BUT WHAT IS A GAM?

You might wear out your index-finger running up and down the columns of dictionaries, and never find the word.

Dr. Johnson never attained to that erudition; Noah Webster’s ark does not hold it . . . certainly, it needs a definition, and should be incorporated into the Lexicon. With that view, let me learnedly define it.

Noun — a social meeting for two (or more) whaleships . . . when, after exchanging hails, they exchange visits by boats’ crew . . .

– Herman Melville, ‘Moby-Dick’
Greetings from Labaree House! I have exciting news hot off the presses to share with all of our alumni! Williams-Mystic has been selected to receive the National Maritime Historical Society (NMHS) Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Maritime Education on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the National Maritime Awards Dinner at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Williams-Mystic is being honored for its leadership as the only undergraduate studies program examining the history, literature, policy and science of the sea, resulting in several thousand informed alumni prepared for societal leadership with a balanced understanding of the critical historical and current role the sea plays in our social, economic, political, environmental, scientific and cultural world.

NMHS awards have been given to educational institutions including National Geographic, Conservation International, Mystic Seaport and Sultana Education Foundation, and individuals including David Rockefeller, Jr., Dr. Bob Ballard, Walter Cronkite, Ted Turner, Halsey Herreshoff, Senators John Warner and Barbara Mikulski, HRH Princess Anne, and others from all walks of our salty world.

The dinner in DC is an event that you may wish to attend and we will be sending our alumni more information in January. Such an incredible journey for 1,700 alumni in these last 41 years –– from the moment students and Ben Labaree scratched the ideas of Williams-Mystic on a napkin in the Dunkin Donuts in Pittsfield, MA to now. We embrace the past and celebrate our future.

As we approach upcoming semesters, we are now exploring some exciting potential venues for future field seminars. In June, a scouting group traveled to Sitka and Juneau, Alaska to scope out potential topics and venues in a state where almost all aspects of life are viewed through the lens of the ocean. Even Alaska’s state constitution proudly speaks to the importance of sustaining the salmon industry.

Many Williams-Mystic alumni live and work in Alaska and we made some great personal connections. We were fortunate to catch (no pun intended) Linda Behnken F’82, Sitka fisherman and Executive Director of the Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association while she and her husband were in port in Sitka. Linda, who was named a White House Champion of Change for Sustainable Seafood by President Obama’s administration, is an inspiring leader in Alaska and demonstrates the compelling connections between her life trajectory and her experience at Williams-Mystic.

Hawaii is another potential field seminar destination we are exploring. We held a field seminar there in 2013 and, despite a government shutdown, it was a tremendous success. Hawaii provides a wonderful opportunity to study coastal resilience, geology, water use, fisheries and many other topics, so we are considering future field seminars there again as well.

Goodbye and hello: The end of our semester in May marked the end of Professor Glenn Gordinier’s teaching career at Williams-Mystic. I hope you enjoy the article about Glenn in this issue and please join me in welcoming Alicia Maggard as our next historian. Alicia comes to us fresh from earning her doctorate at Brown University. She is an expert in steamships and will begin her semester accompanying our students aboard the SSV Corwith Cramer in the Gulf of Maine.

Enjoy the GAM...that’s what a GAM is for...pure enjoyment, catching up with your shipmates, and learning!
Life On Campus

BY MEREDITH CARROLL & HANNAH WHALEN

Jaelon Moaney
Major: Political Science
Concentrations: Leadership studies and Africana studies
Home college: Williams College
Class year: 2019

Katie Maddox
Major: Ecology
Home college: University of Georgia
Class year: 2018

Jaelon Moaney
Major: Political Science
Concentrations: Leadership studies and Africana studies
Home college: Williams College
Class year: 2019
Katie Maddox (S’18) always knew she wanted to be a marine ecologist. She grew up playing in tidepools and marshes in coastal Georgia. As a student at University of Georgia’s Odum School of Ecology, she spent every summer in the field. Her lab work also led her to Williams-Mystic; Katie worked alongside Professor Carrie Keogh (F’06) and graduate student Lindsey Haram (F’08), both of whom encouraged Katie to pursue Williams-Mystic during her final semester at UGA. Jaelon Moaney (S’18) also feels strongly connected to the region he grew up in: Talbot County, on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, where most industry and recreation centers on the Chesapeake Bay. As a political science student at Williams College, Jaelon has already become involved in Maryland politics, and he hopes to run for office. Jaelon’s passion for policy and connection to the coast drew him to Williams-Mystic.

**Q** What were some academic highlights of the semester for you?

**Jaelon:** My history project goes hand in hand with my skill class. Oxford, a neighboring tidewater community to Easton, was home to famous African-American sailmaker Downes Curtis. His legacy is that of one of the most prominent artisans on this side of the Mississippi, and he remains a proud namesake of this historic port. So the opportunity to be in the Mallory Sail Loft [as part of the canvas work maritime skills class] felt as if two worlds, the past and present, were colliding in one space. We’re doing it twice a week, and then I’m learning about it in greater depth in my history paper. That’s been heartwarming to do this semester.

**Katie:** I had never taken an upper-level history, literature or policy course before. I had only ever written science papers, and it’s a very different method of writing. I was not necessarily ready for that, but I got ready, and the professors helped a lot with that.

**Q** What about personal highlights?

**Katie:** When you get here, no one knows you, so you can be whatever you want or need to be. So the person that I’ve been striving to be in Georgia, I can just come here and be that person. It’s kind of like reinventing yourself. Having everyone accept you has been a really good personal experience. Everyone is so different. That’s what makes the program great too.

**Jaelon:** Williams-Mystic is a place where you are more or less forced to be yourself and show who you are. That’s an integral part of being part of this community. Doing it with such frequency is something I had not done before. I think it was warmly welcomed and ultimately proved to be a healthy practice. Nineteen other students, my shipmates, did it alongside me.

