a teenage parent, they urged her to share her success story with others. “I was hesitant at first because telling my story meant sharing a lot of intimate details about my life and opening up to the world,” says Lewis, “but I prayed about it and I knew it was something I needed to do to help and inspire other teen parents.”

The result was Glori: A Different Story, a gritty but inspiring memoir published by Lewis in 2007. Although publishers had doubted its commercial appeal, the response to the book was phenomenal. Lewis was invited to speak to audiences around the country, but one visit stands out in her memory. “After a talk, a young mother came up to me and told me that she never thought about college as a possibility until she read my book. That blew my mind! I realized that more teen parents need to know college is a reality and an option for them.”

Lewis began to consider the possibility of starting an organization to help teen parents achieve their academic goals. In researching the issue, she found a shocking statistic from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and
Unplanned Pregnancy. “Less than 2 percent of young women who have a baby before age 18 go on to get their degree before age 30,” she explains. “It means that 98 percent of teen mothers are not getting a degree before age 30 and they and their children are suffering.”

One night, when discussing family finances, Donté asked her if she felt like she was doing what she was called to do. That night, in what she remembers as a very “natural and organic” process, Lewis drew up the business plan for Generation Hope. “My college degree transformed my entire life,” she says. “Before college, I was living place to place. Sometimes I didn’t have food to eat. It was a really scary, desperate time. But after college, I was able to provide my family with resources I couldn’t have otherwise. I wanted that same experience for other teen parents.”

Now in its third year, Generation Hope is a unique nonprofit organization that provides financial aid and mentors to teen parents attending college in the Washington, DC metro area. Programs that support higher education for teen parents as part of a larger goal exist, but Generation Hope is a rarity — an organization whose sole purpose is to fund the postsecondary education of teen mothers. Teen mothers participating in the program are assigned a mentor and tuition assistance. The program, which stays with mentees until their college graduation, supported 17 mothers in its first year and has since added 11 new scholars.

In addition to supporting current parenting college students, the organization also hosts an annual Hope Conference, designed to unite current scholars and pregnant or parenting high school students. “The goal is to get them to consider college as a possibility,” Lewis says. “We want them to know that even though you’re a teen parent you can go to college.”

When asked about the rewards of her job, Lewis is overwhelmed. “I think there’s a moment every day that makes it worthwhile for me,” she says, citing the achievements of the organization’s scholars as well as the foundation’s family-strengthening activities that unite mothers and children.

Still, she admits, the most rewarding aspect is receiving thanks from the scholars themselves. “Having a scholar say thank you is an overwhelming moment because you realize that for that one individual, we’re making a huge impact.” One such moment has stuck with her. Lewis recalls, “I was sitting across the table from one of our scholars and she told me I was her hero. It hit me how big of a deal Generation Hope is. It’s a life-changing organization. It was an amazing moment where I felt the magnitude of what we’re doing.”

In the coming years, Lewis hopes that Generation Hope will continue to grow and envisions similar programs in cities around the country. She is well on her way. The organization has received emphatic support in the Washington, DC area, where it has been featured in several newspapers and magazines ranging from The Washington Post to Woman’s World Magazine. Lewis herself has appeared on “NBC Nightly News” as well as “The Steve Harvey Show.” She attributes the organization’s success to its unique mission. “We have been fortunate enough to get some great media exposure because we’re focusing on a major need,” she says.

Lewis returned to the College for Homecoming 2012 with several friends from the Class of 2002. “It’s amazing to come back 10 years later and see how your life has changed,” she remarks. “Ten years ago, I was just trying to make sure I was getting through college and being a good mom, and now I’m helping other parents.”

Although her life has changed unbelievably in the 10 years after leaving the College, Lewis’ main motivation remains the same. “Nerissa was my main motivation when I was in college,” she says. “Getting my degree wasn’t really about making more money or putting something up on my wall; it was about providing her with a good life and showing that anything is possible, that she can do whatever she puts her mind to. I wanted her to see that in me, so I’m thankful that I was able to go and get my degree. I’m praying and hoping that she’ll know through my experience that whatever she puts her mind to — no matter what people say — she can do it.”

