

SOCIETY  
OF 1918



Welcome to the eighth edition of the Society of 1918 e-newsletter!



---

**500**  
**MEMBERS!**

---

### **The Jar: A life lesson I didn't know I was learning**

I grew up in rural upstate New York, the middle child of five, each born four years after the one before. Our house was near the intersection of three roads in an area known as the Five Corners. While it sounds like a busy place, the traffic included mostly kids on bikes, farmers on tractors, and cars with fathers going to and from work and mothers picking up and dropping kids off at school events. Our house was on 3 flat acres and was surrounded on two sides by cornfields and on the third side by our neighbor's vegetable garden. The neighbor with the vegetable garden built many of the houses in the neighborhood. He lived in one, we lived in one and two of his children each lived in one. And, it just so happens that one of his children married my uncle. While we weren't all related, we sort of were. If we cut through the cornfield, in a five-minute walk we could be at the home of our good friends. It took 10 minutes if you walked the road and three minutes either way if you rode your bike. The parents of this household were about the same age as mine and they also

---

had five children each about four years apart. In the eyes of the 10 children who lived in those two houses, they were interchangeable homes. Wherever we were playing at noon is where we ate lunch. Whichever parent was available would take whichever kid needed to get to the school for a practice or a play. When one father needed help on the lawn mower, he asked the other. When one mother needed a break, she called the other on the party line and invited her for coffee. They were the kind of family who called ours on Saturday night to see if anyone wanted a ride to church the next morning. The moms were Girl Scout leaders and the dads umpired and coached youth baseball and softball.

It was in the house of these neighbors that I learned about philanthropy. The youngest of our neighbors' children was born with Down syndrome. While both families managed financially, it was known early that this beautiful young girl would need a lifetime of care. I don't know who put it there, but soon after she was born, a jar showed up on their kitchen counter. This jar was near the back door where friends and family entered and left. Over time, I observed that most everyone who walked in and out of their home would reach into their pocket and throw their loose change or sometimes even in a dollar bill in the jar. I recall so clearly, nearly 50 years ago now, the day when I was about 8 and I watched an uncle toss some jingle into the jar. I loved this particular uncle. He was a mechanic by trade and he was the happiest guy on earth. He was the uncle who always joined our game of sandlot ball. He was the uncle who had a hearty laugh. One day I asked him why he put money into the glass jar. He told me that it was for the youngest child in the house, the child with Down syndrome. He explained that she would always need a place to live and people to care for her. If everyone gave a little bit a lot of times, it would really help. He also told me how it gave him a smile every time he dropped something in the jar and that it made him happy to be able to contribute. Over the years, I saw the jar fill and empty and fill and empty. I learned that a little, many times over, could add up to lot. And I learned that giving to others brings joy to the giver. That uncle, who wore a tattered blue sweatshirt with a smiley face on it, was so happy to know he could make a difference.

That little girl, who is now in her 50s and lives with her mother who is in her 80s, is deeply loved by so many. I have to think that the jar on the corner of the counter meant so much to her family, not just for the financial support that it surely brought,

---

but also for the sentiment it expressed.

That clear glass jar taught the 8-year-old version of me about the value of giving. It was a simple manifestation of what philanthropy is all about. All those who dropped something into that jar not only helped this family, which I think I already understood at that age — but what I learned, in that short conversation with an uncle, was that they also gained the joy and fulfillment of giving to others.

I hope with this edition of the newsletter you will take a moment to celebrate the now 500 women who have joined the Society of 1918. Each and every one of you has decided to fill the jar for current and future W&M women. Thank you! Just as the jar made a difference for our neighbors, you have made a difference for all women who come behind you. Culturally, as women, we carry the mantle of helping others. In turn, we sometimes forget about or feel guilty about the joy doing so gives back to us. I hope you will take a moment to soak up the joy that giving to others brings to you.



