WILLIAM & MARY

NEWS

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Monday, July 21, 1997

Workers Hit Treasure In Wren Yard

Preliminary excavation yields artifacts predating Sir Christopher Wren Building



Anthropology students Andrew Butts (left) and Bryan Lewis carefully scrape layers of soil from the test pit where the foundation to the dwelling was discovered. Pieces of ceramic and bottle glass (above) dating to the late 17th-century were discovered during the excavation. Butts and Lewis participated in the dig as part of a summer archaeological field school sponsored jointly by the College and Colonial Williamsburg.

s soon as he saw the mortar on the bricks, Jon Lawson knew that his pipe-laying crew had hit something old.

"It was the oyster shells that gave it away," said Lawson, a plumbing inspector for the Department of Facilities Management. "Working around archaeologists you pick up cues as to what's old and what's not. I knew from the shells in the mortar that we should stop digging."

Archaeologists, who had been monitoring the progress of Lawson and his crew across the Wren Yard, were immediately called in to investigate the find. They later determined that the backhoe had sliced into the foundation of possibly one of the oldest structures ever discovered in Williamsburg.

In a preliminary excavation of the site July 11, archaeologists from Colonial Williamsburg and the College discovered artifacts including a hog's tusk, nails, and, most revealing, pieces of ceramics and bottle glass. After careful study, CW experts dated the ceramics and glass to the third quarter of the 17th century. That would likely place the dwelling's age in the Middle Plantation Period before William and Mary was chartered and the city of Williamsburg founded.



CW archaeologist David Muraca and Dennis Blanton, director of the College's Center for Archaeological Research, who are heading the study of the site, said that an extensive excavation is now needed to determine more precisely the structure's age, its size and the lifestyle of the people who lived there.

"Everything is an educated guess at this point," said Muraca. "But given what we know about the site's location and the unusual brick foundation, it's possible that it was a dwelling belonging to a member of the elite class during the Middle Plantation period, perhaps Thomas Ballard."

The fact that the foundation is brick, added Muraca, offers the best evidence that someone of Ballard's elite stature lived in the structure. Only the very wealthy and politically powerful could build homes with a brick

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.

Employees Mark Milestones

any things have changed at the College in 36 years, but food service employee Thomasine Lewis still loves working with students now as much as she did when she began in 1961. Her job has defined much of her life, and like other long-term employees, Lewis has left her own mark on the College in subtle, but substantial, ways.

Lewis will join four other employees being honored for 30 or more years of service at a July 29 Employee Appreciation Day. The annual ceremony recognizes all William and Mary's hourly and classified staff whose jobs keep the College running—from secretaries to maintenance workers to com-

puter technicians. This year's honorees also include nine 25-year employees. VIMS employees James Green, William Jenkins, and Susan Presson will also celebrate a 25-year anniversary.

These long-time workers have watched the face of the College change since the mid-1960s. When they began their careers, the campus was smaller, typewriters and carbon, not computers, were used, William and Mary Hall did not exist, and the College had only one dining hall. Completion of the second—the Commons—was repeatedly postponed, partly because the Vietnam war had slowed down steel production required for the hall's kitchen equipment. As con-

struction continued, students staged a day-long boycott of cafeteria food

The profiles that follow chronicle the experiences of four employees who have served the College for virtually their entire careers and whose stories reflect its evolution.

Thomasine Lewis: Always A Dime To Spare

ach morning before she leaves for work, Thomasine Lewis fills her pocket with a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5.



Thomasine Lewis is one of five employees who will be recognized for 30 or more years of service to the College at the annual Employee Appreciation Day on July 29. Lewis has worked in food service for 36 years.

Markers Markers

For Info Technology Appointed

Library Dean, Associate Provost

Perkins Library. She will take her new post at the College Nov. 1.

"Connie McCarthy's dedication to providing the best learning environment for students and faculty members makes her the ideal person to guide the development of our libraries at this critical time," said Provost Gillian Cell. Last fall, William and Mary launched an initiative to raise \$36 million from public and private sources to renovate and expand the Earl Gregg Swem Library.

A graduate of Rosary College (Ill.), McCarthy moved to northern Virginia in 1968 to work at George Washington University and to study for a master's degree in library science at Catholic University. After completing requirements for that degree and working as a cataloger at the Folger Shakespeare Library, she returned

to George Washington for the next 14 years, ultimately serving as assistant university librarian for collections for three years.

"I lived in Virginia for 20 years before I moved to North Carolina, and to some extent it's like coming back home," she said of her move to Williamsburg.

"Another thing that attracts me to William and Mary is that the library has been successful, so it's a matter of continuing to move forward into the next century," she added. "The challenge of a dean of libraries today is to find an appropriate balance of traditional and electronic resources for the institution. Certainly William and Mary has vast original materials, along with an increasing array of electronic resources."

As associate university librarian at Duke's Perkins Library since 1990, McCarthy was responsible for managing a materials budget in excess of \$5 million, and coordinating a collection management program of more than 30 bibliographers.

"Duke has given me very good experience to move to William and Mary—the experience of a large research library and a large residential campus," McCarthy said, "and

I'll carry those ideas with me."

McCarthy replaces Nancy Marshall, who is retiring after serving 11 years as dean of William and Mary libraries. Marshall, who became dean of university libraries in August 1986, was given a special commendation by the College Board of Visitors on July 18.

Aebersold is currently vice president for strategic information resources at Gettysburg College of Pennsylvania. At the College, he will be in charge of the offices of computing services, telecommunications, and technology services. His assumes his new position Aug. 1.

"As the College continues its development of a network to support innovation and excellence in its educational programs, Dennis Aebersold's extensive experience in information technology and particularly his insight into how it can be applied to advance the academic mission of William and Mary will be invaluable," Cell said. "We also look to him to improve administrative services and efficiency."

