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As William & Mary looks to the future with the launch of our new strategic plan, Vision 2026, the university has rededicated itself to focusing on three key goals: expanding W&M’s reach, educating for impact and evolving to excel. Our 1693 Scholars perfectly embody these three goals, driven to have the greatest impact through an engaged, holistic university experience and lasting connections.

Since the program began, 1693 Scholars have experienced life-changing opportunities connecting them to the four initiatives of Vision 2026 — data, democracy, water and careers. And with more than 40% pursuing careers in higher education across the globe, they are shaping the next generation of distinguished leaders and creative thinkers.

Emerging from the pandemic, the 1693 Scholars Program is stronger than ever and expertly positioned to shape the future of William & Mary, our nation and our world thanks to the distinctive individuals who make up our community and call our brick paths home.
Now that 80 alumni have graduated the program, it’s a good time to ask what happens to them. We are running a scholars program, so the first question is, do most alumni continue on as academic scholars? Indeed, many do, as 42% are academics, either college professors (6 alumni), researchers at think tanks (2 alumni), involved in college admissions (3 alumni) or still in graduate school (19 alumni).

The next leading career track is medicine (15% of our alumni have or are working on M.D.s, with an additional 3 alumni involved in healthcare), followed by law or law school (10%) and business (10%). There are five more alumni that work in tech fields, four who help to keep the nation safe, and to round it out we have two freelance writers, a Broadway producer, a labor organizer and a farmer.

Half of our current graduating class have positions lined up, one each in nursing, finance, consulting and economics. The other four have strong career directions in the arts, computer science or law and seem likely to have landed positions by the time you read this.

That’s what the numbers show. Qualitatively, nearly all of our alumni are in the same fields that they prepared for in college, and most seem to like their jobs a lot. Thinking back to my own graduation, I remember having no idea what I wanted to do, and then spending three years doing five different jobs before going back to school. I did not leave college prepared for a career.
1693 Scholars academic advising emphasizes finding direction through trying a broad liberal arts menu to learn how to think, carefully planning the three precious summers of college to try new things, doing a research project to experience independent scholarship and problem solving, and asking hard questions about the future. I am always surprised that when I ask, say, a sophomore pre-medical student why they want to become a physician, they rarely have a convincing answer. That’s fine, but one outcome of a question like this is that the student realizes that they actually don’t want to pursue a career that they decided on when they were twelve years old. Or they do, but they need to start thinking about why. 1693 Scholars tend to be ambitious, self-motivated people, so simply asking them questions is the best form of career preparation.

Our programming also emphasizes careers, as we bring in a different lunch guest every week (or did until the pandemic), exposing the scholars to more than 50 professors or professionals, and their varied opinions on life, before they graduate. Amazing at it sounds, I can think of numerous alumni who had their career trajectories altered by a single lunchtime conversation and the mentoring and opportunities that arose from it.

A university education should not be vocational in nature, but neither should it occur in a vacuum from the realities of the future. 1693 Scholars typically have multiple passions when they arrive and do not know what they want to do with their lives. Judging from our alumni, it seems that the program is helping them sort out their priorities and prepare for satisfying careers.
Finally Face-to-Face
For the past two years, the 1693 Scholars Program Finalist Weekend was completely virtual. While we made it work and enrolled two fantastic classes of eight scholars, we greatly missed the opportunity to interact with the students on-campus and have them experience the place and the people who make up this program. The interviews and presentations remained virtual and were conducted in March. Then, we held an in-person Finalist Weekend in April for a smaller, selected group. It felt great to be back face-to-face and to once again have the weekend traditions that have become favorites, such as game night, the waffle sundae party, a Bhangra demonstration and the ultimate frisbee game.

A special thanks to the amazing team of alumni who interviewed 46 finalists! The alumni team consisted of Caitlin Clements ‘11, Mitch Croom ’17, Tina Ho ’08, Jessica Joyce ’17, Dylan Kolhoff ’14, Hannah Kwawu ’18, AB McSpadden ’18, Max Messner ’17, Morgan Sehdev ’17 and Bezi Yohannes ’18 — thank you all!

Two 1693s Named Goldwater Scholars
The Goldwater Scholarship is a prestigious national scholarship program for aspiring researchers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering. William & Mary nominates four students for Goldwater each year. This March, two W&M students were designated as national 2022 Goldwater Scholars, Carlos Noel ’23 and Michelle Yue ’23, both junior Murray 1693 Scholars. This is the second time two 1693s have been named Goldwater Scholars in the same year — Morgan Sehdev ’17 and John Marken ’17 were awarded the honor in 2015. Congratulations on joining this esteemed group, Carlos and Michelle!

READ THE FULL ARTICLE
Lucy Represents William & Mary on Jeopardy!
On February 15, we all huddled around our TV screens to watch Estes Family 1693 Scholar Lucy Greenman ’22 represent W&M as a competitor on the Jeopardy! National College Championship. Over 6,000 college students auditioned for the chance to be in the tournament but only 36 made it. It was so exciting to watch Lucy, and we were all impressed with her ability to remain completely poised and radiant during this undoubtedly overwhelming experience. Even though Lucy did not make it to the semifinals — she was beaten by the student who ultimately came in second place in the tournament — we are proud of her showing and her ability to balance the experience during a busy senior year. Way to go, Lucy!

