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With the addition of The Martha Wren Briggs Center for the Visual Arts, the expanded Muscarelle will bring together campus and community like never before!

The Muscarelle Museum of Art will re-open in late 2024 with three times the galleries and exciting new educational and event spaces. Funded entirely through private giving, this project will anchor the William & Mary Arts Quarter with a state-of-the-art regional venue for students, faculty, staff, alumni and the broader community to come together to experience world-class exhibitions and robust academic programs.

Join us and add your support!
Winter 2024

VOLUME 89, NUMBER 2

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CLOSE ENCOUNTER

During Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2023, the university community welcomed Glenn Close ’74, D.A. ’89, H.F. ’19, one of the nation’s most distinguished actors of stage, television and film, for the dedication of the renovated Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall and new Music Arts Center in the William & Mary Arts Quarter. PBK’s main stage was renamed the Glenn Close Theatre in Close’s honor.
When there is a tour walking around campus and the guide asks a student passing by what their favorite part about William & Mary is, their response is always “the people.” Every student and alumnus knows that the best thing about our university is the kindness of the people in our community and their excitement about our university, no matter where they are.

I often feel a connection when meeting W&M alumni for the first time — whether I’m at a breakfast in Washington, D.C., attending a leadership conference in Colorado or taking a trans-Atlantic flight. Reminiscing about W&M traditions and freshman halls, strangers soon become friends through our love for alma mater.

I see this again and again as I connect with many W&M people through my position as chair of Students for University Advancement (SUA), through which I also represent students on the W&M Alumni Association board and the Annual Giving Board. SUA is a student organization dedicated to building a culture of engagement and philanthropy among undergraduate students. When we educate and engage current students, from first-year students to seniors, they will leave William & Mary with a better understanding of the importance and impact of giving back to the university as alumni with their time, talent and treasure.

I became involved in SUA while completing my freshman year online during the COVID-19 pandemic. At a time when it was difficult to connect to people in person, I wanted a way to be involved in the campus community. After learning more about the depth of impact SUA has on students and alumni, I knew I would be a part of it throughout my time as a student, and well beyond.

This year, SUA has strengthened W&M’s culture of engagement and philanthropy through new and reimagined initiatives. As one example, we took the lead on encouraging student participation in the 2023 Homecoming Parade. With support from the alumni engagement team, we worked hard to ensure student organizations showed their school spirit by walking, performing or organizing a float. While being a part of the fun, students also had the chance to win up to $1,000 for their organization.

Also during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, SUA hosted Cheers to Your Senior Year to celebrate our graduating seniors and introduce students to what they can expect from Homecoming as alumni. Both events were tremendously successful, with more than 40 student organizations participating in the parade and over 1,000 seniors attending Cheers!

SUA also encouraged philanthropic giving through the Senior Class Gift.

BY ABIGAIL “ABBY” STERN ’24
Chair, Students for University Advancement

W&M ALUMNI MAGAZINE
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When members of the senior class make a gift to any area of William & Mary, they receive a mug they can use to get discounts at local businesses. This year, we expanded our partnerships to nine businesses, including Green Leafe, Culture Café, Column 15, The Meadows and Aromas, and helped student organizations host events where attendees were encouraged to make a gift to W&M. Finally, to congratulate the student body on a wonderful semester, SUA hosted a study hall at the Alumni House the weekend before finals began. This encouraged students to learn more about the work that SUA does and make good memories with their classmates in a beautiful space they will, we hope, return to often as alumni.

These are just a few of the ways in which Students for University Advancement plays a key role in spreading the spirit of engagement and philanthropy across campus. Other examples include Cheers to Your First Year, which is a partnership with the Student Transition Engagement Program (STEP) and W&M Athletics to welcome first-year students to campus traditions; Tag Day, when we hang signs around campus showing all that our donors make possible; and Impact Week, which supports service projects by community organizations. Each of these shows just how deeply W&M people care about our alma mater and each other.

We look forward to continuing our work on campus in the years ahead, and I look forward to staying engaged with W&M as an alumna.

SHOW W&M STUDENTS THE POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY

**Internships open doors to career success.** Providing a funded internship or other applied learning experience for every undergraduate is a top priority in W&M’s strategic plan, Vision 2026. **W&M alumni can help.**

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entrepreneurial faculty leaders brought an intriguing pitch: that W&M might reorganize in a way that would grow our impact, raise our profile and maximize our ability to retain and recruit talent at all levels.

Over the past two years, W&M led an inclusive, thorough process of soliciting feedback from the full university community. A steering committee representing every school at the university then took this input and considered what the parameters for a possible new school should be.

Through this comprehensive process, it became clear that W&M’s breadth in the liberal arts and sciences could differentiate our school on a national scale. At W&M, as I have framed it, we keep the human in artificial intelligence. We approach data science and its applications as a new liberal art for the 21st century. We understand its toolkits as modes of critical thinking: where ethical, practical and human issues converge in the service of moral reasoning and good problem-solving.

W&M’s new school is starting from a place of strength. It will bring together more than 480 undergraduates, 166 graduate students, 9 degree pathways and 78 faculty and staff. Together they will be able to evolve their curriculum more nimbly, reimagine pathways through majors, develop local partnerships and accelerate research funding. Collaborative research and interdisciplinary connections elevate student learning across the university.

As in the past, this new school responds to key developments in our Commonwealth and nation. Virginia has prioritized talent pipelines, consistent with the Virginia Chamber’s Blueprint 2030 goals, so our reorganization has been warmly welcomed by leaders in the state and region.

Construction for the fourth phase of our Integrated Science Center (ISC IV), which will house the new school, is underway, with total funding from the commonwealth expected to reach just over $101 million. In October 2023, W&M’s longtime partner the Jefferson Lab was selected for a High Performance Data Facility, with an expected investment of $300 million to $500 million — which will allow us to expand research together. This achievement followed years of steady advocacy and support by W&M leadership.

At the time of this publication, a national search for the school’s first dean is underway. In early spring, we will seek final approval from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. We aim to open the school officially in fall 2025.

Charter Day celebrates the throughlines that have anchored W&M since 1693: boldness, a forward-looking mindset and a steadfast commitment to the liberal arts & sciences. Those commitments continue to inspire our vision, now in our fourth century.

I hope you feel — as I do — what an immense honor it is to be part of this community. These are the moments to take a long view and make long plays — so that the Alma Mater of the Nation leads in this century and for all times coming.
It’s challenging to navigate the college experience as a first-generation student, but at the same time it’s inspiring to see how my confidence has grown while I’m going through things a lot of my peers aren’t — I know I can overcome challenges and be an inspiration for my family, and that is all thanks to the scholarships support that has made my college experience possible.

Elizabeth Diaz ’24
GEOLOGY

“...”

Scholarships have the power to transform lives. Learn more by contacting Angela Barlee Ed.D. ’22, executive director of development for scholarships and student affairs philanthropy, at adbarte@wm.edu or 757-221-7879.
VIMS Photo Contest

Capturing the important work of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science

BY UNIVERSITY STAFF

THE VIMS PHOTO CONTEST, NOW IN ITS 24TH year, recognizes the most noteworthy images captured by William & Mary’s Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) faculty, staff and students while in the field and laboratory.

Chartered in 1940, VIMS is currently among the largest marine research and education centers in the United States. VIMS has a three-part mission to conduct research in coastal ocean and estuarine science, educate students and citizens, and provide advisory service to policymakers, industry and the public. VIMS provides these services to Virginia, the nation and the world.

Graduate students in W&M’s School of Marine Science at VIMS conduct research that extends from inland watersheds to the open ocean, with an emphasis on coastal and estuarine science.

One of the four cornerstone initiatives of the university’s Vision 2026 strategic plan is Water. Over the next 50 years, one of the world’s most threatened and valuable resources will be water. Solving global issues related to water will require innovative approaches to conservation and strategies to increase resilience. As home to VIMS, one of the world’s preeminent marine science institutes — and outstanding conservation, law, policy and education programs — William & Mary is poised to be a leader in the development of solutions to these complex challenges. Our students will lead the next generation of scientists and industry professionals who steward the world’s water resources.

BLANKET OCTOPUS PARALARVA: This is the tiny paralarva of a blanket octopus (Tremoctopus violaceus). This specimen was found among the plankton tows from the Bermuda Atlantic Time Series Long-Term Ecological Research project (BATS LTER). This image was taken through a Leica MZ12 microscope using a Nikon Z7 camera. It is made of several discrete micrographs taken at incremental focus heights and then stacked using Helicon Focus.
GRAND PRIZE WINNER: Kaitlyn Parker, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia (CBNERR-VA) laboratory & field research specialist, took this photo of Tochi Iwuji (CBNERR-VA 2023 Hollings Scholar) and Eduardo Miles (CBNERR-VA Marine Scientist) retrieving a YSI EXO from the Stingray Point CBIBS buoy.
OTHER WINNERS & HONORABLE MENTIONS: Top: If you have ever walked through a wetland, you might have noticed a shiny surface on the water which resembles an oil slick. Surprisingly, these are natural! The shiny surface is actually a very, very thin crystalline metallic layer created by iron-reducing bacteria commonly found in marshes. Middle Left: Nepal Fish FACTS team bringing back fishes sampled with a seine on the East Rapti River, Nepal. Middle Right: A fever of cow-nose rays. Bottom: Bay scallop broodstock are gathered and cleaned in preparation for spawning.

ONLINE: To see all photos, visit magazine.wm.edu/vims-photos
Lighting the Way
$2.5-million scholarship and applied learning gift will open doors for Pell Grant-eligible students from outside Virginia

BY TINA ESHLEMAN

When new William & Mary students formally begin the academic year during Convocation, they pass through the Wren Building and receive an enthusiastic welcome from the university community on the other side. The pathway toward their future is illuminated not only by the Wren’s green and gold lights, but also by cheers, noisemakers and colorful handmade signs letting them know they belong at W&M.

A $2.5-million scholarship and applied learning endowment recently established by D. Bruce Christian ’73 and his wife, Spas Christian, will extend that warm welcome for out-of-state, Pell Grant-eligible students starting in the 2024-25 academic year.

The aptly named Lighting the Way Scholarship will fully cover the cost of each recipient’s attendance — including tuition, fees, housing, food and books and supplies — when combined with a Pell Grant and university funding. Its accompanying applied learning endowment will provide additional funds for each scholarship recipient to pursue opportunities such as internships, research and study abroad. This is the first scholarship that includes fully paid applied learning experiences for Pell Grant recipients.

Bruce Christian says the couple wants to afford prospective students with limited income the opportunity to attend William & Mary by helping to eliminate financial obstacles, recognizing that for an out-of-state student, the total cost of attendance is significantly higher.

“William & Mary is exactly the right place for so many people,” Christian says. “It was exactly the right place for me, and I would hate to think that there was anyone who could not come for lack of resources.”

The new scholarship aligns with William & Mary’s commitment to increase access and affordability for students, and to ensure that each undergraduate has the opportunity for a funded internship or other applied learning experience.

“Two bright lights in our community, Bruce and Spas Christian ensure that the Alma Mater of the Nation shines for future generations of students,” President Katherine Rowe says. “We are most grateful for their partnership to increase affordability.”

As part of the university’s commitment to affordability opportunity, William & Mary has successfully increased the enrollment of Pell Grant recipients from Virginia. In the 2023-24 academic year, W&M began ensuring scholarship aid to cover at least tuition and fees for all in-state undergraduate Pell Grant-eligible students. Currently, about 18% of in-state students are Pell Grant recipients, a number that has increased 30% over the past decade. Because of the difference in tuition for out-of-state students, scholarships such as Lighting the Way are essential to help raise the percentage of undergraduate Pell Grant recipients from outside Virginia, now just over 4%.

According to U.S. Department of Education data, more than 93% of Pell Grant recipients come from

SERVANT LEADER:
D. Bruce Christian ’73, pictured here in one of his many signature bowties at a For the Bold campaign celebration, is a longtime W&M supporter and volunteer.
families earning less than $60,000 per year, and nearly half of all first-generation college students receive Pell Grants.

Since 2011, the university has raised more than $350 million for scholarships, and 35% of undergraduates now receive need-based aid. This support has not gone unnoticed: The Princeton Review has ranked W&M 13th among the best value public colleges.

W&M has the highest four-year graduation rate for Pell Grant recipients of any public university in Virginia, at 87%. In addition, W&M students who received federal aid, including Pell Grants, earn 35% more in median income — nearly $17,000 more per year — than the national median. The percentage of William & Mary students who graduate with debt, 31%, is less than half of the national average of 64%.

The Princeton Review also named William & Mary the best public institution for internships, highlighting the university’s commitment to preparing students for successful careers.

Pell Grants provide students a maximum of $7,395 per year, based on their family income. Once the amount of the Pell Grant is subtracted, the Lighting the Way scholarship will pay for up to half of the student’s remaining cost of attendance, with William & Mary providing the rest.

Two students will be selected for the scholarship every four years, with a goal of increasing the number to three or more students as income from the endowment grows.

The name of the scholarship is a nod to the Christians’ gift in 2022 of permanent lighting for the exterior of the Wren Building that allows it to glow with green and gold for events such as Convocation and Commencement, and other colors for different occasions. The lighting gift honors Sue Hanna Gerdelman ’76, P ’07, P ’13, chair of both William & Mary’s For the Bold campaign and the All In campaign for W&M Athletics.

An additional gift from the Christians this past summer will extend the lighting of the building and grounds to the Sunken Garden.

Although he grew up in Lynchburg, Virginia, Bruce attended graduate school at Tulane University in New Orleans and Spas is from the Chicago area, so they have seen the value of getting to know people with wide-ranging life experiences.

“At Tulane, I was surrounded by people who were from all over the U.S. and different parts of the world as well,” Bruce says. “That’s what I want for William & Mary — to bring people who think differently and come from different backgrounds. All it can do is build us into a better university and a better overall community.”

While the new scholarship will bring students from outside Virginia to campus, an earlier gift from the couple provides opportunities for William & Mary
students to study far from Williamsburg. Named in honor of the late Professor Judy Ewell, Christian’s advisor and mentor during his time at William & Mary, the Christian-Ewell Scholarship Endowment enables students to engage in summer research in Latin America.

Christian says his own research under Ewell’s guidance at William & Mary led him to graduate school, which included the opportunity to study in Mexico. He is looking forward to seeing what kinds of applied learning programs the Lighting the Way Scholarship recipients are able to pursue.

“I think this scholarship is exciting because it will afford students many opportunities to broaden their horizons as well,” he says.

In addition to the Christians’ philanthropic support for William & Mary, Bruce’s list of volunteer leadership roles at William & Mary includes his current position as chair of the Council of Arts & Sciences. He has also served on the W&M Foundation board, the W&M Libraries board, the W&M Alumni Association board, the steering committee for the university’s strategic plan under President Emeritus W. Taylor Reveley III LL.D. ’18, HON ’18 and the National Campaign Steering Committee for the Campaign for William & Mary in 2007, among others. For his dedication and service to his alma mater, he was honored with the Alumni Medallion in 2013.

Christian says that the quality of his experience at William & Mary, both as a student and as an active alumnus, and his belief in the university’s mission are what motivate him to give back.

“There is a quote I love and often use from Thomas Jefferson which says, ‘Let us in education dream of an aristocracy of achievement arising out of a democracy of opportunity.’ This Lighting the Way Scholarship allows William & Mary, in some way, to do just that.”

**FLYING PAST THE COMPETITION**

**W&M NO. 1 FOR STUDY ABROAD**

William & Mary is first among public universities in the nation for study-abroad participation, according to the Open Doors 2023 Report on International Educational Exchange, released Nov. 13 by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Institute of International Education. W&M has ranked first 10 times over the last 15 years. • William & Mary also ranks seventh nationally among all doctorate-granting universities — public and private. • “While the rankings are no doubt significant, William & Mary remains among the national leaders in study abroad in terms of the quality of the experience as well as the number of participants,” says Teresa Longo, associate provost for international affairs and executive director of the Reves Center for International Studies. “Together with our partners abroad, William & Mary has invested in global experiences tied to academic excellence, career readiness and to our students’ understanding of their place in the world.” • In recent years, study abroad has received more attention as an example of applied learning at its best. Employers state that the kind of intercultural knowledge acquired on study-abroad programs is an asset in hiring. Careers is one of four cornerstone initiatives in William & Mary’s Vision 2026 strategic plan. • High-quality applied learning experiences such as study abroad are part of William & Mary’s commitment to offering the most personal educational experience of any public university. Read more at magazine.wm.edu/study-abroad-2023. — KATE HOVING
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A Stand-Up Guy

Patton Oswalt '91, D.A. '23 returns for student show

By University Staff

On Oct. 23, comedian and actor Patton Oswalt '91, D.A. '23 returned to William & Mary to give two stand-up comedy shows for students and young alumni in the newly inaugurated Glenn Close Theatre in Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall.

Oswalt, who is known for such roles as Spence on the TV show “The King of Queens” and the voice of Remy in the movie “Ratatouille,” received an honorary Doctor of Arts degree from William & Mary in May 2023 and delivered the Commencement address. Oswalt has received multiple awards for his wide-ranging work, including Emmy and Grammy awards. He recently co-created the Hulu series “M.O.D.O.K.” and co-starred on the NBC comedy “A.P. Bio.”

In an exclusive interview before his shows with Daniel Kalish '25, news editor of The Flat Hat, Oswalt reminisced about his time at William & Mary, discussed his plans to return to Williamsburg and asked when he’ll get his key to the city. Read the full interview at magazine.wm.edu/oswalt-flat-hat.

A Cool Way to Cool

Monroe Goes Geothermal

As part of the Housing and Dining Comprehensive Facilities Plan, William & Mary is installing a geothermal system that will efficiently and sustainably heat and cool Monroe Hall. The system will be up and running when students return to the building in fall 2024. • Monroe Hall is the first structure at the university to connect to a geothermal system, which regulates temperature by circulating water underground. Old Dominion Hall is also scheduled to receive a geothermal system, and an extensive geothermal field will be constructed to serve all of the new housing and dining facilities under development for the West Woods. The Old Dominion and West Woods projects will be completed in 2025. • Work on the housing and dining facilities plan started this summer. Over the course of the next decade, the university will renovate or replace 80% of its campus residences and add two new dining spaces to the campus. The geothermal systems that are part of that plan support W&M’s Climate Action Roadmap. • Read more at magazine.wm.edu/Monroe-geothermal.

— Laura Grove '22
A pplied science at William & Mary is an interdisciplinary graduate department that uses tools, techniques and principles from multiple sciences to solve complex scientific and technical problems. Graduate students work with faculty from departments throughout the university, as well as with partners from Jefferson Lab, NASA Langley and others.

In November, the Board of Visitors voted unanimously to approve a proposal for a new school at William & Mary that will include the applied science, physics, computer science and data science departments and programs. Master’s and doctoral degrees in applied science, computer science and physics made up over one third of all the graduate degrees conferred by Arts & Sciences in 2023, and of the top 30 most-cited W&M authors, more than half (54%) hail from computer science, data science, applied science and physics. Through the new school, William & Mary plans to expand its focus on data fluency — a pillar of the university’s Vision 2026 strategic plan — facilitating data-intensive research while further enhancing students’ career prospects in sectors that are driving economic growth. A final proposal will be submitted to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) by March 2024 and if approved, the school would launch in fall 2025.

We asked two current doctoral candidates in applied sciences to describe their research on breathing physiology and molecular interactions and explain the scientific equipment that facilitates it.

‘A BACKSTAGE PASS TO THE LUNG SYMPHONY’
By Carlos A. da Silva Jr.
Hey there, lung enthusiast!

While reading this article, you will probably take about 36 breaths. As for me, I took so many while writing this that I lost count. But fear not! You and I do not need to worry about counting each breath, or even think about keeping them going. Your brain has turned on the autopilot and is taking care of that for you. So, lean back, grab a coffee and enjoy this riveting respiratory roller coaster.

Now picture this: 12 breaths per minute are what an average, healthy, 150-pound human would take. Curiously, if a mouse could also read this article, it would be hyperventilating at a whopping 200 breaths per minute.

So, how do we unravel the mysteries of breathing physiology? Here in the Department of Applied Science at William & Mary, I developed a system that allows us to record respiratory parameters in small animals for long periods. It’s based on a methodology and equipment that was already being used, but I refined it to be more accurate and take additional measurements.

This technique is called “whole-body plethysmography,” and here’s some science. The animal is placed in a chamber connected to a pres-
breathing. It’s like a backstage pass to the lung symphony — minus the mice in tuxedos.

Carlos A. da Silva Jr. is a Ph.D. student in the W&M Department of Applied Science, working in the neuroscience lab with Professor Christopher Del Negro.

PROBING MOLECULAR INTERACTIONS WITH NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE
By Andriana C. “Andrea” Zourou

Nearly 80 years ago, American physicist Isidor Isaac Rabi discovered that nuclei act as small magnets when placed in a magnetic field and won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1944. Since then, the field of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) has evolved with giant leaps and has applications in clinical diagnostics, drug development and materials science.

In my doctoral research, I use NMR to probe the relationship between small proteins and lipids — building blocks of living matter — as they interact in the solid state. The goal is to identify antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory agents with the potential for development into therapeutics.

A collaboration between William & Mary and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory in Tallahassee, Florida, which is home to the world’s largest and most high-powered magnet lab, enables me to obtain data from a 14.1-tesla (600-megahertz) instrument on samples I prepare at W&M. For comparison, MRI machines typically have a magnetic field strength of only 0.2-3 tesla, which are units of magnetic flux density.

Nestled inside two “jackets” of cryogenic coolants, a layer of liquid helium and one of liquid nitrogen, a powerful superconducting magnet gives rise to a magnetic field that is most homogeneous at the very center of the instrument. There, the lipid and peptide samples are inserted with a probe. The superconducting coils that surround them exert energy of different radio frequencies (RF). Specific types of nuclei absorb at different RF energies that are unique to their identity. The strength of the magnetic field at the center of the magnet makes the nuclei rotate in a way that is characteristic of how they interact with their environment. Depending on how we apply the RF pulses, this precession gives rise to electromagnetic signals that are captured by the detector. From that, we can determine the molecular interactions at play in the samples.

With the 600-MHz magnet that is typically used for my samples, I measure the insertion of peptides with antibiotic properties inside lipid bilayers that mimic cell membranes. The goal is to elucidate mechanisms of antimicrobial action and identify synergistic agents, such as other peptides or specific lipids, that favor these interactions. Solving mechanisms of drug actions is part of a wider effort of rational drug design in the 21st century using a bottom-up approach that will result in more effective drugs with fewer side effects. NMR is one of the most powerful techniques at the forefront of this effort and by having access to it, researchers like me at William & Mary can push the boundaries of what it is possible to understand at the atomic level.

Andriana C. “Andrea” Zourou is a Ph.D. student in the W&M Department of Applied Science, working in the biophysical chemistry lab with Professor Myriam Cotten.

The Troops to Teachers Virginia Center (TTTVC) at the William & Mary School of Education has secured $760,000 in federal pandemic relief funding through the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund. The funding supports TTTVC’s mission of assisting military veterans and service members in making the transition to careers in education. Funding opportunities are currently available for a variety of needs, and funds will be awarded to eligible applicants on a rolling basis through September 2024. • Karen Hogue, interim director of the Troops to Teachers Virginia Center, highlighted the natural fit of military personnel in the classroom, emphasizing their demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to public service. • A key objective of the Troops to Teachers program is improving student achievement by addressing the nationwide lack of teacher diversity. For example, while 80% of public school teachers nationwide are white and the majority are female, 83% of TTT participants are male, and 43% are minorities. • For more information about TTTVC and how to apply for funding, and to read impactful stories of veterans-turned-educators, please visit magazine.wm.edu/TTTVC. — KIMBERLY RICHARDS-THOMAS
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FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 1, 2024

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ALUMNI MEDALLION RECIPIENTS

PROFILES BY JACOB A. MILLER ’18
The highest and most prestigious award given by the Alumni Association, the Alumni Medallion recognizes outstanding alumni in three distinct categories:

1. **DEDICATION TO AND SUPPORT** for William & Mary
2. **EXEMPLARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS** in their professional lives
3. **LEADERSHIP IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT** in their communities, states or nations

The 2024 Alumni Medallions were bestowed at a ceremony during Charter Day Weekend. A recording of the ceremony and videos featuring the recipients are available at [magazine.wm.edu/medallions-2024](magazine.wm.edu/medallions-2024).

The award reflects the honor that recipients bring to the university and its alumni through their actions and contributions.
Pam is one of W&M’s finest — someone who has had a tremendous career, has given back to her community in countless ways and has been a stalwart supporter of W&M in her work, wealth and wisdom. I can think of no finer example of someone deserving to receive the Alumni Medallion than Pam.

Janet Rollins Atwater ’84, P ’17, P ’20, former Society of 1918 chair
Instilled with a commitment to give back to her community from an early age, Pam has consistently answered the call of alma mater to the betterment of the W&M family. Just two years after graduation, Pam began a more than four-decade-long record of generosity to William & Mary through service and philanthropic investment. Pam’s volunteer roles, including serving previously on the Raymond A. Mason School of Business Accounting Programs board and now as a trustee of the William & Mary Foundation, have made an impact across the university community. On the Foundation board, she is chair of the Academic Initiatives Subcommittee of the Development Strategy Committee and shares her expertise on the Audit and Trusteeship Committees.

Pam helped to establish and is a charter member of the Society of 1918, a giving society committed to growing the engagement, leadership and philanthropy of W&M women. She drafted the organization’s bylaws and served on the Executive, Membership and Steering Committees and was chair of the Membership Committee for five years — a period which saw the society grow to more than 500 members.

Together with her husband, James D. “Jim” Penny J.D. ’83, Pam has generously supported W&M Law School — which named her an honorary alumna in 2016 — including providing funds for the school’s modern atrium space, known as Penny Commons, and for the Penny Professorship of Law. They also established the Penny Professorship, Accounting Scholarship and the Business Analytics Scholarship at the Mason School and contributed to numerous building campaigns across campus. In recognition of her ongoing support, Pam is a member of the James Blair Society, the Wren Society and the Boyle Legacy Society.

Pam had a distinguished 40-year career in finance, auditing and accounting. She graduated from William & Mary with a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting and started her career in a field that was, at the time, heavily dominated by men. She initially worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers, where she was the only woman in their Norfolk office. After two years, she continued her auditing career at KPMG in Norfolk. It was there she met her husband, Jim, who entered W&M Law School the following year.

After a move to Houston, Pam rose to the position of audit partner at KPMG. She then made the career transition from public accounting to private industry at Securities and Exchange Commission-listed companies, first joining American General Corp. and serving as senior vice president and controller. She later joined HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc. and served as executive vice president and chief accounting officer during a series of complicated acquisitions and a highly successful merger with Tokio Marine. She retired in 2016. Throughout her career, she cherished her role as a mentor, forging strong connections with and providing guidance to other rising stars.

A deeply engaged community servant, Pam has been active in many nonprofit service organizations, providing philanthropic support as well as volunteer leadership.

While in Houston, she was president and treasurer of an organization that provided resources and opportunities for at-risk children. She continues to support that cause in the greater Williamsburg community as former treasurer and current board chair of Child Development Resources (CDR), a nonprofit that provides services to young children and their families and training and technical assistance for the professionals who serve them. She has helped raise funds and provided significant financial support for CDR’s new operating facility.

Inspired by her passion for preserving and sharing history, which she shares with her husband, Pam is also a member of the board of the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation, which supports Historic Jamestowne, and has been philanthropically active with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and George Washington’s Mount Vernon.
As an involved alumnus for more than three decades, including as a trustee of the William & Mary Foundation and former rector of William & Mary’s Board of Visitors, Todd Stottlemyer uplifts others and advances excellence at the Alma Mater of the Nation. Since graduation, he has been deeply engaged as a servant leader, investing in transformational programs across the university.

In 2011, he was appointed to W&M’s Board of Visitors and was elected for multiple terms as rector of the board from 2013-2018. He was known for encouraging all to “Think big, act big and be bold.” Under his leadership, the university enacted the W&M Promise, a tuition guarantee; launched the For the Bold campaign, the university’s largest and most successful comprehensive campaign to date; and hired William & Mary’s first woman president, Katherine A. Rowe.

In honor of Todd’s time playing W&M Football, he and his wife, Elaine T. Stottlemyer P ’16, P ’21, have provided critical funding for the team. They have supported the Powell Leadership Scholarship, the Global Research Institute Fund and the Stottlemyer-Coyne Football Scholarship, which they established, among other funds. Their support aided in the completion of both the Reveley Garden and Hearth: Memorial to the Enslaved. In recognition of his giving, he is a member of the James Blair Society, Griffin Society, Boyle Legacy Society, Green & Gold Society and others.

William & Mary is a family tradition for Todd — he and Elaine have four children, two of whom are also W&M alumni: Caroline N. Stottlemyer ’16 and Matthew “Matt” B. Stottlemyer ’21.

Todd credits his classes at William & Mary for teaching him to think critically and write well. He cites his experience as an offensive lineman for the Tribe as making him the leader he is today. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a bachelor’s degree in government and secured a position at BDM International Inc., now part of Northrop Grumman Corp., thanks in part to an internship made possible through W&M connections.

A leader in the rapidly changing technology sector throughout his career, Todd has served as CEO for several technology companies as well as the Inova Health System’s Center for Personalized Health and the National Federation of Independent Business. He currently serves as CEO of Acentra Health, a global health technology products and solutions company, where he and his team have led a significant transformation effort.

He previously served on several boards related to economic development in the Washington, D.C., region and on the boards for multiple technology and other companies. Todd has been recognized on the regional and national level for his professional achievements, including being named one of the 100 most influential business leaders in the greater Washington region by the Washington Business Journal and as one of the 50 most influential Virginians by Virginia Business magazine.

In June 2023, Todd was recognized by national nonprofit No Kid Hungry as a Champion in the fight to end childhood hunger for his almost 10 years of advocacy work for the organization. He continues his efforts to end childhood hunger in the United States and around the world through engaging others and galvanizing support for this critical cause.

He also serves on the board of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts; is vice chair of GO Virginia, a state economic development board; is a trustee of the Wesley Theological Seminary; and serves on the board of the Northern Virginia Technology Council. He has held a considerable number of leadership roles at organizations promoting education, health care, the economy and more.
Todd is a leader of quiet excellence. His humility is a great source of his compassion, which sits at the core of his leadership. He is the paradigmatic example of the servant-leader that William & Mary exults in its students. I have never known a more other-centered leader — always quick to accept the call of duty to make the lives of people and institutions like our university better. To put it succinctly, Todd Stottlemyer is best in class when measured by the criteria for the Alumni Medallion.

Michael K. Powell ’85, D.P.S. ’02, former W&M rector
TED DECKER ’85 LEADS THE HOME DEPOT, THE WORLD’S LARGEST HOME IMPROVEMENT RETAILER

BY CLAIRE DE LISLE M.B.A. ’21

“There’s a buzz in our stores and it’s the energy of our culture coming to life. And from day one that was intentional.”

Ted Decker ’85 often mentions the “blessing of The Home Depot.” In his view, that’s the culture and values that have set Home Depot apart from its competitors for almost 45 years. It’s what has kept him with the company for more than two decades, reaching his current role as chair, president and CEO in 2022. It’s a role he didn’t imagine for himself as a kid running his own landscaping business outside Erie, Pennsylvania — or as an English major at William & Mary discovering a passion for international finance. Yet ideas that began then continue to inform his work today.

Decker oversees all aspects of the world’s largest home improvement retailer, which includes more than 2,300 stores in the U.S., Canada and Mexico and almost 500,000 associates. It had $157.4 billion in revenue in 2022, $61 billion more than its closest competitor, Lowe’s.

On the surface, The Home Depot is a big-box retailer of everything from garden hoses and two-by-four lumber to lightbulbs and the famous 12-foot-tall Halloween yard skeletons (they have more than 35,000 products in stores and over 2 million products online). But when Decker thinks about the stores, he thinks about the energy he sees and feels there.

“It’s real, genuine and authentic. There’s action everywhere. This is a place where you are going to do the work,” he says. “There’s a buzz in our stores and it’s the energy of our culture coming to life. And from day one that was intentional.”

By day one, he’s referring to Home Depot’s origin story, when Bernie Marcus and Arthur Blank sketched out their dream for a hardware store on a coffeeshop napkin in Los Angeles in 1978. They wanted big warehouse-style stores with a wide
selection, competitive prices and high-quality customer service under one roof. But baked into the business model, says Decker, was also a values wheel of eight key values (including “entrepreneurial spirit,” “creating shareholder value” and “respect for all people”) and an inverted pyramid of leadership, with customers at the top, associates supporting the customers, management supporting the associates and the CEO at the very bottom.

“Everyone’s customer centric until there’s a cost associated with it outside of what you planned. That’s where culture and values come in, where the rubber hits the road,” says Decker. “We are blessed to have a legacy from our founders who are larger-than-life personalities who put their stamp on our culture.”

Marcus was fond of saying, “If you take care of the associates, they’ll take care of the customers, and everything else will take care of itself.” Ken Langone, another founder, reportedly ends every conversation with, “Take care of the kids in the store.” (Langone is 88 years old, so to him, everyone is a kid, Decker explains.)

Though the founders have since retired from the company, the values and culture they put in place are the foundation on which Decker builds.

