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## Summer at the School of Education

### FROM THE DEAN



As we welcome faculty and students for the 2024-2025 academic year, I am once again struck by the joy that comes from our profession. The School of Education had a busy summer hosting close to 1,000 students from regional school divisions, and I was fortunate to spend time visiting these pre-collegiate programs. We also provided professional development for educators, delivered immersive, hands-on training for our preservice teachers and hosted two on-campus summer residencies for students in our hybrid and online programs. As new faces join the returning members of our community, we've enjoyed an exciting start to the year and reaffirmed our commitment to the transformative mission of the School of Education.

— Dean Rob Knoeppel

## SUMMER HAPPENINGS



### Picturing Mathematics Education Anew: School of Education Murals Illuminate New Learning Pathways

As William & Mary continues celebrating the **Year of the Arts** throughout 2024, the School of Education has unveiled its third annual mural, which highlights the power of integrating art with mathematics instruction. While mathematics remains at the core, the murals creatively showcase the interconnectedness of mathematics with other disciplines, serving as dynamic lenses through which mathematical concepts can be explored. This integration enriches learning and fosters a more holistic understanding of mathematics. Each mural, brought to life by students in the M2 Summer Math Camp, is part of **a multiyear NSF-funded research project** led by the Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor Gladys Krause.

The goal of this project is to explore how creativity can enhance mathematics education, moving beyond rote memorization to foster a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts, for both students and teachers. Collaborating with former ESL teacher Caroline Finchum, a current graduate student in the School of Education, and artist Maria Emilia Borja '11, Krause's research aims to reimagine mathematical instruction by integrating art and analyzing the intersection of creativity, mathematics and language. **More.**



### Record Enrollment and New Opportunities for Camp Launch and Camp Orbit

**Camp Launch**, the **Center for Gifted Education's (CFGE)** summer camp for high-ability middle and high school students from low-income backgrounds, had record enrollment this year with 297 students from 30 school divisions, an increase from 255 students in 2023.



### Camp EAGER Expands to 500 Students

Now in its fourth year, Camp EAGER continued to expand its reach this summer. An experimental summer camp developed by researchers at the William & Mary School of Education, it explores innovative ways to encourage more students from underrepresented groups to pursue STEM careers. Camp EAGER is directed by Pavey Family Co-Chair in Instructional Technology

As enrollment has grown, Camp Launch continues to adapt its engaging curriculum to accommodate its growth. With an increase in the number of participating ninth and 10th graders, high school students were offered three learning tracks. All ninth graders participated in a coding class in addition to choosing from Marine Science, Electromagnetism or Lasers and Optics. Tenth grade students had the option to learn about Forensic Science, Marine Science or Physics. **More.**

and Associate Professor of Science Education Meredith Kier; Pavey Family Co-Chair in Instructional Technology and Associate Professor of English Education Lindy Johnson; and Associate Professor of School Psychology Janise Parker. The camp aims to **E**levate engineering, **A**dvance innovation, **G**uide Learning, **E**ffect change and **R**emove barriers for all.

In 2021, the pilot program served 40 students. Last year, approximately 450 campers participated, and this year that number grew again to 500 rising third-graders to rising 12th-graders. **More.**



## Next Move @ W&M

**Next Move @ W&M** is a grant-funded, William & Mary-sponsored research project led by Principal Investigator and Associate Professor of Special Education Heartley Huber to support young adults with developmental disabilities. Next Move @ W&M creates on-campus, guided summer internships paired with classroom-based transition skills instruction to provide a thoughtful and interactive experience. Students earn a \$500 stipend, work with education graduate students as coaches and build relationships with William & Mary faculty and staff mentors. **More.**

## W&M Orton-Gillingham Scholars Program Admits First Cohort

We are pleased to announce the William & Mary Orton-Gillingham Scholars Program, a collaboration that perfectly aligns with our mission and vision. This program is a collaborative effort with the **Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)**, the **W&M Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC)** and the **W&M Literacy Lab**.





## W&M School of Education Summer Showcase

Highlighting the summer pre-collegiate camps and enrichment opportunities led by School of Education faculty, Dean Knoeppel hosted guests to visit several of the inspiring programs sparking innovation and creativity. On July 18, the group began the day by meeting interns in **Next Move @ W&M**, a program providing support for young adults with developmental disabilities. The interns hosted a meet-and-greet and practiced social skills with the guests. Later in the day, the group visited the interns' work sites across campus, including the Swem Library and McLeod Tyler Wellness Center.

The showcase also included a trip to Hines Middle School in Newport News, where guests actively participated with Camp EAGER students in a range of STEM activities. In between interactions with campers, guests spoke with W&M School of Education preservice teachers about their preparatory curriculum and classroom experiences assisting with the camp. To conclude the day's events, guests observed **Camp Launch** students conducting STEM experiments in several William & Mary classrooms. From marble catapult tournaments to analyzing forensic clues in a fictional crime scene, guests were enthusiastic to learn more from the campers about their findings.

