



# WILLIAM & MARY WASHINGTON CENTER

Fall 2020

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



My name is Meredith Viens Delaware and I graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in International Relations. In 2001, the year the Washington Center opened, I completed a Congressional summer internship. The Washington Center's programming was not as comprehensive as it is now, but the opportunities to connect with other W&M students and alumni were extremely valuable.

Some of the memories that stand out most involve exploring the fantastic museums and historic federal buildings in the District. One stand-out was a tour of the West Wing, organized by the Washington Center, led by an alumnus working there at the time. Also, as a Congressional intern I was responsible for giving tours of the Capitol building where I finally got to put my non-major art and architectural history classes to good use!

My time in Washington gave me incredible exposure to our political system, a chance to live with some of my closest W&M friends, and time to explore all that D.C. had to offer. Occurring the summer before my junior year, this internship was the first major step in my career progression, followed by a summer internship at the U. S. Embassy to Belgium in Brussels and a full-time job in the defense

consulting industry after graduation. Without the experience of that summer I wouldn't be where I am today, including joining the W&M Washington Center Advisory Board this year.

## THE WASHINGTON CENTER'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

You're invited! Join the William & Mary Washington Center as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary throughout 2021!

We'll have plenty of ways to interact with the Center through videos, events, a memory collection initiative, social media and more. All of these opportunities are open to students, alumni, parents, employees and friends of W&M.

Visit our [20th Anniversary website](#) to stay up to date on all of our content as it becomes available!

We want to give a huge thanks to our 20th Anniversary Planning Committee and our W&M partners for their help and support in planning! Everyone who donates to the W&M Washington Center in 2021 will be invited to our 20th Anniversary celebration in November 2021 and receive a special pin commemorating the anniversary.

To donate, please visit [www.wm.edu/dc/giving](http://www.wm.edu/dc/giving).

## MEMORIES FROM THE FIRST 20 YEARS



Left: students in our first DC Semester Program visiting C-SPAN in 2006



Right: the inaugural W&M Washington Center Advisory Board in 2019



Left: students in the 2017 D.C. Winter Seminars ice skating at the Sculpture Garden

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gabe Cancio-Bello '20

David Carter '01, J.D. '06

Meghan Comey Thomas '03

Nataki Corneille '97

Matthew Erpelding M.B.A. '18

Kayla Sharpe '17

Tim von Stetten '16

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

If you would like to be involved in any of the Washington Center's 20th anniversary events, just contact Elisabeth Merrifield at [emerrifield@wm.edu](mailto:emerrifield@wm.edu).

## FOLLOW US!



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## FALL LEADERSHIP WEBINAR SERIES

Three William & Mary webinars were held in September and October to gauge interest in a pilot continuing studies course on leadership. The series was called "Leading with Compassion: Reflections and Tools for Leaders Focused on Service & Community," and focused on how leaders can create inclusive environments where courage and compassion lead to a sense of belonging for all members. The Washington Center worked in partnership with many alumni, schools, and units and most closely with University Advancement to produce this webinar series. Special thanks goes to Michael Steelman for all of his tremendous efforts.

The three webinars included:

- **Compassion in Leadership** featuring Michael K. Powell '85, D.P.S. '02 and Drew Stelljes Ph.D. '07
- **Inclusivity in Leadership** featuring Mike Petters M.B.A. '93 and Inga Carboni Ph.D.
- **Adversity in Leadership** featuring Jill Ellis '88, L.H.D. '16 and Deirdre Connelly Ph.D. CMPC

The webinars received an enthusiastic positive response, with a total of 1,148 registrants. This includes 618 unique registrants and 530 repeat registrants, and 99.2% of attendees would "recommend the webinars to a friend".

Stay tuned for more information about a pilot course this spring, which will use the webinars as a guide.