



NEWS

A Newspaper for Faculty, Staff and Students

Investiture/Inauguration Webcast

The investiture of former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor as chancellor and the inauguration of Gene R. Nichol as president will be Webcast by the College beginning at 10:30 a. m. on Friday, April 7. The Webcast will be presented at www.wm.edu.

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Academic progress report Tribe ties Harvard for fifth in nation

The academic achievements of William and Mary athletes are among the best in the nation according to a report issued by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in March.

The Academic Progress Report surveyed 6,112 men's and women's squads in all sports at Division I institutions and highlighted those that earned NCAA Public Recognition Awards for 2005-06. To receive awards, teams must rank in the top 10 percent in terms of the graduation rate of its athletes. Leading the list were Ivy League schools, including Yale, which ranked first with 26 teams receiving honors for academic quality. Brown, Dartmouth and Princeton followed closely behind.

William and Mary tied Harvard for fifth in the nation. Eighteen teams at each of the universities captured Public Recognition Awards. By way of regional comparison, seven squads from the University of Virginia were listed, six from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and one from Virginia Tech. Other universities that were recognized included Notre Dame (14 teams), Stanford (11), Michigan (7) and Duke (5).

The recognized William and Mary men's teams included baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, soccer and tennis. Women's teams included basketball, cross country, golf, gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, tennis and volleyball. All William and Mary teams met the NCAA academic
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A peek inside the culture wars

Campus forum starts with Danish cartoon controversy



David Williard

Ibrahim (r) called publication of the cartoons "hate speech." Ahmad said it is more complicated.

A small-scale skirmish in the simmering global culture wars was played out in Morton Hall as students from the College's Muslim Student Association (MSA) held a forum in late February to shed light on the anti-Islamic editorial-cartoon controversy that has led to violence and casualties throughout the Muslim world.

The most offensive of the 12 cartoons, originally published by Jyllands-Posten, a Danish newspaper, depicts the prophet Mohammed wearing a ticking bomb as a turban. In Morton, discussion of the ensuing controversies quickly expanded from issues of freedom of speech to concerns about Islamophobia and to outright charges of racism. By the end of the forum, the "double standard" of the West had been called into question in terms of its reaction to the democratically elected Hamas in Palestine, its reaction to Dubai Ports World's acquiring ownership

of six ports in the United States and its jailing in Austria of controversial British historian David Irving for denying the Holocaust.

At the end of the forum, members of the audience questioned, in essence, whether Muslims were not overreacting to the publication of the cartoons. Questioners also suggested that keeping a security-sensitive eye both on Islamic nations and on Middle Easterners was justified given the nature of attacks by extremist groups against Western interests.

Rani Mullen, instructor of government, opened the forum by suggesting that the "rights" prized in the West assume a corollary set of restraints. "Democracy is not only about rights, it's about responsibilities," she said. "We have the right to free speech, but we have the

Continued on page 3.

Three professors receive Virginia's highest recognition

Three faculty members at the College have received the Commonwealth of Virginia's highest honor for professors of the colleges and universities in the state.

Melvin Patrick Ely, the Newton Family Professor of History at the College, David Lutzer, Chancellor Professor of Mathematics, and Margaret Saha, Class of 2008 Professor of Biology, were among 15 recipients of the 2006 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards. The awards are administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).

"We're proud beyond ready description to know that SCHEV and the Commonwealth share our extraordinarily high opinion of Mel, David and Margaret," said William and Mary President Gene R. Nichol. "Like the many Outstanding Faculty Award winners from years past, they are the very heart of our College."

William and Mary is one of two institutions in the state to have three faculty members recognized this year. Since the annual awards program began 20 years ago, 29 faculty members at William and Mary have received the honor—the most of any college or university in the state.

"All three of these individuals, Mel Ely, David Lutzer and Margaret Saha, represent the very best of what our faculty offer this campus and our students," said Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss. "They are dedicated teachers and mentors, as well

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Tutu to deliver 2006 commencement address

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for leading the nonviolent movement against apartheid in South Africa, will deliver the 2006 commencement address at the College on May 14. In addition, retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who now is the William and Mary chancellor, will deliver remarks to the Class of 2006.

"Archbishop Tutu's leadership during the struggle against apartheid inspired an entire continent," said College President Gene R. Nichol, "and his message of peace and forgiveness continues to instill a sense of encouragement throughout the world. We're delighted to honor him along with one of our own, Willard Van Engel, whose contribution to the field of marine science—and the College's



Courtesy of Tutu

Archbishop Tutu

recognized during the commencement ceremony with an honorary doctorate of science. Tutu will receive an honorary doctorate of public service.

Susan Aheron Magill, rector of the College, said, "Archbishop Tutu has a

lifetime's commitment to human rights and social justice to share with our graduates. We are deeply honored that he will be with us for commencement."

Professor Emeritus Van Engel, who taught at William and Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science for nearly four decades, will be

recognized during the commencement ceremony with an honorary doctorate of science. Tutu will receive an honorary doctorate of public service.

Desmond Tutu

Born in 1931 in Klerksdorp, near Johannesburg, South Africa, Tutu originally planned to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a career as a teacher. After graduating from Johannesburg Bantu High School, Tutu trained as a teacher at Pretoria Bantu Normal College and graduated in 1954 from the University of South Africa. After teaching for four years, Tutu began to study theology and received his licentiate in theology in 1960 and was ordained as a priest in 1961.

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Inside W&M News

The blues in the poet

Hermine Pinson's CD "Changing the Changes" goes beyond the blues.

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Response of the brain

Psychology researchers prepare to test activity in the cerebral cortex as subjects respond to stimuli.

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A ghostly encounter

Student suspects ghost was at work in Tucker Hall's "Xanadu."

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Ely, Lutzer and Saha named 'Outstanding Faculty' members in Virginia

Continued from front.

as committed researchers and scholars. I am pleased to add, each of these faculty members has contributed in substantive and important ways to faculty governance and outreach to the citizens of the Commonwealth. They are truly the reason why William and Mary is such a special place."

The Virginia General Assembly and the governor created the awards in 1986. Since the first award presentations in 1987, 232 faculty members in Virginia's colleges and universities have been honored. Winners of the award must demonstrate a record of "superior accomplishments in teaching, research and public service."

Melvin Patrick Ely

Few professors in the history of the College have enjoyed the type of public acknowledgment and recognition that have been accorded to Melvin Patrick Ely for his 2004 book *Israel on the Appomattox: A Southern Experiment in Black Freedom from the 1790s Through the Civil War*. Just as impressive, however, is Ely's "consistently brilliant" record in the classroom, according to his colleagues and students. Ely teaches the history of the South and of African Americans.

