

May 2012

WILLIAMSBURG'S

Next Door Neighbors®

VOL. 6, ISSUE 5

PRICELESS

Discovering the people who call Williamsburg home

Campus Life

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BUSINESS

Jamie Clark

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I expect all of us drive past the campus of William and Mary at one time or another during our travels. If we aren't a student or don't work there, or don't have a family or friend associated with the college, we may not have a full appreciation for our esteemed institution. I hope this issue helps remedy that.

I'm always amazed at the stories we get from the individuals we interview. I'm often asked how we find such caring and interesting people. There is no formula for that. Truthfully, I'm flying by the seat of my pants on that one. However, I have realized something from doing this for over five years: Our community is blessed with folks who have good stories to tell.

There are certainly some great ones from William and Mary. Take Katie Kaugers, for example. I met her on the 4th floor of Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center this past October where I was recovering from minor surgery. She introduced herself as a volunteer - her first day at the hospital - and a student at William and Mary. We talked only briefly, and I really didn't learn much about her. She had a nice smile and seemed excited about life and I liked that. We talked long enough for me to get her name and contact information. I knew I wanted to interview a couple of students for this issue so I put her on my list. Who knew? What a bright and ambitious person this young woman is! I hope you enjoy her story and those of other equally inspiring neighbors associated with William and Mary. [NDN](#)



Meredith Collins, Publisher

Inside

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 3. Dr. Michael Halleran | 29. Tressell Carter |
| 6. Frank Leoni | 32. Travis Millner |
| 8. Dr. James Stronge | 37. Jamie Clark |
| 12. Molly Bulman | 40. Eric Dutt |
| 16. Dr. Ginger Ambler | 43. Wendy Craighill |
| 20. Jeff Herrick | 46. Cary Garnet |
| 23. Katie Kaugers | 49. Barbara Luck |
| 26. Dr. Kitty Preston | 52. Hey Neighbor! |

CORRECTION: On page 53 of the April 2012 issue of Next Door Neighbors we brought you a story about Jeff Ade called "The Tell Tale Clock". I inadvertently edited the name of his business out of the story. I apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused readers. The business is Dovetail Antiques located in the Gallery Shops at 6588 Richmond Rd.

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DR. MICHAEL HALLERAN

Pleased to be Provost

By Natalie Miller Moore

Williamsburg is full of beautiful homes. When you are the Provost of The College of William and Mary, the chief academic officer for one of the most prestigious and history-rich educational institutions in the country, your home is not only beautiful, it is also rich in history. That could not be any more to the liking of Dr. Michael Halleran, Provost of the College of William and Mary since 2009.

Dr. Halleran loves history and is eminently happy living and working in two of the oldest buildings in the area. These aren't just your typical aging buildings, either. They are the Brafferton Building, built in 1723 and the second oldest building at the College William and Mary, and the Ludwell-Paradise house, built in 1753 and the very first building obtained by Dr. W.A.R. Goodwin and John D. Rockefeller Jr. when they undertook the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg. For an educator who obtained his Ph.D. in the classics and is perfectly at home surrounded by the past, they are an appropriate perk.

Situated about a mile apart from each other, the two buildings are also well suited to sup-



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

port Dr. Halleran's favorite form of exercise: walking. He walks to work, keeping him fit while at the same time helping him stay on top of what's going on in the Historic Area and on campus.

"I don't know that I'll have the opportunity

again, to walk from one 18th-century structure to another every day," Dr. Halleran says.

Having moved to Williamsburg just three years ago, he appreciates the uniqueness of this town.

"I love history, and the history here is not trivial. It really influenced the history of America," he says. "You can't go back in time but Colonial Williamsburg does an amazing job of recreating the 18th century."

His office at the College of William and Mary in the Brafferton Building stretches the width of the building, with a large stone fireplace and lots of bookshelves. The office also comes with unique views; one set of windows face Jamestown Road approaching College Corner, and the other set offers a view of the green facing the Wren building - the oldest building on the William and Mary campus.

Dr. Halleran was born in Manhattan and educated at Kenyon College in

Ohio. He attended Harvard where he earned his Master's Degree and Ph.D. With Harvard as the oldest institute of higher learning in the United States and William and Mary the second oldest, Dr. Halleran knows he is fortunate to have been part of two very unique and dis-

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We all know that qualified retirement plans (401(K), 403(b), pensions, IRAs) are important ways to save for retirement because they are funded with pre-income tax dollars. The earnings made on these funds are also exempt from Federal and State income tax until withdrawn. This can provide years of compounding tax-deferred dollars which will result in increased retirement savings and greater wealth accumulation for you and, later, for your children and grandchildren.

Even though retirement plans are excellent income tax deferral savings vehicles while alive, without the “right” beneficiary designation, retirement plans (including traditional IRAs) can result in unnecessary taxes at death because of the interplay of Income and Estate Tax Laws that govern them. In fact, retirement plan account values can experience substantial shrinkage (60%+) at death if you have a sizeable amount in retirement plans and your estate is large enough to pay Estate Taxes.

Qualified Retirement Plans and IRAs are contractual agreements that allow you to name the person(s), charity(ies), or trust that will receive plan benefits at your death by a “Beneficiary Designation” form provided by the company or IRA Custodian. It is critically important that beneficiaries be coordinated with your estate plan documents and the beneficiary form be correctly completed by you or your financial advisor.

There are **FIVE** options to consider when naming your Primary and Secondary beneficiaries: spouse, trust, estate, individual (children or grandchildren), or charity. For greater detail, go to our website, www.ferrisandassociates.com, click Online Library, and look for the article, ***The Importance of Naming the “RIGHT” Beneficiary to Your Qualified Retirement Account.***

The question that is more often asked - “Can a revocable living trust be a proper beneficiary?” Since 2002, a “TRUST” that meets the IRS’s “Conduit Trust” rules can be a beneficiary of an IRA or other qualified retirement plan. Many families who have a Revocable Living Trust will name their trust as either the primary or the contingent beneficiary of their IRA depending on their family situation. Why? At death, the retirement plan or IRA account will be converted to an **INHERITED** IRA and acts as the “conduit” for the beneficiary of the trust, instead of being paid outright to the IRA beneficiary. This allows the IRA owner to control the distribution of such funds while allowing for the “stretch” of the income taxation of the IRA account over a greater period of time (usually the life expectancy of the oldest trust beneficiary). Just as important, an **inherited IRA remaining** in the trust will protect the funds from the beneficiary’s possible failed marriage, lawsuit, unwise spending or predators.

Whether an individual, charity or trust is the “beneficiary” of your retirement plan, the beneficiary designation form must be coordinated with your estate plan. And, always remember, the form should have both primary and secondary beneficiaries named to be sure your tax and non-tax goals are being achieved in your estate plan.

If you would like to learn more about how you can develop an Estate Plan to coordinate your beneficiary designations, please attend one of our educational workshops held in the boardroom of our Williamsburg law office or other locations on the Peninsula and Southside. For more information on these seminars, please call our office at (757) 220-8114, or visit www.ferrisandassociates.com for a schedule of our upcoming seminars.

tinguished communities.

“I’m delighted to have the chance to be at the two oldest universities. They are different. Harvard has a medical school and does a lot of stuff we don’t do. But I feel that the quality of the undergraduate education here is as good as Harvard,” he says.

Dr. Halleran’s advanced degrees are in classical languages and literature. He taught Greek, Latin, mythology, drama, and epic and intellectual history at the University of Washington in Seattle and the University of Miami before becoming William and Mary’s Provost.

He has a deep appreciation for the history of the town, the college, and the tourism industry. He had only been to the area once prior to working here when he visited Jamestown for its 350th anniversary as a 3 year old.

“It’s actually my earliest memory,” he muses.

The Provost position is not one that many people are familiar with, especially those who do not live and work within the academic arena.

“It’s the chief academic officer of a university, overseeing deans, libraries, admissions, and space allocation,” Dr. Halleran explains. “A good metaphor is that the President is the CEO and deals with external issues, while the Provost is sort of a COO, handling internal issues.”

Dr. Halleran’s schedule is definitely much like that of a COO and he spends his days in “many, many meetings.” His calendar is full of conferences with deans and directors, vice presidents and faculty leadership to discuss the business of the college, including communications, planning, budgeting, space allocation, and fund raising.

One of Dr. Halleran’s favorite duties is presenting “The Provost Award” to any athlete who maintains a grade point average of 3.5 or better. He said it is wonderful to recognize student-athletes and this year it was given to an impressive 81 students.

Dr. Halleran met his wife, Erin, when he was a senior in high school and her brother was his classmate. She’s been homeschooling their son for the past 4 years, plus helping him enrich that curriculum with online classes and science and math classes at Thomas Nelson Community College. She works in Williamsburg as a tutor and is active as a Master Gardener.

Even when he’s not busy with the business and social responsibilities of the Provost’s office, Dr. Halleran is constantly in motion. He likes to exercise and he just completed a half marathon with his son, Tom. He also likes to speed-walk at the local state parks or in town or hit the treadmill at the campus rec center.

As his advance degrees suggest, he is also an avid reader who enjoys biographies and both fiction and non-fiction; especially those about politics. Though he takes advantage of the easy and broad access offered by digital media he has a particular fondness for hard copy literature.

“I’m not an antiquarian, but I like physical books, especially newspapers in hard copy,” he says. When he’s not exercising or reading, he likes seeing films at the Kimball Theater.

Dr. Halleran enjoys a one-of-a-kind perspective on the city of Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary and he has embraced both enthusiastically. “There’s no public institution in the country that looks like us. The ones that look like us are private. We have an intense focus on student learning and we are doing leading research,” he explains, “and, this year is the 250th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson completing his studies here.”

As the fifth Provost at the second oldest academic institution in the United States, the history lover is on his way to becoming a part of the great university’s history himself. There’s a good chance that he could not be happier about it. NDN



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FRANK LEONI



A Thinking Man's Game

By Brandy Centolanza

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Frank Leoni has started his seventh season as head baseball coach for the College of William and Mary this spring, but some things still feel fresh to him; he's still discovering all that the historic college and the town have to offer.

"I really enjoy walking on campus, and every time I walk the campus I see something new," Leoni shares. "I really enjoy Williamsburg. I like the laid-back lifestyle here."

Leoni especially loves his second home at

Plumeri Park. "It's so neat to see little kids hanging out by the dugout calling out our players' names and asking them for their autographs," Leoni says. "It's a very special place. I felt like a kid in a candy store when I first came here. To be able to call Plumeri Park home is an amazing thing."

Baseball was engrained in him at an early age. "Any youngster who grows up in New England becomes either a Yankees fan or a Red Sox fan

early on," says Leoni, who grew up on the outskirts of Providence, Rhode Island. "I became a Red Sox fan, and was heavily influenced by that."

His older brothers and his father also helped Leoni develop a passion for baseball. He first picked up a bat and ball for a team when he was eight years old. "From then on it was all about baseball for me," he says. "I just loved the game."

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Leoni played shortstop through his childhood years. Like many young boys he dreamed of one day playing professional baseball and he approached the game with determination. "As far [back] as I can remember, I wanted to be a pro baseball player, so I set my life path on that," Leoni says.

He had much guidance along the way. During a summer high school league, his team's two coaches, Tony and Pete DiBiase, were influential. "They taught me so many things about baseball and about life," Leoni recalls. "They taught me how to play tough, play hard, how to accept the failure of the game and move on. They talked to me about every little facet of the game."

Leoni also credits his father, Leoni Sr., a restaurant owner, with instilling in him a strong work ethic.

"His work ethic was unbelievable," says Leoni. "He was hard on me, but he was also the guy who was there in the background watching me play baseball. He was always so proud and so encouraging."

Leoni's efforts earned him a place on the baseball team at the University of Rhode Island, but his skills would not take him to the next level. When the realization came that a career as a professional baseball player just wasn't in the cards, Leoni contemplated becoming a coach. He first toyed with the idea during his senior year of college when he assisted his own coach with infield practice.

"That's when I got a taste for really running things," Leoni says.

Leoni graduated from college with a Degree in Accounting and took a job in that field, but eventually decided it wasn't for him. He called his old coach to see about securing a job at the university as an assistant for the baseball team. Little did Leoni know that he would eventually become the head baseball coach, and, at age 23, the youngest coach in Division I, the top division in college sports.

He remained with the University of Rhode Island for the next 13 years. In 2005, Leoni made the difficult decision to leave the university, hoping to try his luck as a coach somewhere in the South, where the baseball season is longer thanks to the warmer climates. Leoni did some research and decided on the College of William and Mary as a possibility.

"William and Mary's program had always been one that I respected, one that I held in high regard, and I just felt it was a pretty good match," Leoni says. The college did too, and soon welcomed him aboard. The change thrilled Leoni. "William and Mary reminds me a lot of the Ivy League schools," says Leoni. "It's really an Ivy League school in disguise. I just love the history of William and Mary. I love the reputation of the school. It's a slice of Americana."

Leoni especially enjoys working with his players.

"I love the opportunity of working with a different caliber of student athletes here," he says. "It's very rewarding and challenging. Baseball is a very cerebral game. Baseball is a thinking man's game. Not only do I have to explain to them what I am doing, but why I am doing it. The kids here are just so bright and want to be able to understand why they are doing what they are doing."

Leoni's goal when he first arrived was to build a model baseball program in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Conference, a goal that remains.

"I love the direction that we are going, but it is just taking longer than I would have liked to get there," he says. He's determined, though, and appreciates the support of the fans, including more than 100 season ticket holders, as he and his players battle for the CAA conference championship.

"We have fans here that are just as passionate about our team as the Red Sox fans are about the Red Sox," says Leoni. "I really love the support that this community has for the program." NDN

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DR. JAMES STRONGE

Always a Teacher

By Linda Landreth Phelps

Dr. James Stronge is the wearer of many hats: teacher, mentor, respected researcher, prolific author, and world-traveling husband and father. He manages to wear all of them with ease and panache. After 22 successful years at the College of William and Mary, it appears that Dr. Stronge has found the perfect blend of academic activity, recreation, and family life.

Before he came to Williamsburg in August of 1989, Dr. Stronge spent six years in central Illinois teaching at Bradley University, but always knew he didn't want to stay there.

