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South Africa holds many lessons for students studying abroad | Digging for clues to the past

longwood

A MAGAZINE
FOR ALUMNI
AND FRIENDS
OF LONGWOOD
UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2023

A Heroic Journey

After a skydiving accident,
Jordan Hatmaker '09
climbs even higher to
Everest Base Camp



‘For us to be a good steward of the land, we need to know about the past.’

—WARD BURTON

PARTNER WITH LONGWOOD'S ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM AND FOUNDER OF THE WARD BURTON WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

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Class brings students and older adults together.

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Seriously injured and temporarily paralyzed after a skydiving accident, Jordan Hatmaker '09 fought back to reach Everest Base Camp under her own steam just a year later. **Story on Page 18.**

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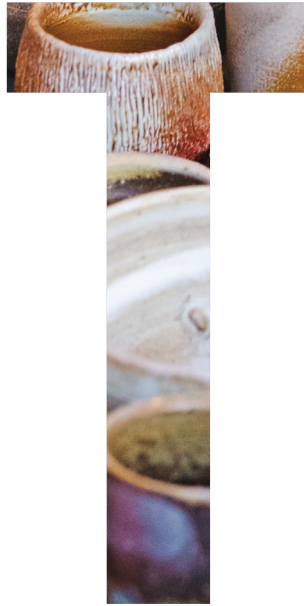
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longwood

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AND FRIENDS OF
LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2023

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Printed on recycled stocks containing 100% post-consumer waste.

To request this magazine in alternate format (large print, braille, audio, etc.), please contact Longwood Disability Resources, 434-395-2391; TRS: 711.

Published April 2023



President Reveley and Provost Larissa Smith present the Maude Glenn Raiford Teaching Award to Dr. Ryan Stouffer, associate professor of communication studies, at Convocation this fall.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this issue of the magazine—in fact, in every issue of the magazine—you'll see stories about the mentoring and educational magic that takes place when students encounter committed, full-time faculty who have made Longwood their professional home.

If you're a Longwood graduate, think back to the professors who made the biggest difference in shaping your mind, character, and life and career trajectories. Most likely, it was someone who worked at Longwood for many years. Someone who really knew the place—and you. Maybe you took multiple classes with this professor, which enabled them to notice something they otherwise might not: a time when you needed extra help or encouragement, or when they saw in you some potential others did not.

Professors are the lifeblood of a university. They hold institutional memory. They invest the time to build programs, year after year. They run laboratories and research projects that enlist students and profoundly supplement classroom learning. They serve in countless other ways as the foundation of the learning experience and the campus community.

Longwood's commitment to full-time faculty runs, as I often say, against the current in higher education. So many institutions these days are taking the easy way out—relying increasingly on part-time faculty rather than investing in good people and keeping them.

It may surprise you to know that, nationally, at the typical institution like Longwood, only about 30 percent of faculty are tenured or so-called "tenure-track," while more than half are part-time. At Longwood, about two-thirds are tenured or on the tenure track. Among Virginia's collection of public four-year universities—a group considered by many to be the best in the nation—it is Longwood that has the very highest proportion of teaching in its classrooms conducted by faculty who are tenured or tenure-track.

Put differently, students who come to Longwood are more likely to work with these full-time professors, people making their career here, than are students at any other Virginia public institution—or at the vast majority of institutions nationally.

This requires a very substantial investment. But when you support Longwood, this is what you are supporting: professors who know your name and your story. So many of our alumni understand deeply why this mattered so much to them—and why it matters so deeply that this distinctive feature of Longwood endure.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Taylor".

W. Taylor Reveley IV
President



Sylvia Maxine Adamson (left) and Sjory Traverso '24

Closing the Generation Gap

Students connect with older adults in therapeutic recreation class

BARBARA WAS A professional dancer in New Jersey. Doris worked in her family's diner and makes a mean lemon meringue pie. Sylvia wanted to go to college—but was denied admission because of her race—and instead moved to New York City, where she worked 30 years as a telephone operator before retiring back home in Virginia.

Encouraging students to get to know older adults like these women is a key component of Longwood's Leisure and Aging class, which is part of the therapeutic recreation program. This fall 10 volunteers in their 70s and 80s from Piedmont Senior Resources' Farmville Friendship Café agreed to participate in the class, meeting several times with students to be interviewed, said Dr. Ann Bailey Yoelin, who has taught the class for the last nine years.

Over that time, Yoelin has seen the positive impact of the interaction between students and volunteers. The body language of the students goes from nervous to relaxed and engaged, and the older adults enjoy sharing their life lessons with the younger generation, she said.

Take Sjory Traverso '24 of Arlington, Virginia, and Sylvia Maxine Adamson, 80, the former New York City telephone operator, for example. Traverso easily recounted a bevy of details from Adamson's life—like how she was denied admission

to Longwood during segregation and how she took on the responsibility of raising one of her grandsons.

"She gave me a lot of advice about saving money and staying with my education," said Traverso, who wants to pursue a master's degree in health care administration after graduating from Longwood.

"Approximately 28 percent of recreational therapists in the United States work primarily with older adults," said Yoelin, adding that the class is beneficial for all students. "I encourage students to challenge some of the misconceptions they may have about aging, with the hope they can become advocates for themselves and [others] as they grow older."

—Sabrina Brown

Two online master's programs ranked in Virginia's top 5

Based on the strength of their full-time faculty and reputation for intense personal learning, two of Longwood's graduate programs are now ranked in the top 5 in Virginia, according to a *U.S. News & World Report* list released in January.

The online MBA program rose five spots overall in the nationwide ranking list to No. 132, making it the fifth-highest ranked program in the commonwealth.

The online master's programs in education—a Master of Education in reading, literacy and learning, and a Mas-

ter of Science in Education in health and physical education—rose to No. 97 in the country, also making them the fifth-highest ranked in Virginia.

"The strength of our MBA program lies in our faculty's commitment to the kind of connection and mentorship that Longwood is known for, while allowing students to graduate in as few as 10 months," said Sara Neher, interim dean of the

College of Business and Economics.

Dr. Angela McDonald, dean of the College of Education, Health, and Human Services, noted that "developing educators has long been a strength of Longwood University. Through the expertise and innovation of our faculty, our reputation is growing across the country with the online options we offer to working professionals."



Among the ceramicists who helped keep the kiln going during the week-long firing were BFA alumna Mary Maglieri '21 (top) and BFA students Maggie Dodge '23 (circle) and Carlie Reiffer '24 (bottom).

All Fired Up. Tucked in the woods just outside of Farmville is a wood-fired kiln large enough to turn hundreds of clay pots, sculptures, vases and mugs into ceramics at once. Each fall for the past two years, a group of Longwood students, professors, alumni and some of the top ceramicists from around the country have gathered for a weeklong firing at the kiln, which resides at the house of Longwood art professor emeritus Randy Edmonson and his wife, Cricket Edmonson '82. Because the temperature inside the kiln is regulated by a wood fire—not gas or electricity—it must be manned 24 hours a day by members of the group. “It’s not an experience that many other students at other schools get to have,” said Adam Paulek, associate professor of art at Longwood.

Winning Words

Uruguayan American author claims 2022 Dos Passos Prize

Carolina De Robertis, a Uruguayan American author of five novels, is the 2022 winner of the John Dos Passos Prize for Literature, a premier literary prize given annually by Longwood to a talented American writer who experiments with form, explores a range of voices and deserves more recognition.

De Robertis is best-known for the novels *The President and the Frog* (2021), *Cantoras* (2019) and *The Gods of Tango* (2015). De Robertis was chosen by the Dos Passos Prize jury from a short list of four finalists, which included Gina Apostol, Jaime Manrique and John Wray.

“In clear, precise prose, De Robertis makes audible the beating hearts of people navigating a terrifying world,” said Dos Passos Prize committee chair Brandon Haffner, assistant professor of creative writing at Longwood. “But De Robertis’ stories aren’t so much interested in exploiting that terror for narrative suspense as they are in interrogating what compassion and resilience look like in the face of confounding policies and state violence.”

De Robertis’ books have been translated into 17 languages and have received numerous other honors. The John Dos Passos Prize for Literature is the oldest literary award given by a Virginia college or university.



Dos Passos winner Carolina De Robertis

Going Places

Basketball looks to next season



Ted Hodges '85

As the sun sets on Lancer basketball for 2022-23, a bright future lies ahead. Both the Longwood men's and women's teams continue to cement themselves as regular contenders in the Big South, with the opening of the sparkling new Joan Perry Brock Center arena promising an exciting season in 2023-24.

The Lancer men posted 20 wins in 2022-23 for a second-straight season—yet another program first. The team had never won 20 games in back-to-back seasons, at any level, in the program's storied history.

Also notable was the men's second-place finish in the Big South—their fourth-straight top-5 conference finish—giving them a bye in the conference tournament for the fourth year in a row. The team achieved neither milestone in its first six years of conference play.

The Lancer women also claimed a first-round bye for a third-straight season after claiming the No. 6 spot in the league standings. The team battled through an incredibly difficult nonconference slate and played its best basketball down the stretch of the regular season. The Lancers won three of their final four games to climb up in the standings.

The men's basketball team turned in back-to-back 20-win seasons—in 2021-22 and 2022-23—a first for the men's program.

2023-24 SEASON TICKETS

You've got **1** chance to be part of the **1st** season of Lancer basketball in the **1st** year of the JPB Center

See it all from one of the best seats in the house!
go.longwood.edu/seasonix



KEITH LUCAS

Spring Roundup

Spring sports are in full swing, and the Lancers came out of the gate with some strong performances.

LONGWOOD SOFTBALL has long been a power at the conference level, but the Lancers shocked the nation with an upset of preseason No. 4 Florida State on opening weekend. The Lancers outhit the Seminoles 12-3 en route to a 5-4 win. It was the team's highest-ranked win ever at the Division I level, and it was the second time the team has beaten a top 15 team under head coach Megan Brown. The Lancers will play eight teams that were in the preseason top 25 or received votes to be in the top 25.

LONGWOOD MEN'S GOLF posted its best finish since 2018 at the Daytona Beach Spring Invitational. The Lancers tied for second, and four players finished in the top third of the field. Three of the men finished in the top 25, with Brendan Dunphy '24 leading the way. The senior tied for sixth.



