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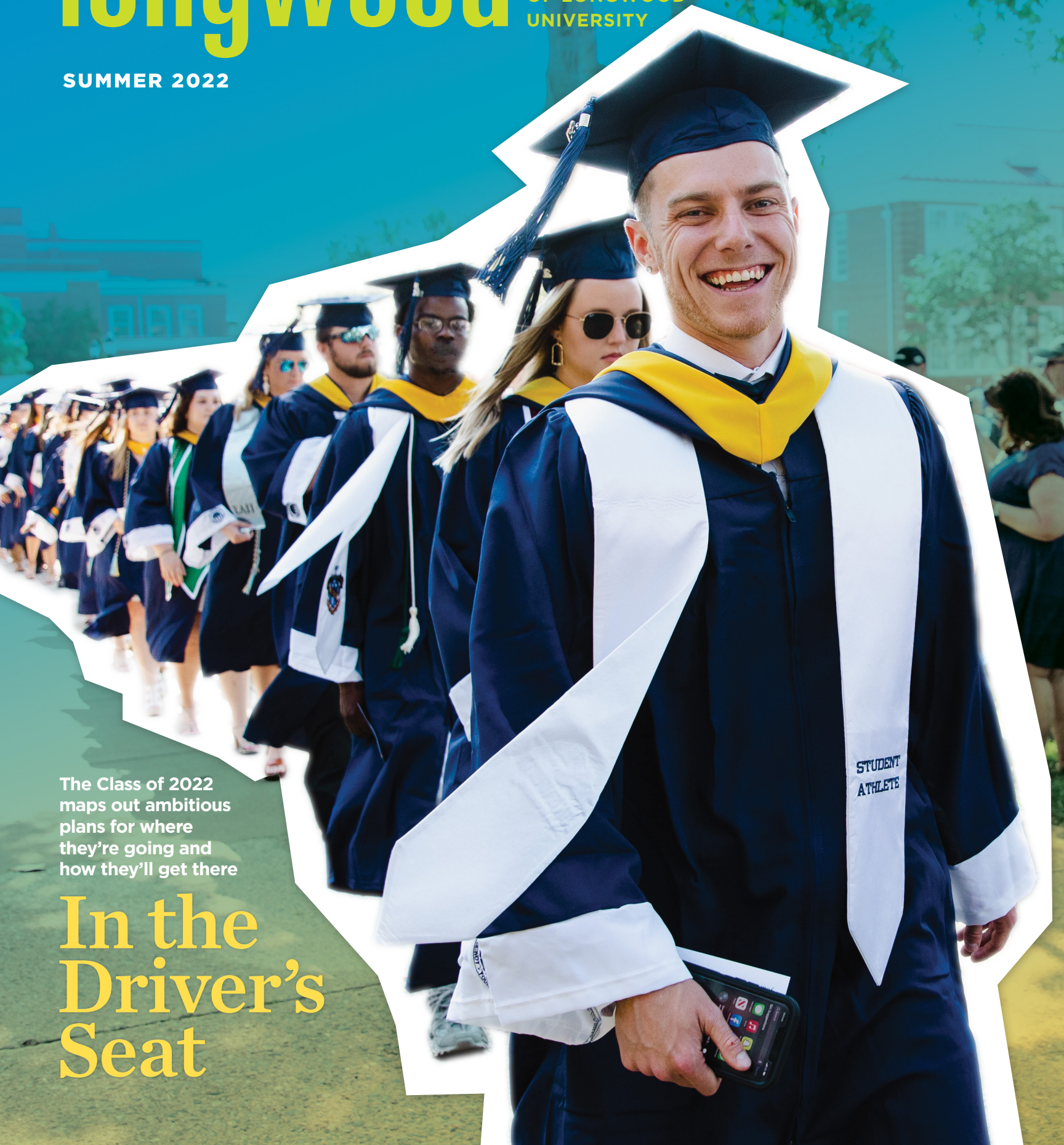
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Alumni Awards put 7 in the winners' circle | Citizenship remains at heart of Civitae for seniors

# longwood

A MAGAZINE  
FOR ALUMNI  
AND FRIENDS  
OF LONGWOOD  
UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2022



The Class of 2022 maps out ambitious plans for where they're going and how they'll get there

## In the Driver's Seat

STUDENT  
ATHLETE

“ I started thinking about what I could do in my life to be a person who is going to make a difference for society.”

—DR. FRANCES “FRAN” ANTHONY MEYER '70  
2022 DISTINGUISHED  
CITIZEN LEADER  
ALUMNI AWARD  
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### President's Message

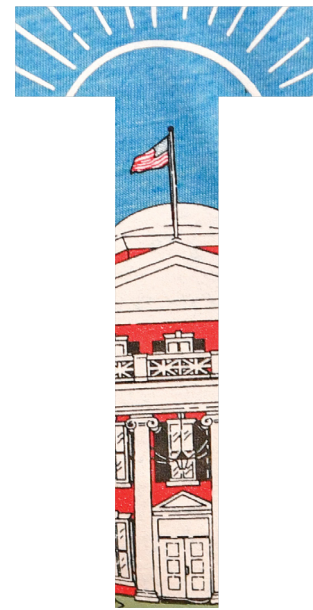
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### The Tree That Time Forgot

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Many paths converge as students begin their Longwood experience and then diverge after Commencement. The Class of 2022 is headed for veterinary and medical school, Teach for America, Capital One—and many more adventures.  
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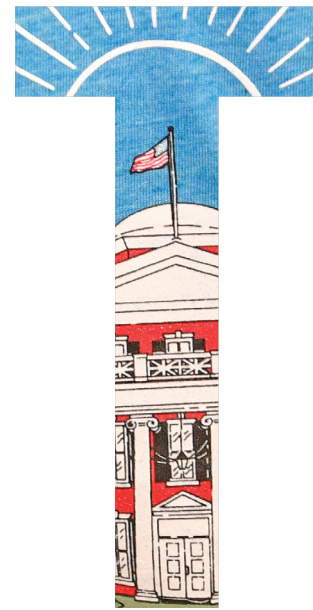
First cohort of seniors completes Civitae Core Curriculum, prepared for a life of good citizenship



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Music graduate's storytelling takes many forms



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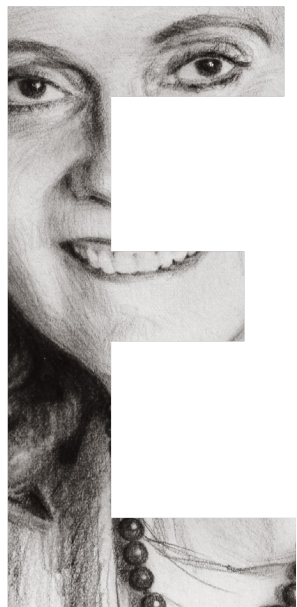
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Alumnus is part of NBC Sports team that covered Olympic Games in Tokyo and Beijing

# longwood

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI  
AND FRIENDS OF  
LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2022

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Published August 2022



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**It is hard to believe, but the school year soon to begin will be my 10th as Longwood's president. To say the least, it has been an eventful decade.** The start of the school year is always a time where you can see on campus both what has changed—and what has not.

A senior class we know and love has departed, but there is the bustle and excitement of first-year students beginning their college journeys. Each year, we have faculty and staff who retire or move on to new opportunities—but each year there is the fresh energy of new people who come aboard and serve our mission. There is new construction and continued progress in the vitality of Farmville. Each year the challenges evolve, and some—like the pandemic—test us in unprecedented ways. But so, too, do Longwood's people grow, our muscles constantly strengthening for whatever the mission requires.

So much of the work of navigating change is to make sure we preserve what matters most—that the most important things do not change, such as our commitment to mentoring experiences and small classes. Longwood still has the highest percentage among Virginia public universities of classes taught by full-time faculty, and among the very highest percentage of students who report having a mentor in college. Our beautiful campus is another. As campus has grown, we have focused relentlessly on honoring its classical beauty with our new architecture. And, of course, there is our citizen leadership mission, which has never been more vital for the nation. The Civitae Core Curriculum centers our commitment to the liberal arts and preparation for democracy.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine. And, in an era of such dramatic change, I hope you find, as I do, reassurance in the continuities that define Longwood.

All my best,

**W. Taylor Reveley IV**  
President



Grace Norton '22 poses beneath the flowering cherry planted in memory of her aunt, a Longwood student who was killed in a car accident in 1976.

# A Tragedy, a Tree and a Decades-Old Mystery

'22 grad finally locates flowering cherry planted on campus in memory of her aunt

**G**race Norton '22 was determined not to graduate without solving her family's decades-old mystery.

It all began with a tragedy. In 1976, her aunt, Donna Norton, a Longwood student, was killed in a car accident. Just 19 years old and an aspiring teacher, she left behind a devastated family that included her 8-year-old brother, who would grow up and become Grace's father.

A flowering cherry tree was planted on campus in Donna's memory, a plaque was placed, and, as too often happens in stories like these, records were lost, people moved away and memories faded.

Over the years, members of the family tried to locate Aunt Donna's tree several times. Grace's sister, Kelsey Norton Russell '19, tried during her four years on campus. Their mother, Kimberly Bell Norton '90, had returned to campus several times as an alumna and tried.

Nothing. Nada. Not a clue.

Grace had tried, too, and this spring was about to give up. "All we had was a picture of a sapling, a few clips from *The Rotunda*

newspapers in 1976 that mentioned the planting, and my father's memories," said Grace. "We didn't know if the tree was even still here, but I thought I'd try one last time."

So she gathered the few details her family had and sent them to President W. Taylor Reveley IV.

Within a few minutes, Reveley had enlisted the help of David Love, director of landscaping and grounds. One quick glance at the photo and Love knew Donna's tree was very likely the cherry that was located somewhat incongruously amid a grid of crape myrtles and towering pines in front of Stubbs Hall.

No one had ever seen a plaque, but Love guessed it was buried somewhere beneath three decades of mulch. He

dispatched a crew to begin digging, and it wasn't long before they hit something hard: a small cement block with a metal plate attached to the top, the inscription rubbed away long ago.

"My father started to sob when I called to tell him they found the tree," said Grace. "It was his only sister, and he lost her when he was so young. It's really meaningful for him to remake that connection. And for me, it's really special to know that I can come back here to this place."

The family will replace the plaque. The Alumni Office has added the tree to its official memorial tree database. The grounds crew has landscaped the mulch so that the plaque can be seen.

Grace Norton graduated in May knowing she had solved a mystery that seemed impossible just a few months earlier, making Commencement that much more special. When it was over and hundreds of families headed to the usual spots along High Street for photos, the Norton family headed in the opposite direction, to stand under the canopy of a flowering cherry with Aunt Donna.—*Matthew McWilliams*



Mike Kropp '14

## VMFA recognizes photography major with \$4,000 award

**FOR STEPHON SLATER '23**, art has the power to illuminate.

His provocative photographs, which take on issues of race, history and people of color, earned Slater a Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Visual Art Fellowship, given annually to recognize the work of undergraduate, graduate and professional artists.

Slater, a photography major, was one of just eight 2022-23 undergraduate recipients and also among the five of those who received the maximum financial award of \$4,000. Undergraduate recipients have the opportunity to show their work with VMFA partners, including Capital One in Richmond and the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

"... I want to talk about things that are prevalent in society—even if they don't make people comfortable," Slater said.

# Moving Up

## Longwood has best finish ever in standings for Big South's award for best athletics performance

**T**he 2021-22 season was by a wide margin the most successful in Longwood athletics history—and that accomplishment was recognized by the Big South Conference.

Each year the Big South awards the Sasser Cup to the conference institution with the best overall athletics performance. Points are awarded for both regular season and tournament finishes, with bonuses for championships and NCAA Tournament runs.

In 2021-22, Longwood had its best finish ever, coming in fourth among the Big South's 12 schools. Longwood's previous best finish was eighth in 2013, Longwood's first season in the conference.

What made the difference this year?

Both basketball teams won both the regular season and conference tournament crowns, both for the first time at the Division I level. Softball claimed a share of the regular season title and advanced to the Big South Championship game. Several other teams had notable seasons, including men's and women's soccer and men's and women's cross country.

And, though it plays in the Mid-Atlantic Conference and therefore did not impact the Sasser Award, the field hockey team advanced to its first conference championship game in history.

The historic success of Longwood Athletics in 2021-22 extends beyond the field and court thanks to the leadership of Michelle Meadows.

After 17 years at Longwood, including serving as director of athletics since 2018, Meadows accepted a position this summer as chief operating officer for the National Junior College Athletics Association.

