

W&L

THE WASHINGTON AND LEE MAGAZINE

TOPSY-TURVY

MAKING IT WORK
DURING A PANDEMIC



Winter 2021

+
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT OUR
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE





NEW RECORD FOR WRESTLING

Head Coach [Name] led the team to a record-breaking season, winning the [Conference] Championship and the [NCAA] National Championship. The team's success was a result of their hard work and dedication to the sport.



LEADERS AND LEGENDS

Head Coach [Name] has led the team to numerous championships and has mentored many successful athletes. His leadership and coaching style have been instrumental in the team's success.



CONFERENCE AND NCAA SUCCESS

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS

Head Coach [Name] has led the team to numerous championships and has mentored many successful athletes. His leadership and coaching style have been instrumental in the team's success.

WALK-OFF TITLE FOR FOOTBALL

Head Coach [Name] led the team to a record-breaking season, winning the [Conference] Championship and the [NCAA] National Championship. The team's success was a result of their hard work and dedication to the sport.



HONORS



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The renovated Richard L. Duchossois Athletic and Recreation Center opened this fall. The fourth-floor hallway has a new display of W&L athletic highlights. Take a video tour at go.wlu.edu/duchossois-center.

Photo by Shelby Mack

Cover:

The Colonnade.

Photo by Kevin Remington

WOMEN'S LACROSSE IS NUMBER ONE

Women's lacrosse earned its first national championship in 2019, becoming the first women's sport to win the title. The team's success was a result of hard work and dedication to the sport.



MATCH POINT FOR TENNIS

Women's tennis won the program's first NCAA Division II national championship in 2018. The team's victory was a testament to their skill and teamwork.

ODAC TRIPLE CROWN

Men's track & field and cross country completed the first ODAC triple crown in program history by claiming the conference outdoor track & field championship. The athletes also earned the cross country championships in October and the indoor track & field championships in February.



BASEBALL IS ON TOP

Baseball defeated Virginia Wesleyan, TD-6, to claim the program's first Old Dominion Athletic Conference Championship.

W&L '19



SOCCER TAKES THE CROWN

Men's soccer clinched its first national championship in 2019, winning the 2019 Old Dominion Athletic Conference title with a 1-0 victory over Virginia Wesleyan in the championship game.



INAUGURAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Women's track & field won the inaugural ODAC Outdoor Track & Field championship at Eastern Kentucky University. Sarah Holmes '19 was the triple jumper and sets a new program record in the shot put during the outdoor season.

W&L '19



STATEMENT VICTORY

Women's golf won its first national championship in 2019, claiming the 2019 Old Dominion Athletic Conference title with a 1-0 victory over Virginia Wesleyan in the championship game.



SPEAK

WELL DONE

It was with pleasure I read Barbara Elliott's article "Waging the Hog Wars" [Spring 2020] as an example of an alumnus living a life of consequence. It featured South Carolina farmer and conservationist Bill Holliday '65 and his leadership in placing controls to protect the environment, especially with regard to hog farm operations. I am so proud of my Phi Delt fraternity brother and his reported winning of the Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award from the Conservation Voters of South Carolina last year.

KEN LANE '64

LEADERSHIP

In the polarized and politicized country that America has become over the last few years, the education that Washington and Lee provides its students, based on honor and integrity, has become even more integral to training future leaders.

While it's easy to give lip service to these ideals, it's much harder to live by them and carry them out in practice. Many W&L grads go on to do

great things in politics and political journalism; we also have our share of embarrassments whom I see misleading the general public weekly on my TV. While any large group of people will surely have a few bad apples, the strengths and successes of a Washington and Lee education have never been more important.

I would urge the faculty and leadership of the Williams School, and

the university at large, to make sure they continue to focus on what makes our school unique and great. Not political positioning as a means to an end or to further one's career, but the acceptance and respect for truth and honesty. Civility and being a gentleman (or gentlewoman) is needed today more than it's been in a long time.

MATT FINK '04

ON THE NOSE

My first thought when I saw the Alumni Magazine cover [Fall 2019] was one of surprise and delight — that the university I attended and loved would embrace and celebrate someone who didn't look "traditional."

I got a nose ring for my 40th birthday a few years ago, just because I thought they looked pretty. No big deal. I work with federal public health leaders who could care less about what jewelry I wear.

Looking toward the future, I optimistically anticipate that images representing our university and our larger society will continue to show inclusion and diversity, and that our campus culture will not dictate how people should act, look and

think. I'm reminded of one of my first experiences as a freshman back in 1992. My first advisor said to my face that he wouldn't help me balance my schedule (necessary because I was a student-athlete taking lots of science labs) because women shouldn't be at W&L. I dropped him pretty quick and am happy to report I had no further interactions of that sort while at school.

What I saw on that cover was a beautiful person enjoying W&L and looking toward a bright future. I hope that our university continues to celebrate our minds, hearts and community and does not perpetuate an old "ideal."

VIRGINIA YOERG BEHR '97

Stay in Touch

Letters selected for publication may be edited for length, content and style. Letters reflect the views of their authors, not those of the magazine's editors or of the university.

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Columns

NOTEWORTHY NEWS AND IDEAS



identify cows at risk for BRD and trace outbreaks of the disease. Many cattle ranchers already gather data about their cattle electronically, such as veterinary records, parentage and food consumption history. Using QR codes, TagAg would make it possible to track a cow through the entire supply chain, from birth to slaughter.

“Understanding where to vaccinate, how to isolate certain heads from the herd and then making better decisions based on an algorithm would save money on vaccines, vet bills and labor for the entire herd,” McCaffery said.

Read the story at go.wlu.edu/Tag-ag.

1

AGTECH+ HACKATHON

“The perception young people have is that agriculture is an old guy on a tractor in the middle of nowhere, and that’s not really where we’re heading,” said Natalie McCaffery ’24, who put her agriculture technology knowledge to work in a Forbes Under 30 AgTech+ Hackathon, a virtual event focused on solving problems in the

agriculture industry.

McCaffery was part of a team, along with a research scientist and two entrepreneurs, who spent the weekend of Oct. 2–4 brainstorming a solution to a billion-dollar problem: bovine respiratory disease (BRD). About half of all cattle feedlot deaths in North America every year are the result of the contagious disease, so McCaffery and her teammates worked to figure out how the beef industry can better manage the disease.

Their concept, TagAg, would use predictive analytics to

2 WRITE ON

Mohamed Kamara, associate professor of Romance Languages, has been elected vice president of the African Literature Association, an independent, nonprofit professional society that champions the work of African writers and artists. Next year, he will serve as president of the association.

3

POSTGRADUATE AWARDS

Seven graduates were awarded grants or scholarships for postgraduate work. **Caroline Rivers '20** received a Fulbright-García Robles English Teaching Assistantship to Mexico. **Colin Berger '20** was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Spain. **Christopher McCrackin '20** received a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and a Rotary District 7570 Skelton/Jones Scholarship to Oxford University.

Andre Zeromski '20 received The Kemper Scholarship. **Abigail Keller '20** and **Jared Nickodem '20** were awarded Austrian U.S. Teaching Assistantships. And **Brian Peccie '20** was named Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Leader of the Year in athletics.

4

BLM

The football team raised \$8,500 through a virtual 5K for the Rockbridge County NAACP Ted DeLaney '85 Youth Opportunity Grant. "It is a small first step for the W&L football team as it leads the way for committing action towards words. Our goal is to shatter the status quo of silence and neutrality and be on the right side of history," said team captain Josh Breece '21.



6

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Lucas Morel, John K. Boardman Jr. Professor of Politics, published "Lincoln and the American Founding" (Southern Illinois University Press). He argues that the most important influence on Abraham Lincoln's political thought and practice was what he learned from the leading figures of and documents from the birth of the United States.

Chris Gavalier, associate professor of English, and **Nathaniel Goldberg**, professor of philosophy, have published "Revising Fiction, Fact, and Faith: A Philosophical Account" (Routledge). Offering a unique and comprehensive philosophy of revision of fiction, fact, and faith, they reveal unexpected insights into philosophy of language, metaphysics, and history and philosophy of science and religion.

Deborah Miranda, Thomas H. Broadus Jr. Professor of English, was a contributing editor and author of "When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry" (W. W. Norton & Co.). The landmark anthology celebrates the indigenous peoples of North America, the first poets of this country, whose literary traditions stretch back centuries.

Alecia Swasy, Donald W. Reynolds Professor of Business Journalism, published "A Wall Street Guidebook for Journalism and Strategic Communication" (Taylor & Francis), which teaches essential financial writing skills and uses case studies and history to guide media professionals through the world of finance.

Lesley Wheeler, Henry S. Fox Professor of English, published "Unbecoming" (Aqueduct Press), a novel called "excellent feminist fantasy" in a starred review from Publishers Weekly, in which a woman navigates the development of strange powers in middle age.

5. TRANSITIONS

Brant Hellwig, dean of the Law School, will step down at the end of the academic year. **Michelle Lyon Drumbl**, Robert O. Bentley Professor of Law and director of the Tax Clinic, will serve a one-year term as interim dean.

IN THE NEWS

Gratitude, Confidence and Hope

Inspiring a sense of thankfulness



TOM JENNINGS, W&L'S NEW vice president for university advancement, credits his interactions with W&L alumni with expanding his horizons. Between 1992 and 2002, when he was a development officer for the university, he regularly crisscrossed the country meeting with them.

"Much of what I learned about the South and about

and in their professions." To this day, his office bookcase sports dozens of college coffee mugs from his visits to more than 50 cities.

Jennings rejoined W&L in August, after working in development and advancement leadership at the University of Virginia and Florida State University. He has spent his first few months reconnecting

"Gratitude, confidence and hope are the three things I believe we have to demonstrate to those who are going to give us their time, money and advice."

America was the result of spending time with these business leaders," he said. "W&L alumni are disproportionately represented as leaders in their communities

with the community, and he is impressed by what he's seen so far. "I was lucky enough to have a second chance at Washington and Lee, taking over from Dennis Cross, who's

just finished 16 years in this role. I've inherited a highly functioning advancement organization at a university with strong core values and loyal, passionate and intelligent alumni, parents and friends. There's a culture of philanthropy here that's the envy of many of our peer institutions across America."

In his new role, Jennings wants to ensure that W&L continues to remain among the top liberal arts colleges and law schools in the nation. He knows the best way to accomplish that is through robust relationships with the university's community.

"Gratitude, confidence and hope are the three things I believe we have to demonstrate to those who are going to give us their time, money and advice," he said. "We're trying to inspire a sense of thankfulness for how this institution shaped you or your child, inspire confidence that your gift will be used with the best interests of all constituents, and finally that what we're building will benefit future generations."

Over the next few years, Jennings and the advancement team will focus their efforts on funding the strategic plan approved by the Board of Trustees in 2018. That includes building a diverse and inclusive student body and faculty, adopting need-blind admissions and funding the full W&L experience for every student — including study abroad, internships and social and professional networking opportunities.

"Obviously W&L is deeply

committed to the liberal arts," Jennings said. "We've got strong academic programs, but as we go forward, we want to make sure we're on the leading edge of preparing our students to lead in their professional and personal lives. I hope alumni, parents and friends join me in continuing to make W&L a philanthropic priority because it's a place that deserves it. It's already one of the leading institutions in this country, and if we do this right, it's going to be in an even stronger position in the years ahead."

BRIEF BIO

- B.S. and M.A. in psychology from James Madison University; Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Virginia
- Davidson (1985-1989) director of residence life
- W&L (1992-2002): regional development officer; director of capital gifts; director of Law School relations; director of university development
- UVA (2002-2010): associate dean for development for the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; senior development staff
- Florida State University in Tallahassee (2010-2020): vice president for university advancement and president of the FSU Foundation

NOW HEAR THIS

“Our senior year at W&L may be different; however, we may be fortunate enough to spend our last year of college together in the same community attending in-person classes instead of spread across the nation at our homes. We must protect this opportunity.”

Executive Committee, message to the Class of 2021

“Every year, upon the arrival of the first-year students, I adopt each and every one of them. My mindset is always ‘those are my new students.’ Sometimes during move-ins, when I notice parents struggling with separation from their child, my words to them are, ‘Your child is our child.’”

Chuck Hubbard, assistant director of Public Safety. Read the interview at go.wlu.edu/chuck-hubbard.

“When things get a bit more settled, I’d love to just appreciate experiencing the little things in life again that I took for granted before. Like seeing and hugging my friends, running into a store without a mask, being in airports.”

Enuma Anekwe-Desincé '22 on her post-COVID plans

“I was on the campus of Washington and Lee University a few years ago, and for the six days I was there, I must have walked past no less than a thousand people. Not one of them went past without saying, ‘Hello.’ Not one. Even those on their phones found the time to give me a nod and a smile. None of them were being paid to do this. It’s just their tradition.”

Kojo Yankson, Op-ed, *Ghanaia News (Ghanaian News)*, May 11

“I am thankful to Breitbart for serving such a vital journalistic role: reminding us that the principal function of the university is to train students to retreat into a childish state where certain ideas are off limits. We would be helplessly adrift on a sea of nuance without such champions of freedom to anchor us to the shores of ideology.”

Tyler Palicia '23, a satirical op-ed in response to media coverage of a writing class entitled “How to Overthrow the State,” *Ring-tum Phi*, Sept 22, 2020.

IN THE LEAD

Fighting for a Better World

Bo Garfinkel '21 Values the 'Strengths of Our Differences'.



Bo Garfinkel '21

2020 HAS PROVED TO BE AN incredibly trying year, and I think it's evident, now more than ever, how important community is.

My time at Washington and Lee has taught me how seemingly different people come together to fight for a better world. As the founder and president of the on-campus club Love146, which aims to educate and fundraise for the prevention of child and human trafficking, I have had the opportunity to work with students from all walks of W&L's campus.

One moment that was truly a testament to the strength of the W&L community was during the Jewish holiday of Purim. Members of Love146 collaborated with

members of Hillel to fundraise for survivor care. We had members of both organizations and their friends helping to make goodie bags that students could purchase for themselves or as a gift for their professors and mentors. People who had never met before took time out of their day to sit together in Commons for three days as our goodie bags spread throughout campus, reaching not only our students but the faculty, staff and administrators.

The success of the fundraiser showed how powerful community is when it values the strengths of our differences and comes together over our similarities. We will always and forever be part of the

W&L community, a community that teaches us the importance of honor, good citizenship and to be not unmindful of the future.

This means coming together, whether as our small Lexington community or as an entire country, to fight for what we believe to be right and pave a better future for all involved.

SALUTE



Alisha Johnson Perry '93



Scott Dittman



SCOTT DITTMAN: LIGHTING THE WAY

June 10, 2020: Our eyes were adjusting to a brighter worldview after months of isolation and anxiety when national fear exploded again in the presence of a virus that predates COVID-19 by centuries. As Minneapolis burns, Atlanta smolders and Los Angeles explodes, I find hope in the beauty of Scott Dittman.

Reflecting on Scott's W&L legacy reminds me of how powerful love is, and how its light shines brightest in dark spaces.

In 1990, Scott and I became friends through his wife, Susan, my volleyball coach at W&L, and through a local church we attended. Though my memberships for both were short-lived, the door to their home was always open. Being from

New Orleans, where we kept curtains closed and steering wheels double-locked, I was more than intrigued by their super-heroic faith in people. Where my "otherness" seemed objectified on campus, the Dittmans treated me like family.

Scott reminds me of my dad: funny, jolly, celebrated by his wife and worshipped by his kids. Though I certainly overstayed my welcome on Borden Road, they never made me feel like a burden. Scott, whose eyes lit up when I visited, would say I taught them as much as I learned from them as we shared countless joyful moments in front of the family TV, at the dinner table, in the backyard, at Sweet Things

and on campus. They supported me through hard lessons, with compassion, forgiveness and affirmation.

But I'm just one of many students they "adopted." Van Thanh Nguyen '11 has many loving memories of "Daddy Ditt." Far from her home in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, the Dittmans "were surrogate parents and mentors," Van said. She, too, had many happy meals with them, particularly during holiday breaks when she couldn't travel home. One memory stands out: When Van couldn't find a W&L tie to give her father, Scott noticed and said, "Here, take my tie. Please tell your dad that it's a gift."

Scott even befriended non-W&L students. Ben Lee

met Scott, whom he describes as a "symbol of love," on Facebook. "Dad Scott" and "Mom Susan" not only contributed to his scholarship at the University of Nairobi, but also helped seed his nonprofit, Feed Kenya Enterprise.

Thank you, Scott. While many focus merely on diversity, you always make an effort to ensure students' sense of belonging. Knowing and being known by you has been one of our most affirmative life experiences and a model for how we live and lead.

By Alisha Johnson Perry '93, with contributions from Van Thanh Nguyen '11 and Ben Lee. Scott Dittman, university registrar, retired in June 2020.



‘CREATIVITY AND POSITIVE SPIRIT’

BY WILL DUDLEY, PRESIDENT

“As we look ahead to Winter and Spring terms, we are preparing carefully, drawing upon everything we learned this fall, and trying to make the best of the prevailing environment.”



THE LAST 10 MONTHS ON campus have been unlike anything we could have imagined at this time last year. Every aspect of university life is affected by the pandemic, which made Fall Term difficult for many of our students — both first-years, who arrived on campus without established relationships, and upper-division students, who missed the opportunities and interactions they enjoyed in previous years. And we all missed the energy and enthusiasm of our traditional Young Alumni and Parents and Family Weekends, which bring so many of you back to Lexington.

Our community has met this tremendous challenge with its characteristic creativity and

positive spirit. Students participated in Outing Club trips, intramural sports, cooking demonstrations, drive-in movie nights, and a host of events developed by our Student Affairs staff. Clubs and organizations devised new ways to offer programming and recruit members, participation in our undergraduate leadership program is higher than ever, and our career development professionals continue connecting students with alumni and recruiters.

Faculty adapted to teaching in new spaces, under new conditions, and with quarantined students unable to attend classes in person. They held outdoor office hours and one-on-one Zoom calls

with students in quarantine. We were fortunate to have a mild autumn, and it was gratifying to see classes outside taking advantage of the beautiful fall afternoons.

The challenges presented by the pandemic are ongoing, and it is easy to focus on what has been lost rather than the opportunities we can still enjoy. But as we look ahead to Winter and Spring terms, we are preparing carefully, drawing upon everything we learned this fall, and trying to make the best of the prevailing environment. When students return to campus in January, we will increase the frequency of COVID-19 testing in order to identify and stem the spread of infections more quickly. We hope this will

allow us to increase opportunities for students to participate in varsity, club and intramural sports, artistic performances, and other activities.

We are all in this together, and I am proud of what we have accomplished thus far. Our successes are due to the efforts of students, faculty and staff to adjust to new routines so we can remain on campus and to the support of our alumni, parents and friends, which has provided the resources that allow us to offer the best possible educational experience. We are grateful for all you do for W&L, and we all look forward to a time when we can welcome you back to campus.

DUBYUHNELL DAY

THE ICK FACTOR

It was a dirty job, but Bill Hamilton, professor of biology, knows a thing or two about contaminated water.

BY LINDSEY NAIR • PHOTO BY KEVIN REMINGTON



“Wastewater testing is a high-resolution surveillance method. If the virus is detected in a sample, then we know there is somebody shedding it in their waste.”

—Bill Hamilton,
professor of biology

AN UNPLEASANT JOB

On Mondays and Tuesdays of the Fall Term, Bill Hamilton, professor of biology, had an unenviable task on his to-do list. During those 48 hours, he made the rounds on the campus, reaching inside manholes to collect sewage samples. It was an unpleasant but important job because wastewater testing can alert officials to COVID-19 cases on campus even before clinical symptoms appear.

During the initial testing, two separate positive results led to follow-up testing that identified asymptomatic COVID-19 cases within the student population. The university was able to quickly quarantine those students and their close contacts, which may have prevented large outbreaks on campus.

“Wastewater testing is a high-resolution surveillance method,” Hamilton said. “If the virus is detected in a sample, then we know there is somebody shedding it in their waste.”

WHY TEST THE WASTEWATER?

Like other universities, W&L had access to a limited number of COVID-19 tests each week, so the sewage testing helped determine the most effective way to use those tests. Wastewater testing is no magic bullet, but W&L’s COVID-19 response team expects that it will continue to be a worthwhile tool to have in the university’s prevention toolkit.

“It gives us a heightened awareness,” Hamilton said, “particularly in an asymptomatic population.”

WHAT’S THE PROCESS?

Hamilton began following research on sewage sampling early in the pandemic, and he began making regular collections on the campus when Fall Term classes began. His rounds took him to five different sites, where he used a long pole to reach inside and grab samples from the effluvium. All of the samples were from on-campus residential buildings where the virus is most likely to be present.

Those samples were hand delivered to a lab at the University of Virginia and tested for the presence of the virus. W&L received the results within about 48 hours. This test can reveal not only whether SARS-CoV-2 is present in a sample, but how much viral load is in the affected building. If the virus signal increases from one sample to the next, that could indicate an increase in the virus.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT?

W&L has purchased a composite sampler, which can collect samples over the course of 12 hours, allowing Hamilton to add two sites to his rounds each week. That came in handy at the School of Law, which doesn’t generate enough wastewater for grab testing, and Sorority Row, where the wastewater is too far below the street to be safely collected using standard equipment. The sampler will be useful after the pandemic for biology and environmental studies professors and students who can use it for stream sampling.

Super Sleuth

At Pfizer, Michael Benigno '00 analyzes COVID-19 clinical data in the quest to develop a vaccine and antiviral therapy.

BY JEFF HANNA

“Data collection and testing for typical vaccines take years, but it’s easy to test when the whole planet is on fire.”



Since March, Michael Benigno '00 has worked from his home in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. He said his husband, Ian, and their dog, Skip, have helped him stay sane during even the wildest moments.

MICHAEL BENIGNO '00 OFFERS A succinct description of his job at Pfizer. He's essentially a data detective. That, of course, does not begin to capture the complexity of his work, especially over these past nine months as he and his fellow detectives worked day and night, literally, on their biggest case — helping produce a safe, effective vaccine and antiviral therapy for COVID-19.

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, the day after Pfizer submitted its vaccine to the FDA for emergency use authorization,

Benigno was taking a rare morning off.

“I might take a run. Or maybe even a walk,” he said. “Since the first week of April, it’s been all hands on deck. There has been palpable tension and enormous pressure, but also excitement and confidence — a real adrenaline rush.”

* * * * *

An economics major, Benigno discovered his passion for analytics in Professor Michael Anderson's Quantitative Models class (now Econometrics). “I didn't like

math at the time, but I found that I loved statistics after taking his class. A lightbulb went off that this field could lead to a wide range of interesting opportunities. Professor Anderson's was the most valuable economics course I took since it laid the foundation for my career in analytics and data science. He would eventually write one of my recommendations for graduate school in statistics."

After working for an economic consulting firm right out of W&L and then helping U.S. Airways restructure its route system as it headed into bankruptcy after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Benigno earned his master's in quantitative methods and applied statistics at Columbia University. There, he became interested in health care and life sciences and wrote his thesis on issues related to vaccines. In 2005, he joined Pfizer, where he currently holds the title of senior director and lead for Global Real World Evidence for the company's Hospital Business Unit, which includes Pfizer's broad anti-infectives portfolio.

As data from de-identified electronic patient records throughout the U.S. and Europe are gathered into enormous datasets — tens of millions of patients and billions and billions of records, Benigno's challenge is to analyze the data for evidence of, for instance, how a particular therapy is actually prescribed and works in routine real-world settings among a diverse set of patients.

In the first week of April, Benigno put 90% of his work aside to lead Pfizer's COVID-19 Real World Evidence War Room. The mission: not only to work on the vaccine but also on a viral therapy.

"We began analyzing large datasets with COVID-19 patients in them to understand how the disease is progressing in order to help our scientists design the clinical trials and then to understand what they should expect in the clinical trials," he said. "Senior management was asking us to help understand what is really going on. Who is dying? Who is surviving? Can we see any patterns?"

The race for a vaccine grabbed the headlines, but Benigno and his team were also examining an antiviral therapy for patients who were already infected. During the original SARS outbreak in 2002, Pfizer began developing an antiviral to treat that disease, but when the threat dissipated, the therapy was shelved.

"Once COVID broke out, Pfizer essentially took that blueprint off the shelf and accelerated some of the initial preclinical work before initiating the first in-patient trials," Benigno said. "Development of the therapy is behind the vaccine, but we're going to initiate larger patient tests in early 2021 with the goal of having the therapy ready to launch in the not-too-distant future."

