

WILLIAM & MARY

NEWS

Volume XXVI, Number 7

A Newspaper for Faculty, Staff and Students

Wednesday, November 13, 1996

VIMS Opens Exchange With S. Korea

L Donelson Wright, dean and director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science/School of Marine Science, recently took the first step in building cooperation with South Korea to combat the problems facing the world's oceans.

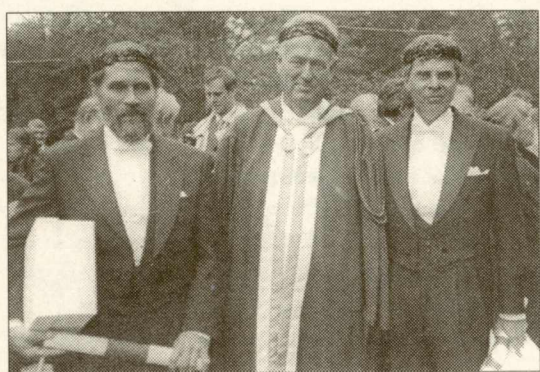
At the invitation of Byong-Kwon Park, president of the Korean Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI), Wright traveled to Seoul, where he presented an overview of coastal ocean research taking place at VIMS to members of the institute and scientists at Seoul National University. KORDI is the principle marine regulatory body in South Korea and operates under the auspices of a cabinet-level ministry.

Both Wright and Park emphasized the importance of international cooperation and the sharing of scientific resources in solving the problems facing the world's oceans.

"Recognizing that the problems facing coastal zones are global—not regional—is critical to the future welfare in many countries," said Wright. "It is imperative that the global community of oceanographers works together to find solutions that benefit us all."

Since 1983, nine Korean students from the University of Seoul have earned advanced degrees from VIMS. Of the approximately 500 scientists working at KORDI, three received their doctorates from VIMS.

Wright and Park are currently negotiating a letter of understanding to promote exchange of scientific information, students, researchers and projects between VIMS and KORDI. ■



Robert Diaz (right) with fellow honoree Tom Pearson (left) of the Scottish Environmental Advisory Service and Docent Oliver Lindvist of Gothenburg University.



Wide receiver Josh Whipple (87) clutches the football after making a catch in William and Mary's 30-6 victory over Massachusetts in Zable Stadium on Saturday. The Tribe goes for its ninth win of the season, the Yankee Conference championship and a place in the Division I-AA playoffs this Saturday at 1 p.m. when they play their final game of the regular season against the Richmond Spiders at City Stadium in Richmond. If William and Mary wins, there is a strong possibility that the first playoff game will be in Zable Stadium on Nov. 30.

Conference Title Within Reach

NEWS FROM VIMS

Swedish University Honors Marine Professor

Gothenburg University, the largest institution of higher education in Sweden, awarded Professor of Marine Science Robert Diaz an honorary doctorate degree in exercises Oct. 19.

Diaz, who has been working with scientists at the university for 15 years, was awarded the degree of doctor *honoris causa* "in recognition of his excellent scientific contribution to the understanding of the marine benthic community response to

different environmental factors."

The United States and Sweden have many of the same problems with their coastal waters, particularly habitat degradation and low dissolved oxygen levels due to sewage and agricultural runoff. Regularly sharing resources and research data, Diaz and his Swedish colleagues have been working on a number of projects in recent years to study the effects of these problems. Last year, they published a cumulative study of the impact of low oxygen levels on bottom-dwelling marine animals.

"Our countries have the same root causes for low oxygen levels in bottom waters," said Diaz. "We're also both concerned about how these problems are threatening our fishing resources."

Three other William and Mary faculty members—marine science professors Jacques van Montfrans and Linda Schaffner, and Chancellor Professor of Biology Charlotte Mangum—have also been working

on marine research projects with scientists at Gothenburg.

