WILLIAM & MARY

MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Dear Friends,

With the dawning of 2026, William & Mary has embarked on a celebration of America's 250th anniversary and our own "Year of Civic Leadership." Military and veteran students at William & Mary as well as their families have served, are serving, and will continue to serve critical roles in the establishment, defense and support of U.S. democracy. In the 1770's, William & Mary students put down their quills and marched off to fight, serving and then returning as some of the nation's first military and veteran students. Today, more than 1600 military-connected students are enrolled at William & Mary where they pursue fact-based knowledge, research, and dialogue.

The Military & Veteran Affairs team is here to support them and provide an anchor to ensure they are prepared to meet and contribute to the challenges of our time.

This winter season offers a moment to reflect on service, continuity, and responsibility. January included several meaningful moments for our team. Inside the newsletter, you'll see we celebrated the commissioning of three Army ROTC cadets as they took the oath of service. Our staff and students represented William & Mary at the Student Veterans of America National Conference in Colorado Springs. We also gathered for a Tribe basketball game, an afternoon made possible by alumni and friends whose generous support created space for connection among military-connected students, families, and campus leaders. Programs and student support are integral parts of our core mission, and we couldn't execute them without you. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Looking ahead, we will host the Military Appreciation Basketball Game Feb 26, the Hail and Farewell for Military and Veteran Students May 12, and the Empowering Military Spouse Symposium June 5.

As we look to warmer days and to One Tribe One Day on April 29, I invite you to stay involved and connected to this work.

Go Tribe,

Kathleen T. Jabs
Special Assistant to the President for Military & Veteran Affairs

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Highlights

Student Veterans of America National Conference

William & Mary sent six military-connected students to the 18th Annual Student Veterans of America National Conference in Colorado Spring. They participated in sessions on mental health and career planning, connected with employers and peer institutions, and accessed resources such as an on-site VA Claims Clinic. Their attendance was made possible through the generous support of the Lonnie Philpott Semper Fi Fund.

MILVET Workin on Strengthening Student Veteran Success

In partnership with Columbia University's Center for Veteran Transition and Integration, the Center for Military Transition (CMT) and the Office of Student Veteran Engagement (OSVE) contributed to a national series of discussions examining how colleges and universities can better evaluate and strengthen support systems for student veterans through internal auditing and continuous improvement practices.

JD Due, Executive Director of CMT, and Charlie Foster '17, M.Ed., Director of OSVE, shared William & Mary's approach during both a LinkedIn Live session and at the Student Veterans of America National Conference in January 2026.

These engagements underscore William & Mary's growing role as a national leader in advancing innovative, evidence-based programs that empower student veterans to thrive on campus and beyond.

Highlights

Salute to Military Spouses Launches MILVET's 250th Commemoration—Honoring the Past, Empowering the Future

On January 13, William & Mary's Military & Veteran Affairs team welcomed nearly 50 military spouses to campus for Saluting Military Spouses: Empowering Legacies, the signature kickoff to MILVET's 250th commemoration series celebrating both the historic contributions and future leadership of military spouses. In partnership with Strategic Cultural Partnerships, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and the Hampton Roads Workforce Council, participants explored the Wren Building with insights from Charles Fulcher and viewed military spouse–focused archival materials with Dave Wall at William & Mary Libraries. A panel moderated by Kathleen Jabs featured Lindsay Blount Ed.D. '24, Maureen Elgersman Lee, and Zarchay Price, followed by a collaborative art experience led by Steve Prince. The day created meaningful space to honor spouses' legacy over the past 250 years while empowering them to shape the next chapter of civic leadership and community impact.

MILVET Community Together for Tribe Game

On January 24, more than 60 military-connected students and their families gathered in Kaplan Arena's Baseline Club to cheer on William & Mary men's basketball as the Tribe secured an 89–82 win over Hofstra University. The afternoon created space for connection and community, with students engaging alongside campus leaders including President Katherine Rowe and Board of Visitors members Ardine Williams and Steve Heubner, '76, P '09. Special thanks to Advisory Board member Fred Caprio,'85 for his vision and leadership in launching this successful inaugural event.

