

WILLIAM & MARY



MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Special Assistant

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Dear W&M VET Friends,

Thankfulness and Gratitude – those words epitomize the season and are emblematic of the support and positive energy the Military & Veteran Affairs team feels every day. Serving those who have served is a calling that William & Mary has embraced since our country's founding. The MIL/VET team is proud to share how some of the nation's first military and veteran students came from and returned to this university.



That critical cycle of service and scholarship continues as we work to build connections between our active-duty students, our Army and Naval ROTC cadets and midshipmen, our veterans – both undergraduate and graduate – and our Association of 1775 alumni. The linkages of the Tribe are an enduring part of the legacy and the fabric of our country.

And linkages are based on personal connections. We're honored in this issue to showcase several of our students – they are the **FACES** and the **REASONS** for our work. Educating for impact, unleashing the power of citizens educated in the finest multi-disciplinary liberal arts tradition and leaning into hard challenges are hallmarks of William & Mary. The military and veteran students who come to W&M have important experiences to share in the classroom and their addition to the student body is something we want to highlight and support. Support takes many forms – and, in our case, often involves a personal touch. We need your support to expand and grow that work and our ability to advocate and program for our students. With the end of year approaching, please consider donating to our [Military & Veterans Affairs Fund](#). Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Partners are both internal and external to campus. This end-of-semester issue highlights the Swem Library showcasing of Secretary Gates's papers in October, the Military Appreciation Football Game November 9, the multiple Veterans Day remembrances held around campus – in the Sadler Student Center, at Wren Hall with President Rowe, at the Law School with Dean Spencer and in the Mason School of Business with Dean Mooradian. We had the opportunity to highlight our work in regional and national publications including The Virginia Gazette, The Daily-Press, The Virginian Pilot and Fortune.com. Please see inside for links to the articles. We encourage you to follow us on our new [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) page for Military & Veterans Affairs.

The year 2025 will mark the 250th anniversary of the College Company and the Association of 1775. Our Ao1775 alumni leads are planning a series of articles as we approach that milestone – alongside a 250th history cruise opportunity for alumni and friends. Please see inside for further details.

We look forward to staying engaged and providing opportunities and venues for fellowship and connection. In closing, a deep and heartfelt thank you for supporting our students, our programming and our team. Best wishes for a holiday season filled with peace, good health and time for reflection and family.

Go Tribe!

Kathleen T. Jabs

Veterans Day Events

Veterans Day Bell-Ringing Ceremony at the Wren Building

The ringing of the Wren Bell has become a Veterans Day tradition at William & Mary. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, a William & Mary student veteran will ring the Wren Bell slowly to commemorate Armistice Day, the original inspiration for Veterans Day. All around the nation, bells will toll in unison at 11 a.m. on Veterans Day. William & Mary is proud to be among the institutions observing this time-honored tradition. President Rowe read aloud “Phantom Noise” by Brian Turner. Kathleen Jabs, Charlie Foster, M.Ed '17, and Angelique Echols '25 gave special Veterans Day remarks and W&M student veteran Chris Kwilecki '25 rang the bell 21 times.



Raymond A. Mason School of Business Veterans Day Celebration

The Raymond A. Mason School of Business MBA Program, Center for Military Transition, and Mason Military Association honored military students, faculty, staff, and executive partners for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to service and sacrifice for the common good. Speakers included Dean Todd Mooradian; Navy veteran, former POW, successful entrepreneur, and Mason School alumnus, Larry Slade, MBA '14; JD Due, Executive Director, Center for Military Transition; and Graduate Assistant, Shijun Zeng, '23, MBA '25.



Highlights

11/9: Military Appreciation Day Tailgate & Football Game

W&M Military & Veteran Affairs and Association of 1775 hosted a Military Appreciation Tailgate before the W&M vs Elon football game. The tailgate welcomed a record 270 guests including W&M alumni, W&M ROTC, Naval ROTC, student veterans, parents, family and friends.

At the game, Rear Admiral Brett Mietus, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, performed the coin toss. Army and Naval ROTC students performed push-ups pictured below.



Highlights (cont.)