"I have seen all of his student course evaluations since he joined us in 1995. They do not come any higher," James L. Axtell, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Humanities in William and Mary's department of history, wrote in recommending Ely for the award. "His personal graciousness and respect and his intellectual adroitness allow him to address a class as if he were addressing each member individually."

Last year, Ely was awarded the prestigious Bancroft Prize in American History for *Israel on the Appomattox*, which tells the story of free African Americans in one Virginia county and their relations with whites and enslaved blacks. Later, the American Historical Association recognized Ely with two honors, its Albert J. Beveridge Award for the best book of 2004 and its Wesley-Logan Prize.

Ely credits his students with helping to shape his scholarly work. He has built lesson plans—and entire courses—around his own research discoveries. Ely said education in his classrooms works both



Courtesy of David Lutzer

Honored faculty members are (from l) Ely, Saha and Lutzer.

ways. "Not a semester goes by in which my students don't advance my thinking about my own discoveries and push me to convey my results more clearly," Ely said in his nomination statement. "There are many passages in my books that took shape in part during dialogues that unfolded in my classes."

In addition to his classroom and scholarly accomplishments, Ely has served countless times as a speaker to prospective students and guidance counselors and also has been a leader in recruiting minority faculty. He was a charter member of the College's committee on diversity. Before coming to William and Mary in 1995, Ely taught for a number of years at Yale University, where he was awarded both the Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Publication and Research and the Prize for Teaching Excellence. He also served as a Fulbright Professor of American Studies at Hebrew University of Jerusalem for the 1998-99 academic year.

David Lutzer

David Lutzer came to William and Mary in 1987 as dean of Arts and Sciences. He served in that post until 1995, when he made the rare return to academics from administrative duties. In the classroom Lutzer is consistently ranked in the top tier of his department by his peers and students alike. He received the College's Thomas Jefferson Award in 1995.

In an evaluation of his teaching, one of his students wrote, "What an amazing professor! Hardest math class I have ever taken, but I would take it again just to have him as the professor. Amazingly helpful, ... he would not let me leave his office until he was sure I understood and that I was confident."

Lutzer's academic specialty is the mathematical discipline of topology with specific interest in ordered spaces. During the course of his career, he has published 77 refereed papers and has edited two books on the topic. Recently his research has focused on the application of domain theory, a concept more commonly seen in computer science.

Lutzer has served the campus community in other capacities as well. He is credited with guiding the College during its adoption of a new curriculum, with creating the freshman seminar program and with fostering William and Mary's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program during his tenure as dean—programs that are still in place at the College today. In the late 1990s, Lutzer served as vice president and then president of the faculty assembly. He has also served on numerous departmental committees.

Off campus, Lutzer chaired the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences 2005 Survey Steering Committee as well as the Mathematical Association of America Science Policy Committee.

Margaret Saha

Margaret Saha is demonstrably one of the most productive teachers and researchers on any college campus in the United States. She is a 1995 recipient of the National Science Foundation Presidential Faculty Fellowship, an honor bestowed on only 20 researchers each year. In her 12 years at William and Mary, she has been an author of 36 papers in well-respected journals and has secured \$1.2 million in research grants on which she was the sole principal investigator. In addition, Saha was co-principal investigator on many more grants, including a Commonwealth Technology Research Fund grant for "Bringing the Future of Bioinformatics to Virginia."

A developmental neurobiologist, Saha's research centers around the question of how cells acquire their specificity and regional identity during early vertebrate embryonic identity. Her labs have probed a number of interrelated areas of investigation: patterning of the early vertebrate nervous system, development of vasculature and in vivo imaging of biologically important molecules.

Her contributions as a teacher and mentor rival her successes in the lab. She has taught an array of courses, ranging from large undergraduate lecture and lab-based classes to advanced, specialized graduate-level work. An innovator in the classroom, she has introduced students at the most elementary levels to the most advanced techniques. For example, Saha developed an exercise for freshmen in which each student isolates his or her DNA, amplifies it using the polymerase chain reaction, sequences the fragment and analyzes it by using the most current bioinformatics approaches. The curriculum in the biology department has benefited from two consecutive \$1.6 million Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Science Education grants, for which she serves as author and program director.

Saha's hallmarks are the blending of teaching with research and employing other disciplines to enhance biology. Since 1993, she has mentored 10 undergraduate co-authors and 22 undergraduates who have presented their work at scientific meetings.

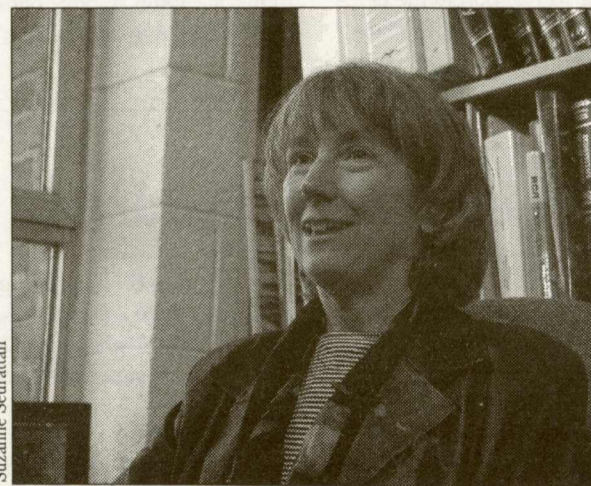
by Brian Whitson

Van Dover named 'Outstanding Scientist' by the commonwealth

Cindy Lee Van Dover, an associate professor of biology at the College, was one of two recipients of the Outstanding Scientists Award 2006 in the state named by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine and Walter R. T. Witschey, director of the Science Museum of Virginia. Van Dover, along with fellow designee John T. Povich, professor and chairman of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine's department of anatomy and neurobiology, was introduced to the General Assembly on March 2. They will receive their awards at a banquet at the Science Museum on April 4.

Along with Van Dover and Witschey, Duncan M. Porter, a botany professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, was recognized with the Virginia Lifetime Achievement in Science Award, and Jack L. Ezzell Jr, president chief executive officer of Zel Technologies, received the state's Outstanding Industrialist Award 2006.

A press release distributed by the governor's office said the following about Van Dover: "[She] has become an internationally known deep-ocean explorer. She is the only woman ever certified to pilot the deep-sea submersible Alvin. Her work has changed the way people view life on Earth. While examining specimens from a hydrothermal vent dive, she discovered an unusual eye in a deep-sea shrimp. That led her to associating geothermal light with hot springs on the ocean floor. Her explorations have



Suzanne Seuratian


Van Dover will be honored on April 4.

led her and her colleagues to discovering photosynthetic microorganisms with previously unknown importance to the global carbon cycle. She has led nine major expeditions to study deep-sea vents. Van Dover collaborates with experts in many fields: sensory physiologists, geologists, geochemists, geophysicists, engineers, planetary evolution scientists, astrobiologists and microbiologists."

