

# WILLIAM & MARY



## MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

### Letter from the Special Assistant

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Hello,

Graduation is a time for gratitude, reflection, and excitement. The energy is contagious as I walk through the halls and across the campus. I'm continually impressed by all the William & Mary students, but the military-connected and veteran students have a special place in my heart.

It's invigorating to be around the undergraduate veterans who are making another big life transition as they prepare to leave William & Mary. Many will continue onward for advanced degrees while others are entering the job market. The graduate student veterans and military-connected also are pivoting to new careers and finding new interests. You can read about our graduate assistant military spouse, Becca Dougherty, and her journey on page 4.

Our goal has been to keep transition at the forefront of our plans. The Veteran-to-Executive Transition (VET) programs are geared to helping military-connected and veteran students flourish and thrive, at school and beyond. We regularly communicate that as soon as our students graduate, they become W&M alumni and members of the Association of 1775. They have roots and a network – a Tribe.

All the VET efforts are possible because of the generosity of alumni and others as well as the support of W&M administration, faculty, and staff. Our team was so appreciative of the many people who made One Tribe One Day donations to the Military & Veteran Affairs fund. We look forward to continuing to provide new opportunities for our students with these funds.

In this month's newsletter we provide an overview of some of the partnerships we've forged at the state and federal level as we look to amplify and expand our military and veteran networks. Our next goal is to broaden and establish corporate ties to assist our military connected and veteran student population and programs. Thank you all for the ongoing encouragement. The entire VET team is motivated to serve our military-connected students and veterans so that they can think boldly and continue to live lives of impact and meaning.

Go Tribe,  
Kathleen

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# Announcements

## MOU signing between W&M and VDVS

At the Virginia War Memorial on April 24th, W&M's President Katherine Rowe and Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) Commissioner Daniel Gade signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to partner together for education, outreach, and development opportunities for our Commonwealth military and veteran communities. This partnership between VDVS and W&M will help connect the veteran service members and military families who W&M services to all VDVS's services and will enhance VDVS access to academic and research expertise as well as facilities and programs offered at W&M for military and veterans. Several of our faculty are engaged in research projects for VDVS.

Our goal is to maximize the efficiency and productivity of existing resources, personnel, and data infrastructure to bring enhanced veteran services to the Commonwealth of Virginia by improving the pipeline between W&M, Veterans, and the Commonwealth of Virginia



Photo by: Suzanne Feigley  
Pictured: (Back row) Clay Mountcastle, Charlie Foster, Kathleen Jabs, JD Due, Lindsay Blount.  
(Seated) President Katherine Rowe, Commissioner Daniel Gade

## MOA between W&M and VA



William & Mary signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of VHA Innovation Ecosystem (VHA IE). The MoA sets forth a structure in which both entities will work together to advance and improve the quality of life for our Nation's Veterans. Under this new partnership, W&M and VHA IE will work collaboratively during the upcoming W&M Flourishing Through Life Transitions program. VHA leaders will be on campus to work with the Flourishing Through Life Transitions cohort in early June.

# Events Recap

## 3rd Annual National Security Conference

The April 6 National Security Conference “From Theory to Practice: Fostering Climate Resilience for a More Secure World” brought together the entire university as well as outside practitioners and highlighted the ways academia can help with global problems. Of the approximately 200 attendees, more than 120 came from outside the university, which showcased the way Whole of Government Center of Excellence fulfills its role as a convener. Along with keynote addresses from Retired Admirals Foggo, Dean of the Center for Military Strategy and Phillips, head of the Maritime Administration, the conference also featured panels highlighting the role climate plays in environmental justice as well as student presentations. Planning will soon begin for 2024 and we look forward to expanding the breadth and reach.

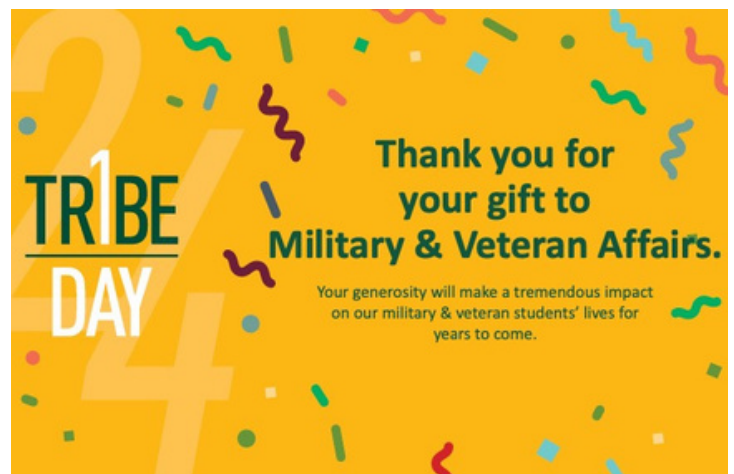


## One Tribe One Day

W&M celebrated One Tribe One Day April 18 and we are so grateful to everyone who gave to the Military & Veteran Affairs fund! For the first year ever, Military & Veterans Affairs celebrated with a table at the OTOD carnival and gave out 225 temporary W&M Camo tattoos and gift bags to students and alumni. We heard so many stories from students about their veteran family members, with a lot of students receiving their parents' GI Bill. Being there really solidified the important work we are doing to build community among our tribe of active- duty, veterans and the military connected community.



Military & Veteran Affairs Team at the OTOD Carnival





# Military and Veteran Student Spotlight



## Rebecca (Becca) Dougherty, M.Ed. '23

### IN HER OWN WORDS

“So, where are you from?” All 27 years of my life, I’ve lost count of how many times, at how many new schools, how many new friends have asked me this question. Well, where am I from? Typically, I jokingly respond “well I am from the United States.

