

WILLIAM & MARY



MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Dear Friends of W&M Military and Veteran Affairs,

Community. Collaboration. Connection. Belonging. These words embody a mindset and purpose that fuel the heart of our work. This summer, we celebrated two powerful milestones that reflect the dual strands of our mission, empowering our military connected students and serving and connecting with the greater defense community.

In May, we honored more than 100 of our graduating military and veteran students with a Hail and Farewell that brought together families, faculty, and friends. This breakfast is one of the most meaningful moments of the year—and this year we added a new factor. We invited accepted students so we could conduct a military-style HAIL – and encourage them to join the Tribe.

Inside you'll see details of the inaugural Empowering Military Spouse Symposium we hosted June 13. We welcomed more than 120 participants who travelled from Northern Virginia, Norfolk Naval Station, Fort Bragg, NC and beyond. With breakout sessions on career development, entrepreneurship, and resilience, the symposium spotlighted the leadership, talent, and strength military spouses bring to our communities and workplaces. We are deeply grateful to our campus and community partners—and to each spouse who joined us—for making this event a success. Special kudos to Lindsay Blount, Ed.D., '24, project & business manager, for spearheading the effort and to our campus partners for serving on panels and breakout sessions.

We've also just completed a special, customized version of our groundbreaking Flourishing Through Life Transition Programs. Led by JD Due, this year's cohort of "Flourishing" provided support to a combination of women veterans of the US Armed Forces as well as women veterans from the Afghan Army's Female Tactical Platoon (FTP). We'll be hosting another custom version for incoming military and veteran students at both the undergraduate and graduate level in the first week of August.

As we look ahead to fall, please mark your calendars:

- Military and Veteran Alumni Homecoming Breakfast – Saturday, October 18
- Military Appreciation Football Game – Saturday, November 1

Thank you for continuing to support our mission and community. Whether you're on campus or deployed across the globe, we're proud to serve those who serve.

Warm wishes for a safe and restful summer,


Kathleen

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Highlights

Hail & Farewell

A traditional military event, this May 13 Hail & Farewell recognized not only the service of our nation's military veterans, but the remarkable accomplishments of our graduating W&M military, veteran, and ROTC students! The event included a breakfast buffet with special farewell for our graduating students and a hail to our newly accepted students. We're grateful for the partnership with Kelly Holdcraft, executive director, Alumni Success and the Association of 1775.



W&M MILVET Advisory Group May Meeting

The W&M MILVET Advisory Group gathered May 16 for their annual May meeting. Chaired by Chancellor Gates 65, L.H.D. '98, the Group welcomed new members Daniel Louis Arczynski; Susan S. Gaston, '88; Ally Phillips, '26; Dean Douglas Schmidt, '84, M.A. '86; and military connected and VIMS representative Jade Sevelow-Lee, MA' 26.

The Advisory Group provides internal advice and support for W&M MILVET programs. Topics discussed included veteran student loan debt and funding, military connected transition support, and best practices in recruiting military and student veterans.



Photo by Skip Rowland

"Salute to Military Spouses"



On behalf of W&M MILVET, team member Parin Finch, WGC fiscal & administrative coordinator, proudly represented our office at the "Salute to Military Spouses" event on May 29 hosted by the Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Center at Peninsula Town Center in Hampton.

With dozens of military spouses in attendance, it was a powerful reminder of the importance of community and connection across the region. We're grateful for the opportunity to participate and look forward to continuing to support events that uplift and empower military-connected families.

Highlights

W&M's Empowering Military Spouses Symposium

On June 13, over 100 military spouses gathered at William & Mary for the inaugural Empowering Military Spouses Symposium! It was truly inspiring to see so many spouses come together—engaged, connected, and empowered. The energy in the room was unlike anything we've seen, and we're deeply grateful for the way each and every participant showed up—not only for themselves but for the entire community.

