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One of the joys of living at Colonial Heritage is choosing an Everything’s Included® home from Lennar. Whether you choose a single-level design, two-story home or one with a finished basement, you're certain to appreciate its style, value and easy maintenance design.

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RELEVANCE THROUGH RESEARCH
Research is a critical component of many modern universities. Here’s how it fits into the world of W&M.
BY JOSEPH MCCLAIN

NO MORE COMPLAINING
Acclaimed comic Patton Oswalt ’91 confronts his creative evolution in Silver Screen Fiend. By BEN KENNEDY ’05

FIVE DECADES OF SWEMMING
A major milestone for the College’s library, told through its books and artifacts. BY KELLEY FREUND

Alumni Focus
6 From the Brafferton

By & Large

Tribe
Alumni dig into a dangerous health crisis, Emily Bessler ’14 in combat and an important look into America’s future.

Class Notes
94 In Memoriam

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY? Please share your thoughts by posting on our online comment section found at the end of every magazine story. Visit wmalumniimagazine.com.
In front of a crowd of more than 6,000 and a nationally televised audience on the NBC Sports Network, the William & Mary men’s basketball team defeated Delaware, 90-64, during the Tribe’s annual Gold Rush game in February.
A Weekend You Do Not Want to Miss

BY CINDY SATTERWHITE JARBOE '77
President, William & Mary Alumni Association

The William & Mary Alumni Association and its Board remain committed to providing outstanding opportunities to connect our alumni with each other and alma mater. Our newest signature event, William & Mary Weekend, is the outcome of more than a year of planning. Come hear nationally known leaders in their fields, many of whom are fellow alumni or W&M faculty. You will also have access to special tours and events, many of which are not available even for D.C. locals. This weekend has been created with input and the hard work of our D.C. alumni volunteers (especially committee chairs Sophie Lee ’90, Lynn Dillon ’75 and Chris Powers ’73), your WMAAA board and the W&M Advancement staff. It will be a model for future annual W&M Weekends at exciting venues around the country and even the world.

The first W&M Weekend will be held in Washington, D.C., on June 2-5, 2016, with Jane ’85 and the Honorable Michael Powell ’85, D.P.S. ’02 serving as honorary co-chairs. The four-day event will celebrate the best of William & Mary in our nation’s capital and offer exclusive access to iconic D.C. venues. While Homecoming, reunions and Charter Day are times to reconnect and reminisce on campus, W&M Weekend will allow us to bring the best of alma mater to you.

The newly renovated Watergate Hotel will serve as home base for the W&M Weekend in Washington that includes:

• Raft Debate Tournament of Champions, following a networking reception
• W&M Weekend Reception featuring a conversation with the Honorable James B. Comey, Jr. ’82, LL.D. ’08
• Panel discussion of leaders in public service
• Keynote luncheon
• The annual W&M Alumni Association Auction, with exciting vacation destinations and a signed guitar donated by one of your favorite alumni country-singing TV stars
• A day at Mount Vernon featuring a lecture, brunch and tours

In between these signature events will be exclusive cultural tours, lectures and programs at D.C. landmarks such as the National Cathedral, the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court, the National Archives, Hillwood Estate and more. In addition, networking receptions and social events will be held throughout the weekend for members of the Young Guarde, affinity groups and incoming students.

We have limited space so register early. For more information and to RSVP, visit wmweekend.com.
2016 WASHINGTON, DC

CONNECT, DISCOVER & CELEBRATE
THE BEST OF W&M
IN WASHINGTON, DC

JUNE 2-5 2016

RSVP at wmweekend.com
A student has to focus and work to graduate. The tooth fairy isn’t going to deliver the degree. But a student’s failure to graduate can also reveal the school’s shortcomings as well as his or her own. As G.K. Chesterton noted, “a good novel tells us the truth about its hero, but a bad novel tells us the truth about its author.”

On the whole, the news is good for our undergraduates and the College. We consistently rank among the nation’s best universities when it comes to graduation and retention rates for undergraduates. Our graduation rate (measured by the federal government as a six-year statistic, though the vast majority of our students graduate in four years) is 90 percent for the class that arrived in 2008. This is more than 30 points higher than the national average.

Our retention rate, measured as the proportion of freshmen who are still at W&M in their sophomore year, is 95 percent, compared to the national average of 79 percent.

Due to ties and bunching at the top, W&M has the third-highest rates among public universities nationally for both six-year graduation and retention. In my view, we should have the highest rates among the publics, and we’ve begun seriously moving to get there.

Our scholarship athletes have an 85 percent federal graduation rate, already the highest at any public university in the country. The next closest is the University of Michigan at 80 percent.

William & Mary also has the highest African-American graduation rate (86 percent) and highest graduation rate among African-American men (also 86 percent) of any public university.

Our four-year graduation rate for all undergraduates (83 percent) is second among public universities. The national average for all universities (public and private) is 39 percent.

Earlier this year, we formed William & Mary’s first Working Group on Retention and Graduation. It is charged with figuring out how to take W&M’s retention rate to 97 percent and our six-year graduation rate to 95 percent. Once we reach these celestial levels, W&M will lead the publics and begin closing in on the most distinguished private institutions.

The working group has already identified and implemented a number of improvements in outreach to students having trouble during their first year. First-year academic performance signals a student’s likelihood of graduating. We will do more to spot even marginal academic problems and intervene sooner with struggling students. We are also working with the faculty to increase the use of formal midterm warnings, which allow the university to ensure struggling students are aware of the academic resources available to help them. Far more often than not, students who get such warnings improve their performance before final grades are issued. Rigor remains a hallmark of a W&M education, but a better early grading system can help more students adapt to that rigor and grow intellectually.

This is an ambitious effort. It will take hard work and patience to move the needle. Some factors are more in our control than others. For example, when a student transfers to another school and graduates, as is the case with nearly all our transfers, he or she is counted as a graduation failure for W&M the same way a student who simply drops out would be counted. Since federal graduation rates are measured in six-year cycles, we won’t see the numbers change overnight. While our target for both goals is 2025, this is not something that will take a decade to bear fruit. The working group will share results annually.

Really, though, what difference do high retention and graduation rates make? They make a lot of difference. First, they capture the caliber of the people a school has, the excellence of its teaching and learning, and the care it takes to keep students from slipping through the cracks. Second, these rates can affect the cost of the education. A student who graduates in four years (that’s 83 percent of our students but 39 percent nationally) pays the sticker price (minus any financial aid) for only four years. A student who takes five or six years to graduate may end up paying materially more.

It is not easy these days to be admitted to William & Mary. Every student who makes this demanding cut is capable of earning a degree. For the good of each student who joins us, as well as the health of W&M and the contributions our graduates make to the economy and civic life, it is important that no Tribe member fall by the wayside while on campus.

William & Mary should be first among public colleges and universities in our retention and graduation rates. We’re moving toward that worthy goal.
JUNE 2-5

Raft Debate Tournament of Champions

W&M Weekend Reception, featuring a conversation with the Honorable James B. Comey, Jr. ’82, LL.D. ’08

Keynote Luncheon

Annual Gala and Auction

Mount Vernon Lecture, Brunch and Tours

Private Tours of Cultural Landmarks

Young Guarde Social Events

Intellectual Symposia

Networking Receptions

RSVP at wmweekend.com
PEAKED INTEREST: Thanks to ongoing efforts between Arts & Sciences faculty, the Charles Center and the Reves Center, William & Mary students are exposed to richer cross-cultural experiences than ever before.
International Flair

Ongoing Arts & Sciences collaborations yield huge benefits for students

BY CORTNEY LANGLEY

As telecommunications, trade and travel close the distances between peoples and cultures, “think global” has become the byword of recent decades. William & Mary is going one step further, weaving international and cross-cultural perspectives into academic study throughout the liberal arts education.

And those opportunities are set to increase with the new general education curriculum, or COLL, which requires that all undergraduate students undertake a meaningful, cross-cultural intellectual exercise, usually in their third year.

So how does William & Mary do it? The short answer is a powerful coalition that integrates the resources of Arts & Sciences faculty, the Roy R. Charles Center for Academic Excellence and the Reves Center for International Studies.

“The experiences we’re offering students are cross-cultural, and involve a level of intellectual
A BROAD PERSPECTIVE: William & Mary integrates international and domestic study experiences better than many other institutions, says Charles Center Director Joel Schwartz.

BY AND LARGE cross-training, which is what a liberal arts education is all about," says Arts & Sciences Dean Kate Conley. "We ask students to synthesize their knowledge and experiences; to make space for understanding different points of view, different perspectives, different ways of seeing and thinking."

Faculty weave international and cultural perspectives into the course content of every academic discipline. The new general education curriculum highlights this through COLL 300, "In the World," a three-credit course offering students the chance to connect with people, places and ideas that expand how they see themselves.

But that doesn’t necessarily mean leaving campus. W&M is offering three options for undergraduate students in the new curriculum—on-campus, study-away and study-abroad.

The on-campus option recognizes that “we, too, are part of the globe,” Conley explains. “We’re inviting high-level, high-profile speakers to campus and inviting faculty to integrate these visitors into their courses. While the courses may be taught in any discipline or from any perspective, our COLL 300 students have the shared experience of hearing the same speakers talk about global questions, whether it’s a Chinese activist, a former ambassador to the United Nations or a sculptor from France.”

This spring, the Center for the Liberal Arts, with support from the Reves Center, is bringing Haida artist Robert Davidson to campus as a pilot. When he was 22, Davidson carved and raised the first totem pole his Haida Gwaii hometown had seen in 90 years as an “innocent gesture,” a gift to his elders that helped ignite a cultural resurrection in the Pacific Northwest.

Off-campus, specially designed COLL 300 offerings include both study-away and study-abroad, building on the strengths that have made William & Mary first among public universities for the percentage of undergraduate students studying abroad, with over half engaging in study-abroad prior to graduation. All credit-bearing study-abroad courses offered through Reves will count for the COLL 300 curricular requirement.

Another way to fulfill COLL 300 is through study-away offerings at the Charles Center. “We use ‘study-away’ to talk about opportunities for students to study in a different location, either domestically or internationally, as part of a semester program that takes place on campus,” Conley explains. The bulk of the work is done at William & Mary and augmented by research travel.

Study-away includes spring and winter research trips, such as archaeological excavations in Hawaii or the study of medieval manuscripts in Spain. The biennial trip to the U.S.-Mexican border is a perfect...
example. Students undertake a three-credit course at William & Mary before leaving for a week at the border. Returning home, they complete research projects.

“When a student works on a Native American reservation in the U.S., that’s at least as much of a robust cross-cultural opportunity as going to many international areas,” says Joel Schwartz, Charles Center director. “We’ve been able to break down hard divisions between domestic and international study.”

The Charles Center funds student research travel through a dizzying array of grants, scholarships, fellowships and honors and academic programs, any of which could include domestic or international study-away opportunities.

“We have a much longer history here and a much larger dedication to integrating study-away and study-abroad into the academic program and of making them serious intellectual endeavors for students,” Schwartz says. “We’re ahead of other universities in terms of sophistication.”

Offering a seamless experience to students requires an enormous amount of cooperation between Arts & Sciences faculty and the Charles and Reves centers. Study-abroad programs, while managed through the Reves Center, aren’t simply chosen by center leaders, says Stephen Hanson, vice provost for international affairs and director of the Reves Center. Instead, they are developed with direct participation by W&M departments and faculty.

“That means the student engagement is much richer,” he says. “If students are talking with faculty about what it will be like to go to Latin America, and they go to the site where human rights violations are being investigated — as we do in our La Plata [Argentina] program — and then come back and talk to the Arts & Sciences faculty working on those subjects in their research, the whole experience becomes integrated in a way that’s incredibly powerful for students.”

Programs also extend beyond the humanities to include students in disciplines that haven’t traditionally embraced research travel, such as science majors. W&M geologists are going to Oman with musicologists, psychologists are attending a specialized program in Australia, and pre-med and health-science students are studying in Antigua, Hanson says.