W&M VET Advisory Group Fall Meeting

The W&M VET Advisory Group gathered October for their annual fall meeting. Chaired by Chancellor Gates, The advisory Group provides internal advice and support for W&M VET programs. Topics discussed included veteran student loan debt and funding, veteran mental health and pathways for health professionals within the VA and DOD, and best practices for new student veteran orientation. Before the formal meeting, members of the Advisory Group had the opportunity to meet with Carrie Cooper, Ed.D. '24, *Dean of University Libraries*, and Jay Gaidmore, *Marian and Alan McLeod Director of Special Collections*, to learn how W&M Libraries supports veterans initiatives and collections. The Group was treated to a private viewing of the [Robert M. Gates Papers](#) (pictured below)

Did you know that the W&M Libraries' Special Collections Research Center collects and preserves military and veterans history? If you or someone you know might be interested in donating letters, diaries, or photographs relating to military service, please contact Jay Gaidmore at gpgaidmore@wm.edu, 757-221-1775.



Gates Hall Groundbreaking

History was made yet again on the hallowed grounds of William & Mary at the groundbreaking of Gates Hall. Chancellor and Former Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates '65, L.H.D. '98 reflected on his time as a student and the naming of the first academic building in the country for him. With funds from an anonymous and visionary alumna, Brown Hall will be renovated with a significant addition and the foundation of the Bray School literally unearthed, neither of which were previously possible, to create this building for a new generation. Gates Hall will be a place of learning for everyone at the university, to the Institute for Integrative Conservation, the William & Mary Global Research Institute, and the W&M Whole of Government Center of Excellence. The opening will be in 2026.



Student Spotlights



Cierra Klett, MBA '26

IN HER OWN WORDS

Growing up on a military base, I was immersed in a close-knit community. My father's service in the United States Air Force and my mother's unwavering support for him inspired me to follow in his military footsteps and join the armed forces. At 18, I enlisted and was stationed at Langley Air Force Base with the 1st Fighter Wing. I spent most of my time as a Weapons Loader on the F-22 fighter jet, a job that was both high-stakes and incredibly rewarding. In the latter part of my service, I took on a training assistant role, where I organized training programs to help airmen develop their skills.

Though I was proud of my military service, I always dreamed of furthering my education. That dream led me to William & Mary. I'll never forget my first campus tour. The historic buildings, the students walking with purpose—it all felt so special. As I listened to my tour guide talk about the Crim Dell Bridge, I knew this place was unique. It wasn't until later, after much reflection on which graduate program would be the best fit for me, that I had my "Eureka" moment: business school was the path I wanted to pursue, and William & Mary was where I belonged.

During my business school visit, I was impressed not only by the faculty's warmth but also by the school's commitment to supporting veterans. I was paired with a military scholar and invited by Jonathan Due to participate in the Flourishing program, a weeklong military transition course that helped me connect with others, adjust to academic life, and set myself up for success.

The past few months at William & Mary have challenged me in ways that have made me a better person—academically, personally, and professionally. But more importantly, it's provided me with a community rich in kindness, wisdom, and support. From proudly wearing the blues of the Air Force to proudly wearing the green and gold of William & Mary, I am filled with gratitude for this chapter of my journey.

Cierra Klett is a first year student in William & Mary's full time MBA. She attended the University of Virginia for her undergraduate studies. At UVA, she was a member of the PACT Lab where she was inspired to learn about effective communication and leadership methods. Prior to attending college, she served in the United States Air Force. During this time, she spent a few years working on the F-22 fighter jet on the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley AFB. Cierra is the Graduate Student Representative for the W&M VET Advisory Group. Her past times include running, yoga, and surfing.

Graduate Assistant: Office of the Special Assistant



William and Mary VET is honored to welcome Joeseeph H. Shaw, a W&M graduate student in Public Policy and a recent graduate from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in Government. Joeseeph reached the rank of Petty Officer Second Class and served as a Master-At-Arms in the United States Navy from July 2014 to his medical separation in September 2022. Why Public Policy and Why W&M VET? "I have always had a deep desire to help those that need it the most and advocate for those that need to be advocated for. Specifically, when it comes to mental health, I want to be able to work with other veterans, their families, and active-duty military members to remind them that they are not in this fight alone and to remember its okay to not be okay."