"I'm a Southern boy from Alabama, and I never adjusted to the climate in Illinois," he says. According to Dr. Stronge, the mean temperature was the same as Honolulu's, but only because of Illinois' wide fluctuations in tem-

perature from steamy hot to horribly cold. "In the winter I was convinced that nothing stood between us and the North Pole but a cornfield," Dr. Stronge says with a mental shudder. Dr. Stronge's wife, Terry, loved snowy Illinois but he was very happy to move on to Virginia and join the faculty at William and Mary, the second-oldest college in America. (As a point of pride, all Williamsburg residents should



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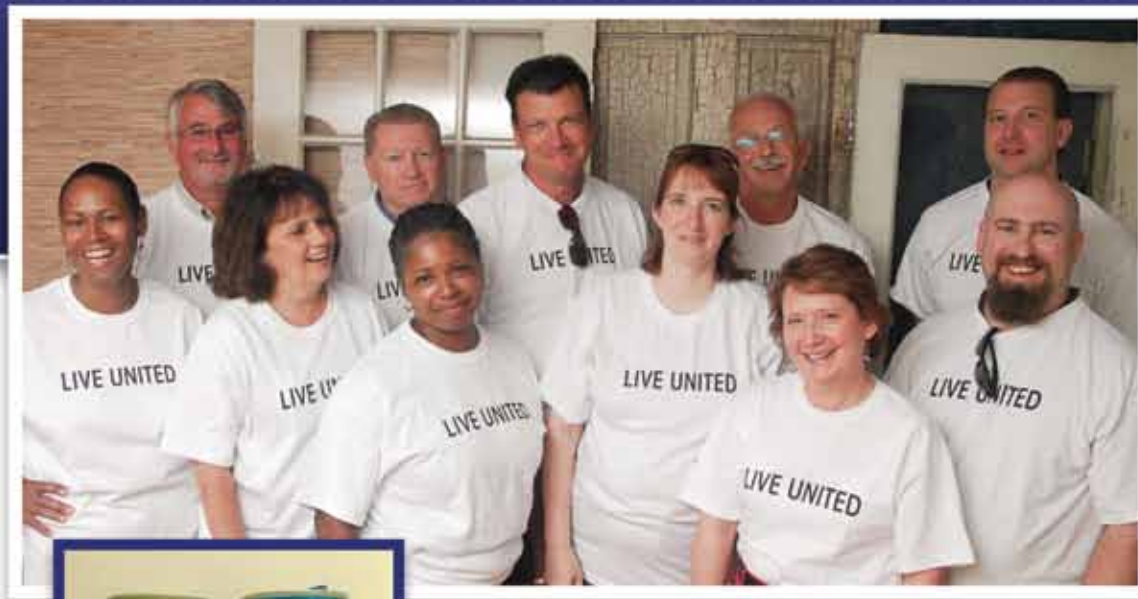
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know that original plans for the College date back to 1618 and predate Harvard by decades, but implementation was reportedly delayed by an Indian uprising.)

When Dr. Stronge came to William and Mary he found it to be a school walking a careful line between Public and Ivy. “We were in an old building, Jones Hall, not Colonial-old, just old and in need of renovation, but we made the most of the situation.” The administration and faculty were very supportive, and over the years the college gave him the latitude to make mistakes and grow into the position he now holds, Heritage Professor of Education, a distinguished professorship that he has been awarded multiple times.

One of the things he likes best is that his job is rarely predictable and repetitive, so he is almost never bored.

“My job is variable and entrepreneurial, and all the elements of it work synergistically,” Dr. Stronge says. “I stay busy.” That statement would be recognizable as a clear understatement with one quick look at his passport and calendar. Inside his passport you’d find countless stamps from all over the world, from South America to most major European destinations

and to China as well. He promotes and represents his college wherever he goes.

“It’s amazing and gratifying, but almost always there is someone who has a connection to William and Mary and who wants to talk about it,” he says.

When at home on campus, Dr. Stronge teaches Educational Policy, Planning and Leadership to masters and doctoral candidates who aspire to be school leaders, professors, and researchers in that area. “I like to find good talent, try to nurture it and then remain connected,” he says. “As a matter of fact, I was in Philadelphia not long ago, presenting a workshop with one of my former students.”

Part of his job is to teach four courses a year, but those courses change in nature, time and location. Many classes are late in the afternoon or evening, on weekends at the William and Mary campus or in Washington, D.C. Students fly or drive in for intense study sessions, with Dr. Stronge dealing with online instruction between class meeting times.

As a professor, there’s his classroom teaching responsibility which Dr. Stronge takes quite seriously, as well as an advisory role for his students. A third component of his job is public

speaking. Among many other such occasions, he recently addressed an international educators’ conference in Johannesburg, South Africa and gave a workshop for attendees.

“That’s teaching, too,” Dr. Stronge says, “just for a different clientele.”

Dr. Stronge could very well be at such a conference for several days, then back home to Williamsburg for faculty meetings, dissertation proposal meetings, or to work on a joint research project with the professor in the Anthropology department. Then he may respond to emails and scramble to catch a flight to speak at yet another conference.

William and Mary’s School of Education website stresses the international aspects of Dr. Stronge’s contributions to the college. It states:

Dr. Stronge is currently involved in three research projects, all of which relate to his research interest in teacher effectiveness. One study is an international comparison of national award-winning teachers, another is a project that compares U.S. and Chinese teacher beliefs and practices, and the third study examines national award-winning teachers who work with at-risk and highly-mobile students. An additional area of research that he is currently pursuing is teacher



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effectiveness and teacher evaluation in American schools in South America.

Dr. Stronge's recent keynote speech in Santiago, Chile, was on the topic of 'What Makes Good Teachers Good'."

Clearly, Dr. Stronge is busy accumulating quite a few Frequent Flier miles. That's a good thing, because he looks forward to occasions when his wife, Terry, and their adopted daughter, Sally, 7, travel with him when he goes abroad.

Terry was a Williamsburg elementary school teacher until she left to become a full time mom when Sally came home to them from China five years ago. Thanks to Terry's homeschooling, wife and daughter are both able to travel with Dr. Stronge when his duties take him to far-flung places. "Terry and Sally accompanied me to Johannesburg in March and we'll be going to London in May, so the world is now Sally's classroom."

The process of Sally's adoption took two long years once the decision was made to pursue that route. "We named her, prayed for her, and she was never out of our hearts from that moment on," Dr. Stronge says.

Mei Li, Sally's Chinese name meaning

"beautiful", was abandoned at just a few days old and she had never been out of the orphanage until the day she was brought to her new American parents' hotel room. Adopting Sally was one of the absolute best decisions they ever made, according to Dr. Stronge.

"She has changed our lives and brought immeasurable joy to our home," he says.

Dr. Stronge and Terry's grown children were completely enthusiastic about this addition to the family fold. Dr. Stronge says that his daughter Beth, a doctor, was the one whose encouragement provided the last small impetus necessary to make the decision to adopt from China. Their son, Tim and his wife, live in the D.C. area and also have a 7 year old, a son who is his Aunt Sally's built-in playmate.

Opening their home and hearts to their new daughter was beneficial for each of them in many different ways. Dr. Stronge and Terry found that becoming parents to a small child again had a rejuvenating effect. Keeping up with Sally takes a lot of energy, but Dr. Stronge feels they are up to that joyful task.

"When we adopted, we had friends who questioned our sanity, but we did what we thought was right for us. Age isn't irrelevant,

but it is relative, and having fun with Sally definitely helps keep us young."

Good health and remaining fit are priorities in Dr. Stronge's life. His myriad duties would exhaust someone who wasn't physically fit and active. Biking and walking around their neighborhood in Holly Hills with his family is a favorite way to get exercise. Terry still loves winter and snow, so when they're not traveling elsewhere, Dr. Stronge, Terry and Sally divide their time between their home here in Williamsburg and a rustic cabin in Maine where they get in some excellent skiing and hiking.

Being a good dad has a lot in common with teaching and mentoring. Both jobs have an element of imparting wisdom and require ongoing effort. In Dr. Stronge's case, it's a special pleasure for him to know that his students are carrying his own passion for excellence in teaching into the future.

Dr. Stronge is leading an exciting, busy, rewarding life which is productive on every level. It is a life he appreciates.

"I try to balance my responsibilities," Dr. Stronge says thoughtfully. "I want to make them good for my family, for me, and for William and Mary." NDN

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More Than an Education



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

By Narielle Living

Since 2005, William and Mary has been awarding the Monroe prize to students who have proven themselves to be community leaders and who demonstrate a high level of initiative and commitment in addressing the needs of society. In 2012, Molly Bul-

man, a senior at William and Mary, won this award for her work with Campus Kitchen.

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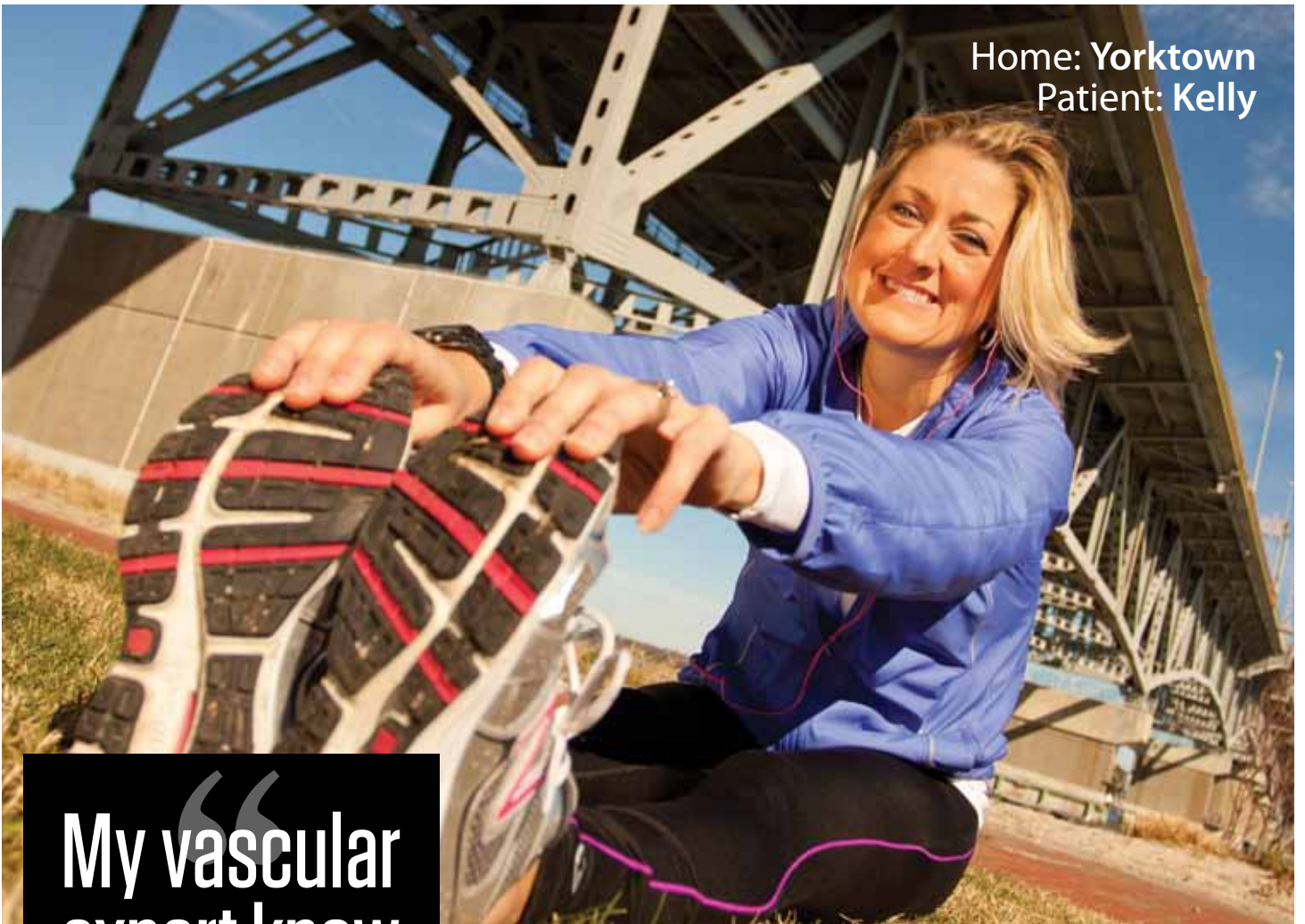
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many would expect need a food-based service, but Molly saw firsthand the positive effects of the program.

"I started working with this organization as a freshman," Molly says. "Campus Kitchen in Williamsburg is actually part of a national program, and we work on collecting food from various sources and delivering it to residents that may have a need for food." Campus Kitchen volunteers get food donations from area food businesses, and package them into healthy meals. Deliveries are brought to addresses provided by the Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

"It was difficult in the beginning," Molly recounts. "People were nervous about taking food from us, especially since it wasn't something they had specifically requested. It was hard for them to trust us at first." It wasn't until they paired the food delivery with a kids' after school program that it really took off.

"I think when the residents saw us interacting with their children in a positive way it made a big difference," Molly says. The program, Fun at Five, provides children with activities such as arts and crafts and various

sports.

Molly is somewhat nostalgic about her time at the college. A Public Policy major, she started her freshman year at William and Mary as a Sharpe Scholar, a program designed for students to integrate academics, research and community engagement. One of the goals of this program is to help students better understand public issues and promote social change. Molly's background made her uniquely suited for this type of program.

"My parents were always very involved in social issues. My Dad organized food drives, and my Mom is on the Board of the South Jersey Food Bank."

Originally from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Molly chose William and Mary because of the unique blend of small classes, interesting community and Southern culture. "There's definitely a Southern vibe here. Things are a little slower, but that's not a bad thing," she laughs. "Don't get me wrong, people are very driven here at William and Mary, and the smaller class sizes have worked out great for me." According to Molly, most of the people who work at or attend the college take education

by the reins, both in and out of the classroom.

One aspect of the culture at William and Mary that she has found so rewarding is the interactions with her professors. Because of the smaller class sizes, her instructors are able to take a more personal approach to learning, creating a very individual educational experience.

"All of my professors have been so great," she says. "They have made themselves available to me and all their students whenever we needed them, and sometimes they have hosted breakfasts or dinners for our classes, engaging us on all levels. It's been a very welcoming experience."

Another positive part of her four years on campus included joining a sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. The friendships she made there and the experiences she had were, in her own words, "Incredible. I'm going to miss everyone so much, and I am definitely planning on coming back for homecoming."