Kaine said, "These select people are at the top of their fields. This year's Outstanding Scientists and Indus-

Via Antarctica

As part of a recent research cruise to Antarctica, Cindy Lee Van Dover wanted to create podcasts as a way to chronicle her adventures. "It's an investment in learning how to do science ... and it's about teaching that knowledge, teaching those capabilities to the next generation of scientists," she explained. The result, "Via Antarctica," can be viewed on the Faculty Focus Web page available at www.wm.edu.



trialists have expertise in medicine, biology and national security. Their creativity, contributions and dedication are aimed at making life better for us all."

Witschey added, "Science and industry are such an integral part of our existence that we often take them for granted. Virginia's Outstanding Scientists and Industrialists awards give us the opportunity to stop and recognize the people whose hard work and talent have helped create the technology and lifestyle we enjoy every day."

Group hosts forum on Danish-cartoon controversy

Muslim Student Association provides peek into global culture wars

Continued from front.

responsibility not to say whatever we may want to say." She cautioned that those in the West need to learn greater sensitivity, just as those in the United States learned that democracy is not only "about the right to burn a cross on the lawn of an African American," but it is also "about the responsibility not to do so." She suggested that members of the audience should use the cartoon controversy and similar incidents to achieve greater understanding. "If we do not use it as an opportunity to learn, we will go down the path toward the clash of civilizations," she said.

Subsequent panelists introduced the term "Islamophobia" to summarize the reaction of the West. Sulaiman Bah ('07) remarked that "Islamophobia doesn't end in i-s-m, but it is just like a lot of '-isms' that are out there." He read a statement attributed to Queen Margarethe II of Denmark prior to publication of the cartoons. She allegedly said that Danes at times will need to "show ... opposition to Islam," a religion she described in terms of "intolerance." Bah said such a mindset, which lumps together 1.3 billion adherents to a faith, is a form of racism.

Ayah Ibrahim ('07) called publication of the cartoons "not a question of free speech but one of hate speech."

She pointed out that despite the images of Muslims turning violent in response to the publication of the cartoons, the initial response of local Muslims was to organize a peaceful demonstration in front of the newspaper requesting a "sincere apology," not that the newspaper "be shut down." She urged those who were attending to understand that Mohammed taught, by example, that one should never respond to insult with



David Williard

Mullen (r) believes freedom of speech includes the responsibility to restrain; Bah said that Muslims are only seeking "sensitivity" to their concerns.

'If we do not use it as an opportunity to learn, we will go down the path toward the clash of civilizations.'

—Rani Mullen

insult, as that would close the doors to understanding.

Panelist Junaid Ahmad, a first-year student at the College's Marshall-Wythe School of Law, said that publication of the cartoons, in isolation, did not result in some of the more extreme reactions. Violent protests spread because "peaceful protests were rebuffed," he said. Multiple layers

of politics also were involved, he said. Both in the Muslim world and in the West after the terrorist attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, "the war on terror has been seen as a war on Islam," he continued. By playing upon the negative images of Westerners that has resulted in the Middle East, nonprogressive forces have found that they can strengthen themselves while progressive forces can be

weakened, he explained.

"Is there a clash of civilizations? If so, Muslims in the Middle East who are fighting for freedom are the biggest victims because they have to face those in the West as well as face the bigots at home," Ahmad said.

During the days following the MSA presentation, several of the panelists were convinced the event produced desirable results. Ahmad said the forum was successful in providing context to the cartoon controversy. "These issues don't happen in social or political vacuums," he said. "There's a larger political economy that does a much better job of explaining why people get angry." He suggested that the "culture talk" used by the media to explain the situation in terms of culture, as opposed to recognizing that political, social and economic forces all have played contributing roles, was convenient but shallow. "Islamic groups are not a monolith," he said. " Hamas is not the same as

al Qaeda. Hamas emerges in a particular context in an occupied area against an occupation. That is different from al Qaeda arising in Indonesia or Pakistan or all over the place, just carrying out senseless bombings in which the principal victims are not Westerners or Christians but are, in fact, other Muslims."

Bah said he appreciated the question raised during the forum that asked why Muslims should be put on a special pedestal and be exempt from having fun poked at their religion.

"My answer was that Muslims are not the ones who are poking fun at Moses or at Jesus, because we basically cannot be a Muslim without respecting those prophets who came down the line from Adam," he said. "We're not asking to be held on a special pedestal but are in the secular West, where nothing is considered sanctified anymore, only asking for the sensitivity to consider our concerns."

Mullen said, "I wouldn't say we're involved in a clash of civilizations here yet, but we might be going down that path if we don't try to learn from forums such as the one sponsored by the MSA. It was a learning opportunity." She took some hope in a recent statement attributed to the publisher of Jyllands-Posten, who said the cartoons would not have been printed if the newspaper's management had foreseen the result. Mullen suggested that as future generations of leaders, including current students at William and Mary, learn more about other cultures, languages and political regimes, incidents of misunderstanding based on oversimplifications can be lessened.

"We need to try to understand other cultures better and through that get a better insight into our own culture," she said. "Hopefully through being open and honest we can see that we are not involved in a clash of civilizations but only in a clash of a multitude of different opinions."

by David Williard

Pieri to lead development efforts at College

Sean M. Pieri, currently vice president for development of the U.S. Air Force Academy's Association of Graduates, has been named vice president for development at the College.

After approval by the College's Board of Visitors at its meeting in April, Pieri, 40, will be in charge of all William and Mary fund-raising operations. He replaces Dennis Cross, who left the College in 2004 to become vice president at Washington and Lee University.

"Sean Pieri's energy and experience will enable William and Mary to secure the additional private support needed to match its aspirations as one of the great public universities of the world," said President Gene R. Nichol. "His strong leadership of the Air Force Academy's first comprehensive campaign and his successful efforts on behalf of the University of Washington and other philanthropic organizations demonstrate his ability to lead and inspire fund-raising programs."

Since 2002, Pieri has led the Air Force Academy's development program, including divisions that supervise major gifts, the annual fund, planned giving, class giving, corporate and foundation relations and donor relations. During his tenure, overall fund-raising has grown by more than 250 percent.

"Due to the generosity and faith of many donors and the hard work of College staff, the Campaign for



Courtesy of Pieri

Pieri

William and Mary has been a tremendous success," said Pieri. "This initiative marks a new level of excellence for this great institution. I look forward to working with President Nichol and the entire William and Mary family on achieving even greater heights for one of this nation's great public institutions."

