FOUNDERS’ DAY
ODK CONVOCATION

Washington and Lee University
Lee Chapel
January 19, 2016
5 p.m.
HONORARY INITIATES
Thomas Jefferson Gage ’70
The Hon. Robert W. Goodlatte ’77L
Lucas Eugenio Morel
Kimberley Ann Ruscio
Robert Dean Straughan

STUDENT INITIATES

Senior Class
Class of 2016
Laura Margaret Spencer Ackell
Rachel Adams-Heard
Edward Holmes Corcoran
Maya Claire Epelbaum
Johanna Michelle Goergen
Margaret Anne Hammer
David John Heinen
Katherine Renée Hodges
Richard Andrew Karlson
Brian Michael Krouskos
Paul Villere Lagarde Jr.
Juan Cruz Mayol
Bruce Chapman McCuskey
William Payson Miller
Kevin Bennett Ortiz
Nicole Elizabeth Simpson
Madison Emleigh Smith
Dillon Alexander Stanfield
Chase Bierly Weber
Xiaoxiang Yang

Junior Class
Class of 2017
Diana Vausha Banks
Matthew Louis Carl
Elliot Reza Emadian
Samuel Thomas Gibson
John Wilson Miller II
Austin William Piatt
Noelle Julia Rutland
Katrina Karen-Xiaoming Spiezio

Law School
Class of 2016
John Zachary Balasko
Claire Linda Leonard
Markus Xavier Murden
Charlotte Weatherford Rhodes
Luke Davis Stone
Brooke Alexandra Weedon

Class of 2017
Lucas M. Barta
Alexandra Lian Klein
Leanna Catherine Minix
Dean McNair Nichols Jr.
Jessica Ann Winn
FOUNDERS’ DAY
ODK CONVOCATION

Washington and Lee University
January 19, 2016

WELCOME
Kenneth P. Ruscio ’76
President of the University

MUSICAL SELECTION
The University Singers
Wake, Awake
By F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955)
Shane M. Lynch, Conductor

REMARKS
Kenneth P. Ruscio ’76

FEATURED SPEAKER
Joseph J. Ellis
“What’s the Fuss About the Founders?”

REMARKS
Anna R. Thornton ’16
President, ODK Alpha Circle

TAPPING OF INITIATES

MUSICAL SELECTION
The University Singers
Washington and Lee Hymn
By Margaret Brouwer
JOSEPH J. ELLIS

JOSEPH J. ELLIS is one of the nation’s leading scholars of American history. The author of nine books, he won the Pulitzer Prize for “Founding Brothers: the Revolutionary Generation” and the National Book Award for “American Sphinx,” a biography of Thomas Jefferson. His in-depth chronicle of the life of our first president, “His Excellency: George Washington,” was a New York Times bestseller. Ellis’ newest book, “The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783–1789,” was released in 2015. His essays and book reviews appear regularly in national publications such as The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, the New Republic and The New Yorker. Ellis’ commentaries have been featured on CBS, CSPAN, CNN and PBS’s “The News Hour with Jim Lehrer,” and he has appeared in several PBS documentaries on early America, including “John and Abigail [Adams]” for PBS’s “The American Experience” and a History Channel documentary on George Washington. Ellis has taught in the Leadership Studies Program at Williams College. He previously taught at the Honors College at the University of Massachusetts, Mount Holyoke College and the United States Military Academy at West Point. He lives in Amherst, Massachusetts, with his wife, Ellen Wilkins Ellis, and three dogs. He is the father of three sons.

