

W&M

A woman's profile is shown in a three-quarter view, looking upwards and to the right. Inside her head, there is a detailed collage. The top part of the collage shows a classroom with wooden desks and chairs. A green chalkboard is visible with the words "We are the ones that love to learn" and "We are the ones who prize" written on it in white chalk. The bottom part of the collage shows an open book with many pages fanning out. The background of the entire image is a light blue gradient.

ALUMNI MAGAZINE
FALL 2018

**THE YEAR OF WOMEN: >>
100 YEARS OF COEDUCATION**

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WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

Over the summer, Crim Dell was drained and dredged for the first time in its 52-year history. Over the years, sediment from storm-water runoff, as well as trash and debris, had begun to fill the iconic waterway. Students and alumni volunteers assisted in relocating wildlife during the project. Don't worry, water will soon be back under the bridge.



ALUMNI FOCUS

A Welcoming Family

BY MARILYN WARD MIDYETTE '75

Executive Director, William & Mary Alumni Association

It's an exciting time at William & Mary! President Katherine A. Rowe was sworn in on July 2 and has been enthusiastically welcomed by the university community. Rowe is making history as the university's first woman president, beginning her term as William & Mary marks the 100th anniversary of coeducation.

Throughout the 2018-2019 year, we will be commemorating this milestone through a variety of programming and events on campus and beyond, including W&M Women's Weekend this September. Our alumnae have shaped the university and impacted the entire Tribe community in so many remarkable ways. Visit wm.edu/100yearsofwomen for more information.

This anniversary year is particularly meaningful to me as an alumna and reminds me of my own introduction to the Tribe as a freshman in 1971. Walking across the Wren Yard during my first week, I ran into President Thomas Graves HON '02, L.H.D. '15, who was walking his dog. He took the time to ask me about myself and my experience at William & Mary so far. It was then I knew that the Tribe was truly a family and that I belonged.

I especially feel that sense of belonging each Homecoming & Reunion

Weekend, when so many who love William & Mary return to campus. We are a beautifully diverse family of sisters and brothers connected by the pride we hold for alma mater. Throughout the weekend, there will be a wide variety of programming for every age and interest, including affinity groups like Olde and Young Guarde, the Hulon Willis Association, the Association of 1775 and more. See highlights on pages 24-25 and a full list at homecoming.wm.edu. I hope to see you on campus Oct. 18-21!

As we enter this new era in William & Mary's history, we hope you will consider attending an event, taking advantage of our many resources and supporting the Alumni Leadership Fund, which underwrites the Alumni Association's programs and services. Read more about some of the value-added opportunities we offer on page 60.

Here's to a great 2018-2019!
Go Tribe!

W&M

FALL 2018

VOLUME 84, NUMBER 1

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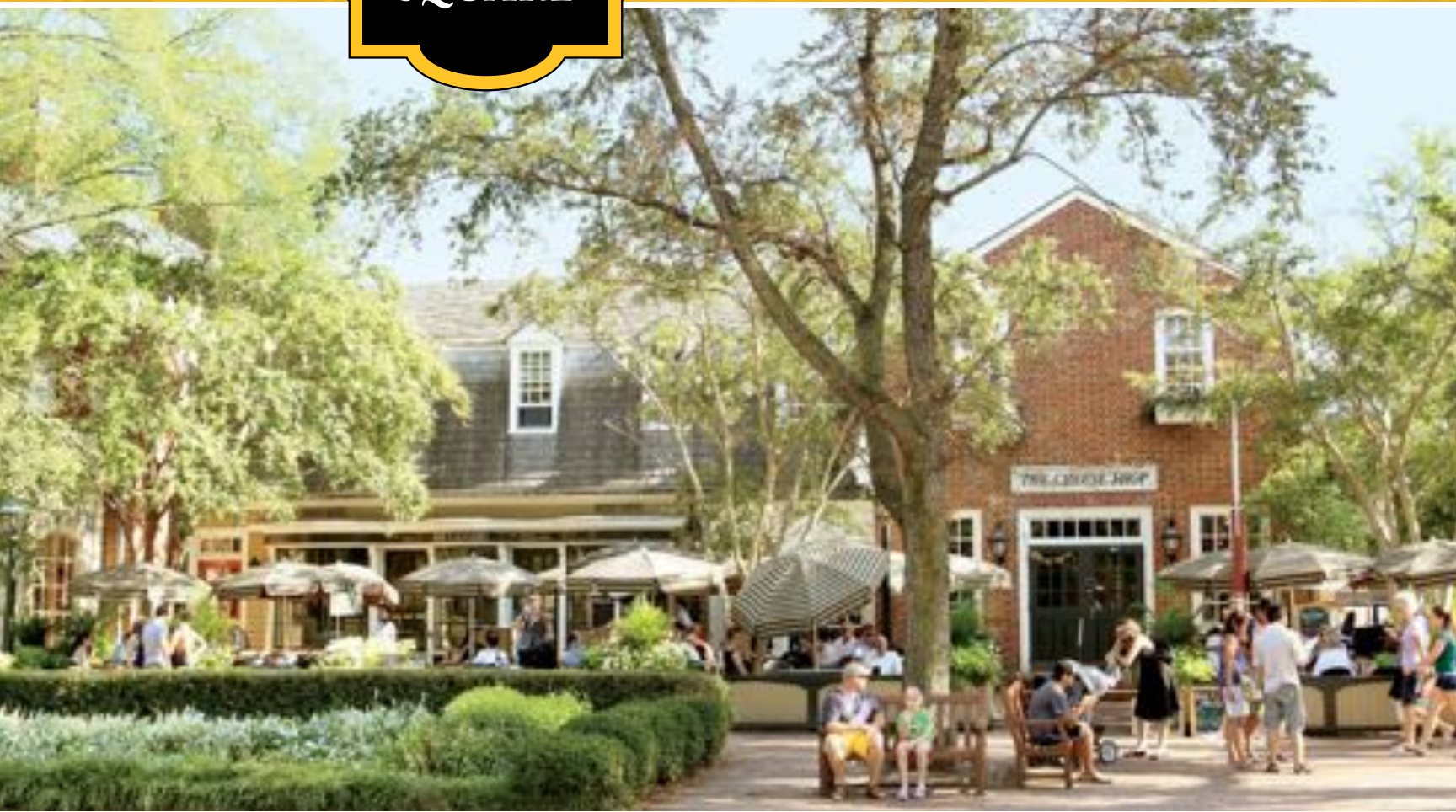
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FROM THE BRAFFERTON

The Magic of W&M: How Constraints Spark Creativity

BY KATHERINE A. ROWE

William & Mary President

The Renaissance, circa 1600, is the period on which I've done much of my work as a scholar and teacher of Shakespeare's plays. During that time, in England, anything we would think of today as "theatre" was very sparsely furnished. Playing companies had limited props, no real scenery to speak of and the costumes they used were recycled from previous owners.

So why do so many of Shakespeare's history plays feature kings and queens? Partly because some of the only costumes available at the time were hand-me-downs from a royal household or noble family. Playwrights used the resources available; as a result, the world has a brilliant corpus of Shakespearean plays dramatizing the challenges of noble families.

Theatre professionals today would tell you this is still true: constraints spark creativity and imagination. Most entrepreneurs would say the same. I've kept this principle in mind throughout my career because it is widely applicable: when we want to catalyze innovative thinking, we need to lean into our constraints.

For years it's been clear to me that the public sector of higher education is generating the most innovative solutions. Fresh pedagogies, new sources of research funding, novel fundraising and organizational innovations ensuring affordability for students of promise are all marks of today's public colleges and universities. Higher education faces many constraints; public institutions have a track record of responding with resourcefulness and creativity.

William & Mary has long impressed me as one of these innovators. Nothing like the William & Mary Promise — with its particular mix of securing excellence, fostering innovation, generating new revenues and creating predictability for in-state students — had been attempted in higher education when it was announced in 2013. It is a precisely creative response to a problem that seemed intractable: how to deliver an Ivy-caliber education while maintaining the affordability of a public university.

In the classroom, William & Mary adopted the College Curriculum, a general education that is intentionally cross-method and cross-discipline, designed to teach students to bridge qualitative and quantitative modes of thinking. That flexibility will pay dividends in coming decades and help students surmount some of the world's thorniest problems. This ability to connect different modes of thinking and disciplines, a hallmark of U.S. public education, has provided the country a competitive advantage for decades. It marks us as the world's Gold Standard in education. And it's an arena in which William & Mary excels.

More recently, when William & Mary announced our billion-dollar campaign, *For the Bold*, we were the smallest public institution — and the only one without a medical school or engineering program — to launch a campaign at this level. We are clearly committed to being self-sustaining, to facing external financial constraints.

William & Mary's entire history is marked by remarkable responses to the constraints of the day. This school year marks the 100th anniversary of the first women students admitted to William & Mary, but gender equity wasn't the school's only motive. In truth, World War I had drastically reduced male student enrollment. William & Mary admitted the first 24 women to fill its empty seats; these pioneers kept the university financially solvent. Again, progress in response to pressure.

This isn't to suggest that we won't welcome, as Taylor Reveley LL.D. '18, HON '18 has said, "the happy day when we can do more with more." We surely will, and remain focused on our financial future through private fundraising, entrepreneurship, innovation, efficiency and public and earned revenue.

The real magic of this enterprising creativity at W&M — what makes it possible in the first place — is a firm and unusually productive bedrock of community.

When I meet William & Mary students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and friends, it is clear we enjoy an astonishing cross-generational commitment to the university. People spontaneously share their ideas with me about sustaining an intentional intellectual community. It's unusual to have a community be so systematically front-of-mind — and to hear this repeated in so many early conversations.

But as Shakespeare's Henry VIII observed, "'Tis a kind of good deed to say well: And yet words are no deeds."

Even if no one at William & Mary had spoken of it to me, the commitment and love that its people hold for the institution would be apparent in its deeds. It shows in the ingenuity of the William & Mary Promise, the vision of the COLL curriculum, the aspiration of *For the Bold*. It shows in the hallowed traditions, and the responsive changes — creative in the face of constraints — that ensure its relevance in the 21st century.



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I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT,
NOW CHANGE: *A final look at Phi Beta
Kappa Memorial Hall before the building
closed for renovations.*





BY&LARGE

THE FINAL CURTAIN

Farewell for Now

Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall Goes Dark

BY SARA K. ESKRIDGE

PHOTOS BY ALFRED HERCZEG

PHI BETA KAPPA MEMORIAL HALL (PBK) IS TRANSFORMING. Much like a character in “Metamorphoses,” one of the last productions to be staged there, PBK is shedding the old and becoming something new. The building, which first opened in 1957, will be closed until the fall of 2020 as the entire Arts Quarter of campus undergoes an extensive renovation and expansion.

Generations of students and faculty alike have come alive in this space, which currently houses an auditorium, studio theatre, and the theatre, speech and dance departments. The facility has served as a springboard for the careers of actresses Glenn Close '74, D.A. '89 and Linda Lavin '59, actor Scott Glenn '61, television producer Bill Lawrence '90 and Broadway costume designer William Ivey Long '69, L.H.D. '04.

When it was built in 1956, PBK was one of the best university theatre facilities on the East Coast, boasting a custom lighting system, an electronic dimming system and a flexible black box theatre space that allowed students and faculty to explore alternative performance styles.

The facility played host to performances by multiple student groups, including the Sinfonicon Light Opera Company. The William & Mary radio station, WCWM, also operated out of the building from 1959 until 1986, when it was moved to the Campus Center.



In addition to serving as the home of the Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, PBK also hosted the Virginia Regional Ballet and served as the home for the Virginia Shakespeare Festival from 1978 until 2016.

It has been the setting for a number of events and speakers of national renown, including a 1976 presidential debate between Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, award-winning actress Laverne Cox's 2018 Atwater Lecture and a live CNN town hall event this past spring.

"There were no bad seats in the Proscenium Theatre," says Dave Dudley '75, who first joined the theatre department in 1977 and now serves as technical director. "Theatre can be performed anywhere, but good theatre requires a good facility, and you need an excellent facility if you want excellent graduates. Our auditorium was remarkable for a university facility."

This is not to say that PBK never had its challenges. A fire decimated the Studio Theatre in 1991, and sometimes productions fell short of expectations. Occasionally the department dreamed a little too big and tried to put on too large a production in too little time. Department members are constantly attempting to meet the unique and varied demands of each play and keep up with advances in technology and staging, often on a shoestring budget, all while attempting to offer a variety of dramatic works and engaging musicals that would provide students with the full breadth of theatrical experience.

"Knowing that we were going to move this spring, we should have been packing, but instead we decided to produce some of the most ambitious shows we've ever done," laughs Patricia Wesp '76, the costume designer for the theatre department since 1983. "We had 'Metamorphoses' in the spring — a swimming pool on stage and 12 actors playing 65 roles!"

Despite difficulties, faculty and former students alike brim with positive memories of PBK. They remember the excitement that always preceded a performance, the gatherings of students in the side lobby and the enjoyment of experiencing personal growth with each and every production. Student performers often have myriad other academic interests — Wesp recalls one outstanding recent performer was a biology major — but continued to perform as a creative outlet.

"Even some of the 'less-than-successful' results were invaluable for these young men and women, testing limits and uncovering possibilities," says Dudley. "I love seeing their excitement when they meet challenges head-on and realize they can rise to the occasion."

Although the faculty and staff who have called PBK home for decades are wistful about the renovation, they are also hopeful for the future of the building, which promises a new studio theatre and dance recital theatre in addition to renovated Lab and Proscenium theatres. The Proscenium Theatre promises a more intimate viewer experience, with fewer seats and state-of-the-art acoustics and lighting.

The new space will have three levels, more storage for the set and costume departments, more rehearsal areas, and a space for entertaining and receptions. The faculty hopes to maintain the functionality of the old building while being able to incorporate the latest technologies and techniques into the curriculum, to say nothing of creating a more enjoyable experience for loyal theatre patrons.

"William & Mary has always encouraged exercises in creative pursuit, and theatre and dance are great outlets for that expression," says Dudley. "I am hopeful that this new space will encourage students to get out of their comfort zones and takes some risks."



ONLINE: To see more behind-the-scenes images of Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall, visit wmalumnimagazine.com



SAVE THE DATE: JAN. 31 - FEB. 3, 2019



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Another Bold Year

BY & LARGE

William & Mary surpasses \$800M mark in its \$1B campaign

BY JENNIFER PAGE WALL

WITH TWO YEARS REMAINING IN WILLIAM & Mary's *For the Bold* campaign, the university has now passed the \$800 million mark and is nearing its \$1 billion goal. As the No. 1 nationally ranked public university for undergraduate alumni participation, William & Mary has positioned itself as a leading university in philanthropic giving and engagement growth.

In fiscal year 2018, the Tribe family galvanized to fortify the university's financial foundation and advance priorities that have impacted students, faculty, staff and alumni in the U.S. and around the globe.

The university has seen a two-fold increase in donors during the campaign — resulting in 50,277 individuals giving last year — and boasts one of the highest donor retention rates in the U.S., with 74 percent of undergraduate alumni renewing their investment in alma mater year after year.

There has also been a 110 percent increase in the number of alumni participating in new and

expanded offerings — including new career and networking opportunities — since the start of the campaign.