Her impact on Longwood's program was deep and far-reaching. This past year it was seen not only in the championships and program-best finishes but also in student-athletes' record-high overall GPA.



Mike Kropp '14

**Exciting moments were plentiful for many Longwood teams during 2021-22, including softball and men's soccer. (above) Lauren Fox '24 (right) embraces Sydney Jacobsen '22 during a softball game. Ben Wilkinson '24 (left) and Tosin Ayonkunle '23 celebrate a soccer goal against Winthrop.**



## Fluoride project tapped for national showcase

**L**ongwood chemistry major Kaleigh Beale '22 (above) was selected this spring to participate in Posters on the Hill—one of the most prestigious research showcases in the country. Through her senior thesis project, Beale set out to investigate the fluoride content in her hometown's water supply and propose possible solutions that will help residents of Isle of Wight County mitigate high levels in their drinking water. Beale was one of just 60 undergraduate researchers from across the country selected for the showcase.



Nursing students get hands-on experience in Longwood's Clinical Simulation Learning Center.

## Longwood's nursing program ranked No. 1 in the Southeast

Longwood's nursing program was ranked No. 1 in the Southeast for students seeking a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree by Nursing Process, topping a list of more than 730 schools that offer similar programs.

The rankings looked at licensure exam pass rates of graduates—in which Longwood regularly posts perfect scores—reputation, affordability and academic quality. For four out of the last six years, Longwood nursing graduates have achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their NCLEX required licensure exam, an accomplishment few schools across the country can boast.

"This ranking is a testament to the hard work of our students and nursing faculty," said Dr. Kim Little, chair of the nursing department. "We're proud of the work they have put in over the course of many years. We pride ourselves on being unique."

## U of Florida assistant takes the reins of women's basketball

The Lancers introduced Erika Lang-Montgomery as the new head coach of the women's basketball program in May. She comes to Longwood from her alma mater, the University of Florida, where she served as an assistant for four seasons while helping to lead a turnaround of the Southeastern Conference program.

In the 2021-22 season, the Gators were ranked as high as 15th in national polls while qualifying for the NCAA Tournament, and finished 21-11 overall and 10-6 in the Southeastern Conference. The team's résumé included five wins over top-25 competition. That run came on the heels of a trip to the WNIT in 2021, the team's first

postseason berth since 2016.

Lang-Montgomery preaches core values that are made up of The Right S.T.U.P.H. (Servant, Thankful, United, Perseverance, Humble) for the team.

"I am incredibly grateful to be here. Longwood University is a beautiful place with incredible people," Lang-Montgomery said at her introductory press conference. "I truly believe it is the people who make the place, and I can't wait to get started."



Erika Lang-Montgomery was a women's basketball assistant coach at the University of Florida for four years prior to her appointment as head coach at Longwood.

## NSF grant funds rainwater research

DR. KATHY GEE, associate professor and program coordinator of integrated environmental sciences, was awarded a \$185,000 grant to evaluate new methods for measuring bacteria in harvested rainwater. The grant, awarded through the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Engineering Research Initiative, includes funding to establish a new laboratory at Longwood that will allow Gee to conduct this and future environmental microbiology research.



## From Student to Vice President

New interim student affairs VP has wide-ranging Longwood experience

CAMERON PATTERSON '10, M.S. '17 (college and community counseling), is Longwood's new interim vice president for student affairs, taking the helm at the end of June from Dr. Tim Pierson, who led the office for 22 years and now is in an emeritus role at the university.

Over the past 15 years, Patterson has held positions of increasing responsibility at Longwood. He has served as executive director of the Robert Russa Moton Museum since 2017 and as a member of President W. Taylor Reveley IV's executive council since 2019. Prior to that, he worked on and supported initiatives in multicultural affairs and accessibility resources, both within the Division of Student Affairs.

In his new role, Patterson will draw on his knowledge of Longwood—including his time as a student—to strengthen the cocurricular experience for today's Lancers.

"When a student comes to Longwood, they can anticipate a strong experience inside the classroom, but equally important is the experience we deliver outside the classroom, which helps complement their education in powerful ways," he said. "I look at the entire campus as a learning environment that's an extension of the classroom."



THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS YEAR'S ALUMNI AWARDS MAY FEEL LUCKY— BUT IT WAS LEADERSHIP AND HARD WORK THAT PUT THEM IN THE

# Winners' Circle

BY LAUREN WHITTINGTON | ILLUSTRATIONS BY DORIAN VALLEJO

THE SEVEN RECIPIENTS being recognized with this year's Alumni Awards are from different backgrounds but they represent the shared values that are the hallmarks of a Longwood education—honesty, civility, leadership, professionalism, collaboration, innovation, dedication and selflessness. ★ They contribute to the greater good of society, whether it's in the classroom, in the boardroom, through volunteering their time or by investing in their alma mater. Passionate about helping others and seeing Longwood thrive, they embody the blue-and-white spirit and are shining lights in their communities as well as at the state and national levels. ★ In short, they are making the world a better place for generations to come.

DR. FRANCES  
"FRAN"  
ANTHONY  
MEYER '70  
DISTINGUISHED  
CITIZEN LEADER  
ALUMNI AWARD



Dr. Frances “Fran” Anthony Meyer is more than a leader in the field of health and physical education. She has become the embodiment of her field at the local, state and national levels.

When Meyer arrived at Longwood, she wanted to teach history or English. But when a counselor suggested that she choose a different subject because those fields were very popular, Meyer made a decision that charted the course of her professional life.

“I started thinking about what I could do in my life to be a person who is going to make a difference for society,” Meyer recalled. “I started thinking about what fields would have the most impact. Then I thought about people’s health. That’s the most important thing.”

She began her career in public education teaching in Fredericksburg. She later went to work for the Virginia Department of Education, where she spent 14 years working in various roles, including HIV prevention education. During her career, she was instrumental in creating Virginia’s family life education standards and the state Standards of Learning for dance, health and physical education.

“I love teaching. It’s still my heart and soul,” Meyer said.

Over the past two decades, she has held leadership and administrative positions and done pro bono consulting for organizations within the fields of health, physical fitness and arts education. Meyer has received 29 professional awards at the local, state, national and international levels.

Her commitment to Longwood has included supporting students with philanthropy and serving on the Alumni Board. She is currently a member of the College of Education, Health and Social Services Advisory Committee.

The Distinguished Citizen Leader Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have achieved outstanding success and national distinction in both their personal and professional life. It is the highest and most prestigious award bestowed by the Alumni Association. ☆



*“I started thinking about what I could do in my life to be a person who is going to make a difference for society.”*

— DR. FRANCES “FRAN” ANTHONY MEYER '70

One lesson from his student days as a business student at Longwood has stuck with Charles “Chuck” Fagan III throughout his successful career in financial services.

It was the fall of 1984, and Dr. Wilfred “Jack” Jacques, then dean of the business school, wrote, “the god of business is performance” on a chalkboard without saying a word. Fagan remembers it like yesterday.

“That always connected with me,” he said. “His message was, in effect, that a college degree is going to get you in the door but, once you get in, how you perform is what’s going to drive how far you can take your career. I took that to mean I’m always going to be the most prepared for meetings.

I’m always going to be thinking about and doing more than just trying to grab a paycheck.

I’m going to be a student of our industry and a lifelong learner.”

Fagan’s first job after college was with Virginia Credit

Union, which

launched a 35-

year career in the credit union industry. Since 2015, he has served as president and chief executive officer of PSCU, the nation’s premier payments and credit union service organization. The company has more than 3,000 employees and supports the success of 1,900 financial institutions, representing over 50 million accounts and processing nearly 8 billion transactions annually.

“My whole career has been centered on money movement and electronic payments,” Fagan said.

His resume also includes serving as president and chief executive officer of the Credit Union Executives Society. He recently was included in the Florida 500, which highlights the 500 most influential executives throughout the state, and he currently serves on Visa’s Executive Client Council and as a member of the advisory board for the College of Business and Economics.

The Distinguished Professional Achievement Award recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professions and as role models for future generations of citizen leaders. ☆

Spend just a few minutes talking with Dr. Sarah Tanner-Anderson, and it's hard not to catch some of the positivity that she radiates. She's enthusiastic about the future, about educating citizen leaders and about her alma mater.

"If there's one thing people can say about me, it is that I love Longwood," Tanner-Anderson said, adding that her optimism is rooted in her strong belief that every person has value.

She genuinely cares about Longwood's students, her colleagues and the future of education. She is passionate about preparing and educating K-12 administrators, with women's educational leadership development an area of special focus.

"Longwood's focus on growing citizen leaders, from the time I was an undergraduate, is something that continues to fuel my fire," she said.



**SARAH TANNER-ANDERSON '02, M.A. '07**  
NANCY B. SHELTON SPIRITED CONTRIBUTOR AWARD

Tanner-Anderson, or "Dr. T-A," as she is affectionately known by her students, taught English at the middle- and high-school levels while earning her doctorate. She then worked her way up the leadership ladder, becoming an assistant principal and then principal. She joined Longwood's faculty in 2017 to refresh and revive the educational leadership master's program, which is thriving.

In addition to serving as a graduate program director, she is chair of the university's Education Policy Committee, president-elect of Women Education Leaders of Virginia (WELV) and a member of the Amelia County School Board.

The Spirited Contributor Award honors an alum who is a current or retired Longwood faculty or staff member for going above and beyond their job duties to selflessly serve the university.

"I know Nancy Shelton, and she is a model of grace and professionalism," Tanner-Anderson said. "To receive an honor that is named for someone who is such the embodiment of a citizen leader, it meant so much more." ☆

Robert "Bob" Burger grew up in Farmville less than a mile from campus, and his Longwood roots run deep. His mother, Elsie Thompson Burger '45, was an assistant librarian for almost 20 years. He has fond childhood memories of playing around campus and even sitting in on classes thanks to his aunt, Dr. Elizabeth Burger Jackson '34, who played field hockey and later became a professor of natural sciences.

"My earliest memory is my Aunt Libby taking my sister and me to the French pool and teaching us how to swim," he said.

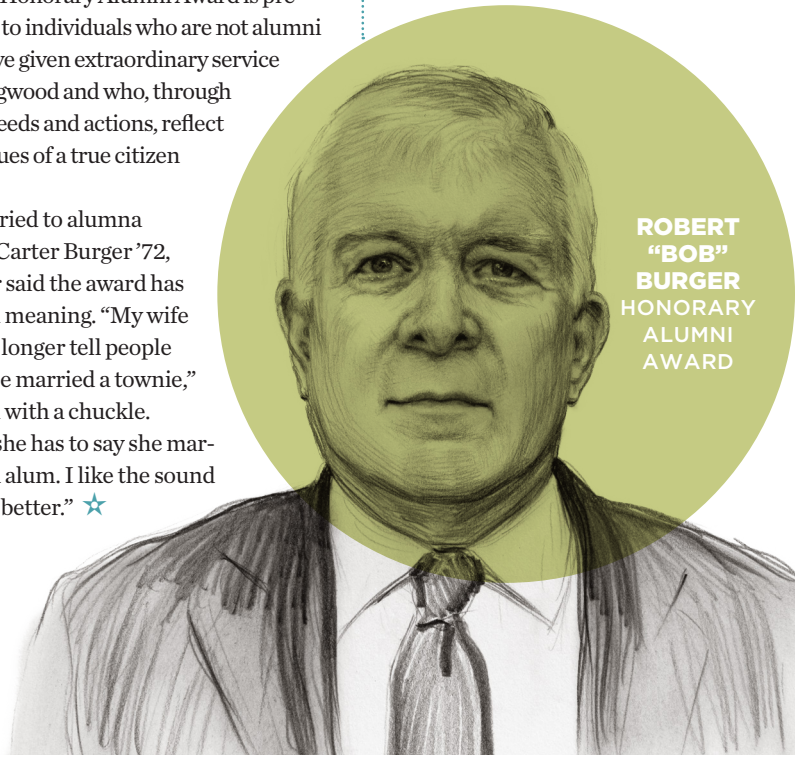
He bleeds blue and white. He's a familiar face cheering on student-athletes at Lancer sporting events, especially home field hockey games. Longwood's field hockey field is named in honor of his beloved aunt, and he has established several scholarships to support student-athletes and other Longwood students.

"Seeing these young people have a chance to go to a great school, where they might not have had that opportunity if not for a scholarship, that's why it's important to me," he said.

A fifth-generation funeral director, he earned his bachelor's degree from Campbell University and an associate's degree from John Tyler Community College. He formerly served on the Longwood Foundation Board, including a term as president.

The Honorary Alumni Award is presented to individuals who are not alumni but have given extraordinary service to Longwood and who, through their deeds and actions, reflect the values of a true citizen leader.