Visitors are invited to attend a book signing after Joseph Ellis’ talk on the museum level of Lee Chapel from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. (Please use the side entrance.) Books will be available for purchase during our regular hours before the signing, as well as during the signing. Volumes that will be on hand include “His Excellency: George Washington” and his most recent publication “The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783-1789.”
HONORARY INITIATES

THOMAS JEFFERSON GAGE ’70 has covered major-league games in 54 ballparks, has written more than 11 million words on baseball and has covered more than 5,000 games, including five no-hitters. His output included daily notes, gamers, plugs, writethrus — all on deadline — plus social media responsibilities. He spent three dozen years on the beat without a sick day, including a night game in Boston after undergoing a morning root canal. On an off-day between Games 2 and 3 of the 1989 World Series after Oakland beat San Francisco in the first two games, Tom’s lede read, “All that can save the Giants now is an act of nature that renders Candlestick Park unplayable.” An earthquake occurred the next day, delaying the World Series for 10 days. Gage’s strength has been the freshness and flow of his writing, aiming to appeal to the hardcore fan’s family as well as the hardcore fan. He has been Michigan’s Sportswriter of the Year twice and won numerous other awards at The Detroit News and at the New Orleans Times-Picayune, the paper where he started. Gage has served as longtime chairman of the Detroit Chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America and on the screening committee that formulates the annual Hall of Fame ballot. Gage retired from The Detroit News in March 2015 and was awarded the J.G. Taylor Spink Award in 2015, making him the first W&L alum to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. At W&L, Gage was a European history major. He participated in Mock Convention and was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity. He is grateful to his professors, including Professors Leyburn, Jarrett, Jenks and Dickens for the experiences they provided him. He and his wife, Lisa, have an adult son, J.T.

THE HON. ROBERT W. GOODLATTE ’77L represents the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia in the United States House of Representatives. Goodlatte’s service to the people of the Sixth District began in 1977, when he became district director for former Congressman Caldwell Butler. He served in this position for two years, until 1979, and was responsible for helping folks across the district seeking assistance with or encountering problems from various federal agencies. In 1979, he founded his own private law practice in Roanoke. Later, he was a partner in the law firm of Bird, Kinder and Huffman, working there from 1981 until taking office. In the 113th Congress, Goodlatte was elected to serve as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, the first from Virginia in the past 125 years. Goodlatte has been an active member of that committee since arriving in Congress, serving in a variety of leadership positions including chairman of the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition, and the Internet in the 112th Congress, vice ranking member of the Judiciary Committee and ranking member of the Task Force on Judicial Impeachment in the 111th Congress, ranking member of the Antitrust Task Force in the 110th Congress, and vice chairman of the Subcommittee on the Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property in the 109th Congress. Goodlatte also served on the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. In addition, Goodlatte serves on the House Agriculture Committee. He is a member of the Subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development, and Credit, which is of particular importance to the Sixth District since it is one of the leading turkey- and poultry-producing districts in the nation. He also serves on the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, and Nutrition. Goodlatte has served the Agriculture Committee in a variety of leadership roles, including chairman of
the Agriculture Committee (2003–2007), ranking member of the Agriculture Committee (2007–2008), vice chairman of the Agriculture Committee (2011–2012), chairman of the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry (1997–2003), and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research (2009–2010). During his time in Congress, Goodlatte has made a name for himself as a leader on Internet and high-tech issues. He is co-chair of the Congressional Internet Caucus and the Congressional International Anti-Piracy Caucus as well as chairman of the House Republican Technology Working Group. Goodlatte is a graduate of Washington and Lee University School of Law, and he earned his undergraduate degree in government at Bates College, Lewiston, Maine. He resides in Roanoke with his wife, Maryellen. They been married since 1974 and have two adult children, Jennifer and Rob.