Before assuming his current post at the Air Force Academy, Pieri was managing director for development and director of regional development programs at the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) in Colorado Springs, Colo. In that position, he was responsible for leading all aspects of the USOC's private fund-raising program prior to the games in Salt Lake City. From 1994 to 2000, Pieri worked at the University of Washington in Seattle, serving first as assistant dean for external relations at the business school and later as assistant vice president for development.

Pieri earned a bachelor's degree in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame and a master of business administration degree from DePaul University's Kellstadt Graduate School of Business. In addition, he completed an executive program in finance and accounting at the University of Washington.

"Even as we announce Sean Pieri's appointment, I want to applaud the excellent work of Susan Pettyjohn, interim vice president for development," said Nichol. "During this transitional period, Susan and her outstanding staff maintained the momentum of the Campaign for William and Mary, which has just broken the \$450 million barrier with a year to go in our effort to raise \$500 million."

Pieri will assume his new position in June.

by William T. Walker

Isaacson to visit campus as 2006 Andrews fellow

Journalist, editor and author Walter Isaacson has been named the 2006 Hunter B. Andrews Fellow in American Politics at the College. The fellowship, in its sixth year, honors the late Virginia senator for whom it is named. Isaacson will be on campus March 20 and 21 to meet with students and faculty and will participate in a public forum on Tuesday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m. in Tucker Hall Theatre. The forum is free and open to the public.

Isaacson began his journalism career at the Sunday Times of London and then the New Orleans Times-Picayune/States-Item. In 1978 he joined Time magazine as a political correspondent. He rose quickly through the editorial ranks, serving as national editor and editor of new media before becoming the magazine's 14th managing editor in 1996. Isaacson went on to become chairman and CEO of CNN before assuming his current position as president and CEO of the Aspen Institute.

"Once in a generation, if we are fortunate, we have a public intellectual the caliber of Walter Isaacson," said Gene R. Nichol, William and Mary president. "His work has changed not just the substance but the tone of conversation among scholars, students and elected officials in the public sphere. We have much to learn from him and look forward to welcoming him to campus as the 2006 Hunter B. Andrews Fellow."



Courtesy of Pieri

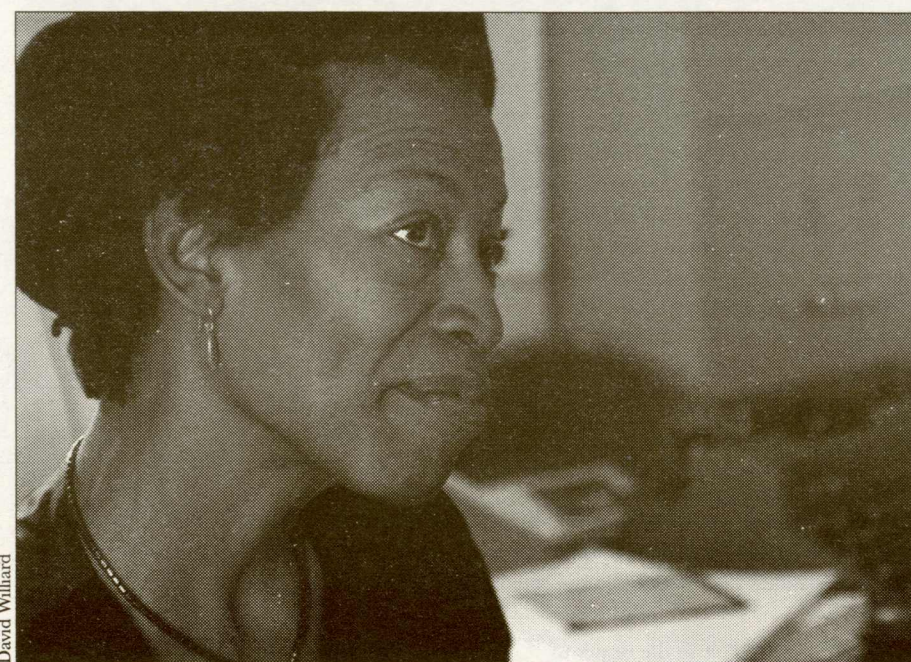
Isaacson

'Changing the Changes' is a collaboration with Pulitzer-Prize-winning poet Komunyakaa Pinson's new CD reveals the 'blues' in the poet

About her new CD, "Changing the Changes," Hermine Pinson says, "I don't know which came first, the music or the poetry."

One suspects it was the blues. That is not to say that the album, a collaborative experiment between Pulitzer-Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa and Pinson, associate professor of English at the College, can be described in a stroke. As the CD bridges the carnal and cosmic, alternately mocking joy and giving pause to despair, Pinson's voice carries its tough messages with authenticity. "The blues are part of her identity," said Harris Simon, lecturer of jazz piano, harmonica and music at the College. He accompanied Pinson on the album's title track. "She's like a train going ahead at full speed. She's not really a musician, but she has all the right instincts."

Hear excerpts from "Changing the Changes" on the Faculty Focus Web page at www.wm.edu.



Pinson has been called a courageous artist who is a cultural bearer of the blues.

In the summer of 2003, she met Komunyakaa during a writers' workshop in Detroit. During the reading, she sang a capella. He was intrigued. At a subsequent workshop, he brought along handwritten song lyrics, which he had composed with her voice in mind. He passed them to her in a restaurant while they were having sandwiches. She was particularly drawn to "Gotta Have," and she started singing the words. "I just handed it to her, and she began," Komunyakaa recalled. "I noticed people doing a sort of double take, but her voice was so sincere at that moment that everything made sense."

On the album, Pinson performs "Gotta Have" as a straightforward rock fusion piece. Her voice is as crisp and clean as the electric riffs laid down by co-composer Tomás Doncker's guitar as she sings about what people have—"toes," "secrets," "woes," "regrets"—and what many are after—"gotta have me a man, gotta have me a woman, gotta have me a baby, gotta have me a diamond, gotta have me a you and a jaguar too."

The prospect of making a CD had been in the back of Pinson's mind for some time. Those around campus who had heard her sing were prompting her.

On the title track, also penned by Komunyakaa, Pinson's voice plays off Simon's harmonica, making clean sense of the challenging ideas—"I can change your image / by changing your destination / change a curse to a good advantage

by changing your situation / I can change your mind ..."

Other songs delve straight into Pinson's psyche. In "From One Music Lover to Another," which she wrote and delivered on the CD as a "word-song," she craves the "good note" while tears fall—tears that are useless for geraniums and for finding god. A personal favorite is her own "Redemption Song," in which she seems to hold diseased pieces of her body before god and her surgeon father while seeking a sort of atonement of faith from Estella Conwill Majozo, whose advice, she says, has proven to be cryptic: "When singing things back together note stitches."