Married to alumna Linda Carter Burger '72, Burger said the award has special meaning. "My wife can no longer tell people that she married a townie," he said with a chuckle. "Now she has to say she married an alum. I like the sound of that better." ☆



**ROBERT "BOB" BURGER**  
HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD

Mary Tabb Johnston Schubert embodies what loyalty to Longwood means.

She is described as a cheerful and enthusiastic giver of her time and money, having given to Longwood for more than 40 consecutive years—which is as long as digital philanthropic records have been kept. She previously served on the Alumni Board, including as president, and on the Longwood Foundation Board.

"Whenever there is a need, Mary Tabb raises her hand and gets to work," said Dr. Ken Perkins, director of development for academic priorities. "And she does it with gracefulness."

In recent years, Schubert's impact has been directly tied to student support and success. This includes the Mary Tabb Johnston Schubert '72 Scholarship, which she established within the family of scholarships program. She also served as co-chair of the Class of '72 Reunion Committee, which has endowed a class scholarship.

Schubert, who earned a bachelor's degree in biology, is retired from the University of Virginia medical laboratories, where she was a medical technologist.

**MARY TABB JOHNSTON SCHUBERT '72**  
PAGE COOK AXSON MCGAUGHY LIFETIME LOYALTY AWARD



“As a student, Mary Tabb’s enthusiasm for Longwood and its traditions was infectious,” recalled Dr. Wayne Tinnell, who was Schubert’s advisor.

The Lifetime Loyalty Award is awarded periodically to honor alumni who actively volunteer at Longwood; who help to expand the influence and prestige of the university; and who consecutively include Longwood in their philanthropic giving. ☆

**W**hen the Covid-19 pandemic forced schools to close in March 2020, Emily Wilson Overstreet quickly sprang into action to figure out a way to keep her elementary school art students engaged and connected to an outlet for creativity.

“I tried to think of all the ways I could connect to my kids using the different social platforms,” said Overstreet, who has been teaching at Cumberland County Elementary School for 13 years. “It was really hard for the kids to go from having a routine to not seeing their teachers anymore. That interaction for them is so important.”

What she developed was Mrs. O’s Art Studio. Launched in April 2020, the studio uses multiple social media platforms to provide project tutorials and step-by-step art lessons through recorded videos. With one click, her students were back in her classroom—virtually. Her videos soon became a destination for art lovers both young and old—and garnered an audience that reached far beyond the Farmville area.

“There’s nothing like creating something with your hands,” Overstreet said. “It’s a confidence builder, and it helps students think differently. Definitely in today’s world we need our children to be creative.”

The Young Alumni Award is presented annually to an alum under 40 who has demonstrated excellence in their career or in citizen leadership. This isn’t the first time Overstreet has been recognized. In 2020, she was named Teacher of the Year for Cumberland County Public Schools and also earned Division Teacher of the Year honors.

Even though students returned to their normal schedules and

**EMILY WILSON  
OVERSTREET '06**  
ROTUNDA  
OUTSTANDING  
YOUNG ALUMNI  
AWARD



routines this past school year, Overstreet has continued to create and post content for Mrs. O’s Art Studio.

“I’m not planning on stopping. I’m just going to see how I can make it better,” she said. ☆



**PATSY  
GARRETT  
WATSON '75**  
HUMANITARIAN  
ALUMNI  
AWARD

**P**atsy Garrett Watson loves making connections. Fortunately for Farmville, she has spent much of the past 45 years dedicated to making life better for her community through those connections.

“Neighbors to me means anyone who is in need,” Watson said. “I understand that most people are really doing the best that they can.”

Watson moved to Farmville while in high school, where she met the love of her life and her best friend, Gene, her husband of 47 years. After graduating from Longwood, she soon realized a business career wasn’t for her after all. Instead she devoted herself to her community—exactly the kind of work the Humanitarian Award honors.

Watson is a founder and leader of the Interfaith Collective, which seeks to break down barriers between people from differing religious backgrounds. She is also

a founder and one of the biggest cheerleaders of the Southside YMCA, where she has served as president of the board and in other various leadership positions over the past 30 years.

“I can’t get away from it,” Watson said. “It’s so wonderful to go in and see people from all walks of life on the treadmills together, making friends and meeting people that they wouldn’t normally see.”

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, she helped create Farmville Cares, which brings local resources together to aid residents. Whether it was staffing a volunteer hotline, delivering groceries, manning vaccine clinics or organizing online town halls, Watson’s boundless energy and commitment helped keep the effort going.

“If there’s anything good that’s come out of the pandemic, it’s that people may have a better understanding of how we need to be better connected with each other,” Watson said. ☆



<I><SA>

**NOELLE BAFFOUR**

**MAJOR:** Business administration/information systems and cyber security

**WHAT'S NEXT:**

Commercial cyber consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton

**COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:**

Susan Hines, registrar. "We created a close bond during the years she was my advisor. She put in the energy and time to help me try to become my most successful self."

<I><SA>

**TALLESHA WOODSON**

**MAJOR:** Business administration/information systems and cyber security

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Educational and leadership consultant for Delta Sigma Pi, professional business fraternity, in Oxford, Ohio

**COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:**

Dr. Emily Kane, study abroad director. "She helped me accomplish my dreams of traveling across the world and realize what a passion I have for travel. I love being on the road, so my new job is a perfect fit for me. I'll be working on site with some of our 298 chapters throughout the U.S."

PHOTO BY MERIDITH DE AVILA KHAN

<A> ATHLETE <BE> BROCK EXPERIENCES <CHC>

# TRAVELOGUE

Meet some of the students who crossed the Commencement stage this May. The many paths they took to get there—including a semester in South Korea for Noelle Baffour and Tallesha Woodson (left)—converged for a moment and then branched out again as the Class of 2022 set off for jobs, graduate school and other adventures.

BY SABRINA BROWN | PHOTOS BY COURTNEY VOGEL

## WHO'S A BIGGER FAN

of K-pop than Noelle Baffour and Tallesha Woodson? Maybe nobody. Ever.

It was their love of South Korea's particular brand of popular music that inspired the two young women, who were already good friends, to travel the 7,000 miles to Seoul this past fall. They spent the semester at Sogang University, taking business and Korean language classes and exploring.

Leading up to Commencement in May, they were still savoring the experience: Hiking to the top of Bukhansan, a mountain on the outskirts of Seoul that offered breathtaking views; venturing out into the city's streets, museums and historic sites; and, perhaps most of all, feasting on convenience store food (yes, it's that good).

Baffour, who actually completed her degree in December 2021, said that when she and Woodson became close friends during the 2019-20 school year, they discovered their mutual interest in K-pop and all things South Korean.

"We both have a huge interest in South Korea—the music, movies, and the culture, history and daily life," Baffour said. She and Woodson talked about how much fun it would be to visit the country together, and neither was content to let the trip remain a pipe dream.

They supported each other as they prepared all the required documents to study abroad, and, once they arrived in Seoul, they gave each other the confidence to be more adventurous. And adventures were waiting at every turn.

"The country itself is really beautiful. Everyone is walking and minding their own business, but also so friendly and helpful," said Woodson. "I loved the cafés there. One of my favorites was a floating Starbucks on the Han River."

Baffour was captivated by the ever-present focus on aesthetics. "They have huge statues just on the streets. Everything has to be beautiful or cute. The food, the art, the clothing" she said.

Both agreed that the ramen, sushi and other prepared food that could be found at the convenience stores on every corner rated an A+.

Ironically, what they didn't get to experience was live K-pop. All concerts were cancelled due to Covid-19, but Woodson and Baffour would both like to visit the country again, so they'll put that on the list for next time.

"I definitely want to go back. I think about it all the time because I miss it so much," said Baffour. "Their culture and history are so different from ours. It kind of opened my eyes." 🇰🇷



## WILLIAM HARTMANN

**MAJORS:** Political science and criminology/criminal justice

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Law school, LSU  
**TEACHING IS JOB #1:** "The faculty at Longwood are educators first and make students' learning their priority. Even in my hardest classes, by working with the professor I was able to pull through and learn."

**COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:** Dr. Scott Cook, political science faculty. "Dr. Cook was someone I could turn to for advice. He was often available outside office hours, and he worked with me on a course substitution so that I could graduate on time."



## CECILY HAYEK

biology; DVM program at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine



## JACKSON MALSAM

business administration/marketing with a minor in economics; management trainee with Enterprise Holdings in Fairfax, Virginia



## KATIE HARDMAN

social work; master's degree program in social work at University of South Carolina



**AMBER THOMAS**

English/rhetoric and professional writing with a minor in communications; client relationship consultant (commercial real estate) with CoStar Group in Richmond, Virginia



**SARAH KUZNIEWSKI**

business administration/information systems and cyber security; M.S. in information security policy and management at Carnegie Mellon University



**“Longwood has challenged me in my Civitae courses and campus leadership opportunities. I know I’m prepared for graduate school.”**

—JANAE ROSS '22

**JANAE ROSS**

<I>

**MAJOR:** Communication studies/public relations with a minor in professional writing

**WHAT’S NEXT:** M.Ed. in student personnel in higher education and graduate assistant in housing and residence life, University of Florida  
**PREP SCHOOL:** “Longwood has challenged me in my Civitae courses and campus leadership opportunities. I know I’m prepared for graduate school.”

**COULDN’T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:** Dr. Moe Bates, director of residential and commuter life. “She saw the potential in me back when I was a freshman. Then, when I worked for her as a resident assistant (RA), she taught me the importance of transparency, of following through on promises and of maintaining a good connection with students. Moe provided the foundation for me to pursue a career in student affairs.”



**BRADEN DRINKARD**

<I> <PKP>

**MAJOR:** Business administration/accounting

**WHAT’S NEXT:** Audit/assurance staff at Ernst & Young in Richmond  
**LIVING THE GREEK LIFE:** “The best experience I had as a student was being a member of a Greek organization. It makes you balance extracurricular activities with academics. It also helps you meet a lot of people and prepare for the real world, where everyone comes from a different style of life.”

**COULDN’T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:** Dr. Dawn Schwartz and Dr. Rebecca Wetmiller, accounting faculty. “Whenever I needed additional help with anything, they would always do whatever they could. They provided me with valuable advice and firsthand knowledge when I asked questions about my future career.”



“My most amazing experience at Longwood was backpacking in a desert canyon in Utah/Arizona with the Outdoor Club. Seriously, the club is phenomenal.”

—HARRY CALDWELL '22

<I> <SA> <V>

## HARRY CALDWELL

**MAJORS:** Anthropology and archaeology, and history/public history

**WHAT'S NEXT:** M.A. in public history, James Madison University; AmeriCorps: working at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park (summer 2022)

**QUITE A HIKE:** “My most amazing experience at Longwood was backpacking in a desert canyon in Utah/Arizona with the Outdoor Club. Seriously, the club is phenomenal.”

**COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:** Dr. Brian Bates, anthropology/archaeology faculty. “Without him and how he’s led the archaeology program, I would likely not be here today, nor would I have met the incredible people that I have befriended since I arrived at Longwood.”

HONORS COLLEGE <I> INTERNSHIP <PKP> PHI KAPPA PHI <R> RESEARCH <SA> STUDY ABROAD <V> VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE





**WILLIAM JOHNSON**

communication studies; MBA at Longwood and graduate assistant for Longwood's men's basketball team



**GRACE JOHNSTON**

communication sciences and disorders; M.S. in communication sciences and disorders with a concentration in speech pathology at Longwood



**MADISON NUCKOLS**

mathematics and economics; commercial rotation program associate with Capital One in Bethesda, Maryland



**To be a great teacher, you must love what you're doing and care about every single student in your class.'**

**—ALAINA BIERMAN '22**

**<CHC><I><R><SA>**

**ALAINA BIERMAN**

**MAJOR:** Elementary education

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Teach for America/AmeriCorps: Teacher at Delta Preparatory Charter School, a high-needs school in Memphis, Tennessee

**UNDERSTANDING IS EVERYTHING:** "Research I conducted at Longwood has helped me learn more about the different types of students I will encounter as a teacher and how to best advocate for them."

**COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:** Dr. Evan Long and Dr. Dorothy Suskind, education faculty; Dr. Tom Wears, mathematics faculty. "These professors helped me understand something that is invaluable: To be a great teacher, you must love what you're doing and care about every single student in your class. And that's exactly what they did: cared about me and my peers and loved what they were doing."

<CHC><I><R><SA><V>

## SELENA CARRERA

**MAJOR:** Nursing with a minor in neuroscience  
**WHAT'S NEXT:** R.N., VCU Medical Center Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit

**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT:** "In my externship on the neuroscience floor at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina, I learned how to care for patients with different backgrounds and expanded my knowledge of diseases and disorders."

**COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:** Christopher Berterton, staff coordinator for ARC Quad residence. "Chris was my supervisor for two years when I worked as a resident assistant (RA) and a desk supervisor. He gave me advice, constructive feedback and encouragement. Most importantly, he always believed in me."



<A> (cross country) <CHC><I><R><V>

## NOEL PREECE

**MAJOR:** Kinesiology with a minor in coaching

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Master's degree program in health and movement sciences at VCU; physical therapy aide, Richmond Physical Therapy

**INDIA LINK:** "I completed a remote internship with Dr. Sanat at the King Edward Memorial Hospital Research Center in Pune, India. We conducted research on the effectiveness of exercise in treating pain and other symptoms of fibromyalgia."

**COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:** Dr. Robert Blaisdell, kinesiology faculty. "Dr. Blaisdell has had a special influence due to our time working together on research as well as our common interest in cycling."



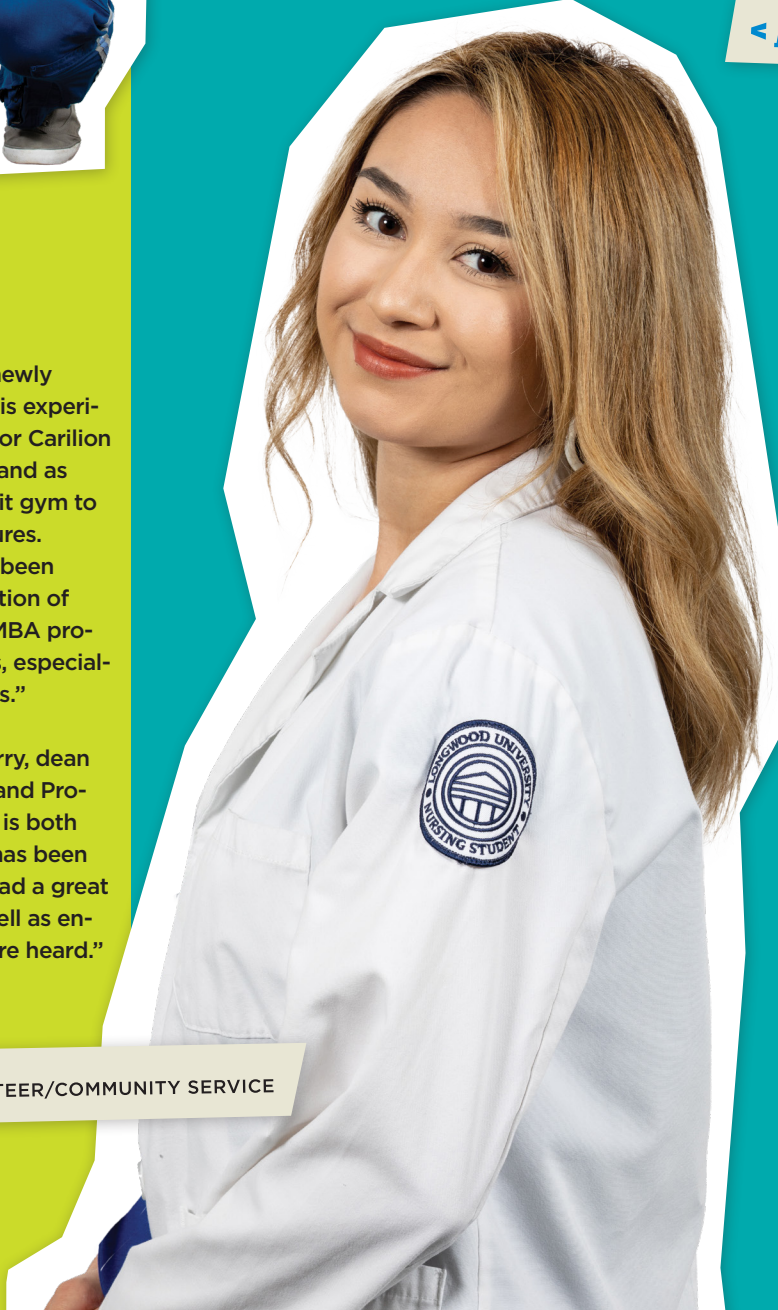
## TRAVIS MASON

**LONGWOOD GRADUATE PROGRAM:** MBA

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Using his newly acquired skills to leverage his experience as a flight paramedic for Carilion Clinic in Westlake, Virginia, and as the co-owner of Farmville Fit gym to develop new business ventures.

**KEEPING IT REAL:** "It has been amazing to see the intersection of what's being taught in the MBA program and real-life situations, especially as the owner of a business."

**COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:** Dr. Jeannine Perry, dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. "Dr. Perry is both a friend and a mentor. She has been proactive in making sure I had a great Longwood experience as well as ensuring that my concerns were heard."



<SA> STUDY ABROAD <V> VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE

## BRIANNA CERVANTES

**MAJOR:** Biology with a minor in chemistry

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Medical school, American University in the Caribbean on the island of St. Maarten

**HOME—BUT NOT ALONE:** “At Longwood, you know most of the people in your major, and you meet lots of other students outside your major by getting involved in clubs and organizations. The small atmosphere makes it feel more like a community and has allowed me to call Longwood home.”

### COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT

**WITHOUT:** Dr. Amorette Barber and Dr. Dina Leech, biology faculty, and Dr. Andrew Yeagley, chemistry faculty. “They have been research mentors, helped me to strive to be the best student I can and pushed me to pursue my dreams to be an eye surgeon.”

<CHC><I><R><SA>



## OLIVIA DUMAN

<I>

**MAJOR:** Political science with a minor in leadership studies

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Florence, Italy, for a master's degree in European Union policy studies offered by James Madison University

**HELP DESK:** “My internship was with the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Columbia. Even though I'm not an attorney, my job was to do everything I could to help people who could not afford legal representation.”

### COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT

**WITHOUT:** Dr. Scott Cook, political science faculty. “He has gone above and beyond for me, especially as my academic advisor. Not only has he been a great professor but also a great listener and advice giver.”

## CHANELLE WILLIAMS

<CHC><I>

**MAJOR:** Liberal studies/special education

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Fourth-grade teacher, Shady Grove Elementary, Henrico County; M.Ed. in special education, Longwood

**FEELING THE LOVE:** “When I came to Longwood, I became more involved than I imagined, with Lancer Productions, Longwood Life, Mortar Board, Special Education Ambassadors, Alpha Sigma Tau and Kappa Delta Pi. Every moment I spent with these organizations I felt loved and supported, and my week was filled with laughter, growth and meaningful conversation.”

### COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT

**WITHOUT:** Dr. Chris Jones, Dr. Aftab Khan, Dr. Karen Feathers and Dr. Kat Alves, special education faculty. “These professors challenged me to think beyond the surface level and taught me how to apply concepts to an actual classroom environment. They are all so passionate and dedicated to their students.”



‘When I came to Longwood, I became more involved than I imagined.’

—CHANELLE WILLIAMS '22

<A> ATHLETE <BE> BROCK EXPERIENCES <CHC>



## VINCENT MALLARDI

<I><R><V>

**MAJOR:** Communication studies/  
digital media

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Second lieutenant,  
U.S. Army; military intelligence

**WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?:** "There aren't just one or two things that are great about Longwood. It's legitimately everything. The beautiful scenery, caring professors, small classes, good sports, the town of Farmville—I could keep going on all day. Farmville is a hidden gem, and I love it."

**COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT**

**WITHOUT:** Dr. Ryan Stouffer, communication studies faculty. "He's a great teacher because he challenges us as students. His classes typically require a good amount of work, and that can feel overwhelming. But once they're finished, you are so proud of the results."



**There aren't just one or two things that are great about Longwood. It's legitimately everything.'**

—VINCENT MALLARDI '22



**KIMIA JAHANGIRI**  
chemistry/  
secondary education; chemistry teacher at Glen Allen (Virginia) High School



**MADELLYN CARR**  
therapeutic recreation; camp leader at Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation's therapeutic recreation summer camp



**ASHLEY SCHWEIZER**  
liberal studies/  
special education; special education teacher at North Springfield (Virginia) Elementary School

CIVITAE :: PART III

# ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

THIS SPRING, the Class of 2022 became the first to complete the Civitae Core Curriculum, unveiled in 2018. It's an experiment, unique in American higher education, with "democracy as its North Star," as President W. Taylor Reveley IV often puts it. This story—the last in a three-part series that explores how Civitae is shaping and inspiring students throughout their time on campus—looks at the culmination of the curriculum as the lessons of four years come together in Symposium.

BY MATTHEW MCWILLIAMS | ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID VOGIN

## THE MOMENT

**A**t the end of each semester, members of the senior class gather in Blackwell Ballroom for a culminating moment that heralds not only the end of their undergraduate career but also the fulfillment of their journey through the Civitae Core Curriculum.

That "moment" is actually a discussion—a "Symposium"—and a chance for students to engage on a deeper level with others who have been studying aspects of citizenship since the moment they arrived at Longwood.



At Longwood, the unique Civitae Core Curriculum is what ties together the full educational experience of college. Unlike core curricula at other universities, Civitae classes are taken over all four years of college. It begins with freshman-level Foundations with its signature Introduction to Citizenship course before moving to Pillars and Perspectives courses in a student's sophomore and junior years that intentionally expose and connect a wide variety of topics to build critical thought.

The culminating course is Symposium on the Common Good, which combines all of the skills that students have learned

**(above)** Crystal Mobley '22, a theatre education major, found important lessons in the actual act of listening in her Symposium class. 'To be a citizen, we have to listen to each other,' she said.

throughout Civitae into a high-level course built around a fundamental American theme. In 2022, it was *E Pluribus Unum*, or "out of many, one." This final step in students' journeys through Civitae puts a study of citizenship at the heart of the learning process.

"When we designed Civitae, we wanted to give students the opportunity to take that important step from theory to action and practice engaging in civil discourse with a public audience," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Larissa Smith, who was part of the committee that created Civitae six years

ago. "Symposium as a class is the apex of the process our students undertake throughout their undergraduate careers to engage on a deeper level and become more thoughtful, active citizens. Symposium Day is a celebration of that process and those discussions, and it's a chance for them to show the university what it means to engage that way."

Counting on such an engagement is risky business because it requires participation—but, then again, so does an active civic life. The public arena will sit silent until someone stands up and voices the thoughts they have been developing.

Gretchen Yoder '22, was one of the first students to stand up and join the discussion among her classmates at Symposium Day this April. She saw a dramatic shift in her approach to education and citizenship in her time at Longwood, culminating in her Symposium class, *Women as Disruptive Change Agents* in their Community, taught by education professor Dr. Dorothy Suskind.

"Dr. Suskind gave me the opportunity to use my voice, and we don't always have that chance in the classroom," she said. "I come from a family where we didn't have a lot of conversations about tough issues like injustice and racism, but I've been really invigorated by those discussions [at Longwood]. They motivate me to be a better history teacher. Who I was when I walked into Longwood in 2018 is not who I am now, and a lot of that is thanks to Civitae and having those tough conversations about uncomfortable issues."

Yoder, who earned her degree in history with a concentration in secondary education and plans to be a history teacher, has been thinking about how to put those life-altering lessons into practice in her own classroom.

"I absolutely have a responsibility to teach my own students how to be better citizens, and that's about putting things in context," said Yoder. "If we fail to do that, people will stay in their own bubbles their whole lives. And, you know, not everyone goes to college and gets to take courses like these and understand more about the country we live in, so it's doubly important that I, as a teacher, make sure that I'm passing these lessons on to my students."

In Ancient Greece, a symposium was a gathering of the local intelligentsia, a

meeting of the minds where the conversation often turned philosophical and debate flourished. It was a time to gather with others who had engaged in deep, meaningful thought about the world and communities they lived in.