As one attendee shared, *"The symposium was the first time in a long time I felt like my experiences in military life mattered in the civilian world... I laughed, teared up, and made genuine connections with people. It was like I could take a deep breath and be the real me around people who understood."*

To our amazing sponsors and those who donated gifts in kind—your support helped make this event truly unforgettable: PenFed Foundation for Military Heroes, Fiserv, Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce, Hampton Roads Workforce Council, Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Center (HRVEC), Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Burn Bootcamp Williamsburg, Axe Republic, Lindsey Lyons Photography, and Lasting Memories Photography by Christy Silva.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible speakers, panelists, breakout session leaders, and resource fair participants for sharing your wisdom and engaging so meaningfully with our attendees. We also want to highlight our W&M campus partners for serving on panels and breakout sessions: Adrienne Howard, Associate Director for Administration & Senior Executive Assistant to the Provost; Fabian House, Director of Graduate Business Education; Monica Pinier, Senior Assistant Dean of Admission; and Joanne Taylor, Manager, Student Information Services. We are so grateful for your time, energy, and commitment to empowering military spouses.

📸 Take a moment to relive the day through more photo highlights here: <https://go.wm.edu/TsPkB0>



W&M MILVET Team Contributes to Published Research

COUNSELING OUTCOME RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21501378.2025.2530382>

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group

 Check for updates

Flourishing Through Life Transitions: Intensive Longitudinal Observations of a Veteran Transition Program

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The authors of the present study assessed changes to veterans' perceptions of well-being following participation in a military-to-civilian transition program, Flourishing Through Life Transitions (Flourishing), a two-week residential program designed to address well-being and career development for veterans transitioning from uniformed service.

Method: We administered assessments at baseline, upon program completion, and collected follow-up data at 6 wk and 6-months post completion. Among the 32 individuals enrolled in Flourishing, 22 participants completed the daily diary portion of the study, while 13 completed the follow-up repeated-measures assessments.

Results: Pilot data demonstrated statistically significant improvement in strengths self-efficacy and satisfaction with life. Scores for social connectedness, meaning in life, and stress also improved, but were not statistically significant. Results of the daily diary demonstrated positive trends in hope, well-being, and mindfulness.

Conclusion: Preliminary findings from this pilot study suggest the potential utility of Flourishing, providing feasibility for larger trials to confirm the results.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 20 September 2024

Accepted 3 July 2025


KEYWORDS

Veteran transition;
military; well-being;
career; veteran

We're excited to share that members of the W&M MILVET team contributed to a newly published peer-reviewed article in *Counseling Outcome Research and Evaluation*!

Titled "Flourishing Through Life Transitions: Intensive Longitudinal Observations of a Veteran Transition Program," the article explores the impact of veteran-focused programming on individual well-being during major life transitions.

This collaborative research effort reflects the depth of our team's commitment to evidence-based support for the military-connected community.

 Read the full article here: <https://go.wm.edu/7W1Ywd>

Congratulations to all the authors, including our very own Lindsay Blount, Ed.D., '24, JD Due, Charlie Foster, and Kathleen Jabs!

WGC Affiliate Donates Iraqi Election Material to Swem Library

Dr. Daryl Chamberlain, retired U.S. Army Colonel and affiliate of William & Mary's Whole of Government Center of Excellence, recently donated his collection of 2005 Iraqi Election materials to the Swem Library Archives at the conclusion of his Department of Defense Skill Bridge tenure at William & Mary. As a member of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Headquarters, then-Army-Captain Chamberlain got to see the Iraqi people take a first, small step toward democratic governance by approving their Constitution and electing their representatives. Pictured are Jay Gaidmore, Marian and Alan McLeod Director of Special Collections; Dr. Chamberlain; and Katie Pelletier, associate director of William & Mary's Whole of Government Center of Excellence.