Aebersold has 15 years of experience managing computing operations for liberal arts colleges, including Bennington(Vt.), Williams (Mass.) and Gettysburg.

"I am looking forward to working with William and Mary faculty members, students, and administrators to continue development of the campus network and computing services to serve the needs of the entire campus," said Aebersold.

Recipient of a 1993 award from CAUSE (a national organization for information resource professionals) for the quality of Gettysburg's computer network, Aebersold was responsible for networking, computing, and library services. He led the development of a campus-wide fiber-optic network that linked every classroom, residence hall room, and faculty office. In addition, he helped attract major grants from the Mellon Foundation for introducing technological innovations into distance learning among the schools of the Central Pennsylvania Consortium.

A native Californian, Aebersold earned his bachelor's degree from Occidental College in 1967, and a Ph.D. in chemical physics from Brown University in 1971. He has taught physics at Brown University, Bennington College, and Gettysburg.

by Peggy Shaw and Bill Walker



he Board of Visitors approved

on Friday the appointment of

Connie McCarthy as dean of

Connie McCarthy is currently

university libraries and Dennis

Aebersold as associate provost for

associate university librarian at

Duke University's William R.

information technology.

McCarthy



Aebersold

Ndegwa To Assess Aftermath Of Apartheid

South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe focus of year-long study

or Assistant Professor of Government Stephen Ndegwa, 1998 will be a year of adventure and new experiences far from the College campus.

The American Council of Learned Societies [ACLS] awarded Ndegwa a \$20,000 grant for a year-long study in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Ndegwa will research citizenship theory and land reform in these African countries where apartheid has been overthrown and governments struggle for democratic rule.

The project Ndegwa has outlined is a continuation of his interest in the theoretical exploration of African citizenship, especially since the end of apartheid. The resulting negotiations, lobbying of the government by interest groups, takeovers of private land and legal conflicts will be at the forefront of Ndegwa's research on the emerging definition of citizenship in Africa.

"Apart from figuring out what exactly is happening, I am interested in finding out how definitions of citizenship, especially given the racial divide, are taking shape," Ndegwa said.

Ndegwa has been working on the project since 1995, when he received a grant from William and Mary to begin research. He said the work he will do with the ACLS grant will culminate his project. Spending the spring of 1995 doing preliminary library work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ndegwa visited southern African last summer with grant funding provided by the College and the American Political Science Association.

Ndegwa will begin his study of citizenship with a two-to-three-month research trip to southern Africa in January, and he plans to return again in June to complete his fieldwork.

"Much of the time will be spent interviewing black and white farmers [and advocates] on either side, doing field observations and examining documents at archives," Ndegwa said.

During the time Ndegwa will spend in Africa, he also plans to interview government officials and review court cases that reflect conflicting positions regarding land reform. After completing his field research, Ndegwa will return to the College to write a book detailing the problems of political and economic reconstruction in postapartheid southern Africa.

The ACLS research grant Ndegwa received is funded by the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Ap-



Stephen Ndegwa

proximately 55 grants were awarded to American professors in a national competition.

In addition to conducting research in citizenship theory, Ndegwa has authored a textbook, written a journal article and is coediting a book that reflects his grant research.

His previous book, The Two Faces of Civil Society: NGOs and Politics in Africa, was nominated for the American Political Science Association Woodrow Wilson Award for texts in comparative politics. In addition, Ndegwa is working with C. R. D. Halisi of the University of Southern California and Paul Kaiser of Mississippi State on a book about citizenship in Africa. The editors anticipate its completion in early 1998.

Ndegwa will publish a paper with a thesis similar to his ACLS research in the September issue of the American Political Science Review.

"Although the paper is based on ... citizenship theory, its substantive focus is ethnicity and its geographical focus is Kenya," Ndegwa said.

Ndegwa has integrated his research into his teaching at William and Mary, focusing on political developments in Africa.

by Whitney Untiedt University Relations Intern

campus crime report

June 1997

(crimes	
Assault	1
Larceny	
Bikes	1
From buildings	7
From motor	
vehicles	1
arrests	
Driving under the	

Driving under the	
influence	1
Liquor law	
violations	3
Drug abuse	
violations	1
Assault	1
Miscellaneous	
(not traffic)	1
Summons issued	
(traffic)	18



College Finishes 42nd In Sears Cup

Winning a combined total of nearly 58 percent of their games, William and Mary athletic teams finished 42nd in the Division I category of the Sears Directors' Cup for the 1996-97 academic year. The Tribe posted the highest finish among the Colonial Athletic Association schools. Stanford University once again claimed the top spot in the poll.

Four Sears Directors' Cups are awarded each year to each of the institutions with the best all-around athletics programs in each of the NCAA's divisions. To determine the rankings, points are awarded based on an institution's finish in core and wild card sports for men's and women's sports. In Division I, 22 sports are used to assess the standings, including nine core sports for men and nine for women.

Overall in 1996-97, the Tribe posted a 189-138-1 record, winning five CAA Championships and claiming the Yankee Conference title in football. William and Mary teams won nearly 74 percent of the contests played at home.

Sullivan Voices Concern About Pending House Legislation

President Timothy Sullivan has advised Virginia federal lawmakers and the Congressional budget leadership of the College's concern over the House of Representatives version of the Taxpayer Relief Act. In a letter dated July 11, Sullivan objected to three key provisions in the legislation, which is currently in conference committee: removal of TIAA-CREF tax exempt status; removal of tax exemption for graduate students who are given free tuition in return for teaching or research; and removal of tax exemption for tuition given to staff and faculty at institutions of higher education.