"Our vaccine, along with the vaccines developed by other companies, will hopefully end the current outbreak. But no one knows how long immunity will last with a vaccine, so there's a possibility COVID-19 could come back and mutate. At that point Pfizer and the other companies will know how to adjust these new vaccines, just as a seasonal flu vaccine is adjusted each year. That could take time, so having an antiviral therapy ready to go for people who are getting sick will be really important. That's the aim."

Even as Pfizer's vaccine was awaiting FDA approval, Benigno and his colleagues were busy planning the strategy for its real-world examination. The clinical trial was 95% effective, which Benigno said "blew us out of the water." Still, only 22,000 individuals received the actual vaccine during the testing, with 22,000 receiving a placebo. "Data collection and testing for typical vaccines take years," he added, "but it's easy to test when the whole planet is on fire."

"This is where my area becomes front and center," Benigno said. "We'll start getting data in the spring from patients who receive the vaccine. We'll look at the data stratified by age, gender, see how well it protects patients who are very vulnerable and living with certain pre-existing conditions, and follow them over the coming years and report on the findings."

Benigno and his Pfizer colleagues were horrified at the politicization of the vaccine during the presidential campaign. He noted that increasing paranoia around



vaccines could impede efforts to bring the disease under control. "Science is not political," he said, "but it has certainly been politicized. Our CEO is a scientist and veterinarian by training and coined the phrase 'Science Will Win' as a rallying cry. Hopefully, this will be the case."

Apart from inspiring his interest in statistics, Benigno also credits W&L with one skill that is especially important under these circumstances. Communicating clearly and effectively has never been more important, and W&L's liberal arts curriculum helped to develop those skills early on.

"Pfizer is a complex organization — with parts resembling a research university, a hospital and a Fortune 100 company all in one. From hour to hour, I have to speak different languages. The scientists understand a certain set of nomenclatures and vocabularies, and for conversations with commercially oriented colleagues, I have to adjust my approach in the way I explain things."

Like many around the world, Benigno has been working remotely since March, communicating via Webex video calls with his colleagues who are based in London, Paris and Rome. He is looking forward to resuming a more normal lifestyle and work schedule but feels fortunate to be able to contribute to the search for a COVID-19 vaccine and therapy from the safety of his home.

Lane Johansen '22 wearing
a Face Forward mask.

Fabricated

Jim Hind '80 and Brad Poorman '83 have developed high-tech coatings for fabrics that have applications from COVID-19 face masks to hunting gear.

BY BARBARA ELLIOTT • PHOTO BY KEVIN REMINGTON



The product's extremely quick kill time on germs makes it optimal for scrubs, sheets, towels and first responders' clothing.

AS THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC began to spiral out of control during the spring of 2020, Jim Hind '80 and Brad Poorman '83 realized their Trizar technology would make an effective protective barrier for face masks.

The duo launched Face Forward with input from professionals in the dental, medical and performance textiles sectors. The goal was to create a comfortable, reusable cloth mask that fit better than the ones flooding the market. Their product does not offer the same protection as an N-95 mask, but as Poorman pointed out, "The material is so tightly woven you can't even blow out a candle." Sales have topped 100,000.

The face mask also incorporates another innovation they're rolling out — ReCharge Solution, a treatment that boosts antimicrobial and antibacterial properties on cotton clothes and bedding washed in Clorox. The product's extremely quick kill time on germs makes it optimal for scrubs, sheets, towels and first responders' clothing.

"The world has changed," said Poorman, "and we believe that our technical fabrics can provide unique solutions to everyday challenges."

Rocket Science

Hind and Poorman met as fraternity brothers at Sigma Nu. After working together on and off for a number of years developing and marketing coatings to enhance fabric performance, the two teamed up in 2013 to form Clean Textile Technology, a start-up that has taken off with the introduction of Trizar® patented technology.

In adapting materials developed for NASA for their specialty textiles, Poorman and Hind have created a niche market for their company, which has grown steadily since 2013. Their newest partners include Major League Lacrosse (Sandy Brown

“The Honor System is an underlying principle of the company. We don’t sugarcoat things. If it’s bad, it’s bad.”

—Jim Hind ’80

THE DIFFERENTIATOR

When Jim Hind graduated in 1980, inflation was at 20% and employment prospects were bleak. His father told him to look at food, clothing or shelter because there was always a need for those. Fortunately, Blue Bell Creameries needed someone in its Texas factory who spoke Spanish. Hind had studied Spanish from an early age, was an exchange student in junior high, took Spanish almost every semester at W&L and studied Spring Term abroad in Spain. Although he graduated into a lousy economy, he said his differentiator was his fluency in Spanish.

FALLEN FRIENDS

After Brad Poorman left Gore-Tex, he designed a lightweight Gore-Tex/Kevlar fire boot that he pitched to over 126 fire departments around the U.S. He outfitted the New York City Fire Department with boots and developed friendships with many of its firefighters. Tragically, many of those friends died on 9/11, including Robert Emmett Judge, the FDNY chaplain who took off his protective helmet to give last rights to a victim and was killed by debris from the collapse of the second tower. “Father Judge always remembered my name with a smile,” Poorman said. “He was the kindest soul I ever met, everyone would stop to recognize his presence, and he is now a saint.”

’84 is the commissioner), which is using Trizar technology in its jerseys, and Forloh Hunting, which is integrating the specialty fabric in its Deep Space collection of base layers and gloves.

Success isn’t as simple as taking great technology and slapping it on generic clothing, Poorman noted. “Some people think that patents are the end-all. But having a product that is hard to manufacture is challenging. No one has the patience to get it right. A lot of larger companies don’t spend the time if it doesn’t work the first go-around. We do.”

Their company “has had its ups and downs, but we generally make a profit,” said Hind. “Brad does the sales and marketing, and I handle operations, finances and paperwork. We now have customers like Levi’s, O’Neill, KJUS and New Balance. We also have a new line that will soon be launched by the largest jean manufacturer.”

Following the Thread

So, how did Poorman, a history major, and Hind, a politics major, wind up becoming entrepreneurs on the forefront of textile technology? It started when they both landed jobs in the textile industry.

Hind’s fluency in Spanish helped him get a job at a Wrangler jeans factory in El Paso, Texas. He prospered there but eventually moved to Mexico to start his own factory because he didn’t enjoy working for others.

In Poorman’s first job, he was tasked with convincing the world that Gore-Tex



PHOTO BY CHRIS RECORD

Jim Hind ’80

was a good thing. The revolutionary new fabric was just being introduced, and his assignment was to determine its value, evaluate its flaws and create a business. “I picked up a lot because I was willing to start from scratch. W.L. Gore offered the best environment to be an entrepreneur,” he said.

It was when Poorman left Gore-Tex to become a senior executive at Outlast that the career trajectories of the two intersected. Outlast had developed a technology that used patented microencapsulated phase-change materials which absorb, store and release heat. When he needed help getting the product in front of denim and jeans manufacturers, he tracked down Hind, who knew a thing or two about jeans. “I tried to get out of the textile business, but it didn’t work out,” Hind lamented.

In 2005 they launched their first startup, Cocona, which marketed odor-management knitted fabrics for the outdoor apparel industry. Their product — Trapttek, which was incorporated into Cannondale’s



PHOTO BY JON AUSTRIA (JVAPIX@GMAIL.COM)

Brad Poorman '83

“The world has changed, and we believe that our technical fabrics can provide unique solutions to everyday challenges.”

–Brad Poorman '83

cycling garments — was named Time Magazine’s most amazing invention of 2005, and Poorman was a finalist for Ernst and Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year in the Rocky Mountain Region for 2009.

Although the company was successful, the founders were not exactly reaping the rewards. “We had found venture capitalists to finance the company. We were making money for our investors, but not for ourselves,” Hind said.

A Clean Start

They decided to start over with a new company and a new investment model with Clean Textile Technology. “Our idea on funding was to have our suppliers as our strategic partners — for example, the people who produce the yarn and coatings,” Hind said. “We have a strong relationship throughout the supply chain all the way to end customers.”

They returned to W&L to pitch the venture at the 2014 Entrepreneurship Summit sponsored by the Connolly Center for Entrepreneurship. Their plan appealed to the

center’s namesake, Larry Connolly '79, who became an investor and has helped guide them “through the bumps,” according to Hind. They brought in another alum, Stephen Denny '83, to pitch their smart apparel line at last year’s summit. They have participated in the event almost every year and have served as presenters and judges. “I love to interact with the students. They are so smart and creative,” Poorman said.

Their shared Washington and Lee experience and values have given the partners a sense of trust in one another that carries over to their relationships with vendors and customers. “The Honor System is an underlying principle of the company,” Hind said. “We don’t sugarcoat things. If it’s bad, it’s bad. I learned by the example of upperclassmen and professors. They trusted me, believed in me. I did not want to betray that trust and try to live by the same principles today.”

Although Poorman described being an entrepreneur as a “wild lifestyle,” it has been worth the effort. “Trizar started in smaller brands and has moved up to billion-dollar brands. Last year, we grew 40%. We are now at a tipping point, and it’s about to explode,” Poorman noted.

Hind added that their satisfaction from the venture extends beyond revenue figures. “It’s been rewarding to start something and nurture it,” he said. “It’s almost like having a child. And you make mistakes, but it’s worth it when people you work with compliment and appreciate what you’re doing.”



TO THE MOON AND BEYOND

The technology behind Trizar has its origins in the coatings used on spaceships to disperse heat as the ships traveled through the atmosphere. Clean Textile Technology has created two formulas which carry the Certified Space Technology seal.

The materials are a mixture of emissive particles that are designed to absorb or decrease body heat. Poorman noted, “These fabrics, in addition to providing higher UPF protection and antibacterial properties, also reduce the carbon footprint of apparel — the clothing dries faster and needs fewer washes. The product is water-based and doesn’t contain solvents, so it’s environmentally friendly.”

The company also markets Drydye® fabrics. The manufacturing process uses no water or chemicals in dyeing performance textiles, making it another environmentally friendly product in the company’s lineup.



Book Smart

Bethlehem Dammlash '06 has set her sights on educational equity for children from low-income families.

BY CATHERINE AHMAD '18

“Reading is more than just about literacy skills. It’s about the joy of discovering yourself, as well as new people, places and concepts. And the earlier they start reading, the better they’ll do academically down the road.”

BETHLEHEM DAMMLASH '06, DIRECTOR of First Book’s member services team, started her Labor Day weekend by picking up the young adult novel “Slay.” The protagonist, Kiera Johnson, is an honors student, math tutor and one of the only Black kids in her high school. “She has created a ‘Black Panther’ — inspired video game — a safe community for her and other Black gamers,” said Dammlash.

A safe, familiar community is what Dammlash is helping educators create for underrepresented children during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially since many schools are no longer holding in-person classes. With the world closing down around them, Dammlash knows how important it is for these children to have some semblance of normalcy and connect with ideas and characters, both familiar and new. “Reading,” she explained, “is more than just about literacy skills. It’s about the joy of discovering yourself, as well as new people, places and concepts. And the earlier they start reading, the better they’ll do academically down the road.”

At W&L, Dammlash knew she wanted to dedicate her career to the nonprofit sector and got her start through an internship with W&L’s Shepherd Program. After graduation, she served as an Elrod Fellow in Baltimore before working for several nonprofits centered around youth and social justice issues, including educational equity.

Dammlash joined First Book in 2013. The nonprofit focuses on removing barriers to quality education by providing educators with brand-new, high-quality books and other educational resources, such as classroom supplies.

“We work with Title I schools, Head Starts, food nutrition programs, Title VII recipients — folks working in communities that have clear economic need or potentially serving kids that have special needs,” Dammlash said. “A lot of the kids may receive their very first

book through us, and the fact that it’s brand new for folks who might not have everything brand new makes a difference. One of the initiatives I like the most at First Book is our Stories for All Project, which curates new, high-quality books representing diverse characters, voices and issues. To paraphrase Rudine Sims Bishop, we put those books in the hands of kids so they can have a window into another person’s life and, at the same time, also have the opportunity to see themselves reflected in those stories.”

The First Book Marketplace, the organization’s e-commerce site, allows educators, librarians, program staff and others serving children in need access to thousands of titles, educational resources and basic needs items. Agreements with First Book’s partners in the publishing industry allow the organization to offer its books and resources to its members at very low cost or for free.

While First Book has been able to provide vulnerable communities with reading materials and supplies during the pandemic, the increased emphasis on digital learning highlights another challenge for underserved communities.

“We have digital learning resources for our network, but not everyone has devices like computers or smartphones to access them. The pandemic showcases how harmful the digital divide can be for more vulnerable communities when you don’t have access to reliable internet service or your own computer,” she said. “We create opportunities for folks who do not traditionally have access to new books, digital devices or other items that you need to succeed, be more connected and learn on the same level as the people 15 minutes down the street from you. First Book may not eliminate all disadvantages, but we can provide access to high-quality educational resources to help bridge those gaps.”

When schools closed this past spring, First Book, one of the largest and fastest-growing

networks of educators in the U.S., became busier than ever as people, foundations, corporations and donors ramped up their efforts to obtain and distribute books and educational resources to children in need. First Book switched to a remote working environment for its staff and has been able to continue working with the warehouse partners that process and ship deliveries for the First Book Marketplace site.

“At a time where there seems to be so much that’s lacking, there also seems to be so much giving,” Dammlash noted. “People are trying to make sure that we’re able to do what we need to do for the more vulnerable communities out there, from education to clothing to everything else. The support is wonderful to see.”

She added, “It’s always been rewarding for me, and any work that I’ve done in my career has been centered around striving towards a more equitable world and creating level playing fields for all people — regardless of where they start. Plus, the fact that I can do that work at an educational nonprofit that’s focused on equity, read interesting books, hear stories of the impact that we make for kids, while working with great people — it all makes me grateful that I’ve been a part of First Book’s mission every day for the past seven years.”

Visit First Book’s COVID-19 Action webpage (firstbook.org/coronavirus) to learn more about the organization’s coronavirus relief efforts. Additionally, check out the First Book Marketplace’s Empowering Educators section to find free educator resources (fbmarketplace.org/empowering-educators).

BETH RECOMMENDS

- “Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry” by Mildred Taylor
- “Manchild in the Promised Land” by Claude Brown
- “The Learning Tree” by Gordon Parks
- “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You” by Ibram X. Kendi & Jason Reynolds
- “The Poet X” and “Clap When You Land” by Elizabeth Acevedo
- “The Crossover” by Kwame Alexander
- “The War that Saved My Life” and “The War I Finally Won” by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- “Slay” by Brittney Morris



Finding Our Footing

With a little hard work and a lot of ingenuity, W&L prepped for campus life during a pandemic.

BY JEREMY FRANKLIN '04, LINDSEY NAIR AND JEFF SEYMOUR

“This is a great opportunity to highlight to students a very real-world set of skills that they are absolutely going to be working with post-university.”

—Stephen Lind, associate professor of business administration

PREPPING FOR A SAFE RETURN

To prepare for the safe return of students, W&L's facilities workers transformed campus, setting up two large outdoor canopies to serve as temporary outdoor classrooms, erecting Plexiglass barriers in more than 80 different spaces and installing 300 hand sanitizer dispensers.

Custodial crews were trained on new cleaning technologies, including EPA-approved one-step disinfectants and electrostatic sprayers, and learned enhanced cleaning protocols like disinfecting all high-touch surfaces, including desks, tables and podiums.

To equip students, staff and faculty to better take care of themselves and each other, Auxiliary Services employees filled more than 2,750 orders for personal protective equipment kits. In all, they processed requests for more than 31,000 disposable masks, more than 9,000 reusable fabric masks, more than 750 face shields, 29,620 fluid ounces of hand sanitizer, nearly 3,000 packages of sanitizing wipes and more than 2,000 thermometers.

Other safety measures include signage to communicate health and safety messages and the distribution of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes for faculty, staff and students to use in personal and work spaces.

MAKE IT WORK

Faculty adjusted their teaching to reflect a changed environment for fall 2020, providing individual equipment normally shared and employing vans with plastic dividers to travel for field labs. Many classes were taught on the Front Lawn or in one of three outdoor classrooms. In-person instruction continued, and most professors taught some students virtually, in part to accommodate individuals at high risk of complications from COVID-19.

“It is harder to be successful as a faculty member or student in a virtual collaboration,” said Stephen Lind, associate professor of business administration. “But once you learn some of the strategies and tactics for doing it well, it can be richly rewarding and, in some cases, even more effective than in-person teaching.”

That effectiveness includes teaching skills that have acquired heightened usefulness during the pandemic. Dance students are choreographing for the camera frame. Business students are practicing to pitch investors via videoconferencing. Computer science students have modeled the potential impact of COVID-19 at W&L. Fifteen faculty members and two alumnae signed on to help teach a course covering multiple aspects of the COVID-19 crisis.

“This is a great opportunity to highlight to students a very real-world set of skills that they are absolutely going to be working with post-university,” Lind said. “This is not the future, this is the



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6



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now. There's been a massive growth in working from home over the years, and the post-pandemic estimate is very high, so this is a great opportunity — even if forced on us — for students to hit the ground running.”

LIFE ON MARS

Re-creating W&L's signature sense of community during COVID-19 has been challenging, but students — and the W&L staff supporting them — are rising to the occasion.

“We're colonizing Mars right now, right?” explained Kelsey Goodwin, director of student activities. “This is a completely different planet. You're back to the basics, like how does the meeting work? How do we make social connections as humans? And it's weird, and it's frustrating. We have to leave room for just grieving that. It's hard not to be able to gather and do some of the things that we all love about Washington and Lee.”

In the first month of the semester, Student Activities hosted nearly 100 socially distanced or virtual events for students. Student organizations hosted dozens of their own, and the pace is picking up as they get used to operating under COVID restrictions. The Outing Club is averaging 18–20 trips a week, and hundreds of students have participated in virtual Greek life recruitment events.

In spring and summer, many students participated in virtual events from the Jewish Life Fellowship, valuing “the sense of normalcy it offered.” Programming included a virtual Passover seder, conversations with authors Brene Brown, Bari Weiss, and Michael Jordan's business manager Estee Portnoy, and discussions about racial justice and diversity within Jewish communities.

Despite fears of a difficult adjustment for first-years, and an understandably challenging semester for some, most students seem to be okay.

“There are people who are losing a little bit of morale,” said Jason Rodocker, dean for first-year experience, “but there's plenty of reason to still be positive and optimistic. More

and more student organizations are finding their footing. Those resources are going to kick in, and there are already hundreds of opportunities on campus.”

BACK IN THE BONEYARD

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in all W&L varsity athletic events being suspended. The university's public health policies allow team activities, but typically prohibit traditional practices, which would bring players into close contact.

So W&L's strength and conditioning coaches, Hayli Yetter and Aron Gibson, spent the spring and summer devising an outdoor setup that would allow team training sessions while complying with safety protocols. They settled on transforming the Boneyard — a large field behind the Liberty Hall ruins which normally serves as the home venue for track and field throwing events — into a makeshift outdoor training facility.

The Boneyard features 60 individual workout stations. Forty tents house sandbags, hurdles and cones, and homemade sleds. Between two rows of these tents are 20 pull-up bars, with a plastic bucket providing the step-up.

Athletes must keep their face coverings on throughout their training sessions, and bottles of sanitizer are readily available across the field. A whiteboard sign near the parking lot reads: “Welcome to the Boneyard. Fill out your daily [symptom] attestation. Bring your water bottle. Wear your mask at all times. GO HARD.”

W&L student-athletes are appreciative of how the Boneyard has allowed them to maintain at least one key portion of their training regimen.

“Coach Yetter and Coach Gibson have worked hard to find ways that we can stay in shape with limited equipment available,” said Coby Kirkland '22, a slotback for the football team. “I think most of all, the workouts have provided a continued outlet for athletes to get outside and be with their respective teams.”

READ ON

If you'd like to read more about how W&L prepared and adapted for Fall Term, here are links to the original articles.

go.wlu.edu/safe-return
go.wlu.edu/makeitwork
go.wlu.edu/lifeonmars
go.wlu.edu/jewishfellowship
go.wlu.edu/boneyard

SEEN ACROSS CAMPUS

1. Travis Black, senior lead residential custodian, uses a new electrostatic sprayer to disinfect a classroom prior to the start of Fall Term.
2. Kay Jones, residential custodian, wipes down door handles with EPA-approved disinfectant.
3. Lisa Greer, professor of geology, supervises a lab.
4. Dancers stay within their boundaries during class.
5. Tyler Hellstern '24 paints with watercolors during an Outing Club and Arts League painting event at Boxerwood Nature Center.
6. Emmie McElroy '23 instructs a socially distanced sunset yoga class. At right is Frances McIntosh '22.
7. Football player Coby Kirkland '22 does chin-ups in the Boneyard.

OFFICE HOURS



Lynny Chin

What does it mean to fit in or belong at W&L? The associate professor of sociology is examining how W&L students define these terms. For the first of several papers on the subject, she is focusing on the responses of minority students at W&L.

BY JEFF SEYMOUR • PHOTO BY SHELBY MACK

“‘Belonging’ means you feel that you have a place where you are welcomed, valued and respected in the community.”

HOW DID STUDENTS DEFINE “FIT” AND “BELONGING”?

A lot of research on college conflates “fit” and “belonging,” but they are distinct concepts. “Fitting in” means you believe you match the standards for the characteristics that are perceived to be valued on campus. “Belonging” means you feel that you have a place where you are welcomed, valued and respected in the community. You may not “fit,” but you can still feel like you “belong.” “Fitting in” is also not a guarantee you will feel like you belong.

Most students we spoke with wanted to talk about social fit. They would go into detail about Greek life, socioeconomic status, partying and racial identity. For nonwhite students, the top four standards of social fit mentioned were Greek membership, partying, whiteness and wealth. All of the minority students mentioned at least one of these traits, and almost all of them mentioned at least three. Minority students did not believe that everyone on campus could socially fit in.

But there was this other aspect of fit that students also described, and that was academic fit.

This was an area where students tended to feel that everyone belonged. Students would use admission as a proxy for academic fit, and say, “Well, I got admitted, so, you know, I do fit — at least academically.”

For minority students, while there was not as clear a consensus around the academic traits of a typical student, 82% still mentioned that W&L has a reputation as a “good” or academically elite school and believed that everyone on campus fit in academically, no matter their background.

WHAT DEFINES BELONGING?

Most students did not characterize “fit” as necessary to “belonging,” even if many believed that it helps. “Belonging” was characterized as having a network, a group of friends, support from faculty or staff. Belonging also means feeling seen, meaning they can walk down the Colonnade and recognize people, and those people recognize them. Being part of an organization or playing some sort of organized sport makes a big difference. Any kind of organization, whether it’s MSA or SABU, can ground you

and create a kind of pocket of relationships for you.

I am interested in how student perceptions of their college’s identity affect the criteria they use to judge “fit.” Standards can be set top down through policy, institutionalized practices and culturally transmitted ideals — think the Honor System — but also from the bottom up through interpersonal negotiation of what is valued.

WHAT ANSWERS SURPRISED YOU?

I, too, conflated “fit” and “belonging” when I started this study. But we talked with some people who by all appearances you would expect to fit — people in high-profile elected roles on campus, people who were part of the Greek system — and sometimes even those people, despite feeling like they fit, didn’t feel they belonged.

Also, just because you “fit” doesn’t mean you’re pressure free. I think there’s actually a high amount of pressure for people who can conform to the expected student image to do so. Some students who said they clearly didn’t fit felt less pressure to conform to the “social mold.”

The experiences

students have shared with me — and not just in this project — all reinforce the idea that everyone deals with issues of belonging on campus. While the contextual barriers people face in feeling they belong may differ greatly, everyone wants to find a way to feel a sense of belonging and place on campus.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ON THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INCLUSIVENESS AND CAMPUS CLIMATE?

It was very clear to me that many people across the whole university (staff, administration, faculty and students) care deeply about issues of diversity, inclusion and equity at our university. While there can be differences in opinion about the best way to tackle problems and which problems are the most urgent, healthy dialogue is a great reminder that the different concerns and approaches people advocate are not mutually exclusive.