**Q** What’s been especially challenging for you this semester?

**Jaelon:** Going to places that have now evolved in their meaning. We went to China Camp on the Pacific Coast Field Seminar. We were dancing in very rural parts of Louisiana. Physically being there, as opposed to being on campus reading about something, moves you into a space where you are nostalgic immediately and retrospectively comprehending a site’s significance. I often found myself wondering: What do I write in my notebook? How do I capture the entirety of the symbolism in my brief encounter?

**Katie:** You read things, but until you go there it’s just in your head. [Traveling] makes it real. That was especially true for history for me. I’m not a history person. Being in the places where things occurred really helped solidify the importance of what happened there, and not in a way that I would have gotten in a classroom.

**Q** How has your worldview changed?

**Jaelon:** Prior to Williams-Mystic, I viewed the water as something I pass over, that gets me to and fro. Now I view it as a vector for a lot of things. It explains why maritime communities have historically differed from rural and agricultural regions. The ocean is not just a method of transport but an indicator that can explain why the world is in the state it is now and where it will be going forward.

**Katie:** In two weeks, I’m going to be in Puerto Rico because I got a job down there. That might’ve been something I wouldn’t have been as comfortable doing before. I think this semester has boosted my confidence doing things like that.

**Q** What do you think will stick with you about this experience?

**Jaelon:** Probably the smaller things that make this experience unique but consistent. I can look at the photos on the wall in Labaree House and say, ‘I don’t know this person, but I know their Williams-Mystic experience.’ We were immediately cast in this network and community. I felt like I was part of this place before I set foot in my house and I will forever be grateful for that.

**Katie:** The people. What you learn in a classroom is important, but hard facts are not what’s going to make you the person you are. The people make this program what it is. I will have these friends for a long time, and I’m thankful for that.
An Insider’s View of Washington

By Todd McLeish
Ali Mitchell (S’11) is fascinated by the power of storytelling. It’s one reason she chose to major in religion at Williams College – to learn about folklore and how religious stories shape the past, present and future. And she hopes she can use storytelling to make the world a better place.

“Telling stories is the most important thing we do,” she said. “It’s how we understand people and culture and families. It’s one of the most human things we can do. It’s who we are.”

Mitchell has plenty of stories of her own to tell, especially after spending the last year working for the federal government in Washington, D.C., as a John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow. The prestigious fellowship program provides those completing graduate degrees with a yearlong experience in Washington working on ocean and coastal policy issues. Mitchell’s year was split between two offices in the Department of Transportation – the U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

“Because I worked interagency, I got to see how all these cogs of bureaucracy work together and what it takes to get things done and out the door,” said Mitchell, who earned a master’s degree in public affairs at Brown University in 2016. “A lot of people get frustrated because things take a long time to get accomplished in Washington, or because the particular thing they want to do isn’t getting done. But because I’ve been sitting in rooms with a bunch of people from different agencies, I can now understand where the stumbling blocks are. Sometimes you really just have to throw these groups together and get them speaking the same language.”

That was Mitchell’s primary job at the Committee on the Marine Transportation System. She helped bring together people from the 31 federal agencies that have a stake in the system so they can address whatever problems need solving. She focused primarily on environmental issues and issues related to marine transportation in the Arctic.

“My job was not to make policy,” she said. “My job was to have a killer Rolodex so I could pull together the right people at the right time. It was all about facilitating conversations. And it was so amazing being able to meet all these people from different agencies and see what they do.

“Before I started, I didn’t understand who did what, where, when and how in the marine transportation system. With so many agencies involved, it’s not one-stop shopping. Our job was to be the connective tissue. Being able to do that has been great,” Mitchell added.

At the Bureau of Transportation Statistics’ Port Performance Freight Statistics Program, she worked with the director of transportation analysis and the program manager to develop consistent measures and analytics to better understand the capacity and throughput of the nation’s largest ports.

“One of the things I worked on was figuring out how to take big data sources and use them to tell how long it takes for vessels to load and unload freight at the docks of our top ports,” Mitchell said. “The individual ports might know the answer, but there is no nationally consistent measure. My role was to help develop those measures and be a 30,000-foot viewer of data, to point out the assumptions and inconsistencies that people who are deep in them wouldn’t necessarily see.”

Mitchell has been intrigued with learning the ins and outs of the federal government, especially under an administration that doesn’t always operate as one might expect.

“I’ve been working with lifetime civil servants who have seen administrations come and go while trying to do as well as they possibly can, which has been inspiring,” she said. “It’s well known that there are plenty of political appointments that still need to be filled. The agencies and lifetime civil servants deal with that as best
“So when I say that Williams-Mystic is the linchpin in everything I’ve been doing, it really has been a centerpiece of my life,” Mitchell said.

dedicated to making the experience as good as possible, even in the driving rain.”

And, she added, it was all thanks to a friend on the ultimate frisbee team who invited her to a Williams-Mystic meet-and-greet.

“As soon as I started talking with the professors, I thought the program was awesome,” she said. “I knew it was the program for me.”

The program’s influence over the direction of Mitchell’s life continues. Now that she has completed her one-year Knauss Fellowship, she is applying for jobs and is surprised by the positions she is pursuing.

“I never thought I would want to stay in the shipping and maritime industry,” she said. “It’s not really what I thought I would be excited about. But it turns out that the maritime industry is an exciting place to be and a place that I could imagine staying in. It’s a place where so many threads come together. You have huge economic issues – about 69 percent of our international goods by weight are shipped to this country by boat – so there’s crazy money involved. So much of our economy is dependent on a safe and healthy marine transportation system. That’s exciting.

“At same time, if our ports continually flood and need to be re-dredged or repaired, that’s a huge issue and money sink that needs to be addressed. The whole conversation about coastal resilience is not just an economic issue but also a community human health issue. With the marine transportation system as a lens, you can still push for change even with people who don’t think the environmental arguments are valid by focusing on those health and economic issues. The marine transportation system is a powerful lens with so many facets.”

