

WINTER 2026

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL MAGAZINE

Made for
moment
THIS

F&M AND LIBERAL ARTS



Win for the Ages

After trailing 21-0, the F&M football team staged a remarkable comeback to force overtime and defeat third-ranked Johns Hopkins, 29-28. The victory — in front of a packed Shadek Stadium on senior day — gave the Diplomats their 15th conference title and first NCAA Tournament bid in program history. | See more on page 12.





'Made for this Moment'

President Andrew Rich



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

Since becoming president last July, the Franklin and Marshall community has welcomed me with warmth and kindness. I have spent my first months learning about the College and its distinctive assets. The more I have learned—and the more I have met with F&M students, faculty, staff and alumni—the more proud I have become to be part of this extraordinary community.

Our College is known for academic excellence, close faculty-student relationships, and for inspiring the kind of unexpected, lightbulb moments that transform lives and happen when ideas and people collide in an environment that fosters innovation and creativity. F&M students are intelligent, curious, energetic and thoughtful. Our faculty provide them with exceptional opportunities to learn in imaginative ways, gain hands-on experience, engage in meaningful research and explore emerging fields—such as artificial intelligence (see AI in Focus on page 5). Our students care about their studies, and we prepare them for future success, to become world-ready, purpose-driven leaders who possess the integrity, skills and knowledge to make a difference in shaping a better world.

The F&M student experience is remarkable—and it keeps getting better. We are a challenging, exciting and fun community rich with opportunity and discovery. Our students genuinely enjoy being here, and their energy propels the remarkable spirit of our campus. Our students' success is made possible by faculty and staff who are dedicated to creating the most dynamic and supportive student experience possible. Their dedication to teaching, mentorship and collaborative discovery is the solid foundation that underpins the F&M experience. Academics is at the heart of what we do. That's why I feel fortunate to have started my presidency at the same time as F&M's new provost, alumna Sunita Kramer '92. You

can read more about Sunita's impressive career and what drew her back to her alma mater in this issue.

One of the greatest joys of my first months has been meeting alumni—here in Lancaster and across the country. I've been struck by the pride our alumni feel in F&M, their passion and humility when talking about their many accomplishments, and the meaningful ways they stay connected and give back. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know many more Diplomats in the months and years ahead.

Whether we have already met or this letter is our first introduction, thank you for picking up this magazine to read about the exciting things that are happening at your alma mater. You will discover that there is tremendous momentum at F&M and much that you can boast about to others. And I hope you will!

You might want to tell others about the transformative gifts from Trustee Ken Mehlman '88, which are bringing the new Mehlman Center for Strength, Conditioning, Wellness & Performance to life (see page 28), as well as kickstarting the F&M Leadership & Performance Lab. Please spread the word about our Commonwealth Commitment, which reflects a bold investment in Pennsylvania students and in F&M's future. I hope you will be interested to learn about the newest members of the College leadership team and the Board of Trustees, all of whom share my optimism about the path ahead.

The cover story of this issue, "Made for This Moment," captures my excitement about serving F&M right now. Higher education is changing, and Franklin & Marshall—strong in community and focused on learning with purpose and leading with impact—is especially well positioned to flourish.

This is F&M's moment, and I'm honored to help lead the College into its next chapter.

Warmly,

Andrew Rich
President
Franklin & Marshall College

contents

DEPARTMENTS

EDITORIAL



16 'Made for This Moment'

Driven by a passion for leadership and a bold vision for the power of the liberal arts, President Andrew Rich propels F&M into an exciting future.

22 Striking the Right Chord

One of the College's oldest and most active affinity groups, the Poor Richards, continues to entertain—and serve as the epitome of the small liberal arts experience.

26 Mehlman's Philanthropy Powers

Athletics and Wellness

Trustee Ken Mehlman '88 delivers a transformative gift for an innovative new facility that will be home to strength training, fitness and performance-centered growth.

Left

F&M President Andrew Rich has a clear message to alumni: "Your pride in F&M is infectious, and we want you to be involved."

Page 16

Below

Diplomat spirit soared at True Blue Weekend, when alumni celebrated lifelong friendships, reconnected with old teammates and visited with professors who shaped their lives.

Page 14

4 Instagram

5 Hartman Green News & Views

12 Go Diplomats

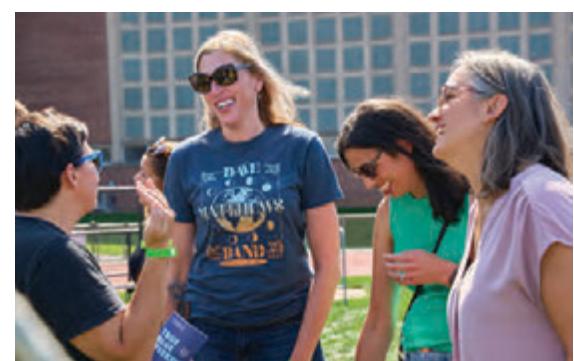
13 On the Bookshelf

14 Authentically F&M

16 Features

30 True Blue

40 Alumni in the Wild



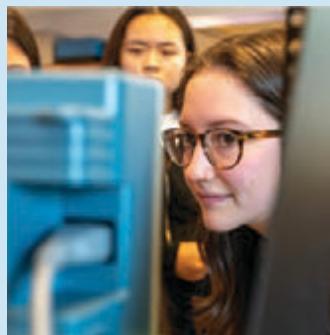
ON THE COVER President Andrew Rich believes a liberal arts education prepares young people to cope and thrive in a complicated world, be open minded, have confidence, and navigate difficult questions. Cover photo by Deb Grove. Chris Karlesky '01 is our editor. Kristen Agger designs our magazine. Kelseyleigh Hepler, Jason Klinger and Gregory L. Wright are our consulting editors. Deb Grove is our staff photographer. Peter Durantine, Diane Gegg, William Keller, Caroline Miller, Alicia Morrissey, Kim O'Brien, Gregory L. Wright and numerous students, alumni and faculty contributed writing to this issue. » Send email to Magazine@FandM.edu. » Call 717-358-3836 with any comments. » Email Alumni.Records@FandM.edu if you need to change your address. » F&M does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs, or other college-administered programs. Visit us at fandm.edu/magazine.

Instagram



@fandmcollege

If you haven't been to an F&M Dance Concert, you're missing out!



@fandmcollege

Esther Burlington '27 grew up with a passion for singing, but wanted to set her academic focus on STEM courses. At F&M, she can do both.



@fandmcollege

Fall Fest on Hartman Green was a hit!



@fandmcollege

Eleanor Metz '27 did more than study Roman history this summer. She lived it in the 18th-century city of Bath, one of England's most significant cultural sites.



@fandmcollege

The tradition continues! Flapjack Fest 2025 allowed students to relax and enjoy time with friends before finals.



College Builds Momentum with Bold Commitment to Pa.

Franklin & Marshall announced a bold commitment that makes college affordable to in-state residents admitted to the College as first-year students. Through the newly launched Commonwealth Commitment, F&M will support even more students through need-based financial aid beginning this admissions cycle.

F&M's Commonwealth Commitment makes an exceptional education accessible for Pennsylvania families with the following criteria:

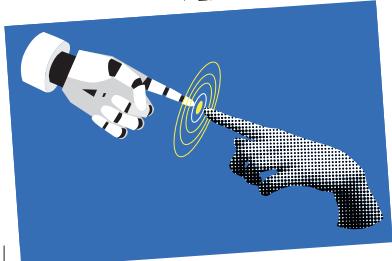
- Tuition-free for households earning \$75,000 or less.
- Capped costs—no higher than Penn State's in-state tuition—for families earning \$75,000–\$150,000.
- Financial aid package that meets household's determined need for families earning above \$150,000.

"While many of our students end up paying less to attend F&M than they would a public university, they don't learn this until after

admission. Our Commonwealth Commitment makes that value clear from the start, showing families that F&M is an affordable option—and an exceptional investment," said F&M Vice President for Enrollment Management M. Leslie Davidson.

F&M's need-based aid supports 65% of all F&M students, including international students. The College's commitment to affordability allows F&M graduates, on average, to leave with less debt than graduates from Pennsylvania's largest major public universities, including Penn State University.

"An F&M education is an investment that gains value throughout a lifetime," President Andrew Rich said. "The launch of the Commonwealth Commitment ensures that our home state's best students have the opportunity to become world-ready leaders through a personalized college experience characterized by top-quality curriculum, exceptional mentorship, and real-world experience that prepares students for the future to innovate and address challenges across disciplines and sectors."



As artificial intelligence systems accelerate at a rapid pace, Franklin & Marshall students, faculty and professional staff are at the forefront of undergraduate research in a new technological frontier.

1 Students Study AI Ethics and Implications

The urgent need for a new generation of machine moderators is emerging. That generation starts in a classroom at F&M.

go.fandm.edu/AI-ethics

2 Exploring Human-Robot Interaction

F&M students code a robot to interact with attendees at a future Admitted Student Day, leading participants through a quiz about F&M. The three robots used in the class were each programmed by students.

go.fandm.edu/human-robot

3 Using AI for Environmental Good

A professor and two students use artificial intelligence to estimate the economic value of water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, connecting quality indicators to ecological goods and services.

go.fandm.edu/environmental-AI

4 Math with Meaning: F&M Students Combat Food Insecurity

A student-faculty research team turns a passion for data science into meaningful solutions for the Power Packs Project, a nonprofit combating food insecurity in Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties.

go.fandm.edu/food-insecurity-solutions

Alumni Honor Taber with Klehr Center Directorship

A group of alumni, parents and friends have combined their philanthropy to endow the directorship of the Klehr Center for Jewish Life in honor of Ralph Taber, Ph.D., P'16, who spent more than 34 years working to support student life at F&M.

The endowment has been supported by hundreds of gifts. Lead donors to the effort included Dean S. & Gabrielle B. Benjamin P'21; Doreen Etingin Davidowitz, Esq. '78, P'14 & Neil B. Davidowitz, Esq. '78, P'14; Joshua R. De Leon, M.D. '84, P'17 & Giovanna De Leon, M.D. P'17; Alan L. Fell, Esq. '70 & Millie R. Fell, M.D.; Leonard M. Klehr, Esq. '72, P'12 & Susan Kline Klehr '73, P'12; Krieger Trust (Brett S. Harwood '71,

Trustee); and Judith Fishlow Minter P'19 & Mark H. Minter P'19. Their collective support will ensure funds for the salary of the Klehr Center's director and other staffing needs that the Klehr Center for Jewish Life may have.

"This endowed directorship represents the very best of F&M — our alumni and friends coming together to invest in the people and programs that shape our students' lives," said President Andrew Rich. "Through their generosity, the work of the Klehr Center for Jewish Life will continue to enrich our campus, ensuring that every student finds a welcoming community where they can belong and thrive."

Taber started at F&M as the director of residence life in 1986, and over the years took on increased responsibilities in student affairs. In the early 1990s, following long-time Hillel adviser David Stameshkin's transition to the Office of the President, Taber had a conversation with then-Vice President of Student Affairs Alice Drum

about stepping into the role. His relationship with Jewish life — and the members of the F&M community who frequented the programming and events held by Hillel over the years — went on to define the remainder of his career at the College.

Reflecting on the decision to title the directorship in his name, Taber expressed humility and admiration for the many donors who made the gift possible and to the College for securing the position through an endowed gift.



"This is momentous," said Taber. "This is a commitment that they're making to student life and to Jewish student life. And it's going to last well beyond my lifetime. It's humbling to have named it for me, but it's also amazing that the College wants to do this [for our students and the community]."

The Klehr Center for Jewish Life serves as a hub of Jewish student life and community engagement on campus. Founded in 2008 following generous support from Leonard M. Klehr, Esq. '72, P'12 and Susan Kline Klehr '73, P'12, the Center offers a welcoming home for the College's Hillel chapter and hosts a wide array of cultural, religious, educational and social programs — including Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations, and travel and cultural opportunities.

Alan Fell '70, chair of the Klehr Center for Jewish Life Advisory Council, remembers Hillel as a relatively new presence on campus during his time as a student, and he doesn't recall interacting with the organization or its programming while an undergraduate. Rather, he found his community as a brother of Zeta Beta Tau, a national Jewish fraternity that was first chartered on campus in 1931. It wasn't until one of his children began looking at colleges about 25 years ago that he revisited his association with Jewish student life at F&M — a connection that resurfaced following a conversation with Ralph Taber, then an employee in student affairs.

In 2008, Taber transitioned from his role as dean of students to the inaugural





director of the Klehr Center for Jewish Life and advisor to Hillel.

"Ralph built up the Jewish presence at F&M and helped foster the reputation of the Klehr Center," Fell recalled. "When he announced his retirement in 2020, I became involved as the College sought his replacement. [A few of us] had the idea that we could build an endowment for the director's position that will make the position stronger...and enhance whatever needs to be done to make the Klehr Center as strong as it can be. We wanted to help create an atmosphere that would encourage Jewish students to come to Franklin & Marshall."

Susan Klehr also emphasized Taber's impact on campus, particularly for families who entrusted their student into F&M's care. For her, and for others central to the collective fundraising effort, Taber was the perfect honoree to be associated with the naming of the endowed directorship. "It just makes sense, because Ralph was incredible with our students. As a parent, you could only wish that your child had contact with Ralph Taber at F&M. He was so good [with F&M students], and his religion, Judaism, is so important to him. He was really a wonderful force for the students at the Center."

Neil B. Davidowitz, Esq. '78, P'14 credits Taber for creating a supportive environment and considers him instrumental in assisting his daughter, Shanni, as she navigated the transition to college.

"Ralph guided and mentored and supported F&M students, Jewish and non-Jewish students in a myriad of ways. He was instrumental in developing the amazing Klehr Center. It became a haven for all students, and that was an embodiment of Ralph himself. It's a place filled with warmth, with caring and humanity," Davidowitz said.

Rachel Singer, director of the Klehr Center for Jewish Life, reflects on the significance of the gift at what she notes is a historic moment in Jewish life at Franklin & Marshall.

"In 2026, our community will celebrate two milestones: 60 years of Hillel at F&M and the 18th anniversary of the Klehr Center for Jewish Life. This meant-to-be serendipity in Yiddish is called *beshert*," Singer said. "The endowment of the Director of The Klehr Center for Jewish Life position represents a profound investment in the future of our campus community and ensures that generations of students will continue to find a steady source of mentorship, learning and belonging rooted in Jewish tradition and shared human values."

F&M Ranked Among Best Colleges by Wall Street Journal

F&M was recently ranked among the best colleges in the U.S. by the Wall Street Journal-College Pulse, which rates 584 eligible universities in the country on how well colleges set graduates up for financial success.

Among peer liberal arts colleges, F&M was ranked 16th highest.¹ Among peer liberal arts colleges recognized for research, F&M was ranked 11th highest.² Only 44 liberal arts colleges, including F&M, recently earned Carnegie's "Research Colleges and Universities" designation, reinforcing the College's excellence in providing its undergraduate students opportunities to work side-by-side with professors on impactful research.

These accolades build on the momentum of earlier successes in the U.S. News & World Report rankings. F&M was recently ranked 35th among all national liberal arts colleges, and the College's three-year range in U.S. News is its strongest in more than 20 years. U.S. News also ranked F&M 33rd nationally for best undergraduate teaching, and the College has been highlighted as a best value institution by both U.S. News and the Princeton Review. The latter also recently ranked F&M 24th nationally for most accessible professors.

¹ F&M defines peer liberal arts colleges as those institutions designated by the 2025 Carnegie Classifications as "Special Focus: Arts and Sciences."

² F&M defines peer liberal arts colleges recognized for research as those institutions that received dual designations by the 2025 Carnegie Classification as both "Special Focus: Arts and Sciences" and "Research Colleges and Universities."

F&M An F&M education ranks among the best investments a family can make in terms of reputation and value, according to the experts. **Here is where F&M landed on some prestigious lists of top colleges in 2025:**

WALL STREET JOURNAL

#16 TOP LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES IN THE U.S.