William & Mary Law School also experienced significant success this year by reaching its \$75 million campaign goal two years early — the first school to achieve this milestone.

"It has been incredible to witness how the momentum of our *For the Bold* campaign has brought so many people in our community together to support the university. We truly are One Tribe, One Family," said President Katherine A. Rowe.

"One of my top priorities over the next two years is to close our ambitious campaign triumphantly, by elevating philanthropy and engagement to historic levels. Through the generosity of our alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends, *For the Bold's* impact will be felt everywhere on campus and in every corner around the world where we have a presence," Rowe added.

BREAKING GROUND

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS

Last spring ground was broken on two very important projects at William & Mary: the Alumni House expansion and the Reveley Garden. • The \$21 million Alumni House expansion will make the historic building one of the the largest social gathering places on campus and in Williamsburg. The house will double in size to approximately 55,000 square feet. • The Reveley Garden is made possible by gifts totaling over \$4.7 million that were given to honor President W. Taylor Reveley, III LL.D. '18, HON '18 and Helen Reveley HON '18. Taylor retired in June after serving the university for two decades as president and as dean of William & Mary Law School.

— ASHLEY K. SPEED



BY & LARGE

A Lasting Impact

Gerald L. Tuttle Jr. Scholarship Endowment celebrates its 10th anniversary

BY ASHLEY K. SPEED



FAMILY MAN: Jerry Tuttle '90 made sure he carved out quality time to spend with his wife, Stephanie Rose Tuttle '92, and their two daughters.

GERALD “JERRY” L. TUTTLE JR. '90 WAS 28 years old and nervous about relocating from the East Coast to San Francisco to continue his career in investment banking. At the time, he perceived San Francisco as a big city full of strangers — surprisingly intimidating to the native New Yorker.

But his mother reminded him of his greatest strength: his ability to make friends.

She assured him that he would know everyone in the Bay Area in a short amount of time. She was right. As usual, Jerry made fast friends and soon called San Francisco home.

Jerry's parents, Mary Jo Tuttle and Gerald “Gerry” L. Tuttle Sr., say their son utilized his business acumen and natural ability to make friends and harness relationships to reach the highest heights of the investment banking world.

But in January 2007, Jerry's life was suddenly cut short, leaving behind his beloved wife, Stephanie Rose Tuttle '92, and their two children, Abby and Avery.

In a time of deep grief over the loss of Jerry, his

parents and Stephanie wanted to do something that would bring joy to the lives of others, including their own, by creating a William & Mary scholarship in his name.

The Tuttle family feels an enormous sense of pride that in just 10 years, since the Gerald L. Tuttle Jr. Scholarship Endowment was established, seven students have been afforded innumerable opportunities to pursue their passions. The Tuttle scholarship recipients are: Jonathan Converse '10, Patrick Welch '11, Benjamin Choi '13, William Smith '14, Jakob Deel '16, Emily Wasek '17 and Peter Makey '19.

“Having this scholarship and getting to know these kids has made our lives more fulfilling,” says Gerry. “Our goal is always to meet the scholarship students, help them as much as we can and provide them with any bits of advice that might be of use to these brilliant minds.”

FRIENDSHIP The students say the Tuttles' generosity does more than ease the costs of their William & Mary education. It is wrapped in an unexpected

PHOTO COURTESY OF GERRY TUTTLE

W&M

AFFORDING OPPORTUNITY

To pursue passion without burden

Scholarships empower me to lead.

“I would not be able to pursue my academic dreams without this help and I am truly grateful.”

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Support student scholarships at William & Mary.

Emily Hays

'19

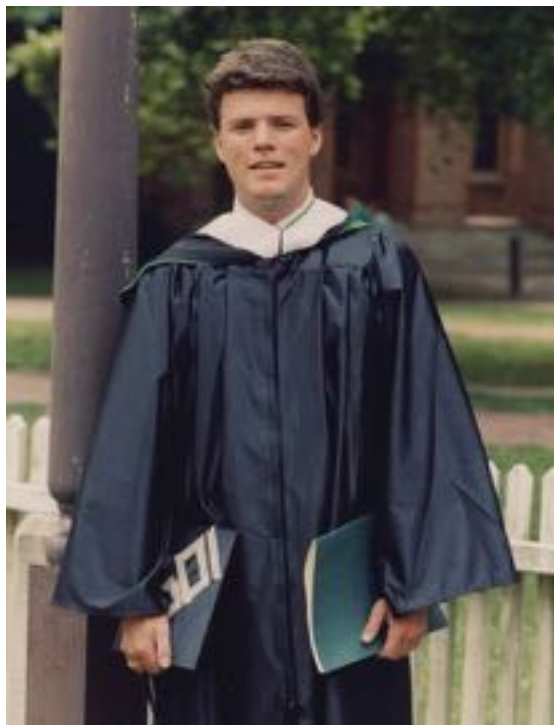


ForTheBold.wm.edu/scholarships

#WMFORTHEBOLD

BY&LARGE

GENEROSITY: *The Gerald L. Tuttle Jr. Scholarship Endowment serves as a tribute to Jerry's life and fosters educational opportunities for its recipients.*



friendship with the couple that often includes golfing, cooking or sharing a meal at a local restaurant.

Jonathan Converse '10 was the first recipient of the Tuttle scholarship. Converse, an Arizona native, says that while the scholarship made a significant impact financially, he also appreciates the friendship he shares with the Tuttles.

"There is something really special about how they handled their son's death that's admirable and teaches us about the human condition," says Converse, who works as an assistant film editor in Hollywood. "The Tuttles have found a way to take a horrible tragedy and turn it into a wealth of possibility for a lot of people. This is a beautiful way to remember someone."

Jerry grew up in Westchester County, New York, the youngest of two children. His father says even as a child he was a people magnet who never lost a friend. An avid swimmer, he was a government major at William & Mary who pledged Lambda Chi Alpha. After spending a few years on Capitol Hill as a legislative clerk, he soon developed an interest in investment banking through his sister, Tracey, who also worked in the financial field.

In 1999, he became a founding partner of JMP Securities. At the time of his death he was the co-president and chief operating officer of JMP.

LEGACY Emily Wasek '17 was the first female recipient to receive the scholarship. The scholarship was initially for members of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and government majors. Now it's open to all juniors and seniors who are government majors.

Wasek worked three jobs to help fund her education. She says thanks to the Tuttles' support she

was able to reduce some of her work hours during the school year.

"With the Tuttles, it's not just a scholarship that you get, it's also an understanding of community and what it means to carry a legacy," says Wasek, currently a fellow at the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center in Jacksonville, Florida.

"You are basically adopted into their family, which is very nice. The fund was created in Jerry's memory and he is very much still a huge part of his parents' lives. They really wanted to make sure I knew whose shoes I was standing in."

Peter Makey '19, a member of William & Mary Men's gymnastics team, is the current Tuttle scholarship recipient.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the sense of community that comes with the scholarship," says Makey, a government and English major. "The financial support that the Tuttle scholarship has provided me has been really uplifting. The scholarship has allowed me to pursue my William & Mary education without having to think too much about the financial burden of paying for school."

Will Smith '14, also a Tuttle scholarship recipient, funded his first trip to Liberia, Africa. That trip led to him starting the Monrovia Football Academy, which combines education with soccer to motivate students. He too remains in close contact with the Tuttles.

NEVER FORGET JERRY When Jerry passed away, his colleagues at JMP created a book of reflections and photos of various moments in his life. Each scholarship recipient is given a copy of the book to read. In it, Jerry is described as having a unique way of making people feel special. One writer says that Jerry "collected friends" and that everyone at his funeral probably considered themselves his best friend.

Others wrote messages directly to Jerry's two daughters, who were 5 and 3 when their father died. One person wrote that Jerry spent every free moment he could with them. The writer told them that their father enjoyed pushing them endlessly on the playground swings in San Francisco's Marina District.

"I try to make sure the scholarship recipients take a look at this book," Gerry says. "His personality drove him to success. It wasn't just about studying for Jerry — it was people. He was what they call 'a rainmaker' in the business world. He was very successful by the age of 38."

On the final page of Jerry's book are simply the words, "Never forget Jerry Tuttle." His parents' generosity is helping to ensure those words live on forever.

To support the Tuttle Scholarship Endowment, please mail your check to the William & Mary Foundation, P.O. Box 1693, Williamsburg, VA 23187 or give online at online.at.impact.wm.edu/tuttle

PHOTO COURTESY OF GERRY TUTTLE

Rowe Arrives

BY & LARGE

Katherine A. Rowe sworn in as William & Mary's 28th president

BY ERIN ZAGURSKY

AS KATHERINE A. ROWE MADE HISTORY AT William & Mary, she vowed to take care of the university while leading it ever forward.

"To be entrusted with the next chapter of an institution so rich in tradition and so exceptional now — this is a trust I embrace with excitement and humility," she said.

Rowe was sworn in as William & Mary's 28th president by Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam during a July 2 ceremony in the Wren Building. She is the first woman to hold the role at the 325-year-old institution — a university, she said, that has and will continue to shape the character of the nation.

"Our students will, and must, be the intellectual pioneers and moral anchors of our democracy," Rowe said. "William & Mary is the proving ground they need."

Faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members joined Rowe's family — her husband, Bruce, and children, Beah and Danny — in filling the Great Hall to capacity. John E. Littel P '22, who became Rector of W&M's Board of Visitors July 1, welcomed

those gathered for the ceremony along with many more who watched the event online. He also thanked former President Taylor Reveley LL.D. '18, HON '18 and his wife, Helen HON '18, for their service to the university over the past two decades.

"You will quickly discover this is truly a family — a very close-knit one, and we are very glad to welcome you to it," Littel told Rowe.

Northam, the parent of a 2010 alumnus, welcomed Rowe on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"I know you are going to do a wonderful job and be an advocate for a university that is just a sign of progression, innovation and inclusivity," he said. "We look forward to wonderful things under your hand, and so we welcome you here."

After being sworn in, Rowe received a standing ovation and said she will spend her first three months on the job "listening and learning" from the William & Mary community, a process she had already started.

MIND & BODY

A DEDICATION TO WELLNESS



A dedication ceremony took place late August for the new McLeod Tyler Wellness Center. Thanks to the generosity of Elizabeth "Bee" McLeod '83, M.B.A. '91 and J. Goodenow "Goody" Tyler HON '11, students now have access — under one roof — to the university's health promotion team, counseling center, health center, campus recreation's wellness programming and a Center for Mindfulness and Authentic Excellence. Located near the Sadler Center, the new building signifies William & Mary's commitment to strengthening the health and wellness of all its students.

—JENNIFER PAGE WALL



PHOTO: SKIP ROWLAND '83

TAKING THE FIELD

Men's soccer icon Chris Norris '95 scores Coach of the Year

BY & LARGE

LESLIE MCCULLOUGH M.B.A. '17

CHRIS NORRIS '95 WAS ALREADY KICKING around the idea of a soccer coaching career when he arrived on campus as a freshman in 1991. Fate and good fortune intervened. Now in his 14th season as the head coach of William & Mary's men's soccer team, he and his team have scored another major goal.

Last November, in an exciting final game, the men's soccer team rallied from a halftime deficit with four second-half goals to win the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Championship. It was the team's first title win since 2010 and the program's eighth CAA crown since its 1967 inception.

"Our success comes from the team's continued focus and drive to improve," says Norris. "We are fortunate to be able to recruit high-level players who are both technically skilled and passionately committed to the sport."

Among this year's exceptional players, Antonio Bustamante '19 was named the Most Outstanding Performer of the CAA Championship, scoring seven goals over the three games. Riley Spain '18, Remi Frost '19 and Ryder Bell '19 were named to the CAA All-Tournament Team.

In his 27 years in the men's soccer program, Norris has also been a part of 13 NCAA tournament appearances and an NCAA quarterfinal. He was named CAA Coach of the Year and NSCAA South Atlantic Region Coach of the Year in 2010. This year he was honored as the 2018 William & Mary Alumni Association Coach of the Year.

"I was humbled to be recognized among my colleagues who do so much for their respective sports both on the field and off," says Norris. "I appreciate the acknowledgement of what the team was able to accomplish this past year. It was the culmination of a lot of hard work by the players, coaches and many others besides myself."

Norris' long history with the Tribe started from 1991 to 1994 as a player on the men's team. In 1995 he returned to campus to serve as an assistant soccer coach. In 2004, the legendary Al Albert '69, who had been the men's head coach since 1970, passed the ball to Norris.

"It is a unique situation in that Al and I have coached 47 of the program's 51 years which gives us a lot of continuity," says Norris. "What really keeps

it fun and exciting for me is being part of a special university that attracts amazing young people and then using the vehicle of sport to bring some of those young people together in pursuit of personal growth and common goals."

Norris believes that adhering to the ideal of the true student-athlete is what makes William & Mary Athletics special.

"I was humbled to be recognized among my colleagues who do so much for their respective sports both on the field and off."

"Over time, every athletics program here has achieved periods of excellence," says Norris. "I think it boils down to William & Mary's ability to strike the right balance between academics and athletics. Most of the students here are able to excel at both. Students here are committed to growth in all aspects of their lives. They see setbacks as opportunities. They find different ways to tackle a tough problem or win a challenging game."

Norris is also grateful for alumni support of the team.

"This year was our best ever in terms of receiving private financial support," says Norris whose coaching position is fully endowed. "More than 60 percent of all men's soccer alumni gave back to the program. In addition, we received the highest total of unrestricted dollars in the program's history. This support is critical. It not only allows us to meet budgetary needs, but also enables us to pursue new ways to improve the student-athlete experience."

Moving forward, Norris will focus on not letting past success get in the way of future growth.

"We have an opportunity to have another great year," says Norris. "We have a tough schedule but if we continue to focus on becoming the best version of ourselves, it can hopefully result in another run at a conference championship and the NCAA tournament."

Close Up

Glenn Close '74, D.A. '89 tells Her Story

BY SARA K. ESKRIDGE

Q **ONLINE:** *The Her Story video will debut at William & Mary Women's Weekend on Sept. 21 and will be shared on social media. To learn how you can participate in the 100-year anniversary and watch Her Story when it is unveiled, visit www.wm.edu/100yearsofwomen.*



PERCHED CONFIDENTLY ON A STOOL WITH DOG Pip close by, six-time Academy Award-nominated actress and living legend Glenn Close '74, D.A. '89 lent her voice to the chorus of William & Mary women creating *Her Story*, a short film created as a way to commemorate 100 years of coeducation at the university.

"It was the least I could do — I wanted to be there for the celebration in some way and be a part of it," she says. "To think that at one point in our history, women were discouraged from even pursuing higher education! William & Mary was one of the pioneering universities bringing men and women together to learn, and that's something to celebrate."

Close, the winner of countless awards, including three Tony Awards and three Emmys, credits W&M as the beginning of her story. She came to Williamsburg at age 22, an aspiring actress with big dreams and an even bigger thirst for knowledge.

"When I came to William & Mary, I felt that I was ignorant about so many things and had much to learn," she remembers. "I wanted to learn, and I wanted to be an actress. William & Mary brought those two compulsions of mine together and I was able to get a great education that still informs me to this day."