As a result of her experience in Washington, Mitchell could envision herself working on hazard mitigation and resilience issues at a port authority or as a consultant helping ports become more sustainable. She could also see herself working on interagency coordination to advance local coastal resilience efforts. Or working at the federal, state or local level on fisheries or marine invasive species. Beyond that, she’s not entirely sure where her path will take her.

“Paths are only paths when you look backwards,” she said philosophically. “It’s pretty easy to see how I got to where I am by looking back. But while living through it, I thought I was a total whack-a-doo. I don’t know where I want to be in 10 years, but I know I want to have a family and a home and be part of a community, and I know I want to be spending time outside. And I want my work to benefit that community.

“I’d love to keep hearing and telling stories, and if I can use those stories to help everyone be better off and healthier and safer and more prosperous, then I think I’ll be doing pretty good.”

Ali joins the thousands of visitors for the launch of the newly restored 1841 whaleship “Charles W. Morgan” into the waters of the Mystic River
Williams-Mystic Alumni Weekend

Welcome Back to Mystic
September 21-23

REGISTER TODAY!
To register for Alumni Weekend, use our online registration form at wmreunion.org

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY, SEPT 21
WELCOME
Registration (Carlton Lobby) 2 pm - 7 pm
New! Choose from alumni-led activities such as a sunset paddle, pot-luck, or meet-up downtown. See wmreunion.org for details and to RSVP

SATURDAY, SEPT 22
GET OUT ON THE WATER (Boat House) 10am-4pm
SILENT AUCTION (Boat House) 10am-5:30pm
MEET OUR NEW FACULTY, PANEL DISCUSSION (Greenmanville Church) 1:30pm - 3pm
WHALE BOAT RACES (Middle Wharf) 3pm
ALUMNI SWIZZLE (Boat Shed) 5pm-6pm
LIVE AUCTION AND DINNER (Boat Shed) 7pm

SUNDAY, SEPT 23
NEW! HOSTEL-STYLE BREAKFAST AND MESSING AROUND IN BOATS (Mystic Seaport Sailing Center) 9:30am
41st Reunion Classes

Spring '98

Spring '03

Fall '03

Fall '98

Spring '08

Spring '13

Fall '13
When Glenn Gordinier and his wife, Pam, went on their honeymoon in 1970, their first stop was Mystic Seaport. It was a visit he called “an absolute epiphany that changed my life. It made me realize for the first time that the ocean has a history, and the home of that history is in Mystic, Connecticut.”

That visit inspired him to consider a career working in some capacity at a maritime museum. While pursuing a master’s degree at Lehigh University and writing to museums around the country seeking advice, he was encouraged to attend the Munson Institute of American Maritime Studies at Mystic Seaport, which he did in the summer of 1976.

“After that, I knew this was the only maritime museum that mattered,” Gordinier said. “It had to be Mystic Seaport because I was so inspired by the things I had come to learn about its depth of scholarship and its community. I decided it would be a wonderful place to have a career.”

The Williams-Mystic part of that career comes to an end in May when Gordinier retires after 29 years of teaching for the program. His affiliation with the Seaport, begun when he abandoned his tenured teaching position in Pennsylvania to be hired as a summer interpreter in 1979, will continue.

“I believe that Williams-Mystic is the jewel in Mystic Seaport’s crown,” he said. “I’m very lucky to have had the one job I most desired at the one institution I chose over any other.”

Gordinier comes from a family of teachers, and he considers teaching his greatest skill. “I get an enormous charge out of seeing eyes light up and smart young people make connections that to them are epiphanies,” he said. “It never gets old for me making generation after generation feel that same sort of inspiration that fired me up.”

He is not always a conventional teacher, however. That is especially true when he performs as 19th century master mariner Josiah Gardner, a character he created as part of Mystic Seaport’s initial living history program in the 1980s. Gordinier has performed as Gardner hundreds of times in his classroom and around the world to personalize what it means to go to sea.

While he is rightfully proud of his classroom teaching, his method of teaching maritime history within the context of the Williams-Mystic program’s other four courses, and his ability to “meet each student where they are, even students who haven’t had a history course since 10th grade,” his fondest memories are from the field seminars.

“They’re enormously energy-consuming when a typical day lasts 14 to 15 hours, but it creates all sorts of moments with colleagues and students that can be inspiring and downright fun,” he said. “I especially enjoy taking them Cajun dancing in Louisiana where, as soon as we walk in, everybody is smiling and they don’t stop smiling until we haul ourselves out two hours later. It’s not just because the music is engaging and fun to dance to, but by that time the students also have an understanding of the depth of Cajun culture. That’s a wonderful evening.”

“It’s also always amazing to go on the water with them, watching them go from being landlubbers to members of an offshore crew that hauls their own weight, stands watch and does their duty,” he added. “It’s inspiring.”

Among the many other recollections that bring a smile to his face are the hundreds of students he taught to surf during his annual student surfing safari to beaches in Rhode Island, and the tango lessons he has offered his students each semester during the West Coast field seminar.

Gordinier’s passion for the Argentine tango developed serendipitously while helping his wife, Pam, take her art students to Paris.

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“One of the chapters in my surfing memoir is called Epiphany, and it’s about the moment when I was 16-years-old and a single wave stole my soul.

Glenn’s method of teaching maritime history within the context of the Williams-Mystic program’s other four courses, was his ability to ‘meet each student where they are.’

the Munson Institute, where he serves as co-director. He looks forward to filling his new-found free time with continued work on a follow-up to his surfing memoir, Surfing Cold Water: A New Englander’s Off-Season Obsession, which he published in 2012.

The new project, which is already under way, will profile the founders of numerous social justice or environment-related organizations – the Surfrider Foundation, the California Surf Museum, the first surfing school for women, and many others – by telling the story of how they became interested in surfing and how they started their organization.

