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”
What a long, strange trip this has been.

Ben Labaree, Director (1977-1989) Emeritus
More than a year ago Linda and I moved to “The Highlands,” a retirement community in mid-coast Maine close to the Bowdoin College campus. Believe it or not, we are still moving in...opening and shelving books, sorting out clothing, etc. We have discovered that with advancing age everything takes twice as long.

At the same time, there is still so much one wants to do—books to read, lectures and concerts to attend, family and friends to keep up with, new places to visit.

We wonder how we once managed to work full-time, raise a family, check on elderly parents, etc. all at the same time—as many of you are now doing.

Whew! Hang in there, guys and gals.

On Wednesday, September 7, 1977, when 21 students from 13 colleges arrived in Mystic for F’77 (WM1) under the tutelage of Professor Benjamin Labaree, it was impossible to imagine ... to even dream ... of how the Williams-Mystic Program would grow one day to its unique position in global ocean education. The offices alone were humble!—just two rooms and an assistant’s desk in the library (now gone). Debby and I had the pleasure of stepping aboard in the fall of 1982 (F’82), to teach for the next seven semesters; after a short time at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (which association was to anchor our Pacific Northwest field seminars in the 1990s), I returned in 1989 as director to succeed Ben, who by then had built the program’s rock-solid foundation.

To have led the Williams-Mystic family—students, faculty, and staff—for the next 26 years (and to teach in 55 semesters) is an honor beyond description. I am so pleased to be able to celebrate our 40th Anniversary and the launch of F’17 (WM81!) with all of you.

Tom Van Winkle, Director (2015- …)
An important educator named Kurt Hahn once remarked, “Plus est en vous”; roughly translated this means, “There is more in you than you think.”

What’s the point? Given the right educational experiences, students can achieve far more than they thought possible. I see this happen every semester at Williams-Mystic and hear this of previous ones.

Our coasts and oceans are our learning platform. Rich, interdisciplinary learning, primary research, hands-on fieldwork, offshore challenges, compelling field seminars, 19th-century skills, and sustainable community living at the most beautiful campus in the world are our methods.

That’s all it takes to transform lives for 40 years. Let’s shoot for 40 more. Thank you Ben, Jim, alumni, Mystic Seaport, Williams, and our students for making it happen.
When Paul Butera, a sophomore studying geology at the University of Puget Sound, arrived at Williams-Mystic in January 2017, he didn’t have a plan for life after college. His classmate Emma McCauley, by contrast, was certain she would continue on to graduate school after completing her marine biology degree at Stony Brook University the following fall. At different stages in their education, Paul and Emma nevertheless share a love for the ocean. Paul spent last summer working at a salmon fishery in Alaska. Emma has years of experience volunteering with Oceana and the New York Aquarium. When they were interviewed during the 13th week of the spring semester, they agreed that their experiences at Williams-Mystic had altered their views on the ocean, on conservation and on how to carry forward their enthusiasm for both.
What experiences did you have before you got here that made you invested in protecting the ocean?

Paul: In Alaska, you can see that the oceans are warming, that it’s 14 degrees warmer where you’re fishing and you’re getting fewer fish. Seeing that in the real world and then coming here and reading about it has been fascinating.

Emma: I’ve always tried to advocate for the ocean, but the event that made it concrete for me was Hurricane Sandy. I lived close to places that got utterly destroyed. Knowing that climate change caused this storm and that things like this will likely happen more frequently in the future reminded me how important environmental work and study are in the real world.

How has Williams-Mystic changed the way you think about your major?

Emma: Williams-Mystic has shifted my perspective away from just looking at the ocean as a scientific system to be studied. It’s made me realize that to be an effective steward of the ocean, you can’t push aside the people who need it to survive.