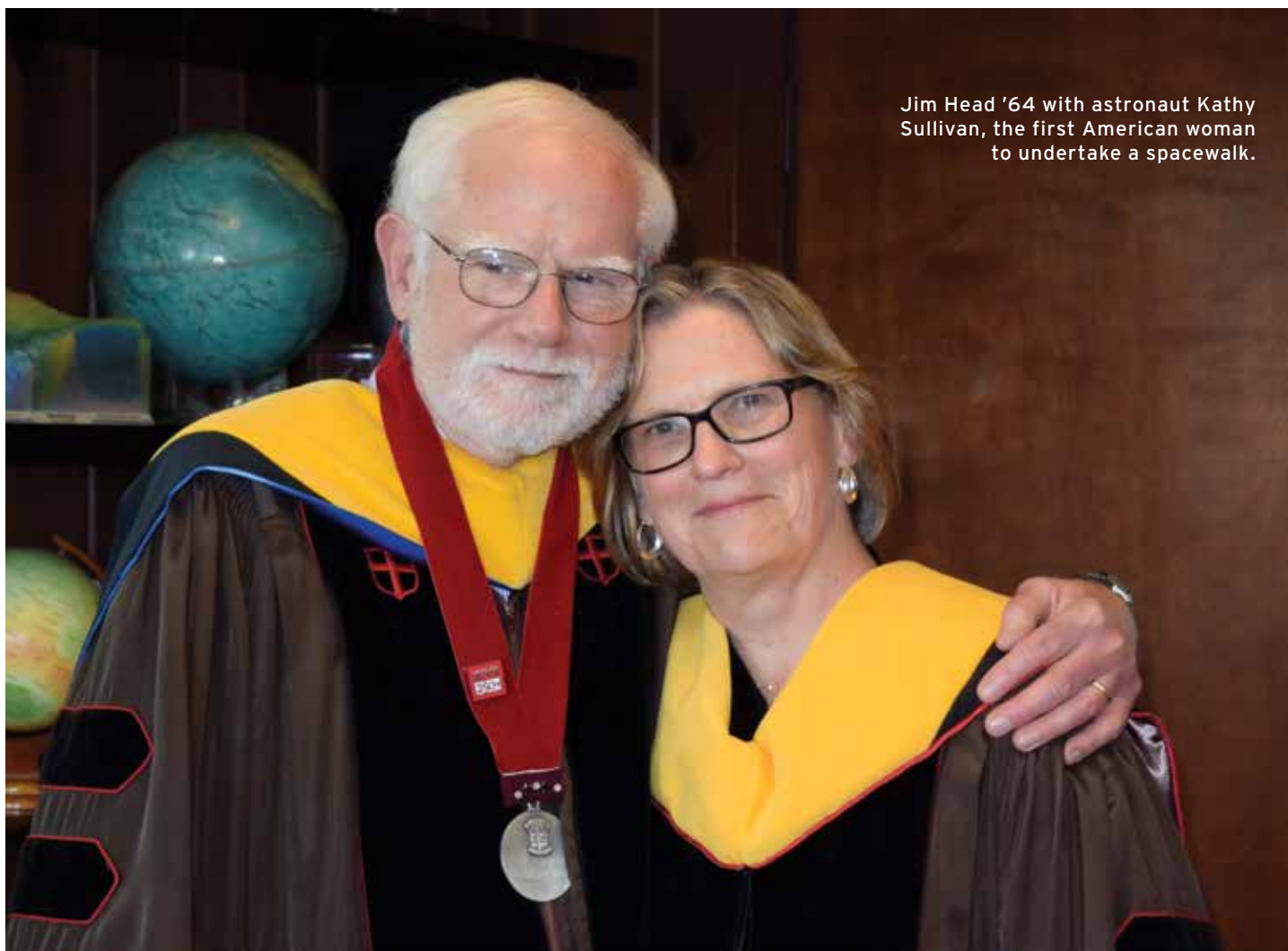
It’s hard but important work to find ways for different strategies to inch forward together. It’s kind of like putting on socks — you won’t get them on if you tug only on one side. You have to wiggle the sock up on all sides.

FITTING IN

In 2015-2016, Chin interviewed 163 W&L students to assess how they define “fitting in” and “belonging” on campus. For their first paper, she and her research team used data from 57 interviews with minority students. They are currently transcribing and analyzing the remaining interviews for further research.

When asked to describe their vision of the “typical” W&L student, minority students named seven top attributes:

Greek (98% of respondents)
Partier (89%)
White (88%)
Wealthy (84%)
Preppy (67%)
Southern (47%)
Conservative (44%)



Jim Head '64 with astronaut Kathy Sullivan, the first American woman to undertake a spacewalk.

‘Endless Frontiers’

In the decades since a first-year course hooked him on geology, Jim Head '64 has worked on some of the most exciting projects in planetary science, including the Apollo landings.

BY JEFF SEYMOUR

“W&L makes you a well-rounded person with appreciation for different perspectives, different cultures, different people, different ways of thinking.”

BEFORE JIM HEAD '64 scouted landing sites for the Apollo missions, liaised with the Chinese and Russian space programs or guided a new generation of graduate students plotting the exploration of Mars, he signed up for geology to fulfill his science requirement at W&L.

“I'd never had a geology course,” he said of the choice. “So I figured I'd learn something new and that I'd get outdoors, which I really loved.” Two months into Ed Spencer's intro course, he was hooked. That summer he worked for Spencer in Montana as a field assistant, and he never looked back.

After graduating from W&L, Head earned a doctorate in geology

at Brown University. Although his specialty was the layers of the Earth and he considered working in academia or oil and gas, he couldn't pass up an employment ad that read “Our job is to think our way to the moon and back.” A few months later he reported to work at Bellcomm Inc., a pivotal component of the Apollo program, to help identify potential landing sites and train astronauts in field geology.

The astronauts were bright and motivated, scientifically minded, a joy to teach and very independent. “Although we were in mission control,” Head said, “it wasn't, ‘Hold up this rock and we'll tell you if we need it.’ It was, ‘We're here to

help you if you need us.”

Head found a moment from Apollo 15 illustrative. The mission was investigating whether lunar lavas contained gases billions of years ago.

“The best way to tell that is to look for holes in the rock. On the way back from EVA 2, Dave Scott looks out from the rover and he sees this rock with a lot of holes sitting out on the plain. He tells Houston he has a seatbelt problem so they'll let him stop, gets out, gets the rock, documents it and then heads back. That's known as the ‘Seatbelt Basalt’ in the lunar rock community.”

In 1972, Head joined the faculty at Brown, where he has worked on missions for NASA, the European Space Agency and the Russian and Chinese space programs. He still teaches today with the same enthusiasm he had in the sixties.

“Every new student, I say, ‘You couldn't be coming into planetary science at a better time.’ We've opened up frontiers of exploration that are just unbelievable. Who would've thought that in my lifetime we would send probes to all of the planets? I remember when Sputnik was launched!”

His time at Washington and Lee, Head says, taught him about more than just rocks and approaching science systematically. “W&L makes you a well-rounded

person with appreciation for different perspectives, different cultures, different people, different ways of thinking.

“I remember walking across the green in front of the Colonnade and running into Dean Leyburn, and he said, ‘Mr. Head, that was an excellent term paper. I learned a lot about the mineral resources of the Belgian Congo. But what about the people?’ I never forgot the people again.”

That attitude has come in handy on international teams, and he tries to pass it on to his students. “You need to put yourself in the position of whoever you're talking to. You can't just raise your voice. You need to be heard, and therefore you need to listen.”

In addition to teaching at Brown, Head is now evaluating potential sites for Mars landings and trying to analyze the thousands of planets being discovered in other solar systems. As a mentor, he hopes to give his graduate advisees the kind of one-on-one attention that launched his career at W&L. “This is how we train the next generation,” he said. “There are endless frontiers. It's incredible.”

SHARING THE ADVENTURE

“The night sky is incredible. You can get an app to figure out what the stars are by holding your phone up . . . look at the schedule for the space station and you can watch it going overhead. Get a good telescope and it's really interesting in terms of seeing craters on the moon and phases of the moon, the rings of Saturn and so on. It's just awesome. You can share the adventure.”



Legal Eagle

Life has been a series of firsts for Rita Davis '93.

BY LOUISE UFFELMAN

It was a Friday, about four months into her stint as counsel to Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, when his deputy chief asked Rita Davis '93 to sign off on the usual state proclamation honoring the birthday of James Madison, the country's fourth president and a slave owner.

She hesitated. "As I read it, I realized that we needed to think a lot more intentionally about how we continue to portray the state's history. So I walked into the governor's office and explained to him why I thought we needed to develop a policy about how to deal with these issues. Are we going to present a more balanced account, rather than just continue to rubber-stamp these kinds of proclamations?" Northam agreed with her.

In May 2020, her colleague, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran, asked her to weigh in on whether the governor had the authority to remove the statue of Robert E. Lee on Richmond's storied Monument Avenue. Davis, who'd been researching the issue for over a year, said he did.

"I'm thrilled we're having this conversation about monuments and memorials," Davis said. "It's long overdue. I think the absence of those conversations has

allowed us, as a nation, to present only one side of history. As the great-great granddaughter of enslaved people, I'm honored to be part of the conversation about R.E. Lee's legacy. These monuments represent who we are and what is important to us. I think the governor's decision to remove Confederate statues was a very courageous thing to do."

FROM ENGLISH MAJOR TO COP

Davis grew up in rural Bedford County, Virginia, and was the first in her family to graduate from college. She applied to W&L at the urging of her AP English teacher and discovered that it fit her quintessential college image — red brick, ivy and white columns.

She immersed herself in extracurricular activities, including track, the forensics team, theater, the William & Mary Leadership Institute and the Minority Student Association, serving as its president. She did so well in one of her English classes that her professor tried to talk her into applying for a Rhodes scholarship. She also recounted how common it was to be invited to meals at the homes of her professors or faculty members. "It really made an impression on me that

my professors would invite the class to their home for a meal to talk about literature and life — they went out of their way to get to know us as individuals," she said. "That was essentially my experience at W&L."

Davis knew from an early age that she wanted to be a lawyer. "But I also knew that my grades in undergrad weren't good enough to get me into law school. So I needed to figure out something that would make me stand out in my applications." She became a police officer, partly because her father said she wasn't tough enough, but mostly for the experience. For the next three and a half years she worked for the Lynchburg City Police Department on its patrol and street crimes units, as well as its vice and narcotics squad, even going undercover for several assignments. "It gave me a lifelong appreciation for law enforcement and for those people who put their lives on the front line."

The experience also helped her determine that she didn't want to practice criminal law. "I don't think I could be a prosecutor knowing what the men and women in uniform go through every day." She eschewed family law because "I get enough drama with my own

family," and settled into civil litigation as her sweet spot. "It includes all the things I love about law — document review, taking depositions, writing summaries and appearing in court. I find all of it intriguing."

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

After graduating from the University of Richmond School of Law — another first in her family — she clerked for the Hon. Richard S. Arnold on the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit. Then she joined the Richmond office of Hunton and Williams and became its first Black woman to make counsel in complex commercial litigation. Her many successes there included helping a Fortune 100 corporation defend a multimillion-dollar international breach of contract claim, arbitrating an international insurance claim and assisting Sudanese and Guatemalan victims of political torture obtain asylum.

EYE-OPENING

After serving in the Virginia Office of the Attorney General as section chief for Trials in the Civil Litigation Division, she got the invitation from Northam to provide oversight and legal guidance for the Office of the Governor — the first

woman to ever hold that title.

"I didn't know him professionally or personally," said Davis. "When I interviewed with him, he was the most genuine person that you could ever meet. I knew this was going to be a good opportunity to work with someone who is thoughtful and intentional on some important issues."

Davis has a little over a year to serve and has many other policies and regulatory matters to manage besides the ongoing legal battle over Lee's statue. "It's been an eye-opening experience," Davis said. "Everybody knows 2020 has been unusual, particularly at the national level, but I've definitely had one of the more unusual experiences in the governor's administration."

MORE ABOUT RITA

VOTE

In 2003-04, Davis organized and implemented a voter registration drive responsible for registering hundreds of voters.

W&L COLLEAGUE

LeGrand Northcutt '17 works alongside Davis as special assistant to the governor's counsel. He, too, has a B.A. in English and a J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law.



Rita Davis '93 (left) and her colleague LeGrand Northcutt '17 (inset).

Alumni

CLASS UPDATES AND SUCCESS STORIES

CHAPTER CORNER

'A SILVER LINING'

BY TOM LOVELL '91, SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



Our Welcome to the City events are a chance for recent graduates to meet other alumni in their areas and learn about W&L's Alumni Association. This year, we hosted virtual Welcome to the City events for both coasts. For our East Coast event, alumni from more than 15 chapters joined us to welcome the Class of 2020.

It's time to put our money where our mouth is. Throughout the years, Alumni Engagement has encouraged our vibrant 76 Alumni Chapters to host engaging events of a wide variety that appeal to our 30,000+ alumni constituency and parents. In fact, in the last Chapter Corner we introduced five Core Event Categories to guide chapter activity. Now the ball is back in our court as we all have had to pivot to virtual activity. The Office of Alumni Engagement has taken the lead on alumni events by offering interesting virtual speakers and topics to engage you with the university and with each other. Virtually, we have continued traditional chapter gatherings, such as Summer Send-Offs and Welcome to the City events while simultaneously offering a spectrum of virtual events that appeal to

a broad audience.

A silver lining to this pandemic is that these virtual events allow us to come together as one community. We are not limited to members of one chapter, as was evidenced by our recent Stretch and Breathe event hosted by Will Thomas '92 in which alumni, parents and friends from coast to coast and three foreign countries came together one early Saturday morning.

We hope to see each other in person soon, but until then we look forward to seeing you at one of our virtual alumni events. Be sure to visit the Alumni Engagement website (wlu.edu/alumni) for all of our upcoming and recorded events, and please let us know if you have an idea for an interesting virtual event.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Adhering to the university's policies and protocols for campus visitors during the pandemic, we regret that all on-campus alumni events have been canceled through May 5, 2021. This includes Five-Star Festival/ Institute for Honor, Tom Wolfe Weekend and Alumni Weekend.

While we are disappointed and will miss seeing you all, we intend to have robust virtual offerings in place of these in-person events.

FIVE-STAR FESTIVAL MARCH 5-6, 2021

Calling all graduates from the classes of 1969 and earlier! All Five-Star Generals are cordially invited to this virtual celebration.

ALUMNI WEEKEND APRIL 29-MAY 2, 2021

We hope to celebrate alumni in their 50th, 45th, 40th, 35th, 30th, 25th, 20th and 15th reunions. Please visit alumni.wlu.edu for the most up-to-date information.

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DR. KEITH STEELE '79

Pandemic Preparedness

BY CATHERINE AHMAD '18

DR. KEITH STEELE '79 HAS CENTERED his career on the study of disease and vaccine research. Now an independent consultant, he spent the last 10 years as a senior pathologist at AstraZeneca (previously Medimmune) developing immunotherapies for human cancers. Prior to AstraZeneca, Steele worked at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, where his vaccine research focused on the Ebola virus.

“Pathology is a great way to investigate why and how diseases function the way they do,” Steele explained last spring. “Once you understand how it works, then you have some basis for trying to figure out how to fix it.”

As a research pathologist, he focused on pathogenesis — the mechanisms by which diseases occur — and translational science in drug development, where the emphasis remains on both the transition from lab to bedside and the safety and efficacy of the vaccine.

“Most of my career involved developing the tools we need to investigate these diseases in new ways,” he said. “I switched from vaccine development and infectious diseases to understanding the pathogenesis of cancer and developing drugs for that disease.” Being a pathologist who spent a lot of time developing tools allowed him to make the switch from infectious diseases to cancer. “The tools are very much the same. How you use them is done differently, but the tools themselves do not change that much.”

He noted that cancer patients are particularly at risk during this current pandemic.

Along with being immunosuppressed, they tend to be elderly and have higher incidence of diabetes, lung or heart disease, which elevates their susceptibility to COVID-19.

“Some patients are avoiding doctors and hospitals now,” said Steele. “Some of this avoidance stems from concerns about coming in contact with COVID-19. On top of this, clinical trials of drug therapies for cancer patients have slowed down. It all makes the medical care more difficult to provide to the cancer patients who need it.”

Steele emphasizes that an important takeaway from the response to COVID-19 is that our health care system should have been more prepared for a general pandemic-level disease, in terms of stockpiling everyday equipment and supplies.

“What we lacked in our medical preparedness is just all those underlying abilities to treat a high volume of patients with any infectious disease,” he said. “What are the items that remain in low supply? It is not the test kit — it’s the swabs you need to get the sample that is lacking or the PPE that these doctors and nurses need to be able to safely do their job and treat patients.”

He added, “This may be, fundamentally, the biggest thing that happens in our lives. It is going to change our lives, politics and social behaviors. This outbreak is going to have a lot of different consequences that will unfold over a number of years. In fact, we will probably never do some things exactly the way we were doing them six months ago.”

50s

1956

William T. M. Grigg, retired communications director at the NIH, FDA and Public Health Service, has published “A Perfectly Natural Murder,” a medical-science murder mystery in which the government medical experts get it all wrong, and two amateurs — a raunchy ex-Marine and a woman lawyer — must wade through insurance fraud, workplace sex and a humorous impersonation to solve and avenge the murder. Early in his

career, Grigg was a science editor and medical writer at two newspapers and a media syndicate, as well as chief of staff for two liberal Republican congressmen.

Dan Moore announced the publication of his new book, “World War I: the Marne Miracle.” It chronicles the entry of the U.S. into the Great War, as well as his grandfather’s journey from Kenova, West Virginia, through college at W&L (1915-1917), officer training and finally his heroic role in the penultimate battle in France, the Second Battle of the Marne. The 3rd Infantry Division received its nickname, “The Rock

of the Marne,” because of this battle.

1958

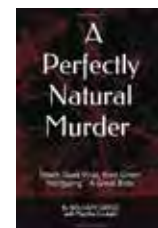
Stuart Flanagan, professor emeritus of mathematics at the College of William & Mary, has made a significant gift to that university’s School of Education. The funds will support graduate students working in the New Horizons Family Counseling Center, which assists families of students in Williamsburg and area public schools who are facing difficult times, and the New Leaf Clinic, which provides counseling to William & Mary students and other

community members struggling with the effects of substance abuse. He noted, “I am of the belief this is a most significant way to improve our country’s well-being.”

60s

1960

J.J. Smith wrote: “The only way that the coronavirus has interrupted my life is I am not able to play tennis two or three times a week at the Chevy Chase Club. As captain of one of our tennis teams, we won our



William T. M. Grigg '56
A PERFECTLY NATURAL MURDER



Dan Moore '56
WORLD WAR I:
THE MARNE MIRACLE



REFLECTING FORWARD

‘Navigating Turbulent Seas’

BY **BEAU DUDLEY '74, '79L**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS

DO ANY UNUSED ADJECTIVES REMAIN TO DESCRIBE THE many unsettling and impactful events since March? I cannot think of one, and it is not my place to offer unsolicited opinions on issues of global import in this column. Instead, I will apply the title Reflecting Forward to offer these observations about W&L.

We have been unable to have any in-person alumni events for months, but I have never seen alumni engagement deeper or broader. Alumni experiences, memories and opinions vary greatly, and reasonable alumni can and do disagree, but involvement across different generations and viewpoints affirms a common thread of caring about our future.

The Board of Trustees is leading our self-analysis, as it should be. Trustees have the fiduciary duty to do what is in the best long-term interests of the university. There is no rush to judgment. The trustees are thorough, deliberate and informed by the data and thoughts they are gathering.

They know that there will be strong feelings no matter what they decide, especially concerning our name. They accept that burden of leadership because, like so many of us, they care about W&L.

The trustees have sought the broadest possible input from the extended university community. Over 3,000 alumni have written directly. Over 14,000 respondents, including over 10,000 alumni — an amazing 46% of all contactable alumni — completed the trustee’s electronic survey. Thank you! The trustees have also conducted multiple listening sessions with different campus, alumni and parent

groups, characterized by thoughtfulness, powerful candor and respect for different opinions. There is broad agreement that although we have made real progress, more is required to make W&L inclusive and rewarding for the entire community.

W&L has experience navigating turbulent seas. We were nearly out of business in the 1860s. We survived and grew stronger. A large cheating scandal in the 1950s and the end of scholarship athletics were upsetting and controversial. Our thriving D-III program is a ringing tribute to the student-athlete model. Not long after he became our president in 1968, Bob Huntley '50, '57L had to obtain a short-term loan so that the university could meet payroll.

Thanks to alumni, parents, friends and institutional leadership over the last 50 years, we are on very solid financial footing. The coeducation discussions in the early '80s engendered very strong feelings, even promises by some alumni to sever all ties. That decision is celebrated rightfully as one of the very best we have ever made.

For generations, alumni have invested time, talent and financial resources to fuel W&L prosperity. Perhaps you have heard the adage, “It’s my school; right or wrong, it’s my school.” Numerous alumni have already expressed the intent to support whatever decisions come in the months ahead and do what they can to help the university thrive. I hope this kind of spirit will grow. An alumni commitment of trust, optimism and a willingness to do what each of us can will be an essential driver of the brightest possible future for Washington and Lee University.

interclub division, but this year has been canceled. So instead of tennis, I walk my bird dog, Rudy, a German short-haired pointer, for three or so miles a day; I walk three, he runs six or seven. I call him my personal trainer. I would like to share with you all that I have been elected commander general of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, a hereditary organization of descendants of officers of the armed forces of the Confederate States of America.”

1968

James F. Williamson Jr. completed a year’s

sabbatical in Italy and North Carolina spent capturing the genius loci – the spirit of place – through watercolor painting. In May 2020 he will retire from the University of Memphis, where he is a professor of architecture.

1969

Jeffrey P. Cropsey was appointed to the board of directors of the Sonoran Desert Institute in Tempe, Arizona. He spent over 40 years in various positions in the Department of Defense managing postsecondary education programs, and gave a presentation on

the history of military education programs at the annual meeting of the Council of College and Military Educators in Philadelphia.

70s

1970

Dr. Gregory L. Holmes, a neurologist at the University of Vermont Medical Center and a professor and chair of the department of neurological sciences at the Larner College of Medicine at UVM in Burlington, was named a University Scholar for his sustained

excellence in research, creative and scholarly activities.

80s

1980

Robert E. Hummel retired after over 30 years with First Midwest Bank in Chicago. He reports: “My wife, Cindy, and I are living at our Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, summer home until our new Knoxville, Tennessee, home is completed at the end of August. With one child left in college, one joining medical residency

at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and one working full-time in Greenville, South Carolina, Knoxville seems to be in the center of our geographically spread out family. Cindy and I can’t wait for the better Tennessee weather during the winter and look forward to meeting any W&L alumni who may be living there.”

1985

Paul A. Driscoll ('91L) was named a Subchapter V trustee at the U.S. Trustee Program. This is in addition to his creditor rights practice with the Zemanian Law Group in Norfolk, Virginia.

CELEBRATING A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER

All revenues from the University Store support W&L



- A. TCK Warm Fuzzy Socks \$18.99
- B. League Ash Snap Fleece Pullover \$54.99
- C. Kyle Cavan Sunburst Necklace \$165.00
- D. Colonnade Bread Board \$76.00
- E. Mayor Clothing Good Ol' Dubyuhnell Shirt \$125.00

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Robert J. Tomaso has been named president-elect of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis for 2020-21. He is a managing partner at Husch Blackwell.

1989

After 35 years in the dugout, **James A. Linza Jr.** has retired as a head high school baseball coach. His long career started when he was a freshman at W&L, and of the 27 squads he's skippered, 18 have brought home their league's championship while rewarding him with 344 victories and a .714 winning percentage. And since the 2020 season

will (unfortunately) not be played, he can still claim to be the last coach at three different schools within a 5-mile radius in Alexandria, Virginia, to win a title (Mt. Vernon in 2004, Hayfield in 2011 and West Potomac in 2019). He's thankful for all the great players and coaches who made this possible and for all the support he's been given by so many of you.

Michael Tuggle co-authored "The Voice of The Underdog: How Challenger Brands Create Distinction by Thinking Culture First" (BizComPress). The book examines the true essence of what makes a company a challenger

brand and unveils how successful challengers of all sizes use culture to create extraordinary brand distinction. Tuggle, president of Tuggle Creative Inc., is an award-winning creative director and writer who has spent more than 25 years in the ad world building brands and growing companies.

90s

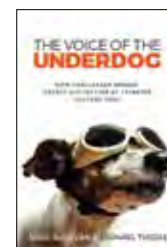
1991

Robby J. Aliff ('97L) was voted into the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) by its

national board. An invitation-only organization, ABOTA advocates for improvements in the ethical and technical standards of advocacy, protection of the right to trial by jury and judicial independence. He is a member of the Jackson Kelly law firm and resides with his family in Charleston, West Virginia.