LUCAS EUGENIO MOREL (Lexington, Virginia) is the inaugural Class of 1960 Professor of Ethics and Politics at Washington and Lee University, where he has taught in the Politics Department since 1999. He teaches courses in American government, political philosophy, constitutional law, black American politics, and politics and literature. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. from the Claremont Graduate University and his B.A. from Claremont McKenna College. He is head of the Politics Department, directs the annual Institute for Honor Symposium, and serves as a pre-law advisor. He is an Honored Visiting Graduate Professor at Ashland University, was a Garwood Visiting Fellow at the James Madison Program at Princeton University, and holds an honorary degree from Illinois College. His publications include “Lincoln's Sacred Effort: Defining Religion's Role in American Self-Government” (2000), “Ralph Ellison and the Raft of Hope: A Political Companion to ‘Invisible Man’ ” (2002), “Lincoln and Liberty: Wisdom for the Ages” (2014), and (with Marc C. Conner) “The New Territory: Ralph Ellison and the Twenty-First Century” (forthcoming, 2016). He is a trustee of the Supreme Court Historical Society, past president of the Abraham Lincoln Institute, board member of the Abraham Lincoln Association, editorial board member of the Journal of American Political Thought and of Books & Culture: A Christian Review, and has consulted on exhibits at the Library of Congress on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. He conducts history workshops for high school teachers throughout the country and has co-written lessons on antebellum and Civil War America and the modern civil rights movement for the EDSITEment website of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has also written for the Los Angeles Times, Christian Science Monitor, Claremont Review of Books, First Things, Richmond Times-Dispatch and Columbus Dispatch. He teaches Sunday school at Grace Presbyterian Church and serves on the men’s ministry team, and has coached soccer and baseball for the Rockbridge Area Recreation Organization league. He is married to Cherie Randolph Morel, and they have four children, Luke (W&L Class of 2018), Hannah, Ellison and Natalie.

KIMBERLEY ANN RUSCIO (Lexington, Virginia) is the first lady of Washington and Lee University. Her primary focus is to promote and engage students, alumni, faculty, staff and the community at large in the life of the university. She describes her position as being an ambassador for Washington and Lee, particularly in support of the students. Ruscio has been an active participant in the recently completed $542.5 million capital campaign, Honor Our Past, Build Our Future: The Campaign for Washington and Lee.
She is involved in advancing leadership initiatives for women at Washington and Lee and has served as a facilitator and group leader for W&L’s Women’s Leadership Summit; she will give the keynote address at the 2016 summit. She also has been instrumental in restoring and preserving the historical integrity of Lee House, home of the university president, by promoting through educational events, collaborations with relevant areas on campus and community organizations, the important historical role that Lee House and the Lee family played in the history of the university. From 1991 to 2002, she worked in the Admissions and Financial Aid Office at Washington and Lee, managing the university’s work-study program, coordinating the stewardship-scholarship program and developing the counseling program to assist students and graduates with the student loan process. In 2001, she was named associate director. She also worked for four years as a financial analyst for the Chapter Thirteen Bankruptcy Trustee, Eastern District of Virginia, in Richmond, Virginia. Ruscio graduated from the American College of Switzerland, majoring in fashion design and merchandising. While there, she interned with a leading haute-couture house of design in Paris. She spent 13 years in the women’s fashion industry, working as a sportswear buyer for Bonwit Teller, New York City; an accessory merchandise coordinator at Sibley’s, Syracuse, New York; and as a district/regional manager for Casual Corner, a national women’s retail chain, specializing in wardrobe concepts and designs for the professional woman. She received several awards and recognitions for her visual displays and store layouts. Ruscio has also worked as a retail consultant for the Virginia Main Street Program. She has been active in numerous community organizations, including on the board of the Lexington Downtown Development Association (LDDA); on the board of the Yellow Brick Road Early Childhood Development Center; as board chair of the Child-Net After School Enrichment Program; as president of the Rockbridge Area League of Women Voters; as a literacy tutor; and as a United Way volunteer. She is a member of the Kendal at Lexington board of directors and currently serves on the national Kendal Corporation Board, chairing the affiliate services and oversight committee. Kim and Ken have an adult son, Matthew, and a three-year-old golden retriever named Miley, who is always happy to meet students, faculty, and staff.