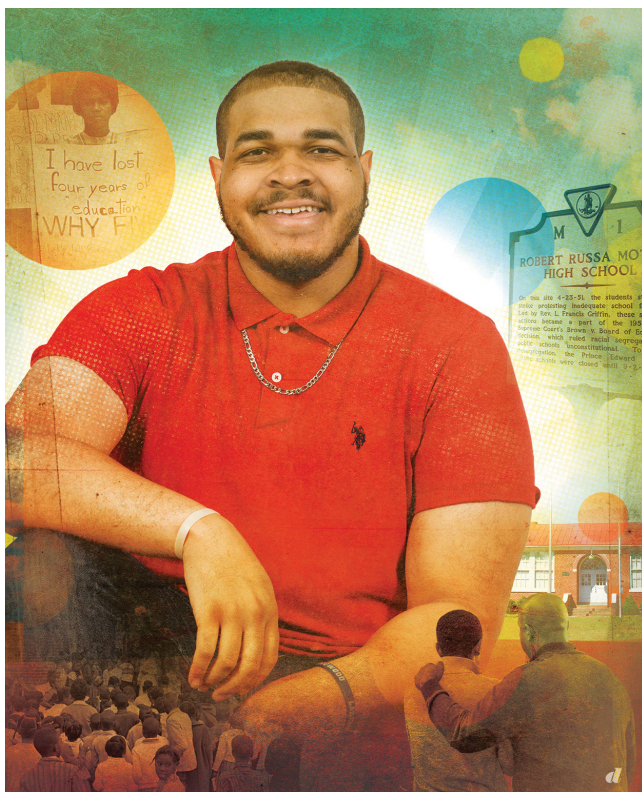
In Farmville, one of the lasting civic issues that continues to shape our community is the legacy of closed public schools from 1959-64, which was an act of resistance to court-ordered school desegregation. A long-term collaboration with the Robert Russa Moton Museum, which tells the story of the civil rights heroes who fought for equality in the face of incredible pressure, puts the study of *E Pluribus Unum* into print—a semiannual publication called *Storytellers Magazine* that combines writing and photography to tell the stories of Prince Edward County citizens who were affected by the school closings.

One of those storytellers, Aaron Barksdale '22, a Farmville native, found both validation for his early decision to change majors—and deeper meaning in a story he'd heard before—through Symposium.

"I interviewed my grandfather, who was denied an education, for my Symposium capstone class and wrote his story," he said. "Growing up in Farmville, I vaguely knew the story and what my grandfather had gone through, but not all the details. He always put a lot of value on education for me, and I understand more the why to that equation. Hearing that and understanding how the decisions we make as a society have these long arms and lasting effects cemented my journey to a career in mental health counseling where I can help people."

That career goal is not one that came with him to Longwood. Originally he pursued a business degree, but found himself inspired in his Introduction to Citizenship class to take a different path, changing his major to communication studies.

"The study of citizenship returns to prominence as a student goes through Civitae," said Smith. "Students are introduced to



(right) Gretchen Yoder '22, who plans to be a history teacher, is thinking about how she will put the 'life-altering' lessons she learned from the Civitae Core Curriculum into practice in her own classroom.

(below left) Aaron Barksdale '22, a communication studies major and a Farmville native, interviewed his grandfather for his Symposium course. Barksdale's grandfather was one of the students denied an education when the Prince Edward County Schools closed from 1959-64 as an act of resistance to court-ordered school desegregation.



## SYMPOSIUM CLASSES

- Youth Sport Specialization and the Breaking of Bodies, Bank Accounts, and Community
- Math and Public Discourse
- Where Public Health and Higher Education Meet
- The Pursuit of Happiness
- Equitable Education for All
- From Hand to Table
- Re-present Prince Edward County
- *E Pluribus Unum* in an Age of Extreme Polarization
- Sound Design as a Way to Listen
- Women as Disruptive Change Agents in Their Community

a very Longwood-specific way of studying when they first come through the gates, and then spend years developing the skills and modes of thinking they need to thrive in this Symposium capstone course. The courses in Civitae are designed to work together so that Civitae builds seamlessly toward Symposium."

Like the freshman-level Introduction to Citizenship, Symposium on the Common Good courses have the same theme but are taught through the lens of the professor's expertise. Students in a Symposium course taught by a philosopher might explore *E Pluribus Unum* by studying our current polarized political climate. Future teachers across campus might be having a lively discussion on funding for public education. Crystal Mobley '22, a theatre education major, found important lessons in the actual act of listening.

"The experiments were powerful," said Mobley, who completed Assistant Professor of Music Roland Karnatz's Sound Design as a Way to Listen Symposium course this spring.

One such experiment: Students listen to audio files—movies or plays or each other speaking—without watching facial expressions or any other contextual clues and then interpret what they heard.

"Everyone had a different perception," she said. "It opened my eyes to the fact that communication is so key to solving problems—really listening to other people. To be a citizen, we have to listen to each other. I can't be so entrenched in my own world view that I'm unwilling to even hear what someone else has to say. That gets us all nowhere. I don't necessarily have to change my views, but it strengthens my point of view to know why I think that way and to have considered other people."

"The thing I like about Civitae as a whole is that it's like watching a season of a television show as opposed to a single episode," said Mobley. "There has to be a plot. It's got to connect in some way. I like that idea because everything I'm learning feels connected to everything else. It all makes sense." 🗣️



# Class Notes



## Life of the Party

Alumni Weekend 2022 served up tantalizing food and adult beverages, a bevy of activities and the chance to renew old friendships. Tearing up the dance floor during one of the two nights with a live band were Marilyn Royal '88 (left), Jeris Hill Johnson '88 and LaVater Walker '89.



# The Voice

Alum's storytelling takes many forms, including music and film

**H**ORACE SCRUGGS '85, a multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, conductor and former instructor of choral music at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville, returned to the college in February to screen and lead a discussion about his 2020 film, *Resilience, Recovery and Rebirth: Sustaining Hope in Trying Times*. The documentary, produced with the support of the Fluvanna Arts Council and the Fluvanna County chapter of the NAACP, sheds light on the experiences of hundreds of thousands of African Americans in their quest for freedom and equality with emotional commentary, set to musical performances by Scruggs and his Odyssey of Soul band.

In March, Scruggs was among a diverse group of storytellers who shared their own stories from the stage of Virginia Tech's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre for *The Moth*, a popular radio program that allows people all over the world and from all walks of life to share their stories on stage in front of a live audience, illuminating both the diversity and commonality of human experience.

In addition to Longwood, Scruggs studied music at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Virginia, and Berklee College of Music in Boston.



Courtesy of Piedmont Virginia Community College



↑ **Acey Holmes, M.S. '11**, is the founder of *Solve Learn Play*, a company that helps toy, game and app designers ensure that their products are accessible to children. "I started *Solve Learn Play* when I realized my clients with language disorders often struggled with some educational apps," said Holmes, who also is an online instructor in Longwood's communication sciences and disorders program. She teaches *aural rehabilitation*, a unique course that covers everything from hearing loss to deaf culture to amplification technology. In addition, she works as a home health speech-language pathologist. Photo Courtesy of Acey Holmes, M.S. '11

## 1950s

**Dr. Flora Ballowe de Hart '52** died Feb. 22, 2022. She had a long and successful career as an educator. After earning her degree in secondary education from Longwood, she taught in the Virginia public schools for four years, according to her obituary in the *Farmville Herald*. With her sights set on higher education, she earned a master's degree in history from the University of Virginia and taught at Louisburg College in North Carolina for 15 years before deciding to pursue a doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned her Ph.D. in educational administration. Her next stop was St. Edward's University, a private Catholic university in Austin, where she retired after almost 20 years as director of student teaching and certification and associate professor emerita.

But life wasn't all work for de Hart. She loved to travel and explore other cultures, visiting Aztec and Mayan temples and ruins throughout Mexico. Tahiti was another favorite destination. To stay in shape, she spent a many hours on the dance floor, even winning some contests after she retired. Her friends and family remember her as a true storyteller with a great sense of humor and a sharp wit. "Life's a stage," she would often say. "On my stage, I choose comedy."

## 1960s

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Page Taylor '66** died Feb. 9, 2022. She led a full and rich life as a teacher, artist and equestrian. Her obituary notes that, in preparation for her career as an artist and teacher, she earned a BFA from Longwood and an MFA from VCU. She initially taught art at Hopewell (Virginia) High School and then at Patrick Henry High School in Hanover County, Virginia, retiring from public education in 1999. Taylor continued teaching adults drawing and painting through the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and at the Montpelier (Virginia) Center for the Arts. She was also an active artist, producing paintings and drawings in various media, and making ceramic jewelry and pottery.

Above all things, Taylor loved and was devoted to horses. She rode and showed horses for nearly all of her life, and she often focused on them as the subject of her artwork. In her prime, she was recognized as an outstanding show rider and trainer. She and her horse, Rob, a Tennessee walking horse, won many awards and prizes. She was a lover of all animals and took in many dogs and cats whose owners could no longer take care of them. Friends and family remember her as someone who could not bear the thought of an animal not having a loving home.

## 1970s

**Karen Lynn Foster '77** died March 10, 2022, following an 18-month battle with an aggressive cancer. Her obituary paints a picture of her full and rewarding personal and professional life. Foster earned a B.A. with honors in English from

Longwood as well as an M.A. in creative writing from Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia. She also did post-graduate work in English at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

She had a passion for the written word, which she applied in scientific publications for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where she worked as a staff member for 23 years and later as a contractor, and as a freelance writer/editor in public health and epidemiology. She finished her first novel shortly before she died.

Finally, her obituary provides this additional detail: "Karen's accomplishments, both professional and personal, are particularly remarkable given that she was born completely blind. Multiple surgeries before she was 2 years old restored only 3 percent of her vision. She never complained; she never sought special accommodations or pity. Karen was fiercely independent."



**↑ Karen Lynn Foster '77**, who died March 10, 2022, had a passion for raising, showing and breeding English springer spaniels, and was a charter member of the Chattahoochee English Springer Spaniel Club of Greater Atlanta. She was described by fellow members as the backbone of the club, with her strict ethics and familiarity with the American Kennel Club rules and regulations. Photo courtesy of Lori Turley

## 1980s

**Kristy Nicely Casstevens '83** was named 2021 Educator of the Year by Mountain Gateway Community College in Clifton Forge, Virginia, where she has served as the director of TRIO Student Support Services since 2012. The program is designed to provide free academic support and encouragement to students who face economic, social and cultural barriers to higher education. Casstevens came to MGCC in 2005 as a talent search advisor and also served as assistant director of talent search prior to her current position. She earned a master's degree in adult and higher education from the University of South Dakota.

**Cindy Walsh '84**, director of Fairfax County Park Authority's Park Services Division, was honored by the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) with a 2022 NACPRO Award, which honors excellence in the field of parks and recreation. Walsh, who earned her Longwood degree in therapeutic recreation, is a veteran of the Park Authority with more than three decades of service. "The Park Authority is very lucky to have a flexible, talented individual, willing and able to lead the Park Services Division," Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole was quoted as saying in the *Fairfax Times*. "She ... has been a mentor to countless young park professionals over the years." Walsh began her career with the Park Authority in September 1989 as the agency's first special populations coordinator.

## 1990s

**Debra Shorter Berryman '91** is the director of clinical services with Southside (Virginia) Behavioral Health. She graduated from Longwood with a B.S. in social work and continued her education at VCU, earning a master's degree in social work. "I got into the field of social work to advocate for those who do not have a voice for them-

selves and to offer hope to those who may not know that it exists," she says.

**Kimberly Miller-Cussick '93**, a special education teacher at Georgie Tyler Middle School in Windsor, Virginia, was named the division-wide Teacher of the Year for the Isle of Wight County Schools. Miller-Cussick, who just completed her 13th year at Georgie Tyler, was also named her school's teacher of the year and the division's middle school-level teacher of the year. She began her career teaching fourth grade in Newport News, Virginia, in 1994, and moved to Windsor in 2008. In the course of her career, she has taught every grade from preschool through eighth grade. She received her master's degree in special education from Regent University with an additional certificate as a reading specialist.

**Philippe Ernewein '94** is the director of education at Denver Academy, a coeducational, independent day school serving bright, diverse learners in grades 1 through 12. An alumnus of Teach For America, Ernewein is board chair of Celebrate EDU, an organization committed to creating bright futures for young adults with developmental disabilities and diverse learning profiles. In addition to his bachelor's degree in modern languages from Longwood, he earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Colorado.

**James "Jim" Mauldin '94**, a biology major at Longwood, was promoted to engineering manager at Intel's semiconductor R&D factory outside Portland, Oregon. He has been with the company for seven years. Prior to entering the private sector, Mauldin served 21 years in the U.S. Army in a variety of roles after being commissioned as an officer through Longwood's ROTC program. He later earned a master's degree at the Naval Postgraduate School during his years of service. In 2015, on his retirement from the military, he was one of 60 leaders, selected from 900 applicants, invited to participate in the inaugural class of the Presidential Leadership Scholars program, a unique leadership development initiative that draws on the resources of the presidential centers of Lyndon B. Johnson, George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton and George W. Bush. Mauldin spends much of his free time with his three children. "When not at work, I simply enjoy any/everything with my three opportunities to change the world: Tyler, 14; Payton, 12; and Ben, 6. We love the outdoors—and laughing," Mauldin said.