Paul: I’ve realized that the interdisciplinary parts of the ocean are what make it special. An example from the Pacific Northwest Field Seminar: I go to school right there. Yet I had to go to the East Coast and come back in order to appreciate all that happens there. I also really liked the Louisiana Field Seminar. I’d never been to the South, and it was a completely new experience for me. I found it similar to Alaska because oil and fisheries drive both place’s economies. Yet there were drastically different views of how those things should be managed. It’s a different society based off the same things, which was really interesting for me.

Emma: I definitely think my worldview has changed. I’m lucky to have come from an environmentally conscious place, and my love of the ocean has made me views on environmental issues very black and white. My college education has reinforced that. But this program teaches you that these problems aren’t black and white. It makes you think about the social justice issues involved. Being a steward of the ocean doesn’t mean you can’t also be a voice for people who need it. The most challenging thing about Williams-Mystic has been understanding that your beliefs may not always be right and challenging yourself to look at all the information out there before you come to a conclusion.

How have your classmates’ perspectives changed your experience here?

Emma: We learn from each other. One of the greatest things about Williams-Mystic is that I’m a marine biology major, but that doesn’t mean I’m better suited for the science class than anyone else. All the different perspectives make it the interdisciplinary program it is.

Paul: I’m going to steal something Nickie Mitch (Bowdoin ‘18) said during the Pacific Northwest trip when we went to Powell’s Books. I was expecting everyone to go to similar sections of the store but we all spread out. Everyone has a different passion, but we’re all tied together by our fascination with the ocean.

What will you take back to your home campus?

Paul: I think what I’ll take away is the interdisciplinary part of Williams-Mystic. If someone brings something up, I’m able to identify how it ties into the ocean, or this issue, or that policy. I may not be an expert, but I look forward to being a resource and an advocate for studying the ocean.

Emma: I’ll also be more willing to step outside my comfort zone. Before I started this program, I was worried about getting seasick. I didn’t foresee myself performing chanteys for museum visitors. I didn’t think I would feel comfortable doing either of those things. But I’m doing them now and it’s not a big deal anymore.

What about Williams-Mystic do you think will stick with you a decade from now?

Paul: Definitely the field seminars. Moving around, having a full-body experience and learning about it at the same time is incredible, and it really ingrains whatever you’re learning about.

Emma: I’ve learned that there are more doors open than you may realize. I always thought I would go right to grad school and become a researcher, because it was the only way I thought I could make an impact. Williams-Mystic showed me that’s not true. It made me see that you can find meaningful ways to engage whatever interests you have wherever you go.
From Sea Living to Sea Level Rising

By Todd McLeish
Austin Becker developed an interest in sailing, wind surfing and all things maritime as a child growing up in Hamden, Conn. But he carried that interest further and in more unexpected directions than most sailing enthusiasts.

He sailed aboard numerous schooners, including Harvey Gamage, Lettie G. Howard, Pioneer and Soundwaters; he bought and restored a 1946 Rhodes sloop to serve as the base of a day-sailing charter business in Provincetown harbor; and he delivered boats of all sorts to ports throughout the East Coast, Caribbean and Central America. And he did it all before he turned 30.

During one yacht delivery, he visited the Colombian island of Providencia, which was first settled by Blackbeard the pirate, sparking a whole new academic interest in pirates and pirate ship democracies.

But he wasn’t finished. He eventually moved to Rhode Island, where he served as captain of the Sloop Providence, the state’s 110-foot, Revolutionary War era reproduction tall ship, which hosted educational programs for schoolchildren and traveled the tall ship circuit each summer.

“We performed mock gun battles, offered public tours and charters and developed team-building activities,” Becker said. “But in the tall ship world, you go where she goes, and it’s tough to have a home life.”

So he did what many wayward sailors in the tall ship world do – he enrolled at the University of Rhode Island to earn a master’s degree in marine affairs. He added a second master’s in environmental science and management, then went to work for the university’s Coastal Resources Center, developing policy for ports, waterfront communities and water-dependent businesses in the upper reaches of Narragansett Bay.

Becker credits the Williams-Mystic program as a launchpad for his interest in maritime history and sail training. He credits the interdisciplinary nature of the program that influenced him the most. In fact, all of his education and work history have been highly interdisciplinary.

