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Debbie Ramer honored with 2024 President's Award for Service to the Community

As part of William & Mary's kick-off to the academic year, two members of the university community were celebrated for their exemplary commitment and dedication to service.

Michelle Indelicato '25 and Debbie Ramer, clinical faculty in special education and director of the special education program at the William & Mary School of Education, were honored with the 2024 President's Award for Service to the Community during this year's **Opening Convocation** on Aug. 28 in the Wren Courtyard.

The annual award is given to one student and one faculty member and recognizes those "who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to service and made a significant and measurable impact on our community." Winners are selected by W&M Civic & Community Engagement and the President's Office, and the award carries a monetary prize, which is donated to a community organization of the award recipient's choice. **More.**

FROM THE DEAN



This fall at the School of Education we are focused on fostering connections and building relationships. From Homecoming & Reunion Weekend and our Homecoming Scholarship Luncheon to Prospective Students Day, we look forward to the annual celebrations that make each year remarkable. We are also excited to welcome six new faculty members this fall. Their diverse research areas will enrich our expertise and support our mission of transforming students, schools and communities.

— Dean Rob Knoeppel

NEWS & NOTES

The Optimist Project: Intergroup relations in U.S. history & leadership development

A cohort of 41 exceptional rising ninth graders from the prestigious **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Young Scholars Program** visited William & Mary this summer for educational opportunities to enhance their leadership skills. Their cohort experience began with The Optimist Project (TOP), a new initiative sponsored by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and developed and administered by the W&M School of Education's **Center for Gifted Education (CFGE)**. **More.**



Video production credit: SCP Educational Media Technician Grace Helmick '21.

Janise Parker Featured in SCP Faculty Fellowship Spotlight

Strategic Cultural Partnerships (SCP) at William & Mary recently featured a video interview with Associate Professor of School Psychology Janise Parker about her research on the history of the Bray School and the new popular online course she developed, H.E.A.L. (History Evoking Action and Liberation).

[Watch Interview](#) [View Course Flyer](#)



Virginia's Revolutionary histories take center stage at 'For 2026' conference

The Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, in collaboration with William & Mary and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, is thrilled to announce the upcoming "Virginia's Revolutionary Histories & Beyond" conference scheduled for October 25-26, 2024.

A preconference day dedicated to K-12 teachers and museum educators is scheduled on October 24. The Revolutionary Educators (RevED) Teacher Summit, a convening of K-12 teachers, teacher educators and museum and historic site educators, will share strategies for interdisciplinary pedagogical practices. Topics range from civic engagement to the responsible use of AI in teaching history.

Also featured is the third annual convening of the Slate Seminar, a symposium to share the history and legacies of the Williamsburg Bray School and the students who studied there. This year marks 250 years since the August 1774 closing of the school. **More.**

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Joseph Boselovic
Postdoctoral Research
Fellow, The Institute
for the Study of
Education, Democracy
& Justice



Brent Henderson
Clinical Assistant
Professor, Counselor
Education



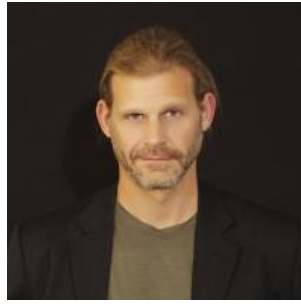
Robert Martinez
Associate Professor
and Co-Program
Coordinator, School
Counseling



Radomir Ray Mitic
Assistant Professor,
Higher Education



Ricardo Phipps
Clinical Associate
Professor and Co-
Program Coordinator,
Counselor Education



Jayson Richardson
Professor of
Education,
Educational
Leadership



Melissa Whatley
Assistant Professor,
Higher Education



Dwayne White
Clinical Assistant
Professor, Counselor
Education

Podcast News



Project HOPE-Virginia Podcast: Empowering Voices in Homeless Education and McKinney-Vento

Project HOPE has launched a new podcast, the Project HOPE-Virginia Podcast: Empowering Voices in Homeless Education and McKinney-Vento! In the debut episode, Lisa Ann Abernathy, education specialist for McKinney-Vento in Henrico County, discusses the impactful summer pop-up events her team hosted at local motels and the upcoming activities planned for the school year. Tune in to hear how these initiatives are supporting students experiencing homelessness and ensuring their success in school. **Listen.**

Katherine Barko-Alva on "With Good Reason"

In an interview for the "With Good Reason" Virginia Humanities podcast, Associate Professor of ESL/Bilingual Education Katherine Barko-Alva explains how first language skills can transfer to other learned languages, and how families can help improve those skills. "Your L1 skills are going to transfer into the second language, so ... one of the things parents could provide, while they may not be able to read to their child in English 20 minutes a day, every day, [is] they can do that in Spanish." **Listen.**



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Summer Kirkpatrick M.Ed. '24 Organizes Collections for Hurricane Helene Storm Relief

A local school counselor and School of Education alum drew many donations, earning headlines for her dedication in the "Virginia Gazette":

The community came out in force Friday to donate items for storm relief to North Carolina, both at Walsingham Academy and at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church — collection drives spurred by Summer Kirkpatrick.

By Saturday morning, four trucks left at 5 a.m. to make their way to the flood-ravaged western North Carolina, part of the area affected by the remnants of Hurricane Helene.

Kirkpatrick, a school counselor at Walsingham Academy, organized the drives to help the town where she once lived and still owns a house. Her husband, Reid, took a first U-Haul load there a week ago, adding to supplies being collected at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. By this past Saturday, the church's storage was full, so supplies were directed to a warehouse in nearby Swannanoa, where they'll be distributed as needed. **More.**

New class reporter for the School of Education

The **W&M Alumni Magazine** is excited to introduce **Parker Mercer M.Ed. '22** as the new class reporter for the School of Education. With his background in educational leadership, specializing in higher education administration, Parker has graciously volunteered to serve as the class reporter for the school's class notes section in the magazine.

In this role, Parker will be collecting and compiling news items about the school's graduate alumni. We encourage you to share your updates—both professional and personal—with him. To share an update, please contact Parker at parkermercercer346@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Day for Prospective Students, October 18, 2024, 3-6 p.m.

Oct. 16-19: T/TAC: Division on Career Development and Transition International Conference

Oct. 16: Learn about our Higher Education M.Ed. program!

Oct. 17-20: Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

Oct. 21: Learn about our School Psychology program!

Oct. 22: The Science of Teaching Reading

Oct. 23: Learn about our Higher Education Ph.D. program!

Oct. 24-26: For 2026: Virginia's Revolutionary Histories & Beyond

Oct. 28: Learn about our Curriculum & Educational Leadership Ph.D. program!

Oct. 28: Learn about our Counseling M.Ed. programs!

Oct. 29: Learn about our Secondary Education program!

Oct. 29: Learn about our Special Education program!

Nov. 6: T/TAC: Transition to Practice

Nov. 6: Learn about our Executive Ed.D. programs!

Nov. 14: Learn about our Literacy Leadership & Reading Specialist programs!

Nov. 14: Learn about our Online PK-12 Leadership programs!

Nov. 18: Learn about our Counselor Education Ph.D. program!

Nov. 18-21: Education Week 2024

SHARE A STORY

Let us know what you're up to!

MAKE A GIFT

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