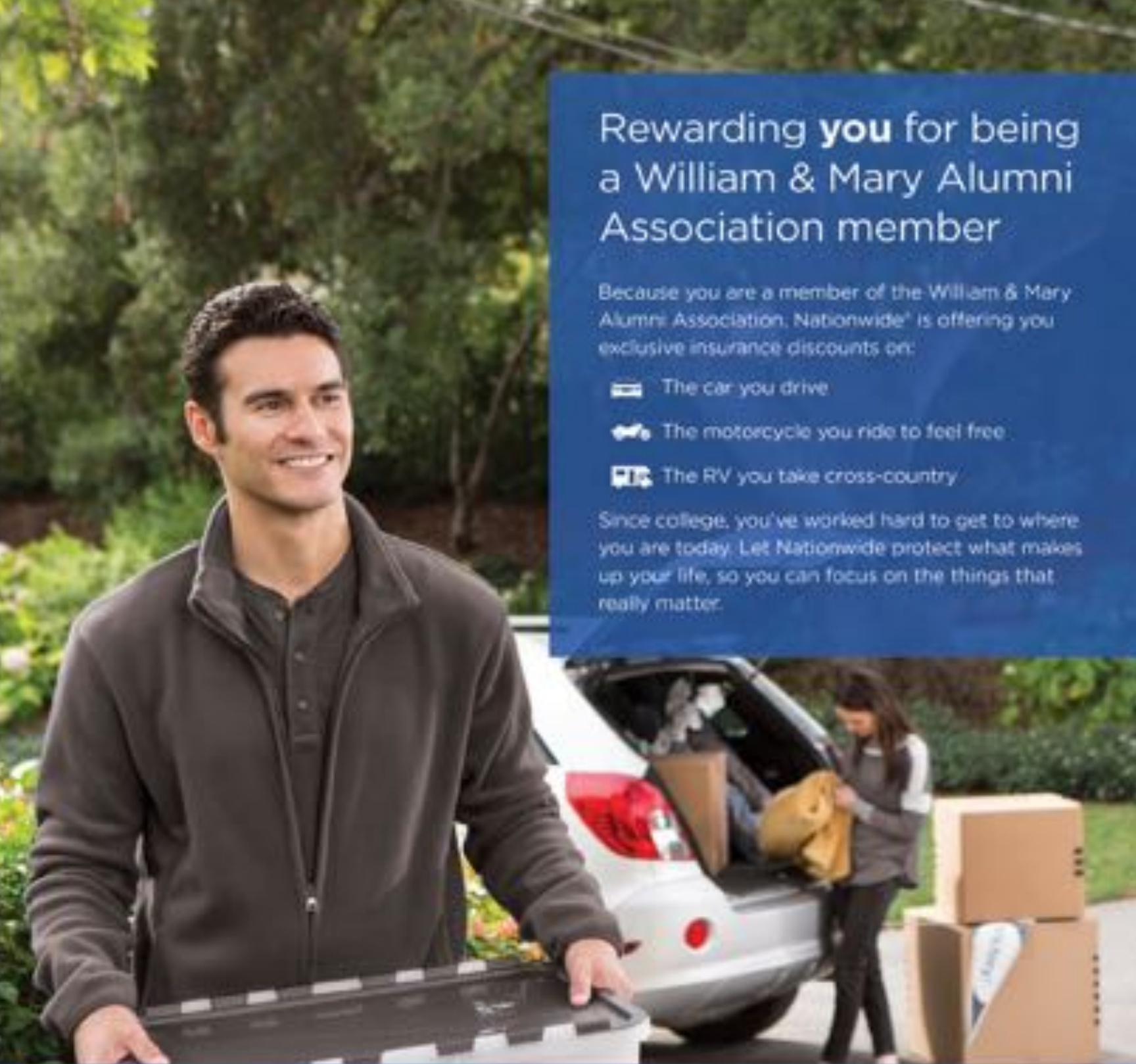
Although William & Mary helped Close in her quest to become more intellectually fulfilled and launched her into an enormously successful acting career, Close has become introspective about the other benefits that came with her time on campus.

"Watching my daughter attend college, I saw that so many of the life lessons you learn aren't found in class, but in the people you spend time with," she says. "The friends my daughter has met, they will have each other's backs for the rest of their lives, and that's a great gift, to be on campus together, learning and focusing together."

Indeed, on the 100th anniversary of women first being admitted to William & Mary, Close is convinced that it's the new generation of female college students that will change the world.



"People say this is the Year of the Woman, but it won't be just one year," she says confidently. "I believe that the younger generations — the high school and college students — are the ones who are going to make the change. It's the responsibility of those women, who create stories at places like William & Mary, to make sure we don't go back to where we were before."

PHOTO: LISA CRAWFORD



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BY & LARGE

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Every year, the Alumni Association honors a select group of outstanding young faculty members.

BY CLAIRE DE LISLE

ALEXANDER ANGELOV

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Professor Angelov grew up at the intersection of two worlds. In Soviet-allied Bulgaria, his parents were educated in the communist system, which emphasized atheism. His grandparents were pious, however, observing long-held Eastern Orthodox Christian traditions.

These two ways of life were at odds, and Angelov was fascinated by the ways the old and new in Bulgaria interacted. He made the study of religion, especially Christianity, his life's work and came to the United States to study and teach history, anthropology and philosophy.

During his upcoming sabbatical, he will travel to Eastern Europe and Russia to conduct research for a book that explores Orthodox Christianity from the

turn of the 20th century and through the years of communism. He will focus on the way in which leading communist ideologues, educators and politicians interacted with religion and how they communicated their utopian ideas and notions of scientific and economic progress to societies steeped in folklore and rural traditions.

"William & Mary attracted me with its rich history and vibrant intellectual community. As a scholar of Christianity who is interested in interdisciplinary work and collaboration with colleagues and students, this is a perfect place for me," he says.

Angelov especially enjoys teaching his Introduction to Christianity course, his largest class, which contains students from many different backgrounds.

"Everyone, even those who didn't grow up Christian, is affected by the world's largest religion very directly: culturally, politically and historically," says Angelov. "My teaching philosophy is connecting the students' personal experiences to a larger context, in effect connecting their own lives to the lives of others."

+ ONLINE: Read extended profiles of this year's Fellowship Award winners at wmalumnimagazine.com

ANYA LUNDEN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND LINGUISTICS



Say the word "conflict" to yourself. Depending on whether you thought of it as a noun or a verb, you may have said "CONflict" or "conFLICT." Now try "Kia." Do you hear that extra "y" that sneaks in there?

These are some of the patterns in speech that Professor Lundén studies — stressed syllables and phantom consonants — across many different languages. She involves students in her research, designing studies in which participants listen to synthesized speech in a sound booth to categorize words with manipulated pitch, duration and loudness

on different syllables.

"Any project I work on, I bring in at least one student," she says. "They keep me on task because they're excited to see the project moving forward."

She's passionate about linguistics because it allows her to play with languages, examine and learn about them. William & Mary gives her the opportunity to combine teaching and research in a rewarding way.

In her classes, she gives students the data along with tools and questions to answer, in order for students to construct analyses themselves.

"You're proud of what you figure out yourself, you remember it, and it's meaningful to you," she says. "Sometimes, you uncover new options that experts haven't tried yet. You own it, you created it, and it opens up other possibilities."

PHOTOS: ALFRED HERCZEG

MARCUS HOLMES

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT



Does meeting in person make a difference in diplomacy? Psychology and neuroscience point to yes, says Professor Holmes.

"Weird stuff goes on in your brain when you meet face-to-face," he says. "You pick up on subtle clues and can sometimes build trust."

That's what Professor Holmes' research is all about, and it's the topic of his book "Face-to-Face Diplomacy" that was published in February 2018. Now he's looking at what personal interactions can look like in cybersecurity, as nations defend critical institutions from foreign hackers.

The discussions in his classes often come straight from the

headlines. In his Introduction to International Politics class for freshmen and sophomores, he encourages respectful debate and assertions supported by evidence.

"My classes are living things — it gets heated at times, but it's good to be exposed to things that make us a little bit uncomfortable, to be exposed to other viewpoints," he says.

In his Political Psychology of International Security class, Holmes asks students to consider whether decision-making in high-stakes diplomacy can ever be completely rational. How much should intuition factor into important decisions?

"There's something new in the news every day to discuss related to the concepts we're learning about in class," he says. "The material is interesting and I'm curious as to what the students have to say, so it's a high-energy experience."

ANKE VAN ZUYLEN

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS



A traveling salesman must start at his office, visit 10 businesses throughout the city and return to his office. What's the most efficient route he could take?

This is an example of an optimization problem, and surprisingly, it is widely believed that no computer algorithms exist that can answer this kind of question efficiently.

But figuring out how to use computer science and math to find algorithms that come close to solving these problems optimally is what gets Professor van Zuylen out of bed in the morning.

"These are fun problems that can be applied to the real world.

You can have deep theoretical results but also make a difference," she says. "Operations research and optimization are 'the science of better,' using advanced analytical tools to model reality to make better decisions."

Van Zuylen uses realistic problems to inspire her introductory students, who might not think they like math, to realize that math can be useful and fun. She also teaches in the graduate program, looking at the cutting edge of computer science, like the algorithms internet companies use to deliver their services.

"The teaching process is what I and the students do together," she says. "I ask, 'We want to solve this problem — how would you go about it?' Then we discuss why their solutions work or don't work. It's not solutions that they memorized, it's what we came up with together."

DAVID LONG

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS



Professor Long makes a good first impression, greeting each person individually, making eye contact, remembering names and generally putting people at ease. Makes sense, because he specializes in first impressions.

Long researches impression management: how people build their reputations and control their image. For example, he has studied the long-term

relationship between a patient's impression of a doctor and their overall happiness with that doctor, the number of medical errors the doctor makes and how profitable they are.

At the Raymond A. Mason School of Business, Long teaches organizational behavior, of which impression management is a part.

Organizational behavior is the study of people in a business — Long believes people are the biggest assets and biggest challenges of any business.

"A supervisor I had a long time ago at Home Depot asked me what the most important part of the store was. I guessed gardening or building supplies. He told me it was the people. Take care of the people, and the people will take care of gardening and building supplies," he says. "Everything I needed to know about business I learned at Home Depot."

This year, Long designed and taught a course on management consulting in which alumni in the field returned to campus to talk about their experiences. Helping students make connections to further their careers is important to him, as is teaching them to be impactful communicators.

"We all have the potential to be leaders," he says.



HOMECOMING & REUNION WEEKEND

OCTOBER 18-21, 2018

Smile for the picture once more and never forget this moment, framed in time. We are the Tribe — connected by the roots of yesterday that now stretch out before us toward a fresh canvas of possibility. Once strangers, we soon became branches of the same tree. A beautifully diverse family, we became sisters and brothers connected by the pride we hold for alma mater. So this year, return to your roots for 2018 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. The picture won't be the same without you.

HOMECOMING.WM.EDU
#WMHOMECOMING

Friday, Oct. 19

OLDE GUARDE LUNCHEON*

11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Sadler Center, Chesapeake ABC
\$40 per person

SHARK TANK

2:30–3:30 p.m.

Sadler Center,
Commonwealth Auditorium

HOMECOMING PARADE

4–5:30 p.m.

Parade route and reunion
watch locations are available
at homecoming.wm.edu.

SUNSET CEREMONY

6–7 p.m.

Wren Courtyard
(Rain plan: Sadler Center,
Commonwealth Auditorium)

VIRGINIA UNCORKED*

7–11 p.m.

Sunken Garden Tent
\$30 per person
\$25 for Young Guardes
Pay-as-you-go food trucks

BLACK ALUMNI RECEPTION*

Hosted by the Hulon Willis Association

8:30–11 p.m.

Blow Hall
\$15 per person

Register at: [RESPONSE.WM.EDU/HOMECOMING2018](https://response.wm.edu/homecoming2018)

Saturday, Oct. 20

W&M MILITARY & VETERANS BREAKFAST*

Hosted by the Association of 1775

9–11 a.m.

Sunken Garden, Tent 2

\$10 per person

PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME EVENT

10:30 a.m.–Noon

Sadler Center, Commonwealth Auditorium

HOMECOMING TAILGATE*

Noon–3 p.m.

Sunken Garden Tent

\$30 per person

\$15 for children 12 and under

CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL

Noon–3 p.m.

Sunken Garden

WREN BELL RINGING

Noon–3 p.m.

Wren Building

FOOTBALL GAME: W&M VS. MAINE

3:30–6:30 p.m.

Zable Stadium

Visit tribeathletics.com for tickets.

YOUNG GUARDE CELEBRATION*

'09-'18 and '13 Reunion

6:30–9 p.m.

Sunken Garden, Tent 1

\$30 per person

LATINx ALUMNI RECEPTION*

7–9 p.m.

Tucker Hall Foyer

\$15 per person

LGBTQ ALUMNI RECEPTION*

7–9 p.m.

Sadler Center, Tidewater

\$15 per person

REUNION RECEPTIONS*

7:30–9:30 p.m.

Sunken Garden, Reunion Tents

\$60 per person

SATURDAY NIGHT BASH*

9–11:30 p.m.

Sunken Garden Tent

\$30 per person

* Indicates registration is required.

A full weekend schedule and event details
can be found at homecoming.wm.edu.

**Prices increase
after Oct. 8.**



Board Notes

The latest news from the Alumni Association

BY JOHN S. KANE

THE SPRING MEETING OF THE WILLIAM & MARY Alumni Association (WMAA) Board of Directors was held at the Kimpton Allegro Hotel in Chicago, May 31 to June 1, 2018.

The full board convened May 31 and began with an introduction of new members and approval of consent agenda items, followed by a meeting overview by the president.

The executive director briefed the board on recent activities and events, notably, the progress of the Society of 1918, Legacy Weekend, Traditions Weekend, Commencement Weekend, the Alumni House expansion groundbreaking, plans for the W&M Women's Weekend, plans for the W&M Weekend in Chicago and she reported on metrics reflecting the growth in alumni engagement from the beginning of the campaign through FY17.

Members then reviewed nominations and approved the Douglas N. Morton '62 Alumni Service awards for the following alumni:

- *Latoya Asia J.D. '09*
- *Paul Brockwell '07*
- *Kathryn Floyd '05*
- *Brian Focarino '11, J.D. '15*
- *Taylor "Monty" Mason '89*
- *Emily Gerdelman Ridjanek '07*
- *Joanna Ashworth '84*

The Board deliberated on nominations for the Alumni Medallion and approved bestowing that award to the following nominees:

- *Craig W. Broderick '81, P '16*
- *Nancy Burgess Gofus '75*
- *Cynthia Casson Morton '77*
- *Christopher B. Powers '73, P '15*

Presentations and discussions were held covering an update on the Alumni House expansion project by Board and Building committee member Todd Norris '86, P '18, P '20; W&M Women's

Weekend and Alumnae Initiatives progress by Director of Alumnae Initiatives Valerie Cushman; review of initiatives by the Olde Guard by President-elect of the Olde Guard Howard Busbee '65, J.D. '67, M.L.T. '68, P '90, P '04; and updates on the W&M Weekend Chicago and planning for the W&M Weekend in 2020 by Cindy Jarboe '77 and Kelly Holdcraft, senior director of Alumni Regional Engagement.