In 1989, Diaz hosted two Swedish post-doctoral fellows to work at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science/School of Marine Science for a year. Both scientists are now employed at Gothenburg's marine laboratory, one of the premier facilities of its type in the world.

Diaz's work in Sweden has also

included an advisory role to government agencies responsible for overseeing coastal waters and additional research with scientists at the University of Stockholm.

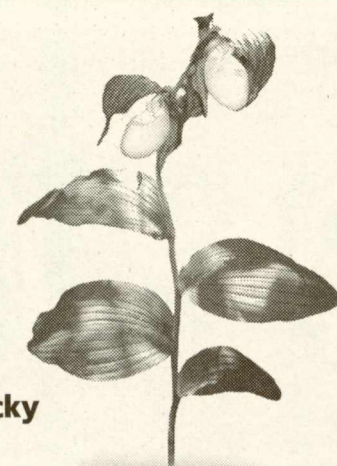
Gothenburg's School of Mathematics and Science awarded Diaz and two other American scientists honorary doctorates. The conferral ceremony was conducted entirely in Latin. ■

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The Heart Of Laughter

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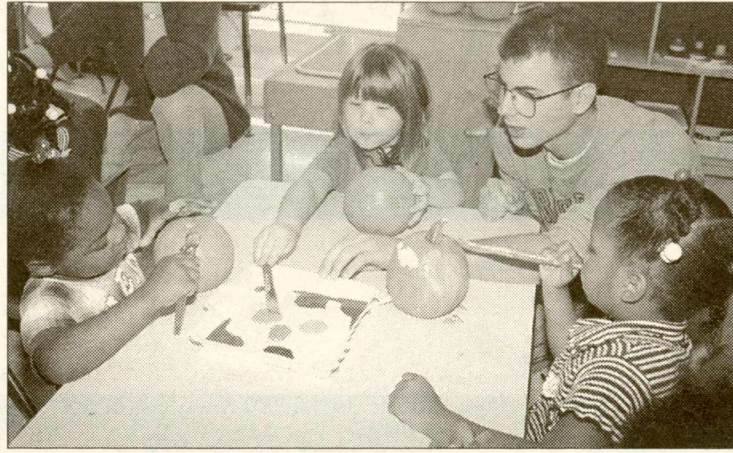
The Mystery Of The Kentucky Ladyslipper



FEATURES

Head Start Kids Paint Pumpkins With Law Students

Third-year law student David Young helps Head Start children choose colors to paint their pumpkins.



Members of Law Students in the Community (L.S.I.C.) celebrated Halloween on Oct. 31 with under-

privileged preschoolers in the Pumpkins for Head Start project. The pumpkin-painting party

was funded through donations from students and the community in a week-long "Buy a Pumpkin for a Kid" campaign. Melissa Augusti, the force behind the project and one of 15 law students taking part, said that donations exceeded expectations and provided extra funding for future L.S.I.C. projects.

Said Helen Boman, coordinator of the project for Head Start, "I really hope the law students make this an annual event. It was really special for the children to look forward to Halloween and to interact with positive role models."

The L.S.I.C. has three more community projects planned this year. ■

by Susie Corke

CVC Just Shy Of Goal

The 1996 Combined Virginia Campaign had reached 91 percent of its \$80,000 goal as of Friday, Nov. 8. CVC organizers urge faculty and staff members to return their pledge cards by tomorrow, when the campaign is set to conclude. For more information about how to give, call Kim Wiseman at ext. 11022.

PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH

The HEART of Laughter

A groundbreaking study reveals how the brain processes humor

The average adult laughs 17 times a day. While the ubiquitous act may seem natural, it's actually a complex, "learned" response that involves many of the same skills used in solving problems.

Measurements of electrical activity within the brain show the similarity between the two processes. Within four-tenths of a second of exposure to something potentially humorous, an electrical wave moves through the cerebral cortex, the largest part of the brain. If the wave takes a negative charge, laughter likely results. If it maintains a positive charge, no response ensues.