Christopher Berdy, an attorney at Butler Snow LLP in Birmingham, Alabama, was elected as a new member of the IADC board of directors for 2020-21.

Dr. Paige Kilian, chief medical officer at Inovalon, received the 2020 Healthcare

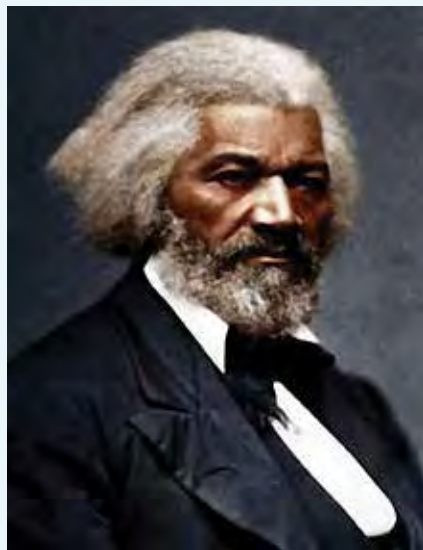


Michael Tuggle '89
THE VOICE OF THE UNDERDOG: HOW CHALLENGER BRANDS CREATE DISTINCTION BY THINKING CULTURE FIRST

LIFELONG LEARNING • INSTITUTE FOR HONOR SYMPOSIUM

Frederick Douglass and the Ethics of Historical Memory

VIRTUAL EVENT: MARCH 5-6, 2021



THIS YEAR'S INSTITUTE FOR Honor Symposium, which runs concurrently with the Five-Star Festival, will feature scholar David Blight in an exploration of the life of Frederick Douglass and the interpretation of history.

Blight, the Sterling Professor of History at Yale University, will deliver a lecture entitled "Frederick Douglass: Weaving Biography with History," drawing on his experience annotating an edition of Douglass's second autobiography, "My Bondage and

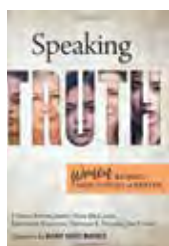
My Freedom," and writing his Pulitzer-winning biography "Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom."

We hope you will join us for a thoughtful discussion and learned scholarship on a topic of deep importance.

The Institute for Honor series, established in 2012, is made possible by an endowment from the Class of 1960.

For more information, please visit wlu.edu/alumni/lifelong-learning/campus-programs.

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▼
The Rev. Emily Peck-McClain '02
SPEAKING TRUTH

Businesswomen's Association Luminary Award for her leadership in the health care industry. She lives in Media, Pennsylvania.

1992

Susan Watkins Dulin participated in the initiation of her daughter Ellen '23 into Kappa Kappa Gamma in February 2020. They are the first mother-daughter Kappas in W&L's Zeta Tau chapter. Lottie Folline '21, daughter of Read Folline '92, is another new Kappa. Ellen took great delight in showing her friends her mom's big '90s hair on the large composite at the Kappa house!

1993

Dr. Stewart M. Long III joined Asheville Heart in Asheville, North Carolina, to continue practicing cardiovascular surgery at Mission Hospital.

1995

Jennifer Hickes Lundquist will publish a book with University of California Press in February 2021 co-authored with two of her former Ph.D. students. "The Digital Dating Divide: Race and Desire in the Era of Online Dating" is the first comprehensive look at how the contemporary context of neoliberalism, consumerism and the rise

of new digital technologies has given rise to a unique form of digital-sexual racism in the era of online dating.

1996

Stephanie Cobrin Cundith, director of communications, Cargill Protein – North America, was featured in the Wichita Business Journal in a profile on "Women Who Lead."

00s

2002

The Rev. Emily Peck-McClain co-authored "Speaking Truth" (Abingdon Press), with contributions from 92 Methodist clergywomen and those who are called to be clergy but not able to respond to that call because of gender identity or sexuality, all under 40. The publisher notes: "This book offers to all women the sustenance needed to face blatant racism, bigotry, sexism, heterosexism, and xenophobia in the world

and in the church.” The contributors represent the United Methodist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Lauren Paxton Roberts ('05L) was inducted as a fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation. She is an attorney with Stites & Harbison PLLC.

2004

Erin M. Dougherty joined Google as a UX program manager and will be based out of the San Francisco Bay area. She focuses on improving accessibility in Google’s advertising products.

2006

Allan C. Galis, an attorney with Hunter MacLean, was recognized as a 2020 Rising Star by Georgia Super Lawyers.

2009

Chaz D. Klaes ('12L) was promoted to shareholder with Donato, Brown, Pool & Moehlmann PLLC in Houston. He focuses on defending premises liability, personal injury, insurance defense, employment, medical malpractice, maritime and general civil litigation matters.

10s

2010

Tidewater Community College’s **Lucy Hundley O’Brien** is a member of the inaugural class of Salesforce Marketing Champions, individuals who have achieved expert-level product knowledge and serve as active and involved leaders in the Trailblazer Community.

2011

Lauren E. Bohdan ('14L) joined TimberlakeSmith as an attorney. She lives in Charlottesville.

2012

Scott H. McClintock worked on his second Republican National Convention, where he was the liaison to the nation’s governors, attorneys general, state leadership and the diplomatic corps of the State Department.

2013

Lauren A. Martin ('18L) joined Protogyrou Law in Norfolk, Virginia. She focuses on insurance defense and appellate advocacy.

2016

Sarah S. Rachal received her master of public health from Vanderbilt University with a concentration in global health on May 8, 2020. Her thesis investigated the relationship between neighborhood contexts and sedentary behavior for underserved children, and she completed her practicum with Primeros Pasos in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. She will be staying in Nashville to complete her fourth year as a medical student at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.



MATT BARTINI '12

Good Ol' Dubyuhnell

BY LOUISE UFFELMAN

IN SEPTEMBER, MATT BARTINI '12 dropped off the first batch of Good Ol' Dubyuhnell custom button-downs by his company, Mayor Clothing, created exclusively for the University Store. The shirt features iconic scenes of W&L's campus and student life, showcasing his love for W&L.

Bartini created his wearable artwork based on people's fond memories of time on campus. "The goal of any piece we create is for it to speak directly to the people whose story we are telling so they can wear it and share those stories," he explained.

Bartini, an economics major and math minor, is the founder and sole owner of Mayor Clothing (mayor@mayorclothing.com) in Atlanta. His clients include college and high school bookstores, wedding couples, resorts, golf course pro shops, clothing stores, yacht clubs and festivals. Each story is illustrated by a local artist, and the custom, upscale garments he creates, including button-downs, quarter-zips and performance polos, feature local scenes. These are something to wear to brunch, happy hour and group dinners.

Before Bartini got started, he asked friends, family and "anyone I could find on Instagram" for the stories they wanted to see illustrated on clothing. From those conversations, he attempted to create a button-down he named Houston Street after a beautiful country road off Route 11, where he used to run. However, that piece

was never fully released. "My execution of taking a story, having an artist illustrate it, then adapting it to fabric for a button-down was all wrong — the color, sizing, spacing and scenes just did not work, but I learned a lot from that failed attempt," Bartini said.

It wasn't until Bartini tapped into another important resource — W&L's Entrepreneurship Summit, where he could network with other alumni and access the talents of students in the Venture Club — that his W&L button-down began to take shape.

By the 2018 summit, the fourth he attended, he had seven pieces in his line, and he needed help creating a W&L button-down. "Three sophomores in the club, who were also from my old fraternity — my target market — were nice enough to choose my project," Bartini said.

Jack Jones '21, Alex David '21 and Billy Linthicum '21 picked up the idea and ran with it. "We asked hundreds of W&L students around campus what they liked about the button-downs in their wardrobe, what W&L scenes they loved most and what colors epitomized W&L," said Jones.

Missy Barro '21, an art major, drew the scenes of campus life and the surrounding landmarks. "Her work blew me away," said Bartini. "Whenever I start work on a particular piece, I look for a local artist intimate with the story's area and culture — the authenticity shows in the final product."

WEDDINGS



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(not pictured)
Goetz B. Eaton '80 to Ted Davis, on Sept. 22, 2019, in Glencoe, Scotland. In attendance were fraternity brothers Skip Kamis '80 and Rob Smitherman '81. Goetz and Ted live in Flourtown, Pennsylvania, where they moved a year and a half ago from Bedford, Massachusetts. Goetz lives across the street from Jack Jennings '65.

(not pictured)
Brook E. Hartzell '00 to Tad Freese, on Aug. 17, 2019, in the Marin Headlands in California. The Generals in attendance danced all night with the bride and groom. The couple noted, "Looking back on the evening amidst shelter in place, it was even more special to gather and spend time with dear friends and family."

1. Emmett H. Kennady III '80 to Lisa Young Rowan, on June 1, 2019. From l. to r.: Clifford B. Sondock '79, Christopher B. Burnham '80, Emmett H. Kennady IV, Walter A. Scott '79, Lisa Rowan, Emmett H. Kennady III '80 and Scott Van Dyke '80.

2. James Williams '88 to Meaghan Ryan, on Feb. 29, in Birmingham, Alabama. In attendance were David Burns '89, Gar Sydnor '89, Tom O'Brien '88, Jim Williams '88, Jake Williams '21 (groom's son), Mike Carroll '89 and David Grove '89.

3. Stephen Welker '05 to Emily Suggs on May 9, in the Kirkland Chapel of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. The couple reside in New York, NY.

4. Ashleigh Overly '06 to Corum Webb on Sept. 14, 2019, at the Pearl Hotel in Rosemary Beach, Florida. Generals rounding out the crowd included Tino Tovo '07, Louisa Feve McBride '06, David Will '06, Mary Holloway '06, Laura Byrne Will '06, Ashley Warren Tovo '06, Christine Gladysz Houston '06, Megan Curran '06, Virginia Mae Baird Thomas '06, Christina Zanotti Love '06, Mary Hammon Lee Quinn '06, Emily Nethero Golub '06, Susan Gaillard Hanzik '06, Mitchell Hanzik '04 and Chad Thomas '06. The couple live in Nashville, Tennessee.

5. Bryant Bradley '11 to Hannah Fred on Oct. 19, 2019, in Laguna Beach, California. Groomsmen included Patrick Rouse '11, Carson Haddow '11, Lindsay Crawford '11, Skip Wood '11 and Reed Stevens '10. Also in attendance were Charles Fleischmann '11, Anne Collier Reid Wood '11, Catherine Lindley Rouse '11 and Mary Morgan Radcliff Stevens '11. The couple reside in Houston, where Hannah is an associate at Hunton Andrews Kurth and Bryant is a petroleum geologist at DeGolyer and MacNaughton.



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6. Mary Elizabeth Bush '13 to Tim Joyce '16 on Oct. 19, 2019, in Pensacola, Florida. The wedding party included Kirsten Kyne Decembrino '13, Katelyn Daugherty '13, Jordan Missal '16, Kyle Tipping '16, Chris Lavin '16 and Mike Fitzgerald '16. Collier McLeod '13 and Maddie Kosar '16 served as readers. The couple live in New Orleans.

7. Nicholas Kordonowy '13 to Darby Radcliff on Jan. 4, in Mobile, Alabama. The wedding party included best man Matthew Kordonowy '15, Reed '10 and Mary Morgan Radcliff Stevens '12, Jack Pandol '11, Miles Martin '11, Alex Carr '12, Colin Hayes '12, Chris Janvier '12, Luke Allen '15 and Madeleine Maury Downing '19L. Many other alumni were in attendance. The couple reside in Naples, Florida.

8. Alex Hamill '13 to Max Hagler '12 on Aug. 18, 2018. Over 50 Generals (from the classes of 1981 to 2020) gathered in Lexington to celebrate. The wedding party included Parker Hamill '17, Morgan Holt '13, Leslie Peard '13, Rachel Aiken '13, Mary Jennings Van Sant '13, Audrey Kerr '13, Sallie Salley '13, Scott Snyder '12, Thomas Underhill '12, David Armstrong '11, Tom Bowden '11, Will Salley '13 and Hudson Hamill '20. Many other alumni attended, including Alex's father, Class of '81, and his KA brothers. The couple reside in San Francisco.

9. Matthew Egan '17 to Rachel Higgins on Oct. 19, 2019. From l. to r., from the back: Matt Egan '17, Stellings Lee '18, Dr. Richard Hoy '81, Eduardo Olondriz '15, Dalton Greenwood '17, Mark Anspach '17, Matthew Inglis '18, Zach Dubit '17, Bryant Becker '16, Alice Moore '16, Emily Webb '17. Arianna Jepsen '19 and Rachel Egan. Bottom row, l. to r., kneeling: Jake Rosen '18, Zach Howard '17, Saumya Patel '17, Kevin Ortiz '16, Grant Przybyla '17, Jonah Mackay '17 and Amelia Mason '17.

ALUMNI NEWS



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6

1. Enjoying dinner at Ross Singletary's house in Jacksonville, Florida. Front row, l. to r.: Joe Luter '87, Frank Surface Jr. '86 and David Surface '89. Back row, l. to r.: Tommy Donahoo '90, Ross Singletary '89, Taylor Williams '89 and Quinn Barton '90. Fresh red snapper caught by Quinn Barton that day.

2. Robbie Clarke '06, '11L and Mary Katherine Vigness Clarke '12L of Fort Worth, Texas, sporting their W&L masks made by Robbie's aunt Becky Morrison P'12, mother of Clarke Morrison '12. Becky, who resides in Atlanta, made masks for the seven W&L Generals in the family.

3. The Northern New Jersey Chapter's golf outing at Canoe Brook Country Club, Summit, New Jersey, August 2019, hosted by Rob Barber. A fun day was had by all, in spite of very hot weather. From l. to r.: Scott Bond '83, Marc McCabe P'23, Stanley Fink '64L, Senh Lee P'21, Jacob Rosen '18, John Cuzzocrea '94, Austin Lee '21 and Rob Barber '79.

4. A group of Sigma Chi alums gathered in Boca Grande, Florida, with their lovely spouses, to celebrate Sam Campbell's 60th birthday. At the Gasparilla Inn & Club, l. to r.: Chris Gammon '81, Sam Campbell IV '81, Winston Burkes '81, Peter Eliades '81, George Irvine III '81 and Ricky Wallerstein '80. A grand time was had by all!

5. David McLeod '88 shared a pic of former tennis players and wrestlers who gathered in Lexington in February 2019 to celebrate Coach Gary Franke's retirement. Franke was the wrestling coach from 1973-2011 and the tennis coach from 1979-2001.

6. Alexandra Fennell '98 (right) and Mia Abbruzzese are the co-founders and co-CEOs of Attn: Grace, the first sustainable wellness brand created specifically for

older women. Fennell, who has a B.A. in English and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law, has expertise building and leading large teams, litigating complex patent cases as a former partner at a large Boston law firm. She leads Attn: Grace's growth strategy, marketing, communications and culture. Mia and Alexandra reside in Boston with their four young children.

BIRTHS

Laura Westerman Tanner '05 and her husband, Chris, a daughter, Joanna Ellia.

Brooke Sanden Miller '06 and her husband, Chris, a boy, Hunter Nicholas, on Nov. 15, 2019. He joins siblings Tracey, Howard, Caroline and Lee Lee in Rifle, Colorado. Hunter and his siblings are the grandchildren of Dr. Howard V. Sanden '54.

David D. Croushore '07 and his wife, Maggie, a daughter, Annabelle Margaret, on April 27. She joins brothers Reid, 5, and Owen, 2. The family quarantines in Alameda, California.

Elizabeth Eckman Dawson '07 and **Peter Dawson '06**, a son, William Russell, on Dec. 18, 2019. He joins sisters Katharine, 6, and Anna, 3. They live in Rockville, Maryland.

Breanna Phillips MacBrien '09 and her husband, Trevor, a daughter, Hayden Jayne, on May 30.

Justin McKeen '09 and **Sara Foster-Reeves McKeen '09**, a daughter, Madison Lynn, on April 2, 2019. Madison joins sister Mollie, 3, and the family reside in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Sarah Keckler Reynolds '10 and her husband, Billy, a son, Walter Lowell, on March 23. He joins brother William IV, 3, and sister Lillian, 2. The family live in Gardners, Pennsylvania, and own and operate an iconic ice cream shop and restaurant, Twirly Top, while also growing their farm business focused on registered Hereford beef and commercial cattle.

Mary Morgan Radcliff Stevens '11 and **Reed Stevens '10**, a son, Coleman Radcliff, on July 12. The family live in Houston.

Cameron Wilhoit '12 and **Emily Wilhoit '11**, a son, Hudson Beale, on June 23, 2019. The family live in Charleston, South Carolina.

Victoria Van Natten Waddail '14 and her husband, Chris, a son, Theodore "Teddy" Hart, on May 11, 2019.

OBITS

Thomas C. Buford '41, of Glendora, Mississippi, died on Feb. 23. He served in the Army during World War II. He was a cotton, rice and soybean farmer in Glendora. He belonged to Phi Delta Theta.

Paul D. Barnes Jr. '44, of Miami, Florida, died on May 8. He served in the Navy. He was a partner in the Sally, Barns & Pahon law firm and belonged to Sigma Nu.

Dr. John W. Runyan '44, of Memphis, Tennessee, died on March 20. He served in the Navy. He joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee, Memphis, College of Medicine, where he founded the Division of Endocrinology and headed it for a decade. He belonged to Kappa Sigma.

Robert T. Goldenberg '45, '49L, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, died on Aug. 13. He served in the Navy. He practiced law in Parkersburg for 69 years. He was father to David Goldenberg '76 and belonged to Phi Epsilon Pi.



PHOTO BY PATRICK HINELY '73

L. to r.: President John Elrod, Farris Hotchkiss '58 and Frank Surface '60.

JAMES FRANK SURFACE JR. '60, RECTOR EMERITUS

James Frank Surface Jr. '60, rector emeritus of the Board of Trustees, died July 17, 2020. He was 82.

Surface served as a trustee from February 1996 through October 2005 and as rector of the board from November 1997 through May 2003.

In his 50th reunion Calyx, Surface wrote: "My election as rector of the board was the highest of honors, and it has been a privilege to have worked with fellow trustees, administrators, professors, students and alums in advancing the university's academic, building and campus programs. The highlights of our board's activities include a successful capital campaign, the establishment of a master plan and the construction of buildings and infrastructure to meet the many needs attendant to the momentous cocooning decision."

Born in Pittsburgh on March 15, 1938, Surface spent his early childhood near Christiansburg, Virginia, before the family moved to Jacksonville, Florida. He received his bachelor's of science in business administration, and while at W&L he was president of the student body, co-captain of the basketball team, a dorm counselor and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa.

Following graduation, Surface served as an officer in the Army and then attended the University of Florida Law School, graduating in 1963. He joined the law firm of Mahoney, Hadlow and Adams in Jacksonville, where he specialized in corporate and finance law and served as managing partner. In 1990, he joined the international law firm of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene and MacRae and then became chair, CEO and owner of Community Resource Systems (now Vesta Property Services Inc.)

Surface spent countless hours supporting his alma mater. He was a class agent; a founding member of the Institute for Honor (established in 2000); served on his 30th, 55th and 60th class reunion committees; chaired his 50th reunion, which endowed the Class of 1960 Professorship in Ethics; and served on the For the Rising Generation capital campaign. He was also a member of the Alumni Board, the George Washington Society, the Commission on the 250th Observance and the Jacksonville Alumni Chapter. In 1985, he was an adjunct professor at W&L Law.

In his community, Surface was a founding member of St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, the Jacksonville Zoological Society and Central Jacksonville Inc. He was a founder and former chair of Enterprise North Florida, a comprehensive state-supported public/private economic development enterprise, and was past chair of Leadership Jacksonville, the March of Dimes and a former trustee of The Bolles School.

He is survived by his wife, Sally; sons, Frank III '86 and his wife Heather, David '89 and his wife Marchant, and John '94 and his wife Kristen; and grandchildren Jamie, Gracie, King, Spencer, Eve and Bennett.



GUY T. STEUART II '53, TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Guy T. Steuart II '53, trustee emeritus, died Oct. 10, 2020. He was 89.

A native of Washington, D.C., Steuart attended St. Albans School and received his bachelor's degree in commerce from W&L in 1953. After graduation, he served for three years as an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard. He joined the family's real estate and development business and rose to become president of the Steuart Investment Co. He was also chairman of

Steuart Transportation Co. and a director of Allied Capital Corp. and American Security Corp.

Steuart served on W&L's Board of Trustees from 1983 to 1993. He chaired the Investment, Planning and Development, Nominating, Capital Projects and Executive committees. He served the university in other important volunteer roles, including chair of the R.E. Lee Associates giving society and as co-chair of his 50th reunion class committee. He was on the National Steering Committee and chair of the Leadership Gifts Committee for the On the Shoulders of Giants capital campaign.

Steuart and his beloved wife, Margaret "Peggy" Steuart, a university trustee from 1996-2005, supported W&L generously through numerous gifts, including the Annual Fund, Mock Convention, the Colonnade Restoration and Renovation, the Vernon W. Holleman Jr. '58 Scholarship, the Wilson Field renovation, Wilson Hall, the Reeves Center, the Theater Department, and multiple capital campaigns. The Steuarts are on Benefactors' Wall in Washington Hall.

Steuart lived in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and served his community as president of the Kenwood Citizens Association and as a trustee of Sibley Hospital, the National Cathedral School and Norwood School. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Washington.

He is survived by Peggy and their children, Elizabeth Ann, Guy Thomas '80, Bradley Curtis '86, Carter Morgan '88 and Hugh Thatcher '88. Granddaughter Langley Steuart, daughter of Carter '88 and Katherine '89, is a member of the Class of 2024.

James J. Naccarato '45L, of Silver Spring, Maryland, died on Feb. 3 at 101. He served in the Navy and was an attorney in the Department of Justice.

James H. Snell Jr. '45, died on May 14. He served in the Navy. He worked for the HK Porter Co., which later became Delta Star, in Lynchburg, Virginia, as a transformer and lightning arrestor engineer. He retired in 1990.

Ray F. English Jr. '46, of Tinton Falls, New Jersey, died on April 15. He served in the Coast

Guard Auxiliary. He was a retired health officer for Monmouth County, having served as chairman of the Communicable Disease Committee of the New Jersey Health Officers Association and as the liaison between the state health department and local health agencies. He belonged to Phi Kappa Psi.

Roger L. Campbell '47L, of Nacogdoches, Texas, died on Oct. 16, 2019. He belonged to Phi Gamma Delta.

James F. Feeney '49L, of Levittown, Pennsylvania, died on Jan. 6. He served in the Navy during World War II. He was employed in the accounting department of U.S. Steel until he retired.

Robert E. Lee IV '49, of Bethesda, Maryland, died on May 14. He served in the Army during World War II. He was the great-grandson of Washington College President Robert E. Lee.

William H. Leedy '49, of Washington, D.C., died on June 18. He served in the Air Force. He practiced law with the Lathrop Firm

for 44 years and belonged to Beta Theta Pi.

William H. Kennedy '50, of Salt Lake City, Utah, died on June 24. He served in the Navy. He was a contract negotiator at Hill Air Force Base. He belonged to Phi Gamma Delta.

Dr. George H. Pierson Jr. '50, of Greensboro, North Carolina, died on July 24. He served in the Air Force. He worked for Greensboro Radiology. He was father to Herman Pierson III '83 and Valerie Pierson Gammage '89; father-in-law to John Gammage '88; and grandfather to Shannon Bell '00 and Pierson Gammage '24. He belonged to Phi Kappa Psi.

William D. Rouse '50, of Springfield, Virginia, died on April 17. He served in the Navy during World War II. He was a property developer in northern Virginia and later worked at the Heart Disease Control Unit of the Public Health Service. He was uncle to Shep Rouse III '76 and belonged to Pi Kappa Alpha.

George R. Young '50, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died on May 29. He served in the Navy. He worked in the property and casualty insurance business and belonged to Kappa Alpha.

W. Upton Beall '51, of Tyler, Texas, died on June 11. He served in the Army. He was president of Robinwood Building and Development Co. for over six decades. He was grandfather to Cameron Carlock '13 and Georganna Madden '15. He belonged to Sigma Chi.

John K. Boardman Jr. '51, '06L, of Roanoke, died on July 8. He served in the Navy. He was president of Sam Moore Furniture for 40 years. Following his retirement, he returned to W&L and entered law school at the age of 70. He was father to Cathy Boardman '89, brother to Bill Boardman '63, '69L, and uncle to Betsy Boardman '01. He belonged to Beta Theta Pi.