READ THE FULL ARTICLE
1693 Scholars hail from 26 states, Japan and Senegal

**Interests:** Neuroscience, biology, pre-med

**About Julianne:** Docent at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, SGA Senator, President of Interact Service Club, Senior Chair of Justice Club, Member of Varsity Math Team, Member of Scholars’ Bowl, Student at UAB Summer Science Institute I and II, Competitive Dancer at Birmingham Dance Theatre, Happening #79 Youth Staff, Teacher at Birmingham Dance Theatre and Vice President of National Beta Club

**Awards and achievements:** Distinguished Young Woman of America — First Runner Up, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Seal of Biliteracy (Spanish and English), National Merit Finalist, Presidential Scholar Semi-finalist, Distinguished Young Woman of Alabama and Jefferson County 2022, Voted “Most Likely to Succeed” by peers, Voted “Most Intelligent” by peers, National Beta Club, Kevin Butrus Scholarship Recipient, Nora Nash Award for achievement in dance and Top 5 Senior Elite Soloist at West Coast Dance Explosion Finals
Shalom Akolatse
Belle Chasse, Louisiana
Belle Chasse High School

Interests: Computer science, data science, music theory and art

About Shalom: Participated in JROTC for 2 years, plays piano for local church, Math Tutor, robotics coder, hobbyist coder and Minecraft modder

Awards and achievements: 2022 Belle Chasse High School Student of the Year, Belle Chasse High School Class of 2022 Salutatorian, Coronado 2019 Optimist Awardee, AP Scholar with Distinction and 2020 Manim Community Hackathon 3rd place winner
Lena Bullard

Dakar, Senegal
Senegalese American Bilingual School

**Interests:** International relations and pre-law

**About Lena:** Varsity Tennis Captain, HR Intern at Cognition, LLC., Book Club President, YMCA Leaders Club Volunteer, Debate Team, Honor Council, Student Council President, Yoga Club, Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), Richmond Peace Project Conflict Resolution Training Leader and Tennis Coach

**Awards and achievements:** AP Capstone Diploma, American Mathematics Competition 3rd place winner and AP Scholar with Distinction
Kate Carline
Prosper, Texas
Rock Hill High School

Interests: Biochemistry, public policy, and bioethics

About Kate: Speech and Debate Team President, Student Council Chairperson (Community Service), Student Counseling Program “Ask Rocky” Founder and Chairperson, FIRST Robotics Team Member, Superintendent’s Advisory Council Representative, Principal’s Advisory Council Representative, Marching and Concert Band Member (Flute), Recreational Swim Team Member and Lifeguard and Youth Council President

Awards and achievements: Class Valedictorian, National Speech and Debate Association’s District Student of the Year at the June 2022 National Championship Tournament, National Semifinalist in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking for the National Speech and Debate Association, State Finalist in Impromptu Speaking for the Texas Forensic Association, State Finalist in both Congressional Speaking and Persuasive Speaking for the University Interscholastic League, Adelle McClendon Young Leader Scholar, National Honor Society, Société Honoraire Française (French Honor Society), Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Commended Scholar and Certified in Autodesk Inventor
Michael Foley
Stafford, Virginia
Brooke Point High School

Interests: Economics, business and pre-law

About Michael: Captain of Scholastic Bowl Team, President of Latin Club, President of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Chapter, Captain of Varsity Tennis Team, Varsity Soccer Team, Boy Scouts, Intern at MD & K Homes, member of Virginia Cello Ensemble, Inspire2Vote participant and leader of Model United Nations Club

Awards and achievements: Class Valedictorian, (International) DECA Business Finance Services 6th place winner, Global Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge 2nd place winner, Summa Cum Laude National Junior Classical League (NJCL) Convention Essay Contest, NJCL Convention Art History Exam 5th place winner, DECA Principles of Finance 2nd place winner (State), DECA Virtual Entrepreneurship Challenge 1st place winner (State), Commonwealth Governor’s School Interdisciplinary Award (2019, 2021), Boys State Delegate and National AP Scholar with Distinction
MURRAY 1693 SCHOLAR

Ben Steinman

Sellersville, Pennsylvania
Pennridge High School

Interests: Physics, religious studies and linguistics

About Ben: Pennsylvania Governor’s School for the Sciences 2021, President of Philosophy Club, Chief Science Officer, President of Student Council (2021–2022), Treasurer of Student Council (2020–2021), National Honor Society member, Link Crew Commissioner, Volunteer Nature Camp Counselor, County Student Board Member, Students for Education in Pennsylvania Board Member, English Tutor for Francophones, Odyssey of the Mind and participated in various graphic design projects

Awards and achievements: National Honor Society, National AP Scholar with Distinction, Samuel A. Green Scholar, William D. Mensch Jr. Award, Perkasie Lions Club Math Award and U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award
Sarah Thomas
Clarksburg, Maryland
Clarksburg High School

Interests: Biology, integrative conservation, philosophy, and the environmental humanities