With a major in Public Policy and a minor in Finance, Molly has kept herself very active on campus. In addition to her studies and her work at Campus Kitchen, she has been

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involved in Student Assembly, fellowed for a class on civic participation, taught group fitness classes at the Rec Center and spent some time one summer working with a socially conscious private equity firm. Last summer she went to El Salvador to work on building a Habitat for Humanity house. Through it all, though, her time with Campus Kitchen has been the most rewarding to her.

“Running Campus Kitchen is a little like running a small business. We operate out of a church, and are constantly looking for volunteers to help. It has been an incredible four years here, and I feel very lucky to have been part of it,” she says.

Molly encourages others to get involved in the organization, stating that the non-profit is staffed by people of the community, not just William and Mary students.

“We have some volunteers that come in and work with us once a month, and some people work four times a month.” Shift times and opportunities can vary, allowing volunteers to work as their schedules allow. “It’s important to remember that Campus Kitchen is in service year-round,” Molly adds. “Students

might leave for winter breaks or summer vacations, but the program is still operational. We always need help.”

Molly’s advice to those who want to do some type of volunteer work yet haven’t found the opportunity or time is to jump in whenever they are ready.

“Lots of times students feel like if they didn’t start with an organization in their freshman year they can’t get into it later. That’s not true,” she insists. “Lots of people join groups later in their academic career. It takes all kinds of people to build and run a successful business, so don’t be afraid to step in and help in any way you can.”

For members of the community, she offers that in addition to the college campus organizations there are church and civic groups that are always looking for volunteers.

Upon graduation this spring, Molly will spend the summer at a residential camp for ten to eleven year olds, and will then move on to a permanent position with an IT company in Madison, Wisconsin. It’s a long way from both Virginia and her New Jersey home, but she’s ready for the change.

“I’m looking forward to the move, as I think it’s an exciting time politically to be in Wisconsin. But I’m also really looking forward to working with the kids this summer, which should be fun.” Her voice changes to a more wistful tone, as she adds, “I will absolutely miss being here.”

Eventually she’d like to go back to school to obtain a Master’s Degree in Urban City Planning, but that is a plan for the distant future. “Right now I’m going to spend as much time as I can enjoying what’s left of my college life.”

While reminiscing about her time on campus, it’s easy to hear the affection she has for the area. “I had high expectations of my college experience, and I honestly think this has been everything I had hoped for. I couldn’t have asked for more these past four years, and I have some really incredible memories of my time here.”

Molly insists that she is lucky to have been a part of the William and Mary experience.

“I’m sitting out here in the mild spring weather, getting ready to go to dinner with some great friends. What’s not to love about being here?” NDN



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DR. GINGER AMBLER

SUPPORTING STUDENT LEARNING

By Lillian Stevens



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

According to Dr. Ginger Ambler, a career in student affairs is probably not the kind of career children dream about when they are little. “No one is running around on the playground in elementary school saying: ‘I want to grow up and be a college administrator,’” Dr. Ambler says with a laugh.

It wasn't until she approached her own senior year at William and Mary that she took

a good, long look at the student affairs professionals working there.

“They were working so hard to create meaningful experiences for the students, and it dawned on me what a wonderful career that

would be,” Dr. Ambler says.

Sam Sadler, former vice president for student affairs, became a mentor and friend to

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the student who would later spend 17 years working with him and learning the craft. The young girl on the playground who wouldn't have dreamed of a career in higher education administration has found her niche doing exactly that.

"Ginger Ambler is a person of uncommon integrity and genuine intelligence," says Sadler. "She is a person who is able to look at the world based on a good understanding of her own values – and make decisions consistent with those values."

As the college's vice president for student affairs, Dr. Ambler is responsible for the coordination of student life policies, programs and activities in a division with 11 departments, and over 100 professional and operational staff, as well as a couple dozen graduate assistant/interns.

She finds great fulfillment in working with her staff.

"They are an incredibly creative, dedicated group of professionals and we share common values and a commitment to what this place should be," Dr. Ambler says. "It's really exciting to work together with them to try and bring those visions to reality because, ultimately, that's how we improve the student experience."

"We are here to support students' learning, and to promote their success and their development as whole people," Dr. Ambler explains.

She and her staff are committed to ensuring that William and Mary is an enriching, inclusive, and supportive community for all students, one in which students are actively learning both in and outside the classroom. Toward that end, their work takes on

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two primary dimensions: providing support to individual students – whether health care, counseling, academic support, leadership and career development, or personal fitness; and creating a strong sense of interconnection and community on campus – whether through student clubs and organizations, the honor system, cultural programs, recreational sports, residence hall living, or civic engagement.

Dr. Ambler served as a resident assistant (RA) when she was an undergraduate at the college she loves so much. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from William and Mary in the spring of 1988, and returned to her alma mater in August 1991 to embark on the career of her dreams. In between, she married, earned a master's degree and started a family.

By 2001, Dr. Ambler was named assistant vice president for student affairs, and in 2006 the mother of three defended her dissertation and earned a Ph.D. in Educational Policy, Planning and Leadership. She gives a lot of credit for her success to her family and the university community that has sustained her over the years.

"I had incredible support from my husband, my parents, my supervisor, and from my professors," Dr. Ambler says. "When you have the kind of support that I had – and when the people in your life are willing to recognize what you are trying to accomplish and give you the latitude to make that happen – anything is possible."

In 2008, Dr. Ambler's long-time supervisor and mentor (for whom the Sadler Center on campus is named) retired and she was appointed Interim Vice President. Twelve months later, the appointment became permanent.

Over the years, Dr. Ambler has seen many changes on campus. There are the physical differences, of course, and there is also an ever expanding array of opportunities for students. In 1988, for instance, the question was "are you going to study abroad?" Today, Dr. Ambler says that you're more likely to hear, "where are you going to study abroad?"

"There's also service abroad and research abroad. There's just no question that today's students are much more globally aware than we were in the 1980's," she says. "The world is

a smaller place."

Dr. Ambler believes that the focus on civic engagement has really improved the William and Mary experience for students because there is such a heightened sense of dedication to giving back. "Not that we didn't feel that in the eighties – but it certainly didn't manifest itself in the way that I see it now," she says.

"Students are increasingly taking on leadership roles for engaging both locally and internationally and investing substantial efforts in hopes of improving the human condition. That kind of engagement has become a hallmark of William and Mary."

According to Sam Sadler, Dr. Ambler's efforts at creating a caring sense of community, has become *her* hallmark.

"Ginger has a calm confidence and an ethic of caring – an instinctive and educated ability to create a strong sense of community," says Sadler. "At the same time, she isn't afraid to look at things differently – or challenge assumptions when necessary."

Not surprisingly, Dr. Ambler loves her interactions with students and considers it a privi-



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lege to talk with them one-on-one and counsel them when they aren't sure where to go. "If they can see me as a resource and as someone to whom they can turn for advice, that really fulfills me," she says.

On a lighter note, Dr. Ambler is sometimes invited to do totally fun and unusual things, and she relishes those times too.

"So far this year, I've been invited to be a judge for a comedy competition and a freshman hall's pie baking contest. Last week, I was asked by students to come hear their new bluegrass band perform. They call themselves the Ginger Ramblers, so you know I wouldn't dream of missing the show!"

To Dr. Ambler, William and Mary is a place of family for those who study or work there. It's also a place that is special to her family. In addition to her husband, Richard, who teaches Government and AP Economics at Jamestown High School – her sister, aunt, brother-in-law and sister-in-law are alumni.

"Also, Richard's grandfather and my grandmother are alumni," she says. "My grandmother was in the Class of 1939, so Home-

coming was always a blast when I was an undergraduate here. My friends and I would go out to the Woodlands and party with the Class of 1939!"

These days, when she's not working, Dr. Ambler can be found at her children's ball-games or music concerts. Their eldest son, a senior at Jamestown High, is captain of the baseball team there. Their daughter plays the harp and is the captain of her JV Soccer Team at Jamestown. The youngest, a student at Rawls Byrd Elementary, plays flag football.

When fall arrives, the Amblers will see their eldest son off to the University of Alabama, where he has earned an academic scholarship. But when Homecoming comes around, the couple will no doubt enjoy visiting with their fellow William and Mary alumni, especially the ones who graduated 40, 50 or even 60 years ago.

"They just love William and Mary," Dr. Ambler says. "And to see them and talk with them just reinforces that this really is a place that becomes a part of you for a lifetime." NDN

Next Door Neighbors

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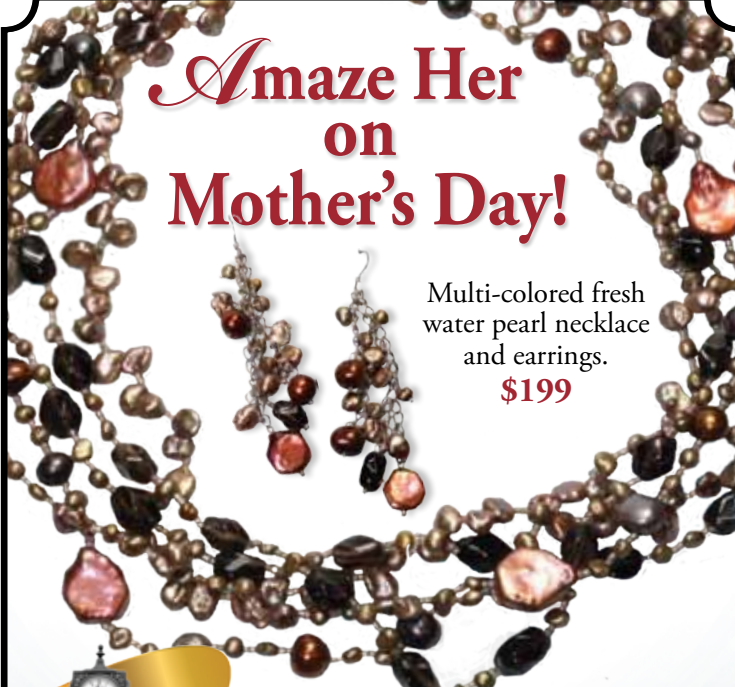
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JEFF HERRICK

TECH GUY

By Narielle Living

With a ready smile and an affable manner, Jeff Herrick is the kind of person that immediately puts others at ease. Charming and open, his friendliness and positive attitude are well suited to the position of Assistant Director for Technical Services at The College of William and Mary. With the multitude of performances and special events the college hosts, a calm demeanor and can-do attitude goes a long way toward keeping things on track.

Herrick never planned on a long term career with William and Mary; it somehow just happened. "I already had a job," he says, "and I really liked what I was doing. Then I got a call from a friend of mine that worked here and he asked me to help out in their technical services

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division.”

The funny thing is, Herrick almost said no. Because Herrick enjoyed the full time position he already had, he didn't want to risk losing that for a temporary gig at the college. Finally, he relented and told his friend he would help out, but it would only be for a little while.

“I came for the job and stayed for the students,” he says.

Herrick started his career twenty years ago in the Technical Services department, and during that time has provided a variety of support for special events, including Queen Elizabeth's visit in 2007. “There was a lot of organizing involved in that, but it was worth it, and memorable. The day after her visit there was a picture on the front page of the local newspaper of the Queen and my four year old daughter. My little girl was giving flowers to the Queen, and seeing that had to be one of the best moments I've ever had here.”

The fact that the college plays host to a variety of different programs is part of what keeps Herrick's job interesting. He has set up microphones and online streaming for sporting

events such as moonlight volleyball, croquet and golf; he's also been involved in concerts, plays, special lectures and classes. There's no shortage of events to keep him busy, and he finds this type of diversity very appealing.

“I've even done an underwater sound system for the synchronized swim team. They are an amazing group of athletes, and their performance is really great to watch,” he says.

One particular stage performance that stands out in Herrick's mind is a shadow puppet concert the college hosted. The music was performed by a *gamelan orchestra*, a musical ensemble from Indonesia. The shadow puppets in the show are called *wayang*, which is the word for traditional shadow puppet theater. Herrick described the evening as a beautiful experience, and he was grateful to have the opportunity to watch the characters come out onto the night stage and hear the strange and unusual music.

“I never knew I'd enjoy a shadow puppet concert,” Herrick says. “Where else can you be exposed to such unique experiences other than at college? That's pretty cool.”

Herrick is adamant that the college is full of things like the distinctive shadow puppet concert, wonderful and creative offerings that he wishes the outside community participated in more. “There are lots of events we have here that are great for families, like the Yule log ceremony we do right before Christmas break.” This traditional event takes place in the Wren Courtyard, where torches are placed to light the night and keep the crowd warm. There is live holiday music, readings of Christmas stories or poems and ending with a gathering in the Great Hall where participants toss sprigs of holly into the Yule log fire for good luck.

“My family comes to this event every year, and it's the best event! This is the one thing that really gets us into the spirit of the holidays,” he says.

Another favorite event for Herrick is the Opening Convocation, the event that officially welcomes new students. Speakers for this event are usually very interesting people, and in 2002 Herrick was excited to learn that David Brown would be the speaker. “I couldn't wait to hear him, with him being a William and Mary

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graduate and astronaut and everything.” During that speech David talked about the risks associated with his career, a speech that was both moving and eloquent. Just a few short months later, in February 2003, he and the flight crew perished in the space shuttle *Columbia*. Herrick is grateful to have heard what became one of David’s final speeches.

Events such as the Yule log ceremony, Opening Convocation, concerts and talks that are open to the general public can be found at the online calendar at William and Mary’s website. “There’s so much to do here, it would be great if the community were more aware of all the offerings,” Herrick says.

Another favorite for him was winter camping with the kinesiology department. For this, he videotaped the trip while walking backwards, sometimes downhill, on cross country skis. He also learned to create snow shelters, a technique he later used at home with his daughters during a particularly heavy snow storm a couple of years ago. “It was great,” he says laughing. “We got out there and built ourselves a snow shelter, and played in the yard.”

In the twenty years Herrick has been working at William and Mary, he’s seen a lot of technological change. Things have moved to becoming more web-based, with streaming options available. He has streamed some of the Business School’s economic forums, and all of the college’s basketball games are now streamed live online.

“There’s a fee you have to pay to watch it, but you can watch our games from anywhere in the world as long as you have internet access.”

With all this change, Herrick noted, there is more complexity to the equipment and people seem to need more of his services.

Herrick plans to continue to keep up with the available technology and incorporate new things for the staff and students.

“One of the things I’m working on being able to do is set up our television station for multiple camera shots. That would bring it to a whole different level.”

Currently he relies on around seven or eight student assistants throughout the year to help him run the department, but for the most part

he takes care of things himself.