The Board Development, Communications and Regional Engagement committees conducted working lunches to discuss and perform committee tasks. They then reported out on those activities. In addition, the board heard updates on Young Guard programming and the performance statistics from One Tribe One Day by Director of Alumni Signature Events Katie Lowe and Director of Volunteer Management Sue Warner '64. Vice President for University Advancement Matthew Lambert presented a campaign update to the board. President W. Taylor Reveley, III LL.D. '18, HON '18 met with the board and shared farewell thoughts about their work and importance to the university. He was recognized by the board with a resolution acknowledging his contributions and presented with a farewell gift.

On the final day of meetings, the board received an update on Alumni Engagement and Alumni Association Board fundraising efforts and progress by the Senior Associate Director of Development for the Alumni Association Richard Long M.Ed. '18, followed by presentation of financial information and analyses by Treasurer Scott Kelsey '06, M.Acc. '07 and John Cole Scott '00. Key among these presentations were a review of signature event price subsidizations by the WMAA and a review of a three-year pro forma budget covering the period that the Alumni House is closed for expansion.

Other significant discussion and decisions were made on the following actions:

- *Approved a Faculty/Staff Service Award for Sandra Scott, University Parking Services.*
- *Agreed to undertake a study of parking solutions and funding models for the Alumni House.*
- *Approved a motion to hold the next W&M Weekend in San Francisco, on or about September 5, 2020, in conjunction with the W&M vs. Stanford football game.*
- *Reviewed and approved a \$1.3M operating budget for FY19.*

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be Sept. 19-21, 2018, in Williamsburg.

Award Nominations

BY&LARGE

Honoring engaged, accomplished alumni

BY JOHN S. KANE

THE 2020 ALUMNI MEDALLION

The Alumni Medallion recognizes individuals who have exemplary accomplishments in their professional life, service to the community, state or nation, and loyalty and commitment to William & Mary.

The submission form can be downloaded from the Alumni Association's website at <https://wmalumni.com/awards-and-recognition.html> or it can be requested by emailing alumni.ed@wm.edu. Three supporting letters are required. Include up to three news articles, vitae, biographical sketches, etc. that are available as supporting documents.

The Alumni Medallion reflects the honor and credit that recipients bring to the university through their actions and contributions. Deadline for submission of all nominations for the 2020 award is **April 1, 2019**.

HONORARY ALUMNI

The Alumni Association grants Honorary Alumni status to individuals with a distinguished record of service on behalf of the university. Many honorees have been active and supportive spouses of alumni leaders. To nominate an individual, submit a letter describing his or her visible and consistent involvement, advocacy, loyalty and affection for W&M. All letters must be signed.

Nominations may be submitted online at <https://wmalumni.com/awards-and-recognition.html>.

Mail your letter to Honorary Alumni Award, c/o Executive Director, WMAA, P.O. Box 2100, Williamsburg, VA 23187-2100. The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2018 Honorary Alumni Award is **Jan. 15, 2019**.

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARDS

The Douglas N. Morton '62 Alumni Service and Young Alumni Service Awards are given annually to individuals for their exceptional service to the Alumni Association and the university through their involvement in alumni chapters, clubs and constituent organizations. The Young Alumni Service Award is specific to individuals ages 25 to 35.

You may download a nomination form for this and any other alumni awards at <https://wmalumni.com/awards-and-recognition.html>. The deadline for nominations is **Feb. 1, 2019**. The Board of Directors will select honorees at its spring 2019 meeting.

ELECTED OFFICERS FOR FY19

This year, Susan P. Manix '79 will begin the second year of her two-year term as president of the board. Carla Moreland '81, J.D. '84 will be vice president, David T. Scott '93 will serve as secretary and Scott R. Kelsey '06, M.Acc. '07 will serve as treasurer. New board members recognized at this meeting include Jewell Lim Esposito '87, P '19, Michael Hoak M.A. '02 and Natasha Moulton-Levy '95. Outgoing board members recognized and thanked for their service were Sandra D. Bowen '63, Cynthia S. Jarboe '77 and Lydia R. Pulley '85. Not in attendance but ending her term on the Board also is Nicole Lynn Lewis '03.

Story by Claire De Lisle
Photography by Adam Ewing

“We’re on a mission to invest in the best and brightest diverse founders in the U.S. & Asia, and the world is taking notice.”

The world truly is taking notice of Pocket Sun '13. Just nine years ago, she was a wide-eyed freshman at William & Mary. Now she runs a multimillion-dollar venture capital firm, SoGal Ventures, with cofounder Elizabeth Galbut, and has more than 50 companies under her care. She's given TEDx talks. She's been on the cover of Forbes Asia as one of their 30 Under 30. In 2017, she was an invited speaker at Fortune's Most Powerful Women International Summit in Hong Kong and Microsoft's CEO Summit. She's been interviewed by the BBC, Harper's BAZAAR, Fortune, CNBC and more.

All this, and she's only 27.

“Our generation is very privileged to have the previous generation pave the way for us so we can do a greater good for this world,” Sun said in an interview this April with CNBC. “I hear a lot that millennials are lazy. I don't think so. Millennials are incredibly global, they are constantly on the go. They are really driven by vision and purpose.”

Sun has let vision and purpose guide her throughout her meteoric rise into the world of venture capital. As it says in SoGal's mission statement:

As the first female-led millennial venture capital firm, SoGal Ventures represents how far our generation has come, and how deep our impact on the world can be. We believe in the power of diversity, borderless business, and human-centric design ... Our investments paint the future picture of how we live, work, and stay healthy.

Sun is creating change in the world through the power of women.



pocket full of sunshine

**POCKET SUN '13 IS CHANGING VENTURE CAPITAL.
AND SHE'S ONLY 27.**

BUILDING CONFIDENCE

In 2009, Yiqing “Pocket” Sun came to the United States from Shandong Province, China, specifically to attend William & Mary. A family friend had toured the historic campus and said it was beautiful. The low ratio of students to teachers was appealing to Sun, who was looking for a small school where she could increase her English fluency and get an American education.

“I thought William & Mary had a really romantic name, and my dad thought it was a safe place for me to study,” says Sun. “I came here without knowing what to expect.”

Her first semester at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business was definitely the hardest. Many of her classes consisted of group projects, not something often done in China, where studying textbooks and taking exams is more common. She was astounded that professors encouraged students to voice their opinions and think critically about what they were taught. More comfortable carefully thinking through her ideas before voicing them, she didn’t speak up often. Presenting in front of the class was terrifying.

“We believe in the power of diversity, borderless business, and human-centric design ... how we live, work and stay healthy.”

But Sun was determined to adapt to this strange new environment.

“I always knew that I wanted to go to school abroad. I loved the idea of giving myself a challenge and seeing a bigger world. I really wanted to take this chance to better myself and do things that I couldn’t do before,” she says.

She joined the ballroom dance club and participated in dance competitions. She loved her piano lessons at William & Mary, so she became a music minor. She joined the symphony orchestra for a semester, took photographs for the Flat Hat, taught Chinese in the Chinese department, and eventually became a teaching assistant there. She even studied abroad in Paris.

Rick Spatz met Sun at an undergraduate event when she was finishing her sophomore year, and he was immediately impressed. He is an executive partner at the business school and a past director of that program, which makes senior business executives in a variety of industries available to students.

“She didn’t have all the confidence in the world — she was 19 years old — but she was confident that she was going to make something work. She may not have known what it was, but there was no doubt in her mind that she was going to be successful doing something,” says Spatz.

Sun kept coming back to Spatz for advice, and over time he became her mentor and friend.

“She used the literal translation of her name, Pocket, as her English name because it was different and would stand out. When I met her as a sophomore, she already knew people would remember her name,” he says.

Her friend Takami Peemoeller ’11 saw both Sun’s shy side and this blossoming confidence during their time together at William & Mary. They met in Japanese 101.

“At William & Mary, every so often you get a class where everyone is friends with everyone, and when you go into that class it’s an awesome part of your day. For some reason that happened in our Japanese 101 class,” she says. “We started talking through that class, hung out and eventually became close friends.”

Sun’s entrepreneurial spirit was already evident as a college student. She took photos of classmates for them to use as their Facebook profile pictures and talked about starting a photography company. She loved singing so she made and sold a CD of her recorded songs.

“She looks at the world so creatively, and she is willing to just jump out and try things,” says Peemoeller. “It takes a certain type of personality to go to school in another country, to say ‘I’m going to go across the world and try this.’”

By senior year, Sun was surrounded by friends, very active in her clubs and activities and eager to start a career in marketing at a corporation somewhere. She wasn’t yet talking about wanting to change the world.

“We didn’t really talk about ‘we have to empower women,’ but she is an empowering person. She’s always told me ‘you can do whatever you want, you have so much potential,’” says Peemoeller. “She brings that potential out in people.”

Even now that Sun has become more successful and famous than even she could have imagined, when she and Peemoeller get together, she is still the same supportive, goofy friend Peemoeller remembers from their college days.

OUT INTO THE WIDE WORLD

“Her story is a story of persistence, and of not letting the short-term negatives deter you from doing what you really want to do,” says Spatz as he describes the next phase of Sun’s career. Things didn’t always work out exactly as planned for the William & Mary grad.

Sun was worried when she started her job hunt that she wouldn’t be able to compete for marketing

jobs against Americans who didn't need visas and were native English speakers. She started taking any interview she could get, even for jobs she didn't want, just to practice and build connections.

"She was really persistent about pursuing leads. She didn't just send résumés out into the ether and hope that something would return. She would contact people directly, she would write letters, she wasn't passive," says Spatz. "And that's the quality that carries on and makes her really good in the world of venture capital."

And that quality earned her a position with a public relations firm in Chicago, then a job with Motorola. She enjoyed her work there and planned to stay for a while — then disaster struck. She didn't pass the H-1B visa lottery. Now, she had to either find a way to stay in the United States or move back to China.

She started frantically applying to grad schools, knowing she could stay on a student visa. It was already May. She needed a school that would allow her to start that September.

Five schools offered her admission. She chose the University of Southern California (USC)'s Marshall School of Business in Los Angeles and began her master of science in entrepreneurship and innovation.

This program exposed her to entrepreneurs of all kinds. Before long, hearing their stories had convinced her to change the entire trajectory of her career.

"I quickly came to the realization that entrepreneurship is the only way to make a real impact on the world," Sun wrote in a post on Medium in January 2017.

But Sun recognized a problem. She felt lonely as an aspirational entrepreneur — very few other entrepreneurs looked like her. So she started a club at USC for women to get together and learn about entrepreneurship.

"Pocket doesn't sit around and wait for fate or other people," says Spatz. "She goes and gets it done."

And thus the SoGal community was born, with Sun photocopying posters, renting a room on campus and hoping women would show up.

And they did. Hundreds of them. Women told Sun and each other their stories of success and struggle building companies from the ground up.

These meetings spread from USC to the greater Los Angeles area to nationwide — and then all over the world.

Now, the SoGal community has an online peer-to-peer support platform and hosts in-person educational, inspirational and networking events worldwide.



And Sun realized while the community was important, what these women needed most was funding.

VENTURE CAPITAL ADVENTURE

Venture capital is not exactly an easy field to get into. Most venture capitalists have already had careers in which they made their money, and many also come from families with significant wealth. They have long-established relationships with banks and other big institutions who provide them with funding.

Only 8 percent of partners at American venture capitalist firms are women, according to the 2017 Crunchbase Women in Venture report. And USA Today reported in December 2016 that only 3 percent of the venture capital workforce (including administrators and others) are African-American and only 4 percent are Latino. It's a baby-boomer white man's world.

But Sun enrolled in a venture capital program at Stanford anyway, and there she met Elizabeth Galbut, who would become her business partner. Galbut had also been a rising star in graduate school, founding



A-Level Capital, the first student-led venture capital firm powered by Johns Hopkins students. She was working as a strategy and operations consultant at Deloitte Consulting, focusing on large healthcare clients.

Together, they realized that there was a potential gold mine waiting for investors in female entrepreneurs. As reported by Fortune in January 2018, only 2.2 percent of funding in 2017 was directed at female founders — with very few people investing in them, very few people were reaping the returns of their success.

“We thought, if being an entrepreneur is all about disrupting the existing status quo, we could be that for venture capital. When everyone making decisions in venture capital looks the same, they

probably can’t see a lot of things that we could see. Entrepreneurs are so diverse, and if VCs can’t match that demographic, then they miss that perspective,” says Sun.

And so they founded SoGal Ventures, named after the SoGal community Sun had built at USC. They dived in using money from Pocket’s own checking account, cutting really small checks to female entrepreneurs. With each, they went through the whole process of venture capital, from due diligence to negotiations to helping each company grow. They worried people wouldn’t see them as serious investors — until they realized that if you are actively investing, nobody can deny that you are an investor.

After a year and a half of these small deals, they knew they were onto something. They launched their own fund, and now, two and a half years later, three of their companies have been acquired and the rest are still in business.

Sun’s success has proven true what she always believed: that there is no perfect time to just dive in and get started doing something you believe in. You don’t need a certain number of years of experience or to be 100 percent knowledgeable or prepared. You just have to be willing to learn and to work.

“I think it’s really important to just start doing something,” she says. “No matter if it’s a passionate hobby of yours, or a cause that you really care about, or a pain point that really affects your daily life, just take something and start working on it.

“It doesn’t have to be world-changing at first; maybe it will become world-changing and grow faster than you ever imagined,” she laughs, a little wide-eyed as she reflects on her own success. “Act toward your mission and purpose.”

MORE THAN THE MONEY

Sun’s mission and purpose is creating change in society through woman-owned businesses. That involves raising money to give to entrepreneurs so they can build billion-dollar businesses. But it’s also about supporting entrepreneurs beyond funding and helping them scale up the good they can do in the world when they have resources.

The more than 50 companies Sun and Galbut have funded include EverlyWell, a digital health platform that delivers at-home health testing kits; Lovevery, which makes baby toys for brain development; and Winky Lux, a millennial beauty brand that just opened an immersive experience pop-up store in New York

City. All were chosen for their diverse founders, design-centric approach, rapid but sustainable growth and their ability to change how the next generation lives, works and stays healthy.

NailSnaps was one of Sun's first personal investments. On their web-based platform, users design and sell nontoxic nail art worldwide. In part, the platform is an entry point for girls to learn about web development and entrepreneurship through something they already love.

"Pocket is not only a great champion of our company, but is also really active in our community," says Sarah Heering, COO and co-founder of NailSnaps. "She spreads the word and arranges funding from sources that we may not even know about. She puts her money where her mouth is."

Sun purposefully seeks out companies based all over the world, leveraging the resources of the global SoGal community. In today's internet and social-media connected world, she believes all business is global business. She also feels millennials are well-adapted to this globally competitive environment.

"Our generation has lived in different countries and they speak different languages, work in different places and study internationally. They identify themselves as global citizens. When they start businesses, they naturally think globally from day one," Sun says.

Sun spends 30-50 percent of her time traveling — she flew 300,000 miles in the past year alone. She now lives in Singapore, where the location and organized culture are particularly conducive to her busy lifestyle. Galbut lives in New York. They consider their long-distance partnership to be an asset in this globally competitive world.

In 2017, 15 William & Mary students had the opportunity to meet with Pocket Sun in Singapore as part of a Global Immersion Program through the Boehly Center for Excellence in Finance at the Mason School. These immersions allow William & Mary students to gain valuable, on-the-ground perspective on doing business outside the United States.