Ten years of research led Professor of Psychology Peter Derks to make this discovery, which was reported recently in a number of

national magazines including *Psychology Today* and *Health* and is scheduled to be featured in an upcoming *Discovery* channel program. The study is one of the few ever conducted on how the brain processes humor.

Derks has conducted his research, which is part of a larger study of the brain's ability to solve problems and to detect errors, with a group of scientists at NASA-Langley in Hampton. Using a sophisticated electroencephalogram (EEG), they measured the brain activity of 10 people following exposure to a humorous stimuli. In each case, the brain produced a regular electrical pattern.

"It's a really quick, automatic type of behavior," said Derks, who has been studying humor for more than two decades. "In fact, how quickly our brain recognizes

the incongruity that lies at the heart of most humor and attaches an abstract meaning to it determines whether we laugh."

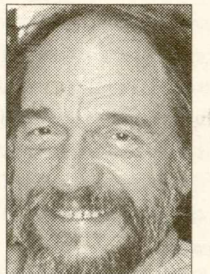
That different people find different jokes funny can owe to any of a number of factors, including differences in personality, intelligence, mental state and probably mood. But, Derks said, the majority of people recognize when a situation is meant to be humorous. "Those who don't get it may be depressed or have something else happening in their life," he said.

While working at Riverside Rehabilitation Center several years ago, Dr. Lynn Gillikin '67 teamed up with Derks to determine the connection between responsiveness to humor and proper brain functioning. In a series of experiments, the pair noticed that several patients recovering from brain injuries could not distinguish between something that was funny and something that was not.

"Unlike some studies that suggest emotions like fear are more pronounced in a specific part of the brain, we think large regions of the brain are involved in processing humor," said Derks. "Consequently, damage to any one part of the brain may effect one's overall ability to process humor."

As follow-up to his latest research, Derks has been trying to identify the connection between mood and responsiveness to humor. Derks had originally thought that mood played a vital role in whether a person responded to

"More people are getting into this research as they realize how little has been done on it."
—Peter Derks



humor. Someone feeling happy, for instance, would be much more inclined to laugh at a joke than someone feeling sad. Early findings suggest, however, that there is no apparent consistent pattern among people. "Individuals seem to respond to humor in different ways that can't be predicted from their mood," said Derks.

Derks' work with NASA's EEG can only provide a basic picture of how the brain responds to humor. He believes more comprehensive findings could be made if an EEG, PET scanner and MRI were used on a subject simultaneously. Unfortunately, Derks said, only a few laboratories in the world are equipped for testing of this sort.

More than 20 years ago, when Derks began his research into the field, many academics ridiculed humor scholarship. That has changed in recent years as new studies have revealed humor's vital importance to mental and physical health.

"Humor is a very central element in human activity," explained Derks. "I like to think of it as the distorted mirror of the mind. It's creative, perceptual, analytical and lingual. If we can figure out how the mind processes humor, then

we'll have a pretty good handle on how it works in general."

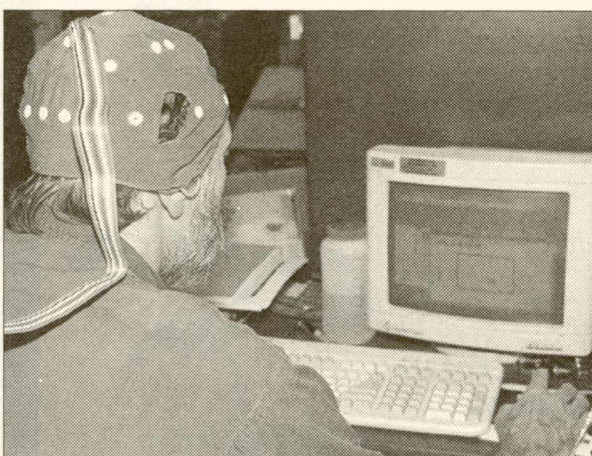
Doctors and psychiatrists are becoming more aware of the therapeutic benefits that humor can have, Derks said. In teaching methods of therapy, Larry Ventis, professor of psychology at the College, uses humor as a tool for behavior modification. Some evidence even suggests that humor can facilitate recovery from disease.

