

WILLIAM & MARY



MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



Letter from the Special Assistant

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Dear W&M VET Friends,

What a winter! And I'm not talking only about the weather. While the cold rain, sleet and snow have made an impact, they haven't slowed our team down. The work to expand William & Mary's engagement and reach in military and veteran affairs continues to gain momentum.

As we update our strategic plan in the upcoming weeks, we'll be leaning into two core goals:

1. Supporting and launching our current veteran and military-connected students.
2. Serving the nation's senior military commands and broader national security community.

Working with our university partners across campus, our goal is to create an environment that empowers veteran and military-connected students' success in the classroom and in follow-on careers. In all our external interactions, we showcase the teaching, learning and research capabilities of William & Mary. Our partners and partnerships continue to grow. It's an exciting time to be on campus, and we welcome your support and engagement.

We're very grateful for the William & Mary Military and Veteran Affairs Advisory Group, chaired by Chancellor Robert M. Gates '65, L.H.D. '98. The members of that group continue to lean in and help us make connections and forge opportunities for our students and the greater W&M community. External advisory group members include: Charles R. Bowery Jr. '92, executive director, U.S. Army Center for Military History, colonel, U.S. Army (ret.); Fred B. Caprio '85, founder and CEO, The Caprio Group LLC; Dave Davenport, senior vice president, Bank of America; James R. "Jim" Golden, HON '24, G '24, brigadier general, U.S. Army (ret.); John D. Johnson '92, P '25, managing director, general counsel & head of legal, Americas, Amundi US; Charles W. Lyon, major general, U.S. Air Force (ret.); Keith J. Masback, P '24, principal consultant, PLUM RUN, LLC; James Schenck, president and CEO, PenFed; Amy D. Thurston, '90, government strategy lead, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals; Elizabeth L. Train '78, rear admiral, U.S. Navy (ret.); Caryn A. Wagner '79, former undersecretary for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security; and Ardine Williams, W&M Board of Visitors. Please let us know if you're interested in joining this group.

A few highlights of our work in 2025 — much of it enhanced by our advisory group — are included below with more photos and updates in the following pages.

- Jan. 2-4: Five students and staff attended the Student Veterans of America conference in Colorado Springs. We're grateful to Virginia Natural [CT1] [ET2] Gas for their sponsorship!
- Jan. 31: We hosted Air Force Gen. Kenneth [ET3] Wilsbach, commander of Air Combat Command (ACC). William & Mary and ACC signed an Educational Partnership Agreement.
- Feb. 4: PenFed Credit Union C-suite veteran executives hosted 10 students for a tour and overview of their work followed by an evening in their suite at Capital One Arena.
- Feb. 5: The Military & Veteran Affairs [ET4] team presented our story to the General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus (GAMVC) in Richmond.

We're gearing up for One Tribe One Day, and we'd love for you to consider donating to our [Military and Veterans Affairs Fund](#). Thank you for supporting our students, our programming and our team.

Go Tribe!

Kathleen

Highlights

U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command Education Agreement with W&M

On January 31, General Kenneth S. Wilsbach and Chief Master Sergeant David R. Wolfe, accompanied by members of U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command (ACC), visited the William & Mary campus. This partnership will offer exciting opportunities through joint research in data science and cybersecurity, enriched classroom and internship experiences, and expanded career pathways for students, faculty, and staff.



Photo provided by USAF

PenFed Hosts W&M Military & Veteran Students | Tysons Corner

PenFed Credit Union hosted the 2nd annual W&M Day at their headquarters Feb. 4. Kathleen Jabs and Jd Due traveled with nine undergraduate and graduate veteran students for an industry day with PenFed senior veteran leaders. They all joined the executives that evening in their Capitol One Arena box for a Wizards game and more networking tips. All of the undergraduate veterans were provided a personal coaching opportunity. We're excited to see the outcomes from our growing partnership.



Highlights

Student Veterans of America (SVA) NaCon Conference | Colorado Springs

We're grateful to Virginia Natural Gas for their generous sponsorship that allowed our student veterans to attend the SVA National Conference on January 2-4 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Our veterans had the opportunity to network, gain valuable leadership skills, and connect with fellow student veterans from across the country. During the conference, W&M veteran students and staff joined the "Wear Blue: Run to Remember" event, a tradition we uphold every first Saturday of the month at W&M.