#11 BEST LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES FOR RESEARCH

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

#33 BEST UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

PRINCETON REVIEW

BEST VALUE COLLEGE*

#24 MOST ACCESSIBLE PROFESSORS

BEST 391 COLLEGES*

* The Review publishes an overall list of colleges that meet this criteria rather than ranking institutions numerically

Mehlman '88 Creates Pathway for Leadership & Performance



Ken Mehlman '88, Trustee and Board Vice Chair, is paving the way for future Diplomats to lead and perform at the highest level.

With a \$500,000 gift from Mehlman, F&M will develop and pilot a new Leadership & Performance Lab during the current academic year. The lab will equip students with essential skills in leadership, entrepreneurship, high performance and civic engagement. It will bring together faculty, staff, alumni, Lancaster community partners and expertise in performance science to further develop F&M students as leaders across sectors.

Student fellows will benefit from focused mentorship and professional development opportunities, including opportunities to connect with leaders in the Lancaster community, F&M's alumni network, and experts in the growth mindset and optimizing performance.

"The future requires leaders who are innovators and collaborators," said F&M President Andy Rich. "People who are resilient and creative in the face of difficult conditions. We need leaders who can bridge differences in values, beliefs and lived experience. Preparing these leaders will be at the heart of the work of the Leadership and Performance Lab. I am enormously grateful to Ken for his gift, and I am excited to work with him and our campus community to develop this exciting initiative."

Mehlman, a partner at global investment firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. (KKR), is widely recognized for his leadership in government, business and philanthropy. He rose to national prominence as the White House political director and campaign manager for the 2004 presidential re-

election campaign of George W. Bush and as chair of the Republican National Committee. He has served on the boards of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, Teach For America, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity and Mount Sinai Hospital of New York. His philanthropic support for Franklin & Marshall includes a previous gift to establish the Mehlman Talent Initiative, a mentorship and financial aid program designed to support high-achieving and high-need undergraduate students who experienced significant obstacles on their journeys to F&M.

He credits Franklin & Marshall with providing outstanding academic and leadership experiences that shaped his career, specifically noting the impact of Stanley Michalak, the late Honorable John C. and Mrs. Kunkel Professor of Government. He also credits his involvement in Phi Kappa Tau as offering him early leadership lessons.

"Stan Michalak was a Socratic teacher who would call on people unexpectedly... he was the reason that when I showed up at Harvard Law School and there were Socratic professors, I was ready," he recalled. "Ten years later, when I was running the Bush campaign and on national television interviews every day, even the toughest reporter was a walk in the park compared to Stan. I couldn't prepare enough for his classes, practicing answers to potential questions in front of the mirror. I had learned that confidence and performance in facing the hardest tasks comes from how much you practice."

The Leadership & Performance Lab will serve as a hub where students apply classroom learning to real-world contexts. Mehlman also sees an opportunity to tap into what he calls a unique aspect of the F&M experience: a campus environment where every student is a participant in their own journey, and sitting on the sidelines as a passive observer isn't an option.

"F&M is a place where people play. You don't just watch — you engage in the classroom, you appear on the stage. As an athlete you don't sit on the bench — you're

at work on the field, on the court or on the mat," Mehlman said. "And because our faculty, coaches and competitors challenge us, you learn to play hard. In real life, those who can play hard are rewarded. If you learn at an early age how to play hard, you're going to have a huge advantage in whatever you do next."

DesChamps '93, P'28 Named Chair-Elect of Trustees



Matt DesChamps '93, P'28 has been elected to become the next chair of the F&M Board of Trustees. His three-year term as Board chair will begin July 1, 2026. He will succeed Eric W. Noll '83, P'09, who has been chair since 2020.

A founding partner at Kepos Capital, L.P., in New York City, DesChamps has been a Trustee since 2014. He has served on numerous Board of Trustee committees, and has led many focused on finance. He has been chair of the Investment Committee, vice chair of the Finance Committee, and vice chair of the Audit Committee. He currently co-chairs the Trusteeship and Governance Committee.

"My motivation in becoming a Trustee was to use my professional experience to support F&M's mission and liberal arts education. Specifically, my expertise in finance and endowment management was a natural fit," said DesChamps.

Prior to his Board service, DesChamps was a member of Leadership Council and the Shadek Stadium Steering Committee.

"As chair-elect, I want to ensure a seamless transition and build a productive partnership with our new president, Andy Rich," DesChamps said. "I'm excited about his forward-thinking leadership and

strategic approach to the challenges facing higher education and the pressures on small, liberal arts colleges. He has a compelling vision for advancing the College's mission; my role is to be a close, constructive partner, helping him accelerate a strategic plan for F&M."

"The Board of Trustees is entrusted with the long-term stewardship of Franklin & Marshall. Our role is to ensure that the College remains true to its mission and excellence for generations to come. Matt has served with distinction in many leadership roles on the Board, and his appointment as chair-elect reflects his ongoing dedication to F&M," Noll said. "I am confident that he will guide the Board thoughtfully in its responsibilities, and I am grateful to all of my fellow Trustees—past, present, and future—for their service in this important work."

"I am deeply grateful to work alongside a Board so deeply committed to Franklin & Marshall. Matt's role as chair-elect provides continuity in that commitment," said F&M President Andrew Rich. "In my first months at F&M, I have appreciated Matt's insight, care and perspective, and I look forward to working closely with him as we advance the College together."

Prior to his role at Kepos, DesChamps was a founding principal of Satellite Asset Management, L.P., and chaired its operating committee. He also worked at Morgan Stanley and at Coopers & Lybrand. He is a member of The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

DesChamps graduated from F&M as a government major. He played varsity football and was a member of the Black Pyramid Society and Pi Lambda Phi fraternity. He earned his MBA from the Stern School of Business at New York University in 1999.

The F&M Alumni Association Board of Directors selected DesChamps twice as a recipient of the Alumni Development Volunteer Award, first in 2010 and again in 2017. In 2023, he was inducted into the F&M Athletic Hall of Fame for his football prowess and his support for Diplomat Athletics. As a student-athlete,

he established new career records in sacks (25.5) and forced fumbles (10), the latter of which still stands.

DesChamps and his wife, Julie Lattin DesChamps '93, P'28 live in Old Greenwich, Conn., with daughters Caroline and Sarah, an F&M sophomore. Julie earned an art history degree and was a member of Chi Omega sorority. She later earned a master's degree in art history at New York University and pursued a career in museum work at institutions including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Art.

F&M Welcomes New Board Members

Franklin & Marshall recently welcomed three new members to its Board of Trustees: Scott A. Sommer '85, Christopher W. Rile '91, and Yusong "Sebastian" Deng '22.



Scott A. Sommer '85 is the co-founder and chairman of Cornerstone Advisors, a financial services consultancy firm in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was a double major in economics and government at F&M, graduating with honors. He earned his doctorate of jurisprudence degree cum laude at New York University's Law School in 1998. With more than 20 years of experience in financial services, he has worked with banks and credit unions on strategic and technology planning, mergers and acquisitions, organization design and strategy, and integration planning.

"After graduating 40 years ago this year, I still strongly believe in the value of a liberal arts education that can lead you down paths you never thought you would wander. I started in law, which led me to technology, which led me to management consulting, and my F&M education was the underlying

force that helped me thrive in a variety of fields. At this stage in my life, I am excited to give back to the college that gave me so much!"



Christopher W. Rile '91 is a partner at the law firm of Sidley Austin LLP in New York City.

He majored in government at F&M and earned his doctor of jurisprudence degree at the Fordham University School of Law in 1996. At Sidley Austin, he represents private equity sponsors and public and private businesses in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, debt and equity financing, and other corporate matters. His clients include companies in health care, technology, professional sports, media, manufacturing and business services.

"I am honored to be joining the Board of Trustees at this time and excited to focus my energy and skills on furthering the College's mission," said Rile. "F&M was the place where I began to love learning for the sake of learning and first came to appreciate the great satisfaction associated with tackling intellectual challenges and doing hard things well. My academic and social experiences at F&M were critical building blocks for my professional and personal development. As an F&M alum whose wife and daughter are also F&M graduates, the College has been an important part of my life and the lives of my family and I am looking forward to furthering my commitment to its sustainability and advancement."



Yusong "Sebastian" Deng '22 serves the College as a Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Trustee. He graduated with honors in mathematics at F&M and is currently a doctoral student at Yale University in mechanical engineering and materials science. He is the co-founder of an AI-for-science startup company focusing on developing an AI copilot for STEM that will become an acceleration engine for next-

gen material discoveries.

"F&M's encouragement to venture beyond boundaries paved my path from math to the frontiers of atomic engineering," Deng said. "I am deeply grateful for my time at F&M, and I'm committed to enhancing the experiences of future Diplomats, particularly in strengthening the STEM programs and supporting the international student community—investments that will ensure F&M continues to produce leaders who can navigate and shape our interconnected world."

Learn more about F&M's new trustees at go.fandm.edu/new-trustees-25.



Back on Campus! Sunita Kramer '92 Returns to her Alma Mater in a New Leadership Role

Since joining the College as provost and dean of the faculty in July, Sunita Gupta Kramer '92 has reconnected with familiar places and traditions while considering how F&M has changed—and how it will continue to evolve.

What has it been like to return to your alma mater in the role of provost? Are there any ways in which the College and Lancaster have evolved since your time as a student that have stood out to you?

Returning to F&M is definitely a full-circle moment for me. As a student, being on this campus gave me the foundation for a love of research and building connections, and now I have the privilege of helping to shape that experience for future generations. Walking around

campus, I still recognize so many of the traditions and spaces that meant so much to me, but I've also noticed how F&M has continued to evolve. The College has deepened its commitment to high-impact student experiences, and Lancaster itself has become a vibrant hub of arts, culture, and innovation.

How has your academic background in the sciences shaped your perspective on higher education and your approach to this role?

My training as a scientist deeply influences how I approach leadership in higher education. Science requires curiosity, persistence, and the ability to embrace uncertainty, all qualities I believe are just as essential for institutional leadership as they are in the lab. As a cell biologist, I studied how complex systems emerge from the interaction of many small parts, and I see colleges in much the same way: vibrant ecosystems that depend on the connections between ideas, disciplines, and most importantly, people. That perspective helps me value both rigor and creativity, and to support environments where faculty, staff, and students can take intellectual risks and learn from the outcomes.

Why do you think a liberal arts education is valuable for students, and what makes F&M's approach to the liberal arts distinct?

A liberal arts education equips students with the ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and adapt to a rapidly changing world. In a moment when technology is reshaping how we live and work, the ability to take a humanist approach and integrate perspectives across disciplines is more important than ever. F&M's approach to the liberal arts stands out because of the close faculty-student mentorship and the emphasis on learning as both an intellectual and personal journey. Students are encouraged not just to master content, but to ask bold questions, to explore connections across fields, and to become engaged citizens in a global community.

Is there anything you're especially looking forward to or hoping to accomplish during the upcoming academic year?

This year, I'm most excited about getting to know the F&M community by listening to faculty, staff, and students, and learning about their ideas and aspirations. Building those relationships is essential to shaping a shared vision for the future. I'm also eager to work collaboratively on advancing academic excellence, supporting faculty scholarship and creativity, and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive. I'm looking forward to being reminded of what it means to be a Diplomat, including walking across our beautiful campus, attending student

performances, exhibitions, and visiting labs and classrooms.

Jim Dicker begins as F&M's new Vice President for College Advancement



Jim Dicker began as F&M's new Vice President for College Advancement on Jan. 5. He brings more than 35 years of experience as a leader in philanthropy and advancement and has managed everything from campaign ideation and execution to fundraising and alumni engagement.

Most recently, Dicker served as the vice president for development and alumni relations at the University of Delaware, where he led efforts to successfully conclude "Delaware First: The Campaign for the University of Delaware." That historic fundraising initiative resulted in more than \$1 billion in philanthropic support, including more than \$282 million for the university's endowment. The campaign engaged more than 113,000 donors. Campaign priorities included student success and financial aid; innovation in faculty and student research and graduate education; and significant capital investment, including the construction of the Whitney Athletic Center, a new hub for strength, conditioning, nutrition and wellness. Before Delaware, Dicker was at Temple University and Lafayette College, which is his alma mater.

"I am thrilled to join the Franklin & Marshall College community and advance the mission of this incredible institution

under the leadership of President Andrew Rich," said Dicker. "As a first-generation graduate of a small, private liberal arts college, I know firsthand how this type of education can change the trajectory of a person's life. I've been committed to it my whole career, and nothing excites me more than working in this environment and working to provide these opportunities for others."

"Jim Dicker combines an extraordinary track record of success in fundraising and development with a deep commitment to the liberal arts," said President Andrew Rich. "Jim understands the power that a college like F&M has on students, our community, and society. He knows how to lead us into the next chapter for fundraising and alumni engagement, and I am thrilled to welcome Jim to Franklin & Marshall College."

From 2014 to 2017, Dicker served as vice president for institutional advancement at Temple University. Under his leadership, the university secured a \$25 million gift — at that time the largest in the institution's history — to name the Lewis Katz School of Medicine.

Dicker began his advancement career at Lafayette College in annual giving, coordinating student philanthropy and the college's senior class campaign. Over the next 25 years, he would take on increasing leadership roles, culminating in his tenure as vice president for development and college relations. In his time at Lafayette, he contributed to the successful execution of the "Lafayette Leadership Campaign," which raised more than \$213 million, and positioned the college for the public launch of the "Campaign for Lafayette," which would raise more than \$400 million for the institution.

He earned his bachelor's degree in government and law from Lafayette, where he competed on the college's Division I wrestling team. In 2021, he was inducted into the Leopards' Hall of Fame in recognition of his accomplishments as a two-time NCAA qualifier and for earning the most individual wins in program history, a record that still stands.

Dicker and his wife, Mandy, are the parents of three adult children.

Lee Named Senior Advisor to the President



Joe Lee, formerly deputy chief of staff to Gov. Josh Shapiro, joined the F&M community in October as senior advisor to the president.

Lee served as acting secretary of general services for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania before joining the governor's office. As acting secretary, he oversaw key transition activities for former Gov. Tom Wolf and then Gov.-elect Shapiro.

"Joe brings a wealth of operational and administrative experience to F&M," President Andrew Rich said. "He will work with the campus community on strategic initiatives and institutional innovation, and he will work closely with me on community partnerships."

Lee began his career as an intelligence analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency, where he supported the production of the President's Daily Brief as a member of the President's Analytic Support Staff. He then spent two years as a management consultant with North Highland. Lee earned a bachelor's degree at Johns Hopkins University and a master's of public administration from the University of Pennsylvania. **F&M**



HISTORY at Shadek

It was the first time in the 43-year history of the Centennial Conference that two undefeated football teams met during the regular season finale.

A battle of two nationally ranked squads, both with storied traditions on the gridiron.

In front of a jam-packed Shadek Stadium on a chilly November afternoon. On senior day for the Diplomats.

Led by those seniors, the F&M football team made history by capturing the conference title and an NCAA Tournament bid with a thrilling 29-28 overtime victory over third-ranked Johns Hopkins on Nov. 15. The Diplomats (who entered game ranked 25th) had played more games than any other team in Division III history without an appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

The Blue Jays jumped to a 21-0 lead in the first half by scoring touchdowns on their first three possessions. But the

Diplomats chipped away, beginning with a 24-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Ty Tremba '26 to wideout Gary Lewis '26. Tremba's 6-yard scoring run made it 21-14 at the half. Tremba hit Lewis for another score midway through the fourth quarter, tying the game at 21 with a 34-yard strike to send the crowd into a frenzy.

The game reached overtime when F&M blocked a 30-yard field goal attempt on the final play of regulation to prevent Hopkins from securing the conference crown. After the Blue Jays scored a touchdown and extra point on their first possession in overtime, quarterback Ty Tremba '26 found Jack Harrison '27 in the end zone for a 22-yard completion to make the score 28-27.

A timeout added suspense to the nail-biting finish. Then the Diplomats took the ultimate chance by going for a two-point conversion. Tremba found a wide-open Louis Paris '29 on the two-point play, sending the electric Shadek crowd into pandemonium.