Wesley G. Brown '51, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died on March 31. He served in the Army. He was an agent for Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co. He was father to Wes Brown Jr. '78. He belonged to Phi Delta Theta.

The Hon. Andrew B. Gallagher '51, '55L, of Shreveport, Louisiana, died on April 11. He served in the Army Reserve. He was a juvenile court judge until his retirement in 1999. He belonged to Sigma Nu.

Jack D. Kane '51L, of Tallahassee, Florida, died on May 22. He served in the Army during the Korean War. He worked for The Coca-Cola Co.

Charles F. Tucker '51, '53L, of Norfolk, Virginia, died on April 30. He practiced law with Vandeventer Black and served as the managing partner. He was father to Charles Tucker Jr. '81 and belonged to Kappa Sigma.

John C. Warfield '51, of Bonita Springs, Florida, died on Feb. 25. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. He joined the family business, Frederick Motor Co. He belonged to Kappa Alpha.

S. Ray West Jr. '51, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, died on March 22. He served in the Navy during the Korean War. He worked for Smart Chevrolet for 44 years, serving as secretary-treasurer. He was cousin to Adrian Williamson III '80 and belonged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Rev. John D. Hall '52, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on Aug. 2. He was the founder and executive director of the Marshall-Jackson Mental Health Center and maintained private practices in clinical and consulting psychology in Scottsboro and Huntsville.

William G. Hall Jr. '52, of New York City, died on May 29. He served in the Navy. He had a private law practice. He was uncle to Tim Cook '85, brother-in-law to Peter Cook '57 and cousin to Maynard Thomas '97. He belonged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Fred Hornaday Jr. '52, of Chestertown, Maryland, died on July 31. He served in the Army. He served as vice president for Sherwood Industries in Kensington, Connecticut. He belonged to Phi Gamma Delta.

Frazier Reams Jr. '52, of Perrysburg, Ohio, died on July 20. He was a former lawyer, state senator and owner of radio stations in Ohio and Michigan. He belonged to Beta Theta Pi.

Daniel W. Taylor '52, of Willow Street, Pennsylvania, died on Jan. 29. He served in the Navy during the Korean War. He served as chief of the public information branch of the National Center for Health Services Research, public information

specialist for the Office of the Surgeon General, and then editor of public health reports for the journal of the Public Health Service. He belonged to Sigma Chi.

C. Byron Waites '52, of Columbia, South Carolina, died on Nov. 17, 2019. He was a United Methodist minister and district superintendent. He was grandfather to Julian Hennig IV '19 and father-in-law to Julian "Jay" Hennig III '86. He belonged to Phi Kappa Psi.

Ivan Bergstein '53, of Los Alamos, New Mexico, died on Feb. 11. He served in the Army and worked in LANL's accounting department.

The Rt. Rev. Sam B. Hulseley '53, of Fort Worth, Texas, died on Aug. 6. He retired from the Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas, where he served as bishop for 17 years. He belonged to Delta Tau Delta.

Finley M. Bobbitt '53, of Melbourne, Florida, died on July 22, 2018. He belonged to Delta Tau Delta.

Dr. L. Glenn Christie Jr. '53, of Richmond, Virginia, died on Feb. 5. He began his private medical practice in Richmond in 1962, retiring in 2006. He belonged to Phi Kappa Sigma.

Thurman Downing '53, of Cleveland, Ohio, died on May 19, 2019. He served in the Army during the Korean War. He was president and CEO of Downing Coal Co.

Parker K. Smith Jr. '53, of Charleston, West Virginia, died on May 5. He served in the Navy. He was the Charleston



W. HAYNE HIPPI '62, TRUSTEE EMERITUS

William Hayne Hipp '62, trustee emeritus, of Greenville, South Carolina, died Aug. 27, 2020. He was 80 years old.

Hipp was born in Greenville on March 11, 1940. A third-generation Greenvillian, he devoted his life to creating positive change for the people and communities of South Carolina. In particular, he supported groups and nonprofit organizations committed to encouraging opportunity and diversity, including helping

start the Greenville Urban League (now the Urban League of the Upstate) and the Alliance for Quality Education (now Public Education Partners).

At W&L, Hipp belonged to the White Friars and the Christian Legal Society and competed in varsity football, lacrosse and wrestling. After graduating from W&L with a bachelor's degree in English, he earned an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and completed additional studies at Harvard University. Hipp began his professional career with Metropolitan Life Insurance in San Francisco and joined Liberty Life in 1969. In 1979, he became the chief executive officer of the Liberty Corp., a publicly held organization which included insurance companies and television stations with additional investments in media, real estate and technology ventures. He also served as a member of numerous local, state and national boards.

In 1985, Hipp joined W&L's Board of Trustees and served for 10 years. He supported the Annual Fund, the Colonnade Restoration and Renovation, the John and Anne Wilson Honor Scholarship, the Lee Chapel Endowment, the Robert L. and Anne W. Banse Law Scholarship, the James William McClintock III Honor Scholarship, the Theater Department, the Lee Massey McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship, the A. Paul Knight Memorial Program in Conservation, the Hewlett-Mellon Presidential Discretionary Fund, and the R. Kent Frazier Memorial Scholarship. He was an honorary member of Omicron Delta Kappa.

In 2003, Hipp and his wife, Anna Kate, in conjunction with The Aspen Institute, co-founded Liberty Fellowship, a network of values-based leaders committed to the betterment of life and opportunity for all citizens of South Carolina.

The couple were instrumental in raising funding for the development of the Liberty Bridge in Falls Park, which was named for Hipp's grandfather, Liberty Corp. founder W. Frank Hipp, and his family for their commitment and contributions to Greenville. Hipp also served as a trustee of the Greenville Hospital System, the Committee for Economic Development, and the American Council of Life Insurance. He chaired the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce, the Greenville Urban League and the Greenville YMCA. Hipp received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor, and was inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame. The town of Pawleys Island presented him with a key to the city for his civic work there.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Anna Kate; daughters Mary Henigan Hipp '90 and Anna Hayne "Tres" Small and her husband Robert; son Francis Reid Hipp and his wife Brice; and six grandchildren, Camilla, Hayne and Reid Hipp and Hannah, Clara and Samantha Small.

district data processing manager for C&P, Bell Atlantic and then Verizon telephone companies. He was father to Ray Smith '77 and belonged to Lambda Chi Alpha.

Dr. David E. Drum '54, of Richmond, died on March 28. He served in the Navy. He served as director of the radioassay laboratory and as the radiation safety officer at Peter Bent Brigham

Hospital. He was father to Martha Drum '94L and brother to Charles Drum '57. He belonged to Kappa Alpha.



JACK VARDAMAN '62, TRUSTEE EMERITUS

John “Jack” Wesley Vardaman '62, trustee emeritus, died Sept. 23, 2020. He was 80.

President William C. Dudley said, “Washington and Lee has lost a true friend of the university. During the time I knew Jack, he spoke fondly of his service as a trustee and with real enthusiasm about the university’s current goals and future prospects. We are grateful for his dedication to his alma mater and for his wise counsel.”

A history major, Vardaman was president of Sigma Nu fraternity and, during his senior year, of the Finals Dances. He served as vice president of White Friars and belonged to the Cotillion Club, Mongolian Minks, the Varsity Club, the Student Activity Board and the Dance Board. He also captained the golf team.

After graduation, he attended Harvard Law School and then clerked for Hugo L. Black, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He began his distinguished law career at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, moving to Williams & Connolly in 1970, where he handled environmental, products liability and toxic tort litigation.

Vardaman served on W&L’s Board of Trustees from 2005–2014. Over the years, he was an active alumnus, serving as chair of his reunion class committee, a class agent for the Annual Fund and a member of the D.C. Area Capital Campaign Committee. He was also co-chairman of his 50th reunion committee. Moreover, he supported the construction of the Hillel House, Colonnade Renovation and Restoration, Friends of Rockbridge, the Generals’ Club, the John W. Vardaman '62 Law Scholarship, and the Vardaman Family Scholarship Endowment. In 2002, Vardaman received W&L’s Distinguished Alumnus Award.

In his 50th reunion Calyx, Vardaman wrote that joining the board was, “a great opportunity to become reconnected to the university and to play a role in its future. While there have been a lot of changes in the 50 years since we graduated — the admission of women, Spring Term, the expansion of the campus, etc. — the most important features of the university remain the same. Just as the front campus looks the same as when we were there, so too the Honor System, the commitment to student self-governance and the ideal of academic excellence are still central parts of W&L life. I am happy to say that the core values remain unchanged.”

A skilled golfer, Vardaman was inducted into W&L’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011. As a freshman, he helped W&L claim the Virginia State Intercollegiate Championship held at the Cascades in Hot Springs, Virginia, where, 50 years later, he won the Virginia State Golf Association’s Super Senior Amateur tournament on that same course. He was ranked as one of the 10-best senior amateur golfers in the U.S. in 2001 by Golf Digest. He served as general counsel to the U.S. Golf Association, as chair for the Washington, D.C., First Tee program and on the board of directors for the Amateur Golf Alliance, representing the D.C. area.

He and his late wife, Marianne, owned Malvern Hall (Bath County, Virginia) that formerly belonged to W&L benefactor Letitia Pate Whitehead Evans. The couple had a portrait of her in their dining room, and during the frequent W&L events they hosted, the assembled guests drank a toast to W&L and to Lettie Pate for her contributions to the school.

He is survived by his children Davis '95, John, Tom and Shannon. His late father, John, was a member of the Class of 1936.

Robert B. Jacobi '53, '54L, of Bethesda, Maryland, died on May 15. He was a lawyer for 50 years with Cohn & Marks. He belonged to Zeta Beta Tau.

Thomas L. McNemar '54, of Lexington, died on Jan. 28.

Charles G. Rauh '54, of Naples, Florida, died on May 20. He served in the Army. He worked in highway and infrastructure construction, where he was an expert in the production of asphalt paving materials and aggregate. He belonged to Zeta Beta Tau.

William S. Merrick Jr. '55, of Baltimore, Maryland, died on July 21. He served in the Navy. He taught school for 58 years. He was father to Wendy Merrick Doak '92 and belonged to Sigma Nu.

Dudley B. Thomas '55, of Palm Coast, Florida, died on July 26. He belonged to Phi Gamma Delta.

Rev. Joseph R. Gardiner '56, of Moline, Illinois, died on July 1. He retired in 2015 following 12 years as pastor of care at Christ United Methodist Church.

Spencer M. Clarke '56, of Huntersville, North Carolina, died on April 20. He served in the Air Force. He was an executive with IBM and the United Way. He belonged to Delta Tau Delta.

Eugene I. Earnhardt Jr. '56, of Asheville, North Carolina, died on Feb. 4. He chaired the history department, ran many faculty committees, graded thousands of papers and impacted the lives of many students

and colleagues at Pfeiffer University. He belonged to Kappa Alpha.

Nelson V. Harper Jr. '56, of New York City, died on Nov. 18, 2019.

Robert E. Stroud '56, '58L, of Charlottesville, died on June 4. He retired from McGuire Woods as partner in 2002. He belonged to Phi Kappa Phi.

Milton H. Bevis Jr. '57, of Tallahassee, Florida, died on May 27. He served in the Marine Corps. He practiced law in Orlando. He belonged to Phi Delta Theta.

Allan R. Gitter '58, of Jefferson, North Carolina, died on May 17. He was an attorney with Womble Bond Dickinson. He belonged to Lambda Chi Alpha.

James H. Pruitt '58, of Wilmington, North Carolina, died on July 12. He served in the Army. He formed Cordel Corp., which was later acquired by Continental Disc. He belonged to Phi Delta Theta.

Gardiner W. White '58, of South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, died on March 16. He served in the Army during the Korean War. He was the manager and postmaster of The Packet, owned by his family in Padanaram Village. He belonged to Phi Kappa Psi.

Hugh J. Boulter '59, of the United Kingdom, died on June 28.

Richard C. Butler III '59, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died on June 4. He was a personal assistant to philanthropist Lucy Lockett Cabe. He was cousin to Haskell Dickinson '69.

Hugo Hoogenboom '59, '61L, of New York City, died on July 21. He served in the Army. His professional career was focused on nonprofit global assistance. He belonged to Delta Upsilon.

Thomas Mandey '59, of Santa Clara, California, died on April 18, 2019.

Bruce Macgowan '59, of Sarasota, Florida, died on April 8. He served in the Army. He worked at Sarasota Memorial Hospital and belonged to Pi Kappa Phi.

Lawrence D. Martin '60, of Egremont, Massachusetts, died on April 3. He served in the Army. He was owner of the former Taconic Builders Supply. He belonged to Phi Kappa Psi.

Walter C. Foulke '61L, of Auburn, New York, died on June 30. He served in the Navy. He was an attorney and father to Evan Foulke '86.

James E. Roane '61, of Hickory, North Carolina, died on March 16. He served in the Army. He retired as printing operations manager of Plastic Packaging Inc. in 2000. He belonged to Pi Kappa Phi.

Woodlan P. Saunders '62, of Amarillo, Texas, died on May 27. He owned Saunders Construction Co. in Santa Fe. He belonged to Delta Tau Delta.

Robert A. Council Jr. '62, of Benton, Arkansas, died on Feb. 14. He served in the Army. He practiced medicine for over 40 years and belonged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Simon M. Painter Jr. '62, of Staunton, Virginia, died on March 22. He was a real estate broker, a physics teacher and tennis coach at Stuarts Draft High School and an attorney. He was brother to Al Painter '62 and Sam Painter '72L. He belonged to Pi Kappa Alpha.

Henry H. Knight II '63, of Lexington, Kentucky, died on March 23. He served in the Army during the Vietnam War. He was senior vice president of Johnston, Brown, Burnett & Knight, Inc. He belonged to Sigma Nu.

Paul M. Penick II '63L, of Lexington, died on April 8. From 1963 to 1968 he served as the assistant counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, first under Sen. A. Willis Robertson of Virginia and then Sen. John Sparkman of Alabama. In 1968 he moved to Lexington and joined his father in the practice of law. He served as commissioner of accounts and commissioner in chancery for the City of Lexington and for Rockbridge County.

Peter M. Weimer '63, of Chagrin Falls and Catawba Island, Ohio, died on June 17. He served in the Marine Corps and worked in the real estate industry. He was brother to Ben Weimer '58 and belonged to Phi Delta Theta.

Dr. Thomas L. West '63, of Memphis, Tennessee, died on May 11. He served in the Coast Guard during the Vietnam War. He was a general surgeon.

Charles R. Dennis '64, of Saint Petersburg, Florida, died on April 4. He served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam



J. HAGOOD ELLISON JR. '72, TRUSTEE EMERITUS

J. Hagood Ellison Jr. '72, trustee emeritus, died July 20, 2020. He was 70.

Ellison entered W&L from Christ School, Arden, North Carolina, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science. As an undergraduate, he was a dorm counselor, president of Pi Kappa Alpha and a representative to the Interfraternity Council. He was also active in the ROTC and served as a second lieutenant in Key West, Florida, before earning his M.B.A.

at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

Ellison joined Merrill Lynch in its Columbia, South Carolina, office in 1976 and focused on investments, income management and retirement strategies. Barron's named him to its 2014, 2015 and 2016 Top 1,200 Financial Advisors lists, ranking him in the top 10 advisors in South Carolina. Barron's also named him to its list of Top 1,000 Advisors every year since 2009, ranking him the number one financial advisor in the state in 2013. In 2016, Ellison was named to the Financial Times Top 400 Financial Advisors list.

As an alumnus, he was active in the Honor Our Past and For the Rising Generation capital campaigns, was president of the Palmetto Alumni Chapter and served on the Alumni Board from 1998 to 2002 and as a trustee from 2004 to 2011. In addition, he was a member of the University Athletic Committee, the George Washington Society, his 35th and 40th class reunion committees, the Parents Leadership Council and was an alumni career mentor.

In his community, Ellison served on the boards of the Boy Scouts, the Columbia Museum of Art, Christ School Alumni Council, Columbia Philharmonic Orchestra, Heathwood Hall Episcopal Academy, the Center for Cancer Treatment and Research and Lynn University. He received Merrill Lynch's Lifetime Community Achievement Award in 2003.

Ellison is survived by his wife, Eleanor, and children, Zan '03, Adger and Andrew '07.

War. He owned Durty Reids Bar on Grand Cayman island and belonged to Kappa Sigma.

The Hon. Charles D. Bennett Jr. '66L, of Roanoke, died on April 23. He served in the Air Force. He served as an administrative law judge for Medicare in Cleveland, Ohio.

Howard W. Davis Jr. '67, of Bozeman, Montana, died on May 23. He was president of Tracy-Locke Advertising. He belonged to Sigma Phi Epsilon.

John T. Morse '67, '71L, of Charleston, South Carolina, died on July 30.

He retired from Federal Express as senior vice president for legal and regulatory affairs. He was father to Richard Morse '03, brother-in-law to Chip Laurens '73 and uncle to Tucker Laurens '10. He belonged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Edmund H. Armentrout '68, of Bent Mountain, Virginia, died on Aug. 6. He served in the Army. He was president and owner of The Research Group Inc. and later Armentrout & Associates, Inc. In 1999 he purchased and ran Budget Signs in Roanoke. He belonged to Lambda Chi Alpha.

Thomas M. Doss '68, of Pleasantville, New York, died on August 16. He retired from banking as CFO of The National Bank of Canada in New York City. He belonged to Sigma Phi Epsilon.

John R. Nazzaro '68, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died on June 6. He served in the Army. He had a 40-year career with the United Way.

Samuel D. Hinkle IV '69, of Shelbyville, Kentucky, died on July 10, 2019. He worked as an attorney in Louisville for Stoll Keenon Ogden. He belonged to Delta Tau Delta.

Charles E. Pettry Jr. '69, of Charleston, West Virginia, died on July 29, 2019. He had a private law practice. He belonged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Thomas R. Robinett '70, '75L, of Winchester, Virginia, died on April 11. He served in the Army. He had a private law practice and served in public service for several municipalities across Virginia.

Albert Angrisani '71, of New York City, died on April 23. He was a Bernardsville councilman for two terms and served as assistant secretary of labor and chief of staff for the Department of Labor. He joined the Arthur D. Little strategy consulting firm before launching Angrisani Turnarounds. He also served on corporate boards, including that of Total Research Corp., of which he became president and CEO. He belonged to Pi Kappa Phi.

William M. Gravatt III '71L, of Blackstone, Virginia, died on April 15. He practiced law in Blackstone. He belonged to Delta Tau Delta.

Dr. J. Hudson Allender '72, of Fort Worth, Texas, died on May 18. He was a general pediatric cardiologist at Cook Children's Medical Center. He was father to Emily Allender Wilhoit '11 and father-in-law to Cam Wilhoit '12. He belonged to Sigma Chi.

Franklin C. Coyner Jr. '74L, of Waynesboro, Virginia, died on July 13. He served in the Navy. He was an attorney with a private practice in Stuarts Draft for over 40 years.

A. Charles Thullbery Jr. '74, '77L, of Lake Wales, Florida, died on Aug. 1. He served as chief assistant state attorney until his retirement in 2012.

Jeffrey S. Miller '75L, of Jacksonville, North Carolina, died on July 30. He practiced law for over 40 years.

Paul S. Richards III '75, of Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, died on June 13. He researched and wrote articles on cars and trucks for over 30 years and was editor of the Commercial Carrier Journal.

William C. Scott '75, of Richmond, died on April 2. He worked for Virginia Paper Co. and then in the financial services field. He was father to Margaret Scott Bader '05, father-in-law to Dave Redmond '66, '69L and uncle to Scott Redmond '94. He belonged to Delta Tau Delta.

James M. Sturgeon Jr. '75L, of Charleston, West Virginia, died on March 24. He was an attorney and CPA.

Thomas H. Baumann '76, of Mequon, Wisconsin, died on July 15. He joined his father's company, Great Lakes Rubber & Supply, and saw it through growth and expansion for 43 years. He belonged to Lambda Chi Alpha.

James R. Krumenacker '76L, of Dublin, Ohio, died on June 2. He worked for the Ohio Industrial Commission as an administrative law judge.

Asa G. Candler VI '78, of Atlanta, Georgia, died on Feb. 24. He was vice president of Candler Development Co. He was cousin to Robert Griffith III '83.

Robert J. Berghel Jr. '80, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died on Feb. 22. He managed his own commercial real estate brokerage firm, Broad Street Partners. He was brother to Bill Berghel '83.

Thomas G. Alfano '81, died on Jan. 14. He was brother to Bill Alfano '82 and belonged to Phi Kappa Sigma.

Bonnie Lineweaver Paul '83L, of Dayton, Virginia, died on May 24. She was the first woman elected to the Virginia House of Delegates from the Shenandoah Valley, serving from 1976 to 1979. She had a private law practice for 30 years. She was mother-in-law to Thomas Imeson '85.

Ralph A. Dosser '84 of Boulder, Colorado, died on April 26. He joined Inspiring Apps in 2009, where he worked as a senior developer.

R. Kevin Hardage '84, of Dallas, died on April 3. After practicing corporate law for a number of years, he moved into the investment management business. He was father to Will Hardage '20 and Jack Hardage '22.

William M. Wilson '84, of Richmond, died on June 23. He worked in the insurance industry. He belonged to Phi Kappa Sigma.

Randolph C. Robertson '85L, of Richmond, died on April 26. He practiced law in Richmond.

Gaylord Johnson III '86, of Skillman, New Jersey, died on May 28. He worked for Harding Loevner Management in Somerville, where he was a partner. He was brother to Doug Johnson '92 and

father to Samantha Johnson '22. He belonged to Kappa Alpha.

David L. Lundy '86L, of Arlington, Virginia, died on Feb. 21. He was an attorney.

Anne C. Grove '87L, of Roanoke, died on April 19.

Ruth Duvall Kuhnel '87L, of Salem, Virginia, died on May 2. She was counsel to the Roanoke County/Salem Department of Social Services and county attorney of Roanoke County. She was wife to Paul Kuhnel '87L.

Patricia J. Wohl '90L, of Vienna, Virginia, died on Jan. 19. She worked at Elias, Matz, Tiernan and Herrick L.L.P., in Washington, D.C.

Lee H. Stewart '91, of Vestavia, Alabama, died on Aug. 15. He was a civil defense litigator and belonged to Phi Gamma Delta.

Robert H. Burger '93, of Richmond, died on Feb. 6. He worked for SunTrust Bank. He belonged to Lambda Chi Alpha.

Dr. Larry F. Smith '95L, of Appomattox, Virginia, died on Aug. 12. He operated a private family medical practice in Appomattox and later co-founded Smith and Marchand L.L.P. in Dallas. In 2006, he returned to Appomattox to reopen his medical practice.

Russell L. Hewit Jr. '02, of Chatham, New Jersey, died on June 11. He was vice president of execution services at Citadel Securities in New York. He was son to Russ Hewit '74, '77L. He belonged to Phi Kappa Sigma.

Chad H. Austin '11, of Buena Vista, Virginia, died in 2019.

Brandon R. Carner '21, of Northport, New York, died on July 5. He belonged to Phi Gamma Delta.

FRIENDS

Jennifer J. Ashworth, of Lexington, died June 9. She began her career at W&L as a temporary trade book manager, moving to the History Department as an administrative assistant in 1990. She retired in 2018.

Lawrence "Larry" W. Broomall Jr., former vice president for finance at Washington and Lee University, died Sept. 14. He was 78. He joined W&L in 1986 as university treasurer and was promoted to vice president for finance in 1996. He retired in 2004.

Franklin Delano "Skipper" Camden died Sept. 1. He worked as a painter in Facilities Management at W&L.

Henry H. Weeks, of Lexington, died on June 10. He joined W&L in 1964 as a carpenter. He became foreman of the carpentry shop, serving in that role until his retirement in 1995.



Group photo taken during first-year orientation week.

Conferral of Degrees

“The Class of 2020 is unique in that we will graduate without as much time together as we deserved. In response, we can make a unique effort to care about one another, remain close and return to our home in Lexington as often as possible.”

Will Bolton '20, EC president, message to the Class of 2020.

WASHINGTON AND LEE University conferred degrees on 446 students during an online ceremony on May 23, the original date scheduled for its 233rd undergraduate Commencement. The in-person, traditional Commencement exercises for the Class of 2020 are scheduled for May 23, 2021.

President William C. Dudley told students that the day's event was not a substitute for Commencement. “It is something different, but no less important,” he said.