Herrick’s hours vary, and he frequently works evenings and weekends. He tries to balance that with taking family time when he can. “It’s important to stop in life and spend time with your family,” he says. “I try to take the month of July off, so my wife and I can be together with the kids for a few weeks.”

There is one aspect of working on a college campus that is very difficult. “Losing a student, even if it was someone I didn’t know, it affects all of us. This is a small, tight knit community, so the loss of one is felt by everyone here,” he says.

It is clear that Herrick loves all aspects of his job. “I first came to William and Mary to help out, and had no intention of staying this long. But the experiences I’ve had here, and the experiences I’ve watched the students have, are amazing. I love that I’ve been able to be a small part of what happens here.”

Clearly, Herrick believes that education happens not only in the classroom, but on every level of campus life at the College of William and Mary. NDN



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Giving Back

KATIE KAUGERS

By Alison Johnson

When Katie Kaugers spots a four-leaf clover, she rarely keeps it for herself. She doesn't need any more of the good luck charms: she has found more than 100 since childhood. Somehow, Katie's eyes have always zeroed in on them in the midst of thousands of regu-

lar clovers. Her mother has a book at home stuffed with her daughter's finds.

These days, Katie will give the special clovers to friends at the College of William and Mary or, if she doesn't see anyone, leave them on benches for people to discover.

"I want to give luck to others now," says the 21-year-old junior, an aspiring doctor. "I have gotten enough myself."

Katie's four-leaf clover tale sums her up well: she knows how fortunate she is, and she feels strongly about giving back. Her community

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service efforts have included traveling to Nepal to deliver health care to rural communities, volunteering as a Spanish-English interpreter at Olde Towne Medical Center and tutoring students at Lafayette High School. She wants to become a doctor to help others and regularly reads medical and science articles outside of her required class work.

"I'm so privileged to go to a college like this," she says. "I get to wake up in a cushy dorm room, take a hot shower, get three meals a day and receive a great education. I don't ever want to take that for granted."

Many students at William and Mary are just like her, Katie says: "super nerdy," as she puts it, or hooked on certain subjects and activities – whether it's Russian novels or movies or ecology. "A lot of people here have something they're really passionate about," Katie says. "That's one of the things I love most about this school. You feel like you can really be yourself."

A neuroscience major with a minor in chemistry, Katie hopes to specialize in infectious diseases as a doctor. After college, she

plans to start a combined medical and doctoral program, which likely will keep her as a student until her early 30s. "Counting in residency, I figure I won't have to look for a job until I'm 32," she says with a laugh. Eventually, she can picture herself as a medical school professor and researcher as well as a practicing physician.

Katie, who grew up with an older brother in Richmond, Virginia comes by her love of medicine honestly. Her parents were both in dentistry; her late father was an oral pathologist and her mother a periodontist, or specialist in gum disease. Katie, an animal lover, wanted to be a veterinarian as a child but began to consider human medicine while in high school at the Collegiate School in Richmond, where she also ran cross country and worked onstage and backstage with the theater program.

On her first visit to William and Mary, Katie fell in love with the campus. "It looked so fresh and clean," she remembers. "I can't imagine a more beautiful place when the leaves turn shades of orange and gold in the fall."

Her favorite spot is a dock on Lake Matoaka: "You're surrounded by trees and water. It's always peaceful."

As a freshman at Opening Convocation, Katie felt another instant connection to her college as she and her classmates walked through the Wren Building toward Colonial Williamsburg – a march that ends when graduating seniors walk in the opposite direction and officially become alumni. "It's a great tradition that gives our education a sense of completion and fullness," she says.

Katie's schedule is often packed, but she manages with coffee – Aroma's coffeehouse is a favorite spot – an occasional lack of sleep and smart time management. "If you say, 'I have all day to do this essay,' it will take all day," she says. "If you say, 'I am going to finish an outline in one hour and write for two hours,' usually it will take three hours."

She also has named certain days of the week, like "MCAT Mondays", when she studies for medical school admission exams, and "Tutoring and Translating Tuesdays", when she's help-

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ing Lafayette students with math and volunteering at Olde Towne Medical Center, which treats uninsured patients. There, she draws on Spanish picked up in high school classes and on a church trip to Honduras, helping patients communicate and make appointments. She's already mastered plenty of medical terminology: "You just don't learn 'Pap smear' in high school Spanish." (For inquiring minds: prueba de Papanicolau.)

About seven hours a week, Katie works as a research assistant in a neuroendocrinology and physiology laboratory on campus, where, very basically, she is studying hormones and their effect on reproduction. She has spent hours hunched over a microscope, counting neurons in the brain tissue of mice. "It's not my life calling, but it's definitely great experience," she says.

Going to Nepal over spring break last year was another great experience. Katie was part of a medical service trip she helped create with several other students and advising professors after a friend and fellow student, a native of

Nepal, shared how violence in the South Asian state had destroyed many health centers. Poor families often had no access to medical care or not enough money for both food and medicine.

During the three-week trip, volunteers saw about 1,700 patients at a free medical camp; they also visited five hospitals, a medical school and Mount Everest. They rescued one tuberculosis patient whose family, terrified of catching the deadly infection, had put her in a barn to die. Katie hopes to go back to Nepal next year and add in more public health education, such as the importance of regular hand washing and prenatal care for pregnant women. "People were so grateful we were there," she says.

In her remaining time in college, Katie also wants to help start a mentoring program for struggling high school students and do more volunteering at Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center, where last year she helped patients feel more comfortable in their rooms.

"I've found that as I've been at William and

Mary, I've grown to appreciate my life outside academics more and place more of a value on the activities I do around campus," she says.

As for academics, the college's professors tend to be very accessible when students need to discuss class work and projects. Her favorite class so far has been virology, which inspired her to stay up late researching different viruses in medical journals. She also subscribes to a daily online science briefing. "Told you I'm super nerdy," she jokes.

To unwind, Katie hangs out with friends or runs down Duke of Gloucester Street.

"I love how you feel like you're going back in time when you see the interpreters," she says. She watches cheesy reality shows on MTV, along with the comedy "Modern Family" and some medical dramas. She imagines doing her graduate work in a big city with more nightlife, perhaps somewhere outside of Virginia.

If she ever feels stressed out, she might hit a clover patch. "It calms me down," she says. So check some benches if you want to get lucky too. NDN



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DR. KITTY PRESTON

WILLIAM AND MARY'S

Musicologist



By Lillian Stevens

Dr. Katherine Preston has been a member of the faculty of arts and sciences at William and Mary for the past 23 years. A musicologist by profession, she has taught classes ranging from Music of the Baroque and Classic Periods to Music and Film.

Growing up in Ohio, Dr. Preston always assumed that she'd attend college. Making a career as a teacher, however, was not a part of her vision. When she was an undergraduate

liberal arts student at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, she remembers a professor describing university teaching as the greatest job in the world. "My response,"

says Dr. Preston, "was that I didn't want to learn stuff just to teach it." She had no opposition, however, to learning.

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After graduating from Evergreen, she and her husband, Dan, moved to the Washington D.C. area in 1977. They both became graduate students at the University of Maryland - College Park, where she earned a Master's of Music degree in Musicology. Soon afterwards, while her husband pursued a Ph.D. in history at the University of Maryland, Dr. Preston entered the musicology program at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). She made a weekly commute from Maryland to New York, and earned her Ph.D. in Historical Musicology in 1989.

While finishing her dissertation, a friend who taught at William and Mary called and asked if she would like a one-semester job as a replacement for a retiree. A week after she finished her dissertation she found herself in a lecture hall in front of sixty students.

She laughs as she remembers her first day as a professor. "It was like jumping over the fence," she says. "One day I was a student, the next I was on the other side. I remember thinking, 'all these people are adults, and they have to do what I say!'"

She changed her mind about teaching at the college level, and today is a senior member of the faculty and an eminent scholar who holds an endowed chair.

The Department of Music at William and Mary offers a great variety of courses. "Most students who are in my classes are there because they want to be," says Dr. Preston. "Even in the big lecture classes, students have chosen the course. The only class I teach that is absolutely required is 'Problems and Methods in Music History'—but it is a topics course that is taught by different professors. Since it is offered every semester, students can choose which version they want to take."

Recruited to musicology by a professor in graduate school, Dr. Preston says that she embraced the subject because it allows her to knit together her interests in music, theatre, history, and writing. "I was always interested in the idea of connection," she says. "And I discovered that musicology was a discipline that is inherently interdisciplinary."

She has also always been interested in American music. "I remember taking piano lessons

as a child and once asking my teacher why she never gave me any compositions by Americans to study," she says. "Her response was, 'there aren't any,' which reflected a general American ignorance about our musical heritage. It's a notion which persists to this day." Dr. Preston hopes that her teaching (this semester one of her courses is Music in the United States), books and articles, and other professional activities (she is President of the Society for American Music, an international organization of music scholars), will help illuminate the rich musical heritage that all Americans share.

Speaking of misconceptions, those who work outside of the halls of academia might not know that professors' responsibilities extend far beyond the classroom. You could just as easily find Dr. Preston working at home as in her office, because - like many professors - she does much more than teach. University professors are expected to write books, referee journals, sit on dissertation committees, present papers at conferences, conduct research, and serve in varying capacities on many aca-

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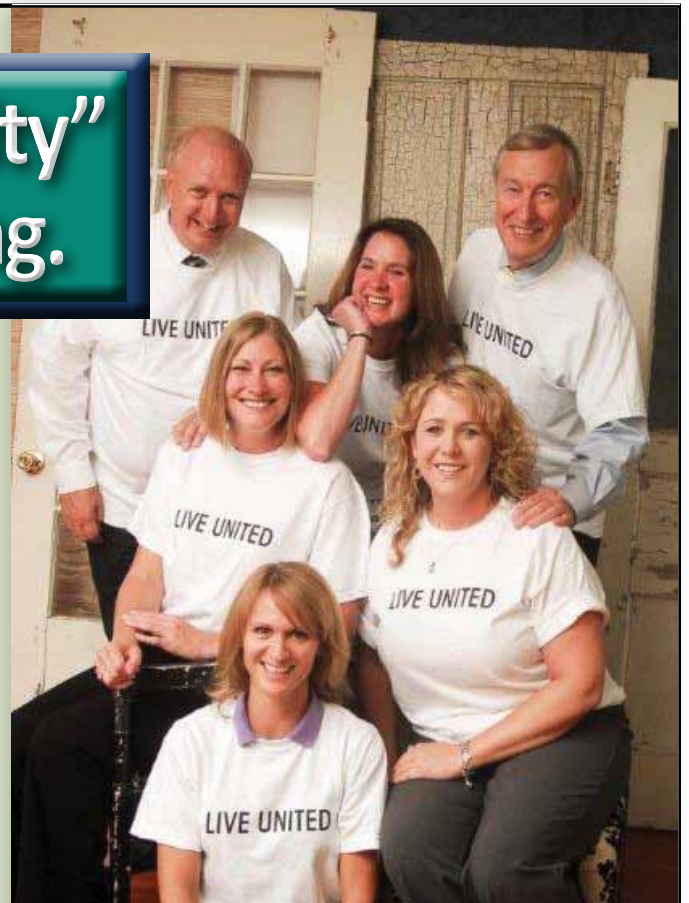
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democratic committees.

“College professors have a great deal of flexibility and freedom in terms of their time. But,” she points out with a laugh, “this usually just means that we work constantly.”

It is not uncommon, in fact, to see Dr. Preston out on her bicycle in the middle of the day. She loves the freedom of taking a ride in the afternoon as a break from writing, class preparation, or grading. “It’s one of the positives about being a professor,” she says. “But people who see me on my bike for an hour in the afternoon don’t see me at 1 or 2 o’clock in the morning, when I’m grading papers or preparing for tomorrow’s class by rereading lecture notes or assembling a PowerPoint presentation.” She continues, “I’d really like to dispel the notion that being a professor is a cushy job. We all work very hard.”

Still, it’s a job that she loves. She enjoys working with terrific dedicated faculty colleagues and with great students who are engaged and very bright. “And I like the fact that the administration at William and Mary is efficient and there aren’t multiple layers of

bureaucracy. When I was chair of the Department of Music, I could send an email to the dean or the Provost and get a quick response. In fact,” she adds, “I could do it right now.”

One downside to teaching in a highly selective college is the fact that the students are so driven to succeed. Dr. Preston would like to see her students relax a tad and take more classes just for the joy of learning. “College is a time that students will never have again - a chance to just expand horizons and revel in intellectual exploration,” she says. “I wish more students took advantage of the opportunity to do that.”

Her husband, Dan, (they met in high school and have been married for 40 years) is also a scholar. As Editor of the Papers of James Monroe at the University of Mary Washington, he commutes to Fredericksburg each week. Their son, Will, is finishing his senior year at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. “He will graduate in May with a degree in music and a minor in creative writing,” she explains. “He’s writing his senior thesis on a musicological topic, specifically a British indie rock band

called XTC. It’s so cool that Will is studying in my field,” she adds with a smile. “When he was at Walsingham taking AP Music Theory, he came home one day talking about dominant 7th chords and I realized that we had a shared vocabulary!”

The family loves to travel and has done so extensively; Dr. Preston has taught in England and in the Netherlands. She is also an avid cyclist who easily logs 5,000 miles each year on her bike, and is a charter member of the Washington Area Bicyclists.

“I’m not a racer, though,” she insists. “I’m not even interested in racing. I bike for fun. I’m a hard-core cyclist and a strong one, but I push so hard in everything else I do, so I don’t want to compete in my off-time.”

She also enjoys gardening, listening to music (classical, rock, or indie), photography, and taking in a good film every now and then.

“Sometimes,” she said, “I’d rather go to a movie than to a concert, since I’m immersed in music virtually all of the time! But I’m very lucky - we have a wonderful life.” **NDN**



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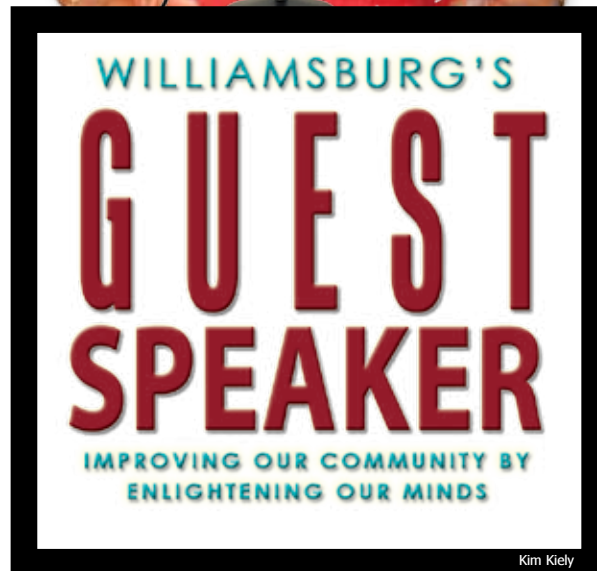
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TRESSELL CARTER

ON Colonial CASA



Tressell Carter, Executive Director of Colonial CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), says she has the best life ever.