DIPLOMAT TEAMS ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS DURING THE FALL SEASON:

VOLLEYBALL received an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY placed 5th at the Centennial Conference Championship

WOMEN'S GOLF won medalist honors three times this season

MEN'S GOLF won two tournaments

FIELD HOCKEY ranked as high as no. 13 in the country

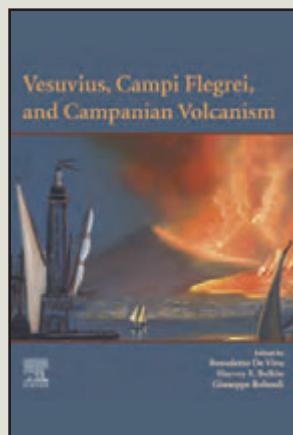
MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY finished 7th at Centennial Conference Championship

WOMEN'S SOCCER advanced to Centennial Conference semifinals

MEN'S SOCCER reclaimed the Smith-Herr Bronze Boot trophy

ON THE BOOKSHELF

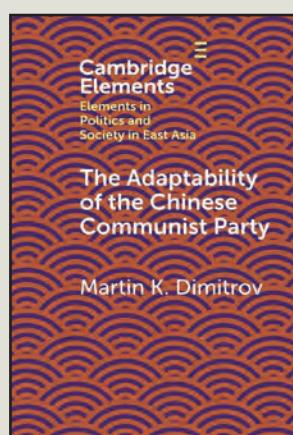
Current works
by F&M alumni
and faculty



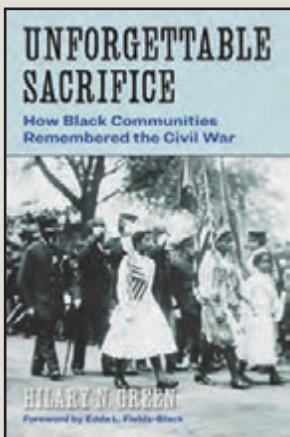
Vesuvius, Campi Flegrei,
and Campanian Volcanism
Harvey E. Belkin '65
(ed. and two others)



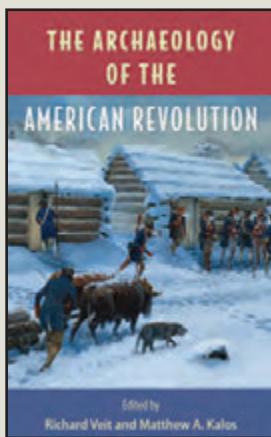
Come Sit With Me, Sugar
Rebecca Dornbusch Bittle '90



The Adaptability of the Chinese Communist Party
Martin K. Dimitrov '98



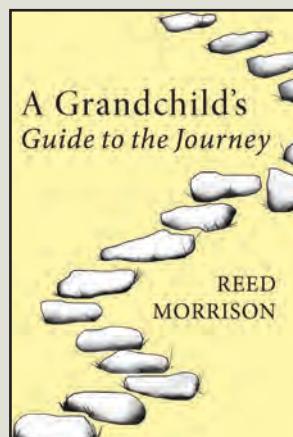
Unforgettable Sacrifice:
How Black Communities
Remembered the Civil War
Hilary Green '99



The Archaeology of the American Revolution
Matthew Kalos '08



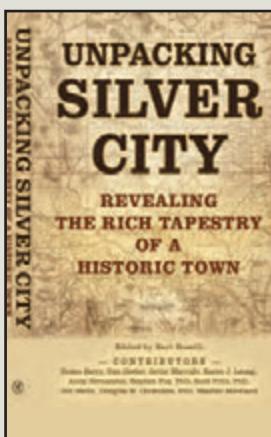
Kansas Landscapes:
A Photographic Tour of the Region's Geological History
Keith B. Miller '78



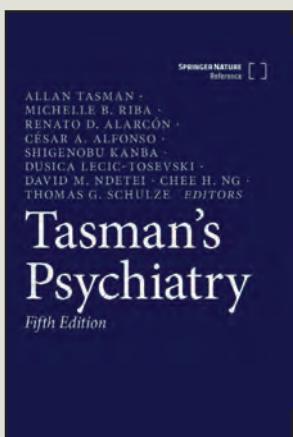
A Grandchild's Guide to the Journey
Reed Morrison '72



The Last Men Standing
Gabriel Neville '80



Unpacking Silver City
Bart A. Roselli '77



Tasman's Psychiatry
(Fifth Edition)
Allan Tasman '69 (ed.)



Running Wild Short Story Anthology
(Vol. 8)
Gary Zenker '84 (three short stories)

TO SUBMIT A PUBLICATION FOR **ON THE BOOKSHELF**,
EMAIL MAGAZINE@FANDM.EDU.



WELCOME HOME, DIPLOMATS!

To celebrate lifelong friendships. To reconnect with old teammates. To visit professors who changed their lives.

Franklin & Marshall alumni listed countless reasons they returned to campus for True Blue Weekend in September. More than 2,000 students, parents and alumni enjoyed campus tours, coffee hours, reunion gatherings, academic department open houses and a full slate of athletic contests.

F&Mily Fest—a new feature this year—provided an afternoon of community, connection and celebration on Sponaugle-Williamson Field with music from student bands, games and activities for all ages and numerous local food trucks.

Diplomat spirit soared as the football team dominated Catholic University in a 42-7 final. The women's soccer and golf teams walked away with sweeping victories, while men's soccer fell in a 2-1 match.

F&M President Andrew Rich and Provost Sunita Gupta Kramer '92 welcomed community members with remarks in the Barshinger Center for Musical Arts.

"Franklin & Marshall College is made for this moment," Rich said. "We bring students from every background imaginable, people who come from different lived experiences, different ways of thinking, different value systems. And if we are successful, what we do is create spaces where they can exchange ideas, develop themselves and sharpen their ways of thinking."





PHOTOS BY DEB GROVE & ERIC FORBERGER

TRUE BLUE HONORS

NEVONIAN MEDAL

Awarded annually to a member of the Nevonian Society who has demonstrated extraordinary service and sustained dedication to the College.

Robert H. Smith '60, P'89, G'25

ALUMNI MEDAL

The Alumni Association Board's oldest and most prestigious award, presented annually to an alumnus or alumna in recognition of sustained, distinguished and outstanding service to the College.

Paul W. Ware '72, P'99

ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER AWARD

Presented to alumni who have excelled in raising funds and obtaining pledges for the College.

Katherine Quick Rosa '92, P'25

Kathy Hay Stine '85

ALUMNI CITATION

Awarded to an alumna or alumnus who is distinguished in a particular profession, has provided dedicated leadership and service to the community and has established an exemplary record of accomplishment in a specific field of endeavor.

Lawrence G. Braitman, Esq. '80

Mary Little '75

Peter Svarzbein '02

GRADUATES OF THE LAST DECADE (GOLD) AWARD

Presented to an alumna or alumnus who graduated within the last 10 years and who has contributed significant service and support to the College.

Keiran Miller '15

SYDNEY N. BRIDGETT '51 AWARD

Presented by the African American Alumni Council to alumni of African descent for outstanding achievement in a chosen profession or endeavor.

Madaline Evans Haigentz,
CPA,CGMA '74

G. Christopher Cosby '82

Steven Ragland '87

Marja Brown Humphrey, Ph.D. '99

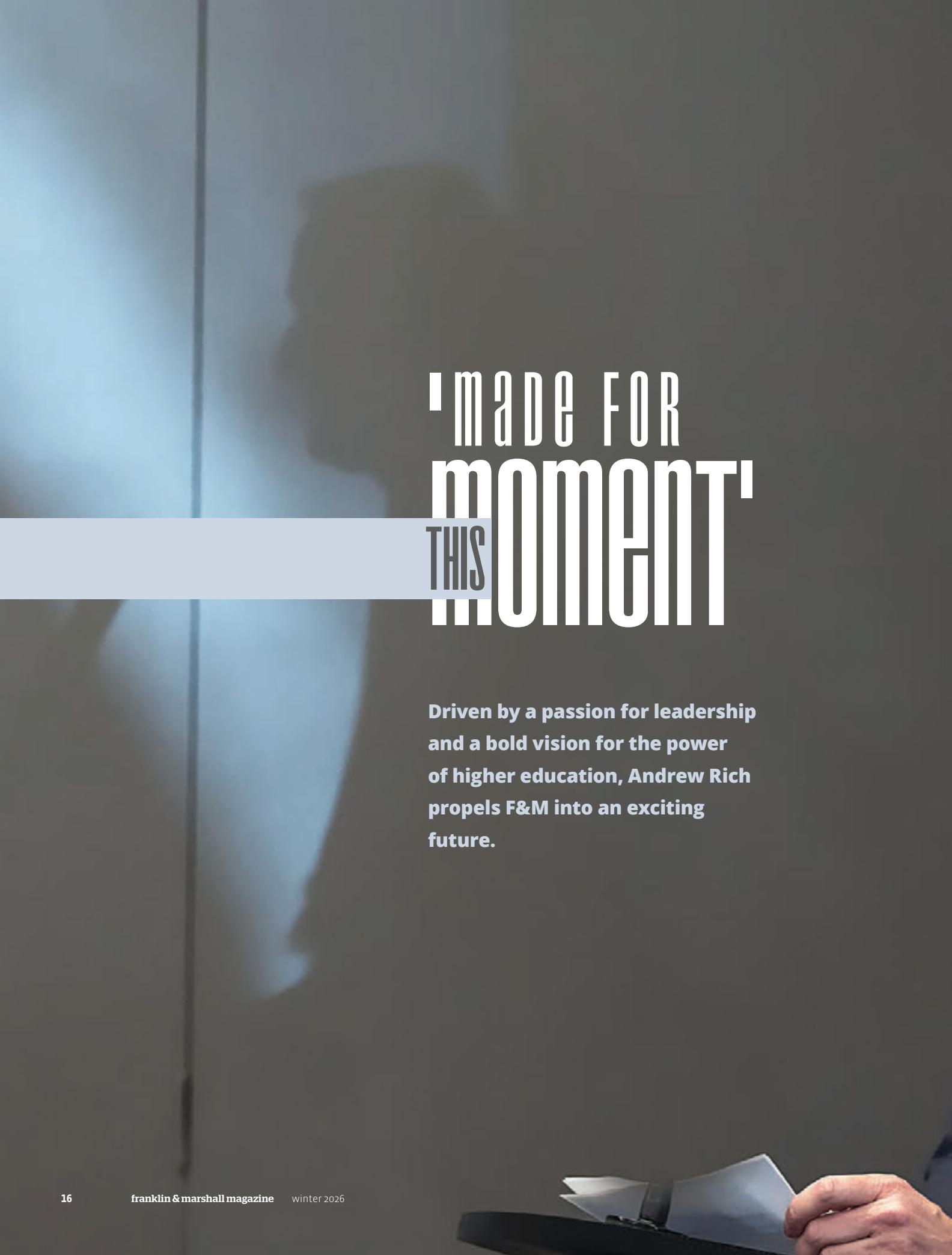
Aviel "A.V." Ayoung '06

Ibrahim Kamara '15

Mariama Barry '20

Charlene S. Hopper '76

(awarded posthumously)



'MADE FOR moment' THIS

**Driven by a passion for leadership
and a bold vision for the power
of higher education, Andrew Rich
propels F&M into an exciting
future.**



Early-morning light streams through the windows of Old Main. Already a few hours into his day, President Andrew Rich leans forward, his second coffee in hand, brimming with enthusiasm and energy as he thinks about the College's future.

"F&M provides one of the highest-quality liberal arts experiences in the country, and I've seen that from afar for a long time," says the College's 17th president. "Now, I see it every day. Our faculty and staff believe in our mission, our purpose, our students, and work every day to have an impact on this campus and our society. And that inspires me."

President Rich's excitement is palpable, complementing a strong belief in what's possible and a commitment to transforming ideas into action. Those qualities and others help define a leadership style that his former colleagues believe will unite the F&M community and help the College thrive in the competitive—and often complicated—landscape of higher education.

A VISIONARY LEADER AND DOER

"Andy is a rare combination of a visionary leader and hands-on doer with an extraordinary ability to think big," says Debbie Cheng, director of fellowship programs and Office of Student Success at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, which President Rich led prior to arriving in Lancaster.

"His record of expanding opportunity, fostering civic engagement and cultivating future leaders reflects his lifelong dedication to using education as a force for constructive good," says Terry Babcock-Lumish, executive director of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, which President Rich oversaw for nearly a decade.

In Rich's first few months as F&M President, the College community has already witnessed those abilities in action—from the announcement of historic gifts supporting infrastructure and programming to new enrollment strategies and initiatives. In November, President Rich announced a \$7.5 million gift from Trustee Ken Mehlman '88, the College's largest gift in support of athletics and wellness, and launched the Commonwealth Commitment, a bold new affordability initiative for Pennsylvania residents. (*Read about those initiatives and others in this issue*).

Although Rich grew up in Delaware and remembers visits to Pennsylvania fondly (including Dutch Wonderland as a child), he is enjoying getting to know today's City of Lancaster, through the lens of F&M President and of a new resident. He and Joel (his husband and partner of 30 years, who is a professor of history and classics at the City University of New York) created a Lancaster restaurant bucket list upon their move and are working their way through the City's many global flavors.

"One of the most striking observations I've had is what an exceptional home Lancaster is for F&M. We're the right size for each other, the right levels of complexity for each other. And there are so many opportunities, some of which we've taken advantage of, for our students and faculty to be fully engaged in the Lancaster community as problem solvers, as an intellectual force, and as leaders."

Since starting at F&M, Rich has also joined several boards in the Lancaster community, including the Lancaster County STEM Alliance, EDC Lancaster, the Lancaster Community Foundation and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. These new memberships are in addition to his roles on several others. Rich is currently chair of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Truman Foundation and vice president on the Board of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. He is also a member of the Board of the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation and Macaulay Honors College Foundation at the City University of New York.

His current Board roles are further proof that when Rich joins a community, he is all-in. His former institutions understand this especially well. In the heart of New York City, the Colin Powell School is the largest student division of the City College of New York (CCNY). President Rich served as the school's Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean, helping it grow by 40 percent and launching numerous initiatives, including eight new student fellowship programs and a new Office of Student Success. In 2019, he hired Cheng to lead the office.

"Andy brings out the best in everyone," Cheng says. "We had an incredible transformation and growth of our program. He has an ability to get things done quickly. Progress often moves slowly in higher education, but Andy helped the Colin Powell School become a campus hub in City College. His mentorship of students and faculty made us believe in robust opportunities. We were so lucky."

Prior to his leadership role at CCNY, President Rich—a 1991 Truman Scholar—was CEO and executive secretary of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. Babcock-Lumish believes the foundation is stronger and more effective because of Rich's leadership.

"Andy was named executive secretary at a time when our program, while recognized as the premier graduate scholarship for aspiring public service leaders, faced significant





financial challenges,” she says. “He grew the reputation and impact of President Truman’s ‘living legacy’ across geographies, issues, and party lines. He expanded the value of the award through programming, partnerships, and meaningful community engagement.”

Beyond these standard success metrics, President Rich believes true success is rooted in the success of students. “They’re at the core of our mission. Their abilities to achieve their academic dreams, personal and professional dreams—that’s what we’re here for.”

F&M graduates go on to secure jobs with industry-leading employers, gain admission to top graduate school programs, and win prestigious fellowships across the country and around the world. Recent graduates have launched their careers at high-impact organizations such as Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Deutsche Bank, Public Interest Research Group, Goldman Sachs, Peace Corps, Teach For America, Campbell’s Company, and Vanguard, among many other employers.

Seeing the doors an F&M education opens for our graduates—that, for Rich, is one of the greatest joys of leading the College.

THE POWER OF PRIDE AND SERVICE

When hundreds of alumni returned to campus to celebrate True Blue Weekend in late September, President Rich had his first opportunity to meet and greet every generation of the F&M family. Part of what was so noticeable, he says, was the pride everyone has in F&M—and how much love they have for it.

“Many of our alumni met their spouses and partners here,” he says. “Many have sent kids here, or their parents went here. The deep roots people have here are really quite palpable. And the pride they have is inspiring.”

He spent the weekend spreading a clear message to alumni: “Your pride in F&M is infectious, and we want you to be involved.”

“Our alumni should be exceptionally proud of F&M today,” he says. “You are a central part of the current F&M experience. And we want to know how we can support you—you’re always part of this community.”