“I loved the idea of living on the grounds of a maritime museum,” he said of Williams-Mystic, which he enrolled in while an undergraduate at Hampshire College. “And the program brought us to some incredible places. I especially remember a trip to New York City where we studied the critters in New York harbor, then the policy professor talked about the legal issues involved in New York’s shipping industry, and the history professor took us to South Street Seaport and talked about the evolution of New York’s maritime history. I thought that was a great way to learn in multiple dimensions.

“It was a real immersion into a maritime perspective in all of these disciplines and different ways of thinking,” he added. “It was honestly one of the best things I did during my undergraduate education.”

Becker, a marathon runner whose wife gave birth to their first child in February, calls his work on tall ships an interdisciplinary job as well.

“Sail training is all rooted in maritime history and labor history,”
he said, “but shipboard life demands a combination of many different skills like plumbing and engine repair and rigging and cooking. You’re bringing all these skills together with a group to become a self-sufficient little microcosm at sea.”

After earning a doctorate at Stanford University’s Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources, Becker joined the faculty of the University of Rhode Island Department of Marine Affairs. He remains connected to Williams-Mystic by working to strengthen the relationship between the program and URI. He encourages URI undergraduates to take advantage of a scholarship enabling them to enroll in the program while also encouraging Williams-Mystic alumni to enroll in the URI Marine Affairs program for graduate school.

“There’s a natural flow between the programs,” he said.

And when he talks to students whom he thinks are a good fit for Williams-Mystic, he describes it as “the best thing you can do as an undergrad. It’s an off-campus experience where the rate of learning is really high because you’re immersed in different worlds and exposed to different perspectives of science, policy, history and literature. The program gives you a well-rounded understanding of the different places you visit, and you can see how those disciplines influence each other and why it’s so important to understand the ecology of a place when you’re trying to understand the policy, or how the history of a place contributes to the challenges faced by decision-makers. Williams-Mystic is a place where you can really focus on the linkages.”

Those linkages continue to be a main focus of Becker’s work. He calls himself an interdisciplinary scientist working between the social and ocean sciences. He says he is motivated by the climate change challenge to help make coastal communities stronger and more resilient to the effects of storms, sea level rise and other natural hazards.

This year his research was recognized with a Sloan Research Fellowship in Ocean Sciences, one of the most prestigious fellowships available to early-career scientists in the United States. He is the first URI faculty member ever to receive the honor.

“I was pretty excited when I got word that I was selected,” he said. “This award recognizes the importance of bringing the latest ocean science information to the public and the decision makers who need it in order to make choices that benefit society.”

Becker and his team of graduate students and research associates are developing tools to aid in planning for and mitigating the effects of climate change. These include a virtual disaster impacts model, techniques to visualize the impact of disasters, techniques to better understand the relative vulnerability of North Atlantic seaports, and methodologies for engaging stakeholders in resilience planning.

“My group develops tools that get people thinking about the long-term implications of natural hazards,” he said. “Stakeholders need to understand how they share the burden of risk. Often people assume that the responsibility to invest in resilience lies with someone else—the insurance company or the emergency planners or the private business owner. Our tools help people understand how results from oceanographers translate into social and economic costs. That, in turn, helps us make smarter choices in planning and policy.”

The funds from his Sloan Research Fellowship will enable him to hasten work on developing and testing these tools.

“In climate change, we’re looking at the biggest environmental challenge the human race has ever faced,” Becker explained. “Our roots as a civilization are very dependent on a maritime economy. Ninety percent of world freight moves by ship. If we’re going to continue with that paradigm, we will need to make some very significant changes to certain parts of our coast. These changes will affect everybody in the world, especially those in our coastal cities and our ports. And there are very difficult decisions that will have to be made.”

Based on current projections for sea level rise around the globe, Becker said that it will be far too expensive to protect all of our coastal communities, coastal infrastructure and coastal economies. “So we have to make choices as a society, and choices mean winners and losers,” he said. “And nobody wants to be a loser.”