"Thanks to my husband and two children," she adds. "My husband, Charles, and I will celebrate 28 years of marriage this September. We are proud of our two young men, Chas and Maurice, who are now off of our payroll!"

In addition to her family, Tressell's other standout accomplishments include her work.

"I have had the great opportunity to serve as public servant in both the nonprofit and government sectors. I had the privilege to contribute to the early success of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance and to serve in the Victims Services

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Department for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services."

She worked as a grant writer for the Historic Triangle Substance Abuse Coalition and the Director for James City County Neighborhood Connections.

"I feel totally blessed to have been in the company of so many great people who do extraordinary things on a daily basis on behalf of our vulnerable populations and the citizens of their community. This is certainly true of Colonial CASA's staff, advocates and board members."

When did you first become involved in Colonial CASA?

My first love is children. All of my life's work, and within my personal life, is propelled by my passion to have every child experience a childhood free of abuse and neglect. When the opportunity for Executive Director of CASA was

announced, a friend sent me the job description and said it was ideal for me. Indeed she was right. I immediately felt the connection to the work and the tremendous impact on the children's lives that Colonial CASA touches. Regardless of wherever life takes me, I will forever be a supporter of CASA and the many volunteers that care so deeply about CASA's children and mission.

What is the mission of Colonial CASA?

Colonial CASA's mission is to train community volunteers to serve as voices on behalf of abused and neglected children throughout local court system so that every abused and neglected child can be safe, establish home permanence and have the opportunity to thrive.

How did Colonial CASA become a reality in the Williamsburg area?

When Judge Hoover was appointed to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations (JDR) bench in Williamsburg/James City County, he was aware of the exceptional services National CASA provided, and he wanted the same services provided to citizens in his jurisdiction. To begin implementing a CASA program, Judge Hoover contacted community citizens for an advisory committee to research the possibility of implementing a program in Williamsburg and James City County. The committee quickly acknowledged that a program such as CASA would be a welcomed enhancement to our area and volunteered to serve as the first Board of Directors.

In 1995, Williamsburg and JCC provided an in-kind donation of office space. Judge Hoover and the Board of Directors quickly found an appropriate director. CASA opened its doors to the public.



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To date, we have trained over 200 volunteers. With their diverse backgrounds and experiences, each volunteer is able to conduct thorough research on the background of the case, review documents, interview interested parties involved in the child's life, and ultimately submit a written report that walks the judge through the life of the child. This includes recommendations on what he/she believes to be in the best interest of the child. CASA advocates can also be instrumental in assuring a family receives court ordered services. In 2011, CASA's advocates spent 5,752 hours volunteering to positively impact the lives of CASA's children.

What services are provided?

Colonial CASA's main goal is to provide training to community citizens to provide advocacy services to abused and neglected children. The training

we conduct is an intensive 46 hour training program that includes: panel interviews, court time and background checks. Upon completion of the training process, our volunteers are inducted by the judge and recognized as CASA advocates and officers of the court.

After the initial training and induction, advocates are assigned to a CASA case manager. The case manager supports and supervises advocates by providing case management and proficient guidance throughout the duration of each case. CASA staff offers training sessions throughout the year that enhance the advocates' knowledge base and provides them with the twelve hours of in-service training required to maintain their officers of the court status.

What is the "Do Something Blue" initiative?

April was National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. With reference to the blue ribbon, the symbol of this national effort, Colonial CASA has asked the community to "Do Something Blue" for abused and neglected children. Wear the blue ribbon and support Colonial CASA's mission of safety and home permanence for all children!

What are some personal experiences you have had that renew your commitment to Colonial CASA?

I am amazed beyond belief of the willingness of our volunteer advocates to share all of whom they are, time and talents, to serve as a voice for an abused and neglected child throughout the judicial process. Their undeniable commitment and passion to service on behalf of a child is one of the greatest gifts. NDN

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TRAVIS MILLNER

Age 48

"Nice to meet you," I say.

"The pleasure is all yours," Travis Millner says with a twinkle and a big smile.

Travis is a joker, a good-natured tease, and a deeply conservative man even by conservative standards. How that came to be is an interesting story that began in Stoney Mountain, Virginia, a tiny town snuggled up next to slightly larger Martinsville in the southwest part of the state.

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bootleggers and their textile and furniture industries," Travis says, "but Martinsville is better known for its NASCAR short track races now."

Stoney Mountain couldn't contain young Travis, and today he is a world-traveled retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant who moved to Williamsburg to start his second career. A recurring theme throughout his 48 years of life has been education, both secular and religious. He gives his grandmother, Pastor Almeda F. Millner, much credit for instilling his worldview, and feels that the pathway to his success in his chosen work and his sustaining Christian faith can be traced for the most part to her doorstep.

"Grandma was the mother of 11 children, the founder of Morning Star Holy Church, and her town's only female college-educated teacher," Travis says. Travis and his

siblings walked to church every Sunday, just 9 of the 35 grandchildren who came under Almeda's watchful gaze. She was very much in charge, whether they were sitting in a pew, at a desk, or at her kitchen table eating Aunt Dorothy's sweet potato pie. "Grandma was loving but strict, and she didn't hesitate to call you out from the pulpit if you misbehaved, but for the most part we were all respectful," Travis says.

His immediate family also had a profound influence in his young life.

"My mother, Annie Belle, was a wonderful example of a woman of heroic faith and would sacrifice anything for her kids," Travis says. When times were really hard, he remembers, Annie Belle would divide her own food among the children and go hungry herself.

Travis' dad worked hard for his family, but always had time for a joke or teasing.

"I guess that's where I picked it up," Travis says. Travis' grandfather labored in a furniture factory during the day, but he also had his own seasonal lawn mowing business. "For some reason, he picked me out of all the grandchildren to be his sidekick and helper," Travis says. "There were days when I'd rather have been off playing with my friends, but I know that's where I got my work ethic."

Lessons in hard work and team effort paid off when, despite their financial struggles, the majority of the children grew up to attend college. Travis' personal path to a 4-year degree took perseverance.

Throughout his early school years, Travis was great at sports, with a particular talent and love for football. He dreamed of playing professionally, and when he graduated he received some interesting offers, but that wasn't in Travis' future. (He had to wait

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more than 20 years to suit up and play with the big guys. But more about that later.)

"When I graduated from high school in 1981 I was making some bad decisions and [was] struggling. You know how kids are growing up; they tend to do their own thing." He eventually went to Patrick Henry Community College and played basketball - as a matter of fact, they won the championship both years he was there - but things weren't moving in the direction he wanted. Travis was restless, but had never been further away from home than visiting family in West Virginia. His friends who had joined the military would come back on leave full of colorful stories about all of their many adventures. In 1986, hungry for excitement and experience, Travis signed on to serve in the U.S. Air Force and left his home and family behind.

Over the ensuing years of his career, the

USAF provided Travis with dramatic adventure (Hurricane Andrew while at Homestead AFB) and international travel (from Guam to Lichtenstein) and a closely-knit extended family, something that was crucial to him when he became a single parent of pre-teens.

"When I was married," Travis recalls, "we were stationed in Tampa, Florida for about 10 years, and in all that time I never ran into anyone who was a single father. After my first wife and I divorced, our children stayed with me and I felt pretty alone and isolated. Then in 2002, we were transferred to Stuttgart, Germany, where - and this is how good God is - I found a group of four or five friends who were also raising their children as single dads."

While stationed overseas, Travis and his kids made the most of their tourist opportunities. They covered the continent thor-

oughly and lived off-base to get the full flavor and experience of the area. Travis' mother, Annie Belle, widowed and retired from her job as a textile worker, got the thrill of a lifetime when she visited her children and grandchildren in Germany.

"My mother had wanted to go to Paris since she was a little girl, and I got the blessing of seeing that dream come true," Travis says with a smile.

Over time, working on his degree whenever he had the time and opportunity while he was in the Air Force, Travis earned enough credits from Phoenix University to graduate from college. Travis now has retired from the military, moved to Williamsburg, and found a new career which is an extension of the educational training management he did while in the Air Force.

Travis' employer, Intelligent Decisions Systems, Inc. (IDS), is a business that has

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succeeded by creating innovative, cutting-edge, technology training programs.

"We focus on human capital and performance," Travis says. "In the military, everything revolves around the mission and what we need to get the mission accomplished. What I did then and do for IDSI now is train personnel to maximize their potential and help them acquire the knowledge and skill sets they need to perform their job well," Travis says. Travis has a real passion for this and feels

it's his calling in life to interact with people and push them to be the best that they can be.

"As I tell my students, Grandma always said, 'Good, better, best: Never let it rest until your good is better, and your better

is best.'"

In addition to his challenging and interesting new civilian career, Travis' personal

cally active. "I like working out," Travis says.

But something even better than healthy eating and exercise is surely contributing to his recent feelings of youthful wellbeing and happiness: Travis has found love again. He and second wife, Michele, will be celebrating their first two years of marriage in June. The newlyweds have been making the most of the beautiful spring with long drives in their convertible, top down, of course. He and Michele are self-described "huge" sports

fans. A large, extended-family group likes to travel together to Blacksburg on game weekends, maroon and orange flags snapping in the wind, to see the Hokies play and spend time with Travis' brother, currently pursuing his doctorate at Virginia Tech. Tra-

“
As I tell my students, Grandma always said, 'Good, better, best: Never let it rest until your good is better, and your better is best.'"
~ Travis Millner

life is also fulfilling these days. He may be 48 years old, but Travis says he feels more like he's 28 because he is reaping the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Travis typically visits American Family Fitness in New Town 4 or 5 days a week and has stayed athleti-

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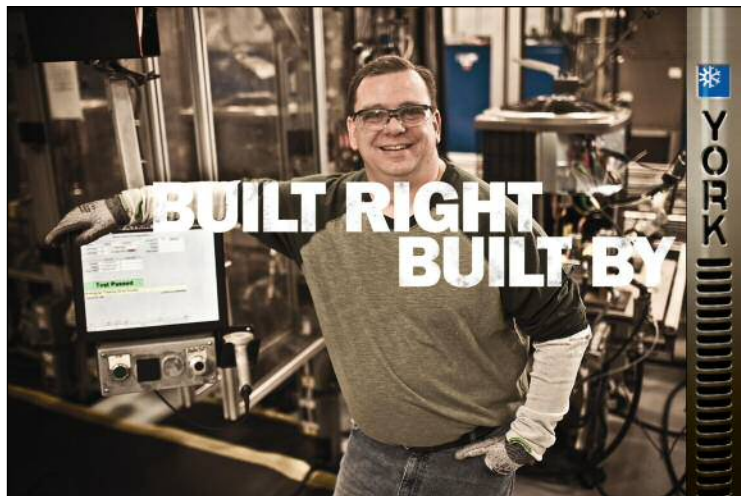
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vis and Michele are enjoying married life and their empty nest.

"Between the two of us, we have four children," Travis explains. "I picked up another daughter when Shelly and I got married. My first daughter, Britnee, received a full ride scholarship to UVA on the basis of her basketball skills. Kahlah and TJ (Travis, Jr.) are our students at UNC, Greensboro. Isabella, or 'Izzy' as we call her, is Shelly's daughter, and will soon graduate from Arizona State, so presently we have three in college." The future certainly looks bright for the next generation of Millners.

Travis' memories of childhood in the mountains of Virginia grow sweeter to him by the year. Morning Star Holy Church just celebrated the 66th anniversary of its founding, but Travis Millner has come a long, long way since the days when he warmed a pew in his grandmother's church. Not even his wildest flights of fancy then could have predicted how many doors would open for him and how many of those childhood dreams would come true. In his lifetime, Travis has shaken hands with a U.S. President, participated in a pre-game flag ceremony at an NFL game, climbed ancient castle steps, met his hero Rush Limbaugh, and strolled sandy beaches in the South Pacific. Against all odds, he even got his own moments of gridiron glory.

That chance to suit up and play football with the big guys finally came 8 years ago while Travis was still an Air Force Master Sergeant. Semi-pro league Team USA was looking for a few good military men in Europe to add to their roster.

"The idea behind it was to be ambassadors for American-style football, to expose the Germans to the game. They called me Old Man Jerry Rice because I was 40, but I was in good shape," Travis recalls with pleasure. "My kids were really proud to see me out there with all the gear on, playing for Team USA."

Travis' children have many good reasons to be proud of their dad.

"My grandmother laid a foundation for her family, one I have tried to carry on," Travis says. Two of Almeda Millner's 11 children pursued a college degree, with the son who took over as pastor of her church actually earning a graduate degree. Travis' Uncle Tyler worked in college administration and as a speech writer for Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder during his term in office. But Travis recognizes that there are equally important lessons that are taught outside the finite boundaries of a classroom.

Ethics, education, respect for elders and service to country: Travis Millner's legacy is clearly written on the hearts of those who will follow his path in the generations to come.

Developing an Employee Engaged Culture

By Greg Lilly, Editor

“There is a direct relationship from employee satisfaction to customer satisfaction to your financial returns,” explains Jamie Clark, Vice President and General Manager of Printpack. “Good associate engagement does translate into customer satisfaction. Focus on ensuring you have satisfied associates and you’ll have satisfied customers.” The concept of employee engagement is forefront to Printpack’s successful business plan and one of the reasons it is a sought-after place to work in the Williamsburg area.

Jamie moved to Williamsburg for a position with Shell Chemicals new venture called Rampart Packaging in 1988. “I’ve been here 24 years,” he says. “I came from Canada. I worked for several years for a Canadian packaging company that moved me to the U.S. I ended up coming here in 1988. At that point I began in sales. This was a new business that had started in 1984. It was really just a few years into its existence at that time. It was the entrepreneurial side of the business that drew me.” An entrepreneurial business started within a large corporation was appealing to the recent grad-



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uate of the Richard Ivy School of Business. “At that time, Shell was one of the top corporations in the world. So the concept of going to work for a major corporation was attractive.”