“It’s very humbling to go into a Home Depot store and talk to an associate who says, ‘Thank you for what you are doing; my 401K is in a comfortable spot.’ What’s struck me over the last few months in this new role is the sheer sense of responsibility and duty to everyone who works here — which marries well with Home Depot’s value system,” he says. “It’s really all about servant leadership.”

‘SPIRIT AND LIVELIHOOD’

Photos of Decker show him in the iconic orange Home Depot apron, in the store ready to get his hands dirty. Speaking with him, he’s an easygoing guy, warm and casual, with a self-effacing sense of humor, who gives the impression that he’s genuinely interested in the people around him.

To Decker, servant leadership starts with creating an open and engaging environment so that everyone feels they are part of the team and their ideas are welcome and expected. It also means recognizing good work when he sees it. As he talks, he consistently praises others, whether he’s discussing leaders he’s worked with, associates on the sales floor or even people he doesn’t know who have skills he admires.

He says the first thing he and his leadership team ask store managers when they visit stores is, “Who would you like to recognize with a Homer Award?” — Home Depot’s award for providing excellent customer service and showing the company’s values. Those values are intentionally incorporated into every training and communication to “maintain their spirit and livelihood,” Decker says, but he also believes they are inherent.

“Anything you can do to embrace change and appreciate the new opportunities change brings, you will grow the most and the reward is exponential. That mindset started at William & Mary.”
“I’m a firm believer that every person in every situation inherently knows the right thing — whether we act on it or not,” he says. He feels the pressure of that, too: “If you make a decision that’s against your values, it’s easily seen and you lose a lot of credibility.”

Stephanie Coleman Linnartz M.B.A. ’97, CEO and president of Under Armour, serves on the board of The Home Depot and its audit and leadership development committees. “She’s literally my boss,” says Decker with a smile. “To have a kindred spirit who ‘gets’ William & Mary on the board is so cool and an absolute blessing.”

During the pandemic, when Home Depot was experiencing record sales and Marriott’s hotels were struggling due to travel restrictions, Decker and Linnartz — who was at that time president of Marriott International — worked together to create a jobs portal so that Marriott associates who had been laid off could find employment in Home Depot stores.

Decker and Linnartz spoke about leadership with W&M business and law students in September 2023 as McGlothlin Fellows for the McGlothlin Leadership Forum (see sidebar, page 35).

“Being on the Home Depot board has been a great honor and tremendous learning opportunity. I have enjoyed working with and learning from Ted,” says Linnartz. “I have been especially impressed with Ted’s commitment to Home Depot’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and the intentional way he executes against them.”

For Decker, “doing the right thing” also includes sustainability, such as recent efforts that have reduced the carbon footprint of stores by 50%. It also includes giving of your time, and he cites the more than 1.5 million hours associates have volunteered through Team Depot projects in communities nationwide since 2011. The Home Depot Foundation has invested more than $500 million in veterans causes and improved more than 60,000 veterans’ homes. They also partnered with the Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic at William & Mary Law School.

According to Decker, The Home Depot was the only nongovernment entity at Ground Zero right after the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, providing generators, bottled water and supplies to first responders.

“We regularly do this for hurricanes and other disasters — we send hundreds of trucks and give it all away,” says Decker. “We probably need to be better at telling people about the good work we are doing, but we don’t do it for the publicity. There are companies out there that show up one time and build Super Bowl ads off that. That’s not us. We do it because it’s the right thing to do.”

He calls Home Depot’s previous CEO, Craig Menear, a “North Star” of doing the right thing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Decker was in the 4 p.m. daily calls with Menear and senior leaders, adjusting strategy every day. In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was limiting essential stores — including Home Depot — to a certain number of people per square foot. For many stores, that was about 500 customers and associates. Menear, however, felt the right thing to do was limit it even further, to just 100 people per store, and the information technology team created an app to allow associates to track numbers on all entrances to enforce this.

“We knew we would lose relative share, but it was the right thing to do. It instilled trust,” says Decker.

The Home Depot grew during the pandemic by $47 billion, which is 43% — rapid growth despite limited numbers of customers and associates in stores, supply chain shortages, and additional expenses for personal protective equipment and cleaning. It was fueled by a home improvement boom as Americans spent more time at home and used money that typically went toward going out on improving their living spaces.

High home prices also may have motivated some homeowners to renovate in order to sell their property or to update instead of buying something new. U.S. spending on home improvement jumped to $497.1 billion in 2020, an increase of $90.5 billion in just one year; in the previous 10 years, it had risen an average of just $15.2 billion per year.

Decker took the reins in 2022 and is now overseeing Home Depot in its first post-pandemic quarters of decreased sales, with the first quarter of 2023 seeing a 4.5% comparative reduction over the first quarter of 2022 and the second quarter showing a 2% reduction. He says he is not concerned, though, and that this is expected “moderation” on the part of homeowners as they switch their spending back to services from goods.

“As we learned through COVID, we have to be agile. Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth. We are constantly updating forecasts — yearly, quarterly, monthly, weekly — to respond in real time,” he says.

He sees the housing shortage as an area of opportunity for the business — not only because meeting demand will require significant construction, but also because rising home values are adding to the equity wealth for American homeowners, to the tune of $15 trillion since 2019.

The Home Depot Foundation is planning to invest $50 million by 2030 in training skilled tradespeople through its Path to Pro program. Decker calls a lack of skilled labor a major reason for the housing shortage. He emphasizes that four-year college degrees are not the only path to wealth creation and career advancement, and he hopes state and federal governments will “put as much effort into those career tracks as into four-year degrees.”

The Home Depot’s “Pro” account holders — mostly professional contractors — make up about 10% of Home Depot’s customer base and 50% of sales, according to a Jan. 5, 2023, news release, so increasing the number of skilled tradespeople is also good for the bottom line.
Decker also sees Home Depot as relevant to the next generations of homeowners. Back in 2015, Home Depot assembled a cohort of interns from many different majors and disciplines. Their task: Explore the question, “Is home improvement and the classic American dream of home ownership still relevant to millennials?”

What they found was that yes, despite the Great Recession delaying some members of their generation from finding the jobs they wanted in the locations they wanted, they still aspired to own and improve their homes.

“The good news from that study was that absolutely, home and hearth matter,” says Decker. The Home Improvement Research Institute found in 2023 that 49% of millennials complete five or more home improvement projects a year, the most of any generation. Millennials and Gen X are most likely of any generational group to choose DIY (“do it yourself”) methods, even as they express less confidence in their skills than older generations — which might lead them to a place like Home Depot for advice, a free class or a tool rental.

Whatever the future brings to the market, Decker feels ready for it. He advises students to be prepared to take on any new challenge, and he’s impressed by people who can jump into new and different projects with ease.

“Anything you can do to embrace change and appreciate the new opportunities change brings, you will grow the most and the reward is exponential,” he says. “That mindset started at William & Mary.”

‘THE MOST MAGICAL PLACE IN THE WORLD’

The Home Depot’s corporate culture reminds Decker of his experience at William & Mary, where the Honor Code was paramount and ideas were discussed freely between students and professors.

After growing up near Erie, Pennsylvania, Decker looked for universities in warmer climates where he could escape the long, snowy winters. He describes himself as a “big Colonial history buff” and remembers a family field trip to Colonial Williamsburg in the third grade that first put William & Mary on his radar. He was reminded again of William & Mary when the late Chester F. “Chet” Giermak ’50, P ’73, P ’75, P ’77, P ’86, G ’15, a legendary W&M basketball player turned president of Ereiz Magnetics, came to speak at his high school for Free Enterprise Week. Decker applied to William & Mary and readily accepted the university’s admission offer.

As a student here, he would frequently run up and down Duke of Gloucester Street and often spent time in Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Area. He loved sitting at the lunch counter at the old drugstore in Merchants Square and seeing all the costumed CW employees come in for lunch.

He worked at George’s, as did many of his Sigma Chi fraternity brothers. In Blow Gymnasium, he played squash competitively “for the one year that it was a thing,” he says, laughing, and he was the campus champion at the sport.

One night during his sophomore year, Decker was leaving a live show at the Pub, a student bar down behind what is now the Campus Center, and it started to rain heavily. He shared his umbrella with Cathy
Creekmore, a freshman. Cathy was also interested in reading, history and travel. Her parents were in the foreign service and she came to William & Mary from India. Decker was intrigued and then in love. He and Cathy backpacked around India for three months as students. They’ve now been married 34 years.

Aside from meeting his wife, his favorite memories of campus are from studying in the Sir Christopher Wren Building late at night, when nobody was around but him and his thoughts.

“Whether you were thinking about the founders of the nation or economics or just reading, it was a great place to study. Walking back to my dorm through this beautiful campus at midnight or 1 a.m., I thought ‘This is the most magical place in the world,’” he says.

Perhaps that’s why he and Cathy Creekmore Decker ’86 were married in the Wren Chapel after graduation. They had their reception in the Pollard Room of the Alumni House, the cozy living room of the historic section, but it was “sweltering hot in October with over a hundred people squeezed in,” he laughs. Being in the room for this interview, on another sweltering fall day, “really took him back,” he says.

‘ENGLISH MAJORS DON’T NECESSARILY RUN HARDWARE STORES’

Decker loved being able to take courses at William & Mary from all different departments and the freedom to explore many subjects before choosing a major. He feels it’s a shame that students in so many countries — and increasingly in the U.S. — choose their specialty as teenagers.

“Being exposed to the hard sciences as well as the humanities before you select your major … helps you become a much clearer thinker, a broader thinker, a better decision-maker,” he says.

An avid reader and admirer of those who can write well — “writing is a lost art,” he says — he became an English major. He loved classes he took with government professor John McGlennon P ’11, P ’14 and English professor Walter Wenska. He briefly thought about becoming an editor, but, he says, “I realized it wasn’t my strength.” Thinking he would go into business, he took economics courses. He credits taking calculus as preparing him “to get through anything.”

“Ted took full advantage of his liberal arts education. His business success shows how the exposure to different modes of thinking and development of strong written and oral communication skills helped him to achieve great success,” says McGlennon.

He finds himself frequently drawing on skills he learned in his comparative literature courses.

“Comparative literature courses give you deep critical thinking skills to understand and interpret big, philosophical ideas, whether you agree with them or not,” he says. “As an English major I was required to wrestle those thoughts into form — skills I use to think through proposals and how to summarize key ideas and provide support for them.”

He looks for those types of skills in those he works with, also.

“English majors don’t necessarily run hardware stores,” he says. “But when I think about the deeply analytical work of studying history, philosophy and English texts, the thought that goes into formulating arguments and writing about them, these are important skills that manifest themselves as people progress through their careers, whatever they are.”

Even now, he reads more in the realms of history and literature than business. At the time of this interview, he was reading “Nimitz at War: Command Leadership from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay” by Craig L. Symonds, about Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas during World War II. Decker says he is inspired by the way Nimitz handled the many different personalities around him, and that he finds real-world examples of leadership much more enlightening than advice in business books.

‘SPIKE ACCOMPLISHMENTS’

After graduation, Decker pursued a career in international banking, something for which he says he had an “absolute passion.” He received his MBA from Carnegie Mellon University, which gave him a strong background in finance that he finds invaluable today.
He moved to Sydney with PNC Bank and London with Kimberly-Clark. But by 2000, he had found his corporate home — The Home Depot, where he used his international banking chops to become director of business valuation. He rose over the next 22 years to lead the multinational company.

It wasn’t his first foray into the world of home improvement. While a student at William & Mary, Decker would return to Pennsylvania during the summer and work sealing driveways. He’d been mowing lawns for extra money since he was 8 years old and had run a landscaping business before college, but the key fall and spring seasons coincided with his coursework in Williamsburg.

He was in the local hardware store every day buying big buckets of sealer. Eventually, he realized it would be more efficient — and cheaper — to contact the manufacturer directly and get a tractor trailer load of sealer delivered to his parents’ garage.

That experience of being out in the hot sun with a broom, smelling that sealer, stuck with him. He wants to keep that connection between those making the decisions and those using the products out in the world. He and all the management team of Home Depot spend time in the stores and warehouses, interacting with the associates and customers, hearing ideas and feedback, seeing how Home Depot is part of people’s home and work lives.

He talks about associates in the stores with a reverence fitting their place atop the inverted pyramid, and he carries that philosophy of the value of frontline work into the advice he gives job seekers.

He encourages college students and recent graduates to focus less on the required “time in position” before promotion and more on the foundational skills they can gain in each opportunity.

“You can have all the fancy titles in the world, but if you don’t have basic competencies, they don’t mean much,” he says.

In hiring, he looks for what he calls “spike accomplishments” — what challenges an employee managed through, what breakthroughs they made and whether they made a significant impact in their market — regardless of what their title was. He says he’s the voice in the room saying, “But what did this person actually get done in that role?”

He also wants leaders who develop talent in their teams. To him, the most successful leaders are those whose team members have gone on to become officers in the company.

He says he’s learned a lot from working for and with people who lead by example — he cites his former boss Carol Tomé, now CEO of UPS, as one example.

“I spent nearly 25 years at Home Depot, and the decision I’m most proud of was my decision to hire Ted Decker in 2000.” Tomé says. “Together, Ted and I worked on a number of critically important strategic initiatives, including Home Depot’s expansion into Mexico. He’s wicked smart, with an incredible sense of curiosity, humor and humility. Ted is a servant leader and truly embodies Home Depot’s values. He’s an outstanding CEO and I’m thrilled to call him a fellow CEO and friend.”

When people show promise, Decker likes to give them a new challenge and help guide them through it. He sees his role in helping others grow as being transparent with them and available to answer any questions and hear any ideas.

That’s the hallmark of his leadership style: making everyone around him feel welcome and comfortable to offer their input. He says he has an open-door policy for people at all levels of the organization and his main goal is to be curious and ask questions to draw out others’ ideas.

Decker acknowledges that he, like any leader, can have blind spots. Referring to author and motivational speaker Simon Sinek’s trust matrix, he says there are two types of employees who can be damaging to morale at an organization: high performers who do not act in a way that aligns with the company’s values, and low performers who otherwise are full participants in the company’s value-based culture. It comes perhaps as no surprise, given the value Decker places on The Home Depot’s culture, that Decker finds the former particularly damaging. In his view, performance can be improved through training and coaching, but values are core to a person’s view of the world.

People who are high performers but have a negative effect on the company culture “can be the cancer in your organization and hard to deal with, particularly if you’re in tough times,” he says. “I’ve held on to them too long, but when I finally make the call, people come to me and say, ‘Why did you wait so long?’”

He also says he’s learned from experience that “big problems don’t age well” — “I know I need to deal with them as quickly as possible and let the board know. People give you grace up to a point, but trying to pretend it isn’t happening or will get better doesn’t work.”

‘THE CULTURE COMES FROM THE PEOPLE’

Running a multinational, multibillion-dollar publicly traded corporation — even one Decker describes as a “blessing” and a “gem” — is hard work.

To unwind, Decker still runs in the morning, like he did as a student, though he jokes it is more of a brisk walk now. He has been practicing mindfulness using apps. He gardens.

But when he really wants to get away from it all, his passion is experiencing live music. Any genre, any volume. He tells stories of coming into work in the morning half-deaf from a rock show the night before. He hasn’t been to Burning Man yet, but he isn’t ruling it out.

Ultimately, though, he gets his energy from being able to contribute to that “buzz” in the stores, day after day.
“This is a long haul and hard work. You should find an industry in which you truly have a passion, and the right institution with people you truly enjoy, doing something you are reasonably good at,” he says. “I see 50 to 100 people every day, and I can honestly say I enjoy meeting with them.”

Spending more than two decades with one employer makes Decker an outlier in the labor market. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median number of years that U.S. wage and salary workers had been with their current employer was just 4.1 years in January 2022. CEOs are also leaving their positions in record numbers; more than 1,400 resigned between January and September 2023, 50% more than the same period of 2022. It’s also the highest on record over that period since the firm began tracking in 2002, causing some media outlets to dub this the “Great CEO Exodus.”

Decker, however, continues to carry The Home Depot’s torch forward as a true believer in its values and culture.

“At the end of the day, what makes a company unique and special is the culture,” he says. “The culture comes from the people.”

LEADERSHIP, THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO ALUMNICEOS

E ach year, the McGlothlin Leadership Forum brings distinguished leaders in business and law to William & Mary for discussion with graduate students from W&M Law School and the Raymond A. Mason School of Business about today’s important national and global business trends.

This year’s fellows were Ted Decker ‘85, chair, president and CEO of The Home Depot, and Stephanie Linnartz M.B.A. ‘97, president and CEO of Under Armour. On Sept. 11-12, they answered students’ questions about leadership, principled achievement, company culture, career transitions and managing through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Decker and Linnartz spoke candidly with students about the challenges they face as leaders and the visions they have for their respective companies. They provided insights into what they are looking for in job candidates, and Linnartz described how she uses her experience from 25 years with Marriott International in her new role as CEO of Under Armour, which began in January 2023. Read more about her in the fall 2022 issue.

“Believe in yourself, push yourself. Take that next step, that risk. Think boldly. Bet on yourself,” Linnartz advised students. “You are your most important agent of change.”

The annual McGlothlin Leadership Forum is made possible thanks to the leading generosity of the forum’s co-founders, James “Jim” W. McGlothlin ’62, J.D. ’64, LL.D. ’00, P ’89 and Frances “Fran” Gibson McGlothlin ’66, L.H.D. ’18.
FOR WOMEN WHO ASPIRE TO HIGH-LEVEL LEADERSHIP ROLES, PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS PROVIDES A SOLID FOUNDATION. ACCORDING TO AN EY REPORT, 94% OF WOMEN HOLDING WHAT ARE KNOWN AS C-SUITE POSITIONS — CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER — ARE FORMER ATHLETES, WITH 52% HAVING PLAYED AT A UNIVERSITY LEVEL. TIME SPENT ON PLAYING FIELDS AND COURTS FOSTERS A STRONG WORK ETHIC, DETERMINATION, A COMMITMENT TO TEAMWORK AND A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT, THE REPORT STATES.

STORY BY TINA ESHLEMAN
PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY SEAN MCCABE
Athletics can help level the playing field for women in business environments. A United Nations report on women and gender equity notes that “women in sport leadership can shape attitudes toward women’s capabilities as leaders and decision-makers, especially in traditional male domains.”

To learn more about the connection between excelling at sports and leadership in the workplace, we asked several William & Mary alumnae athletes turned business and nonprofit executives to share their stories. Read more about alumnae making power moves in the business, nonprofit and public sectors at magazine.wm.edu/womenathletes.

MASHEA MASON ASHTON ’96, M.A.Ed. ’97
At the Digital Pioneers Academy in Southeast Washington, D.C., school founder and CEO Mashea Ashton is wearing her usual Wednesday attire: a green-and-gold William & Mary sweatshirt. After all, Wednesday is College Day, and why wouldn’t the former Tribe soccer team captain represent her beloved alma mater?

Preparing students from low-income, working-class families to attend college and pursue careers in computer science is the mission behind the public charter school. Since opening in 2018 with 120 sixth graders, the academy has grown to encompass two campuses with 600 students in grades 6-11. Next year, its first seniors will graduate.

“I believe that every student rises to the level of your expectations,” Ashton says. “But data shows that for kids of color, particularly kids who live in the most under-resourced parts of the country, their educational outcomes are far below their potential. The big question I keep chasing is how to get more kids of color to achieve their highest potential by going to college and having successful careers.”

The question first came into focus when Ashton was teaching in Williamsburg while working toward her master’s degree in special education, after earning a bachelor’s degree in sociology and elementary education. One of her students was a fifth-grade boy whose behavior was getting him into trouble. A teacher on staff at the school told Ashton not to worry about him: “He's just going to wind up in jail like his father.”

“I remember thinking, ‘Oh, gosh, this can’t be true. There must be something else out there for him,’” Ashton says.

The story of how she came to attend William & Mary — and discover her life’s mission — begins with athletics. As soon as Mashea and her twin sister, Michele Mason ’96, entered kindergarten, their mother, Brenda Mason, started making plans for the girls to go to college. Neither she nor her husband, who served in the military, had a college degree, but it was her dream to see her daughters pursue higher education.

While volunteering with the Willingboro, New Jersey, school system, Mrs. Mason told one of the teachers that her daughters needed to receive scholarships and she thought excelling at basketball might be the best way for them to accomplish that goal.

“This teacher told my mom, ‘Don’t put them in basketball, put them in soccer,’” Ashton says. “I think the idea was that there aren’t many Black girls who play soccer. If they’re really good, they will stand out and they’ll have more opportunities to get scholarships.”

So the twins started playing club soccer at age 5, and they loved it. About a decade later, their team, the Willingboro Strikers, became national champions for the under 16 age group. William & Mary was not on their radar while growing up in southern New Jersey, but they met John Daly, then the W&M women’s head soccer coach, at a Women and Girls in Soccer tournament, and he told their mother the girls should think about going to William & Mary. His suggestion was reinforced when they heard about W&M’s reputation for both high-level academics and athletics from one of their club soccer coaches whose child had attended the university.

“We said, ‘It’s our dream school. That’s where we want to go,’” Ashton says. “It’s the only school we applied to.”

She credits her experience as an athlete with honing her leadership skills and teaching her how to overcome disappointments and setbacks. She recalls that after starting most games as a freshman, she lost...
her spot in the lineup when a new player came in the next year.

“Why is a freshman taking a starting position?” Ashton asked Daly. He told her that he made the decision based on his assessment of how the players’ skills would contribute to the team’s success, and encouraged her to keep improving as an athlete.

“Competition pushed me to work harder,” she says. “By my junior year, I was starting. Senior year, I was picked to be captain. A big part of that was input from the coach. He reinforced that if you work hard, good things will happen.”

As she began her career in education, she carried with her the competitive spirit from the soccer team, along with lessons of resilience.

“I understood working hard and getting results from an athletics perspective, but the same perspective can apply to anything,” she says. “If you set your mind to a big goal, you work hard, you put in the effort and you believe all failure or difficulty is just feedback, you can achieve anything.”

After starting out as a classroom teacher, Ashton soon moved into leadership roles. At age 26, she became a founding member of the Black Alliance for Education Options, a nonprofit that advocated for increased choices for low-income and working-class families. She served on the board with Cory Booker, a U.S. senator who was then the mayor of Newark, New Jersey. Booker later recruited her as CEO for a $50-million fund that was set aside for charter schools in Newark. Ashton also has served as executive director for charter schools in the New York City Department of Education and as national director of recruitment for the Knowledge Is Power Program.

“I didn’t pick charter schools,” she says. “I picked leadership roles based on how to have an impact to serve kids.”

The idea of charter schools resonated with her in part because of personal experience. Her parents had moved Mashea and Michele out of their zoned public school when they were going to be held back to repeat kindergarten. They transferred to a private Catholic school, where they received additional academic support and were able to catch up with their peers.

“I believe families deserve as many high-quality choices as possible,” she says.

Working with charter schools enabled Mashea to apply an entrepreneurial approach to education, eventually leading to the founding of Digital Pioneers Academy (DPA). About 10 years ago, she and her husband, Kendrick Ashton ’98, moved from New York City to the Washington, D.C., area, where his family has lived for generations, as he was making plans to launch The St. James sports complex with friend and business partner Craig Dixon ’97, J.D. ’00.

Mashea has reconnected with her alma mater as a current W&M Foundation trustee, and former For the Bold D.C. Regional Campaign board member and W&M Alumni Association board member.

Originally, she wanted to open a middle school that would help put students on a path toward college and careers. Then she read reports saying demand for people trained in computer science was expected to far outpace the supply, and that gave her the inspiration for the academy.

“I said, ‘Let’s figure out how to close this gap,’” Ashton says. “We want our scholars to be part of creating in the digital economy.”

Taking the school from concept to opening was a major task, and challenges continue. After four of the academy’s students died from gun violence in incidents outside of school during the last academic year, Ashton began to rethink how DPA operates.

“What I’m realizing is that we can’t achieve our mission for all of these kids to go off to four-year colleges and universities and thrive in 21st-century careers unless we are also thoughtful about addressing youth violence and gun violence in D.C.,” she says.

Part of the school’s response was to launch a football team, which finished its first season this past fall. Additional sports are also being added: girls and boys
Molly Ashby ’81

Before launching into a conversation about the role athletics played in her life and career, Molly Ashby wants to make it clear that she doesn’t see participation in sports as the only path to professional success.

“Aspects of athletics and athletic competition can be accomplished in other pursuits,” says the founder, CEO and chair of private equity firm Solera Capital. Still, “there are several very clear and contributive aspects of competitive athletics that lend themselves to success later in life.”

Ashby grew up playing a variety of sports in Southern California and became an accomplished tennis player, eventually landing a spot on the team at University of California, Santa Barbara. She wanted the experience of playing for a highly competitive West Coast tennis program, but her plan was always to graduate with a degree from William & Mary, her father’s alma mater, so she transferred after her first year at UCSB.

Lt. Cmdr. Donald Roberts Ashby Sr. ’51, P ’81 had been an instructor in the U.S. Navy’s fighter pilot school in Pensacola, Florida, where Molly was born, before the Ashbys moved to San Diego. From there, he served with a fighter squadron aboard the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk. Tragedy struck in early 1967 when the fighter plane Donald Ashby was flying crashed in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam War, killing him and a fellow crew member. Molly was just 7 years old at the time.

“It meant so much to me to be able to go to William & Mary, where he had been,” she says.

There, her priority shifted from tennis to academics.

“I played a bit on the William & Mary team under Millie West HON ’91, L.H.D. ’17 — who was an extremely impressive and formidable woman — but not for that long, because it was the right thing for me to focus more on the rich intellectual and inspiring academic environment of William & Mary, which was not something I had particularly known before,” she says.

As a star tennis player in high school and then a member of the Division I UCSB team, Ashby says her grades had been secondary to her athletic success. At William & Mary, she became part of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. Through interdisciplinary studies, she combined history, government and political science to form an unofficial international relations major.

After graduating, she earned a master’s degree in African studies at Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service. As part of that program, she completed an internship in Mali, West Africa, where she studied food policy. While there, she met foreign service officers who advised her to start her career in the private sector before going into public service.

Taking their advice, she interviewed with JPMorgan Chase & Co. and began working at the global financial services firm, with the intention of leaving after a time for foreign service.

“And then I just kept getting so many good opportunities and I was so engaged and so challenged and learning, and I thought I can probably make a bigger difference from here,” she says.

At JPMorgan, she moved up from investor to investment strategist and then chief operating officer at JPMorgan Private Equity. One of her notable deals involved orchestrating a $5.1 billion leveraged buyout of Hospital Corp. of America (HCA), as reported by The Wall Street Journal. With transactions of such size, scope and complexity, the people involved need to be moving in the same direction, just as they would on a sports team, she says.

“If the team doesn’t work together and is always in little battles with itself, you’re going to lose,” Ashby says. “Your team needs to be united. They need to have a set of values. They need to believe in their leader.”

Recalling her time at JPMorgan, she adds, “I worked for an outstanding person. He and his superior were not just strong leaders, but men who cared as much about my development and success as that of our business. I have tried to model myself on what I experienced.”

In addition to teamwork, athletics cultivates mental and physical toughness, she says.

“What I have found is that athletics teaches you how to win and it teaches you how to lose, and it teaches you to get up the next day and go right back at it,” Ashby says.

Women tend to take setbacks particularly hard, she says, adding, “I was exactly that way. I had to learn over time to just look straight ahead and say, ‘Understand what went wrong. Think about it. But don’t let it get to you.’ And the same is very true in sports.”

When Ashby’s older daughter, Frances, was born, she was chief investment strategist for the JPMorgan Private Equity Group. As a new mother, Ashby began to reconsider the amount of time she was devoting to work.

“We had a large amount of capital invested around the world,” she says. “At 10 p.m., Asia would kick in and then Europe at 5 a.m., then the U.S. and Latin...
America. It was a very demanding job and we had a fantastic portfolio, but I lived and sweated that every hour of every day.”

With Solera, founded in 1999, she was able to shape her own company from scratch.

“I always had this vision of a firm that should exist in our industry and it’s one that would have a significant commitment to diversity and bring people from private equity who weren’t necessarily always invited in,” she says.

Even though she attracted a groundswell of support based on her vision and her experience at JPMorgan, persuading investors to commit to a brand-new fund was an uphill climb.

“There was some hard slogging. There were obviously positives. There were disappointments, and then we got it done. We raised the fund and we were off to the races,” Ashby says.

One of the firm’s early investments is also one of its best-known successes: organic snack foods enterprise Annie’s Inc. At the time, Annie’s mac-and-cheese was sold mostly in natural food markets.

“We look at a sector that we think is going to be high-growth and super attractive for at least 10 years,” Ashby says. “One of our rule sets for what we pick is that we have to believe the growth in the sector we pick is nonreversible and it shouldn’t be a fad.”

In the case of Annie’s, her assessment of its potential proved to be on target. After Solera gained a controlling interest in the company, Annie’s products expanded to mainstream grocery-store shelves across the country. Solera’s $81 million investment in Annie’s grew to hundreds of millions, The Wall Street Journal reported. The company’s stock rose from $19 per share at its initial public offering to $46 per share when General Mills bought it for $820 million in 2014.

What does the future hold for Ashby? She still thinks about returning to Mali one day. Maybe she’ll take up a career in foreign service after all.

“I developed a tremendous affinity for the people of West Africa,” Ashby says. “I would love to go back at some point, and more importantly, I’d love to figure out a way to make a difference there.”

KATY NEUMER ’07

As a 14-year-old starting high school, Katy Neumer observed her mother working three jobs to take care of her and her twin sister after her parents divorced. Already an accomplished basketball player, Neumer set an ambitious goal: “I told myself that I was either going to get an academic scholarship or an athletic scholarship, and I spent my high school years very focused on those two objectives.”

Her efforts paid off when she secured a full scholarship to play basketball at William & Mary.

“It is probably one of the proudest things in my life that I’ve ever done, just because I knew it helped my mom out so much, and it helped our family out,” Neumer says.

She became class valedictorian at her high school in Winter Park, Florida, where she also set a record as leading basketball scorer for both men and women — a record that still holds for women, although current NBA player Austin Rivers surpassed it more than a decade ago to set a new record for men.

The practice of setting a goal and working toward her objectives developed into a pattern as Neumer attended William & Mary, where she became captain of the basketball team, and then as she began her career in the finance industry. In her current role as founding member and managing director at J. Wood Capital Advisors in San Francisco, she advises public companies on how to raise capital in a more efficient way.

“That makes sense because they have to understand skill sets to put people in places where they’re going to succeed.”

One of the C-suite women Neumer advised was Kelly MacDonald, now chief financial officer at Dynavax Technologies, who had played softball as a college student. The two developed a personal relationship and they married in 2022.

Sports training correlates with achieving business objectives, Neumer says, noting that if athletes fall short of a goal, they don’t throw their hands up and walk away. “They go back to the drawing board and figure out the next step.”

Playing on a Division I NCAA basketball team was humbling at first for Neumer, who was used to being the star player at her high school.

“At William & Mary, every single one of my teammates had my exact same resume, if not better,” she says. “I had to figure out where I fit.”

Realizing she was no longer the player scoring the most points, Neumer discovered other ways in which she could help the team succeed.

“I don’t know if you appreciate the true value of teamwork when you’re the head of the snake,” she says. “I think you learn it the best when you’re at the end of the bench. As an example, “during practice, I would guard our best player and make it absolute torture for them, so that they were prepared to go score 20 points against the next team.”

She persevered through a dismal season during her sophomore year, when injuries kept key players off the court. The next year, after the injured players returned, the team tied for biggest turnaround in the NCAA, and by her senior year, Neumer was part of the starting lineup. She was also selected as a co-captain, something she attributes to putting the good of the team first.
“Being a captain is about leading the culture of the team, whether that’s in sports or outside of sports,” she says. “How are you setting the right example? It’s having a never-give-up mentality.”

After graduating with a business degree from William & Mary, Neumer considered applying to law school, but decided to explore the world of finance on Wall Street when she was offered a job as an analyst with Bear Stearns Cos., now part of JPMorgan Chase & Co. While working in private banking at JPMorgan, she started to explore investment banking by seeking out contacts in that area of the company.

“Through networking, I learned about what the roles were in the investment bank, and when there was a position open I was one of the first people that they called,” she says.

Having secured an investment banking position and moved to San Francisco, Neumer faced a steep learning curve.

“That circles back to my early experience of being an athlete at William & Mary, where all of a sudden I’m a fish out of water and I’m not as good as I thought I was,” she says.

Like she had done as a basketball player, Neumer looked for ways to add value to her team. She credits Jason Wood, then head of equity-linked capital markets at JPMorgan, as one of the teammates who helped her learn the ropes.

“They saw something in me that I didn’t see at the time when I had a lot of self-doubt,” she says. “Thankfully, I turned that corner.”

When Wood decided to leave the firm and start his own company in 2013, he asked Neumer to join him, citing her skill at relating to clients. The two of them ran the business out of Wood’s attic for the first couple of years and have since expanded the team to 15 people. Since its founding, J. Wood Capital has advised on a total of $140 billion in capital markets activity representing over 160 clients across the United States, Neumer says. Those include companies such as Cracker Barrel, Domino’s Pizza, Groupon, Intel, Live Nation, Peloton, Planet Fitness, Slack, Snapchat and WWE.