Highlights

Three Cadets Commissioned as U.S. Army Officers at Winter Ceremony

On January 16, William & Mary's Winter Commissioning Ceremony honored three Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets as they commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. Pictured below from left to right: Jackson de Vallance '25, Caleb Foung '25, and Roman Gormley '25. Attendees included President Katherine Rowe, Major General (Retired) Walt Davis, Class of '79, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Billmann, Professor of Military Science, along with university staff, faculty, and family members. As proud graduates of William & Mary, these newly commissioned officers carry forward the values and education of this distinguished institution as they begin service in one of the nation's highest callings.

MILVET's Lindsay Blount, Ed.D. '24 Promoted to Senior Director of Outreach & Engagement

William & Mary Military & Veteran Affairs is pleased to share that Lindsay Blount, Ed.D.,'24 has been promoted to Senior Director of Outreach & Engagement. Over the past several years, Lindsay has helped expand MILVET's reach and impact by cultivating strategic partnerships, leading high-impact programs for military-connected students and families, and strengthening the university's role as a national convener in the military and veteran space. In her expanded role, she will continue advancing MILVET's mission through deeper community, philanthropic, and corporate engagement while amplifying programs that empower service members, veterans, spouses, and families. Please join us in congratulating Lindsay on this well-earned promotion.

W&M Whole of Government Center of Excellence

Director of the VICEROY Initiative visits W&M

On December 15, Mr. Chester "CJ" Maciag, Director for Cyber Spectrum Academic Engagement within the Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, spoke with W&M VICEROY Scholars Anne Kredell '26, and Elijah Gilliam '27, W&M Vice Provost for Research Dr. Alyson Wilson, and representatives from the Whole of Government Center of Excellence, the Office of Military & Veterans Affairs, and the School of Computing, Data Science and Physics to talk about our shared values and solving today's technology problems. At the meeting, Mr. Maciag announced that W&M has been chosen to host the 2026 VICEROY Symposium, which will be held from April 14-16, 2026. Students interested in learning more about the W&M VICEROY Scholars program can contact wgc@wm.edu.

Great Power Competition & Conflict in the Age of Authoritarian Collusion

Neither a government shutdown nor a winter storm could stop the Army Mad Scientist Initiative and W&M Whole of Government Center of Excellence from collaborating to host a successful event on Great Power Competition & Conflict in the Age of Authoritarian Collusion. On January 27, over 150 virtual guests attended the all-day event featuring a W&M Welcome from Vice Provost for Research Dr. Alyson Wilson, W&M faculty adn staff panel moderators, and W&M student panelists, along with analysts from the Army's Transformation & Training Command (T2COM) G-2, other military commands, and research institutes. The event explored the Operational Environment implications of emerging trends from contemporary conflicts and proxy wars, as well as expanding adversarial influence and presence in the Global South and polar regions, through the lens of authoritarian collusion.

W&M panel participants included: Kathleen Jabs, Special Assistant to the President for Military & Veteran Affairs; Eric Brown, Senior Research Scientist, Global Research Institute; Dr. Dan Maliniak, Associate Professor and Director, International Relations Program, Department of Government; Dr. Donglai Gong, Associate Professor, Virginia Institute of Marine Science; Luke Miller, Director, Wargaming Lab, International Relations and Economics Student; Eileen Ackley, Government Student; and Elisabeth Nielsen, WMGIC Co-President and International Relations and Public Policy Student.

U.S. European Command Interns Selected

The Whole of Government Center of Excellence is excited to announce that seven William & Mary students have been selected to intern at Headquarters U.S. European Command (EUCOM) during summer 2026. Nathan Birdwell ’27, Dylan Burkhardt ’27, Camilla McKinney-Forbes ’27, Luke Miller ’27, Robert Mollan ’28, Sarah Porter ’27, and Ted Van de Verg, ’27 will spend eight weeks interning with various directorates at U.S. EUCOM Headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. Eligible students will receive a stipend through the WGC National Security Internship Program to help offset travel and living costs associated with the internship.