Jamie was 25 years old when he joined Shell. “I had no expectation I’d be here 24 years later,” he adds. “The business was pretty small when I got here. It’s a lot larger today, although it’s changed ownership twice. Shell owned the business through 1991. They sold it to James River Corporation, who had some packaging businesses, one being flexible packaging. In 1996, they sold all of their flexible packaging businesses. We went to Printpack.”

Printpack is a private, family-owned business. “It’s owned by the Love family. Today, Printpack generates about \$1.4 billion in sales. This division accounts for about 10 percent of those sales. We have gone from a massive corporation (Shell) to a Fortune 500 company (James River Corporation) to a family-owned business.” Through those company transitions, Jamie grew with the company. Starting in sales, he was promoted to Marketing Manager, then to Sales Manager, then to Director of Sales, Marketing and Technology.

“I was the Director of Global Operations before becoming the Vice President and General

Manager.”

When the Williamsburg plant opened in 1984, it specialized in new areas of packaging. “Particularly in the rigid arena,” Jamie explains. “We make high-barrier packaging. In that time it was a new market segment, new technology.” The packaging makes food shelf-stable, meaning that it helps the food inside the package last for several months and still be fresh. The plastics technology does not allow air to permeate the packaging. For example, apple sauce: If air penetrated the packaging, the apple sauce would be brown in days – not appetizing for the consumer, retailer or manufacturer. “That is the specialty of the business, and we’ve stayed focused on that for 24 years. We have not wavered out of that niche.”

Jamie attributes the success of Printpack to its employees. “There still exists at Printpack, something that doesn’t exist much anymore – that sense of loyalty both ways,” he says. “Printpack is very focused on the well-being of our associates. Because this is a family business, we tend to think of our associates as part of the family. Because, we’re not a public company, we can take a long-term view of success. We are not obsessed with quarterly results. The Love family and management want to be successful, so

results are important, but we take a long-term view.”

He says the company-wide philosophy lists responsibility to five constituent areas. “It is not lost on me that the first one listed in our philosophy statement is employees,” he says. “Next on the list are our customers, suppliers, shareholders and community. As a private company, the first three are not the shareholder. This is core to Printpack.”

This concept of engaging and valuing employees can apply to any business, not just manufacturing. “Any business,” Jamie stresses. “That’s an important idea. The last several years at Printpack we have surveyed the associates on engagement.” The survey is completely optional, yet about 90 percent of the employees complete it. “We tend to be in the top-quartile, which is great for a manufacturing company. Our Williamsburg division is the most engaged in Printpack.”

The survey measures employee engagement. “It has survey questions such as: ‘How proud are you that you work for Printpack?’ ‘Would you recommend Printpack to your family and friends?’ and more questions along those lines,” Jamie describes. “This division, here in Williamsburg, would rank in the top ten percent

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of all companies in its rankings of employee engagement.” This is a spectacular ranking considering that he cites most manufacturing companies rate lower on employee engagement than companies in other industries.

Jamie says all businesses can achieve this level of engagement too. “You don’t treat them as cogs in the wheel. You treat all people with dignity and respect. You take the philosophy that if you engage all brains in the enterprise, you will be more successful than depending on just your one brain. There are a lot of people here smarter than me. If I try to come up with all the answers then we’re destined for failure. If we engage all people’s minds, we’ll be a lot more powerful.”

He gives his associates opportunities to engage in the operations, to provide ideas, and to act. “Be fair,” he states. “It’s not about being soft, or not holding high standards, or not having disciplinary procedures – we’re pretty strict here. We follow a lot of rules. Manufacturing requires that to maintain quality. But any business that grows needs to have employee engagement.”

Letting go can be hard for a business, especially for smaller businesses, but Jamie says that is essential to grow. “Businesses start small,” he describes. “The earliest success is based on one

or two people being in control and knowing everything. As the business grows, that’s where a lot of them break down. The original founder or manager has to let go.”

He recommends clearly communicating the business goal to all employees. “Once everyone knows what we’re in business to do, then they know what decisions to make and not make. That’s communicating the norms and values of the business.”

Next you want to set the boundaries. “What are the rules? What is the box we can operate in?” Once associates have the right to make a decision and to act, they need the guidelines of when and where that is appropriate to move toward the business goal. For example, a bank teller may be able to refund a fee, but might not have the authority to make a million dollar loan.

“The last piece is interactive controls,” Jamie says. “Some things are not easy to measure, but you get together to analyze the results of the decisions.” This keeps everyone moving toward the shared goal.

“The ‘command and control’ era is largely done,” he adds. “People will choose environments where they feel they can contribute with their brain. If you want to attract the very best

employees, you have to have that environment. If you ask me how we got to be one of the most highly-engaged businesses, I’d say that’s how we did it.”

Jamie says he focuses on employee engagement. “It’s about deliberately managing the culture of your organization,” he says. “Getting the culture you want will translate into the results you want. The culture will drive the behaviors that will drive performance.”

A question he asks when hiring or promoting people: Will they be part of the culture I want? “It’s not just about their skill and performance,” he says. “Are they driving part of the culture we want to have? You can have someone skilled and performing well, but acts against the current of the company’s culture – that’s poison. I’d rather have someone invested in the culture than have someone not vested in the culture, but good at their job. We’ll teach you how to be good at the job. Our culture is about teamwork, customer service, having a sense of urgency, and about focusing on results.”

With high employee engagement, a company creates satisfied customers. Satisfied customers create financial results...and the business booms. NDN



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ERIC DUTT

Soccer's Life Lessons

By Greg Lilly, Editor

"The coaches were the ones that ingrained the passion for soccer in me," says Eric Dutt of Virginia Legacy Soccer Club, "and I want to be the person who helps create that passion in youth players." Eric is the Youth Director at the non-profit organization and teaches a foundation of skills that serve the players throughout their lives.

Eric is the newest staff member at the Virginia Legacy Soccer Club. "I've been here since mid-January, so I'm very new to the program and the area," he says. Eric grew up in Florida, started playing soccer and graduated from high school there. He played soccer at the University of Richmond and earned his degree in Business Administration in 2004.

"I received my master's degree from VCU (Virginia Commonwealth University) in Sports Leadership in 2005. I played a year with the Richmond Kickers in 2006. I was fortunate enough to be part of the USL (United Soccer Leagues) Championship team that summer."

From being part of the professional team, he was able to work with players at different skill levels and do some coaching. "I decided that was the career path I wanted," he states. "From that time on, my goal was to become as good of a coach as I can." He describes that goal as educating other coaches on soccer and working with players of different age groups.

"I've always been the type of player who tried to solve problems on the field,"



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Eric explains of his interest in coaching. "I was interested in the tactical aspect of the game. My dad was a coach, so growing up I was a part of the coaching circles. I knew that was what I wanted to do - to make the game as enjoyable to others as I had it. It's been a great vehicle for me to play, to go to college and to get my degree. Soccer has provided me with a lot of opportunities as a player."

Eric has coached at every level: youth, high school, college and amateur league. "When it comes down to it, the youngest age groups are the most rewarding for me. They are just starting their soccer careers, and I see the opportunity to create a love for the game."

He says that the children are out having fun at those earliest stages. He wants to create an enjoyable environment for them to learn the game and to develop skills. "If we can do that, we've created a positive environment for their growth. That's the goal of our program at the youngest ages: let them have fun."

The Virginia Legacy Soccer Club is a full service soccer club with players from the ages of five to eighteen. "We have partnered with James City County this spring to help with their recreational soccer program." Eric, along

with coaches Kelvin Jones, Bobby O'Brien, and Technical Director Tim Cristian, provide guidance and best practices for players and coaches that allow everyone involved to have a great initial soccer experience.

The guys help educate new coaches about soccer. "We know soccer is a completely different game than many parents or coaches were brought up on in American culture." Many parents of school age children never had the opportunity to play soccer in school or in a Parks and Recreation environment. "That's part of the challenge for youth soccer clubs," Eric explains. "Each season there are kids who want to play. That creates a demand for new coaches, new referees and new administrators. Parents who come to a game may not have experienced soccer before. It is our role as soccer professionals to help educate the adults in the game to make it a better experience for the kids."

The perspective in soccer is different than other team sports. "Basketball, baseball or football," Eric lists, "those sports are very different from the game of soccer. New coaches or parents transferring what they know from other team sports and applying it to soccer will not be the most conducive channel for team development.

A lot of those sports involve predetermined actions. If you are a wide receiver in football, you know what you are going to do when the play happens, which makes those sports very coach-oriented. Soccer is a very player-centric game. It's a very free game for players. They have to be able to make their own decisions on the field as the play is happening. They have to be able to evaluate the things going on around them and then make a split second decision about what to do. Then they have to execute."

Decision making is an important part of learning soccer. "We (the coaches) can't tell the kids what to do during the game; they have to find the way to do it themselves. That is very new to parents and coaches," Eric says.

Eric focuses on individual player development. This starts with foundational skills necessary to play soccer. "That breaks into four parts: technical, tactical, physical, psychological," Eric says. "We try to build on those four pillars to create a more complete soccer player."

With the youngest players, Eric works with them on their technical ability. "We try to develop their dribbling, their confidence with the ball, their ability to keep the ball," he says. "For the youngest, we focus on developing their



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gross motor skills and their ability to dribble the ball.”

For ages from about 10 to 12, the players develop the tactical aspects of the game. “As the kids get older, we work on their ability to solve problems, while continuing their technical abilities.”

Eric shows them how to do things faster. “The game gets quicker,” he states. “The faster they can execute their skills and make decisions, the more success they have in the game.”

From there, the older players develop the psychological aspects of the game. “Strategy during the game,” he describes, “and even how they prepare their attitudes for practice and for games.”

As a very interactive and team-oriented game, soccer teaches the players to solve problems, not only for themselves, but in a group setting as well. The players learn that the decisions they make affect the entire team.

“At the youngest age groups, the cognitive ability is very ego-centric,” Eric explains. “We focus on how they can do things individually to help them and solve problems. Around the age of eight, we start them thinking in pairs and working in pairs, solving problems with a

friend. At ten and twelve, we start doing small group problem solving, small group activities. At twelve and older, the players look at how their own decision making affects the entire group. It’s a long-term process of development. Our goal is to help them make the most connections to increase their understanding of the game and to be a better team player.”

These are lessons that the young players will take with them as they get older and move on to other sports and situations. They are life lessons and fun soccer games that Eric wants to make sure are available to all children in the area.

“Part of our goal is to provide superior, fun, dynamic and inspiring soccer experiences for youth from diverse backgrounds regardless of financial means. There is an opportunity for everyone,” he stresses. “We understand the financial demands of playing soccer. We have different opportunities for players that may need support.” Scholarship funds and sponsorship programs help cover the cost for the children who may need financial assistance to play in the program.

“We don’t turn anyone away. We’re an inclusive club,” Eric says. “We recognize there are some barriers to entry in the youth sports

world, and we try to take that out of the equation if possible. Financial support by the local community is always helpful in providing soccer to everyone. Our goal is the opportunity for every kid to play.”

Eric has coached high school and Division I college soccer; he has coached the Premier Development League (the top amateur league in the United States). “Those experiences have led me to coach the youngest ages, too. I have a passion for introducing and teaching the game. I love to do that,” he says. “The fun is in the process. Watching the growth of the players is enjoyable. That’s what gets me up in the morning – watching players do what they couldn’t do yesterday. To have them become, not just better players, but better people in the process. We’re fortunate to be able to use soccer to teach life lessons.” NDN

Tryouts for the Virginia Legacy Soccer Club’s travel teams are May 14 – 19 and May is the time to sign up for the James City County Parks and Recreation Youth Soccer Camps.

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WENDY CRAIGHILL

Jump, Jive & Wail!

The Lindy Hop Revival

By Greg Lilly, Editor

The revival of swing dancing began nationwide with the Gap® commercials of the late 1990s. The “Gap Khakis” commercial showed handsome twenty-somethings dancing to Louis Prima’s “Jump, Jive an’ Wail.” That was what Wendy Craighill, dance instructor, remembers as the first time she noticed people doing the Lindy Hop.

“Those commercials had the dancers throwing each other around – they did a lot of aeri-als,” Wendy describes, “and they seemed to be having the time of their lives.” The dance is rumored to have taken its name from those aeri-als and the dancers saying they were like Charles Lindbergh hopping across the Atlantic.

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late 1990s and early 2000s with names like Royal Crown Review, Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, and Brian Setzer had left the Stray Cats of the 1980s and started his own orchestra of swing musicians. "The dancers and bands are called Nouveau Swing," Wendy adds. "That became a subculture."

Wendy says she had never taken dance lessons before she found the Lindy Hop. "When I first joined Sprint [her employer] in 2000, I was in Washington, D.C. three weeks at a time for training, and I was bored," she explains. "I would go to the training, to a restaurant, to the gym...I was bored and afraid to venture out as a single woman not knowing anyone in the area."

She noticed a dance studio not far from her hotel that was holding a swing dance class. "I knew nothing about it, but it said 'no partner required,' and I thought, why not? I was hooked instantly. I stayed that weekend and ended up taking a weekend-long workshop. I tripped all over myself, tripped all over my partners. So I remember what it was like being a beginner."

That summer, she attended a week-long camp on the Lindy Hop. "A year later, I taught my first workshop," she states.

Wendy says the Lindy Hop was created on

the streets of Harlem. "It's a dance with roots in Africa and in the Egyptian belly dance. Although it is very different from ballroom dances, the classes help transition to those. I teach connection and lead-follow. Although the posture is different and the silliness is inherent, there is a wonderful connection created that can translate to other dances."

She describes the history of the dance as developing in the 1920s and '30s and was done unconventionally with no structure to it. "There was a ballroom in Harlem called the Savoy Ballroom – everybody went there to dance. The Lindy Hop came into the Savoy from the street. The black kids danced and the white kids wanted to learn. It evolved to a more mainstream dance, but still a rebellious dance," she says. "During the 1930s and '40s with the Great Depression and World War II, people wanted a release from the tensions. Eventually it became so popular that they wanted to make some structure out of it so it could be taught." The Lindy Hop made its way into movies and television, which made it all the more popular as everyone discovered it. "Movies and television caused the dance to evolve to be more 'camera-ready' and more precise," Wendy adds. People seeing it wanted to learn to dance it.

"It was hard to teach, so the ballrooms decided to make some starter steps – East Coast Swing and West Coast Swing are very much a ballroom form of Lindy," Wendy says. "Those are not Lindy. Lindy is done to swing-time music, which is eight-count, meaning it is phrased in eight counts. East Coast Swing is six-count. The music doesn't phrase the same. It doesn't fit with the music."