Neumer maintains connections to William & Mary in part by serving as a board member for the Boehly Center for Excellence in Finance at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business, where she participated
as a keynote speaker in the 2023 Women’s Stock Pitch and Leadership Summit.

In her message to students, Neumer advised them to be open to new opportunities and not to feel pressure to have their career fully mapped out at graduation.

“What I do now is such a highly nuanced thing, where I advise public companies on how to structure and execute on convertible debt securities,” she says. “If you would have asked me if I wanted to do that as a 22-year-old kid, I would have had no clue what you were talking about. What I told them is it’s OK to make decisions along the way.”

**JENNIFER “JEN” TEPPER MACKESY ’91**

As a Tribe soccer player, Jen Mackesy was known for leading her team in assists — a skill she believes is undervalued by many players and their parents.

“I would say my strongest attribute when playing was my ability to read the field,” she says. “I loved the idea of creating opportunities for my teammates who were probably better at finishing the play.”

During her first year, the team finished in the top five in the country. Teammates included Jill Ellis ’88, L.H.D. ’16, P ’27, a U.S. national women’s team soccer legend who is president of the San Diego Wave FC, and Kathy Carter ’91, a senior advisor and former CEO of LA28, the summer 2028 Olympic and Paralympic games, along with current W&M women’s soccer head coach Julie Cunningham Shackford ’88, P ’23, Megan McCarthy ’88 and Nancy Reinisch O’Toole ’88, P ’23. Associate Tribe head coach Marsha Fishburne Lycan ’87 also played soccer.

Learning to assess a situation, identify others’ skills and rely on teammates served her well on the soccer field, where she made four appearances in the NCAA Championships while at William & Mary. Those skills, combined with her academic background as a marketing major, helped her rise through the ranks in the retail and fashion industry to become a vice president at Lord & Taylor, overseeing the buying office.

“The buying-office job involved multitasking and it was analytical, creative and managerial,” she says. “High-level athletics prepared me to be able to do all
those things and do them well. It gave me the confidence to be in a room with the CEO and senior-level executives and sell them on an idea.”

Today, Mackesy is combining her athletics experience, marketing expertise and managerial acumen as part owner of NJ/NY Gotham FC, a professional women’s soccer team based in New Jersey. In addition to NJ/NY Gotham, Jen and her husband, D. Scott Mackesy ’91, are part of the ownership group of Chelsea FC in London with Todd Boehly ’96.

Mackesy’s path to soccer team ownership began a couple of years ago when Boehly invited her to join him in negotiations to purchase a controlling interest in the NWSL’s Washington Spirit team. In the early 2000s, she had stepped away from her retail career to focus on nonprofit board service while raising her two young sons, both of whom also became college athletes. As a board member for U.S. Squash, she helped guide the organization as it built its first national training center in Philadelphia and successfully pushed to include the sport in the LA28 Olympics.

Boehly’s offer came at a time when she was considering her next career step. “At first I wasn’t sure about it, but I started reconnecting with some of my former teammates as part of my due diligence for whether this was something I was prepared to take on,” she says. “What it made me realize is this is exactly what I want to be doing for the next 20 years.”

Mackesy was disappointed when the Washington Spirit purchase fell through, but she began looking for other sports ownership opportunities, leading her to NJ/NY Gotham.

“By luck, a neighbor of mine, also a former Division I college soccer player, happened to know one of the operating owners at NJ/NY Gotham, and they put us in touch and I was fortunate to become one of the minority co-owners,” she says. “I realized this would be a way for me to give back and help promote something that is so important to me, and that allowed me to have the opportunities that I did. I was also confident it would be a good business opportunity.”

Since Mackesy became involved with Gotham in mid-2022, she has played a role in hiring a new coaching staff and building a new practice facility and office space for the team.

“Even though the NWSL has been in existence for 12 years now, these clubs still feel very much like startup businesses,” she says, noting that the cost to acquire a team has risen from $2 million to over $50 million during the past several years. “There’s been exponential growth in value, but also exponential growth in terms of the workload and the resources needed to run these clubs at the level they need to be run,” she says. “I was able to get in at a very exciting time, but a very busy time.”

After finishing last in the National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL) in 2022, the Gotham team claimed its first championship this past fall. Watching the game with Mackesy in San Diego on Nov. 11, 2023, were former teammates Ellis and Carter.

Mackesy has remained involved with William & Mary Athletics through her work on the W&M Foundation Board of Trustees. She was chair of the board’s athletics subcommittee during most of the recently concluded, successful All In campaign for W&M Athletics, and she served as an honorary campaign co-chair, along with Scott Mackesy, Todd Boehly and Katie Garrett Boehly ’95. One of campaign’s objectives was to provide equitable participation opportunities, scholarship support and better access to top-notch facilities for women athletes.

Today, Mackesy continues her nonprofit leadership, which includes a longtime association with Graham Windham, a New York City-based organization that supports the needs of children and families, and more recently William & Mary’s Global Research Institute Advisory Board.

In her role at GRI, she sees an opportunity for athletics to help improve the lives of people in developing countries. When she traveled to the FIFA Women’s World Cup in Australia last year, she observed striking inequities between teams from around the world in terms of training, compensation and travel.

“I would love to be able to play a larger role in trying to help balance those inequities, whether they are gender-related or socioeconomic,” she says. “I’ve always said that I see athletics as a way to level the playing field. I think that athletics and sport are a way to address the social issues that are really important to me and are things that I have been involved in as part of my nonprofit work, and I’m excited to find ways to do that.”
SNOW DAY
Snow turns campus into a winter wonderland, though Williamsburg doesn’t often experience winter storms. Miss this year’s holiday video? Experience the magic at holiday.wm.edu/2023.

PHOTO: JIM AGNEW
The Art and Science of Coffee

James Kroll ’12 finds an appreciative customer base for Column 15 on campus and beyond

**Small Business** James Kroll ’12 believes “perfection is basically impossible” — but he also believes he once brewed the perfect cup of coffee that converted at least three people from non-coffee drinkers into black coffee drinkers. He brewed it “just by happenstance” with a French press while living in Yates First South as a freshman international relations major.

Kroll is now the owner of Column 15, a coffee shop in James-York Plaza on Merrimac Trail in Williamsburg with the slogan “The science of good coffee.” As you walk into the industrial space decorated eclectically with rugs, string lights and thrifted furniture pieces, the sounds of coffee beans being freshly ground and vibrant indie music flowing from the speakers meet your ears. Waves of students wash in and out of the lively café, drinking their coffee, hanging out with their friends and catching up on their coursework.

The science comes in as “a process of refinement and improvement and quality control,” Kroll explains. Making consistently great cups of coffee takes effort because “no coffee from any two regions is going to be exactly alike.”

There are many variables that could make a coffee taste different every time — from the growing temperature and the amount of rainfall the plants absorbed to the exact ratio of ground coffee to water when brewed. This is why Kroll and his team refine their roasts and techniques every season to make sure the customer experience is consistent year-round.

While Kroll “was always fascinated with coffee,” he grew up thinking he hated the beverage. He now chalks that up to not having quality coffee until he was 16 years old when he “tried fresh ground, fresh roasted, French-press coffee.” Now he hopes his coffee will inspire others to love it like he does.

Kroll founded the company in 2018 with another alumnus, Victoria Goldsby ’17, who has since left the company. “Starting Column 15 was both rewarding and challenging,” Kroll says. “I’ve always wanted to build something from the ground up; it was really just a question of what it would
be.” After graduation, he worked at a Williamsburg gym and a car dealership. Reflecting on the amount of time he put into his jobs, Kroll asked himself, “Why not start something from scratch that you’re passionate about?”

Kroll’s original idea for Column 15 was for the company to be a roaster and wholesale distributor of coffee with a “third-wave” coffee shop as a location to taste the products. Being a third-wave coffee shop is important to the team because it means that all of their beans are specialty grade (the highest level), single origin, fair trade and organically sourced, and they pass along that education to their customers. The team chose Williamsburg as their location because they knew the area well and it fit their needs — a college and tourist town with a one-hour drive in each direction to a large city for wholesale distribution.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, many of the wholesale clients backed out, but customers kept the business going. Column 15’s popularity increased with the opening of a temporary coffee bar in early 2020, then its current café in May 2021, augmented by regular appearances at farmers markets.

“When we started, I was working 80 hours a week, which was essential,” he says. As a business owner, he prides himself on his process around tackling new challenges. If a question comes up and he doesn’t know the answer, his process begins: research, learn, streamline and train.

What sets Column 15 apart from other coffee shops in the area is the cold brew.

“Every coffee shop is going to have its focus,” Kroll says. “For us, what we focus on is the cold brew. We have the luxury of being able to design coffee from the ground up for the cold brew process itself. Think of a mixing switchboard in a recording studio. If you’re a brewer, you have one section of the board. If you’re a roaster, you have this other section of the board, and we have the whole thing. So, it was months of product development before we were happy with our first cold brew that we did, which was our Obsidian — still most popular by far.”

In addition to the cold brew, Column 15 offers coffee flights. Customers can choose to have the flight base be a latte or the nitro cream cold brew. These five-glass flights also have seasonal versions. For example, customers can try coffee that tastes like different cookies.

During summer 2023, Aramark became the auxiliary services provider on William & Mary’s campus. Prior to arriving, company officials scoped out the area to find local vendors and shops that they could highlight on campus. Aramark installed a scaled-down version of Column 15 in Swem Library, where students can grab a cup of coffee on their way to class.

Column 15 also takes part in the senior class gift mug deals, in which seniors receive a mug in exchange for a donation to William & Mary and
can use the mug to take advantage of deals with business partners in the area.

As an alumnus, Kroll was excited to collaborate with William & Mary to create the W&M Collection of coffees, which was released in January. During 2023, the Column 15 team developed two new roasts and held a taste test in the Swem location, where current students would decide which one would be produced. After weeks of testing, the voting was tied. It was important to Kroll and the Column 15 team that the students choose, and they decided both would be produced. “Wren Twilight” is a Sumatra dark roast with notes of molasses and almond over a dark chocolate base, while “Griffin Green” is a mellow, medium-light roast with subtle notes of jasmine over a light, chocolate undertone made from Honduras beans. The W&M Collection will be available at Column 15’s cafés and online at column15.com, with plans to expand into other area stores.

In spring 2024, construction will begin to expand the shop to create a space where roasting, experimentation and development can take place to produce one to two new coffees per year. This growth also will lead to the ability to produce more coffee and expand distribution, letting more people discover and enjoy the scientific and creative Column 15 coffee.

— Anna Kormis

PHOTOS: ALFRED HERCZEG P '23

A THING OF BEAUTY: Through Column 15’s single-origin, fair trade and organically sourced coffee, Kroll hopes to inspire others to love a good cup as much as he does.
Making Waves

Grit, tenacity and passion have carried Sophia Luwis ’20 from W&M’s Club Rowing to the World Rowing Championships

ALUMNI PROFILE When a young Sophia Luwis ’20 finished a weeklong rowing summer camp in Washington, D.C., she told her parents, “I’m never rowing ever again,” saying she found it monotonous. It turns out that Luwis would row again, and very successfully at that, even overcoming serious injuries sustained in a car crash in 2022 to win the bronze medal in the lightweight women’s single sculls at the 2023 World Rowing Championships. Her success has opened the door for her to potentially compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics, which would make her the first William & Mary sport club athlete to compete at the Olympic level.

Many years after her summer camp stint, Luwis was reintroduced to rowing through the Club Rowing program when she arrived at William & Mary. “At the club fair during orientation, I passed by the Club Rowing table and they were saying no experience necessary. I thought, well, I have one week of experience.” She signed up and forgot about it until a hallmate mentioned she was going to practice, Luwis recalls: “I joined her one day and didn’t stop going.”

A linguistics major with a Chinese language minor, Luwis had no idea that she would fall in love with rowing. “I came here for academics and then this whole other part of my life developed,” she says. “Now it is my life.”

As a member of W&M Club Rowing, one of the many sport clubs sponsored by the university’s Department of Campus Recreation, Luwis found a community that welcomes rowers with different levels of experience. Luwis chose to train intensely, practicing with the group, but also working with a coach at CrossFit 1607 in Williamsburg and competing independently during her time at William & Mary, most notably as an American Collegiate Rowing Association second-team all-Academic team member in 2019.

Linda Knight, executive director of health and wellness at William & Mary and director of W&M Campus Recreation, emphasizes that every student can participate in a sport club. Luwis, she says, “took that opportunity and ran with it.” An Olympic run for Luwis “would show that the value of
campus recreation on a university campus is huge,” Knight says.

During her senior year, in spring 2020, the campus transitioned to remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Luwis was unsure of when she would row again. Still living in Williamsburg that spring, Luwis was surprised by a phone call.

“A coach that I had rowed with for a weekend up in Boston called me and asked if I was still interested in their club’s high-performance group,” she recalls. She said yes and started competing in races across the country. She says, “My teammates and I decided in 2022 that we wanted to put together a lightweight women’s quad to try to develop for the Olympics.”

In September 2022, a car crash put everything on hold. Despite being badly injured in the crash with a collapsed lung, broken ribs and nerve damage, which required 22 total days in the ICU and rehabilitation, Luwis made a comeback for the 2023 season. “To get back to working out,” she remembers, “it started with a five-minute and then a 10-minute walk. Very slowly getting back into rowing again was very step-by-step and sometimes it would be three steps forward, two steps back.”

Persevering through a difficult recovery process, Luwis competed as a lightweight single for the United States, racing internationally. Approved to represent the U.S. in World Cup events, she earned a silver medal at World Cup II and gold at World Cup III. One year to the day after her car crash, Luwis earned bronze for the U.S. at the World Championships, the most competitive rowing event next to the Olympics. “It was the best thing I’ve ever done in my life,” she says.

In October, Luwis was named the 2023 Carie Graves Female Athlete of the Year, which is “awarded to the athlete(s) who displayed during the past year the most compelling combination of character, leadership, and performance, while driving forward a positive team culture,” by USRowing.

Because there is no lightweight single for rowing at the Olympics, Luwis’ goal is to be invited to the lightweight double selection camp in hopes of being selected to be one of the two people in the U.S. Olympic boat. Luwis recently received a master’s degree in sports industry management from Georgetown University and she works in sports administration as an administrator at a youth rowing program. Additionally, she coaches part-time for a high school in Pennsylvania and runs the social media for her rowing club, Black Sheep Racing at Whitemarsh Boat Club. In all these positions, her W&M degree comes in handy. “I’m not doing phonetics and syntax,” she says, “but the concept of looking at something that you think you know from a different perspective is a brain pathway I developed by studying linguistics.”

Reflecting on her time with W&M Club Rowing, Luwis says, “I wouldn’t be doing what I’m doing without club sports at W&M. I’ve gone back and forth about wishing William & Mary had a division program, but there was something really great about it being a club program because it gave so much freedom. I could race with the team at practice, but then I could also do this whole other independent, competitive side of it.”

—MARY BETH BAUERMANN ’24

FROM W&M TO THE WORLD: Left: Sophia Luwis (center) poses with silver medalist Siobhan McCrohan of Ireland and bronze medalist Olivia Bates of Great Britain after winning her gold medal at the World Rowing Cup III last July. Right: Luwis fell in love with the sport while participating in W&M Club Rowing.
It’s Just Rocket Science

William & Mary alumnus Russell “Buzz” Wincheski joins the NASA Inventors Hall of Fame

ALUMNI PROFILE

With 20 U.S. patents in his name, NASA instrumentation scientist Russell “Buzz” Wincheski ’90, M.S. ’96, Ph.D. ’99 is described by NASA as a leader in “the development of multiple eddy current and carbon nanotube-based sensor systems.” For his contributions in the field of physics and his work on such projects as the space shuttle program, Wincheski was recently inducted into the 2022-2023 NASA Inventors Hall of Fame. And it all started with a William & Mary internship.

Arriving on his motorcycle for an interview at the W&M Alumni Magazine office, Wincheski exudes an unassuming coolness. He goes by his nickname, “Buzz,” fitting for a future NASA employee. With a knack for math and science as a child and a fondness for taking things apart and putting them back together again, Wincheski set his sights on majoring in engineering in college.

Although he began his college career studying engineering and wrestling for the University of Tennessee, Wincheski and a wrestling teammate, Rob Larmore ’90, decided to transfer to W&M when Tennessee dropped their wrestling program.

At W&M, Wincheski and Larmore wrestled on the varsity team together and they were roommates throughout their time at the university.

The NASA Inventors Hall of Fame isn’t Wincheski’s first such induction, as he is a member of the W&M Athletics Hall of Fame for wrestling. “My senior year, I won the Easterns, the big qualifier for Nationals. I made it to the national tournament three times and competed there. I won some matches, but never placed,” he says.
Wincheski says the determination he learned from wrestling was his biggest takeaway from the experience. He quotes his teammate Mark McLaughlin ’88, who always said, “Once you’ve wrestled, everything else is easy.” Wincheski translated that wrestling determination into his academic experience. He explains, “Trying to cut weight and stay strong and compete at the same time convinced me, ‘All right, I can study for this exam.’”

Because engineering was not offered at W&M, Wincheski jumped into the next closest field: physics. W&M professor Harlan Schone recommended that Wincheski look into the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program, which is funded by the National Science Foundation. Through the REU program, Wincheski made the connection with NASA and started interning at the NASA Langley Research Center over the summer after his freshman year.

“I made some connections at NASA and came back to work there all three summers,” Wincheski says. “After I graduated with my bachelor’s degree, they offered me a position as a contractor.”

While working as a support service contractor for six years at NASA Langley, Wincheski returned to W&M for a master’s degree in physics. By 1996, he was an official government employee. Wincheski went on to earn his doctorate in solid-state physics from W&M in 1999, encouraged by the late Min Namkung M.S. ’79, Ph.D. ’82, who was his mentor during his first summer at Langley. Wincheski also cites the late W&M physics professor Jack Kossler P ’89, his Ph.D. advisor, as a mentor.

During Wincheski’s early years, Langley was a research center focused on aeronautics, the science of travel through air. “When I first started, it was not a space center. We did a lot of work on the aging aircraft program,” he says. “My first invention happened while working on that program; there was a failure of a fuselage in a plane.”

Since then, he’s remained at Langley and continues inventing new technologies. A flux focusing eddy current probe, on which Wincheski was a contributor, earned an R&D 100 award. This type of probe improves the ability to detect fatigue cracks in high-conductivity material, which increases the efficiency of inspections. “It was one of the 100 biggest inventions of the year,” explains Wincheski.

He considers his contributions to the space shuttle program to be his most fulfilling project. “I was able to develop and apply technologies to keep the shuttle safe after the 2003 Columbia space shuttle accident and make sure that NASA could safely finish the program,” he says. He has also seen his fair share of shuttle launches, which he calls a perk of the job.

Being inducted into the NASA Inventors Hall of Fame, Wincheski explains, “was a surprise,” despite his many years of innovation. “It’s nice to know that the work has a point. It has contributed to something that I’m invested in and that I think a lot of the country is invested in, too.”

W&M remains a part of Wincheski’s life in a variety of ways. He met his wife, Kathy Dewhirst Wincheski ’83, M.Ed. ’85, while they were both working at Green Leafe Cafe. Buzz Wincheski has maintained connections with William & Mary by working with physics students and serving on Ph.D. committees in the physics department. “I still go to the football games,” he says, and he enjoys “just being part of the community.”

His advice for prospective physicists and inventors? “I’d definitely encourage anyone who has the aptitude for physics to pursue it, because within physics, there are lots of opportunities for specialization,” he explains. For inventing, “you just have to pursue it,” he says. “I never did it for the return on the patent, but to find something new and develop it. If it can be applied even in a small way to make someone’s life easier or something safer, it’s very fulfilling.”
ALUMNI AWARDS The Douglas N. Morton ’62 Alumni and Young Alumni Service Awards recognize alumni who are constantly working to engage and support alumni, connecting them to each other and the university. The W&M Alumni Association Board of Directors presents the awards at a ceremony during Charter Day Weekend. To nominate deserving alumni for this or other awards, please visit wmalumni.com/awards. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2024.

The WMAA also recognizes two additional members of the Tribe each year for their service to the Alumni Association through the Staff Service Award, given to a staff or faculty member, and the Coach of the Year Award, recognizing exceptional achievement in coaching an intercollegiate varsity sport at W&M. Read more about each of the winners at magazine.wm.edu/service-2024.

DOUGLAS N. MORTON ’62 YOUNG ALUMNI SERVICE AWARDS

KELSEY M. CARPENTER ’15, M.P.P. ’16 As a recent alumna, Kelsey Carpenter wasted no time in giving back to the William & Mary community after her graduation. She has served on the W&M D.C. Metro Board since 2017, including a term as its president from 2021-2023. Kelsey led the group through virtual programming during the COVID-19 pandemic and helped ease the transition back to in-person in 2021. To encourage more alumni to participate in events, Kelsey has created a wide variety of programs, including a D.C Metro Charter Day event, a tour of the Watergate hotel and a trivia night to fundraise for the Greater D.C. Chapter Scholarship. She keeps beloved William & Mary traditions alive in D.C. as well, such as Yule Log and the annual embassy event. Kelsey has also worked to diversify the network, inviting leaders from W&M Alumni Association affinity and identity groups to D.C. Metro board meetings.

In recognition of her consecutive years of giving, Kelsey is a Cobblestone member of the Bell Society. She is also a member of the Young Guarde Council, which represents alumni who graduated within the past 10 years, and the Association of 1775, a network for alumni who serve or have served in the military and federal government. She has also developed a close partnership with the W&M Washington Center as a mentor to students.

“William & Mary has always provided me with a sense of community and family. When I graduated and moved to the D.C. area, I attended alumni events to meet new friends and explore the city.”
she says. “I wanted to stay involved with W&M to help other alumni and current students do the same … Since graduating, I come back to the intellectual curiosity William & Mary sparks in its students. I know my drive to always learn new things started in Williamsburg and continues today.”

**ALEXANDRA G. “ALLY” PHILLIPS ’16** One of eight William & Mary graduates in her family across three generations, Ally Phillips has a connection to W&M that continues to run deep in her life as a young alumna. Ally is a founding member of the class ambassador program for the Class of 2016, encouraging her classmates to connect with and give back to the university. She was nominated to the Annual Giving Board just two years after graduating and has served on the volunteer engagement, participation and development committees.

Ally has seen firsthand the impact of alumni giving and the power of the alumni network for current students and graduates alike. She frequently speaks with prospective students about all that W&M has to offer and is passionate about keeping students and alumni connected to their alma mater — a mission that began during her time as an undergraduate student.

During her time at W&M, Ally served as the president of the Student Alumni Council and led the merging of three organizations into what is now known as Students for University Advancement. As co-president of the 2016 Senior Class Gift Committee, she helped achieve an impressive 73% class participation rate, and the class continues to give at a high rate each year.

While devoting her time to her alma mater, Ally leads a busy professional life working as a policy director at the Office of the Secretary of Defense. She also takes time to speak with W&M graduates interested in national security careers.

“I’m proud to be a part of the William & Mary community,” she says. “I believe in paying it forward for future members of the Tribe.”

**CARLTON R. SMITH ’15, M.A.ED. ’17** As a co-chair of the Young Guard Council and the Young Guard’s representative on the W&M Alumni Association’s Board of Directors, Carlton Smith advocates for alumni who graduated within the past 10 years. Carlton has been proud to be part of the Young Guard Council since he graduated in 2015, contributing to launching and continually improving the young alumni engagement program at William & Mary as a staff member from 2015-2016 and also as a volunteer leader.

Among Carlton’s contributions are several new initiatives, including “Welcome to the City,” a series focused on fostering connections and helping graduates transition from students to alumni, as well as the Young Guard blog and a partnership with Students for University Advancement to form a pipeline of volunteers for the Council.

“William & Mary was such a transformative experience for me, so I naturally gravitated toward avenues that would allow me to not only give back to the institution that gave me so much, but that also allow me to bridge that gap between students and new alumni,” Carlton says.

Carlton graduated from W&M with a bachelor’s degree in government and returned for a master’s degree in higher education administration. He went on to earn a doctorate with an emphasis on college student affairs administration from the University of Georgia. Carlton has served as the director of multicultural affairs at the University of North Carolina Asheville since 2022. In Asheville, Carlton connects fellow Young Guard members in the area, working to develop and promote the W&M community in the city.

In October 2023, he served as one of the judges in the William & Mary Homecoming Parade. Carlton is a member of the Bell Society for giving annually to William & Mary. He is also a fierce advocate for alumni service, saying, “Do you see places where we can improve or give back? Get involved! Advocate!” He adds, “Being active means that when students look for help to bring positive change, they may look to us.”

**DOUGLAS N. MORTON ’62 ALUMNI SERVICE AWARDS**

**ASHLEY V. GLACEL ’02** is dedicated to building William & Mary’s culture of engagement and philanthropy so her alma mater continues to thrive. A volunteer leader, she served as a member of the Annual Giving Board from 2013 to 2019, including a term as its chair, as a member of the For the Bold West Coast Regional Campaign Committee and on her 10th reunion committee. She has been a class ambassador since 2015. Even though she resides in Los Angeles, Ashley frequently returns to campus and brings Williamsburg to the West Coast by hosting One Tribe One Day and other W&M events in her area.

Ashley is part of a multigenerational William & Mary family. As part of the university’s commemoration of the 100th anniversary of coeducation, Ashley
participated in an oral history with her grandmother, the late Virginia Forwood Pate Wetter '40, D.P.S. '06, P '68, P '70, G '98, G '02; her mother, Barbara Pate Glacel '70, P '98, P '02; her aunt, Kennon Pate McKee '68; and her sister, Jennifer Glacel '98. Dedicated to increasing women’s engagement and philanthropy at the university, Ashley is a charter member of the Society of 1918 and has served on the steering committee since 2021.

In addition, Ashley helped establish the Adrienne Vaughan Memorial Scholarship Endowment in honor of fellow alumna Adrienne Vaughan '00, who passed away in a tragic boating accident this past August. Ashley worked with Vaughan’s husband, Mike White ‘00, and five more of her friends from W&M to create the scholarship to provide need-based support for students from the Portsmouth, Virginia, region.

“I started volunteering for William & Mary as a way to give back to the institution that shaped me, but the result has been that it has continued to give me more. By serving alongside other alumni — all of whom are fascinating, community-minded and generous with their time — I’ve expanded my William & Mary friendships to include alumni of all ages,” she says. “My hope is to preserve and foster the institution and its community, which have enriched my life so deeply. I’d like to think that generations beyond mine will be able to benefit from William & Mary in the way that I have.”

KATHERINE “KATHY” DALTON MIKA ‘79, P ‘09 A busy pediatrician, Kathy Mika makes time to promote the green & gold in Charlottesville, Virginia. She has served on the W&M Charlottesville-Highland network leadership team since 2006, including terms as secretary, treasurer and president. Kathy helped recruit the first Young Guarde and Olde Guarde representatives to the board in 2010, increasing the board’s diversity. She continues to be involved in the network’s events and has served as volunteer lead for many of them, including the popular polo match at King Family Vineyards and service days at James Monroe’s Highland.

Her generosity to William & Mary is recognized through her membership in the Milestone level of the Bell Society, which represents 15-24 years of consecutive giving. She also served on her 35th reunion committee.

It is clear that service to William & Mary runs in Kathy’s family. Her father, the late Gov. John N. Dalton ’53, LL.D. ’79, P ’79, G ’09, and her grandfather, the late Hon. Theodore Roosevelt Dalton 1924, B.C.L. 1926, LL.D. ’72, P ’53, G ’79, both received the Alumni Medallion, the highest award given by the W&M Alumni Association. Her daughter, Alison Mika Schutte ‘09, continued her mother’s legacy of service as a member of the Charlottesville-Highland leadership team, including as its president.

“My William & Mary years were foundational for my life,” says Kathy. “Staying involved in the alumni community keeps me connected with the traditions and memories of the past. It also engages me with peers of many generations whose shared W&M experience is a foundation for friendship and a jumping-off place for new learning, new experiences and an opportunity to pay it forward.”

LUI S H. NAV A S ’82, P ’13 has had a profound impact on current students and alumni across generations through his service to William & Mary. As a member of the Reves International Advisory Board for two decades, he helped recruit talented students from his hometown of Miami and from Latin America, strengthen study abroad opportunities in those countries and ensure international students feel welcome at the university. On the Latinx Alumni Advisory Board and its precursor, the Latinx Alumni Leadership Circle, he has thoughtfully designed programs that reach members of the W&M Latinx community of all ages, creating opportunities to bridge generational gaps and promote lasting relationships.

In 2019, Luis and his wife, Dolores Urcuyo Navas P '13, and their daughter Gloria Navas '13 participated in W&M’s Latinx Oral History Project and recorded their reflections on their William & Mary experiences for posterity.

In 2018, Luis and Dolores created the Jorge Alberto Urcuyo Scholarship, which aids W&M students whose immigration status prevents them from receiving financial aid or federal assistance. The scholarship is inspired by his own experience and is named in honor of his late brother-in-law, Jorge, who was killed as a teenager while volunteering as a teacher in the aftermath of the Nicaraguan Revolution. This scholarship, along with his other efforts to support the W&M community, demonstrates Luis’ thoughtful leadership and passion for service.

“William & Mary has made an enormous impact in my life. You could say that even though I physically left W&M back in 1982, I never truly left,” says Luis. “The friendships that I made have lasted more than 40 years now. I learned so much from my professors and especially hold the honor code as a personal motto. I’ve always enjoyed staying involved with the university and alumni community.”
COACH OF THE YEAR

MIKE LONDON In 2022, W&M Football advanced to the quarterfinal round of the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs as conference champions with a school-record 10 wins during the regular season. The 2023 season exhibited the Tribe’s growth as a football program. Behind the team’s continued success is head football coach Mike London.

“I am most proud of the opportunity to achieve the levels of success we’ve had since I’ve been here,” he says. “I arrived at W&M in 2019, a season where we went 5-7.” Only allowed to play three games in the 2020 season due to COVID-19, the Tribe missed a year of competitive collegiate activity. Despite the setback, the team went 6-5 in 2021, a winning record for the first time since 2015. “Then, obviously, we had a tremendous year in 2022, with the opportunity to go beyond into the FCS playoffs,” he adds. “Those experiences have been highlights of the years I’ve been here thus far.”

Coach London believes in supporting the team’s success not only on the field, but in the classroom and the community as well. Record numbers of players were named to the Coastal Athletic Association Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll during his tenure, with 69 players in fall 2020 during the height of the pandemic and 55 players in spring 2023. He has also been instrumental to the success of the All In campaign, which raised $55 million for W&M Athletics, built community and continues to reimagine the home for the Tribe.

He adds, “I’m tremendously proud of the engagement our players have had in community service projects, such as their involvement with Be The Match, an initiative that raises awareness for bone marrow donors, recipients and education. We have had players who have been recognized as matches for individuals throughout the United States and have selflessly given their bone marrow samples to save lives.”

In future seasons, Coach London sees ample opportunities for the football program to thrive. “We are looking forward to continued levels of growth and success, the opportunity to compete for championships, and to be a model of graduation rates,” he says. “We want to be models of those individuals who embrace the fact that you can get a world-class degree and you can play competitive football on the field here at William & Mary. You can truly have the best of both worlds.”

STAFF SERVICE AWARD

ROXANE O. ADLER HICKEY M.ED. ‘02, ED.D. ‘23 Director of the W&M Washington Center Roxane Adler Hickey is the definition of a campus leader and an alumni engagement advocate.

Arriving at the W&M Washington Center in 2006 as a program director, Adler Hickey became associate director in 2015 and served as interim director from 2019 to 2021. As director, she has consistently prioritized building stronger connections between W&M’s University Advancement and Alumni Engagement offices, creating a true campus community in Washington, D.C.

With a large concentration of W&M alumni living and working in Washington, Adler Hickey consistently brainstorms ways to engage W&M alumni in the D.C. metro area and use alumni connections to open doors to internships and experiential learning opportunities for students. She also assists in planning and executing regional alumni engagement events and offers the W&M Washington Center as a home base for her colleagues throughout the university.

Working alongside W&M’s Office of University Advancement, in 2018 Adler Hickey established the W&M Washington Center Advisory Board, which supports students financially to increase accessibility to the Center’s programs and provides a platform for alumni input into the Center’s goals and activities.

She advocates for the opportunities the W&M Washington Center and alumni create for students, such as through scholarships. “Over the last 17 plus years, I am proud to have helped build a center with programs that give students what they need. Our students have the opportunity to work individually with our team members, who offer a personalized experience in a small setting so that they can support each student where they are and help them get where they want to go,” she says. “I am proud to be a part of an incredible team and to collaborate with so many people and units across the university. I am proud to work with dedicated alumni who connect with our students in D.C. and help them find fulfilling careers.”

— MARY BETH BAUERMANN ‘24 AND GABRIELA TRAUTTMANDORFF ‘26
New Alumni Award Announced
Civic & Humanitarian Leadership Award

ALUMNI AWARDS In 2023, the William & Mary Alumni Association Board of Directors created the Alumni Civic & Humanitarian Leadership Award to recognize alumni who are significantly improving or enhancing the lives of others. Recipients exemplify the university’s values, dedicating significant time, leadership and energy to serve humanity. Through their volunteer efforts, participation in charitable work and selfless actions, they make a meaningful impact on communities and society as a whole. Those who receive this award are compassionate citizens who devote their knowledge, skills and time to serve the greater good.