Nicole Lewis ’03 with her husband Donté ’03 and daughters (l to r) Nerissa, 13, and Naya, 3. Lewis uses her own experiences as a young mom to mentor teen parents. She raised her daughter Nerissa while a student at William & Mary.
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In talking about fishes, *charismatic* is not a word that typically comes to mind. But it’s a word Eric Hilton uses often as he leads a tour through the Ichthyology Collection at William & Mary’s Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Surprisingly, it’s an apt description.

“Here’s a tripod fish, caught at about 2,100 meters,” says Hilton, an associate professor at VIMS and curator of the collection, pulling a large glass jar off the shelf. He points out the fish’s elongated pectoral and tail fins, which allow this bottom-dweller to actually stand above its prey on the ocean floor.

Hilton is joined by Sarah Huber, the collection’s new manager, holding up a tiny bottle containing the larva of an Antarctic fish — part of a recent four-barrel shipment of specimens from the Palmer research station. “This one has a special glycoprotein that keeps its blood from freezing,” she explains.

Looking at the hundreds of shelves stocked with preserved specimens, it turns out there are quite a few charismatic fish to be found, from the whimsical seahorse to the fierce-looking but harmless fangtooth. Even the great white shark lurking in a 500-gallon coffin has a certain charm.

The VIMS collection is essentially a wondrous fish library, infused with the smell of ethanol rather than the bookish scent of a traditional library. Researchers come from around the globe to study fish in the collection; specimens can also be loaned out. “We don’t charge overdue fines,” Hilton notes.

And just like books in a library, each fish in the collection has a story to tell.

**A Diversity of Fish, A Diversity of Uses**

Why do different species of drum in the Chesapeake Bay — there are 14 altogether — have differently shaped jaws? VIMS doctoral student Alison Deary is using the Ichthyology Collection to find an answer, which may provide important clues about fish evolution.
SHOWCASE FOR A STAR (FISH)

The popular star of the VIMS ichthyology Collection is getting a new home. In 1987, VIMS acquired a rare coelacanth, caught off the East African island of Grand Comoro. Nearly 5 feet long, the coelacanth is currently tucked away in a corridor just outside the main collection area.

Often called “living fossils,” coelacanths were once thought to have become extinct 65 million years ago. In 1938, a fishing trawler arrived in East London, South Africa, with a live specimen. The coelacanth’s most distinguishing feature is its lobed fins, which resemble the legs of early four-legged land animals.

With support from a National Science Foundation grant, VIMS is opening a coelacanth exhibit for public viewing in Watermen’s Hall. Yorktown artist Lyndon Morgan created the exhibit, building a structure to house the coelacanth that resembles its traditional habitat in lava-flow caves.

While collections manager Sarah Huber is thrilled that the coelacanth is getting the star treatment it deserves, she feels as if she’s losing an old friend. “I’m going to miss seeing it outside my office every day.”
“Typically fish having a forward-facing jaw with relatively long bones are foraging in the water column,” Deary says. “Whereas if they have relatively shorter bones and downward-facing mouths, they’re foraging for prey down below them.”

Deary is examining drum in the larval and early juvenile stages to figure out how and why the differentiation in jaw structure occurs. She’s also looking at the development of fish sensory structures by comparing the relative sizes of sensory lobes in the brain.

“The black drum, for example, has all those little barbels like catfish. Are they just using those to feel a pressure difference, or do they actually have taste buds?”

Working with larvae takes special skill. “We use very fine surgical instruments,” Deary says. “I have microscissors that have a cutting length of 2 millimeters.

“You need a steady hand — you can’t do it if you’ve had coffee or sugar,” she says with a laugh.

Facilitating research like Deary’s is a primary function of the VIMS collection, but not the only one. “Research is obvious, but there are also public outreach and advisory service components,” Hilton explains. For example, he works regularly with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission in identifying threatened species.

“We’re also developing a tissue archive, now that genetics have become very important for all manner of studies, from systematics and evolution to population genetics to fisheries management,” Hilton continues.

John Graves, Chancellor Professor at VIMS, is a major contributor in this area. “I work with open-ocean fishes — highly migratory species like tuna, billfish, swordfish,” Graves says. “We have 25 years’ worth of DNA samples from around the world that will eventually go in the fish collection.

“On the outreach level, making the collection available to the public — and many collections aren’t — provides a lesson between lines on biodiversity,” Graves says. “That’s why collecting year after year is important, because we know our environment is changing.”