Dudley recognized this year's recipients of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award: Joëlle Simeu, of Media, Pennsylvania, and Julio Hidalgo Lopez, of Saint Joseph, Missouri. The two were selected by the faculty as individuals who best

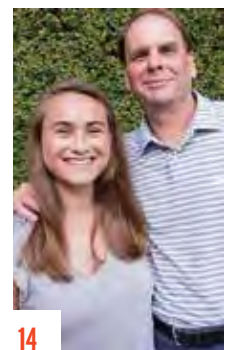
demonstrate high ideals of living, spiritual qualities and generous service to others. They will speak at the on-campus celebration next spring.

Matthew O'Neal Withers, of Collinsville, Virginia, was named valedictorian. Withers graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in physics. He is a Johnson Scholar and member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies.

Details on all commencement activities can be found at wlu.edu/commencement.

COMMENCING TO CELEBRATE

Even though graduates and their alumni relatives couldn't celebrate the ceremony in person, they staged their own photos to mark their milestone event. Congratulations to all.



1. Garrett Allen '20 and his father, E.G. Allen III '88.

2. James Archie '20 with his sister, Ellen Archie '14, and their father, Andrew Archie '79.

3. Katie Bearup '20, and her father, Mike Bearup '85.

4. Anna Kate Benedict '20 and her father, Keith Benedict '96L.

5. From l. to r.: Elizabeth Case '18 sister), Jack Case '20, and their father, John Case '86.

6. Anne Pearson Fox '20 with her grandfather, Jay Fox '57, and her father, Ted Fox '90 (left).

7. Hudson Hamill '20 (far right) with sister Parker Hamill '17, father Jeff Hamill '81, sister Alex Hamill Hagler '13, brother-in-law Max Hagler '12 and mother Susan Hamill.

8. McKinley Hamilton '20 and her father, John Hamilton '89.

9. Abby Hinrichs '20 with her parents, Gregory Hinrichs '93 and Kathleen Sparks Hinrichs '94

10. Lily Horsley '20 with her father, Garrett Horsley '90L.

11. Gigi Lancaster '20 and Corson Purnell '20 with, from l. to r.: Jim Lancaster '88, John Lancaster '58, Maury Purnell Jr. '61 and Maury Purnell III '90.

12. Dixon Layton '20 and his parents, Andrew Layton '89 and Sarah Clark Layton '91.

13. Robb Lovelace '20 and his father, John Lovelace II '83.

14. Margot McConnell '20 and her father, Allen McConnell '89.

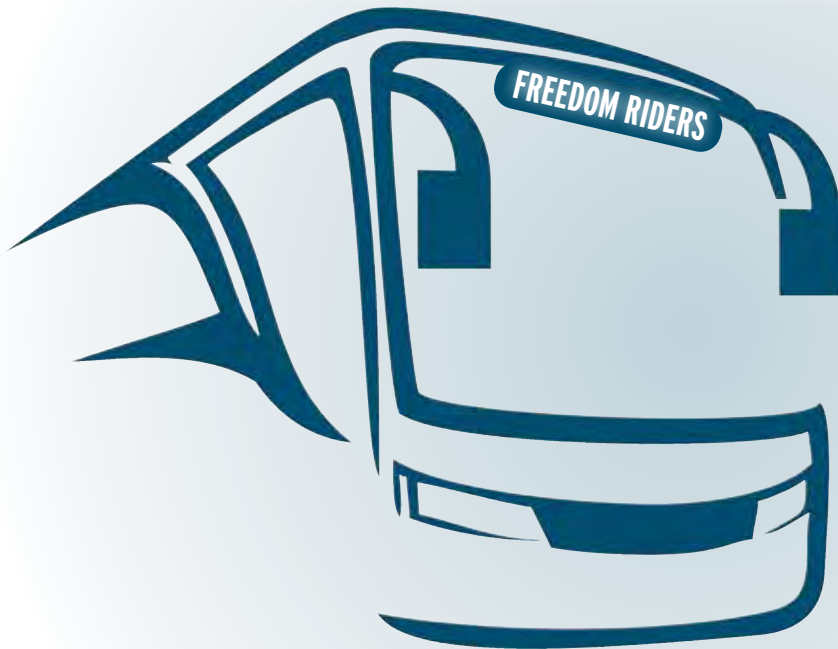


15. Sydney McGrew '20 with her father, Mac McGrew '87.
16. Roby Mize III '20 and his father, Roby Mize Jr. '87.
17. Abby Nason '20 and her parents, Paul Nason '92L and Christina Gratke Nason '92L.
18. Faith Palmer '20 and her father, Catesby Palmer '82.

19. Shelley Patrick '20 and her father, McGowin Patrick '86.
20. Sam Pumphrey '20 and his father, Drew Pumphrey '81.
21. Anne Shannon '20 and her father, Scott Shannon '85.
22. Mathilde Trueheart Sharman '20 and her father, Jackson Roger Sharman '83.

23. Harry Shepherd '20 and his father, Gerald Shepherd '86.
24. Molly Sykes '20 and her father, Brian Sykes '98L.
25. Caroline Trammell '20 and her father, Pete Trammell '92.

26. Ian T. Treger '20 and his father, Neil T. Treger '79.
27. Andrew Mark Weinstock '20 and his mother, Katherine Manion Weinstock '94L.
28. Matthew Withers '20 and his father, Wayne Withers '88L.



“He had a quiet, determined, no-back-down look. He told me that he had been in protests before without offering details. I contemplated the essence of nonviolent protest, offering your head to a club without a twitch.”

An Evening with John Lewis

BY JAMES HANSCOM '58



They buried John Lewis today (July 28). I'm sure he would not have remembered our brief meeting, as the incident was soon overwhelmed by events.

It was May 4, 1961. I was at home on my day off when I received a phone call from Charles Sherrod, a leader in the nascent Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a foot soldier in Martin Luther King's movement and a local leader of the previous year's student sit-ins, inviting me to a small dinner at Virginia Union Theological Seminary. Richmond was the first stop on the itinerary of the Freedom Riders.

As a police reporter, one had to tread carefully in covering racial matters, but I had managed to make my way without criticism from either side. I was trained to play it straight.

The group was traveling by bus to New Orleans, challenging Jim Crow laws on racial segregation in the Deep South as they went. They had Supreme Court rulings to

comfort them, but little else.

The 13 Riders were civil rights warriors, a mixture of Black and white, young and old, religious and secular, Northern and Southern, and some undoubtedly showed up in FBI records. The sponsor was the Congress on Racial Equality.

I was struck by one Black who stood out because of his youth and demeanor. He was 21, younger than I (25). He had a quiet, determined, no-back-down look. He told me that he had been in protests before without offering details. I contemplated the essence of nonviolent protest, offering your head to a club without a twitch. His kit bag carried three books, one on Gandhi, one by Catholic philosopher Thomas Merton and the Bible. That was John Lewis.

I wrote a four-page story recounting my time with the Freedom Riders, using a downplayed, just-the-facts style to tell Richmond's readers who these people were that had ridden by. The city editor thanked me but "spiked" my copy. He didn't have to tell me why. The News Leader,

where Douglas Southall Freeman, he of Lee's Lieutenants, once reigned as editor, was still very much part of the South. It wouldn't lie, but it wouldn't tell all the truth.

Eventually, the Freedom Riders banged their way south to the Selma bridge. John Lewis suffered a cracked skull, the beatings were top of the evening news and on the cover of Time. The city editor asked if I would mind rewriting my earlier piece to reflect the stop in Richmond. I minded. I declined.

Upon reflection, I decided internally that if I wanted to continue following the civil rights story, I needed to find a different venue. Journalistically, the catnip of a story becomes poison with suppression. Meanwhile, I had to swallow frustration; I had a child on the way and needed a job. I asked to be switched to other coverage, and was introduced to the business/financial beat, with a back-up in politics.

I covered several more civil rights protests after that, but business/finance became my muse.

John Lewis stayed the course.

Have a story to share? We would love to hear from you – email magazine@wlu.edu.

Conversations About Our Past, Present and Future

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

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*Making space for conversations
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Facilitating a Community Discussion



A Q&A WITH RECTOR MICHAEL R. MCALEVEY '86 ABOUT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND ITS CHARGE.

How is the Board of Trustees approaching this decision?

As fiduciaries of the university, the trustees owe a special legal duty to the university to fully inform themselves before making a decision and to act without fear or favor in what they honestly believe to be the university's best interests. This is a solemn responsibility that may only be fulfilled through a thorough process, including a careful assessment of all competing views.

Why did you form a Special Committee?

The Special Committee is part of the board's thorough decision-making process. We thought it made good sense to involve a subset of the trustees to lead the board's work, to gather, organize and analyze information and frame the questions that will place the board in the best position to have a substantive discussion and arrive at well-reasoned decisions. It is important to emphasize here that any decision on a name change is a full board decision, and the Special Committee helps inform that decision.

How were committee members selected? Were they required to share their views about a name change before being appointed?

We designed the committee so that it has enough people with the breadth of experience and backgrounds to do its work. Diversity on the committee helps the full board by ensuring the most complete consideration of viewpoints that will guide the full board's consideration of these issues. Special Committee members were not required to share their views about a name change in advance of appointment to the committee, and all board members were asked to keep an open mind throughout this process.

How will the views and opinions of the W&L community be heard and considered?

We have heard from over 14,000 alumni, students, parents and employees through our official survey, for an overall response rate of 44%. Each of our constituencies was well represented, with responses from 46% of alumni, 47% of undergraduate students, 61% of law students, 51% of faculty and staff, and 35% of parents. In addition to the survey, we have conducted 13 listening sessions with students, faculty, staff and alumni and have read thousands of individual communications. We value the opinions and arguments from all sides of these important questions.

How long do you expect all of this to take?

In my July letter to the W&L community I stated that the decision-making process may take six months or more, and there is no update to that timeline. We have made a great deal of progress, yet there is still more work to do. I have been trying to update the community at regular intervals.

What is the role of the rector in this matter?

It is important to note here that this is a decision for the full board. In my role as rector, I try to focus the board on the most important subjects and questions facing the university and to design and lead a process that provides the group with the information and resources to arrive at the most complete and balanced decisions. In the end, I am just one trustee – one voice on any given subject.

Is the decision on a name change a foregone conclusion?

The answer is absolutely not pre-ordained. We would not be going through this process if we believed that any outcome was inevitable. The decision of whether to keep or change the university's name is extremely complicated and requires a balancing of many considerations. Reaching a

conclusion before doing our work would be contrary to our solemn responsibility as trustees.

What are the specific requirements for changing the name of the university or altering the diploma?

Virginia law requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the trustees to amend the university's charter to change the name. A decision to change the form of the diploma requires a majority vote.

Will the naming issue leave a permanent divide in the W&L community?

This is a serious consideration for the board – as it should be for all of us. We recognize the naming issue engenders powerful emotions and that any decision will leave some members of our community disappointed and upset. The board must make the decision it believes is in the best interest of the university. We ask all of our constituencies to accept that there are legitimate differences of opinion on the best course forward. It is our hope that our community is strong enough to weather these disagreements without creating lasting divisions that would diminish our ability to offer a top-quality education for our students. The board will do all it can to preserve the continuity of this community, and we ask everyone to join us in this effort.

An excerpt from the July 7 letter from the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has been watching and listening carefully during this time, and we have been moved by the importance of these issues and the passions they ignite. We have received numerous requests from students, faculty and alumni calling for changes in the university, including renaming the institution itself and altering the design of its diploma. And we have received equally urgent communications emphasizing that change in support of racial justice should not require any change to the university's name or its diploma.

The board recognizes the dissonance between our namesakes' connections to slavery and their significant

contributions to the university. And we are committed to a deep and detailed review of our symbols and our name with the intention of securing the brightest possible future for this institution:

We have formed a special board committee to conduct this work. The committee is composed of 10 current trustees, led by co-chairs William Toles '92, '95L and Craig Owens '76. President Dudley will participate in an ex-officio capacity.

The committee will conduct a thoughtful and deliberative process, soliciting widespread input from all of our constituencies, gathering and analyzing data, and consulting experts as needed to inform its work.

Examining Our History: A Timeline

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' EXAMINATION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S NAME AND SYMBOLS IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS TO ADDRESS WASHINGTON AND LEE'S HISTORY, INCLUDING:

A group of law students sent a list of changes they wanted to see at W&L to then-President Ken Ruscio '76. The group asked:

- ▶ That the university fully recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the undergraduate campus.
- ▶ That the university stop allowing neo-Confederates to march on campus with Confederate flags on Lee-Jackson Day and to stop allowing these groups to hold programs in Lee Chapel.
- ▶ That the university immediately remove all Confederate flags from its property, including those flags located within Lee Chapel.
- ▶ That the university issue an official apology for its university's participation in chattel slavery and a denunciation of Robert E. Lee's participation in slavery.

In response, Ruscio ordered the removal of the flags from the chapel and banned historical uniforms and Confederate flags on campus. He also charged the working group on the history of African Americans, which he had created in 2013, to study the university's involvement in slavery, which eventually led to the creation of a historical marker honoring the individuals enslaved at Washington College in the 19th century. The undergraduate faculty voted to cancel classes on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

President Dudley announced the formation of the Commission on Institutional History to "lead us in an examination of how our history – and the ways that we teach, discuss and represent it – shapes our community."

President Dudley issued his response to the Commission's report, which included the creation of a new cabinet-level position for a director of Institutional History to spearhead the creation of a new museum devoted to the history of the university. He also committed the university to recapturing Lee's initial vision for the Lee Chapel as a place of assembly that is welcoming to all members of our community. He noted that the Board of Trustees had confirmed that Lee Chapel and Lee House would retain their names and would discuss other issues raised by the Commission's report, including the naming of campus buildings, at its next meeting.

WINTER/SPRING 2014

AUG. 31, 2017

AUGUST 2018

AUG. 14, 2017

MAY 2018

OCTOBER 2018

In the wake of the violent confrontations in Charlottesville between white supremacists and counterprotesters, President Will Dudley acknowledged in a message to the W&L community the university's "complex history with regard to the Confederate symbols and figures around which these hateful groups are rallying. Lee, our former president and one of our namesakes, has become a particularly polarizing figure."

President Dudley shared the commission's report with the W&L community, saying that he would consider the commission's recommendations in consultation, as appropriate, with W&L's Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni.

The university also unveiled its Strategic Plan, which had been under development for 15 months, prior to and independent of the Commission's work. The plan established as university priorities recruiting students and faculty from under-represented groups, creating a more inclusive environment, and teaching and presenting its institutional history as comprehensively and accurately as possible.

The Board of Trustees voted to make several changes to Lee Chapel and campus building names, closing the doors to the chamber housing the recumbent statue of Lee during official university events and replacing the portraits of George Washington and Robert E. Lee in the chapel with portraits depicting the two men at the time of their direct contributions to the institution. Robinson Hall was renamed Chavis Hall in recognition of the first African American to receive a college education in the U.S., and Lee-Jackson House was renamed Simpson House in recognition of the first woman to become a tenured professor at the university.

Dr. Lynn Rainville joined W&L as the inaugural director of institutional history following a national search.

JULY 2019

The racial reckoning that swept the nation in response to the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police reignited discussions surrounding W&L's namesakes and the racial climate on campus. The faculty and the student Executive Committee called for the board to change the name of the university.

JUNE/JULY 2020

The board received several thousand letters from the W&L community. Authors made impassioned pleas to keep the name or change the name and expressed a wide variety of opinions about whether and how the campus climate could be improved.

SUMMER 2020

FEBRUARY 2020

The board declined a law student petition requesting that the university provide students with the option of removing the portraits of namesakes George Washington and Robert E. Lee from their diplomas.

JULY 2020

The Board of Trustees created a Special Committee that would engage in "a deep and detailed review of our symbols and our name with the intention of securing the brightest possible future for this institution." The committee was charged with "conduct[ing] a thoughtful and deliberative process, soliciting widespread input from all of our constituencies, gathering and analyzing data, and consulting experts as needed to inform its work."

SEPT. 15, 2020

The board sent a survey to members of the W&L community requesting input on the university's name, symbols and campus climate. (See p. 55 for some of the responses.)

What We're Talking About

OVER THE SUMMER, SEVERAL GROUPS OF ALUMNI WROTE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING TWO MAIN ISSUES IMPACTING W&L: THE UNIVERSITY'S NAMESAKES AND CAMPUS CLIMATE. SOME GROUPS ARE NEW, SOME ALREADY EXISTED. WE SPOKE TO A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH GROUP, AND THESE SUMMARIES HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE MAJOR TOPICS EACH IS CONSIDERING, ADVOCATING FOR AND ACTING UPON.

NOT UNMINDFUL (A CALL FOR CHANGE AT W&L):

a group of alumni, students, faculty and staff of Washington and Lee University focused on changing the name of the university, with particular attention on removing Lee, as a necessary step in the process of change. The group also supports the board's Strategic Plan to create a more inclusive environment. Spokesperson: Betsy Green '97, group moderator.

- ▶ Support removing Lee's name
- ▶ Facebook membership: 3.1K
- ▶ Its letter to the board and a summary of requests can be found at NotUnmindful.org
- ▶ Collected approximately 1,000 signatures to a letter to the Board of Trustees

ON ROBERT E. LEE

Washington and Lee is one of the communities that's dearest to my heart. You can't spend four years at Washington and Lee and not have an appreciation for what Robert E. Lee did for the school. But many of those accomplishments have been exaggerated. He did not start our Honor System, for example. That was one of the biggest things that I believed when I was a student, and I've only recently discovered is not true. He did accomplish things for our college, but so did other college presidents. My personal favorite would have to be President John Wilson, because, if not for him, I wouldn't have been able to attend W&L. We have to remember that Lee has a greater meaning to the world than he does just to the W&L community.

ON HISTORY AND CHANGE

There's a fear that our group wants to erase history, and that's absolutely not the case. We think that putting Lee on a pedestal and holding him up to be this perfect ideal of a person is actually erasing history. What we want to do is to contextualize him. Let's take him off the pedestal and examine who he truly was as a person, good and bad. And that will help us truly learn and grow. I think what we all have in common – the Not Unmindful group, the Generals Redoubt, the trustees emeriti, the alumni volunteers – all of us come to this from a place of love for the institution. We recognize that changing anything at Washington and Lee and in Lexington can be hard, because we all have such love and such fond memories of the institution. But if we want to continue to be relevant, change is imperative.

ON THE FUTURE

Just changing the name of the college doesn't magically erase any problems with racism or intolerance, and we need to have that be just one part of our overall goal. We support the Strategic Plan of the university, and we would like to accelerate progress on the parts of it that have to do with diversity and inclusion among our student body, faculty and staff. We want to have the administration examine and address problems of our campus climate with regard to racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and so on. We'd like to challenge the Board of Trustees to diversify.

We need to truly be a caring, inclusive, friendly, welcoming environment.

All across the country we are seeing Confederate monuments coming down, statues being toppled, names of schools and buildings changing. And what we absolutely fear is that if we don't make changes on campus, then Lexington is going to be the last monument in the U.S. to the Lost Cause mythology. It's going to be a mecca for white supremacists, and our beautiful, safe little town is not going to be that way anymore. If we stay entrenched in this past, that's what our future could look like.

TRUSTEES EMERITI: Sixty signed a letter to the current board, arguing in favor of maintaining the university's name in the absence of data showing it is having a negative impact on the university. Spokesperson: Bennett Ross '83, P'18, trustee emeritus.

- ▶ Support keeping the name
- ▶ Condemn all forms of racism, call on W&L to fully commit to finding solutions and support the work of the Special Committee

ON ROBERT E. LEE

I think a number of emeriti trustees didn't like the way the debate was being framed – there seemed to be a lot of anger and angst on both sides. Some folks view Lee as a deity whose name cannot be tarnished versus those who believe he should be relegated to the dustbin of history. In our view, the issues are more complicated.

I've got three very good friends, all of whom favor changing the university's name. We've had a robust dialogue about why they feel this way. The issue of the university's name is something about which reasonable people can disagree. That's the gist of our letter – to identify what are the most important factors that should drive a decision around the university's name.

For example, to what degree is the name a factor in the decision-making of prospective students of color? I'm not aware of any data which would confirm that the university's name is an issue in recruiting minority students, but I think it's an important question that needs to be considered. And, of course, that issue – the effect of the name – might be a barrier in recruiting Caucasian students, too. But we need that data.

This is exactly the way the coeducation debate was framed, which was an issue when I was a student and when I was working in the Admissions Office after graduation – what is the effect of having an all-male institution on the

ability to attract the top-quality students? If we can't bring the most qualified students of all races, creeds, nationalities and religions to campus, then we're not going to have the institution that all of us want to have.

I have utmost confidence in the current board, having served with nearly all of them during my tenure. They're an incredibly savvy, smart, thoughtful, sophisticated group of individuals who hold W&L's interests as of paramount importance.

ON HISTORY AND CHANGE

Trustees' love and affection for the university doesn't end with their tenure on the board, just as students' love and affection for the university doesn't end when they receive their diploma. So it's not unusual for trustees to continue to be involved with the university after their formal board service ends. For example, after the Commission on Institutional History issued its 2018 report, we observed what we believed to be a schism in the alumni body writ large. A group of emeriti trustees thought it was important that we weigh in – with the utmost respect – on some of the issues that the university was confronting at the time and what could be done to help mend fences with the alumni constituency. After petitions were filed to rename the university, the same group thought it would be useful for the emeriti trustees to weigh in again, recognizing this is a very emotional issue but trying to focus on what we think are the critical factors that the board should consider.

We alumni owe much to the university. Other than my parents, whatever modicum of success I've achieved in life is attributable to Washington and Lee University – not only the education I received, but the values I learned, the importance of honor, integrity, community, loyalty. All of those qualities have had a meaningful impact on me, and many alumni feel the same way. Our alumni are a huge blessing, from providing financial support and helping recruit students to getting jobs for our graduates.

Our alumni network, I would suspect, is the envy of most colleges in the U.S. But by the same token, they're very passionate about the place, and they rightfully believe they should be heard on matters of importance, and I commend the university for soliciting input from the various constituencies, most importantly, the alumni.

ON THE FUTURE

It was most distressing to emeriti trustees, after the tragedy of George Floyd, to hear the stories that emerged from our students and alumni who were victims of harassment and

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS: Eighty-seven current and former class agents, Alumni Board members, chapter volunteers, admissions ambassadors, Williams Advisory Council members, Law Council members, etc., signed a letter to the Board of Trustees encouraging it to continue to move forward with the diversity and inclusion efforts that it has already instituted, while at the same time recognizing W&L's history. Spokesperson: Jackson Sharman '83, P'20, '22.

- ▶ Oppose removing Lee's name
- ▶ Support all points of the letter from the Trustees Emeriti

ON ROBERT E. LEE

Those of us in W&L's volunteer community have spent a lot of time thinking about our university. We've given up our own time to serve W&L and gratefully treasure sending our children to it. We felt it would be a powerful statement if those folks could gather around a couple of principles, including the university's namesakes and the campus climate.

We live in somewhat tumultuous times at the moment. A lot of us think that the experience of Lee's presidency during his five years actually gives the institution a remarkable bully pulpit to be able to speak a truth in the 21st century. Those five years from 1865 to 1870 actually had much in common with some of the difficulties, tensions and problems that we face nationally.

racism while at W&L – things that are completely antithetical to the community that we espouse. It was universally agreed among us that the university needs to take steps to address that kind of conduct. It should not be tolerated.

Whether Lee's name stays or goes, we must have a community of trust, a community of inclusion, a community where everybody who comes to this campus, whether it's a faculty member or a student, feels welcome and feels that they can make their mark on this place. That's something all of us as emeritus trustees enjoyed. And that should be something that all of our students, faculty and staff enjoy during their time on campus.

ON HISTORY AND CHANGE

Given where the institution is today, given its success, the burden to change the name is on those advocating change. That decision should have less to do with an anecdote or emotion and more to do with data. I think that in the examination of Robert E. Lee that has gotten lost.

ON THE FUTURE

I think it's fair to say that most folks who signed this letter point out that there's no data, there's no evidence, that Washington and Lee is losing otherwise qualified applicants who would accept admission because Lee's name is associated with the institution. There's no evidence that the brand, whether in recruitment, admissions, employment, placement – any of those things that you would normally look at to assess an educational institution's vibrancy – is being damaged in any way by Lee's name.