The award is bestowed during Charter Day Weekend as part of the Alumni Medallion & Service Awards Ceremony. To nominate deserving alumni for this or other awards, please visit wmalumni.com/awards.

CIVIC & HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

STEVEN E. “STEVE” MCNAMEE ’81 is a teacher who transforms lives by going the extra mile for his students in and out of the classroom. For nearly 25 years, he has inspired and educated low-income and at-risk students in Richmond, Virginia. Principals and friends tell stories of how he helped move a student’s family out of unsafe housing, uses his own resources to take his students to local sporting and cultural events, and sets them on the path to success, academically and socially.

“Steve is in the trenches every single day all day long with his fifth-grade students, so many of whom live in enormously challenging circumstances, whether it’s living in public housing communities or coming from generations of poverty. I’ve never met anyone who, day by day, hour by hour, cares so deeply for students, works so diligently and intentionally with them, and has such a long-term impact,” says Michael Maruca, the head of school at the independent, faith-based Anna Julia Cooper School, where McNamee teaches.

After graduating from William & Mary in 1981 with a business degree, McNamee worked in the insurance industry for 15 years before answering the call to help students in need as an educator. At Swansboro Elementary School, part of Richmond Public Schools, he led the “Men of Swansboro” program for boys in third through fifth grades to learn life skills and etiquette. With the late David Murphy ’84, P ’18, he launched the Mr. Mac Foundation so the business community, school alumni and supporters could provide funding for applied learning and extracurricular experiences for his students.

At William & Mary, McNamee is one of the co-founders of HEYFARL (Hundred Each Year for a Rising Letterman), which has funded over $2 million for football scholarships to walk-on football athletes. Several of these walk-ons have gone on to careers that raise William & Mary’s profile on the national scene, including Buffalo Bills Coach Sean McDermott ’98. Many former players currently make annual gifts to HEYFARL, and the initiative continues to bring Tribe athletes together across generations. For his leadership of HEYFARL and in recognition of his achievements playing W&M Football as a student, McNamee was inducted into the W&M Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

— CLAIRE DE LISLE M.B.A. ’21
Traditions Weekend

APRIL 19-21, 2024

Come home to campus, reconnect with friends and experience William & Mary as it shines today.

Traditions Weekend brings together the 50th Reunion class, the Olde Guarde of their Majesties' Royal Colledge in Virginia and the Honorable Robert Boyle Legacy Society to build on traditions and shared experiences as we look toward the future.

Learn more at traditionsweekend.wm.edu

Kingsmill Resort would like to extend a 15% Discount* for all William & Mary Alumni on overnight stays.

Valid for Guest Rooms, 1, 2, and 3-bedroom condos through December 31, 2024. Enter Discount Code WMFF at checkout.

Staying at Kingsmill Resort gives you access to all our amenities:
• Golf at The River or Plantation Course**
• Splash the day away at one of our three pools, including The River Pool
• Enjoy waterfront dining**
• Relax and rejuvenate at The Kingsmill Spa**
• Play a friendly game of Tennis or Pickleball at one of our 15 courts
• Rent Paddleboards, Kayaks, Jet Ski's, a Pontoone Boat, and more at the Kingsmill Marina**
• Burn off a few calories in our newly renovated Fitness Center with state-of-the-art equipment

We look forward to hosting you the next time you visit the area. Go Tribe!

*Not applicable for other promotions or discounts. Blackout dates and restrictions may apply.
**Fees apply

Scan the QR Code, or call 800-832-5665 to take advantage of this offer.

1010 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185 | Kingsmill.com
ALUMNI NETWORK  The Association of 1775 (Ao75), named in recognition of the Revolutionary War service of William & Mary students, is the W&M Alumni Association’s network for alumni who serve or have served in the military or federal government. It works to strengthen relationships among these alumni and the university and to serve as a resource for two communities on campus: students seeking to enter government service or the military and student military and veterans. Read more about Ao75 at magazine.wm.edu/Ao75.

Each year’s Ao75 Military & Veterans Breakfast during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend brings alumni, student veterans and their families together for a celebration of service and shared experience. This year’s breakfast, held during the Year of the Arts, featured Brian Jenkins ’16, executive director of Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP), the nation’s largest military arts organization. ASAP got its start eight years ago at William & Mary when founder Sam Pressler ’15 started teaching comedy workshops on campus, which eventually extended to other forms of art. Since then, more than 4,000 veterans — including those in William & Mary’s Veteran-to-Executive (W&M VET) certificate program, Flourishing Through Life Transitions — have participated in an ASAP class to express themselves and build community through art and storytelling. ASAP amplifies the voices and stories of veterans, service members, military spouses, family members, caregivers and survivors, just as Ao75 works to do within the W&M community. In December, Jenkins was named to Forbes’ 30 Under 30 list for social impact because of his work with ASAP.

In November, Ao75 hosted a field trip for ROTC cadets from W&M and Christopher Newport University to visit Fort Gregg-Adams, formerly Fort Lee. There, they met with representatives from the U.S. Army quartermaster, transportation and ordnance branches and learned about career paths for new commissioned officers. Throughout the day, they interacted with and asked questions of military and veteran alumni, and the field trip concluded with Col. James Callis ’97 sharing his three pillars of good leadership: character, competence and compassion.

To sign up for updates about Ao75 and learn about upcoming events, visit wmalumni.com/ao75.

— CLAIRE DE LISLE M.B.A. ’21
Joining the Society of 1918 is an excellent way for 2014-2023 graduates to become part of a dynamic community dedicated to growing the engagement, leadership and philanthropy of William & Mary women. Graduates from the past 10 years can make a membership gift at a 50% discount, about $167 per month over five years.

LEARN MORE AT advancement.wm.edu/1918/join

STAY CONNECTED
@WMAAlumni
All here, at our place in New York City.

William & Mary alumni can now apply for business associate membership in the beautiful Cornell Club-New York.

Located in the heart of midtown, only steps from Grand Central Terminal and Fifth Avenue, The Cornell Club-New York is a 14-story members-only club that offers lodging, dining, meeting spaces and much more. Members also have access to a network of reciprocal clubs across the globe.

The Cornell Club will serve as a hub for our alumni in the tri-state area, will provide a beautiful space for networking and special events and will be a home in the city for our alumni members of The Club where they feel a sense of belonging and connection.

For more information, visit wmalumni.com/cornellclub or contact the W&M Alumni Association at alumni.engagement@wm.edu.

William & Mary | Alumni Association
Class Notes
What’s the Story?

Bird’s eye view of the Swem Sundial, circa 1977. Jones Hall sits just beyond the snowy pathways in the center background with the original Small Hall at right.

The photo was most likely taken from the top of Millington Hall, which is now the future home of the next phase of the Integrated Science Center, ISC 4.

— Photo courtesy of WMAA Archives, W&M Libraries, Special Collections Research Center

Class Notes has been a William & Mary tradition for decades, made possible by the efforts of our dedicated volunteer class reporters. While we make every effort to collect columns and check facts, each column is the responsibility of the class reporter.

In the coming year, 1956 classmates will begin turning 90 (ninety)!. We wish those a happy birthday, good health and congratulations!

Les Sykes Waldron states that she is spending too much time visiting doctors! She and Jim still attend all the shows at the Williamsburg Players. She regrets not seeing Glenn Close ’74, D.A. ’89, H.F. ’19 during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. At the time she was writing, the leaves were turning and falling, and it reminded her of being back to classes — “William & Mary, loved of old…”

Nancy Harshbarger Hummel said the weather for Homecoming, Oct. 19-22, was perfect. She and John Hummel were the only people from the Class of 1956 attending the Olde Guarde Brunch. At the brunch, the emphasis was on the Arts Quarter — rebuilding Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall (now complete), expanding the Muscarelle Museum of Art to three times its current size. (You will find many articles expanding on these and other happenings at the College on the W&M Alumni Magazine website, in The Virginia Gazette, etc.). Glenn Close was the grand marshal of the Homecoming Parade (now on Friday afternoon). The main theater at Phi Beta Kappa has been named in her honor. The costumes she wore at W&M are exhibited in the new lobby.

Good to get news from Will Molineux — 70 years ago, as of the time he wrote his note, he and Ed Watkins were initiated into Kappa Sigma. Will continues to teach in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary (previously the Christopher Wren Association) and has been offering classes based on original research that addresses the history of Williamsburg between 1870 and 1926, the long-ignored period from the end of Reconstruction to the Goodwin-Rockefeller partnership restoring 18th-century Williamsburg. His classes have been oversubscribed and will be offered again in the spring 2024 semester. Will also continues his interest in discovering little known episodes in Williamsburg’s past and publishing (mimeographing) copies of his accounts. His wife, Mary Sawyer Molineux ’75, keeps busy participating in a book club, tending to her garden, playing the piano, attending watercolor class and making sure Will takes his meds. The Molineuxes recently saw Alice Matthews Erickson ’57, M.A. ’75 at a rural nursery and found her as delightful, bright and happy as always! She is busy updating the history of the Hampton Baptist Church, another one of her local history projects keeping the past from being forgotten. The Watkinses have retired from church choir (due to old age!!). It’s the first time in forever that we are sitting in the congregation at church or not participating in a community choir. But “That’s Life,” Belinda Owens Watkins is catching up on her reading, and Ed sits at the computer most days after his trips to the gym!

1957

Class Reporter
PETE KALISON
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Lots of news of the Great Class of 1957 for our latest newsletter:

Margi Helter Melnick has two grandchildren at William & Mary now; one of them, Kelly Melnick ’25, is pre-med and spending a semester in Denmark. Margi hoped to attend Homecoming & Reunion Weekend with a grandson who graduated from W&M two years ago. She would enjoy hearing from classmates.

Had a long email from Lili Kocher in San Francisco, where she volunteers at an art film theater and stays connected to a local TriDelt alumni group. She is very active with yoga, daily Zen meditation and weekly walks/hikes. Lili’s four daughters, five grandkids and one great grandchild are spread across the U.S. from Atlanta to Hawaii. She stays in close touch with Mary “Mickie” Curro.

Mickie is playing little tennis these days, but continues actively with her watercolor painting, poetry, writing and making greeting cards. She is also driving to Chapel Hill and Asheville, North Carolina, to visit grandchildren, as well as Atlanta, where she has a granddaughter. She ends her nice note with “memories of the Class of ’57 are sweet and proud.”

Dave Eanes reports he and his wife, Bev, reside at an over-55 community near Annapolis, Maryland. They moved there in 1999 after he retired from the National Institutes of Health. Drawing, traveling, painting and writing, along with community activities, keep him busy. He spends time visiting their son and his three children, as well as the Delaware beaches.

A note from Nancy Anderson tells of the recent passing of her husband, Carl Anderson. He loved William & Mary and they attended and enjoyed many Tribe football games.

One of our regular contributors, Shirley Richardson Fitzgerald, continues to enjoy Tribe home football games and looked forward to seeing old friends at our Homecoming.

Bill Armbruster tells us he and Betty-Wright Fraher Armbruster ’58 hosted several Tribe football players for dinner during preseason and that Alice Matthews Erickson ’57, M.A. ’75 also attended one there. Bill plays pickleball almost every day — obviously the time of the court — and Betty-Wright volunteers at the Bruton Parish gift shop. We all remember Betty and Bill proudly as grand marshals of the 2022 Homecoming!

Marsha and I, along with Jane Thompson Kaplan ’56, are having dinner Homecoming weekend with Bill Marfizo ’56 and his wife. Bill was recognized at Homecoming on the 70th anniversary of the fabled Iron Indians W&M team of 1953.

We have nicely settled into our new home at the Windsor Run senior development in Matthews, North Carolina, 10 minutes from one of our daughters and three granddaughters. We planned to be at Homecoming for a week and hoped to see many of you there ... rooting for the Tribe, of course.

I will miss, most of all, the W&M home basketball games but will watch them all on television.
Greetings, Super-Agers! I noticed that there are only two other preceding classes that W&M reports in this section. That’s a bit sobering, but we know we won’t be ghosted for at least another two years! My father quoted this Dylan Thomas poem to me in our last conversation, “Do not go gentle into that good night. Fight, fight against the dying of the light. Old age should burn and rave at close of day; Rage, rage against the dying of the light.”

Sadly, there were three who recently rested in power: Eve Mapp Cray, Ann Elizabeth Shobin with Bill Walters and Stephanie Amato Brickhouse. I last saw Eve at our 60th reunion and was looking forward to catching up more on a one-on-one, but it was not to be. Please send me any tributes that I can add to the more detailed information in the less restricted online Class Notes.

Bill Mitchell endured the fires of learning Zoom, and we spent a pleasant time seeing each other that way. He said that if he can learn it, any classmate can. We hope to have a Zoom reunion soon! Let me know if you need any assistance in learning. Bill recently produced two written products. The first was his “life story” in scrapbook form, which he copied 10 times and sent to his family. I suggested that he digitize it for better storage and distribution; he demurred. The second tome is now up to 10 volumes and contains various financial data sets that he passes on to his sons.

Pat King Sell wrote that she and Ginny Walters Topp had enjoyed a W&M cruise together on the Great Lakes this summer and encouraged other alumni to utilize such tours. She also sent a photo of the two of them and another one that was more historic, when she was a cheerleader in September 1957. She is kneeling while two Navy mates tower above with their goat. The photos can be found in the online edition.

I finished the national USTA tournaments for this year, in our age group, playing singles both in Palm Beach Gardens, Longboat Key and Sarasota, Florida. I hope that I will continue my No. 1 ranking in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Before transferring to W&M in 1956, I played on the tennis team at Morningside University in my hometown of Sioux City, Iowa. Recently, they named a tennis room at their new indoor facility for you and I, and will be storing my memorabilia (trophies, scrapbooks, etc.) there. It will also include the name of my daughter, who is still playing championship tennis at 54, so that we will be role models for both the men’s and women’s teams of future generations.

I continue to chair the American Academy of Housing and Community Development, having monthly Zoom sessions on national and international eponymous topics. A grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will aid us in revising relevant Wikipedia articles, adding more oral histories of the fellows; and producing a feasibility study of a history office for HUD. That, and my part-time urban consulting practice, takes me more frequently to London and Paris for meetings and research. And there’s always advocacy on the Hill through the many public and private groups in which I participate.

The fall course I taught for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University, “Self-Publishing Your Memoirs with AI Enhancers,” was very successful, and I plan to teach it again in the spring. The first two books finally came out of the Amazon publishing pipeline: the story of an ancestor, Capt. Tillinghast, and his court-martial battle with Capt. Abner Doubleday at Fort Moultrie in 1859; and the story of the removal and replacement of the Confederate windows at the Washington National Cathedral with those depicting social justice.

And just in! Like my fraternity brother, the late Tom Lightner, I will be listed in the 2024 Who’s Who in America. Thanks, Tom, for the nomination.

I’m starting this before Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, which is Oct. 19-22, but I hope I’ll see some of you there.

Penny Witzeman Nelson says that she is trying to be proactive, and I think she has certainly found a way! She arranged to bring (only for one afternoon) a nonprofit bike to her active retirement community, Stonebridge. Two passengers ride in the front and the trained pilot rides in the back using his pedal power plus electricity. This enables residents who cannot walk the beautiful grounds to do so feeling the wind and the sun on their faces. It is called “Biking for All Ages.” The bike, called a Chat, comes from the Netherlands and the nonprofit takes care of the insurance. Penny tested it and, to quote her, “I waved to everyone, feeling like I was in the Rose Bowl Parade.” That makes me want to try one!

Bev Harris Olsen writes that she and Ric will be celebrating Ric’s 90th birthday on Veterans Day. Besides those who live in Richmond, family is coming from all over. A son is coming from Blacksburg and a stepson, Jake, plans to come from California. Jake takes care of and lives in the house Bev and Ric lived in for the 40 years they were in California. Though she doesn’t miss being there, it was a marvelous location. There was a local pool and tennis club at the end of their street, and they could walk to their Kaiser Permanente hospital and medical building. They had built the new Apple world headquarters, called Apple Park, which she says looks like a spaceship, a block and a half from them. It was eerily empty due to COVID-19 in the spring of 2021 when they moved back to Virginia. She and Ric are living in a assisted living place here in Richmond. Ric is in the memory care unit down the hall from Bev so they can enjoy taking walks outside together. With his age and dementia, he qualifies for hospice and they are so pleased with the wonderful extra care he is getting. She says that many people wait until too late to get the real benefits available from hospice. Bev and her daughter Kay are going to spend a day in Williamsburg next week and walk down to the Memorial Gardens, which is close to Kay’s W&M office. They are filling out a reservation form for both Ric and Bev. Eligibility depends on one spouse being a W&M graduate. To put a plug in for our class: the Memorial Garden was our class gift to the college for our 50th reunion!

Anne August Blunt had some news about Ray Walters Topp and Steve Topp. They recently roomed together until Ray and Steve, campus sweethearts, married in the Wren Chapel our sophomore year. This got my attention — Steve graduated Phi Beta Kappa without attending most classes! He preferred studying on his own and expressed this to his professors! He continued his advanced education at the University of Virginia at their request, graduating with a Ph.D. They later had two daughters whom they raised in Alken, South Carolina, while Steve was employed at the nearby Savannah River Plant. Sadly, he passed away a couple of years ago. Ray continues to live in Alken except during the summer, when she lives in her condo in Aspen, Colorado. She retired as a college career counselor.

Jim Dillard is always great about keeping in touch, and he continues to lead TIPS in the effort to adequately fund our state parks. They have legislation for the upcoming session of the General Assembly to provide sustainable funding. Joyce Butt Dillard ’58 were planning to spend a week in St. Croix in late October. I heard from Frances Gilliam Slccion ’59, M.A. ’72, who entered with our 1959 class, but married in 1957. She had Travis Slocumb III ’81 in 1959 and Stephanie in 1960. She hoped to be at Homecoming, but Travis Slocumb IV ’24 is a senior now. In 1969, she got her B.S. at Old Dominion University, followed by her M.A. in psychology in 1972 at W&M, a Ph.D. in psychology in 1981 at Virginia Commonwealth University and postdoctoral studies at Jung Institute in Zurich, Switzerland, from 1982 to 1986 as a Jungian analyst. To quote her, “Whew!” She has taught at many places: at Christopher Newport University as a tenured associate professor of psychology, one year teaching psychology at W&M, followed by many years teaching doctoral students in clinical psychology and organizational studies, while also maintaining
Jim Ukrop ‘60, L.H.D. ’99 writes that he and Barbara Berkeley Ukrop ’61, L.H.D. ’23 "are in an old folks home called Westminster Canterbury in Richmond." Jim adds, "It's like a cruise ship that doesn't leave the port."

James S. Dean sent a great note about his post-graduation years. "I left W&M in 1960 for England and graduate work at the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham and left there with a doctorate in 1962. Joined the U.S. Army as an artillery officer, but when the wiring of atomic rockets was too mystifying and dangerous, I turned to languages (French, German then later Portuguese) and served my time, translating, being a liaison between the U.S. and Europe, and a speech writer for a general. A, and, while in Texas at Fort Hood, I met a Brazilian, and two children later and a Fulbright to Brazil, I found myself in U.S. academe for a lifetime. I have authored five books on colonial and maritime history (and now await another) and sailed a 50-year-old Westerly bilge keeler in the Chesapeake. Some years ago, I married again to a brilliant Wisconsin woman who is with me still."

Janet Caldwell El- ling reports that she and her husband Mike "are doing well with minor aches and pains associated with — dare I say — 'old age'? We are fortunate that we are still able to travel to visit our four children's families in Kentucky, Indiana, Colorado and New Mexico. Sometimes we can entice them to visit us in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, which we did in early August for a family reunion. The only ones who could not come were our grandson and his wife, who live in northern Nevada, because they had just had our first great-grandchild, who was born on July 24. We are looking forward to meeting the newest addition to our family when they come here for Christmas. Mike and I have also been fortunate to have taken some interesting trips in recent years. Last June we enjoyed a Viking Cruise of the Great Lakes with our daughter Jennifer and her husband, Robert. In May, we are planning another trip with Viking to London and Normandy, a special trip during the 80th anniversary year of D-Day." She adds, "On a sadder note, we attended the memorial service for Nancy "Sallye" Branhm Chestek ’61 on Feb. 25. Since Nancy lived about an hour's drive from us, we got together with her occasionally and reminisced about our days at William & Mary. At her service I got reacquainted with another Gamma Phi alumna, the late MacDowell Battist ’61, and caught up with news of other sorority sisters in the class of 1961. We haven't been to Homecoming & Reunion Weekend in over five years but attended for many years with Peg Clement Haines and her husband, Barry. Judi Urian Lownes and her husband, Ken, Carole Welborn and Jesse Welborn ’59, and Mary Ellen Carlson Coffey. We have many fond memories of our Homecoming visits with our friends." Dick Kelly writes that he is approaching 86, but from the wrong direction, and remaining in excellent health. Having been a personal trainer for eight years after retirement, I continue to follow a workout routine, diet and lifestyle that are enjoyable and always give myself something to look forward to, whether it be a book, a movie, a trip or something new to learn. Sadly, I have now lost all but one of my 'band of brothers' and miss the visits, talks, laughs and creating new memories with the old. I believe in the adage that, as a parent, "You are only as happy as your unhappiest child," and I am pleased to report all my kids are good people and successful entrepreneurs: a construction company owner, a sole practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine (acupuncture, herbal medicine, etc.) and a professional accountant. And grandchildren are doing well, too. It doesn't get any better than that."

Diana Titolo Alexander ’61 and I joined Miles Chappell for dinner during a September visit to Williamsburg. As a professor of fine arts in the early 1970s, Miles was the earliest advocate for what became the Muscarelle Museum of Art, named for Joseph Muscarelle 1927 and Margaret, which he defended. The museum is sold as a "laboratory for the study of art and art history" at William & Mary. He looks forward to the 2024 opening of a dramatic museum renovation and expansion to three-story facility to house and present the ever-growing art collection. Miles observes that, "While knowing it sounds like an Olde Guarde sound bite, the Museum embodies the ancient Greek and Roman concept of vita brevis, ars longa."

Bruce Hobbs missed the last deadline, so here he is!! Read his entire note online. "Roberta Armstrong Hobbs and I just celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary ... Our efforts have focused on addressing a range of community related social concerns. Working with a variety of religious institutions and state and local officials, we were involved in establishing a number of nonprofit organizations to address an array of social problems. ... Roberta and I split our time between our home in Bonita Springs, Florida, and on a lake in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, which was made famous by the play and movie ‘On Golden Pond.’"

Bev Vaughan writes: "My husband, Etta, and I have been married for 33 years and have three sons and five grandchildren. Prior to retiring from our family owned and operated swimming pool business in 2012, I taught swimming and lifeguarding. Now retired, I enjoy travel and are currently planning an anniversary trip to Canada. We enjoy life and are grateful for each day we’re given."

Don Weissman moved from North Atlanta to the Augusta, Georgia, suburb of Evans, Georgia, to be close to his wife's children, etc. and to downsize to a home more accommodating for bad knees, hips, etc. Email and phone are the same. He expects to substitute teach at the local high school as he did in Atlanta.

Liz Rader O’Neill writes: "Fran McLean and I stayed with Dottie Nowland Gabig at Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Right now I am busy doing a lot of..."
stuff and getting a chorus ready for a Christmas concert. Can’t believe I’m talking about Christmas!”

Nancy Woodring has had a busy 2023! In February, she was diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer and was in chemo treatment for six months. Now it is in remission, but she says won’t be traveling anywhere for a good while. All in all she’s doing great due to great care from oncologists and friends.

From Kay Barchey Ogline: “I won’t be attending Homecoming but will be there the next weekend for Family Weekend … again … as I have yet another grandson who is a student. Although he lived on campus, the past few years he spent a lot of time cooking with friends who lived in Ludwell. All I could think was Ludwell? After all these years … yikes!”

Unfortunately, Dan Link ‘89 didn’t attend Homecoming this year. He recently moved from Oakton, Virginia, to Sandringham, Australia, and is now living the life of an Aussie there with his son David Link ‘89 and his family. He and David traveled cross country the middle of June, finally ending up in Portland, Oregon, to visit his daughter Kristin Link ‘99 and her family. They spent a day in Honolulu and two days in Seoul, Korea, before reaching Melbourne on July 8. Life is different, e.g. driving on the left, but he is enjoying it immensely.

Joan Costabell Austin: “In June my husband and I spent a couple of weeks in Iceland. It was a fascinating trip. It was a landscape quite unlike anything I have ever seen before. We were fortunate to have excellent weather. It’s a easy place to travel. I’m back from giving guided tours of Kykuit, the Rockefeller estate. Keith and I celebrated our 60th anniversary this summer.”

Joan and Ron Willard did not attend Homecoming, but watched the game on Cox TV! Most home football and some basketball are available! He enjoys reading biographies, newspapers and social media.

Greetings from Jim Caserta: “After some 40 years in the same house, my wife and I are moving — not going far, just two miles up the road. We traveled a bit as well … bummed all over Greece, Ireland, Switzerland and Sicily. One of my daughters was just issued a U.S. copyright for one of her designs, so I am busy helping her with marketing and developing her brand. My other two children are doctors. My granddaughter continues to pursue her graduate degree in psychology, while my grandson, a genuine renaissance man, is developing his business ‘wrapping’ cars while at the same time attending with his modern artwork. I met Bill Nicolai at one of my grandson’s showings in New York. Bill continues to live part time in Manhattan but spends the summers in his Southampton home.”

Ken Lounsbery writes: “Memories of the W&M Weekend in San Francisco in June linger. Good times spent with Diane Tichon Alexander and Joe Alexander ’60. We missed Homecoming this year but returned to Virginia for a visit with our daughter Anne Lounsbery ’88 and son-in-law John Scaife ’88. They bought and rebuilt a vintage house on a tributary to the Chesapeake, their second home while still living in New York City. Local grandkids occupy our time (growing too fast!). On the health front, Dorcas Lounsbery ’62 fell, broke her wrist (the left, her dominant), which has healed but she now faces surgery on the same hand. I inch toward retirement from the firm but there always seems to be ‘just one more case’ to resolve.”

From Alan Brownfeld: “Events in the Middle East are keeping me busy. I write a regular column for the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, and have written a special report for Americans for Middle East Understanding, I was last in Italy to visit my son Peter and my four grandchildren there in June. Peter represents the U.S. Department of Defense in Italy and Slovenia. I will try to go again in a few months. My two other children, Burke Brownfeld ’04 and Ali Brownfeld ’99, live here in Alexandria. Ali is engaged to be married to another William & Mary graduate in January. His grandfather Burke has two children.

“I had a nice visit a few months ago from Fred Bartlett ’62 and his wife, Sheri. Fred and I were roommates during my first year in law school. He is a retired Episcopal minister and lives in San Diego.”

Paul Verkuil ’61, D.P.S. ’17: “I was sorry to miss Homecoming last week but am planning to be at the Richmond game in a few weeks to catch up on things and attend the Public Policy board meeting. Last spring Judy and I were at the Jordan Winery in Sonoma and met Christian Taylor ’07 and his family. Christian is an alum and the offensive coordinator for our terrific football team. It turns out there were other alumns there who are in the wine business too.”

Pris Edwards Howard: “I wanted to be sure that our classmates know that Bobbie Berkeley Ukrop ’61, L.H.D. ’23 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters! Her devotion to the College and her community, along with Jim, is an inspiration for all of us! In order to commemorate this great honor, her Tri Delta sisters, Dottie Nowland Gabig, Kathy Watson Lawler ’59, Fran McLean, Liz O’Neill and I commissioned a brick acknowledging her award, which is now on the back patio of the Alumni House!”

Margaret Barnhart Gunn sent in a wonderful note about Homecoming, which you can read in full online: “The W&M Year of the Arts was front and center for many alumni in October 2023! We celebrated Homecoming, reunions and dedications of the new Arts Quarter! On a personal note, we enthusiastically welcomed 35th Reunion guests to our home, Class of 1988 theatre majors: my daughter Nancy Gunn ’88, Sheri Holman ’88 and Laura Carson ’88 … Hope to see everybody soon!”

Read Alan Burger’s full accounting of his life since graduation in our online notes. He has “now been living in Germany for 37 years, and I have been retired for the last 19 years. Both our children finished their schooling here but went back to the U.S. for college. They are both married to Americans, and have children of their own. One of the reasons we’ve stayed here even after I retired is the fact that Germany has a rather good system of medical insurance and care, and the older one gets, the more important that gets. Another reason is that we are well integrated here. For example, I’ve been singing in a local choir for more than 25 years now, and in a gospel choir also for about 15 years.”

Joe and I were in Williamsburg in September and enjoyed visiting with friends Dottie Nowland Gabig and Jack Gabig. HON ’05, Ron Monark and Deb, Miles Chap- pell ’60, and Marcia Anderson Partch ’65.

Next trip took us to Newport Beach, California, back at ‘work’ together with sorority sister Jane Rothgeb Sears ’63. That was amazing — hadn’t seen each other in 61 years — seemed like it was yesterday.”

1962 Y

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Pat Wade Temple lives in Yakima, Washington. She moved into a condo. She has five grandchildren. One is a psychologist; one is in medical school; one is in NYC acting; one is starting a master’s degree at Tulane University; and the youngest is a high school junior.

William Primavera wrote that he was an art history major. After graduation he was in “The Common Glory” for three months. Then he went to NYC and got his first job in an editorial position at a restaurant trade magazine. His second job was with a public relations firm. He was recruited by Culinary Institute of America for his third job. He was with them for nine years. His fourth job he branched out on his own. He was able to get many nationally known and worldwide accounts. His company’s headquarters is in Westchester, New York. He has been married to his wife, Margaret, since 1965 and they have one daughter and one grandson.

THANKS, Pat and William, for your news. Be sure to include Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2024, Oct. 17-20, on your calendar.

1963 Y

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I wish I could have come to Homecoming &
1964

Class Reporter
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Linda Jones Hall: “I was a transfer student who majored in classics with the much loved Dr. Jones (no relation). We were commuter students so not many people are likely to remember us. I taught Latin in high school for many years and received a Ph.D. in ancient history from Ohio State when I was in my late 40’s. I taught ancient history at St. Mary’s College of Maryland for 16 years. My husband William Thomas Hall also took classes at W&M while he was stationed at Langley AFB. He went on to earn several degrees in chemical engineering. We have three sons and three granddaughters and have been fortunate to travel extensively in the Middle East, Europe and the U.S. My major news is the forthcoming publication of “The Poems of Optatian: Puzzling out the Past in the Time of Constantine the Great,” Bloomsbury Academic, 2024. I previously published “Roman Berytus: Beirut in Late Antiquity,” Routledge, 2004, as well as several articles, book chapters, and reviews. We still reside in Southern Maryland near Historic St. Mary’s City, which has research links with my interest.”

Dr. Kenneth Olshansky: He had a reunion with Pete Latkin and Bunni Latkin ’66, Joe Shapiro and his wife, Margie, and Jim Korman ’65 and Habs Lewis Korman ’66 in Washington, D.C. He says, “We’ve kept in touch with them over the years and try to visit yearly. A little over a year ago, Karen and I moved to San Rafael, California, from Richmond, Virginia, to be closer to our kids and grandchildren. It’s fortunately been an easy transition. I’m volunteering with first Marin Medical Reserve Corps teaching first aid, CPR, use of AEDs and Narcan, which has been a fun experience. I’m also continuing my oil painting which has been a relaxing hobby. When possible I try to get in some fishing. It’s hard to believe it’s been 60 years since graduation. I look back and feel fortunate to have gone to William & Mary.”

Dick Goodwin: “We took a 13-day group African wildlife tour sponsored by William & Mary’s Alumni Journeys program through Odysseys Unlimited. Bad news was 78 hours in a tube flying through space. Good news, we saw Nelson Mandela’s home, Victoria Falls, the Big Five (lion, leopard, black rhinoceros, African bush elephant and African buffalo) in a private reserve in Victoria Falls, Chobe National Park and South Luangwa National Park, the latter being the highlight of the trip. We spent half an hour with a leopard walking along the road; saw a seven-year-old baby elephant with its mother; 5 of 11 black rhino in a herd; a lion kill; and THOUSANDS of other animals. Many animals were literally close enough to touch, which would have been fatal. Explosion, but ready to return — a definite bucket list trip of a lifetime. HIGHLY RECOMMEND!”

Bill Corley: “Angela and I have finished most of our long travels in the last several years. We both have our health and are spending time with our grandchildren. We have two girls, one a freshman in high school and the other a seventh grader in our daughter Laura’s home in Indianapolis. Also, our son Matt and his wife, Courtney, have two children, a son who is 5 years old and a charming little 3-year-old girl, also in Indiana. She is our real showboat. I’m still working on two-thirds of a dozen directions. The first is Frontier Nursing University which provides education to RNs for advanced degrees in four areas as nurse practitioners and nurse-midwives and then a Doctorate of Nursing. My prediction is that nurse practitioners will become the primary health care providers by 2030. Second, I was asked to serve on the advisory board for a new medical school at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. The Thomas F. Frist, Jr. College of Medicine has been able to begin matriculating in July 2024. So you can tell, I have continued my career in the healthcare field after W&M.”

