The DoG Street Journal

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The In Your Own Backyard Issue

A Closer Look: People & Places We Know and Love

The Brains Behind the Daily Grind

Greenia: Impressed by this Professor

The Tribe’s Derek Cox

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Our Mission
The DSJ is the College's only monthly newsmagazine and daily online paper. Access us anytime on the web at dogstreetjournal.com. We strive to provide a quality, reliable and thought-provoking media outlet serving the College community with constantly updated coverage of diverse topics. If it happens here, you’ll know.

Cover Image
This month’s issue of The DSJ takes you “In Your Own Backyard.” Whether it’s the professor you’ve had for four semesters straight, the athlete you’ve followed since freshman year or the place where you grab your morning coffee, we’re giving you the inside story.

Photo by David Stingle
Design by Marina Stranieri
William and Mary alumni awarded Darwin-Wallace Medals

The Darwin–Wallace medal, one of the highest honors in evolutionary biology, was awarded to College alumni Mohamed Noor (’92) and H. Allen Orr (’82, ’85), both biology professors. Noor and Orr both studied under Bruce Grant, an evolutionary biology professor who taught at the College from 1968 to 2001. They have both studied species of Drosophila (fruit flies) to try and enhance understanding of speciation. This award has only been given to about 40 people in the last 150 years.

Williamsburg to start featuring W&M events on cable

According to a press release by the College, the City of Williamsburg will begin featuring school events on local cable, including special events, master classes from the music department, campus forums and various lectures. The programs will air on Channel 48 in the City. This initiative began when the city aired U.S. Senator Jim Webb’s (D-VA) keynote speech during Charter Day. “I’m delighted that we’ll be able to share those visitors and events with the Williamsburg community more broadly,” said President Taylor Reveley.

William and Mary alum reaches peak of Mount Everest

Doug Pierson (M.B.A. ’99) reached the peak of Mount Everest in 2008. Pierson has climbed a number of other peaks as well, including Mount McKinley, and Mount Rainier. Pierson left for Nepal in March 2008. “If there is anything I would do differently, it would be to focus more closely on enjoying my time up above the South Col and pay closer attention to special places that I only saw twice—once on the way up, once on the way down,” said Pierson in a W&M press release.

SA takes a stand against increasing in-state students

The Student Assembly passed a bill officially opposing HB1696, which sought to gradually increase the percentage of in-state students admitted to 80 percent. The bill was proposed by Delegate David Albo (R-42). The bill passed with one vote against. “If you are an out-of-state student, you pay 150 percent of what in-state students pay,” said Matt Beato, a class of 2009 senator. “We cannot survive without these students.” The bill is considered to be unlikely to be made into law.

Esposito lectures on Islam

Dr. John Esposito, a professor in Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, presented a lecture entitled, “A Letter to President Obama: What Do One Billion Muslims Globally Really Think and Want?” to a full room in Ewell Hall on February 2. His visit was sponsored by the Muslim Students Association and the Student Assembly. “We [the U.S.] need to pressure the governments of our non-allies to open up more,” said Esposito in his lecture. “We also need to listen more to the majorities in the Muslim world and also to the reformists and to those seven percent potential radicals.”

College students experiment on new organism

A group of William and Mary freshmen are leading the charge on studying a new organism found in the Crim Dell. This organism, aptly named Crim D, is a strain of bacteriophage. There has been a freshman seminar on testing Crim D the past two semesters, and it is being led by the Biology Department’s Margaret Saha, Mark Forsyth and Kurt Williamson. The project is being sponsored by the Science Education Alliance of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
Almost 5 percent of William and Mary students have experienced rape or attempted rape within the last year. It is a startling statistic, and it reinforces the reality that students need to know how to protect themselves from potentially dangerous situations, regardless of whether they are in intimate relationships, hooking up, or are not sexually active. Just as important is the need for useful resources about sexuality. Does our campus provide enough education on sex-related topics? Voices for Planned Parenthood (Vox) is well known at the College for its efforts towards sex education. According to Vox President Brittany Montalvo ('09), Vox “aims to mobilize and educate young people about reproductive rights and health. Vox at William and Mary passes out information at Sadler Center tables, hosts movie screenings, and brings speakers to campus.”

“Vox’s main goal is to educate individuals about the reproductive issues which are relevant to them,” explained Montalvo.

On a college campus, many students are in transition, figuring out what they want to study and ultimately what they want to do with their life. For various reasons, sexual topics are touchy. “I think that William and Mary has a sex-ed friendly atmosphere,” said Montalvo. “Both the Student Health Center and H.O.P.E do a good job of promoting healthy behaviors and educating students on ways to keep themselves safe… I think students here can be a little shy when it comes to sex, but I believe they are genuinely interested in learning how to protect themselves.”

But Vox isn’t the only resource available to students. Many turn to the sex columnist of the Flat Hat, Maya Horowitz, whether for actual sex advice or just for laughs. “I never considered myself an expert blow job giver but they like advice,” said Horowitz.

“I have a lot of topics that I want to discuss that I don’t because the student body is considerably more responsive to raunchy columns and prefers explicit language, sort of dirty talk in the column,” said Horowitz.

“Whether you’re sexually active or not, knowing what is supposed to be happening with your body and what isn’t is very important.” Horowitz explained. Despite what most believe, not everything Horowitz writes about pertains to what is happening in her life. “People are constantly telling me what they want me to write about. People come to me with fully formed ideas, so I just have a list of ideas people have given me.”

Like Montalvo, Horowitz said, “I think William and Mary is a positive environment, just because it’s a close-knit community.”

One group who promotes knowing the mechanics of what’s going on inside you is Health Outreach Peer Educators (H.O.P.E). According to their website, “H.O.P.E. works primarily with the Office of Health Education and Student Health Center to achieve this goal. The organization also works with other departments and organizations on campus to put on awareness events during Alcohol Awareness Week, Love Your Body Week, Sexual Responsibility Week and more. We see it as our job to communicate in whatever way possible the most useful health information to our peers.”

H.O.P.E is divided into three branches, promoting mental health, substance abuse, and sexual health. They offer 15 minute programs to organizations upon request. Almost all students experience either the Every Two Minutes or the One in Four programs during freshmen orientation.
William and Mary campus does provide sex education resources, yet most programs don’t cater to the gay community. “Luckily, our gay community is really vibrant and active but forgotten in a lot of things,” commented Horowitz. “I mean people are still uncomfortable… you know, when I talk about anal sex, it’s such a taboo and I think that stems from the fact that we associate it with gay male sex. In fact, anal play could be for anyone.”

One major part of the gay community on campus is the Lambda Alliance. This organization was founded in 1971 to promote the interests of gay students. Many students are familiar with the infamous drag ball hosted every year in the spring. According to William and Mary’s sexual assault resources page on Lambda, “services include peer counseling, awareness of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) communities, and to protect and serve the GLBT students at the College while establishing a support network of concerned and interested individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

“We just had a letter campaign about some bills that are in the general assembly. We had a Proposition 8 protest at the beginning of the year,” said Lambda Co-President Cassie Cole. “We do a bunch of stuff in the spring, including the ‘Gay? Fine by me’ t-shirt campaign, the drag ball, and the Sex Workers Art Show.” The Sex Worker’s Art Show has been a controversial topic on campus in the past few years. Lambda is one of the many sponsors for the upcoming show this spring.

“It’s one of things that we’re trying to emphasize this year because most of the controversy over it last year was that it was a free speech issue, which it is, and that’s a big part of it. But it kind of gets lost in the fact that it is an art show,” Cole commented. “It is political but it’s not primarily political, it’s an art show. It’s performance, it’s for entertainment with a political bend. It’s humanizing a marginalized group of people in our society, people who are generally viewed as objects who don’t have rights.” However, the atmosphere at William and Mary can still be non-inclusive of the GLBT community. “They generally try to promote safe sex a lot which is good, but it’s pretty hetero-normative,” commented Cole. For instance, the posters on the walls around the library and the campus center which say that William and Mary students are healthier than you think and it’s like 90% of them use birth control, which is a very hetero-normative statement. Those posters assuming people are having straight sex don’t serve the gay students. I feel like the administration isn’t that aware of stuff like that. We have resources in the LAMBDA office and I think there are a couple different places on campus that are particularly for gay students.