“National boundaries as a kind of curricular barrier don’t make sense anymore,” he adds. “We need to be talking about programs that overcome the idea that there’s a hermetically-sealed set of universes that are defined by nation-states, and talk about the interactions that take place in this country as well as in the world.”

Taken together, W&M’s collaborations are allowing the university to offer students — regardless of interest, discipline or means — unusual flexibility.

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**BRUTON PARISH**

Williamsburg has dozens of religious buildings. But Bruton Parish Church may be in a special category, for it is closely connected with the founding and history of William & Mary. Last May, William & Mary Professor Emeritus David Holmes delivered a speech on the 300th anniversary of Bruton Parish. Its connections to the College are clear. James Blair was its rector, as were 12 other W&M presidents and professors. During the colonial period, students were required to attend Bruton Parish on Sundays. Since then, thousands of alumni, faculty and students have attended the church. No other religious structure in Williamsburg shares that history.


—ALUMNI MAGAZINE STAFF
There are more than 35 study-abroad programs at William & Mary, reaching 23 countries. W&M is No. 1 among public schools for undergraduate study-abroad.

TRIBE ON TOP:

A great example is the wide range of projects to which the Meyers Stern Endowment can be applied. Established with a $3.1 million gift from the estate of Ruth Stern Hilborn ’28, the endowment supports students interested in Judaic studies.

“That can be study in Israel, but it also could be study in many European sites and Holocaust sites,” Schwartz says. “It could be study in the Lower East Side of New York or in Galveston, Texas, which, after Ellis Island, was the second-largest port of entry to the United States and where Jews came in through the South.

“All of a sudden the international-domestic distinction is just totally broken down.”

OUTSTANDING FACULTY

Two William & Mary professors have been recognized as 2016 recipients of Outstanding Faculty Awards by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). There are only about a dozen awards given each year. Faculty members at all of the institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth, public and private, are eligible for consideration. The W&M awardees are John Swaddle, professor of biology, and Jennifer G. Kahn, assistant professor of anthropology. The 2016 list brings William & Mary’s total number of SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Awards to 40: more honorees than any other college or university in the Commonwealth.

—UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS
Experience holiday magic on a seven-night cruise along the Rhine and Mosel rivers aboard the MS Amadeus Silver. Begin with a three-night hotel stay in Paris. Journey by train to Luxembourg, then continue to Bernkastel, Germany, for your cruise. Explore Trier, Cochem, Koblenz and Cologne. Cruise through the Rhine Valley to Rüdesheim, Mainz and Speyer. Enjoy excursions, holiday markets in three countries, deluxe accommodations and an extensive meal plan.

Holiday Markets       Nov 29 - Dec 10, 2016       wmalumni.com/travel
COMMON GROUND
Will Payne ’01 goes behind the scenes with Sen. Mark Warner

BY JENNIFER PAGE WALL

WILL PAYNE ’01 IS AN ENTREPRENEUR, political operative, W&M Board of Visitors member and now a successful book author.

He is also a die-hard Def Leppard, Foreigner and ’80s glam rock fan, and credits his music choices for influencing his work on his new book.

Payne is a guy who everybody likes. He walks into a room and everyone notices. He has charm and class and epitomizes what every W&M graduate has in common: leadership.

But it is the leadership of a certain U.S. senator that Payne wants to talk about. In his new book, Mark Warner the Dealmaker (www.markwarnerbook.com), Payne details how the conservative Democrat rose through the political ranks and became a well-regarded statesman who cares more about his state and country than his own party.

In writing the book, Payne provides his readers with a “VH1 Behind the Music” story, if you will, about the highly successful businessman-turned-governor and now senator. He said that it was important to provide an honest account of Mark Warner’s LL.D. ’02 time in the governor’s mansion to show how his upbringing and business career helped shape the kind of candidate he would become. Payne argues that Warner was the kind of leader Virginia needed most at a critical time in its history.

“Mark Warner brought people together during his time as governor and continues to do so today,” Payne says. “He is known for tackling issues his colleagues either don’t understand or don’t have the political courage to resolve. His story will create a sense of optimism for those who do not believe in the system.”

Payne’s book couldn’t have come at a better time. Anyone watching the nightly news or scouthing their Twitter feed can see how the country is growing more and more divided. Public discourse on hot-button topics such as national security, health care and immigration is often tense and highly contentious.

Most Americans would agree that finding common ground is not very popular in politics today.

But in Payne’s view, finding common ground is a trademark of Mark Warner’s leadership in govern-
ment. “This is a story about what is possible in politics rather than what is impossible because of the political gridlock in our country,” says Payne. This is evident in Warner’s work helping veterans, investing in K-12 education and tackling our nation’s debt by bringing both sides to the table to find sensible solutions.

The book makes clear that Payne and Warner both share the desire to make a lasting impact by looking beyond party lines.

Payne had previously worked as a staffer for a Republican member of Virginia’s General Assembly before he decided to work for Warner’s 2008 campaign for the U.S. Senate. It was during this time when he really got a taste for building bipartisan coalitions — something he continues to do today as the founder and principal of his firm Bull Moose Strategies.

Payne emphasized the importance of bipartisanship. “Everyone can benefit when people work together to find a solution, no matter the situation,” he says.

It is hard to imagine how Payne found the time to write a book when he has his hand dipped in so many other activities, including volunteering as the chairman of the booster club for William & Mary’s club ice hockey team, and serving on the university’s Annual Giving Board and the Board of Visitors (BOV). Governor Terry McAuliffe D.P.S. ‘14 appointed Payne to the BOV in 2014.

When Payne thinks of where he’d like to see William & Mary in the next 10 years, he says that it is critically important for the university to have the resources to do what it does best: produce leaders, whether it is in business, public service, science or the arts. Payne adds, “I am confident this will continue to happen, in spite of dwindling state dollars. There is no doubt that the For the Bold campaign is going to transform the university.”

Raising funds for good causes is always on the top of Payne’s mind. In fact, he will be donating 51 percent of all sales and royalties from Mark Warner the Dealmaker to William & Mary and designating it to the Integrated Science Center as part of the Cabell Challenge. The goal of the challenge is to raise $1.5 million to enhance the university’s research capabilities by updating equipment for neuroscience, molecular biology and environmental studies.

There is a personal reason why Payne supports research at William & Mary: one of his closest mentors was diagnosed with a neurological disease. He has become a big advocate for research in this area as a result.

By the end of Payne’s book, it’s clear that he has many lessons to share about working in politics. These were a few of his favorites:

• Communicate efficiently. Listen more than you speak.
• Be fiercely loyal to your friends. If you are fortunate to make good ones, hold onto them tight. I’d do anything for my friends.
• Work hard. Prove that you deserve your job.
• Everyone is replaceable.
• Your reputation is everything. Keep your word.
• Respect and understand the views of others.
• Be patient but be ready to seize opportunities.
• Don’t burn bridges.

Inspired by Warner’s example, Payne understands better than ever the importance of putting people ahead of partisanship. “Politics is all about relationships,” he says. “If you don’t have them and don’t maintain them, then you’re not going to get anything done.”

Three new exhibitions opened in February at the Muscarelle Museum of Art, celebrating traditional Japanese art, a century of photography and Norman Rockwell’s Boy Scouts. • Hiroshige’s Tokaido offers a rare view of the famed 19th-century artist’s literal and figurative progression along Japan’s Tokaido, or Eastern Sea Route. The exhibition presents five different sets of Utagawa Hiroshige’s “53 Stations of the Tokaido Road,” never before displayed together. The effect offers the viewer a panoramic view of the Tokaido, as well as Hiroshige’s romance with Japan’s landscape. • Light Works: A Century of Great Photography is comprised of more than 50 memorable images and highlights the 2015 founding of a photography program at William & Mary. The show surveys the origin, evolution and variations of photography during its first full century, including images by Alfred Stieglitz, Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams. • Norman Rockwell and the Boy Scouts features nine paintings by the artist famed for nostalgic and patriotic depictions of 20th-century American life. The exhibition is dedicated to W&M Chancellor and former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates ’65, L.H.D. ’98 who became president of the Boy Scouts of America in 2014.
By & Large

DATA PIONEERS:
Students in the new Master of Science in Business Analytics program at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business will tackle global questions with fresh approaches.

In August 2016, the doors will open to William & Mary’s first new graduate program in 15 years — the Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA). Business analytics is a critically urgent field in today’s marketplace: “big data” is a driving factor of innovation and productivity. Each day we produce 2.5 quintillion bytes of data, and in just a few years, data production will increase by 4,300 percent. Due to this skyrocketing growth, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranks data analytics as one of the fastest-growing career fields for the next decade. A shortage of as many as 1.5 million data professionals is predicted by the year 2018.

Recognizing this talent gap, the faculty at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business developed an innovative 10-month Master of Science in Business Analytics program, tailored to the big-data challenges facing business organizations.

“Graduates of our program have the deep analytical skills required of data scientists, but also business knowledge and communication skills which are essential to deploying analytics effectively,” says Jim Bradley, faculty director for the MSBA program.

The program will focus on four skill areas: business acumen, applied mathematics, computing technologies and communicating with impact. Coursework will include optimization, neural networks, machine learning, artificial intelligence and data visualization.

The Mason School is now accepting MSBA applications for fall 2016. Prospective students who are interested in improving their quantitative skills should visit W&M’s MSBA website (mason.wm.edu/msba) and call 757.221-1763 to speak with Brian Nigg, associate director of the MSBA program.

— Mason School Staff

Analyze This

A NEW MASTER’S AT MASON
MSBA program addresses the need for big data talent

WHAT’S THE STORY?

Blog All About It

The William & Mary Alumni Association launched a blog in January, called The Gale. The new blog’s name is taken from lines in the Alma Mater, “Hark upon the gale / Hear the thunder of our chorus,” and will feature stories about alumni, student life, faculty research and campus happenings. Visit https://wmalumni.com/get-informed/gale.html to read up on all things William & Mary. Have an idea for the blog? We welcome your suggestions. Email The Gale at alumniblog@wm.edu.

— Kelley Freund

16 W&M Alumni Magazine www.wmalumni.com
Stay connected.

Connect with fellow alumni, get William & Mary news and be a part of the conversation.

Follow us on social media and our new blog, The Gale, at wmalumni.com/social.
CAA ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
William & Mary All-Americans Regan Rome ’18 and Emily Stites ’16 were honored in December, sharing the Colonial Athletic Association Women’s Cross Country Athlete of the Year award. This is the fourth year in a row that the CAA’s top award has come back to Williamsburg — a program and conference record — and the 11th time overall. In other major awards announced by the league office in December, women’s cross country coach Natalie Hall was named the CAA Coach of the Year for the second year in a row. On the men’s side, Stephen Walsh also earned Coach of the Year honors.
–JACOB SKIPPER ’05

SLUGGER: Charley Gould ’16 led the Tribe and the CAA last season with a .388 batting average.
When Tribe baseball player Charley Gould ’16 was growing up in Lake Forest, Ill., there was a giant tree next to his house. Gould would take a bat and spend his days swiping at the acorns that fell from the tree, occasionally hitting his neighbor’s house across the street. That was his homerun.

Gould has come a long way since smashing acorns. Now a first baseman and catcher for the Tribe, he finished last season with 38 runs, 66 hits, 15 doubles, 13 homers, 52 RBIs and a .388 batting average (which led the Tribe and the Colonial Athletic Association). Back in January, Gould was named the 2016 CAA Preseason Player of the Year.

The econ major says his decision to attend William & Mary was a no-brainer. “I wanted to go somewhere that had good baseball and academics,” he says. “Getting out of the Chicago cold was good, too. I’ve always loved the East Coast. And when I came out, I just fell in love with campus.”

For Gould, his experiences with Tribe baseball have been about growing up. “Fun fact: my first-ever college game, I flew out to end the game against Clemson, and I punched the ground,” Gould says. He ended up breaking his hand and didn’t play much his freshman year. “So that was my psycho moment. That was definitely a huge learning experience.”