Joeseeph is assisting the Office of the Special Assistant for Military & Veteran Affairs by working with university wide graduate student engagement and within the veteran mental health working group.

Student Spotlights (Cont.)

Student Veteran Workers: Office of Student Veteran Engagement

The Office of Student Veteran Engagement employs three student veteran office assistants to staff the office lounge, mentor their peers, connect visitors to resources, and contribute to all W&M community members sense of belonging. Pictured from left to right: Noah Wilson '26, Margaret Xu '24, and Ian Schlueter '26



W&M Revolutionary Guard Battalion ROTC

From 25-27 October, the ROTC cadets conducted their Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Fort Eustis, VA. Training began with M4 zeroing and qualification using the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST), a laser-based indoor arms simulator that enhanced marksmanship. MS3 cadets led MS1 and MS2 cadets in training on field craft, camouflage, radio operations, and patrol base tactics. The exercise concluded with day and night land navigation, followed by squad-level STX lanes where MS3 cadets rotated as leaders and received performance feedback.



W&M Military & National Security Classes

Government 404: Wargaming & Strategic Analysis Class

On November 7, W&M students in their Senior Seminar Capstone course, taught by Charlie Lyon, Major General, U.S. Air Force (Ret), visited the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) wargaming division in the Pentagon where they received an orientation on the division's mission, gaming methodology, and advice on how to enter the gaming profession.

Later in the day, the class traveled to Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C. to visit the National Defense University's Center for Applied Strategic Learning where they received a similar orientation where wargaming is used as an educational tool for U.S. and international military & civil service students.

The class jumped right in and played a strategic-level emerging crisis scenario set in the INDO-PACOM region. The class pitched their original-design Arctic region strategic competition matrix-style game at both locations. They received valuable feedback and high praise for their creativity and thoughtful design process. The class will culminate their semester's activities by playing the game in class and testing the great power competition's tenets in a notional Arctic scenario.



Operational AI: Balancing National Security & Ethical Governance

The poster features a dark background with a network of white nodes and lines. At the top left is a logo with a stylized 'W' and 'M' inside a hexagon. To the right of this logo is the text 'W&M WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE' and 'WILLIAM & MARY LAW SCHOOL'. The main title 'OPERATIONAL AI' is in large, bold, white letters. Below it is the subtitle 'Balancing National Security & Ethical Governance'. Further down, it says '6-week Online Course' and 'led by experts — tailored for professionals and aspiring students'. At the bottom, there is a small circular logo and the text 'AUDIENCE NATIONAL SECURITY • POLICY • DEFENSE • INTELLIGENCE'.

Explore ethical governance in an era of AI, big data, and emerging technologies. Operational AI prepares practitioners and aspiring students in national security, policy, and intelligence sectors to navigate the delicate balance between strategic priorities and ethical governance in today's Artificial Intelligence (AI) landscape.

Registration CLOSES February 7, 2025

◆ View session topics and meet your instructors at wm.edu/wgc/OperationalAI

Operational AI is a partnership between the William & Mary Whole of Government Center of Excellence and William & Mary Law School, and developed with William & Mary - Studio for Teaching & Learning Innovation

W&M VET Team in the News

The Virginia Gazette

World Focus: Supporting military and veterans programs at W&M

By [Frank Shatz](#) | The Virginia Gazette

In a recent interview with The Virginia Gazette, Kathleen Jabs, William & Mary's Special Assistant to the President for Military & Veteran Affairs, shared insights into her remarkable journey from United States Naval Academy graduate to US Navy Captain, and now a key leader at William & Mary.

Kathleen's dedication to supporting our military communities enriches both the university and the broader community. Her work not only honors those who serve but also builds bridges for future partnerships and opportunities.

👉 [Read the full article here](#)

Daily Press and The Virginian-Pilot

The needs of those who protect: Grow the network of organizations focused on veteran success

By Kathleen T. Jabs | Guest columnist

Kathleen Jabs, W&M's Special Assistant to the President of Military & Veteran Affairs, wrote an insightful op-ed featured in the Sunday edition of the Daily Press and The Virginian-Pilot (see below), focusing on the importance of growing the network of organizations dedicated to veteran success. In the piece, she highlights how fortunate the country is to have a wide array of state, national, corporate, private, non-profit, and educational organizations that understand the value of fostering supportive communities for veterans. Kathleen emphasizes the need to honor veterans with action and the ongoing effort to expand this vital network.