About Sarah: SheSoft 501(c) (3) director of partnerships, FrogWatch USA citizen science participant, Zooniverse citizen science participant, Discover Life Cricket Crawl citizen science participant, Montgomery County First Aid Unit member and instructor, One Montgomery Green Clean Headwaters program participant, Rock Creek Conservancy Stream Team Leader and water quality monitor, Advanced Placement Power Scholars capstone project on intersections of sciences and humanities, Co-president of Clarksburg chapter of Montgomery County Students for Change, Private tutor of mathematics, Intern at Pepco Holdings, Inc., Indoor winds marching ensemble member and soloist and symphonic orchestra and flute choir member of the Academy of Saint Cecilia Youth Orchestra

Awards and achievements: 2022 National Merit Scholarship recipient, 2022 Presidential Scholar of the state of Maryland, Principal’s Pillars of Achievement Award: Scholarship, Montgomery County Public Schools Certificate of Meritorious Service, Completion of Advanced Placement Power Scholars four-year cohort, National Honors Society, Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (Spanish Honors Society), National AP Scholar With Distinction, 10 departmental awards in English, foreign language, science, and mathematics and named Clarksburg High School Top 25 Seniors
Will Torg

Arlington, Virginia
H-B Woodlawn High School

Interests: Math, physics and applied science

About Will: Member of the Varsity Swim Team, Model General Assembly, Co-Chair of Technology Subcommittee — Student Advisory Board, Science Fair Cohort, Ultimate Frisbee, Jazz Band, Math Tutor, B.C. Calculus Teacher’s Assistant and Research Assistant/Intern at Resolution Economics

Awards and achievements: National Merit Finalist, Virginia Summer Governor’s School for Mathematics, Science, and Technology, AP Scholar with Distinction and Regional Science Fair & Society Awards
MEET THE CURRENT SCHOLARS

CLASS OF 2025

Heather Acuña
Watkins Family 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Long Grove, Illinois

Anna Arnsberger
Murray 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Washington, D.C.

Alex Cooper
Stamps 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Yorktown, Virginia

Alex Gendreau
Murray 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Yorktown, Virginia

Jeffrey Gu
Stamps 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Falls Church, Virginia

Adam Jutt
Stamps 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Mason, Ohio

Emma Lankford
Murray 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Harrisonburg, Virginia

Christina Luckett
Murray 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Vienna, Virginia
MEET THE CURRENT SCHOLARS

CLASS OF 2024

Justin Berg
Stamps 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Westport, Connecticut
Major: Chemistry

Jack Boyd
Murray 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Santa Barbara, California
Major: History

Caroline Brickley
Gore 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Richmond, Virginia
Major: Economics

Robby Gourdie
Murray 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Charleston, South Carolina
Major: Chemistry

Chloe Kinderman
Stamps 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Mountain Brook, Alabama
Major: History

Leo Murphy
Class of 1940 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Williamsburg, Virginia
Majors: Physics and Math

Daniel Posthumus
Murray 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Yokosuka, Japan
Majors: Economics and Government

Skyler Seets
Stamps 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Excelsior, Minnesota
Major: Public Policy
Clare Heinbaugh
Stamps 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Springfield, Virginia
Major: Computer Science

Aubrey Lay
Stamps 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Bethesda, Maryland
Majors: Linguistics and Government

Carlos Noel
Murray 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Manassas, Virginia
Major: Self-designed major in Social Justice in Medicine

Suditi Shyamsunder
Murray 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Winchester, Virginia
Major: Data Science

Zoha Siddiqui
Stamps 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Arlington, Virginia
Majors: International Relations and self-designed major in Transitional Justice

Conor Sokolowsky
Watkins Family 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Williamsburg, Virginia
Majors: Economics and Computer Science

Michelle Yue
Murray 1693 Scholar
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia
Majors: Biology and Philosophy
Throughout my time at William & Mary, the 1693 Scholars Program provided me with the room to grow, to make mistakes, and to explore different facets of my academic and personal life. I have had many opportunities that complemented my public policy and ethnic studies coursework and generated my drive towards public service — conducting human rights research at the International Justice Lab, working for a class action law firm, and providing support for marginalized communities by volunteering with Merrimac Mentors and the William & Mary Law School’s Immigration Clinic. I engaged in creative outlets as well, from performing in trial advocacy competitions as part of the Mock Trial team to my APIA capstone project, where I wrote my own EP of music inspired by my experiences as a Filipino American woman. These past four years have also taught me the importance of striking a balance between aspiring to help others and remembering to help myself. During the pandemic, when dealing with struggles both personal and professional, the 1693 Scholars Program provided a much-needed sense of community. From virtual music performances to panicked phone calls with Dan, the program ensured that I didn’t completely go insane in isolation. I am incredibly grateful for Dan and Kim’s unwavering support, the friendship of many of my fellow scholars, and for all of the opportunities the 1693 Scholars Program has opened up for me. After graduation, I will be working as an Associate Legal Specialist for Capital One and will eventually apply to law school.