ALEX KERSTETTER

LONGWOOD LACROSSE started the season strong with back-to-back road wins under first-year head coach Kylar Ferguson. It was the first time the team has won back-to-back games to start a season since 2013.

(top) Peyton Coleman '24 hits the dirt for the softball team. (center) Brendan Dunphy '24 takes a swing. (bottom) Harper Melton '23 (left) hugs her lacrosse teammate Emily Cate Smith '24 as Miranda Helfenbein '25 joins in the celebration.



KEITH LUCAS

Into South



TOUCHING DOWN IN SOUTH AFRICA AND READY FOR THE BIGGEST LEARNING ADVENTURE OF THEIR LIVES ARE (FROM LEFT) LEAH RICHARDSON '23; KATELYN BOFFI '25; DR. JENNIFER MISKEC, WHO LED THE ADVENTURE; KAILEY WIECHERT '24; SHYANE REYES '25; KENDALL WIECKERT '25; JORDAN ELLERSON '25; REBECCA FOLEY '24; KELLY GAFFNEY '23; MARJORIE LOOBY '23; CARRIE VAN LELIVELD '23; AND KARLENE KELLY '25.

Africa

8,000 miles from home, students confront questions raised by a culture with a complicated past

BY SABRINA BROWN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY COURTNEY VOGEL



IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT to find anyone over the age of 50 who didn't experience—via years of constant network news coverage—the worldwide condemnation of South Africa's racist apartheid system and Nelson Mandela's heroic struggles against it.

But what lessons does South Africa hold for today's college students? Most were born after apartheid ended in the early 1990s, and after Mandela, who was Black, became the country's first democratically elected president in 1994.

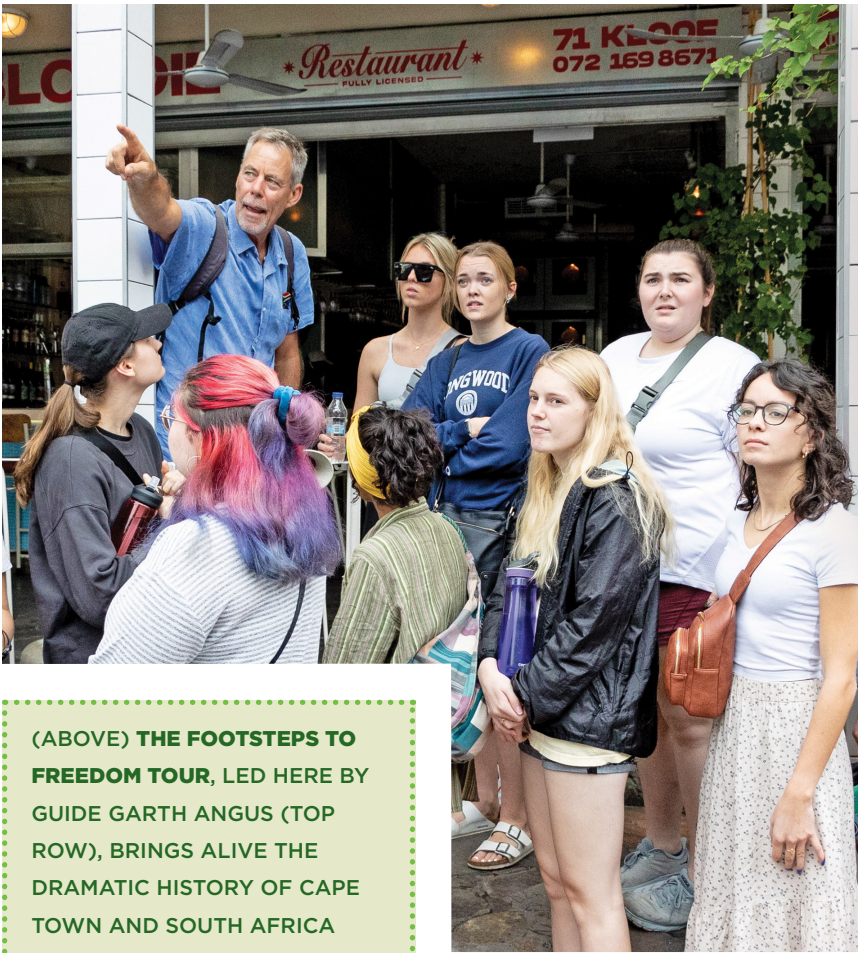
Plenty, says Dr. Jennifer Miscek, a professor of English at Longwood. During winter session, Miscek led 11 students through a course focused on South Africa that included 12 days "in country."

"The purpose of this class, and others that fulfill the Historical and Contemporary Insights requirement of our Civitae Core Curriculum, is to get students to think about where we are today based on historical events," she said. "South Africa has such a rich and complicated history. I really liked getting the students to think about race in America and contrasting that with South Africa. How is apartheid different from Jim Crow? Why is it taking so long for South Africa to really look integrated? Have we really solved that problem in America? It was a great place to have big conversations."

Students understood they had not traveled nearly 8,000 miles for a vacation.

"What makes a study abroad class like this such a valuable college experience is not only having the opportunity to travel to a place you have never been, but traveling with a different purpose," said Kendall Wieckert '25, an elementary education major from Portsmouth, Virginia. "We were not traveling as vacationers, doing whatever we felt like. We were mindful and reflective of each day and opportunity."

And being there made all the difference, said Marjorie Looby '23. "There are so many things about the country that I never would have learned if I hadn't been there to see and experience them," said Looby, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, an English major. "Most of what we learned was thanks to our conversations with locals and getting to spend time eating, cooking and even playing with them." 🌍

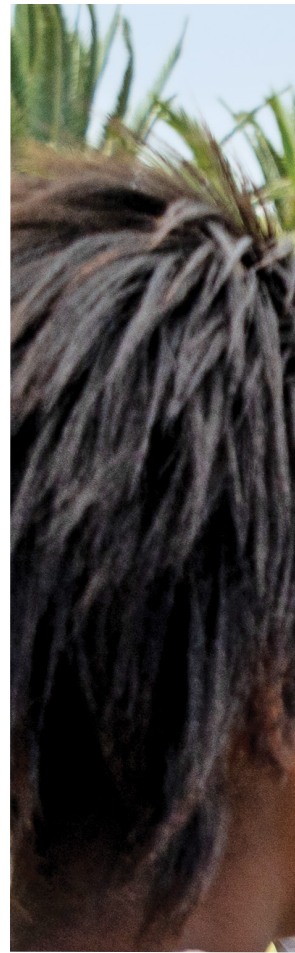


(ABOVE) **THE FOOTSTEPS TO FREEDOM TOUR**, LED HERE BY GUIDE GARTH ANGUS (TOP ROW), BRINGS ALIVE THE DRAMATIC HISTORY OF CAPE TOWN AND SOUTH AFRICA FOR LONGWOOD STUDENTS. USING THE CITY'S BUSTLING STREETS, HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND OTHER PROPS, THE TOUR TELLS THE STORY OF DUTCH AND BRITISH RULE, SLAVERY, APARTHEID, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

“

Lacrosse has had a huge impact on my growth as a person. So both “growing the game” to kids as well as having the opportunity to be a role model for them has always been a goal of mine. When I found out I could run a clinic with the girls from the Langa Township, it was a dream come true.

—JORDAN ELLERSON '25,
COMMUNICATION STUDIES MAJOR
#GROWTHEGAME





(ABOVE) ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CITIZEN 395 COURSE IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS THAT THE STUDENTS PREPARE AN ACTIVITY OR PRESENTATION DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN A SKILL RELATED TO THE CAREER THEY HOPE TO PURSUE. JORDAN ELLERSON '25, A MEMBER OF LONGWOOD'S DIVISION I LACROSSE TEAM, HOPES TO BECOME A COACH, SO SHE ORCHESTRATED A LACROSSE CLINIC WITH MEMBERS OF A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY TEAM. ELLERSON, WHO IS A COMMUNICATION STUDIES MAJOR, HANDLED ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS.



SEE IT IN ACTION



(LEFT) A TRIP TO BOULDER BEACH, ABOUT 40 MINUTES FROM CAPE TOWN, REMINDED STUDENTS OF THE FRAGILITY OF AFRICA'S WILDLIFE POPULATION AND OF EACH ANIMAL'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE CONTINENT'S ECOSYSTEM. THE BEACH IS HOME TO ONE OF THE LAST COLONIES OF AFRICAN PENGUINS, LISTED BY EARTH.ORG AS ONE OF AFRICA'S 10 MOST ENDANGERED SPECIES. THE WEBSITE REPORTS THAT ABOUT 95 PERCENT OF THE BIRD'S POPULATION HAS BEEN LOST SINCE PRE-INDUSTRIAL TIMES, WITH ONLY ABOUT 14,700 PAIRS REMAINING IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA, BASED ON 2021 ESTIMATES.

“

While you may meet new people in your classes while on campus, it is a completely different experience to get to know people who grew up on the other side of the world.’

—KENDALL WIECKERT '25,
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR



(RIGHT) KELLY GAFFNEY '23, A BUSINESS MAJOR, WAS AMONG THE STUDENTS **WELCOMED INTO THE HOME OF THIS WOMAN, A RESIDENT OF CAPE TOWN'S BO-KAAP SECTION, FOR A COOKING CLASS** WHERE THE AMERICANS LEARNED TO MAKE SAMOSAS AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOODS.

(BELOW) BO-KAAP IS A UNIQUE PART OF OLD CAPE TOWN KNOWN FOR ITS COLORFUL HOMES. **IT WAS BUILT MOSTLY BETWEEN 1760 AND 1840 AND BECAME HOME TO MANY MUSLIMS AND FREED SLAVES AFTER THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN SOUTH AFRICA.**





A VISIT TO ROBBEN ISLAND, WHERE NELSON MANDELA WAS INCARCERATED FOR 18 YEARS, WAS ONE OF THE MOST SOBERING ASPECTS OF THE COURSE. MANDELA'S CELL (RIGHT) WAS PART OF THE TOUR. FROM THE MID-1960S TO 1991, ROBBEN ISLAND SERVED AS SOUTH AFRICA'S MAXIMUM-SECURITY PRISON. (ABOVE) SOME OF THE LONGWOOD STUDENTS FROM THE TOUR HEAR A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF PRISON LIFE FROM A ROBBEN ISLAND TOUR GUIDE, WHO, LIKE ALL GUIDES THERE, IS A FORMER PRISONER. MOST INMATES WERE BLACK MEN INCARCERATED FOR POLITICAL OFFENSES. THE LAST OF THESE PRISONERS WERE RELEASED IN 1991; THE ISLAND CONTINUED TO SERVE AS A MEDIUM-SECURITY PRISON FOR CRIMINAL OFFENDERS UNTIL 1996.