“My perception is that it is less welcoming than it ought to be. There is some acknowledgement of gay students on campus but there’s not a ton,” said Cole. Although there are many resources on campus, they are by no means exhaustive. “In terms of discovering your sexual identity, our campus is a bad environment,” says Horowitz. “I think there is homophobia. I have a friend who’s here and he’s gay but is very conservative. He doesn’t go to Lambda because he doesn’t feel comfortable there. He doesn’t really feel comfortable expressing his sexuality with his straight friends either. It’s not Lambda’s job. I love that they do the drag ball and there are great people in Lambda. I don’t know how we could have a more inclusive sexual environment but we should have one. It’s not right. Here we are, some of the most educated people in the world, and we’re going to make people feel uncomfortable because they like men.”

Cole commented that “[Although Lambda] is very dominated by left-wing students, there are definitely conservative people in it. But yes, there isn’t a good enough resource for them… There’s a ton of diversity in this type of community so it’s hard when the leaders of the organization perhaps are very similar and it’s hard to serve everyone.”

Not even Horowitz can appeal to every reader. “I would really like a guest columnist. I am constantly trying to get gay men to come in and write. And people are always like ‘yeah, I am so into that.’ I’ll e-mail them and tell them about the column but I never get a response. I’m not a prude, but I am not into fringe play and I define myself as straight. I can’t draw on a lot of experiences because the ideas don’t even occur to me because I’m not in those circles.”

Our campus does offer many resources. Brochures about both gay and straight sex can be found at the Health Center as well as counseling resources. Whether your orientation is straight, gay, bisexual or anything else, Lambda and organizations like Vox and H.O.P.E. also offer counseling and information. If you feel uneasy heading over to the fish bowl for free condoms, H.O.P.E. offers free condoms delivered right to your CSU mailbox in a manila envelope.

With so many organizations on campus promoting safe sex habits, there seem to be plenty of resources for students—from the Student Health Center to non-profit organizations. The best way to approach sex education is through open discussion. Anyone with questions or concerns about sex should speak up without being afraid. Know your feelings and your body.
With a heavy workload of papers, reports, reading and a plethora of other activities piling up on every William and Mary student’s desk, one of the main challenges for the swamped student is staying awake. For this and many other reasons, college students have always flocked towards caffeine and the coffee houses that supply it. Luckily for College students, there is a coffee house conveniently located adjacent to the Sadler Center that is open seven days a week and never fails to provide students with a bargain, hot coffee, and a good time.

Since it opened its doors nine years ago, The Daily Grind has offered its clientele a wide selection of coffees roasted locally by Williamsburg Coffee and Tea Company for very reasonable prices (a regular black coffee is $1.35, while their espresso drinks start at $3.00, and signature drinks, such as the mint mocha, at only $3.50). They offer a wide selection of pastries and foods baked daily in-house using organic ingredients. They also offer a wide selection of teas, hot chocolate, juice, fruit smoothies, frappés and water.

The coffee house has not always enjoyed its current high-profile status. Manager Scott Owen speaks about the Grind’s surprisingly humble origins.

“In 1999,” said Owen, “a group of seniors approached Sam Sadler [former Vice President of Student Affairs] about making a coffee house reflective of the student body. Sam liked the idea and originally decided to make the coffee house in the basement of the Sadler Center. However, that space was rented out, so [The Daily Grind] was converted from the former Lodge 2.”

While the project was in construction, Sadler approached Williamsburg Coffee and Tea’s owner, Todd Arnette, about working with the College on the project. With Arnette and contractors, Sadler supervised the construction of the coffee house and following spring break in 2000, The Daily Grind opened its doors for the first time. The College provided part-time student workers and customers while Williamsburg Coffee and Tea supplied equipment and supplies, and most importantly, coffee grounds. While Arnette was the original manager of the Grind, within a year he hired Owen to become the full-time manager, a job he has since held.

“We are more concerned about service than profit. Most modern businesses rarely interact with the customers, but talking with our customers is so easy to do in college.” - Scott Owen, Daily Grind Manager
Owen had owned two businesses and managed a restaurant before becoming manager of The Daily Grind.

“When I came in I saw potential to have an organic community-based business,” said Owen. “We are more concerned about service than profit. Most modern businesses rarely interact with the customers, but talking with our customers is so easy to do in college. When making The Daily Grind, the College wanted a service, rather than a business, that would be centered on the students.”

It may be surprising to learn that despite the quality of the products offered and the volume of student traffic, The Daily Grind has never made a profit.

“On the few occasions that we have made additional money,” said Owen, “we have given it to charity. We really aren’t concerned with making money.”

Owen donates the Grind’s profits to various charities such as those supporting Malawi and the Philippines. The Grind also contributes to various student organizations and college causes, such as a donation of $2,000 after the 2005 fire in Preston Hall. Owen also donates coffee materials to organizations and sponsors themed promotions, from which a percentage of the proceeds go to specific charities.

The Daily Grind’s service to the community doesn’t stop at charity and service. When the College’s recycling program went on hiatus, the Grind was made into a collection location. The Grind currently serves cold drinks in biodegradable cups.

The Daily Grind hires both undergraduate and graduate students from the College as well as non-students from off-campus.

Phillip Zapfel (’09) was a regular customer at the Grind who ordered the same thing every week. After getting to know Scott Owen, he eventually asked if he could have a job, and he has been working at the Grind since last fall.

“The Daily Grind is a really fun place to work,” said Zapfel. “It’s laid back, a lot of my friends come here, and there are a lot of regulars. It’s neat to have regulars and to be able to start making their drink as they walk in.”

“Working here is a great experience,” said Jeff Ondosin (’09). “This is not one of those ‘no shirt, no shoes’ places. You can wear no pants if you really want to. This place is the best.”

“We get to play a lot of our own music as we work here,” said Zapfel. “You can tell who’s working here when their style of music is playing. It’s a fun aspect of the job.”

Located in the midst of a large campus, The Daily Grind attracts every kind of student and faculty member. At any time of the day you can find customers chatting, studying, reading, using their laptops with The Daily Grind’s free Wi-Fi, or simply enjoying their drinks and food.

When asked why they choose to come to The Daily Grind, several students revealed similar yet revealing answers.

“I like the atmosphere, the free Internet, and the good music,” said Amy Ream (’10).

“I come here for the ginger tea and the relaxing atmosphere,” said Alison Hutching (’09).

“The coffee is good and cheap,” said Anna Mackin (‘10).

“I get to meet a lot of great kids, professors and staff,” said Owen. “We have had some crazy events over the years, but all and all it is on a campus, and it’s a gift to be part of a community, through the good and the bad. I hope it continues.”

Even during the continuing economic downfall, the Grind has remained strong and prices have not changed. Most important, however, is that students still come. They still consider The Daily Grind to be a place of relaxation and comfort day after day, semester after semester.

“Even though we have changed over the years,” said Owen, “we’re still the same place. I take pride in the quality of our product and service.”

A sampling of The Daily Grind’s pastry selection.
William and Mary Service Programs to Merge
Office of Student Volunteer Services and Sharpe Community Scholars Program to become one.

» TODD T. CORILLO, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

William and Mary’s international renown in the world of community service is about to get stronger. Under a plan announced by Provost Geoffrey Feiss on Feb. 5 to the Board of Visitors (BOV), two pillars of community service at William and Mary will merge into one program this April.

The Office of Student Volunteer Services, headed by Drew Stelljes, and the Sharpe Community Partnerships Program, under the direction of Monica Griffin, will become one. The new program, Office of Community Engagement and Scholarship (OCES) will find Stelljes and Griffin as its co-directors. Over the summer, the program is expected to move into office space in Blow Hall, formerly occupied by the Office of Admissions.

Another tenet of the program announced to the BOV was a new Community Services Minor to be facilitated by the OCES. If approved, students could start pursuing the Community Services Minor beginning next semester, when they would begin to work on collaborative research with academic departments across campus. Students in the program would work with an advisor in order to prepare an Honors Thesis based upon their service-learning course, community involvement and research.

“Today many students who are witnessing injustice, poverty, insufficient health care and abuse are returning to William and Mary with a desire to connect their newfound reality with their coursework,” Stelljes said in his remarks to the BOV.

Aside from serving a growing need for civically-minded students at the College, Stelljes also believes William and Mary has the opportunity to truly chart new waters in higher education through such a program.

“In supporting students’ personal development through service, and providing students the chance to explore their newfound intellectual curiosity, we become a portal through which 21st century liberal arts education is achieved,” Stelljes said. “Now we have the chance to lead higher education in defining the liberal arts university in the 21st century.”

