



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



481
MEMBERS

from the classes of the
1940s
through
2020s



177

members have given
\$100,000+
in their lifetime



Over
\$4.3M
raised

\$4,321,727
cash in hand \$2,873,234

Society of 1918 members:

The fight for women's right to vote, ALL women, took over a century. It was not until after I was born that ALL women in the U.S. were afforded this right. And I'm not *THAT* old. Given its importance in a democracy, I have no doubt that the vast majority, if not all, of the 481 members of the Society of 1918 exercised that right during this election cycle. That, in and of itself, is a win for all of us. We did our part to make democracy work, even if, as I'm writing this before the election, I can't imagine a scenario in which all our members are elated about the outcomes.

Now what? Ironically, I believe, therein lies the strength of our 481 members. The diversity of our membership is what makes the Society so special. We each bring our own unique ideology, histories, experiences, perspectives and cultures to the table, but we all share a singular focus. That is to grow the impact, influence and generosity of W&M women toward the betterment of each other and the university. The diversity of lenses through which we achieve our mission only makes our outcomes better.

There is a growing body of data that speaks to the uneven impact of the pandemic on women and people of color. Referencing this research, Bloomberg notes that "The pandemic has erased years of economic gains for women and is poised to leave lasting economic scars." While these data are disconcerting, the necessity for an organization like the Society of 1918 will grow even more important in the coming months and years.

The Steering Committee will be soliciting your input on a number of topics. In fact, knowing that Society members are busy women, they are dividing their questions into two surveys so that you will have time to provide thoughtful answers.

The Society has accomplished so much since its inception just two short years ago. Each member has shared her treasure to support our stated goals. Now, we are asking for your time and talent. As the \$4.3 million endowment you have collectively created begins to produce significant revenue toward achieving our vision, we need and want to tap the diverse perspectives of our membership about next steps.

As a member of the Society of 1918, your voice matters. Really matters. Please take a few minutes to complete the surveys at the bottom of this newsletter in order to help

shape the future of our members and of W&M.

Finally, be sure to keep an eye on your snail mailbox and mark your calendar for a Society of 1918 gathering on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 3 p.m. ET!

Val

UPCOMING EVENTS



Expedition Nepal

November 17, 2020, 4 p.m. ET – In 2019, a team of fisheries biologists from VIMS, led by Professor Mary Fabrizio, traveled to Nepal to study the country's freshwater fishes. Along the way they learned a great deal about the rewards and challenges associated with conducting international research. Join us as Professor Fabrizio provides a first-



Rising Stars: Meet the next generation of women in marine science

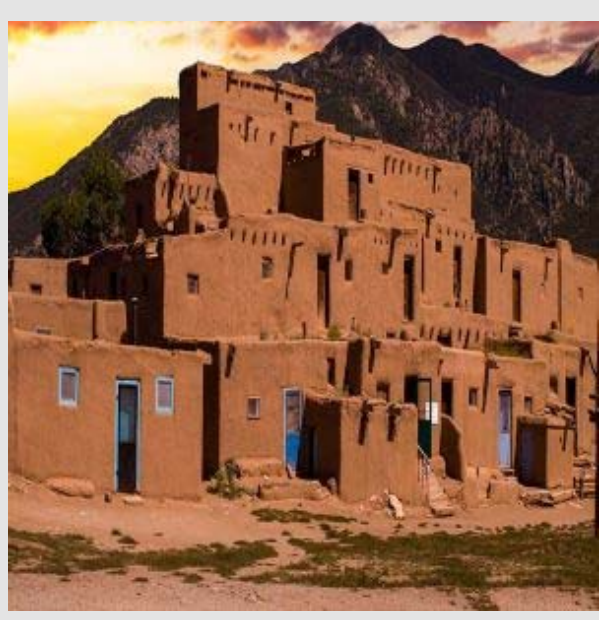
December 3, 2020, 4 p.m. ET – [Register and learn more](#) about three female scientists and graduate students at VIMS provide overviews of their important research. Each student will give a five-minute talk followed by time for questions. Speakers and topics include:

- Meredith Evans Seeley Ph.D. '22: "The Dirt on

hand account of the expedition — from extreme heat to wild rhinoceros encounters — and what they hope to discover with the information they gathered. [Register and learn more here!](#)

Microplastics: How plastic pollution is affecting marine food webs”

- Shantelle Landry M.S. '21: “Industry Development: Laying the groundwork for soft shell clam aquaculture in Virginia”
- Kayla Martinez-Soto M.S. '21: “The potential impacts on salt marshes by a new climate migrant, the Atlantic marsh fiddler crab”



Unlock Your Heart-centered Leadership

December 16, 2020, 4 p.m. ET –
Join Elizabeth Hope Derby '07 to get a glimpse of your natural leadership

William & Mary Alumni Journey

"A Sense of Place" Alumni Journey, Taos & Santa Fe – June 15-20, 2021 – You do not want to miss this one-of-a-kind adventure through the mesmerizing landscapes of Taos and historic Santa Fe. Did we mention that the last day of the trip

style and the role model you already are. Learn how to use storytelling to identify your personal strengths and shadows, and upgrade your self-image so you can navigate work and life with greater confidence and human connection. You will receive an e-mail with the registration link!

includes a walking tour of Georgia O'Keeffe's home? Find out more and reserve your spot! This exclusive trip has eight places available and all travelers have the option for 100% refunds with Cancel for Any Reason Protection. [Learn more](#) here!