President Rich has known one F&M alumnus for more than a decade: Akbar Hossain ’13, who received F&M’s first Truman Scholarship in 2012 and later worked for President Rich at the Truman Foundation. Now secretary of policy and planning for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a member of F&M’s Board of Trustees, Hossain got firsthand fundraising experience when



FROM THE BIG APPLE to the **RED ROSE CITY**

President Rich has spent his first months in town developing a love of all things Lancaster. Here are a few of his quick takes:

FIRST IMPRESSION OF LANCASTER:
Vibrant – culture, arts, sports, history, food.

HIDDEN GEM DOWNTOWN:
Mural of the city in a parking lot at Grant and Cherry Streets

COFFEE ORDER:
Cappuccino at West Art.

COMMUNITY VIBE IN ONE WORD:
Creative.

EXCITED TO EXPERIENCE:
Not sure if excited is the word, but Joel plans to take me to the Archery Academy for target shooting. What could possibly go wrong?

MOST RECENT TAKEOUT ORDER:
Meatballs from Lombardo's Bistro.

WHAT SURPRISED ME:
Walkability; cool neighborhoods that go on for miles.

WHY ALUMNI SHOULD VISIT:
To experience a city that's thriving.



he worked with President Rich at Truman a decade ago.

"He reminds you of your power and in the process, the power of service," says Hossain. "He treats young leaders not as protégés to be lectured, but as partners in a shared commitment to public good. That dynamic makes you feel both valued and accountable—he believes in you, so you'd better rise to the moment. That type of energy and humility is especially important as we embark on a new strategic vision for the College."

The president knows bolstering the College's endowment and raising funds for initiatives will play a key role in advancing that strategic vision. He has a breadth of fundraising success under his belt; at CCNY, he mobilized a successful campaign to generate more than \$85 million in new investments in scholarships, student services, faculty positions and academic initiatives.

"I love fundraising. I love the project of getting to know people and introducing them to the College, or re-introducing them to the College today, and finding out what they're passionate about," he says. "I see it as a huge part of what I have to do."

SHAPING THE FUTURE

For President Rich, it's all about meeting the moment and building a future for F&M. Rich believes the College will best meet the moment by leaning into its strengths: developing leaders and promoting a holistic education committed to hands-on experiences and creative collisions that spark innovation. F&M will shape a strong future by preparing students to excel in a society and economy being disrupted by artificial intelligence and a new technological frontier.

"There are so many possibilities for how we do that," he says. "We must lift up things happening already on this campus. Half of our students participate in research, and much of that research has bearing on issues facing Lancaster County."

In fact, F&M was recently recognized by the Carnegie Classification as a leading national institution that prioritizes research activity. Out of more than 200 liberal arts colleges in the United States, only 40 have the distinction of being Carnegie "Research Colleges and Universities."

"That's different and unique to F&M. That's something that places us in a different category among liberal arts colleges."

Rich is also passionate about F&M's development of leaders, having launched

two new programs in his first few months: the Leadership & Performance Lab thanks to a generous gift from Ken Mehlman '88, and Leadership Fellows, distinctive fellowship programs for students who are eager to make a positive and immediate impact in the fields of climate and sustainability, creative writing, entrepreneurship, and public service. Every Fellow receives a four-year merit scholarship (\$15,000 annually), deep mentorship from tenured faculty who are experts in their fields, and membership in a community focused on their specific area of intellectual and leadership development.

"We need young people who are excellent communicators, critical thinkers, agile people who can adapt on their feet, people who have the kind of leadership talents that allow them to move from one sector to another, one job to another, with great facility," he says. "And that's what we produce at F&M. We develop and launch leaders, and engaged citizens in society."

At a time when powerful technological, economic, and societal changes are reshaping how we live and work, leading employers are looking for people who can navigate uncertainty with confidence, bring people together across differences, and think critically to solve problems, he says.

According to the AAC&U's 2025 national survey of employers, confidence in higher education remains strong, with most employers saying colleges are effectively preparing students for the workforce and citizenship. They place the greatest value on qualities like curiosity, motivation, leadership, and emotional intelligence—and are especially likely to hire graduates who have completed internships, held leadership roles, or engaged in hands-on, community-based work.

What does this mean for F&M? In Rich's words: "We're poised for great success going forward. There is extraordinary work happening on our campus now. We're preparing young people to thrive in a complicated world, be open minded, have confidence, and have character to navigate difficult questions. All of them will encounter a more complicated world than my generation."

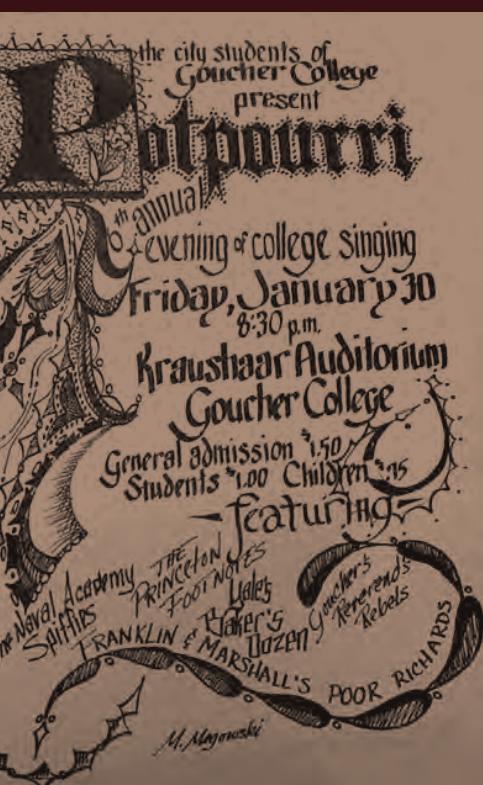
He settles back in his chair and pauses as he looks out the window.

"They will be ready for all that comes next, and so will we. Franklin & Marshall College was made for this moment." **F&M**

STRIKING THE RIGHT CHORD



FIRST CO-ED GROUP



SECOND CO-ED GROUP

Award-winning songwriter Bruce Sussman '71 founded Franklin & Marshall's first a cappella group on a whim in 1968. As the ensemble plans for a 60th anniversary celebration, alumni and current members reflect on the group's origins and influence.

Like any good legend, the origins of Franklin & Marshall College's longest-standing a cappella group are a bit surreptitious.

"Everything about The Poor Richards was illegal," jokes Bruce Sussman '71, who founded the ensemble as a sophomore.

In fall 1968, Sussman intercepted a letter addressed to the glee club inviting F&M to Goucher College's annual a cappella showcase. He replied back with a resounding 'yes.' The only problem? There was no a cappella group at F&M—yet.

"There were no Whiffenpoofs like Yale. No Harvard Krokodiloes. No Colgate Thirteen. No Princeton Tigertones," he says. "And then, this letter from Goucher came, and I seized the opportunity. That was the launching pad."

As for the singing troupe's name? The idea hit like a bolt of lightning, inspired by College namesake Benjamin Franklin's long-running publication, the "Poor Richard's Almanack."

"My best ideas come fast," Sussman says.

Creativity is a trait that has served him well. An accomplished lyricist and librettist, Sussman is widely known for his work with long-time collaborator, Barry Manilow. The pair wrote more than 200 songs for numerous recording artists, films, stage musicals and television programs. Their 1978 hit, "Copacabana (At the Copa)," earned Sussman his first gold record and Grammy Award.

With just three months to prepare for the Goucher singing showcase, Sussman concocted a plan for F&M's 14-man crew to rank against the lineup of established a cappella ensembles.

"My idea was, 'We should be funny, we should move on stage and we should have some piano accompaniment,'" he recalled.

Playfully defying tuxedo tails and crested college blazers, The Poor Richards took the stage wearing jeans, tie-dye shirts and bandanas.

Their opener—an arrangement of 1920s hit "Ain't She Sweet"—was a resounding success.

"EVERYTHING ABOUT THE POOR RICHARDS WAS ILLEGAL."

"Halfway through, we started dancing. The house just fell apart. They thought it was hilarious," Sussman said.

It wasn't until 1970 that The Poor Richards performed for an F&M audience during a Parents Weekend. When the College went co-ed in 1972, the group expanded. "We hit our stride when we added women," Sussman said.

Much like The Poor Richards, Sussman's career in music almost never happened. "I was supposed to be a lawyer," he said. "I had great grades, but I was not happy." On a whim, he took several music electives and a Shakespeare survey in his sophomore year. "My lights got lit. I just loved them," he said.

Rather than transfer to a music conservatory, Sussman worked with the late Hugh Gault—a "titanic force" in his life—to resurrect discontinued music classes. While Sussman graduated with a degree in English, his music education was enough to launch a successful career in the field. (Music wasn't introduced as a major at F&M until the 1980s).

A CAPPELLA

ON

COLLEGE AVE

Italian for “in the style of the chapel,” a cappella music was originally worship-focused but has broadly expanded to vocal arrangements with no instrumental accompaniment. Enduring music’s many iterations over time – from barbershop quartet crooners to modern-day beatboxing – a cappella ensembles have become a staple on many college campuses. Franklin & Marshall is home to four of these groups:

THE POOR RICHARDS

A coed a cappella group founded in 1968; one of the oldest continuously operating student groups on campus

THE CHESSMEN

An all-male a cappella group founded in 1989

SWEET OPHELIA

An all-female a cappella group

KITE & KEYS

A group for women and gender minorities and the most recent addition to F&M’s lineup of a cappella groups

On another serendipitous note, Sussman became connected to established composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim through a musicianship course taught by Gault. Sondheim soon became a mentor and friend. (Sondheim also collaborated with playwright James Lapine ’71. Though acquainted as classmates, Lapine and Sussman never worked together professionally).

After 25 years of songwriting, Sussman and Manilow set their sights on Broadway.

“Harmony”—their first full-scale stage script—is based on the true story of a German-Jewish comedy sextet’s success halted by Hitler’s rise to power. USA TODAY called it “the most promising musical for 1998.”

Sussman finally checked Broadway off his bucket list when Harmony debuted at Manhattan’s Ethel Barrymore Theatre in 2023.

“Broadway had been elusive to me,” Sussman said. “My score for Harmony is my proudest hour.”

It’s fitting that Sussman’s production company—Appoggiatura Music—is named after an embellishing note indicating a moment of departure from a composition’s expected harmony.

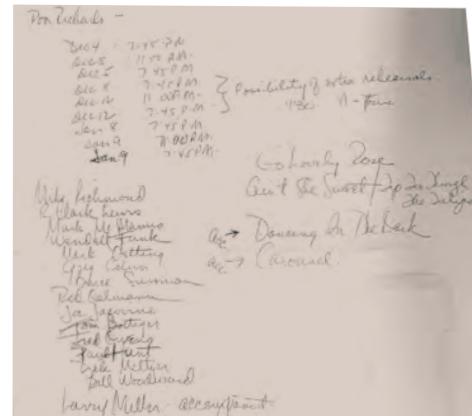
From launching F&M’s first a cappella group to a storied career in music, his journey has been anything but predictable. The Poor Richards helped mark the start of that legacy.

“It sure has survived, and I’m delighted to have made that contribution,” Sussman said.

♪ SEASONS OF LOVE ♪

Fifty-seven years later — and in the same room where Sussman once rehearsed — F&M junior Esther Burlington ’27 taps her fingers on the studio’s piano to keep tempo at an October rehearsal. Co-president of The Poor Richards (often referred to as “PR” in recent years), she auditioned as a first-year student and hasn’t looked back.

“The group is very tight-knit. It’s your friends, your family. PR is the thing you look forward to. It’s not like another class or another task,” Burlington said.



...I would like to offer you an invitation to introduce the Poor Richards and welcome you to their exciting ride with the entertainment of musical comedy.

...You'll be witness to a breaking of tradition.

...When the Poor Richards were formed three years ago, there was no well established tradition in the Ivy League, the Yale Whiffenpoofs and Baylor's Denim, the Colgate Thirties, the Princeton Footnotes and the Harvard Crescendos.

...All well established male territory.

...Last year, the Poor Richards—who have performed at festivals with all these groups I mentioned,—invited girls to join them.

...These 16 have performed all around the Eastern Seaboard for schools, colleges and Universities, at festivals, for organizations and in hotel ballrooms.

...Press in Baltimore (critic): The Poor Richards had a vibrant and spirit that's unmatched by other performers throughout the evening. Their singing was dynamic, their choreography delightful. As performers, they were in a class by themselves."

...Particular compliment since their repertoire is so varied, and they frequently arrange their own music.

...But tonight is historic event: their first public performance at Franklin and Marshall and you are here to witness it.

the Poor Richards..

Notes to Pres. Spalding's Intro

"Anytime Poor Richards alumni meet or come together, it's like you always knew each other," she says.

On April 27, 45 alumni members of the ensemble convened on campus for a nostalgic gathering of singers from past and present. They no longer don tie-dye and denim; the dress code in recent years calls for red and black attire. "We had a graduate from 1969 and a graduate from 2024 there. It was truly generations of Poor Richards alumni," Joslin said.

While few of the attendees pursued musical careers beyond college, a cappella "was the most important part of their belonging at F&M," Joslin said.

Alumni gathered to rehearse for a special occasion: Performing a song at Almanack, The Poor Richards' end-of-semester concert. Singing "Seasons of Love" from the 1996 Broadway musical "Rent," alumni shared the stage with students and hit every note after just one day of practice.

As The Poor Richards approach 60 years on campus, melodic Diplomats such as Burlington, Joslin, Chung and Sussman hope to bring even more alumni together for their most memorable reunion yet.

"I think it really is the epitome of the small liberal arts experience," Joslin says. **F&M**

WE ASKED CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE POOR RICHARDS:

IN ONE WORD,
HOW WOULD
YOU DESCRIBE
THE GROUP'S
MUSICAL VIBE?

ECLECTIC

AVA MAZAIOTT '29

INDIE R+B

LIAN DIK '26

CHARISMATIC

VARENYA PAKVESA '28

ALTERNATIVE

ESTHER BURLINGTON '27

MELLIFLUOUS

CLAIRE SHIN '29

DRAMATIC

JUSTIN COLE '27

SEXY

AUSTAN HENGST '28

SOPHISTICATED

LILY MALKUS '27

SASSY

NATALIE BRENNAN '27

AUTHENTIC

JULIA CESTARI '25

POWERFUL

EMMA WEBER '25

EXCITING

SOPHIA DUKE '27



MEHLMAN'S PHILANTHROPY POWERS ATHLETICS & WELLNESS

A new \$7.5 million gift from Ken Mehlman '88, Franklin & Marshall College Trustee and Board Vice Chair, is the College's largest gift in support of athletics and wellness. It will be used to begin construction of the Mehlman Strength, Conditioning, Wellness, and Performance Center, an innovative new facility that will be home to strength training, fitness and performance-centered growth.

"Ken's gift is transformative and launches a new era of athletics and wellness at Franklin & Marshall College. Ken understands the power of fitness and performance for success in every endeavor, and the Mehlman Center will position our varsity athletes, all students, and the whole campus to thrive," said Andrew Rich, president of Franklin & Marshall College. "I want to thank Ken for his vision, leadership and generosity. This is an extraordinary day for all Diplomats."

The Mehlman Center will consist of 20,500 square feet of additional space for athletics and wellness. The Center will adjoin F&M's Alumni Sports & Fitness Center and will provide a much-needed expansion of



strength training, fitness, and wellness space for the College's student body, of which more than 650 are varsity student-athletes and almost 600 more participate in intramural sports. New features will include power rack and weight stations, cardio stations, a 50-foot sled turf, a training annex, a nutrition education station, a recruiting suite, and strength and team coach offices.

An additional 10,000 square feet of the existing Alumni Sports & Fitness Center will benefit from an interior renovation. Upgrades will include flexible and agile programming areas for all F&M students, multimodal space for individual and group activities, ergonomic rowing machines, a state of the art golf simulator and spaces intentionally designed to improve athletic performance.

Construction on the Mehlman Center is expected to begin in late 2026 or early 2027 and to be completed in less than two years.