Highlights

NXT Mission – Afghan FTP Flourishing Cohort

From July 14-16, the W&M MILVET team hosted a cohort of women veterans of both the US Special Operations Community as well as the Afghan Army's Female Tactical Platoon. Ten Afghan women and seven American women participated in a 3-day transition workshop that focused on forming professional relationships, value alignment, self-care, wellness, and resilience. Led by a combined effort between the Center for Military Transition and the Whole of Government Center of Excellence, the program was taught in both English and Dari. The core of the program was shaped by W&M's innovative approach to transition support and veteran empowerment. The cohort was made possible through NXT Mission, a newly established nonprofit dedicated to educating, advocating for, and connecting with on Afghan military partners residing in both the United States and Afghanistan. Significantly, the collaboration between W&M and NXT Mission has grown out of a series of events that have occurred over the past year.

Participants engaged in a wide variety of discussions and learning activities that focused on fostering their physical and mental wellness, relationship-building, and the development of other-centric leadership skills. Professor David Long, of W&M's Raymond A. Mason School of Business and Dr. Kelly Crace, of the University of Virginia's Center for Contemplative Science were the primary instructors. Eman Blair, the SVP for Technology Advancement of PenFed Credit Union as well as James Schenck, PenFed's CEO provided deeply moving and inspiring remarks as guest speakers.



Highlights

W&M MILVET Welcomes SkillBridge Intern MSG Tonya Franklin



William & Mary Military and Veteran Affairs is honored to welcome Master Sergeant Tonya Franklin as our third intern through the Department of Defense SkillBridge Program. SkillBridge provides active-duty service members within 180 days of separation the opportunity to gain valuable civilian work experience through internships with organizations like ours, supporting their transition into post-military careers.

MSG Tonya Franklin, originally from Chesapeake, Virginia, entered military service in January 2003. She completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Virginia, where she was awarded the MOS Petroleum Supply Specialist (92F). In 2011, she was awarded the MOS Unit Supply Specialist (92Y).

MSG Franklin has held numerous positions throughout her 22-year Army career, including Petroleum Supply Specialist, Team Leader, Squad Leader, Section Chief, Unit Supply Clerk, Unit Supply NCOIC, S4 NCOIC, Brigade PBO NCOIC, Platoon Sergeant, Senior Supply Sergeant, Executive Administrative Assistant, Program Manager, and currently serves as Chief Instructor for the Logistics Training Department at Fort Lee, Virginia.

Her previous unit assignments include: Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia; 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas; 4th Regiment, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; 15th Sustainment Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas; 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado; and 58th Quartermaster Company, 240th Quartermaster Battalion, Fort Lee, Virginia. She completed two combat tours in Iraq.

MSG Franklin holds a Master of Business Administration in Logistics Science and a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Her military education includes: Common Faculty Development Instructor Course, Master Leaders Course, Senior Leaders Course, Advance Leaders Course, Basic Leaders Course, Battle Staff Course, Master Resilience Trainer Course, Equal Opportunity Leaders Course, SHARP, Joint Logistics Course, Property Book Unit Supply-Enhanced (PBUSE), Global Combat Support System-Army (GCSS-A), and Combat Life Saver Course.

Her awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (5 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Good Conduct Medal (7th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (2 Bronze Service Stars), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (Numeral 4), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (Numeral 2), and the Order of Saint Martin Award.

MSG Franklin is married to SFC (Ret.) Dewong L. Franklin. They have two sons, Branton and Shamar, who both currently serve in the Armed Forces, and one daughter, Aniyah, who is a rising high school senior.

If you or someone you know is interested in interning at William & Mary through the SkillBridge Program, please contact wmvet@wm.edu.

W&M Whole of Government Center of Excellence

London Workshop & Alumni Reception



On June 17, participants met at Bush House in London for “The Implications of Military R&D in Key Emerging and Disruptive Technologies for Transatlantic Cooperation,” funded by a grant from U.S. Mission to NATO. Throughout the one-day workshop, attendees took part in panels and breakout groups to identify opportunities and collaboration for effective Transatlantic military cooperation.

On June 16, the Reves Center for International Studies and the Whole of Government Center of Excellence hosted a reception in London for William & Mary alumni. It was incredible connecting with alumni in the UK and celebrating global engagement at William & Mary.