His research is primarily directed at how to make these difficult choices. He is planting the seeds and developing the tools so vulnerable communities and industries can begin to have the necessary discussions that will enable them to make those choices. By helping decision makers figure out how to rank the vulnerability of ports and helping public officials visualize the dramatic impacts that rising seas and more extreme weather will have on coastlines, he is facilitating the challenging dialogue that must take place in threatened communities.

“How do you have a conversation about sea level rise when someone’s very livelihood is at stake?” asked Becker, who teaches courses in marine policy, port planning and geographic information systems. “My work is trying to get the conversation going before these tough decisions have to be made.”

Perhaps the biggest challenge he must overcome in his research is the uncertain time line of climate change projections – what will happen and when.

“The consequences of climate change are hard to fathom; they’re mostly not visible today,” he said. “To most people they don’t feel real, they don’t feel like something they can relate to. So moving my work forward when people don’t want to think about it is difficult.”

Planning for many major infrastructure projects, for instance, must begin soon, even if the climate impacts they are intended to mitigate aren’t likely to happen for decades.

“Long-term planning for climate change must look 50 or even 100 years into the future,” Becker concluded. “But we can still make a positive impact today by building coastal resilience and laying the groundwork for a more resilient coastal society for the next generation.”

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Becker credits the Williams-Mystic program as a launchpad for his interest in maritime history and sail training. And it was the interdisciplinary nature of the program that influenced him the most.
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Williams-Mystic
As Maine’s top lobster biologist, Kathleen Reardon is charged with protecting the state’s identity, reputation, economy and environment, all at the same time.

In Maine, lobsters aren’t just a culinary icon, one of the state’s most important exports, and the foundation of its global reputation. They are also the essence of every Mainer’s identity, the basis of the state’s tourism economy, and a symbol of its pristine environment and rugged coastline. But that’s not all. Lobsters are an economic powerhouse in the state, with a history going back four centuries. And for most hard-working fishermen, lobstering is a way of life.

Given the outsized importance of the lobster fishery in Maine, the person serving as the chief lobster biologist for the state has an equally outsized role along its 3,500 miles of coastline. It’s a high-pressure, high-visibility job that requires the ability to work closely with three very different constituencies – fishermen, scientists and government decision makers.

“It’s a really big fishery, so the job can be kind of intimidating,” said Kathleen Reardon (S’99).

She should know. She has held the job for the last two years and served as the state’s lobster sampling coordinator for the 10 previous years. In her current role, she is the point person for media calls about the lobster industry; she is a member of the Science and Technology Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council, which manages lobster populations in the region; she collaborates with scientists on a wide variety of research on the tasty crustaceans; and she works hard to translate the science to the industry.

According to Reardon, more than 130 million pounds of lobsters were harvested by the state’s 5,600 licensed lobstermen in 2016, with a value of about $533 million. Although those landings have leveled off in recent years, that comes after three decades of steady growth.

“We’ve had unprecedented increases in landings and value, and that wasn’t necessarily predicted,” Reardon said. “We knew the conditions were right, we had optimal temperatures for lobsters, but we’ve also seen some red flags that things are changing.”

Some of those changes have to do with the warming climate and increasing water temperatures, but Reardon said that those changes are actually benefitting Maine’s lobster industry. So far.

“We definitely have evidence that the ecosystem is changing,” she said. “The timing of the hatch is shifting; lobsters are molting earlier in the season. Our winters aren’t as cold, and that’s doing some interesting things to the timing of their life stages. In collaboration with the fishermen and the scientists, we’re trying to understand what it means. That’s my challenge now.”

The warmer waters may be increasing the growth rate of lobsters in the Gulf of Maine and increasing harvest numbers, but it’s also causing the lobsters to expand to deeper water. And that means the fishermen have to spend time searching for lobsters in new locations and traveling farther offshore.