"IT'S ABOUT LEARNING TO DO HARD THINGS, CHALLENGING YOURSELF AND EMBRACING THE GROWTH MINDSET AT BOTH A PHYSICAL AND MENTAL LEVEL."



EMPOWERING PEAK PERFORMANCE

"This new facility is fundamentally about leadership, high performance and the nexus that exists between a strong body, a strong mind and strong professional success," says Mehlman. "It's about learning to do hard things, challenging yourself and embracing the growth mindset at both a physical and mental level."

Last month, the College announced the development of the Leadership & Performance Lab, which will be piloted this academic year thanks to a \$500,000 gift from Mehlman. The Lab is part of a larger strategy to develop leadership, high performance, entrepreneurship and civic engagement for F&M students through intentional collaboration on- and off-campus with alumni, Lancaster leaders and experts in performance science.

Mehlman believes that F&M is uniquely positioned to equip our students to adapt to a rapidly changing world thanks to its engaging and challenging curriculum and

equally robust and vibrant student life. It's a combination that can be harder to find at larger schools or at institutions where students aren't active participants in their own college experience.

"In the next 25 years, success is going to require people to think outside the box, to handle pressure really well, to have a growth mindset, to be able to rebound and to see things that other people can't see," said Mehlman. "At F&M, 100 percent of F&M students can participate and not just watch. They can play, and they can play hard. That's true in the classroom as well: We're blessed with a faculty that is focused on not just researching for themselves, but also alongside our students."

Mehlman's gift comes ahead of a milestone anniversary for Diplomat Athletics. The College will soon celebrate 150 years of varsity athletics when baseball, F&M's first varsity sport, kicks off its spring



2027 season. Over the past century and a half, F&M has secured more than 150 conference championships in addition to four national championships. Today, approximately 40% of F&M students participate in at least one of the College's 28 varsity sports.

“As our athletic reputation soars, it serves to validate the excellence of the entire F&M experience,” said Lauren Packer Webster, director of athletics & recreation. “We’ve seen that play out many times over the past few decades. With each athletics facility investment, we’ve seen an immediate return in terms of team performance. We’ve done the work to position ourselves for the next level of sustained success.”

WELLNESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

The Mehlman Center will be beneficial for the entire F&M community.

With the Mehlman Center's significantly expanded capacity, larger teams can train together rather than in shifts, freeing time and space for individual and small-group workouts. The result is a more welcoming and accessible environment that fits students' busy schedules and supports the well-rounded F&M experience — enabling fitness alongside academics, research, internships, leadership roles and campus life. When every student has access to fitness, they are better positioned to succeed.

“Student wellness is the foundation for excellence and peak performance,” Packer Webster continued. “Having a facility that emphasizes the value that we place on the wellness of all our students — that’s going to be attractive to anyone. Students are going to perform better in all aspects of their lives, which is going to lead to greater fulfillment. It’s going to lead to greater success, and in

“In terms of retention, people want to be where they can thrive and belong.”





PHILANTHROPY THAT DRIVES MOMENTUM

“We’ve seen time and again that gifts like Ken’s inspire others to boost the trajectory of our student-athletes and other deserving F&M students,” said Trustee Dave Lehman, Ph.D. ’68, P’01, who frequently shares his belief in leadership philanthropy for athletics and student life. “It’s this type of generosity that sustains the College and positions us to thrive for another 240 years.”

Lehman also leads by example. His 2014 gift to endow F&M’s wrestling program, a sport with more than 100 years of history and the College’s only Division I offering, has inspired others to support Diplomat Athletics and endowed scholarships that aid student-athlete recruitment.

“Ken’s historic gift in support of F&M athletics—and all students—is a game-changer,” says Eric Noll ’83, P’09, Chair of the Franklin & Marshall College Board of Trustees. “Thanks to leaders like Ken, and to the thousands of alumni, parents and friends of the College who have chosen to invest in our students and the programs that help them thrive in and out of the classroom, F&M’s reputation as a leading liberal arts college will only continue to rise.”

**“IN THE NEXT 25 YEARS,
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Board-chair elect Matt DesChamps ’93, P’28 is a former student-athlete who was inducted to the Franklin & Marshall College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2023 in recognition of his football career and his contributions to Diplomat Athletics.

“I have seen and experienced the transformational impact of philanthropy in college sports,” says DesChamps. “F&M is building extraordinary momentum — in athletics and across the College. The support of alumni and friends like Ken accelerates our progress and reinforces our commitment to leadership, athletic excellence and student well-being.”

Trustee John Greene ’99 is among the alumni who are leading efforts to build on that momentum for the Mehlman Center project. “Ken’s gift reflects the energy we’re feeling as Diplomats. We’re excited to get this project started and to welcome other philanthropic leaders along as we prepare for an incredible future at F&M.”

F&M

WRITTEN BY: WILLIAM KELLER



A DIPLOMAT IN EVERY SENSE: VASSILIS COUTIFARIS '09 EMBRACED F&M'S LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM TO SHAPE A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN DIPLOMACY, BUSINESS AND THE INTERSECTION OF FOREIGN POLICY AND ACADEMIA. NOW SENIOR OFFICER AT THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE UNITED STATES, HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM MANAGER AT BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, PROGRAM MANAGER OF THE CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY, AND INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY ANALYST AT METLIFE. HE VISITED F&M IN NOVEMBER, SITTING DOWN WITH STUDENTS TO DISCUSS HIS CAREER PATH—AND URGING THEM TO TRUST THE POWER OF THEIR LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION.

1955

Jack Neigh writes: "We recently moved to a continuing care retirement community in Haverford, Pa., after spending 64 years in our prior home. I continue to work several hours daily on insurance denials as a physician adviser at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. I enjoyed our 70th reunion."

1956

Joe Giambalvo reached the age of 90 in July. He is still active and dancing to the music he loves.

1957

Art Evans reports: "I am having a trifecta of sorts this year, with my 90th birthday coming up, a 65th wedding anniversary last spring, a fourth great-grandson born in July. My wife and I are 'still here' as the saying goes, living in the 1850s farmhouse we bought in 1967. I have not yet written a book and don't intend to."

Robert Weiss was recently featured in a CNN article about his tour in Camp Century, Greenland, 800 miles from the North Pole, in 1962-63. Titled "A Doctor was Deployed to an Arctic Research Station During the Cold War. Decades later, He Learned its Secret Purpose," the story has kept him busy with interviews for the BBC, History Channel, Wall Street Journal, and other media outlets.

1958

William Hoffmeyer is in his 63rd year practicing law, primarily in real estate, estate planning, and decedents' estates. He credits a healthy lifestyle for his longevity. He writes: "I work out by walking, lifting weights (after all I am from York, Pa., the weight lifting capital of the world), and using other exercise equipment. Each day, I eat either a Mediterranean or Nordic diet. Further, I consistently consult with several doctors of different persuasion, including several F&M grads."

1962

Bob Hunsicker put aside his trumpet five years ago, but has continued singing. He was privileged to join 200 singers from around the country this past Memorial Day on the stage of Carnegie Hall in New York City. The moving "Rutter Requiem" was performed under the baton of Sir John Rutter, accompanied by the Oxford Philharmonic Symphony. The event was performed in remembrance of the late Peter Tiboris, founder of MidAmerica Productions.

1963

Phil Berkheimer represented F&M at the inauguration of Dr. Gerard Joyce as president of Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md., in April.

Michael Hershfield is starting his 50th year on the faculty at Duke University School of Medicine, where his lab is engaged in medical research. He was recently

Generous F&M donors Art Steinhauer '73 and Chatral A'dzé '75 met at F&M and are still going strong nearly 50 years later.

"My first work-study job at F&M was 'guarding' the art museum," Chatral remembered. "Hardly anyone ever came in—or came by. One day, a New Yorker named Art Steinhauer '73 stopped by to teach me how to play stickball. We've been married since 1976."

They were married at the Alumni House, where Chatral had worked during most of her years at college, and their wedding reception was the first event to be held in the Steinman College Center. At that time, Chatral's name was Wendy Trefelner. Twenty years ago—after study, training and retreat—she was ordained into a small Himalayan Buddhist lineage and is now a lama, which is a spiritual teacher and guide. She teaches meditation, yogic song and beginning Tibetan online.

Art spent his career as a communications lawyer in New York City. He was general counsel at Newhouse Broadcasting Corp., and retired as a partner with Sabin Berman

& Gould LLP. In retirement, he says he is a "newspaper man," volunteering with Manor Ink, a student-driven community newspaper in Sullivan County, N.Y.

"High school students work on the paper, and they get paid," he said. "It's all local news. They don't have a school paper, so it gives them an opportunity for this experience."

The couple remembers their F&M experience fondly. Chatral was a member of the first women's squash team, and Art was a sports reporter for The College Reporter and on WFNM, where he announced the football games. They both especially remember Grier Stephenson, the Charles A. Dana Emeritus Professor of Government.

"He so loved being a teacher; he so loves people," Art said. "And I babysat for him," Chatral added.

"Alumni Director Jim Gelhard was a big influence on all of us who worked there," she continued. "As well as being a model of a thoughtful, good person, he fostered in us the importance of giving, and instilled the idea that it was the right thing to do."

Art and Chatral learned that lesson well. They are generous in their giving to Franklin & Marshall, with gifts

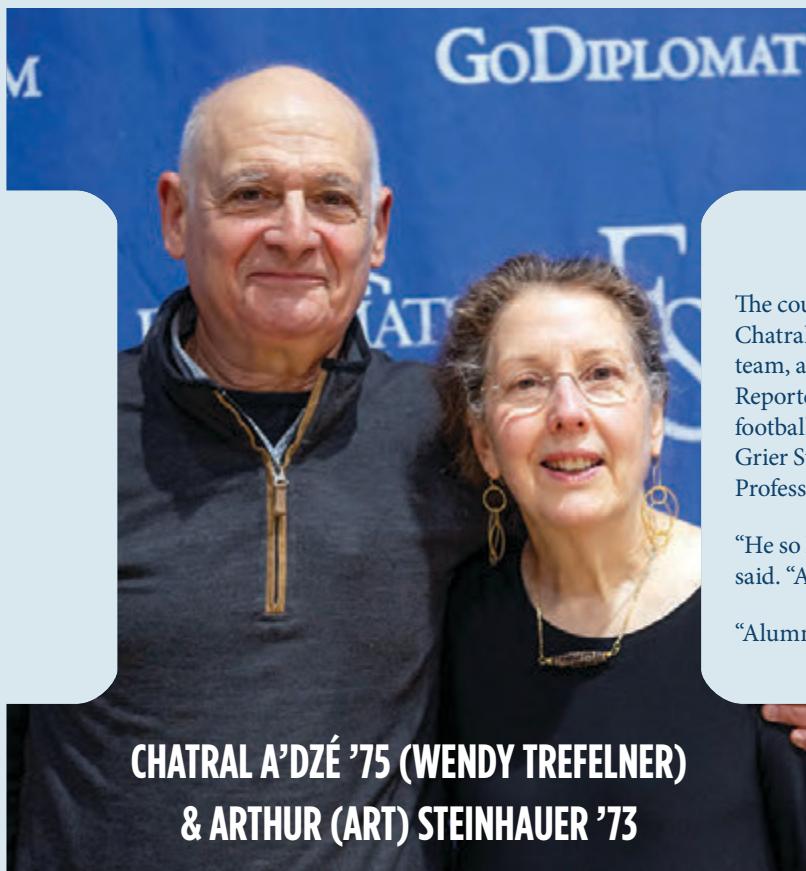
supporting the Franklin & Marshall Fund,

the James and Maxine K. Gelhard Scholarship Fund, Diplomat Athletics, the Patricia S.W. Epps Athletics Leadership Development Endowment and the F&M Women's Squash Scholarship Endowment. They also have three charitable gift annuities with the College that pay them an annual amount during their lifetimes.

"I was supported by scholarships and financial aid from alumni when I was a student, and I now want to do that for today's students," Chatral said. Art added, "I'm always impressed and amazed at what the students are doing today. And it was an important experience for me; the guys I was most friendly with during college are still my best friends today!"

Chatral and Art have two sons, two daughters-in-law and four grandsons, and now live in Livingston Manor, N.Y. **F&M**

To learn how to craft your own legacy at F&M, contact: **Mary Ann Cooke, J.D. '90**
director of gift planning
mcooke@fandm.edu
717-358-4821



**CHATRAL A'DZÉ '75 (WENDY TREFELNER)
& ARTHUR (ART) STEINHAUER '73**

“I get to give back to the program that shaped me as a player and a person.”

Erin McCormick '20, field hockey assistant coach

featured in “A Legacy of Discovery,” a story published on the medical school’s website, for his generous gift that will support the Duke Department of Medicine and the Division of Rheumatology & Immunology in their mission to train and empower the next generation of physician-scientists.

Bob Kafin received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Adirondack Council in July. At the awards ceremony, the council announced the creation of the Bob Kafin Legal Fund to help protect the wild character and ecological integrity of the Adirondack Park in New York State.

Jim Strouse '63 writes: “I have just published my memoir. It was fun to write, but I doubt if it will make the New York Times bestseller list.”

1968

Preston Feden reports: “Recently, I self-published my teaching memoir, ‘A Professor’s Tapestry of Tales: Stories That Shaped My 43 Years in Higher Education.’ Previously, I published a book titled ‘Medicine in America: From Witch Doctor to Which Doctor.’ I’m finding my retirement years enjoyable, and still attending True Blue Weekends every year with my wife, Carol, and our dog, Emma. Emma loves her time on F&M’s beautiful and dog-friendly campus, which seems to grow larger every year with new buildings and athletic fields.”

Gary Greenbaum has thrown his last flag and blown his last whistle at a championship high school lacrosse game in Los Angeles. He has retired at age 80 and was honored at halftime of the Division 1 finals by the California Interscholastic Federation. He hopes to continue officiating at local tournaments, the Florida Lacrosse Classic and the Summit lacrosse tournament in Lake Placid, N.Y. He writes: “Thank you, Coach Sachs, for inspiring me to give back to the game. May you rest in peace.”

Raymond A. Sanseverino, chair of the real estate practice at Loeb & Loeb, has been named to City & State New York’s “Trailblazers in Building & Real Estate” for 2025. The list showcases the key power players transforming the real estate, development and construction landscape in New York — individuals who “have a voice in the future of New York’s built environment.” Beyond this latest honor, Raymond has been consistently recognized as a leading real estate lawyer, with repeated listings in Chambers USA, Legal 500 and The Best Lawyers in America.

1969

Floyd Skloot recently published his 21st book, “Dancing in the Cosmos: New and Selected Poems,” with Louisiana State University Press. The book includes poems he chose from among his nine previous poetry collections, as well as a final section of poems written since he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease in 2018. He and his wife, Beverly Hallberg, live in Portland, Ore., and also have a home in Manzanita on the Oregon coast, where they spend about one-third of their time. Floyd’s daughter, Rebecca, is the author of the international bestseller “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.”

1970

Barry Nemiroff writes: “After years in the construction industry, I am comfortably retired, doting on my grandchildren, and fighting against fascism in any way I know how. Open your eyes, Fumsters, it can happen here.”

William Schulman reports: “I retired in January 2023 after more than 43 years practicing surgery and surgical oncology in Ocean County, N.J. Despite changes in medicine — in particular the growth of large medical corporations — and the slow death of private practice, I would do it all again. My wife, Barbara, and I now have more time for traveling and

most importantly seeing our children and grandchildren. Two of my children, Julian and Meryl, are F&M graduates, as were my father, Jesse, and brother, Joseph, and multiple other relatives. I wish my entire F&M family much future success and thank all my professors for a top-notch education.”

1971

William Graziano plans to retire in June 2026 from his current job as professor of psychology at Purdue University. He writes: “After graduating from F&M, I completed my doctorate in psychology at the University of Minnesota. My first post-doctorate academic job was as assistant professor at the University of Georgia. After 13 years in Athens, Ga., I moved to Texas A&M, and 13 years later (in 2002) to Purdue. In addition to providing excellent colleagues and research facilities, each institution provided a chance to observe championship-level football. I will miss the academic life, but the ball must be passed to the next generation of professors and students. F&M made this career possible, and I am grateful.”

1972

Ron Weissman continues to reside in Mendham, N.J., after serving in the U.S. Navy from 1972-1994.