“One of the chapters in my surfing memoir is called Epiphany, and it’s about the moment when I was 16-years-old and a single wave stole my soul. That moment has kept me out there paddling in January because it was so transformative,” Gordinier said.

“Every surfer has had that epiphany, as has the founder of every surfing organization. The project is all about the epiphany of their interest in surfing coupled with their epiphany about the need for their organization.”

“Other than that, I have no other retirement plans,” he concluded. “We’ll do some tango, and next winter I’ll be a snowbird when my wife goes to Florida to teach her art students. And then who knows. I’ll just keep on paddling, keep my head up, and see what opportunities arise.”
It’s difficult for an outsider to imagine how a snack break in the middle of a three-hour seminar class could become an iconic representation of the Williams-Mystic academic experience. But the always-entertaining pause in Katy Robinson Hall’s Friday morning course in Marine Policy has become just that. At 10:30 sharp, the class takes a restorative break with snacks provided by students from a designated house. But it’s much more than just an opportunity to boost their energy reserves.

“One of the ways we build community at Williams-Mystic is around food,” explained Hall S ’84, who joined the faculty in 2002. “It’s become a fun way to bring the houses together, to get them thinking about their readings ahead of time, by preparing a snack that captures the theme of the week in a creative way. And because we live in a museum, we ask them to do an interpretation of that snack, to make the connections between what they’ve prepared and what we’re examining that day in class. It’s a way to draw them together and consider the readings in conversation as a group.”

Invariably, the students set the bar for creativity extremely high. Hall remembers one house that illustrated the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico with an explosion of chocolate syrup oozing from a bundt cake into an ocean filled with gummy fish. Another told a story of bycatch by creating a fishing net made of red string licorice that entrapped a wide variety of candy fish. And a third illustrated a lesson about marine invasive species by constructing a ship of Twix bars, complete with ballast tanks filled with tiny cupcakes frosted to represent various marine species.

“The classic Swedish fish always makes its way into snacks about invasive species,” said Hall, who noted that students once cooked real invasive species, including Asian shore crabs, to share with the class.

Marine pollution, shoreline stabilization and the law of the sea all get dessert-based illustrations as well. And many students consider the experience one of their favorite Williams-Mystic memories.

“They certainly can get silly, and sometimes they turn it into something theatrical. I know there was water being shot around the room at one time, and umbrellas were involved,” Hall recalled fondly. “I frequently hear back from students who have taken the concept of snack and used it later in their graduate seminars – though their professors sometimes don’t understand it.”

Not every house or every class is equally enthusiastic in their interpretations, of course, but all enjoy the tradition.

“It ebbs and flows,” Hall said. “There are some classes that just have boundless creativity and take it to the max, and there are other classes that have a lower key approach to it. But with all of them, we’re sharing time together in a way that shows the creative side of learning and thinking.

“The creativity involved in having snack and presenting and preparing snack demonstrates to our students that there are a lot of different ways to learn and there are a lot of different conversations to have about learning,” she added. “And that really matters.”

By Todd McLeish
RAFTING TO DISTANT SHORES

Williams-Mystic Director Emeritus Jim Carlton reveals how hundreds of Japanese species invaded North America following the deadly earthquake and tsunami.
The massive earthquake and tsunami that devastated parts of eastern Japan in March 2011 was the costliest natural disaster in history. It not only killed more than 15,000 people, released radiation from three damaged nuclear reactors and left the region’s infrastructure in ruins, but it also set in motion an extraordinary biological event that resulted in hundreds of species traveling across the Pacific Ocean on debris.

This transoceanic dispersal of wildlife was recorded in great detail by Williams-Mystic Director Emeritus Jim Carlton, whose research into the history of marine communities focuses on what he calls “the additions and deletions of species over time.” Along with numerous colleagues, he authored a paper about the study that was the cover story in the journal *Science* last September.

“There was an understanding that a debris field was out there,” he said. “The size was not known, but clearly millions of objects were suddenly and violently released into the Pacific Ocean – entire towns were gone. But it wasn’t until debris began arriving on our coasts that there was a realization that these objects were carrying Japanese species.”

Carlton was not standing on the shores of the Pacific waiting for this debris to arrive, but his colleagues on the West Coast knew of his interests in this kind of phenomenon. Fifteen months after the tsunami, when a large fisheries dock washed ashore in Oregon – just a few miles from a marine laboratory – some of those colleagues rushed to the site to collect samples. The dock was covered with Japanese marine animals and plants.

“It was eyebrow-raising and jaw-dropping,” he said. “I’d spent the last 50 years looking at vectors of invasive species distribution, particularly the history of species dispersal by ships, and I never thought I’d study ocean rafting, because it’s a difficult subject to study. I’ve walked beaches all over the world looking for exotic species washing ashore on marine debris, but have never found them. Mostly we don’t know where debris items came from or when they entered the ocean. And then we have an event like this where a massive pulse of material entered the ocean at a known time and place.”

That dock was a harbinger of things to come, and it launched Carlton and his colleagues on a major research project that continues today. Over the course of the next few months, they established a network of scientists and other helpers from Alaska to California to Hawaii who collected samples on any debris that washed ashore that might be linked to the tsunami. Small boats, buoys, crates, construction debris, and even one more dock found their way to North America over the next five years, with hundreds of people contributing to the effort.

During that time, Carlton and his team identified nearly 300 living marine species that traveled across the Pacific. They included many typical Japanese coastal species like barnacles, mussels, chitons, sponges, crabs, worms and sea anemones that clung to about 600 different objects that were closely studied.

“There’s no question that we undersampled the diversity that made it across,” Carlton said. “We’re sure that many thousands of objects landed in North America and Hawaii, so what we saw was just a subset of what actually arrived.”