Valerie Cushman  
Senior Director of Engagement & Inclusion Initiatives

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEER ON THE SOCIETY OF 1918 STEERING COMMITTEE

**Congratulations to our newly appointed  
Steering Committee members:**

Kirstie Brenson '12  
Jessica Chen '05  
Katherine Covino '12  
Ashley Glacel '02  
Cyndy Nash Huddleston '83, M.Ed. '86

**Thanks to our founding Steering Committee  
members whose terms are ending:**

Meg Pratt Carter '89  
Aili Chatfield-Taylor '17  
Lynn Melzer Dillon '75  
Shelby Smith Hawthorne '67, M.A.Ed. '75  
Cindy Satterwhite Jarboe '77

Sequoia Owen '12  
Clorisa (Clo) Phillips '77  
Ashleigh Queen Ed.D. '20  
Dr. Sandra Thompson '90, M.A. '91  
Christine Simpson '05  
Alyssa Scruggs '10  
Harriet Stanley '72

Elizabeth Cabell Jennings '85  
Kathleen Jennings '08  
Leanne Dorman Kurland '75  
Pamela Jordan Penny '77, HON J.D. '16  
Anne Pennewell Sharp '82  
Martha Frechette Tack '78

## SOCIETY OF 1918 CONTRIBUTIONS TO W&M WOMEN IN ACTION



### **W&M Athletics announced a \$1.5 challenge gift for women's athletic scholarships**

As a demonstration of support for William & Mary's commitment to gender equity in athletics, an anonymous alumna stepped forward with a \$1.5 million challenge gift for women's athletics scholarships. The gift will advance the university's efforts to ensure gender balance and equity among its student-athletes.

Women in Action, William & Mary women's athletics fundraising committee, has announced opportunities for alumni and supporters to participate in the three-year campaign. Gifts to any of the department's scholarship funds will count toward the \$3-million total challenge goal and will help the university reach the \$55-million goal of W&M Athletics' recently launched [All In campaign](#). Contributions to the following

---

scholarship funds included in the challenge: women's basketball, women's gymnastics, women's golf, field hockey, women's lacrosse, women's soccer, women's tennis, women's track & field/cross country, women's swimming and the Women In Action Scholarship/Student Athlete Fund.

For many student-athletes, scholarships can be the difference between pursuing their passions at William & Mary and not attending college at all or going to a peer institution that offers a more robust scholarships package. Raising sufficient funds to offer scholarship assistance to as many William & Mary student-athletes as possible is one of the key drivers behind the mission of Women in Action. Donations to the Women in Action Scholarship/Student Athlete Support Fund or any of the sport-specific scholarship funds will assist to fill the gap between current endowment scholarship earnings and athletics' annual \$10-million scholarship expense.

Challenge gift donors will be recognized on the campaign's Women in Action virtual donor wall, receive invitations to exclusive campaign-donor events, and have the opportunity to mentor a current W&M student-athlete.

[READ MORE](#)

---

**SUSAN PETTYJOHN'S BLOG ON WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY**



### **Susan Pettyjohn M.Ed. '95**

Throughout my 15-year career working in Advancement at William & Mary and during my career in higher education, I have had the opportunity to meet some amazing women philanthropists and have learned so much from them. During 2020, we witnessed the economic impact of the pandemic on many women, such as job loss and wage equality dialed backward by 30 years, reduced promotion and career advancement and the intensified challenges of primary caregiving. My colleagues and I at Washburn & McGoldrick started asking, What has happened with women and giving? Are there downward trends there too?

I feel fortunate to be a part of a thoughtful and caring group of women philanthropists who are members of the Society of 1918, and I am very appreciative of the many women who responded to the survey I recently conducted. Your answers certainly give us hope and confidence about how women have stepped up this past year and are truly making a difference. Read more about our findings in this blog post.

[READ MORE](#)

## UPCOMING SOCIETY OF 1918 EVENTS

### **Women's Health Series | Leadership Conversation with President Katherine Rowe and Dr. Susannah Rowe**

June 10, 2021 | via Zoom

Watch your email inbox for an invitation to join President Katherine Rowe and her sister, Dr. Susannah Rowe, in a conversation on the impact of organizational practices and policies that inhibit or enhance the health of employees. More details to follow!

### **Women in Academia | Journeys through the Professoriate**

Fall 2021 | via Zoom

Watch your email inbox for an invitation to join a panel of William & Mary alumnae who have climbed the ranks of the academy to reach phenomenal leadership roles. Hear their stories, advice for alumnae seeking careers in higher education, as well as how they continue to develop their leadership styles.