SHYANE REYES '25, AN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR, ATTRACTS A CROWD OF SMILING CHILDREN DURING A TOUR OF CAPE TOWN'S LANGA TOWNSHIP. VISITORS ARE WELCOME IN LANGA, PARTIALLY BECAUSE THEY DRIVE THE TOURISM INDUSTRY—AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF INCOME FOR SOUTH AFRICANS RESULTING FROM AN INITIATIVE OF NELSON MANDELA'S PRESIDENCY. ESTABLISHED IN 1927, LANGA IS ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S OLDEST TOWNSHIPS, WHICH WERE CREATED AS A PLACE TO SEGREGATE BLACK AND "COLORED" POPULATIONS DURING APARTHEID. LANGA WAS A FOCAL AREA FOR MUCH OF THE RESISTANCE AGAINST THE APARTHEID GOVERNMENT.



LEAH RICHARDSON '23, A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR, ADMIRES LOCALLY CRAFTED ITEMS FOR SALE AT A STORE IN STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA'S SECOND-OLDEST TOWN. BUSINESSES LIKE THESE THRIVE THANKS TO THE TOURISM INDUSTRY, WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY. ALSO IN TOWN ARE THE 30,000 STUDENTS ATTENDING STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY.



Although we all had our own reasons for studying abroad, we all came together to support each other in our goals and encourage each other to learn and grow from this experience together.

—MARJORIE LOOBY '23, ENGLISH MAJOR



KAILEY WIECHERT '24, AN ECONOMICS MAJOR, APPROACHES AN OVERLOOK OF CAPE TOWN, WITH LION'S HEAD MOUNTAIN REACHING TOWARD THE SKY TO HER LEFT. **TIME FOR REFLECTING ON WHAT THEY'D EXPERIENCED AND LEARNED IN SOUTH AFRICA** WAS PART OF THE STUDENTS' CITIZEN 395 ENGLISH CLASS, WHICH FULFILLS A CIVITAE CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENT.



Photos courtesy of Dr. Brian Bates '92



bottom left: Da'Naysia Bethel '25 sifts through dirt that has been relatively undisturbed since Native Americans inhabited the property. **center:** Students mark the location of the artifacts they unearthed. **right:** Patrick Berry '24 shows the depth of the 22-by-18-foot excavation area. **opposite page:** Among the artifacts uncovered were pieces of cord-marked pottery dating as far back as 1200 A.D.





Longwood students conducted the first-ever archaeological dig at the Sanders site in Halifax County.

SEE IT IN ACTION



DIGGING INTO THE PAST

Students unearth 10,000 artifacts from prehistoric village in partnership with Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation

BY LAUREN WHITTINGTON



Discovering a small piece of pottery preserved beneath more than five centuries of dirt sealed the deal on Patrick Berry's decision to major in anthropology and archaeology.

Until that point, he'd enjoyed the class lectures and hearing stories about digging for historic artifacts, but he hadn't yet gotten his hands dirty. When he found that piece of cord-marked pottery—about the size of a business card and dating from between 1200 A.D. and 1480 A.D.—it lit a fire. Berry knew this was his calling.



“I still have a picture of it,” Berry ’24 recalled. “We were just finding pieces of fire-cracked rock up until that point. At the time, I thought I just found the coolest artifact. But then it continued to happen throughout the summer. Each special find was that much more exciting.”

Berry’s initial find came during the second day of excavating at the Longwood University Archaeology Field School in May 2022. He was working alongside 13 fellow students and former NASCAR driver Ward Burton at the Sanders dig site in Halifax County, which is owned by the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation.

Over the course of last summer and fall, Longwood students unearthed, cleaned and then cataloged roughly 10,000 artifacts from the Sanders site, which is situated on a finger of land in a horseshoe bend on the Halifax County side of the Staunton River. In fact, these students were the first to ever conduct an archaeological dig on the property, which has been relatively undisturbed and contains evidence of a late prehistoric and early historic village that was likely associated with the Sappony Tribe.

The site and artifacts provided invaluable hands-on experience for students, some of whom are not anthropology and archaeology majors, and are the product of a unique partnership fostered by Longwood’s Dr. Brian Bates ’92, professor of anthropology and archaeology, with Burton. The property is part of a conservation easement owned by Burton’s foundation, which owns and manages more than 10,000 acres of land.

Burton, a native of Halifax, joined the Longwood students on many of their digs at the site, known locally as The Cove. The foundation’s mission of preserving natural resources fits nicely with the project to unearth and learn more about the early history of the people who populated the region.

“For us to be a good steward of the land, we need to know about the past,” Burton said. “The more we know about this history, the more we can protect it for future generations. The more voice you can give the land, the more reason that the land should be kept and protected in perpetuity.”

A PHENOMENAL PARTNERSHIP

Bates, who is also executive director of the Institute of Archaeology and oversees the field school, reached out to Burton about eight years ago to discuss the possibility of doing an archaeological dig on the property. Their discussions, and a preliminary survey done in 2019, culminated last year in the opening of the 6.5-acre Sanders site. The area excavated by Longwood students was about 22 feet by 18 feet.

above left: Former NASCAR driver Ward Burton (center) works alongside students participating in the Archaeology Field School at the Sanders dig site, which is located on property owned by the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation.

above right: A large piece of pottery was among the 200 special finds that students uncovered at the Sanders site.

“The more we know about this history, the more we can protect it for future generations. The more voice you can give the land, the more reason that the land should be kept and protected in perpetuity.”

—WARD BURTON, FOUNDER OF THE WARD BURTON WILDLIFE FOUNDATION AND PARTNER WITH LONGWOOD’S ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

“We have a great tradition in our program of having strong partnerships,” Bates said. “We have a great partnership with Virginia State Parks, for example. What we have with the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation is a phenomenal partnership. It’s not very common that you find a property owner who is as engaged and willing to try to do everything to make things come together. Ward gets it that part of conservation is understanding the human past, and he’s enthusiastic about illuminating that story.”

For years, Longwood’s Archaeology Field School has done dig work at the nearby Wade site, located just 10 miles downriver at Staunton River Battlefield State Park. Bates sees the potential for the Sanders site to add to the knowledge base of the Late-Woodland American Indians, building upon what he is learning from the Wade site.

“It’s about really trying to develop an understanding of what’s going on regionally in the southern piedmont of Virginia 1,000

years ago,” he said. “What’s happening in the Native American community? Where are they living? Is the population doing quite well, and what can we learn about them from the evidence they left behind?”

Artifacts collected at the Sanders site included Dan River ware pottery, projectile points, stone flakes and flints.

The artifacts were removed and

then transported back to the archaeology lab at Longwood for cleaning, studying and dating. During the fall 2022 semester, 28 students, many of them freshmen and representing different



majors across campus, volunteered almost 400 hours of work in the lab.

Berry was one of the students overseeing the volunteers, who were obviously excited to be working with the remnants of a long-vanished community. “They were dealing with finds that we’d already excavated, but their reactions were just as genuine as when we’d uncovered them,” he said.

Anthropology and archaeology majors Emily Farmer ’25 and Luke Arcement ’25 also took part in the summer field school and continued digging through Bates’ advanced archaeology class in the fall. Both had done some previous archaeology work but nothing on the scale of opening a brand-new dig site.

“At first you think archaeology is just digging in the ground and finding artifacts,” Arcement said. “But what separates it from treasure hunting is that you are keeping a lot of data and recording things the whole time. So you have that understanding of where these artifacts are in context, and you can understand what they might mean in relation to something else.”

Farmer said she also enjoyed the investigative part of archaeology and trying to figure out what purpose the artifacts might have had and why people were settling in this particular area. Of the 10,000 items collected, about 200 were classified as special finds. These included a large piece of pottery, a stone pipe and tiny toy pots that were likely made by children.

The toy pots were among Farmer’s favorites.

“It’s pretty easy to make the connection that the mothers were teaching their young how to do this, and it was really interesting we could find evidence of this,” she said.

While finding the pieces was fun, Arcement said he enjoyed working with the materials in the lab. The opportunity, as an undergraduate, to discover and identify artifacts that no human had touched for hundreds of years was not lost on him.

“While you are doing the washing, you are holding an artifact for a minute or so and you can really get a feel of what it is,” he said. “It’s nice to make that connection between this dirty thing that you were picking up and generally identifying in the field compared with really looking at it so that you know what it is and see the details.”

PUZZLE PIECES

The 14 students who worked at the Sanders site during the summer field school were supported by a National Science Foundation grant of almost \$600,000 Bates received to improve science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competency through archaeology field research. Their costs were fully covered by the grant funding, and 10 of the students who continued their



top left: Luke Arcement ’25 (second from right) was one of the 14 students who participated in the Field School. **top right:** Emily Farmer ’24 (left) works on cataloging a portion of the 10,000 artifacts in Longwood’s archaeology lab as Dr. Brian Bates ’92 (center) and former NASCAR driver Ward Burton look on. **above:** The remnant of a stone pipe, indicating tobacco use, was uncovered during the dig work.

At first you think archaeology is just digging in the ground and finding artifacts. But what separates it from treasure hunting is that you are keeping a lot of data ... ’

—LUKE ARCEMENT ’25

research for the rest of the summer earned \$4,500 each—getting paid while they learned.

“There are 22 different STEM skills that I can measure and demonstrate that they are learning,” Bates said. “They are learning it by digging into the past and learning it hands on. There is a strong relationship between people getting their hands into science and then retaining that science.”

During spring break in March, seven students—including Berry, Farmer and Arcement—presented research at the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference based on data collected from projectile points and ceramics found at the Sanders site. Based on their analysis, the students determined that the projectile points stayed about the same size from 1260 A.D. to 1480 A.D.—a finding contrary to the current theory that they became smaller during that time.