Gabby DeBelen
Public Policy and Global Studies (Asian & Pacific Islander American Studies) double major
Las Vegas, Nevada
Ed W. Clark High School
I am deeply thankful for my four years of college, and I would not have been able to attend W&M without the generous financial and academic support of the 1693 Scholars Program. Although the last four years have not been easy, I have undoubtedly experienced both personal and professional growth. I have been able to explore my interests, develop new goals, and make some of the closest friends I have ever had. As a double major in Finance and Philosophy, I have pursued studies in both investing and ethics. Few people have the opportunity to analyze a 10-K and then take a class on the importance of autonomy within the same half hour, but the 1693 Program allowed me to do both. Through the Distinguish Finance Program, I found a love for finance. I served as the President of the Howard J. Busbee Finance Academy and hosted the 2021 “From DoG Street to Wall Street” Conference. I also developed a passion for advocating for women on Wall Street. I was selected to participate in the 2020 Girls Who Invest Summer Intensive Program and have since become Co-President of the National Girls Who Invest Alumni Council. Through this work, I have spoken at the Bloomberg 2021 International Women’s Day Conference, held panels with financial industry leaders about the markets, and found immense value in empowering a close-knit, yet widespread, community of women. Perhaps most excitingly, I was able to sail the Florida Keys for a week and get some much needed off-grid time before I begin a full-time role in New York as an analyst in the Goldman Sachs AIMS Private Equity Group.
I arrived at William & Mary an incredibly excited, but apprehensive freshman; I had such a wide array of interests that I was eager to explore but was unsure how to do so while still leaving my mark within an area I was passionate about. From the moment I became a 1693 Scholar, these fears were put to rest as I experienced four years of support from Dan, Kim, and the program itself, for which I feel so incredibly fortunate. While I received guidance and direction from not only my advisors, but the pursuits of my fellow scholars, I was encouraged to lean into all of the things that captured my interests, both academic and non-academic, and give myself the space to embrace them. This proved invaluable, not only in fostering an extremely fulfilling academic experience, but in allowing me to discover the intersections that led me to my work in the Environmental Humanities. Studying both film and media within my self-designed major allowed me to create a short film documenting the early groundwork of the Environmental Humanities at W&M as my 1693 project. I am so grateful for the role that the program played in helping me be so intimately involved with the growth of this area of study at William & Mary. While I do not know exactly where the next year is going to take me, I know the W&M community and 1693 scholarship has laid a very strong groundwork for me to continue to pursue my passions!
For the past four years, the 1693 Scholars Program has provided me a community of kind, brilliant peers and friends. The late nights at the Murray House, the jam sessions, and the countless thoughtful and funny conversations with my fellow scholars are among my most treasured college memories. I double-majored in History and Film & Media Studies, developing a passion for telling stories through digital media. Over my summers and four years, I interned at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and the J. Paul Getty Museum. I did education research with a National Science Foundation-funded project based out of Pepperdine University. Outside of academics, I joined a sketch-improv comedy troupe called Trippin’ on Brix and became editor-in-chief of The Gallery Literary Magazine. None of these experiences would have been possible without the 1693 Scholarship, and I am incredibly grateful for the support of the program — especially the wisdom and advice of Dan and Kim. The experiences of the past four years have taught me so much about the world and about myself, and I know I will carry all I’ve learned at William & Mary with me as I move forward. After graduation, I hope to continue telling stories through a career in digital media.
There isn’t a single part of my college experience that hasn’t been shaped by the 1693 Scholars Program. From the priority registration that allowed me to dip into just about every department to the immense financial freedom that comes with having college paid for, the program has undoubtedly influenced not only my college years, but all my years to come. I started college knowing that I was dedicated to all things pregnancy and birth, but had no idea how to map that to an undergraduate field of study. With Dan and Kim’s support, I drew on biology, data science, economics, public health, and public policy to craft a self-designed major called Health Analytics, paired with a minor in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. I became involved in peer health education and served two terms as the vice president of our campus reproductive justice group. Over the summers, I canvassed for state-level political campaigns, became trained as a student advocate for reproductive rights, and analyzed health policy at the Association of American Medical Colleges, always saving room for at least part-time work in childcare. I ultimately used my 1693 stipend to become certified as both a birth doula and a childbirth educator. Through it all, the best times I had were singing and playing music, whether with my housemates, with Hillel members at Shabbat services, or with our very own 1693 band, John F Morris. Next year, I will be pursuing an accelerated nursing degree through Emory University and completing my clinical hours in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
I am forever grateful for the 1693 Scholars Program for providing me with stability over what has been an unexpectedly hectic four years. The consistency of weekly lunches, board game nights, and the wonderful friends I've made kept me grounded throughout college. Many clubs I joined through connections with other scholars, whether it was a friendly face to run or climb with, or someone late at night in the Murray House insisting I attend a research interest meeting. I joined a research lab my first semester, working with a fellow scholar to map wildlife-vehicle collisions in Virginia. With this project, I discovered an aptitude for data analysis and a love of working on real world problems. Since then, I've worked on projects ranging from the creation of a global boundary data set to the effects of urbanization on national parks to the mating behaviors of pipefish. With the support of the 1693 Program, I travelled to conferences in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, and lived on a sailboat for a week in Florida. None of these opportunities would have been possible without the support of the program emotionally, financially, and logistically. The 1693 Scholars Program gave me the confidence to try new things and push my comfort zone. In that vein, I’ll be moving to New York this fall to work as an analyst at Cornerstone Research.
Jackson Howell

Economics and Mathematics double major
Collierville, Tennessee
Memphis University School