After hearing Sun tell the story of her nontraditional path to success, Cynthia Wang '19 was inspired by her perseverance and strength.

"Since she is not only female, but also of Asian descent, she has overcome so many more obstacles than the other investors in her field," says Wang. "The venture capital world is primarily dominated by men, so for Pocket Sun to create a name for herself and go beyond the social norms of the industry is truly remarkable and inspiring for all women and people in underrepresented groups."

And that's what Sun hopes for, that her work will inspire the next generation of young diverse entrepreneurs — and more important, set the stage for their success.

"If I can be a stepping stone in history, and just do what I can so my next generation, my daughters, don't have to go through the same struggles — they will have a better environment, and they will have more

liberty, more freedom, more wealth. That would be wonderful!" says Sun.

For Sun, the first step to changing the world is to economically empower women. SoGal does this not only by giving them the funding to create more money for themselves and their families, but also through the SoGal community that provides women encouragement to break into male-dominated fields and fix the problems they see in the world.

"First step for us to change the world is to get women rich. Whether that's encouraging them into investing early on, or encouraging them to be an entrepreneur and create a massive empire of wealth and social impact — it's really about putting women in the limelight, in the driver's seat, and giving them the power they deserve," she says.

And if this mission isn't enough to persuade investors to back SoGal, there is a strong economic argument as well.

"Women make 80 percent of consumer purchasing decisions and 85 percent of healthcare decisions for themselves and their families. They are controlling more and more wealth, they are making decisions, and if you don't have that representation, voice and perspective in your investments, you will have sub-optimal returns," said Galbut in an interview with CNBC's "Squawk Box" in February 2018.

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

What's next? SoGal Ventures recently received \$1.5 million in grants and donations, so Sun and Galbut are establishing a nonprofit to help them expand their SoGal community of female entrepreneurs.

They are also finishing raising their \$15 million fund, with significant interests from financial institutions and Fortune 100 companies, which is rare for first-time fund managers and small funds. Their investors include some industry heavyweights such as the retired president at East West Bank, the group president at Princess Cruises and the first investor in Spotify.

It's not all smooth sailing from here, though. "My work has so much uncertainty. Investing in a startup is like taking a test now and getting your results 10 years later," Sun says.

But Sun and Galbut aren't stopping with venture capital.

"When we look in the long term, our mission has always been the same: to redefine the next generation of founders and funders by investing in diverse entrepreneurs, and inspiring and training young people to become entrepreneurs and investors early on in life. We need diversity on both sides of the table. Venture capital is just the beginning of our grand plan; it's the best way to make the most impact for what we are trying to do now," says Sun.

She envisions SoGal being the Berkshire Hathaway for women, and she sees her own potential to be the next Warren Buffet. Who knows? She's got her whole life ahead of her. ☺



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ALFRED HERCZEG

STORY BY **NOAH PETERSEN** '19

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY **MATTIE CLEAR** '18

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

It was 1918. World War I was coming to an end, streets were crowded with Model T cars, movies with sound didn't exist and the Spanish flu was rampant across the U.S. It was also the year a U.S. president for the first time declared his support for women's suffrage. A century ago, everything was different.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **ERIC LUSHER**



the W&M woman
1968-1989





ONLINE: For full item descriptions and to see more images representing 100 years of coeducation from Swem's Special Collections Research Center, go to wmalumnimagazine.com

For 225 years, William & Mary, a small liberal arts college nestled in Williamsburg, Virginia, only educated men. But that was about to change.

In 1918 William & Mary faced an almost insurmountable challenge. Students had abandoned their books for the battlefield and total enrollment was less than 150 students. The university was deep in debt, and there were only two options: change or shut down.

William & Mary President Lyon G. Tyler, a longtime advocate for women's education, decided it was time to change. He partnered with women's rights activist Mary-Cooke Branch Munford, and together they fought for women's admission to the university. In February 1918, the Virginia General Assembly authorized William & Mary to admit women students for the fall semester.

When women came to the university, Mary didn't just join William, she saved William.

In 1918, 24 women arrived for their freshman year, making William & Mary the first public university in Virginia to become coeducational.

It was the birth of a new era, at William & Mary and in the world. That year, a new generation of students walked through the Wren Building.

The women were — intentionally — housed on the edges of campus. All but one from Virginia, they were used to the long skirts and strict rules expected of Southern women.

They weren't allowed to wear pants or stay out at night.

But neither the resistance from male students nor the challenge of being first slowed them down. When they weren't allowed to participate in existing sports or student government, they organized their own.

In less than 15 years, there were more women students than men.

Today, women make up 45 percent of university faculty and 58 percent of the student body. A woman, for the first time ever, also now presides over the Alma Mater of the Nation.

Progress has been possible because of the tireless work of William & Mary women over the last 100 years, including the first African-American residential students who arrived on campus in 1967.

And in those 100 years, every woman at the university has left her mark on that progress.

A century of women at William & Mary has left innumerable artifacts — pieces of their own history reflecting decades of change. Hidden in each of them is another question: what is to come?

The doldrum days are over and change is happening every day. So let us ask:

What will Mary change tomorrow? What artifacts will be created in the century to come?





EARLY EXPERIENCE

Many of the first women students at William & Mary didn't think they were groundbreakers, although most women following in their footsteps think otherwise. In the early part of the 20th century, when life expectancy for women was 42 years and there was no minimum wage, the world was changing around them. Looking back, coeducation was important, but in 1918, most of the attention was on World War I.

In the first years of coeducation at William & Mary, rules were strict.

Women students had to be in their dorm right after dinner and either in their room or the library between 8 and 10 p.m. If they wanted to leave campus, they needed a permission slip. They couldn't ride in someone else's car unless they had an approved adult driver.

Campus life, though, was more than just rules. In 1918, women students had an after-dinner social hour in their dorm until 8 p.m. Every night, they rolled up the carpets in the lounge and danced to music played from one of their hallmates on a piano. They formed their own student government and sports teams, and while some early women students said their experience was hard, others remembered their time at William & Mary as the best in their lives.

The early experience of women at the university, so different from that of today, is recorded in normal pieces of everyday life. A handmade pillowcase recalls the university's early colors of orange and black. Scrapbooks and diaries record historic events, like a visit from U.S. President Warren G. Harding LL.D. '21 in the early 1920s. Harding attended William & Mary President J.A.C. Chandler's inauguration and received an honorary degree.

A monogrammed blazer reminds us how students used to dress, and debonair dance cards recall their social lives. Some of their stories survive in university records and oral histories. Some of the first women, like Martha Barksdale '21, have places on campus named after them today.

Even if their artifacts didn't survive, even if their journals and photographs have been lost with the passage of time, their legacy remains. Those women were the firsts, and even if they didn't realize it, they were groundbreakers.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUPS

College gives you some of the best memories of your life. Often, you're on your own for the first time, learning new things, with your whole life ahead of you. With every class or hour in the library, you're stepping into your own future. It's full of stories you'll tell for decades to come.

The best part of these memories, though, is the chance to share them. It's often not the things you do but those you do them with. To be surrounded by people of similar ages and interests can be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The way women spend time together at William & Mary has changed over the years, but there has always been a constant focus on building relationships. The ribbon societies, formed in the first years of coeducation, were like an early form of sororities. Women wore green or yellow ribbons on their wrists or ankles, and staged events around Homecoming and organized yearly dances. They were groups of women who enjoyed spending time together.

Women's social groups at the university have traditions and histories of their own. They might come in the form of invitations to events or group advertisements, like a Delta Sigma Theta poster that proudly reads, "Welcome into our queendom." It could also be something small, like a customized William & Mary compact.

Over the last 100 years, William & Mary women have formed bonds that lasted much longer than their time at the university. With leftover scrapbooks or photographs, we can look back at those relationships. Whether they're in black and white with a ribbon society in the 1930s or in full color with their sorority sisters in the 1980s, they're standing together, arm in arm, smiling.

AVIATION

William & Mary is believed to be the first university with a flight club. From 1931 to 1935, members could join for a yearly fee of one dollar, and in its five years 44 students completed the necessary 20 hours of flight time to earn their private pilot's licenses. Only one of those 44 was a woman: Minnie Cole Savage '33 — the first, and last, woman to earn her pilot's license through William & Mary.

Savage finished her training in a thick corduroy flight suit, lined with a felt interior, obviously cut for a man. Just like the other members, she wore the silver and green flight club patch, and she flew in the nighttime aerial stunts and the yearly Homecoming exhibition. Three times a week, in her baggy overalls, she went to the College airport and worked on one of the four planes with a William & Mary crest. Her name is engraved in a trophy commemorating the flight club and their 1933 victory in the Loening Cup — the highest award for a college aviation program.

A black-and-white photograph shows Savage sitting close to Amelia Earhart during her visit to William & Mary. Earlier in the night, Earhart spoke on the importance of women in aviation, who showed great "zeal and vigor" by participating in a sport then considered a near-daredevil activity. From Earhart, outstanding "zeal and vigor" was only one seat down.

Savage pushed boundaries as a student, an aviator and a woman. The same woman photographed in the Colonial Echo with a coy half smile, wearing a dark sweater and floral scarf, was an enor-





mous groundbreaker. Savage set an example for women at William & Mary — accomplish your goals even if you're the first; fly to your castle in the clouds.

WORLD WAR II

Margetta Hirsch Doyle '45 was a regular student at William & Mary. Her friends called her "Getta" and she was a Kappa Delta. Doyle kept a diary and wrote about her philosophy quizzes, described how much she enjoyed making Red Cross surgical wrappings and mentioned hours spent spotting airplanes from campus buildings.

Doyle was a student during World War II.

During the second World War, William & Mary became a predominantly female campus. While many college-age males fought abroad, women kept up the war effort from Williamsburg. In between their studies and social life, students volunteered with the Student War Council and the American Red Cross. Along with other service work, they, like Doyle, made surgical dressings and spotted airplanes, sometimes in groups and sometimes alone.

Near the war's end, as the U.S. continued to construct military equipment, William & Mary requested that one of the newly made sea vessels be named after the university. Part of a new class of U.S. "Victory Ships," and one of the first on the East Coast, the SS William and Mary launched in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 20, 1945. President of the Women Students' Cooperative Government Association Eleanor Harvey Rennie '45 christened the ship earlier in the day with a champagne bottle wrapped in a red, white and blue cloth.

Unlike most of the women students during that time, Harvey received recognition — in the form of a bouquet and jewel-encrusted pin at the christening. But as a group, women sacrificed their time, energy and spirit to support a war thousands of miles away. It was a time of empowerment, when women's wartime work was trusted and needed.

The university still has the American flag from the SS William and Mary. Many of its stripes are torn and frayed at the end, but all the stars are intact.

TRADITION

For decades, incoming freshmen at William & Mary wore duc caps — beanie-like hats — throughout their first year at William & Mary. A new tradition, Duc (short for introductory) week, was filled with unusual and sometimes arbitrary rules set by upperclassmen for the new students. Anytime they were in Williamsburg or on campus, they had to wear their caps — so the duc rules commanded.

William & Mary is full of traditions, some lasting and some lost with the passage of time. Adopting a community's traditions is an important part of fitting in. Decades ago, new students did as they were told and addressed upperclassmen as "sir" or "ma'am," because in two years, they would be upperclassmen themselves. Duc week wasn't just a way for older students to feel self-important, it was a way to build community among the freshmen, with special events throughout the week.

At the same time, for many it's important not to fit in





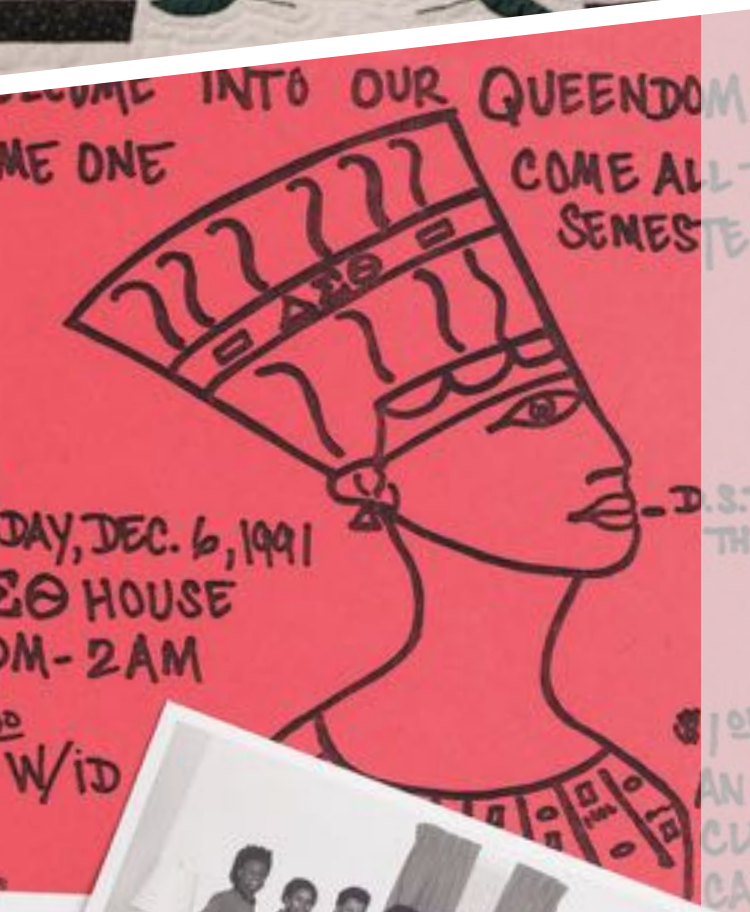
ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM AND LARY
AND "WM" HISTORY 1955

on page
A. All members must wear sea caps with their names
the last name on cap and in the vicinity of
the building.

1. From 1900 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. on weekdays.
2. From 1900 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. on Saturdays.
3. Do not wear sea caps.
4. Freshmen must wear sea caps.
5. Freshmen must wear sea caps.

1. Campus Hall
A. Freshmen
B. Freshmen
C. Freshmen
D. Freshmen
E. Freshmen
F. Freshmen
G. Freshmen
H. Freshmen
I. Freshmen
J. Freshmen
K. Freshmen
L. Freshmen
M. Freshmen
N. Freshmen
O. Freshmen
P. Freshmen
Q. Freshmen
R. Freshmen
S. Freshmen
T. Freshmen
U. Freshmen
V. Freshmen
W. Freshmen
X. Freshmen
Y. Freshmen
Z. Freshmen





too much, and the old “W&M Women” handbooks are a good reminder. For decades, women students used to receive these books during orientation in addition to the normal student handbook. They were full of social rules for women, who had to sign in and out of their dorms when leaving campus and couldn’t enter fraternity houses alone. An 11 p.m. curfew wasn’t lifted until 1971.

William & Mary is full of history, more than 325 years of it. History leads to tradition and tradition to community, but the healthiest communities aren’t restrictive. They encourage individual and group identities; they conform and express at the same time.

The university, of course, no longer gives women students their own handbook. After a century of coeducation, they have maintained the university’s traditions and added new ones along the way — all with the same reminder: there is no single “William & Mary Woman.”

ATHLETICS

When women’s athletics began at William & Mary for the first time in 1918, there were clear boundaries. Women weren’t allowed to compete with the already-existing men’s teams; they had to start their own.