General Assembly Military and Veteran Caucus (GAMVC) Meeting

The MILVET team presented our story to the General Assembly Military and Veteran Caucus (GAMVC) February 5 in Richmond. We continue to work with the GAMVC to highlight our capabilities as part of the Commonwealth talent pipeline. This session has been a great opportunity to advocate for our work and meet with legislators and their staffs.



Highlights

W&M VET Advisory Group Charter Day Meeting



The W&M VET Advisory Group gathered February 7 for the annual winter 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, 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 military connected students from VIMS, Arts & Sciences, Business School, and Data Science to discuss issues affecting military-connected students at W&M.

Tribal Leaders Meeting

OSVE Director Charlie Foster, M.Ed '17, met with Tribal Leaders February 7 as part of a series of presentations coordinated by W&M's Strategic Cultural Partnerships. Foster thanked the attendees for supporting military & veteran students at pow wows and a Wear Blue Run for Remembrance that focused on a fallen service member of Native American ancestry.



Student Spotlights



Rob Kirby, MBA '25

IN HIS OWN WORDS

I am a military dependent from Yorktown, Virginia, where my father retired as a Navy Captain. I am in the final stages of completing my Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, with graduation scheduled for this May. I earned my undergraduate degree from Christopher Newport University, where I developed a strong interest in advancing my education. Consequently, I enrolled in the Full-Time MBA program at William and Mary.

Throughout my MBA journey, I have engaged in various coursework and projects that have honed my analytical and leadership skills, preparing me for the challenges of the business world. Following graduation, I am excited to embark on a new professional chapter as I join Capital One's Financial Rotational Program in Richmond, Virginia. This opportunity will allow me to gain diverse experiences within the financial sector, further developing my skills and knowledge.

During my school tour for the MBA program application process, I had the pleasure of meeting Amanda Barth, who introduced me to JD Due. Our conversation quickly revealed the welcoming nature of the military community within the business school. JD described it as a tight-knit group where camaraderie flourishes. He also emphasized the availability of the military center and how it was a place where military members and their dependents can unwind, tackle school assignments, or attend to any other needs in a supportive environment.

Amid my busy schedule, I often visit the military office between classes. It's a perfect spot to take a breather while enjoying lunch, socializing with friends, and catching up on emails. The warm atmosphere created by Lindsay Blount, Ed.D. and JD makes me feel right at home. I love grabbing a snack or two and refueling with a fresh cup of coffee from the convenient coffee maker. Beyond just a place to relax, the military office is an inspiring workspace where I can dive into my homework and studies without distractions. Its open layout fosters collaboration, making it an ideal meeting area for group projects, where ideas flow freely, and teamwork thrives.

Mason School of Business: On-Line Student Success

Student Panelists



Nick Bowlin
Weapons Material Readiness
Inspector, COMNAVSURFLANT
Staff, U.S. Navy



Kwesi Campbell
Senior Consultant, Deloitte



Jennifer Karnosky
Tactical Marketing Data
Analyst, John Deere



Terrence Mack
Strategic Communications
and Technical Advisor, SAIC

On February 14, 2025, three recent veteran graduates and one current online student veteran gathered to share their thoughts with prospective candidates for a number of degrees offered by the Mason School's Center for Online Learning. Nick Bowlin, MBA, '24; Flourishing '24, Kwesi Campbell, MBA, '24, Jennifer Karnosky, MSBA, '23, and Terrence Mack, '16, MBA '25 joined CMT Executive Director JD Due to provide key insights derived from their military service and their educational experiences at William & Mary. A recording of the webinar is available for viewing – or sharing – [here](#).

Meet the Interns: Whole of Government



Olivia Stocks '25

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ECONOMICS

I greatly enjoyed my internship experience at the U.S. Army War College for the fall semester because it provided both a hands-on approach and glimpse into how military professionals in the U.S. Army are continually trained to respond adequately to constantly evolving national security threats.