“When I talk to the lobstermen, they say ‘I don’t know where to set my traps any more,’” Reardon said. “They’re finding lobsters in unexpected places. But the fishermen are adaptable to their environment, so they go wherever the lobsters are in higher numbers. And as they catch more and more, they shift farther offshore. They don’t have many other options.”

Reardon didn’t set out to have the most high-profile job in Maine’s most high-profile industry. But she got there; she says, via a path that had its origins at Williams-Mystic.

She grew up in East Greenwich, R.I., and matriculated at Williams College to major in biology with a concentration in environmental studies, knowing before enrolling that she wanted to study at Williams-Mystic.
“It fit in well with my interest in marine science,” she said. “I was always interested in being on the water; I spent a lot of time on the local mudflats and rocky intertidal. Williams-Mystic was a neat way to look at the interdisciplinary nature of marine science and how it fit into other things.”

Despite her life-long interest in marine science, however, Reardon had no interest in spending time in a laboratory.

“I didn’t want to do science for science’s sake,” she said. “I wanted to do applied work. So learning about the science in the context of policy and history and literature was appealing. Science was definitely my focus, but at Williams-Mystic I learned so much more about policy and history and how they relate to the lives of people who live and work around the ocean.”

Reardon said her interest in the applied science of fisheries emerged from her Williams-Mystic experience, noting that the data collected about fish, the marine environment, and the harvest are almost always used in stock assessments that influence management decisions that affect the fishing industry.

“People are so important to the science and the communities, and that’s something I learned at Williams-Mystic,” she said. “You have to think about it in so many ways and from so many perspectives.”

One of her favorite memories of the program also plays a role in her current work.

“We went to New York City to the South Street Seaport and had to wake up at 3 in the morning to go to the Fulton Fish Market, this big fish exchange that happens in the middle of the night,” she explained. “We had this great opportunity to walk through this fish exchange in the wee hours of the morning, with dead fish all around us, and clearly we didn’t belong. But seeing that and thinking back on it now, I realize I’m so comfortable now with the fishing industry, and it’s a normal thing for me to meet fishermen and watch them move bait around on a dock at 3 in the morning. But back then I felt so out of place. That was a unique experience that I wouldn’t have had were it not for Williams-Mystic.”

After graduation from Williams, Reardon moved to Maine to work for the Island Institute in a program she described as “the Maine Islands Peace Corps – people with skills but no agenda.” She lived on the island of Islesboro for two years working to map the island and introduce the community to what was then the new technology of GIS (geographic information systems). Along the way she collected data on lobsters around the island, which ultimately led to dual master’s degrees in marine biology and marine policy and, later, a job with the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

“I learned most everything I knew about fisheries from the fishermen,” she said. “I heard a lot from them about fishing and regulations and everything that’s wrong with the government, and at grad school I heard it all from the academic perspective. When I got the job offer to run the lobster sampling program for the state, I thought: ‘Someone’s going to pay me to go out on boats and measure lobsters for science? Of course I’m going to do that.’”

It hasn’t always been fun, though. Reardon sees a great many question marks when she thinks about what is to come. A bacterium that causes a disease on lobster shells has devastated the lobster industry in southern New England, and while it hasn’t affected the Maine lobster population yet, she is keeping a close eye on it.

She is also concerned about the recent results of surveys for tiny post-larval lobsters up to three months old that have shown their numbers declining, even though landings and surveys of adult and juvenile lobsters are stable or increasing.

“You’d expect the timing might be different given the warming water, so something may
“People are so important to the science and the communities, and that’s something I learned at Williams-Mystic,” she said. “You have to think about it in so many ways and from so many perspectives.”

be happening, we just don’t know all the mechanisms and bottlenecks yet,” she said. “We’re still trying to understand it.”

Thousands of Mainers hope she figures it out soon. Unlike most fishermen in other regions of the country, who fish for different species at different times of the year, most Maine lobstermen make their entire living by harvesting lobsters. “It’s their identity, it’s all they know,” she said. “We have licensed lobstermen in nursing homes who continue to pay for their license every year and won’t let it go because it’s who they are. The culture of the state revolves around lobsters.”