Partly as a result of better research demonstrating its connection to health, humor has gained wide interest in recent years among scholars in a host of disciplines. There are more than 500 academics worldwide who belong to the International Society for Humor Studies. Derks is on the editorial board of the organization's journal.

"More people are getting into this research as they realize how little has been done on it," said Derks. "There's also a greater recognition that humor plays an intrinsic role in our lives and that we can learn a great deal about the human mind if we better understand it." ■

by Poul E. Olson

Twenty electrodes attached to Peter Derks' head measure electrical activity in his brain following exposure to humorous stimuli displayed by a computer.



BIOLOGY RESEARCH

Unexpected discovery of rare orchid may give new insight into evolution of species

The Mystery of the Kentucky Ladyslipper

The Kentucky ladyslipper had never been seen in Virginia before May of last year. Then a William and Mary biology graduate student, conducting survey work in Lancaster County, Va., accidentally discovered a cluster of about 120 of the flowering plants growing in an isolated wooded area.

"We were taken completely by surprise, especially considering the size of the population" said Martha Case, assistant professor of biology. "No one had believed this plant would ever be found growing east of Tennessee."

While probably common in eastern North America thousands of years ago, the Kentucky ladyslipper is now one of the rarest of all North American orchids. Only about 150 populations are known to exist worldwide. The U.S. populations are primarily concentrated in three states in the South and Midwest.

The Lancaster population, one of the largest known, has occupied Case's interest for more than a year. Little is known about the historical distribution of these rare orchids over the continent, largely because most of the known populations exist in close geographic proximity.

"The Lancaster population somehow survived while others between eastern Virginia and Tennessee died out," said Case. "In all likelihood, the Virginia plants are a relic of the larger population that once existed."

Considering the isolated location of the population, its age, and the difficulty in germinating the plants, Case thinks it highly unlikely that the Lancaster ladyslippers could have been planted. For this reason, determining the relationship between the Kentucky ladyslippers in Lancaster County and those in other U.S. populations could provide a better understanding of the evolution of the species.

Preliminary genetic analysis has offered Case some intriguing evidence that the Lancaster population has evolved some distinct genetic features separate from the other populations. Two proteins from the genes of the Virginia plants are not found in any of the other populations.

Case speculated that a number of factors, both natural and

manmade, may account for the overall rarity of the Kentucky ladyslipper.

The Ice Age and the subsequent climate change probably altered the flower's growing range and contributed to the isolated population now identified. In modern times, habitat destruction has continued to reduce its numbers. In at least one state, Louisiana, human encroachment has almost wiped out the flower.

Like many orchids, the Kentucky ladyslipper reproduces extremely slowly, another factor contributing to its low numbers. Case's student, sophomore Michael DeWitt, made the discovery over the summer while studying pollination among the Lancaster plants. Every day for three weeks, DeWitt meticulously examined the portion of the plant that "traps" insects, the primary carrier of pollen from plant to

plant. He determined that few insects evidently find the Kentucky ladyslipper appealing.