In my project, we analyzed the Intelligence-based training received by senior-military professionals, and how it could be updated to include emerging technology such as geospatial intelligence (GEOINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), and artificial intelligence (AI). By evaluating the gaps in professional military education in intelligence-based training, we created a series of recommendations and proposed policies to help aid training of future U.S. Army officials.

Overall, I would recommend the pursuit of an internship experience at USAWC because it provides a unique opportunity to gain valuable insights into military strategy, education, and intelligence operations. At USAWC, you'll engage with a supportive, collaborative environment with numerous experts in national security, providing you with valuable insights into the defense industry that extend well beyond the classroom.



James Johnson '26

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

During the fall semester, I conducted an internship with the U.S. Army War College, in which I worked with the wargaming department on understanding an educational wargame used in military training to understand tactical strategies implemented by both the U.S. and other countries (in this instance, China).

I focused on path optimization, specifically with U.S. flying planes into Taiwan to protect the country from China. I was able to replicate the game board as a network and factored in refueling and air missile defenses to optimize paths from one node to another. I was incredibly fortunate to have such an amazing opportunity to work with the war college. I highly enjoyed being able to use my math and computer science background towards a project that could have major contributions towards military education and serving our nation. The stipend provided by the Whole of Governance Center allowed me to pursue such an internship and allocate the time towards working on the project and achieve what I was able to do.

This internship allowed me to apply my mathematics education towards a real-world application and has given me valuable experience that I will continue to use the knowledge and skills I gained from it to pursue my career further.

W&M Whole of Government Center of Excellence

Save The Date!

April 3: W&M will host a reception at the National Press Club (RSVP link forthcoming) showcasing national security and the Whole of Government Center of Excellence. We will feature student speakers from the W&M Global Innovation Challenge and their work with NATO, the Wargaming Lab, and our national security internship program. We hope you can join us!

April 4: The Wargaming Lab will be running their exercise at the Washington Center. Are you interested in playing a role? [Contact wgc@wm.edu](mailto:wgc@wm.edu)

Internships

Interning with the Defense Community

Available to the entire campus community, this learning module is designed to guide students through the world of defense organizations, national security roles, and professional expectations. Students identify and apply for the right opportunities, navigate the structure and culture of the Department of Defense, and develop the essential skills needed to excel in a defense-related workplace.

[Click here](#) for students to enroll in Blackboard and take the first step toward a future career in national security! Questions? Contact wgc@wm.edu

Summer 2025 WGC NSIP National Security Internship F.U.S.E. Funding

The Whole of Government Center of Excellence (WGC) National Security Internship Program (NSIP) invites applications for financial assistance from eligible W&M students who will be completing unpaid or underfunded internships in the national security field this summer. Students, [click here](#) for more information and to apply for WGC NSIP F.U.S.E. funding in [TribeCareers](#) by the April 15th priority deadline or April 30th final deadline. Available funding is part of a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. Please note: This is **not** an internship; it is a source of funding awarded to students who have acquired an unpaid or underfunded national security internship for Summer 2025. Questions? Contact wgc@wm.edu.

Highlights

USEUCOM Interns Selected

The Whole of Government Center of Excellence (WGC) through its National Security Internship Program (NSIP) is proud to announce that eleven William & Mary students were selected for a summer 2025 internship at either USEUCOM or USAFRICOM Headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. They will be working with various directorates to explore career options in their field of study during this eight-week internship.

USINDOPACOM Summer Internship

Through its National Security Internship Program, WGC forwarded over 40 student applications to HQ USINDOPACOM for their summer 2025 internship program in Honolulu, Hawaii. Those selected for positions will spend ten weeks exploring career opportunities within a professional work environment while learning about the Department of Defense mission and objectives in the Indo-Pacific region.



Steven Cauthron

SECOND YEAR LAW STUDENT AND PARTICIPANT IN THE US ARMY FUNDED LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (FLEP)

In November 2024, with the support of the Law School's Office of Military and Veteran Affairs, I had the opportunity to attend the American Bar Association's National Security Law Conference in Washington, D.C. The event allowed me to engage with national security law experts from government agencies and academia, gaining valuable insights from their experiences. Panel discussions covered a wide range of topics, including outer space law, the law of armed conflict, artificial intelligence, and genetic engineering.