[DID YOU MISS A SOCIETY OF 1918 VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY?](#)



## **Women's Health Series | [Improving Maternal Health](#)**

A panel of health experts explored increases in U.S. maternal deaths over the last two decades, pronounced racial disparities in maternal mortality and the interventions that can reverse these trends. President Katherine Rowe introduced First Lady of Virginia Pamela Northam for the keynote address, followed by a panel discussion moderated by Rachel Becker '19, policy advisor to the secretary of health and human resources. Panelists included W&M Professor Claire McKinney; Dr. Camille Hammond, CEO of the Cade Foundation; Kelly Cannon '05, senior director for Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association; and Dr. Vanessa Walker Harris, deputy secretary of health and human resources for Virginia.

- [Event Recording](#)

## **Society of 1918 [Inspiring Change: For You. For W&M.](#)**

More than 100 members registered for our virtual all-Society meeting. Chair Janet Atwater '83 provided a [State of the Society address](#), then members participated in a Design Thinking Workshop with [Graham Henshaw](#), director of the Entrepreneurship Center at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business. In the afternoon, Dr. Marin Burton from the Center for Creative Leadership led a session on Polarity Thinking. In this session, participants explored [Polarity Thinking](#) and how people can use this lens to effectively manage individual, team or organizational challenges. Participants also used a [mapping tool](#) designed to help people think through ideas within various polarities. When used successfully, it helps identify the upsides and downsides of each pole, resulting in a whole picture of the polarity to be managed.

- [Event Recording](#)





### Celebrating W&M Women and Military Service

This program was held during Virginia's Women Veterans Week to celebrate W&M women who are serving or have served in the military. In the recording, you will hear stories of service from a panel of alumnae and a current W&M ROTC cadet moderated by the Honorable Caryn Wagner '79. You will also learn about what W&M is doing to support our veterans from the special assistant for military and veterans affairs.

- [Event Recording](#)



### Women's Health Series | From Awareness to Action

Dr. Erica Warner, cancer epidemiologist and assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, shared research insights from studies about how lived experiences, access to care and breast cancer tumor biology contribute to observed racial/ethnic disparities in mortality from breast cancer.

- [Event Recording](#)

**SOCIETY OF 1918 ALUMNA-STUDENT INTERVIEWS**



## Susan Magill '72 and Jamelah Jacob '21

In the second interview in this series, hear from Susan Aheron Magill '72, D.P.S. '20, chair of the Leadership Committee, and Jamelah Jacob '21, president of the Asian American Student Initiative. Journey through the day in the life of a William & Mary student leader and remember how your alma mater shaped you into the dynamic leader you are today!

Members of the Leadership Committee of the Society of 1918 are uncovering the stories of William & Mary leaders because W&M women lead phenomenal lives that are worth highlighting! Through the 2020 Salon Series on Leadership in Crisis, the Leadership Committee shared stories of dynamic William & Mary alumni at the forefronts of education, business and politics. Their latest project involves interviews between alumnae and current student leaders. Much like our alumni, current William & Mary students are leading fascinating lives.

[WATCH HERE](#)

### WILLIAM & MARY VOICES NEWSLETTER

The William & Mary Office of Diversity & Inclusion, led by Chief Diversity Officer Chon Glover M.Ed. '99, Ed.D. '06, publishes [a regular newsletter](#) about the programs and services offered at William & Mary. Be sure to subscribe for updates on the university's diversity efforts in facilitating and supporting diversity and inclusion. Each newsletter

issue shares the good work of academic and administrative departments, students, affinity groups and more.

## **SOCIETY OF 1918 MISSION AND VISION**

The Society of 1918 is committed to growing the engagement, leadership and philanthropy of W&M women.

Our vision is to achieve a level of impact, influence and generosity commensurate with our majority representation in the alumni community.

The Society of 1918 e-newsletter goes out to all members of the society periodically with updates, upcoming events, shout-outs and more. Love it? Have a suggestion? Want to author a blog on women's leadership or philanthropy? Want to submit your information for a member feature? Let me know at [vjcushman@wm.edu](mailto:vjcushman@wm.edu).