So they did.

Within months, women students arranged an intercollegiate basketball game against the University of Richmond — the first of its kind at William & Mary. In 1923, the women’s basketball team celebrated a perfect season. After their victory over archrival Westhampton, a 1923 Colonial Echo article read that “pandemonium broke loose.”

Women’s sports were different back then. The women wore long and baggy bloomers with black leggings tucked into high-top shoes and rolled-up cotton T-shirts. Lest males see them in gym clothes, they had to change right after exercising. During the perfect five-game season in 1923, the basketball team only scored 166 points. The team’s names, positions, opponents and game scores were all written on a single stick, celebrating the season.

By the 1950s, women’s bloomers were gone in favor of green skirts. Gym classes still required a university-wide uniform, and the official cotton T-shirt was available for order at the bookstore.

Today, the uniforms are gone, and the university has 11 varsity women’s athletics programs, more than 200 women all-American athletes and countless conference championships. The coach of the United States women’s national soccer team, Jill Ellis ’88, L.H.D. ’16, is a William & Mary graduate.

William & Mary women excel, in the classroom and on the field. They went from having no athletics programs at all to finding remarkable success on a national scale, and there’s no end in sight.

SOCIAL CHANGE AND ACTIVISM

Change does not happen in a vacuum. It takes time, effort and activism. It’s a call to action; it adds purpose to the passage of time. Change relies on a special kind of person, willing to work with others for a common cause or be the lone voice in a silent crowd.

Over the last 100 years, William & Mary women have been changemakers. The difference in life on campus in 1918 and 2018 testifies to that. A century ago, women students were allowed on campus for the first time. Now, a woman is the university president.

All this change required actions both big and small. It demanded protests, filled with banners and handmade flyers for small groups, discussing what it was like to be a woman on campus. It took the momentum of nationwide movements, which came with T-shirts, buttons, bracelets and pins. And it also took bold declarations, like Flat Hat editor Marilyn Kaemmerle's '45 editorial calling for racial integration, which gained national news and almost got her expelled from the university. Sometimes the movement fails, sometimes it succeeds and sometimes both are necessary to move forward.

William & Mary is not the same as it was 100 years ago; it's better. That progress is a cause for celebration, but also motivation. Change is for the discontented, including for those who demand a better future. It's time to honor those changemakers and also learn from them.

An old university T-shirt says it well: "Never underestimate the power of a woman."

Let this be a reminder: Never underestimate the power of a William & Mary woman.

HANDMADE

In the first year of coeducation, William & Mary had no history of women students: Mary was with William for the first time. From 1918 on, everything those first students did was an act of creation. Women students made their own history, and they made it by hand.

But while history is made, it's not always made on purpose. In the first few years after 1918, university professors often referred to their students as "pioneers," a name they quickly grew tired of. Most of the newly admitted women weren't there to make a statement. They just wanted an education.

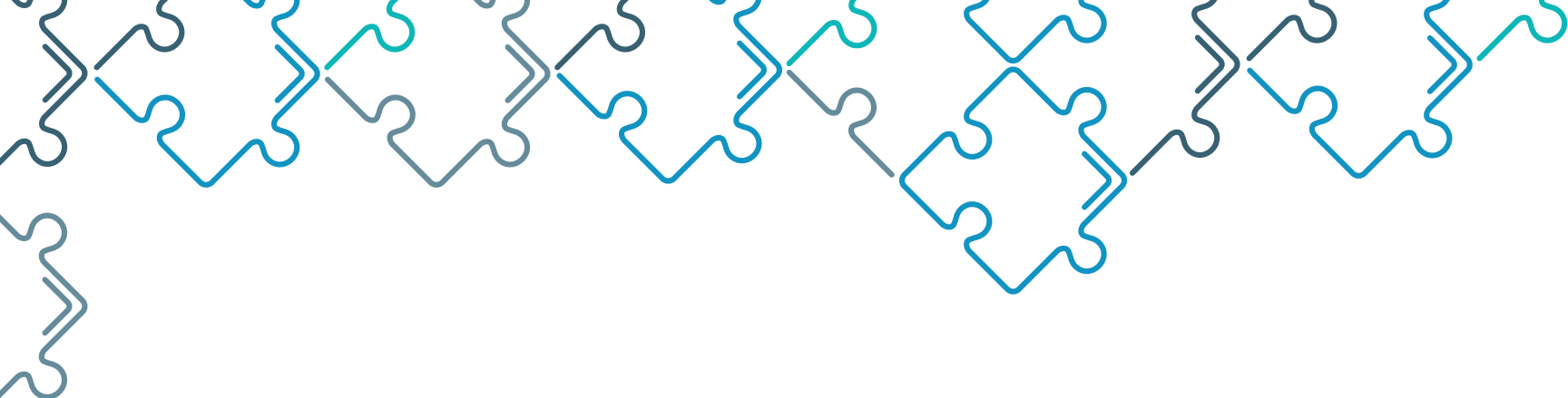
After a century, the challenge of recording history continues with the history itself. It's always visible in the big moments, like the university's 300-year anniversary — for which an alumna spent five years creating an enormous quilt stitched with images of academic buildings and famous graduates. The university's coat of arms shines in its green, gold and silver, right on front.

History also shows in artifacts such as handmade books that took a semester to make, a Mary and William T-shirt or golden heels with the coat of arms worn proudly at graduation. It's in unexplained sorority paddles and signs, self-published magazines with entries from women students all over campus. And it's in a handmade graduation cap, decorated with a custom library card and encyclopedia-paper rose petals. Mattie Clear '18, a four-year employee at Swem Library's Special Collections Research Center, made it for her graduation.

Sitting in a library room, surrounded by artifacts, Clear looks around. Hundreds of objects, some a century old lie around her — everything from scrapbooks to shoes. All came from women at William & Mary, and some way or another, all made it back to their alma mater. She pauses and looks up again.

"I've sort of been learning about myself through the eyes of these people for so long," Clear said. "You know, it's strange telling your own story." 🍷





HOW THE MOST PROLIFIC WIKIPEDIA EDITOR IS EXPANDING WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD.

STORY BY [TINA ESHLEMAN](#)

PHOTOS BY [ADAM EWING](#)



In the third-floor office of a beige brick townhouse just a few miles from George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, Steven Pruitt '06 is demonstrating how he uses AutoWikiBrowser, a tool that allows him to make editing changes to multiple Wikipedia entries with one command. This semi-automated tool has helped him to reach his current total of more than 2.5 million Wikipedia edits as of July 2 — the most of any Wikipedia editor.

About a year ago, Pruitt's work caught the attention of Time magazine, which placed him on its third annual list of the 25 most influential people on the Internet, with "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling, President Donald Trump and reality TV star Kim Kardashian, among others.

The Time article noted Pruitt's efforts to address Wikipedia's gender imbalance by writing articles about 212 influential women (that number has since increased to more than 600) in addition to his efforts to make the platform easier to navigate by improving the organization and format of entries. In the print version of the article, Pruitt's entry appeared first. And his favorite part? He was on the page opposite from Russian activist Alexei Navalny, who has been using YouTube to circumvent censorship.

"That gave me quite a thrill," he says.

Sitting at his computer, Pruitt searches the disography for Italian mezzo-soprano Bruna Castagna.

"OK, here's a guy, Franco Vassallo. He's a fairly notable bass." But Vassallo's name appears without either a blue link, which indicates the existence of a Wikipedia article about him, or a red one, which is a sign that an editor believes an article should be written about him. A red link, Pruitt says, "acts as an invitation for people to look and say, 'Oh, there's no information here. I could put information here.'"

If he wanted to add red links, Pruitt would search Vassallo's name to find each reference, and then, using AutoWikiBrowser, convert each instance into a link by placing two brackets around the name. "That sort of helps integrate it better into the fabric of the encyclopedia," he says. Then, when an article is written, the link will turn blue.

He also uses the tool to correct typos and grammar mistakes, and to code maps so that someone reading an article on, say, Pohick Church in Fairfax County (one that Pruitt worked on) can choose between a regional, state or national map.

"I have a lot of ways to customize what I'm doing here," he says. "I still have to take authorship for every edit, but it's a way of breaking down some of the more complicated things that have to be done. If I was doing all of that manually it would take months. AutoWikiBrowser can allow me to do a couple of hundred edits an hour, depending on how fast my internet connection is."

During the workday, Pruitt is part of the records and information governance team at U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Washington, D.C. "That's everything from discussing policy to making recommendations to actually processing movement of records," he says. One thing his team does is help the agency's offices transfer records to the National Archives.

And while he does his Wikipedia work for free on a volunteer basis, Pruitt believes it helped

get him the job at Customs two years ago.

"I stand on my own," he says. "But it certainly helped me get a foot in the door. Because it's information management, basically. What I do now is information management. What I do on Wikipedia is information management."

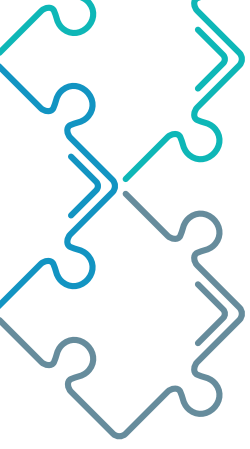
Pruitt is known on Wikipedia by his user name, Ser Amantio di Nicolao, borrowed from a character in an opera he loves, Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi." He typically puts in a couple of hours during weekday evenings and more time on the weekends.

He began dabbling in Wikipedia when he discovered the online encyclopedia while he was attending William & Mary as an art history major. The first article he wrote was about Peter Francisco, a Portuguese-born Revolutionary War hero known as the "Virginia Giant" who was also Pruitt's great-great-great-great-great grandfather on his father's side of the family. Since that first contribution, he's written more than 31,000 other articles — some, he acknowledges, with the aid of a template.

"He cares so intensely about the spread of knowledge," says Bethany Brookshire '04, a friend from

THE WIKIMAN





college who lives in the Washington area. “The instant he learns something, he has to tell you.”

In addition to his own writing and editing, Pruitt leads training sessions to help others learn how to edit, and he’s interested in getting more women involved, says Brookshire. A staff writer for *Science News for Students*, published by the nonprofit Society for Science and the Public, she is also the subject of a Wikipedia article — though Pruitt didn’t write it, because he considered that a conflict of interest. He is driven to give under-represented populations a presence on Wikipedia, Brookshire says. “He’s passionate about bringing unknown people to light.”

That interest sparked Pruitt’s involvement in Wikipedia’s Women in Red project (the “red” reference highlights the goal of turning red links to blue by adding articles about accomplished women).

The project co-founder, Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight, says she met Pruitt about five years ago after they crossed paths collaborating on Wikipedia articles. In 2014, she asked him to help with a project titled Women Writers, which involved about 5,000 articles.

“In order to better understand which areas our members should focus on, I knew we needed to do a better job of categorizing the articles within our scope,” says Stephenson-Goodknight, a visiting scholar at Northeastern University in Boston and vice-president of Wikimedia District of Columbia who lives on the West Coast. “Because Steve is adept at using a tool called AutoWikiBrowser, I enlisted him to create hundreds of categories. At first, I suggested what to create, but after a bit, he took the initiative, and created hundreds more.”

Examples of those categories include historical novelists, crime writers, and writers from Lesotho, Botswana and Eritrea.

The categories helped point out where articles were lacking, she says. “Then we tried to do something about it, by creating articles to fill these categories.”

When Stephenson-Goodknight founded Women in Red, Pruitt again stepped up to create thousands of new categories and write hundreds of articles.

“He is so genuine and fascinating,” she says. “Every time I’m in Washington, D.C., since then, we try and meet for dinner to catch up with each other.”

Since the Women in Red project began, Pruitt says, the percentage of biographical articles about women on Wikipedia has climbed from 14 percent to 17.65 percent.

“In two or three years, we’ve moved the needle,” he says.

Pruitt is especially pleased with a piece he wrote about Fati Mariko, a singer from Niger who has sold hundreds of thousands of records.

“She’s one of the most popular artists in the country,” he says. “But there’s nothing about her online, except for some videos of her songs on

YouTube. That’s the kind of thing you run into when you talk about systemic bias on the internet.”

Another Wikipedia project that’s close to Pruitt’s heart is photographing Virginia sites that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Thanks in large part to Pruitt and another contributor based in Lynchburg, he says, 95 percent of the National Register sites in the state are illustrated.

During a vacation in July, he contributed additional images. On the Eastern Shore, he took a picture at the Northampton County grave of blues musician Arthur “Big Boy” Crudup, who wrote several songs that became hits for Elvis Presley, including the rock ‘n’ roll icon’s first single, “That’s All Right.” During a stop at William & Mary, Pruitt photographed Blow Memorial Hall and then uploaded the shot to Wikimedia Commons using a smartphone app and added the picture to Wikipedia’s article about the building. He also photographed sites in Goochland, Powhatan, Lancaster and Charles City counties, as well as the city of Richmond and Dorchester County, Maryland.

A Wikipedia article that Pruitt wrote about Mary-Cooke Branch Munford in 2015 blends his commitment to gender equity and Virginia history with affection for his alma mater. A champion of education and women’s rights, Munford played a vital role in persuading William & Mary to admit women in 1918, and two years later, she became the first woman to serve on the Board of Visitors.

It’s Friday evening at the Pruitt home, and before the AutoWikiBrowser demonstration, we’ve been talking in the living room, where Steven’s mother, Alla, served a tray with a china tea set, cherry tree tea and homemade cookies while his father, Donald, relaxes in an armchair.

Steven doesn’t seem to mind starting his weekend by doing an interview. “It’s either this or editing,” he says. “Or going to the gym.”

Though he’s lived in Virginia most of his life, Pruitt was born in San Antonio, Texas, where his parents met as teachers in the Defense Language Institute’s Russian Department at Lackland Air Force Base. The family moved to Monterey, California, for several years before settling in Northern Virginia in 1989, when Steven was 5.

“They both taught Russian to the military at the height of the Cold War,” he says, noting that his father, an Army veteran, also speaks Spanish, French, German and Italian — learning the latter two mainly from opera librettos.

Alla Pruitt was born in Russia and immigrated to the United States in 1979, when an agreement between then-President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev allowed Russian Jews to leave the country and reunite with relatives.

“So all of a sudden people started finding long-lost relatives, and mostly in Israel of course,” Alla says. “And the story was that if somebody was leaving to Israel, you’d just give that person your



**“I’VE BROKEN
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MARK. I’M THE
No. 1 EDITOR.
OK, LET’S SEE
IF I CAN GET A
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NEXT GUY.”**



name and in a week, you’d get an invitation from your second cousin three times removed, or uncle or something. Well, my mother did have a cousin in Israel and she sent us an invitation. And we left.”

Donald Pruitt is a Richmond native whose family lived in various locations around Virginia before landing in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Growing up, Steven was an avid reader of classic literature as well as mysteries by Agatha Christie and Ngaio Marsh.

“I’m an only child,” he says. “My parents had me relatively late. I’ve always been a bit of an old soul.”

Alla says that her son spent a lot of time around grownups when he was a child.

“For some reason that I still don’t understand, wherever we lived, there were no kids of his age,” she says. “He always was more comfortable with grownups, I think. And that probably rubbed off. Or maybe because his parents were older. As I keep telling him, we ruined his life because we hauled him to museums and concerts and operas and different countries. Since the age of, I think, 1 or so, he’s been traveling all over the world. He went to London and Paris at the age of 2.”