The development of the new Office of Community Engagement and Scholarship and the potential new Community Services Minor also makes good on some of William and Mary’s 1994 Strategic Planning and Public Service Goals. In part, the strategic planning called for making “public service a more visible part of the curriculum” and increasing “the visibility and influence of public service performed by members of the College community and extend[ing] the reach of the College’s public service activities.”

OCES is expected to build upon the legacy of service already at the College, including 16 international and 10 domestic service trips planned for Spring Break. ■
In Search of Sweet

Nicholas Schmedding, DSJ Staff Reporter

Walk into any restaurant or grocery store. In the former, check the little bins that frequently appear in the middle of the table next to the salt and pepper. In the latter, make for the breakfast foods aisle, although you could surely discover your quarry in almost any section of the store. So just what is it that you will likely find in these two places? Artificial sweeteners, in profusion.

To most Americans, the three most familiar brands of “sugar substitutes” are Equal, Sweet’n Low, and Splenda, in their blue, pink, and yellow packages respectively, little confetti-colored squares ready to be popped into a cup of coffee or iced tea. There are, of course, many more, but it is the “active ingredients” in these three that account for most of the artificial sweeteners encountered in this country: Aspartame, Saccharin, and Sucralose.

In contrast, “regular sugar” is composed mostly of sucrose, a disaccharide consisting of two monosaccharide monomers linked together, glucose and fructose. Monosaccharides are the simplest building blocks of sugars and carbohydrates and are organic compounds generally following the formula pattern CxH2x-Ox. Glucose, for example, serves as the basic cellular fuel that drives the life processes of most living things.

Another well-known monosaccharides is ribose (found in RNA). When these natural sugars come into contact with chemical receptors in the taste buds on our tongues, they are recognized on the molecular level, and it is by imitating the chemical properties of these natural sugars that artificial sweeteners provoke the same sensations, although research on exactly how this recognition is conducted is ongoing. So now let’s meet our molecular mimics.

First: Saccharin.

The Sweet’n Low website claims saccharin as the sweetening agent in its products, the first of which were produced in 1957. According to the Elmhurst College Virtual Chembook website, the chemical’s potential as a sweetener was discovered accidentally in 1879 by chemists Constantine Fahlberg and Ira Remsen while working at Johns Hopkins University, and it was first used as a sugar substitute for diabetics in 1907 because it is not metabolized by the body into glucose (the blood levels of which the bodies of diabetics cannot control). This also prevents it from having any caloric value to the human body. It has the chemical formula C7H5NO3S and is a weak organic acid.

This chemical really reached its heyday in the mid-20th century before the discovery of aspartame but is still commonly encountered today, although its use has been controversial since the 1970s when experiments linked its consumption with the formation of bladder tumors in some male rats. It was banned as a food additive in Canada in 1977 although it can still be purchased there separately, and the FDA considered similar action, until many other studies conducted during the investigation found no measurably harmful effects stemming from consumption of saccharin at everyday levels. The cautionary messages saccharin-containing products were required to carry for a time in the U.S. were removed in 2001.

Second: Aspartame

Aspartame is the chemical responsible for the sweet taste of Equal and NutraSweet. Diet Coke’s official website, www.dietcoke.com, names aspartame as the sweetener in its popular product, although saccharin is used to some extent in fountain drink machines because it is more chemically stable and has a longer shelf life. Like saccharine, aspartame’s sweetness was discovered accidentally, in 1965, by Jim Schlatter, a chemist employed by the company G.D. Searle. Chemically, aspartame has more in common with proteins than the sugars it seeks to imitate, and is composed of the amino acids phenylalanine and aspartic acid linked together. Conveniently for the manufacturers of soft drinks, it is most stable in the lower range of the pH scale, but it is inconvenient for baking as it decomposes and loses its sweetness when heated. Its chemical formula is C14H18N2O5.

During the 1980s aspartame incrementally replaced saccharin as the dominant artificial sweetener after receiving FDA sanctions for expanded use from 1974 to 1996, when it was approved for universal use. This chemical has been, like its predecessor, the subject of some controversy. The somewhat radical website www.sweetpoison.com gives a long list of purported side effects ranging from phobias to blindness, but most scientific research has indicated that consumption at reasonable levels is not dangerous. Products containing aspartame do not have to carry warning labels in the U.S.

Third: Sucralose

This is the most recent giant of the artificial sweetening industry, being the active ingredient in Splenda, found from low-sugar kids’ cereals to restaurant sugar bowls, and in many other places in between. According to the Boston Globe, Splenda controlled 62 percent of the industry’s market in April 2007 when it was met in a legal battle by rival Equal over its marketing techniques. Sucralose is stable at high temperatures and thus well suited for baking, and is the most structurally reminiscent of the sucrose molecule of all the sweeteners described here. The basic carbon structures of the two molecules are identical, with three hydroxyl (OH) groups on the sucrose molecule being replaced with three chlorine atoms on the sucralose molecule.

The molecular modification is sufficient to fool our taste buds, but it cannot fool our digestive systems, and sucralose is passed from the body mostly unmetabolized, and thus has no functional calories. Like both its cousins, it was discovered by accident, in 1976, by Kings College graduate student Shashikant Phadnis, who misheard an order to “test” the compound as one to “taste” it. The chemical was approved for use as a general purpose sweetener by the FDA in 1999. As with all synthetic additives, controversy followed, but no one has yet to pin down any definitive negative effects of sucralose on human health.

Thus concludes our journey through the world of artificial sweeteners. This is an old business; even the ancient Romans used lead acetate as a wine and fruit sweetener (that didn’t turn out well). So next time you drink a soda, look at the ingredients label. You may be living closer to the world of synthetic chemistry than you thought.
It’s the best advice I never took: “Get to know your professors.” For years people have been telling me so, and for years I have studiously ignored them. Never mind that my family, friends and even the professors themselves have encouraged me to forge bonds with the men and women entrusted to educate me. I resisted. And then, unbeknownst to me, and certainly not of my own volition, it happened. And if I’m being perfectly honest, I wish I’d relented years ago.

Professor George Greenia cannot be reduced to words, but I will try my damnedest- verbal confines aside- to do just that. He’s a specialist in the Middle Ages, an art exhibition curator, a pilgrim, a comedian in multiple languages, an arguable Spanish knight, an editor of three literary publications, the author of a textbook, and on and on and on…

He also happens to be my professor. Since my sophomore year I have consistently taken courses taught by Professor Greenia and consistently loved them. It wasn’t until my senior year, however, that I grew to know him personally.

To be frank I groaned when, as a requisite for my Hispanic Studies senior seminar, Professor Greenia organized office hours with each of his students individually. Not only was my outline shoddy, my thesis hazy, and my Spanish faltering on that particular Friday afternoon, but I also had to wade my way through 20 agonizing minutes of legitimizing my mess of a research project face-to-face with Professor Greenia. The word “mortifying” comes to mind when I recall that afternoon. Dragging my heels, I bid my friends goodbye and walked into Washington Hall overcome with a feeling of imminent doom.

Professor Greenia beamed at me, greeted me warmly and insisted I sit down and enjoy a chocolate or two with him before we got down to business. I did as I was told and proceeded to have the most pleasant and productive 20 minutes I could have ever imagined.

Together we read through my weak attempt at an outline and he furnished it with enough of his brilliance to make it somewhat coherent. Shockingly, he liked my ideas, however sparse they were. He had every opportunity to criticize me, point out how shamefully unprepared I was, belittle my already modest outline and tell me what a slacker of a senior I was. He did no such thing. I walked out of his office that day imbued with a newfound hope in humanity- and in nice professors- but moreover a hope in undertaking a project that was suddenly less daunting.

I venture to say that many if not all of Professor Greenia’s students could relate similar stories to you. His lectures laced with humor- sometimes somewhat inappropriate, always hysterical- and his litany of accolades and honors have earned him a name on the William and Mary campus, and around the world. In 2007 he was named the William and Mary Advisor of the Year for his dedication to guiding students, likely as scattered as me, to pursue success. Verging on the incredible, that same year he was recognized by Juan Carlos I, the current king of Spain, with the Isabel the Catholic award, the highest honor for the study and dissemination of Spanish culture, for his work in researching, writing and publishing La corónica, a research journal of Spanish Medieval studies. Suffice it to say, he was nearly knighted.