Steve Mosier: “It’s hard to believe it’s been 12 years since I retired from University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where I had been vice chancellor for research and federal relations. I loved every minute of my work but I haven’t missed it for a single day since I love retirement. Susie Spindle Mosier ’63 and I have done a lot of traveling over those years, both in the U.S. and abroad, and lately I’ve been traveling with our daughter Cathy — we were hiking in Scotland this summer. Cathy is a fifth-grade teacher here in the Charlotte area and our son Roger is chief of park operations at New York’s Central Park. We have four grandchildren. Cathy’s children are grown: Ben is in the Navy, stationed in Spain and Aurora is an accountant and just delivered our first great-granddaughter last month. Roger’s two daughters are younger, 12 and 13. I spend a lot of time on my bicycle, riding a couple thousand miles each year. My cycling group rode through Williamsburg last year on a ride from Wilmington, North Carolina, to Richmond, Virginia, and next spring we’re going to ride from Wilmington to Fredericksburg, Virginia. Susie and I see Milton Reigelman and Sandy Reigelman ’60s. I taught first aid time and visited them in Danville, Kentucky, last fall. They’re doing well and also traveling a lot.”

Dick Korns ’68: Dick, a former teacher and assistant football coach at Alexandria’s T.C. Williams High School, was recently inducted into the Alexandria Public High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was inducted as an assistant coach for the 1984 State Football Championship T.C. Williams Titans team. The team was undefeated and outscored their opponents by a total of 404 to 42 over the season. Submitted by Dick Korns’ football teammate Jerry File ’61.

Our 60th Class Reunion is coming up in the fall during Homecoming. I hope you will plan to come. Carol Evans, our class representative on the Olde Guarde Council, is looking for volunteers to help plan along with support from the W&M Alumni Association. You can call her at 757-945-2947. Let’s all come to celebrate together.

1965

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80 And Still Going Strong!!

“Relaxing and enjoyable,” says Becky Ruffin Collins, who celebrated at the family vacation home in Bayse, Virginia, with her two stepdaughters and families. Becky visited Libby Gehhart Cottingham and her son in Atlanta, spent a couple of days in Williamsburg, and then traveled to Winchester, Virginia, for some bluegrass music. “Never been there; now is the time” for Diane Rassiga Clark to celebrate in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In October, Diane
traveled to Churchill, Canada, for some dog sledding, and she spent New Year's Eve floating down the Nile in Egypt. “Party On!” says Tri- by Busch. Celebration #1: Toronto, Ontario, with her daughter and granddaughter in July on a three-masted schooner. Celebration #2: her home in Duluth, Minnesota. Celebration #3: birthday party in Pittsburgh with her high school class. “90 Years Loved” read the poster made for Judy Pollard Harned by her two daughters. It was a wonderful party and reunion. She and Dave live in Richmond, Virginia, and are active in church, enjoy music of the ‘50s and ‘60s, and as always, love their time at their Rappahannock River House ... especially with family.

“I turned 60 last year!” confesses Bonnie Cheshire Greenewalt, and she's still going strong! Bonita was an estate agent in Martinsville, Virginia. She’s busy with book club, garden club, card club and spinning. She continues to adjust to the loss of her husband, Frank; his memorial service was held in April. “Best present ever!” says Joe Anne Smith Erickson of the birthday surprise visit by her 2-month-old great-grandbaby, Cam, with their dog, accompanied by other family members. Joe Anne goes to fitness classes five days a week, hikes when it’s cool and volunteers at a foster care review board. She and Dave live in Tucson, Arizona, and have two children, two grandchildren and Cam!

“It was a blast” on an island in Casco Bay, Maine. Barb Wareham Melby’s family gathered there over Labor Day Weekend (isn’t Labor Day a fitting day to be born?). They had a house on the water, lobster in the pot and wine tasting. Barb still has her husband, Tom, three daughters, five granddaughters, volunteer work and a new mantra: “80 sounds old until you’re 80!”

“How special and meaningful,” says Ann Meade Baskervill Simpson of her multiple celebrations with family during the annual Beach Week visits with Barb Melby and then with Pam Brown Michael. Ann Meade had her best year in her 45-year real estate career. She continues to be very active at the College, has four supportive children and their families, and always has a ball with her W&M family in Williamsburg.

“We’re spending our 80th year partying as much as possible!” No exaggeration from Ginny Blount Fluet and Joe Fluet: a month in Maine, a cruise in October to Australia, Israel, Turkey, Egypt and Jordan, a week in St. Martin in a villa they rented, and later invited five other couples (Barb and Tom sneaked in on that one). To round out Birthday Year, their two children are taking them on a cruise next spring. Gin and Joe have seven grandchildren. Gin plays duplicate bridge, paints and sings in a community chorus. She also volunteers with the healing ministry that she started at church.

“Great Fun.” Diane Bright Manning and Larry’s 80th were celebrated at their farm in Middleburg, Virginia. Hosted by their daughter and her family, the party consisted of BBQ, bluegrass, friends and family. “A Year of Celebration!” … some small, some large, for Suzanne Frasier. Small with friends, and large with two trips to Japan. She’s keeping busy with re-learning French, re-learning the accordion, volunteering and enjoying the wonders of living in Hilo, Hawaii.

Sally Wells Quigley continues to live in Richmond, Virginia, where she, too, is adjusting to the loss of her husband. She enjoys working in her garden and walking in her neighborhood. Her family is spread out in the Boston area, Cape Cod, Belgium and New Zealand. And then this blow: “I don’t turn 80 until next year,” says Patsy Canady Buchanan. However, in September, her Hampton High School classmates had a birthday bash with folks from near and far to warm up for her Big One! We’re waiting for you, Patsy!!! We received a nice “Thank you” from Joyce Hoskins Walk. And we thank all of you who responded to our call. Congrats to all of us who are 80, and welcome to those who will soon join us.

1966

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As I’m writing this we are on the verge of our 80s. You definitely pick up speed when you are “over the hill.”

Just missing the last deadline, Phil Marstiller wrote that he and Anne are downsizing but still living in Middleburg, Virginia, and remain active in the equestrian world. They have two getaway trips planned: for Kiawah Island, South Carolina, one to celebrate birthdays and one to get away from Middleburg in February. Their son, Ward, has a daughter at William & Mary spending her last semester in Barcelona, and a son, Spence, has children in an international school in Denver where all schooling is done in a foreign language. Education styles have definitely changed.

Always love stories of the COOTIs (Chi Omega on Tour) and this year Carol Boysen, Susan Embrey Coleman, Judy Hein Harrell and Mary Ellen Downing Gordon-Scudder traveled to Maine, mostly on the coastal part of the state. Upon their return they learned that fellow member Sandie Odum Glennie had lost her cancer battle. Sandie was salutatorian of our class and worked for an aerospace company in California. She met her husband, Larry, while working on the first probe NASA sent to Venus. Now that sounds a lot more amazing than a blind date to a PiKappa party!

A rare note from Gail Morgan with news. She has moved from northern Virginia to Johns Island, South Carolina, near her daughter. The community is on a small lake with a wide range of ages and lots of dog parades to watch from her porch.

Woody Caine retired from teaching but continued with his Vietnam War Experience talks at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, where he had infantrymen, aviator P0W’s, and survivors as a relay U.S.S. S. Mansfield. Elaine is very involved in the music scene in Charleston.

Gene Griffin and Betty Bishop Griffin ’67, M.A.Ed. ’73 are busy with grandchildren in Richmond and Arlington, Virginia. At Homecoming, Betty visited Hank and Charlotte Elder Marriott ’64 and Dickey Barnop Sorchak ’67.

Barb Sigafoos who is rehabbing in San Diego after being T-boned and having his car flip over four times! Seat belts do make a difference and he is back to walking his beagle on the beach.

Keith Taylor and Carol Taylor HON ’14 have moved to Williamsburg Landing, a continuing care retirement community that actually puts them closer to campus.

Wilford Kale’s daughter, Anne-Evan Williams (the granddaughter of Dean J. Wilfred Lambert ’27, L.H.D. ’81) is headed to the Watauga high school, a grades 8-12 boarding school in Mt. Pleasant, Utah. Wilford writes three to four stories a week for the Virginia Gazette, including a book column “Kale on Books.”

Joy Cheatham Sibley caught up with Mary Baker in Ellicott City, Maryland, for lunch and catching up. She also met Alpha Chis from ’67 Charlie White Hurst and Ann Clark Wmeldorf while visiting Williamsburg. Joy’s granddaughter graduated from Duquesne University and has a job, car and apartment — sounds great.

Kay Farmer Hunley lives in Maryland with her family, and now that she is retired from the Red Cross, she enjoys working in her yard and gardens. She still enjoys playing the piano at all hours of the day.

Pamela Province Grill has been traveling since retiring — last year to The Netherlands, Switzerland, a South African safari, Italy and Spain cruise, Holiday Markets on the Rhine, a trip to the Cotswolds, Scotland, Scandinavia and the Balkans, and Sicily, and she has five trips scheduled for 2024.

Mary Ellen Coleman Culp had a positive report on Clyde Culp ’65. He had reverse shoulder replacement with many months of rehab. One down and now the other shoulder is on track for replacement.

Jace Smith ’66, J.D. ’74 and Ginger Graef Smith ’69, M.Ed. ’74 are staying put in Poquoson, Virginia, near grandchildren activities. Ginger and their daughters were involved in the Chi O 100th celebration at the College and Jake was put to work spiffing up the sorority house. Jake reported a somber Sunset Ceremony at Homecoming & Reunion Weekend this year as more and more of our friends are remembered. “The torrential downpour as the ceremony ended seemed to be tears from above of those who are missing our reunion.” At the June Assembly, Virginia Luthers
1967

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(ELCA) elected the first woman of color as Bishop of the Synod of Virginia and Carlson Hardy ’66, M.Ed. ’67 was elected to a second term on the Synod Council as the first LGBTQ+ representative. Carlson went to West Virginia for an open house for artist Robert Singleton, a friend and Williamsburg native.

Pat Walsh and Margaret Conn Walsh were with Mary Kay and Walt Wenk touring the Amali Coast and Greek Isles. Walt and Mary Kay went to Paris to see the Longwood (Mary Kay’s alma mater) basketball team play two games vs. the Paris All-Stars. Longwood won by 100 points. Walt and Mary Kay met Jim Korman ’65 and Babs Letowski Korman on a 10-day cruise from Montreal to New York. Sandy and Keith Daurer were in Williamsburg after going to Sandy’s Indiana State homecoming. Sandy and Keith have given grants to both alma maters for the history department student travel program and met with the history department professors and attended several classes at both schools.

Nancy Combs Mafett saw a granddaughter graduate in Seattle and a local granddaughter is living with Nancy while in college. Sandy King hung up her COVID-19-era monthly Zoom visits with four W&M friends. Nancy writes that family, friends, reading and singing in the church choir bless her life in its quieter season — well said.

Boyd and Pat Adams Clark bought a camper during the pandemic and are enjoying national and state parks in Colorado. Visiting family takes them to Portland to see their son and family, and their daughter and her husband can work remotely and decided to do that part time in Hawaii, so another visit was made.

Elaine Neam Starace and Ed took a two-week tour of Portugal and spend lots of time with their 18 grandchildren and eight children with golf games worked in occasionally.

Lalie Forman Eskay’s grandchildren have successful soccer careers at W&M and William Eskay ‘18 plays for the Newtown Pride team in Connecticut, which won a $1 million prize in the Soccer Tournament in Cary, North Carolina. Louise Callahan Chambers ’67 and her daughter live part time with Lalie on an unfarmed farm next to Lalie’s son, Bo Eskay ’88 and his wife, Jackie Eskay ’83.

Maureen and Vic Bary just did an 18-day tour of Malta and Sicily. Marilyn and Dan Nase are back in the prisons of North Florida and are shipping Spanish Study Bibles. Dan conducts weekly Spanish services in the three prisons near Tallahassee, and he and Marilyn also teach at a women’s facility weekly.

I am currently awaiting a “repositioning” visit from Pete Nance and Judy Poarch Nance ’69 as they go from New York to Florida and pass on their way on their trip! CONTINUE to be a keep well, we moved to our retirement community two-and-a-half years ago. Dick Kern ’64 is now in health care here and the care is outstanding. Do I like our current situation — no — but we have a great community to support us, and I have Amazing Meg, my two-and-a-half-year-old mini-poodle. She thinks I hung the moon, but maybe it’s the other way around.

1968

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It was great to see and visit with many of our class attending Homecoming & Reunion Weekend and our 55th Reunion. The many hours that Bruce Oliver and Kathy Burge Callaway spent planning, contacting class members and working with the College to make sure our reunion went smoothly paid off. The Class of 1968 set a record for the number of attendees at a 55th Reunion. We are so fortunate that Bruce and Kathy are at the helm of our class.

The good news is that Greg Jennings was able to attend our 55th and did not look the worse for wear. It had been through in the last year and bad news is what Greg went through with Hurricane Ian on Sept. 28, 2022, in Sanibel, Florida, a barrier island destroyed by the storm. Greg wrote, “We had a three-story single-family home on stilts. The ground floor level garage was unfinished and built to blow away to reduce the impact of the 12-foot surge on the entire home.” As Jim told me, “They have us lead so that we can set the pace and don’t have to keep up!”

On Saturday, Ginger Graef Smith ’69, M.Ed. ’74, Janet Ackroyd Ellis, Linda Freeman Holmes and Sharon Reeder McCarthy all were at the pre-game tailgates, and Toni Biodi ’69, M.Ed. ’72, Ellen Cooper Mathena and Jan Ernstmeyer Brodie and I had dinner with our various spouses, including Glenn Brodie ’66, M.Ed. ’68 and also Les Smith ’65, J.D. ’71, but otherwise I didn’t see anyone else.

Next year we will be celebrating 55 years (yikes!) and will have a class
This past weekend was Homecoming & Reunion Weekend at the College. It looks like there were only about 20 classmates registered for the organized activities. We enlisted Kathleen Hawks Walker to give us her firsthand review. Kathleen and Bobby Walker ’70 saw Glenn Close ’74, D.A. ’89, H.F. ’19 riding in the parade on Friday afternoon. Saturday morning they attended the Presidential Conversation, in which President Rowe spoke with Close. Kathleen said that Ms. Close was “very warm, friendly and articulate and even brought her dog on stage.” Close spoke about her time at the College and answered questions from the audience. In the afternoon, Kathleen and Bobby attended a tailgate hosted by George Nance ’69 and then went to the football game. They said “it was a perfect fall day, windy but no rain.” Unfortunately, W&M lost to Towson. The Walkers spent time with classmates Jeryl Mumpower and Odie “Bill” Smith as well as Allen “JAG” Grant ’72 and his wife, Phoenix. Thank you, Kathleen.

We heard from Hal Hardaway several times over the last few months. Here is what he had to say: “I’m Hal Hardaway ’71. I’m lucky to live about a block from the College. Moved to Williamsburg from Alexandria, Virginia, 3.5 years ago. One of the best things I ever did. “Better quality of life, more pleasant, less expensive and more to do, which many find hard to believe. Multiple free concerts each week, etc. Moving to a college town and tourist destination was a no-brainer, but it’s better than I anticipated. Was in the Navy for 30 years after college, starting in Vietnam. Posted in six countries and visited countless more; what an experience.”

“I’m less than two blocks from the stadium. The football team was practicing at 6:30 this morning as I was walking to Wawa for coffee. Am a regular at Green Leafe, which was the Colonial Restaurant when we were there.”

Maritta “Muffy” Vreeland, a Jefferson resident freshman year, contacted us recently. The last time we saw her was many years ago at the home of Cary Kennedy at his annual Homecoming open house. Maritta was one of only a few classmates from California; she left California for good in 1977 and has lived all over the country since then. She sent this recent update. “My partner, Dave, and I spent nine weeks in Europe this summer (mostly in Poland and Greece) followed by a return on the Queen Mary. We are now in Virginia and enjoy my favorite ship. I don’t think Walt Stowe ’71, J.D. ’74 would mind sharing that we had a great dinner recently. We had lots of stories to share: from our respective trips to Israel pre-COVID-19 and our respective Alaska cruises post-pandemic … not to mention all our respective European adventures along the way over the years.” We hope to catch up with Maritta this winter in Florida.

Jim had a long follow-up conversation with Loring “Doc” Black. He has returned to his roots in rural upstate New York and seems content with life without the hassles of city or suburban life. Since the fires in Maui, Jim has been working in the Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, was awarded the Professionalism award. Described as a “lawyer’s judge” with extensive federal litigation experience while the fires in Maui, Jim has been a multisided legal career before he stepped to the court in 2010 courtesy of President Obama. John put his law degree from “that other Virginia university” to good use in a multisided legal career in Richmond, including a stint as assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth. He has been an adjunct law faculty member both at W&M and University of Richmond School of Law. As part of his journey, John has been very candid about his battle with alcohol and thus became a mentor to other attorneys fighting the same pressure and disease; his road to recovery started in 1989. Bravo John!
The Pennsylvania native, whose family included a few too many “steel town” drinkers, is now in senior status on the bench and he gets to pick his cases carefully so he can fully immerse himself in the details. Interestingly his first crutch of choice was 69-cent six packs of Ballantine, which was also the prime beer sponsor of baseball and Ballantine New York Yankees in the ’60s.

Our own Carolyn “Biddy” Martin ’73, L.H.D. ’12 was the featured speaker at W&M Opening Convocation on Aug. 30, marking the first day of the new academic year. Carolyn has been an academic leader at Cornell, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Amherst College, where she was named the first female president in 2011 and served for more than a decade. She told the assembled students, “You’re giving all of us the gift of another generation of young people with the qualities of mind and heart and spirit, and the talent to build a better future.” The Lynchburg, Virginia, native and Phi Beta Kappa member also has advanced degrees from Middlebury College (the Mainz, Germany, campus) and her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

For those who didn’t catch up with Phil Marshall back in April at Traditions Weekend events, the intrepid climber/rappeler and cold weather aficionado is ensconced in Fairbanks, Alaska, with his wife, Jan. Phil ventures forth in the Alaskan and Canadian terrain, leading Nordic skiing/backcountry tours. Back in the “lower 48,” Vernon Michael Dechastaigne Craig, film director, writer and producer, authored a new tome — “The Unusual Cure and Untold Story of Dr. John Langone,” a fictional romance. Vernon’s last known port of call was Newport, Rhode Island.

Sticking to the author motif, Steven Noll ’74 at University of Florida is a major contributor to Florida Humanities’ 50th anniversary celebration project, a book called “Once Upon A Time In Florida: Stories of Life in the Land of Promises,” with articles from Forum magazine. Steve has a cameo in the YouTube video announcing the project’s release.

A number of our classmates attended the three days of Homecoming & Reunion festivities, during which W&M lost to Towson. They included David Knight at the annual tailgate hosted by Joe Montgomery ’74 at Zable Stadium, Nancy Rowland with the Olde Guarde crew in the parsley, Bonds Brown, Paul Geczy (who sent a pic of John Kloster’s brick at the Alumni House), Ben Joyce ’73, M.B.A. ’79, Patricia Baldwin Smith, Becky Deans Crews, Tom Flesher (the pipe organ aficionado), Libby Fraser mixin, Joanie Wachtler and Bruce Wachtler.

James Onderdonk ’69 and our classmate Mary Timmins gathered alumni and friends during Homecoming for their annual Bon Odori near the Crick Dell in honor of departed friends and classmates who were part of their WMk experience.

Susan Beck Folkins, while in Italy, had a stairwell accident that required special transit considerations back to the Orlando, Florida, area. She is making a slow but steady recovery.

Steve Lancashire is in the Charlotte, North Carolina, area. His wife, Kathy Kerr Lancashire ’71, passed away in April 2020. The couple met at the Crick Dell Bridge, which in part inspired Steve to create some stunning images of the Crick Dell, Wren Building, Sunken Garden and Old Campus.

D.A. Ridgely, the unofficial conscience of our “boomer” class, escaped the clutches of Gov. Abbott in Dallas, Texas, and has moved back east to Arlington, Virginia, where he is still getting used to the new time zone.

160 of us are still connected to the private W&M ’73 Facebook group the four Class Divas developed to near perfection. Sadly, in addition to John Kloster, Clement “Clem” Brown III (Williamsburg), David S. Peterson (Florida) and Emma Lou Talbert Savage (Chesapeake, Virginia) are now part of the heavenly firmament.

Be well, be safe; hug your family and loved ones and get more cannon fodder for the W&M Alumni Magazine’s next musings of yours truly.

1974

Class Reporter MARY MILEY THEOBALD ’74, M.A. ’80 5 Countryside Court Richmond, VA 23229 mmtheobald@gmail.com marymileytheobald.com

After retiring from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation as director of Teacher Institute, Lisa Liberman ’79, M.A. ’05, Ed.D. ’11 continued in education as an adjunct faculty member at Christopher Newport University and in the spring ’23 semester at William & Mary’s School of Education. “Teaching and writing keep me busy and life definitely centers around my family and friends,” she says. The Heuels must be going for the record for number of WMk degrees in one family: Lisa has three, as does her son Sean M. Heuvel ’02, M.Ed. ’05, Ph.D. ’15. Her daughter-in-law Kately Heuvel ’02 has one also. Can anyone beat that number? (By the way, if you haven’t noticed, the College has a new suffix designation — a P with a graduation year — they are using behind the names of alumni to indicate the parent of a graduate. They are not yet using it in Class Notes, however.)

Cornell Christianson, the writer and producer of the off-Broadway musical “Marilyn Exposed,” writes, “We auditioned 50 actresses over four days; at last, the 51st one who walked in was our Marilyn Monroe.” His murder-mystery play will open in the spring of 2024 when off-Broadway is expected to be back in full glory.

Jim Theobald and I are thinking about a New York theater trip next year — we’ll definitely keep Marilyn in mind.

Stephanie Bennighof and Terri Deans returned to Williamsburg in June 2023 after a 50-year absence from Virginia. “You can thank Hurricane Ian that you’re hearing from me now!” writes Terri. “I recently wrote, and I have been in Florida since the mid-’80s, she as a high school English and history teacher, and I as a children’s librarian and storyteller. (That theater degree wasn’t a total waste!) We’re both retired now, and until last September we were living in what was my parents’ retirement home on St. Johns River. Then came Ian. The house flooded, and for the past seven months we’ve been shifting lodgings from one friend’s home to another as we work to clean out whatever can be salvaged. We’re almost there, and dear friends in Williamsburg are allowing us to rent a house from them while we catch our breath and wait for the proper sell. It has been a strange experience, and I wouldn’t wish it on anyone, but it has taught us that we can survive and even thrive in adversity, with God’s help. It’s exciting a small lyricist’s coming home to Tidewater. I know there will be many changes, but I hope we still recognize the campus and restored area.”

I’m sad to report the death of Dr. Frank Bruni, known to all as Rusty. A powerhouse on the W&M swim team, Rusty will be greatly missed by his Kappa Sigma brothers, his many W&M friends, and his patients. He was my children’s and my dentist for decades, until he retired five years ago. During retirement, Rusty enjoyed golf and served as a volunteer swim coach at Collegegate, a Richmond high school. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Long Bruni ’76, their son, Ben, and their little granddaughter, Nell.

Next spring is our 50th reunion, part of an event William & Mary calls Traditions Weekend, and it’s our last huge blowout before we join the ranks of the Olde Guarde. Save the date: April 19-21, 2024. If you haven’t made it to a reunion in a while — or ever — this one will be worth all the effort.

1975

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Bill Smyth, our senior class vice president, returned to campus last spring for his annual visit, together with Dicky Rhyne ’76. They were caretakers in residence at the Wesley Foundation. Bill gave a hugely impressive review of the College’s many current achievements — No. 1 for internships among public universities; No. 4 for study abroad participation; majors and minors now numbering over 115; and many more facts were on his long list of W&M academic accomplishments; it’s his enthusiasm for alma mater “rings far and near!”

Crystel Orndoff Kurtzberg retired last
year from the CIA and has moved to Ashburn, Virginia. When not busy with lots of fun activities in her over-55 community, she spends time visiting with friends and her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter. Retirement agrees with her! Lynn Dillon sent news of the wonderful Kappa Kappa Gamma Centennial celebration last April. The weekend was a great success with tours, dinners, special Swem exhibit and more. In attendance: Pat Ferguson Watson, Lynne Shackelford, Elaine Justice, Mary Lou Giernak Nesen, Connie Warren Desaulniers, Cathy Wilson, Carmella Maurizi Bladergroen, Pat Williams Houtz and Linda Scent Knieley. Apologies again, Lynn, that I did not get Bill's, Crystal's and your submission in the fall issue.

Sending news for the first time (thank you, Jadt!), Jad Kanchanalak Davis, with husband Craig Davis '74, live in Northampton, Massachusetts. Jad retired from Smith College's alumni affairs office about five years ago. They are considering retiring to Williamsburg and would love to hear thoughts from classmates who have made that move (jadath@smith.edu). She makes regular trips to Bangkok to visit family and to northern Europe with Craig, who teaches Medieval Nordic studies/Icelandic sagas.

Barb Ramsey received the prestigious W&M 2023 Prentis Award, given annually to a Williamsburg resident, honoring strong civic involvement and support of William & Mary. Also, Jean Berger Estes, Marilyn Ward Midyette and Karen Kennedy Schultz and Gene Schultz joined Barb at her home, hosting a group of Global Research Institute summer fellows. It was an impressive group of students and faculty who have traveled to all parts of the world doing research on topics of national interest. Nancy Gatschet is happily retired after 38 years in banking. Having completed her term as president of La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club, she does volunteer and board service for a several nonprofits focusing on cancer, critters, music for kids and financial literacy for survivors of human trafficking. She gets together in person with suitmates from DuPont and Jefferson, joins her Pi Phi sisters on regular Zoom chats and visits with precious grandkids as often as possible.

Joe Masterson sends news of Greg Greenway’s continued success in the folk music world with release of his latest album, “Between Hello and Goodbye,” awarded “most played album” on folk radio in April 2023 with three of his songs in the top 10. Joe and his wife, Lydia Spindle Masterson ’78, and Gates Parker got together with Greg recently and all encourage checking out Greg’s website. Joe also sees golf buddies Jack Blush, Tom Wilke ’75, M.A.Ed. ’77 and Tom Finch ’75, M.B.A. ’77 and sends a shoutout to his Lambda Chi brothers. He will miss Homecoming & Reunion Weekend this year and the annual party but will be celebrating grandkids’ birthdays.

NorahULich Jones and William Eldridge Jones ’74 are expecting grandchild No. 6 any moment and both are still farming on the family farm in Southside Virginia. Norah continues her podcast “It’s About Language,” now on episode 115.

Bruce Falk and his wife, Dianne, were in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for their older son Matt’s wedding. A number of professor classmates and alumni were there as well — Dave Restucia, Mike Madden ’75, M.Ed. ’77, Chris Jack-
vocation. Thanks to Nate, we learned quite a bit of Winchester history. Before leaving, we visited the local office of George Washington, who was a colonel in the Virginia Militia while constructing Fort Loudoun (1755-1756).

Mina Hoover Kerr and her husband, Brad, welcomed their first grandson, Madeline James "Maddie" Kerr, in April 2022. They are fortunate that both their daughter and son live close to Wheaton, Illinois, which the Kers have called home since 1994. Mina retired from teaching middle school English as a second language and stays busy tutoring adults in English and citizenship. She also enjoys traveling. Check the online report for Mina at our Class Website.

Rita Schmitz Ossolinski, in April 2022, was 76 and lived with her husband, Matt, in Washington, D.C. where she has resided for almost 45 years and reports that her "WM& government and Spanish double major has served me well." Rita’s career focus has been municipal government but she has also enjoyed some international work. She spent nine years in the D.C. mayor’s office working on Latino affairs as deputy director. Rita then moved to the International City/County Management Association where she spent over 25 years in various positions supporting city and county managers, including directing the Locally Government Hispanic Network. More recently she moved to the National League of Cities, spending four years in their Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL) department. Rita currently manages four constituency groups including Hispanic Elected Local Officials and Women In Municipal Government. She is "still loving the work!" Rita was also kind enough to include her list of Homecoming & Reunion Weekend highlights: "Parade Grand Marshall Glenn Close ‘74, D.A. ‘89, H.F. ’19 followed by her Saturday morning chat with President Rowe at the new Phi Beta Kappa Hall and now, officially, the Glenn Close Theater; fabulous dinner at Pat Canary coordinated by Ricardo and Storm Simenson and attended by Chuck and Betsy Page Sigman, Maryanne Nelson and Rick Smith, Christine and John Dennis, and Heidi Campbell-Robinson; Government Department Brunch at the old Tyler Hall, now Chancellors Hall — recognizable!; and Kappa Kappa Gamma Class of ’78 reunion dinner hosted by Dawn FitzGerald Griggs Mullenax (and Rock) at their beautiful Williamsburg home. It was great to reconnect with Jennie Runkle Gaver, Debbie Cook Switzer (and Terrell), Meg Regan, Sara Black Heiser (and Don), Betsy Butler Metz, Karen Wilson Wiese, and spend more quality time with Betsy Page Sigman (and Chuck), Strolling through campus and seeing the newest additions was a bit overwhelming, but good to witness. Can’t wait to visit the renovated Muscarelle Museum when it is completed. Looks like it will be spectacular!" I agree!

Chris Kelley was kind to check in again after four years. Chris is still practicing law with Twomey Latham, Shea, Kelley, Dubin & Quartararo, LLP in eastern Long Island and, “having fun. I am one of four equity partners in a firm with 30 lawyers and a total of 60 employees. I am still deeply immersed in Democratic politics out here and enjoy my role as campaign-manager-for-life/-institutional-memory for our town of East Hampton, NY. I get to do a lot of fun pro bono work for my church and for the local arts community. I also started a foundation to enable income-qualified East Hampton high school students to get college counseling advice and SAT/ACT prep free of charge. We also cover college visit travel costs. Our first class of high school seniors graduated this year and are starting their freshman years in college at Harvey Mudd, Johns Hopkins and Barnard. We are called the East Hampton Field Foundation. Most people would be surprised to know that our applicants in East Hampton are mostly Hispanic, the sons and daughters of our local service workers. It is very rewarding!"

I was saddened to hear that Chris’ wife of 40 years, Nancy, passed away over 2021 from multiple system atrophy. Chris says, “My sons Pierce and Peyton and I are all doing well. With my annual backpacking group, which both sons are now a part of, we completed a week’s long hike in July in Picos de Europa in northern Spain, and last August did the Tour de Mont Blanc, hiking from France to Italy and finished in Switzerland. I highly recommend both trips which we did self-guided with the help of some great guide companies.”

Matt Luoma sends greetings from Florida, where I recently visited, and here in Los Angeles (actually, the nicest weather we’ve had all year!), so I am still in a summer frame of mind. But winter is coming (to quote a “Game of Thrones” refrain) — and if you don’t know what it means, you have lots of viewing in store during those long winter months ahead. When you read this column, we will be right in the middle of it. So while you’re thinking about what to do with those long winter afternoons, send me a quick update so I can share your news!

I was delighted to hear from Carol Ann Hilton, who had not written for a long time. Here’s what she had to say: “After graduating from William & Mary, I spent the first part of my career working in fundraising and alumni relations at a number of institutions (Wagner College, Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Columbia University, Mount Vernon Seminary and College, and Trinity College in Washington, D.C.), even receiving an M.Ed. in Institutional Advancement from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University. In 1998, I made a career switch to work in..."

I had the good fortune to meet up with several classmates when I traveled to Richmond for a wedding in October. They are: PAM LUNNY (804) 364-8161
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I don’t have a lot of news to share, so I will keep this short and sweet. Please remember to drop me a quick note if you have any Homecoming news, or any other news that you would like to share to Katherine. Earlier this fall, Moravian University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania announced the appointment of the Very Rev. Dr. Katherine Hancock Ragsdale as interim vice president and dean of their Theological Seminary and Lancaster Theological Seminary until a permanent dean is named. This is a very pivotal point for the seminaries as they navigate the consolidation of the two seminaries and focus on implementing a new joint curricu-lum and finish the revised accreditation materials. Katherine brings her deep commitment to advancing theological education, her advocacy and activism and her extensive experience in the nonprofit sector. This is but the latest of her many accomplishments.

Katherine has a Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is an ordained Episcopal priest and the former president & CEO of the National Abortion Federation (NAF). Prior to joining NAF, she was the president and dean of Episcopal Divinity School, and senior fellow for interfaith leadership and religious literacy at the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation. Katherine served for 17 years, including nine as chair, on the national board of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. She has also served on the national boards of NARAL Pro-Choice America and The White House Project and is a founding co-chair of LGBTQ Presidents in Higher Education. She has been featured on NPR and PBS. She has testified before the United States Congress as well as numerous state legislatures and was a featured speaker for the Commission for Women’s Lives in Washington, D.C. I could continue, but Moravian University’s appointment of Katherine seems to be a super choice to lead the consolidation of the two seminaries. Congratulations, Katherine! If you enjoy what is said to be the world’s most popular board game, chess — then you likely know all of the following information. This past summer, the Roanoke Valley Chess Club hosted an evening with Macon Shibu, who is a three-time Virginia State Champion and an international Fide Master. A Fide Master is two ranks below the highest chess rank in the world, a Grandmaster. Macon gave a brief lecture and then spent the rest of the even-ing taking on all comers in an event known as a “simultaneous exhibition.” This exhibition meant that he would play up to 25 simultaneous games against up to 25 separate players. The evening was part of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the oldest continuously operated chess club in Virginia. The event was part of the run-up to the Second Annual Beltway Open and the 10th Annual Washington International Chess Tournament in Rock-ville, Maryland. Macon first began playing chess in elementary school, earning a reputation as a serious chess player by the age of 15; these days a 15-year-old chess player is an old guy, but it wasn’t the case when we were teenagers. He attended his first Virginia State Championship in 1972 and won his first championship in 1993, then again in 1999 and 2002. Macon is the author of a book about the best chess player of the 19th century, “Paul Morphy and the Evolution of Chess Theory,” Macon and his wife, Lynn, live in Staunton. They have three grown daughters. Macon works as a defense contractor, but he and Lynn are now enjoying retired life as grandparents. That is all the news I have for now. Please be sure to drop me a note with your news. I wish you wonderful adventures ahead!