Gould didn’t play much at the start of his sophomore year, either. “But I listened to a lot of the older guys who told me to just keep working at it,” Gould says. When William & Mary’s catcher, Ryan Hissey ’16, went out with an injury, Gould stepped in and finished the season hitting .333 with 50 hits and 42 RBIs. Eleven of those RBIs came during one game against Iona, a school record. He went on to earn first-team All-CAA honors his sophomore and junior year.

“The biggest thing that has helped me is realizing that baseball has its fair share of ups and downs,” Gould says. “I get way too emotional and lose confidence easily. But I’ve watched a lot of the older guys, and I’ve seen how they handle themselves. Over the past few years, there’s been the development of my baseball skills, but I think my perspective on things has matured. I also think that’s had a significant impact on me outside of baseball, too, as far as putting things into perspective and trying to stay level-headed and not getting too up or down.”

For head coach Brian Murphy, Gould is the guy who has big forearms and the guy that runs a mile very slowly. “We measure it in days instead of minutes,” Murphy says.

But Murphy goes on to say that Gould is also the guy who’s a complete offensive player. “Ever since he’s been here, he’s been a really good hitter. He’s developed over time, but he’s always had the ability to do things that come pretty naturally to him and are tough skills to learn for other guys, like strike zone discipline.”

For Gould, Murphy and the rest of the Tribe baseball team, the goal for the 2016 season is to get back on top of the conference after finishing 10-14 in league play last year. “My freshman year, we went to the NCAA Tournament, and when I was a sophomore, we won the regular season title in the CAA, so last year was a step backwards,” Gould says. “This could be my last year of baseball, and it’s definitely my last in a Tribe uniform. I feel like I have an obligation to the coaches.”

A big part of the Tribe’s success this year will be the Joe Plumeri Indoor Practice Facility, which has provided the program with over 5,700 square feet of all-weather practice space, allowing the team to get in crucial training time during the early winter months of the season. Previously, the team had no comparable facility to use for practice during inclement weather.

“We would go to a random indoor facility at 9 p.m., or try to fit something under the cage and it would be pouring rain,” Gould says. “This new facility saves us so much time and a lot of wet clothing.”

Gould doesn’t feel any added pressure from being named the conference’s preseason player of the year; in fact it gives him more confidence. “Seeing the progress I’ve made, I’ve come a long way from my freshman to senior year. It’s that pursuit of progression that motivates me. And this is my last chance to contribute to Tribe baseball.”

“He’s a really hard worker,” Murphy says. “A lot of hitting is a self-made skill. It’s a lot of understanding your own swing and putting the work in, and from the time Charley got here, he’s been a really good worker. We’re excited for him to have another good season. The future is really bright for him.”

A CATCHER IN THE TRIBE

Power Hitter
Charley Gould ’16 plays long ball on and off the diamond

BY KELLEY FREUND
CHANGING LIVES

A major gift from a devoted alumna will benefit W&M’s top students

BY JENNIFER PAGE WALL

WILLIAM & MARY HAS RAISED NEARLY $150 million for scholarships as part of its For the Bold campaign, with generous support from alumni like Sally Ives Gore ’56, who recently made a $2 million commitment benefiting the 1693 Scholars program. Her support is emblematic of the way scholarships can change lives, which Gore knows firsthand.

Gore is a former human resources executive at W.L. Gore & Associates. Her son, Chris Coons, is the junior senator from Delaware in the U.S. Congress. She has overcome hardships to get to where she is today and scholarships played an important role in helping her and her family lead lives of remarkable achievement and success.

Now she is giving back so that others can pursue their aspirations and attend the university that helped shape the woman she has become — a compassionate philanthropist and member of numerous organizations that provide opportunities for young people. For Gore, W&M provided a strong foundation for developing leadership skills that she continues to put to use today.

“We face great challenges in the world today that need to be resolved by kind, well-educated and wise leaders. I cannot think of a better way to invest my money than in scholarships for bright students to advance their education and attend college,” says Gore. “Scholarships can change a person’s life forever. I hope my gifts can give students today the same wonderful experience I had at William & Mary.”

After Gore graduated, she became an elementary school teacher for several years before leaving her job to have a family. Gore says, “In the 1960s, society frowned upon women working after they had a baby.”

For 10 years, she stayed home to raise three children and then decided to pursue an advanced degree in psychology at the University of Delaware. Without financial assistance, Gore would not have been able to attend. With the help of a donor, she was offered a full scholarship. She earned her master’s degree and went on to become an accomplished psychologist and human resources executive.

“I worked full-time, taught piano on the side for extra income and raised three kids at the same time as getting my advanced degree. I could not have done this without financial support,” she says. “As you can imagine, this scholarship changed my life, and I am very happy that I can give back and make a difference in the lives of many other students.”
Join us as we raise $1 million for scholarships.

Camille Marshall Broderick ’81 and Craig Broderick ’81 are continuing their generous support of William & Mary scholarships with the second year of their gift-matching challenge. Through the Challenge, gifts made to new and existing scholarships funds by June 30 will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to $500,000.

GIVE BY JUNE 30 TO DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT.

Visit giving.wm.edu/broderick or call Karlene Noel Jennings at 757.221.7779 to learn more.
Gore’s gift will do just that. Students selected as 1693 Scholars represent the very best of William & Mary’s entire applicant pool. These scholarships, awarded to both in-state and out-of-state students, provide significant financial support for tuition and general fees as well as room and board.

Each 1693 Scholar works closely with distinguished faculty mentors, planning his or her own course of study and enjoying access and support reserved at most universities exclusively for graduate students. They also take part in special events and programs, including meetings with leading scientists, artists, politicians and humanitarians of our time who regularly visit campus. There are currently 25 students in the 1693 Scholars program today.

“Sally is a role model for all of us — her story lifts us up and provides hope to others facing hurdles in life,” says Sue Hanna Gerdelman ’76, campaign chair. “I am greatly inspired by this story, this gift and Sally’s generosity. I am also incredibly moved that she is helping so many others achieve their dreams. I can’t thank Sally enough.”

Gore wasn’t the only one in her family to receive a scholarship. Her son, Delaware Sen. Chris Coons, was also a recipient of the Truman Scholarship, a highly competitive federal scholarship granted to U.S. college juniors for demonstrated leadership potential and commitment to public service.

“In today’s world, it is hard for middle-class families to afford college,” adds Gore. “It makes a lot of sense for me to give to this area because William & Mary is a premier institution which is doing a great job creating citizens who make a difference in the world. To be able to give this gift to someone so that they can access this kind of education is simply wonderful.”

Vice President of University Advancement Matthew T. Lambert ’99 adds, “Sally’s generosity continues to have a profound impact on the lives of many William & Mary students. Her dedication to the university and to helping others achieve their educational goals is establishing a legacy of compassion consistent with our core values and mission.”

Gore has previously given to the 1693 Scholars program as well as to the Kappa Kappa Gamma renovation project. She founded William & Mary’s child care facility, which carries her name. In 2003, she was appointed by former Gov. Mark Warner LL.D. ’02 to serve on the Board of Visitors and was a member of the Campaign for William & Mary’s Steering Committee. She also served on the university’s Foundation board for six years. In 1998, she received the Alumni Medallion, which recognizes professional accomplishments, leadership, dedication to the community and commitment to their alma mater.

Her philanthropic energies today are focused on support for the advancement of women and girls in the United States and in third-world countries. At every turn, Gore is committed to making lives better, one person at a time.
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IT TAKES A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

By Joseph McClain
Marco Colo sits in a small room in Small Hall scanning a dozen large monitors for clues about how the universe began.

Colo, a Ph.D. physics student, is looking for the clues in a stream of subatomic particles known as neutrinos. Neutrinos are produced by the sun, by nuclear plants and especially by the event that caused the birth of the universe some 14 billion years ago.

“I like to take the late-night shifts,” Colo said, explaining that a hoot owl stint yields extra participation credit.

So just how did the universe begin? It’s a big question — perhaps the biggest question that’s answerable. It takes a research university to take on such big questions, as well as to pursue other issues of immediate benefit to humankind.

Neutrino study probes a big question while creating the scientific base for inventions such as instruments that can use a neutrino signal to detect the presence of nuclear devices. When CERN announced the discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012, the media turned to Marc Sher, one of William & Mary’s Higgs theorists, for context and explanation. It would be going too far to say neutrinos are the new Higgs, but neutrinos now have a bigger share in the spotlight of particle physics.
Particle physics is one particular example of William & Mary’s research impact, which extends far beyond physics. Neuroscientists are working to explain the complex mechanisms of the brain and questions of cognition. Data scientists are making computers more efficient and our use of them more secure. Scientists are working to choreograph the unbelievably complex intracellular ballet of proteins in order to identify the missteps that lead to neurodegenerative diseases, cancers and other human maladies.

And that's just some of the scientists.

WHAT IS A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY?

It takes a research university to bring together the resources required to address big questions, but the term “research university” takes a bit of unpacking in the context of an institution that, as the Charter mandates, “shall be called and denominated, for ever, the College of William and Mary.”

Dennis Manos says the presence of Ph.D. programs makes William & Mary a true university. Manos, the university’s vice provost for research, cited a William & Mary alumnus who went on to serve as the dean of Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Henry Rosovsky ’49, author of The University: An Owner’s Manual.

“Rosovsky said that no one will ever doubt that Rockefeller University, which has no undergraduates, is a university. He said that no one will ever doubt that Princeton, which has no business school, no law school, no school of education — no one will ever doubt that Princeton is a university,” Manos said. “And, he said the one thing they have in common is the award of the Ph.D. degree.”

William & Mary took the first steps toward becoming something more than a “college” in 1779 with the founding of the Law School. In 1964, Ph.D. programs were introduced in marine science and physics. William & Mary now offers the Ph.D. in disciplines in Arts & Sciences, the School of Education and the School of Marine Science.

Dean of Graduate Studies Virginia Torczon oversees the Ph.D. programs in Arts & Sciences. She explains that that a set of Ph.D. programs will almost always cause an institution to evolve into a research university. Research, she says, is what Ph.D. students mostly do.

“We do require Ph.D. students to take courses. The bulk of the expectation, though, is that they produce original research that contributes to the knowledge of the field,” she said.

Manos points out that William & Mary is classified as a research university with a high level of research activity, and has been for some time.

“The question of what is a research university is pretty well-defined. William & Mary did not lobby to get that classification. We’re not the arbiters of that decision. The Carnegie Classification system is,” Manos said. “We hit every one of the marks for that definition.”

Those Carnegie marks include research-activity metrics such as expenditures and staffing levels, as well as awarding a specified number of research doctoral degrees each year. (Professional degrees like the J.D. or M.D. are not counted.)

RELEVANCE THROUGH RESEARCH

Torczon noted that graduate students thrive under faculty mentors who are themselves active researchers. Beyond the Carnegie metrics, Manos and Torczon both say that what makes a research university boils down to the relevance it brings to the world beyond its own community.

Original research by Ph.D. students has a high degree of relevance. While a doctoral student in computer science, Haitao Xu served an internship with the Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group. Xu, who received his Ph.D. in December, became one of the world’s foremost experts in combating an organized form of online fraud known as “brushing.”

Brushers are paid by online vendors to inflate their reputations with fake product reviews. Xu investigated this form of market rigging in Alibaba’s subsidiary Taobao, the eBay of China. But, he warns, Western online markets are not immune.

“The problem could happen on eBay and Amazon, too. They adopt a similar reputation system, so sellers have the same motivations to escalate their reputations,” Xu explained.

Sometimes a layperson needs to look beyond everyday life to see the relevance of research. Neutrinos, for example, may not be a household word, yet the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics (as well as three previous Nobels) were awarded for neutrino discoveries. Physicists believe that if they can crack the neutrino code, the particles can help them reconstruct cosmic events, much as archaeologists use pottery shards to help reconstruct the past.

In other instances, relevance is readily apparent. Faculty in the schools of law, education and business produce a stream of practical discoveries. Law Professor Jeffrey Bellin has become a leading expert...
in “eHearsay.” Texts, tweets and other digital communication can be important evidence in a trial, and Bellin proposes changes to traditional rules of hearsay evidence to include such e-utterances. Bellin’s eHear-say scholarship served as the genesis of a symposium on the subject.