Sullivan urged lawmakers to support the Senate's budget proposal to keep the exemptions intact. Addressing specifically the TIAA-CREF provision, Sullivan wrote, "Removing the tax-exempt status will almost certainly result in an unfair reduction of pension benefits for nearly two million current and retired employees nationwide."

The conference committee, which is made up of members of both the House and Senate, began discussion of the legislation July 11. It is expected to adopt a compromise version of the Taxpayer Relief Act and submit the bill to both houses for floor discussion. A vote is expected by the end of the month.

Neither the Senate's budget proposal nor President Clinton's includes the three provisions to which the College has objected.

For more information, call Michael Fox, director of government relations, at ext. 11346.

Dial-Up Network Services Now Available

Dial-up network service to the campus' on-line resources and the Internet is now available for \$15 per month to faculty, staff and students. The service allows for modem connections up to 33.6 Kbps and ISDN access to PPP service. The \$15 monthly fee is for unlimited usage. Additional e-mail accounts will be offered on a trial basis for an extra \$1 per month.

Text-based dial-up service will continue to be offered to the College's computer systems through the existing modem pool at no charge.

For more information about the service, contact the Office of Telecommunications at ext. 11776. Registration forms are available at the Office of Telecommunications in Blow Hall and on the Telecommunications web page at http://www.wm.edu/telecom.

archaeology

Find May Shed New Light On Middle Plantation Life



Jon Lawson stopped work on a replacement waterline through the Wren Yard when his crew's backhoe hit the foundation of the 17th-century dwelling.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

foundation during the 17th century, he said.

A member of the Royal Governor's Council, Ballard was a political "heavy hitter" during the Middle Plantation period. Records indicate that Ballard purchased 330 acres of land from Thomas Ludwell in 1674. He later sold the property to the trustees of the College of William and Mary in 1693.

At this point, Muraca and Blanton have little documentary evidence to support their preliminary assessment of the building's age or occupants. Maps from 1699 and 1782 do not show a structure where the foundation has been located. This indicates that the dwelling, likely wooden and one-and-a-half stories, predates those years, Muraca said.

"This is a perfect case where archaeology is virtually the only recourse for understanding life during this period of Virginia's history," said Blanton. "Evidence found in and around the foundation of this structure could be taken as representative of the larger community of Middle Plantation."

Most information about life during the Middle Plantation period from 1634 to 1699 relies on the few surviving demographic records and a scant but growing body of archaeological evidence. Historians are slowly changing their traditional understanding of 17th-century life, partly because of new evidence from excavations at six other Middle Plantation sites.

That understanding, according to Associate Professor of History James Whittenburg, has long

held that Middle Plantation resembled the Old West of the 19th century where social and political instability reigned, "life was cheap, and death came early."

In many ways, Whittenburg said, the Williamsburg area has been an enigma to historians attempting to understand how early Virginia fit in with the rest of the British world during the 17th century.

New archaeological evidence suggests that Middle Plantation, with its cluster of farms, may actually have enjoyed a quality of life on scale with other developed British colonies. "A find such as this one in the Wren Yard makes Virginia look less weird when compared to other British colonies," said Whittenburg. "Virginia was probably much more integrated into an expanding British empire than we originally thought."

Muraca believes the discovery of the brick foundation in the Wren Yard might indicate a sophisticated architecture atypical of the period. If a full-scale excavation corroborates his theory, the implications could be far reaching. "If upscale houses were being built throughout Middle Plantation, local elites may have been using them to make Middle Plantation look more substantial as a means to lure the capital from Jamestown," said Muraca.

During the mid-17th century, Middle Plantation landowners lobbied the English for a number of years to move the capital from Jamestown to Middle Plantation. Their efforts, however, didn't prove successful until 1699 when the capital was relocated to Williamsburg.

If the dwelling belonged to a member of the elite class, Muraca suggested that it may also offer a glimpse of emerging class distinctions during the Middle Plantation period. "We know that life in the 17th century was difficult for most everyone," said Muraca. "The difference between a master's life and his servant's was relatively small. But archaeological evidence from Middle Plantation is showing that during the latter part of the 17th

"This site underscores the archaeological potential of the Wren Yard."

- Dennis Blanton

century, the elite put some distance between themselves and their servants."

In addition to the foundation, archaeologists are also interested in excavating a wider area between the Wren Building and the President's House where a formal garden that appears on the "Bodleian Plate" would have been located. The "Bodleian Plate," produced around 1740, is the earliest known depiction of the historic campus.

Muraca, Blanton and officials from both the College and CW will be meeting over the next several months to determine the feasibility and cost of conducting a full-scale excavation of the dwelling and possibly the garden. They estimated that the project will take three to four months to complete.

"This site underscores the archaeological potential of the Wren Yard," said Blanton. "It's a dynamite situation for our students to get experience by working on their own campus rather than having to go elsewhere. It's also a great way for us to continue our work with CW. There's lots of potential here."

by Poul E. Olson



staff spotlight

ettie Adams has been to more than 500 home basketball and football games during her 30 years at the College, but has never seen a minute of play. Always tucked away in the ticket office either at Zable Stadium or William and Mary Hall, she still follows the games by listening to the crowd.

"I don't need to see what's going on to tell if we've scored or if we're not doing so well," said Adams.

Box office manager and director of William and Mary Hall, Adams has been in the ticket business since 1953 when she first began working for the athletic department at the University of Richmond. In 1966, she took a parttime job at the College selling tickets at what was then Cary Stadium. There her love for William and Mary athletics and for the ticket were so happy with the Hall that profession bloomed.

"I had never intended to sell tickets as a career," said Adams. "It must have been the customers and the great people for whom I work that's kept me selling."

The opening of William and Mary Hall in 1970 compounded the complexity of Adams' job enormously. While athletic events had been her sole focus, she now had responsibility for booking concerts and other performances for one of the largest indoor arenas in eastern Virginia.