The knowledge and connections I gained from the conference enhanced my understanding of national security law and its intersection with other legal fields. As a future Army Judge Advocate, understanding the historical and legal foundations of national security law will be essential in advising commanders effectively. The conference highlighted key challenges that lawyers and decision-makers will face in an increasingly complex and evolving world, both technologically and politically.

One of the most valuable aspects of the experience was speaking with Judge Advocates who serve as national security law instructors at the Army's Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. Our discussions provided me with career guidance and a clearer understanding of what to expect in my future role.

Ultimately, attending this conference was an invaluable experience that significantly contributed to my professional development. I am especially grateful to the Office of Military & Veteran Affairs for supporting this opportunity.



David Heider

SECOND YEAR LAW STUDENT AND US NAVY VETERAN

This semester marks the 17th year of William & Mary Law students gaining hands-on experience in veteran disability law through the [Puller Veterans Clinic](#). The Clinic brings together both military-affiliated and non-military students, who collaborate to help veterans across Virginia navigate the complexities of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This experience not only provides law students with real-world client interactions but also exposes them to a unique and impactful area of law.

For veterans like myself, the Puller Clinic has been an incredible way to give back to the community while honing my legal skills. I have enjoyed connecting with and assisting veterans from different eras and branches of service. The Clinic has also highlighted the urgent need for competent legal representation, as many veterans struggle for years to advocate for themselves. Inspired by this experience, I plan to continue serving the veteran community through pro bono work after law school.

For non-veterans, the Clinic offers valuable insight into the sacrifices made by service members—many of which have lasting effects. The learning curve at the beginning of the semester is steep, requiring students to grasp both applicable law and military culture. Third-year law student Caroline Olsen reflected on her experience: "The unique opportunity to serve the veteran community as a law student was one of the factors that drew me to William & Mary Law School. I am honored to work with these individuals, and I look forward to using what I've learned through the Clinic to support veterans as a future attorney."

Ultimately, the Puller Clinic not only provides crucial legal assistance to veterans but also embodies William & Mary Law's commitment to developing Citizen Lawyers. By equipping students with the tools and experience to serve those who served our country, the Clinic fosters both legal excellence and public service.

Army ROTC & Association of 1775

Branch Celebration - Friday, 21 March

At 3pm at the Alumni House we will honor the graduating cadets and celebrate their respective branch assignments. As in prior years, we will have a panel for cadets to ask questions about leadership, the Army, and their branches. We are looking for five volunteers to serve as panelists. Not all panelists need to have served in the Army. If you're interested please [email Thornton Ray '13](#). We would love for more alums to attend to mingle and chat with the cadets.

Commissioning - TBD May

Once we have a date for this we will let everyone know. Alums are invited to celebrate the newly commissioned 2LTs, to wish them well, and welcome them to Ao75.

National Museum of Health & Medicine - Friday, June 6

Join fellow Ao75 members in Silver Spring, MD as we receive a free tour from a museum docent. The tour starts at 3pm and a happy hour will follow at a location TBD. [Email Thornton Ray '13](#) NLT 20 April if you plan to attend.

Congratulating MSIVs on their Branches

Thank you to everyone who reached out to the graduating cadets to congratulate them on their branches and commissioning. We learned of a few more cadets who weren't on the original list. We are looking for more volunteers to send an email or letter to congratulate the cadets with the below branches. [Email Thornton Ray '13](#) if you would like to volunteer.

To get involved in the Association of 1775, please [email Thornton Ray '13](#).

Alumna Chelsea Mandello wins National Entrepreneur of the Year Award



Chelsea Mandello EMBA '21 (Center) wins National Entrepreneur of the Year Award (photo by W&M)

by Kristine Hojnicky / January 31, 2025

The Raymond A. Mason School of Business proudly congratulates [Chelsea Mandello](#), EMBA '21, founder of [Troopster](#), on being named Entrepreneur of the Year at the inaugural [U.S. Forces in Business Awards](#). The ceremony, held on November 21, 2024, in Washington, DC, celebrated the exceptional contributions of military veterans to the business world.