While major earthquakes and tsunamis have occurred many times throughout history, Carlton believes the 2011 disaster likely provided a much greater opportunity for species dispersal than ever before.

“The last tsunami in northeast Japan comparable to the 2011 event was before World War II, when the coast north of Tokyo was largely small villages and wooden homes,” he said. “It was nothing at all like the modern development of the coast today. As a result, there was essentially no plastic debris produced by earlier tsunamis – it was mostly all biodegradable material.

“That got us thinking that the story of ocean rafting has shifted rather remarkably in the last half century. The plastic rafts at sea now are very enduring. They’re not degrading and dissolving. Animals can go on a much longer voyage now than they could have historically when they were drifting on a piece of vegetation,” he added.

The implications of such a change are significant. Although it may take several years before newly arriving species become established, Carlton expects that at least some of the species they recorded will survive to reproduce along the shores of North America.
MAKING MUSIC

Don Sineti

By Meredith Carroll
For many of Don’s students, the easiest thing about singing chanteys is also the most difficult....

“The chantey is just you and your voice and the people singing with you.”

To Don Sineti, the chantey is a toolbox.

“A carpenter has in his toolbox hammers, saws, chisels and chalk,” said Sineti. A chantey singer has songs for hauling line and heaving it, for turning capstans and pumping water. His chanteys can propel short bursts of effort or sustain long stretches of it. Her music can hasten idle hours at sea or give form to the loneliness of traveling out of sight of land for months at a time.

According to Sineti, a chantey singer must apply the correct tool to the job being done, organize an effort too massive for an individual person to do, and end immediately when the job is done.

Sineti teaches sea music to Williams-Mystic chantey skills students. He has worked at Mystic Seaport for 25 years and taught Williams-Mystic students for about half that time.

For those who have met him, it may be difficult to imagine Sineti doing anything other than singing chanteys. On a quiet day, he can be heard from across the street. He is recognizable the instant his voice is heard. He is easily identified in photographs a decade old – same horseshoe mustache, and jeans with the same couple t-shirts, including several featuring his own artwork.

Sineti draws cetaceans in addition to singing. He started drawing to pass time while recovering from a bad fall. He works in graphite. Sineti’s art, a reporter once pointed out to him, looks like it came straight from a logbook. Sineti had never noticed. He supposes he “wanted them to have that old feeling about them.”

Before he started singing chanteys, Sineti worked in construction for several decades.

Before he started drawing cetaceans for outlets including *Alaska Geographic* magazine, the Nantucket Historical Association and Mystic Seaport, he served in Vietnam.

And before that, Sineti came of age during the folk music revival. He graduated from Connecticut’s Bloomfield High School in 1961, and he remembers folk songs topping the charts on radio. He remembers hundreds of people gathering in parks, schools and sports fields to hear folk bands play, including his.

Vietnam interrupted. But when he returned, Sineti continued playing folk music, singing at pubs and festivals on weekends.

He loved folk music for how it came “directly out of the human experience,” he said. He appreciated that people sang not to make money — he can tell you it’s not to make a lot of money — but to give form to their lives and stories.

He loved sea music, when he made his way to it, for the same reasons. He sang with a group called the Morgans, which played at some of Mystic Seaport’s earliest Sea Music Festivals.

It was at one of those festivals that Sineti met Stan Hugill.

“To all intents and purposes,” he explained, “Stan was the last actual working chanteyman on an ocean-going vessel.” Hugill spoke multiple languages and was shipwrecked multiple times. He experienced the “last attempt to compete with powered vessels,” which Sineti argues was also the first revival of the Great Age of Sail.

“A lot of young men” — and in those days, it was almost all men — “went to sea as an adventure,” Sineti said. They wanted to relive experiences like Hugill’s, experiences already a generation removed.
Sineti and Hugill became fast friends, bonding over their music and also their visual art. It was Hugill who helped convince Sineti to work at the Seaport.

As Sineti tells it, “things just kind of came together. I was done with my other work. I did get injured in Vietnam, and it started bothering me a lot in the other trades that I did. I never did anything to promote my art. It came and got me by the collar. It’s the same way with the music.”

One of the first things Sineti tells his Williams-Mystic students is something Hugill told him. “‘Clarity and volume are more important than tonal beauty in the singing of a chantey.’”

For many of his students, the easiest thing about singing chanteys is also the most difficult. “Chanteys were unaccompanied music,” he said. “The ballads and the other things were accompanied with instruments. The chantey is just you and your voice and the people singing with you.”

For his students, Sineti hopes, singing chanteys and sea music also grants access to “the greater realm of our sea heritage. The class we do here is called chantey class, but what we really get into are what are called the fo’c’sle songs, which were not sung for work.”

Some songs warned sailors not to waste their money on shore leave. Others simply gave form to the isolation of living for years out of sight of familiar land.

“In some of the most beautiful sailor ballads, they talk about the candle in the window, which would be the last light they would see before returning home.”

To Sineti, the chantey and the ballad and the folk song are all tools to help the singer access these bygone experiences, if only for the duration of a phrase, or of a verse, or of a work song that must end immediately when the task is done.
The $100,000 Challenge

During Alumni Reunion Weekend 2017, Alexander “Sasha” Bulazel (S’85) posed a challenge to his fellow Williams-Mystic alumni: Take a picture with the Williams-Mystic burgee at one of our planet’s four extremes,* and Bulazel would donate $25,000 to Williams-Mystic for each location.

Not two months later, Jaime Hensel (S’03) featured on the cover, arrived at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station with the Williams-Mystic burgee in hand.

These extremes include: the North and South Poles; the Mariana Trench and/or another significant point on the ocean floor; or, the top of one of the world’s tallest mountains (e.g., Everest or K2). Bulazel has pledged up to $100,000. He will donate $25,000 for each of the first four alumni (including Hensel) who takes a picture with the W-M burgee at one of these places.