“That is new information that these undergraduates have presented at a professional conference, which is really cool,” Bates said.

Burton is enthusiastic and committed to seeing that the site is used as a classroom for Longwood students to continue learning about the past.

“If you think about all the world history that we know, we knew very little about Native Americans other than what Europeans wrote about them,” Burton said. “Dr. Bates and his team are putting together a puzzle in our region. And there are a lot of puzzle pieces that we already know exist.”

Jordan Hatmaker '09 at South Everest Base Camp in November 2022. Base camp elevation is 5,364 meters (17,598 feet), nearly a mile higher than the height she fell from in a skydiving accident one year earlier.

DEFYING THE



O D D S

With support from her Longwood friends, alumna climbs to South Everest Base Camp a year after skydiving fall

BY MATTHEW MCWILLIAMS

ONE NOVEMBER DAY IN 2021, Jordan Hatmaker '09 fell out of the sky.

It was 57 degrees in Norfolk that day with clear skies. Perfect for jumping. Her coach had some extra time, so why not get another jump in?

It was her second skydiving jump of the day from 13,500 feet. The first one had gone perfectly, and Hatmaker was tantalizingly close to earning her "A" skydiving license, which meant she could jump solo as much as she wanted.

That's when her parachute didn't open, the nightmare for skydivers. From that height, she was falling as fast as a human body can fall, and the ground was coming up quickly.

One year later, Jordan Hatmaker climbed to Mount Everest Base Camp.

THE SKYDIVING BUG

The Jordan Hatmaker who arrived at Longwood in the mid-'90s is the same Jordan today: bubbly, energetic, relentlessly positive. Someone who makes friends easily, whether it's with her sorority sisters in Alpha Sigma Alpha or really anyone who happens to catch her in conversation. She's a person hellbent on getting the most out of every day.

"A lot of people coast through life, just going through the motions, and they're happy doing that," she said. "I've always been different. I want to actually live my life to the fullest rather than just say the words. So I guess I've always sought out adventure."

That sense of adventure led her to try skydiving when she was 28 years old, and she caught the bug. She decided to get her "A" license for solo jumping. That meant dozens more training jumps. Hatmaker and a coach would jump out of a plane at the same time, and the coach would put her through drills to develop midair skills that solo jumpers need.

"Small movements have a huge effect on your position in the air," said Hatmaker, who majored in communication studies. "If you de-arch your back slightly, your fall will slow slightly. If you tilt your shoulders, you'll move right or left. That day, I was working on matching my coach's level—she'd go above me, and I'd maneuver to match where she was. When we were done, we moved away from each other so we could pull our chutes safely."

Skydivers call the packs that hold their parachutes "harness containers," which work like this: When a diver pulls the cord, a

Photos courtesy of Jordan Hatmaker '09

pilot chute is released. A small dome of fabric that's attached to the top of the main parachute, the pilot chute catches the wind and pulls the main parachute out of the harness container.

When all goes right, which happens well above 99 percent of the time, according to the United States Parachute Association, both parachutes open and the skydiver's 125 mph free fall slows down to about 17 mph, allowing a safe descent to earth.

LUCKY, NOT LUCKY

Hatmaker fell into that unlucky 1 percent when she pulled her cord during the second jump on Nov. 14, 2021. The pilot chute was released, but it got caught in what skydivers call a "burble," a pocket of dead air behind the person where the wind is broken. Think of a NASCAR race, where drivers ride inches from each other's bumpers so the car in the front breaks the wind and the second car can glide along in the slipstream with no resistance.

In that burble, the pilot chute began to twist around Hatmaker's right leg. There was no force pulling her main parachute out of the container, and so her chute stayed in her pack, and the free fall continued.

"In emergency situations, I'm not the type of person to freak out and freeze," she said. "I just went into survival strategy mode. I remember thinking that maybe I could get out of it."

She couldn't—and hit the ground at approximately 70 miles per hour.

Her left leg hit the ground first, forcing her tibia into her ankle and shattering the bones. It was one of the worst breaks possible, but ironically also lucky. Doctors told her that landing on her leg probably saved her life, because much of the incredible force that is released when a person hits the ground at that speed was absorbed by her leg. The rest of the force broke five vertebrae, crushing her spinal cord, and caused incredible swelling that left her paralyzed from the waist down for the next month.

"I'm fortunate to be alive," she said.

"I feel really good, but I still think about it every day. Not so much the bad parts—the pain and the struggle to recover—but the blessings that have come out of it. Small things roll off my back easier. I know it's a cliché, but the grass is greener and the sky is bluer. And I've met a lot of amazing people throughout this journey who have made my life immeasurably richer."

Some of those amazing people were fellow Lancers she had lost touch with over the years since graduation.

"So many of my former classmates reached out to me after my accident," she said. "It was like a mini reunion on social media! But it goes to show you what they say about Lancers: Once you are part of that family, everyone rallies around you when you need them."

NO ROOM FOR DOUBTS

Incredibly, after several months of physical therapy, she was ready for her next adventure. Almost a year to the day after she was paralyzed, Hatmaker climbed one last boulder at Mount Everest South Base Camp. Spray-painted on the side of the rock are the



Despite suffering multiple shattered bones in her left leg, five broken vertebrae, a crushed spinal cord and extreme swelling that caused temporary paralysis, Jordan Hatmaker '09 was ready to try for Everest Base Camp in less than a year.

“So many of my former classmates reached out to me after my accident. ... Once you are a part of [the Lancer] family, everyone rallies around you when you need them.”

— JORDAN HATMAKER '09



The adventurer talks about her experience

elevation numbers “5364 m,” which is nearly one mile higher than she was when she jumped out of that plane.

It was a trip she had planned for more than a year—before her accident. Despite her devastating injuries, she never doubted that she would not only make the trip to Nepal but also make it to the top of base camp.

“I think having that goal definitely helped,” said Hatmaker, who is a Navy account manager for Darley, a defense contractor. “Even in the hospital when my legs wouldn’t move, I never thought that there was a chance of missing the trip.”

Make the trip she did. In November 2022, she flew into Tenzig-Hillary Airport in Nepal, often rated as one of the most dangerous airports in the world because of its short runway and surrounding mountainous terrain.

“I had a moment of nervousness,” she said. “The plane that we got on in Nepal looked just like the plane I jumped out of when I had my accident.”

But Hatmaker did what she always does: persevere. Her weeklong journey to South Everest Base Camp was rough going, but on the way up she crossed some of the most iconic landmarks on the famous journey, including the Hillary Bridge. Strung 459 feet between two cliffs and 410 feet above a rushing stream, the suspension bridge is decorated with colorful flags.

When she climbed over the final boulder to reach base camp, she knew that she could accomplish anything.

“The sheer size of the mountains was breathtaking,” she said. “You just feel so small. But everyone at base camp cheers when someone makes it up there. I just stood there and soaked it in. A year earlier, almost to the day, I didn’t know if I’d be able to walk again, much less climb boulders for over a week to get to this point.”

NATURE CALLS

One of the questions everyone asks is: Are you going to skydive again?

“I think I need to do it again for myself. That’s just the type of person I am,” she laughed. “The question is whether I’ll ever jump solo again.”

While that question is percolating, she’s got a list of more adventures to plan. Scuba diving is something she’s “always wanted to try.” Perhaps another summit—somewhere in Patagonia seems fun. But whatever it ends up being, she knows what she’s looking for.

“Something big.” 🌍



Class Notes



Playing for Keeps

Twenty alumnae of the women's basketball program returned to campus in January to renew ties and refresh their Longwood spirit. It was a busy weekend, including having a pregame meal with the current women's team; witnessing the team's win over Presbyterian; touring the Joan Perry Brock Center construction; and reuniting with SHIRLEY DUNCAN, who coached the women's team from 1983-2005 and remains Longwood's all-time winningest head basketball coach, men's or women's. Getting set to cheer at the game are (clockwise from far right) ASHLEIGH HOLLMAN ABNEY '07, LEIGH ERIN-HAYNOW MASCHERIN '08, Duncan, COURTNEY DYER '11, Mason Springer and his mom, ASHLEY MASON SPRINGER '06, and ANNA STEG '09.

Stephen Blue/Sideline Media

A Job Well Done

Exceptional teacher surprised with national award worth \$25,000



Courtesy of the Milken Family Foundation

It's been several months, but **PAMELA BOWEN STEPKO '07, M.S. '16** (educational leadership), may still be recovering from the shock.

And who could blame her? It's not every day—or even every lifetime—that you get surprised at work with national recognition and a \$25,000 check.

Stepko, a third- and fourth-grade mathematics intervention teacher at Cumberland (Virginia) Elementary, received

‘THROUGH HER CREATIVITY, COMPASSION AND HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR EXCELLENCE, PAMELA BUILDS BOTH ACADEMIC SKILL AND THE CONFIDENCE IN HER STUDENTS TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE YOUNG CITIZENS.’

—MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARDS VICE PRESIDENT STEPHANIE BISHOP

a national Milken Educator Award during a surprise school assembly in December. The award was presented by Milken Educator Awards Vice President Stephanie Bishop. Virginia first lady Suzanne S. Youngkin also participated in the announcement.

“Through her creativity, compassion and high expectations for excellence, Pamela builds both academic skill and the confidence in her students to become productive young citizens,” said Bishop. “I am thrilled to welcome her to our national network of Milken Educators.”

Stepko, who is in her seventh year at Cumberland, has also served there as an assistant principal and as a pre-K, second-grade and third-grade teacher.

The Milken Educator Award recognizes teachers, principals and other public-school educators who promote excellence and innovation. Recipients are selected on the basis of multiple criteria related to instructional practice, leadership, student achievement and accomplishments outside the classroom.

Stepko is the 49th Virginia educator to receive a Milken Educator Award. Since the launch of the Milken Educator Awards program in 1987, the Milken Family Foundation has distributed more than \$70 million to more than 2,800 educators, including more than \$1.1 million in Virginia.

Among those on hand for the surprise presentation were Cumberland County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chip Jones (left); Cumberland Elementary School Principal Ginny Gills '89, M.S. '05; Pamela Stepko '07, M.S. '16; and First Lady of Virginia Suzanne S. Youngkin.