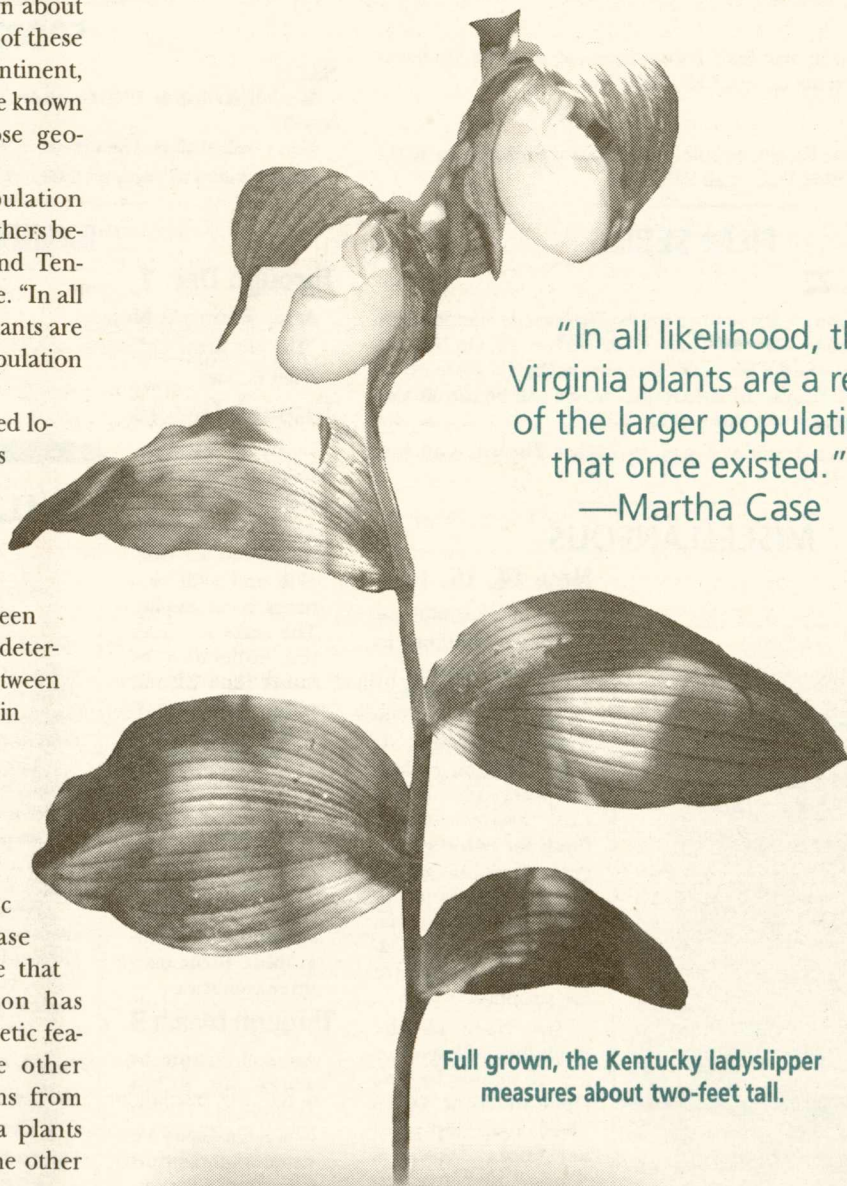
"This plant doesn't produce nectar, so insects may have little incentive to land on it," said Case.

While the Lancaster population appears healthy, deer have damaged a number of the plants by indiscriminately eating the orchid's cream-colored, egg-shaped flowers. Over the summer, Case and her students erected a fence to prevent further harm.

Through next year, they will continue to monitor each of the 120 plants within the population to better understand their reproduction rate, lifespan and evolution.

The December issue of the botany journal *SIDA* includes an article by Case and her students examining the Lancaster County finding and also Case's assessment of the plant's status nationwide. ■

by Poul E. Olson



*"In all likelihood, the Virginia plants are a relic of the larger population that once existed."
—Martha Case*

Full grown, the Kentucky ladyslipper measures about two-feet tall.

news

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note

Conference To Examine Early American Legal History

The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the Institute of Bill of Rights Law will sponsor a conference, "The Many Legalities of Early America," Nov. 22-24 at the law school.

Scholars from throughout the United States, New Zealand and England will examine topics such as "The Legalities of Settlement," "Law and Religion in Early America," and "Social and Cultural Functions of Law in Early America."