When Professor Greenia is not busy winning the undying admiration from students such as myself, he edits American Pilgrim, the magazine he founded about the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Spain. One of his courses, Pilgrimage in Spain, offers students...
a five-week adventure in which Professor Greenia takes his students walking 500 miles through the Spanish countryside and following the footsteps of the Spanish pilgrims themselves. While thumbing through the pages of a textbook for his HS305 Advanced Composition and Grammar course, I was surprised to discover Professor Greenia’s name on the cover. I should know by now to expect nothing less.

So just how does one accrue a life of such achievement? To convince myself that he is human after all, I asked Professor Greenia about his life prior to William and Mary and worldwide fame. Born in Michigan, he entered a Franciscan seminary school in Wisconsin at age 14, where he developed an appreciation for language. Exposure to and critical study of texts both Biblical and secular piqued his interest in language, the documentation of language through writing, and the preservation of writing throughout history. Professor Greenia considers his language-intensive curriculum in the seminary a precursor to his lifetime studies of Medieval Spanish literature. In his early 20s he opted to part with the seminary and enroll in Marquette University in Milwaukee. There he racked up an astounding 188 credits, 3 majors-Spanish, Latin and Theology, two minors- Philosophy and Education, and teacher certification in the high school levels of Latin and Spanish. Needless to say, he was a far cry from the reluctantly studious coed that I am.

Professor Greenia has spent the past 27 years teaching at the College, and, in his own words, he would happily “take 27 more.” His staying power established, Greenia exemplifies all that is good about higher education: he effervesces scholarship and is as passionate about learning as are his students, and for the skeptics among us he frames his lectures with humor and flair to make the learning process more palatable. I jokingly refer to his HS 305 course as “Spanish boot camp” because it entailed daily written work and mandatory class participation at the grim hour of 9:30 in the morning. As much as I bemoaned certain aspects, overall I emerged from the course a significantly better speaker of Spanish and gave my friends an earful about Professor Greenia, his antics and captivating charm. I was converted.

In Spanish, the diminutive form of a word indicates either a miniature form of the object it signifies, or endearment. Though not a man of towering stature, when I call Professor Greenia simply “Profe” I refer to him endearingly. For me, a girl certain she had missed out on the chance to get to know her professors, I use the term as nonchalantly as that of a hypocrite- I guess I did get to know one. Because they, too, are people after all.

Students spend five weeks with Greenia traversing the Spanish countryside in the footsteps of pilgrims. Photo courtesy of George Greenia.

Growing up, Greenia attended seminary school and then Marquette University, where he earned three majors, two minors, as well as Latin and Spanish teacher certifications. Photo by Jalakoi Solomon.

He’s a specialist in the Middle Ages, an art exhibition curator, a pilgrim, a comedian in multiple languages, an arguable Spanish knight, an editor of three literary publications,...
A Random Assortment of Five Best Things

BEST OF'S

FIVE BEST WAYS TO KICK OFF THE SPRING SEASON

» MEGAN GRADY, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

Picnic
Spring is the perfect time of year to pack up a picnic lunch with your significant other or a group of friends. Campus offers the Sunken Gardens and Lake Matoaka as prime picnic locations, or venture into Colonial Williamsburg to the Governor’s Palace lawn and other back street locations. If you’re feeling adventurous (and have a car), try Jamestown or Yorktown beach.

Go-Kart/ Mini-Golf
Williamsburg offers both Go-Karts Plus and Pirate’s Cove Mini-Golf for springtime activities. Both will get you off campus and let you spend time outside with friends. They are relatively low-priced, and you can grab Sno-To-Go on your way back from either!

Amusement Parks
Busch Gardens reopens for its summer season on March 28 and it’s only a bus ride away! If you’re looking for something more thrilling, travel up to Kings Dominion, which holds bigger coasters and more exciting rides. It’s better to go in the spring before it gets too hot and waiting in line is miserable.

Explore Colonial History
If you’re a history buff, you’re in the perfect place: Yorktown, Jamestown and Williamsburg all have a lot to offer. Remember you get free admittance into CW with a flash of your student ID. If you’re brave enough to go off DoG Street, try some other lesser-known sites like Bassett Hall, Rockefeller’s Williamsburg home.

Prime Outlets
If you have bad allergies but still want to enjoy the outdoors a little, take a walk around the Outlets. They offer a variety of stores in an outdoor mall, so you can enjoy the nice spring warmth without having to be outside constantly. Plus, updating a spring wardrobe never hurt anyone.

FIVE BEST THINGS TO DO FOR ST. PATRICK’S DAY

» MEGAN GRADY, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

Don’t Forget to Wear Green
If you forget to wear green on St. Patty’s, you are in for a pretty miserable day. People will pinch you constantly and that just gets annoying after a while. So even if it is just your socks, make sure there is something green on your body. It shouldn’t be too hard – just show some Tribe Pride.

Act Irish
Take this as you will. Whether it means speaking in an Irish accent all day (like “talk like a pirate day”) or going out for a night full of Guinness, do whatever you please. Being Irish is a fun experience for all.

Watch Movies About the Irish
A personal favorite of mine is “Waking Ned Devine” about a small town celebrating a big lottery win with a comic edge. And if you’re not up for humor, try something with a sub-plot about Irish-Americans like “The Departed”. A final suggestion: a straight-up Irish movie like “The Commitments” which chronicles an Irish soul band.

Eat Potatoes
When you think of Ireland, what comes to mind? Beer, potatoes and leprechauns! The most plausible of these for your average college student celebrating on a Tuesday night would be potatoes. Eat them as you please – baked, mashed, scalloped, etc. If you’re feeling brave, you might even add some green food dye to the mix.

Kiss Someone Irish
This should be easy since the majority of the Anglo population in America has a wee bit of Irish in them (or claims so). If you are Irish, please wear a sign saying “Kiss me, I’m Irish” to make it easy for those of us who struggle while searching for Irish lads and lasses. If this makes you uncomfortable, you’re missing the true fun spirit of the Irish.
FIVE BEST DISNEY MOVIES
» CAITI HALL, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

The Lion King
Really, it’s not even a question. The Lion King is pretty much the best of the best. Crazy hyenas and an evil uncle? It doesn’t get much better. And with James Earl Jones as the voice of Mufasa, you can’t go wrong. We can’t wait for you to be king either, Simba.

Toy Story
Disney’s first collaboration with Pixar is, by far, one of its most memorable. It also has thousands of children convinced that their toys come to life when they’re not in the room. It shows that even mortal enemies (Woody and Buzz) can become great friends in the face of grave danger. Sid is every toy’s worst nightmare, and Buzz and Woody come together—what a great message.

Aladdin
After seeing this, who didn’t want a pet monkey AND a pet tiger? The best part of the movie is definitely Robin Williams as Genie. He also ad-libbed so many of his lines in the movie that the film was turned down for the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. But, we’re willing to forgive him.

Peter Pan
He’s a boy who could fly, he has a fairy, and he lives by himself in the coolest tree-house ever. How can we not love Peter Pan? He also owns Captain Hook. Peter Pan should never have to grow up… he just wouldn’t be the same.

WALL-E
For a movie that contains all of fifty words, it certainly is memorable. And really, you don’t even notice that the words aren’t really there because of the excellence of visual story telling. WALL-E is the most personable robot in semi-animated movie history.

FIVE BEST NON-SPRING BREAK IDEAS
» CAITI HALL, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

Take a Service Trip
With spring service trips taking you everywhere from Honduras to Tanzania to right here in Williamsburg, it’s a great way to see parts of the world you wouldn’t normally get to see, and you get to do wonderful things in the process.

Road Trip
No, not your stereotypical spring break “road trip” to a warm, beachy location. Go somewhere you have never been for the sole purpose of the journey. You may have a burning desire to eat at every Waffle House on a certain part of the East Coast. Now would be the perfect time to ease that desire.

Washington D.C.
If you’re going to be staying in Williamsburg, why not take a couple days and explore our nation’s capital? Between the gorgeous architecture, rich history, museums and renowned night life, it’ll hardly be a decision you regret making.

New York City
If you’ve got a little more time and some more money, why not? Everyone needs to at least experience “the city so nice they named it twice.” If nothing else, it’ll certainly create memories that won’t soon be forgotten.