DID YOU MISS A SOCIETY OF 1918 VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY?



Winning with Resiliency

Panelists Anne McGeorge '83, Fran Engoron '70 and Professor Sarah Stafford approached challenges, opportunities and winning tactics from three perspectives: nonprofit organizations, corporations and entrepreneurial ventures, and academia. Each have leadership experience in one or more of these sectors. In each of those organizational spheres, crises may



The Style that Binds Us: How to Create a Visual Brand

W&M alumna Delia Folk '14 and her mother, Alison Bruhn, offered a fun and upbeat webinar on how to remain fashionable online in the age of Zoom and the coronavirus! Watch the recording of "How to Create A Visual Brand" [here](#)!

look a bit different, but all can be opportunities to win by exercising resiliency — find the [recording here!](#)



Author Talk with Fiona Davis '88

Alumni, parents, family, friends and book lovers were invited to join author Fiona Davis '88 for a reading and discussion of her book “The Lions of Fifth Avenue.” After her time at William & Mary, Fiona Davis began her career in New York City as an actress, where she worked on Broadway, off-Broadway and in regional theater. After graduating from W&M in 1988 and getting a master's degree at Columbia Journalism School, she fell in love with writing, leapfrogging from editor to freelance journalist before finally settling down as an author of historical fiction — find the [recording here!](#)



Sea Level Rise with Molly Mitchell '99, M.S. '03

Molly Mitchell '99, M.S. '03, a research assistant professor at the Center for Coastal Resources Management at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), gave us a primer on sea level rise — what causes it, how it is changing around the United States, and what can be done to address it. Watch the recording of part one of our Women in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and math) series, “Rising Tides, Sinking Coast: How coastal communities can adapt to surging sea levels” [here!](#)



Music: Mind, Body and Spirit with Robin Gaiser '68

Robin Russell Gaiser '68, MA, Certified Music Practitioner (CMP), hosted an interactive program where she offered research-backed information and live music to illustrate how profoundly music affects the mind, body and spirit. Watch the recording of “Music: Mind, Body and Spirit” for takeaway techniques for using music for self-care as well as care of others in this timely presentation for part two of the STEAM Series — find the [recording here!](#)

SOCIETY OF 1918 MEMBER FEATURES



An article by Susan Brake '86

Rather than being tempted to push through the COVID-19 crisis, leaders who “pull through” will employ three successful strategies: trust through high touch, empathy with inquiry, and flexible focus. This article uses three case studies, including one about William & Mary President Katherine Rowe, to show how leaders employ pull-through characteristics to build connection and trust, resilience, and results in their organizations — read the [article here!](#)



LTC Rebecca A. Milkowski-Gerdelman M.B.A. '12

As a logistics officer in the United States Army, I have the opportunity to be an influential leader across numerous organizations in complex and diverse real-world situations. I build cohesive teams of critical and creative thinkers that are empowered to make impactful decisions. The Army's diverse culture has allowed me to be a dynamic leader and mentor to officers and soldiers throughout my career. I currently serve as the battalion commander of Army Field Support Battalion Germany, where I lead a strategic logistics organization that synchronizes sustainment support for tactical units operating across the European Theater. Outside of work, my greatest achievements are as a wife and as the mother of a high-spirited three-year-old.



Susan Wiltsie '84

Susan is a law firm partner with over 30 years of experience assisting companies with OSHA legal compliance and defending those companies in health- and safety-related litigation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has worked tirelessly to guide companies through the complex landscape of legal requirements and recommendations coming from all levels of government. Susan is a legal advisor companies trust to help them protect their workers.

Hilary Grant Dixon '00

Hilary Grant Dixon is the author of "Maggie Sinclair, Will You Please Fix Your Hair?!" and a portrait photographer with an award-winning creative eye. As a creative consultant, Hilary provides innovative solutions that help clients examine their ideas from multiple perspectives to find the most robust, engaging and thought-provoking ways to increase engagement with their projects.





Sue Manix '79

"Through my work in the private sector at Verizon Communications, as president of the W&M Alumni Association and now as assistant head for community engagement at the Shipley School, I have focused on creating cultures of engagement.

Especially during times of change, it is critical to engage key constituencies. I've found this drives performance excellence in both the private and public sectors."

A Note about William & Mary Athletics

William & Mary President Katherine A. Rowe announced this week that the university will reset its process to determine long-term sustainability for W&M Athletics. As part of that reset, Rowe said, W&M men's athletics teams slated for reclassification will continue as Division I sports through at least 2021-22, in order to take a phased approach that allows for a gender equity review paired with exploration of alternative solutions leading to a long-term financial plan. Learn more on the [Shared Path Forward website](#).

Two Surveys for Society of 1918 Members

The Membership Committee asks that all members complete these brief surveys! The purpose of the surveys is to gather information so the Society can better communicate with its members, provide expanded programming and broaden its leadership team. The [first survey](#) gathers demographic data, while the [second survey](#) gathers feedback about past and future Society of 1918 programs.

Opportunities to Connect

Do you want to connect with sister Society of 1918 members? Please [complete this brief survey](#), where you may include a hyperlink to one social media account of your choice (i.e. LinkedIn or Facebook). We will hyperlink your name in the member resources section of the [Society of 1918 website](#) to the account you choose, so fellow members can find you on social media!

Mentoring Opportunities

Are you interested in mentoring current students or young alumni? The William & Mary Alumni Association offers a platform where alumni can [offer internship, externship and full-time job opportunities to our students!](#)

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.



Message sent by:
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