(continued on Page 25)

**James "Jim" Mauldin '94** (center) met former U.S. presidents George W. Bush (left) and Bill Clinton (right) when he was chosen for the inaugural class of the Presidential Leadership Scholars Program.



Courtesy of James "Jim" Mauldin '94



## Me and My Shadow

Alumnus gives student insight into the business side of photography

**B**een there, done that." Coming from a seasoned photographer with his own successful business, those words are exceptionally meaningful for a college student who is hoping to make his living behind the lens.

Of course, being a great photographer and running a business are two distinct skill sets. That's where Longwood's Work Shadow Program came into the picture for **CONNOR THOMPSON '23** (above right), who is working on a BFA in photography at Longwood.

He was paired with **MIKE KROPF '14** (above left), who, after working as a photographer at Longwood, went out on his own in 2017. Since then he's stayed busy with clients ranging from brides and grooms to Longwood athletics.

"I thought it would be cool to be able to mentor a student in this unique niche field," said Kropf, who is a two-time Work Shadow volunteer. "I learned a lot in my photography classes, but ... I never learned about the business end—how to get clients and that sort of thing."

That is definitely what Thompson took away from his day with Kropf.

"I really wanted to find out about Mike's work flow. It's impressive how efficient Mike is with getting the job done," said Thompson, who also appreciated Kropf's advice about how to brand himself as a photographer.

"He explained that I didn't really have to brand myself strictly as a wedding photographer or a sports photographer. It's possible to tap into two different markets with different branding," Thompson said, adding that starting his own business feels less daunting after the Work Shadow experience. "There's a difference between friendly chitchat and really getting down to business and talking to a professional about how you can improve."—Sabrina Brown

# The Road Less Traveled

Alumna's path goes from the Peace Corps to perinatal mental health

If you wanted to experience **KAYLN ZITA'S** life in the nine years since she graduated from Longwood, you'd have to walk more than a mile in her shoes. Much, much more.

A liberal studies major with a concentration in communication studies, she's currently living in the Denver area and working as a perinatal mental health therapist for Inter-mountain Health.

You might think that's a major transition—until you find out her first big move was to Mozambique to serve in the Peace Corps, where she worked with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and other projects to help adults and children with HIV/AIDS.

Zita '13, provides some additional details about where life has taken her—so far—in the following Q&A.



**How and why did you get into perinatal mental health therapy? It's a bit of an unexpected path for someone with your background.**

If you had told me I would be working in women's health when I started at Longwood in 2009, I would've looked at you, stunned. I always imagined I'd spend my career working with kids (I thought I wanted to follow in my mom's footsteps and work in education). But when I was in my junior/senior year, I knew that wasn't the path for me.

**Exactly what does a perinatal mental health therapist do?**

I work in outpatient, behavioral health, providing services to pregnant and postpartum women, as well as women who have experienced loss and those struggling with fertility. (Perinatal encompasses pregnancy through one year postpartum.) My job focuses mainly on one-on-one, individual therapy, as well as facilitating workshops based on PMADs (perinatal mood and anxiety disorders) and advocating on behalf of patients.

**So that's basically Point A and Point C. What's the story behind Point B—Mozambique and the Peace Corps?**

I joined the Peace Corps in 2015, serving as a public health volunteer. My time in Mozambique truly changed my life. I worked alongside people living with HIV, predominantly females and women who were expecting. Through many stories and lifelong bonds I made and continue to foster, I knew that working in women's health, specifically addressing and breaking apart the stigmas of mental health, was my calling.

**Did this new direction in your career require any additional training?**

Yes, I was required to go back to school and receive more training. I graduated with my Master of Social Work from the University of Denver in 2020. After that, I worked in a middle school here in Denver, providing individual and group mental health services. While I loved the students and families I was working with, I knew I wanted to continue my path working in women's health. I have since received certifications from Postpartum Support International (PSI) to specialize in PMADs.

**What do you find most rewarding in your current work?**

In our society, there is this old wives' tale that having a baby is the happiest time of your life, full of rainbows and butterflies. Yes, having a baby and growing your family is a beautiful thing, but it's

not without its complications.

So many factors affect the period of pregnancy and postpartum (support system, coping skills, community, racial inequity, access to resources, financial stability,

family/past mental health history, the list goes on...). My job is to provide the women I work with the support and resources they need to continue on the path that they desire.

I've seen my patients struggle to the greatest depths and then find ways, little by little with grace and compassion from those around them, to flourish. Raising a child, being a mother, is the hardest, least-recognized job there is. I feel honored to be able to bear witness to the stories of the women I work with.—*Sabrina Brown*

**“I knew that working in women's health, specifically addressing and breaking apart the stigmas of mental health, was my calling.”**

—KAYLN ZITA '13



(continued from Page 23)

**James Siegel '95** was named chief financial officer of VCU Health System in March after a national search. He had been serving in the role on an interim basis since June 2021, just a little more than a year after joining VCU Health as vice president for financial planning and analysis. Siegel, who earned a degree in business administration with an accounting concentration from Longwood, previously was vice president for finance and budget with Virginia Premier. Overall, he has more than 26 years of health care finance, audit accounting and operations experience, including 18 years holding increasingly progressive finance and operational leadership roles with Bon Secours. His leadership experience also includes honorable service as a noncommissioned officer in the United States Army, serving in both Europe and Southwest Asia theaters.



**Leanne Keeton Mull '98**, a third-grade teacher at Chase City Elementary School, was named Mecklenburg County's Teacher of the Year in May. She attended Chase City Elementary as a child and returned to do part of her student teaching there. After completing her degree at Longwood, she continued her work at Chase City Elementary as the third- and fourth-grade special education teacher. The next year she signed on as a general education third-grade teacher and has continued in that role for the past 22 years. In 2021, Mull was named a Mecklenburg County Public Schools Super Staff member, one of a handful of teachers singled out by her peers for her compassion, hard work, dedication and ability to instill the gift of education to her students. In addition to her Longwood degree, she holds a Collegiate Professional License with endorsements in elementary grades NK-8.

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**Leanne Mull '98** with her third-grade students at Chase City Elementary School after being named 2022 Mecklenburg County School Division Teacher of the Year. Photo courtesy of Leanne Mull '98

**Lighting Up Southside.** Powered by nearly two decades of experience serving electric cooperatives, **Jason Loehr '01** rose to the top of a 130+ candidate pool and was named Southside (Virginia) Electric Cooperative's chief executive officer in April. Loehr, who holds a business degree from Longwood, had been vice president for finance and corporate services at SEC since 2019, promoted to that position after signing on as controller in 2014. A CPA, he previously worked in public accounting, with more than 20 electric cooperatives among his clients. In his new position, his leadership will touch the lives of many across central and southern Virginia: SEC has 57,600 active services across 18 counties. SEC's goal is to help "create a place where families, neighbors and Main Street can prosper," Loehr said.





## Me and My Shadow

Veteran school principal gives aspiring teacher a behind-the-scenes look at her dream job

When **IMANI JOHNSON '24** (above right) was a child, nothing was more fun than playing school—as long as she got to be the teacher.

Her baby sister, stuck in her highchair, endured countless arithmetic lessons as a very young Imani's desire to one day be teaching in a real classroom grew stronger and stronger.

Today, Johnson is in Longwood's education and teaching program, making progress toward fulfilling that childhood dream, with a slight twist. She's decided her ultimate ambition, after gaining classroom experience, is to have her nameplate on a different school room: the principal's office.

Thanks to Longwood's Work Shadow Program, Johnson recently got some boots-on-the-ground advice about being a principal while spending a day with Longwood alumna **KATHY MOORE VERHAPPEN '90** (above left), principal of Granby Elementary School in Norfolk for the last eight years.

"I wanted to see how a school functions behind the scenes," said Johnson, whose home is in Suffolk about 30 minutes from Granby. And she wasn't disappointed. "I went through the entire school. I saw every single classroom and met every single teacher. It was an incredible experience."

That's exactly the reaction Verhappen was hoping for. Her day with Johnson was the fourth time she's participated in the Work Shadow Program run by Alumni and Career Services. Why does she do it?

"I believe coaching and mentoring is the core of what we do as educators. That's what we're supposed to do—pass the torch, right?" said Verhappen, who has spent her entire career as an educator. —Sabrina Brown



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**Tim Miller '99** and his wife, Akkhara Phayom, are the living embodiment of fusion, both in their personal and professional lives. Miller, who is from Virginia, and Phayom, who is from Thailand, have opened a business in Smithfield, Virginia, that brings together Thai cuisine with fresh Virginia ingredients. Located at the corner of Main and Institute streets, Chili Hill Food Market features Asian groceries with a Thai-centric theme, fresh produce and homemade Thai food to go. "We talked about it and dreamed about it," Miller told the *Virginian-Pilot*. "It's a big step even though it's a small place." It's been a long road to Chili Hill. Miller worked in the corporate world after earning his Longwood degree in anthropology, but returned to his first love of cooking in 2000 when the stock market crashed, enrolling at Johnson & Wales University in Norfolk and earning an associate's degree in the culinary arts. He worked as a restaurant chef in the Washington, D.C. area, and then as culinary director for the non-profit D.C. Central Kitchen, which provides culinary job training for people facing high barriers to employment while creating living-wage jobs. Miller and his wife moved to Smithfield in 2014 and welcomed their daughter, Tahna, not long after. He initially worked as an account manager for the corporate food service company Sodexo after the move, but it was the chilis and other Thai produce they began growing and selling to area restaurants that gave birth to Chili Hill Food Market, which opened in 2021.

## 2000s

**Randall Sell '01** was inducted into the Roanoke Valley Wrestling Associate Hall of Fame in April. A member of the wrestling team at Longwood and at Messiah College, he was a three-time place winner in the Group AA state tournament. He is a former head coach at Staunton River and Salem, and has been a volunteer assistant coach at Lord Botetourt.

**Jennifer Jones Church '02** was named the executive vice president for retail banking at Village Bank in Midlothian, Virginia, in March.

**Genevieve Saunders Gardner '02** is an attorney with the Merna Law Group, a firm specializing in bankruptcy, with offices in Rich-



**Tim Miller '99** and his wife, Akkhara Phayom, opened Chili Hill Food Market in November 2021 in downtown Smithfield, Virginia, after three successful seasons selling their fresh produce and specialty Thai food at the farmers market. Photo courtesy of Tim Miller '99



**Matt Paciocco '04** was named senior vice president and regional executive for Richmond, Virginia, by First National Corporation, the bank holding company of First Bank. He is responsible for overseeing community impact and all lines of business banking, and business development. "Matt's experience fully aligns with our culture and our focus on positioning First Bank for transformational growth in the Richmond market," said Scott Harvard, CEO of First Bank. Paciocco has more than 18 years of experience in all areas of commercial and retail banking. He earned a B.S. in business administration and a B.S. in economics from Longwood, and is also a graduate of the Virginia Bankers Association's School of Bank Management at the University of Virginia.



**Casey McGratton Petit '05** was promoted to assistant vice president at Stanton Partners Inc., a commercial real estate firm. She previously was director of property accounting and lease administration at Stanton.

**Amy Whipple '05, M.A. 2007**, a nonfiction writer based in Pittsburgh, recently published an article titled "Why Didn't Kate & Allie Ever Come Out of the Closet" on the website into.com. In addition to her Longwood degrees in English, she holds an MFA in nonfiction writing from the University of Pittsburgh. Her work can be found in *Pittsburgh Magazine*, *VICE* and *The Guardian*, among others. She is a nonfiction editor of *K'in*, a literary journal, and has previously held editorial positions at *Hot Metal Bridge*, a publication produced by MFA students at the University of Pittsburgh, and *The Dos Passos Review*.



**Tracey Agnew '06**, regional editor of the *Suffolk News-Herald*, the *Smithfield Times*, the *Tidewater News* and *Windsor Weekly*, has embarked on a new career as a copy editor for a marketing agency. Agnew, who earned a degree in English at Longwood, was hired at the *News-Herald*

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# Team Spirit

Former lacrosse players now support each other in their foster parenting journeys

**T**RACI RYAN ANDRESEN '03, M.S. '04 (SPECIAL EDUCATION), and KRISTY TAYLOR FRICK '04 supported each other when they both played on Longwood's lacrosse team. Now they're supporting each other as they navigate the challenges of being foster parents.

"Off the field, Traci and I were roommates and great friends in what is now Lancer Park," said Frick. "The strong foundation we had as teammates at Longwood set the tone for a relationship that has spanned 22 years."