ROBERT DEAN STRAUGHAN (Lexington, Virginia) is the Crawford Family Dean of Washington and Lee’s Williams School of Commerce, Economics, and Politics and a professor of business administration. He previously served for 12 years as associate dean of the Williams School. He earned a B.B.A. in marketing and management from Baylor University and a M.B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Houston. Prior to returning to graduate school, Rob worked in the refining and marketing division of Shell Oil. He joined the Williams School faculty in 2000 following several years on the faculty at Baylor. At W&L, he teaches or co-teaches a variety of marketing and international business classes, including two classes in Copenhagen, Denmark, on international corporate social responsibility and sustainable business strategy. Rob has also worked with Professor Elizabeth Oliver for more than 15 years as faculty co-advisors for Washington and Lee Student Consulting, a co-curricular student organization providing pro bono consulting support for businesses and not-for-profits in the U.S. and abroad. He has helped place students in internship or field research opportunities in Belize, Brazil, Denmark, Greenland, Italy, Romania, Spain and the U.K. He has assisted at various times with the Williams School’s Investment and ADMARCOM trips to New York, the government and public policy trip to Washington,
the London Summer Internship Program, and the New York Program in International Commerce. Rob is involved with the Aspen Institute’s Undergraduate Business Education Consortium and is a member of the Danish Institute for Study Abroad’s Business Faculty Advisory Council. He is the author or co-author of more than a dozen journal articles and book chapters and has made more than two dozen presentations of his research at various conferences. His research on cross-cultural marketing and business education has won awards and commendations from the American Marketing Association, the Association of Collegiate Marketing Educators and MCB University Press. Within the Lexington community, he has been active as a baseball and basketball coach with the Rockbridge Area Recreation Organization and as a board member and coach with Lexington Lacrosse. Rob is married to Leslie Straughan and has two sons, Matthew and Kevin.

UNDERGRADUATE INITIATES

Class of 2016

LAURA MARGARET SPENCER ACKELL (Appleton, Wisconsin) is majoring in business administration and minoring in poverty and human capability studies. She has served on the Campus Kitchen Leadership Team for four years, coordinated Volunteer Venture pre-orientation trips to Greensboro, and traveled to Vietnam with the Shepherd International Internship Program. She is a project manager for Washington and Lee Student Consulting and the fundraising coordinator for Mock Convention 2016. Laura received the Glynn Family Scholarship for her interest in entrepreneurship and community service.

RACHEL ADAMS-HEARD (Austin, Texas) is majoring in business journalism. A recipient of the Journalism Department’s Landon B. Lane Memorial Scholarship, she has interned at “CBS Evening News,” The Charlotte Observer and Bloomberg News. Rachel received the Society for Professional Journalists’ Mark of Excellence Award for the region and was a national runner-up. She is the campus coordinator for Rockbridge Area Special Olympics.

EDWARD (“TEDDY”) HOLMES CORCORAN (Rochester, New York) is majoring in philosophy, with a minor in Africana studies. A member of the men’s varsity golf team, he is a four-time Washington and Lee scholar-athlete and has received team MVP and First-Team All-ODAC honors. Teddy is the founder and editor in chief of The Mudd Journal of Ethics, as well as the director of the journal’s accompanying inaugural conference. He is the vice president of Washington and Lee’s Philosophy Club and the former philanthropy chair of Lambda Chi Alpha. A member of 24 and an opinions writer for the Ring-tum Phi, Teddy captained Washington and Lee’s first-place 2015 VFIC Ethics Bowl team.

MAYA CLAIRE EPELBAUM (Morristown, New Jersey) is majoring in psychology with minors in environmental studies and philosophy. A Johnson Scholar, she is president of the Student Environmental Action League, a captain of the Compost Crew, and a trip leader of the Outing Club. Maya is a Torah study leader for Hillel and a past community service vice president and communications vice president. She is a member of Beta Beta
Beta, Phi Eta Sigma and Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society, and she received the A. Paul Knight Scholarship for conservation research.