1940s

Virginia Constance “Connie” Ozlin Book '46, who earned a degree in music at Longwood and went on to further her studies at the Juilliard School in New York City, died Sept. 28, 2022. She married a Presbyterian minister and led the full life of a mother and preacher's wife while also teaching piano. She and her husband were active in retirement, fulfilling their love of travel by visiting family, touring national parks and taking in shows under the big top as they followed circuses all over the nation.



Dr. Odessa Pride, M.S. '87 (education, administration and supervision), now retired, had a long and successful career as an educator. She served several years as a high-school and middle-school principal and taught for 22 years at Prince Edward County High School. A current member of the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors, she earned her doctorate in supervision and administration from Virginia State University in 2009.

Jane Burchett Wommack '48, a lifelong sportswoman, died Nov. 26, 2022. She and her identical twin, **Betty Burchett Almarode '48**, were the first in the family to attend college, and both enrolled at Longwood. (Almarode, who earned a degree in physical education, died in 2006.) Always athletic, Wommack also earned a degree in physical education. Her obituary states she earned varsity letters in swimming, field hockey and tennis; participated in synchronized swimming; and was elected president of the Athletic Association at Longwood in her senior year. She was proudest of being tapped to join CHI and was also a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. Her obituary continues: “Known for ‘cutting up’ in college, she caught the attention of her dean, who once told her that she and her twin were leaders, but they were ‘leading the freshman class in the wrong direction!’ She taught swimming for years in high school and college, and, after college, taught fourth grade until her first child was born, but later went back as a substitute teacher. Even in the last few months, her former students came up to remind her that she taught them—she remembered every single one. She continued to play tennis for decades and later in life took up golf. ... She loved watching UVA football and basketball. Competitive to the end, her last days were spent watching UVA basketball games.”

1950s

Anne Lynch Millner '51, who earned a degree in education from Longwood, came from a long line of Longwood graduates. Among her family members who also graduated from Longwood: her mother, grandmother, four sisters-in-law and one daughter-in-law. Millner died Nov. 18, 2022.

← **Anita Heflin Allen '57**, who worked more than 23 years for The Nature Conservancy before retiring in 2000, died Oct. 28, 2022. An English and French double major at Longwood, she taught for several years before joining the conservancy, both children and adults, and she earned a graduate degree in education at American University. She was active in her northern Virginia community, serving on Arlington County's Civil Service Commission and helping to organize the Arlington July 4th parade. She loved her husband, her three children, her grand-



children and music—everything from opera to bluegrass, the latter a callback to her roots in a coal-mining region of West Virginia.

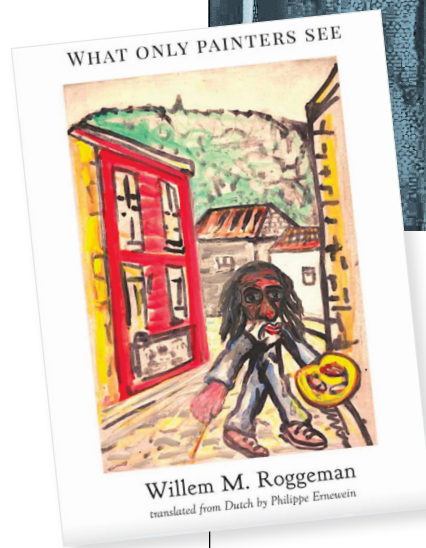
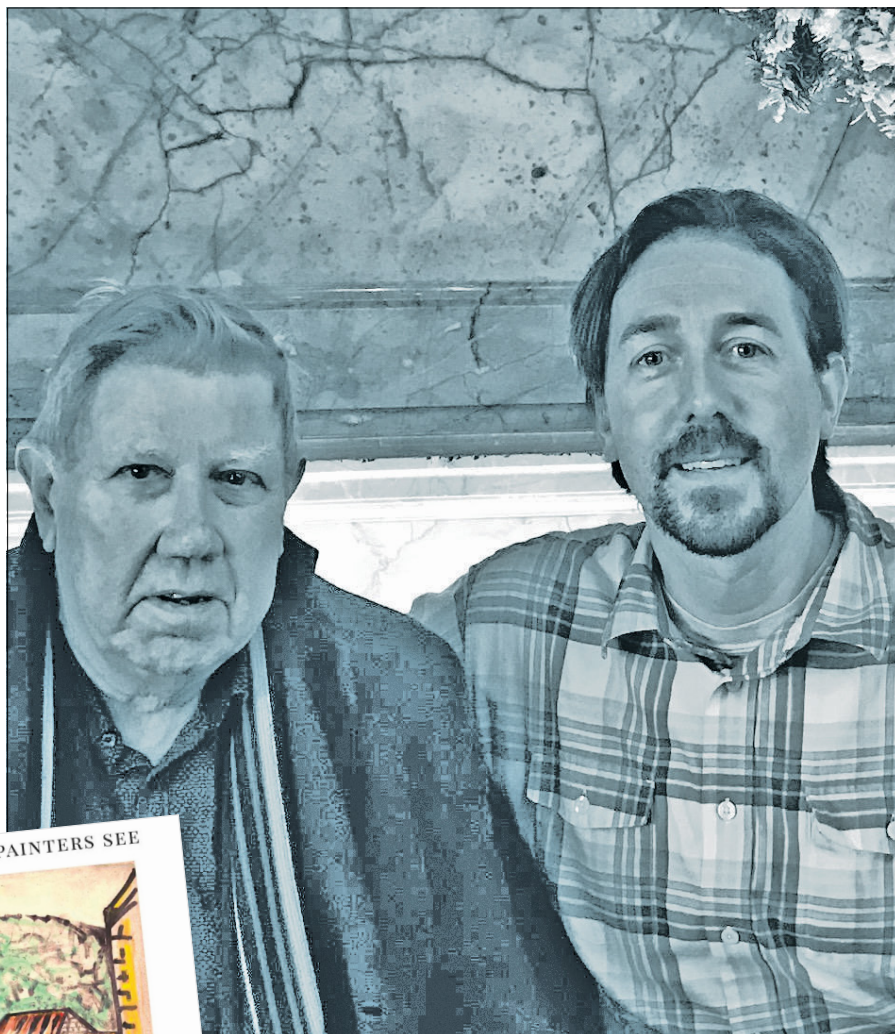
1970s

Jo Anne St. Clair '71 spent most of her working life as a social activist, championing causes such as closing the legal loophole on domestic violence, death with dignity laws, fair housing issues and, most recently, climate action issues. She died Oct. 30, 2022. Her political science degree from Longwood and a master's degree in social work from the University of South Carolina prepared her well for her life's work, which included more than 30 years as a social worker and lobbyist. She first brought her talents to the South Carolina Association of Social Workers and then to Columbus, Ohio, as the director of the National Society for Social Work. In retirement, she moved to Harrisonburg, Virginia, where she became an active member of Harrisonburg Unitarian Universalists and a leader in the local Democratic Party and the Climate Action Alliance of the Valley. In a 2021 StoryCorps interview, she said she wanted to be remembered as "someone who cared for people and made a difference in the world." Her obituary concluded with this: "For all who knew and loved Jo Anne, we can agree that she certainly did that and more."



Mary Alice "Molly" Stever Simes '71 died Nov. 20, 2022, just three months after celebrating her 100th birthday. She earned her Longwood degree in education at the age of 49 and taught nine years in the Prince Edward Schools—but her daughter, Dr. Amy Simes, writes that her mother's life story had many interesting twists and turns before that chap-

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Belgium native Philippe Ernewein '94 (pictured above, right) has made it possible for an English-reading audience to enjoy the poetry of renowned Belgian writer Willem M. Roggeman (above, left). What Only Painters See, which includes a collection of Roggeman's poems translated by Ernewein, was published in January 2023.

Not Lost in Translation

Alumnus gives English readers access to renowned Belgian poet's work in new book

PHILIPPE ERNEWEIN '94, a native of Turnhout, Belgium, is the first to bring the poetry of renowned Belgian writer Willem M. Roggeman to an English-reading audience.

Through his translation of a collection of Roggeman's poetry, titled *What Only Painters See*, Ernewein has made it possible for a new group of poetry lovers to experience the work of a writer often described as Belgium's "painter with words."

Ernewein, who earned a degree in German at Longwood and currently is the director of education at the Denver Academy in Colorado, met and collaborated with Roggeman in creating the book. In the introduction to the book, Ernewein describes his meeting with the author: "When I met [Roggeman] in Brussels, Belgium, for an interview [he] told me that during his service in the Belgian Army, he would pack 'a suitcase full of books to read' whenever afforded a break from the duty of his assigned post. This collection is like that suitcase, bound neatly in a single volume, full of poems that will open a keen lens on art and ways of seeing and understanding the world of the artist. It is brought to us by the poet whose page is his canvas and his pen the brush."

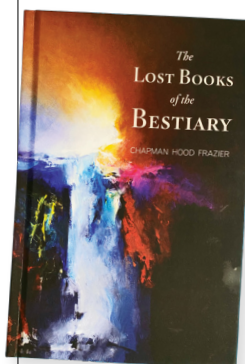
The book is garnering attention, Ernewein reports: "Since my last email, there has been some positive press, an interview, and my interview with Willem was featured in *Compulsive Reader*." *What Only Painters See* was published in January 2023 by Bamboo Dart Press and is available on Amazon and at several bookstores.



Paige Dingler-The News & Advance

Leveling the Playing Field. Sports aren't only for the athletically gifted. That's the philosophy of MacKenzie Pigg '19, M.S. '20, who founded the Amherst (Virginia) Challengers, an adaptive soccer league whose members range in age from 5 to 22. Adaptive sports are competitive or recreational sports that allow modifications necessary for people with physical and intellectual challenges to participate. Pigg, who grew up in Amherst, told the *Lynchburg News & Advance* that she got the idea for the Challengers when she helped out with an adaptive sports program in Farmville while studying for her bachelor's degree in kinesiology. She is currently in a graduate program at the University of Virginia in kinesiology for individuals with disabilities.