One Fish, Two Fish

The Ichthyology Collection, begun by VIMS scientists in the mid-1950s, currently houses 128,000 marine and freshwater specimens cataloged in a computer database. These include whole fish — called voucher specimens — as well as larvae, tissue samples, hard fish parts like scales and otoliths, skeletons and a few oddities such as a whale’s eye.

“The collection was very small until [Acuff Professor Emeritus] Jack Musick arrived,” Hilton says. “He was instrumental in developing it as a catalogued collection. It’s the research element that’s been driving it since.”

Musick began his 40-year tenure at VIMS in 1967. An expert on sharks, he added many open-ocean and Chesapeake Bay specimens through his own collecting and that of his students. He also instituted the venerable “Roanoke Roundup,” an annual collecting trip in western Virginia.

“Over the next decades, we acquired two so-called orphan collections from the University of Richmond and the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory,” he continues. “That led to another phase of growth.”

Hilton, internationally recognized for his research on sturgeon evolution, took over the reins after Musick’s retirement. “I came in 2007 as VIMS’ systematic ichthyologist, but they were also looking for somebody to continue the growth and prominence of the collection. I became the de facto curator.”

Netting the Fish

Although the collection has worldwide coverage, it’s especially known for its strengths in three areas: deep-sea fishes, particularly from the northwest Atlantic, Virginia freshwater fishes and, of course, the 270 or so species of fishes currently found in the Chesapeake Bay. “We’re now the only institution that’s actively collecting Chesapeake Bay fishes,” Hilton says.

Fishes are collected in different ways depending on their location: most deep-sea fishes are caught in trawl nets and can emerge somewhat damaged from the immense pressure changes. Pointing to one such specimen, Huber notes, “This one came with the contents of its stomach on the outside.”

In shallower waters, Huber explains, collectors can use a backpack electroshocker to stun the fish. “Once you’ve used one, you’ll never go back to a rod and reel.” The fishes are scooped up in nets, and those not selected for collection eventually revive and swim happily away.

At the Roanoke Roundup, students spend long evenings identifying the fishes and preserving them in formalin, which acts as a fixative. “We load a couple of hundred jars of fishes in the back of a Suburban and drive back to VIMS,” Huber says. “Then they’re transferred permanently to ethanol.”

Looking Ahead

Thanks to a recent endowment grant from the Nunnally Foundation and funding from the National Science Foundation, the VIMS Ichthyology Collection is entering a new phase of growth that promises to increase its worldwide visibility and use.

Huber, who came on board in August 2012 as a research assistant professor, is now overseeing the transition of the database to a new platform, set for later this spring. An evolutionary biologist who studied birds in the Galápagos for her doctoral work, Huber has found that her skills — especially attention to detail — transfer well to working with fishes.

“With the enhanced database, you’ll be able to link digital images, x-ray images, field notes and publications,” she says. “You’ll also be able to zoom in with Google Earth satellite imagery to see exactly where the fish was collected and at what depth. It will make the catalog a lot more accessible to the general public.”

The next step is looking at strategic growth.

“The thing with a collection, if you stop building or collecting, it becomes static,” Hilton says. “It’s like a library that doesn’t buy any new books.”
Funding and space will continue to be big issues, although there are creative ways around those limitations. “As we collect in the Chesapeake Bay, we get a lot of the same fish,” Huber says. “So Eric Hilton has worked out some really nice trades — we got some really neat Brazilian fishes in exchange for sturgeon.”

Once a fish specimen is preserved in alcohol, Hilton says, it’s preserved forever.

“I do a lot of research in museums around the world, and in London, it really struck home. The collections manager came into the lab, and the people visiting wanted to see their older specimens.

“He said, ‘We can show you the Darwin collections, from the voyage of the Beagle.’ But they wanted to see something really old.

“So they pulled specimens that Captain Cook had collected in his first voyages around the world. They’re preserved ‘in spirits’ — that’s such a British word — and they do still smell like rum.

“And I got to see those specimens, caught 400 years ago.”

With luck and good management, some curious researcher 400 years in the future will be looking at a Chesapeake Bay drum or Atlantic sturgeon from the VIMS collection with the same wide-eyed wonder.

Want To Visit?