At the Mason School of Business, Michael Luchs focuses on the novel concept of “consumer wisdom,” a term that he says usually draws a blank stare. Luchs is interested in people who occupy that sweet spot between tightwad minimalists and shopaholic hoarders. Such “wise consumers,” he says, are part of the key to creating a model of consumption that is both scalable and sustainable.

AidData, a “think-and-do tank,” slices and dices data on the trillions of dollars of global foreign aid. Many AidData reports incorporate geospatial elements, giving policymakers fresh, visually enhanced looks on the interplay of aid donors and recipients.

The School of Marine Science, which is also the Virginia Institute of Marine Science or VIMS, is responsible for a large segment of William & Mary’s research footprint. Faculty and students at VIMS keep the pulse of the Chesapeake Bay environment and beyond, contributing to knowledge about sea-level rise and other climatological concerns.

Campus sits between a Chesapeake estuary and one of the Bay’s tributaries, where eagles nest, so it’s not unusual to see a bald eagle flying overhead. It’s appropriate for eagles to be part of the fauna of a campus that has been so instrumental in research on the national bird. The Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) was founded here in 1992 and its founders, Mitchell Byrd and Bryan Watts, have encouraged and tracked the return of bald eagles to the East Coast.

Byrd and Watts check out nesting eagles each year from a small plane. This year, Byrd is making his 40th set of census flights; Watts will observe his 25th. A bald eagle in the neighborhood adds to the quality of life and the CCB has helped to make sure the eagle is part of the discussion in land-use issues.

All birds aren’t as welcome as the bald eagle and sometimes birds can be pests, even hazards. Sonic Nets is an excellent example of how a research university can braid its missions of discovery and education together with relevance and service to humanity. The project is designed to save lives and prevent famine, and it involves foundation support, an outside corporate partner and people at every level of the university.

Sonic Nets began a few years ago as a collaboration of Mark Hinders, professor of applied science, and John Swaddle, professor of biology. Large flocks of birds can be a plague on ripening crops, a nuisance in parking areas and a danger on airport runways. Sonic
Nets is the best bet for a solution to problems caused by birds in the wrong places. It was an idea good enough to be named a Grand Challenges Explorations winner by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It uses a parametric speaker array to project sounds that mask the birds' prandial chatter, raising the flock's insecurity about predators. “It’s like trying to have a conversation at a cocktail party. It doesn’t even have to be especially loud,” Hinders said.

The collaboration quickly grew to encompass a number of graduate students. Support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation allowed birdsong expert Dana Moseley to join as a postdoctoral fellow, leading the latest rounds of fieldwork and training undergraduates. Waverly McClusky ’16 is using Sonic Nets as a basis for a honors thesis, investigating why some bird species are more sensitive to sounds than others.

Early results are encouraging. Swaddle said an airfield test showed Sonic Nets was effective with more than 80 percent of the problem birds, which would reduce bird-aircraft strikes by 95 percent.

Hinders and his students have been working closely with Midstream Technology of Williamsburg for the last few years to develop the system. Sonic Nets prototype systems have been installed on three continents across seven different industries.

INCORPORATING UNDERGRADUATES

The research culture extends deeper here than at most other research universities. In 2014, a typical year, a quarter of William & Mary’s undergraduate degrees are bestowed upon students majoring in STEM disciplines.

Most of these science and math majors graduate with significant and relevant research experience. Consider the chemistry students of Jonathan Scheerer, who was singled out for the degree to which he involves students in his research lab.

Scheerer studies alkaloids, a class of chemicals that ranges from cocaine to quinine. He is developing ways to synthesize alkaloids, particularly molecules that show promise for uses such as anti-parasitics or natural insecticides. He was recognized for the integration of undergraduate teaching and research in his quest to synthesize helpful alkaloids by being named a Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar.

William & Mary researchers routinely punch above their weight and that goes for undergraduate researchers, too. If iGEM 2015 were a boxing movie, Team Tribe would be Rocky Balboa. iGEM is an annual synthetic biology competition, called the “World Cup of science.” William & Mary’s team won the top prize, knocking out more than 200 teams from all over the world.

Research creates opportunities, and just not in science labs. For example, more than 400 undergraduates have participated in AidData programs since 2003, many at high levels. Another large bit of proof is William & Mary’s spot among public universities at the top of the per-capita list of graduates who go on to get Ph.D. degrees.

Likewise, two computer scientists won Best Overall Paper at Supercomputing 2015, the annual conference attended by more than 10,000 computer professionals. Computer scientist Xu Liu and Bo Wu Ph.D. ’14 entered their software tool called ScaAnalyzer, designed to make supercomputers more efficient by pinpointing bottleneck areas in the memory subsystem.

Their paper beat out entries from supercomputing centers at technical universities and corporate labs. The whole computing world will benefit from ScaAnalyzer: Liu and Wu are releasing it as an open-source tool.

MORE THAN JUST SCIENCE

It’s a mistake to think research (and relevance) is all about STEM. Torczon is a researcher—a computer scientist—in addition to being grad studies dean. She has notched an impressive slate of citations for her algorithms. “And it’s not just other computer scientists who are finding my work useful,” she said. Social scien-
tists and humanities scholars also are finding uses for her algorithms.

Torczon credits her humanities background — her undergraduate degree is in Latin American history — with giving her the writing skills that make her algorithms so widely useful.

She said the National Endowment for the Humanities is leading a discussion on humanities relevance, pointing to work being done by William & Mary humanities faculty, “especially the archaeologists and their work with native communities. No question about the relevance of that.”

Legum Professor of History Scott Nelson drove home the relevance of scholarship at a presentation in Hong Kong. Nelson had spackled up a gap between the social sciences and the humanities with his book Nation of Deadbeats: An Uncommon History of America’s Financial Disasters.

“Most economists don’t know enough history, and most historians don’t know enough economics,” he explained.

A skeptical group of bankers asked if Nelson had “skin in the game.” He told the group that he read in July of 2007 that the European Central Bank tried to jump-start interbank lending with a €95 billion stimulus. It reminded Nelson of conditions that preceded the Panic of 1873, so he moved his TIAA-CREF retirement investments from stocks to bonds.

Bedlam broke out among the Hong Kong financiers. “They were all shouting at each other,” Nelson said. Once the riot subsided, the chairman of the firm explained the excitement: Any bank that had made a similar financial play would have doubled its money.

BUILDING FOR COLLABORATION

A research university requires a substantial infrastructure. The most recent addition to William & Mary's research infrastructure is the third phase of the Integrated Science Center. The building furthered the concept of integration begun in the first two phases of the ISC.

“We're trying to get away from departmental silos,” explained Eric Bradley, biology chair and project manager for the ISC 3. “For example, on the first floor there will be a neuroscience lab that Josh Burk from psychology will oversee. Right next door will be the [applied science Chair Christopher] Del Negro lab, which is also neuroscience.”

The ISC 3 is part of the Commonwealth’s investment in William & Mary’s science precinct that goes back a decade. That little room in Small Hall where Marco Colo and other researchers watch for neutrinos is another example of outside investment in research and research infrastructure.

William & Mary’s physicists once had to journey to Fermilab, outside Chicago, to take a shift at the helm of the NOvA neutrino experiment. The Small Hall control room, one of maybe half a dozen in the U.S., was made possible by National Science Foundation funding received by Colo’s mentor, physicist Tricia Vahle. It saves on travel expenses and allows for more participation by William & Mary scientists.

There are more than a dozen neutrino experiments across the world. Each of these facilities is immense. Neutrino research also is immense in terms of required brainpower. In addition to Vahle, physics faculty Robert McKeown, Michael Kordosky and Jeffrey Nelson — plus postdocs, research scientists, graduate and undergraduate students — are involved in more than half a dozen other neutrino experiments.

GROUNDING IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

It does indeed take a research university to take on knotty problems and big questions — but it doesn’t necessarily take a large university. William & Mary’s moderate-by-choice enrollment size does not generate gaudy raw numbers, but the university has plenty going for it.

In the first place, there is the triumph of quality over quantity. William & Mary has attracted and retained a solid core of productive researchers doing excellent work. Manos makes a habit of saying, “I’ll put our first team, our best people, up against anyone’s.”

In addition, Manos said that William & Mary benefits from the development of its “special sauce,” an intellectual quality that many larger schools are trying to reverse-engineer.

“My conversation lately is about how a research university can retain the beating heart of a liberal arts core,” Manos said. “I can not conceive of a useful research university of the near future that does not have that beating heart, or who does not add it in the next 25 to 30 years.”

Manos said that William & Mary’s liberal-arts heartbeat allowed it to be one of the few universities that a decade ago grasped the importance of creative, cross-disciplinary approaches to research — as exemplified by the integrated science center concept.

“The almost panic-stricken conversation among some of the ‘bigs’ is all about how to get some of this ethics stuff. How do we get people to be creative? How do we get people to understand the value of a team? And how should a team work?” Manos said.

“A number of research juggernauts are waking up to the realization that they haven’t thought these things through adequately.”

William & Mary’s research footprint is distinctive, if not huge. It is characterized by collaboration, interdisciplinary cooperation and a tendency to spawn projects that involve all levels of the university community and braid research with scholarship. In short, as Manos said, William & Mary-style research is about relevance driven by the beating heart of the liberal arts.

&
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A DAY FOR GIVING BACK AND PAYING IT FORWARD

WILLIAM & MARY

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It’s July 18, 1988, between my freshman and sophomore year,” he says. “I need to figure out what I’m going to do with my life, and I don’t really know. I don’t even know what I’m going to major in at this point."

Before he became a best-selling author, revered standup comedian, epicurean Pixar rodent, omnivorous pop culture critic and wide-ranging character actor, Oswalt was working as a paralegal, a sportswriter and a party DJ in Northern Virginia. Amidst all this, the 19-year-old Oswalt decided to try his hand at standup comedy. After all, he loved comedy records and was always cracking jokes, so why not? It was open-mic night at Garvin’s in Washington, D.C. To put it mildly, he “didn’t do well.”

“But I loved the life,” he remembers. “The hours, the ‘hang,’ the other comedians. I loved the world of it — the whole night world.”

“I think it might have been Yeats who said this about the ‘lunar and solar professions.’ The lunar professions are the artists, and the solar professions are the bankers and the people that make the world run. So I thought, I think I belong in the lunar world.”

That’s classic Oswalt: using Irish poet W.B. Yeats to remember an early standup routine that consisted of “four minutes of
silence and one single laugh." He remembers that night as the beginning of his journey as a standup comedian. His life plan, in a sense, was utterly destroyed — and then reborn.

"I'm very open to annihilation and rebirth, I guess," Oswalt says. "I don't know where that comes from, but that's always been a thing that I crave on some level: some sort of physical, symbolic or psychological apocalypse. Then you rise from that. Everything I've ever done that was significant came from massive mistakes and massive failures."

MASSIVE MISTAKES
After the Garvin's show, Oswalt returned to William & Mary a changed man. His dream to be a successful stand-up comedian was so powerful, he chased it in every available moment.

"I wanted to be out in clubs telling jokes, so every Friday afternoon, I'd finish my last class, drive off and do a gig," he says. "That was it. It paid for my rent in college, which was nice."

Oswalt lived with a friend off South Boundary Street, and what free time he did spend in Williamsburg, he spent making people laugh. Or at least trying to. Every Wednesday, and for one weekend a month, the budding comic kept performing, bombing and learning in the 'Burg. On other weekends, he left town to do the same.

"I had to go on stage every weekend — I had no choice," he says. "It took the process of thought and anticipation and self-sabotage out of it. Because whether you go up and do great, or you eat it, they'll say, 'Well, see you next Wednesday at 8 o'clock: you've got to host.' That was my first time learning that you can eat it, and get up the next day and the world didn't end."

Oswalt often traveled to clubs and hotels in Newport News, Richmond, D.C. or even distant Norton, Va., in the southwest corner of the state. He began to develop his confidence and started to build a career. Gigs started to line up months in advance.

And then something important happened, which wouldn’t be clear until years later.

APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION
"I was in a psychology class," he says. "They were showing slides of the art of the insane, and it was in the middle of all these other drawings." Vincent van Gogh's "The Night Café."

In his latest book, Silver Screen Fiend, Oswalt remembers seeing the painting for the first time. "The menace and magic of that painting grabbed me," he writes. "Tendrils of glistening paint whipped out, snagged my eyeballs, and held fast."

In 1888, van Gogh had retired to Arles, on the Mediterranean coast of France, and began painting purely from memory for the first time. Suddenly, his works became less representational and drew more upon the feelings and memories associated with the places he recalled. The process was heretical to van Gogh, who believed his passion and talent were “demonic,” as Oswalt writes. Instead of staving off van Gogh’s darker artistic urges, Arles intensified them, and inspired some of his finest work. In mere months, he had painted "The Night Café," "Starry Night over the Rhône" and "The Yellow House." A year and a half thereafter, he would be dead.

A century later, in a William & Mary lecture hall, Oswalt was transported. He felt the visceral, evocative details — common to the art of schizophrenia — that animate “The Night Café.” "It kicked me in the head," he writes. The moment stuck with him, and finally coalesced in his book as shorthand for artistic transformation.

A Night Café, in Silver Screen Fiend, is anytime an experience changes your life or perspective forever. It's a tribute to the power a piece of art or an event can hold over anyone who will let it in, and a warning against the risks that come along with it. It just took a W&M psych class and Vincent van Gogh to put a name to them.

"That’s the danger of the Night Café,” Oswalt says. "It can save you, and it can also destroy you."

MAXIMUM RISK
So what does a doomed painter’s mental illness have to do with standup comedy?

Not long after graduation, Oswalt drove cross-country to San Francisco — “the last time it was cheap to live there” — where an early standup performance caused him to realize the routine he had honed in clubs all over the mid-Atlantic would not fly on the West Coast. He and a friend threw all their jokes into the garbage that same night.

Another Night Café.

"It was one of those great liftings of the veil," he says. "I had been living this false confidence and going on a wrong path. It was like the whole floor dropping out from under me: 'no, you actually have to start from here, and now get truly strong.'"

These personal Night Cafés, according to Oswalt, can’t be found on purpose. Where Garvin’s had taught him he wanted to be a standup, San Francisco taught him that there’s an art to making people laugh, and it takes craftsmanship.

"It’s about being present in your life and open to what your life is doing — that’s what leads you to the Night Café without you looking for it."

Acceptance of that sort of risk — being susceptible to that act of destruction and rebirth — wasn’t easy to come by in show business.

"That came from years of trying to be cool and trying not to be vulnerable, and realizing what a waste of time that was," he says. "Cool is the enemy of comedy."
“To talk about anything — anything physically going on, any failings you have, any thoughts you have that might not be the best thoughts — you admit weakness or competitiveness or pettiness or meanness about yourself in order to laugh at it, or cope with it, or illuminate it for other people. That can be a really risky thing to do.”

**WALKING CONTRADICTION**

But after hundreds of standup performances, the biggest creative risk for a young Patton Oswalt was his dream of directing a film. His latest book, *Silver Screen Fiend*, is, on its surface, Oswalt’s love letter to film and its unmatched ability to inspire him. But the book is more than that, too: it’s a revered comedian’s reckoning with his many past selves, his creativity and his own personality. He doesn’t flinch.

“It was like writing this book was almost a confession,” he says. “These are the things that stay with me for better or worse, and maybe by acknowledging them, I can break loose.”

*Silver Screen Fiend* begins in 1995 Los Angeles. Oswalt had left San Francisco and settled in a little apartment off Hollywood Boulevard. Sitting alone in the New Beverly theater, he discovered another world he wanted to enter: directing. It began with Billy Wilder’s “Sunset Boulevard” and would go on to consume four years of Oswalt’s life.

He started to check off the hundreds of films in five books — three volumes of Danny Peary’s Cult Movies, *The Psychotronic Encyclopedia of Film* by Michael Weldon, and *The Film Noir Encyclopedia* — by watching each one in a theater, in its entirety. Anything else didn’t count. As the book goes on, Oswalt nearly misses gigs for this and definitely loses a girlfriend.

Oswalt’s book careens from tales of his creative life, to reverence for both classic and B-grade movies, to passing references to Hollywood blockbusters of the era. Buster Keaton films rub elbows with “Batman Forever” in the same week; Oswalt follows “Gone With the Wind” up with “Alien” four days later. Not every film gets the detailed look that, say, “Dr. Strangelove” does, but the impression is strong that Oswalt watches each with the same care. Unlike his standup, which is the product of careful observation of the world and unceasing practice onstage, the aspiring director consumed film obsessively, convinced he’d know exactly when the time was right to strike. But the films eventually start to bleed together, and his “$5-a-night film school” turns into a delay tactic.

“You’re very very aware of the things that have influenced you, and you want to create your own stuff,” he says. “You wonder if your stuff will shine brighter than the little suns that gave you the energy to start doing it. There’s that anxiety there.”
His two identities — workaday standup comic and grand-inspiration filmmaker — dovetail throughout the book, weighing the need to get out there and create against the impulse to stay in and consume. It’s a theme he also tackles in his first book, Zombie Spaceship Wasteland, and a battle he’s been fighting since his teenage years in Sterling, Va.

“In the suburbs, things are very safe and laid out. You know where things are, so there isn’t a lot of adventurousness,” he says. “That’s always tempting to fall back on. I had to fight that instinct to fall back and cleave toward safety rather than adventure and variety.”

But in Silver Screen Fiend, Oswalt does not pull punches when that adventurous philosophy did not extend to his dreams of directing. As he and his friends criticized an extremely well-known and extremely disappointing late-’90s blockbuster, Oswalt recalls:

“[We were] assuring ourselves that some invisible foot was keeping us down. … that’s ultimately where our comfort was. There was comfort in preemptive disappointment. Because it was never your fault.”

That cynical, fruitless (if hilarious) discussion, eventually made Oswalt realize that doing superseded complaining. And that was the kick in the head that brought him even further into the artistic game — and out of his four-year film addiction.

That disappointing movie was “Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace.” And “Sunset Boulevard” it was not. Upon emerging from his film obsession, he’s built significantly on a career that has come to include four TV specials and four comedy albums — as well as countless guest star appearances on shows as diverse as “VEEP,” “Justified,” “Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.,” “Community” and “Parks and Recreation.” He narrates ABC’s “The Goldbergs” and will appear on-screen in “The Circle” as an eccentric entrepreneur later this year.

“You just have to start,” he says, showing no signs of stopping.

CITY OF ANGLES

Today, Oswalt lives with his wife, true-crime writer Michelle McNamara, and their daughter Alice in a quiet Los Angeles neighborhood. L.A., he says, is “five of the best cities in the country, and three or four of the worst.” The feverish impulses that animated his youth seem to have evolved into a calmer confidence.

“People in their 20s act the way people in their 70s should act,” Oswalt says. The hustle of young people — especially in show business — is relentless, urgent and frenetic, thanks in part to the sense of impending doom: aging.

“They’re like, ‘oh my God, I’m running out of time;’ but they actually have time. … My mom is 70. Mom’s old adage is ‘eh, it’ll work out, whatever.’ I’m like, ‘you should be acting the way I was when I was 22 — you have a right!’”

He hopes Silver Screen Fiend connects with audiences (it hit paperback in October), but he hopes that maybe it also serves as someone else’s Night Café.

“I really hope someone, in a very smart way, rejects whatever is in that book, so they become something unique and new,” he says. “A lot of that is me having to reject a lot of the lessons I got and move beyond them.”

“You’re very very aware of the things that have influenced you, and you want to create your own stuff. You wonder if your stuff will shine brighter than the little suns that gave you the energy to start doing it.”

Annihilation and rebirth again. But Oswalt also embraces the notion that all of his past characters and selves — the young William & Mary student, Remy from “Ratatouille,” the bestselling author, Spence from “King of Queens,” and a score of guest roles and talk-show appearances — are wrapped up in the man he is today.

Oswalt smiles. “I really, really lived in my 20s and 30s,” he says. “I’m not saying that as a brag. I just traveled everywhere, I did everything I could, and I experienced and tried everything that I could. So I have this great bank of scars and experiences, highs and lows, that I can kind of draw from.

“Now I get to watch a new persona and intellect watching my daughter grow into this world. Not to get all sappy, but I’m well-aware of the dangers of this world, and the way that this world seems to be going bad on some levels. I’m trying to give her a sense that there’s a lot of wonder out here for you, if you look for the wonder.”

It’s a philosophy he hopes people will apply to comedy going forward, Night Café after Night Café.

“That’s what your life is for,” he says. “You figure it out what it is that you like, who you love, and you get deeper into those things. Especially with another person or a great piece of art, there’s always endless new angles and facets to them that you didn’t see the day before.

“That’s what truly falling in love is, that’s what raising a kid is, that’s what revisiting a great painting is. You come back to that person or thing or experience as a different person, so now you’re looking at it in a different way. That just creates endless variety and fascination for your life.”
In the 1700s, when William & Mary’s library was housed in the Wren Building, students had to pay 10 shillings a year to use it and could borrow one book at a time between the hours of 9 and 10 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays. Over two centuries later, things are drastically different.

You might say it all started with Earl Gregg Swem. William & Mary’s librarian from 1920-1944, Swem made the College’s library (housed in Tucker Hall during Swem’s time), more accessible by offering classes on library use and, in a practice almost unheard of at the time, opening the stacks to students and the public. Under his leadership, the library’s collection grew from 45,000 books and manuscripts to more than 640,000, and his collecting efforts formed the basis of what would become the Special Collections Research Center. Swem died at 94 in 1965, a year before the completion of the library that carries his name.

Since its opening 50 years ago, Earl Gregg Swem Library has carried on its namesake’s legacy by remaining central to the academic and social experience at William & Mary. With over 800,000 visitors last year, the College community relies on Swem as a place to be productive, to collaborate and to connect with both peers and resources. Among those resources are 1,909,968 books, 15,084 films and videos, the second-largest collection of books about dogs in the United States and a first edition of The Book of Mormon. Swem continues to attract students and faculty to its unique spaces, including high-tech classrooms, multimedia production studios and study areas. In 2015, the library was ranked 17th in the nation in Princeton Review’s list of the best college libraries, a ranking based on student surveys. It was the highest-rated academic library in the state of Virginia.

Looking ahead at the next 50 years, Swem Library sets its sights on creating student assistantships, digitizing its unique and one-of-a-kind materials to make them accessible to scholars worldwide, and continuing to invest in library spaces. In the meantime, we take a look at some of the items housed inside that define what Swem is all about — from unique items and new technology to partnerships across campus.
Special Collections is home to the papers of the late Warren E. Burger, chief justice of the United States and the College’s 20th chancellor. While the collection will not be open to researchers for many years at the request of Burger, the first floor of Special Collections features an exhibit recreating his retirement office. Many objects actually used by Burger are on display in the Burger Office, including this briefcase, which Burger likely used during his time as assistant attorney general. The university announced in October 2013 that William & Mary Chancellor and former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates ’65, L.H.D. ’98 will donate his professional papers to William & Mary, also to be housed in Special Collections. Gates’ papers encompass his time at the CIA, his service at the National Security Council, his Texas A&M University presidency, his term as secretary of defense and his role as William & Mary’s chancellor, including his handwritten notes, photographs, and various materials he accumulated over the course of his career in public service.
This handwritten travel diary by a 14-year-old Victoria Brown documents a trip to Europe taken from August to November 1935. The Brown family traveled across the United States from California to New York, then stayed in Paris before visiting Rome and other cities in fascist Italy. The diary features a description of a fascist rally in Rome and dozens of sketches of flags, uniforms, theater costumes and street maps. The bulk of the 429 pages contains comments on the historic sites, museum collections, and neighborhoods she visited during her trip. Brown’s diary constitutes an important document, especially with its description of political events unfolding in the decade before World War II. Swem Library purchased this diary on eBay. Ève Bourbeau-Allard M.A. ’15, a 2014-15 archives apprentice in Special Collections, was tasked with processing and describing the diary. “This assistantship has not only stimulated my professional interest in archives management, it also gave me the opportunity to learn so much about a variety of peoples and topics through the collections I processed,” says Bourbeau-Allard. Read the section on the Gary Family papers on page 47 to learn more about Bourbeau-Allard’s work at Swem.