JOHANNA MICHELLE GOERGEN (Kinnelon, New Jersey) is majoring in computer science and mathematics. She serves as a resident adviser, an LGBT peer counselor, and a teaching assistant for computer science. Johanna worked for two years as the computer science officer in Women in Technology and Science as well as the vice president for one year. She is the senior class liaison in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

MARGARET ANNE HAMMER (Boston, Massachusetts) is majoring in English with minors in mass communications and creative writing. A recipient of the George A. Mahan Award for Creative Writing, Margaret is also the vice president of recruitment on the Panhellenic Council; she has served on the council since her first year. She is also a resident adviser. Margaret has interned for Shenandoah and is writing her thesis related to her research on the magazine as a summer research scholar. She has also served as a chair on the Voting Regulations Board.

DAVID JOHN HEINEN (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) is majoring in psychology. A Johnson Scholar, he serves as a peer counselor and a Writing Center tutor. He is vice president of Slow Food W&L, a founding member of the Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) program, and a tenor in the University Singers. David has received an HHMI Research Grant, a Kendrick Award, and a Johnson Opportunity Grant to fund summer opportunities in Lexington and abroad.

KATHERINE RENEE HODGES (Durham, North Carolina) is majoring in economics and politics. She is a student of Arabic at the Virginia Military Institute. A member of Phi Eta Sigma, she has received the John McKenzie Gunn Scholarship in Economics. Katherine served as the political chair of Mock Convention 2016. She was a senior market launch advisor for HavenLock, and a summer business consultant at Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management, in Nashville, as well as a Washington Term intern with the Richard G. Lugar Center in Washington, D.C.

RICHARD ANDREW KARLSON (Hudson, Massachusetts) is majoring in politics and mass communications. He is a captain on the football team and the co-director of communications for Mock Convention 2016. Randy has received the ODAC All-Academic Award for each of the past three years. He has been named to the Dean’s List and the Honor Roll. For the past two years, he has interned with Van Scoyoc Associates, a lobbying firm in Washington, D.C., and at the Massachusetts House of Representatives for Rep. Kate Hogan. He has published in the Washington and Lee Political Review.

BRIAN MICHAEL KROUSKOS (Alpharetta, Georgia) is majoring in accounting and business administration with a minor in computer science. A four-year member of the men’s tennis team, he has twice been named to the All-ODAC first team. Brian is an associate director of the Williams Investment Society and worked with Washington and Lee
PAUL VILLERE LAGARDE JR. (Mobile, Alabama) is majoring in politics with a minor in philosophy. A recipient of the M.J. Reis Honor Scholarship, he served as a class representative on the Executive Committee of the Student Body 2013–2015. He also helped re-start the Washington and Lee Spectator magazine and served as its editor in chief for two years.

JUAN CRUZ MAYOL (Mar del Plata, Argentina) is a physics-engineering and economics major. He serves as president of Engineers Without Borders and co-president of Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honors society. He is co-director of the Entrepreneurs and Inventors Society and was vice-president of Phi Kappa Psi. He has been involved in the establishment of the International Student Collaboration Program, and researched and developed a concept for an eco snowboard in Argentina. He has served on the editorial committee of “Pluma,” the Spanish language creative writing magazine.

BRUCE CHAPMAN MCCUSKEY (Saint Albans, West Virginia) is a senior majoring in history, philosophy and classics. Bruce has been published in Vexillium: The Undergraduate Journal of Classical and Medieval Studies and The Columbia Undergraduate Journal of Undergraduate Studies. He studied abroad during his junior year at Hertford College, University of Oxford. While there, he served as vice president of aid to the church in need and helped direct a breakfast program for the homeless. He teaches religious education classes at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Lexington and serves on the leadership team of Washington and Lee’s Catholic Campus Ministry. He is the political research officer for the Iowa delegation of Mock Convention 2016. Bruce holds the Martin Baldwin Whitetaker Scholarship in history.

