

FROM THE BRAFFERTON

State of the University

Dear William & Mary Community, William & Mary is flatly amazing. Why do I say this? First, there is no other state university in the country that focuses as squarely as the College on each of its undergraduates, not just those in honors programs. There are only a few private universities in our league when it comes to undergraduate learning. Second, no other university in the country, public or private, has as healthy a mix of teaching and research. We take steps to ensure both teaching and research flourish at the College, involving our full-time faculty. Third, there are few universities that have as viable a balance between graduate and professional education, on the one hand, and undergraduate education, on the other. Fourth, even though state universities tend to grow and grow, we have remained human scale, with a powerful sense of community and collegiality. Fifth, if there is another campus in the United States as historic and beautiful as the College's, I don't know which one.

I believe this century is going to be the College's best. My optimism centers on our people — the high quality of our students, the extraordinary caliber of our faculty and staff, the devotion of so many alumni, and the pervasive sense that what we are doing at the College is vitally important, that we are changing lives for the better; that we are developing leaders who will make a difference whatever field they enter.

Here are just a few highlights:

- The 1,486 members of the undergraduate Class of 2015 come from a record-breaking pool of more than 12,800 applicants. Twenty-five percent of the entering class had SAT scores above 1450 (on a 1600 scale), and 165 of them scored an 800 on one or more sections of the test. Twenty-eight percent are students of color; 10 percent consist of first-generation college students, and 8 percent are alumni children or siblings. A record 85 international students joined

this year's class and total enrollment, including undergraduates and graduate students, has reached 468 international students representing 51 countries. Thirty members of the Class of 2015 represent the first cohort of our new joint-degree program with Scotland's oldest university, St. Andrews.

- Our faculty excels at blending teaching and research. Thanks to Joe Plumeri '66, we honor 20 of them each year with significant financial awards to celebrate their teaching, research and service. This year's group included a polar oceanographer who's helped make us a leader in the field, a chemist whose research has implications for ailments like Alzheimer's disease, and a physicist whose research led to a namesake theoretical model. One of our major research efforts grew out of a student's honors thesis. This project has amassed the most comprehensive database in the world on international aid projects and has become a key resource in evaluating foreign aid programs.

- Students, faculty and staff continue to serve in their communities and throughout the world to an extraordinary extent. Our students alone logged more than 333,000 hours of community service during the 2010/11 academic year.

- Thanks to 2010/11 titles in football, men's cross country, men's soccer and women's tennis, William & Mary became the first school in our league to exceed 100 conference championships. Our 500 varsity athletes are also serious students who graduate just like their classmates. More than 80 percent of our students play on varsity, club or intramural teams, take part in fitness and wellness classes and programs, use the fitness center on their own or get involved in other outdoor activities.

- Since the turn of this century, the campus has been enormously enhanced by over one million square feet of new or renovated facilities. Last summer, Tribe Square opened with residential apartments for 56 undergraduates above four "student-friendly" restaurants, and Small Hall, our



physics building, came back on line with state-of-the-art laboratories, after extensive renovations and additions.

- Our alumni have been changing the world since 1693. Bob Gates '65 is a great contemporary example. Bob's record as director of the CIA, president of Texas A&M, and Secretary of Defense under two presidents is extraordinary by any measure, highlighting the leadership and service so characteristic of William & Mary alumni. Bob will succeed Sandra Day O'Connor as our 24th Chancellor.

With the exception of a tiny few, very rich private colleges and universities, all U.S. institutions of higher education confront severe financial challenges. William & Mary is moving to ensure we will be among the institutions that do not simply survive but thrive in the 21st century.

For all sorts of reasons, *there is only one William & Mary!*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Taylor Reveley III".

W. TAYLOR REVELEY III
President, College of William & Mary

This article is adapted from the 2011 State of the University. Please visit www.wm.edu/presidentsreport to see photos, videos and links to news from last year, stories about some of our students, faculty and alumni, and a financial report on the 2010/11 fiscal year.