Swem doesn’t just provide support to students. Librarian-faculty partnerships are an integral part of the Swem experience as well. Mendoza the Jew, a graphic novel written by W&M history professor Ron Schechter, tells the story of a Jewish boxer and explores issues of gender and nationalism in late 18th-century Britain. Schechter sought out the library’s help for research assistance — specifically 18th-century images to provide to the novel’s illustrator so she could produce historically accurate pictures. He found support in the form of Arts Librarian Kathleen DeLaurenti. “It takes an extremely skilled reference librarian with a keen understanding of visual culture to help with a project such as this one,” Schechter says. “I was blown away by how helpful Kathleen was. She taught us some tricks to navigate the Swem catalog more effectively than I have ever been able to do on my own, and her command of the electronic sources was more than proficient. It was actually kind of breathtaking.”
In January, Swem Library received a $60,000 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources to digitize its entire run of Cash Box, a music trade magazine published from 1942-1996. An alternative to Billboard Magazine, Cash Box printed regional chart data and featured news of tours and album summaries. “Cash Box’s formula relied more heavily upon jukebox ‘plays,’ and thus are often a much more reliable window into trends of more subcultural markets such as African American-dominated rhythm and blues or white working-class country,” says Jay Gaidmore, director of the library’s Special Collections Research Center. Since acquiring the issues in 2010, Swem has received more requests for copies or information from Cash Box than from any other individual collection in Special Collections. An invaluable source for the study of music, the music industry and popular culture in the second half of the 20th century, Cash Box benefits researchers in not just music, but also history, Africana studies, and literary and cultural studies. With the digitization of this unique collection, Swem is putting Cash Box into the hands of scholars across the globe.
This 1984 Macintosh computer sits on a desk in the Reeder Media Center. Nobody can find a keyboard for it, but it still works. As computers and the Internet have changed over the past 30 years, so too have libraries and the collections they provide for student and faculty research. Today, over 80 percent of the library’s collections budget is spent on materials accessed over the Internet, including e-books, e-journals, databases and streaming video. There are hundreds of library databases, ranging from ones that anyone might recognize, like Ancestry.com and Morningstar, to world-class collections of historical documents, newspapers and archival collections. Swem Library is leading the way with outreach and consulting to connect these materials to the curriculum and research interests of students and faculty. Swem is also providing more alumni access, inviting former Tribe members to take advantage of the library’s resources. Alumni can check out books, use computers and get research help. They can also access two of Swem’s online databases, JSTOR and Project Muse, anywhere off campus.
While film posters usually draw attention to movies that are playing on screen, the exhibit that opened in February in Swem’s Botetourt Gallery features posters of Cuban films that were never made. Unmade in Cuba: Carteles de Cine is presented by W&M Libraries in partnership with students in W&M’s New Media Workshop, co-taught by Ann Marie Stock, professor of Hispanic studies and film and media studies, and Troy Davis, director of the Reeder Media Center. As part of this COLL 300 course, students research the posters’ artists and filmmakers — connecting with many of them — to create onsite and online exhibits. The posters are now part of Swem’s W&M Cuban Culture Collection housed in Special Collections. “The material is extraordinary, tracking as it does the accelerated changes on the island during this time,” Stock says. With Swem’s help, Stock plans on inventorying and archiving items she has collected during more than 60 research trips to Cuba over the past 25 years. “Libraries are natural partners when it comes to supporting digital projects and faculty research,” says Carrie Cooper, dean of university libraries. “The materials that have been acquired on trips and the stories that have been captured along the way will highlight the institution’s work in Cuba.”

WREN DAGUERREOTYPE, 1850s

This image of the College Building, later named the Sir Christopher Wren Building, can be found in the University Archives Photograph Collection. The College’s original library was located in the Wren Building and consisted of over 200 books donated by Francis Nicholson, governor of Virginia from 1698 to 1705. This library was destroyed in the fire of 1705. After the building was rebuilt, so was the collection. William & Mary owned over 4,000 books by 1793, making it the second-largest collegiate library in the United States, behind only Harvard. But the library suffered additional damage during the Siege of Yorktown in the Revolutionary War, and was again destroyed in the fires of 1859 and 1862. After the College reopened following the Civil War, the library remained in the Wren Building until 1909. In 1905, Andrew Carnegie pledged $20,000 for the construction of a new library on campus. The building was just called the Library, and served as such from 1909 until 1966 in the building now known as Tucker Hall. In 1966, Earl Gregg Swem Library opened. There were renovations and additions to the building in 1986-1988 and 1998-2005.

UNMADE IN CUBA
Before the days of readily accessible computers, card indexes were the only way to create a database. Susan Riggs, current Frances Lightfoot Robb Special Collections Librarian, was hired in 1986 to work with the manuscripts collections catalog. The catalog was intended to solve the problem of what collection's inventory to pull if a patron wanted information on a subject. "Those inventories were contained in shelf after shelf of binders," says Riggs. "Knowing what to pull depended on the memory of the archivist or curator." The process to create the catalog was to go through the paper inventories that had been created for the various collections, pick out pertinent people and subjects, and write a card that would indicate which collection, which box and which folder the person or subject was placed. By the time Riggs was hired, inventories were being created on computers, but the cards still had to be typed, and was done by students. In 2007, Swem implemented an online database. "This computer automation made continuing the old card catalog system moot," Riggs says. "We froze it but, we did not throw it away, as there are some concepts it retains that may not be findable using keywords. And besides, it looks neat!"

In 1942, Earl Gregg Swem received a strange letter from a librarian in Bristol, England. During a book salvage drive, the librarian had discovered a volume bearing an inscription to the College dated 1704 and was writing to inquire if the university would like to have the book returned. World War II postponed the delivery until 1946; in the meantime it was stored in a bomb shelter. According to the flyleaf inscription, the book, a 1676 edition of The History of the Council of Trent by Paolo Sarpi, was a gift from a Captain Nicholas Humfrys. Humfrys appears to have been a Virginian — his ship, the Hartwell, was registered with the naval officers in the York River, and he is mentioned several times in the minutes of the governor’s council, a group that included William & Mary’s first president, James Blair. If the book was in fact given to the school in 1704, it can be traced to William & Mary’s original library, which was destroyed by fire in 1705. Questions of how this book survived — or whether it ever made it to the College in the first place — and how and when it got to Bristol still remain.
Special Collections displays the College of William & Mary regalia in the Special Collections lobby when it is not in use for official university functions including Opening Convocation, Charter Day and Commencement. The exhibit features the College mace, marischal mace, badge and chain of Office of the Rector of the Board of Visitors (shown here), and the badge and chain of Office of the Chancellor. The rector’s badge contains the coat of arms of the College and is suspended from the W&M cipher. The seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the arms of the London Company are engraved on the chain. W&M’s first female rector, Anne Dobie Peebles ’44, gifted the badge to the College in 1987. The badge and chain of office were hand-crafted by the firm of Thomas Fattorini of Birmingham, England as a companion piece to the Chancellor’s badge.
In 1997, William & Mary purchased property on Ironbound Road from a prominent African-American couple, Charles and Zelda DeBerry Gary, longtime residents of Williamsburg. Charles was the owner of the West End Valet Shop, a dry cleaning and tailoring business off Prince George Street, and Zelda was a nurse who once worked for the James City County school system. Both enriched the community through civic involvement in local organizations. In the spring of 2015, a team from W&M’s Facilities Management, recognizing their value, rescued from the house a few boxes of documents and artifacts belonging to the Garys. The department contacted Susan Kern Ph.D. ’05, executive director of the Historic Campus, who in turn contacted the Special Collections Research Center. As an archives apprentice in Special Collections, Ève Bourbeau-Allard M.A. ’15, who also worked on Victoria Brown’s travel diary, was able to process the collection from start to finish. Among the letters, photographs and business papers were some charcoal drawings, like this one of an unidentified African-American woman.

“As a result of this team effort, the papers are now arranged, described and preserved in the Special Collections Research Center,” says Bourbeau-Allard. “They are of great value to the study of both 20th-century African-American history and Williamsburg history.”

Walk into the Charles W. Reeder Media Center, and you’ll see these cameras on a shelf to your left. Not only are these cameras cool to look at, they symbolize major shifts in technology, including those transformations happening on campus. The newly renovated Reeder Media Center (which opened in the spring of 2015) now boasts 11,000 square feet of space, a media lab with enhanced hardware and software for specialized multimedia work, two classrooms, a screening room, collaboration lab, and eight studios for media recording, production and mastering. With the overhaul of the media center, Swem is now poised to handle another change on campus — the implementation of the university’s new liberal arts general-education curriculum, which requires digital literacy and multimedia communication in addition to traditional research assignments. Swem staff projects that demand for digital media labs and training will at least triple over the next five years.

“Through the redesign of space, we’ve created a destination that supports the new curriculum,” says Cooper. “We are better able to use our talent to assist faculty as they integrate media and technology into their teaching and student learning.”
Lodge 2 was constructed in 1947 as one of 11 housing units for fraternities as William & Mary’s male student population expanded dramatically following World War II. The Daily Grind, a coffee house that opened in March 2000, is currently housed in Lodge 2 and offers coffee, tea, juice, smoothies, pastries and other foods prepared in-house using organic ingredients.
EPIDEMIC ENEMY: In Brazil, a city worker fumigates in an effort to eradicate the mosquito (Aedes aegypti) which transmits the Zika virus.
“With globalization, the spread across continents is much, much easier.”

Mission: Zika

From Uganda’s forests to Colombia’s health clinics, W&M alums are on the front lines in battling the latest global pandemic.

Alumni Profiles

In a closing image from the recent television documentary “Fighting Pandemics,” Dr. John Dye ’92 stands with arms crossed, his face obscured behind the mask of a full-body biosafety level 4 protective suit. He is dressed for battle, ready to take on man’s most dangerous and elusive enemy — the virus.

“Fighting Pandemics,” the first episode in National Geographic Channel’s “Breakthrough” series, focused on the innovative work of Dye and other scientists in fighting the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The chief of viral immunology for the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Fort Detrick, Md., Dye has led a team developing experimental drug treatments for Ebola.

Premiering on Nov. 1, 2015, the documentary ended with a warning from Dye: “If we aren’t able to catch these viruses early, chances are they’re going to outrun any ability we have to respond.”

Just 10 days later, Brazil declared a national public health emergency, following reports of an unusual spike in cases of microcephaly, a birth defect causing small head size in babies and consequent developmental issues. Heartbreaking photos began to emerge of infants stricken with the condition.

Because of the lack of confirmed evidence linking the virus and neurological disorders such as microcephaly, a quick and coordinated response by the global health community is especially urgent. “There weren’t a lot of people working on Zika before — it was pretty much an orphan disease,” Dye says. “What we don’t know far outweighs what we do know.”

Deep in the Zika Forest

Although Zika is new to the Western Hemisphere, the virus was already on Dye’s radar. In connection with his work on Ebola, he has been making semiannual trips to Uganda, where Zika was first identified in a rhesus monkey in 1947. The virus is named for its place of discovery, Uganda’s Zika Forest. In an increasingly common “spillover event,” the virus jumped from animal to human hosts soon afterward.

“This part of Africa is a petri dish for all sorts of biological agents,” Dye says. “So in our work over the last five years, we’ve been discussing with our Ugandan collaborators what might be the next emerging global infectious disease. And Zika made our list.

“We actually travel to the Zika Forest for collections. Two years ago, we decided to start to collect from Zika patients to try to understand the immune response in those people who were infected,” Dye says. “Only about one in five people who are infected have any clinical signs at all. The symptoms are rather mild — a rash, flu-like symptoms, lethargy. But we were interested in why just 20 percent were showing signs of the disease and others were not.”