As an Army brat, how should I answer? I could say “well I was born at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska, but then I moved to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. I also lived at Ft. Eustis, Virginia a few times, and I spent quite some time at Ft. Drum, New York. Despite the responses and the anticipation for the dreaded question, I embraced my identity as an Army Brat. Being an Army Brat shaped the person I am today more than anything else. My father served 30 years as an aviation mechanic, serving as a Drill Sergeant and retiring as a Command Sergeant Major and I am proud to be his daughter.

While I was also proud of the “military brat” identity, I could see that the military lifestyle was draining. My lived experience ignited a passion to pursue a mental health career that serves the military affiliated population. My dream was to work at the Department of Veteran Affairs Medical, providing mental health care to veterans and their families. I fell in love with my husband, Brent, who decided to pursue a career in the Army. Upon his enlistment and departure to One Station Unit Training, I found out I was pregnant with our son, Grayson. However, I was still pursuing higher education by attending the local community college to complete an Associate of Science degree. This was my next step toward my goal as a mental health services practitioner. Despite the difficulty juggling these newly acquired roles, I still had my own mission to accomplish.

The label “military spouse” was placed onto my identity while stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. While I didn’t embrace it by attending any Family Readiness Group meetings or wearing the “mil-spouse” gear, I did amplify it by continuing to pursue MY dream. In December 2020, while watching our son Grayson climb under the Christmas tree, I googled mental health programs that I could apply. I stumbled across [W&M’s Clinical Mental Health Counseling program](#) that specialized in serving the Military & Veteran population. After reading the description, I knew I needed to apply and in March of 2021 I received an acceptance letter.

In the fall semester of 2021, I walked onto this historic campus and was ready to truly amplify my identity as a military-affiliated individual and give back to the community and culture that shaped me. After my first academic year, I was given the opportunity to serve as a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Veteran Engagement (OSVE) with the Director, Charlie Foster, where my work there enabled me to receive tuition assistance. As an Army Brat and a Military Spouse with a child, I saw gaps in services to those populations at W&M. I worked diligently to include military connected groups during my time as the OSVE graduate assistant, which helped me connect to others here who are like me, who wear the military brat and military spouse identities.

As I prepare now to walk across the stage at W&M’s Commencement and leave my formal duties in the W&M mil-vet community, I will forever cherish the people I have met, the experiences the student veterans have shared with me, and the opportunity to see the growth of every student veteran who walks through the OSVE door.

*Becca Dougherty is graduating on May 19th, 2023 with an M.Ed in Clinical Mental Health & Military/Veterans Counseling. Becca recently accepted a full-time position where she will provide direct services in a state facility working for community focused mental health care.*

# Military and Veteran Student Achievements

Each month, we will feature a few of our military & veteran student achievements; however, this is only a snapshot of the incredible accomplishments of our W&M VET students

## Joel D. Wyman, MBA '23



USCG Lieutenant Joel D. Wyman will graduate this month with a MBA, dual specializations in finance and consulting. Last summer LT Wyman completed his internship with the United States Coast Guard's Program Analysis and Evaluation (PAE) shop at Headquarters. There, LT Wyman was directly involved with the planning/forecasting of appropriated funds that will allow the Coast Guard to effectively carry out its strategic objectives within and outside the continental United States. After graduation, LT Wyman will head to Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington D.C. to work in their finance department at CG-8333.

## KC Pitko, B.A.Ed '23



Undergraduate veteran student KC Pitko '23 was awarded the Patriot's Dream Scholarship by the Office of Student Veteran Engagement. A Navy veteran, KC continues to serve as a military spouse, splitting her time between Williamsburg and Chesapeake. A graduating senior, KC will earn her degree and licensure from the Elementary Education program at the School of Education. After commencement, she is committed to teaching Virginia's children in areas with a high concentration of military families.

## Keith Schemel, MBA '23



An Army veteran and former Armor officer, Keith will graduate this month and join the "ranks" of JP Morgan Chase as a member of the Chase Associate Program. Working in Manhattan, Keith will be part of a highly selective cohort of future banking leaders as part of a 2-year rotational program. Long-term, Keith is interested in developing business skills and meaningful connections to place him in a position to one day support transitioning service members and veteran entrepreneurs achieve their post-service business goals.

# Military & Veteran Affairs Upcoming Events



May 11, 6:30-8 pm | [Association of 1775 Meetup at the W&M Washington Center](#) | 901 4th St, NW, Suite 700 | Washington, DC 20001

May 25, 6:30-9:30 pm | [Evening at the Embassy Gala](#) | Finnish Embassy | 3301 Massachusetts Ave. NW | Washington, D.C. 20008

June 1-4 | [William & Mary Weekend in San Francisco](#) | Events sponsored by Association of 1775: Military Tour of the Presidio, Squadron Bottle Toast at the Top of the Mark, and Ships & Sips at Mare Island



## Hail & Farewell | May 16th

Hail & Farewell Open House is a Pre-Commencement celebration for W&M Military and Veteran Students.

A traditional military event whereby those coming to and departing from an organization are celebrated, this Hail & Farewell recognizes not only the service of our nation's military veterans, but the remarkable accomplishments of our W&M military and veteran students

## W&M VET Dates to Remember

June 1-10, [Warrior Scholars Project](#) hosted by William & Mary

June 6, 1:00 -3:00 pm | [Service Academy Briefing](#) | Mason School of Business

June 11-23, Flourishing Through Life Transitions Certificate | 35 participants registered (notably of the 35, 5 are incoming FR-MBA veteran students, 4 are military spouses, 2 are Ukrainian veterans, and 1 is a Ukrainian Ministry of Veteran Affairs staff member)