Adams recalled vividly the first performance ever held in the Hall on Sept. 21, 1971. "We had booked Sly & The Family Stone whose lead singer was notorious for not showing up. We took a big chance, but everything went off fine."

During the 1970s, the Hall regularly hosted national acts, inlice, and the Grateful Dead who

Bettie Adams has been with the Hall from its

Photographs and profiles by Poul E. Olson Hallmarks of SERVICE

played in 1973, '76 and '78.

"They loved this building and asked to come back every year," said Adams, who considers the Dead one of the best groups with which she's ever worked. "They we added additional performances at their request."

Adams usually hasn't been taken in by the stardom surrounding many of the acts. With the exception of Billy Graham, Kris Kristofferson and Bette Midler, she has rarely ventured down to the locker room, which serves as dressing room, to meet the performers.

The eccentricities of some entertainers, however, have occasionally had an impact on Adams. In the mid-1980s, character actor Bill Windom, who is probably most famous for his role on the television program "Murder She Wrote," performed a one-man show in the Hall for a small audience. Prior to the show, Windom asked Adams if she could find him a lacrosse stick.

"For some reason, he had to have that stick with him on stage and insisted that I find him one," cluding James Taylor, Bruce said Adams, who located a dis-Springsteen, Neil Young, the Po-carded stick in the Hall's basement

> Positioning the stick on the stage with him, Windom later told the audience how Adams had found it for him. "It was really embarrassing," she

Like many indoor 10,000-seat William for discussion." and Mary Hall has

struggled over the last decade to consistently attract nationally known concert performers. The trend, according to Adams, results from a combination of factors including a decline in the number of acts touring and a growing desire to play larger venues for shorter periods of time. In recent years, the proliferation of amphitheaters or "sheds" has siphoned even more of the concert business from indoor venues.

the students want to see."

"I try to spread the word to whomever will listen that we have a wonderful building here. Other than my two daughters and six grandchildren, William and Mary arenas today, the Hall is probably my favorite topic

"I still make every attempt to sell the building for concerts," said Adams, adding that she regularly reads Rolling Stone and PollStar to stay abreast of the hottest acts. "Nothing pleases me more than to have concerts here that especially

While the Hall's concert business has ebbed, conferences, trade and specialty shows have become the facility's mainstay. A variety of organizations finds the Hall ideal for holding large group meetings and displaying wares. Earlier this spring, the Virginia Funeral Center Directors Association held a threeday exhibit in the Hall showcasing the latest caskets and funeral-related products.

"Being creative and having the ability to fine-tune services are the important factors in selling a facility like William and Mary Hall,"

staff spotlight

Morales Has An Eye For A Good Buy

Patricia Morales has left an indelible mark on William and Mary over the last 31 years.

"It can be almost anything that a department might need someone to do," said Morales, associate director of purchasing. "The installot resurfacing, even someone to provide horseback riding instruc-

Morales has principal responsibility for buying services for the College and securing contractors for jobs that require non-College Purchases (RFP). employees.

dors that can provide a service at ers," recalled Morales. "I thought the best cost and quality. Occasion- it was just wonderful when they ally that means Morales has to over- came along."

rom parking lots to fiber- come a steep learning curve beoptic cable to food service, fore making an informed decision.

"Departments will typically tell me most everything that I need to know," said Morales. "But I still have to ensure that all the vendors bidding on a contract can live up to the obligations of the job."

The purchasing process has lation of cable television, parking changed considerably over the three decades Morales has been in the profession. In particular, the advent of new technology, such as computers, fax machines and copiers, dramatically reduced the time required to prepare Requests for

"We used carbon paper for ev-Her charge is to secure ven- erything before we had comput-

At the same time, much of the bureaucracy that once characterized the purchasing process has been simplified. Under the old system, the College could make purchases only up to \$50 without state approval. All RFPs over that amount had to be sent to Richmond for review and bidding-an

extremely time-consuming process. Today, the College, which annually procures more than \$40 million in goods and services, has unlimited purchasing authority. As a participant in a decentralization initiative, the College also is not bound by many of the state purchasing regulations.

"These new freedoms have saved us weeks in time to turn around orders by departments," said Morales. "It's been especially

A "Dammit" doll helps Patsy Morales vent her frustration.

beneficial because so many of our purchases are for small dollar amounts

Morales, whose husband is the senior scientist at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, actually began working at the College in 1957 as executive secretary to the VIMS director. She took several

years off to have children, returning in 1966.

Morales' skill in the purchasing profession almost earned her the State Buyer of the Year award in 1990. She was among three finalists for the award before the program was abruptly canceled due to budget constraints.

Lewis sees the students as the

Lewis Thrives On Her Job's Excitement

handful of change. Lewis knows that invariably a few students won't have enough money to pay for their meals.

"I love to be able to help the kids out, especially considering how appreciative they are," said Lewis. "What always amazes me is that nearly every one of them will come back and repay the money, no matter if it's a nickel or a quarter."

In her 36 years in food service at William and Mary, Lewis has noticed a profound change for the better in the politeness, consideration and friendliness of students. She recalled several times when food fights erupted in the Commons or streakers would dash through the dining hall.

"Students have changed very much," said Lewis. "They're getting better and better."

When Lewis remarried last December, several of the students whom she's come to know showgifts after returning from breaks. the alarm went off."

bond that has kept her at William and Mary since 1961. She started in Trinkle Hall as a dishwasher, earning 75 cents an hour, and eventually moved up through the ranks to become a line server, cashier and finally a supervisor. Currently posted at the Market-

place, Lewis thrives on the excitement surrounding the daily preparation of student meals. "For some crazy reason, I look forward to the crowds," said Lewis. "It's exciting when they're constantly coming in and you can't see the floor."