1973

Rabbi Steven Fink reports: “I moved to Des Moines, Iowa, two years ago. This is a surprising place. It is diverse and interesting, with more cultural opportunities than one can take advantage of. Life is much easier for us than on the coasts. I married Shayna Steinger, a retired foreign service officer, last year. Life is good!”

Geoff Michaelson writes: “My oldest daughter, Emma, married Andrew Goodwin in March at The Briarcliff Manor in New York. Joining us were Paul and Donna Kaufman.

“One of the biggest lessons I’ve learned so far is the power of reframing—especially in moments of fear.”

Nicolas Rios ’23

Dan Ricks writes: “After retiring from my law practice in 2019, I have continued my biking adventures, most recently an 11 day cycling trip in Crete with a post trip excursion to Istanbul, my 13th European bike tour. Biking has kept me active and healthy!”

The Hon. D. Brooks Smith, a senior judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, was awarded an honorary doctorate by St. Francis University in May. He also delivered the commencement address, titled “The Good Citizen, And The Pursuit of Happiness.”

1975

Warren Capps reports: “I had a chance to meet with another F&M alum, Lesa McComas ’78, recently in Key West. She and I became acquainted when we roomed next to each other at Navy Officer Candidate School in 1978. Both of us retired as Navy commanders.”

Robert Honecker Jr. checked a few items off his bucket list in September by traveling with his wife, Kim, to Stonehenge in England and St. Andrews in Scotland. It was a wonderful way to celebrate his graduation 50 years ago.

1977

James Carones writes: “I am on a solo cycling trip from Stockholm to Sicily. I timed the trip to coincide with my retirement and 70th birthday. The route—about 3,400 miles—takes me through Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Czechia, Austria and Italy, culminating with a ferry ride to Malta and a few miles there. For armchair travelers, I am documenting my trip on Instagram at *jcarict* and on Strava at James Carone.”

David Ettinger was the 2025 inductee into the California Lawyers Association’s Appellate Lawyer Hall of Fame. After many years as a partner, he is now of counsel at the civil appellate law firm

Horvitz & Levy, where he writes the firm’s “At The Lectern” blog about the California Supreme Court. David’s last appeal was in that court’s immigrant rights case, *Guardianship of Saul H.* (2022) 13 Cal. 5th 827. He lives in Ventura County, Calif., with his wife, Susan. Their daughter, **Raychael ’05**, and her family are nearby.

1979

Elise Baseman Chadwick’s first collection of poetry, “Poems on the Precipice,” was published by Kelsay Press in September. You can find more of her published poems at elisechadwick.com.

Dr. Philip Cohen continues to focus his efforts on forensic dermatology, which is an essential and growing component of global forensic practice. In his May 2025 editorial, “Worldwide Forensic Dermatology,” he shared that the pillars of this subspecialty are collaboration, documentation and education. He continues, usually three times each week, to walk the five-mile circumference around Lake Miramar in San Diego with three friendly, loving, enthusiastic, energetic and willfully disobedient basenjis; however, they always listen when he tells them not to bark at other dogs. Sometimes his wife of 40 years, Dr. Razelle Kurzrock, also joins him on the walk.

Howard and Leslie Kirzner are happy to be celebrating 50 years together! They met at F&M on Sept. 18, 1975, while Howie was playing piano at Saga. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. Such lovely memories!

Matthew Schiffman is about to launch his second novel, “Food Truck Killer.” He writes: “One of my characters (a good guy) attended Franklin & Marshall, and was involved with the Green Room Theatre. Please visit me at mattschiffman.com.”

1980

Pamela Stevenson writes: “I split my time between Toronto and Park City, Utah, where I am vice chair of the Park City Angels, Utah’s largest angel investing network. My husband and I moved into the downsized house of our dreams in Toronto this past year, and are loving our smaller urban footprint with less driving and more walking—when I can pull myself away from my computer, that is! We are both still working as investors and mentoring company leaders. We sold our largest holding last year, the second-largest ambulance company in North America. With two granddaughters in New York, we frequent the East Coast, and also the West Coast, where our youngest daughter lives. We welcome any Fummers who wish to do a few ski runs in epic Utah powder to get in touch!”

1981

Dora Gomez-Light writes: “After Steve’s retirement, we made the big move from Miami to Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., after 28 years. We’re enjoying the more relaxed pace of life—biking through the neighborhood, playing golf, and starting our mornings with beautiful sunrises on the beach. The only thing we truly miss is having great Cuban food nearby!”

Andrew Honaman reports: “I am pleased to announce that my son William ’25 graduated magna cum laude this past May with honors in biochemistry and molecular biology and a minor in Classics. He is the fourth generation of our family to graduate from F&M; his great grandfather, Earl, was in the Class of 1925, and his grandfather, William “Fred,” graduated in 1955. He also has an Uncle Walter ’83 and an Aunt Sarah ’83. William is on a gap year working as an EMT. I am still at the University of Arizona, working as a senior systems architect on the research server and security team.”

“The lesson that continues to resonate most is the importance of adaptability.”

Darij Kulchyckyj '24

Stuart Kaplan recently celebrated his 40th anniversary of practicing law with the firm of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC in its Pittsburgh office, and the 25th anniversary of his marriage to Laura Adelson Kaplan.

Daniel Siegel has been elected chair of the American Bar Association's (ABA) law practice division. A nationally recognized authority on legal ethics, technology and law practice management, he will lead the division in advancing innovation, education and resources for lawyers and law firms across the country. He has long been active in the ABA as well other state, local and specialty bar associations, where he has held numerous leadership positions, including serving as chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's committee on legal ethics and professional responsibility and the technology committee. His practice in Pennsylvania focuses on professional responsibility, appellate advocacy, workers' compensation and civil litigation.

Glen Stuart retired in September 2024 after practicing with the law firm of Morgan Lewis in Philadelphia for more than 40 years. Glen and his wife, Sue, are enjoying spending more time with their family, including their most recent grandsons, Matty Stuart and Galen Prichard (who joined their older brothers Jack and Elliott, respectively). They also enjoyed a Viking river cruise from Paris to Normandy in late June with their son, David, and his wife, Megann, as well as Sue's sister (Karen Coviello '86) and her daughter, Katie.

Linda Yarden writes: “I am thrilled and honored to announce that I have been elected president of Elluminate Women, a philanthropic catalyst for gender justice and social innovation that envisions a world in which all people are empowered to pursue their dreams eagerly, fearlessly, and joyfully. We are a network of transformational women

leaders — visionary philanthropists and global change makers — who accelerate the impact entrepreneurs make in the world through social change, smart risks and bold ideas. Join with us at ElluminateWomen.org.”

Harold Wenger and three of his friends celebrated their 66th birthdays by traveling 2,400 miles on America's historic Route 66 in April. They rented a 2025 Nissan Pathfinder for the trip from Chicago to California. Their adventure was featured in LNP | Lancaster Online.

1982

Michael Berkoben retired on July 1. A chemistry major and a member of Delta Sigma Phi at F&M, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Following graduation from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1986, he completed a residency in internal medicine at Duke and a fellowship in nephrology at Washington University in St. Louis. He returned to Duke in 1993, practicing and teaching internal medicine and nephrology there until his retirement. He received the Master Clinician/Teacher Award from the Duke University School of Medicine in 2020. He is now professor emeritus of medicine and lives in Durham, N.C.

1983

Todd Barry writes: “My seasonal seafood restaurant on Cape Cod, Moby Dick's, has completed its 43rd season! I invite any F&Mers who are visiting Cape Cod to stop in. We closed for the season in October and will reopen on May 1, 2026. Visit us at mobys.com.”

1984

Jill Ginsberg was honored by Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida as Pro Bono Attorney of the Year. She also earned the Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the Miami Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Gary Zenker reports: “Three of my flash fiction stories were selected for publication in ‘Running Wild Anthology 8.’ I continue to run the Main Line Writers Group, which I founded 16 years ago, and the Phoenixville Public Library has asked me to lead their monthly writers group. It's an honor to help others better their craft, discover paths to publishing, and create relationships with other writers.”

1986

Fred Lampe recently retired! He writes: “After earning a postgraduate degree in Classics from Penn in 1988, an MBA from Stern in 1995, and a 35-year career spanning publishing and printing, I'm overjoyed to share that I have set aside the daily grind in favor of travel, contemplation and reflection on the true meaning of a life well lived. Adventure beckons, and I am answering the call.”

1987

Keith Hullfish recently moved to Sony Corp. as manager of design after having spent the past decade designing the PlayStation 4 and 5. He writes: “In my spare time, I have enjoyed genealogy and have found more connections to Lancaster and F&M than I ever imagined. I discovered my ancestors were Mennonites who founded Lancaster County, and were significant members of the House of Lancaster, for which the county was named. I can call Benjamin Franklin my first cousin (many times removed).”

Jeffrey Nytsch writes: “After 16 years building the Entrepreneurship Center for Music at University of Colorado-Boulder into

“It sounds like a cliche, but F&M had the most beautiful campus out of all the campuses I toured. It was small but beaming with life.”

Kelvin Lartey '27

an internationally recognized program, I'm proud to be stepping away from my position as director to focus on teaching and composing. I am excited to be starting my new role at CU-Boulder as professor of composition and entrepreneurship!”

1988

Bruce Levin and **Jim Black** have completed their quest to attend a Major League Baseball game together at each of the current ballparks. (Franklin & Marshall Magazine featured their adventures in 2020.) Bruce reports: “We finished our run in San Francisco this past June, where we went to Oracle Park for a game between the Boston Red Sox and the San Francisco Giants. We saw one of the most beautiful venues to be the last of the 30. But not quite satisfied, while on the same West Coast trip, we drove to West Sacramento to see yet another game at the A’s temporary home, Sutter Health Park, a minor league stadium. The A’s are waiting for their new stadium in Las Vegas to be built, a destination we will surely visit once it is complete. In the meantime, we have stadiums that have been rebuilt since our last visits to several cities. They include St. Louis, Atlanta and Arlington, home of the Texas Rangers. Since the 2020 article was written, and before taking our victory lap in San Francisco, we traveled to meet for games in Philadelphia, Toronto, Seattle, Tampa Bay and Chicago (Cubs).”

1989

Michael Marchand completed his third grueling Cascade Crest 100 ultramarathon this past July. Known for its steep climbs and technical terrain, the race is a qualifier for the Western States 100 and other elite endurance races. Michael also recently launched Marchand Group LLC, a consultancy focused on health care policy, nonprofit strategy and systems-level advocacy, and has been serving regional and national clients.

1990

Charlotte Howson Arevalo is enjoying her kids’ transition to adulthood. She writes: “My youngest, Diana, just completed her freshman year at UConn; my middle child, Christopher, just graduated from The Ohio State University; and my eldest, Mary, graduated from Virginia Tech two years ago and is living at home while she works in New York City. I’m so glad we can do that for her! Mary is also working on various art projects, including a mural on an electrical box in our town this spring. I was excited when she asked me to help her paint it and had so much fun!”

Amee Pollack retired from Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts last July after managing the art and design program for 13 years. The move allows her to make art full-time, without administrative duties. She is teaching ceramics part-time as adjunct professor at Middlesex College.

1993

Mindy MacRone-Wojton and her colleague, **Rachel Shoener**, professors in Gwynedd Mercy University’s occupational therapy department, traveled to Kenya with six graduate students to build upon their previous capacity-building work in the community. The team engaged in hands-on therapy sessions at AIC Kijabe Hospital’s Child Developmental Clinic and provided practical suggestions for children and their families. Since last fall, MacRone-Wojton and Shoener have led monthly virtual educational sessions for occupational therapists from Ubuntu Life Foundation Children’s Wellness Center to support children with high-intensity needs.

1994

Andy Kuhn’s son, Cole, has committed to attend Duke University and play baseball. Cole is a right-handed pitcher who currently attends St. Joe’s Prep in Philadelphia.

Dan Ralph is in two competitive Wordle groups with other F&M grads. He writes: “While I am a master ‘jigsawer,’ I compete in Wordle to keep busy between jigsaws and to stay in touch with F&M alumni such as Lisa Hamlin, Kathy Taggart, Kyle Mikulis, Chris Bruno and John Pagana.

Eric Smith, a partner at Timoney Knox LLP, has been named to the 2026 The Best Lawyers in America list. His practice focuses on commercial and real estate litigation, business disputes and municipal litigation. Through his commercial litigation practice, he represents clients in contract and warranty disputes, as well as construction conflicts, mechanics’ liens, contractor and subcontractor payment act claims, and unfair trade practice claims. As part of his real estate and title litigation practice, he handles matters concerning adverse possession, easements and boundary disputes. His practice also focuses on home rule law and municipal litigation.

1995

Vasu Bhavaraju and her sister, **Rajita Bhavaraju ’94**, hiked the 26-mile Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in August.

1998

Lori Boyer Thompson recently moved back to Pennsylvania from Virginia with her husband and two children. She earned her master’s of public health degree from George Washington University in summer 2024 and is currently a public health nurse at the Chester County Health Department.

1999

Megan Noyes writes: “Happy belated 25th reunion to Class of ’99! My husband, Vincent, and I welcomed a son and a daughter in 2021 and 2024. I’ve been happily employed with Apple for the past 15 years, spending nearly a decade in the

“I realized I was drawn to a career in researching and developing new therapies to improve patient outcomes.”

Julia Dorf '24

Bay Area before relocating back home to New York City before the pandemic hit. Hope my fellow class of '99 alums are doing well!”

2000

Katie Schmidt McMurry reports: “In October, I celebrated one year of work as an art consultant! It is a career path I didn’t know of prior to being hired at The Chesapeake Framing Co. in Kensington, Md. Through the shop, I’ve been able to take on consulting work for both residential and commercial clients. Working in niche retail has been a delightful reprieve from the hustle of freelancing while still getting to flex my creative muscles. Meanwhile, my photography business celebrates 15 years in operation!”

Katie Richards, CEO of Maine Laboratories, was recently honored as a 2025 Outstanding Woman in Business by Mainebiz. This annual recognition celebrates women leaders across Maine who are making significant contributions in their industries and communities. Katie founded Maine Laboratories in 2022 to specialize in PFAS contamination testing, and under her leadership, the company has grown to become a trusted resource for environmental testing.

2003

Sarah Porter Barsky was recently promoted to senior vice president of issue and default management in Wilmington Trust’s Global Capital Markets Division, after more than a decade in institutional services risk management. She and her husband, Eric, live in Delaware with their two sons, Jacob (9) and Zachary (4). When she’s not at work, Sarah enjoys the wonderful chaos of family life, much of it revolving around her boys’ sports.

Drew Delaney reports: “After 22 years of coaching lacrosse at the collegiate, professional and scholastic levels—

including the past nine years as head men’s lacrosse coach at the University of Mary Washington—I have stepped away from coaching to accept a new role as assistant athletics director for internal operations at UMW. My journey in college athletics started in Lancaster, and I thank all my coaches and teammates from F&M, as well as all the coaches and players throughout my career. I’m excited to continue serving student-athletes in this new capacity!”

2004

Sara Zeigler is proud to report that she is currently raising her fourth dog for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. She writes: “My current pup, yellow lab Rick, is due to take his temperament test in February 2026 and will hopefully go on to harness training at that time. My previous dogs include Sumatra (now an explosive detection dog for the Mohegan Tribe), Watkins (now a working guide dog in Massachusetts), and Meadow (currently in the training school). These dogs and the puppy raising community have been such an incredible addition to my life!”

2005

Katie Oppenheimer Berkey, a shareholder attorney and certified land planner at Becker & Poliakoff in Fort Myers, Fla., was recently recognized in the special edition of the 2025 Florida Trend Legal Elite Notable Real Estate/Land Use Attorneys. The list features attorneys from across Florida who have demonstrated exceptional legal expertise and leadership in sustainable land use, property development and real estate transactions. She also was recently recognized in the 2026 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. She attributes much of her personal and professional growth to the late F&M Professor David P. Schuyler, Shadek Professor of Humanities and American Studies, who fostered her interest in land use, zoning and planning matters.