Contact us at mystic.williams.edu/alumni if you are going somewhere that might qualify!
Mary K. Bercaw Edwards was featured on the PBS Special, “The Great American Read,” discussing Moby-Dick. She was included in the launch special that aired on May 11, 2018. She and the students of F’17 will appear at greater length in the one-hour “Monsters and Villains” segment that will air this summer. In addition, Mary K and the Melville Society applied for and received a major NEH grant for a K-12 Teachers’ Institute, “Moby-Dick and the World of Whaling in the Digital Age,” that ran June 17-30, 2018. Mary K is also involved in the NEH-funded Munson Institute co-directed by Glenn Gordinier. In addition to her NEH activities, she will happily spend much of her summer aloft on the Charles W. Morgan and Joseph Conrad, working with alums Lauren Barber F’14, Grace Gagnon F’16, Bridget Hall S’17, Alyssa Potter F’14, and Hannah Thomas F’16, as well as two alum spouses, Barry Keenan, husband of Amanda Nicholas Keenan F’06, and Maria Petrillo, wife of Nathan Adams F’03.

Lisa Gilbert S’96 was on research sabbatical during the 2017-2018 year. While at UC Santa Cruz in the Earth & Planetary Sciences Department during the fall, she wrote several scientific papers, proposals, and book chapters on her research in marine geophysics and geoscience education. She met up with the F’17 class at Pescadero Beach, presented at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Seattle, and attended a workshop to discuss future research at Axial Volcano. Then, she spent the first six months of 2018 at University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. As visiting associate professor in the Geology Department, she continued writing and forged new collaborations. She also did extensive field work on an un-named ancient seafloor volcano on the New Zealand coast.

Tim Pusack completed his first two semesters at Williams-Mystic with enthusiasm. He greatly enjoyed going on all six field seminars and learning the Williams-Mystic culture. In addition to teaching classes, he also published three articles. One is on the current status of lionfish population in the Bahamas, which look to be stabilizing. His second paper blended marine ecology and genetics by estimating the number of larval fish that move to new reefs and those that return to the reef where they were hatched. His final paper, for which he was lead author, estimated the effect that a predatory snail has on oysters from the northern Gulf of Mexico. This summer he is advising two former students from S’18, Shelby Hoogland (Bryn Mawr) and Christina Mancilla (Williams College). Shelby is studying the effect of rising temperatures on green crab feeding rates, and Cristina is describing how a parasite infects comb jellies. Tim also received a grant, the Class of 1963 Sustainability Grant, to construct a coral propagation facility. This system will teach students about coral reef ecology and sustainable coral propagation through a process called fragging. Tim is looking forward to the start of his second year and building on the momentum from his first year.

Katy Robinson Hall S’84 continues to represent clients facing active climate change-related challenges, and working on a variety of legislative and policy issues relevant to Narragansett Bay in her home state of RI. At W-M, Katy is fresh off a Jim Carlton-led scouting trip to Sitka and Juneau, Alaska, where she, Jim, Tom Van Winkle and Tim Pusack scoped out the possibility of a future extension of our PNW field seminar to include southeast Alaska. In only four days on the ground, following a classic JTC packed itinerary, we were treated to several visits with W-M alums, including Linda Behnken F’82, Haley Kardek F’17 and Jessica Menges S’16, with an extra bonus of having lunch with Doc Ricketts’ daughter, Nancy Ricketts!

Fall ‘17 and Spring ‘18 Field Seminars
This summer, Alicia Maggard joined 19 other scholars and educators to participate in the NEH-sponsored Munson Institute at Mystic Seaport. She happily immersed herself in the latest scholarship on maritime history and culture and learning from the field’s leading practitioners, including Williams-Mystic’s own Glenn Gordinier and Mary K. Bercaw Edwards! With the assistance of Matt Novosad (F’17), a Mystic Seaport Museum studies intern, Alicia also became better acquainted with the Museum’s rich maritime historical collections, and she looks forward to introducing them to F’18 Williams-Mystic students.
J-Term to Focus on 19th Century Coastal New England

An opportunity for students to develop an intimate understanding of 19th century Mystic.

By Todd McLeish

The Williams-Mystic program started as a two-week Winter Study class 41 years ago, and last year the program initiated its first Winter Study class since its founding. The unqualified success of last January’s class on “The Changing Landscape and Musical Geography of the Mississippi River Delta” has inspired a new J-term class for the coming year.

“After last winter’s class, students expressed an interest in wanting to enroll in a J-term class that was more Mystic-centric,” said W-M Executive Director Tom Van Winkle, who will direct the new class on “Material Culture and Craft of 19th Century Coastal New England,” which will be taught largely by Seaport staff.

The goal of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop an intimate understanding of 19th century Mystic. Students enrolled in the course will get a hands-on experience that mirrors 19th century maritime craft and culture by working in the shipsmith shop, the cooperage, the print shop, the canvas works and other facilities at Mystic Seaport. It will provide students with the rare opportunity to delve deeply into the mindset of 19th century maritime culture by creating an authentic artifact that reflects an understanding of the values and mores of the time.

“To appreciate a culture or a community so different from what we live and experience today, you have to also understand the ways in which its residents shaped their world, specifically, the crafts they pledged,” said Van Winkle. “There are few opportunities in life when this understanding can be delivered through lived experience.”

The course – open only to Williams College freshmen, sophomores and juniors – will immerse students in the skills portion of the Williams-Mystic experience, which Van Winkle expects will inspire students to want to enroll in the full-semester program later.

“In addition to learning and studying the skills of the 19th century, students will also go on local field trips to show how these skills continue, even in the 21st century, especially with boat building and forge work,” Van Winkle said. “Connections will be made to the current time and how those skills and material culture help to define the current culture and have a lasting impact.”

For more information about the new J-term class, visit winterstudy.williams.edu.

Ways to Give Back

Feeling nostalgic about your semester? There are some very practical ways to keep yourself in touch with your experience!