Stay Right Here Where You Are
Really, you should. It’s cheap, non-stressful (hopefully) and really easy to organize. You can watch the Food Network all day long. You can sleep all you want, and put off work if you really feel like it. It’s the easiest thing to do, yet students at the College sometimes have a hard time just sitting back and doing nothing. Do it. Embrace it. Love it.
Global Films Come to Campus

» KRITIKA SHARMA, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

Something big is coming our way. Does the phrase global film event ring a bell? Maybe you remember the first annual global film event to grace campus – “When the Movies Come to Town: Williamsburg and Film History”.

Maybe you remember strolling through Colonial Williamsburg and seeing life-size cutouts of King Kong outside of the Kimball Theater. The King Kong cutouts were just one of the many attractions that were featured at the film event. The screenings took place around campus and the Williamsburg community and included films and speakers centered on the history of the Kimball Theater.

A second annual global film series event kicked off on January 7, led by Professor Timothy Barnard, a visiting American Studies and English professor. It is also co-sponsored by the Williamsburg Regional Library, William and Mary’s Reves Center for International Studies, the Charles Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, the Film Studies Program and Alma Mater Productions (AMP).

You might have already seen posters for film screenings around campus for this year’s global film event and know that it will explore the theme of migration. Prevalent in today’s society, the theme of migration is one pertinent to many and one sure to appeal to a diverse group of people.

Caitlin Clements (’11), one of the festival organizers in Professor Barnard’s class, explains: “This festival is a great asset to the campus…it gives students the chance to see films from all over the world that they might not otherwise have access to- or even know existed. On top of that, to have the directors and actors responsible for these films right here in Williamsburg, to give us their thoughts on their work, is an opportunity like no other. Best of all, everything is completely free of charge and accessible to everyone.”

The event’s website further informs the visitor about exploring the issue of migration in this year’s global film event: “What is the relationship between migration and film? How has film helped us understand and respond to the role of migration in shaping modern lives? How nationally, and globally? These questions motivate the theme of William and Mary’s second annual Global/Local Film Event.”

Whereas last year’s film festival explored Williamsburg, this year’s festival broadens its scope and takes on the entire world. However, like last year, the Global Film and Migration Series features movies around campus and the Williamsburg community: the Williamsburg Regional Library Theater, the Kimball Theater, Merchant Square, the Tucker Theater and the Sadler Center. The series of film screenings will culminate in a very exciting weekend in March: the Global Film and Migration series film festival from March 19th until the 22nd.

Planning such a massive event was no easy task. To adequately prepare the festivities for the film festival, Professor Barnard reached out to William and Mary’s primary campus-wide programming board, AMP, to come up with activities that would appeal to a diverse group of people.

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students. AMP’s Film and Contemporary and Cultural Committees worked to come up with the events.

The first night of the festival, March 19, will include a reception, a presentation and a film screening to take place in the Williamsburg Library Theater. The speaker for the presentation has not yet been determined.

Friday, March 20 features the festival reception. Following a series of short films about immigrants in Italy, the festival reception will take place in the Kimball Theater at 5:30 p.m. After the reception, there will be two film screenings, each of which will be presented by the film’s director, who will stick around for a question-and-answer session after the movie.

Imitating Friday’s format of events, there will be two movie screenings and a presentation for excerpts of a movie on Saturday, March 21. Director Miguel Coyula will present excerpts from the unedited version of the Cuban movie Memorias del desarrollo, or Memories of Underdevelopment. The movie will follow film screenings of the American Tail, The Immigrant, and the Memorias del Subdesarrollo or Memories of Underdevelopment.

Following the screening of the excerpts will be a filmmakers’ roundtable in the Sadler Center’s Commonwealth Auditorium, featuring directors Emanuele Crialese, Miguel Coyula and Yamina Benguigui and actor and musician Eszter Balint.

Balingt will also present the final event of the night, possibly with a surprise guest: the movie Stranger than Paradise.

The final day will continue to draw on the film presentation and post Q&A session structure of the film screenings. French-Algerian director Yamina Benguigui will present two movies: Le plafond de verre or The Glass Ceiling and Inch’Allah Dimanche. In between the two screenings, there will be another filmmaker and film screening, each of which is to be determined.

After the final screening, at 9:30 p.m., actor and musician Eszter Balint will reappear on stage, but this time not by herself. She will perform at Lodge 1 with her band to wrap up the film event during the After the Movies: Migration Music and New Media event. The opening act will feature the band Guarco.

Clements highlights the strength of the festival, the community feel: “The festival is going to be a really great event - it will be exciting to see William and Mary students and Williamsburg citizens alike all mingling and coming together for the events held that weekend.”

AMP Films Committee Chair, Guiliana Morales (’10) echoes Clements’ words and elaborates, “AMP members are really excited about this event. Our college has always been concerned over major global issues and migration has been an issue in our history since its inception. It’s still a prevalent issue in our community today.”

Though we are living amidst this prevalent social concern, the festival weekend will give us the means to understand how others perceive and portray the theme. If you need more information about the series or specific details about the festival, check out http://globalfilmfestival.wmblogs.net/.

Mark your calendars, because March 19-22 will be an action-packed weekend you are not going to want to miss.
Republican Party Looks for A Comeback in Virginia

TIMMY SIVERD, DSJ STAFF COLUMNIST

It certainly is not a secret that the past few months have not been spectacular for the GOP. In that time, they suffered a crushing defeat in the presidential election, bled seats in the House and Senate and most recently, were unable to block a stimulus bill to which they were staunchly opposed (all but three of them, that is).

However, Republicans have not spent this time simply licking their wounds; rather, they have set their sights on the next big prizes—this year’s gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia. Considering New Jersey is solid-blue territory (though unpopular Governor John Corzine is leaving the door open for Republicans to make that race competitive), the eyes and hopes of Republicans across the nation are set squarely on Virginia.

Fortunately, the Virginia GOP, which is running its strongest ticket in recent memory, is not likely to disappoint. The following is a brief synopsis of my take on the three statewide races.

Governor Nominee: Bob McDonnell

Simply put, Bob McDonnell is exactly the type of candidate the Republican Party needs. He is a proven winner, having been elected seven times to the House of Delegates and once to Attorney General, all without a single defeat.

He has consistently fought for the conservative values so essential to Republicans and, accordingly, they have rewarded him by consistently turning out to vote and keep him in office.

McDonnell is also in a particularly advantageous situation in this election. Republicans have already begun to rally and unite around his candidacy, as he lacks a legitimate challenger. Democrats, on the other hand, have an intriguing three-way battle between Creigh Deeds, Brian Moran and Terry McAuliffe.

Early head-to-head polling is also very favorable for McDonnell, as (at the time of writing) he tops each of his potential Democratic rivals by at least three points; Moran is his closest challenger, with McDonnell ahead 39 percent-36 percent, while McDonnell holds much more comfortable margins over McAuliffe (42 percent-35 percent) and Deeds (39 percent-30 percent).

McDonnell is well ahead even in the public opinion polls. Fifty percent of voters view him favorably, with only 18 percent viewing him unfavorably. Comparing that with the Democrats’ significantly lower approval ratings (30 percent for Deeds, 32 percent for Moran, 34 percent for McAuliffe) and noticeably higher unfavorable ratings (29 percent, 33 percent and 39 percent, respectively), Republicans should be extremely confident in McDonnell’s candidacy.

The race is clearly very important to the GOP: Republican heavyweights across the country are lending a hand to McDonnell’s cause.

The McDonnell-Bolling ticket will certainly be a formidable one over the next 10 months.

Likely Nominee: Current Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling

Bolling has remained extremely popular among conservatives, and he has been widely admired for his decision to seek re-election as Lieutenant Governor rather than challenge McDonnell for Governor, a move he made for the betterment of the Republican Party. After presiding over what will (hopefully) be another successful legislative session in Richmond, Bolling should have a great deal of momentum by November.

The McDonnell-Bolling ticket will certainly be a formidable one over the next 10 months.

Attorney General

Endorsed Nominee: Ken Cuccinelli

Ken Cuccinelli, though currently locked in a three-way primary race with John Brownlee and Dave Foster, is precisely the candidate needed by Republicans to complete their star-studded line-up for this year’s statewide elections.

Cuccinelli is the last of a dying breed—Republicans representing Northern Virginia. In fact, out of eight Northern Virginia state senators, Cuccinelli is the lone Republican. He has been elected to represent the 37th District (Fairfax County) in the state Senate three times in a solidly-blue district, despite being outspent each time. He clearly has strong grassroots support and has proven his ability to win elections.