Jonathan Mahoney has been appointed the new dean of Berklee’s Pre-College, Online and Professional Programs (POPP) division. With a career in EdTech that spans nearly two decades, he brings an innovative approach to Berklee POPP, furthering the college’s goal of making music education accessible worldwide. He will oversee academic operations and innovative program development for Berklee Online, Berklee Summer Programs and Berklee Press. As the former vice president of online learning at the Recording Academy, he was responsible for launching GRAMMY GO, the academy’s first creator-to-creator learning platform. Prior to that, he spent more than a decade at 2U, which provides the technology and services behind edX. As vice president and general manager, he partnered with leading faculty and administrators to design and scale online graduate programs at institutions, including Tufts University, NYU, Yale University and Emerson College.

2006

Alex Nackman writes: “In October, a specially re-mastered version of my 2017 alt-rock album, ‘Above Sirens,’ was re-released as a limited edition 12-inch vinyl LP. The original release was digital-format only for Spotify and Apple Music. The album was re-mastered by venerable mastering engineer Scott Hull from Masterdisk, who is considered an industry expert in vinyl mastering, cutting and lathe work. Learn more at alexnackman.com.”

2007

Lindsey Harteis, former assistant U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey, has joined McCarter & English in Philadelphia. She joins the Products Liability, Mass Torts & Consumer Class Actions group as special counsel. She brings nine years of prosecutorial experience at both the

“It’s been exciting to see what science actually looks like—not just in textbooks and manufactured labs.”

Haunah Thomas '27

federal and state levels, as well as a strong foundation in products liability litigation from her private practice career. She looks forward to returning to defense work primarily focused in the life sciences and healthcare sectors. At the U.S. attorney's office, she handled a wide range of criminal matters, including FDA criminal violations, unauthorized distribution of narcotics, economic crimes, tax crimes, immigration issues and civil rights matters. She previously spent several years as an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia, where she handled dozens of bench and jury trials, hundreds of hearings, and more than 100 appeals—including obtaining a unanimous reversal on a case dispositive issue in the Pennsylvania Superior Court.

2008

Daniel Kober was promoted to the position of call overflow customer service supervisor for the New Jersey division of taxation at Pioneer Credit Recovery in Moorestown, N.J.

Jesse Stowell recently launched a small business, Small City Adventures, offering walking tours and scavenger hunts in Harrisburg, Pa.

Elliot Platt was hired in February as the head football coach at David Brearley High School in Kenilworth, N.J.

2009

Elisabeth Aly writes: “In April, my husband and I happily moved our little family to Peekskill, N.Y., where we found our dream home on top of a quiet and scenic hill overlooking the Hudson. In July, I was promoted to manager of partner resources at White & Case LLP. I work with firm leadership and the partners on all partnership-related operations.”

Sarah Coughlin Siggelakis and her husband, Theo, welcomed a son, Konstantinos (“Dino”), in November 2024. Sarah recently joined Mastercard as product

manager in commercial payments (B2B payments/acceptance) in October.

2010

Will Jackson reports: “I got married! While I didn’t get married to another F&M alum, we did have quite a few alumni in attendance.”

2011

Jessica Garber graduated with a doctorate in sociocultural anthropology from Boston University in August and accepted a position to continue working with BU’s Office of Research as a program manager supporting large-scale grant proposals.

2012

Mary McNutt reports: “After more than a decade in the financial services industry, most recently as a vice president at a Fortune 500 bank, I launched my own RIA (registered investment adviser) firm in April 2024 in the suburbs of Philadelphia. My business partner and I started 1015 Capital Partners to gain more independent control and offer higher quality financial guidance. We cater specifically to business owners, successful individuals and their families to help them navigate their financial and investment futures.”

2012

Aaron Gillette and **Danielle Gillette** welcomed their first child! They are excited to welcome Phoebe Noa Gillette to the Diplomat family!

2014

Matthew Gibbons writes: “After moving to Ecuador, I became a professor with the Fulbright Commission, where I help promote educational and cultural exchange opportunities. This year has been especially exciting. My wife, Angela, and I launched Cuenca Home Healthcare, a nursing company dedicated to providing

quality care and support to families in our community. We are also thrilled to share that we are expecting our first daughter, Emily Marina. Looking back, my first real taste of globalism came at Franklin & Marshall, where I realized the world was much bigger than I had imagined. I credit F&M with giving me a strong foundation of wisdom and strength to face life’s challenges—lessons that continue to inspire me in both my work and family life today.”

Madison Herling earned a doctorate in chemical biology from the University of Pennsylvania last fall, and is an NIH T32-funded postdoctoral research fellow in cellular and gene therapy at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Athena Tahos Stagias is the interim upper school co-head, clinical and chief executive functioning specialist at The Quad Preparatory School in Manhattan. Over the last several years, she has led the creation and development of a fully integrated executive functioning program across the school’s two campuses, creating comprehensive curricula, tailored classes, and differentiated trainings for the school’s staff and parents. As clinical co-head, she continues supporting middle and high school students (and their staff) as they pursue their passions and share their remarkable gifts with themselves and the wider community. Athena currently resides in New Jersey with her husband and son.

2016

Kaitlin Oliver married Quinn Thomas on Aug. 30 in Waterbury, Conn. Several F&M alumni and former employees were in attendance for a night full of celebration!

Felipe Storch recently completed his master’s degree in environmental management at Yale School of the Environment. He and his husband,

“I donned my lab coat in the morning from 8 a.m. to noon., and then as soon as I got home, I was doing qualitative interviews until 5 p.m. It was like two different worlds.”

Ibrahim Bin Amjad '27

Fabiano, have relocated to São Paulo, Brazil, where Felipe is working with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). He looks forward to visiting Lancaster soon!

2017

Andrew Francos is a Harrisburg-based labor and employment associate with Eckert Seamans, an Am Law 200 firm.

2018

Samuel Butler will put his experience to work for clients at McMonagle Perri McHugh Mischak Davis after working on some of Philadelphia's toughest cases—ranging from DUIs and armed carjackings to domestic assaults and child sexual abuse. His background includes work in both the municipal court and juvenile units of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, where he handled high-stakes preliminary hearings and trials involving child victims, firearms, and violent offenses. As the direct file juvenile ADA, he prosecuted cases in which juveniles were charged as adults for serious crimes such as armed robbery and vehicular homicide. At McMonagle Perri, he will focus on criminal defense and personal injury litigation. He advocates for individuals accused of crimes, guiding them through the legal system and building strong defenses rooted in his prosecutorial knowledge. He also supports clients seeking compensation for injuries resulting from negligence.

2018

Tanner Erisman and **Crystal Erisman '18** welcomed their second child, daughter Allie Grace, on Sept. 7.

Kaitlin Muccio and **Glenn Robbins** celebrated their wedding in October 2024 surrounded by many of their F&Mily. This October, in celebration of their first wedding anniversary (and 10 years together after meeting in the same F&M PIT group!), they traveled to France and Belgium to enjoy good food and times with family friends.

2020

Mariama Barry writes: “I graduated law school in May 2025, earning a juris doctorate from Penn State Dickinson Law. I am now a securities fraud associate at Kessler Topaz Meltzer & Check LLP in the Philadelphia area. It is a plaintiffs' firm, and one of the world's foremost advocates in protecting the public against corporate fraud and other wrongdoing.”

Luis Lemos Lopes reports: “I graduated from medical school in 2024, got married the same year to my high school sweetheart, and started anesthesiology residency at the George Washington University Hospital.”

Brooklyn Smith-Jones has been named a William and Hannah Penn Fellow by the administration of Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro to help strengthen policymaking and bring cutting-edge research and innovation to state agencies. The two-year program gives aspiring professionals with master's and other advanced degrees the chance to work with the state's top executive leaders within state agencies on a variety of policy projects.

2024

Audrey Beach recently celebrated one year in her current position as a health information management specialist at Hospice & Community Care in Lancaster. She writes: “I am so grateful for the opportunity to intern with Hospice through the F&M Works program during my senior year, which led me to my current position! I am also pursuing a paralegal certificate at Villanova University, with the goal of entering the legal field. I'm so grateful for the opportunities F&M offered me!”

Aviva Katz writes: “On Sept. 15, I officially became an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. In August, I directed ‘The Unusual Chauncey Faust’ by Coni Koepfinger, which won first place in the contest ‘15 Minutes of Frame’ at the Gene Frankel Theatre. This means we get a full paid production of the full-length play next spring.”

Grant Kremsky reports: “I'm excited to share that I have officially passed the SIE, Series 65, and Pennsylvania Life Insurance exams. I am now engaged as an independent financial planner with Tri-State Financial Advisors. My work is comprehensive in nature, covering retirement planning, investments, insurance, tax strategy and everything in between. I help people take control of their entire financial picture.”

2025

Emily Peeks graduated from F&M with a degree in psychology and public health on the biology track. Emily writes: “I am now in my first year of graduate school at Georgia State University in the developmental psychology doctoral program. My research focuses on children with different types of disabilities, such as blindness, deafness, autism and Down syndrome. Currently, I am working on

“Leadership is listening to others and making sure their voices are heard, even if they’re not the loudest.”

Tatyana Ulman '27, 2025 Rouse Scholar

coding gestures from children with Down syndrome while also developing my master's thesis topic, which I hope will focus heavily on supporting the education of deaf children through inclusive teaching interventions!” **F&M**

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“Say yes—to the unexpected, the unfamiliar, and the things that scare you... Growth doesn’t happen when we are comfortable.”

- Shayra Nunez '25, advice to incoming F&M students



1

1 Sisters Rajita Bhavaraju '94 and Vasu Bhavaraju '95 hiked the 26-mile Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in August.

2

2 Lisa Jablon '81 (second from right) was honored by Jefferson Hospital's Albert Einstein Society for her masterful work leading the breast cancer program. Joining her (l-r) were her husband, Joel Perilstein '80, son, Harry Perilstein '13, sister, Jo Ann Jablon '84, Susan Kline Klehr '73, P'12 and Lenny Klehr '72, P'12.

3

3 Rich Porth '73 met up with classmate Bobby Knitzer '73 in Santa Fe, N.M., to enjoy some southwestern hospitality, good eats and many good stories!

4 Sara Zeigler is raising her fourth dog for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, yellow lab Rick.

5 Sporting her F&M gear, Charlotte Howson Arevalo '90 helped paint an electrical box with her daughter, Mary—who works on various art projects—in Maplewood, N.J.

6 Ben Donahower '06 and his ever-growing crew packed their bags for a multi-generational adventure across Germany this spring. Basing themselves in Munich and Berlin, Ben, his wife Catya, and their three young explorers—River, Sage and Judah—were joined by Ben's parents, Lori and Tim; siblings Lindsay, Tyler and Josiah; and nephew AJ.

7 From left, Justin Kim '02, Daryl Black '02, Brian Zabinski '01 and Brandon Zabinski '05 caught up at a friend's wedding.

8 Eileen Schon Robin '80, Kittie Callaghan Abell '80 and Karen Holmes Stevenson '80 couldn't attend their 45th reunion on campus, but they got together in New York last spring instead!

9 From left, Ray Sanseverino '68, Sophia Sanseverino, Sarah DesChamps '28 and Matt DesChamps '93, P '28 enjoyed a golf outing at the Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich, Conn.

10 Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity brothers and football teammates got together for their annual Myrtle Beach golf weekend in April. Twenty alumni from the classes of 1970-78 have been making the trip to Myrtle each year since 2009 for golf and to reminisce about their F&M days.

11 Ola Kiszka '18 and Andrew Dzenis '18, who met during their senior year at F&M, tied the knot in September in Princeton, N.J.

“I’m interested in the regulation of AI and the policy around it, but I’m also interested in the human aspect of it.”

- Elshaddai “El” Muchuwa ’26, on taking an F&M course about the implications of AI

ALUMNI *in the wild*



“Those four years at F&M happened quickly. A lot of the impact didn’t really become apparent until years later in my professional life.”

Vassilis Coutifarlis ’09

ALUMNI *in the wild*



12



15



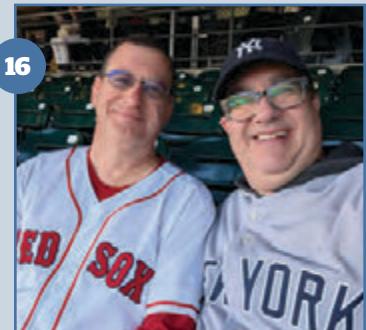
13



14

“A key for me has always been the people around me—mentors, colleagues, supervisors, teammates and friends—who helped me along the way. You never achieve anything alone.”

Elizabeth Eide '88



16



17

12 Alumni recently enjoyed a lobster weekend in Portsmouth, N.H. From left, Tom Tasker '80, Karen Trouskie '80, Mike Lewin '80, Steve Torrance '78, Peter Katz '80, Janice Katz '80, Karen Leon '80, Mike Millikan '78, Paige Crosby '80, Glenn Blakney '79, Fernando Rabell Viches '79, Kevin Rosenberg '79 and Leo Connolly '81.

13 Friends enjoyed a spectacular round of golf at the historic Old Head of Kinsale in Ireland. From left, Sam Vail '81, Sam Cermack '81, John Sieber '80, John Stamatakos '81, Jim Lemonick '80, Cliff Sterling '81 and Mike Lewin '80.

14 In August, Bob Smith '61 organized a virtual meeting for as many Class of 1961 Zeta Beta Tau members he could find. He took this screen shot, which includes Murray Seltzer, David Israelite, Shel Davis, Ditty (and Shelly) Weitzman, Mark Plafker, Larry Levin, Howard Brafman, Dick Hark, Elliot Stein and Hank Mellk.

15 From left, Susan Wiesmann Wheeler '80, P'28, Valerie Mayaud Lieberman '79, Thomas Wheeler P'28 and Alan Lieberman '80 attended a Dead & Company concert at the Sphere in Las Vegas.

16 Jim Black '88 and Bruce Levin '88 completed their quest to attend a Major League Baseball game at each of the current ballparks.

17 Yesim Cavusoglu Jonsson '94 caught up with Behiç Gürçihan '94 and Didem Sezer Manecolo (attended F&M 1990-1992) at their 35th high school reunion in Istanbul.

18 Diplomats in Massachusetts: Samantha Perry '23 is proud to be communications director for State Sen. Barry Finegold '93.

19 Zander Levit '16 and Victoria Zayat Levit '17 tied the knot in February 2025 in Philadelphia surrounded by 22 of their closest fellow alumni.



18



19



John W. Hagen, D.D.S., '51, of Parkesburg, Pa., died July 26 at the age of 96. He served in the U.S. Navy and graduated from Temple Dental School. A self-employed dentist for 66 years, he retired in 2020 from his practice, Opera House Dental. He is survived by four children, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a sister.

Henry A. Eberle Jr. '55, of Ridley Park, Pa., died Aug. 2 at the age of 91. A standout athlete in football and basketball, he was inducted into the F&M Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998. Among his most cherished memories was a miraculous game-winning touchdown against American International College, described by a Lancaster newspaper as "one of the most sensational catches in the history of football at Franklin & Marshall." A veteran of the U.S. Army, he worked for more than three decades at Sun Company as a human resources executive. A lifelong adventurer, he embarked on 24 solo cross-country road trips after retirement, traveling more than 100,000 miles across the U.S. and Canada. He visited every U.S. national park in the lower 48 states. His second career, and perhaps his proudest role, was serving as mayor of Ridley Park for 28 years. He is survived

by three children, four grandchildren, a brother and numerous nieces and nephews.

L. Frederick Husson '55, of Lititz, Pa., died April 7 at the age of 98. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he worked at Rudisill Printing Company, which was later acquired by R.R. Donnelley & Sons. He worked at Wagaman Brothers Printing and Intelligencer Printing before retiring in 1993 from Lancaster Ultra-Graphics, where he was owner and chairman. During his career in the printing industry, he was a charter member of the Susquehanna Litho Club. He is survived by four children, eight grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

George H. Hoeltzel '56 died Feb. 20 at the age of 90. While at F&M, he was active in the Green Room Theater. He was an editor at and retired from Random House Publishing in New York. He is survived by his sister, nephews, nieces and extended family.