There's also no evidence that it will be anything other than a potential financial diminution to the university. Corporate rebranding, which is what this would be, costs millions of dollars and takes years, if not decades, to get established. Sometimes the brand engagement never actually recovers. Remember New Coke? That did not work very well, and it was very expensive for that organization, damaged the brand and took the company a long time to recover. So those are all data-based discussions that really need to take place. If that evidence is not there, then we need to be very cautious about changing the university's name.



THE GENERALS REDOUBT: a group primarily of alumni, along with parents and friends of the school, dedicated to preserving the history, values and traditions of the university and undertaking educational efforts in that regard. Spokesperson: Tom Rideout '63, P'91, president.

- ▶ Oppose removing Lee's name
- ▶ Incorporated May 2019, to "preserve the traditions, history and culture of W&L"
- ▶ Submitted a letter to the board
- ▶ Mission statement, letters to the school, goals and objectives can be found at thegeneralsredoubt.us
- ▶ Facebook membership: 1,005

ON ROBERT E. LEE

Robert E. Lee was a successful and professional educator. He brought in an existing, local legal education institution and made it part of the university. He created a journalism program. Most essentially, he laid down the bedrock for an educational foundation and accompanying value system that guided the growth of the university over these subsequent 150 years.

There is this constant criticism, particularly as it relates to Robert E. Lee being a general of the Confederate Army, but also of George Washington and Lee both in terms of being slaveholders. The charge is this history basically disqualifies them from being recognized at all by the university.

We have had a number of our members write papers indicating that Lee did not advocate slavery and the Confederacy, though he is linked to slavery through marriage and related estate issues. Our point is very simple – that when he came to the presidency of Washington College, he did not bring with him an agenda from his past. He was not a proponent of slavery as an economic system that should continue to exist. It's not anything that he taught. And he

was not an advocate of the Confederacy. In fact, he sought and taught just the opposite, which was to seek national reconciliation. He worked very carefully on this with the man who defeated him – General Grant.

The Lost Cause basically hijacked his identity as a general and promoted him as their spiritual leader. We believe Robert E. Lee underwent a big change in his life at the end of the Civil War. He focused on rebuilding a practically failed college to assist in the economic recovery of the South and sought to heal the nation. He did a magnificent job in all respects and deserves to be recognized for his substantial contributions.

ON HISTORY AND CHANGE

I certainly think that there should be an effort to continue to tell the extensive stories of Lee's contributions to building what has become a magnificent university. What credibility does W&L's history have if you remove the people who are its major storytellers? We recognize that the world changes, but we think W&L's values are timeless, and that they're worth protecting and retelling. And we believe the very best way to ensure they're protected is to retain our founders' names and to do a well-balanced job of telling their stories.

ON THE FUTURE

What's happening now in the struggle with the Cancel Culture is to prevent the elimination of the university's institutional and national historical moorings. W&L's emergence as a top-flight university has been integral to the undeniable success of the American experiment in freedom, enlightened self-government and the creation of a robust living standard through market-based capitalism. These achievements and all of America's ideals and institutions are at risk in that larger attempt by many detractors of both Washington and Lee to remake America in an authoritarian image.

W&L ADVOCATE COALITION: alumni, students, faculty, and staff advocating for transformative cultural change at W&L. Spokesperson: Taylor Woods '09, Leadership Team.

- ▶ 180 signed a report to the board that proposes and supports changing the university's name, while also addressing and sharing Calls to Action aimed at W&L's culture and administration policies
- ▶ The Calls to Action and report can be found at wladvocatecoalition.org

ON HISTORY AND CHANGE

Alumni were already rethinking the way we present historical memory, even before the Charlottesville 2017 protests. We realized our own institution was caught up in the national

discussion on race, and in the fall of 2019 we met with students, faculty and staff to ask about some of the issues that we're concerned about: diversity, inclusion, historical commemoration and how the university's existing policies and presentation are affecting the life of those at W&L. Based on our interactions with current students and the data we've collected, we have compiled a report and developed calls to action that we submitted to the Board of Trustees.

ON UNIVERSITY NAMESAKES

Our group understands the importance of changing the name of the university because of its ties to white supremacy but believe more holistic changes are critical. Changing the name is certainly part of our goal among the transformative cultural shift we're pushing for.

ON THE FUTURE

Our main goal is to build connections. Alumni have been seen as a monolithically conservative group, something that I believe to be a mistaken assumption. Students, faculty and staff have been told, “Oh, you got to be careful. Alumni are conservative, wealthy and traditional, and you can’t go too far with changing things, otherwise they might not be

comfortable.” But we’re not all like that – some of us are pushing for change. Our goal is to be relevant, to never be silent. I think visibility is the key to us being helpful to current students. We don’t want to cede the floor to any assumptions or any other groups.



Letters About Our Name and More

MANY OF YOU WROTE TO PRESIDENT WILL DUDLEY AND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXPRESSING YOUR OPINIONS ON THE UNIVERSITY'S NAME, ISSUES OF RACISM AND OTHER MATTERS. WE HAVE ASKED PERMISSION FROM THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI TO PRINT THIS SELECTION FROM THE NEARLY 6,000 THAT WERE SUBMITTED. THESE HAVE BEEN EDITED – WITH THE AUTHORS' PERMISSION – FOR LENGTH AND TO FOCUS ON A PARTICULAR POINT OF VIEW.

Regarding the possibility of renaming the university, I will accept and support the Board's decision, remain active in alumni activities, and continue to contribute financially, regardless of the Board's conclusion. You have earned that deference through your service – and your position on the front lines – and I hope my fellow alums will also give you that respect.

Although I have seen a lot of reflexive reactions to the issues currently before the Board, the July 13, 2020, letter to Rector McAlevey '86 and President Dudley from emeritus trustees gives me some hope of open-mindedness among influential alumni. The emeritus trustees indicate they will accept a reasoned, fact-driven, unemotional analysis of the issues. I know many signatories to that letter and am encouraged to hear them say, "We support the Board's decision to appoint a special committee of current trustees to examine Washington and Lee university's name and issues related to diversity and inclusion." So I hope they and all alumni will stand behind the decisions – whatever they may be – of the special committee and move forward as a united group committed to the strength, growth and reputation of the university.

The emeriti trustees wisely say, "It would be irresponsible for the Board to make decisions that may fundamentally impact the institution in knee-jerk response to the latest news cycle." I'm sure they would agree it would be equally irresponsible to make such important decisions based on a preserved-in-amber version of the W&L we knew when we were students.

One question the emeriti trustees

ask is "Where does it stop?" Is this even an appropriate question? Hasn't the same question been posed in reference to every significant change throughout history? I can hear echoes of men sitting in smoke-filled rooms: If we give women the right to vote, where does it stop? If we desegregate the schools, where does it stop. If we admit women into W&L, where does it stop? Every change must be considered on its own merits, otherwise, we simply succumb to stick-in-the-mud fuddy-duddyism. Many have incorrectly conflated the name-change issue with an effort to banish Lee from our consciousness. But that is a false melding of separate issues. A rebranded university could and should continue to recognize its institutional history and to honor (and, yes, criticize) Lee as appropriate.

Perhaps the more suitable question is, "Where does it begin?" What is the right thing to do – considering of course our rich history but also considering our place in history writ large and whether we will be on the right side of history as we plan for the next 271 years? I am not suggesting I have a definitive answer, but certainly it is rational to consider that removing the name of a Confederate icon from an institution based on a code of civility, integrity, and honor might be a good place to start.

I know your actions will be thoughtful and deliberate and you will endeavor to be timely without being precipitous. I am glad such weighty choices are in such able hands.

In closing, I will note Lee's wise advice: "I think it better to do right, even if we suffer in so doing, than to incur



Point/Counterpoint

The following sentiments cover the major themes surrounding the question of the school's name and campus climate. They were shared with the Board of Trustees by email, in response to the stakeholder survey, and in listening sessions conducted by trustees throughout the summer and fall.

"Denying history is never a good idea. It is **neither wise nor honorable to tear down and erase the legacies** of those from whom you now so liberally benefit."

— Alum

"There's so much about this university that I'm proud of; so much that I want my kids to take part in. But I'm at the point where **I don't feel like I can wear my W&L sweatshirt and defend what it stands for.**"

— Alum

“The university has the opportunity to teach the nation how to **learn from, and not hide from, history. Changing the name would be a cowardly retreat** from this opportunity.”

— *Faculty member*

“If Lee believed in education, civility and reconciliation to the degree that we ascribe to him, **then I think he would want his name removed.**”

— *Staff member*

the reproach of our consciences and posterity.”

— *Usher Winslett '82, P'21*

I have served the university in a wide range of roles, including class agent, alumni representative on the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee and member of the Alumni Board, serving as president from 2016-2017. I also have been an active participant in the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter. My continued involvement with the school reflects my love and admiration for my alma mater.

I am writing this letter to express my strong support to leave the university's current name in place. My rationale for this opinion is aligned with the views expressed in the July letter from the emeritus trustees, as well as in the letter from past and current members of the W&L Alumni Board, Law Council, and Williams School Board of Advisors. Accordingly, I won't rehash the points articulated in these letters. I will, however, expand on a few of their points and offer some additional comments to bolster my position on this matter.

First, I want to be clear that I don't condone racism of any kind and support the university's commitment to diversity and inclusion. I am pleased by many of the actions the school has taken to date in response to the protests stemming from the death of George Floyd (e.g., making Juneteenth a university holiday and establishing the George Floyd Endowment for programming in the Office of Inclusion and Engagement). These actions indicate that the school's leadership understands that the institution needs to make changes in order to become a more diverse and healthy institution of higher learning.

Second, how will the removal of Lee's name from the school's name enhance W&L's ability to deliver on its stated mission and strengthen its already strong position as a leading liberal arts institution? Based on the following metrics, it appears that the Lee name is not an issue:

- 1) the number and quality of applicants for admission,
- 2) the quality of the entering freshman class and
- 3) gifts/donations to the Annual Fund and to capital projects.

By all three measures, W&L appears to be doing very well, although these metrics need to be periodically examined given the evolving racial justice situation.

Third, I recognize that the Lee name is a difficult and challenging problem. As a long-time marketing executive at Johnson & Johnson, I understand branding well. The university's name is one of the toughest branding issues I have seen in a long time. You have a well-established liberal arts institution with deep and proud southern roots linked to the Confederacy juxtaposed against the modern issues of racial strife and bigotry. It is easy in this environment to overreact and simply remove Lee's name from the school as the faculty and others have recommended due primarily to his role as the man who led the Confederate army during the Civil War. This, however, ignores the many important contributions he made to the school during his time as president (e.g., expanded the curriculum, added a school of law). He also proved to be an able fundraiser, securing gifts from Cyrus McCormick and George Peabody, which allowed W&L to begin paying back its debts. He saved the school from financial ruin and closure.

Finally, the university's name is not a new issue. The Board of Trustees rejected calls to change the name in 2019 and 2020. So, what has changed? Nothing other than a heightened awareness of racial discrimination and bigotry which the University has already taken steps to address. Certainly nothing has transpired to warrant removing Lee's name from the university's name.

— *Donald D. Eavenson Jr. '73*

Although many colleges and universities have honor codes, W&L's is unique in that it is single-sanction and extends beyond the walls of the classroom into one's everyday life. The underlying philosophy of W&L's Honor System is that no violation is insignificant, and honor is an intrinsic character trait that is not “switched off” simply because one leaves the classroom. You are either honorable, or you are not.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “treason” as “the offense of attempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance...” It is the only crime defined in the U.S. Constitution. Robert E. Lee committed treason, not for a noble cause like the Revolutionary War, but in defense of the right of white men to own,

murder and rape other human beings with impunity.

For years, we have tried to spin Lee's legacy by emphasizing the good things he did as president of the college: calling for unity after the Civil War; recruiting students from northern states; establishing the journalism school, the law school, the Speaking Tradition, and the Honor System, etc. But in so doing, we conveniently omitted certain other facts about Lee's tenure that call into question his supposed honor.

In "Reading the Man," historian Elizabeth Brown Pryor recounts that students at Washington College established their own chapter of the KKK on campus and were known by the local Freedmen's Bureau to attempt to kidnap and rape Black schoolgirls near town. Washington College students were also implicated in at least two attempted lynchings during the five years that Lee was president of the school.

Rather than report those crimes – or even punish them in accordance with the single-sanction Honor System – Pryor states that Lee "either punished the racial harassment more laxly than other misdemeanors or turned a blind eye to it" altogether. Pryor also noted that with respect to these racially motivated crimes Lee "did not exercise the near imperial control he had at the school, as he did for more trivial matters, such as when the boys tried to take unofficial Christmas holidays."

How can W&L hold Robert E. Lee as the embodiment of the Honor System if he could not even abide by his own supposed standards? I know that a lot of alumni equate removing Lee's namesake from the school with erasing history, but that is simply nonsense. No one is arguing to remove Lee's name from the history books; he should be studied, warts and all. But naming a school after someone demands reverence, and such respect is unwarranted in this case.

All alumni should deem this period as a turning point in the school's history, where we can either stay anchored to a false narrative of the past or turn our minds toward the future.

– Kristi Liptak Stathopoulos '95

My senior year in high school, when I accepted the offer of admission to W&L, one of my teachers asked me how I could go to a school that was named in part for

a Confederate general. It wasn't hard to answer. I was offered a scholarship. I started at W&L knowing full well who Lee was and understanding that his legacy was not the reason for my choice in schools.

I doubt that many Black students went to W&L worried about the legacy of Robert E. Lee. What is most important is not whose names are on my diploma aside from my own. I display my diploma in my office with pride. It represents MY accomplishment. What is important is the quality of education that I received. I felt the support of faculty, staff and peers, and left without any feelings of anger or resentment.

We all choose where to go to college, and every student of color who chooses to attend W&L does so of their own free will. No one chose W&L to study under Lee (a man with flaws and failings as we all have), nor to embrace his politics that date back well over a century. To say now that they are ashamed to have Lee's name on their diploma strikes me as the utmost of arrogance? Childishness? Selfishness? No one forced them to attend, and if they were worried about the namesake, they could have chosen somewhere else. I hope that my classmates and many other alumni will stand up to this ridiculous cancel culture that is invading so many areas of society, sadly including W&L. As an alumna and an American who happens to be Black, I know I can only speak for myself.

If we ignore history or tear down every uncomfortable reminder of the past, we are, without doubt, doomed to repeat it.

– Khamla Dhouti '91

It's time to correct fully all our racism – including dealing with the most divisive of questions like the university's name.

"Not unmindful of the future" includes realizing that in relatively short order, white people will be a minority in this country. W&L would be best served to take early steps to get rid of any and everything that might deter the best of every race from considering attending or working at W&L.

One example: Kendre Barnes '13, black, female, a member of ODK and winner of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallion. When awarded, one student said, "Not only does she fully deserve that award but she's one of the nicest people

"Seeing the name of someone who wanted to enslave their ancestors doesn't make any of our Black brothers and sisters feel welcome here."

– Law student

"The students who now attend W&L applied and accepted their seats with full knowledge of the school's historical significance.... The only thing that has changed is the current zeitgeist. The name should not be changed on a whim."

– Law student

“Right now, we are in the tough position of trying to sell a product with a **name that is offensive to a huge percentage of the target customers...** hundreds if not thousands of students every year **may not apply** to W&L largely because of its name.”

— Alum

“You worry about attracting future students, but any student who is **willing to judge an institution simply based on the name does not have the right mindset** for a liberal arts education.”

— Alum

I’ve ever met.” I would have no trouble with a W&L renamed, say, Lexington University, if it made it much easier to attract a broader range of students like Kendre.

Both Lee and Washington made significant contributions to W&L at crucial times. But were they really more significant than those made by others? Seventy years ago, Dr. James G. Leyburn started transforming W&L from a second rate, largely regional school to the first-class university it’s become. In the 1980s, President John Wilson pushed the effort to admit women, which significantly raised standards.

All of these and other contributions can be honored effectively without including any names in the university’s. Muster the courage to change it.

— Ray D. Smith Jr. ’55

“Listening tour”? It makes me cringe. The board and the university would have been better off declining to change the name promptly, with a clear but firm explanation. Stretching the process out this way speaks of weakness and indecision in the board, which is never good. My unsolicited advice is to make the decision, announce it and close the books.

Private higher-ed in America is undergoing tectonic change right now. I am fully aware of this from my service on the Board of Trustees of Albion College, my undergraduate school. The board’s time is much better spent charting a course aimed at ensuring the university’s long-term survival. I suggest you stick to that and get this name distraction over and done with.

As for the merits of the decision, the university has lasted as long as it has by avoiding fads and short-term decisions. Please do not change the name.

— Stephen I. Greenhalgh ’77L

My mother and her parents and brothers immigrated to the U.S. from Egypt. Upon becoming American citizens, they had the opportunity to change the family name. They chose the all-American Johnson, in honor of a white couple of the same name that had been especially kind to them. When my mother married my father, also an Egyptian immigrant, her name changed yet again. After courageously divorcing my father, my mother changed her last name back to Johnson. When I was 9, my

mother asked my sister and me if we would like to change our names to Johnson as well. For my mother, changing our names to match hers was far more than a matter of convenience. For her, seeing my father’s last name on our passports, our schoolwork, and anywhere else was a constant and brutal reminder of the years of abuse and terror she had endured at his hands. Changing our names did not erase who we were; rather, it brought her – and us – a sense of peace from a man who had caused us a lot of pain and allowed us to move forward toward something better.

The point I want to make is that names – and what they represent – matter, and often, significantly. For me, Johnson represents my family’s immigration story and pursuit of the so-called All-American Dream. It is a name I was proud to have and reminds me of my family’s courage and tenacity. In the same vein, holding on to the Lee in Washington and Lee represents values and practices that I am confident do not reflect the university’s current mission and goals.

As a mother now myself – to a Black child – I wouldn’t consider suggesting W&L as an option for her until the university’s name changes. While it’s heartening to know that both the student body and faculty are more diverse than they were 20 years ago, and that there are areas of study that were non-existent during my time at W&L, such as Africana Studies and Arabic Language and Literature, it is my opinion that a name change will attract an even more diverse student population and the rich depth of experience and value that come along with them. Just as changing my own last name allowed my mother – and ultimately my sister and me – to move forward without a constant reminder of a darker time, I believe that the trustees have the power – and the responsibility – to do the same.

— Deena Johnson Thompson ’01

Although the citizens of the community may prevail in renaming local sites, such as the cemetery and the hotel, I agree with Professor Lucas E. Morel, an Abraham Lincoln scholar and faculty member, who is among those who object to removing the name of Robert E. Lee from the university.

Charles P. Roland in his “Reflections on Lee: A Historian’s Assessment,” wrote an insightful description of Lee’s writings and correspondence about

slavery. Before the Civil War, Lee had freed all the slaves his family owned and was an outspoken opponent of slavery as an institution. Having had a distinguished career as an U.S. Army officer in the Mexican War and elsewhere (including taking down John Brown's secessionist rebellion at Harper's Ferry Landing), he chose to align himself with the Confederacy because of his fear of the destructive tendencies of Northern abolitionists and his loyalty to the state of Virginia, which, by the way, he had hoped would not leave the Union.

As far as I am concerned, Lee was a man of admirable character and amazing accomplishments including his leadership as president of Washington College after the war. I believe it would be an act of historical ignorance and institutional cowardice to remove his name from the Institution's title.

— *Watson A. Bowes Jr. '55*

My parents immigrated to the U.S. from Bangladesh in the late '80s, making me the proud son of Muslim American immigrants. I enrolled in W&L as the graduate of a public high school with literally no connection to the school other than my acceptance letter.

I learned quickly that my attendance at W&L could not be an endorsement of the institution as a whole. My ability to buckle down as a leader in the spaces of campus I cared most deeply about was not a pure act of passion: it was a coping mechanism. For all the amazing classes and leadership opportunities I earned, I had to deal with the constant stress of feeling responsible for fixing our racist ship. Whether I was having the best or worst time on campus, I found myself in a fundamentally exhausting environment that was incapacitated to change because of countless factors that I cannot and should not have to change on my own.

I am writing to press for the explicit rejection of Robert E. Lee. Few students (non-white and otherwise) are willing or forced to look past the name that makes up the W&L that they see on admissions packets. Blatant disrespect towards my Black, Brown, and other non-white peers plays far too big of a role on a campus that has the audacity to be over 80% white in 2020.

I thought college was supposed to be filled with fresh indie rock and dumb conversations about Infinite Jest, not

an endless fight against the Lost Cause narrative and daily acts of racism, homophobia, sexism, and classism. Lee may have played some weird role in keeping our campus alive when he was president, but only the worst of his scars run through the veins of our institution. When students who look like me or my other marginalized peers aspire for change, we are fighting an uphill battle against an institution that is designed for us to fail. One small, but unshakable, frame of this challenge comes in our bizarre embrace of Racist E. Lee.

A name is not our history, it is our present. Washington and Lee is a present-tense institution that should not owe anything to the rich racists, sexists and robber barons who have convinced us that our name is more sacred than improving the values underlying it. The only history that will come from not changing an outdated and racist name like ours will be the extinction of our institution at the hands of people who reject the existence of an alumnus like myself.

— *Adit Ahmed '19*

It is my view that any alteration of the university's name or symbols would be a mistake.

I am the fourth consecutive generation of my family to graduate from W&L and my ancestors have lived in Rockbridge County since the mid-1700s, including the three W&L graduates who preceded me. All four graduates from my family required significant financial assistance to attend W&L, which allowed sons and grandsons of simple farmers to receive a first-class education. Graduating from W&L has been a high honor for my family, and we are grateful for the opportunities it has presented us.

Presently, I serve on the Williams School Board of Advisors and have previously been an external advisor to the Williams Investment Society, of which I was a director as a student. I have been a contributor to the Annual Fund as a member of the President's Society for the best part of a decade and have already pledged to continue this level of giving through the 2023-24 academic year.

I regularly receive updates from President Dudley describing how well the university is doing: the high number of applicants, the quality of applicant test scores, the endowment at record levels,

“When I told friends and family that I was attending a school named after Robert E. Lee, some were surprised. However, **upon explaining Lee's role in the institution ... it led to great discourse.** I could not imagine explaining why my school changed its name because it could not stand up for itself.”

— *Undergraduate student*

“The name invokes an **over-reverence for the past.** It evokes ideas that the university is in many ways **trapped in the same history** that its namesakes were in.”

— *Undergraduate student*

“The ‘cancel culture’ of today, which attempts to take single instances in an individual’s life...and dismiss them entirely if they don’t meet with post-modern sentiment, is toxic and I pray our school will not fall as another casualty of it.”

— Alum

“I’m glad the university denounces the Confederate cause... However, as long as the university is eponymous with Lee, a man who fought for the very things you denounce, this denunciation rings hollow.”

— Alum

fundraising at record levels, diversity at record levels, and successful placement of graduates.

W&L is, at its core, a business. The W&L business model is working.

I could have received a great education from any number of schools; however, W&L was the only university I visited that was “different.” What drew me in was W&L’s history, its tradition, and its culture – attributes that are positioned by some people as unacceptable in society today, but which are at the core of W&L’s long-standing success. The c-school faculty will know this as W&L’s “unique selling proposition.” Without a USP, what reason does W&L have to exist?

History shows that each major change at the university has been undertaken with a long-term positive rationale. Name changes, location changes, and composition of the student body have all been carefully considered and implemented with an eye to the future.

Today, our country hears a cacophony of emotionally driven rhetoric devoid of reasoned arguments or concrete objectives. Is our society perfect? Certainly not. However, the trustees should not allow these mere soundbites to overturn more than 150 years of history, in the case of Lee’s name, for the sake of scoring short-lived political points. Doing so would dilute W&L’s winning formula and diminish its future potential.

— Stephen Welker ‘05

I would like to think that the kind of racism I witnessed at W&L is less frequent and severe than it was when I attended, but our continued reverence for Lee comforts and encourages those who see in him not the great post-war reconciler, but the wartime champion of white supremacy.

Lee accepted his role at our beloved school, in part, to atone for his participation in the annihilation of a generation of Americans (if not the enslavement and mistreatment of so many additional generations before). But now, his name does more to hurt, marginalize and divide our fellow brothers and sisters than it may once have done to aid, unite and uplift them.

The battle flags of the Confederacy are gone from Lee Chapel, but Lee himself remains as much a clarion call to those who would champion the cause of the

Confederacy as it is to those who would seek a fine education, become ladies and gentlemen, and live honorably. By maintaining our current name, we choose to keep open a racist wound that bleeds us all. Is that what we want? Is this who we are? Surely not.