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Hello Again ’81ers, I hope this update finds you all healthy and thriving. We only received one update this time around — and it is a fun one. Charles Davis ’81 was named Southern Living Magazine’s Cook of the Month. He worked at Reynolds Metals in Rich-mond, Virginia, and then taught at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He is now the first gentleman at Furman University. Thanks, and congratulations on your culinary success, Charles.

We have reached that age (sorry friends) when many of us are “retiring” and moving into the next exciting phases of your careers/lives/adventures. Please share some of your new endeavors with the rest of your classmates. Maybe your plans will give someone else some ideas. (~)

Go Tribe!

1982

Greetingsto everyone! I just got back from W&M Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. It wasn’t our reunion year, but I got to know some ’83ers after graduation when I lived in the Washington, D.C., area and became part of the infamous Dewey Beach crowd. So ... here is the news from Homecoming!

Cesar Conda ’83 and his wife, Janice, as well as Becky Rogers Voslow ’83, M.A. ’89, and her husband, Mike, stayed next to me at the Brick House Tavern on DoG Street. Caesar and Janice have five sons(!) and live in NoVa when they are not traveling to visit their kids. Becky is a travel agent and Mike works for a security company. Friday night, Paul Boykas ’83, Tracy Baynard ’83, Mark Forde ’83 and his wife, Mary Obata Forde ’84, hosted a “Party Like It’s 1983!” happy hour. Paul is now retired from PepsiCo and enjoying traveling. Tracy is still working in public policy in the D.C. area. The house was packed with alums, including Catherine Dehoney ’83 and her husband, Bill. Catherine is president and CEO of Chorus America. I loved getting caught up and meeting Bill, who was lovely and tolerant of all of us! I also
caught up with Bruce Holmes ’83, who has a son at W&M and was enjoying time with him over the weekend. Meg Hunter Scott ’84 and her husband, Bill Scott ’84, were in town. Meg and Bill recently moved from Dallas to North Carolina to be closer to their kids. Also attending were Mary Lloyd Sinnott Parks ’83, who is still in Richmond; Margaret Kerfoot and Doug McDonald ’81; and Robert Burnham “Booty” Laverty ’83, who lives in Lynchburg. I also visited with Dabney Carr ’83 and his wife Laura Gilbert Carr ’83. They are living in Richmond, where Dabney practices law and Laura is working for an historical museum.

On Saturday I ran into Kim Crase Claytor ’83 and Joe Claytor ’83 at the Pi Phi house. Kim and Joe still live in Kentucky and were promoting the joys of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail experience … I’m in! At various tailgate parties I caught up with Cindy Vick Choate and Rich Choate, who are living in the NoVa area and enjoying time with their two grandkids. They are perfecting the art of “empty nester dating,” which sounds lovely. Both Cindy and I lamented we don’t see enough of our kids anymore. I also had a nice visit with Betsy Fournier Riley and Jim Riley ’81. Their son Alex and his wife Laura Gilbert Carr ’83 have a few minutes with me. They are in the process of selling their house to one of their kids and downsizing. That seems to be a theme for many of us!

At the Sig Ep tailgate I had a quick visit with Don Morris (still looking sharp in his pineapple pants) and Steve Tang. Don has moved the countryside in Virginia. Steve is busy in his second chapter career as an author and business commentator. He is incredibly successful and accomplished but just as humble and nice as ever.

I also visited with Dave Lucas ’80 who is now living in Williamsburg. In fact, a lot of folks I talked to are either living in or moving to the ‘Burg! All in all, I was glad I craved the ’83 class party!

On Sunday I headed to Charlottesville to visit my daughter Olivia, who is a fourth year at UVA. While there I met Barbara and James Wynes at Spring Hill Mountain Vineyard and enjoyed catching up. Barbara and her husband Stan provided wine for the Saturday W&M shindig from their Valley Roads Vineyards.

Beth Alford Wolfe joined Olivia and me for some girl time. Beth and her husband Tommy are in the process of moving to Lake Murray, South Carolina, and would be an amazing next chapter for them and puts them closer to their daughter Patrice and her husband.

Diane Ratchford Murpy also joined us for an afternoon at Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards. Diane and her husband, Bob, live in Richmond where Diane has been an amazing caretaker to her mom, who recently passed. She and Bob hope to spend more time at their mountain home in Idaho.

Alumni in the news: James Comely ’82, L.L.D. ’08 has a new book coming out: “Central Park West: A Crime Novel,” which draws on his law enforcement background. William “Bill” Schermerhorn, the creative director for Colonial Williamsburg’s Signature Events and two-time Emmy Award-winning songwriter, has created a new musical about the life and afterlife of Colonial Williamsburg’s resident ghost, Lucy Ludwell Paradise (1752-1814), titled “MADAM LUCY, deceased.” Bill was also the creative director for the Macy’s Parade for many years.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season! PLEASE send me YOUR updates! I don’t hear from enough of you!!

1983

Class Reporter

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What a happy Homecoming & Reunion Weekend for the Class of 1983! According to Skip Rowland (who attended every possible event over the weekend — look at his photos at skippix.com/vm-hoco23), 1983 had the “highest turnout by far” of all the reunion years. He estimates 175 of us! Our class also had the highest dollar amount of gifts (with the exception of the Class of 1973) at $6.6 million. We are a record-setting class — go us! As co-chair of the Annual Giving Board, I appreciate all the gifts to the Fund for W&M. And a huge shout out to Matt Brandon ’92 and his team for all their efforts to make this weekend a huge success.

If you didn’t make it into this edition of the Class Notes, there’s always next time. So please send me your version of events to publish later. Please also go online to magazine.wm.edu/1983 to see the most current detail about Homecoming!

Homecoming started on Wednesday night with a dinner at Cochon with Beth Sala Covin, Fraser Hudgins ’84 and Christie Baty Hudgins. Earlier in the day they had built all the new furniture and put up a porch swing at the Chi-O house. Beth’s youngest Jack Covin ’27 is a freshman this year. Her oldest, Reid Covin ’21, was in town too.

Thursday night, Bud Phillips ’82 and I went to the women’s soccer game where we ran into movie producer, talent judge and CPA Milan Chakraborty ’00. After the soccer game, Bud and I gave Milan a ride back to campus by way of the Green Leaf. We ran into several friends of my daughters, Ally Phillips ’16 and Saunders Phillips ’14, and a list of classmates and friends you’ll see in the online edition.

Because Homecoming coincided with some volleyball home game matches, there was a volleyball reunion. Jane Fanestil Peterson ’86 was part of it and I met her for lunch at the Cheese Shop on Friday. Jane is retiring this year after coaching volleyball at Central Lakes College in Minnesota for 33 years. She was the first scholarship female athlete recruited to W&M’s volleyball program. She is in the W&M Athletic Hall of Fame. But the best part is that we grew up on the same street! She brought along other volleyball players Sasha Mobley ’87, Elizabeth Overstreet Trumpbell ’87 and her daughter, Aly Trumpbell ’23 (Aly plays field hockey for the Tribe while pursuing her master’s degree). It was her first Homecoming since graduation! Classmates Donna Hajost Jacobson and Sandy Craig also attended the volleyball reunion.

From DoG St. I wandered over to the Entrepreneurship Hub to see the Women’s Entrepreneurship panel featuring Colleen Lierz Drummond, Susan Soaper and Gaston ’88 and former BOV member Lisa Ro-

1983
Then it was time for the football game. **Dru Mears** gave me her extra ticket so we watched the game together in the top tent and Wig, the Pub or Barrett. Those years ago at the singing along just like all Dimeslots’ headliner performs. Patrick is currently working on his MBA at W&M and will graduate in 2024. Since 2002, the Clark Pool Group or Clark Building Group (depending on which state you’re in) has been building pools and outdoor projects. Of particular interest to YOU is that Clark’s firm was the one chosen to design and build the Family Courtyard outside the newly renovated and expanded Alumni House! Clark and Carol were unable to attend Homecoming this year or but they wish everyone the best and that they cherish their time at W&M.

**Class Reporter 1984**

**ALISON HORROCKS MILLER ’84, M.B.A. ’88**

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I am writing this column during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, and I hope those of you who attended will not only enjoy seeing everyone but will also send me any news you hear while you are there.

This year’s McGlothlin Leadership Forum fellows at William & Mary were two stand-out alumni CEOs: **Ted Decker**, chair, president and CEO of The Home Depot, and **Stephanie Linnartz M.B.A. ’97**, president and CEO of Under Armour. The two leaders know each other well; Stephanie also serves on the Home Depot Board of Directors. On Sept. 11-12, they answered Raymond A. Mason School of Business and W&M Law School graduate students’ questions about leadership, principled achievement, company culture, career transitions and managing through the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more in the feature about Ted in this magazine!

**Tad Geschickter**, co-owner of the JTG Daugherty Racing Team, celebrated with his staff on Feb. 19 when their lone car, Ricky Stenhouse Jr.’s No. 47, won the 2023 Daytona 500. This was their first Daytona 500 win as a race team. Tad’s younger brother is a team owner of the team, as well as former North Carolina Tar Heels basketball legend Brad Daugherty and Gordon Smith. History was made with this win: Brad Daugherty becomes the first Black principal owner and Jodi becomes the second female owner to win a Daytona 500. As I read in the article from the Charlotte Observer: “When asked if this win might propel the spouses to another handful of years as team owners — a renewed faith in this long-held dream they’re living — Tad laughed. “That’s a tough question. I think you don’t think about quitting. I think you keep digging, keep finding the next challenge and trying to conquer it. This puts more wind in your sails for sure; it just makes you dig harder and faster for the next one.” By the way, it’s pretty cool to pick up your daily newspaper and read about a fellow Class of 1985 alum! After 15 years of leading the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society and Museum, **Nancy O’Brien Alexander** has been named new director of the Community Resource Center, a day center that offers services for those who are homeless, in Rehoboth Beach. Prior to that Nancy led the Rehoboth Art League for 11 years. She also spent time at American University and the National Mental Health Association. After completing her undergraduate degree, Nancy received a master’s degree in communication with an emphasis on public policy journalism from American University.

**Janet McNulty Osborn** was recently featured in Washington Business Journal’s “Women Who Mean Business.” She is currently the East region managing director of AON Corporation. In 2022, she received the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce’s Community Impact award. For her work bringing to life the Greater Washington Apprentice Network, which partners with employers, academic institutions and public and private entities to help apprentices with job search, on-the-job skills training. After completing her bachelor’s degree in economics, Janet received her master’s degree in American history from George Mason University. She has two children: Elizabeth, 30, and John, 28. When asked in the Journal’s interview “What makes you good at your job?”, Janet replied, in part: “I really work on diversifying my networks so I can hear about new ideas, new challenges, new risks and just bring as much perspective as I can to bear on those challenges. That takes deliberative effort to talk to different people and create a relationship where they’re comfortable telling you stuff.”

And that leads me to remind all of you that I hope you are comfortable letting me write about your lives these days, as well as any of our classmates you might still be in contact with. If you would like to get back into contact with someone, let me know and I can try to make that happen. I have already helped two friends reconnect! Happy to help! Valete, omnes!

**Class Reporter 1985**

**ELIZABETH WISEMAN PITTS**

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I was writing this column during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, and I hope those of you who attended will not only enjoy seeing everyone but will also send me any news you hear while you are there.

This year’s McGlothlin Leadership Forum fellows at William & Mary were two stand-out alumni CEOs: **Ted Decker**, chair, president and CEO of The Home Depot, and **Stephanie Linnartz M.B.A. ’97**, president and CEO of Under Armour. The two leaders know each other well; Stephanie also serves on the Home Depot Board of Directors. On Sept. 11-12, they answered Raymond A. Mason School of Business and W&M Law School graduate students’ questions about leadership, principled achievement, company culture, career transitions and managing through the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more in the feature about Ted in this magazine!

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**1986**

**Class Reporter**

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**Archie Harris ’86, J.D. ’89** sent the sad news of the death of **Christopher Donnell Childs** in July 2023 from pancreatic cancer after a two-year battle. At William & Mary, he was a scholarship football player in the defensive back position and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. In 1984, he married Christine Childs; two children, Alex Childs and Brittany Childs; Harris and their spouses, Carly and Tavon; and a grandson, Hudson Christopher Childs. After five years with Tyson Foods, first as CFO and then as group president of prepared foods, **Stewart Glendinning** recently left to take a new role as the CEO of Express Inc., the fashion retailer. Before Tyson, he spent 13 years with Molson Coors in several senior executive roles. He now describes his career as BFF — beer, food and fashion.

**Peter Glenshaw** reports that he and Yates hallmates and roommates **Andrew Walpole, Kevin Lynch, Mike Lewis** and **Mark Decker** gathered at Andrew’s summer home in Lewes, Delaware, in May 2023 to reminisce, reflect and share medical histories. They are aging and still know how to laugh! After 25 years in higher education and nine years in healthcare, Peter has entered his third industry — electrical energy and broadband — as the vice president of the newly renovated and expanded Alumni House! The firm was the one chosen to design and build the pool and outdoor projects. Of particular interest to YOU is that Clark’s firm was the one chosen to design and build the Family Courtyard outside the newly renovated and expanded Alumni House! Clark and Carol were unable to attend Homecoming this year but they wish everyone the best and that they cherish their time at W&M.
president for member engagement with the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative. It’s his third senior leadership team in a fascinating industry. He is so glad to be a part of an organization that aims to electrify the economy and deliver broadband to its members.

Judy Cicatko Strang ’86, M.A. ’90 has published her first book, “What Holds Us Here: Pieces From a Place in the Woods.” It’s a compilation of her nonfiction prose and poetry, drawn from the early 1990s through 2018, along with images from contributing artists. The montage illustrates discoveries, losses, and wisdom gained from efforts to establish and preserve a homeplace — for humans and non-humans alike — in the woods of Amherst County, Virginia. Contact Judy through the Pedlar River Institute website at www.friendsofthepedlar.org for more information or to obtain a copy.

Cindy Storer was featured in a new book called “The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA” by Liza Mundy, Cindy thinks many in our class would find it interesting, especially those who have worked in, worked with or have relied on the CIA, as well as students of history and American politics.

Cathy Caputo Livingston reported that she enjoyed Homecoming & Reunion Weekend with a great group of Chi-Ofs, including Pam Krulitz, Rhanna Kidwell, Cindy Budinger Daniel, Terry Rosenbaum Andrews, Patti James Stadlin, and Martha Feathers Owens ’85, M.Ed. ’92, Ed.S. ’94. They were lucky to be hosted by Pam Krulitz and Tracy Melton ’85, who purchased a beautiful home in Williamsburg a few years ago. After a great tailgating day, they went to the Sunken Garden for the incredible band Nest Pas. On Sunday, they went to the W&M women’s soccer game to watch them beat Northeastern. Their weekend ended at Terry’s fabulous beach home in Sandbridge, Virginia, for a few days to recoup. They plan to be at Homecoming next year.

Sadly, John Skinner couldn’t attend Homecoming and the rededication of Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall with his fellow theatre classmates. That weekend he had traveled from his home in Minneapolis to Philadelphia to co-lead planning meetings for the 2024 Friends General Conference Gathering. The Gathering, an annual event that goes back in one form or another to around 1900, will be held at Haverford College, June 30-July 6. John has been involved with Friends (you know them as Quakers) since shortly after graduating from W&M. See a link to more about the Gathering in our online edition.

1987

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It’s been three days since Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2022 and I am already looking forward to next year! The weather was perfect, the football game a sell-out, and campus was packed. Almost 40 years after becoming a band, Nest Pas (Art Schmalz ’88, Chip Puskar [aka Charles Esten], Chris Neikirk ’88, Clem Cheng ’86, Dennis Whelan, John Hendrickson ’89) outdid themselves again, rocking a packed tent for the second straight year at the Saturday Night Bash in the Sunken Garden. They had reunited in Nashville ahead of Homecoming for rehearsal and some recording. You can find Nest Pas’ newly released single “Down Memory Lane” on Spotify and other platforms.

Chip still holds the Guinness World Record for the most consecutive singles released (54 in 54 weeks) and is happy to announce that his album of new music, “Love Ain’t Pretty,” drops on Jan. 26, 2024. It’s the culmination of a musical career that started on campus alongside Nest Pas, and he and Patty Hanson Puskar are excited to share it with the world. You can find information at charlesesten.com.

Tim Carroll, head of Microsoft’s Climate Portfolio, was part of a panel with President Katherine Rowe and members of W&M’s faculty at W&M Weekend in San Francisco June 1-4, discussing data research and ways to tackle global environmental changes.

Jackie Genovese is the executive director of Stanford University’s Medicine & the Museum program. She heads the Pre-medicine’s Biomedical Ethics Department. Her program gives medical students, physicians and patients opportunities to engage in classes combining literature, writing, the arts and medicine. She was a recent recipient of the 2023 Amy J. Blue Award which “honors faculty and staff for exceptional contributions to student life.” Details are online in the May 15, 2023, edition of the Stanford Report at Stanford University.

Laurie Grant Nichols and her husband live in Atlanta where she is a nonprofit fundraising consultant. Laurie and her daughter visited Laurie’s father, Denys Grant ’58, in Richmond, Virginia. They took a day trip to Williamsburg and marveled at the changes on campus and even took a photo in front of our old freshman dorm, Spotswood Hall. Last week they attended a homecoming game at Barton College with old friends Coakley Steiner Brown ’88, Jack Miller ’86, Jack Langan ’86 and Matt DeLuca ’87, M.S. ’96. Laurie attended a virtual special memorial service held by W&M. Thehas in honor of Lisa Krizan Anderegg ‘85 who passed away in July. Lisa was a VP of W&M’s chapter and Laurie’s big sister. Many Thetas from ’87 took part, including Melinda Speer Miller, Anne Marie Belair Pace, Jessica Jones, Kathleen Moriarty Mueller and Ginger Stair Garvey.

Kenny Tyler ’87, M.A.Ed. ’89 is VP for athletics at Barton College. The Wilson Daily Times reported that Ken “will oversee 25 NCAA-sponsored intercollegiate programs at Barton as well as two non-sponsored intercollegiate teams involving 700 student athletes.” Ken has been involved in teaching, coaching and athletic administration since graduating from W&M.

George Coundouriotos is a former professor of Zambawango Desserts and Coffee. The bakery in Shady Springs, Georgia (Atlanta area), just celebrated its fifth anniversary. George describes it as the first low-carb/gluten-free gourmet bakery in the country. Talented Executive Pastry Chef Kathleen McDaniel even went on the Food Network and won a competition against well-known chef Bobby Flay. The low-carb goodies ship nationwide (zampawango.com).

I am sad to write that our friend Kathleen McCarthy Sober passed away in June. At W&M, Kathleen was a business management major, an overall amazing person and a defender on the Tribe Women’s Soccer team. She and her husband, Harry, lived in Alexandria, Virginia, where she had a successful career working at Planning Research Corporation (PRC) Unisys and with E3 Federal Systems. Five years ago, Kathleen and her partner established their government contracting company called Hive Group, of which she was CEO. The Hive Group established the Kathleen McCarthy Sober Women’s Soccer Scholarship Endowment supporting the William & Mary’s Women’s Soccer program, as per Kathleen’s wishes. Friends can send donations in honor of Kathleen to W&M Athletics or at give.wm.edu (fund 5516). Her family and friends gathered to remember, honor and celebrate Kathleen’s life in August.

1988

Class Reporters DAWN E. BOYCE
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LIZ TUROMAN
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Hello all and thanks to all who wrote in. The last 35 years really flew by! For sometimes longer updates and always excellent photos, read the 1988 Class Notes online at magazine.wm.edu/class-notes/1988.

Michelle Fay Cortez is the chief global health care correspondent for Bloomberg News. She has been with the company for 32 years, one of the original from the now-huge Washington newsroom, and has lived and traveled all around the world mainly covering health. Michelle moved to Hong Kong in 2021, when COVID-19 was still the biggest story of the day (and did two weeks of hotel quarantine, including TV hits from her hotel room, when her husband would go to the bathroom to stay out of the frame). This was their midlife crisis, after the last of their three kids went to university.

Mike Studeman retired as a two-star admiral from the Navy after 35 years of service as an intelligence officer. His last job was as commander of the Office of Naval Intelligence. Other flag officer assignments included director of intelligence.
(J2) for the Indo-Pacific Command and director of intelligence (J2) for Southern Command.

Mike and Lynne Draper Studeman '89 remain happily married after 31 years. They have two grown boys, Noah and Joshua. Lynne recently started Wesley Seminary to attain her Master of Divinity and Mike is in the process of publishing a book on leadership as a transition project. They live in Annandale, Virginia.

Ginny Parsons Lee wasn’t able to attend the reunion this year because she is living in Hawaii permanently. Ginny says it’s great to move back home! After a kitchen remodel, Ginny and her husband, Ian Lee, moved into a new home. Ginny has gotten into outrigger canoe paddling and most days you can find her on the water. She continues to work in private practice as a nurse midwife. Ian will retire from the Army in 2023. Island life has been great for Ginny’s mental health after the COVID-19 burnout and has provided a great location for the kids to visit. Although sorry to miss the fall colors, she says “Ala’ho!”

In October 2023, Ana Schrank became CFO of Invitae Corporation in San Francisco. Yes, Ana! Connie Glaysker Calabrese and David Calabrese congratulate their oldest daughter Julie Calabrese ’18 on starting her emergency medicine residency at Cooper University Hospital.

Chris Neikirk was excited that ’88 fellow classmates John “Rockey” Hendrickson and Artie “RT” Schmalz were getting the (N’est Pas) band back together with fellow Theta Delta alum bandmates, Clem Cheng ’86, Dennis Whelan ’87 and C. Ed. ’87 for the Saturday Night Bash at Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. What better way to celebrate Homecoming? Great show, Nest’ Pas!

Alicia Locheed Goodrow just celebrated the one-year anniversary of her solo business law firm, Houston-based Goodrow Law, PLLC (www.goodrowlaw.com). She has outsourced general counsel to private and family-owned businesses and uses her Spanish language skills to represent many inbound companies owned by Latin American and Spanish private companies.

Alicia and Cary Ruscus Jimenez have some crazy road-tripping adventures in South Texas in 2023 when Whooping Cranes, Green Jays, Green Parakeets and other bizarre winged friends. Amy Hartman Roby hosted Alicia various times for a fun trip to the Antonof for hikes and Central Texas adventures. If there are Class of ‘88 alumna in Texas, Maine or Philadelphia who want to go for a hike, or you’re need of a really good gateway for entrepreneurs, Alicia asks you to reach out.

The ’88 Dupont 1st East Wallflowers — Christina Langelier Hamilton, Lynne Sisson Haynie ’88, M.Ed. ’02, Renee Morgan Orlosky, Sharon McElwee Barnes and Teri Dale Dunnigan returned to Homecoming with Sean Hamilton ’89, M.A.E. ’01, Russell Haynie, Bob Orlosky, John Barnes ’89, Tom Dunnigan, Rodney Alejandro, Janet Alejandro, and Elmer Bigley ’89. They tallied with many from the Class of ’88. Spending time with old friends is good for the soul! They also spent time with Teri’s daughter Megan Dunnigan ’23 and her classmates attending their first Homecoming!

1989


We expect to have a bigger turnout at our 35th reunion in October 2024!

Lodge 10 reunited in September as Jim Smith and his wife, Anne, passed through Williamsburg on an East Coast tour from San Francisco. Dave “Fletch” Fletcher, Alan Adenan, Vince Howell, Karen Hojnacki Perigard and Greg Perigard, Michelle Wade Scheurman and his husband, Craig, Jill Watson Hamilton and Tom Hamilton ’88, M.A. ’89, Allison Bell Royer and her husband, Steve, all attended the annual reunion and Liz Engelen O’Connor ’90, and Anne Humphries Arseneau ’89, M.A.Ed. ’92 and her husband, Bob, enjoyed catching up at the Cheese Shop, breweries and the Blue Talon. They got carded at Paul’s! There’s talk about making it an annual gathering. Jill Smith is enjoying retirement, consulting with the development of women-owned businesses in India. Fletcher has a new job with a commercial realty firm, Alan is the regional chief for TD’s Bulletin. Vince will be retiring from Mars Inc. in 2024 after 30 years. Karen continues to teach; Greg is a partner with his law firm; Kyle Perigard ’18 got engaged. Michelle and family vacationed in Banff, Canada. Jill and Tom are empty nesters in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Allison a judge for Ian’s children’s division in Chester, Pennsylvania. Tim manages an HOA; Liz is clerk of courts for James City County. Anne still works at W&M.

Dave Musto, CEO of Ascensus, was in Williamsburg in September for a Boothe Center Advisory Board meeting and saw Colin Ruhi ’89, M.B.A. ’94 and JoAnn Ardales Ruhi ’89. Dave and his wife, Pauline, live in New Canaan, Connecticut, and recently enjoyed a biking trip in Croatia.

Colin retired in March, just a few weeks away of 20 years at Capital One. He now spends time working in his garden, riding bikes, traveling, camping and hiking. He continues to serve on the Board of Feed More, a food bank serving 34 cities and counties in Central Virginia. JoAnn devotes time to Richmond-area nonprofits, including the local William & Mary alumni chapter, the Branch Museum of Architecture and Design, the Board of Trustees at Collegiate School and the board of MENTOR Virginia. The Ruhi family, including Ethan Ruhi ’22, M.A.Ed. ’23, vacationed in Denmark last summer.

Colin and JoAnn also hosted the biennial Williams & Mary KD reunion. Michelle Furman Veeck and Alan Veeck ’91, Jodie Jones Senter and her husband, Scott, Jennifer-Ashley Hillman ’90, Hollis Clapp ’89, Kristin Palm Jones ’90 and her husband, Richard, Stephanie Gioia Padgett ’90 and Tim Padgett ’90 attended the super fun weekend; Richmond residents Boyd Bullock and his wife, Susan, and Beth Speakman Bortz ’91, M.P.P. ’93 and her husband, Dave, joined for the day. Michelle lives in Pittsburgh, serves as a member of her town/borough council and is a legal contract analyst at Legal Sifter. She and Alan are the proud parents of Charlie Veeck ’20, Emily Veeck ’18, and Kiley Veeck ’27 and a high school senior. Jodie lives in Centennial, Colorado, and is a much-loved elementary school nurse. She is an intrepid traveler who has explored all over the world. Boyd lives in Richmond, Virginia, and works at IBM as a program manager in enterprise applications.

Paul Cullen and Marianne Mannscreck Cullen have been reconnecting with W&M as their daughter, Vera Cullen ’26, became part of the Tribe. They attended a fundraising dinner for W&M’s Camp Kesem, which runs a free one-week summer camp for kids whose families are affected by cancer. Vera was once a Kesem camper and now heads outreach for W&M’s chapter. Moving Vera into the Hospitality House (now One Tribe Place) was a bit of a surreal experience. Paul and Marianne have also joined W&M’s Parent & Family Council to become closer to the school and W&M community. Paul has relaunched his firm, www.cullenlaw.com, and he co-owns and heads business with Gene Foley and Pat Dupehen ’90 every time a Bruce Springsteen show comes to town.
After 30 years in private practice, handling criminal and family law, Dee Dee Vantree-Keller felt led to do something more personally fulfilling with her law degree. She closed her practice and now serves as the homeless veterans project attorney in the Disability Rights & Homeless Outreach Project Unit at the Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia. She traded in high heels for sneakers, and her briefcase for a simple notebook. Instead of going to court, she goes to food pantries, church parking lots and even to the beach, looking for homeless veterans. She’s helping them apply for veterans benefits and Social Security disability, looking for parking lots and even to the beach, looking for homeless veterans. She’s helping them apply for veterans benefits and Social Security disability, and working with local social workers to find permanent housing for them.

Looking forward to seeing you in October!

1990

Class Reporter
DORI KOSER PITZNER
(203) 912-1001
dorijean@gmail.com

Hello, classmates. Sparse offerings this time, I’m afraid, but we have updates from two alumni who have never written in before, so I consider that a small win.

This October 2023, L. Paul Robertson saw Kim Karston Bush ’93 and fellow WCWDM DJs Larry Burnett ’91, Gwinevere von Ludwig ’92 and Drew Dernavich at a local Brooklyn restaurant, where Paul spins vinyl regularly. Poul, who is also the vice president of global brand marketing at Condé Nast with oversight of brands like Pitchfork, WIRED, Teen Vogue and The New York, who also seen Gwin at a cartoon improv event at the annual New Yorker Festival, which Paul helps oversee. Drew, who is a regular New Yorker cartoonist (you’ll recognize his woodcut style cartoons with the DD signature), had developed the sold-out event featuring comedians and fellow New Yorker cartoonists, which he hopes to host again at the festival in 2024.

Lee Livingston ’90, J.D. ’93 started Livingston Law Group, PLLC, in Charlottesville a year ago last July. The firm specializes in personal injury, medical malpractice and legal malpractice. He recently took up paddle boarding and hot yoga. Lee has two children. He enjoys seeing as many movies as possible with son, Daniel. Daughter Annalise finished Virginia Commonwealth University with a master’s in counseling. Lee is looking forward to some trips this fall — one to NYC to see the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and another to see U2 at the Shoreline in Las Vegas.

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1991

Class Reporter
STACY YOUNG CORRELL
6253 Hidden Clearing
Columbia, MD 21045
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sycorrell@gmail.com

Tim Harris and Amy Brown Harris ’91, M.A.Ed. ’96 have joined Tim’s parents and siblings to establish the Harris Family Study Abroad Endowment, helping W&M students access all that international travel can offer. The donor group includes Ruth and Don Harris ’57, Stacey Reid Harris and Jonathan Harris ’94, Chris Hardy ’98 and Rian Harker Harris ’98.

Kathy Carter, chief executive officer of LA28, the summer 2028 Olympic and Paralympic games in Los Angeles, helped kickoff the W&M Weekend in San Francisco last June at Oracle Park. Kathy and Jill Ellis ’88, L.H.D. ’16, president of San Diego Waves FC and former two-time championship winning coach of the U.S. Women’s National Team, discussed their many years of friendship, how being student-athletes at W&M set them up for success and the importance of supporting the next generation of women athletes and leaders.

John Lee was featured in the Delaware Business Times last summer. He is the founder of Strategic Foresight Investments, a boutique investment firm focused on the future, which makes sense since he is the state’s only professionally trained futurist. He has written articles on many topics, including on the hot topic of the moment, artificial intelligence. His most recent book was “Foresight Investing: A Complete Guide to Finding Your Next Great Trade.”

Noelle Chalfoux Dunlap, Amy Yenyo, Carole Bowman Kennedy, Susanne Stagg Cooper, Victoria Chase-Walters, Rachel Heibert Warren and I got together for our annual girls weekend in October at the beach outside St. Augustine, Florida. As always, there was lots of cheese and crackers, laughter and cocktails. We also learned that Susanne can drive a minivan like she is in a “Fast and Furious” movie! Right after she returned, Noelle, her husband, Jon, and her daughter, Maddie Dunlap ’25, were able to catch Alane Cameron Ford’s punk band, Crack Fox. The band is named after a character from the British series “The Mighty Boosh” and Alane performs under the alter ego “Rasputina.” Noelle said the band was loud, irreverent and fun, just like Alane.

Alane works in organ donation, in a role less than glamorous. Her favorite thing to do is to go behind the scenes and find links to learn more about these classmates in the online edition.

Matt Brandon ’92, CEO of the W&M Alumni Association, said in the spring 2023 W&M Alumni Magazine, “What I consider my calling is their loved one has an unsurvivable incident. She was working in the ICU units in the height of COVID-19. She contracted a significant case of COVID in 2020 and was working on respiratory rehab for a long time. Mad and frustrated at the slow recovery, she started writing punk songs. Alane, her husband, Phil, and some friends started putting her lyrics to music. At first, she said she could only physically sing two or three songs but they just kept practicing, and after almost two years, have started to play shows. She is part of a national group called “Punk Rock Saves Lives” that brings messages of health and wellness (with a focus on mental health), human rights and equality to punk rock shows. Check out the organization at punkrocksaveslives.org.

That is all I have! Please send any and all news my way and thanks for reading.

1992

Class Reporter
BARRY KEITH
511 First Street North,
Apartment 106
Charlottesville, VA 22902
keithlam@embargmail.com

Happy 2024, all! My work as a French and Spanish teacher at Monticello High School continues apace as I write. I’m sorry not to have gotten out an email to request your news; please consider this an invitation until I write to ask for updates for the May issue! Some of our classmates have engaged in some newsworthy activity recently. Find links to learn more about these classmates in the online edition.