“I did play baseball with him,” she adds. “I don’t like sports. I don’t like baseball. I don’t know how, but I played baseball with him at the park.”

What does Alla think of her son’s Wikipedia work?

“I have to confess, I’m wrong,” she says. “At first we didn’t want the computer because I knew it’s addictive and time-consuming. Then his teacher said the child needs a computer.”

Steven was in third grade at the time. “Can I just interject for a moment? I think I was the last kid in my class to get a computer,” he says.

“He did a lot of Photoshops and pictures and silly things,” she says. “And then he started on Wikipedia. I said, ‘What is Wikipedia?’”

“I think everybody said that at first,” Steven responds.

“My attitude always was, ‘Why do you waste all the time? Why don’t you read a book instead?’ But then, I realized he’s doing something valuable and important.”

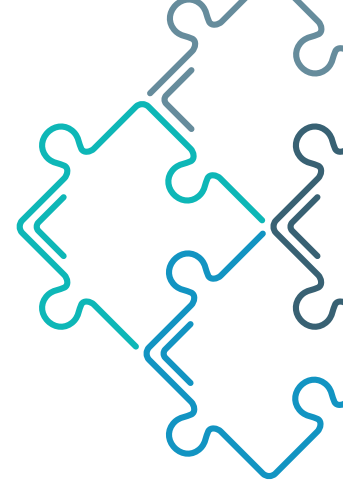
Was she surprised when the Time magazine article came out?

“Pleasantly,” she says, laughing. “We were very happy for him. Kind of unexpected, I have to admit. Being a parent, it makes me very proud, very happy.”

Later, Steven says that in the next few months, he might step back from doing so many Wikipedia edits to work on a book about his mother’s family.

“I’m wary about putting this out there because then people will start asking when’s it going to happen,” he says. “You’ve heard my mother’s story in embryo tonight. I think there’s a book there — the





story of three or four generations of life under the Soviet Union and getting out.”

Meanwhile, he keeps setting goals for himself: “I’ve broken the 2 million mark. I’m the No. 1 editor. OK, let’s see if I can get a million more than the next guy. That hasn’t happened yet. If I ever do some stepping back — and like I said, I’m not going to pull far, far back, it would just come down to a few edits a day, that sort of thing — it will be to focus attention on something like that.”

He’s also mindful that his parents are getting older and he is poised to step up his care and advocacy for them as needed. “I’m playing catcher and waiting for whatever comes flying over the plate,” he says.

Pruitt didn’t set out to be the top English-language Wikipedia editor. “Not at first,” he says. “I think it happened at some point that I saw a list of statistics and I was already fairly high up on it. If I had been fairly low on the list, I would have just said, ‘Eh, well, OK, something to play with now and again.’ But I was already fairly high up on the list, so I thought, ‘Oh, I can aim for a million.’ I think at that point there was only one other editor that had a million. There are now six. I think I was the third person to hit a million on English Wikipedia, and because it’s the largest, I’m probably about third across all platforms.”

Despite spending countless hours in front of a computer screen, Pruitt is far from antisocial. His friends describe him as outgoing, personable and adventurous.

From September to June, he rehearses weekly with the Capitol Hill Chorale, in which he sings first tenor, and he’s known for organizing dinner-and-a-show outings with fellow William & Mary alumni, including former college roommate Harrison Killefer ’06, who also sings in the chorale.

Killefer recalls that a few years ago, Pruitt spearheaded an effort to sample cuisines from a country or region for each letter of the alphabet — going for out-of-the-way places whenever possible. One restaurant the group visited was Oyamel Cocina Mexicana, where Killefer tried grasshopper tacos.

“He’s good at being the catalyst for those activities,” says Killefer, who works in health policy and health strategy for the Mitre Corp.

Like Killefer, Brookshire, a soprano in the Capital Hill Chorale, met Pruitt through choir in college.

“He is one of the most honestly good people I have ever met,” she says. “I’ve never heard him say a mean thing about anybody.”

Both she and Killefer recall the choir as a tight bonding experience, with members spending six hours per week rehearsing and then going on tour together.

Brookshire remembers that whenever Pruitt would see her on campus, he would break into song, serenading her with the line “Oh B., my B.” from the opera “A View From the Bridge.”

“I’d be walking by Crim Dell pond on campus and hear that echoing,” she says. “He’d sing it across the Sunken Garden. It didn’t matter where you were.”

Pruitt says his interest in art history led him to visit William & Mary when he was looking at colleges.

“The first time we were on campus, I said, ‘This feels right.’”

The size of the school appealed to him, as did its history and character. He adds, “I discovered a couple of years ago it’s a campus that has its own smell that stays with you. We were down there for a visit and it had just rained. I walked onto campus, I took one whiff of the wet soil and I said, ‘I’m home.’”

Pruitt recalls memorable classes with art history professors such as Catherine Levesque, Alan Wallach and Miles Chappell ’60, then the department head. Chappell, he says, “tended to mention, just in passing, that he’d worked with so and so in Italy, so and so elsewhere, and then I went into the library one day and happened to discover that he’d curated an entire exhibit at the Pitti Palace in Florence. Never a word about it. And from what I understand, they don’t invite many non-Italian curators to work at the Pitti.”

The William & Mary Choir, led by director James Armstrong P ’21, became a huge part of Pruitt’s college experience.

“We were majors from all sorts of disciplines,” he says, “But for most of us, I think the people we stay in contact with most are the other music nerds.”

Pruitt finds himself remembering a saying Armstrong often used in rehearsal: “There is wonder in well-doing.”

“I can’t say it’s a motto, exactly, but I find it gels with a lot of what I try to do, both online and off,” he says.

Pruitt’s home office is crowded with books, music CDs and mementos from his travels — a carved head from Krakow, Poland, a Cycladic sculpture from the Greek Islands, a cuckoo clock from Switzerland.

Close to his desk is a book that he’s been using to create Wikipedia entries: “The Artists of Washington D.C. 1796-1996.” Flipping through it, he ponders: Who might be a good candidate for a Wikipedia article? Here’s a picture of a bust of artist Reuben LeGrande Johnston by 19th-century sculptor Ulric Dunbar. But there’s very little online about Dunbar, Pruitt says. “He’s documented, but not digitized.”

Pruitt, along with other Wikipedia editors, are devoted to lifting such notable people from obscurity: “What can we unlock from the libraries? What can we make accessible?”

“We’re getting to define who belongs in the greater canon of knowledge,” he says. “Here we are, a bunch of people on the internet, redesigning the canon.” ☺





TRIBE

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POWER FOR ALL

Power Africa is a U.S. government-led initiative whose mission is to enable electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa by adding 30,000 megawatts of power generation and connecting 60 million new households and businesses by 2030. From her office in Washington, D.C., Grace Perkins '14 is helping to power that effort.

PHOTO: OFF GRID ELECTRIC / M-POWER



LET THERE BE LIGHT: *Two out of three people in sub-Saharan Africa live without electricity. Power Africa is trying to change this by 2030.*



"I HAD AN INTEREST IN PEOPLE, SERVICE AND THINGS BIGGER THAN MYSELF."

Power Abroad

GRACE PERKINS '14 IS ELECTRIFYING SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

ALUMNI PROFILE A tailor in Senegal is growing his business because he has reliable electricity from solar panels. A woman in Uganda was recently able to watch the presidential debates in her country for the first time. In previous years, she was unable to view them and felt disconnected from the political process. Now that she has access to electricity she feels like a true citizen.

Grace Perkins '14 is part of a global effort to increase experiences like this for millions more. Perkins works as a program analyst at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Power Africa, a U.S. government-led initiative whose mission is to enable electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa by adding 30,000 megawatts of power generation and connecting 60 million new households and businesses to power by 2030.

Based in Washington, D.C., Perkins' job is to design programs and interventions that support electricity providers in sub-Saharan Africa to sustainably connect more people to power. She identifies public and private resources to help electric utilities provide affordable and reliable electricity to customers in the African region.

"Whether it's households, hospitals, schools, universities or an agricultural processing center, we recognize that electricity is what really drives economic growth and industries in all countries," Perkins says. "For us, those are the customers who need and want electricity, and they have our focus."

ACCESS The U.S. government launched Power Africa in 2013 to overcome sub-Saharan Africa's energy challenges. Two out of three people in this region live without electricity, which equals around 600 million residents, according to Power Africa.

Many residents have resorted to expensive, often dangerous fuel sources such as kerosene to light their homes. Power Africa helps private companies harness diverse energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro, biomass and natural gas to bring electricity to the region.

Perkins' role is to design activities that ensure reliable and affordable connectivity, including programs to help families and businesses pay connection fees that can be as high as \$200 in some countries. A hefty price for many who live there, says Perkins, who has worked at USAID since 2015.

"One way we are able to make electricity more affordable is by promoting technological advances to reduce the cost of electrical wiring or helping structure funds to supplement customer payments," Perkins says.

SMALL TOWN, BIG ASPIRATIONS Perkins' hometown of White Stone, on the Northern Neck in Virginia, had only one stoplight when she was growing up. When a Wal-Mart opened while she was in high school, a marching band welcomed the major retailer, and there was a town celebration. A saxophone player, Perkins was part of the marching band that welcomed the huge retailer to the area.

"I was always a small town girl with ambitions of seeing the rest of the world and always had a specific interest in Africa," Perkins says. "I had an interest in people, service and things bigger than myself."

TRIBE Perkins finally achieved her dream of traveling the world outside of her hometown during her time at William & Mary through the university's study abroad program. As a Monroe Scholar, she was always curious and constantly seeking out opportunities to improve the lives of those in her community and around the world.

"My trip to Cameroon my junior year was exactly what I was seeking — it was what I was looking for," says Perkins. "Cameroon is called 'Africa in miniature,' because it is a melting pot of different cultural groups, different topography, different languages."

While there, she was one of 13 American students taught by Cameroonian professors. They spent time with other college students in the country to get a sense of what the students'

PHOTO: IRENE ANGWENTI / USAID KENYA



GLOBAL INFLUENCE:
Grace Perkins' '14 love and lifelong interest in the international community makes her work at Power Africa a perfect fit.



priorities, goals and dreams were for Cameroon, Perkins says.

Perkins' desire to learn as much as she could about the international world continued to be fueled when she returned home to Virginia soil. At William & Mary, she says, she was surrounded by service-minded peers, and because the university has an internationally-minded culture, she says she never felt alone in her interest of studying abroad.

"I learned from international classmates," Perkins says. "I took classes where I could explore foreign affairs and international economies. I had French professors who pushed me to not only speak the language but to understand it. I also learned to be culturally sensitive and conscious."

After her trip to Cameroon, Perkins coupled her international interest with research through William & Mary's Institute for the Theory & Practice of International Relations (ITPIR). Perkins says conducting research at ITPIR gave her the confidence to believe in her own ideas and pursue them. Her research included helping create a database that tracks Chinese foreign aid flows to Africa and examining the relationship between financial aid allocations and terrorist activities.

"Grace was a fantastic research collaborator," says Michael J. Tierney '87, M.A. '88, George and Mary Hylton Professor of Government and co-director of ITPIR. "At AidData she helped to build a dataset that is now used by researchers in multiple fields, by policy practitioners and by journalists to track Chinese development assistance. But in addition to this collaborative research, Grace spent a year work-

ing on her own white paper through the Project on International Peace and Security."

Tierney says Perkins regularly gives back to William & Mary by helping current students who are studying international relations.

"We are working on a plan to clone her," Tierney says with a laugh.

POWER The demand for reliable electricity in remote parts of sub-Saharan Africa has increased as more technology has reached residents who live outside of urban areas.

"Part of what has happened in Africa is a huge proliferation of mobile phones," Perkins says. "What it has done is given people more instant access to the rest of the world. There is a sense of 'I too am a citizen of this country and I want reliable electricity.'"

There are currently more than 160 private and public partners who have pledged \$55 billion to fund this initiative, according to Power Africa. Public partners include the African Development Bank, the World Bank Group and the governments of Sweden, the European Union, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Perkins' work focuses on collaborating with those partners and leveraging additional resources. She credits William & Mary as being a strong training ground for her career.

"At William & Mary I learned how to put my ideas forth," Perkins says. "Right now I feel like I'm a very small piece of a much larger puzzle, but I'm finding it very rewarding that I get to contribute to this larger effort."

— ASHLEY K. SPEED



UPPER LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE PERKINS '14; BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO: RACHEL COUGH FOR POWER AFRICA; BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO MORGANA WINGARD FOR POWER AFRICA



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CLASS OF 2018: *Cindy Satterwhite Jarboe '77, P '11 welcomes President Emeritus W. Taylor Reveley, III LL.D. '18 and Helen Bond Reveley as honorary alumni.*



Honorary Alumni

WILLIAM & MARY FAMILY GAINS SIX HONORARY ALUMNI

HONORARY ALUMNI In May, the William & Mary Alumni Association inducted six new honorary alumni into its ranks at the annual induction ceremony. The honorees, including William & Mary President-Emeritus W. Taylor Reveley, III LL.D. '18, were recognized for their exceptional service, support, advocacy and commitment on behalf of William & Mary and its schools, departments, organizations and boards.

"To all of our new honorary alumni, congratulations. Your devotion to William & Mary began not as students, but it is as deeply held as any alumna or alumnus," said Chancellor Robert M. Gates '65, L.H.D. '98, in remarks during the ceremony.

Honorary alumni are non-graduates of William & Mary who have gone above and beyond in their support of the Alma Mater of the Nation. Throughout the year, the Alumni Association accepts letters of nomination for this distinguished award. The Alumni Association's Board of Directors then votes on the final awardees.

Since the Honorary Alumni Ceremony began in 1994, 104 individuals have been inducted into the Alumni Association. Many previous honorees were in attendance at this year's ceremony.

"All our honorees have invested themselves selflessly to help the university and our community become what we are today," said Cindy Satterwhite Jarboe '77, P '11, immediate past president of the William & Mary Alumni Association. "William & Mary is deeply indebted to them."

The Honorary Alumni Ceremony is one of several awards and recognition programs that the Alumni Association holds throughout the course of the year. Other events include the Alumni Medallion Ceremony,

the Douglas N. Morton '62 Alumni Service Awards, the Olde Guard Distinguished Service Award and Student Academic Prizes.

"The individuals we honor today have worked tirelessly on behalf of William & Mary through their advocacy, engagement, commitment and support. Their passion and loyalty are inspiring and we are grateful for their leadership and friendship," said Marilyn Ward Midyette '75, executive director of the William & Mary Alumni Association. "They are valued members of the Tribe and make our community stronger."

JOSEPH "JOE" GOFUS

A steadfast presence at William & Mary and a passionate supporter of his adopted alma mater, Joe Gofus is a treasured member of the Tribe. For decades, he and his late wife, Nancy Burgess Gofus '75, have been a caring and generous force for good at the university. When she became chair of the foundation board, Joe Gofus' support and enthusiasm for the university grew even stronger. He was with her every step of the way, dedicating his time to their volunteer work and campus events, always committed to ensuring the William & Mary community thrives.