Chapman Hood Frazier, M.S. '86 (education/reading), is the author of a collection of poems titled *The Lost Books of the Bestiary*, which was published in February by V Press LC. It was a finalist in V Press LC's poetry contest and selected for publication. Frazier describes the poems as 'little windows into the soul through the familiar and the unfamiliar; the commonplace and the strange. Each provides a perspective into the evolution of the spirit over time.' The book is available at Barnes & Noble and New Dominion Bookshop.



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ter. She began her college education at Brockport State Teacher's College in 1939, but put that on hold two years later when duty called and she was selected as one of 800 cadettes given the opportunity to train as aeronautical engineers at the Curtiss-Wright Corporation to help in the World War II effort. She worked for Curtiss-Wright and then for Kodak before marrying Frank Simes in 1949. The couple lived in State College, Pennsylvania, where Molly worked in the Penn State admissions office, and then moved to Hampden-Sydney in 1967, where Frank served for many years as academic dean and professor of psychology. And that brings us back to Longwood and Molly's teaching career. After she and her husband retired and lived more than a decade on the lake in Clarksville, the couple moved to Durham, North Carolina, where Molly volunteered for 17 years as a docent for the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. The volunteer center there is named for her and her husband.

Robert "Bob" Eugene Wells Jr. '74, M.S. '84 (educational administration and supervision), died Sept. 25, 2022, at his farm in Goshen, Virginia, with his wife of 50 years, **Marianne Franke Wells '72**, at his side. Bob served his country as a Marine from 1968-70 before graduating with an art degree from Longwood, where he met Marianne in an underwater basket-weaving class, just one of the illuminating details included in his obituary. The couple built a log cabin together in Hampden-Sydney and raised a family during the first half of their marriage, which included daughter **Louise Waller, MBA '10**, a former Longwood vice president. Later they moved to Goshen and fulfilled their lifelong dream of owning a farm. Bob had a career that ranged from teaching art in the Charlotte County Schools to overseeing facilities operations at Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia Military Institute and Virginia Tech. "However, he was never happier than when he was out at dawn on cold winter mornings to check on his cows and chickens," his obituary states. "People will remember Bob for his work ethic, strong moral compass, wit, silly dance moves, and ability to quote facts, figures, movies and historical events."

James Charles Wiley, M.S. '75 (education and supervision), died Jan. 5, 2023. His career in education encompassed both teaching and administrative roles at several schools in Virginia, reaching from Madison Heights to Nottoway and from elementary school to high school. In addition, he coached baseball and golf. Over the years, he won several golf tournaments in Southside Virginia.

1980s



← **Chuck Fagan '87**, president and CEO of PSCU (Payment Systems for Credit Unions), recently shared his expertise with reporters from the *Tampa Bay Business Journal* and PYMTS.com, an online source of news and insights on innovation in payments and

the platforms powering the connected economy. Fagan spoke to PYMTS.com about the importance of creating connected financial experiences for consumers. To realize the potential of connected payments to satisfy members and cement loyalty, he said, it takes reams of data “to link the experience that the consumer wants.” From banking to payments to all touch points between individuals, small- to medium-sized businesses (SMBs) and their FIs, “that personalization piece is what’s bringing connected experiences to the forefront,” he said. Fagan has been in the top leadership position at PSCU, based in St. Petersburg, Florida, since 2015. He earned a degree in business at Longwood.

Virginia “Ginny” Silveira Gills ’89, M.S. ’05 (reading, literacy and learning), is the principal of Cumberland (Virginia) Elementary School, where she has transformed school culture and climate while focusing on family engagement. She keeps lessons and values from her graduate studies at the center of her work, drawing from them on a daily basis. “I love that I can ‘greenlight’ teachers to try new strategies, transform learning spaces, and create memorable and engaging lessons,” Gills said. A 2019 Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (VASCD) award recipient, she was invited to participate in VASCD’s podcast series, *Deeper Insight*, in August 2021, where she and other educators discussed how to elevate the student voice.

1990s



Dr. LaTonya Moore Nixon ’90 is vice president for student services at Beaufort County (North Carolina) Community College, where she is responsible for the life cycle of students from admissions to graduation, encompassing all support services for student success. She came to BCCC in 2019, after serving as dean of students at Roanoke-Chowan Community College in Ahoskie, North Carolina. Nixon recently participated in the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership, which “seeks African American participants whose experience and credentials indicate they are ready to attain the highest academic positions.” Nixon earned a psychology degree at Longwood and went on to

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Book Binding

Authors’ strongest bond—and their inspiration—is their empathy for special needs children

They graduated from the same high school and the same college, and both chose teaching careers. But when **HARRIET ANDERSON ’66** and **SALLY GRAYSON CHINN ’66** reconnected through Radford High School reunions a few years back, they discovered they had something else in common that made their bond even stronger.

Both of them had children or grandchildren with special needs.

“As we talked about our experiences with some very different disabilities, we knew we both had learned how to look beyond the limitations imposed by conditions caused before birth,” said Anderson. “We agreed that our very special family members really are ‘special’ in so many ways.”

The two also agreed that part of the challenge was to be sure that their special children—and others like them—could believe in themselves and the talents that could take them beyond their disabilities.

What was the logical next step? “We should write a book!” Chinn remembers saying. Soon they were on their way to publishing *Seth and the Secret of the Butterfly*, a story about children with special needs and the butterfly who helps

them discover their creative gifts. The book became available on Amazon in fall 2022.

Looking back, Anderson and Chinn are still a little amazed that they were able to go the distance on the project—through the obstacles of Covid-19; a long-distance collaboration that included numerous remote meetings and many miles of

highway driving; and navigating the world of illustrators, designers, publishing and marketing with no previous experience.

With Anderson’s teaching schedule and Chinn’s family commitments, it took 2-1/2 years to pull everything together.

“There were times when I wondered if all of our effort to get this book published was worth it,” said Chinn. “Then I heard from two parents of special needs children, who reached out to tell me how much this book meant to

them and to their family. It was then I realized that we had created something pretty special.”

Chinn and Anderson have participated in several local book-signing events since *Seth and the Secret of the Butterfly* first appeared on Amazon, and they have been asked to do readings at elementary schools throughout the New River Valley. In November, they appeared on “Here at Home,” a program on WDBJ7, a Roanoke television station. Future plans include promoting the book at area schools and libraries, and offering it to various nonprofit and special interest groups.

—Sabrina Brown



Harriet Anderson ’66 (left) and Sally Grayson Chinn ’66 were interviewed on WDBJ7, a Roanoke television station, about their book, Seth and the Secret of the Butterfly. The book, which focuses on special needs children, took them 2-1/2 years to complete, from concept to printing.



A Crowning Achievement

Her friends all agree—nobody did dip recipes better than she

Her friends nicknamed her the “dip queen”—and not for nothing.

DARLENE CLEVINGER KRATZ '04 leaves a legacy of what may very well be the most extensive, wide-ranging collection of dip recipes ever created by one person. She died Sept. 9, 2022, after a two-year battle with lung cancer, but her blog—**diprecipecreations.com**—is still vibrantly communicating her passion for dips and for life.

Visitors to the blog will find more than 100 recipes ranging from sweet to savory, all organized into seven categories that include holiday dips (like peppermint candy cane dip), hot dips (like cheddar cheese dip with cheddar bay biscuits) and cheese balls (like Lucky Charms cheesecake cheese ball). The vast majority are her own creation, and all were tweaked and tested in her own kitchen.

There was, of course, more to Kratz than dips and cheese balls. She had a successful career in software technology and worked 10 years at Capital One as a technology team lead. In addition to her business degree from Longwood, she earned an M.S. in management of information technology from the University of Virginia in 2006.

She described her blog as a “creative expression of several of my talents and skills. I do the recipe development, writing and photography, but also do most of the technical support and design of the site as well.”

In May 2020, she let her followers know about her diagnosis with Stage 4 lung cancer, caused by a random genetic mutation known as the EFR/HER2 Exon 20 Mutation. In that post, she described in detail the shock of the diagnosis and the debilitating physical effects of her illness, adding that she hoped to continue the blog “but I don’t have the motivation or passion right now to create new recipes.” It is a testament to her strength and her positive outlook that less than a month later she posted a new recipe and continued to do so until she became too ill.

Her last post, on April 24, 2022, was for goat cheese dip: “A creamy and tangy goat cheese dip full of fresh herbs makes a great dip or spread. This whipped goat cheese is an elegant, but easy appetizer recipe.”—*Sabrina Brown*

Following his wife’s wishes and with the help of the International Cancer Advocacy Network (ICAN), Justin Kratz established the Darlene Kratz Advocacy Program to raise awareness and provide a forum for discussion and referrals related to the EFR/HER2 Exon 20 Mutation. The Kratz program is a vital part of ICAN’s Cancer Patient Advocacy and Clinical Trials Advocacy programs.

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earn an M.A. from Norfolk State and a Doctor of Education from Walden University.



Karon Damian Booker '98, a sociology graduate who was a mental health case manager with District 19 Community Services Board in Petersburg, Virginia, died Dec. 29, 2022. In addition to his full-time job, Booker worked part time as a therapeutic mentor with enCircle (formally Lutheran Family Services of Virginia), recently celebrating 20 years of service mentoring and helping to obtain permanency for children in the foster care system. He received numerous awards and recognition for his commitment to helping youth and families, including Mentor of the Year honors. He is remembered as someone who loved history, travel, the Pittsburgh Steelers and legendary entertainers.



Dr. Arken L. Dailey '98 is the vice president of the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy and will complete her second term on the board in June of this year. Since receiving her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in 2003, she has worked in various therapy settings to in-

crease her knowledge in the field. She has been an independent contract therapist, which allowed her to travel and work in the Virgin Islands, and provided statewide in-home therapy services. For the last four years, she has worked as a clinical specialist and team coordinator for Sentara Healthcare in its Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia locations. Dailey earned a degree in biology from Longwood.

Cory Montez Hairston '98 is the Congressional Federal Credit Union’s new president and chief executive officer. The longtime vice president of internal audit at CFCU, Hairston had served a year as interim CEO before his permanent appointment in fall 2022. Hairston has more than 25 years of experience in credit unions, finance and accounting, and has been with CFCU for 17 years. He earned a business administration/accounting degree from Longwood. With 47,000 members with more than \$1.2 billion in assets, CFCU serves Capitol Hill and those who live and work nearby.