Kent Fornter ’92 is known for his adventurous spirit — when he was a student, he and his friends built a raft and floated down the Chalkahominy River. His latest adventure is his brewery, Mare Island Brewing Co, just outside of Vallejo, California, where he led a tour and tasting for alumni and friends as part of W&M Weekend in San Francisco in June 2023.

Bill Kearney Jr. ’92, J.D. ’96 joined Stinson LLP in Washington, D.C., as of counsel in the corporate finance practice division. Bill counsels domestic and international clients on pre-merger notification compliance under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act. He regularly represents multinational corporations, venture capital and hedge funds, mutual funds and investment advisors in financial and strategic
acquisitions of all types. Tara Smith Thomas won a seventh term as treasurer of Gloucester County, Virginia. She has served the citizens of Gloucester for 25 years. Peter Kraft was appointed head of school at St. Stephen’s Episcopal School in Bradenton, Florida, this past summer. He has been a teacher and administrator at various schools for 25 years.

Dr. David Limbrick Jr. joined Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond as the chair of the department of neurosurgery this past summer. He is an expert on pediatric brain tumors and malformations of the brain.

Andy Corea received the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut Annual Awards Dinner in September.

Congratulations to all of you! Have a pleasant winter and spring, everyone.

1993

Class Reporter
GREGORY IMBUR
gmartin64@gmail.com

Class Notes for the winter editions are always a curious mix, as they can include Homecoming & Reunion Weekend memories and reflections on the upcoming year. Recognizing the many ways and means people keep in touch, it’s been my pleasure to hear directly from some of you over the past few years. Having made it to part of Homecoming, it was my great pleasure to see many people from not only the Class of 1993, but also friends and acquaintances from other years.

Since it was my first reunion in over 20 years, I had no idea what to expect. What a pleasant surprise to see all of the effort of the university and its alumni, coming together to celebrate. The number of construction projects — both under way and completed — is impressive, too. Many old dormitories are gone, others are slated for demolition. The campus somehow remains green and orderly through all of those changes.

While missing Thursday and Friday festivities, I did make it for an afternoon tailgate in front of the Alumni House and the evening event tents on the Sunken Garden. Phil Hatfield ’94 and Anna Dinwiddie Hatfield ’96 hosted with a most excellent tent near Zable Stadium. There are too many names to mention, but thank you to the Hatfields for their hospitality and their unwavering dedication and service to William & Mary over the years.

In the evening, the Class of 1993 tent was packed full, and this spilled over into the larger celebration under the big top. In addition to the food, drink and good company, the music added a festive tone to the air. I did not remember N’est Pas, but the crowd seemed to enjoy their many covers of songs from our college days. When the police kindly kicked out the last of us at midnight, the party sadly came to an end. I did not see nearly as many people as I had hoped to see, however I had a successful experience connecting with many people. The campus is as beautiful as ever, too.

After seeing so many people in person, I came to the conclusion that the success of this column has more to do with input than one person’s output. Once again, I have not heard directly from anyone, and this brings me to my realization. There are two (maybe three) things that everyone likes: 1) when classmates relate memories of shared experiences with fellow classmates, 2) hearing of the success of others through each of us: that is, few of us enjoy bragging about ourselves, but can relay with joy the accomplishments and services of others. As an example of the latter, I saw on social media that Stewart Laster was voted the best of Charlotte’s dentists and oral surgeons just today, as I write this in October.

As an example of the former, I remember a significant snowstorm our freshman year. Can’t remember if it was late in 1989 or early in 1990, but there was sledding, snow forts and other winter frolicking. Taking aim at the window of Neil Kirk ’96 and Austin Joy on the third floor of Fauquier, I had no idea I would hit the epicenter of the window and take out the entire thing. I remember so clearly when Austin’s head popped out of the window in shock and disbelief, yet also smiling. The RA of his floor, David Peters ’92, had filled out the paperwork for me to sign on the incident and work order before I had gotten to the third floor. Impressive, Dave!

I mentioned a third thing, which is graphics. I urge you to read the online edition of Class Notes, as the digital space is unlimited. Over the years — and you can look back online, too — I have included poems, pictures, and even some grateful Dean Jeck's essays. They narrative their epic William & Mary Hall shows in 1973. To be quite honest, if there is someone among us who has more graphic arts skills, I’d be happy to get out of the way and hand off the baton. Until then, I will happily continue, but I am asking you to reach out to me with memories, stories and pictures that spark the connections between us. I really can’t do that without you, thanks.

1994

Class Reporter
STEVE NEWMAN
sdnewman1972@gmail.com

Greetings and salutations, dear classmates. At the time of writing this, there are only 12 months till our next Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, our 30th anniversary. I am looking forward to getting back to the 'Burgh and the combo of a cheeseburger sub and cheese fries from the College Delly. Enough of my dreaming, we’ve got updates from a couple classmates.

Jonathan Harris walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain and landed in the W&M Alumni Magazine (see link in the online edition)! Per Jonathan, the pilgrimage “opened my eyes to our shared journey in life, and that people are more similar than we sometimes think.” To make this experience like this possible for other William & Mary students, Harris’ family established the Harris Family Study Abroad Scholarship Endowment. The donor group includes Jonathan Harris ’57 and Ruth Harris and their sons and daughters-in-law: Tim Harris ’91 and Amy Brown Harris ’91, M.A.Ed. ’96; Jonathan Harris (our classmate) and Stacey Reid Harris; and Chris Harris ’98 and Rian Harker Harris ’98.

In June 2023, Greg Wallig was named head of public policy for the firm Grassroots PAC, as well as continuing his role as the market managing principal for their Washington, D.C., office. Greg was highlighted in quite a few of the media circuits including the Virginia Business Magazine, Consulting US Magazine and Politico. Further, Greg was also elected as co-chair of the Global Fund for Children, where he’ll leverage his expertise in finance and operations to help children reach their full potential through programs in accessibility, education, human rights and inclusion. Brilliant work professionally and socially, near and far.

Thank you, Greg.

1995

Class Reporter
SHANNON E. KREPS
skreps2000@yahoo.com

Aaron Norfolk is an accomplished artist with his work on display throughout the United States. He recently had an exhibit, “Audio-Vision,” on display at the Art Complex Museum in Duxbury, Massachusetts. “Sight and sound run parallel in our perception, and these works do not intend to confound the two. As a word becomes a sound’s visual placeholder, so these paintings become their portrait.”

Lesley Stracks-Mullem founded Taste Carolina Gourmet Food Tours in 2009 and it continues to thrive. Since its inception in the triangle area, it has expanded across the state. “One thing we want to give our guests is a sense of discovery. We partner with people who are really passionate about what they do, and we give them a [forum] to tell their stories.”

Michele Niles has recently joined the real estate firm of Weichert, Realtors – Coast Properties. She and her husband also own Custom Marine Finishes right near the heart of Old Town Bluffton, South Carolina.

Peter Van Hemel has been elected to the board of Bernstein Shur. He is a co-chair of the firm’s real estate practice group, bringing over 20 years of experience in real estate, renewable energy and telecommunications development.

Bella Ciao!

1996

Class Reporter
BETSY ROSENBLATT ROSSO
betsyrosso@gmail.com

In October, I organized “QA2: Queer or Questioning, Awareness and Acceptance,” a gathering to
The Class Reporter was excited to write their final note as editor after 12 years of running this column. After a few adventures from the past two years have included: singing on stage with The War and Treaty at Wolf Trap, running a cornament (a cornhole tournament, of course!) where our team was cheated in the final four game, and adopting a kitten from Idaho (cute Facebook pictures will make you do these things). In June, I hosted Rachel Freer Joyner ’96, M.A. ’97, J.P. Wilson, and JP’s daughter, Hailey. We all saw Ed Sheeran in concert.

If you’re planning a trip to Utah, visit Bryant Cafferty, who recently moved there with his family. He wrote, “We moved to my wife’s, Monica’s, hometown of St. George, Utah, last year from Sandpoint, Idaho, to explore her extended family. My daughters are now 5 (Ava) and 3 (Emerson). We made it through our first Southern Utah desert summer and are excited for the cooler fall weather and coming holidays. Cheers!”

You’ve liked our Class Notes but you haven’t submitted your own … yet! What are you waiting for? I know you’re reading this and thinking, “but what am I going to say?” Say anything! Write to me and share anything you’d like and I’ll make it make sense.

1997
Class Reporter
MATT GIBERT
mcgibert@gmail.com

Greetings, classmates! The deadline for this edition coincided with my first report in the fall magazine as your new class reporter and thus with insufficient time to receive any updates at the new email address. But please know that I’m committed to write up a full report for my class in every publication of the magazine, so please send your news my way! You can reach me at mcgibert@gmail.com. I hope to hear from you soon.

1998
Class Reporter
ALEXIS COX
amcox@hotmail.com

It was wonderful to see so many of you back on campus for our 25th reunion in October and so nice to catch up after all these years. I’m always so impressed to hear everyone’s accomplishments and so proud of how far we’ve all come since graduation. Hope you all enjoyed a wonderful fall weekend reminiscing with friends. Now on with our news!

Congratulations to Bridgette Trela for receiving the FBI’s Director Award for Excellence in Innovation. Bridgette celebrated her 25th anniversary with the FBI in 2023 and joined the leadership team at the FBI’s Washington Field Division. She leads a team of FBI agents and professional staff employees who manage the FBI’s relationships with community partners including businesses, schools, congregations and other organizations. She also leads the agency’s diversity, equity and inclusion program.

Joanna Cook reported that she enjoyed returning to Williamsburg in October for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend and the 60th anniversary of InterVarsity, but was surprised by all the changes to campus: new buildings, trees, and current construction projects. Joanna said she was glad that she printed a map beforehand because when she arrived everything looked so different. “Yates? Gone. Millington? Gone. Morton? Now called Boswell. Do you think this means we got old?!”

Joanna lives in Falls Church, and is a management consultant in the federal sector, where she works with other alumni. Lately, Joanna has been designing strategic offsites, leading group facilitated discussions, and is excited to start the Georgetown Facilitation certificate program this fall. She wrote, “A few adventures from the past two years have included: singing on stage with The War and Treaty at Wolf Trap, running a cornament (a cornhole tournament, of course!) where our team was cheated in the final four game, and adopting a kitten from Idaho (cute Facebook pictures will make you do these things). In June, I hosted Rachel Freer Joyner ’96, M.A. ’97, J.P. Wilson, and JP’s daughter, Hailey. We all saw Ed Sheeran in concert.”

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Jennifer Carino was honored by the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS) for Women’s History Month. This year’s theme was “Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories.” Jennifer’s family story celebrates strong women making a difference for future generations.

Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz has added Camilla Chan as a partner in the firm’s litigation group, where she will handle a wide range of commercial, entertainment and intellectual property litigation matters. Camilla has been recognized by Southern California Super Lawyers as a “rising star” by the Los Angeles Business Journal as a minority leader of influence, and by the Los Angeles Times as a leader in diversity, equity and inclusion. She serves as a member of the board of governors of the Century City Bar Association and partnered with Community Legal Staff in Schools Los Angeles to create a mentorship program that connects high school students from historically marginalized communities with mentors in the legal profession.

Eric Chen and his boys spent a great week at the Outer Banks, North Carolina, with Karen Chin Repsher ’03 and her family. He was glad to help celebrate the high school graduation of Anna Crane and Brian Walker’s oldest son before he starts college in Amsterdam this fall; Matt Inman and Jennifer Wilkes Inman ’00, M.S. ’03, Ph.D. ’07 were also able to attend. He was excited to catch up with Marissa Guillen ’01, too.

Suzanne “Suzy” Christopher is the director and co-founder of MySpectrum Counseling and Coaching, which ranked No. 244 on the Inc. 5000 list of fastest growing private companies in 2023. MySpectrum Counseling ranked No. 1 in Richmond, Virginia.

Mary Simonson Hefner is celebrating 10 years as a rancher at Five Marys Farms.

Evelyn Vanderhorst Lee has been promoted to a regional president of Trustee, overseeing the greater Washington and Maryland region.

At the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut annual awards dinner on Sept. 13, 2023, Amanda Deep Sidhu received the Distinguished Legal Professional of the Year award and delivered the keynote address.

Jayson Traxler was appointed as chief executive officer at Stax, a Boston-headquartered mergers and acquisitions strategy consulting firm. Jayson joined Stax in 2021 as chief operating officer and was named president the following year.

2001

Class Reporter LAUREN MORGAN ELLEMAN ’01, M.S. ’23 lellerman@frithlawfirm.com

Caplin & Drysdale notified us that Leila Dominick Carney was promoted to member of the firm effective Oct. 1, 2023.

2002

Class Reporter LEAH WOOD NELSON leahnelson02@gmail.com

It is such a joy seeing our classmates go out and do cool stuff. Jennifer Farmer Lessman just published her first full length novel, “Unmagical: A Witchy Mystery.” This comes after publishing several stories on Amazon’s Kindle Vella. Way to go, Jinn!

Sticking with the class wordsmiths, Julia Keith Comfort was recognized as an editor of the year in Ragan Communications and PR Daily’s communicators of the year awards. She works as a communications specialist at Ferguson Enterprises. Lastly, Kristin Fogg Dumont was recognized in the Richmond Free Press for her work as co-local group lead of the Richmond Moms Demand Action group, part of the larger national organization that works to end gun violence in the community.

2003

Class Reporter NINA R. STRICKLAND SIMONE nrsimone@gmail.com

Hello Class of 2003!

It was fun to run into so many of you during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend! Sorry about jumping into the class picture when he’d already started taking it. I managed to significantly stall an already slow-going process and subtract precious minutes from your time to connect with each other in the Sunken Garden. I’m the problem, it’s me.

Congratulations to West Garrett who attended with his new baby! He wrote this prior to the weekend: “My wife, Jenny, and I had a baby girl, Madeline Murphy Garrett, on May 12, 2022. Most of the time, we call her Maddie. She is doing well and will be at the reunion in October.”

Kristen Southerland Krop shared this: “This Homecoming was especially poignant for me. The problem, it’s me.

Congratulations to West Garrett who attended with his new baby! He wrote this prior to the weekend: “My wife, Jenny, and I had a baby girl, Madeline Murphy Garrett, on May 12, 2022. Most of the time, we call her Maddie. She is doing well and will be at the reunion in October.”

2004

Class Reporter OWEN GRIMES

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I hope you all had a wonderful summer and fall, and are now transitioning into the height of Old Man Winter. Were you able to go to Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2023 this year? I know some of you are holding out until next year, when it will be our 20th reunion (I am)! I cannot believe we are already at that age. I have heard myself in conversation say that I am old enough to have a 20-year-old kid (of which I do not have). I also remember during our senior year, a couple of my friends and I were at the Green Leaf Cafe during Homecoming 2003. Some alumni in their early 30s came over and sat with us. Those guys were buzzed and talking about their good old days at the university during the early 1990s. My friends and I were thinking, “These guys are OLD.” Well, flash forward to where I am today, and my friends and I are in our early 40s. I could only think what those college seniors today would think of us now! Well, I have not really had anything exciting to go on in my life except I revisited Salt Lake City this past fall. I had been to Utah the previous year for business, and business brought me back once again. This past Thanksgiving, I flew back to Oklahoma City to see my mom and spend some holiday time with her. For 2024, besides going to Homecoming 2024, I will be heading back to Virginia (for winter vacation, not the D.C. area). Hopefully I might run into some of you!

For some more exciting news about our fellow classmates, Rebecca McAtee Martin wrote a memoir, “Through the Darkness: Medicine, Miracles, and Meeting God in Nepal.” Rebecca’s recently published book is about her experience serving as a missionary physician in Tansen, Nepal, for two years (2013-2015). Her hope is that her memoir will be encouraging for all who serve, particularly in challenging spaces, as each person seeks to live out his or her vocation to care with compassion and excellence. Rebecca is honored to have received
2005

Class Reporter
BEN BALDWIN
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Hello Class of 2005! I’m writing to you on the first night of the NBA season. When you read this, the season will be halfway over! How time flies.

Here are some updates from your classmates:

Meghan Ewell
Powers was selected as one of 50 Adobe Analytics champions (out of 800 applicants) for the second year in a row. It’s an honor to be selected because Champions are seen as experts in their field, speak at various conferences, and are goto resources in the global community of Adobe Analytics users.

And to celebrate her 40th birthday, Meghan and her husband Chris Powers ’04 are going skydiving! Hopefully you’ll hear from her for the next round of updates, which will mean it was successful!

Jessica Davis Butlerworth is very excited to report that she just started a new venture with some colleagues, Range Commercial Partners, Inc. She is very excited about the future! Beth Clites Sawyer has settled in to her new role on the digital production team at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello in Charlottesville, after her first 15 years there as an archaeologist. She continues her connection to archaeology through the Council of Virginia Archaeologists, for whom she serves as the treasurer and co-chair of the public education committee. Beth and her husband, Jesse, and their two beautiful children, Charlotte (12) and David (7), love exploring parks and trails in the Blue Ridge area and returning to Williamsburg whenever they can.

2006

Class Reporter
AMBER WALKER
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Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2023 has just wrapped up as I am writing, I was unable to attend this year, as the school where I teach and my children attended hosted their annual pumpkin tour the same weekend. But I enjoyed the photos friends posted and the buzz all over social media of the ‘Burg and its festivities. I recently had the pleasure of writing a recommendation for my senior intern to apply to W&M as well! Hoping to be able to tell you she is in the Class of 2028 when we next write! Not as good as being there, but definitely keeping the Tribe spirit alive and well!

We only have one update this time, class! We have got to do better. I know how it is, I really do! The weeks are sometimes long but they really fly and time gets away from us. So, stop right now and write in! Tell us what has been happening in your amazing lives. New baby? New pet? Finally married? Traveling the world? Or even a new promotion? We want to know and cheer you on!

Thank goodness for Lizzy Spencer and her alum adventure! She wrote in that she and three of her Tribe buddies recently took a summer vacay in Maine together. The新鲜man hallmates from third floor Monroe, as well as three of the ladies being Alpha Chi Omega sisters, slipped away from their hectic schedules and had an epic adventure together along with their five children! The entourage included Shawa Kettle, assistant professor of surgery at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, Alexis Jovanovic Schroth ’05, an early education specialist located in Myrtle Beach, Renu Shah ’05, an in-house counsel at JP Morgan Chase in Chicago and Lizzy, who currently serves as a National Institutes of Health-funded assistant professor of pediatric gastroenterology, specializing in inflammatory bowel disease at Mount Sinai in New York City. They were accompanied by their adorable and entertaining crew: Bennett and Quinn Sznal, Trip and Matilda Schroth and Patrick Deem III.

How amazing that you guys continue your friendship despite life’s challenges and busyness; you are helping your kids build those bonds as well! I couldn’t love this more! Take care, do good, leave every day a little better than yesterday. Hark upon the gale and see you next time!

2007

Class Reporter
COLLEEN SCHNEIDER CAMERON
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Happy New Year to the Class of 2007. I hope 2024 will be a wonderful one. I am still working at a local independent bookstore, and I was excited when I received a review copy of “The Pomegranate Gate,” a fantasy novel by fellow W&M alum Ariel Kaplan ’99. I love finding William & Mary connections in the book world! Please read on for wonderful news from our classmates.

Tom Bambara and his wife, Amanda Ehhardt, celebrated their one-year anniversary on Sept. 24, 2023, by taking a family portrait with their six-week-old son! Leonardo Thomas Bambara was born on Aug. 12, 2023, at 8 pounds and 21 inches long. Baby and mom are doing fantastic.

J. Tyler Butts ’07, J.D. ’10 was elected as a Connecticut Bar Foundation fellow, according to the March 9, 2023, Glastonbury Citizen. He is a partner at Robinson & Cole LLP in Hartford, Connecticut. In 2022, he received the Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Leadership Award.

Natalia Oehninger Delaune and Tony Delaune ’08 will be celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary on May 10, 2024. They’re forever grateful to have met in Philosophy of Law class in ’07. After W&M, Natalia went on to law school at the University of Virginia and worked at Jones Day, where she made partner in 2020. Natalia is currently the chief compliance officer at Celanese Corp in Dallas. Tony graduated from Southern Methodist University Law in 2013 and chose the real estate route. He is now vice president, regional manager real estate at RGA Reinsurance. While they lead busy lives in Dallas, they plan to introduce their kids (Adriana, 8, and Anthony, 6) to lovely Williamsburg, soon.

Victoria Wallace Dietz was named executive vice president of the Curtis Group, according to the April 24, 2023, Virginian-Pilot.

Stacey Garrett has been promoted with tenure to associate professor of higher education at Appalachian State University. She started her faculty career in 2017 after completing her Ph.D. in educational leadership with a concentration in higher education at Clemson University. After leaving W&M, Stacey went on to earn an M.Ed. in counseling psychology with a concentration in college student personnel administration at James Madison University and worked professionally in student affairs at Longwood University and Clemson. She credits her time as a student leader and the mentorship she received at W&M as the beginning of her career in higher education/student affairs.

Mark Maloy recently published his second book on the Revolutionary War Series, The Last Extremity: The Battles for Charleston, 1776-1782.” It describes the battles that occurred in and around Charleston, South Carolina. This book and his first book are part of the “Emerging Revolutionary War Series,” published by Savas Beatie.

In March 2023, the New Jersey attorney general’s office announced Yolanda Melville as the new senior counsel and director of community engagement, a position that involves “serving as a liaison to community stakeholders” in New Jersey “to connect with the office’s initiatives.”

In March 2021, Ammie Pascua helped to found the Hampton Roads Reproductive Justice League, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, volunteer-led grassroots organization with the mission to fund abortion and to end the stigma around essential reproductive health care. Focusing on mutual aid and community care, the group offers financial and practical support, and volunteers receive
abortion doula training to provide emotional support to clients. HRRJL (pronounced “Her-Jul”) partners with Virginia’s four other abortion funds to provide access and support to people in Hampton Roads, across Virginia and, increasingly, from surrounding states. Thanks to W&M Vox and William & Mary Law School, she is very happy to have been invited back on campus to speak about reproductive justice and the importance of supporting abortion funds, especially post-Roe.

2008

Class Reporter
ASHLEY JEAN PINNEY
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It was so wonderful seeing many of you at Homecoming & Reunion Weekend in October! There are some exciting updates to report on this issue.

Valeri Vásquez completed her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley in August 2023. Her dissertation, “Modeling and Optimization for Climate-Aware Genetic Biocontrol in Public Health,” paved the way for a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University, focusing on emerging biotechnology, with appointments in the Stanford University School of Medicine, the biology department, and the Center for International Security and Cooperation.

In October, Roslyn Banks released her second children’s book on Amazon: “Adelaide and Agriculture” is the No. 1 rated book in its category for Teen & Young Adult Agriculture and No. 2 bestseller for the agricultural category. Two years ago, she released her first book, “Adelaide the Accordion Beetle” in its category for Teen and Young Adult Agriculture. Both books highlight landmarks on William & Mary’s campus: the Sunken Garden and Hearth: Memorial to the Enslaved.

Samantha Hazell-O’Brien is expecting her first child. She also finished her Doctor of Education degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in May.

Mike Peck celebrated the official close of his divorce with a bachelor-party-esque college reunion in Las Vegas in June. Billy Coyle joined him, along with Matt Morrill ’09, Phil Perry ’07, Mark Maloy ’07, Patrick Walsh ’07, Lemuel Hancock ’07, and Tom Kramer ’06, M.B.A. ’21. Mike is still living in Culver City, California, leading the finance team for a beverage startup, and is currently training for a spartan half marathon in Fiji. He is easy in the best shape of his life.

Joe Dorfler had another daughter in August, Charlotte Mae! Everyone is doing great, especially older sister Clara, who is taking her job as big sister very seriously.

Jenni Seckel appears on the new season of “Queer Eye” on Netflix. In episode four, the Fab Five visits the New Orleans hometown hero, educator and W&M alumna. See more about the episode at a link in the online edition, magazine.wm.edu/class-notes/2008.

Social justice advocate Richard Luong was recently named the director of institutional advancement for Equal Justice Works, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit.

Lauren Edwards’ Charlotte-based sports marketing agency, Reine Digital & Consulting, continues to be successful, bringing in seven figures in annual revenue. The company Edwards founded in 2017 has 14 full-time employees, mostly women. It has over a dozen clients primarily in motorsports and continues to bring in new business.

Thanks for all of the great updates! You can send them anytime to aphinn08@gmail.com.

2009

Class Reporter
ANDREW FOILES
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Hello Class of 2009 and Happy Homecoming & Reunion Weekend! Of course by the time you read this, Homecoming will have actually passed; however, it isn’t too soon to think about next year, which is our reunion year! I am not sure we are all mentally prepared for which reunion, so I will let some of the math majors in the room take it from here, and psychology majors to assist after that. Hooray! Thank you to those of you who shared your wonderful pieces of news with me so that the rest of our class can celebrate along with you. It is always so uplifting to receive your emails and hear you brag about yourselves.

Be sure to send me any updates on things you are celebrating so they can be featured here and on the online Class Notes. Your class wants to hear from you, whether it is a new job, a wedding, a new family member, or something outside of the norm. It is all important and worth sharing! Just send them to me at afoiles@gmail.com.

There is also an online version which supports photos, so feel free to send those in along with your updates, too.

Go Tribe!

Andy Updates:

Katharine Schellman Palujeg celebrated the release of her second Jazz Age mystery, “The Last Drop of Hemlock,” with a visit to Williamsburg and an event jointly hosted by William & Mary Libraries and the Williamsburg Regional Library. Her fourth Regency mystery, “Murder at Midnight,” arrived in bookstores in September.


Patricia Parr realized a lifelong dream of seeing the Albuquerque Balloon Festival, and got two for one, as the annular eclipse took place there as well! See the online edition for her photos!

Nick Patin and his wife, Laura, had their first son on May 30, 2023, in Charleston, South Carolina. His name is Alexander Thomas Patin and they are looking forward to bringing him onto campus soon!

Erin Shannahan Murillas and her husband, Phil, welcomed their son, Felix Sebastian, in April 2023.

Winston Brady recently published a novel entitled “The Inferno,” the first chapter of which is based on his experience at William & Mary. Please see the online issue for more on this update.

Catherine Anderson Gregory has been appointed as head of content and communications at the Ada Lovelace Institute, an independent think tank working to ensure that artificial intelligence and data work for people and society. Based in London, Catherine will develop and lead on Ada’s strategic communications and content priorities, raising the institute’s profile and enhancing the impact of its work.

After enlisting in the U.S. Army National Guard at age 26, Capt. Eric Evans immediately noticed the difficulty U.S. Army National Guard members and reservists face in finding employers with supportive military leave policies after enlisting. So, Eric launched Friendly Forces, a company that offers the first comprehensive list of businesses rated on how supportive they are of reservists and U.S. Army National Guard members. See a link to this story from the W&M Alumni Magazine in the online edition.

Alex Kyrics co-wrote “A Handbook of History, Theory and Practice of the Dewey Decimal Classification System” with professor M.P. Satija, an emeritus fellow at Guru Nanak Dev University in India. He continues to serve as chief editor of the Dewey Decimal Classification, working remotely after he and his wife moved to Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

2010

Class Reporter
KARYN BRUGGEMAN
karynbruggeman@gmail.com

Another column full of great news for the Class of 2010! From someone who hasn’t had a ton of change in their life in the past year or two, it’s always fun to read what new things everyone is up to. As always, stay safe & be well.

Kate Zach Armstrong recently left his full-time job this year to start his own content marketing company, Rooster High Productions.

Writing editor Jordan Bloom has had an eventful past year — he sent me this update: “I’m being sued for $10 million by the former owner of Ted Bundy’s Volkswagon (an amount I could not possibly pay), I broke a story about major FBI corruption on my blog with a leak out of the Senate Judiciary Committee beating The New Yorker by a month and I walked 320 miles from Florence to Rome in May and June.”

Caitlin Clements just started year two of a postgraduate course in the UK focused on writing for kids and young adults. She has also had a few exciting theatrical co-producing projects; “Sunset Bou-

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levard” starring Nicole Szerzinger is currently running in London, and it was super exciting to celebrate that opening in collaboration with fellow W&M alums Abigail Fine ’09, M.A. ’11 and Tim Koch. Caitlin is on the team for a new play about the Queen Mother called “Backstairs Billy” opening in London in November 2023, and the West End transfer of Neil Simon’s “Plaza Suite,” coming in January 2024.

Emily Martin Cochran and her husband, Garner, welcomed their daughter, Spencer Jane Cochran, on May 18, 2023. They currently live in Rome, Georgia.

Seth Drewry and his wife, Katie, welcomed their second child, a boy, Parker Case Drewry, on May 16, 2023. They continue to live in Arkansas, where they serve as pastors and Katie teaches elementary special education.

As John Pothen graduated from Emory University in Atlanta in May 2023 with an M.D. and a Ph.D. in sociology. He’s now working in a community psychiatry residency based in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He lives in Columbia, South Carolina, with his wife, Abby, and 3-year-old daughter, Mira. Before moving away from Atlanta, he met up with fellow alums Bailey Thomson Blake ’10 and Jay Bilsborrow for a goodbye party.

Nicole Rickabaugh and Christopher Bahls-Mariles ’12 welcomed a baby girl, Juliana Lucia Mariles, in June 2023!

Courtney Sutton Strosnider is now the program coordinator of the Georgia State University Undergraduate Teaching Award for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Alyssa Weinberger and her husband, Ben, welcomed their first child, a daughter, Luca Scarlet, into the world on May 24, 2023. Luca’s grandparents and W&M supporters, Karen and Michael Weinberger, are over the moon, as is her canine big brother Lenny, who is very protective of his baby sister. Congratulations to Jake Wolfe, who married Jodie Davis at Gurney’s Montauk Resort on April 20, 2023. Close family attended the celebration in Montauk.

2012 Class Reporter MADELEINE BRADSHAW ROWLEY (703) 609-0570 maddie.b.rowley@gmail.com

Hello Class of 2012,

I hope everyone had a wonderful fall and a great Homecoming for those who attended!

I find myself drawing a blank for this go-around of Class Notes. The world seems to be on the brink of a third world war, and I really hope that’s not the case. The news cycle has been horrific lately, and I find that I can’t turn away from what I see on Twitter and the TV.

As a parent, it seems more difficult to digest such news because I can’t help but superimpose my daughter into the photos I’ve seen and fret about what I can do to protect her from all of it. I’m sure many of you feel similar. Luckily, William & Mary provided us with a built-in community from the minute we all stepped onto campus for the first time as students, and we’d do well to tap into those friendships and connections in times like these.

“No one is useless in the world who lightens the burdens of another.” — Charles Dickens

In Tribe We Trust, Maddie Rowley Chelsea German Follett published her first book, “Centers of Progress: 40 Cities That Changed the World,” which is available at all major retailers.

Chelsea is the managing editor at HumanProgress.org and is also a policy analyst at the Cato Institute’s Center for Global Liberty & Prosperity.

Zara Fina Stasi, artist and founder of Good for the Bees, designed the Wren Traditions W&M shirt given to new William & Mary students at the Cheers to Your First Year event during orientation. Zara, who uses art as a tool to help people thrive, also left her mark on our campus with a mural at the Sadler Center this summer.

As a Marine Corps judge advocate, Maj. Shannon Beydler Hillery has practiced law and served her country in locations from Washington, D.C., to the middle of the Pacific Ocean. For her service, she was awarded the 2022 Outstanding Young Military Lawyer Award by the American Bar Association.

Walter Hickey, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and data expert, shares insights into the effects of pop culture in his new book, “You Are What You Watch.” The book employs a mix of research, deep reporting and 100 data visualizations to investigate how entertainment affects us in surprising and significant ways.

Laura Faulkner-Miller ’12, M.B.A. ’19 and her husband, Karson, welcomed their son, Asher, on Sept. 27.

Katherine Mize married Joe Iriarte (a 2009 University of Virginia graduate) in a ceremony at The Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia, on Sept. 30, 2023. They live in New York City and now live in Boston with their pup, Alfie.

Sarah Young Haden and her husband welcomed their first child, a daughter named Kendell Lorraine Haden, on July 1, 2023. They live in Leesburg, Virginia, with their cats, Skylar and Toby, and their pup, Eli. Jess graduated with an MBA from George Mason University in December.

Sarah Young Haden and her husband welcomed their first child, a daughter named Kendall Lorraine Haden, on July 8. See a photo of the adorable little one in our online Class Notes!

Ashlea Morgan was married on Aug. 19 in Newport News, Virginia. She was honored to have Brittany for the flowers, Jenna Whitney ’12, Asia Sykes and Joyce Mireku ’14 in attendance.

Matt Devendorf and Gabrielle Eriquez Devendorf ’13, J.D. ’19 welcomed their first child, a son named Luke Spencer Devendorf, on Aug. 27. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 18.5 inches long.

Happy New Year, Tribe! As I type this column, I’m trying wrap my head around this issue being mailed out in 2024, ten years since we graduated! Ten? Isn’t that where we shift to using the number 10? We’re no longer using letters to spell out the years since we’ve left campus; we’re on to figures. We were on campus 10 years ago. Oh my.