The Lindy Hoppers play off of the musicians. The dancers listen to the music to form their moves – it's improvisational like improv jazz.

At the time, Wendy lived in Virginia Beach and taught there. When she married a police officer in Williamsburg, they decided to split the commute between them. "For a short time, we lived in Norfolk and hated it. I finally conceded and moved to Williamsburg to help with his commute. I have no idea why I fought it – I love Williamsburg. Love it. We have enjoyed ourselves so much here."

After about a year of living in Williamsburg, she quit teaching the Lindy Hop in Norfolk. "But I missed it, and we talked about starting up classes here, but were afraid there wouldn't be enough interest. Wow, there is three times the interest here than what I had in Norfolk."

Her first class in Williamsburg – September,

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2008 – brought in four people. The second class attracted 14, and the class participants have expanded from that. “One day, a high school kid called me just before the class was to begin. He asked if I allowed single people in. I told him we didn’t require a partner, so to come on to the class. He brought four of his friends. That changed the energy. The semesters before that had tended to be senior citizens. Now there was a wider difference in the ages. So anybody who came into the building to peek at what we were doing felt like they could belong.” Everyone really does feel like they belong. Her group has people as young as ten years old to senior citizens.

One of the original Lindy Hop dancers from the Savoy Ballroom was discovered by a current dancer from the Nouveau Swing community. “Frankie Manning was working in a post office,” Wendy says. “Steven Mitchell and Ryan Francois learned from him before Frankie died in 2009.” Mr. Manning taught the guys moves and steps from the original days. “He taught them aials or ‘air steps’ as they were called back then,” Wendy adds. “They in turn have passed those moves on to the rest of the Lindy community. We’re grateful for that. The era dances from those days were the Charleston,

Lindy Hop and Collegiate Shag (versus Beach Shag). They had energy and creativity, very individualized. So, it was great to have one of the originals pass his knowledge down the generations.”

Learning the Lindy Hop is not like learning a routine of steps like a ballroom dance. A dancer learns moves, then pairing those with the music they hear, creates the dance as they go along.

“I teach three moves in six weeks to my beginner class,” Wendy explains. “In the intermediate class, I teach five moves. We teach the dancers to lead and follow, to hear the music, to speed up or slow down turns based on the music. The musicality part takes a long time to understand and how to play with the music.”

There is a progression in her teaching: how to lead and follow, progression of moves, then dancing and expressing what a dancer hears in the music. “Very different from ballroom dancing,” she stresses. “There is no structure, no line of dance. People may be doing the Charleston and slow dancing to the same song depending on how they interpret the music. Many of the performances are silly and meant to make people laugh. It’s very different from the ballroom dances of television’s *Dancing with the Stars*,

which is meant to make you swoon, to be romantic, lovely and formal. This is informal and raw – maintaining the street dance qualities. I really like that part of it.”

The music of the 1940s is always popular, but some of the younger dancers like dancing to today’s music. “You can dance to anything,” she promises. “The inspiration for Lindy Hoppers who have been learning for several years is still the swing sound, the syncopation of the music of the ’40s. But even that group morphs and wants different music from time to time.”

After her classes at the Williamsburg Community Building, she hosts a free dance, open to all levels of dancers and the public. “I have girls that can do both parts – lead or follow – to help with the public who come in and want to dance,” she explains of the neighbors who stop in to see what’s happening.

“Yes, all communities can come together,” Wendy says. “High school kids, William and Mary students, all the way to senior citizens come in to dance.” No costumes or special clothes are needed, no special shoes and no partners are required. “It’s a great place to make friends and socialize,” Wendy adds. “We just wanna jump, jive and wail.” [NDN](#)



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CANCER SURVIVOR



CARY GARNET

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Kim Kiely

A cancer survivor for almost 30 years, Cary Garnet has seen how men react differently to cancer and the remnants cancer leaves in the lives it assaults. "I had a fiancée at the time," Cary says of that winter in 1984. "I remember it was February 12th." Cary had gone to the restroom and discovered massive swelling. "My mind told me it had happened overnight, but I'm sure it happened gradually. I called the Emergency Room to ask what I should do. They told me to get in there as soon as possible."

Cary and his fiancée rushed to the hospital. The urologist on-call said it could be one of two things: cancer or syphilis. "That was unique," he says. It was testicular cancer, and surgery was scheduled the next day. I remember waking up, and my fiancée, my father and a couple of friends

were there. They all started to say the same things: 'If anybody can beat this, you can'. To have people say that to me, made me realize I was in trouble. I prepared to die."

He explains that the treatment was horrific. "The heavy radiation and chemo back then, which was all overdone, was close to dying," he says. "Over the next year, I broke my engagement off, I pushed my friends away, [and] my conversations became very surface and superficial. I didn't want to have anybody see me that way. When you have testicular cancer, you lose all dignity. I was preparing to die." He lived in three-month intervals between testings. "It took ten days to get the results back," he states. "My anxiety prior to waiting for the results, every three months, was putting me back in front of the crisis over and over."

He poured himself into his work. "I identified myself with my job. I put in 80 hours a week. The rest of the time I was home alone. I would dwell on the next test, of it being bad news."

By the second year, he realized the medical world had limits, but he could take con-

trol of his attitude. "I started reading books to get comfortable with myself, to have peace-of-mind. I had an epiphany that the mind is stronger than medicine. I decided that if I had to go, I'd go with a fight. In 1982, I had buried my mother from three bouts of cancer – the worst ten years. I figured cancer was genetic. But, I was going to go out fighting."

When he hit his fifth year of being cancer-free, he broke down and cried. "Not that I was clean, but the thought was 'now what? What am I going to do with my life?' There had to be a purpose."

He began to visit men in the hospital with cancer to tell his story of survival. He shared how the tentacles of cancer had touched all parts of him. "I realized that there was a reason why we are called 'cancer survivors' and not 'cancer cured' because as my life proceeded on, I found I was low on testosterone. I have to take testosterone supplements," Cary says. "The doctors found out I have osteoporosis. Only five percent of the men get that. I have to take the same medicine that women take to increase bone density. No more amusement

parks, no more surfing, no more of any of the things I was doing. On my social side, more women dropped me than any man could imagine because they felt the relationship wasn't going anywhere. I could be intimate, but in different ways. That was a psychological thing I had to deal with...Up until 11 years ago when I met Jeanette. That's why we are survivors."

Doctors would tell Cary that his case was like none they had seen before. "They say that I should be dead by now because of the aggressiveness of the treatment in 1984," he states. "The treatment went from the kneecap to the neck. Because of that radiation, I had to have my thyroid removed."

He credits his survival to attitude and to communication. "I came to realize that first of all it's about attitude. The only thing that I can't do that's on my bucket list is parachute. I was able to do everything else. It's attitude," he says.

Even with his changing attitude, the harder aspect was exposing his vulnerability. "I shut people off," he admits. "I said I could beat this, and said I was alright, played the macho guy.

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If anybody had said to me in those first six months: 'Are you scared?' I would have probably dumped all my worry on them. I would have given them a hug at the end and told them how very frightened I was."

Today, Cary works with Relay for Life and other organizations to talk to men's groups. "I tell them it is okay to be scared. It's a natural emotion. You have a choice when you are scared: flight or fight. I first chose flight – I was preparing to die. Then I decided to fight."

The advice he gives to people caring for a man with cancer is to ask questions. Create an environment where the man can open up and talk intimately.

"I have friends who, in the last three years, are going through prostate cancer, others have had colon cancer. They are going through the same behavior I did." Cancer can be caught earlier now and the chance of survival with early detection is much better than when Cary found his cancer. "But, what hasn't changed," he describes, "is the guys' mindset when I sit down with them to talk. First, I tell them I was scared and I wouldn't admit it to anyone.

That helps opens the dialogue. Men still feel like they have to 'man up,' to be macho, to not show emotion. I kid around to get men to talk by saying I went to so-and-so movie and cried like a baby. They give me a look. I figure after having cancer and crying that one out, it's okay to cry now. It *is* okay to cry." He says it's an attitude survivors have to take. "The brain is much stronger than what we think it is."

Cary's hope for the future is that there will be easier ways to be diagnosed. "Ways that aren't as embarrassing so men will feel getting checked for cancer is no different than other parts of the routine annual physical," he describes.

With the medical technology getting better, the other aspect of his survival has him concerned. "I feel we're losing the art of communication," he adds. "I have seen two people sitting in the same room texting each other. We need to talk. Ask what it feels like. Ask what do you see when you think of cancer. Talk," he stresses. "It's your story. Men need to talk to each other. Men with cancer talk differently than women with cancer."

When a man with cancer finds that person with whom he can say 'I'm scared,' then he should let that person be a good listener. "If you just say 'I am scared' to somebody, the pressure, the stress, the anxiety, the fears will come down significantly because you are really just talking to yourself. The listener has to be the type to listen without interruption because the person talking is talking to himself. He will start talking it out and coming up with resolutions. Cancer is a very 'I-centered' thing. No two people go through it the same. There is no 'me too' aspect to cancer."

The biggest change Cary has seen since his diagnosis in 1984 is that for him, it was wait and see if he would live the next five years. "Now, it's the expectation that the next five years will have so many ways to cure this that you will be fine – that's believable now," Cary says. "Doctors can give us a glimmer of hope now." NDN

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BARBARA LUCK

FOLK ART COLLECTING

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Kim Kiely

Creating a collection of folk art for your home can be a rewarding, educational and inspirational endeavor. Barbara Luck, curator of paintings, drawings and sculpture for The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, explains that starting a collection begins with what you like, what appeals to you personally. “The old adage ‘I don’t know much about art, but I know

what I like’ – that’s fine,” Barbara says. “That’s perfectly valid.”

Barbara received her Master’s Degree in Art History from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. “Back in my day,” she says, “there was generally little emphasis on American art. Art History usually dealt with European art. I was, at the time, interested in

Byzantine and Christian art in early Europe.”

She graduated without knowing exactly what she wanted to do with her degree. “I guess this is a commentary on my immaturity as well as my parents’ tolerance and kindness,” she adds with a smile. “I loved art and I loved art history, but I didn’t think I wanted to teach. So, what was I going to do with it?” She and

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her mother had come to Williamsburg to do some shopping a few months after Barbara's graduation. "My mother suggested, while we were here, that I just stop in at the employment office. She probably thought I would be living with her for the rest of my life!" Barbara interviewed with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and landed a position as registrar at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum. Today, Barbara is responsible for the folk art center's paintings, the works on paper and sculpture.

"Some of the chief responsibilities for any curator are planning the exhibits, refining the collection, looking for new potential acquisitions, making sure insurance values are up-to-date – so we have to keep an eye on the market," Barbara says. Published information about a collection usually comes directly from the relevant curator.

"We need to be up on its history – we call it provenance – the history of the piece's ownership, which ideally should go back to the time the piece was made, tracing its history through time up to the present. It sounds so weird, so snobby in a way, to be so obsessed by prov-

enance." But, the ownership history provides clues to the origin and authenticity of the stories related to the piece "It is one way of verifying oral history," she states. "Private owners and museums can get things garbled over time. I try to look at as much documented history as possible to identify it."

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has one of the most extensive collections of folk art in the country. Barbara explains that folk art is first and foremost art. "A lot of people overlook that. That's a subjective judgment. It's an object of aesthetic merit created by someone with little or no training in how to create that particular thing," she describes. "For instance, Edward Hicks, who painted *The Peaceable Kingdoms*, was a Quaker minister." Hicks painted more than 60 versions of *The Peaceable Kingdoms*, and these are his best known works. "He had training in how to mix pigments due to his apprenticeship as a coach maker," Barbara continues. "It's not as if he was trained as a lawyer or a farmer and suddenly decided to paint. He had some training. Although nobody sat down with him and taught him easel painting; he taught himself, which is not to say

he didn't see other paintings or talk to other painters. Those are the aspects of the loose definition of folk art that confuse a lot of people because today you can hardly find somebody who doesn't have some sort of art training. It's a long continuum."

As a general way to look at the definition, Barbara contrasts folk art with academic art. "Those are opposites," she says. Academic art can be defined as work produced by highly trained artists. "Fine arts and decorative arts are opposites," she adds as another range on a spectrum of art for the home. "In the museum, we have paintings and sculpture that are fine art. Fine artworks are things to look at that don't have a utilitarian purpose per se, like a spoon or chair are utilitarian. That's part of the confusion in artistic terminology. In the simplest form, it is folk art opposed to academic art, and fine art versus decorative art."

Deciding what is valuable folk art and worthy of your collection is an art in itself. "It boils down to aesthetic merit," Barbara says. "What I like may not be what you like. It's the same with academic art. When asked what I like, I try to talk about *why* I like particular art. Aes-

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thetic merit can usually be conveyed in universal terms of form, mass, composition, shape, color, pattern, rhythm – things like that. These are kindred for any form of art.”

She offers a tip of looking at historical folk art as you would modern art. “We’re not always used to talking about folk art in terms of form or shape,” Barbara says. “When people look at an 18th century genre painting, for instance, they tend to focus on what it is, what the story is, rather than looking at why, for example, the lower left is so dark and contrasts so vividly with the upper right corner. Things that you see when you squint your eyes and scan out the details.”


That’s not the way most folk art collectors look at the material, but Barbara explains that was what drew Abby Aldrich Rockefeller to collecting folk art. “Her connections to Modernist Art – created by academic artists who were in on the ground floor of modern art – and her appreciation of American art in the 1920s and ’30s translated into her admiration for folk art. She was part of the *avant garde* who really appreciated this material and thought it deserved wider recognition. She saw the same qualities she appreciated in modern art – interesting patterns and rhythms and so forth – in folk art. Really modern artists were some of the first people to collect folk art.”

The artistic value isn’t the only reason for collecting folk art. “There were other people like Henry Mercer who collected from a different angle, a non-aesthetic angle,” Barbara adds. “He was interested in the contextual message in folk art, what it can tell us about the past as a historical document.”

Barbara’s advice on starting a collection of folk art is to focus on a particular category. “The first thing: collect in an area that draws you, an area that appeals to you. You can’t go wrong if you do that. Whether it’s cast iron banks, portraiture from the mid-19th century or some other small area you can really get your teeth into,” she states, “that can be a spring board into developing wider interests. From any specific area, you learn what kinds of questions to ask a previous owner or a dealer. What constitutes quality is different media to media, object to object.” Focusing on one category makes a good training ground.