As Dye explains, he and his Ugandan counterparts were initially trying to better understand other insect-borne viruses (known as arboviruses) endemic to Africa with more serious symptoms, such as dengue fever and chikungunya. Prior to its jump from Africa, Zika had not been known to be associated with neurological conditions such as microcephaly.
Spreading slowly across Africa and Asia, Zika eventually made its way to the Pacific Islands, where outbreaks were reported in Polynesia in 2013 and 2014. Public health officials speculate that the virus may have traveled along with Polynesian canoe racers to Rio de Janeiro, introducing Zika to Brazil. Because Latin Americans had no previous exposure and therefore no built-in immune response, the disease spread quickly.

Along with microcephaly, Zika has now been linked to eye damage in babies, as well as a rare condition called Guillain-Barré syndrome, which can cause paralysis in adults. Some scientists suggest that children of mothers infected during pregnancy may be at higher risk for mental disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and autism later in life.

“It’s the $64,000 question, or million-dollar question,” Dye says. “Developing the causative link in a human population is a very difficult task, especially in an outbreak population where they’re constantly being barraged by different viruses. Everything now is anecdotal, retrospectively looking at the epidemiology.”

Fear and uncertainty have led to numerous conspiracy theories — blaming such factors as genetically modified mosquitoes, larvicide and vaccines — all debunked by scientists. As Dr. Bruce Aylward of the WHO recently told the New York Times, “At this time, the virus is considered guilty until proven innocent.”

The response to a global pandemic such as Zika requires specialists on all fronts, from virology to entomology. Armed with both a medical degree and master’s in public health, the CDC’s Christina Nelson combines clinical and public health roles. She also has valuable international experience, having spent 18 months in Peru on an NIH fellowship studying encephalitis. (She gives a special shout-out to William & Mary biology professors Sharon Broadwater and Eric Bradley for cultivating her love of science.)

Until the Zika outbreak, Nelson had primarily focused on bacterial diseases spread by vectors such as ticks and fleas, including Lyme disease and more rare, potentially deadly illnesses like plague and tularemia. Her work involves a combination of surveillance, epidemiological research, prevention efforts and education, especially for fellow physicians.

“The other branch here at Fort Collins is the arbovirus division — we work closely together,” she says. “When the Zika virus outbreak started, I began helping them respond to inquiries. They were putting a five-person team together to go to Colombia, and because I’d been involved and I speak Spanish, they asked me to be part of it.

“Our team’s main role was to collaborate with Instituto Nacional de Salud, or INS, and the ministry of health in Bogotá to build laboratory capacity, increase surveillance and help with prevention on the ground,” Nelson says. “We’ve put the entomologists there in touch with CDC experts on mosquito control. There are efforts underway to control the vector, but they expect the outbreak to continue to grow. So unfortunately, it’s raging on.”

Because Zika was first confirmed in Colombia in October, five months after the first Brazilian confirmed case, few babies have yet been born to mothers infected with the virus. “Part of our work was collaborating with the Colombians to set up enhanced surveillance of pregnant women who have been diagnosed with Zika,” Nelson says.

“One of the biggest things we don’t know is at what trimester the infection poses the most risk. That’s part of what we’re looking into.”

Should Americans expect to see Zika come to our shores? “It’s very difficult to predict,” Nelson says, “but we can use past experience with dengue and chikungunya, because in some ways they cause similar disease patterns. Based on that prior experience, there may be small outbreaks, most likely in Texas and Florida.”

Although no cases of locally acquired Zika have yet been in the continental United States, more than a hundred Americans have acquired the virus from trips abroad, including a pregnant woman who gave...
birth to a baby with microcephaly. The CDC is also investigating several possible cases of Zika being acquired through sexual transmission.

“The most important thing for most Americans is to be updated on travel advisories,” Nelson says. “They can go to the CDC website [cdc.gov] to find the list of countries that have active Zika transmission.” (CDC is advising pregnant women not to attend the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro this summer and to postpone travel to areas with Zika.)

IN A MAXIMUM CONTAINMENT LABORATORY

Like Christina Nelson, John Dye has gone beyond his primary mission — in his case, protecting members of the U.S. armed services from biological threats — to focus on Zika. The virus is a biosafety level 2 agent, so unlike his work with Ebola, he is not required to suit up in protective gear.

“What my lab is doing is supporting other U.S. government agencies such as CDC and NIH in the response against this particular outbreak,” Dye says. “So we’ve been focusing on a couple of fronts here, leveraging efforts that we have ongoing in Uganda. The first is the basic virology of the Zika virus — how the virus infects different cell types, both in mosquitoes and in humans. The second is the development of animal models to test potential vaccines and therapeutics that are developed either here at USAMRIID or elsewhere.

“At the end of the day, I know that my job is to help protect the service member, but I hope what we do goes forward to help all of humankind,” Dye says. He noted that all the therapeutics used to treat Ebola in West Africa were developed or assessed at USAMRIID, and that he and his colleagues trained physicians from around the world in how to safely work with Ebola patients.

Dye’s laboratory at Fort Detrick operates under continuous negative airflow, keeping the contaminants within contained from the outside world. “It’s one of the only places in the world where you can work with some of these deadly pathogens,” he says. “So you have to be a little bit adventurous, but you have to be extremely safe and aware. I’m not afraid of it — otherwise it would paralyze you. But you have to respect it. And that’s what I teach.”

With other viruses lurking in the forest, Dye will no doubt be called on to don his armor once again after Zika has been contained. “I think we’re going to need to be prepared more and more for emerging infectious diseases,” he says. “The industrialization of previously untouched resources in Africa spreads new fauna into new ecosystems, and suddenly you have a spillover event. Then with globalization, the spread across continents is much, much easier.”

He remains confident that humans can eventually outwit Zika and whatever virus emerges next. “With Ebola, it was amazing how quickly people came together and how divisional lines were just obliterated. I think what we’ll see from the Zika outbreak is how the whole world coming together can actually solve a problem.”

— SARA PICCINI

“One of the biggest things we don’t know is at what trimester the infection poses the most risk. That’s part of what we’re looking into.”
FOR THE FUTURE: From his home on the West Coast, Brian Goebel ’93, J.D. ’96 works hard at promoting the values and priorities he believes are necessary to build a stronger nation: civic engagement and collaboration.

ALUMNI PROFILE It’s hard to define Brian Goebel ’93, J.D. ’96. His resume is so diverse — youth baseball coach, entrepreneur, father, blogger, husband, chairman — that it’s hard to get a clear picture of just who Brian Goebel really is.

After talking to Goebel, however, it becomes very clear. Brian Goebel is defined by the American dream. Goebel brings new ardor to the expression “you create your own destiny.” He currently juggles three different jobs, all of which are of his own creation and all of which stem from Goebel’s core mission — to forge a stronger nation.

At the helm of Goebel’s career is his latest creation, 2040matters.com, a non-partisan political blog that highlights the declining trend in civic engagement and offers creative alternatives for political problem solving. An avid proponent of generational justice and civic engagement, Goebel founded 2040 Matters with the ultimate goal of protecting the American dream for Generation X+ and subsequent generations.

“When so many people choose not to participate in the affairs of our government, it creates the possibility that the government really isn’t serving the interests of the majority or that it might be missing perspectives that could help it make better policies and better judgments,” Goebel says. “That has always concerned me.”

And 2040 Matters is just the beginning. Looking to the future, Goebel has already begun developing the next step in his aim to preserve the American dream — the forming of a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization in Santa Barbara, Calif., called Reason in Government. A natural complement to 2040 Matters, the new organization will focus on developing and publicizing policy positions that would advance more reasoned, effective and efficient government.

“The conditions that allowed the American dream to be realized for past generations, I think, are being eroded steadily,” Goebel says. “I’m concerned about it, and I think young people should be concerned about it as well. The way to address this is through increased civic engagement, being a more informed participant in the civic process and really understanding the long-term implications of policy choices that we make today.”

Goebel’s interest in government dates back to his time at the College, where he was a government and philosophy double major. After graduating in 1993, Goebel enrolled in the William & Mary Law School. “The rigor of the William & Mary undergraduate education prepared me enormously well for law school,” Goebel says. “I was prepared for the workload, the analytical rigor and the challenge of the professors in a way that very few of my classmates were.”

His hard work resulted in prestigious merits such as obtaining a position as an articles editor on the Law Review and induction into the legal honor society, the Order of the Coif.

When the time came to leave William & Mary, Goebel dove headfirst into the legal world. Ultimately, Goebel joined the legal firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles, the job that would begin his journey down the path to public service.

It was at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher that Goebel met Robert C. Bonner, who would eventually serve as the Senate-confirmed commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). In September 2001, Goebel joined Bonner as his counselor and senior policy advisor. In this position, Goebel...
Life in Williamsburg … return to it

It’s about connecting with fellow alumni and cheering on the Tribe. At Williamsburg Landing, just minutes away from William & Mary, you have the time to relive old memories and make new ones.

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Goebel’s transition from the legal world to public service, however, was anything but smooth. He joined U.S. Customs right in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks — literally starting work on Sept. 12 — and helped to aid Bonner through the expansion of U.S. Customs into the CBP and transition from the U.S. Department of the Treasury into the newly formed U.S. Department of Homeland Security in 2003. Goebel stayed with the CBP until 2004.

“After working somewhere between 65- and 90-hour weeks on average for the better part of three years, I decided that I needed a break,” Goebel says. “My daughter was about 16 months old at the time, and I wanted to be home more to spend some time with her and basically just recharge the batteries.”

The break, however, was short-lived. His three years in public service and with homeland security stuck with Goebel long after he left the CBP, and inspired him to branch out on his own and launch his very first entrepreneurial venture.

In August 2005, Goebel founded The Sentinel HS Group, LLC, a strategic consulting firm specializing in homeland security expertise, consulting and data analytics services, which was later divided into three operational subsidiaries and a holding company. Today, Goebel continues working as chairman of the board of managers for the two remaining Sentinel businesses, which he manages from his home in Santa Barbara.

At the end of the day, Goebel’s many diverse ventures and interests boil down to one fundamental charge — creating a better America for future generations by taking action in government today. No one says it better than Goebel himself as he proclaims his mantra on the page of 2040matters.com that he aptly titled “Duty Calls:”

“Those of us who care about our children, our country and the American dream have a moral and civic duty to leave the country in better shape than we found it. We are in danger of breaching this duty if we do not solve the key challenges facing the U.S. over the next 25 years — challenges that if left unaddressed, will result in a less secure, prosperous, civil and optimistic country.”

— Emily Nye ’16

“The conditions that allowed the American dream to be realized for past generations, I think, are being eroded steadily.”

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EMILY BESSLER ’14 EXEMPLIFIES FEMALE LEADERSHIP FOR THE ARMY

ALUMNI PROFILE Emily Bessler’s ’14 parents like to tell their daughter that as a student at William & Mary, she squeezed more into 24 hours than they thought possible. According to Bessler, William & Mary is, and always has been, family. Her parents, Marjorie ’85 and John ’85, met and fell in love at the College. They both experienced the fast-paced environment of the Public Ivy, so they were familiar with the caliber of the students, yet remained surprised at their daughter’s academic success and extracurricular involvement with everything from service activities to music to student government. Bessler sang in Reveille A Cappella and directed the Christopher Wren Singers. She was a member and eventual chair of the Student Conduct Council and a Parent and Family orientation aide. She also was a member of the ROTC Program. “I studied government and music alongside peers and professors with more passion for learning than I’ve experienced anywhere else in my short stint in adulthood,” says Bessler.

After her ROTC career, Bessler moved through the ranks to become a M777A2 platoon leader in C Battery, 2-319 Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division Artillery for the United States Army. In this constantly busy role, Bessler continues to make her parents proud and fits way more in a day than she, or her parents, ever thought possible. “I manage upwards of 40 artillerymen,
“...there is nothing about my job that I can’t do because I’m a woman.”

three 155-millimeter howitzers [cannons], and all the associated equipment, vehicles and problems that come with that,” Bessler says. “The 82nd has a very specific mission set — we train to be deployable on short notice, within 18 hours, anywhere in the world. And we do it by dropping howitzers and paratroopers from aircraft. My soldiers and I are constantly training, prepping to train, prepping to deploy and live-firing rounds. It’s very fast-paced, and requires quite a bit of multitasking, but is incredibly rewarding work.”