I will be forever grateful for the opportunities and experiences I have enjoyed as a 1693 Scholar. Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to attend William & Mary. Had I not come here, my academic trajectory would have been totally different — to say nothing of the personal relationships I would never have made. At William & Mary, I discovered a deep fascination with economics and rediscovered my passion for mathematics. I have also been able to explore personal interests in history, philosophy, and religious studies. I am grateful to have attended a school with teaching-oriented professors, who make classes intimate and enjoyable. Through connections made at a 1693 freshman lunch, I met Professor John Lopresti, with whom I have had a 3-year-long research relationship and co-authored a working paper. This paper studies the economics of trade through a historical and political lens, incorporating many disparate areas of interest. In response to a need in this paper and the larger literature, my 1693 project was to create a novel dataset that greatly facilitates research into the history of political economy. My many experiences at William & Mary have led me to pursue a career in economics research. Following my graduation, I will be taking a two-year predoctoral research position at Yale University’s Tobin Center for Economic Policy. There, I will study retirement savings and Social Security, and I plan to attend a Ph.D. program in economics afterwards.
Pablo Solano

Computer Science major, Data Science minor
Culver City, California
Santa Monica High School

It’s impossible to reflect on my time at William & Mary without acknowledging everything the 1693 Scholars Program did to make it possible. Without this scholarship, I would have never been able to attend William & Mary, a school which allowed me to study both computer science and the performing arts. This would have been much harder to accomplish at most other institutions, but W&M offered me the opportunities to take classes in very different fields and engage in the extracurricular activities they offered. Outside of class, I ran the Association for Computing Machinery, won hackathons, worked at the Entrepreneurship Center, and sang with the choir. Participating in these programs was made easier due to the fact that the 1693 Scholars Program introduced me to a network of friends before I even took my first class here — friends that I know won’t just be “college friends,” but friends for the rest of my life. I’d also like to extend a thank you to Dan and Kim, without whom my experience at William & Mary and within the 1693 Scholars Program would have been very different. Without them and their advice, my college experience would have been lonely, unguided, and unfulfilling. I would also like to thank the Stamps Program for helping fund my scholarship and for introducing me to a nationwide network of peers. After graduation, I will be pursuing a career in game development back in my home state of California.
Although the journeys of Francesca Fornasini ’10 and Isabelle Cohen ’11 diverged following graduation from William & Mary, their stories followed parallel paths to careers in academia, providing the chance for the next generation of students to follow in their footsteps.

For Fornasini and Cohen, their academic pursuits have always been aligned with the principles of a liberal arts institution — from the humanities to the hard sciences, they turned personal interest into vocation thanks to opportunities stemming from their 1693 Scholars Program scholarships.
“I was looking for a place that was as flexible as I was in what I wanted to study and explore,” says Fornasini. “William & Mary gave me opportunities to explore different things and feel out where I wanted to go in life. Thanks to that, I am now able to provide those same opportunities to students today.”

As Murray Scholars, both Fornasini and Cohen attribute success in their careers to the mentorship they received and connections they made at W&M, specifically facilitated thanks to the 1693 Scholars Program.

Finding opportunities to explore passions and find a calling

“I discovered an interest in physics in high school because it was the class that most challenged my brain,” Fornasini says. “I also enjoyed literature and languages, so between these two things I had no idea what I wanted to do with those passions when it came to going to university. Luckily, William & Mary allowed me to do both.”

Born in Milan, Francesca Fornasini ’10 grew up in Rockville, Maryland, and was drawn to W&M for the chance to explore her varied passions. During her time as an undergraduate student, Fornasini majored both in English and physics, traditionally disparate disciplines but two areas of interest.

She participated in unique research opportunities while at W&M through the Murray Scholars’ Research Fund as part of the program. “I was able to do research on the linguistics of my grandmothers’ regional Italian dialects while also studying astrophysics, something I never thought I would have been able to do in college,” she says.

“I got to explore different types of research and different types of engagement with others to help me figure out what I wanted to do post-graduation. I ended up doing a thesis project with two professors in the physics department, which was a formative experience for my career path.”

Fornasini was able to engage in research opportunities thanks to the 1693 Scholars Program, participating in the independent linguistics study at W&M as well as working in three different physics labs. This experience helped when she applied to the National Science Foundation’s Research Experience for Undergrads (REU) program in astrophysics at the University of Hawaii.

In addition to her research and travel experiences, Fornasini also participated in Swing Dance Club, Ballroom Club and the outdoor recreation opportunities afforded by W&M’s lush campus.

Most notably, she facilitated an independent, extra-curricular panel discussion as an upper-classman to explore the intersection of faith and science. She was also involved in Catholic Campus Ministries as a student, and thanks to the connections she had made both in and out of the classroom, she brought together professors and students for a meaningful and memorable conversation.
Following graduation from William & Mary, Fornasini continued her studies at the University of California, Berkeley where she received her Ph.D. in astrophysics. While at Berkeley, she discovered her love of teaching and engaging with students in the classroom in addition to her work as a researcher.

“I had great mentors both at W&M and in grad school who helped me figure out what I liked about research and teaching, or ‘public speaking’ to the same captive audience over and over again, as I saw it at the time,” she laughs. “Now, I am able to provide that same opportunity for other students to explore and find their passions through my role as a professor. I love seeing undergrad researchers grow in their confidence across a summer. I enjoy connecting with my students through thoughtful conversations, as I did at William & Mary.”