👉 [Read the full article here](#)

Fortune.com

America solved veterans' unemployment within a decade—but 'underemployment' continues to hold back their talents

By Jonathan Due

In a recent article on Fortune.com, Jonathan L. Due, Executive Director of William & Mary's Center for Military Transition explores an important issue that continues to affect our veteran community: while veterans' unemployment rates have improved, underemployment remains a significant barrier to fully leveraging their potential in the workforce.

👉 [Read the full article here](#)

To learn more about what William & Mary is doing to focus on long-term career growth for veterans, visit our website at <https://www.wm.edu/offices/veterans/>

Courses, Internships, and Events

The WMGIC x NATO Countering Disinformation Challenge was a smashing success on November 1, 2024. Supported by WGC, the Reves Center for International Studies, and VET, our undergraduate students managed more than 200 teams from across the NATO Alliance. Check out our webpage to see the distinguished judges, mentors, competing teams, and winning teams:

https://www.wm.edu/offices/wholeofgovernment/wmgic_x_nato/wmgic_x_nato_2024/

Save the Date! The National Security Conference will be held on Friday, March 21, 2025 on main campus.

Save the Date! The Wargaming Lab will be running their exercise at the Washington Center on April 4, 2025. Are you interested in playing a role? Contact wgc@wm.edu.

Spring 2025: U.S. Air Force Air University Innovation Accelerator (AUiX) Internship

The W&M Whole of Government Center of Excellence (WGC) invite students to apply for the U.S. Air Force's [Air University Innovation Accelerator \(AUiX\) Spring 2025 Internship](#). With their partners in academia, industry, and the Department of Defense (DoD), AUiX identifies opportunities for collaboration to develop new capabilities, strategies, and technology. Interns will focus on innovation in education, social impact, and DoD operations and doctrine while collaborating with researchers to advance national security and military effectiveness. Learn more about AUiX's program and offered stipend and apply by Sunday, December 8, 2024, in [TribeCareers](#). The selected student may be eligible for additional funding through the WGC [National Security Internship Program](#). Questions? Contact wgc@wm.edu.

Summer 2025 U.S. INDOPACOM Internship Program

[Headquarters U.S. Indo-Pacific Command](#) and the W&M Whole of Government Center of Excellence (WGC) invite students to apply for the Summer 2025 USINDOPACOM Internship Program in Hawaii. Gain valuable work experience and explore Department of Defense career opportunities in the diverse environment of our nation's largest combatant command. The program is open to graduate students and current junior and senior undergraduate students. Applicants must have U.S. citizenship or U.S./dual citizenship and must be able to successfully complete a DoD security clearance background investigation. Students selected for the program will receive a stipend from USINDOPACOM and may be eligible for additional funding through the WGC [National Security Internship Program](#). Visit [TribeCareers](#) to learn more and to apply by noon on Friday, January 24th, 2025. Questions? Contact wgc@wm.edu.

ROTC & Association of 1775

ROTC Contracting Ceremony

On November 9, 20 cadets from William & Mary swore into the Army as contracted cadets. Once their training and degree requirements are completed, each will become Army officers in either the active, reserve or National Guard component. Over 75 family members were in attendance, many who traveled large distances to be at this event. Brigadier General Kendall Clark, Deputy Commander of Army Futures Command, Fort Eustis was officiant of the ceremony.



Photos: David Millert

Celebrate the 250th Anniversary of W&M's College Company

In 2025, celebrate the 250th Anniversary of W&M's College Company, the namesake of our Association of 1775 military, veteran and government service alumni and friends network on a Seine River cruise featuring distinguished lecturer, Ao75's president, Charles Bowery '92, Executive Director, U.S. Army Center of Military History. Delve into the dramatic history of the D-Day invasion at Normandy's beaches and the Caen Memorial Museum while expert guides add context to your visit. Delight in the historic maritime cities of Honfleur and Rouen, and discover the beauty of coastal Étretat. Walk through bountiful gardens at Claude Monet's home, gaze at majestic Versailles and explore timeless abbeys. Spend sunny days relaxing aboard your exclusively chartered first-class ship and enjoy a generous meal plan. No supplement for single travelers! Book now!



