



Then-Interim President Taylor Reveley, III greets the incoming class as they pass through the Wren Building doors. Returning students extended a warm welcome to the Class of 2012 with cheers. A picnic following the ceremony enabled new students to mingle with the upperclassmen.



Student Assembly President Valerie Hopkins and Graduate Council President Reneta Green share a final smile as they wait to lead the incoming class through the Wren Building.

Student Assembly officers Ali Snell and Jasmine Piña look on as members of the Class of 2012 view their commemorative banner for the first time. The banner would be the newest addition to the class banners hung in the dining room of the Sadler Center.



Attendees rise to welcome then-Interim President Taylor Reveley, III to the podium. In his address, Reveley challenged the incoming class to make environmental sustainability "a vibrant presence" at the College.

FIRST STEPS AUGUST 29, 2008

Photos courtesy of Stephen Salpukas.

The doors opened. Freshmen, transfer, and international students passed through the historic Wren Building into the annual sea of smiles, cheers and high-fives waiting on Ancient Campus. Following the addresses of then-Interim President Taylor Reveley, III and JP Morgan executive Rhian Horgan ('99), the incoming class emerged from the Wren Building with a sense of personal responsibility and officially became part of the William and Mary community.

In his first Convocation address, then-Interim President Taylor Reveley, III encouraged all incoming students to embrace the College's goal of improving its overall environmental friendliness. "My hope and my expectation is that William and Mary will quickly become a model for other schools, showing that real sustainability progress can be made even by colleges and universities such as William and

Mary that are not awash in dollars to throw at the effort," President Reveley said. "I believe we're up to the challenge, and now is a good time – at the threshold of the new year – to take the challenge seriously while we're all fresh for the race."

Keynote speaker Rhian Horgan, JP Morgan executive and member of the class of 1999, assured the new members of the College community that they could effect change not only at William and Mary, but also in all of their future undertakings. "Today the College opens its doors to you, granting you the opportunity to pursue any path you choose," Horgan said. "I encourage and challenge you during your time at the College and later as alumni to not only walk through the doors which will be opened for you, but also to then open doors wherever possible."

Following the keynote address, two indi-

viduals were awarded for opening doors in the College's culture of service. Dennis Taylor, professor of biological sciences at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and senior Meghan Dunne received the 2008 President's Awards for Service to the Community.

On Ancient Campus, upperclassmen awaiting the arrival of the new students had already embraced this call to service within the William and Mary community. For example, sophomore Gabby Lopera realized her responsibility to help the new members of the William and Mary family transition into the next four years of their lives. "I am looking forward to guiding the new students along the journey," Lopera said.

Thus, the incoming class took its place in a historic community founded on the ideals of service and fraternity.

>Jillian Walton