While she finds her job extremely fulfilling, Bessler’s entry into the ROTC program at W&M wasn’t necessarily a career path she or her parents expected.

“I was a part of the ROTC program, starting my sophomore year,” she says. “I didn’t tell my parents beforehand, and when I finally told them over the summer that I had signed up for ROTC, they were floored.”

They were especially proud that their daughter was choosing to follow in their footsteps to serve the Army, the same branch they’d both served in after training at W&M. “They never expected their a cappella-singing, musical-performing, student-council member daughter to have any interest in the Army.”

But after her first week of ROTC, she was hooked. “I fell in love with the camaraderie, PT and small arms tactics. It was through the ROTC program that I met my lifelong friends, and had the opportunity to learn from and be mentored by some incredible officers and non-commissioned officers that I stay in contact with today,” Bessler even had the chance to travel as being part of ROTC. During the course of her three years in the program, she attended training at Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Lewis, Wash. “I grew as a leader, a student, a teacher and eventually, was commissioned as a lieutenant.”

Last year, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter opened all combat jobs to women, an unprecedented move for the U.S. military. Bessler is familiar with being one of a few women in her field. “I was the first female foreign disclosure officer and now the first female platoon leader in my battalion. I’m surrounded by men 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are only a few other females in the battalion at all, none of whom I work with on a daily basis.”

Despite being one of few women in the workplace, Bessler knows her performance matches the level of her male teammates. “I would like to think that my female peers and I performing well in the artillery, a previously closed branch, may have contributed to this shift in policy. I love my job, I work hard, and I know other women that also chose artillery and want to be here who are doing extremely well. There is nothing about my job that I can’t do because I’m a woman. I hope that with the policy change, people will stop asking me what it’s like to be the only girl around, or how hard it is to be the only female, because integrating women will become so commonplace.”

Bessler hopes for gender equality in the military, in that she wants females to be treated the same as any male soldier, especially since they do the same work. “I told my guys from the get-go, I’m just another lieutenant — don’t change your vernacular or behavior on my account. I want them to treat me the way they would any man, and the fact that they do is the greatest compliment they could give me, and affirmation that I’m doing my job the best way I know how.”

Without her experience at W&M, Bessler is positive her training experience would have been different. “Since graduation, I’ve affirmed my belief that I received not only a world-class education at W&M, but also a phenomenal military education. I was creating products and doing work as a senior in the ROTC program that I still use today on the job.”

Outside of training, Bessler’s personal life could have been very different, too. “I can’t remember a time when I didn’t understand that sanctity of a Cheese Shop sandwich with extra House dressing, or taking pictures on the Wren steps, or going to the Yule Log ceremony to hear ‘How the Grinch Stole Christmas.’ I made my best friends in college, some of which I work with today in the Army at Fort Bragg. I wouldn’t trade my time at William & Mary for the world.”

— MEREDITH RANDLE ’16

PHOTO: THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER/ANDREW CRAFT

LIEUTENANT BESSLER: Bessler and her soldiers work on a fire support coordination exercise. Bessler was the only woman in the field during the exercise.
The winter meeting of the William & Mary Alumni Association Board of Directors was held at the Alumni House in Williamsburg, Va., Feb. 3-5, 2016. On Thursday, Feb. 3, new members of the board were present from 2–5 p.m. for a new member orientation and training session. Beginning on Feb. 4, the full board commenced with business with approvals of consent agenda items and alumni awards, and received reports from the finance and investment and board development committee on committee actions. Beginning with lunch on Friday, the board joined with the Board of Visitors, the Foundation Board, and the Annual Giving Board for the annual joint boards meeting, receiving and participating in updates on progress of the College and the campaign. On Friday, Alumni Board committee chairs began and led discussions on activities, progress, and goals for the Board and their committees followed by strategic planning reviews. In addition to committee reports, the Board received updates on planning for the W&M Weekend in Washington, scheduled for June 2-5, 2016; volunteer management and alumnae initiatives, focusing on women and philanthropy studies and initiatives as well as activities around planning the 100-year anniversary of co-education at W&M in 2018. Other significant discussion and decisions were made on the following actions:

- Accepted the appointments of Michele Zimmer Ball ’78 and Christopher B. Powers ’73 to fill unexpired terms of two board vacancies
- Awarded the Alumni Fellowship Award to Assistant Professors Christopher Freiman (Philosophy), John T. Lombardini (Government), Pieter Peers (Computer Science), Kristin L. Wustholz (Chemistry), and Professor of Law Tara L. Grove
- Awarded the Alumni Association Faculty/Staff Service Award to John Dutro, support services coordinator for Facilities Management
- Awarded the Alumni Association Staff Service Award to John B. Daly, Michael J. Fox, Robert A. Glacel, Joseph and Sharon Muscarelle, and Deborah B. Spirn.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be Thursday and Friday, June 2-3, 2016, in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the W&M Weekend in Washington and Alumni Association Auction. The next annual membership meeting of the Association will be held Friday, June 3. Watch for location information in upcoming editions of Hark! and on the Association website.

To nominate someone deserving for the Alumni Association Board of Directors, please visit the Board of Directors page under About Us at wmalumni.com. Nominations are accepted daily year-long but must be received by April 1 to be considered for that election year.
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Coast to Coast
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1. RICHMOND
The chapter continued their monthly First Table dinner series at Bottoms Up Pizza in January. The chapter also hosted their annual brunch at the Jefferson Hotel as well as brunch at the Virginia Opera. In March, the chapter added a new component to their monthly First Tables dinner series and invited professor Christine Nemacheck, associate professor of government and pre-law advisor, to share what she has been doing at the College.

2. CHARLOTTESVILLE
In February, the chapter hosted an alumni happy hour at a local bar and later held a viewing party for the annual Westminster Dog Show.

3. WILLIAMSBURG
In January the Williamsburg Chapter hosted their annual basketball dinner with the Tribe men’s and women’s basketball teams. The chapter continued their monthly Tribe Thursdays with W&M staff from the Office of Athletics and University Libraries.

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4. WASHINGTON, D.C.
In January, the D.C. Metro Chapter rocked in the New Year at Mason Inn with the Old Moonlight Band, featuring William & Mary alumnus Taylor Burke ’14. The chapter also came together in order to fulfill New Year’s resolutions and postponed their monthly Martini Mondays in favor of a Wellness Wednesday of yoga and healthy snacks. In February, D.C.-area alumni enjoyed a morning lecture by W&M Government Professor Ron Rapoport, followed by a private tour of the President Woodrow Wilson house. Finally, Tiffany ’05 and Krasi Henkel of Properties on the Potomac, Inc. came to the W&M Washington Center in March to guide alumni through a seminar on successful home buying in the current economic and legal climate.

5. MARYLAND
In addition to their monthly Tribe Thursdays that bring together alumni from around the state, the Maryland Chapter welcomed alumni from up and down the East Coast as they joined together at Pratt Street Ale House and cheered on Tribe basketball as they competed in the CAA Tournament.

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6. BOSTON
The chapter gathered together in March for a Tribe Thursday happy hour to socialize with fellow William & Mary alumni.
7. NEW YORK
In March, the chapter gathered at The Grafton to cheer on the Tribe as they battled in the CAA Tournament.

8. PITTSBURGH
Alumni gathered together in March for their monthly happy hour at Howl at the Moon.

9. PHILADELPHIA
In January, the chapter joined together for a game watch to cheer on the Tribe men’s basketball team as they took on the Drexel Dragons!

10. CHARLESTON
Charleston-area alumni cheered on both the Tribe men’s and women’s basketball teams as they took on the College of Charleston. In February, alumni showed off their skills as they participated in the alumni golf tournament at Oak Point Golf Course. In March, alumni gathered together at the home of Jack Hurley ’72 and Priscilla Shumway for their annual oyster roast. At the event, the chapter promoted the importance of giving back through their scholarship drive, which raised money to fund a scholarship for a William & Mary student from the Charleston area.

11. ATLANTA
Atlanta-area alumni met for their monthly happy hour in January at Southern Art and Fado’s Irish Pub in February.

12. CHICAGO
In January, alumni, parents and students participated in a career networking reception at the Northern Trust Global Conference Center, giving students the chance to explore a variety of career paths through conversations with industry professionals.

13. HOUSTON
The Houston Alumni Chapter combined forces with James Madison University’s alumni in the area to coordinate a game watch for the Tribe vs. Dukes men’s basketball game in February.

14. SAN FRANCISCO
The San Francisco Chapter held two Tribe Thursdays, with one in January at Tap 415, and the other in February at Ben and Nick’s. The chapter also organized their annual volunteer event at the San Francisco Food Bank.

15. LOS ANGELES
Los Angeles alumni took a trip to Northridge to cheer on the Tribe baseball team as they continued their California road trip to California State University-Northridge.

16. SAN DIEGO
Alumni gathered to support Tribe baseball in March, when the team traveled to California to play the University of San Diego. The chapter, as well as alumnus Robin Reighley ’63, also hosted an evening with Professor Patricia Roberts, director of William & Mary’s Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic. Professor Roberts discussed with alumni the mission and importance of the clinic for current and former military service members.
PAST W&M EVENTS

CHARTER DAY
Alumni all around the country joined together to celebrate the accomplishments and history of alma mater. A few of the areas that participated included Richmond, South Hampton Roads, Seattle, Los Angeles, Colorado, Dallas, Chicago, Central Shenandoah, D.C. Metro, Maryland, Pittsburgh, Triangle, N.C., and New York City.

RAYMOND A. MASON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Dinner with Professor Todd Mooradian in La Jolla, Calif., was held on Jan. 19, 2016.

Alumni Admissions Happy Hour in D.C. was held on Jan. 26, 2016.

Alumni Admissions Happy Hour in New York City was held on Jan. 30, 2016.

“Leadership and Making Fateful Decisions” Webinar was held on Feb. 16, 2016.

Online M.B.A. Residency Welcome Dinner was held on Feb. 27, 2016.

D.C. Accounting Reception was held on March 2, 2016.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION


Hornsby Distinguished Lecture Series 2016: Dr. Lisa Delpit’s “The Stories We Tell: Disrupting Narratives About Other Peoples’ Children” was held on March 16, 2016.

UPCOMING W&M EVENTS

ONE TRIBE ONE DAY
A day for giving back and paying it forward!

Get ready to join together with William & Mary alumni in your area for a One Tribe One Day celebration. This is a day to give back to your alma mater and show your William & Mary pride! Be on the lookout for email invitations for One Tribe One Day events in your area!

W&M ONLINE NETWORKING HOURS
Hundreds of alumni since November have already taken part in new monthly online networking hours designed to connect fellow members of the W&M Tribe from all over the world in order to share experiences, exchange career tips and build professional networks. The chats are text-based and timed, allowing you to make connections, exchange contact information and end the hour with several new connections you didn’t have before. So far, the networking hours have given participants the opportunity to explore connections by industry, interests or by regional affinity. If you’re interested in learning more about upcoming online networking hour opportunities, visit wmalumni.com or contact Michael Steelman, William & Mary’s director of Alumni Career Management and Professional Networks at masteelman@wm.edu.

RAYMOND A. MASON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

APRIL 8, 2016
Alumni Induction Ceremony

APRIL 29, 2016
Retirement Celebration for Richard ‘Dick’ Ash

MAY 5, 2016
Leading the Business of the Virginia Maritime Industry

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION To ensure that you stay up-to-date with the latest W&M news and events, please be sure to update your information by using this link: http://a.wmalumni.com/updateyourinformation.

REMEMBER THE LODGES? The William & Mary Alumni Magazine is looking for your favorite memories of the Lodges and Millington Hall—send your favorite story, anecdote or thoughts to alumni.magazine@wm.edu and you may see them in a future issue!
W&M WEEKEND

2016
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