In the Senate, Cuccinelli has championed traditional conservative values, notably, Second Amendment Rights, Property Rights and the pro-life movement. His candidacy has been endorsed by Mike Huckabee, proof that he has the respect and confidence of Republicans nationwide. His record, both on the issues and on getting elected, speaks for itself. He is the perfect Republican candidate if the GOP is looking for to sweep statewide offices in 2009.

Timmy Siverd is a staff columnist for the DSJ. His views do not necessarily represent those of the entire staff.
The Not So Changing Face of Politics

Brandon Nichols, DSJ Staff Columnist

Cooperation is far from a novel idea, but it is a difficult concept for some to grasp. While growing up, I learned about the importance of working in groups to achieve a common goal. In fact, that was the point of group projects. It was not a subterfuge on the part of our teachers to have fewer papers to grade or presentations to sit through—it was an exercise in cooperation and compromise.

There are certain advantages to working in a group. You get the benefit of new ideas and perspectives. We all come from diverse backgrounds and, thus, bring different experiences to a group setting. While no one group member will be right 100 percent of the time, the group can come to consensus over which ideas to implement.

Overall, we reach more efficient outcomes when we work in groups. But working in groups is not always pleasant—it requires effort for a group to succeed. There are the groups that fall victim to groupthink, when everyone in the group merely agrees with the leader as not to appear disagreeable.

Groupthink leads to stale ideas, no progress and sometimes even catastrophe. We also have, on the other end of the spectrum, groups that are divided—for any number of reasons—and, as a result, cannot accomplish their goals. This incessant bickering and power struggle leads the group to collapse.

But why is any of this important?

Recently, the United States Congress passed an economic stimulus bill that will (hopefully) put us on the track to recovery. But the way the Congress approved the package was, for lack of a better term, a circus.

We could turn this into a forum about what the package should consist of—depending on your political leanings you will definitely have your share of opinions. For that matter, given what school of economic thought you belong to, you may say that we should not have a stimulus package at all because the market will fix itself if left to its own devices.

I instead want to talk about the internal strife plaguing our politics.

When Barack Obama was on the campaign trail he promised that, if elected President, it would not be politics as usual, and on November 4th, we decided that politics as usual was not for us. We wanted a government that worked for us, so we elected Obama to serve as the nation’s 44th President.

Shortly after entering office, he began working on a stimulus package to aid our ailing economy. While no Republicans were needed to pass the bill due to the solid Democratic majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, President Obama stayed true to his word and reached across the aisle by seeking counsel from Republican leaders.

Obama listened to the Republicans and amended the bill. But when the time came for the House to vote, not one Republican voted for the bill (in the Senate only 3 Republicans voted for it).

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Obama fought for a bipartisan bill, but Republicans decided not to make a bipartisan effort. Some speculate that it was a Republican ploy to build political capital—an immunity against the possible failure of the bill. Is this really what our politicians should worry about now? Political capital? We need solutions for our problems, not a stagnant government.

What does any of this have to do with us? Right now, the economy is the most pressing issue on Congress’ plate and our representatives cannot put aside their partisan bickering long enough to effectively put out a plan. The College is losing money every month because of the economic hardships that the nation, and as a result individual states, are facing.

Soon, only 11 percent of our budget will be funded by state. This means less funding for the programs and endeavors that make us competitive. Professors lose incentives to stay, especially if competing universities can offer higher salaries.

Seniors, too, are trying to secure a job in this economy. Economic uncertainties have caused employers to initiate hiring freezes, making job searching even more difficult.

These are just a few of the problems that Congress’s squabbling is not helping to solve. If we can barely trust Congress to solve our pressing economic situation, can we trust it to solve any of our other problems?

We do not want our political leaders to simply build political capital. We want them to do their job, to put aside their differences and solve problems.

Republican Senator Susan Collins from Maine said it best: “The American people don’t want to see partisan gridlock. They don’t want to see us divided and fighting. They want to see us working together to solve the most important crisis facing our country.”

Brandon Nichols is a staff columnist for the DSJ. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the entire staff.
Sitting across from me in Tribe Athletic sweats and a brown Toronto Blue Jays hat, which is cocked slightly to one side, Derek Cox is smiling. His feet are both raised and stretched on the table that sits between us, and his eyes never break from mine. Cox exudes confidence; in no way does his body language hint towards the chip on his shoulder that defines his unrelenting pursuit of athletic improvement. But his words deceive him. They reveal just a hint of his aggravation at the want for appreciation that has plagued Cox’s career. And they convey with absolute certainty that defeat is not an option any more.

The drive from the historic triangle of Virginia, where the College of William and Mary has been nestled for over 300 years, to the Commonwealth’s capital in Richmond takes a little over an hour. That trip, made twice daily, six times a week, accounts for over 12 hours of Derek Cox’s week.

Sometimes, Cox’s teammate and co-captain Jake Phillips makes the trip with him. Others, Cox drives north alone. Regardless, his life is all football all the time. As a red-shirt senior, he has completed almost all of his credits already for graduation; he takes those he still needs at night or in the morning to allow him practice time from 11:30-5:30 every day.

“Right now, it’s strictly business for me,” Cox said. “Training, eating right, making sure I get my rest. It’s football day in and day out. Even on the weekends, there’s the interview process. There’s no hanging out for me. That’s for another seven weeks, four of training and then two or three of pro days. For me, I’m doing whatever I can and not letting anything get in my way. When I look back on this process, I want to look back and have no regrets. Whatever they tell me to eat, I’m eating. However many hours of sleep they want me to have, I’m getting them. It’s strictly business.”

Training for Cox consists of a very specific regimen of improving his measurable skills. NFL scouts look for a specific set of attributes in potential draftees. Cox’s trainer, who is considered a pro-workout expert, has advised him on exactly what he needs to focus on and how he needs to improve to get noticed.

“In Richmond I have a trainer that specializes in speed, power, acceleration, reaction and quickness,” Cox said. “He’s generally teaching us the minor tweaks and nuances that you have to make to prepare yourself for the 40-yard dash, the shuttle, three-cone drill, 60-yard shuttle, vertical jump, broad jump and the bench-press max.”

These drills closely mirror those which college players partake in at the NFL combine. This invitational, held in the middle of February, features many of the most notable players from across the country. Approximately 330 NFL draft entrants were invited. Not among them, however, was Derek Cox.

“Stuff like that doesn’t even faze me,” Cox said. “It’s been like that for me in general. Stuff like that has happened my entire career.”

This snub is just one in a long line of under-appreciation that has plagued Cox.

“Ideally, most players that play college football envision themselves playing at a big 1-A school. That’s how I envisioned myself, at some big school, [like] East Carolina University. I thought I’d be playing at UNC, East Carolina or Wake Forest. That didn’t happen. I know that I am capable of playing at the 1-A level. Sometimes you just don’t get that recognition, [and] it just keeps you hungry. Things like that, they don’t faze
me at all. I've always faced that. I've always missed out on the glamour."

Even in the Football Championship Subdivision and his own conference, Cox has been overlooked. This year, he was selected only to the CAA’s second-team All-Conference team. His four touchdowns and his dominance, not only as a defensive back but also as a punt returner, seemed to suggest he was deserving of a first-team nod. Compared to first teamers Evan McCollough of James Madison and Courtney Robinson of UMass, Cox had more interceptions, touchdowns and tackles.

"I was aiming for first team, and not getting it, well, it’s just another thing you shrug off," Cox said. "I think I deserve more recognition than I got, but I didn’t, and you move on."

Despite being underestimated by bigger schools and under-recognized by his conference, Cox’s stats speak for themselves. He was the Tribe’s leading punt returner, averaging 16.4 yards per return, and scoring on two out of his 12 returns. He also led the team in interceptions, with four, and in touchdowns by a defensive player, with two. He led the team in pass break-ups and tackles.

In the CAA Conference, Cox’s numbers hold up just as well. While he is seventh in total interceptions, his two returns for touchdowns are tied for best in the league. His return numbers are comparatively even more prolific. Of qualifying returners, he easily has the highest average return, the second most touchdowns, and the third most yards—all despite having 19 fewer returns than the league’s leading returner.

Cox’s elusiveness with the ball is hard to ignore. His 80-yard punt return for a touchdown in the Tribe’s heartbreaking loss to Richmond in the 2008 season was one of the key sparks that helped push the game to overtime. This skill is something that will only help his potential draftability. NFL scouts value versatility almost as much as they do speed, and Cox’s tendency towards being a defensive playmaker is a testament to both. Last year, Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, a defensive back from Football Championship Subdivision Tennessee State, was drafted in the second round after running an impressive 40-yard dash time and wooing scouts with his speed and return turn skills. Should Cox, at William and Mary’s pro day on March 23, run a comparable time in the 40-yard dash, he could very well hear his name called in the NFL draft.