Support scholarship funds ...
... for future students by donating to the James T. Carlton Fund (jtcfund.org) daily, weekly, monthly, or annually. Whether one dollar or a million, every penny will go to supporting student scholarships! Some employers will match your annual fund donations so it pays to ask.

Build Williams-Mystic into your estate plan ...
... a bequest may be in the form of cash, securities, real estate or other property. You should specify that Williams-Mystic is to receive a certain amount or percentage of your estate. For more information, contact Tom at tsv1@williams.edu.

Spread the word about Williams-Mystic ...
... talk about Williams-Mystic with high school and college students and then share their information with us. If you would like us to send you brochures or posters, drop us an email at tsv1@williams.edu.

Donate your time and talent ...
... consider speaking with us about alumni council work, becoming a class agent, or other ways to give back. Email Tom at tsv1@williams.edu.
Jim believes that this invasion of species from across the Pacific is a hint of what is to come as increasingly severe storms – the result of the changing climate – hammer coastlines around the world.

He also believes that this invasion of species from across the Pacific is a hint of what is to come as increasingly severe storms – the result of the changing climate – hammer coastlines around the world.

"Imagine the amount of debris that came off the Caribbean islands during the hurricanes last fall – many hundreds if not thousands of buildings and all of their contents were swept into the ocean," he said.

"The climate models and evidence strongly suggest that we're going to be entering a world of more of these cyclonic systems, making ocean rafting potentially one of the major new vectors for invasive species." The result, he suggested, will be a homogenization of the world's coastlines.

“One of the cultural, ecological, environmental and economic themes of invasive species in much of the world is that wherever human activity is extensive, the fauna and flora begin to blend together," Carlton said. "The native fauna and flora tends to be displaced or replaced, and one has to look harder and harder for those lovely natural elements we go to see on vacations or on nature walks. This homogenization decreases diversity and reduces the overall sense of how different many parts of the world are – or were. We go to exotic places around the world to see interesting and lovely plants and animals, and we'd rather not see weeds, pigeons and rats – or their marine equivalents – everywhere we turn.”

Carlton became interested in how marine invasive species arrive in new locations as a teenager in the 1960s living in Oakland, CA. He conducted surveys of fish, seaweeds and invertebrates in Lake Merritt, an estuary off San Francisco Bay near his home, and he was surprised that many of the species he identified were not native to the Pacific coast.

“It fascinated me how these species from Asia, Chile, Europe and elsewhere arrived there,” he said. “That launched me into a fairly detailed scientific study of the lake – at age 14 – which we resurveyed 50 years later in 2016.”

Since then he has conducted studies of marine invasive species in many parts of the world. He continued to work extensively in California and argued that San Francisco Bay was the most invaded bay on Earth. He later conducted extensive studies of the human causes of marine species dispersal, focusing primarily on ship ballast water. He has done similar studies in Hawaii, South Africa and elsewhere. He is now focusing on marine invasive species in the Galapagos Islands, where invasives have been little studied.

“I’ve made five trips there trying to understand how the Galapagos marine environment has changed over the years,” Carlton said. “It’s a very famous place, but it’s not well understood in terms of additions and deletions to marine communities. How many species have been added since the 1500s when Spanish ships began arriving there? Far more than we ever imagined.”

Through all of this work, he has been enamored of the students and faculty of the Williams-Mystic program.

“I spent a quarter century as director and teaching professor to many of the most remarkable students in the world,” said Carlton, who taught marine science courses from 1982 to 1985 before becoming director in 1989. “I’ve had the luxury of being able to follow my students’ careers through the decades. I’m still in contact with students from my very first class. That rarely happens at a large university.”

He said it’s the intensive off-campus atmosphere of the program that is so conducive to life-long bonding between students and faculty.

“Many of our students speak of their one semester at Williams-Mystic as the most remarkable and most memorable of their entire college experience,” he said. “That was always inspirational to me.”

After stepping down as program director in 2015, Carlton has devoted himself to research. “I didn’t retire, as it turns out. We were able to immediately focus full-time on the tsunami ocean rafting work which allowed for all the threads to come together,” he said.

What’s on his agenda for the coming years?

“I’m just going to keep on going as long as I can put sentences together in the right order, because I can’t imagine what real retirement would be,” he said. “I’ve got many other projects in the works – the tsunami work will go on for another year or two, and the Galapagos work. And there are many other projects in New England and the Pacific Coast that are waiting for my time. I’m going to try to get to them all.”
For several years, Williams-Mystic has developed and implemented a series of steps designed to make daily living in the student houses more sustainable. Students become dedicated recyclers, learn to compost, monitor their electricity usage, take shorter showers, and try to produce as little trash as possible. This year the program is adding another element to that list – reduced use of plastics.

“Mystic Seaport is working toward the elimination of single-use plastics, and it has invited us to be part of that push,” said W-M Executive Director Tom Van Winkle. “We’ve already been living on parallel tracks when it comes to sustainability, so we’re interested in working with them on this initiative.”

The goal will be more difficult to achieve for the Seaport, since they use plastic containers, straws and other single-use plastics in their retail food sales. But students may also be challenged by the effort when they purchase groceries and other products off-site and bring them back to their houses.

One step being considered – at the suggestion of Assistant Professor Tim Pusack – is the purchase of a plastics recycling and reprocessing machine from Precious Plastics, a nonprofit that supports grassroots recycling efforts. The equipment, based on modular open-source designs, shreds plastic into tiny beads that can then be reproduced into other materials or used in 3D printers.

“We might be able to outfit some of our student houses with plates, mugs and other things through our own recycling efforts,” Van Winkle said. “We’re beginning to investigate that and hope to have a system in place later this year.”