“If you love the aesthetics of a piece, you can’t make a mistake,” she says. “You will always have something you love. You can learn so much on-line these days. Almost every auction house has an on-line presence. I encourage anyone who wants to get started collecting to look at those sites. Every day there is a sale somewhere in the world. Look at specialty auctions such as glass and ceramics auctions or penny-arcade auctions.”

Developing an eye for folk art means you should examine the object. “Auction houses are a great place to examine things,” Barbara states. “I do this. It’s part of my job. Go in and ask the auction representative everything you can think of, not just provenance, but specific questions about details. They can help you learn. Auction houses are a great classroom.”

Being the curator of your own household collection of folk art can be an adventure of surrounding yourself with things you love and things that teach you about yourself and America’s fascinating history. “Looking, thinking, asking questions are the best ways to get started,” Barbara says. “We’re doing the same thing. We’re learning too. That’s one of the reasons I love this job. I’m learning something all the time. That’s what makes it fun.” 



Q & A

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Foreclosures, REO’s and Short Sales: How Bad Is It?

RICHARDSON:

During the housing downturn, Foreclosures, REO’s and Short Sales became a critical issue across the country. Initially this wave was primarily related to subprime and adjustable rate mortgage lending. Currently, the wave has added unemployment as a major factor.

According to Realty Trac, Published by *CNN Money*, March 1, 2012, homes in some stage of foreclosure accounted for nearly one in four homes sales during the fourth quarter of 2011. During the three months that ended December 31, homes that were either bank-owned or going through the foreclosure process accounted for 24% of all home sales, up from 20% in the previous quarter and down only slightly from 2011 when foreclosures accounted for 20% of sales. The CEO of Realty Trac predicted that foreclosure-related sales will increase in 2012, particularly pre-foreclosure sales, as lenders start to more aggressively dispose of distressed assets held up by the mortgage servicing gridlock over the past 18 months. It was also noted that we are losing some of our million-dollar homes, because million-dollar foreclosures started to rise as the rich walked away from overwhelming mortgages.

Recently, ABC news forecasted that Bank of America is starting a pilot program, dubbed Mortgage to Lease, which will offer some mortgage customers lease options to avoid foreclosure and help them stay in their homes. The test markets will start in the three hardest hit states in the downturn, Arizona, Nevada and New York. The initial phase will invite fewer than 1,000 customers who meet all the criteria/requirements attached to the program. One major facet is that participants will transfer their property title to the bank and have their outstanding mortgage debt forgiven. In exchange, they may lease their home for up to three years at or below the current market rental rate.

Several sources are reporting that short sales are starting to become the preferred method for banks to dispose of properties in default. In short sales, borrowers who owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth

agree with their bank to sell their homes at the lower market value. In return, the bank agrees to absorb the loss. Short sales seem to have become a better option since all the parties agree on the terms leading to fewer legal issues. They are also known to offer better returns, because banks typically don’t have to spend a mint maintaining a short sale like they do a foreclosure, where they have to pay more in legal fees, property taxes, maintenance, insurance, etc. It has been noted that short sales comprised 10% of all home sales during the last quarter of 2011.

Morgan Stanley talked about the government program designed to move REO properties to rentals, which is being called the best housing fix so far and possibly more significant than other proposed solutions. The greatest assess seems to be the job creation, with the possibility of creating more than a million jobs in the hard-hit construction and real estate industries. Plus these jobs could be created by private capital without the use of taxpayer dollars. REO’s has been quoted as falling-off and comprising of 13% of all sales during the last quarter of 2011.

On the local front according to the Williamsburg Multiple Listing Service (WMLS), from March 16, 2011 through March 15, 2012, there were 126 foreclosure listings (99 sold, 9 pending and 18 active); there were 57 short sales listings (21 sold, 5 pending and 31 active). To eliminate much of the frustration that comes with these processes, Sellers should consider time and personal documentation needed before engaging in a foreclosure, short sales, or REO process. Although Buyers see these processes as opportunities to buy a home with equity, they should also understand that these processes take months to go to closing and presently there are no solutions for shortening the timelines.

As previously noted, across the country foreclosures, short sales and REO’s have dealt a devastating blow on homeownership. However, the housing market is surviving and showing some resilience. This should equate to fewer short sales and bank-owned properties coming to the market in the future.

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Hey Neighbor!

Please visit www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com and click on **Hey Neighbor!** for a complete list of current community announcements.

To submit your non-profit event to Hey Neighbor! send a paragraph with your information to:

heyneighbor@cox.net

Hey Neighbor!

JAMES RIVERFEST

April 21, 2012

11am – 5 pm. at Eco Discovery Park in Jamestown. Food, arts & crafts vendors, Paddle Race, local performing groups, children's activities, environmental booths . . . and more!! Daytime activities free. Evening concert from 7-10 pm requires purchased ticket: Adults: \$5, Under 16 – Free. Music by The English Channel. For information, go to www.jamesriverfest.org.

Hey Neighbor!

2ND ANNUAL CHARITY ESTATE SALE

April 28, 2012

9 am – noon. Williamsburg Faith in Action will be hosting a sale at 3901 Treyburn Drive. If you have items you wish to donate, drop off times are April 25 (10 am-noon) April 26 (4-6 pm). Furniture, collectibles, decorative items, and artwork are some of the items sought for the sale. Please call WFIA at (757) 258-5890 with questions.

Hey Neighbor!

MAINTAINING MOTIVATION AND MORAL THROUGH YOUR JOB SEARCH

May 1, 2012

Presented by Experienced Employees in Transition, a 45-year old and over Job Club that meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month for speakers, workshops, networking, emotional and resource support throughout your job search! For more information contact Morgan Whiteley at morgan@senior-servicescoalition.com.

Hey Neighbor!

CONCERT – “OPERA CABARET”

May 5, 2012

5 pm. Enjoy beloved choruses and arias from Carmen, Hansel & Gretel, Nabucco, Il Trovatore, La

Traviata and more in the beautiful Pappas Hall of the Williamsburg Hellenic Center. Ticket price includes cabaret-style table seating with served light hors d'oeuvres; cash bar available. Cost: \$20 (\$10 for students). The Hellenic Center is at 4900 Mooretown Road, Williamsburg. For more information call (757) 220-1808 or visit www.williamsburgchoralguild.org.

Hey Neighbor!

KIWANIS CLUB FOOD DRIVE

May 5-12, 2012

Drop off your non-perishable food items in New Town: 5388 Discovery Park Blvd, Suite 130B, Williamsburg.

Hey Neighbor!

“ALL NATURE SINGS” WILLIAMSBURG WOMEN'S CHORUS

May 11, 2012

7:30 pm. Warhill HS Women's Chamber Chorale joins the WWC at the Walnut Hills Baptist Church on Jamestown Road. \$15 for adults, \$5 for Students, Groups rates available. Contact Dianne Mongold, 757-903-4602 or email mdianne510@yahoo.com.

Hey Neighbor!

BENEFIT CONCERT TO SUPPORT GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM

May 11, 2012

The Williamsburg Music Club Benefit Concert supports the club's Grants-in-Aid program for talented local young musicians. At the Kimball Theatre. Tickets - \$18 available by calling 645-4644 or sending check (and self-addressed stamped envelope) to The Williamsburg Music Club P.O. Box 1808 Williamsburg, Va. 23187. Also available at the Kimball theatre box office or on line.

Hey Neighbor!

7 SOPRANOS IN CONCERT

May 12, 2012

Seven local sopranos will perform at Williamsburg Baptist Church, at 7:30 pm. The concert is free. The 7 Sopranos are Divas who Just Wanna Have Fun! For more information call the church at 229-1219.

Hey Neighbor!

PLEIN AIR PAINTING AT CHIP-POKES PLANTATION STATE PARK
May 12, 2012

Artists on the Plantation will find inspiration to paint or photograph at Chippokes from dawn to dusk. Come see the artists at work. \$4 parking fee. More info call Joan Miller 757-229-2132.

Hey Neighbor!

ZERO IN YOUR JOB SEARCH: HOW AND WHERE TO LOCATE YOUR BEST JOB
May 15, 2012

Presented by Experienced Employees in Transition. For more information contact Morgan Whiteley at morgan@seniorservicescoalition.com.

Hey Neighbor!

CHKD FREE PUBLIC PROGRAM - BABY CARE 101
May 17, 2012

7-9 p.m. Pediatric Associates of Williamsburg, 119 Bulifants Blvd., Williamsburg. Class for expectant and newborn parents who want to learn about providing a safe and secure environment for their infant. Lots of opportunities to ask questions about the first year of life. Call (757) 564-7337 press option 5 then 3 with questions. For more information on our practice visit www.chkhd.org/PAW. Register online at www.chkhd.org/classes.

Hey Neighbor!

CHKD FREE PUBLIC PROGRAM - INFANT MASSAGE
May 17, 2012

5:30-6:30 pm. Pediatric Associates of Williamsburg, 119 Bulifants Blvd., Williamsburg. This is a newborn infant massage class for expecting and new parents. Call 757-564-7337 press 5 then 3 with questions. For more information on our practice visit www.chkhd.org/PAW. Register online at www.chkhd.org/classes.

Hey Neighbor!

NAACP LIFE MEMBERSHIP BANQUET
May 19, 2012

“NAACP: Protecting Our Vote, Our Rights, Our Freedom” at the

Williamsburg Lodge. Keynote Speaker: Hilary O. Shelton, Director of NAACP Washington Bureau. Mistress of Ceremony: Jeanne Zeidler, President and CEO of Williamsburg Community Health Foundation. Silent Auction/ Reception – 5 pm. Dinner/Program – 6:30 pm. Proceeds support the Branch civil rights and youth programs and community outreach efforts. For tickets call NAACP Branch Office at 229-3113.

Hey Neighbor!

FAMILY FUN FEST
May 19, 2012

11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Chickahominy Riverfront Park, 1350 John Tyler Highway. Enjoy this annual family event which features Touch-a-Truck, rides, a petting zoo, hands-on activities and the Fun Run! Entertainment includes dancers, fun contests and music! Shop the local food, craft and business vendors. Offered in partnership with Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center and Colonial Roadrunners. \$3/car parking fee. For information, call 757-259-5356 or visit www.jamestowntownva.gov/recreation.

Hey Neighbor!

MACRO-INVERTEBRATES PROGRAM
May 19, 2012

Virginia’s Watershed Academy will conduct a hands-on macro-invertebrates class for children ages 8-12 at the Interpretive Center in Freedom Park 10 -11:30 am. Children will learn what macro-invertebrates are, what their presence means in identifying healthy water and have experiences in locating and identifying them. There is no cost, but registration is required at www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org. Contact Barb Dunbar 880-8875, twotac@cox.net for more information.

Hey Neighbor!

THE SAVVY GARDENER
May 19, 2012

0:00-11:30 am at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, members of the “Barrels and Bins” team, James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners will demonstrate how to build your own rain barrel and utilize the rain water for your garden. Barrels and bins will be available for sale. The program is free and no registration is required. Contact Dennis Wool at wool@cox.net 903-8064 for more information.



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NORTH BEND PLANTATION EVENT

May 20, 2012

4:30 - 7:30 pm. Enjoy an afternoon of gracious Southern Hospitality and Civil War History when The Williamsburg Symphonia League hosts its Spring Plantation Event at North Bend Plantation in Charles City, VA. This rare opportunity combines fascinating history with an afternoon of gracious Southern hospitality. Three items will be raffled at this event. For information about the event, please call Marie Knuettel at 259-2313. Proceeds to benefit The Williamsburg Symphonia.

Hey Neighbor!

CHKD FREE PUBLIC PROGRAM - BREASTFEEDING ADVICE

May 24, 2012

5:30-6:30 pm. Pediatric Associates of Williamsburg, 119 Bulifants Blvd., Williamsburg. Please join us for this free introductory class designed to inform the prospective breastfeeding mother about the advantages of breastfeeding. Please call (757) 564-7337 press 5 then 3 if you have questions. For more information on our practice visit www.chkd.org/PAW. Register online at www.chkd.org/classes.

Hey Neighbor!

"VINES AND WINES" THIRD ANNUAL SPRING GARDEN PARTY

May 24, 2012

The 3rd Annual Spring Garden Party with the Williamsburg Botanical Garden will be held at 5:30 pm in the Rockefeller Garden, at the Colonial Williamsburg Inn. Food, Music, Silent Auction and More. Proceeds to benefit Williamsburg

Botanical Garden in Freedom Park.

Hey Neighbor!

CHILDREN'S ART IN THE GARDEN

June 16, 2012

9 - 10:30 am at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. Children will create a botanical portrait in colored pencil or watercolor from a cutting in the Garden. All materials are provided, the workshop is free, but attendance is limited to 15 children, ages 7 and older. Registration is required at www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org. For more information, call Barb Dunbar, 880-8875, or contact Linda Miller at botanicalarttoday@yahoo.com

Hey Neighbor!

CALL FOR ARTISTS!

June 30, 2012

The 3rd Annual Williamsburg Cel-

brates Contemporary Artisans and Plein Air Artist show will take place on Duke of Gloucester Street. This event is rain or shine. For more information please visit www.williamsburgcelebrates.com or email bweiler@housingpartnerships.org

Hey Neighbor!

BARRY UZZELL'S SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP

July 9-13, July 30-August 3, August 13-17, 2012

W/JCC Community Action Agency sponsors a summer basketball camp. Barry Uzzell, a former International pro basketball player, gives top instruction. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at JCC/W Community Center on 5301 Longhill Road. The cost is \$50 per child, per session. For more information and to enroll, call Yvonne at 229-9332 or send an email to caa@tni.net.

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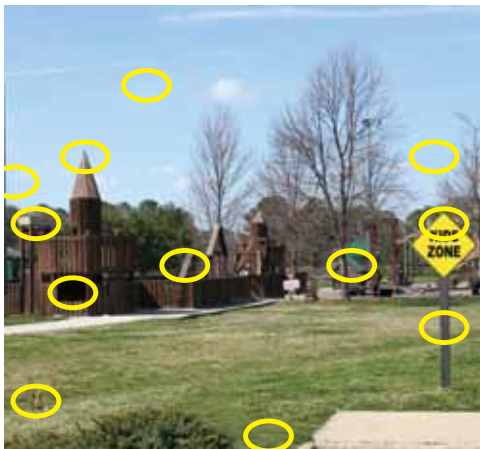
Find the 12 differences
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