WILLIAM PAYSON MILLER (Charlotte, North Carolina) is an accounting and business administration major and a recipient of the L.K. Johnson-Rosasco Scholarship. A member of the accounting honor society Beta Alpha Psi, Payson is active in Kathekon, the Student Recruitment Committee and Mock Convention 2016. He serves as a peer counselor, a lead class agent and a member of the Reformed University Fellowship Ministry Team.

KEVIN BENNETT ORTIZ (Charlotte, North Carolina) is majoring in politics and sociology/anthropology with a minor in education. A Johnson Scholar, he has received the McJunkin Endowment for Student Engagement and the Endeavor International Student Collaboration Grant. He is a member of both the Pi Sigma Alpha (politics) and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies. Kevin serves as a peer tutor, co-chair of the FYOC Perspectives event, alternate justice on the Student Judicial Council, and tour guide for the Student Recruitment Committee. He is a political analyst for the Mock Convention 2016.

NICOLE ELIZABETH SIMPSON (Wayzata, Minnesota) is majoring in business administration and East Asian languages and literature. A member of the Campus Kitchen Leadership Team and Kathekon, she has served as a peer tutor, tour guide and university
big sister. Nicole is the philanthropy chair of Kappa Kappa Gamma and belongs to the Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Beta Kappa and Beta Gamma Sigma honor societies.

MADISON EMLEIGH SMITH (Marietta, Georgia) is majoring in economics with minors in poverty studies and education policy. An R.E. Lee Scholar, she is the co-chair of Kathekon and the president of Kappa Alpha Theta. Madison is the events chair for Mock Convention 2016 and serves on the Reformed University Fellowship Ministry Team.

DILLON ALEXANDER STANFIELD (Cincinnati, Ohio) is majoring in biology with a minor in studio art. A four-year member of the Washington and Lee football team and senior captain, he was invited to participate in the General’s Leadership Academy. A member of the TriBeta National Biological Honor Society and the Alpha Epsilon Delta Premedical Honor Society, he has received the Washington and Lee Scholar Athlete Award and the ODAC All-Academic Award. Dillon has served as an Outing Club trip leader and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and volunteers for the Rockbridge County chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

CHASE BIERLY WEBER (Wayne, Pennsylvania) is majoring in biology. He serves as the assistant head resident adviser of the First-Year Leadership Council and was general co-chair of the First-Year Orientation Committee. He founded the W&L Boxing Club, is the publicity chair for the Pan Asian Association for Cultural Exchange, and volunteers at Stonewall Jackson Hospital. Chase was a small group leader for the Generals Christian Fellowship and a Summer Research Scholar.

XIAOXIANG YANG (Vermillion, South Dakota) is majoring in economics, physics and mathematics. An international student from China, Xiaoxiang has received the Edwin Claybrook Griffith Scholarship in Economics, the Williams Prize in Mathematics and the Physics and Engineering Sophomore Award. A recipient of the 2015 Johnson Opportunity Grant, Xiaoxiang is a peer tutor, a mathematics tutor at the Math Center, and a teaching assistant for Intro to Physics. He has played the violin in the University-Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra. In winter 2014, Xiaoxiang founded the Racquet Sports Club with two other students.

Class of 2017

DIANA VAUSHA BANKS (Glenwood Springs, Colorado) is majoring in business administration. A Robert E. Lee Scholar, Diana also received the Jack S. Callicott ’49 Honor Scholarship and the Douglas Halstead Scholarship, and serves as head resident adviser for staff development. She is a member of the LEAD Team and serves as key staff for the Outing Club. She is president of Slow Food W&L as well as the CRUX Climbing Team, and serves as an instructor in Washington and Lee’s group exercise program.

MATTHEW LOUIS CARL (Edmond, Oklahoma) is majoring in economics and German with a minor in mathematics. A member of Phi Eta Sigma, he received the James Wood Prize
and is a Buford S. Stephenson Scholar (German Department). A co-founder and co-director of Friday Underground Productions, Matthew is also a resident adviser, a DAAD Young Ambassador, the co-president of the German Club, and the co-chair of logistics for the Contact Committee. He played on the varsity men’s soccer team 2013–2015 and was recognized on the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll for both years.