To schedule an individual or group tour of the VIMS Ichthyology Collection, contact Sarah Huber at skhuber@vims.edu or 804.684.7285. You can also visit during Marine Science Day on Saturday, May 18; for more information, go to http://www.vims.edu/public/msd/index.php.
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Yuri Lowenthal '93 Finds His Voice

Lowenthal is a professional voice actor, lending his talents to hundreds of video game and cartoon characters. At one point or another, Lowenthal has provided the voice for characters like Superman, the Prince from the “Prince of Persia,” Ben Tennyson on the cartoon “Ben 10” and Sasuke Uchiha from the anime series “Naruto.”

Born in Ohio, Lowenthal grew up in Nashville, Tenn., and Northern Virginia. Because his father worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development, Lowenthal lived in the West African country of Niger for two years. When it came time for college, William & Mary’s gymnastics team, theatre, Japanese program and in-state tuition made it Lowenthal’s first choice. He took part in these offerings, as well as serving in the school’s Army ROTC program.

“William & Mary allowed me to explore a lot of things that I was interested in,” Lowenthal says. “All of those various things were invaluable in making me the person that I am today.”

Lowenthal pursued a degree in East Asian studies, and spent his junior year abroad in Japan. After graduating, he got a job working for the Japanese government through the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme. Even though Lowenthal felt he had been groomed for the Foreign Service, after two years in Japan he decided that acting was what he truly wished to pursue.

“I realized that I really did love it,” Lowenthal says. “I didn’t want it to be one of those situations where I look back 20 years from now and say ‘Wow, that acting thing, I wonder if I could have done that.’”

Lowenthal moved to New York City and got involved with the theater scene, getting cast in Off-Off-Broadway shows.

“There were plays where there were more people onstage than in the audience,” he says.

“William & Mary allowed me to explore a lot of things that I was interested in. All of those various things were invaluable in making me the person that I am today.”
with a laugh. While in New York, he met fellow actor Tara Platt, and the two began dating. Six months into their relationship, Platt decided to head to Los Angeles for pilot season, when networks cast for the year’s new TV shows. Lowenthal volunteered to help her drive to L.A., planning to fly back to New York once she was settled. But along the way, those plans changed, and in the middle of a snowstorm in Bowling Green, Ohio, Lowenthal proposed.

“I’d been scraping ice off the windshield in the parking lot of a Chi-Chi’s, and I asked her to marry me,” Lowenthal says. “Not the most romantic, but then again, it wasn’t anything I had planned. It just came out of my mouth.”

Platt was caught off guard, and the couple decided to think it over. For the next five or six days of the trip, neither brought up the proposal. But on New Year’s Eve near the Hoover Dam, they hit heavy traffic, and suddenly both began talking about marriage.

“There was no real reason to wait around for it. Why not get married that night in Vegas?” Lowenthal says. “That’s exactly what we ended up doing after midnight that night.”

After helping Platt get settled in Los Angeles, Lowenthal packed up his things in New York and moved out west. One day, after months of auditioning for live-action acting roles, Platt brought up the idea of taking a class for voice-over work. Though he labels himself a huge nerd, Lowenthal says he’d never thought of pursuing voice acting.

“I always loved watching cartoons and playing video games,” Lowenthal says. “All of these things should have led me to believe that voice-over would be a thing to do, but I had never considered it.”

After attending the class and putting together a demo reel, Lowenthal got an agent and began providing voices for a Japanese animated series. He soon had enough work that he was able to make it his full-time occupation.

Even though his voice has appeared in blockbuster video game franchises like “Call of Duty,” “Uncharted” and “Final Fantasy,” Lowenthal says his favorite roles are those he can play multiple times.

He counts the Prince from “Prince of Persia,” Sasuke from “Naruto” and Ben Tennyson from “Ben 10” as some of his favorite reoccurring parts. Though he’s developed a close bond with these roles, characters he grew up with — like Superman — are still the highlights of his job.

“I didn’t know where to go after that,” he says of voicing Superman. “Do you retire? You get huge nerd cred for that. … The career highs for me are getting to work on projects I already cared about.”
Given that experience, his casting as one of the mutant sons of Batman in the animated adaptation of Frank Miller’s “The Dark Knight Returns” seemed predetermined.

“I dressed up as the Son of Batman for the opening of the first Batman movie with Michael Keaton,” Lowenthal says. “To get cast as the Son of Batman 20 years later is such a big deal for me.”

Another favorite role was that of Jinno/Kuma on the television series “Afro Samurai.” The show constantly pitted Lowenthal’s character against Afro, a samurai voiced by Samuel L. Jackson.