About "Redemption Song," Pinson said, "It is a model for me of what art should do. It moves people. It's about something specific. It's a way to deal with issues of ambivalence about one's life and the power of the presence of a creator. Can we be saved? The subject of that poem is redeemed by Estella's unwavering faith. It is an imagined dialogue with her."

During the recording sessions, Komunyakaa kept his distance, not wanting to "perch over the shoulders" of Pinson and the musicians she had chosen. "One has to trust in order to collaborate," he said. "That wasn't difficult with Hermine.

from one music lover to another

by hermine pinson

when you turn up the bass too loud
the door vibrates
neighbors know you're
inside
trying your best
to get off
to everybody from
brubeck to basie to bonnie raitt and
sly, of course
the door vibrates
and your heart
beats for the good note
the one that will somehow last
beyond your concrete steps
with the geranium plants
that you have not watered since
the last rain
tears won't do—
salty and too few

must have clean water not
soiled by
the deadly seven
must have clean water
if not from you then
wherever the idea
of god has taken up residence

up there in the sky somewhere
birds flap their wings
at so many somethings per second
music alone cannot suffice
must have something else
since you abandoned camus
and sex
you are alive still
in a universe
where celie could not even reach god
to tell him she was good

There is that upfront negotiation where the strength in a given piece has to do with the collaborators. There's that give and take, that push and pull, to arrive not necessarily at a pre-planned destination but someplace where surprise occurs."

Concerning Pinson's collaborative pull, he added, "Her assertiveness happened early on in the process. I kept hearing her voice. That was there embedded in the idea of the lyrics. That's the give and that's the take, as well."

Barnett, whom Pinson credits with "walking [her] through the recording process," believes that whatever Pinson chooses to do next, the beauty will stem not only from her energy but also from her courage.

It takes a considerable amount of courage for musicians, indeed for artists in general, to conceive a project that defies categorization," Barnett said. "We live in a time where creative work that is easily labeled also easily finds a home with a patron. It's almost as if the art that renders itself to the least amount of thinking is what is likely to be embraced. I'm grateful that Hermine was intrepid in her involvement with this project, that she brought to it equal parts of head and heart and yet was also freed up enough to let the muse have her way."

At present, Pinson is not thinking of a second CD; she is just figuring out how to market the existing one. She did enjoy the "give and take" of working with musicians: "They brought a lot of creative energy that inspired me to try to meet their energy," she said. She also thrived on the collaborative process. She recalled listening to the final cut of "Redemption Song." "I remember being so excited by what the guitar player was doing. I realized everything had come together for us," she said. "Everyone at that particular moment was in the same spirit of the project, even though I may have been uncertain."

Komunyakaa said that as he listened to the finished CD, he particularly liked

by David Williard

Farce animates Pea-Guy in original radio play

Techman produces radio drama to introduce new friends to an old-time form of entertainment

Streaming video may be the rage, but David Techman ('08) is bucking the mainstream by writing a radio drama, and he has assembled William and Mary's version of the "Mercury Theatre" players to bring the adventure to life. This spring the English and theatre double major will finish post-production work on Pea-Guy in "A Time to Resurrect a Hero" or "Radio Reincarnated the Videogame Star," a radio play he began in 2004. The play is based on an Astral Entertainment video game. Its near completion is a testament as much to Techman's tenacity as to his creativity.

"I hadn't really done anything like producing this before, so I was kind of open to whatever it was," Techman said. He has since received "a crash course in producing, directing, acting, writing and singing."

He hopes to introduce a new generation to a medium that has captivated him since childhood, when his father introduced him to classic radio shows like "The Burns and Allen Show" and "The Lone Ranger." Techman, who is legally blind, admitted that condition had some influence on his decision to produce a radio show. "It was not a deciding factor," he said, "because I know other totally blind people who don't really listen to radio shows a lot." He described himself first and foremost as a storyteller, and he is drawn to the challenge of creating a world through language, sound and imagination.

His interest is not in nostalgia either. "I wasn't trying to keep it strictly in the 1930s. I was trying to make it appeal both to the lovers of old-time radio and to the new generation, since it is kind of based on a video game. I've taken things from all over the place."

Techman's tastes and humor transcend time and genre. He said that his favorite playwrights are "tied between Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde and Aristophanes." And if any company has the eclectic knowledge and passion to make his unorthodox project work, it is Techman and his multitalented cast and crew.

The hero of the play, Pea-Guy, a "descendant" of Pac Man, is from the planet Peatoria, whose inhabitants are green and pea-shaped and who have eyes and mouths but no arms, legs, feet, hands or noses. Empowered by "the Farce," Pea-Guy battles Emperor Pal-Pea-Tine, the current evil ruler of Peatoria.

Gamers will recognize things so far, but Techman adds characters and literate, light-



Techman (standing) leads the cast during the recording of the radio drama.

hearted whimsy. The spherical knight-errant encounters challenges, including death, fires, a submarine crashing through a floor and a Calypso production number. Some names are familiar—Han Pealo, Chew-Tobaca and G-3-Pea-O. There is even a wise-cracking love interest, Peacess Leah, played by Emily Kirchner ('07). "A good radio play needs a strong heroine," Techman says.

The actors and crew range from freshmen to faculty, each performing multiple roles and tasks. "All of the things that you'd think make theatre and film complicated in their own right aren't there for audio drama, and so you'd think it's really easy," Techman explains. "You don't have to learn lines, there's no visual. But you still have to act."

Pea-Guy is played with panache by theatre major Matt Burns ('08), but as Techman knows, "theatre students are so busy." Therefore, most of the cast consists of Techman's friends and fellow members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Club, or Skiffy.

One exception is Richard Janda, visiting assistant professor of English, who was recruited by Skiffy member Graham Callaway ('08), who plays Pea-Fader. Janda portrays Emperor Pal-Pea-Tine with malevolent flair and has mastered a voice that one cast member said sounded "as if Winnie-the-Pooh had been possessed by a demon."

Ehren Wade ('08), a business and philosophy concentrator as well as a talented musician, portrays Han and Chew-Tobaca. Asked

why he devoted so much time and energy to Techman's project, Wade replied, "He wrote a fantastic script." He aced Chew-Tobaca's throaty growl, featured in this witty exchange:

Chew-Tobaca: Hrrraaaaaannrrrrh.
Han Pealo: He doesn't speak, but he may rip your arms out of their sockets.
Pea-Guy: I have no arms.
Han Pealo: Then you have no worries.

The good-natured jokes and wordplay are fast and furious. Janda recalled, "Sometimes there would be a reference and I would ask other cast members, 'Is this a reference all of you know?'" They would say, "Yes, this is a character from 'Star Wars.'" To queries about other references, students would reply, "No, we don't know. No one knows; only David knows what that one is."