Joe Gofus' long and successful career as a meteorologist and computer systems analyst at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration inspired him to support Arts & Sciences in a multitude of ways, including contributing to the Cabell Challenge, which provided science equipment for the new Integrated Science Center.

Both Joe and Nancy Gofus were first-generation college students and scholarship recipients, which fostered their shared passion for affording opportunities for exceptional students through scholarships

PHOTO: SKIP ROWLAND '83

at William & Mary. Joe Gofus encourages students to appreciate their William & Mary education and reminds them of their responsibility to give back when they are able.

STEPHEN "STEVE" A. JOHNSEN

When Steve Johnsen sees an opportunity for the advancement of research, teaching excellence and community engagement at William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), he makes it happen.

Steve Johnsen has served as president of the VIMS Foundation for three years, during which time the VIMS campaign grew by more than \$10 million. Under his leadership, the foundation launched robust oversight initiatives including new audit and governance committees, advocated with VIMS for a new Richmond lobby day and helped VIMS secure public funding to build its Eastern Shore campus. Steve Johnsen oversaw the merger of three VIMS boards, which brought a new level of cooperation and greater effectiveness to their work. In 2016, he was awarded the Freeman Volunteer of the Year Award by VIMS in recognition of this effort.

He led initiatives to establish the Bonnie Sue summer internship program on the Eastern Shore, which gives youth exposure to marine science, VIMS and W&M through a summer research internship. For their active role in their community, Steve Johnson and his wife, Barbara Johnsen Ed.S. '90, Ed.D. '95, were recently named citizens of the year by the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce. They were pivotal in bringing to VIMS a sculpture by Eastern Shore artist David Turner '83 that now graces Waterman's Hall circle. The research vessel "Peregrination," designed to support the field research of Chris Hein, assistant professor of marine science, also joined the VIMS fleet thanks to their generosity.

Steve Johnsen strengthens relationships between VIMS and the larger William & Mary and Eastern Shore communities through his many leadership roles. He has served on the advisory board and foundation board of directors of Eastern Shore Community College, spearheaded a fundraising campaign for the Montessori Children's House of Franktown, served on the board of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, and was recently named by Gov. Ralph Northam to the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board. Before his retirement, he was president and CEO of the Flagship Group, Ltd. and executive vice president of Brown & Brown Insurance.

TAYLOR REVELEY, III AND HELEN BOND REVELEY

In a decade of extraordinary service to William & Mary as its president, Taylor Reveley has built a genuine sense of community that has strengthened the entire university family and infused a renewed sense of pride in the Alma Mater of the Nation. After serving as dean of the law school for 10 years, he became the 27th president of William & Mary during a time of uncertainty. His steady hand united and advanced the university we all hold dear, bringing together the support of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

Taylor Reveley has worked tirelessly to enhance William & Mary's preeminence in the nation and the world, increasing the visibility and prestige of the university. He has guided the reshaping of the academic curriculum, enhanced the physical footprint of campus and introduced a strategic planning process to set W&M on a course for success well into the future. He also successfully merged Alumni Association and University Advancement operations, streamlining and greatly enhancing alumni communications and services.

He has led the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the university's history, which is building a firm foundation of academic excellence, financial security and alumni engagement for generations to come. Under his leader-



HONORED: Top photo: Steve Johnsen and Chancellor Robert M. Gates '65, L.H.D. '98; middle photo: Joe Gofus and Cindy Jarboe '77; bottom photo: Joel Schwartz and Chancellor Gates.



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TRIBE PRIDE: *The Honorable John Charles Thomas said he feels “such hope” for the future of William & Mary.*

ship, alumni, parents and friends have strengthened their ties with the university, with Taylor Reveley personally leading the way through his enthusiastic participation and fervent dedication to building stronger connections between all members of the William & Mary family.

Helen Reveley has served actively as First Lady of William & Mary, attending countless university events and ceremonies, enthusiastically giving of her time and talent. She has graciously hosted alumni, students, faculty, staff, community members and honored guests in the President’s House, making all feel welcome. As loyal confidant to Taylor Reveley, her steady hand and sound judgment played an enormously important role as he led the university with great distinction.

JOEL D. SCHWARTZ

For 30 years, Schwartz has admirably led the Roy R. Charles Center for Academic Excellence, which supports faculty development, student research and active learning as well as honors and interdisciplinary studies. Throughout his tenure, he has engaged the entire William & Mary community in his passion: giving students opportunities to become better versions of themselves through learning and dedication to service.

Schwartz has played an important role in the growth of Arts & Sciences through his successful fundraising efforts, including securing key grants from the Andrew Mellon Foundation and increasing private funding for the Honors Fellowship Program. He initiated the freshman seminar program in Arts & Sciences, transformed the Charles Center into the nexus of interdisciplinary studies at William & Mary and helped establish undergraduate research as a vital component of a William & Mary education for multiple generations of students and faculty.

Schwartz came to William & Mary in the 1980s after earning his Ph.D. from University of California at Berkeley and serving on the faculty of Oberlin College. As the Wiengartner Professor of Government, he teaches political philosophy and classes in the COLL curriculum on citizenship and community.

A hands-on participant in his programs, Schwartz’s enthusiasm for advancing William & Mary is influential. He created the Sharpe Scholars Program for academic service learning and he has been a champion for diversity of faculty and students. He also administers the Teaching Project, which provides opportunities for faculty to learn from and mentor one another.

THE HONORABLE JOHN CHARLES THOMAS

Thomas has been a dedicated and energetic part of the William & Mary family for more than a quarter century. He is a role model to undergraduate and law students alike, not only for his inspiring words but also for his actions and accomplishments. Since 1990, Thomas has set William & Mary Law School students on the road to success with his first day, first year lectures. He has given the law school’s commencement address twice in 25 years, and in 2012 he also served as the law school’s commencement speaker and panelist at the first African-American Law Alumni Celebration.

In 1983, Thomas became the first African-American justice of the Virginia Supreme Court, and the youngest, at just 32 years old. He has taught appellate practice at the University of Virginia Law School, serves as senior partner at Hunton & Williams, is a trustee of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello and sits on the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland. Yet he still finds time to serve the Alma Mater of the Nation. Thomas is the longest serving member of the Board of Visitors in modern history, serving consecutively since 2006. He sat on William & Mary’s Commission for the Tercentenary in 1993, and since 2012, he has been a member of the Monroe Commission and serves as special advisor to the Design Review Board, which ensures the architectural consistency of the university’s buildings and grounds.

As he said to William & Mary students in his 2017 Convocation address: “You are here to be about the business of the skills of freedom so that you can go out and move mountains, so you can change the world, so you can make things better. Get some light and share it.”

— CLAUDE DE LISLE



Admission Guru

VALERIE WILKINS M.Ed. '08 IS YOUR GUIDE THROUGH THE ADMISSION PROCESS



FIND YOUR FIT: Valerie Wilkins M.Ed. '08 works with University Admissions and experts nationwide to help legacy families find their college fit.



ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT “I want to be the help someone provided for me.” That’s the mission of Valerie Brown Wilkins M.Ed. '08, alumni admission associate, as she guides alumni and their high school-aged children through the sometimes-stressful process of applying for college.

“Even if your student is not considering William & Mary, the resources the Alumni Association provides can still be useful for helping you navigate the admission process as a whole,” she says. “We consult experts from around the country to provide advice on everything from financial aid to writing the personal essay to how to live in a residence hall.”

Wilkins creates and runs a wide variety of programs and services related to college admissions.

The Alumni Admission Weekend — Rising juniors and seniors and their guardians have the opportunity to hear from experts in the field about the college admissions process, and families can experience the decision process through the eyes of an admission professional in a mock committee exercise. It’s a lot to take in, but it’s a lot of fun too!

“The people are my favorite part of my job!” she says. “We have amazing alumni and I get to interface with them in a variety of ways. At the Alumni Admission Weekend, everyone is so happy and excited, and it makes everything we did to prepare feel worthwhile.”

Webinars — View from anywhere, live or on demand! Topics include “The Common Application,” “Recommendation Letters” and more. Wilkins recommends taking notes, asking questions and sharing with friends — viewers don’t need to be alumni.

Legacy Family Programs — Throughout the year, the Alumni Association celebrates legacy families (families in which one generation has attended William & Mary). Wilkins also helps legacy families arrange campus tours and professor visits.

Alumni Admission Volunteer Network — Help recruit the best and brightest to William & Mary! Volunteers receive training to attend college fairs, write congratulatory cards to accepted students and spread the word about the Alma Mater of the Nation. Sign up at wmalumni.com/volunteer.

Wilkins' passion for helping students find their college fit originated when she was a high school student in Richmond, Virginia. She was part of the Partnership for the Future program, which provides underrepresented students with summer internships as well as college visits, SAT prep, essay writing help and community service opportunities.

With the guidance of this program, she attended the University of Richmond for her undergraduate degree, and she realized she wanted to help others on their path to college. William & Mary was a perfect fit for her master's degree in higher education.

While a graduate student, she worked in what is now the Center for Student Diversity and the Dean of Students Office with nontraditional students and ran summer residential programs for high school students, valuable experience for her current role at the university. She has also worked at the University of Richmond and the University of Georgia in their multicultural affairs offices.

"Being a member of the Tribe has taken on many forms for me," she says. "As a student, it mostly meant the academics. As staff, it meant being a

resource to students. Now, it's about the connections, helping others fulfill their dreams."

After talking with thousands of parents and students about the college admission process, Wilkins sums up her advice in just four points to remember:

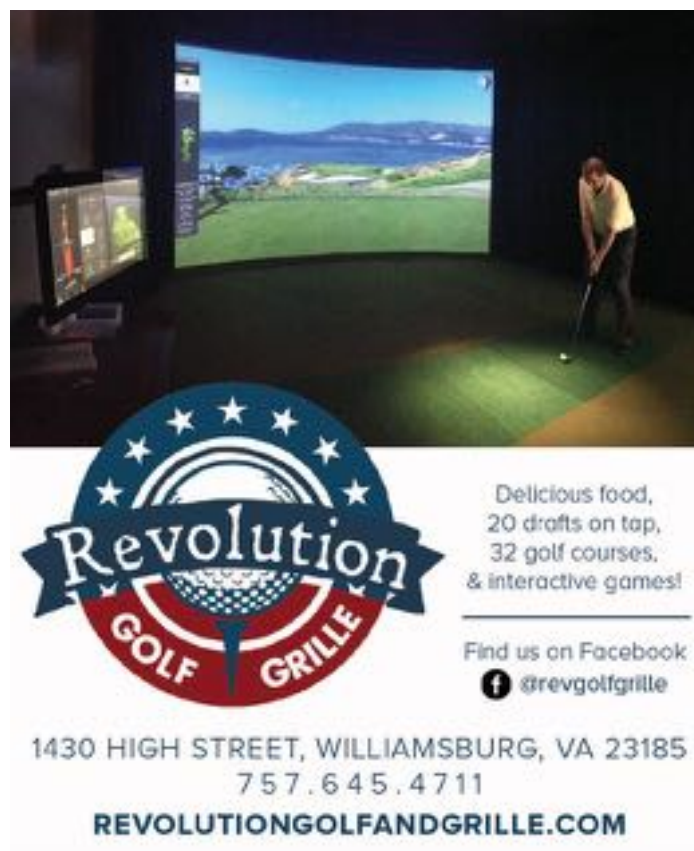
1. Trust that you've raised your children to be amazing individuals.
2. Trust the process. It's designed so the right students find the right colleges.
3. Help your students know that they are going to land in the right place. College is about the experiences that you have. Each student finds the place they can thrive in the end.

4. Remember, even though this process can be stressful, students should enjoy this time of their lives too!

Wilkins feels like she has landed in the right place at William & Mary.

"Every day I feel very connected to the Tribe and to Williamsburg," says Wilkins. "William & Mary helped me find a voice and laid the foundation for the professional I am today."

— CLAIRE DE LISLE





W&M Weekend in Chicago

CELEBRATING WILLIAM & MARY IN THE WINDY CITY

W&M WEEKEND From the first event to the last, William & Mary Weekend in Chicago was an adventure, with 450 alumni, parents and friends from 23 states gathering in the Windy City to connect, discover and celebrate. There were more than 26 cultural, social, intellectual and professional events held throughout the Weekend, including a behind-the-scenes look at the Field Museum's Tang Hall of China, an improv comedy show, a private tour of Wrigley Field and more.

Former William & Mary President Taylor Reveley LL.D. '18, HON '18 and University of Chicago President Bob Zimmer dug into issues of free speech on college campuses at the Free Speech Under Fire panel.

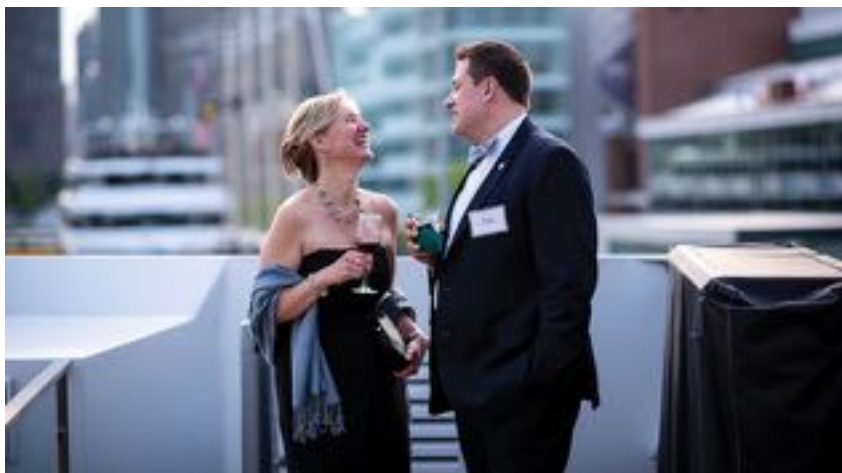
At "A Higher Loyalty: Opening Reception and Keynote," James B. Comey Jr. '82, LL.D. '08, P '10, P '22 shared how his time at William & Mary shaped his life and career.

The beautiful Chicago skyline was the perfect backdrop for the Gala, Auction and Chicago Lights Dinner Cruise. Attendees learned more about the fascinating history of the city, enjoyed an elegant seated dinner and bid on fabulous experiences and one-of-a-kind items.

— CLAIRE DE LISLE



ONLINE: Watch a video recap of the William & Mary Weekend in Chicago at wmalumnimagazine.com



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“I feel humbled by the opportunity to honor someone I loved while making a positive impact for William & Mary.”

— Cory English



YOUR LEGACY FOR ALL TIME COMING.

“Why do I give?” Everyone has their own story for why they give. Mine starts with my courageous wife whom I lost to cancer eight years ago. She was my best friend and my hero and I wanted to mark her presence in a positive way. For me, giving to William & Mary seemed like the most obvious thing to do. Through leading a laboratory design firm, I worked closely with the university’s faculty and saw first-hand the remarkable collaborative research they undertake with students. This inspired me to establish the English-Stonehouse Fellowship. Every year, I meet the recipients and see the hands-on impact of my giving. I’ve been so impressed that I also chose to include William & Mary in my estate. Knowing that my support will continue to benefit this program and honor my wife after I am gone means a great deal.”



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For assistance with your charitable gift plans, contact
Kirsten A. Kellogg '91, Ph.D., Executive Director of Gift Planning
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