"The big selling point is the 40-yard dash," said Cox. "How fast can you run the 40? My best 40 in Richmond was a 4.34. It’s pretty solid. For myself, no NFL teams have an official 40 time on me. If I get clocked at a 4.34 or lower, that’s the big ticket really. Teams want to know can you play at the NFL speed. Speed kills, and if you got speed, they’ll find something for you."

With Cox’s appreciation for speed, and his prowess as a defensive back, it is not surprising that his favorite NFL player is Ed Reed. A safety for the Baltimore Ravens, Reed is known as one of the most hawk-ish defensive backs and one of the most elusive if and when he intercepts a pass.

"Ed Reed, just, it’s just fascinating when he gets his hands on the ball," said Cox. "He gets it done when he gets his hands on the ball. We sit around and watch YouTube clips of him in college and the NFL, and he’s amazing. Not only does he have good ball skills, comes up and supports the run, and makes good tackles too. He’s a well rounded player. I love to watch him play."

When Cox speaks about the game, his eyes light up. Throughout the conversation, he occasionally becomes animated, sometimes using his hands to haul in the interception about which he speaks or juking slightly in his seat to evade a tackle during a return. Questions about his future or past bring long, thoughtful answers, while questions about his play evoke an immediate response. There is no doubt that playing football is living the dream for Derek Cox.

"Exciting isn’t even the right word to describe this," Cox said. "Not only am I doing this for myself, I’m doing this for all of the coaches I’ve ever had. I’m doing this to make my friends proud, my family proud, I’m doing this for all of the guys who could be here, who had that potential, for the guys I’m training with right now. It’s bigger than just me. This is something you always dream of. I can remember watching football games when I was younger, and thinking, ‘someday I’ll be there.’ And it’s finally right there in front of me."

The NFL, for college football players every-
You see one whenever you go to the Rec Center. You want one so bad you’d even consider breaking the honor code to get one (although you’d never really act on that impulse). Yet you can’t deny it—this flash of green evokes envy in even the most righteous College student. They are the coveted Intramural Champions t-shirts. While the rise in intramural participation has occurred for many reasons—love of the game, bonding with hall-mates, a fun way to stay in shape—the quest to wear the t-shirt of champions is what keeps many teams coming back year after year.

The greatest increases in participation in pursuit of the green tee have been seen in Flag Football and Five-on-Five Basketball. During the 2007 season, there were only seven leagues with a limited amount of teams in each playing flag football. This past season, with the addition of two more leagues and several new teams, game times as late as 12 a.m. were scheduled to accommodate all who wanted to play. For IM Basketball, the difference is even more dramatic, with 9 leagues and 79 teams last spring compared to 15 leagues this year and 97 teams in total.

“I’ve definitely seen a boom in participation during the time I’ve been here,” said intramural supervisor Joseph Mark. “I’m sure the new Rec Center has helped… It’s always funny to see old binders in Joe Tighe’s office for basketball and volleyball in Adair before we had the MAC and Miller Gym. Having 100+ flag football and basketball teams this year is a testament to all the hard work done by Joe [Tighe] and Heather [Ireland] with the intramural program. They somehow find a way to schedule all the games, and they’ve done a great job recently marketing the program.”

Tighe, the Assistant Director of Intramurals, started working in the Recreational Sports Department at the College in 1988. With a wealth of knowledge behind him and an avid love of sports guiding the way, Tighe has brought the intramural program to what it is today. Ireland serves as Joe’s second-in-command as the Graduate Assistant for the program. Heather, also an avid sports fan, is currently pursuing a Masters in Higher Education Administration after graduating from the College in 2008. Much of their time is spent managing schedules and creating a structured environment where friendly competition can prosper for athletes of all skill levels.

Yet this friendly competition is not always easy to maintain among all teams—especially when rival fraternities meet or graduate students face off against a freshman hall. “During the playoffs, when we move to single-elimination for teams, competition can get a little more heated,” said Ireland. “But that is why we have the sportsmanship ratings. Participants are reminded at the beginning of each game that it is just an intramural game and that they will be rated on their sportsmanship throughout the game, so they can remember that and tone themselves down if need be during play.” Referees, who are also students, rate each team at the end of each game. On a system of one to five, any score
below a three warrants a second look from Ireland and Tighe to discuss the future of the offending team. “Overall, though we rarely have many issues with sportsmanship though, which is one of the reasons I think people are still so willing to participate in intramurals,” Ireland said.

There are a variety of teams that come out to participate in the various intramural seasons. Some teams seen season after season include the Toon Squad, the Dream Team and the Flying Squirrels (the Rec Sports staff intramural team). One other team notable if not simply for their team name is the “PBJ Crunchwrap.” There are also the traditional team names of fraternities, sororities, freshman halls and grad schools.

Michael Anthony Raj, a member of one of the newest teams to intramural basketball—MBA, serves as an example of many athletes who come out to play simply for the love of the game and enjoyment of their teammates. “I am from India,” he said. “While studying there, I usually played a lot of games such as cricket, volleyball, ping-pong, etc. I have never played basketball. One of my classmates was forming a team for basketball; I thought it will be great to play with my classmates. Intramurals is a great opportunity to play with students from other departments.”

As with anything, there are still always improvements to be made to the program. The largest however, is financial support, and with the recent budget cuts, there is not much to be done. “Some things haven’t changed much though, I still see a lot of the same faces as I did freshman year when I started out,” said Mark. “The sheds on the IM fields still need some WD-40, the softball gloves that are provided are really only suitable for catching acorns, the footballs are still generally hard as rocks, and I’m pretty sure some of the hockey sticks haven’t been replaced since 1693.” But intramural athletes do not play for the access to stellar equipment. They play to have fun. They play to win.

But the intramural program continues to constantly evolve and adapt to the needs and interests of the community. “The intramural staff does try to be open to the interests and suggestions of the participants,” Ireland said. “We do our best to structure the games in a fashion that is both easy to enjoy, but also fosters that sense of fun competition. We tried to do that with basketball this year by stopping the clock at the end of the first half as well as the second half, rather than just in the last two minutes of the game as it has been.” These structural improvements make intramural games exciting for all.

And what else keeps players like Mark coming back year after year?

“Intramurals are exercise, fun, and friends rolled into one activity,” said Ireland. “Who wouldn’t want to be a part of that?”

“Love and Basketball,” he joked. “Actually, we’ve had some pretty rough times in basketball in the past, so hopefully that’ll turn around this year. The championship t-shirts always have a slight magnetic property to them, but I just love sports and I love being able to do it with all the people I’ve come to know here at William and Mary. With all the schoolwork and other extracurricular activities that everyone at this school does, it’s hard sometimes to find time to see everyone you want to and I find that IM Sports is a great way to get everyone together at least once a week. It also allows me to bring friends from all my different circles together. Two-thirds of our floor hockey team this year didn’t know each other before the season started but we ended up being a really tight-knit team. Nothing beats that.”

Popular upcoming seasons include Outdoor Soccer and Volleyball – entries close Feb. 25 and March 18, respectively.

“Intramurals are exercise, fun, and friends rolled into one activity,” said Ireland. “Who wouldn’t want to be a part of that?”
The recent news of Alex Rodriguez’s positive steroids test from the 2003 baseball season has elicited a wide variety of emotions from sports fans. These ranged from sadness and anger to perhaps a vengeful confirmation to doubters and haters of A-Rod and the sport of baseball. And who could really blame them, as baseball has seemingly spiraled into an era full of clamor for asterisks and transparency. And while Rodriguez’s actions are inexcusable, several points must be taken into consideration before labeling Rodriguez as a vile human being deserving permanent exile in the deepest depths of purgatory.

Imagine being presented with the situation in which you had the answers to all of your exams and could get away with it. Get straight A’s, a shot at entrance to all grad schools you applied to, and top executives parked on your doorstep just waiting to offer you jobs. Many assuredly would claim they wouldn’t do it, that hard work would prevail. But what if then you find out that all exams are now curved so that half the class fails; only the best survive. The Dean of Students tells you that you can have the answers at no cost or penalty. So you take the answers.

