In challenging times, how do we not just survive, but thrive? We rely on the collective strength of our communities and we look for opportunities, not obstacles. In my first few months at W&M, I've found countless reasons to be excited and optimistic about how our community will weather this pandemic and emerge stronger, together.

In this month's newsletter, we have new faces to introduce, new work to celebrate and new initiatives to share. We're grateful for your partnership.

Learn more about Dean Knoeppel

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**NEWS & NOTES**

**W&M alumni adjusting to remote teaching in special education classes**

Zach Fetters '16, M.A. Ed. '18 and Josh Dulaney '18, M.Ed. '20 discuss the challenges of teaching special education in an online environment, as well as the reasons they entered the field. [More.](#)

**Lindy Johnson recognized with the 2020 Plumeri Award**

Lindy Johnson, associate professor of English Education, has received a 2020 Plumeri Award for her work exploring how digital media affects student learning. The annual Plumeri Awards recognize W&M faculty for their teaching and research. [More.](#)
Mihyeon Kim wins the National Association for Gifted Children’s 2020 Community Service Award

As director of pre-collegiate learner programs at the W&M Center for Gifted Education, Mihyeon Kim’s work impacts hundreds of K-12 students and their families throughout Virginia and far beyond each year. More.

From students to faculty: Alumni use their W&M experiences to teach the next generation

Three faculty members, including Natoya Haskins Ph.D. ’11, associate professor of counselor education, share how their experiences as W&M students influence their teaching today. More.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

MEET OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS

Elizabeth Burgin
Assistant Professor, Military & Veterans Counseling

Craig Cashwell
Professor, Counselor Education

Pamela Harris
Clinical Assistant Professor, Online Counseling

Esther Kim
Assistant Professor, Social Studies Education

Kathryn Lanouette
Assistant Professor, STEM Education

Jessica Martin
Clinical Assistant Professor, Online Counseling

LoriAnn Stretch
Clinical Associate Professor, Online Counseling
**GIVING**

Camp Launch will double in size, thanks to $4.55 million gift

The donation comes from the Petters Family Foundation and Nancy and Mike Petters, who both attended camp on college campuses when they were younger and wanted to provide more students a similar opportunity. Thanks to the gift, the summer program for promising STEM students from low-income backgrounds will allow double the number of students to attend by 2022. [More.](#)

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

New partnership to train Virtual Learning Partners for local K-5 students

Through a new partnership with Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools, the School of Education and the W&M Office of Community Engagement will recruit, train and connect W&M students to local K-5 students who are displaced from in-person learning due to COVID. W&M volunteers will build 1:1 relationships with elementary students and offer remote, individualized support to help their K-5 student partners overcome barriers and thrive this fall. [More.](#)

**RESOURCES**

W&M COVID-19 Response: [Latest Information and Resources](#)

Studio for Teaching & Learning Innovation: [W&M Instructional Resilience](#)

Support from W&M Libraries: [Remote Resources & Services](#)

Cohen Career Center: [Virtual Resources](#)

W&M Alumni Association: [Virtual Engagement Opportunities](#)