Robert C. Holland '99 was promoted to the rank of major and to the position of BASS deputy director for the Virginia State Police. He has served as the training officer at the VSP Academy since 2017 and previously held the rank of captain. Holland earned a degree in sociology/criminology at Longwood and graduated from the VSP academy in 2000, beginning his VSP career with a patrol assignment shortly thereafter.

2000s

Trudy Berry '01, of Lunenburg County, is running to represent the 9th District in the Virginia State Senate, which includes all of Pittsylvania County and Danville, and stretches east and north to include Halifax, Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg and Nottoway counties and most of Prince Edward County. Berry earned a degree in sociology/criminal justice at Longwood.



Berkeley H. Reynolds '03 is serving her second stint as an appointed member of the Boyce, Virginia, Town Council. "I grew up in a small town and feel most at home in places like Boyce," she said. "I aim to grow the feeling of connectedness among my constituents by emphasizing community events and engagement." Reynolds is the manager of operations and administration for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, where she has worked for 17 years. The foundation provides scholarships to students who are academically talented but financially needy. Her degree from Longwood is in communication studies.

Hayden Morris Davis '04 is the owner of Luxury House Cleaners in Moseley, Virginia, offering residential and commercial cleaning services. She started the business in 2021. Davis' Longwood degree is in liberal studies.



↑ **Crissy Lynn '04** was named the Henrico Public Schools Teacher of the Year this past December. Lynn, who has taught kindergarten at Shady Grove Elementary School since 2005, was selected from the more than 4,000 teachers working in the Henrico Public Schools. "For me, this is a reward for living out my passion every single day," Lynn said at a surprise announcement at her school, according to an RVAhub.com story. "I don't do it for awards, I don't do it for the money, I do it to create lifelong learners, because that's what I am myself. My heart of hearts is right here in the kindergarten classroom, starting these students off with a love of learning—loving school, wanting to learn, wanting to know more, wanting to answer questions and ask questions." In addition to her liberal studies/elementary and middle education degree from Longwood, she earned a master's degree in library science from Old Dominion University.

Dr. Ronald Travell Kaipo Morrison '05 received his Doctor of Education in educational leadership in 2022 from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. His 15-plus years of experience as a high-school English teacher led him

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Crissy Lynn '04 (third from left) says *she is a teacher not for the money or for awards but 'to create lifelong learners, because that's what I am myself.'*



Her Grand Design. Hannah Weikel '04 was promoted to principal in ZA+D, a full-service architectural firm in Frederick, Maryland, that services projects across seven states. Weikel, who earned a BFA in art at Longwood, was formerly vice president and director of interiors at the firm, serving a wide range of commercial, housing, residential and education clients. In her new role, she oversees and provides mentorship to other staff while still managing her own projects. She also is integral in the firm's long-term planning. Weikel became a member of the American Society of Interior Designers in 2007 and acquired her LEED accreditation in 2008.



Sonia Montalvo

Life Is A Stage

Theatre alumna puts her degree to work throughout the East Coast

JEN ORTUÑO '99 is giving her BFA in technical theatre a thorough workout. Since graduating, she has held several positions running wardrobe departments and working in costume shops throughout the East Coast, culminating in a position as the costume shop office manager at the Juilliard School in New York City. During her eight years there, she helped support the school's 26 yearly theatre productions.

Since relocating to Charlottesville, Virginia, she has taken on new challenges, most recently as office manager for Camp Holiday Trails, a 73-acre nonprofit camp that engages the entire Mid-Atlantic region. The camp's mission is to create a community that empowers children and teens with medical needs to thrive.

"I was a Girl Scout for 12 years, received my Gold Award, volunteered as an adult and led a Junior and Cadette troop for two years," said Ortuño. "My experience with camping and hiking, and my love of nature, drew me to this position at Camp Holiday Trails. I am so proud of the work that CHT does, and am in shock at the beautiful view from my office. I cannot believe how lucky I am to work here with such amazing people."

In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering, reading, cross-stitching, street fairs, traveling to Ecuador (seven times so far) and practicing Spanish.

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to focus his doctoral research on improving the standardized writing scores of African American male high-school students. Morrison currently teaches English and is chair of the English department at Nottoway (Virginia) High School in Crewe, where he was honored as the 2021 Teacher of the Year for the school and for the school division. In addition to his degree in English from Longwood, he holds a Master of Education in curriculum design and instruction from Averett University and a Master of Arts in English language and literature from Southern New Hampshire University.



Courtesy of Richmond ToolBank

Dr. Michael Joyce '07 with his son, Hugh.

↑ Dr. Michael Joyce '07, an emergency medicine physician and associate professor in VCU's School of Medicine, completed his first year as board president of the Richmond branch of the ToolBank network in late 2022. ToolBank—a nonprofit organization that provides tools, equipment and expertise to community volunteer organizations at little to no cost—first drew Joyce's attention in 2019. "When I heard about what the ToolBank does for Richmond, I was blown away that I had never even thought about the unique gap it

was addressing,” Joyce told the *Richmond Free Press*. Today, with volunteerism ramping back up, Joyce says his goal is to make ToolBank “a household name to anyone in Richmond.” A native of Canada, Joyce came to the U.S. and Longwood on a golf scholarship and earned a degree in biology and chemistry. He then went on to medical school and his residency at VCU. He joined the VCU faculty in 2015.

Brittany Morgan Doss '08 was selected Cumberland (Virginia) High School's Teacher of the Year in 2022. She has taught earth science, oceanography and geology at the school for more than 15 years and currently serves as chair of the science department. “I love teaching science, especially earth science,” she told the *Farmville Herald*. “When I teach my students something about the Earth, such as rocks, storm systems or even volcanoes, I look at each of their faces, and when I see them light up ... I know I succeeded with my lesson for the day.” In addition to her liberal studies degree from Longwood, Doss earned a Master of Science in geoscience/environmental science from Mississippi State University.



Dustin Dwyer '08 was selected to join the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Trade and Economic Security as director of risk mitigation and compliance monitoring. In his new role, he is leading the department's compliance and oversight efforts for emplaced mitigation agreements tied to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, an inter-agency committee chaired by the Department of Treasury that reviews the national security implications of foreign investments in U.S. companies or operations. He joined DHS after 10 years with the Department of Defense, where he worked on economic security issues tied to foreign direct investment in the defense industrial base. His most recent DHS position was chief of the Mitigation Strategy Unit for the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency. Dwyer's degree from Longwood is in economics.

Michelle Owen Dress '09 was named the Maryland Middle School Art Teacher of the Year for 2021-22 by the Maryland Art Educa-

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The U.K. Is OK. Longtime friends Christie Champion Fidura '92 (left), who moved to London in 2000, and Elyse Engelhart Jennings '92 got together in Fidura's adopted hometown with their families for a week this past December. “Elyse and I were Alpha Sigma Tau sorority sisters,” said Fidura. “Despite my relocation to London, we've remained the best of friends and had a wonderful time catching up.” Fidura and her husband initially moved to England for short-term work assignments but ended up setting down roots. Fidura currently is with Salesforce, a worldwide leading customer relationship management platform. What's it like living in London? “It's awesome. I've almost lived here longer than I lived in America. It's been an incredible privilege to see the U.S. from a distant viewpoint ... and to get exposed to all this history. My husband and I gained our U.K. citizenship in 2006, and our daughter was born here, so we all are dual U.K./U.S. citizens.”



Balancing Act. Laura Crump Anderson '13 demonstrates the process (from top left clockwise to bottom) for achieving the most challenging version of the tree pose, a yoga exercise she advocates for improving proprioception—the sense that lets us perceive the location, movement and action of parts of the body—which leads to better balance in the saddle for equestrians. An article with her advice appeared on horsenation.com in November. An avid equestrian herself, Anderson earned her Longwood degree in kinesiology with a concentration in exercise science. She also is an ACSM certified personal trainer and has her 200-hour yoga teacher certificate.



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tion Association. She also was named the Eastern Region Middle Level Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association. She teaches at Ridgely Middle School in Lutherville. At Longwood, she was a member of Princes, CHI, Mortar Board and the lacrosse team.

2010s



Jerome Myers, MBA '10, was the keynote speaker at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University's fall 2022 convocation. Myers, who earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering at North Carolina A&T in 2005, is the founder of the Myers Development Group, where he helps people invest in multifamily real estate to create generational wealth, and of DreamCatchers, a boutique consulting firm that supports first- and second-generation wealth creators. He is a licensed general contractor and engineer as well as a certified project management professional.

Adam Swindell '14 and Kelly Wiggins were married Sept. 10, 2022, at The Culpepper Barn in Virginia Beach. Swindell, who earned his degree in liberal studies/elementary and middle school education, works as a firefighter in Virginia Beach. Wiggins works as a registered nurse. Josh Blakley, director of integrative learning in Longwood's Cormier Honors College and of the Brock Experiences program, served as the wedding officiant.



← **Lily Franklin '15**, former chief of staff for Virginia Del. Sam Rasoul, launched her campaign in January for the open seat in Virginia's redrawn 41st House District, which includes eastern Montgomery County and western Roanoke County. Franklin earned a degree in political science at Longwood. The winner of the election in November will serve a two-year term in the House of Delegates.


Joshlyn Lukin '15 accepted the position of music director at Mentow Baptist Church in Huddleston, Virginia, this past fall. Lukin, whose Longwood degree is in therapeutic recreation, has been involved in church music programs for some time. She and her husband, Hunter Lukin, have three children.



Travis Lyles '15, deputy social director at *The Washington Post*, recently was named  to *Forbes*' 30 Under 30 List, which recognizes trailblazing innovators across North America who have turned to entrepreneurship to solve the world's most complex challenges. The *Forbes*' Class of 2023 features honorees in 20 different categories, and Lyles, 29, made the magazine's list of 30 media pioneers under the age of 30. Lyles joined *The Post* in 2017 as a social media editor. In January 2021, he became *The Post*'s first Instagram editor. He was promoted to his current role this past summer and is currently leading the strategic growth of *The Post*'s expanding social portfolio. *The Post*'s youngest-ever senior editor, Lyles earned a degree in communication studies from Longwood.