Lewis wears many hats as a su-; pervisor. Among other responsibilities, she is in charge of making up employees' schedules in the Marketplace and ensuring food stocks are kept well supplied. The nature of her position, however, means that she must often fill in where the need arises.

"We all chip in and help when we're shorthanded," said Lewis. "I'll cook, wash pots, work the register, mop the floor-whatever it takes."

She added that she doesn't plan to retire until she has put in

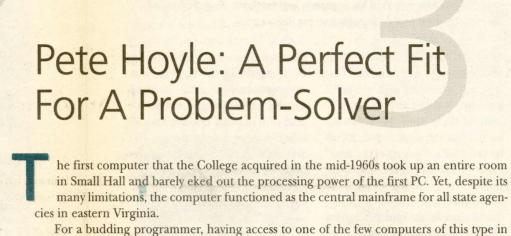
Said Lewis, "I love my job. It's ered her with flowers, gifts and a routine that I've gotten used to. cards. She added that it's not un- Just the other day, I was so eager common for students to bring her to get to work that I was up before

Employee Appreciation Day

President Timothy Sullivan invites classified and hourly staff to attend a

> Luncheon Program Tuesday, July 29 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m William & Mary Hall

Employees who will attend should detach and return to the University Events Office the response cards they received with their invitation. Return of these cards is required to be entered in the drawing for door prizes.



existence was the opportunity of a lifetime.

do both scientific and business computing and interact with remote terminals over the phone lines," said Pete Hoyle, systems analyst for technology services. "This technology was not right off the shelf and we had to write a lot of the original software for it. I was fortunate As computer technology has evolved, Pete

enough to be one of the first ones to use it." Hoyle, who graduated from the College in 1964, was originally hired in 1966 as a programmer for the mainframe. His job in the newly-founded Computer Center soon evolved into computing support for academic users.

"If a faculty member needed a program written, they usually had to write it themselves

"We were one of the first places in the country with a mainframe computer that could

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.



William And Mary Hall Is Adams' Passion

Celebrating 25 years of service to the College are (front row, left to right) Hartense Washington (residence life), Josephine Strong (facilities management), Edmonia Partlow (facilities management), Fredi Jackson (sociology) and Edward Lawrence (physics); (back row, left to right) Larry Stokes (University Center), Kirby Howard (post office) and Myron Hayslett (technology services). Not shown is Lyle Wiggins (facilities management).

Hoyle's job has evolved as well. Once

dedicated solely to programming, Hoyle

now oversees electronic communication.

Linda Adams, circulation coordinator for Swem Library, will also be recognized for more than 30 years of service.

history

DOES HISTORY HAVE MEANING?

Mellon seminar explores the ongoing debate surrounding postmodernism

ostmodernist thought has created nothing less than a crisis of representation," explains Kenan Professor of Humanities James Axtell to those uninitiated in such mysteries. "If language mediates all knowledge, and language is arbitrary, opaque, and unstable—as postmodernists insist—how can we really speak about the reality of the past?"

This is the conundrum with which Axtell and a dozen William and Mary doctoral students in history and American studies have been struggling this summer. Funded by an \$86,000, two-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the summer seminar in theory and practice is designed to help aspiring historians analyze new strains of thought, evaluate their effectiveness as intellectual tools, and apply them appropriately.

One of the most challenging

of these recent schools of thought is postmodernism, which for three decades has critiqued many basic intellectual assumptions. The persistent probing of postmodernism has called into question the value of reason, the existence of objectivity and truth, the validity of the scientific method, and the legitimacy of most value structures.

The implications of postmodernism for the study of history are quite disturbing, says Axtell, because most of the discipline's favorite tools rank high among the postmodernist panoply of intellectual sins. History's traditional reliance on documents, for instance, is a gross example of "representationalism"-according to postmodern theorists, a misplaced faith in the ability of signs, symbols, and words to convey a reality outside themselves. Equally suspect is the "hierarchical thinking" of many historians, betrayed by the discipline's distinctions between

elite and popular culture, First and Third World societies, and winners and losers.

"For historians, one of postmodernism's most challenging assertions is that historical narratives are linguistic constructs or 'fictions,' the 'truth' of which is illusory and the meaning of which is indeterminate and plural, subject not to the author's intentions but to the varied interpretations of readers," says Axtell.

Although the postmodernist list of historians' faults is lengthy, Axtell says that he and his students have come to believe that postmodernism has developed some valuable methodological tools and insights.

"The basic tendency of postmodernist thought is to deny the notion of 'progress,' to democratize history, to open it up to new voices, and to set aside 'meta-narratives' or big plot-lines for microhistories without 'heroes' or 'vic-

Even archaeology has been influenced by postmodernist critics, says Rob Galgano (rear), a participant in the Mellon seminar. Postmodernism, he says, helped him question his approach and methods, and challenged the way he presents his argument in his dissertation.

tims," says the professor. "What we want to do is to take the best insights and work with those. I would estimate that 20 to 30 percent of their ideas have proven useful, but the seminarians all selected their 'saving remnants' from different theoretical locations."

Among the useful notions, Axtell says, is the postmodernist recognition that historians—with all of their biases and assumptions—are very much involved in the processes of historical research, interpretation, and writing. By recognizing the influence of these subjective factors, historians can be better prepared both to deal with original documents and other traces left by the past, and also to ensure that their own biases don't dominate their work.

This is one of the key lessons that Axtell has drawn from the seminar's examination of postmodernism, a lesson that he intends to revisit next summer when

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.