Techman's jokes and throwaway lines reflect his wide-ranging interests from Billy Murray, the World War I-era songwriter, to Veggie Tales (a nod to his younger sister), from Wal-Mart to John Steinbeck. There is something for everyone.

As for his next project, Techman has been talking with Astral Entertainment about distribution of the play and may consider a sequel. So do not touch that dial and, as Techman or Pea-Guy might say while flying off into a Peatorian sunset (cue music), "May the Farce be with you."

by Kate Hoiving

Missing from 'The Evidence': Originator of ABC cop show describes how his 'new formula' script was squeezed into the 'old formula' during the Hollywood process

Several years ago, Ian Caldwell and his lifelong friend Dustin Thomason bet each other that they could write a marketable novel. The result was *The Rule of Four*, a book that earned a place on the New York Times' bestsellers list in 2004. Eighteen months ago, they wagered that they could write a prime-time television series. When "The Evidence" premieres on ABC television this month, the pair will be two for two.

Currently Caldwell is serving as the College's 2006 writer-in-residence, a position that has him leading fiction seminars one-on-one with students. After the frenetic West Coast "learning experience" of the past year, he relishes the quieter environment. Describing that experience during a recent public lecture, Caldwell explained how he and his co-writers sold their new-formula investigative-cop series to television producers only to discover that those producers were clinging to the formula they had. Summarizing several points in the subsequent development process, Caldwell could only say, "We were getting jerked around."



Caldwell

to the networks involved "a young police officer who was convinced that understanding evidence is key to understanding crime" and a "near-retirement-age medical examiner who sees the human angle of the crime." It was to be set in

The new formula that the writing team took to Hollywood seems simple in retrospect: Shift the common protagonist-centered script toward an audience-centered experience by presenting pieces of evidence at the opening of each episode.

As each item of evidence would appear in subsequent footage, audience members would be involved—manipulated down blind alleys, at times—in solving the featured crime. The actual product the writers pitched

a gritty Bronx. Its characters were to be dressed in real-life garb. The product was to have artistic merit. As the writers outlined their hopes to the ABC development team, its members "nodded wisely," Caldwell recalled, "then they laid out the ground rules."

The "West Coast lessons," or ground rules, included admonitions that "we don't want to see poor people" and "we want to see glamorous people in glamorous jobs." As the development team modified the concept, they chose to move the location from the Bronx to the more up-scale San Francisco locale and they decided that the medical examiner, Solomon Gold, needed to be a younger, more appealing person. "We are making money by selling to advertisers," they explained. "We're not buying the old guy." Throughout the process, team members made other modifications, including adding smothering doses of sensationalism and transparent uses of foreshadowing, leaving Caldwell with a "dismal creative feeling."

Compared with the process of writing a novel, develop-

ing a television script means "the number of chefs in the kitchen is much greater," Caldwell summarized for the audience. Anticipating the airing of the pilot, he hoped to keep some distance between himself and the final product.

Caldwell came to William and Mary as a writer-in-residence never having participated in an undergraduate writing seminar. His idea was to "create a classroom environment that was fun, unpretentious and brutally honest," he explained during a recent interview. A few weeks into the semester, he modified his expectations. "I've tried to encourage brazen heartlessness, but the students here are too nice, so I've settled for compassionate honesty," he said. He also discovered that teaching group seminars was not effective because the students are working on different kinds of fiction, so he began conducting his sessions one-on-one.

Reflecting on his own leap from college undergraduate at Princeton to best-selling author, he said that after graduation he was anticipating either entering graduate school or

Related content:
In a Q&A, Caldwell shares how he identified the classic cop-show formula and why Hollywood does not want a new formula. See the Faculty Focus Web page available at www.wm.edu.

a game; it's a defense against complacency or inertia." Likewise, Caldwell's talk about "The Evidence" during the recent campus event, which initially was billed as a reading from *The Rule of Four*, was a reaction against inertia.

the working world and Thomason was considering enrolling in medical school when the two made their wager about writing a publishable novel.

"We were both afraid that within a year or two we would have forgotten that we had the freedom to choose the direction of our lives," he said. "The wager we made ourselves back then and the wager we made more recently [concerning the television series] had the same source: We don't want to forget our creative freedom. It's not

"Dusty and I spent several months on book tour, and the story was always the same—two young guys, childhood best friends, co-writing a novel that against all odds becomes a big bestseller," Caldwell explained. "There was an authentic aw-shucks, just-folks quality to our talks for the first few weeks. But what was an innocent, honest performance in May started to seem a little disingenuous when we were still doing it in October."

At present, Caldwell is working on a second novel. As is *The Rule of Four*, it will be a historical thriller. He also is keeping busy at home in Newport News, Va., where he and his wife are caring for their first child, a son born a month before his first seminar at the College.

Looking ahead, however, there will be more bets. "In the future, as wager-making goes, we would like to move from TV to movies. We also have some interests outside of art that I hope we'll be bold enough to try when the time comes," Caldwell said.

by David Williard

Tutu to address graduates during commencement

Continued from front.

He continued his theological studies in London and received his bachelor's degree in divinity with honors in 1965 and a master's degree in theology in 1966 from King's College London. During the next several years, Tutu taught theology in South Africa, first at the Federal Theological Seminary in Alice and later at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. He returned to England in 1972 to serve as the associate director of the Theological Education Fund of the World Council of Churches. In 1975, Tutu became the first black person to hold the position of dean of St. Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg. From 1976 to 1978, he served as bishop of Lesotho.

In 1978, Tutu was named general secretary of the South African Council of Churches. In this role, he became involved with the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, and he became a government target. For years, he was denied a passport. That restriction was lifted in 1982, and his name soon became synonymous with the nonviolent crusade to end apartheid and racial injustice worldwide.

In choosing Tutu for the Nobel Peace Prize, the Nobel Committee noted his role as a "unifying leader figure in the campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa. The means by which this campaign is conducted is of vital importance for the whole continent of Africa and for the cause of peace in the world."

Tutu became archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, in 1986. Later, President Nelson Mandela appointed Tutu chairperson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which investigated human-rights atrocities between 1960 and Mandela's inauguration in 1994.

Willard Van Engel

When Willard Van Engel retired in 1985 at the age of 70, he had dedicated 39 years of his life to teaching and research at William and Mary and the School of Marine Science. In fact, Van Engel is credited with being one of the individuals responsible for the creation of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, or VIMS. Van Engel, also known as "Van," led the way with cutting-edge research in the Chesapeake Bay and was a pioneer in many research areas of marine science, including his work on and his research related to blue-crab fisheries.