ELLIOT REZA EMADIAN (Normandy, Tennessee) is majoring in mathematics with a minor in dance. A National Merit scholar, he serves as a resident adviser, activities chair for the First-Year Orientation Committee, and a tour guide for admissions. He serves as co-president of the W&L Repertory Dance Company and belongs to Nu Delta Alpha, the national honor society in dance. He is also a member of Phi Eta Sigma. He has served as vice president of fellowship for Alpha Phi Omega, the coed service fraternity. He has received the Francis P. Gaines Scholarship and the Todd Jones Memorial Scholarship.

SAMUEL THOMAS GIBSON (Jamestown, North Carolina) is majoring in history and politics with a minor in French. A Johnson Scholar, he is the secretary of the Student Judicial Council, serves as a peer counselor, and is the California state chair for Mock Convention 2016. He is also a member of Washington and Lee’s Mock Trial team and is the co-editor in chief of the Political Review.

JOHN WILSON MILLER II (Dallas, Texas) is majoring in economics and studio art. A recipient of the Dallas Alumni Chapter Honor Scholarship, Wilson belongs to Phi Eta Sigma and is the Texas state chair for Mock Convention 2016. He serves as vice president of the Executive Committee of the Student Body, for which he previously served as secretary and class representative.

AUSTIN WILLIAM PIATT (Dayton, Ohio) is double majoring in politics and philosophy. A member of the men’s basketball team, he is also a resident assistant on leadership staff, serving as the Peer Tutor Program coordinator. Austin belongs to Kathekon Alumni Association, and the 24 Student-Athlete Group. He serves as an alternate justice for the Student Judicial Council, as a writer-researcher for the Mock Convention 2016 Platform Committee, as an editor for The Mudd Journal for Ethics, as a student representative on the Community Grants Committee, and as a tour guide for the Student Recruitment Committee. Austin has also served on the White Book Review Committee. He received the John Warner Public Service Award last summer.

NOELLE JULIA RUTLAND (St. Petersburg, Florida) is majoring in global politics and Spanish. A Bonner Scholar, she is the chair of in-school tutoring for English for Speakers of Other Languages and the Lexington trip senior coordinator for the Volunteer Venture program. For her work as the project manager of the Facing Sexual Violence Project, Noelle received the 2015 W&L Decade Award. Noelle has been accepted into several competitive internship programs, including the Shepherd Internship and Washington Term, and was a 2015 recipient of the Gilday-Roberts Internship Fund. Noelle served as vice president of communications for Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women and is Pi Phi’s incoming vice president of fraternity development.
KATRINA KAREN-XIAOMING SPIEZIO (Taunton, Massachusetts) is majoring in politics and studio art with minors in poverty and human capability studies and mass communications. A QuestBridge Scholar and a Phi Eta Sigma member, she has received the duPont/Hearst Essential Opportunities Grant, the Gilman Scholarship for study abroad in China, and the Evans International Experience Grant for a Shepherd Internship in the Dominican Republic. Katrina is a Bonner Scholar, a Volunteer Venture leader, and a member of Phonathon and Kathekon. She also serves as secretary of the Club Polo Team and belongs to the W&L Repertory Dance Company.

LAW SCHOOL

Class of 2016

JOHN ZACHARY BALASKO (Morgantown, West Virginia) is a magna cum laude graduate of West Virginia University, with a degree in international studies and world languages, literatures and linguistics. He is a lead articles editor for the Washington and Lee Law Review and managing editor of the German Law Journal. Upon graduation, he will serve as a law clerk for the Hon. Paul M. Black, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Virginia in Roanoke.