A Postmodernist Spin On *The Indians' New South*

ow will Jim Axtell's new book, The Indians' New South, fare with postmodernist critics? Throughout the booka printed version of the prestigious Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History delivered by Axtell at Louisiana State University—the historian adopts several techniques that would certainly appeal to postmodernists. First, of course, is a bottom-up approach that examines the impact of the colonists, not exclusively from the European point of view, but from the Indians' perspective as well.

We learn, for instance, that the Indians' dependence on colonists crept into everyday life so much that one embittered chief complained: "What are we red People? The Cloaths we wear, we cannot make ourselves, they are made [for] us. We use their Amunition with which we kill Dear. We cannot make our Guns, they are made [for] us. Every necessary Thing in

Life we must have from the White People."

Postmodernists would also appreciate Axtell's emphasis on the ubiquity of cultural change and the inherent unreliability of colonists' observations. The author reminds us early on that "the

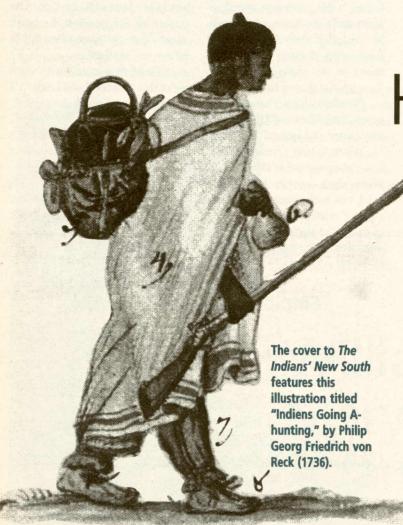
more focused snapshots of native culture ... freeze the fluidity of cultural time in momentary and misleading stillness," and that the "mere presence of a European observer ... could not fail to alter the behavior and thinking of his native hosts."

By examining Indian folklore and the mute but eloquent evidence of archaeology—in addition to the documents invariably written by Europeans—Axtell has compiled a compelling picture of an Indian culture for which the "New"

The author reminds us early on that "the more focused snapshots of native culture . . . freeze the fluidity of cultural time in momentary and misleading stillness."

South was a grim reality indeed. At the risk of being charged with "representationalism," Axtell summarizes this reality by quoting a British Indian superintendent: "The Original great tye between the Indians and Europeans was Mutual Conveniency. [But] A modern Indian cannot subsist without Europeans So that what was only Conveniency at first is now become Necessity and the Original tye Strengthened."

by Bill Walker



athletics

Tribe Football Club Stirs Camaraderie

Former players band together to build financial support and scholarship fund for team

teve McNamee '81 was a three-year letterman on football teams coached by Jim Root and Jimmye Laycock '71. He was so good at swatting down passes and banging heads with opposing runners that he was named in 1995 to the William and Mary Athletic Hall of Fame.

But what he remembers from those halcyon days is not so much his gridiron exploits but the camaraderie he developed with his teammates. "The most important thing for me has been the friendships and relationships that have grown stronger over the years," says McNamee, a Richmond resident who works with another Athletic Hall of Famer, Ben Pomeroy



Tribe booster Steve McNamee

'68, in the employee benefits office of the Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Co.

With the help of other former football players, McNamee has now created an organization that not only brings players together again to renew that camaraderie but provides financial support for the William and Mary football team.

Known as the Tribe Football Club, the seven-year-old organization started modestly with a \$10 annual fee and a tailgate party at a William and Mary football game. But it has proven so popular that the members now fund a \$5,000 scholarship for a "walk-on" player who has come to the College with no financial aid but who has earned a place on the team. They call this the HEYFARL scholarship—Hundred Each Year For a Rising Letterman—and the first recipient was Brian Sorrell, starting center for the Tribe.

McNamee had been involved since graduation with the football

program through the Athletic Educational Foundation chapter in Richmond. But he became even more active after former teammate Jim Ryan '79, who played for the Denver Broncos for more than a decade, asked him to chair the fund-raising effort for the Class of '81 for the Fourth and Goal Campaign, which raised more than \$2 million to endow scholarships for the football team.

In speaking with his former classmates about the campaign, McNamee said he found many of them encouraged the formation of a club for former football players.

"When I spoke with them, the spirit and love for the College was awesome," said McNamee, who broached the idea of a club with Bobby Dwyer, associate athletic director for development, who encouraged McNamee to proceed with its formation.

In the beginning, McNamee said, "We had no concept and didn't know if it would go anywhere." In fact, he added, "I had no idea what I was doing!"

What the affable, former free safety with an easy smile did find, however, was more important: a "tremendous tradition and a lot of good friends who had played in a 100-year-old football program at a 300-year-old school." Since holding its first reception in 1990, the club has grown to more than 400 members, or 40 percent of the estimated 1,000 living former William and Mary football players. In fact, the club has even expanded eligibility to include anyone associated with the football program and includes one female member, former assistant manager Lee Beam '80, as well as radio sportscaster Bob Sheeran '67, who announces the games. They now hold tailgate get-togethers at every home football game and enjoy camaraderie that crosses the generations.

"It's been great at the tailgates to see the different ages come together," says McNamee. "What I've enjoyed most is hearing about the games from the older players. At Homecoming, for instance, I visited players from the '60s, none of whom agreed on anything about their playing days!"

One of those former players in the club is head coach Jimmye Laycock, who played quarterback during the Marv Levy and Lou Holtz eras. As the club grew in strength, the members went to Laycock and asked how they could help the team. He recommended the scholarship for a player who wasn't getting financial assistance. In addition, Laycock writes letters twice a year to all members of the club giving the latest developments on the football program.

While they are helping their school and their program, the former players find their membership in the Tribe Football Club personally rewarding. McNamee probably speaks for all of them when he says, "I love William and Mary, and this is a way I can give something back."

by S. Dean Olson

of note

Admission Honors Volunteers

The Office of Admission honored students, senior citizens and members of the Christopher Wren Assocation who volunteered during the academic year at a reception on May 8. This was the second year that CWA members in particular helped the admission office to open, sort and alphabetize undergraduate applications and correspondence.