This is the closest analogy I can draw to the recent uncovering of Alex Rodriguez’s steroid case. In 2003, there was no punishment for taking performance-enhancing drugs. In a sense, Rodriguez cheated on a test when there was no penalty for doing so, and got away with it. Was it unethical? Unfair? Absolutely. Alex Rodriguez used performance-enhancing drugs in order to gain an unwarranted advantage over his competition. It was wrong. But then again, these results were never supposed to come out. The players union agreed to the experimental testing with the agreement that all testing would be done anonymously. In fact, has a single other of the 104 positive samples from the 2003 testing been singled out by name? If this occurred in a court of law, the evidence would be declared null and void. Alex Rodriguez stated that his decision was selfish, that he wanted to prove that he belonged beside the greatest names of all time. In the end, his ego got the best of him.

An interesting comparison worth making is that of steroids to the spitball of the early 1900s. Ed Walsh pitched for the Chicago White Sox and Boston Braves from 1904-1917 and retired with the best career ERA in Major League history (1.82). He made a living dominating the American League on the strength of his spitball. Ironically, the demise of the spitball occurred when “owners greedily sold out on home runs,” as described by Ty Cobb in his autobiography. Walsh was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1946. Many now consider the Hall of Fame a long shot for Alex Rodriguez.

Alex Rodriguez was supposed to move us past Mark McGwire’s speech to congress that he wasn’t there to talk about the past. He was supposed to get us past Barry Bonds breaking Hank Aaron’s all-time home run record and then later admitting to unknowingly taking “the clear” and “the cream”. Many have lost faith in Rodriguez and Major League baseball as a whole. It’s a shame. But don’t blame this all on Rodriguez. The players’ union should be shamed by allowing the results of these tests to leak. They had the chance to destroy the samples after they were examined, which they contractually agreed to do, and chose not to do.

The owners and commissioner of baseball, Bud Selig, should have come up with stronger deterrents for the use of performance enhancing drugs, as opposed to the 50 day suspension for first time offenders that was not put in place until well after the suspicion of steroid use first arose many years ago. Ozzie Guillen, manager of the Chicago White Sox, spoke out against steroids, proclaiming that if anyone on his team was caught using them, he would essentially rip them to shreds, to put it gently. Baseball needs a new hero, an ethical and moral figure. Who knew it would be the racial-slurring, foul-mouthed Guillen we would agree with. Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio, a nation turns its lonely eyes to you…
Pints for the College
Stop Complaining and Start Giving

We all know it’s redundant to spend much time rehashing the College’s current financial situation. We know that this time last year, the Commonwealth of Virginia was funding only 18 percent of William and Mary’s operating costs. We know that the second half of 2008 saw several cuts to that state funding, and we know that the most recent decision for the 2010 fiscal year reduced that amount even further, to 11 percent.

We watched the virtual collapse of Wall Street, and we understand that like institutions and individuals across the country, the College has been hit hard by the U.S.’s economic crisis.

All this, we get.

We have also heard by now – over and over again – about the importance of private giving to the College.

In his Dec. 5 e-mail to the William and Mary community, President Reveley re-emphasized that “especially in times like these, annual giving truly matters to William & Mary’s capacity to sustain its core mission.”

We pass signs outside the Campus Center and Sadler Center that measure the progress of fundraising campaigns, and the Class of 2009’s Senior Class Gift Committee persistently asks the almost-graduates to fill out their pledge forms. Students who are really sharp on their Williamsburg history also know that after Congress refused to provide substantial reparation to the College following the Civil War, Benjamin Ewell, the College’s 16th president, reopened William and Mary using his own funds.

We get all this, too. Really.

What isn’t quite understood, however, is the serious disconnect between what William and Mary students and alums know and how they act.

The College’s endowment, for one, not only lags behind several of its rival Virginia schools, but it also ranks at the very low end among over a dozen other colleges considered to be in William and Mary’s peer group.

And while this year’s Senior Class Gift Committee has spent six months on outreach to seniors, so far only 23 percent of the Class of 2009 has pledged that they will give back – even just $5 – to the College after they graduate.

So go ahead, current students and alums – complain about the budget cuts, write letters to the editor of your campus publications and the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Yell about how your professor or the housekeeper isn’t getting a raise. Gripe about how you need more financial aid and better equipment in your physics lab.

But just remember, actions speak louder than words.

William and Mary is a prestigious, selective institution known for its top-notch academic program, yet for such smart people, we’re definitely missing something major here. We know the College is facing a problem, we know one way to address it, but we aren’t following through.

And even in the fallout of the economic crisis, giving money to our alma mater isn’t nearly as hard as we think it is. Take this college-friendly example:

If every member of the Class of 2009 drank two fewer pints of beer (or ate one less order of Paul’s loaded fries – for those seniors out there still holding strong against second semester alcoholism) every weekend for just two years, the combined savings of the 1,350 or so members of the senior class would be over $1.4 million.

2 pints x $5 a pint x 52 weeks in a year x 2 years x 1,350 students = $1,404,000.

If we compare that number to the $3.4 million budget slash that the College made in October 2008 after losing much-needed state support, we see that one class, in just two years, by cutting back just two pints per week, could make up for 41 percent of the October 2008 budget cut.

If one class could make such an enormous impact in two years, imagine what decades and decades of alumni classes could offer the College with continued annual giving.

So quit with the excuses. Yes, you paid the College a lot of money already with your out-of-state tuition. Well, you could have stayed in your own state. Yes, you were bumped from the housing lottery for one year. Well you know, at most schools people want to move off-campus; sorry our dorms are so desirable. Or maybe you hate Williamsburg because it’s too small-town. Well you could have transferred to George Mason; it’s certainly cheaper, and it’s much closer to D.C.

...one class, in just two years, by cutting back just two pints per week could make up for 41 percent of the October 2008 budget cut.

Whatever the reason, there is a reason you’re here and not at some other school, so the next time you hear about budget cuts, private giving, the endowment, the Senior Class Gift, tuition increases, or the possibility of the College going private, think about what that reason is.

Or at least think about it the next time you order a pint of your favorite lager.
Schedule for March:
The Reader (R)
Sun., Mar. 1 - Sun., Mar. 8
Mar. 1, 5 @ 6:30 and 8:45 p.m.
Mar. 2, 4, 6-8 @ 4 and 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 2-5, 8 screening room

Ashes of Time Redux (R)
Fri., Mar. 6 - Wed., Mar. 11 @ 4:30 and 6:45 p.m.
Mar. 6-7, 10 screening room

Last Chance Harvey (PG13)
Tues., Mar. 10 - Sun., Mar. 15 @ 4:15 and 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 11, 13-14 screening room

Waltz With Bashir (R)
Fri., Mar. 13 - Thurs., Mar. 19
Mar. 13-18 @ 4, 5:45 and 7:30 p.m.
Mar. 19 @ 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.
Mar. 15-19 screening room

Two Lovers (R)
Fri., Mar. 20 - Wed., Mar. 25 @ 4:15 and 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 20-24 screening room

Wendy and Lucy (R)
Tues., Mar. 24 - Wed., Apr. 1
Mar. 24-25, 27-Apr. 1 @ 4, 5:30 and 7 p.m.
Mar. 26 @ 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.
Mar. 25-31 screening room

The Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival
My Mexican Siesta (Not rated)
Sat., Mar. 28 and Sun., Mar. 29 @ 7 and 9 p.m.

Che: Part One (Not rated)
Tues., Mar. 31 - Sun., Apr. 5
Mar. 31-Apr. 1, Apr. 5 @ 4:15 and 6:45 p.m.
Apr. 2-4 @ 6:30 and 9 p.m.
Apr. 1-2, 4-5 screening room

Live Performances
Williamsburg Youth Orchestras in Concert
Sun., Mar. 1 @ 4 p.m.
Adults $10, Students $4, under 6 years free

The Williamsburg Symphony Subscription Concert #3
Mon., Mar. 2 and Wed., Mar. 4 @ 8 p.m.
Tickets $42, $30

The College of William and Mary School of Education presents James A. Banks: Human Rights, Diversity, and Citizenship Education in Global Times
Thurs., Mar. 5 @ 7 p.m.
Lecture is free but tickets are required.

The Greater Williamsburg Women's Association and the Williamsburg Symphony present A Concert in Black and White
Sat., Mar. 21 @ 7:30 p.m.
All seats $30

Young Life's Capernaum presents
The Three Jolly Coachmen in Concert
Fri., Mar. 27 @ 7:30 p.m.
All seats $15

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