Military & Veteran Student Wellness

Yoga for Better Sleep



Working through yogic principles, this class will set you up for a good night's sleep. Come as you are, dress comfortably in layers and your guide will do the rest! Leave with a refreshed mind and ready for a good night's sleep!

[Register for this FitWell Series online at wellness.wm.edu](https://wellness.wm.edu), search "stress" in the top bar.

TimelyCare

If you're stressed about class, having trouble adapting to campus and civilian life, or are healing from your experience serving, TimelyCare's 24/7 virtual health and well-being services can help support student veterans.

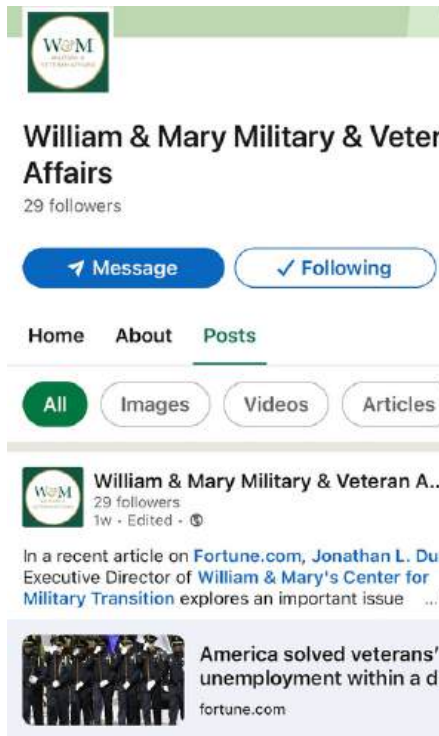
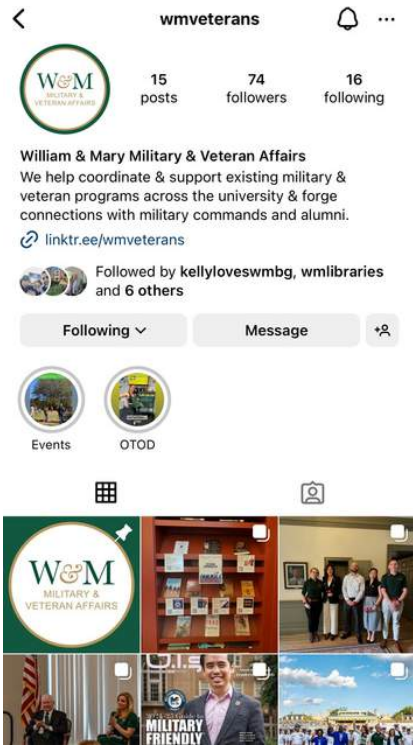
Check out the TimelyCare resources available to you, including:

- Peer Community: Anonymously post your feelings, ask questions, offer support to others, and share your experiences with a nationwide community of students.
- Self-Care Journeys: Not ready to talk yet? Learn, heal, and relax with yoga classes, meditations, and other self-guided content that focuses on managing stress, anxiety, and resilience.
- Need Additional Support? Check the TimelyCare app for on-demand or appointment-based services that are available to support your health and well-being. Visit timelycare.com/wm

An advertisement for the TimelyCare app. On the left is a smartphone displaying the app's interface with a user named 'Alex' and options for 'Get Care' and 'Self-Care'. In the center is the 'timelycare' logo and the text 'Free, 24/7 Virtual Health and Well-Being Services at Your Fingertips'. To the right is an illustration of a woman pointing at a laptop. On the far right, the text 'Download the TimelyCare App Today!' is above two buttons: 'Download on the App Store' and 'GET IT ON Google Play'.

Announcements

Follow us on LinkedIn and Instagram!



Click the icons to follow and stay up to date on all things W&M Military & Veteran Affairs!



Give Today

Please take a moment to honor William & Mary's military heritage and help veterans and their families. With your gift today, we can continue to build momentum for expanded veteran services and support for our students and military community .



GIVE HERE