“I think it’s going to be a quite simple and natural thing for us to achieve the goal of reduced plastics usage,” said Van Winkle. “It’s going to reinforce to our students that there are very easy ways to reduce plastic use, and they can do so in such a way that they can go back to their home colleges thinking about it and noticing things they may want to change there. In that sense, they become change agents on their own home campuses.”
WHO IS THE REAL
JOSIAH GARDNER?
A Look Back at the 40th Reunion
**CLASS NOTES**

**F’81**

Jeanne Hammond is in her 29th year of commercial salmon fishing in the summer at her set net site on the west side of Kodiak Island. She also works as a full-time teacher in Anchorage, mostly teaching immigrant and refugee students who are soaking up the English language. She enjoys traveling and taking long walks for fun.

**S’82**

After 35 years, Mercy Devine is sailing again. She travels into Boston once a week, in season, to sail with CBI on the Charles.

**S’87**

Tim Farrell and his wife, Jessyn, have three children – Emaline 9, John 7, and Julian 3 – and an 8-month-old golden retriever named Felix. He is mostly a landlubber these days, taking care of house and home while Jessyn conquers the world of politics. His big maritime opportunities come when they visit Cape Cod each July and when the W-M classes come through Seattle on their West Coast trips. He has a fledgling real estate business going, and for his 50th birthday a couple of years ago, he started playing baseball again in a senior league.

**S’88**

Alexandra McClennen Dohan is incredibly excited that she finally went back to sea on a SEA alumni sail from New York City to Woods Hole last May – sailing through pea soup fog from Throggs Neck to Woods Hole. She had a wonderful trip on the “SSV Corwith Cramer,” and noted that it was a great way to commemorate the 30th anniversary of her W-M semester.

**S’89**

Jonathan Kurland and Anne Kurkland F’87 still live in Juneau, Alaska, and they are going to New York City to celebrate their 50th birthdays. Their daughter Meg has been accepted to Hampshire College, and son Sam is working for McKinsey until he goes to Columbia Law School.

**F’89**

Rebecca Driscoll just turned 50 and is sending her first child to college this fall.

**F’94**

Farah Schaeffer and her family – three kids, one husband and one dog – moved to the north shore of Boston last August. She started the life sciences licensing practice in the new Boston office of Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati. Shortly after moving in, they visited Mystic, so her oldest son, Evan, could chat with the blacksmith about his independent study at school.

**F’99**

Meredith Sorensen is still promoting organic waste recycling, clean energy and compost.

Rachel Beane is associate dean for faculty at Bowdoin College with an emphasis on faculty development and faculty diversity initiatives. She was recognized as a fellow of the Geological Society of America. She enjoys kayaking and playing with family in Casco Bay, Maine.

**F’07**

Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild F’03 has enjoyed working with four Williams-Mystic alums working together at the Mystic Whaler this spring and summer. Veronica Vesnaver S’14, Lauren Barber F’14 and John Accetta F’16.

**F’07**

Morgane Treantong married Alex Mattern on Oct. 8, 2016 in Scituate, Mass. Jess Lueders-Dumont, another F’07 alum, attended the wedding.

**F’11**

Amy Duggan spent two years living on St. Thomas doing a master’s program in marine and environmental science at the University of the Virgin Islands. She did research on sea grasses. She is a 2012 graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, where she majored in biology and environmental science and minored in maritime studies and photography/studio arts.

After years away from a ship Quinn Bernegger got a chance to relive his offshore days as a deckhand chorus member in a production of Benjamin Britten’s opera adaptation of “Billy Budd” last summer with the Des Moines Metro Opera. For the production, the stage was transformed into the huge front section of a British man-of-war. Since W-M, he has been on a wild adventure studying and performing as an opera singer. He finished a graduate program at the Boston Conservatory in May and will continue with a lineup of gigs into next year at Opera Saratoga.

**F’12**

After three years working as marina manager at Signal Mountain Lodge in the Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, Emily Lozeau returned to school to study fisheries and aquaculture science at Bellingham Technical College in Bellingham, Wash. She is also working at Taylor Shellfish Farm in Bow, Wash. After graduation, she served with AmeriCorps as a college access advisor in southeastern Ohio, where she tried to guide as many high school seniors as she could toward Williams-Mystic. She then earned a master’s degree in speech language pathology at the University of Kentucky. She now lives on the lakefront in Cleveland. Hobbies include running and trying to replicate the chocolate peanut butter banana bread she perfected in Kemble House.

Erin Weber got married this past June to James McCarthy in Nahant, MA. In true Williams-Mystic form, their wedding was full of all things nautical and ocean themed, from homemade ribbon and rope boutonnieres to their seaside venue. James (a Marblehead-er like Erin) has settled in well with Erin’s Boston-based shipmates and has attended a few of the past W-M reunions. She looks forward to making it to many more in the years to come!
S’16

Jessica Menges just finished her first year of graduate school at the University of Rhode Island, where she is studying marine affairs. This summer she went to Sitka, Alaska, to intern with Linda Behnken F’82 at the Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association, mapping chinook salmon routes and doing her own research on Pacific halibut fishery management. She will be getting married next summer.

Passages

Patrick Clifford Hodgson S’89 died on July 2, 2018 at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Patrick is survived by his mother, Camille; his wife, Kate; his children, Elizabeth and Patrick; and his sister, Sayre.

Pat was born in London, Ontario, graduated from Williams College, and completed Master’s degrees at both The Wharton School and The University of Toronto. He served as President of Cinnamon Investments. Pat was an avid birder who contributed to the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario and traveled the world building his life list.

While at Williams-Mystic, Pat lived in Albion House. His shipmate, Andy Saunders, was fortunate enough to visit with Pat before his passing and noticed that the “Cathead” Andy carved in his carving skills class was prominently displayed in his family room.

Pat’s twins are starting college this fall. We send our heartfelt love and sympathy to Pat’s family and loved ones.

Send your class updates to wmalumni@williams.edu

JAMES T. CARLTON
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