



— GIFTS THAT CREATED —

WILLIAM & MARY

I write from James Blair Hall, where the president's and provost's offices have taken refuge during preservation work on the venerable Brafferton, which came on line in 1723 and was last restored in the early 1930s. James Blair Hall sits cheek-to-jowl with a formidable statue of the Reverend James Blair.

As I think about this annual report's account of the past year at William & Mary, I am reminded how much we owe the Reverend Blair and others so long ago. It was Blair, with instructions from the General Assembly, who sailed to London in 1691 to pursue a royal charter for a new college in Virginia. He arrived armed with a "match" — pledges of support totaling £3,000 from 42 Virginia planters and clergymen. In 1693, along with the Royal Charter, King William and Queen Mary gave almost £2,000 for construction of the first college building (the Sir Christopher Wren Building), as well as two land grants of 10,000 acres each, one near the James River and the other near the York River, plus other revenue sources, including proceeds from a tobacco export tax and "fees and profits" from the surveyor general's office.

While in London, the intrepid Blair also bagged part of the estate of the renowned scientist Robert Boyle to create and sustain a school for Indian boys at William & Mary. This stream of revenue began in 1697 and continued until the Revolutionary War when the British, irritated, cut us off. The funds had flowed from the annual earnings on property named "Brafferton" in England, which had been acquired by Boyle's estate executors.

Blair succeeded in another philanthropic coup during that same trip. Three pirates — Lionel Wafer, John Hinson and Edward Davis — had been captured in Hampton Roads with their loot. It was impounded by the authorities, and the pirates were jailed pending their fate. Ultimately, they were allowed to go to London to argue their case. This was perfect timing for the opportunistic Blair. In a negotiated settlement, the pirates were pardoned and allowed to retrieve their loot in return for making a substantial gift (estimates range from £300 to £1,000) to William & Mary. I have looked for similar piratical opportunities, but none has yet surfaced.

After Blair returned to Virginia, the trustees of the new college bought a parcel of 330 acres at Middle Plantation for the school, and construction of the Wren began in 1695. As it was nearing completion in 1700, with no funds remaining, Sir Edmund Andros stepped in with £56 for "Sashing the College" (putting in the windows). In 1705, the interior of the Wren burned. From 1709 to 1710, Queen Anne, William & Mary's successor, gave £1,000 to rebuild it. Her giant portrait now hangs in the Great Hall of the Wren, appropriately over the fireplace.

Bricks and mortar are wonderful, but schools must have scholarships as well. In 1700, Lt. Governor Francis Nicholson gave £500 for a student scholarship. He also left his library to the college. When James Blair died in 1743 after 50 years as president of the college, he, too, left his library to William & Mary plus £500 for a scholarship to educate clergymen. In 1740, former Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood gave his books and scientific equipment to William & Mary. Later, Norborne Berkeley, Lord Botetourt, royal governor of Virginia from 1768 to 1770 and rector of the Board of Visitors, provided funds for two gold medals to be awarded to the best scholars, one in science and one in classics. Gold medals were given to eight students between 1772 and 1775. The tradition was revived in 1941, and today during Commencement a single student is recognized for outstanding academic achievement with a replica (gold no longer — now bronze) of the original Botetourt medal.

William & Mary — its magnificent campus, its iconic early buildings, and its support for students and library — sprang from the generosity of those who saw its promise and nurtured its growth. In the more recent past, as the university has continued to grow in excellence and prominence, it has been nourished by the support of others, whose gifts have continued the transforming force of our founding donors.

They and we can be enormously proud of what William & Mary has become. It is unique among leading public universities for its continued emphasis on undergraduate education even as its graduate and professional schools have grown, and even as its commitment to research and scholarship has increased. William & Mary does, truly, link the brains of a big research university with the heart of a small liberal arts college. A few highlights from September 2011 to September 2012, covered in this report, illustrate those points:

- The Class of 2016 shows extraordinary promise, drawing on a record pool of applicants for the eighth year in a row, with strong credentials in virtually every area. SAT scores are outstanding, the class set new marks in terms of students of color (about 30 percent), we are more international than ever (6 percent from outside the U.S.), 10 percent are the first in their families to attend college, and 9 percent are legacies.

- Our faculty is exceptional. *U.S. News & World Report* just ranked William & Mary as tied for 6th among all national universities in teaching, and we recently received a \$25 million award from USAID to extend innovative work in documenting all forms of international assistance at the project level.

- Innovation is robust across the campus with scores of projects generating new revenues, lowering costs and improving quality. The provost's new Creative Adaptation Fund has spawned projects to explore eLearning opportunities in economics, chemistry labs and course design.

- We are heavily engaged in community service (students provide more than 333,000 hours a year); in athletics at all levels (with 500 varsity athletes, we have the largest and most successful program in the CAA, as well as powerful club and intramurals teams); and in study abroad (including our new joint program with St. Andrews in Scotland), with a higher percentage of our undergraduates learning abroad during their collegiate careers than any other public university in the country.

- Bob Gates '65, L.H.D. '98, an extraordinary public servant who is now our chancellor, reminded us at his investiture last Charter Day of our tradition and mission of producing leaders.

William & Mary is thriving because of the strong support of its people, who know what it has been and what it can become. With your support, the 21st century bodes well to be its best.



STEVEN BIVIER

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Reveley".

Taylor Reveley
President