Students who were recognized included Tim Wolfe, Amy Beasley, Karen Hart, Tevera Stith, Angela Worthy and Dharmesh Vashee. Richard Brooks, professor of education emeritus, was honored for volunteering in the office the longest period of time. Marion Macon, a CWA member, was also recognized for volunteering the most hours during the year.

public service

Seventh-Graders Make 'Light' Work Of Summer

GTE sponsors science camp

wenty middle school students from the Williamsburg-James City County and York County school systems took a break from their usual summer fun this month to spend two weeks at William and Mary. From July 6-19, area seventh-graders used kaleidoscopes, lasers and electron microscopes to learn the secrets of light, as part of the first GTE Summer Day Camp for Science Explorers program.

Instructed by teachers from both school divisions and teaching assistants from William and Mary, students focused on light perception and how scientists in various fields—biology, physics, chemistry, art and technology—use light.

The summer day camp for minority students was funded by a \$30,000 grant from GTE Corp. of Stamford, Conn.

"One of the major goals of the GTE program was to use light and color to show connections—connections between science and the arts and connections between science and the students' daily lives," said Sharon Broadwater, project director and assistant professor of biology. "Students, for example, experimented with infrared light to look at the physics of light. They

found that, under infrared, the inside of their mouths light up more than the outside and that people of all colors look the same."

Other activities during the day camp examined illusions in nature and how perceptions can be fooled. To demonstrate the concept, students took a field trip to Craney Island near the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel to observe how sea birds use different colored feathers as camouflage.

"They discovered that science is everywhere. It's interesting and it's fun," said Broadwater.

Other field trips included tours of the Richmond Science Museum, where students learned how

light can be manipulated with perceptual tricks and special effects, and of the Williamsburg Community Hospital radiology lab.

Four students worked under the direction of one teaching assistant from the College. Teachers from the Williamsburg-James City County and York County school systems, as well as mentors and visiting professionals, also took part in the camp to show the science explorers how they use light in their day-to-day lives. They talked to the seventh-graders about career choices and opportunities in the science field, and offered guidance about research projects for science fairs.

by Peggy Shaw



Valerie Mettler (center), a science teacher in the York County school system, shows Lawrence White (left) and Zonie Daniels various features of a sheep brain.

SPECIAL EVENTS

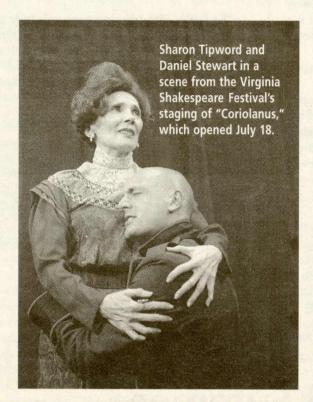
July 29

Employee Appreciation Day will be observed with a luncheon program from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.in William and Mary Hall. See invitation on page 5.

PERFORMANCES

Through Aug. 3

The Virginia Shakespeare Festival, which opened on July 11, will alternate performances of "The Taming of the Shrew," and "Coriolanus" through Aug. 3. Evening performances are at 8 p.m.



in Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall, with matinee performances on Sundays at 2 p.m. The theatre is dark July 21 and 28. Tickets are \$12 for one play or \$20 for two plays. Members of groups of 20 or more may purchase tickets for \$9 each. Reservations may be made by calling 221-2674.

WORKSHOPS

July 29-Aug. 7

Registration is currently underway for Session II, "Picture This," the Muscarelle Museum's children's gallery/studio classes beginning July 29. Call 221-2703 for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS

July 23

Min Soe will take the final oral examination for his doctorate in physics at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room, William Small Physical laboratory. Soe's thesis is titled "Thermal Lattice Boltzmann Simulations of Variable Prandtl Number Turbulent Flows." The session is open to the public.

Aug. 8 and 11

William and Mary marine scientist Gene Burreson explains the plight of the Chesapeake oyster and efforts to improve the industry in a segment of "Bounty Hunters: Efforts to Improve Virginia Agricultural Production" on "With Good Reason," a radio program produced by the Virginia Higher Education Broadcasting Consortium. The program may be heard locally on WHRV/Hampton Roads, 89.5 FM, on Fridays at 1:30 p.m.; on WNSB/Norfolk, 91.1 FM on Mondays at 9:30 a.m.; and on WYCS/Yorktown, 91.5 FM, on Mondays at 8 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Through Aug. 17

"Building Form: Ansel Adams and Architecture," is on display at the Muscarelle Museum.

classified advertisements

FOR SALE

FSBO. 3-BR, 2-bath house in Kingswood, Fenced backyard, gas heat/HW, A/C, elevated deck. Very pleasant views of wooded yard. \$145,000. Call 220-0051.

1983 Chrysler New Yorker, AC, PS, AM-FM radio, good engine, new battery, good tires, low mileage. \$700. Call Lotha Jennette and leave message at 258-4924.

1984 Nissan 300Z. Very good condition. \$2,400. Call Clay at 566-1305.

1994 Ford Aerostar XL, 8-9 pass. A/C, power lock and windows, two built-in children's car seats, tape player, rear window wiper. Very good condition. \$10,500. Call Maria at 221-3685 or 253-2889.

Small federal style desk, dark cherry stain, quality workmanship with dovetailed drawers. Would benefit from refinishing, but in very good condition. \$125. Call 564-8663.

Tall bookcase, wood finish, approx. 34" wide. \$25. Ikea queen-size, foldaway sleeper sofa, green. \$75. Both in good condition. Call 221-2584 or 221-0762 (evenings).