NATO Academic Conference 2025

The Whole of Government Center of Excellence and W&M Military & Veteran Affairs were proud to see Dr. Trenton W. Ford, Assistant Professor of Data Science, selected as a distinguished speaker for the NATO Academic Conference 2025 held from June 30 to July 1 at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London, UK. This year’s conference, co-organized with the University of Cambridge Centre for Geopolitics, focused on the theme, “Navigating the Impact of Technology on 21st Century Geopolitics.” Professor Ford was specifically asked to share his insights during Session 2, “The Impact of Social Media on the Resilience of Society.”



Internships

WGC Summer Internships are in Full Swing! This summer, the Whole of Government Center of Excellence (WGC) is proud to support over 50 students interning in the defense community. Thanks to a grant from the Department of Education, the WGC National Security Internship Program (NSIP) has been able to provide over \$85,000 in stipends to 35 eligible students, ensuring they have the funding to participate in these opportunities.

W&M students are gaining hands-on experience both locally in Hampton Roads and around the world at combatant commands such as USEUCOM and USAFRICOM in Stuttgart, Germany; USINDOPACOM in Honolulu, Hawaii; and USSOUTHCOM outside of Miami, Florida. WGC has supported internship programs this summer at Headquarters Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, including those selected through the DOD VICEROY cyber development pathway program. W&M students are also participating in internships this summer with the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command G-2 and Mad Scientist Initiative, the U.S. Army War College, and the CYBER FORTRESS joint interagency cybersecurity exercise.

Fall 2025 Joint Forces Staff College Internship Program, Norfolk, VA: Students may now apply for the Fall 2025 Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC) Internship Program in Norfolk, VA. Interns will develop wargames with the Joint and Combined Warfighting School, support institutional effectiveness initiatives with the Institutional Research, Assessment, and Accreditation Division, design with the Instructional Services Division, and work with the Center for Applied Strategic Learning to inform scenario development and assist, draft and support a realistic, data-informed wargame. Visit TribeCareers or contact wgc@wm.edu for more information.



Save the Dates

Fireside Chat: "Global Action, Local Change: How Small Island Nations Are Shaping a Sustainable Future."

September 4: Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, Ambassador of Maldives to the United States, will take part in a fireside chat with Dr. Sarah Stafford, CSX Professor of Economics and Public Policy, William & Mary, entitled "Global Action, Local Change: How Small Island Nations Are Shaping a Sustainable Future." The event, sponsored by the Reves Center for International Studies, VIMS, and the Whole of Government Center of Excellence, will take place at 5:00pm in the Ewell Hall Theater (Ewell 107).

Military & Veteran Alumni Homecoming Breakfast

October 18: Homecoming Military & Veteran Breakfast, hosted by the Association of 1775 and W&M MILVET Reconnect with fellow military-connected alumni, enjoy a warm breakfast, and hear from a special guest speaker (TBD). Whether you're returning to campus or connecting for the first time, this event is a meaningful way to celebrate community and shared service. Location and RSVP details coming soon

Military Appreciation Football Tailgate & Game

November 1: Tailgate with William & Mary's Association of 1775, Military & Veteran Affairs, and Army and Naval ROTC before the Tribe takes on UAlbany. The Military Appreciation Game Tailgate will begin at 12:30 pm on the Alumni House Lawn.

Admission is free for current military and veteran students and \$20 for others. Admission includes tail gate appetizers, beer and non-alcoholic drinks. Registration required and will open soon! Tickets to the 15th annual Military Appreciation Game, which begins at 3:30p.m., must be purchased separately.

U.S. Army TRADOC Mad Scientist

November 5th: Whole of Government Center of Excellence will co-host an event with U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's Mad Scientist Initiative. The "Great Power Competition and Conflict in an Age of Authoritarian Collusion" event will be held virtually and at the Sadler Center. Stay tuned for more information and how to engage.



Click the icons to follow and stay up to date on all things W&M Military & Veteran Affairs!