When Traci and her husband, Todd Andresen, who live in Indiana, took the plunge into fostering about four years ago, Traci knew she could turn to her former teammate for help. By that point, Kristy was a social worker with Children's Home Society of Virginia, where she had created the agency's first Post Adoption Support Program.

The two began communicating regularly, and, two years later, Frick and her husband, Donnie Frick, followed in the Andresens' footsteps. "Having someone in a similar position to talk through all the highs and lows that come with fostering is invaluable," Andresen said.

Both families have now fostered four children each: The Andresens were most recently caring for siblings, ages 2 and 3, for the past two years, while the Fricks are providing a home for a 17-month-old boy. Both couples have biological children as well: the Andresens have two daughters and a son ranging in age from 9 to 13; the Fricks, twin 7-year-old boys. "We now talk almost daily to support one another 'off the field' in life as foster parents," Frick said.

Frick said foster parents are desperately needed in Virginia and throughout the U.S. Today, almost 5,000 children are in Virginia's foster care system; nationally, more than 425,000 children are in the system. And there are many ways to help, Andresen said.

"While we know that not everyone is in a position to foster, every state has opportunities to become advocates for vulnerable children (known as court-appointed special advocates or guardian ad litem), as well as the opportunity to provide respite for current foster families. There truly are opportunities for everyone to play a part in caring for foster children if desired," Andresen said.

The two said they're sharing this information not only to advocate for foster care and to build awareness, but also "to show the deep impact of relationships that were created at Longwood and to celebrate the lifelong, far-reaching influence they have on individuals and the community."—*Sabrina Brown*



*(above) Back in the day, Traci Ryan (left) and Kristy Taylor were teammates on Longwood's lacrosse team. Both played four years, and both served as team captain. Taylor was a two-time All-American. Off the field, they were roommates in Stanley Park (now Lancer Park) and great friends. Photos courtesy of Traci Andresen '03, M.S. '04, and Kristy Frick '04*



*(above) Tracy Ryan Andresen '03, M.S. '04, and her husband, Todd, were the first to take the plunge into fostering. They are shown here with two of the children they have fostered, whose images have been blurred to protect their privacy, and their biological children, Todd (left), Hadley (center) and Harper.*

*(left) Following the Andresens' example, Kristy Taylor Frick '04 and her husband, Donnie, also became foster parents. They are shown here with their foster son, whose image is blurred to protect his privacy, and their biological twin sons, Cooper (left) and Jack.*

**Shelley Mays-Couch '11** is a licensed clinical social worker, evangelist, entrepreneur and philanthropist. A graduate of Longwood's social work program, she went on to earn a master's degree in social work from VCU. Among her many initiatives, Mays-Couch is the founder and executive director of LOC Family Services, a solution-focused organization that seeks to reduce recidivism, help to mend broken families, increase safer communities and help individuals released from incarceration to develop core skills. Based in Farmville, LOC serves a wide area, including Amelia, Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte Court House, Cumberland, Dillwyn, Lunenburg, Nottoway and Prince Edward.



**Send us your class notes.** If you have any news from your professional or personal life, we'd love to hear about it. Please email the details to us at [alumni@longwood.edu](mailto:alumni@longwood.edu). Remember to give us your full name, the year you graduated and the degree you received.

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more than 15 years ago to do page layout, but it wasn't long before she was chasing down stories as a reporter. She received a series of promotions that led to her being named editor of the paper in 2017. Then in 2020, she was named regional editor and given the task of building a regional reporting team from a handful of previously distinct newsrooms. She met her husband, Troy Cooper, when he came to work at the *Times* as a graphic designer in 2007, and they married in 2015. In her farewell column, Agnew offered her readers these reflections: "If I filled this entire edition, I could never adequately thank the thousands and thousands of people who helped me in some way throughout the course of my career. ... However, every single person I met during this career, and the city in which we all live, has come to be a treasure in my heart."



Courtesy of Ben Titus '06

↑ **Ben Titus '06** is getting a significant ROI from his music degrees—a Bachelor of Music from Longwood and a Master of Music from VCU. He's currently director of instrumental music at the Milwaukee (Wisconsin) School of Languages, a public school for students in grades 6-12 that offers language immersion programs in German, French and Spanish along with courses in Japanese. Titus, who plays multiple instruments ranging from clarinet to electric bass, performs with numerous ensembles and well-known soloists; is an in-demand clinician; and has a thriving private studio where he teaches guitar, bass, clarinet and music theory.

**Joseph Hagy '07** is the new executive director of the Mountain Gateway Community College Educational Foundation, located in Clifton Forge, Virginia. He had been director of student services at the college since 2017, originally joining the MGCC staff in 2014 as retention coordinator and dual enrollment coordinator. He currently also serves as the college's director of institutional advancement and public in-

formation officer. Prior to his work at MGCC, Hagy was director of development for the Virginia Horse Center Foundation, where he was named Employee of the Year in 2013. He also taught in Virginia's public schools for six years and coached high-school baseball and football, as well as middle-school basketball. He and his family live in Buena Vista, and he enjoys coaching youth baseball.

**Matthew Armentrout '08**, a drama teacher at Chancellor High School in Fredericksburg, was named the inaugural recipient of the Longwood theatre program's Teacher of the Year Award in March. Former students, Spotsylvania school division administrators and Longwood theatre faculty Dr. Ronda Scarrow, who created the award, and Joyce Sweet '71, who did the judging, gathered at the school to surprise Armentrout with the award. "He was the single largest influence on my life as a theatre person," Emma Masaitis '22, a Longwood theatre technology graduate, told the *Fredericksburg Free-Lance Star*. Masaitis and her sister, Natalie, also a former student of Armentrout's, nominated him for the award. The theatre program created the award to recognize the positive influence high-school theatre teachers can have on their students and to thank them for sending excellent students to Longwood.

**Sara Bonovitch Shell '08** joined Griffin Communications Group in Houston, Texas, as a senior account executive. She will work with Griffin's aerospace industry clients, and develop strategic communication and public relations campaigns. Prior to joining Griffin, Shell spent more than six years at Space Florida as public relations manager. She served as the organization's lead for media relations, communications, social media, project announcements and companywide events. With a background in journalism and a degree in English from Longwood, Shell also has worked as a reporter for the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, the *Virginia Gazette* and the *Virginian-Pilot*, covering both sports and community news. Her bachelor's degree from Longwood is in English with a minor in communication studies. She went on to earn a master's degree in sports management from VCU.

**Kelly Southall Leslie '09** and her husband, Christopher, are the proud parents of Oliver Leslie, their first child, born Jan. 19 in Chesterfield, Virginia. Oliver is also the grandson of **Daphne Weaver '86, M.S. '00**, and the great-grandson of the late **Ethel Shockley Southall '49**.

**Kevin Meadows '09** and his wife, **Paige Hunt Meadows '10**, welcomed their first child, Elizabeth Ann "Libby" Meadows, on Jan. 4, 2022.

## 2010s

**Bobby Markey '10** was the featured speaker at a Longwood Mathematics and Computer Science Colloquium in April. In his talk, Markey discussed the mechanics behind some popular game shows and the mathematical analysis that goes into con-

testants' moving from being just a player to a big winner. Markey, who earned a mathematics degree at Longwood and a master's degree in educational leadership from University of Lynchburg (Virginia), teaches math at Brookville High School in Lynchburg. He and his wife, Jessica, have a son, Luke, born in October 2021.

**Paige Hunt Meadows '10** and her husband, **Kevin Meadows '09**, welcomed their first child, Elizabeth Ann "Libby" Meadows, on Jan. 4, 2022.



Courtesy of Brian "Rock" Hancock '10



**Brian "Rock" Hancock '10** is an owner-coach at MovNat Madison (Wisconsin), a natural movement gym that helps "re-wild" people's fitness. Rock, who earned a B.S. in exercise science at Longwood, previously worked as a strength coach with the Marines as a civilian employee. He also worked in corporate wellness consulting with a health-care organization and was the wellness coordinator at Lands' End before starting his own gym. He recently developed the "Move with your Cycle" program to help women better understand how to sync their physical activity with their menstrual cycles. The spring 2022 issue of this magazine stated that Hancock had served in the military, which is not correct. We sincerely regret the error.

**Megan Keese Robertson '11**, who teaches sixth-grade math at Altavista Combined School, was recognized at the annual dinner of the Altavista Area Chamber of Commerce for her selection as teacher of the year in "Colonel Country." She serves as the grade-level chair for sixth grade.

**Chip Hale '14** is the subject of a May 26 feature story in *RVA Mag* focused on his work as a music producer, musician (primarily bass guitar) and owner of 6807 Studios. Hale recently collaborated with one of his Longwood classmates, Justin Golden, doing the production work on Golden's latest album, *Hard Times and a Woman*, which *RVA Mag* said is receiving "rave reviews." Hale, a history major at Longwood, has shared the stage with multiple bands and songwriters in Richmond, including Moosetrap and Tyler Meacham, and has performed throughout the U.S. and around the world.

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Courtesy of Lexi Marzloff '22

## Me and My Shadow

Federal Reserve Bank alums help kickstart 2022 business grad's career

**W**hat do you get when you spend a day working one-on-one with a team of seasoned business professionals on your networking, résumé-writing and interviewing skills?

**LEXI MARZLOFF '22** (above right) got a job.

Marzloff is starting her career journey as a recruiter for Insight Global, a firm that helps match employers with talented job candidates. She gives much of the credit for landing the position to the group of Longwood alums at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond who gave her the benefit of their experience during a recent Work Shadow day with them.

Organized by Alumni and Career Services, the program matched Marzloff with **CHRIS TUNSTALL '88** (above left), the Fed's senior manager of talent management, who then recruited four of his colleagues—three of them Longwood alums and one a former professor—to participate. (Nearly 30 Longwood graduates currently work at the Fed in Richmond.)

"My approach is that Lancers need to help Lancers," said Tunstall, who has participated in the Work Shadow Program for the last four years. "I reached out to Lexi to ask what she wanted to get out of the day. Then I tried to develop an agenda around what she told me."

Tunstall apparently is a good listener. "I got out of it exactly what I wanted," said Marzloff, who even got advice about how to decide what kind of a job she would find fulfilling and challenging.

For Tunstall, the reward is helping young professionals get off to a good start.

"Longwood helped me go from an insecure boy to a confident young man," he said, recalling his years as a student. "This is a wonderful way to pay it forward."

Others at the Fed who worked with Marzloff were **CARLYLE POWELL '08**, **JESSICA BENNETT '06**, **DARBY DETTRA '20** and Ray Brastow, former professor of economics.—Sabrina Brown



## CLASSNOTES

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**Nicole McDaniel '14** was named Teacher of the Year for Craigsville Elementary School in the Augusta County Public Schools. She teaches third grade. After receiving her B.S. in elementary education, McDaniel taught third grade in Stafford before joining the Craigsville faculty in 2018. She has mentored new teachers, served as the PTO teacher representative, is a member of the school growth team and leads the responsive classroom team.

**Kathleen Wilcox '14** was named the new director of community relations and marketing for Greenfield Senior Living and Greenfield Reflections of Strasburg, Virginia. She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Longwood and plans to pursue a master's degree in marketing. She began her career in 2014 with Valley Health in Winchester as a team lead for its urgent cares, then went to work for Frederick County Fire and Rescue as a firefighter/flight paramedic for five years before coming to Greenfield.

**Maura Madigan, M.Ed. '15 (school librarianship)**, a librarian at North Springfield (Virginia) Elementary School, is a leader in the field of project-based learning. She has presented on the topic at several conferences, including the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL). She is the author of two books: *Learning Centers for School Libraries* and *Project-Based Learning for Elementary Grades*, both published by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and ALA Editions.

**Rebecca Watkins Adams '18**, a teacher at Southside Elementary School in Dinwiddie, Virginia, was named Teacher of the Year for both her school and her school division. Adams wrote the following to one of her former teachers, Dr. Juliette Mersiowsky, after receiving the honors: "I was part of the last class in Emporia. ... I am super thankful for you and all of your support, and I thought you might like to hear some of the positives from your former students!"



**Sydney "Tex" Mundell '18**, who played on the Longwood softball team, became engaged to **Jon Peterson '19**, who was a member of the baseball team during his Longwood days. The

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Longwood's 1 Hour a Month program is a volunteer experience designed for alumni and friends. You'll be rewarded with exclusive Longwood swag depending on your level of participation. Find out more at [go.longwood.edu/1hour](https://go.longwood.edu/1hour).