Van Engel grew up in Wisconsin and attended high school in Milwaukee before serving in the U.S. Air Force. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

In the late 1940s, Van Engel and his colleagues at the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory had the foresight to create a diverse academic community, known today as VIMS. He has been a strong supporter of the College, and his generosity has enabled the Van Engel Graduate Fellowship and VIMS Library Endowment to continue in perpetuity.

In 2003, VIMS awarded Van Engel its first Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to the state and the College. At that time, William W. Warner, author of *Beautiful Swimmers*, called Van Engel "the complete estuaries biologist, as much at home in theoretical discussions with his scientist colleagues as he is in meeting with watermen throughout the Bay."

by Brian Whitson

For fallen ruggers: Reyno and Ludvigsen honored



Devin Mawdsley ('09) is on the ground with the ball while Tribe teammates rush in to support him.

William and Mary's club rugby players won both of their matches during the Fallen Ruggers Tournament held on campus on Feb. 25. After the tournament, team members gathered together as a memorial was unveiled to honor former Tribe rugby players Alex Reyno ('03), who died in an accident in the Crim Dell, and Mark Ludvigsen ('91), who was killed during the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

The event and the memorial were funded with \$2,000 raised by current and former William and Mary rugby players. The memorial, which sits on the College's intramural field, consists of a three-ton granite boulder. Brass plaques, one naming both former play-



Matthew Scranton ('06) dedicates a memorial for fallen ruggers Alex Reyno ('03) and Mark Ludvigsen ('91).

ers and one depicting Reyno's number 14 jersey, will be attached. Attending the event were seven of Reyno's graduating classmates, including Mike Castle ('03), his roommate at the College.

Matthew Scranton ('06), who organized the tournament, said that when he joined the squad as a freshman, Reyno was a senior. "Alex, at 145 to 150 pounds, was always one of the smallest guys on the field, but he never gave up," Scranton said. "He would tackle guys three times his size."

Scranton said that he wondered as he planned the tournament how Reyno would have reacted. "He would have been pleased that the team came together in both the planning and the fund-raising," Scranton said. "I think he would have been embarrassed by the memorial." Scranton hopes the tournament becomes an annual event at William and Mary.

by David Williard

Psychology researchers to measure brain response

Researchers in the psychology department are preparing to conduct experiments to measure the brain's response to certain kinds of stimuli. The tests involve the repeated presentation of a stimulus event that requires a specific behavioral response.

Depending on the experiment, a procedure might be as simple as having a flashing symbol serve as a stimulus that calls for a subject to click a computer mouse as a response. The stimulus also might be the presentation of two words and the response involving a decision about whether the words are semantically related. New instrumentation allows experimenters to observe the activity of the cerebral cortex—the surface of the brain—as a subject responds to stimuli.

Measurement of the brain's electrophysiological response to stimuli, known as event-related potential (ERP), is made possible by NeuroScan equipment, purchased with assistance from a science recapitalization equipment award provided by Carl Strikwerda, the dean of the faculty of Arts and Sciences.

In an initiative led by Associate Professor Chris Ball, members of the psychology faculty and the neurosciences faculty have developed an ERP lab in the Bell Building. He explained that participants in ERP experiments wear a skullcap studded with electrodes placed to correspond with distinct locations of the cerebral cortex. Actual ERP recording is connected to the presentation of stimulus events, but the electrodes also detect extraneous so-called "noise"—eye movements, for example. Experimenters factor out the noise factor by running multiple tests.

"You can't do it once. You have to do it a couple hundred times," Ball



Jennifer Stevens is fitted with an electrode-bearing skullcap by Chris Ball.

said. "That's the disadvantage of it. You've got to do a lot of trials and get an average."

Ball and other faculty are learning how to use the new ERP equipment and planning specific experiments to be conducted this spring. He will be using the equipment in his research studies of autobiographical memory retrieval and focusing on the role of the frontal cortex for retrieving those personal experiences.

"This equipment will also be used for teaching, particularly in our neuroscience concentration," Ball said. "We have a class called Cognitive Neuroscience, taught by [Assistant] Professor [Jennifer] Stevens and [Assistant] Professor [Joshua] Burk, and I teach an advanced research class in human cognition that will provide undergraduate students at the College with hands-on experience with this cutting-edge technology."

Stevens will further her investigations about the human "potentiated state," a term she uses to describe how the body is always ready to do something and how the mind knows what the body has the ability to do. She describes a paradigm beginning with subjects who are visualizing that they are swinging their arms.

"So in a simple case, they're doing actual arm swings. Then they're just standing at rest and imagining doing 20 arm

swings, but then we change their posture," Stevens said. "One of the things I do is just have them standing against the wall. They're still at rest, but they can feel that they're against the wall." The experiment continues with subjects sitting on a small wooden bench with their arms unencumbered, then sitting against the wall, then lying down. The instructions are always the same—imagine swinging your arms. "As the posture gets less and less optimal for doing something like an arm swing, it takes the mind longer to imagine doing so," she said. "It's interesting, because in all of the conditions the body is never doing anything actively, it's always at rest. The question is this: Why would a change in posture translate to an increased time frame for completing an imagined movement?"

The new equipment's ability to pinpoint the area of the brain's response to stimuli will help to reveal the answer. One theory, Stevens said, is that the wall constitutes an interference in the mind's computation of its potentiated state. The other possibility is that the subject first has to take a mental step away from the wall and that this movement into a secondary state accounts for the extra time.

"The ERP will actually show us this, because if you are taking a step away, then essentially you're going to visualize yourself doing it," Stevens said. "Something like visual imagery is always going to activate the occipital lobe in the back of the brain. Whereas, if you're not visualizing taking a step away and there's a motor signal constantly interfering, then you're going to have something like the motor cortex or the premotor cortex activated and showing that delayed response."

by Joe McClain

Evidence of a ghostly encounter in Tucker?

The following first-person account is by Erica Fredericks, who remains skeptical about her encounter with a ghost in Tucker Hall. She advises tact and caution nonetheless. —Ed.

Let me begin with a disclaimer. Before coming to William and Mary, I never gave a thought to ghosts. Had you told me three years ago that I would be writing about my encounter with one, I would have scoffed at the suggestion.

In the Spring of 2005, Tyler Trumbo ('07) and I worked on an independent-study project in conjunction with a touring Frankenstein exhibit that Swem Library brought to campus. With a handful of short films under our

Related content: See Lord Botetourt speak on a light-hearted video celebrating the opening of the media center at Swem Library. View it on the Student Impacts Web page available at www.wm.edu.

belts, we had nothing out of the ordinary to report. This project was to document "Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature" on film. Early on we realized the undertaking would demand more time than we could have imagined. In the three weeks preceding the screening of our documentary in May of 2005, neither of us slept more than 10 hours in total. We left for the summer not wanting to think about Frankenstein again, but we returned in the fall and had to distribute DVDs of the final project to the people involved in the exhibit. Having finished the film, we planned to spend an entire day burning the DVDs. The editing suite was located in the Charles Center in the basement of Tucker Hall. Among film concentrators, the suite is fondly known as Xanadu. It should be noted that our adviser, Sharon Zuber, visiting assistant professor of English, is fond of saying that filmmaking is problem-solving.