In 2020, Fornasini started in her position as an assistant professor in the physics department at Stonehill College, a Catholic university in Easton, Massachusetts, pursuing research in black holes and other extreme astrophysical objects.

“I want to be able to give to my students those same important formative experiences that I had thanks to the opportunities provided to me through the 1693 Scholars Program. I view it as paying it forward — the same time and resources that someone invested in me I can give that back to someone else and keep the impact moving forward.”

Weaving a future with threads of deep support

“My time at William & Mary was made up of a tapestry of little moments,” says Isabelle Cohen ’11. “I look back on times late at night with friends talking about random stuff, participating in research and conversations with professors, and that diverse fabric coalesced into a fantastic undergraduate experience that brought me to where I am today.”

“Francesca Fornasini”

“I want to be able to give to my students those same important formative experiences that I had thanks to the opportunities provided to me through the 1693 Scholars Program. I view it as paying it forward — the same time and resources that someone invested in me I can give that back to someone else and keep the impact moving forward.”

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Cohen’s experience, while centered more in the social sciences, took a very similar trajectory to that of Fornasini.

Originally from San Rafael, California, Cohen came to William & Mary in large part due to her interest in the 1693 Scholars Program and the international study opportunities a W&M education affords. Once at college, Cohen made deep connections with her fellow scholarship recipients and received life-changing mentorship and experiences through the program.

“During my undergrad, I worked a lot with Mike Tierney at William & Mary’s AidData lab in the Global Research Institute,” Cohen recollects. Being a research assistant on that project started her interest in development economics and led her to her current role and the field she studies.

As a student, Cohen majored in International Relations, and in addition to her research with AidData, she was also involved in the LGBTQ+ Alliance, Young Democrats, served as editor of the DoG Street Journal, performed in several student-produced plays and completed a fifth-year Master of Public Policy program through W&M. Cohen also was able to study abroad in and travel to Jordan, Ecuador, Mexico and India thanks to the scholarship funding she received. She attributes this chance to pursue her varied interests to the relief from financial burden provided by the Murray Scholarship.

“The extent of deep and rich support I received at William & Mary to travel and learn internationally was invaluable,” she says. “This is an incredible time of life to support someone so fully, as the Murray Scholarship does — it has huge impacts down the line for them.”

After W&M, Cohen secured a position as a research assistant at Duke University studying financial inclusion in South India. “I then decided that if I was going to study countries in the global south, I needed to have spent more time in one — so I held a similar research position in India for two years managing our in-country teams.”

Following her time in India, Cohen then also continued her education at the University of California, Berkeley and received her Ph.D. in economics — in the fall of 2021, she accepted a position as an assistant professor at the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington in Seattle. Cohen studies development economics and public finance, and her research takes her across the globe. She works with partners to understand the impact of technology on individuals and their access to economic mobility in developing and non-Western nations.

“I love teaching, I love the research I get to do, and the community here is great,” Cohen says. “Now, as a professor looking back, I can see how fortunate I was with the many different professors I had at W&M — how great and deep those connections were — and that’s something that I want to continue to take forward in this role and my career ahead.”
From classes to careers, the 1693 Scholars Program creates scholars who excel in their chosen fields

As the university looks to the future with the new Vision 2026 strategic plan, William & Mary has set four key initiatives: data, democracy, water and careers. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the 1693 Scholars Program is perfectly positioned to fulfill the goal of preparing life-long learners who are equipped to navigate rapid change and thrive from their first job to their last.

For both Cohen and Fornasini, their career pathways from William & Mary to professorships in academia were forged by their experiences in the 1693 Scholars Program, which provided them invaluable connections and opportunities to flourish in their chosen profession. Both attribute their success to the deep and lasting personal connections they formed at W&M, as well as the power of philanthropy.

Cohen says, “For me personally, the 1693 scholarship definitely put me on a different trajectory than I would have been otherwise. When people don’t have that financial pressure hanging over their head in college, they can study what they want to study — they feel free to explore. The benefits of those financial gifts reverberate throughout their lives no matter the path they take.”

The 1693 Scholars Program will continue to create stories just like Fornasini’s and Cohen’s for all times coming thanks to the philanthropic involvement of caring members of the William & Mary family.

“Helping individuals develop into themselves and find their pathway into the future, changing their life for the better through philanthropy, engenders such a rich sense of gratitude,” says Fornasini. “The opportunities I had at W&I through my scholarship created that for me — it fosters a self-perpetuating cycle of doing good for others.”

“...the 1693 scholarship definitely put me on a different trajectory than I would have been otherwise. When people don’t have that financial pressure hanging over their head in college, they can study what they want to study — they feel free to explore.”