Summer 2026 Navy Heritage and History Command Internship

The Whole of Government Center of Excellence (WGC) invites junior and senior undergraduates and graduate students to apply for the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) summer 2026 internships. NHHC, located in Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., is an Echelon II command that serves as the institutional memory of the U.S. Navy. In-person internships are available within the NHHC Archives or Histories branches. Archives interns will support the collection, preservation, and protection of official records and historically significant documents of the U.S. Navy, while Histories interns will assist with projects that preserve the institutional lesson of the U.S. Navy and experiences of individual Sailors. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through February 28, 2026. Details and eligibility requirements are available on TribeCareers and Handshake.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens and have an active security clearance. WGC National Security Internship Program funding is available for eligible students returning to W&M in Fall 2026. Questions? Contact wgc@wm.edu.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF 1775

CHARLES R. BOWERY, JR., '92, SES

On Friday, January 23, the Association of 1775 (Ao75) and the William & Mary military and veterans community braved the oncoming winter storm to recognize and celebrate our graduating Army ROTC cadets who will commission as 2nd Lieutenants in the spring. The Association of 1775 is proud to conduct this meaningful event each year as we continue to develop our network of military and civil service alumni, student veterans, Army ROTC cadets, and Navy ROTC midshipmen.

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In the coming year, the Ao75 will continue to move forward with our vision of an affinity group that is both Alumni Centered and Student Focused. As an alumni organization, we want to foster fellowship and collaboration among our military and civil service alumni, creating relationships that build on our shared experiences as servants of the United States and graduates of the Alma Mater of a Nation. But our true reason for being is our shared passion for supporting William & Mary students who wish to continue this tradition of service. We seek to build a university-wide membership of military and civil service alumni who will give of their time, expertise, connections, and financial resources to lift up cadets, midshipmen, student veterans, and other students who strive for careers in service to America.
Please stay tuned to this newsletter, the Alumni Magazine, and the W&M One Network for more opportunities to get involved with the Ao75.

Go Tribe!
Charles R. Bowery, Jr., '92, SES

Opportunities

Wanted! Players, Judges & Mentors: Support WGC Student Groups in 2026

Are you interested in engaging with W&M students? The Whole of Government Center of Excellence has three 2026 opportunities for you. On March 2, 2026, the undergraduate-led Wargaming Lab will run their annual exercise in Washington, D.C. This year's game, sponsored by the United States Space Force, focuses on space competition between the PRC and United States. If you would like to be a player at the Mar. 2 Wargaming Lab event, please complete the interest form here.

Wargaming Lab at William & Mary

Judges & Mentors Wanted! William & Mary Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC)

WMGIC
GLOBAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE

On April 9-10, 2026, the undergraduate-led William & Mary Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC) will partner with the Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN) for a Tech for Change Hackathon to develop technology-based solutions for pressing environmental challenges. Competitors will be undergraduate students from across the United States and abroad. To serve as a WMGIC PIT-UN April Hackathon virtual judge or mentor, please fill out the form here.

On October 30, 2026, WMGIC will partner with NATO ACT for the latest iteration of its undergraduate challenge for the NATO Alliance and Partner Nations, this time on the topic of deterrence. To serve as a WMGIC x NATO ACT virtual judge or mentor in October, please complete the interest form here.
Thank you for your support and please share these opportunities with colleagues who may be interested to participate! Contact wgc@wm.edu with any questions.

Veterans Benefits Clinic Launches Advanced Course Offering for Students

Beginning in the Spring 2026 semester, the Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic has launched an advanced course offering for students who have completed a semester in the Clinic and wish to continue advocating for veterans. In Veterans Benefits Clinic II, students have the opportunity to represent disabled veterans in federal court in appealing denied claims. Advanced course students also engage in advocacy projects, such as researching veterans' law and policy or submitting briefs in support of veterans seeking appellate review before the U.S. Supreme Court. Veterans Benefits Clinic II students also lead outreach initiatives targeted to the local and regional veterans' community. Outreach events are currently being planned in collaboration with the Chesapeake Public Library and local homeless veterans' shelters to offer free legal advice and information to Hampton Roads veterans. For additional information, please contact Professor Zachary Outzen (zroutzen@wm.edu).