"Visiting Camp Eager, Next Move interns at Swem Library, and Camp Launch was truly inspiring. I am so excited – as a W&M alum and University Supervisor – to see these terrific programs in action," said Lindy Poling '75, P '09.

## NEWS & NOTES



## Meredith Kier Awarded \$1.2 M Grant for Noyce Scholarship Program

The William & Mary School of Education recently received a significant new funding boost from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to advance the recruitment and retention of STEM teachers.

The \$1.2 million award, presented to Associate Professor and Pavey Family Co-Chair in Instructional Technology Meredith Kier, ensures support for the Noyce Scholars Program for the next five years.

The W&M Noyce Scholars Program, an integral part of the university's efforts to address the national shortage of highly qualified K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teachers, provides substantial scholarships to students interested in teaching math and science. [More.](#)



## W&M's Tracy Cross Named Dean at University of Louisiana at Lafayette

After serving the **William & Mary Center for Gifted Education (CFGE)** for 15 years, Tracy L. Cross, Jody and Layton Smith Professor of Psychology and Gifted Education and Executive Director of the CFGE, has been named Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. [More.](#)

## Si Chen Receives 2024 International Student Achievement Award

The Reves Center for International Studies at William & Mary has announced that **Si Chen Ph.D. '25**, a graduate student in Educational Policy, Planning & Leadership with a concentration in Curriculum & Learning Design at the W&M School of Education, has received a 2024 International Student Achievement Award. Chen, who is a student from China, is one of only two graduate and four undergraduate students at the university to be so honored. In his nomination of Chen for the award, Professor Christopher R. Gareis described Chen as “among the top doctoral students, domestic or international, with whom I have worked.” [More.](#)



## W&M's Jeremy P. Martin named president of Florida Southern

Jeremy P. Martin Ph.D. '12, M.B.A. '17, William & Mary's vice president for strategy and innovation, has been selected as the next president of Florida Southern College.

As president of Florida Southern, Martin will lead Florida's oldest private college. [More.](#)



## 26th Annual SURN Leadership Conference

After celebrating graduation in May, the William & Mary School of Education turned its focus to the challenge and excitement of educator leadership development, hosting the **26th Annual School-University Resource Network (SURN) Leadership Academy** on June 10-11. With the theme “Learning Leaders ASPIRE,” this year’s conference was designed to rejuvenate, inspire and equip educational leaders with the tools they need to thrive in their roles.

Executive Director Amy Colley M.A.Ed. '90, M.Ed. '01, Ed.D. '14, opened the event with a heartfelt welcome to the nearly 200 attendees.

“Organized around themes of learning, leading, coaching, evaluating and thriving, this year’s conference offers opportunities for you to think deeply about your aspirations and how to breathe life into them and make them a reality,” she said. Based on feedback from superintendents, the event focused on evidence-based practices, workforce development and wellness activities designed to counteract educator burnout. **More.**

### IN MEMORIAM

#### **Mark Gulesian, professor emeritus of education, passed away on June 30, 2024.**

Mark Gulesian, Professor Emeritus, Education, passed away on June 30, 2024, at Brookdale Senior Living in Williamsburg, VA. He began teaching at William & Mary in 1970, retiring as a full professor after 29 years. While at the university, Mr. Gulesian worked closely with English teachers in public school systems from Virginia Beach to Richmond, as well as with both undergraduate and graduate English students at the college who were preparing to teach English. He founded, directed and taught in the **Eastern Virginia Writing Project** for 20 years. **More.**

#### **Louis Philip Messier, age 88, passed away on August 22, 2024, in Yorktown, VA.**

Born on December 28, 1935, in Northfield, Vermont, he led a life marked by dedication to education, service and family. He joined the faculty of William & Mary in 1972, where he served as Associate Professor of Education until his retirement in 2003. During his tenure, he served twice as Director of Curriculum & Instruction as well as a group leader in the People-to-People Ambassador program to China in 2001. In addition, he served on the board of The Arc of Greater Williamsburg. **More.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 26: [SOE Undergrad Education Interest Pizza Party](#)
- Sept. 27: [Secondary Transition Fall 2024 Community of Practice](#)
- Sept. 28: [W&M School of Education Literacy Lab Data Dive](#)
- Oct. 1: [Diving Deep: Uncovering Powerful Strategies for Interfering Behaviors](#)
- Oct. 3: [Intelligent Lives Movie and Conversation](#)
- Oct. 18: [Day for Prospective Students](#)
- Oct. 17-20: [Homecoming & Reunion Weekend](#)
- Oct. 22: [The Science of Teaching Reading](#)
- Oct. 24-26: [For 2026: Virginia's Revolutionary Histories & Beyond](#)
- Nov. 6: [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. 18-21: [Education Week 2024](#)

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