Isabelle Cohen
ALUMNI SCHOLARS

CLASS OF 2021

Colin Cochran
Pursuing my passions, Buffalo, New York

Hannah London
Conducting research for the University of Maastricht's European Research Council

Hannah Lowe
Development Assistant, Morgan Library & Museum

Celia Metzger
Account Coordinator, Verge Scientific Communications

Khalil Russell
Ph.D. candidate in population biology, University of California, Davis

Ethan Shelburne
Ph.D. candidate in mathematics, University of British Columbia

Stuart Thomas
Ph.D. candidate in physics, University of Maryland, College Park

Chloe Walker
Master’s candidate in social and behavioral science research, Tilburg University, the Netherlands

CLASS OF 2020

Jared Bergen
PrEP Program Specialist, Whitman-Walker Health

Michael Giovannelli
Master’s candidate, MIT’s Technology & Policy Program

Grace Kier
J.D. candidate, Yale Law School
Completed Master’s in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, Stanford University

Jack Morris
Operations Research Analyst, Mitre
Completed Master’s in Technology & Policy Program, MIT

Hali Pregnall
Organic Farmer; Counselor, Crisis Text Line

Jack Shangraw
Fulbright Award, researching tourism and local democracy in Nepal

Elizabeth Sutterlin
Program Associate for Democracy and Technology, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

Henry Young
Ph.D. candidate in economics and public policy, University of Michigan

CLASS OF 2019

Srijan Bhasin
Medical student, Duke University

Jared Grooms
Research fellowship, National Institutes of Health

Alexis Payne
Ph.D. candidate in economics, Stanford University

Andrew Peritz
Financial Aid Counselor, Sarah Lawrence College
Yorick Oden-Plants  
Officer, United States Navy

Lillian Waddill  
Master’s candidate in classics, Indiana University, Bloomington

CLASS OF 2018

Lydia Boike  
Ph.D. candidate in chemistry, University of California, Berkeley

Sinclair Cabocel  
Freelance writer

Sorrah Edwards-Thro  
Grants Manager, Friends of Matènwa; Tutor, writer and caregiver

Aidan Fielding  
Ph.D. candidate in biology, University of Pennsylvania

Hannah Kwawu  
Senior Analyst for Business Intelligence & Accountability, Initiative

CLASS OF 2017

Mitchell Croom  
Consulting Analyst, USG; Completed Master’s in public policy, William & Mary

Jessica Joyce  
Clerk for Judge Ryan D. Nelson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; Completed law degree, Dillard Scholar, University of Virginia Law School

CLASS OF 2016

Haley Bauser  
R&D Engineer in Optical Materials, Varda Space Industries; Completed Ph.D. in applied physics, California Institute of Technology

Jonah Fishel  
Owner and creator of online tutoring company, Next Step Prep; Master’s candidate in education, Villanova University

Annabel McSpadden  
Therapist, Sequim Counseling; Completed master’s degree in community counseling with a concentration in women’s studies, University of Georgia

Bezi Yohannes  
Digital Marketing Assistant for Penguin Young Readers, Penguin Random House; Graduate certification, Denver Publishing Institute; Georgetown Community Scholars Graduate Associate; Completed master’s degree in English, Georgetown University

John Marken  
Ph.D. student in bioengineering, California Institute of Technology

Max Messner  
Software Engineer, Google

Morgan Sehdev  
Emergency Medicine Resident Physician, Harvard-Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency at BWH/MGH; Completed medical degree, Harvard University

Colin Weinhenker  
Software engineer, FormSwift
Wade Hodson
Postdoctoral researcher; Completed Ph.D. in physics, University of Maryland

Olivia Jebb
Primary care medical residency, New York University

Max Miroff
Corporate Associate, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz; Completed law degree, Columbia Law School

Darice Xue
Law student, University of Chicago

Daniel Duane
Oceanographer, Government lab; Completed Ph.D. in ocean engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Woods Hole Joint Program in Oceanography

Catherine Mahoney
Ph.D. candidate in statistical genetics, University College Dublin; Completed master’s degree in statistics, University College Dublin

Alison Roberts
Fellow, Equal Justice Works; Completed Law degree, Harvard University

CLASS OF 2014

Mohima Sanyal
Ophthalmology Resident, Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute (2021–2024); Completed Transitional Year Residency, Riverside Community Hospital (2020–2021); Completed M.D./M.P.H. degree, University of Pennsylvania; Completed master’s degree in cognitive and evolutionary anthropology, University of Oxford

CLASS OF 2013

Fiona Balestrieri
Ph.D. candidate in linguistic anthropology, University of Virginia; Completed master’s degree in language documentation and description, SOAS University of London

Katie Mitchell
National security, Government agency

Becca Starr
Master of Science candidate, Physician Assistant Program, University of New England; Completed master’s degree in occupational therapy, University of Mary
ALUMNI SCHOLARS

**Elsa Voytas**  
Assistant Professor, IE University, Spain;  
Postdoctoral researcher in Quantitative Social Science, Dartmouth College; Completed Ph.D. Joint Degree Program in Politics and Social Policy, Princeton University/Woodrow Wilson School

**Alena Stern**  
Data Science Fellow, Urban Institute;  
Completed master’s degree in Computational Analysis and Public Policy, University of Chicago

**Caitlin Clements**  
Master’s candidate in Writing for Young People, Bath Spa University, United Kingdom;  
Theatrical Producer, with credits including Dear Evan Hansen on Broadway, North American Tour and London’s West End; the 2022 revival of Neil Simon’s Plaza Suite starring Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick;  
2017 Tony Award Recipient (Best Musical, “Dear Evan Hansen”); Completed master’s degree in cinema studies, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University