Childcraft crib with innerspring mattress. Dark cherry stain, double drop sides, adjustable height mattress, casters. Very good condition. \$175. Call Amy at 229-0529 before 9 p.m.

FOR RENT

Faculty or graduate student wanted to share house. Ideal situation available in large, comfortable house adjacent to campus, owned by commuting faculty member. Private BR, 2-1/2 baths, 8 rooms, washer/dryer, parking, 5-minute walk to anywhere on campus. Especially, but not exclusively, interested in commuters. \$350 + share of utilities. Call 221-2177.

WANTED

Family or individual to host female Japanese teacher for 3 months beginning Aug. 16. Host school is Clara Byrd Baker. Call L. Hannum at 253-1347.

Furnished 2-3 BR house in Williamsburg, close to campus, Oct. 1 to summer 1998, for college administrator arriving in Oct. Willing to negotiate earlier occupancy. E-mail: ckmc@mail.lib.duke.edu or call (919) 489-5702.

Roommate to share house close to campus and CW. 2 BRs, 2 baths. \$250/mo. Available Aug. 2. Call Tim at 870-1880.

Roommates to share townhouse for '97-'98 school year. Located in Chisel Run, 1-1/2 miles from campus. 3 BRs, 2-1/2 baths, LR, DR, expansive kitchen, front/back porch overlooking woods. Walk-in closets, dishwasher, garbage disposal, washer and dryer. \$260/mo. + 1/2 utilities. Call Chris at 565-1572.

Seminar Probes

Postmodernism

Hoyle's Job Has

Technology

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.

grams."

and hardware.

computing.

Evolved With New

or get help from us in the Computer Cen-

ter," said Hoyle. "We knew more than any-

one on campus how to write these pro-

academic computing needs, Hoyle's job changed once again. Today he oversees sup-

port services for communication software

interest in computing to his student days

at William and Mary. In a computer course

taught by a chemistry professor, a Vietnam-

ese Catholic priest, Hoyle discovered his

affinity for the problem-solving aspect of

nating computers can be," said Hoyle. "In

particular, I was intrigued by the challenge

of making a computer work for you. You

know the results you want it to achieve, but

port at the College the longest of any employee, believes computers have both eased

and complicated life. "I never envisioned that users would need the kind of help that

they currently do with computers," said

Hoyle. "Our body of clients has grown im-

mensely. Early on, only a few faculty members and students had PCs and needed our help. Now nearly everyone has one."

Hoyle accepts the fact that as new technology and software continue to emerge, his job may one day change again. "I thought

that I was going to be a programmer for all

of my career," he said. "[Nevertheless] I'm

very glad computers and I came along at the

Hoyle, who has served in computing sup-

don't necessarily know how to get there."

"Dr. Zung really showed me how fasci-

Hoyle traced much of the genesis of his

As technology improved and new software began to cover many of the College's

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.

same time."

he will teach the seminar again. Axtell hopes that the review of postmodernist thought will evolve into a graduate course, although he stresses that it will supplement, and not replace, the standard historiography course required of all history graduate students.

If one can judge from the reactions of those who just completed the seminar, students would react positively to such a course. History doctoral student Rob Galgano says that the seminar was important because it helped him "question my approach and method, and challenged the way I have to present my case in the dissertation." He says he will be a better historian for having addressed the difficult issues postmodernism raises.

Summarizing the seminar's value, Axtell says, "No matter how extreme postmodernist views can be, it's still good for us to question our original principles."

by Bill Walker

WILLIAM&MARY

NEWS

The next issue of the William & Mary News will be published on Wednesday, Aug. 20. Deadline for submission of items is 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 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

public affairs
Peggy Shaw, university relations
Emily Mieras, proofreader

employment

The following positions are advertised as continuous recruiting positions; therefore, applications will be accepted at all times. It does not necessarily mean that a position is currently available. Applications will remain active for three months from date of receipt. During that time, if a position becomes available, applications will be reviewed.

Housekeeping Worker—Unclassified, \$5.52 - \$8.61 per hour, part time, approximately 30 hours per week. Two shifts. The morning begins at 5 a.m. and the evening begins at 5 p.m. Occasional overtime may be required. #CR0001. Location: Facilities Management.

Housekeeping Worker—Unclassified, \$5.52 - \$8.61 per hour, part time, approximately 30 hours per week. Shift begins at 7:00 a.m. Occasional overtime may be required. #CR0002. Location: Residence Life.

The following positions are classified positions with benefits.

Laboratory Technician Senior—Grade 5. Salary range \$16,386-\$25,582. Restricted appointment with funding subject to renewal June 24, 1998. Some weekend and holiday work will be re-

quired. #00502X. Location: VIMS (Fisheries Science). Deadline: 7/25.

Trades/Utilities Senior Worker (Theatre Production Assistant)—Grade 6. Salary range \$13,435-\$20,975. This is a 9-month position for period of Aug. 25-May 24 annually. #N0105X. Location: Theatre and Speech. Deadline: 7/25.

Executive Secretary—Grade 6. Salary range \$17,913-\$27,966. #N0091X. Location: University Development. Deadline: 7/25.

Accountant—Grade 9. Salary range \$23,401-\$36,535. #N0106X . Location: University Development Deadline: 7/25.

Electronic Technician Senior (Fire Safety Officer)—Grade 10. Salary range \$25,582-39,940. Occasional overtime and emergency call-back will be required. #00561X. Location: Facilities Management. Deadline: 7/25.

Buildings and Ground Director—Grade 14. Salary range \$36,535-\$57,040. Occasional overtime will be required. #00386X. Location: Facilities Management. Deadline: 8/15.

Detailed, up-to-date employment listings are available in the Office of Personnel Services.