## In Memoriam

### 1930s

**Marjorie Bradshaw Powers '35** April 30, 2022

### 1940s

**Carolyn Rouse Hardy '43** Feb. 22, 2022

**Elizabeth Johnson Wright '44** May 25, 2022

**Marilyn Johnson Williams '45** May 16, 2022

**Jane Danby Crute '46** May 8, 2022

**Evelyn Pierce Sell '46** March 25, 2022

**Clara Ashby James '49** March 9, 2022

### 1950s

**Polly Richardson Winfield '50** Feb. 17, 2022

**Shirley Roberts Schultz '51** April 25, 2022

**Dr. Flora Ballowe de Hart '52** Feb. 22, 2022

**Shirley Grogan Duncan '52** May 17, 2022

**Harriet Minichan Thomas '53** April 13, 2022

**Joyce Gatling Ward '53** March 9, 2022

**Virginia Morgan Geris '55** Oct. 9, 2021

**Jo Ann McLelland Garey '56** Feb. 10, 2022

**Norma Jean Croft Joyner '56** April 8, 2022

**Mary Margaret Dryden Hurley '56** Feb. 23, 2021

**Shirley Wilkinson Rowland '56** April 7, 2022

**Patricia Shoop Lafoon '57** May 8, 2022

**Jane Brugh Layman '57** March 17, 2022

**Patricia Parker Robyns '57** Nov. 30, 2021

**Winifred Biddlecomb Delano '58** May 21, 2022

**Eliza Buchanan Sullivan '58** May 5, 2022

### 1960s

**Judith Beckner Hatley '61** March 2, 2022

**Martha Walker Owings '61** April 8, 2022

**Mary Owen White '61** Dec. 23, 2021

**Sandra Statzer Marlowe '66** Feb. 9, 2022

**Elizabeth Page Taylor '66** Feb. 9, 2022

**Lynda Baber Anderson '67** March 20, 2022

**Anne Smith Dees '68** Feb. 25, 2022

**Bette McKinney Newsome '69** May 20, 2022

### 1970s

**Stella Redd Brown '74** May 1, 2022

**Karen Lynn Foster '77** March 10, 2022

### 1980s

**Anne Blanton Newton '81** Feb. 16, 2022

**JoAnne Snead Jones '82** June 10, 2022

**Joseph Anthony Crute '85** June 6, 2022

**E. Anne Coppedge Gill '87** March 11, 2022

### 2000s

**Eleanor Krebs Engler '04** March 16, 2022

**Jeremy Thomas Temple '08** Feb. 21, 2022

### 2010s

**Stephanie Wilkins Van Nortwick '10** June 9, 2022

## Faculty, Staff and Friends

**Stanley O. Hathaway** May 12, 2022

**John S. Peale** April 22, 2022

**Janelle Perkins** May 30, 2022

**Stephey R. Randolph** Feb. 26, 2022

**Joanne P. Stanley** May 25, 2022

**Jane K. Stuart** March 1, 2022

**Robert N. Swinson** May 19, 2022

**A**bout this time last year, RYAN QUIGLEY '16 was holed up in the Marriott Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut, working from 11 p.m. to 11 a.m. producing content for NBC Sports' coverage of the Tokyo Olympics. Six months later, he was doing the same for the winter Olympics in Beijing.

Talk about being in the right place at the right time. Quigley, who got his degree in communication studies/digital media at Longwood, had been working for NBC Sports less than a year when he got the Tokyo assignment. He answered a few questions for *Longwood* magazine about his Olympics experience as well as what he normally does for NBC.

**How would you describe the feeling of providing coverage for the world's most anticipated sports event?**

Getting to cover the Olympics is a surreal feeling—knowing that you're working on a project that the entire world has its eyes on. It was extremely daunting at first, but it ended up being some of the most rewarding work I've done in my career.

**What responsibilities did you have during the Tokyo summer Games, and why were you working from a hotel in Connecticut?**

We did not get to leave the country and travel to Tokyo or Beijing due to Covid-19. But our team did travel to Stamford, Connecticut, home of NBC Sports headquarters, which might as well be a completely different country, so that was pretty fun. For the Tokyo Games, we lived and worked out of the Marriott Hotel and ballroom in downtown Stamford.

We were working on Tokyo time (11 p.m. to 11 a.m. on the East Coast)—so when the sun was rising in the U.S., we were all going to bed. I covered basketball and numerous other sports, writing news stories and recaps on each day's events. The hours were tough, but the experience itself was a ton of fun.

**Did you do anything different during the winter Games in Beijing?**

Beijing was where I was really in my element. Covering hockey was my primary assignment, and, as a former hockey writer for SB Nation, it was a dream to watch and write about Olympic hockey for 12 hours a day. Plus, we got to work out of the NBC Sports headquarters instead of the Marriott ballroom, which, shocker, was a vast improvement!

I wrote feature stories on the U.S. women's team, watched the Slovak men's team power its way to its first-ever Olympic hockey medal and even got to briefly speak with some NHLers in the lead-up to the games. I did a full feature on Auston

## Olympics-Sized Assignment

### NBC Sports staffer helps provide coverage for Tokyo and Beijing Games

Matthews as he prepared to make his Olympics debut, but because of a nasty Covid-19 outbreak, the NHL did not allow its players to travel to Beijing.

**It sounds like covering hockey is still your passion.**

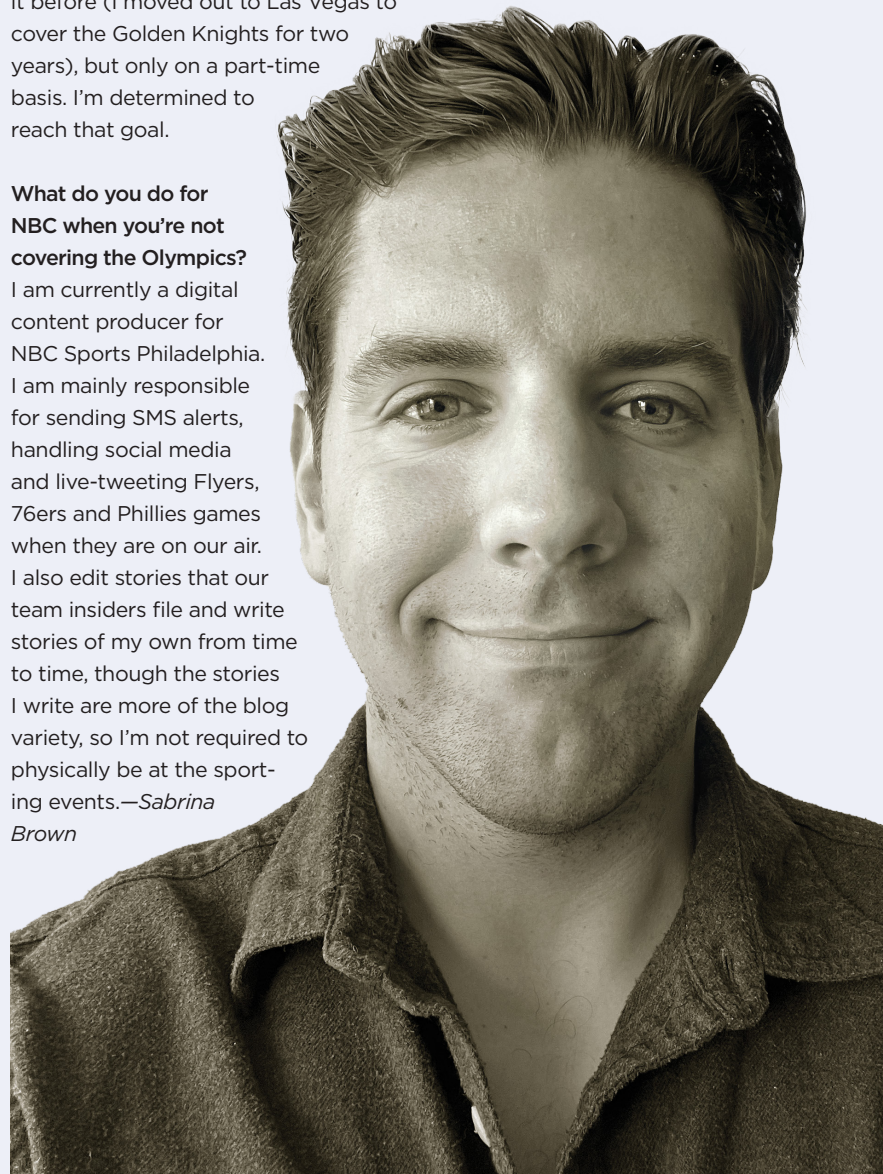
My dream job hasn't changed. I have my sights set on becoming a full-time beat reporter for an NHL team. I've done it before (I moved out to Las Vegas to cover the Golden Knights for two years), but only on a part-time basis. I'm determined to reach that goal.

**What do you do for NBC when you're not covering the Olympics?**

I am currently a digital content producer for NBC Sports Philadelphia. I am mainly responsible for sending SMS alerts, handling social media and live-tweeting Flyers, 76ers and Phillies games when they are on our air. I also edit stories that our team insiders file and write stories of my own from time to time, though the stories I write are more of the blog variety, so I'm not required to physically be at the sporting events.—*Sabrina Brown*

**Getting to cover the Olympics is a surreal feeling—knowing that you're working on a project that the entire world has its eyes on.'**

—RYAN QUIGLEY '16





**Lab Results.** They observed specimens through an electron microscope, found out some of the dirty details of water-quality testing and cultured their own glowing bacteria. And that was all before lunch. “I wanted to show the students the plethora of research opportunities that Longwood offers even though it’s not a big university,” said **Chelsea Taylor Thorpe ’12** (above and below, center), who teaches chemistry at the Governor’s School of Southside Virginia, Alberta campus. She organized the field trip for juniors at the school who are interested in science, and they weren’t disappointed. “When we asked students what their favorite part of their junior year was, they said the trip to Longwood!” Thorpe is planning to bring another group of Governor’s School students to Longwood this fall for a similar dose of science inspiration.



(continued from Page 30)

life-altering question was asked and answered while the pair of former athletes was on a trip to Houston, Texas. They currently reside in Pennsylvania.

## 2020s



← **Stuart Gunter, M.S. ’20** (counselor education/mental health concentration), is a counselor and musician. He is the drummer for the Nelson County, Virginia, band Chamomile & Whiskey, which was featured in the pilot episode of Hulu’s award-winning limited series “Dopesick,” based on the book by the same name that details the origins and the effects of the opioid crisis. Gunter, a counselor with South Central Counseling Group, has seen the effects of the opioid crisis in his work—both success stories and the dire impacts of addiction. “I think the fact that somebody who’s dealing with addiction takes the step to see somebody in a therapeutic environment shows a lot of courage, and says a lot about that person who knows they’re in a challenging situation, and has the wherewithal to seek help for it,” Gunter told *The Lynchburg News & Advance*. Chamomile & Whiskey was featured playing live in one scene of the first episode of “Dopesick,” and more of their music was included in the episode’s soundtrack.



← **Maribeth Stotler-Watkins ’20** was promoted to program director at the Youth Development Center in Winchester, Virginia. Stotler-Watkins, who majored in anthropology and history at Longwood, works with a number of YDC programs, including Adventures Beyond, which is especially for adults and children who have intellectual, developmental and physical challenges. “We are all-inclusive,” Stotler-Watkins told the *Winchester Star*. “We’ll make sure that we can create accommodations that are adaptive to whoever comes through our door. We want to let kids be kids without any stigma attached.”



← **Tyler Hall ’21**, a communication studies/digital media graduate, joined the news staff at WRIC-Channel 8 in Richmond as a photojournalist in April. He has a passion for sports and has worked as a camera operator and media broadcaster for various Richmond sports organizations, including VCU Athletics and the Richmond Flying Squirrels.

**Kinsey Pomeroy ’21** joined the staff of Thalhimer, a commercial real estate firm, in the Richmond office.



← **Joshua Carlton ’21**, a sportswriter for the *Gazette-Virginian* newspaper in South Boston, won first place in the sportswriting portfolio category of the Virginia Press Association’s annual awards for 2021, which were announced in May. Carlton, a Longwood communication studies graduate, joined the *Gazette’s* staff in July 2021. The paper now competes in the awards competition’s largest-circulation division for nondaily newspapers in Virginia. 🌐



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## A Weekend to Remember

Jill Rutan Martin '85 (left) and Lisa Salmon McLaughlin '85 were among the Longwood alums reconnecting with classmates and making new friends at Alumni Weekend in June. Along with live bands Friday and Saturday nights, the weekend featured a class parade, Alumni Color Wars, campus tours, a 5K run, lawn games and plenty to eat and drink. Catch up with your classmates in this issue's Class Notes section starting on **Page 21**.