Jalen Jackson '16 received her M.Ed. in Montessori education, elementary, from Loyola University Maryland in 2022. Jackson says her professional goals are to "continuously improve my education to be more knowledgeable in areas that will help progress my career. I want to travel the world to work at different Montessori schools on each of the continents. After acquiring a global perspective of Montessori schools worldwide, I then want to start my own Montessori school or become the head of a Montessori school." Jackson's undergraduate degree from Longwood is in liberal studies.



 **Victoria "Tori" Aileen Hamilton Monaghan '15, M.S. '16** (speech education), died Nov. 5, 2022, after a hard-fought battle with breast cancer. Her obituary paints a vivid

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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. Remember to give us your full name, the year you graduated and the degree you received.

In Memoriam

1930s

Carrie Yeatts Barbee '39 Aug. 19, 2022

1940s

Nellie Smith Strong '42 Dec. 18, 2022
Nancye Allen Fitzpatrick '43 Nov. 9, 2022
Darnell Whitby Long '44 Sept. 25, 2022
Anne Leatherbury Lowell '44 June 30, 2022
Elizabeth Jones Medeiros '45 Nov. 6, 2022
Constance Ozlin Book '46 Sept. 28, 2022
Gweneth Ackiss Thompson '47 Oct. 1, 2022
Ollie Tolbert Barnett '48 Jan. 5, 2023
Patsy Blair Patterson '48 Oct. 4, 2022
Jane Burchett Wommack '48 Nov. 26, 2022

1950s

Thelma Peake Hawkins '50 Dec. 2, 2022
Catherine Stevens Chalk '51 Jan. 25, 2023
Jacqueline Moody McSherry '51 Nov. 19, 2022
Anne Lynch Millner '51 Nov. 18, 2022
Minnie Dunnivant Pridgen '51 Jan. 12, 2023
Ada Fristoe Choate '52 Jan. 13, 2023
Norma Gladding Godwin '52 Oct. 20, 2022
Martha Wilson Thompson '52 Jan. 19, 2023
Mary Bennett Arrington '53 Oct. 10, 2022
Ann Keith Brame '53 Jan. 28, 2023
Billie Van de Riet Merritt '53 Dec. 6, 2022
Natalie Lancaster Wellman '53 Oct. 22, 2022
Ruby Snider Huffman '54 Oct. 23, 2022
Carolyn Vanture Culpepper '55 Jan. 6, 2023
Mary Campbell Higgins '55 Sept. 15, 2022
Shirley Lewis Massey '55 Aug. 7, 2022
Marion Davis Thompson '55 Feb. 17, 2022
Elizabeth Kent Thurston '55 Nov. 23, 2022
Fannie Scott Hillman '56 Oct. 12, 2022
Anita Heflin Allen '57 Oct. 28, 2022
Bernard LeRoy Warren '58 Oct. 29, 2022
Frances Wilkinson Wilson '59 Nov. 10, 2022

1960s

Mary Eustace Smith '60 Sept. 13, 2022
Margaret Blackwell Gough '61 Sept. 25, 2022
Sandra Ferebee Young '61 Dec. 25, 2022
Sue Robertson Puckett '62 Jan. 19, 2022
Lillian Turner Marsh '63 Dec. 12, 2022
Janet Lacy Martin '64 Dec. 15, 2022
Hylah Haile Boyd '65 Sept. 20, 2022
Helen Burnette Harvey '65 Jan. 24, 2023
Carolyn Ramsey Jolly '65 Jan. 9, 2023
Patricia Gale Peregoy '67 Sept. 13, 2022
Shirley McGaffee Barazzone '68 Nov. 4, 2022

1970s

Mary Butterworth Finley '70 Nov. 25, 2022
Brenda Hamner High '71 Dec. 15, 2022
Jo Anne St. Clair '71 Oct. 30, 2022
Mary Alice "Molly" Stever Simes '71 Nov. 20, 2022
Jennifer Judith Halladay '73 Dec. 31, 2022

Eleanor Munt Jones '73 Dec. 18, 2022
Mary Penny Stallins '73 Dec. 8, 2022
Robert E. Wells Jr. '74, M.S. '84 Sept. 25, 2022
Lisa Divito Facemire '75 Oct. 18, 2022
James C. Wiley '75 Jan. 5, 2023
Mariette Lee Zucchi '75 Jan. 31, 2022
Mary Ann Bell Julg '76 Jan. 8, 2023
Lura Nichols Hill '77 Jan. 29, 2023
Deborah Burchell Johnson '77 Sept. 22, 2022

1980s

Linda Sue Bobbitt '80 May 12, 2022
Marie Watson Goodpasture '80 Nov. 15, 2022
Judith Ann Fayne '81 Aug. 23, 2022
Lorene Dejarnette Gilliam '82 Sept. 15, 2022
Sheila Avril Atkins Largiader '82 June 27, 2022
Rebecca Clary Jones '83 Jan. 14, 2023
Tanya Gallop Neeland '83 Dec. 26, 2022
Barry Gene Jordan '84 Oct. 12, 2022
Kelly Dunkum Higgs '85 Dec. 12, 2022
Sylvia Ranson Pack '89 Dec. 4, 2022

1990s

Kimberly Lewis Hicks '92 Oct. 29, 2022
Karon Damian Booker '98 Dec. 29, 2022
James Cooper Bell '99 Jan. 29, 2023
Paul Preston Bousman '99 Nov. 11, 2022

2010s

Victoria Hamilton Monaghan '15 Nov. 5, 2022
Anthony Daniel Rossi '18 Oct. 4, 2022

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Rochette W. Allen Jan. 17, 2023
Robert Wood Baldwin Sr. Jan. 13, 2023
Marie B. Bates March 9, 2022
William K. Barlow Sept. 21, 2022
David Garland Barnes May 29, 2022
Mary F. Blatcher Oct. 20, 2022
C. Neal Buchanan June 3, 2022
Carolyn Hodges Crosby Sept. 28, 2022
William Elliott III Jan. 22, 2023
Wynelle C. Fox Dec. 18, 2022
Mary Kathleen McClain Graeber Feb. 2, 2023
Ross Arthur Hotchkiss Jr. Dec. 25, 2022
Harold B. Kellam Jr. Dec. 21, 2022
Louise S. McKissick Dec. 4, 2022
Melvin G. Moore Sr. Jan. 9, 2023
Richard E. Powell Sr. Aug. 14, 2022
Joseph Welch Seegers Sept. 1, 2022
Charlene Snoodly Feb. 3, 2023
William Stoneman April 22, 2022
William C. Swann Jan. 8, 2023
Suzanne Swisstack Jan. 6, 2022
Wanda Turner Whitus Feb. 3, 2023
James L. Whitlock Oct. 10, 2022



An Everlasting Love.

Danielle Rauchwarg '19 and Theodore Gutches '19 were married on May 28, 2022, in Williamsburg, Virginia, after 11 years together. The couple, who were featured in the fall 2020 issue of this magazine, discovered they liked each other in the eighth grade. They weathered several separations before attending Longwood and graduating together, Rauchwarg with a degree in music and Gutches with a degree in biology. They became engaged in November 2020.

(Continued from Page 31)

picture of a young woman who loved her job as a teacher. From 2017-22, she was a high-school special education teacher in Virginia and then in New Hampshire. Here's how her family described her dedication to her students: "Whether it was volunteering as an assistant coach for varsity volleyball, taking on extra classes teaching geometry and algebra, or late nights completing IEPs for her students, Victoria's work ethic was recognized and appreciated by all who came to know her." That recognition included Fairfax County, Virginia's, New Teacher of the Year award in secondary education for the 2020-21 school year. A four-year member of Longwood's Company of Dancers when she was a student, Monaghan continued her passion for dance as a charter member of the Fusion Dance Company team while she was in Chesapeake, Virginia, competing nearly every weekend for eight years. "Victoria's life was filled with love for many activities," her obituary stated, "but always at the top was dance."



Tia Javier, M.S. '19, couldn't find a Spanish-speaking speech therapist for her 3-year-old daughter who was having trouble communicating, so she decided to become a part of the solution. With a Longwood degree in speech-language pathology as her foundation, she started Bilinguotherapy, Richmond's first speech therapy clinic that specializes in both English and Spanish. Javier and her business were featured in a VPM story this past fall that spotlighted the need she fills in the Richmond Latino community. "This is my community that I'm from, and I feel very invested in it. I'll have some kids here that are like 4 and 5 years old who can't speak to their own parents," she told VPM News Focal Point. "But after a few months of therapy, they're saying, 'Hi,' they're using sentences. And that's just a beautiful thing..." In 2022, Javier was awarded a Distinguished Early Career Professional Certificate from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The certificate was created to recognize and identify ECPs in the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology who are making an impact in the areas of leadership, volunteering or advocacy at the local, state and/or national level.

2020s

Austin Agee '21 was promoted to branch manager of the Bank of Charlotte County's Keyville office in January. Agee joined the bank full time in June 2021 after working for several months as an intern and part-time employee. He most recently served as a management intern in the Keyville office. Agee earned a degree in business administration from Longwood.

Jackson Lockhart '22 is a frequent contributor to CBR.com, the website for Comic Book Resources, the go-to source for comics industry news, discussion and community founded in 1995. His articles span a wide variety of topics, from the best non-Disney animated musicals to "10 DC heroes with no respect for authority." Lockhart, who earned a degree in English/creative writing at Longwood and is currently at work on a novel, is in good company at CBR. The CBR website states it has a readership of more than 60 million, and that its contributors include some of the most well-known names in comics, including Robert Kirkan, co-creator of *The Walking Dead*, and Gail Simone, a writer known for her work on *Wonder Woman*, *Bat Girl* and other comics.

Nick Robinson '22 joined the News 9 team at WAOW-TV in Wausau, Wisconsin, in September 2022 as a news reporter/multimedia journalist. He was a communication studies major at Longwood.



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Bridging a Continental Divide.

Shyane Reyes '25, an elementary education major, was among the students who traveled to South Africa for Citizen 395, an English class that fulfills a Civitae Core Curriculum requirement. Reyes and other students visited the home of this woman, a resident of Cape Town's Bo-kaap section, for a cooking class where they learned to make samosas and other traditional foods. **Story on Page 6.**