**Isabelle Cohen**  
Assistant Professor, Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, University of Washington; Completed Ph.D. in economics, UC Berkeley

**Bert Cortina**  
Medical residency, Duke University;  
Completed M.D./Ph.D. in engineering, University of Virginia

**Michelle Munyikwa**  
Medical residency, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania & Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Completed medical degree, University of Pennsylvania; Completed Ph.D. in anthropology, University of Pennsylvania

**Olivia Walch**  
Post-doc, University of Michigan Medical School; CEO of small business developing cancer chronotherapy software; Completed Ph.D. in applied mathematics, University of Michigan

**Victoria Chung**  
Senior Product Manager, Climb Credit

**Rachael Tatman**  
Language technology educator; Completed Ph.D. in linguistics, University of Washington

**Nick Schmedding**  
Internal Medicine Physician, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center; Completed internal medicine residency, Wake Forest University;  
Completed medical degree, Virginia Commonwealth University

**Colton O’Connor**  
Software Engineer, Applied Minds LLC;  
Completed Ph.D. in particle and nuclear physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
ALUMNI SCHOLARS

Francesca Fornasini
Assistant Professor, Physics Department, Stonehill College; Completed Ph.D. in astrophysics, University of California, Berkeley

Jennifer MaClure
Assistant Professor of English, Kent State University; Completed Ph.D. in English, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Omar Shairzay
Attending Anesthesiologist, Georgetown University Hospital; Medical Director of Neuroanesthesia, Georgetown University; Assistant Professor, Georgetown University School of Medicine; Completed medical residency, Georgetown University; Completed medical degree, Dartmouth College

Benjamin Hurwitz
Assistant Professor of History, Prince George’s Community College (Maryland); Completed Ph.D. in history, George Mason University

Irène Mathieu
Master’s candidate in public health, Johns Hopkins University (online program); Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Virginia; Completed pediatrics residency, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Completed medical school, Vanderbilt University

Jake Reeder
Supply Demand Planning Lead, Waymo; Completed M.B.A. and M.P.P. degrees, Duke University

Peter Zimmerman
Head of Publicity, Toolshed, Inc.; Senior Admissions Consultant, Solomon Admissions Consulting

CLASS OF 2009

CLASS OF 2008

Oliver Ehlinger
Legal Aid Attorney; Completed law school, University of California, Davis

Tina Ho
Facial plastic surgeon, Philadelphia; Completed fellowship in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, University of Illinois Chicago; Completed otolaryngology residency, University of Kansas; Completed medical degree, University of Virginia

Jerillyn Kent
Assistant Professor of Psychology, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, University of Texas at Dallas; Completed Ph.D. in psychology, Indiana University
SCHOLAR EVENTS

- Family weekend
- FroYo Friday
- Senior Celebration
- Homecoming & graduation for class of 2020
SCHOLAR EVENTS

- Graduation
- Orientation
- Pumpkin carving
- First-year canoe trip
- Lunch with documentary filmmaker and activist, Rhadem Musawah
A visionary leadership commitment by James B. Murray Jr. J.D. ’74, LL.D. ’00 and his wife, Bruce R. Murray, launched the 1693 Scholars Program, which has been drawing many of the nation’s very best students to William & Mary since 2004. Jim and Bruce renewed their commitment to the program in 2019 with a generous new gift.

Inspired by the Murrays, additional donors have stepped up to invest in the 1693 Scholars. The Stamps Scholars Program marks 10 years of funding Stamps 1693 Scholars, now providing scholarships and enrichment opportunities to three new scholars each year. The Girton and Bright, Estes, Gore and Watkins families have each established endowments supporting their own 1693 scholarships. We welcome our second Girton and Bright Families 1693 Scholar this fall, as well as our fourth and fifth Estes Family 1693 Scholars.

The 1693 Scholars Program and the entire William & Mary community are grateful to the donors listed whose generous commitments created endowments or expendable funds to support 1693 Scholars.

In addition, the 1693 Scholars Program would like to thank our individual donors who make annual gifts, including 1693 Scholar alumni, current recipients, parents, grandparents of scholars and friends of the program.

James B. Murray Jr. J.D. ’74, LL.D. ’00
Bruce R. Murray
The Stamps Scholars Program
E. Roe Stamps IV
Penny Stamps*
Jean Berger Estes ’75
Robey W. Estes Jr. ’74
Wendy R. Watkins
H. Thomas Watkins III ’74
Sally Ives Gore ’56
Walter J. Zable ’37, LL.D. ’78*
Betty Carter Zable ’40*
W. Edward Bright ’78

*Deceased
William & Mary provides 1693 Scholars with remarkable opportunities to realize their potential, and it will look for them to excel in their chosen fields and contribute to their communities in positive and original ways.

The 1693 Scholars Program provides impressive benefits, both educational and financial. Scholars receive significant financial awards: annual Virginia tuition, fees, room and board, which amounts to a full scholarship for in-state students and a partial scholarship for out-of-state students.

Scholars work closely with distinguished faculty mentors, planning their own course of study and enjoying access and support reserved exclusively for graduate students at most universities.

For more information or to support the program, please contact us.

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1693 Scholars Program  
Associate Director  
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