Registration for the conference is free. Sessions will be devoted to discussion rather than formal presentation. For more information, contact Beverly Smith at 221-1114.

Holiday Schedule Announced

In compliance with a Nov. 1 directive from the governor regarding upcoming holidays, The College of William and Mary will observe the following holiday schedule:

Thanksgiving—Offices will officially be closed at noon Wednesday, Nov. 27 and remain closed through Friday, Nov. 29.

Christmas—Offices will officially be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and remain closed through Wednesday, New Year's Day. Offices will reopen on Thursday, Jan. 2.

Most of the administrative offices and the plant department (except for those employees required to maintain essential services as determined by management), will be closed. The decision to require employees to work should be made by the dean, director or department head, as appropriate, and should be communicated to the employee(s) as soon as possible. The Campus Police Department will maintain its regular schedule.

Notice Of Inclement Weather Policy

As the threat of inclement weather increases, the College reminds personnel of the following policy:

The university will remain open under most reasonable foreseeable weather conditions, especially when classes are in session. The Provost will decide to close the university and cancel classes when weather conditions make it impossible to maintain a reasonable level of academic activity.

The decision to close the university in full or in part will be given as soon as possible during the morning to the Campus Police and to radio and television stations in the area. Radio stations include AM 740, FM 90.7, FM 92.9, FM 94.9, FM 96.5, FM 104.5, FM 106.5 and FM 107.9. The College will also provide the information to all six television stations in the Tidewater and Richmond areas.

Information on closing may also be obtained by calling 221-1SNO (221-1766).

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science will announce closure of the Gloucester campus.

More detailed information about the College's policy and the Commonwealth's inclement weather policy can be found on WAMI under the "Office of the Provost" category or by calling the Office of University Relations at ext. 12630.

BLSA Sponsors Thanksgiving Basket Contest

The Black Law Students Association is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Basket Contest for student organizations or groups of students interested in helping the needy during the holiday. The \$5 entrance fee is due Nov. 15. Baskets will be judged on Nov. 25. Winning groups receive a prize and the baskets go to needy families. Contact Tonya Powell at 565-2181 for more information.

News To Publish Two More Issues This Fall

The *William and Mary News* will publish two more editions for the fall semester, Nov. 20 and Dec. 11. Calendar and news items as well as classified advertisements should be submitted by the Friday before publication. Check staff box on pg. 4 for how and where to make submissions.

calendar

PERFORMANCES

Nov. 17

Ryan Fletcher, lecturer in the music department, directs an opera scene recital at 3 p.m. in Ewell Recital Hall. Call 221-1071.

Nov. 18

The Ewell Concert Series continues with a concert of chamber music featuring faculty members who are also members of the Virginia Symphony and select students. Laura Rexroth will direct. The concert is at 8 p.m. in Ewell Recital Hall. Call 221-1071.

Nov. 20

The William and Mary Middle Eastern Music Ensemble, under the direction of Anne Rasmussen, performs at 8 p.m. in Ewell Recital Hall. Call 221-1071 for additional information.

Nov. 21, 22, 23, 24

"The Rose Tattoo," by Tennessee Williams, is the William and Mary Theatre's second main stage production this year. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Nov. 21, 22 and 23 and at 2 p.m. on Nov. 24. General admission tickets are \$10 and may be reserved by calling the box office at 221-2674 between 1 and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday or between 1 and 4 p.m. on Saturday.

SPEAKERS

Nov. 13-14

Remaining lectures in the series by Stephen J. Whitfield, Andrea and Charles Bronfman Visiting Professor of Judaic Studies, are as follows: **Nov. 13:** "The Mystique of Multiculturalism," 5:30 p.m., College Apts. 1; **Nov. 14:** "Still the Best Catch There Is: Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*," 9:30 a.m., Blair 213; and "Defining American Jewish Culture," 11 a.m., Wren 315. Call 221-2172.