Robert E. Lee did not serve this school to hurt people. His name does that now. So let us remove Lee’s name from our school (or rename it altogether) and let the finer parts of his legacy continue. Let us prove just how mindful of the future we truly are.

— Bill Coffin ‘93

I wish to state that I am emphatically opposed to dropping the “Lee” from our university name. Such an act would do irreparable damage to our university’s character, its honor code, and all that makes it unique among other schools. Could we not render unto Caesar here?

Robert E. Lee had two distinct and separate careers. The first, of course, is as a U.S. and then a Confederate general whose abilities have often placed him on the list of the top-10 generals in all of world history. Rather than fighting to preserve slavery as many claim, he was fighting for his home state of Virginia.

The following quotations from Lee while he was going through the painful choice of which side to follow in 1861 prove this: “I shall never bear arms against the Union, but it may be necessary for me to carry a musket in the defense of my native state, Virginia, in which case I shall not prove recreant to my duty.” Lee also stated: “Mr. Blair, I look upon secession as anarchy. If I owned the four millions of slaves in the South I would sacrifice them all to the Union; but how can I draw my sword upon Virginia, my native state?” To say he was fighting to preserve slavery is a gross oversimplification of a complex, many-issued war.

The second career is that, separately and distinctly, Robert E. Lee, was a college president. We should not confuse the two. Slavery had no part in his role as the president of Washington College. Lee reestablished the college after the Civil War. He revamped the curriculum and firmly established the Honor System. He is responsible for the university being the noble institution it is today. I spent seven years, growing from a boy to a man thriving under Robert E. Lee’s strict code of honor. More than just something to follow while in Lexington, it has become

a way of life, just as I am sure it has for many.

Lee's Honor System is the foundation upon which our university society is built affecting the lives of all who attend here. It would be the height of hypocrisy if we were to remove the "stain" of Lee's name but retain his Honor System and allow his remains to stay on campus. If we are to abolish Lee's name from the university's title, I maintain we must also abolish his Honor System and remove his remains from the campus.

I submit we should retain the name of Robert E. Lee, not as a Confederate general, but for his accomplishments to the university as its president. I beg you not to ruin Washington and Lee University, and all it stands for, merely because Robert E. Lee chose to fight, not for slavery, but to fight for, rather than to fight against, his home state of Virginia.

— Francis B. Van Nuys '59, '62L

Since earning my B.A. in history, I worked for the university as an undergraduate admissions counselor, helped lead the alumni chapter in Eastern North Carolina, interviewed local applicants as part of the Alumni Admissions Program, and even provided live music for various alumni events on campus. I am a proud alum and know that my connections to the university played a vital and positive part in making me who I am today. That being said, as I reflect on my experiences and think about the future of the university, I am convinced that the university must remove Robert E. Lee's name from its name and urge you to take immediate action to do so.

I am knowledgeable of Lee's role in the history of the university, of his contributions that helped it survive and thrive. Keeping his name as part of the university's name has given and will continue to give the appearance that it is the whole man being honored, including his efforts to establish a social, political, and economic system built on cornerstones of slavery and white supremacy. His actions as president of Washington College are greatly overshadowed by his prominent role in a bloody war to tear the United States apart and keep four million Americans enslaved. This history and its connections to present-day injustices, oppression, and racism cannot be ignored any longer.

This was not an easy decision for me, but I know in my heart and mind it is the right decision. It is the result of years of

research and reflection, conversations with friends and alumni, and discussions with the students in the courses I teach about history, justice, and the power of symbols. My process mirrors that of many other alumni and students who raised awareness about this issue years ago and continue to speak out. It was informed by the work of the Commission on Institutional History and the decisions you made in response. I wish the decision to remove Lee's name had been made then, but I am hopeful that you will make that decision in the near future. Whether or not it will be easy misses the point: it will be the right decision.

— Alex Wilkins '02

I caution the university to avoid hasty action to appease the current public opinion tsunami. While a student at Washington and Lee, I learned to think critically, independently, and carefully. Those skills have served me well in the almost two decades since graduation.

I don't disagree that the institutional history of W&L is very complicated. Yet I also feel strongly as a learned person and critical thinker that history is always complicated, humans are complicated, and none of us are 100% perfect nor will we be able to withstand scrutiny by future generations based on their morals and values. None of us. None. I repeat again, none.

The measure of a man should be his life's story, not simply one part. A flawed man can also be great and admirable. Lee is the epitome of loyalty. In Lee's time, national identity was not what it is now. Americans were state citizens first and Americans second. Lee was a Virginian through and through, an incredibly loyal one. Lee sought to repair the wounds of war through his time at Washington College. He could have retired as a hermit and hidden away. He could have committed suicide. He could have continued subversive actions in the South. Instead, he sought to repair the wounds and help the South build the industry it never had in the first place. He started the journalism program that W&L is so proud of today. He recruited Northern boys to school alongside Southern boys with hopes they would become not only classmates, but friends and future colleagues, moving beyond the huge chasm left by the war to heal and grow together. He made this small little school in the Shenandoah what it is today.

“The name glorifies the actions of a man who sought to elevate white males at the expense of women and people of color.”

— Parent

“The current, flattened view of Southern culture...is unrealistic and insulting to [our namesakes'] memories. We respectfully urge you not to submit to the Orwellian demand to ‘memory-hole’ facts, names and historical figures.”

— Parent

“There is one GIGANTIC FACTOR to consider over everything else regarding end-of-life giving: **Whether the University will kowtow to the insanity of the progressive liberal ‘cancel culture.’**”

— Alum

“Should the **influence of alumni money** ultimately be your **deciding factor**, then everything I learned at Washington and Lee about our country’s **deep commitment to white entitlement will remain true**, and you will be **complicit.**”

— Alum

I am extremely proud of my W&L education. I grew more than I ever thought possible in those four years. It was a very special place, not for everyone, but perfect for me in every way.

I caution you to avoid becoming what everyone else is seeking to become. Every school should not and cannot be all things for all people. The beauty of the varied landscape of higher education in America is that while each school is not the right place for all students, there IS a right place out there for all students.

Be your own institution with your own history and own mission. Be honest about what that history is, both good and bad, but don’t seek to erase or change it. Serve well the students who fall under the spell of W&L as I did the very first time I set foot on campus in the summer of 1996 as a 17-year-old from Connecticut.

— Meredith Bryk Baines '01

I arrived in Lexington as a member of the first undergraduate class to include women. Given that my entire education up to that point had been in co-ed public schools in rural America, when I did realize that I would be part of a historic class it didn’t strike me as particularly controversial. Boy and girls, men and women attended schools together. It seemed simple.

As I quickly learned, it was not.

I couldn’t have expected the level of opposition and misogyny that I would see – and, sadly, participate in. The administration and faculty, in my recollection, worked hard to make the women in our class feel welcome. Many of the upperclassmen, and far too many men of my own class, mocked those efforts. The misogyny and opposition was rife in the fraternity system – again, something I sadly participated in. It was endemic, from the Ring-tum Phi, to visiting alumni, to the public honor violation trial of one of the women of my class.

In short, I know that W&L does not change without a struggle.

I chose W&L because I wanted to be a journalist. Because I wanted to be in a small school, not the giant state schools of home. Because, to be frank, I wanted to attend a school that stood out on my resume. The legends and myths and apocrypha about Robert E. Lee that W&L has spread to its students over the

decades is nothing short of propagandistic Lost Cause indoctrination. Many of the things I was taught to hold dear about W&L came down to venerating Lee above all else and above actual history. I have taken the opportunity to educate myself, both through study and experience, and I believe the myths W&L holds dear need to be dismissed.

My history with W&L is fraught. During my time in Lexington I was outed as gay, physically threatened and assaulted by men I had considered my friends and brothers, ostracized on campus, and over the years made to feel unwelcome in ways large and small. And yet, I treasure the education I received that I don’t believe I could have gotten anywhere else. I value the friendships I still have to this day, some in person, some via social media, all important to me.

Washington and Lee can be a better place. Honestly, given my own experience at W&L, I would not waste my time writing you if I did not believe this to be true. And one of the most important ways it can be that better place is to change its name. History is more than looking at statues and admiring the aesthetics. It’s more than passing along a series of just-so stories about the kindly general while ignoring the very real fact that he committed treason, promoted a slave-owning society, was demonstrably racist, and was certainly not the Southern white messiah that too much of W&L lore purports him to be.

Leave the history in the classroom and change the name. Leave behind the idea that one man (or two) is solely responsible for a legacy of centuries. Make the university a place to be proud of for its past, present, and future. Make the University a place of learning in the world we live in, not the world a small minority longs for.

— Sean Bugg '89

My family endured generations of oppression and systematic extermination in Ottoman Turkey until they emigrated to the U.S. as refugees. I am no stranger to racism or prejudice. I feel the reverberations of my family’s persecution in my soul, though I do not despair. Instead, I am permanently humbled that their unimaginable horror enabled me to live freely in this country.

Have you ever contemplated what an elite education means to a refugee family such as mine? My uncle and I both

graduated from Washington and Lee – a beautiful, supportive refuge worlds away from blood-soaked death marches! What a triumph for my ancestors! Our Washington and Lee education symbolizes victory over what came before. It means being not welcomed as a victim but being welcomed as a victor over one's past.

I am woefully concerned about the rapid path Washington and Lee's administration and faculty are taking to address a single, macrocosmic problem within American culture. The university's language swiftly changed from "standing on the shoulders of giants" to now whitewashing their names. Generals Washington and Lee were not without fault or sin, and their roles in a segregated society is undeniable. But I believe that their contributions to the nation and the university, respectively, remain worthy of merit.

The university's commission on institutional history was the nail in the coffin for any fair assessment of Robert E. Lee's role at our alma mater. It was your trick to slow-walk everyone into a renaming of the school, but we aren't walking slowly now, are we. You vastly underestimated the intellectual aptitude of your alumni, because many of us see it for what it was: a thinly veiled committee predicated upon the conclusion it was engineered to draw. The trustees have established their own version of this committee. Sounds redundant.

My experiences within the old brick walls of Washington and Lee have made my life so much better. I implore current students and alumni alike to embrace a sense of gratitude, as well as victory, in receiving such an education. Let's concentrate on what's being learned inside the classroom and within this wonderful community, because that is precisely what a Washington and Lee diploma symbolizes.

Until the university shifts its focus back to education and away from erasing names, my husband and I will refrain from financial giving, and we will encourage our friends to make the same choice.

– Victoria Guroian Sanders '04

It seems every year or two our community has to have the conversation of "the Lee Problem." At what cost does honoring our past have on the potential of our future? Thus far, I've been placated, though not

thrilled, with the small advancements W&L has made to investigate our past, add more resources for BIPOC students and attempts to make W&L a place of equity and inclusion. It's not enough. The time has come not just to change our name but to fully support marginalized communities.

I give to W&L with my time and money because it is not lost on me that donors' thoughts weigh heavier on the minds of the university than those of the average alumnus. I also recognize that by virtue of being a Millennial, my generation will likely never have the wealth of the generations before us, and therefore our financial impact will be dwarfed by those of others. But at some point, the generations before us will be gone, and Millennials and Gen Z will be the university's key constituents. We are the ones who are now in the streets for Black Lives Matter, questioning our own privilege, voting in leaders who will more equitably distribute our tax dollars to appropriate social services.

It would be "not unmindful of the future" for the university to consider the less-than-well-funded, yet vocal and increasingly important, alumni who call for more radical change within the university – not to mention the marginalized communities at W&L who have been speaking out for decades to largely deaf ears.

– Stephanie Hardiman Simon '10

I chose this great university for several reasons, after being accepted at two other colleges. First, it was a small, highly rated liberal arts college and had a commerce school. Second, I was influenced by a graduate, Raymond Smith Sr., whose father was Henry L. Smith, president of W&L, 1912-1929 (his grandson, a friend of mine, Ray Smith Jr., graduated in 1955.)

I treasure my diploma the way it is. My years on campus instilled in me, honor, duty, truth and patriotism. So, I appeal to you and all who are challenged, take the proper course, using common sense and acknowledging Robert E. Lee's contribution to our school's direction as president of W&L. Our name should be Washington and Lee University – forever.

– Bertram Schaus Griffith Jr. '54

“We should keep the name — **otherwise our degrees won't be worth the same amount.** It's brand name recognition that gets W&L a lot of its top students.”

— Undergraduate student

“I understand that both men played parts in creating the university that we have today, but [the name is] **not a good look for the university,** especially if you're truly and honestly focused on **diversity and inclusion.**”

— Undergraduate student

Initiatives and Actions

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, W&L HAS TAKEN A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIONS TO INCREASE INCLUSION AND IMPROVE THE CAMPUS CLIMATE FOR UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS. HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THESE EXTENSIVE, ONGOING EFFORTS. THE FULL LIST OF INITIATIVES CAN BE VIEWED AT GO.WLU.EDU/INITIATIVES-2020.



INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS

Adopted a Strategic Plan (May 2018) committing to major initiatives in support of diversity and inclusion, including:

- ▶ Becoming need blind in undergraduate admissions, to admit the strongest applicants, regardless of family financial circumstances.
- ▶ Eliminating financial barriers to curricular, cocurricular and extracurricular participation.
- ▶ The creation of a signature scholarship program to attract the best law students.
- ▶ Renovations to Elrod Commons to create a Center for Inclusion and Engagement.
- ▶ Expansion of the Office of Inclusion and Engagement staff.

BUILDINGS AND MEMORIALS

- ▶ Renamed Lee-Jackson House in honor of Pamela Simpson and Robinson Hall in honor of John Chavis.
- ▶ Added a historical marker honoring individuals enslaved at Washington College.
- ▶ Established memorial marker and an annual lecture to honor Leslie Smith '69L, W&L's first Black law graduate.
- ▶ Created or renovated spaces in support of underrepresented communities: Sankofa House, Nuestro Hogar Latino, Chavis House (Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity), Casa Hispanica and the Red House (LGBTQ Center).

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

- ▶ Increased the number of undergraduate domestic students of color at W&L by 50% since 2016. The Class of 2024 – 20% of whom are domestic students of color – is the most diverse in W&L history and also has the highest median SAT score.
- ▶ Increased domestic students of color at the law school to

22% of the student body while simultaneously improving the median LSAT and GPA of incoming students.

- ▶ Extended the W&L Promise – providing at least a full-tuition grant – to families earning less than \$100,000 annually.
- ▶ Increased outreach to underrepresented students through three annual Diversity and Inclusion Visit Experiences, the addition of an admissions counselor focused on recruiting first-generation college students and underrepresented minorities, and expanded fall travel to include community-based organizations and college-bound students in diverse neighborhoods.
- ▶ Expanded by 33% the number of students we enroll through QuestBridge, a national nonprofit that connects the nation's most exceptional low-income youth with leading colleges and universities. Also partnered with College Greenlight and the American Talent Initiative.

ACADEMICS

- ▶ Created a new minor in Law, Justice and Society and added new courses covering such topics as Civil Rights, Black Athletes and Activism, and the Economics of Race.
- ▶ Created a law school clinic in Civil Rights and Racial Justice.
- ▶ Expanded the Advanced Immersion and Mentoring Program, which provides a fully funded, five-week research and leadership experience on campus before classes start.
- ▶ Created “Activism and the Black Experience,” a yearlong speaker series sponsored by the Africana Studies program, which is exploring the content, context, and consequences of Black protest.
- ▶ Offered programs on inclusive teaching and mentoring for faculty and staff through our Fall and winter academies.

FACULTY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- ▶ Implemented more effective practices for developing and reviewing diverse candidate pools and created an ambassador program to support diverse candidates throughout the recruitment process. Forty-five percent of tenure-track hires over the past four years are faculty of color, and 20% are Black.
- ▶ Created the Ted DeLaney Postdoctoral Fellowship program and welcomed the first annual fellow to campus in Fall 2020.
- ▶ Joined the Consortium for Faculty Diversity and the Ph.D. Project to generate more diversity within applicant pools and established a Professionals of Color network for faculty and staff.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

- ▶ Expanded Office of Inclusion and Engagement by two assistant director positions: one to support LGBTQ+ students and the other to develop diversity and social justice programs.
- ▶ Provided additional support for programming by student groups, including expanding the Black Future Leaders Experience (Black FLEX) Conference, the Multicultural Student Association's Diversity Day and Black and White Ball, SABU's annual Black Ball, the Gender Action Group, and Coming-Out Day.
- ▶ Created student advisory groups, including the Diversity/First-Gen Working Group, the OIE Ambassadors Program and the OIE liaison program.
- ▶ Established the Angel Fund (emergency funding), food pantry, Career Closet, textbook lending library, loaner laptops and funding for career and internship trips.

- ▶ Implemented diversity and implicit bias training programs for students, faculty and staff.
- ▶ Secured a \$1 million commitment from the Class of 1994 and a new George Floyd Endowment to support programming in the Office of Inclusion and Engagement.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Launched a five-part virtual speaker series on “Prejudice, Discrimination and Anti-Racism.”
- ▶ Created standing committee on inclusion and engagement on the Alumni Board.
- ▶ Increased diversity of Alumni Board and Kathekon.
- ▶ Created Inside W&L, the first e-newsletter specifically for Black alumni.
- ▶ Sponsored speakers and hosted events at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., and ZuCot Gallery in Atlanta.
- ▶ Hosted three Black alumni reunions since 2012 and added multicultural alumni and student event to Young Alumni Weekend programming.

INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

- ▶ Created a new cabinet-level position – director of Institutional History and Museums – to offer educational programs, mentor student research, support faculty projects and develop a museum in which the many stories of W&L can be told.
- ▶ Procured funding to support the preservation of the ruins at Liberty Hall, which includes continued research into the enslaved community that lived at the site for decades.
- ▶ Began numerous research projects into African American and Native American history at W&L, incorporating results into lessons for students, alumni and the public.

Understanding W&L's Endowment

**STEVE MCALLISTER, VICE PRESIDENT
FOR FINANCE AND TREASURER,
COVERS SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY'S
BALANCE SHEET.**



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN ENDOWMENT?

The W&L endowment provides a revenue stream that covers 40% of our annual operating costs. These funds allow us to offer an exceptional education and lessen the financial burden on families. Tuition payments account for 35% of annual revenue. The endowment surpassed tuition as a source of revenue five years ago. Total philanthropy – endowment revenue plus annual giving – now pays for nearly half of everything we do.

HOW LARGE IS THE ENDOWMENT?

The Washington and Lee endowment is currently valued at \$1.15 billion. We also benefit from \$480 million in trusts held by others, with the majority held by the Lettie Pate Evans Foundation Restricted Fund.

HOW MUCH DO WE SPEND FROM THE ENDOWMENT?

We spend up to 5% of our endowment each year. That provides about \$55 million in operating support. The Lettie Pate Evans Foundation distributes about 3% of the trust each year, which contributes another \$15 million to our budget.

WHY DON'T WE SPEND EVEN MORE?

The endowment has to support W&L in perpetuity. We spend as much as we can on the education of current students, while making sure the endowment can support future students in the same way.

The 5% spending cap is determined by our investment expectations. The endowment is expected to earn 5% better than inflation over the long term. So we can spend up to 5% annually without diminishing the real value of its ability to educate future generations.

WHO BENEFITS FROM THE ENDOWMENT?

The endowment underwrites the education of every student. Washington and Lee spent nearly \$70,000 educating each student in 2019-20, while charging just under \$55,000 in tuition. That means the endowment covered 20% of the true educational cost for even those families paying full tuition. The endowment provides additional support, in the form of financial aid, for families that cannot afford to pay full tuition. This makes W&L one of fewer than 20 schools in the country that meets 100% of demonstrated need for all undergraduate students without requiring loans.

WHY DO WE NEED TO RAISE MORE ENDOWMENT?

Because we already spend our current endowment as aggressively as we can, new initiatives require additional funding.

W&L's endowment has grown substantially over the years, thanks to our generous donors. The Honor Our Past, Build Our Future campaign, which ended in 2015, raised \$330 million in new endowment to support priorities in the university's 2007 strategic plan, including financial aid, faculty development and compensation, and academic programs. That campaign also raised \$212.5 million to complete important capital projects, such as the renovation of the Colonnade, and to support university operations.

The university adopted a new strategic plan in 2018. A few of the major initiatives include increasing scholarship support

to become need blind in admissions, providing the full W&L experience to all students, renovating the Williams School and the Science Center, building a new admissions and financial aid center and creating a museum of institutional history. Bringing these goals to fruition will require a successful campaign to augment the endowment and execute the capital projects.

Watch a recording of the alumni town hall with President Will Dudley and Vice President of Finance Steve McAllister discussing the university's strategic plan and finances at go.wlu.edu/financial-fundamentals.

Read the university's strategic plan at go.wlu.edu/strategic-plan.



Cultivating A Community

RENOVATIONS TO THE JOHN W. ELROD COMMONS WILL CREATE SPACES TO EXPAND COLLABORATIONS AND CONVERSATIONS.

President John W. Elrod's vision for the Commons (completed in 2002) was for it to serve as the university's living room – a place to enhance the learning experience of the W&L community, promote social development and foster collaboration and communication.

As the university begins implementing its strategic plan, with a focus on the campus, community, curriculum and citizenship, Elrod Commons provides the perfect location for one of the main priorities – a Center for Inclusion and Engagement.

"Having a center dedicated to the Office of Inclusion and Engagement (OIE) is so important because physical belonging is just as important as mental belonging," said Ayo Ehindero '21, who participated in the planning sessions for the new center. "Having a physical space dedicated to inclusion, where people can immerse themselves, will help us as we try to foster a more inclusive campus culture."

Construction on the new center is slated for the end of the academic year and will renovate parts of the second and third levels of the Commons. The most prominent feature of the new center will be a large multipurpose room with the furniture, technology and flexibility to serve different needs.

"I am extremely excited about the large gathering space that will function as a versatile room for 'TED Talk' style lectures, student activity events and general study," said Trinity Perdue '22, another member of the planning committee. "I can see this space being frequently used by cultural clubs and various student organizations that struggle to find spaces to accommodate all of their members. It could also function as a designated space for OIE

trainings and semesterly first-year orientation classes."

Office space for the OIE staff will line the hallways on either side of the multipurpose room, taking advantage of natural light and encouraging new traffic patterns. "We wanted the layout to be inviting and functional and to bring us together more easily," said Tammy Futrell, dean for Diversity, Inclusion and Student Engagement. "We want to see students not just when they need to use us as a resource but to also get to know them through informal conversations when they are hanging out in the lobby and multipurpose room."

With offices for LGBTQ, religious and Title IX staff, among others, the center will bring many student support services under one roof. Other features include:

- ▶ A sacred space for meditation and religious services
- ▶ A food pantry, with refrigeration

"Having a center dedicated to the Office of Inclusion and Engagement (OIE) is so important because physical belonging is just as important as mental belonging."

– Ayo Ehindero '21

- ▶ A career closet, offering interview outfits

The third floor of the Commons, currently home to many student organizations, will be renovated to house the Office of Student Services. Its planned footprint is similar to the center's. It, too, will have a lobby and central gathering space flanked by staff offices.

While Perdue will have graduated by the time the center is complete, she noted its presence is important "for W&L because it will be a tangible statement that the Office of Inclusion and Engagement is an integral aspect of our campus and upholds the values that W&L lays out in its mission statement. The upcoming OIE center is not only essential for supporting the staff and students that currently craft our W&L community but serves as an emblem for the growth in the future community that W&L seeks to cultivate and support."

EARLY SUPPORT

"What is W&L doing to enhance and enrich the experience of all students in an inclusive and deliberate way?" That's the question Maurice "Moe" Cole '94 posed in 2018 to his classmates during their 25th reunion planning session.

Cole shared that, as a student of color, he felt marginalized and discriminated against on campus and in the Lexington community. He described his relationship with the university as complicated and wanted to give a voice to others who may have felt the same way but had not had a chance to speak up about their experiences.

That conversation inspired committee members to use their class gift to support the Office of Inclusion and Engagement. The class raised \$785,000 toward its goal of \$1 million.

Read the full story at go.wlu.edu/class-gift-1994.



SCENE ON CAMPUS



1



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3



4



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6

1. Clara Albacete '23 relaxes under a tree on the Front Lawn.

2. A first-year student signs the honor book in front of Baker Hall.

3. Phillip Hall '21 relocates orchids in the W&L greenhouse.

4. Ally Chebuhar '21 plants flags along the Colonnade on Sept. 11.

5. Sunshine lights up columns on the footbridge.

6. Bryan Chung '22 decides what his contribution will be to the collaborative mural project organized by the Arts League on Cannan Green.