Mandello, a U.S. Navy veteran, founded Troopster in 2016 to address the challenges service members face when receiving care packages while deployed. Since its inception, the nonprofit has delivered over 60,000 care packages worldwide, spreading comfort and support to troops stationed far from home.

“This monumental achievement underscores Chelsea’s dedication to improving the lives of military personnel and highlights the invaluable impact of veteran-led businesses,” said Dean Todd Mooradian.

To read the full article, [click here](#)

Yoga for Chronic Illness & Stress

Utilizing Yoga Therapy, this small group class will focus on ways you can manage Chronic Illness and Stress in your everyday life.

Every movement will have modifications offered and interaction will be encouraged to find what works best for your body.

Monday, March 3
7-7:45 PM
McLeod Tyler Wellness Center



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Inclusive

This class is designed for students with chronic illness and will be adapted to individual abilities and needs

Supportive

Connect with others on campus who manage chronic illness and stress

Professional Guidance

Led by Certified Yoga Therapist with specialized training in Chronic Pain, PTSD, and Functional Movement, **Patti DeBlass**

She has a deep love of teaching movement and breath for her clients to be aware of their needs in movement patterns throughout their lives.

Register for this FitWell Series:

W&M Wellness App
Select FitWell Classes

Online: wellness.wm.edu



Save the Date: April 2 One Tribe One Day

WILLIAM & MARY

MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS

MAKE A REAL IMPACT FOR OUR STUDENT VETERANS

**Mark your calendar and join us for a
night where every throw, sip, and
bite makes a difference!**



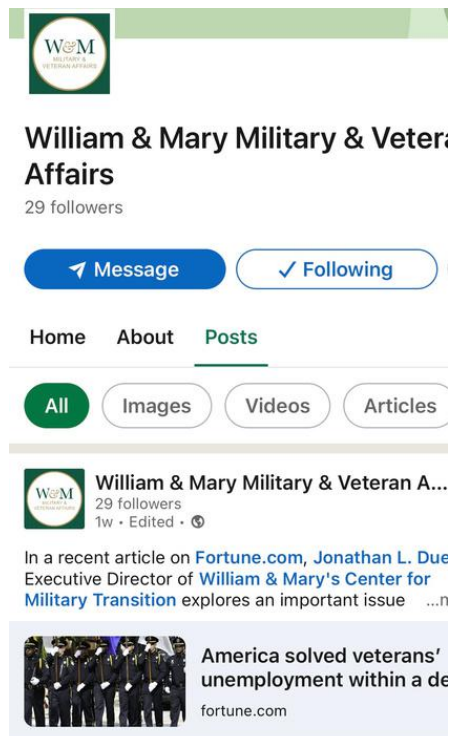
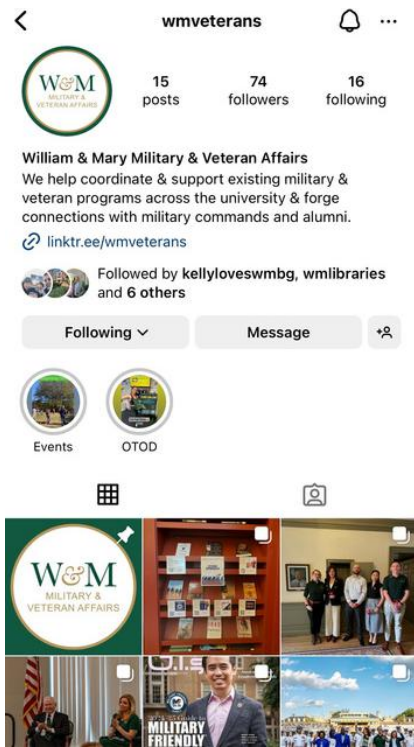
**April 2 | 5pm-9pm
Axe Republic, Williamsburg**

A portion of all sales from drinks, food, and axe throwing will go to W&M Military & Veteran Affairs to directly impact student veterans



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