Nov. 15

The "Women's Studies at Work" brown bag series continues with a talk by Sharon Block, post-doctoral fellow, titled "Where Have All the Women Gone? Representations of Rape in Early America." Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend at noon in the Atrium, Campus Center.

Nov. 15

John Hale, University of Louisville, speaks on "Identifying the Riace Warriors: The Discovery of Two Naval Heroes from the Golden Age of Greece," at a meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America at 4:30 p.m. in Andrews 101. Call John Oakley at 221-2163.

Nov. 18, 19

Neil Levine, professor of fine arts at Harvard University and visiting Phi Beta Kappa Scholar, delivers a public lecture, "Revisiting the Guggenheim Museum in Light of Contemporary Art," on Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Andrews 101. Earlier in the day, at 4 p.m. in Andrews 214, Levine will lead an open discussion on "Architecture in Exile," an examination of buildings designed by persons living in exile, including Victor Hugo and Ernest Hemingway. On Nov. 19, Professor Levine will hold open office hours from 11 a.m. to noon in Andrews 206 for students wishing to drop in and talk with him.

Nov. 20

Morten Jay Luvaas, former professor of military history at the U.S. Army War College, speaks at 4 p.m. in the Botetourt Theater, Swem Library. Luvaas has authored or contributed to more than

29 books on 19th-century military history. The topic of his talk, which is sponsored by the military science and history departments, will be "The Uses of Military History."

Nov. 21

Town & Gown luncheons continue with James Armstrong, director of the William and Mary choirs, leading the Botetourt Chamber Singers in their annual concert for Town & Gown. The luncheon begins at noon in the Chesapeake Room, University Center. The cost is \$8 (\$6 for faculty and staff). Reservations must be made in advance by calling 221-2640.

COLLOQUIA

Nov. 18

David Armitage, Columbia University, is the speaker for an Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture colloquium at 7:30 p.m. in the Institute library. His topic will be "The Empire of Great Britain: England, Scotland and Ireland, c. 1540-1660." Call 221-1114.

SEMINARS

Nov. 15

Alice Alldredge, University of California at Santa Barbara, speaks on "Big, Sticky and Wrapped Up in Everything: The Role of Transparent Exopolymer Particles (TEP) in the Biology and Chemistry of the Ocean." Her lecture, part of the School of Marine Science/VIMS fall seminar series, is at 3:30 p.m. in Watermen's Hall Auditorium. Call 642-7134.

Nov. 15

The chemistry seminar series continues with John Dorsey, Florida State University, speaking on "Modern Liquid Chromatography: Are There Still Problems Remaining?" at 3 p.m. in Rogers 100. Call 221-2548.

MEETINGS

Nov. 21

The Black Faculty and Staff Forum meets at noon in Tidewater Room A, University Center. Call 221-3116.

Nov. 26

A meeting of the Faculty Assembly is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Blow Hall. Call 221-2669.

FILM SERIES

Nov. 15, 18, 22

"Benny and Joon" is the feature for the Phenomena Film Series on Nov. 15, followed by "The Breakfast Club" on Nov. 22. On Nov. 18, the Faculty Favorites Film Series presents its final feature of the series, "What's Eating Gilbert Grape," which will be introduced by Larry Wiseman, professor of biology.

All screenings begin at 8 p.m. in Tucker Theatre. Call Kim Lester at 221-4235.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nov. 14, 15, 16

The Bookstore will host a series of readings by campus authors on Nov. 14 at 2 p.m. The event, "Writers Harvest: The National Reading," is being held on college campuses nationwide to raise awareness and funds for fighting hunger in the local community. Donations to Share Our Strength, an anti-hunger organization, will be accepted at the readings.