“The first question many people ask me about is what it was like to work with Sam Jackson,” Lowenthal says. “The fact of the matter is, even though he and I had a billion scenes together and we fought all the time, we never recorded together.”

Lowenthal eventually met Jackson at a release party for the show and explained who he was.

“He was a totally sweet guy,” Lowenthal says. “That will be the only time I’ll get to kick Sam Jackson’s ass.”

Even though Lowenthal has made a name for himself in the world of voice work, it’s rare that he’ll get a script in advance, especially for video games.

“There’s a lot of secrecy involved. They don’t want the script getting out,” Lowenthal says. Even when recording a role, code names are used, meaning even he might not always know which game he’s working on — although because he plays a lot of video games in his free time, he can usually make an educated guess. “It’s fun. It’s like being a spy.”

Because modern video games often have branching scenarios and stories, the actual recording of a voice actor can be time-consuming and strenuous. Lowenthal says he still uses the acting techniques he learned in college to help protect his voice.

“Video game work can be difficult,” he says. “There’s a lot of screaming, getting blown up, getting shot and set on fire. If you play video games, you know a lot of that happens, and you’ve got to be able to do that for four hours at a time and not lose your voice.”

Lowenthal still enjoys live-action acting and has appeared in television shows like “Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles” and “Gilmore Girls.”

In 2004, Lowenthal and Platt founded Monkey Kingdom Productions, which has made both films and the Web series “Shelf Life.” But even film, television and video games weren’t enough for the pair: three years ago they jointly published the book Voice-Over Voice Actor, which offers beginners advice on getting into the business.

“Every day I wake up and realize that I get to do this for a living,” Lowenthal says. “I’ve got to be thankful for that.”
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Reflections on the Royal Charter
Dylan Frendt ’14 delivers moving Charter Day speech

Our original Charter was lost sometime around the American Revolution. William & Mary was not. William & Mary marched on through centuries, enduring the trials and tribulations of 13 colonies turned country, and enduring a history rich with triumph and with setback. The copies of our Charter that we have remind us that sometimes, the words and ambitions of people centuries ago endure the test of time. William & Mary has endured that test.

And here we are, today. Here we are, at a school steeped in history and tradition. Here I stand before you, able to reflect on an institution far grander than I ever imagined I would be attending.

On a very personal level, the Charter, Charter Day and William & Mary remind me how lucky I am. Today I am reminded that I am the first person in my family to attend college and that I am attending the best college in the galaxy. I am reminded that I had the first kiss of my adult life outside the side door of Monroe Hall, and that the person that I kissed in the shadow of Monroe is the person I am engaged to and am going to marry. I am reminded that this school, this place, brought me to the person that I care so deeply about and has brought me new friends and new opportunities that I could not even have dreamed of as a child. I am reminded that words have power and meaning, and words form actions and actions build opportunity and opportunity builds hope and that hope is contagious, and spreads like wildfire, igniting the minds and hearts of those who often feel cast down. On this day, I am reminded how special this place is, and I am so thankful that the words of our Charter created a school that has reached through the centuries and placed me here before all of you, today.

One day, when I look in the mirror and the inevitably older, more weathered person stares back at me, I will be able to smile, close my eyes, and reflect upon the College that, quite literally, made my hopes and dreams come true.
M ost are familiar with the old adage, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade," but when life threw Lance Zaal ’09, M.B.A. ’12 a curve ball, he made an app instead.

Actually, lemons were as far as the Southern California native’s entrepreneurship plans originally went. As a kid, he started up a lemonade stand on a crowded corner by the University of California-Irvine as a creative way to drum up extra cash. Years later, when Zaal came to rely on the turbulent world of business for his salary, he was forced to get creative again.

After completing his undergraduate degree in economics and international relations at William & Mary in 2009, he came back to the College for his master’s degree. Opting for the Flex M.B.A. track so he could also hold down a full-time job, he bounced from Booz Allen Hamilton to a position at Mythics in Virginia Beach. His schedule was packed with meetings and office tasks in the day and long lectures and projects at night, even during the summer. In his last year of graduate study, Zaal’s life got even more stressful—he was laid off.

Instead of being unemployed, Zaal became self-employed. He had already built one thriving business, Taste of Williamsburg, which takes tourists on a culinary crawl through Colonial Williamsburg’s best restaurants. Late one night while he was working on this company, he had the idea to form another.