One October morning, Trumbo and I met to settle into Xanadu for the



Fredericks takes a wary glance around "Xanadu" in Tucker Hall.

day. Our problem was that the computer kept crashing when we tried to convert our documentary into the appropriate format for burning. The final time the computer crashed, it would not turn back on. We slowly backed away, left the building and gave the computer some space.

Trumbo and I returned an hour later and—surprise!—the computer started right up. Playing it safely, we looked at our film one last time and everything looked good. We quickly converted it into the correct format and began burning 15 DVDs. To make the process move faster, we copied the file onto Trumbo's laptop so we could burn two DVDs at one time. At 2 a.m., when the laptop ejected the 15th DVD, we jumped for joy. Before I could tear out of the room, Trumbo wisely insisted that we watch the DVD to ensure that nothing had gone wrong during the transfer from desktop to laptop.

What we saw was completely unexpected. There were strange effects that we did not include and even stranger shots that were not even on the computer while we worked. We immediately recognized the handiwork of the ghost of Tucker. The most memorable "ghost effects" were some black-and-white footage of children reading, the image

of a Spanish dancer in a long dress and extreme close-ups of some of our classmates' mouths. As we re-burned the DVDs that night, Trumbo and I stayed together. If one of us needed to go upstairs to use the bathroom or to get a snack, we both went upstairs.

I understand that you may not be convinced that a ghost was responsible for our problems. My own experience with ghosts is limited, but I wonder if we should be on guard. The new media center has opened in Swem Library. Since then, Xanadu has gotten no traffic from film concentrators. How does the ghost feel about this? Abandoned? Elated? Is she compelled to stay in Tucker? Will she revel in the empty space? Or when she finds out where we have gone, will she attempt to follow us?

Now, I can't imagine that Trumbo or I would ever suggest that the ghost of Tucker is evil because she did not physically injure either of us or even try to do anything so dramatic. All the same, we feel that a reasonable amount of fear and awe is appropriate under the circumstances.

That being said, should the ghost happen to read this article, have I mentioned that she is a beautiful ghost—beautiful and powerful and talented and brilliant and ... ?

VSF expands its camps for young thespians



Courtesy of VSF

An actress performs on-stage in 2005.

After turning away scores of prospective young thespians last summer, the Virginia Shakespeare Festival (VSF) has expanded its Young Shakespeare Camps. Three one-week sessions will be offered from July 10 to July 28. Actors from age 9 to 17 will take classes in acting Shakespeare's verse, as well as learning how to engage in basic stage combat

and maneuvers in period costuming. Performance of an abridged version of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" will occur on the final day of camp on the main stage of Phi Beta Kappa Hall. The first week of the camp (July 10-14) is reserved for actors from age 9 to 11, the second (July 17-21) is for actors from age 12 to 14 and the final week (July 24-28) is for actors from age 15 to 17. The tuition is \$150 for the week.

Camp director Robert Branch, who is currently receiving critical kudos for his Iago in "Othello" in Richmond, and six members of the VSF acting company will serve as instructors for these camps. They will be assisted by the VSF production staff, which will design the lighting and costumes for the performances.

Interested parents should contact the VSF office at (757) 221-2683 for registration information.

Tribe athletic programs place near top in NCAA progress evaluation

Continued from front. standards. The report also cited 99 teams at 66 universities for failing to meet NCAA academic standards. Under the new regulations these schools must reduce the scholarships they award either this year or next year.

Among the NCAA Division I schools subject to penalties are DePaul University, East Carolina University, Indiana State University, Rutgers, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Mississippi and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Included among the sanctioned Virginia schools are Hampton University, Old Dominion University and Virginia Military Institute.

Although only 99 teams are subject to penalties, an additional 728 teams met the academic performance benchmark only because of what the NCAA calls a "squad-size adjustment, or a statistical 'confidence boundary' that is being applied for all teams to ensure that low-performance teams are accurately identified."

The NCAA has promised to eliminate the adjustment from the calculations next year, a move that could bring penalties to some of the nation's most celebrated programs. Among the basketball teams currently ranked in the top 10, for example, only Villanova and Illinois meet NCAA standards, which roughly equate to a 60 percent graduation rate. The universities of Memphis and Texas scored only 25 percent, while Pittsburgh graduated approximately 29 percent of its players. The scores of Connecticut, Duke, George Washington, Gonzaga and Ohio State ranged from 45 percent to 55 percent.

by William T. Walker

Renovation of President's House reveals mystery foundation

As part of the current renovation of the President's House, workers have been digging trenches to install new utility lines. Last week, they uncovered a mystery. A portion of a brick foundation was discovered several feet below the ground. The bricks could be part of an addition that was built on the west side of the house after the Civil War, or as the physical evidence suggests, it could be part of a structure that was built much earlier.

"It's very early to speculate about the identity of this structure because right now what we have is a mystery," said Louise Kale, executive director of the historic campus. "We have physical evidence that is not lining up with our limited amount of documentary evidence."

The location of the find suggests it could be the foundation of the west wall of an annex constructed on the west side of the building in the 19th century. An addition to the President's House was built when the College reopened after the Civil War. It originally housed faculty and later was used as a dormitory for students. Historical documents indicate the annex was torn down around 1919.

Confusing the matter is the fact that the bricks discovered are bound with shell mortar, which was used earlier than the 19th century. That would indicate the structure was built before



Brian Whitson

Vinciguerra examines the mystery bricks.

the annex, possibly even before the President's House was constructed in 1732-33.

"Shell mortar was made with oyster shells and used through the 18th century," said Lucie Vinciguerra, an archaeologist with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation who is investigating the discovery. "There's always the possibility that the bricks could have been re-used, but it appears they were bound together using the shell mortar."

The brick foundation was discovered Feb. 27 as workers used a backhoe to dig a trench for the new utility line. The foundation was discovered approximately 37 feet west of the President's House. It is roughly one and a half bricks wide and three bricks deep. "It's a pretty substantial feature," said Vinciguerra.

The archaeologist was at the site monitoring the work for this very reason, Kale said. "Anytime we put a shovel into the ground on the historic campus, we either conduct an archaeological investigation before we start digging or we have an archaeological monitor on site during the work in the event we find something like this," Kale said.

Archaeologists will continue to investigate. For now, however, the mystery of the brick foundation will remain, Kale said.

by Brian Whitson