And I don’t know about you, but I still think I look fairly young. Like, you probably picture me in my hoodie and plant me on the Sunken Garden, I’d blend, right? Wrong. My wife and I enjoyed the Homecoming Parade last October with Matt Carpenter ’13 and his family, and I knew pretty quickly I would stand out if I were to try to join a student float. So maybe our place isn’t in the parade, but we’re forever a part of it. Students’ voices swelling strong and true and clear. Alma mater’s love they’re telling, ringing far and near. On to the love:

In the last issue, we shared news of Yonsoo Kang’s move to London in the summer. Yonsoo was pleased to be visited by Eric Wong ’14, M.Acc. ’15 and Steven Arquieta as they traveled through Europe. The three of them toured Westminster and hiked the Seven Sisters on the southern coast of England. Together, they reminisced on their time together at William & Mary. Yonsoo appreciated “the chance to learn more about them as individ-
nals in relation to being children of immigrants and navigating cultural and linguistic differences for our parents in the U.S.” Thanks for sharing, Ynosoo!

Join me in congratulating our newlywed classmates!

**Joseph Stief** married Jessica Wong in 2021. Jessica is a U.S. Space Force officer, and together Jessica and Joe live in Tokyo. See the online edition of these notes for a photo of Joe representing the Tribe at the summit of Mount Fuji.

**Jessica Parks** married Jeroen Goossens on June 3, 2023, in Norfolk, Virginia. They currently reside in Reston, Virginia, where Jeroen works as a software engineer and Jessica works in business development at a government contracting firm.

**Cassidy Reich Smith** and Jack Smith were married on Aug. 12, 2023, in Marlboro, New York. One month after their wedding, they brought home a French bulldog puppy, Petey (you are going to want to view the online edition of these notes for a photo). The Smiths currently reside in the Hudson Valley.

**Khaki LaRiviere and Nick Bryant** married on Oct. 14, 2023, at the Wren Chapel. The ceremony was followed by a cocktail reception and dinner at the Williamsburg Inn. Khaki’s bridesmaids were all members of the Tribe: **Stacey LaRiviere** (maid of honor), **Meredith Looney**, Rose Brane ’15, Catie Pavilack Shelton and Annie Scoggins Sonrant. Khaki and Nick rang the bell after their ceremony at the Wren Chapel, and arrived at the Williamsburg Inn on horse and carriage while Fife and Drums led the guests to the Regency Ballroom where everyone danced the night away.

**Sara Iqbal** married Nicholas Armstrong on Nov. 11, 2023, in Lanham, Maryland. Sara is due further congratulations; she graduated with a Master of Business Administration from the University of Virginia’s Darden School of Business in May 2023.

Lastly, we’ve got three baby announcements to share:

To **Jessie Partridge ’17** and **Jeb Cooke ’14**, M.Acc. ’16, a son, Rowan Jacob, on July 20, 2023.

To **Zoe Altholz Morris** and **Grant Edward Morris**, a son, Ian Anthony, on Sept. 23, 2023.

**Kelly Berdelke Nyquist** and her husband, Nate, welcomed their second child, Heidi August Nyquist, on Oct. 6. Heidi’s big brother, Soren, has been gently patting her head like he practiced on their dog, Karlee, during Kelly’s pregnancy.

Congratulations, Tribe! Enjoy this final year as members of the Young Guard and be sure to send updates as you proudly press on older and wiser!

2015

**Class Reporter**

**CHRIS PAPAS**

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Hello, Class of 2015! Just a few quick wedding updates to share with you all.

**Shannon Butler** married Marcus Woods and they are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Emma, after six years, Dean Blackmore, on Oct. 1 in Newport News, with **Carlyn Hoffman** and **Heather Hoskins** serving as bridesmaids. Meanwhile, Nikolai Morse married Jalei Celik in an intimate celebration and ceremony in Chicago on Aug. 25. Congratulations to the happy couples!

2016

**Class Reporter**

**EMILY NYE**

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I hope everyone has been keeping safe and well! I’m excited to share some new updates from members of our graduating class:

**Sean Sheldon** is currently entering his second season as an assistant coach for the Utah Jazz. He spent his past summer as an assistant coach for Team Finland in the FIBA World Cup tournament in Okinawa, Japan.

**Krista Braun** is currently a second-year student at Tufts University’s Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, where she is pursuing her passion for equine sports medicine. She is thoroughly enjoying every moment of her veterinary school journey! She has also recently entered a new chapter in her life by marrying Kyle Carter. Their wedding took place on Sept. 2, 2023, in Estes Park, Colorado.

**Julia Conney** and **Timothy Schorr** celebrated their wedding this past Labor Day on Cape Cod. Massachutes, surrounded by family and friends. It was a true W&M affair with 26 alumni in attendance, including members of the classes of ’82, ’86, ’94, ’16, ’17, ’20, and ’21. Julia and Tim met during their freshman year at William & Mary, and now live in Boston, where Julia is completing her J.D. at Northeastern University School of Law in May, moved from Washington and D.C. toLexington to Roanoke, and at the time of the deadline was studying religiously.

Lastly, we’ve got three baby announcements to share:

To **Diya Uthappa** married Trevor O'Shea ’17 on June 24, 2023, in Washington, D.C.!

It was another Tribe wedding for Alison’s family. Her parents (Paul Dommel ’86 and Marilyn Flaherty Dommel ’87) got married in the Wren Chapel. During the wedding, they took a W&M group photo, representation from the classes of ’86, ’87, ’12, ’14, ’15, ’16, ’17, ’18, and ’19.

And finally, after graduating with a degree in linguistics, **Max Mohr** spent two years teaching English as a second language in Seoul, South Korea. Upon his return to the U.S., he built up a presence in Charlotteville, Virginia. He is currently the No. 2 man for Gig Strategic, a digital marketing startup. He is also active as a musician under the name MaX Mandu, writing songs and playing across Central Virginia.

Thank you to everyone for your updates! Best wishes until next time.
for the Virginia Bar Exam. I spent my evening sitting in the bathtub with a glass of bourbon and flashcards, switched from reading novels to reading former Virginia essay questions at bedtime, and in the last 17 days before the exam, used my daily hourlong dog walks to call my father (an attorney with a breadth of knowledge that never ceases to amaze me) to ask him legal questions. In the week before the bar exam, Sarah Anderson ’17 surprised me with a breakfast visit to Roanoke. There was a method to my madness because on Oct. 12 at 1:42 p.m., my father called me to tell me that the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners had released the pass list, which included my name. I’ve never been so relieved in my life.

I think Kate Pollard J.D. ’23, who is also beginning her legal career at Gentry Locke (albeit in our Richmond office) may have felt a similar wave of relief. And, however, the only newly minted esquire in our class. Katie DeMallie graduated from Georgetown University Law Center, and Heather McShea graduated from George Mason University’s Antonin Scalia Law School. Both passed the D.C. Bar Exam. Dana Florczack graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. I am not sure who passed the bar exam she took, but Dana, if you’re reading this, let us know. Ladies, congratulations, and I’d love to hear your bar study and bar exam stories. Everyone who’s taken it has one.

Now that we’ve covered lawyers, we’ll turn to doctors. Hollie Soave graduated from Eastern Virginia Medical School. Irina Gavrilova graduated from Wake Forest University School of Medicine, and she recently become engaged. Congratulations to you both on becoming doctors. Irina, we wish you the greatest happiness.

Lauren Hoak also now wears a diamond on her left ring finger. Elisabeth Merrifield and Ryan Corcoran ’16 are set to tie the knot too. Alex Xenos and Tatiana Venn Xenos were married on a beautiful October weekend. Tatiana wore what I can only describe as a modern take on a Princess Diana dress, and it was gorgeous. Danny O’Dea married his bride in November at King Family Vineyard. I currently have mental images of the wedding party, which included Dan Ackerman ’16, Alex Klein and Jonah Yesowitz ’18, M.S. ’19, ducking out of the way of polo ponies as they processed down the aisle. Please send your best wishes to Lauren, Elisabeth and Tatiana and your congratulations to Ryan and Danny.

Luke Hoggs ’19, Sarah Anderson and a non-W&M friend started a group chat where they attempt to find eligible men for me. I date only men who can bring wild animals (read: hunt or fish) and are from the South (strong preference for a fellow Virginian). Needless to say, I am not fishing in our alumni pool, but I challenge someone to prove me wrong.

Tanner Holland and Madison Free Holland ’19 and their baby boy (!) are living in Jordan, where Grace Grimsley ’19 visited them last summer. We all want Tanner and Madi’s life, and if you say you don’t, I don’t believe you.

Delaney McAlear has adopted a dog since the last time I wrote. Welcoming a four-legged friend into my home was the highlight of my 2022, and I hope your pup was the highlight of your 2023. Phoebe Bain ’19, our dyed-in-the-wool New York City girl, is now officially the most famous person I know. This past summer, she tweeted about the agony of deleting notes from her high school AP U.S. history class from her computer, a process with which almost every one of us can relate. Betches Media featured the tweet on their social media, and Phoebe went viral.

Now that we are all five years post-college, earning post-graduate degrees, getting married and having children (furry ones included) it’s time the magazine stopped arriving at our parents’ doorstep thrice a year. Update your contact information to the home that you’ve created for yourself by visiting wmalumni.com (look for the gold “update your info” button), making an account on my1063.com or emailing alumni@wm.edu so that the lovely staff can fix everything for you. I promise it’s painless. Cheers, PMB

2019

Class Reporter
Connor Glendinning
ckglendinning@wm.edu

I have some news to pass along to you all in this issue, but it is unusually accompanied by very little of my own. I am happy to report that I am finally in my third and final year of law school, which I would like to be a fairly relaxed experience. Unfortunately, I am editing around the clock as editor in chief of the Florida Journal of International Law, but looking forward to making it through this final season and taking some time off over the holidays.

With that said, let’s dive right in. My freshman hallmates seem to be doing especially well. Alex Gilliam and Emma Forman Gilliam recently welcomed the cutest baby boy, Owen. Emma has been both personally and professionally working on women’s health issues in recent years. She started the group Running for Roe in 2022 to advocate for reproductive rights and is currently pursuing a master of science in nursing as a women’s health nurse practitioner at the University of Pennsylvania.

Meanwhile, Nathan Rakos and Emily Hynes, both former Monroe residents, recently got engaged and are planning a spring wedding in April 2023.

Over the summer, there were a number of other notable engagements. William Schubert proposed to Lauren Hobbs on a stunning rocky outcrop in Isle of Skye, Scotland. Closer to home but equally beautiful, Isaac Levy ’20 proposed to Sami Kim at sunset on a Nantucket beach. They previously shared vows in a 2018 Greek life ceremony, but this time will be official. Continuing a string of scenic engagements, Kenneth Preston proposed to Isabelle Rodriguez while sailing off of Long Island. Kenny and Izzy were then married in October.

Earlier in the year, McKinley Saunders married Coy DeWeese in Charlottesville with a string of scenic engagements, Kenneth Preston proposed to Isabelle Rodriguez while sailing off of Long Island. Kenny and Izzy were then married in October.

Emily Hynes

The newest news: After graduating from the Wake Forest University School of Law on May 12, 2023, Cameron Bray passed the North Carolina bar examination in the summer of 2023 and was sworn in as an attorney-at-law on Sept. 28, 2023. He took the oath of office and filed his sworn oath as an attorney with the Clerk of Superior Court of Iredell County. He said his oath publicly in the Iredell County Hall of Justice at Statesville before Iredell County Superior Court Judge Bill Wood, presiding in residence.

Congratulations, Cameron! Kelsey Vita ’20, J.D. ’23 finished law school at William & Mary and recently moved to Pittsburgh with her longtime partner, Sean Balick ’19. Kelsey and Sean have a feisty cat named Sidney and live in Pittsburgh so far, but are bracing themselves for the Pittsburgh winters everyone keeps talking about. Please reach out if you’re in the area!

Maxwell Clee ’20, M.A. ’21 and their partner, Ruby Tippl, proposed to one another during the week of Oct. 7, 2023! The couple held a concert on campus hosted by WCWM 90.9 College Radio in 2019. They will be married in a Quaker
2021
Class Reporter
JUDITH TAUBER ’21
jmt349@cornell.edu

Wow, it’s already winter! Seems like the fall went by so fast...

Just two quick pieces of notes, from newspaper clippings:
As I’m sure you’ve heard or (I hope not) experienced yourself, landing an internship is difficult nowadays.

Amanda Yeo contributed to a Deseret News article from June 14 on this topic, stating that the pandemic even eliminated some internships to which many had applied. I’m crossing my fingers for Amanda and everyone else that this changes soon.

An necy Daggett also shared in an Aug. 1 Winston-Salem Journal article that she completed the Smiley Sprint Triathlon — that her father had started — after an accident months prior. What a comeback — good for you, Anneycy! She is a competitive triathlete and graduate student in mental health counseling at Columbia University.

Hope you all enjoy the festive season! As always, I look forward to reading your news, which you can send to jmt349@cornell.edu.

2022
Class Reporter
SELM BERHANE ‘22
wm2022classreporter@gmail.com

Hello everyone!
I sincerely hope you’ve been doing well and had a great holiday season! It’s times like these where I miss the summer warmth and humidity (I’m sure I’ll regret saying this in a few months). Here are some updates from members of our graduating class!

Daniel Speer moved to Arlington (Colonial Village), Virginia, in August 2022 and began his two-year training period at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. So far, he’s worked on reports about tax administration and homeland security acquisitions. He has also focused heavily on his train-chasing hobby, driving about 15,000 miles to see and pursue trains in places ranging from Williamsburg to Toronto, Ontario. If you have any recommendations for places to check out, let him know! If someone reading this moved to the Washington, D.C., area recently and is feeling isolated or just wants someone to talk to, just ask me for Daniel’s email and reach out! He knows firsthand that it’s hard to make friends in a new city, particularly if large social venues are not your thing.

Alondra Burton was a neuroscience and biochemistry major and Overwatch team captain on the W&M esports team. Once thought of as casual entertainment, esports has grown into a recognized academic and applied learning initiative. She uses the leadership experience gained on the team in her job as a contractor with the Department of Homeland Security’s BioWatch Program, which provides early detection of bioterrorism events and helps communities prepare a response. She was included in the article “Expanding Competition” in the spring 2023 W&M Alumni Magazine. Check it out!

Thank you to everyone for your updates, please keep them coming! Best wishes until next time.

2023
Class Reporter
JULIA DEKORTE ’23
wmclassof23@gmail.com

Hi Class of 2023!
It was so lovely to see so many of us at Homecoming & Reunion Weekend this past October. I hope everyone is doing well in their postgrad era.

I am living at home and working remotely. I finished up at the Columbia Publishing Course at the Columbia Journalism School this past summer, which I absolutely loved. Now, I write articles and reviews for a few different companies and am quite happy doing so alongside my coworkers, Georgia and Piper (my dogs). I visit DJ Olson in NYC all the time, though as of right now it’s been raining almost every weekend. Hoping that’s not still the case when this comes out.

Just a few updates this time!

DJ Olson is settling into his job at the Guggenheim nicely. In November, the two of us traveled to Santa Monica, California, for a beautiful wedding. He plans on heading to Bend, Oregon, to visit family around Christmas-time, and in early December, we ran a half marathon together (or at least, I hope we did. I’m writing this in October, when the maximum number of miles we’ve run is six)! Madeleine Fleenor is working on Capitol Hill for Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky.

Rebecca Rogers ’22 is living in Arlington with Brooke Lameroux. She continues to work at Georgetown Hospital’s NICU before she attends Randolph-Macon College’s physician assistant program in January. So proud!!

Caroline Tenevck ’21 is loving law school at Georgetown University, and is also loving being near Rebecca again, though Kate Vernilyea ’22 and I were sad to see her leave New York City.

Sarah Larimer joined the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) as a data science fellow in the strategy, forces and resources division of IDA’s Systems and Analyses Center. Sarah earned her bachelor’s degree in data science and economics.

Mariana R. Kornreich joined the IDA as an editorial production coordinator in the Corporate Communications Directorate, located at the institute’s Alexandria, Virginia, headquarters. Kornreich earned her bachelor’s degree in religious studies and English.

That’s all from me, friends. Send me more updates! I’m begging you! Go Tribe!!

Arts & Sciences
Graduate School Reporter
DR. JONATHAN R. SKUZA PH.D. ’11
Eastern Michigan University Dept. of Physics & Astronomy 240 Strong Hall Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 487-8797 (work) jskuza@emich.edu

We are looking for a new reporter for graduate alumni in the Arts & Sciences. If interested, please contact alumni_magazine@wm.edu.

I hope that you’ve had a great start to the New Year! I’m especially excited about the April 8 total solar eclipse. I implore you to travel and see totality if possible (unless you experienced totality in 2017 or plan to wait until the next one in 2045)! But for now, please join me in congratulating our fellow alumni on their accomplishments last year and be sure to share some of your recent highlights with us.

Seth Feman M.A. ’05, Ph.D. ’17 (American studies) has been charting the future of the Frist Art Museum in Nashville as its CEO and executive director since February 2022, as reported by the Nashville Business Journal.

Meredith Henne Baker M.A. ’97 (history), who wrote “The Richmond Theater Fire: Early America’s First Great Disaster” (Updated Edition, LSU Press, 2022), joined author Rachel Beanland at Swen Library on Sept. 28 to discuss her research and writing processes.

Michael Academia M.S. ’22 (biology), an osprey researcher at the Center for Conservation Biology and adjunct faculty at George Mason University, has been studying the decline of ospreys in Mobjack Bay due to the overfishing of Atlantic menhaden. He and many others are advocating for the commercial fishing industry to move out of Mobjack Bay and back into the Atlantic Ocean so that local populations can rebuild, as reported by the New York Times.

Scott Atwood M.A. ’91 (history), a stockholder at the law firm of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., delivered a legal update on the Public Whistleblowers Act, Bullying and Harassment at the 2023 Summer Conference of the Florida School Board Attorneys Association.

Michael Tierney ’87, M.A. ’88 (government), George & Mary Hylton Professor of International Relations and director of the Global Research Institute at W&M, had a conversation at the Green Leaf Cafe 20 years ago that led to the creation of two research labs within W&M’s Global Research
Well, another year has passed, or at least it will have by the time this is published. Right now, however, we are smack in the middle of fall and there is just so much going on. For my fellow 2023 M.Acc. graduates, I know we are all deep into testing for the CPA exams. With the changes coming in 2024, a lot of us have been trying to knock out as many as we can. I hope you are having wonderful news from many of you who have been passing and frustrating news for those who will have to retake an exam, but just remember this isn’t a failure, it’s just a “move the goal post” scenario! Also, many, if not all of us, have begun our new associate positions and are now trying to balance studying with work, big changes all around.

There have been quite a few updates over the summer and this fall, and I am happy to now share them with you. Please keep in mind, if you ever want an update posted, just send me an email at joyago@protonmail.com with the subject “Mason Class Update.” Include your update, name and year of graduation and I’ll be sure to add it to the next issue. Remember that it takes about three months from the time I write an article for the Class Notes to be published.

Happy New Year, wishing you all peace and love and happiness!!

Updates:

**Alec Wesson M.Acc. ’23** and Amanda Nicole Newman tied the knot on June 3, 2023, at Cedar Lane Farms in Dinwiddie, Virginia. They honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Wesson!

**Matthew Tanner ’21, M.Acc. ’23** and Cecilia Smith were married on June 17, 2023, at St. Veronica’s Church in Chantilly, Virginia, and had an amazing honeymoon in Plaka, Crete, Greece. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Tanner!

**Tyrese Washington M.Acc. ’23** and Julia O’Reilly said “I DO” on July 29, 2023, at Glass Hill Venue in Goode, Virginia. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Washington!

**Cecilia Mahan J.D. ’22, M.Acc. ’23** is thrilled to announce that she passed the Massachusetts Bar Exam! So proud of you, Ceece!

**Eleanor Martin M.Acc. ’23** officially passed four sections of the CPA exam! Huge accomplishment and so soon after graduation. You are an inspiration!

**Laura Faulkner Miller ’12, M.B.A. ’19** and her husband, Karson, welcomed their first baby, Asher, to the family on Sept. 27, 2023. Congratulations to you both! Enjoy every precious moment with little Asher.

**Kevin Burke M.B.A. ’84** had 40 years in the LA500! What a huge accomplishment this is!

**Lance Zaal ’08, M.B.A. ’12** is a former Marine and now owner of the tour company Colonial Ghosts in Williamsburg, has made four trips to Ukraine since March 2022 to help prepare and arm soldiers in the war zone. He has made this cause his own and has started an organization called Ghosts of Liberty to raise additional money for the cause. We thank you for your service!

**Lauren Labusaigne M.Acc. ’19** timed in at 17:52, winning the seventh annual King-swood Klam 5K run for the women and placing fourth overall. She also broke the age group record for women 25-29 years old and was above the national class of 80% (82.4%). Wow, this is just impressive, nice job fellow M.Acc. grad!

**Jennifer Palestrant M.B.A. ’97** is proud to announce that she has been named senior vice president of public affairs for offshore wind at Inverenergy. She will work to expand their offshore wind development portfolio. Congratulations and thanks for looking out for the environment!

**Stephanie Linnartz M.B.A. ’97**, president and CEO of Under Armour, deserves a hearty congratulations for being named one of the 50 Women in Power for 2023, a true inspiration!

**Sarah Clarke M.B.A. ’94** was named one of the Women of Excellence by the Baltimore Business Journal. Congratulations for this accomplishment!

**Susan Forbes Dewey ’78, M.B.A. ’80** has decided to retire as the Virginia Housing CEO after a wonderful 24 years of heading up the Richmond-based housing authority. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement!

**Baxter Phillips III M.B.A. ’08** was appointed as chief operating officer at Lobe Sciences Ltd. and will serve as president of Altemia and Co. LLC, which focuses on the treatment of patients with sickle cell anemia. Looks like double congratulations are in order here!

**Meghan D. Palombo M.B.A. ’23** is the new associate vice president for annual giving and philanthropic engagement at William & Mary. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!

**School of Education**

We are looking for a class reporter for the School of Education. If interested, please contact alumni.magazine@wm.edu. The following items were compiled by our editorial team.

**Loury Ollison Floyd Ph.D. ’03** has been named the inaugural assistant provost for academic operations at Lehigh-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina, as of July 1, as reported in the Carolina Peacemaker. She previously served as a professor and dean of the School of Education at University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

**Angelo Letizia Ph.D. ’14** recently earned the rank of associate professor of education at Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore. He is also the department head of initial teaching programs at the university, where he helps to oversee teaching interns in addition to teaching classes in history and philosophy. Angelo also recently published his fourth book of poetry, titled “Toward the Real: Poems for a New Reality,” with In Case of Emergency Press. In this collection of poems, he explores questions of reality, love, death and the volatile times we find ourselves in.

**Laith Bito M.A.Ed. ’09, Ph.D. ’15** was promoted to assistant professor of education at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. She is a mathematics teacher educator and researcher, focused on developing and supporting mathematics teacher leaders. Prior to working in higher education, she was an elementary school teacher in Hampton City Schools in Hampton, Virginia, and served as a mathematics coach for K-12 teachers.

**Anthony Vladu M.Ed. ’08, Ed.D. ’16** is the new superintendent of Gloucester County Public Schools as of Aug. 1, after serving as assistant superintendent and chief human resource officer for the York County School Division, as reported by the Virginia-Pilot.

A session led by William & Mary Professor of Marketing Dawn Edmiston Ed.D. ’20 and marketing consultant Amy Alyson Teller ’98, M.B.A. ’18 as part of W&M Professional Development Week provided key tips on building your personal brand while networking. Look online for a link to slides used in the presentation and a video of the talk.

**Law School**

Please see magazine, wm.edu/class-notes/law-school for much more.

**Eileen Albertson Chapman J.D. ’70** was named guest speaker for the 2023 Memorial Day Parade in Danville, Pennsylvania.

**Louis S. Shuntich J.D. ’71** has published “Seeds of the Pasha,” a mystery novel with elements of historical fiction and romance.

The Hon. John A. Gibney ’73, HON. J.D. ’19 received the 2023 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Fourth Circuit. Judge Gibney is a senior U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Tommy Norment J.D. ’73** was appointed
to the William & Mary Board of Visitors.

**Timothy Michael Brosa J.D. ’79** was appointed to President Biden’s Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

**Raymond Paul Johnson J.D. ’83** will have his legal thriller, “Conspiracy Ignited,” published in spring 2024 by Blank Slate Press, an imprint of Amorphous Publishing Group.

**Thomas H. Cook Jr. J.D. ’87** has been named the Best Lawyers 2024 Tax Law “Lawyer of the Year” for Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Molly Ward J.D. ’87** was appointed to the National Park System Advisory Board in May.

**Ed Shaughnessy J.D. ’88** was named to the Lehigh Valley Business Magazine’s “LVB Power List” for 2023.

**Sara Austin J.D. ’90** received the Pennsylvania Bar Association Solo & Small Firm Section’s annual award in July.

**Craig Nolan J.D. ’95** moved to Honolulu in 2020, where he serves as chief of white collar attorneys. Angela is a senior director at Netflix.

**Monica H. Khetarpal J.D. ’94** was recently named co-leader of the environmental, social and governance group at Jackson Lewis.

**Andrew Skanchy J.D. ’05** has joined Downey Brand LLP as a partner in the environmental and land use practice.

**William Hubbard J.D. ’07** has been appointed to the Chesapeake Bank Northern Neck Advisory Board.

**Chris V. Rey J.D. ’08** is president of Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina.

**Kyle Elliott J.D. ’11** was named one of Style Weekly’s 10 Under 40.

**Anna Killius J.D. ’13** was selected as the new executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

**Andrew King J.D. ’14** was honored as a “40 Under 40” in Columbus Business First Magazine. Andrew is a senior associate at Squire Patton Boggs.

**Colleen Smith J.D. ’15** received an “Accomplished Under 40” Award from The Idaho Business Review, presented by Boise State University’s College of Business and Economics. She is an associate at Stris & Mahler LLP.

**Michael Collett J.D. ’16** has joined the ranks of the personal injury law firm Breit Binianz P.C.

**Kaitlyn Hutcherson ’13, J.D. ’16** married Nigel Holley in June. She is an associate at Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen and Carpenter.

**Michelle Dunbar J.D. ’20** obtained her LLM in taxation from Georgetown University.

**Peyton Watts J.D. ’20** was named in Arkansas Business magazine’s “The New Influentials: 20 in Their Twenties” for 2023.

**Wesley Clayton J.D. ’21** was named in the 2023 Albany “40 Under 40.” He is a director at Mercury Public Affairs.

**Makenna Johnson J.D. ’21** was presented the 2023 Jefferson B. Fordham Up & Comers Award by the American Bar Association.

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**Virginia Institute of Marine Science**

**Graduate School Reporters**

**ELIZABETH HINCHERY MALLOY**

M.A. ’96, PH.D. ’02

malloy.elizabeth@epa.gov

**JANET NESTLERODE M.A. ’96, PH.D. ’04**

nestlerode.jane@epa.gov

**While summering in Virginia, Janet crashed the annual Oliver family cookout hosted by Jacques Oliver M.S. ’00, Ph.D. ’05 and Leah MacDow-ald Oliver M.A. ’00 (biology) at their home in Vienna over Father’s Day weekend. VIMSers in attendance included Scott and Beth Wat-erson Lorbergh M.S. ’05, M.A.Ed. ’09, Alex Jeste springs ’03, Missy Southworth M.S. ’98, Deb Lambert M.S. ’05, and Bruce Vogt M.S. ’03, along with a sizable collection of young offspring in tow (who all seem to be growing faster than a York River spring bloom!).**

Alex is chief of the Forensic Analytical Branch at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. Missy is a senior marine scientist at VIMS where she runs the field program for the Molluscan Ecology Lab and counts a whole lot of oysters. Deb works for NOAA Fisheries in the Office of Sustainable Fisheries in Silver Spring, Maryland. Bruce is the ecosystem science manager in NOAA’s Chesapeake Bay Office in Annapolis, Maryland. Bruce and Deb have two boys, Finnegan (8) and Elliot (4), and Bruce carries on the soccer tradition through coaching both of their soccer teams.

VIMS is turning 85 in 2025 and will be marking this milestone with a year-long celebration filled with anniversary-themed events. Stay tuned for updates via VIMS’s social media channels and websites. Consider adding a pilgrimage back to Gloucester Point for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend to your 2025 travel plans. We hope to see you there!

Our column is a little slim this issue because we didn’t get news from our readers (ahem...). While we love coming up with clever puns and references to the past to make you chuckle as you read the news, we can’t do it without your updates (yes, we’re talking to YOU)! Call in your “Quips” (Glo-Quips style news is always welcome!) to your class reporters, Scoop Hinckey and Newshound Nestlerode, to share with fellow alumni — you’ll know who you are!

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**Virginia Institute of Marine Science**

**Graduate School Reporters**

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M.A. ’96, PH.D. ’02

malloy.elizabeth@epa.gov

**JANET NESTLERODE M.A. ’96, PH.D. ’04**

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**Virginia Institute of Marine Science**

**Graduate School Reporters**

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malloy.elizabeth@epa.gov

**JANET NESTLERODE M.A. ’96, PH.D. ’04**

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In Memoriam

Below are the names of members of the William & Mary community whose passing was reported between July 8 and Nov. 5, 2023. To read extended obituaries, please go online to our magazine website at magazine.wm.edu/in-memoriam. Please send information to Alumni Records, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187, call 757-221-1167 or email alumni.magazine@wm.edu.

**UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI**

Mary Emelyn Dilts
Dixon '44 of Olmsted Township, Ohio, died Oct. 16, 2022.

Shirley Printz Scott

Cecil “Cecy” Cary


Dr. Barbara Seifert Meyers '49 of Rockville, Maryland, died Nov. 3, 2023.

Robert “Bob” Peckham Hegeman '50 of Greenfield, Massachusetts, died Nov. 27, 2022.


Michael Ralph Levy '51, G '20 of Auburndale, Massachusetts, died Oct. 20, 2023.

Constance Zuident Moerschell '51 of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died Aug. 16, 2023.

William “Billy” Daniel Beard Sr. '52 of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died July 8, 2023.


Anna Holliday Wallace '52 of San Diego, California, died Sept. 16, 2023.

Phyllis “Phyl” Schaefer DeCourcy '53, G '09 of Waynesboro, Virginia, died July 29, 2023.

Jeraline “Jerry” Seelinger Knight '53 of Norfolk, Virginia, died Nov. 6, 2022.


Margaret Maxwell Braddock Bowman '54 of Green Valley, Arizona, died July 31, 2023.


Marilyn Zaiser Ott '55 of Cincinnati, Ohio, died May 6, 2023.


Nancy Timberlake Spencer '61, P '87 of Gloucester, Virginia, died Sept. 11, 2023.

Willafay Cardwell Hopkins McKenna '57, J.D. '77 of Williamsburg died Sept. 21, 2023.


Daniel James Wood '57 of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died Sept. 4, 2023.


Roger Anthony Koury '58 of Richmond, Virginia, died July 8, 2023.

Dr. John Paul Sutmack '58 of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, died Feb. 11, 2022.

Brigid Horrocks Davis '60 of Falls Church, Virginia, died Aug. 5, 2022.


Dr. William “Bill” Ellis Clayton Jr. '61 of Falls Church, Virginia, died July 31, 2023.

Leita St. Clair LePori '61 of Victoria, Texas, died Oct. 6, 2023.


Ann “Cookie” Cook Howard '65 of Stafford, Virginia, died July 18, 2023.


Charlotte Whitehurst Culpepper '67, P '90, G '21 of Chesapeake, Virginia, died July 26, 2023.


Mary Ellen Hurn Korte '68 of Mequon, Wisconsin, died July 30, 2023.


Richard Frank Abrahamson '70 of Fiskdale, Massachusetts, died Aug. 12, 2023.


In the annual Sunset Ceremony during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, we honor members of the W&M community who passed away during the year. Watch the 2023 ceremony at homecoming.wm.edu/sunsetceremony.

Preston Duff Rearick
'72, M.Ed. '75 of Roanoke, Virginia, died Sept. 8, 2023.


Michael Thomas Moss ’96 of Annandale, Virginia, died March 2, 2023.


GRADUATE ALUMNI


Paul Robert Allison M.B.A. ’72 of Edge water, Maryland, died June 5, 2023.


Paul Scott Hutton J.D. ’74 of Lexington, Massachusetts, died June 14, 2023.


Marie Carty McMillen '84 of Ashburn, Virginia, died Aug. 23, 2023.


Paul Scott Hutton J.D. ’74 of Lexington, Massachusetts, died June 14, 2023.


FACULTY & STAFF


Hector Hugo Guerero of Williamsburg died Nov. 5, 2023.


Raymond Bernard Bowman Sr. of Williamsburg died July 11, 2023.


FRIENDS OF W&M

George N. Condyles IV P ‘10 of Mechanicsville, Virginia, died June 12, 2022.


Peter W. Sushka Jr. of Charlottesville, Virginia, died Sept. 6, 2023.

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**Rachel Drazdowski, J.D.**
Executive Director of Gift Planning
rdrazdowski@wm.edu | 757-221-1291
With definitive boldness, our community came together to change the game for W&M Athletics. Thanks to your tremendous generosity, we reached our $55-million All In campaign goal, enabling us to:

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- **Reimagine the home for W&M Athletics** as we continue to transform our facilities.
- **Provide for the future** to build lasting financial stability.

Thank you for making a difference for every student-athlete! Your support remains essential as we shape the future of W&M Athletics.

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