On Nov. 15 the Bookstore will sponsor a book signing by Jane Goodall from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Copies of her books *Through a Window: My Thirty Years with the Chimpanzees of Gombe*, *In the Shadow of Man* and *Visions of*



Photo by Michael Neugebauer

Jane Goodall will be the featured speaker at the 1996-97 Elliot and Helen Cohen Forum, sponsored by the Charles Center, on Thursday evening. All tickets for the event have been distributed. However, Goodall will be at the Bookstore for a book signing on Friday, Nov. 15, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Caliban: Of Chimpanzees, Humans and the Honored Shape will be available for purchase.

Parke Rouse, veteran columnist for the *Richmond Times-Dpatch* and *Daily Press*, will be at the Bookstore to sign copies of his newest book, *We Happy WASPs* from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 16.

For information on any of these events, call 221-2480.

Nov. 14

An auction of surplus property by the College and Eastern State Hospital is scheduled for 9 a.m. at building #22 at the Hospital.

Nov. 15

Fittings, orders and sales of custom regalia for faculty members are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Bookstore. Call 221-2480.

Nov. 15, 22

The William and Mary School of Law holds an information session for students and groups interested in learning about the school's programs, application procedures, admission and financial aid, career services and curriculum. Call 221-3785.

Nov. 20

Swem Library and Technology Services are offering their last training sessions this semester in use of the Internet and e-mail for Macintosh users in the classroom on the ground floor of Swem Library. Classes offered include: "Journals and Indexes," 10 a.m.; "Netscape & the Web," 1 p.m.; "Basic HTML (Hyper Text Mark-up Language)," 2 p.m.; and "Eudora Pro," 3 p.m. No registration is required. For additional information, call 221-3058.

SPORTS

Nov. 23

Men's basketball vs. UNC-Greensboro, 7:30 p.m., William & Mary Hall

Nov. 30

Men's basketball vs. The Citadel, 7:30 p.m., William & Mary Hall
For information on any of the listed events, call 221-3340.

EXHIBITS

Through Dec. 1

At the Muscarelle Museum

"The McCarthy Collection of African Art"
"Nell Blaine"

Through Dec. 15

Lobby of Swem Library and Botetourt Gallery

A collection of rare maps from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries is on display. The maps are from the collection of Stuart Hays '57 and range from Sebastian Münster's map of the New World, 1546, to Mark Tidde- man's sea chart of the Chesapeake Bay, 1729. The focus of the collection is Virginia and its representation in cartographic form over three centuries.

Through March 9

An exhibition of works by Robin Tichane opened on Nov. 8. On display are six woodblock prints from Tichane's portfolio, "AIDS' Dark Terrain: Twelve Stations from a Yankee Pilgrim."

WILLIAM & MARY NEWS

The next issue of the *William & Mary News* will be published on Wednesday, Nov. 20. Deadline for submission of items is 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, although submissions before the deadline are encouraged. Call ext. 12639 with any questions or concerns.

The *William & Mary News* is issued throughout the year for faculty, staff and students of the College and distributed on campus. It is also available on the World Wide Web at http://www.wm.edu/wmnews/wm_news.html.

News items and advertisements should be delivered to the *News* office in Holmes House, 308 Jamestown Rd. (221-2639), faxed to 221-3243 or e-mailed to wmnews@mail.wm.edu, no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before publication.

Poul E. Olson, editor
Marilyn Carlin, desktop publishing
C. J. Gleason/VISCOM, photography
Stewart Gamage, vice president for community relations and public service
Peggy Shaw, university relations
Kelly Gray, proofreader

James Blair Hall Rededication Ceremony Friday, November 15 • 3 p.m.

Receptions following the ceremony will be held in the following locations in James Blair Hall: the philosophy department and development office, both on the first floor; and the history department on the third floor.

The history department will also host a book-signing and celebration in honor of its most recent authors: Judith Ewell, Dale Hoak, Charles F. Hobson, Leisa Meyer and Carol Sheriff. The book signing will begin at 4 p.m.



Chalk drawing, study for the sculpture of James Blair, 1990-91, Professor Lewis Cohen, Art and Art History Royal Collection, United Kingdom.