Zaal had been flipping through emails about finding a guide for his Taste of Williamsburg tours, when he thought how convenient it would be if customers could use their smart phones as a guide. It was then he had the idea for a business that would allow people everywhere to do just that.

After winning a competition sponsored by William & Mary’s Mason School of Business, Zaal received a $2,000 prize. Half went to the interns who helped him with his project, and the other half went to making his plan a reality. After spending long hours reworking his business model and months in development, “iTour Mobile” was born.

“It’s a platform where people can create a digital experience,” Zaal says. And these digital experiences are almost as good (if not better) than real ones. By downloading the app, tourists everywhere can ditch the recycled headphones at their favorite museums, find their way around famous cities, and even learn more about the College and historic Williamsburg. Users can walk the highlighted path on their own time schedule, snapping pictures and video to upload directly to Facebook or Twitter along the way, or get a virtual run-through without ever leaving their couches. With spooky ghost walks and even a peek at popular cinematic shooting locations, iTour Mobile is already redefining what it means to take a tour.

Of course, it’s a good deal for the business owners, tourism boards, and whoever else is interested in bringing in a new clientele to their city or establishment. As the app gains popularity, so will the various locations it explores. With stunning visuals and interesting information, it’s hard not to feel like taking a real-life excursion. The tours can be updated at any time, and organizations will even be able to collect donations from app users.

While it’s off to a good start, Zaal has no plans to quit development anytime soon. He’s working on expanding the reach of his company to nonprofits, universities and more—and showing the world how innovative William & Mary graduates truly are.

Zaal says that his ideal career would allow him to have fun, turn a profit and challenge himself. It seems that with iTour Mobile, he’s found just that.
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Education:
B.A., Michigan State University
M.P.S., Georgetown University

You’re relatively new to the W&M community. What attracted you to the College?
The position at the Alumni Association initially attracted me to William & Mary. After receiving my master’s at Georgetown, I knew I wanted to stay in higher education and focus on alumni affairs. I have been involved with my college’s alumni association (Michigan State University) since graduation, and currently am a board member. Now that I’m in the ‘Burg, it is the beauty of the campus, the sense of Tribe Pride and the spirit of my colleagues at the Alumni House that make me confident of my choice.

What is a typical day at the office like for you?
There is absolutely nothing typical about a workday here, which is wonderful. I could be on the phone with a chapter president, on a site visit in Naples, Fla., for a regional event or working at a Tribe Thursday. My calendar is constantly full, which I love.

What’s your secret passion?
It’s hard to imagine for a girl who’s 5’4” in leopard-print heels, but I am a rabid college basketball fan. It makes sense because I went to both Michigan State and Georgetown, which are huge basketball schools. Every March I arrange my NCAA bracket so that the Spartans and Hoyas meet in the championship, and I always pick the Spartans to win!

What are you most proud of?
Being the working mother of two cool dudes. Now that I’m finally in a job that I love, where I consciously chose this path, I tell my kids there are so many opportunities out there and they don’t have to settle for anything. It’s OK to find something you want and go after it wholeheartedly. Also, I’m so thankful for my husband and wouldn’t be here without his support. He allowed me to get my master’s degree and move our family from Washington, DC, to Williamsburg for this opportunity. He really just made it happen for me, and I could never have done what I’m doing now if it wasn’t for him.

Interview by Ashley Chaney ’14
“The friends I made, the experiences I had, and the knowledge I gained were the pivots of my life. I hope my scholarship will enrich the lives of future generations in the same ways.”
— Rev. Joseph J. Ponic ’59

Though it has been more than 50 years since Joe Ponic left William & Mary, he has always remembered the time he spent in Williamsburg as a defining period in his life. When Joe began to consider his estate plans, he wanted to commemorate his special ties in a way that would impact generations to follow.

With assistance from the Gift Planning Office, Joe made a provision in his will to establish a scholarship to support undergraduate research. The Joseph J. Ponic Scholarship will help students pursue research in Europe focusing on European Medieval, Renaissance or Baroque art, architecture and art history. Not surprisingly, these have all been lifelong interests of Joe’s since his earliest days at the College.

It looks like Joe found just the right way to commemorate his special ties to William & Mary.

For assistance with your charitable gift plans, please contact:

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