CLAIRE LINDA LEONARD (Washington, D.C.) is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where she majored in political science. She is a managing editor of the Washington and Lee Law Review and received the Roy L. Steinheimer Law Review Award for Outstanding Student Note. She is a student caseworker in the Black Lung Clinic. Claire has served as a judicial intern for a U.S. District judge in the District of Columbia, and upon graduation will work as an associate for White & Case in Washington, D.C.

MARKUS XAVIER MURDEN (Orlando, Florida) graduated from the University of Central Florida, where he majored in legal studies and philosophy. He works as a McThenia Research Assistant and serves on the board of the Black Law Student Association. Markus intends to return to Florida and start a practice in criminal defense.

CHARLOTTE WEATHERFORD RHODES (Huntsville, Alabama) is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, where she majored in mathematics and economics with a minor in French. She is an executive editor of the Washington and Lee Law Review and was a student attorney in the Washington and Lee Tax Clinic. Upon graduation, she will work as an associate for Baker Hostetler in Cleveland, Ohio.

LUKE DAVIS STONE (Dallas, Texas) graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in business administration. At W&L, he has served as manager of intramural sports for the law school, president of the Federalist Society, member of the Student Judicial Council, and treasurer of the Christian Legal Society. He has interned at Norton Rose Fulbright the past two summers.
BROOKE ALEXANDRA WEEDON (Richmond, Virginia) is a graduate of the University of Virginia, where she majored in foreign affairs and Spanish. She is an executive editor of the Washington and Lee Law Review, a lead articles editor of the German Law Journal, and a hearing advisor for the Student Judicial Council and the Executive Committee. After graduation, she will clerk for a federal district judge before joining McGuireWoods LLP as an associate in the business and securities litigation practice group.

Class of 2017

LUCAS M. BARTA (Glendale, California) is a graduate of Virginia Tech, where he served as the president of the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Chapter and graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in English. He is a staff writer on the Washington and Lee Law Review and serves as a Kirgis Fellow, assisting 1Ls in their personal and academic transition to law school. This summer, Lucas will be working as a summer associate for Morrison Foerster LLP’s corporate practice in northern Virginia.

ALEXANDRA LIAN KLEIN (Staunton, Virginia) graduated cum laude from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she majored in theater with a concentration in costume design. She is a member of the Public Interest Law Student Association. She is a senior articles editor of the Washington and Lee Law Review and serves as a resource assistant. Alexandra belongs to the Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse. She has interned with the Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center and with the Office of the Federal Public Defender. Her note, “The Freedom to Pursue a Common Calling: Applying Intermediate Scrutiny to Occupational Licensing,” won the 2015 Washington and Lee Law Council Law Review Award and will be published in the Law Review in 2016.

LEANNA CATHERINE MINIX (Salem, Virginia) is a graduate of Davidson College, where she majored in philosophy. She is a hearing adviser for students accused of violating the Washington and Lee Honor System and serves as a Kirgis Fellow, helping students adjust to the law school community. Leanna is also a staff writer on the Washington and Lee Law Review and will commence a yearlong internship and externship position with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Roanoke this summer.

DEAN MCNAIR NICHOLS JR. (Harrisonburg, Virginia) graduated with a degree in history from Wheaton College (Illinois). He serves as a staff writer for the Washington and Lee Law Review, is a member of the Lewis F. Powell Jr. Distinguished Lecture Series Board, mentors first-year law students as a Kirgis Fellow, and serves as vice justice of Phi Alpha Delta. He co-won the John W. Davis Appellate Advocacy Brief Writing Competition.

JESSICA ANN WINN (Newberg, Oregon) is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, where she majored in political science with a minor in technical theater production. She serves as a law ambassador and is active on the boards of the Women Law Students Organization, American Constitution Society and Public Interest Law Student Association. Jessica is a staff writer for the Washington and Lee Law Review and a junior editor for the German Law Journal. She is a research assistant for Professors Todd C. Peppers and Johanna E. Bond.
Omicron Delta Kappa

Founded, Washington and Lee University, December 3, 1914

ALPHA CIRCLE

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