Richard Singer '56 died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 90 on Aug. 28 at the Inova Hospital in Fairfax, Va. Dick, as he was known at F&M and beyond, attended Officers Candidate School after F&M, and served in the U.S. Marine Corps for more than 20 years. He held the rank of

colonel when he retired. He also worked as a school teacher and as an administrator of continuing education programs for various trade organizations in the Washington, D.C., area. He is survived by his wife, Sabrina, and three children. He will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery in 2026.

Emil B. Korol '57, of Newberg, Ore., died July 26 at the age of 90. He had a dedicated career in the pharmaceutical industry, beginning as a chemist at Wyeth-Ayerst in Pennsylvania. He then received a promotion to the position of director of quality control with American Home Products in Madison, N.J., before retiring in the Pacific Northwest. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, two children and five grandchildren.

Samuel D. McCullough '58, of Bloomington, Minn., died Feb. 23 at the age of 94. Born in Canada, he joined the U.S. Army during the Korean War and attended college on the GI bill, and became an American citizen. He worked as a salesman in several firms, before moving to Minnesota and establishing his manufacturers' representative agency, S.D. McCullough and Associates. He introduced plastic pipes and fittings when they were just coming into the market, and

successfully pioneered them, promoting the sale of plumbing products through manufacturers' representatives. One of the founders and a president of The National Association of Manufacturers Representatives, he was inducted into the Association of Industry Manufacturers Representatives Hall of Fame in 2015. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Patty, two daughters, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Harvey Levinsohn '59 died Dec. 12, 2024, in Wellington, Fla., at the age of 86. At F&M he was president of Pi Lambda Phi. He spent most of his career as an agent for Guardian Insurance. He is survived by his wife, Danielle, two children, two stepchildren, and seven grandchildren, including Talia Levinsohn '28.

Merrill M. Abeshaus, M.D., '60, P'82, G'13, of Flagstaff, Ariz., died March 14 at the age of 86. He became the first full-time orthopedist in Flagstaff and founded Northern Arizona Orthopedics. He was chief of staff of the Flagstaff Hospital when the current hospital was built, and was instrumental in building what is now the North Star Medical Building. Along with two other families, Merrill and his wife, Rhoda, founded Flagstaff's first

synagogue, Hechal Baoranim (Temple in the Pines). Merrill served on the Hechal Baoranim board for many years and was instrumental in helping develop the Chabad Center in Flagstaff and welcoming Flagstaff's first full-time rabbi. He was also involved in many other local efforts over the years, serving on the Flagstaff Beautification and Public Art Commission, the Flagstaff Symphony Board, and the Northern Arizona University Lumberjack Athletic Association. He and his wife endowed a basketball scholarship at NAU, and also have provided a scholarship for the Martin-Springer Institute's summer program for educators to assist in Holocaust education efforts.

Ronald N. Ruoss '60 died Jan. 23 at the age of 88. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he embarked on a successful business career, which eventually brought him home to Trenton, Maine. Following his retirement as a sales executive, he spent more than 30 years as an auditor at the Bluenose Inn in Bar Harbor, Maine. He is survived by his brother, nieces, nephews, stepchildren and extended family.

Charles C. Ives II '61, of Marblehead, Mass., died March 31 at the age of 90. A veteran of

the U.S. Marine Corps, he spent the majority of his professional life in fiduciary services and estate planning. Later in his career he was honored with a Lifetime Service Award by the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils, recognizing his many years of dedicated service to the estate-planning profession. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marianne, three children and seven grandchildren.

Thomas C. Braman, Ph.D., '63, of Palm Coast, Fla., died Jan. 18. He earned a master's degree in Latin American studies and a doctorate in Latin American History at the University of Florida before beginning 40-plus year career in analysis and operations with the Central Intelligence Agency. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he returned to the CIA and served overseas as a trainer, analysis instructor and military liaison officer in various countries in the Middle East, Europe and South Asia. He is survived by his wife, Lillian, and two siblings.

Jay B. Davis '63 died July 25, 2024, in Portsmouth, N.H., at the age of 84. A member of the U.S. Army Reserve, he became a banker in the Philadelphia area before retiring at age 55. His passion for golf began when he started

playing at Merion Golf Club at age 9, and was the junior champion of Philadelphia at age 12. He won numerous tournaments at Merion and other clubs, and traveled extensively to play as often as possible. He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth, and twin grandchildren.

Bruce E. Sizemore '63, of Alva, Fla., and a longtime resident of Fort Myers, Fla., died Dec. 24, 2024 at the age of 84. He earned a master's degree in engineering at William & Mary before serving with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was hired by Ford in Michigan and later joined Ford's racing program, competing at events around the country. He earned his first modified win in 1973 and was six-time winner in the National Hot Rod Association. After his racing career, he became a licensed nursing home administrator and later joined his wife, Mary, in real estate.

Paul K. Becker '64, of Oradell, N.J., died March 22 at the age of 82. He earned his MBA at Rutgers and retired as a Financial Advisor from Wells Fargo in 2012. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Kathleen, his daughter and his sister.

S.P. Schmuck '64, of Elizabethtown, Pa., died Sept. 29 at the age of

82. He had a 30-year career in accounting with CNH Industrial in New Holland, Pa. In retirement, he worked part time for Jonestown Bank in Lebanon County. In addition, he was a 50-year member of Lodge 43 Free and Accepted Masons. He served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard from 1965-1972. He is survived by his wife, Frances, two daughters, five grandchildren, a sister, a nephew and two great-nephews.

Herbert McIlvaine Jr. '66 died March 13 at the age of 82 in York, Pa. He earned a master's degree in education from Central Michigan University. A combat veteran of the Vietnam War, he was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery during his tour. He attained the rank of captain prior to his medical retirement in 1976. After leaving the military, he spent 34 years working for companies Lionel Leisure Corp., Harsco Corp. and MANTEC Corp. He was deeply interested in helping to create fair and equitable workplaces and in reviving manufacturing in his beloved state of Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife, Judy, four children and five grandchildren.

William Tuffiash, M.D., '66, P'07, of Allentown, Pa., died Feb. 19 at the age of 80. He earned his medical degree from Temple University Medical School and completed post-graduate training at Syracuse University and the University of Michigan. He worked 45 years as a physician and consulting allergist, and prioritized conversation with his patients, sharing in the joys and challenges of their daily lives. He served for two years with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in the first class of U.S. Navy allergists. He frequently spoke at statewide and national medical conventions, serving as president of the Lehigh County Medical Association, the Pennsylvania Allergy and Asthma Association and the Philadelphia Allergy Association. He is survived by three children, including Marisa '07, and two grandchildren.

Frances L. Hopkins '68, P'82, P'89, of Lancaster, died May 31 at the age of 94. She earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from F&M, becoming the first woman to ever receive an undergraduate degree from the College one year before F&M became coeducational. She had taken classes for several years as the

wife of the late Professor Thomas J. Hopkins, who taught in the Department of Religious Studies from 1962 to 1997. When she reached the required number of credits for a degree, she petitioned the Board of Trustees, which eventually granted her the ability to receive her degree. She later earned a master's in library science from Drexel University. Her career as a reference librarian included positions at the Armstrong Cork Company and Franklin & Marshall College Library. She later served as head of reference services and then associate director of the Temple University Library system, retiring in 1994. She is survived by three children, including Patrick '80 and Nicholas '82, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Edward H. Tobe, D.O., '68 died March 26 at the age of 78 in Cherry Hill, N.J. He earned his medical degree from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. In his private practice, he blended compassionate care with curiosity and innovation. As a board-certified adult and child psychiatrist and classical psychoanalyst, he authored numerous publications that explored neuropsychiatric

illnesses through molecular, social, cultural, occupational and intrapsychic perspectives. His pioneering research challenged traditional diagnostic frameworks and treatments, introducing novel approaches that expanded the boundaries of mainstream medical literature. He is survived by his wife, Katarzyna, three children, three grandchildren, his stepdaughter and three step-grandchildren.

Craig H. Johnson, M.D., '69, of Shillington, Pa., died Jan. 29 at the age of 77. A member of Phi Beta Kappa at F&M, he went on to earn his medical degree at Temple University School of Medicine in 1973. He completed his surgical internship at Reading Hospital and Medical Center before pursuing his residency in neurological surgery at Temple University Hospital. He began his career as a neurosurgeon in Reading, where he dedicated 37 years to providing exceptional care. Renowned for his expertise and compassionate approach, he earned the deep respect of both his colleagues and patients. He is survived by his wife, Susan, two sons, three stepsons, five grandchildren and his sister.

Henry R. Harvey '70, of Old Fort, N.C., died March 7 at the age of 77. He was a jet pilot in the U.S. Air Force, a launch officer for the Titan II missiles in Tucson, Ariz., then a TEMPEST officer in the Pacific Theater. He published 27 novels and two art books from Schiffer Publishing about his 50-year career as a sculptor. His novel, "Playing on the Black Keys," was twice optioned for a Hollywood movie. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Pamela, his son and a grandson.

Henry D. Lane '72 died Feb. 20 in Easton, Md., at the age of 75. At F&M, he was a standout athlete in soccer, squash and lacrosse, earning him a place in the College's Athletic Hall of Fame. He earned a master's degree in English and education from Villanova University. His career in education spanned decades, teaching English and history at respected institutions in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York and Maine. He was known for his creative teaching style, love of Greek mythology and commitment to pushing students to think beyond the page. He also coached lacrosse, squash and soccer and mentored students through

in memoriam

school newspapers and yearbooks. Beyond the classroom, he founded LearningCore LLC, which later became Tutoring Match LLC, a network that helped connect students with educators. He is survived by two children, four grandchildren and two brothers.

Brian Flaherty '75, P'06, P'12, died Oct. 6 in Philadelphia at the age of 72. He earned his law degree at the University of Pennsylvania and was senior counsel and former shareholder and counsel for litigation at Cozen O'Connor. He previously spent 30 years at Wolf Block. He was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and was named in The Best Lawyers in America in the field of commercial litigation. He was endlessly curious and loved to read and express himself through his writing. He considered himself a lifelong learner. A lifelong artist, he began taking classes at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in 2004, honing his skills in drawing, painting, and sculpture. He leaves his family and friends with a collection of art that they will celebrate and remember him by in the years to come. He is survived by his wife, Karen Lyons, three children, including Sarah

'06 and Matthew '12, two brothers, including Sean '73, and four grandsons.

Andrew D. Plepler '83 died Sept. 11 at the age of 64. A graduate of University of Miami Law School, he had a lifelong commitment to social justice, exemplified by his 1996 co-founding of the Urban Alliance in Washington, D.C. This nonprofit has connected paid internships and workforce skills training to over 21,000 young adults in multiple U.S. cities. Until retiring in 2024, he was Bank of America's Global Head of ESG, where he spearheaded the company's focus on environmental, social and governance factors. He previously served as senior vice president of housing and community initiatives with the Fannie Mae Foundation. He also served as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in the Tax Division, and on Capitol Hill as counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary. He is survived by his wife, Tracy Curtis, three children, two stepchildren, his brother, Richard '81, his niece and his mother.

Rene R. Polutan '87, of Hainesport, N.J., died Aug. 3 at the age of 60. He earned a master's degree at the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Ariz., began his professional career at Lenox China in Princeton, N.J., and later found his niche in logistics at IKEA. His bond with his family was the cornerstone of his existence. He is survived by his mother, three sisters, a niece, his longtime girlfriend, Cindy, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Elizabeth S. Schmidt Chase, Esq., '87, died Feb. 17 at the age of 59. After earning her law degree from Temple University, she practiced law in Philadelphia and in Annapolis Md. For much of her career, however, she worked in business development and sales in information technology and was employed by Quest Software, Oracle, LogRhythm, ESI International (now Korn Ferry), MSi (Mission Secure, Inc.), Computer Access Technologies and Splunk. She also had her own consulting company, Speranto Technology. She is survived by her husband, Hank, a daughter, three brothers and extended family.

Craig R. Suchin, M.D., '88 died March 24 in Encino, Calif., at the age of 58. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, he completed a residency in diagnostic radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he trained to be a brilliant vascular interventional radiologist. He specialized in dialysis access management, the treatment of peripheral vascular disease, uterine fibroid embolization, and venous sclerotherapy. He is survived by his wife, Andrea, four children, and extended family.

Michael Quartey '00 died May 15 at the age of 47. After earning a degree in government at F&M, he attended New York Law School and later transferred to Rutgers School of Law, receiving his juris doctorate in 2003. An avid music fan, he opened a recording studio to help independent artists realize their dream. His love for football was unmatched. As a Division III player at F&M, he wanted to open doors for others like him who may not have had the chance to be seen by the National Football League. Through his efforts with the National Bowl, the FCS Bowl and the FBS Tropical Bowl, he opened doors for football kids who might have otherwise gone

unnoticed by football teams. His unwavering belief in their potential changed lives and provided them with a chance to showcase their skills to the AFL, CFL and NFL. He is survived by his son, his son's mother, parents and three siblings. **F&M**

Hydrology research has taken Monica Arienzo '08 to coral reefs in the U.S. Virgin Islands, underwater caves in the Bahamas and ice cores in Antarctica and Greenland.

Several career twists and travels led to her current role as associate research professor in the Division of Hydrologic Sciences at the Desert Research Institute (DRI), a nonprofit research campus of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Arienzo credits the influence of F&M mentors for propelling her on a scientific path.

"Water is the future," she recalled Dorothy Merritts and Robert Walter advising. Merritts is the Harry W. & Mary B. Huffnagle Professor of Geosciences; Walter is The Dr. Earl D. Stage & Mary E. Stage Professor of Geosciences.

"Water security is a good area of research. They planted that seed," Arienzo says. Her primary focus is now on

microplastics found in the snowy peaks of the Sierra Nevada mountain range between California and Nevada.

Arienzo recently landed a one-year, \$250,000 grant by the Department of Defense to investigate laundering and textile degradation as a possible source of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) — dubbed "forever chemicals" — and microplastic pollution. The research will examine how clothing chemically treated to be flame-retardant, as well as water and oil-repellent, may contribute PFAS and microplastics to the environment.

An F&M connection helped initiate that grant research.

Matthew Thurston '08, divisional vice president of sustainability and community affairs at REI Co-op, providing funding as part of REI's mission to protect the outdoors.

"We hypothesized that dryers could be a source of plastics to the

environment," Arienzo said. Initial research revealed that dryers do in fact emit plastic fibers.

The Department of Defense grant enables the professor to build on her hypothesis and include students in future research. "Having that research experience was really formative for me in pursuing a career in science and in academia," says Arienzo, who was a geoscience major at F&M.

"Monica was an exceptional research student as an undergraduate," says Carol de Wet, Arienzo's undergraduate adviser and the Dr. E. Paul & Frances H. Reiff Emerita Professor of Geosciences. "She did a summer research project with the Keck Geology Consortium studying coral distribution in modern reefs and wrote up her work as part of her senior thesis. Monica, however, wanted to do more, particularly to learn geochemical techniques using some of our top-quality analytical instruments—so she did a second senior thesis!"

Arienzo went on to co-author a published scientific journal article based on that work. She earned a doctoral degree in marine geology and geophysics from the University of Miami.

"The best thing about going to a school like F&M is the hands-on mentoring that you get. My undergraduate mentor, Professor de Wet, helped me through the process of going to graduate school," Arienzo said.

Arienzo now finds herself in the mentor role.

"Getting to see students develop into scientists, ask their own research questions and challenge me to learn new things—that's the most rewarding part of my career." **F&M**



Follow Arienzo's research on Instagram: @microplastic_monica



SAVE-THE-DATE: **F&M'S GIVING DAY**

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11

F&M's seventh annual Giving Day kicks off this February! Mark your calendars now — we need you to help secure the resources necessary to ensure our students can take advantage of all that F&M has to offer.

Early giving opens in January at **GIVE.FANDM.EDU**



FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE

P.O. Box 3003
Lancaster, PA 17604-3003
www.fandm.edu

Ever Like a Gem

The College unveiled a new tradition in December to add to Lancaster's holiday cheer: the lighting of Old Main. Warmed by hot chocolate, cookies and festive music on Manning Alumni Green, members of the campus community gathered for a brief countdown to illuminate the iconic bell tower.

Photo: DEB GROVE

