

WILLIAM & MARY



MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Special Assistant

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Happy Holidays!

We're in the middle of finals on campus and the air is full of anticipation, urgency, and excitement. This Saturday, December 16, the annual William & Mary Yule Log celebration will take place at Wren Hall. Once again, students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members will join in the time-honored tradition to cast aside the year's woes by tossing a sprig of holly into the flames of the Yule log. A few years ago, students created a new tradition to blend with

the old. They began writing messages of gratitude onto paper doves and hanging those ornaments on the trees in the Wren portico. In keeping with the new and old traditions, reflecting on peace, joy and gratitude, I want to thank and wish the best to all our military and veteran students, their families, and the wonderful William & Mary community here that supports them.

A few highlights from November are included in this newsletter. With November designated as national Military and Veterans Family Month, it was awesome to see William & Mary go all out and all in to provide programming and services. From free services at the Wellness Center for student veterans, a Military Appreciation Women's Basketball game, an op-ed in The Virginia Gazette, celebrations honoring the Marine Corps birthday to multiple Veterans Day events across the different schools, we ensured that military and veteran students and the entire Tribe community had the opportunity to reflect and honor service members.

Our goal every day is to highlight the value of service in the military and, just as importantly, in the careers that follow service. Men and women coming out of the military have the aptitude and talent to succeed in any number of fields. Our William & Mary Veteran to Executive Transition team is here to help these transitioning service members and veterans reach new levels of success and to continue to live lives of purpose and impact. We believe that with the right coaching, mentorship, education, and training, veterans have the potential to transform companies and embark on many different career trajectories. By highlighting the value of military service as well as the follow-on career potential for military members, we see a way to improve the opportunities for both. And we're seeing the results.

We accomplished and learned a lot in 2023 as we continued our efforts to grow, amplify and expand the reach of William & Mary military and veteran programs and partners. We are excited for 2024 and all the ways we can continue to develop and evolve.

Thank you for all of your support and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Kathleen

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Events Recap

Veterans Day Reception & Book Talk with Brian Morra '78

On November 8th, Swem Library and W&M VET hosted Brian Morra '78 to discuss his book *The Able Archers* with a reception and book signing following the talk. Guests also enjoyed viewing the library's Special Collections Research Center's select military collections.



Raymond A. Mason School of Business Veterans Day Celebration

On November 10, the Mason School with the Center for Military Transition, the MBA Programs Team, and the Mason Military Association hosted an event to recognize our military and veteran students, faculty, staff, and executive partners for their service. JD Due, Christian Chisolm MBA '24, and Adam Magness MBA '22 all made remarks.



Events Recap (cont.)

The Ringing of the Wren Bell

The ringing of the Wren Bell has become a Veterans Day tradition at W&M. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, student veteran Margaret Xu '24 rang the Wren Bell slowly to commemorate Armistice Day, the original inspiration for Veterans Day. Rebecca Dossantos '24, Student Veterans of W&M President, gave remarks alongside Charlie Foster. President Katherine A. Rowe read aloud Brian Turner's poem "Phantom Noise."



HERstory at the Military Women's Memorial: A Celebration of W&M Women in the Armed Forces & National Security

On November 29th at the Military Women's Memorial, W&M Society of 1918 hosted a special event to celebrate the women who serve our nation, including those who currently or have previously served in the armed forces or in national security. Members of the W&M community had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the museum with Military Women's Memorial President Phyllis Wilson (retired Army). Guests also heard from a panel of amazing leaders including retired Rear Adm. Elizabeth Train '78, U.S. Navy; Col. Rosalie Duarte '95, U.S. Air Force; Col. Brit K. Erslev '97, U.S. Army; and military spouse Amanda Eversole '00. The panel was moderated by Caryn Wagner '79, U.S. Army veteran, the Department of Homeland Security's former undersecretary for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, and W&M VET Advisory Group member. The event was sponsored by the Society of 1918 and underwritten in part by the Alumnae Initiatives Endowment.



Announcements

Charlie Foster Wins William & Mary's Values in Action Award

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT CHARLIE'S AWARD](#)



(Photo by Stephen Salpukas)

Charlie Foster, Director of the Office of Student Veteran Engagement, is a recipient of this year's Values in Action award that recognizes student organizations, faculty and staff who epitomize the university's values of belonging, curiosity, excellence, flourishing, integrity, respect and service.

Nominators noted the way Foster embodies the values of belonging and flourishing in his role at the Office of Student Veteran Engagement. Foster was described as "indefatigable" and "fiercely loyal" in his efforts to connect students to resources and allies that will support them on their journey at William & Mary (W&M News).

W&M Alumni Engagement is Hiring! Assistant Director, Affinity Engagement

*Please spread the word and encourage those
who may be interested to apply!*

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY NOW](#)

The Assistant Director, Affinity Engagement, is a key member of the Alumni Engagement team in the Office of University Advancement at William & Mary. Reporting to the Executive Director of Alumni Engagement and working under general supervision, the Assistant Director is responsible for developing, delivering and managing engagement opportunities for W&M alumni in two alumni communities: the Association of 1775 (Ao75), W&M's military, veteran, and government service alumni affinity network; and the Olde Guard, W&M alumni who graduated fifty or more years ago.

Looking Ahead to 2024

SVA NATCON: January 4, 2024 – January 6, 2024

Military & Veteran Students and Staff are headed to the Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference (NATCON) in Nashville! Students will spend 3 days hearing from industry leaders in breakout sessions, network with top veteran employers, and learn more about transition into civilian life. Thanks to our generous donors, our military and veteran students will attend NATCON with all travel, room, board, and registration fees covered.

If you would like to sponsor a military & veteran student to attend an upcoming impactful conference, like NATCON, please click the Give Now icon below or contact Kathleen Jobs at ktjobs@wm.edu or (757) 613-1532 for more opportunities to help our students succeed!

[**GIVE HERE**](#)



The SVA National Conference is the largest gathering of student veterans anywhere in the world. With SVA chapters at nearly 1,600 campuses across the U.S. and in several countries abroad, NatCon serves as a focal point in the academic year to share ideas, best practices, and network with student veterans, military-connected students, their families, supporters, and allies, as well as corporate, government, and nonprofit partners, and more!