When asked about the future of the species and the lobster industry in Maine, all Reardon was comfortable saying was “change.”

“I can’t expect that it’s going to keep going up and up the way it has been,” she said. “Maybe it’s leveling off at 120 to 130 million pounds. But after seeing what shell disease did in southeastern New England, it makes me worried.

“We have different management than they do, though, so I’d like to hope that some of the conservation strategies we’ve employed in Maine will buffer if a decline is caused by environmental factors,” Reardon added. “But at this point I just don’t know. It’s something that keeps me up at night.”
IRONMAN of Mystic

By Meredith Carroll
Bill Scheer’s impressive blacksmith work can be found near and far, from ships like the Charles W. Morgan to movies such as 12 Years a Slave. With his wife Lou – a longtime Mystic Seaport employee – he has become a beloved figure in the Williams-Mystic community since he began teaching students blacksmithing in 1992.

But he didn’t expect to become a blacksmith. He recalled the moment, midway through his 24-year career in the Navy, when his plans began to take shape: “We were stationed in Sardinia, on a submarine repair ship. One night, the repair boss asked me what I was going to do when I retired. And I told him, ‘I’m going to become the blacksmith at Mystic Seaport.’ It just came out. No real thought behind it. It’s one of those things that was rattling around in my brain and I didn’t know it.”

Bill had already been stationed near Mystic and taken several blacksmithing classes at the Seaport. He even bought an anvil and forge for his backyard, though he said they served more for grilling hot dogs than for blacksmithing.

By 1989, when Lou told him the Seaport was hiring a blacksmith, Bill knew it was his calling.

“When I came here, they thought they were getting a real blacksmith,” he joked. “Well, I’d done a couple of classes, and I messed with it, and I belonged to a blacksmith guild, but I was still a learner blacksmith. All of a sudden you’re doing it regularly and all of a sudden you tend to get better. Quickly.”

Bill hasn’t looked back since. His matter-of-fact approach carries through to his teaching, too. “I don’t really look at anything as a challenge,” he said when asked about the difficulties students confront when learning to blacksmith. “It’s just a matter of doing more of it.” When students struggle, he has them repeat a single skill until it becomes second nature.

His years of teaching have attuned Bill to his students. When he meets a Williams-Mystic class for the first time, he can often guess who he’ll see in the forge that semester.

“I think it’s the fire,” Bill added. “I always ask the kids, ‘When you go camping, who’s the fire tender?’ And it seems like the ones that do blacksmithing are the ones that do fire tending. I know whenever we go camping I’m the fire guy.”

What else makes a good blacksmith? “Patience,” Lou volunteered.

For Bill, it’s as simple as that: patience, a willingness to be different and a penchant for fire.

Most of all, though, Bill cherishes the opportunity to connect with students, whether in the forge, at the dinners he and Lou host for every class, or on Alumni Weekend. He and Lou welcome as many as eight alumni at a time to stay with them. The Scheers also meet former students nearly everywhere they travel.

“I think they’ve kept us young,” Lou said. “We’re in touch with the younger generation and in tune with what their world is like. They’re much more environmentally conscious than Bill or I ever were. We should have been, but it wasn’t a big thing back then. A lot of them are going on that track now. They care
Bill muses about their creations, their connections, and the lessons he imparts about patience, persistence and crafting traditions. But first, he mentions hot chocolate.

about the oceans, they care about the air.”

Bill agreed. “I think the kids we see coming through this program give you faith that there is hope out there somewhere.”

For his part, Bill hopes that his students’ time in the forge will become part of their traditions as they move forward.

“I tell them that you’re not just making hooks – you’re making your family heirlooms,” he said. Sometimes those heirlooms are unconventional – “bottle openers seem to be very important at this age!” – but he encourages his students to create numerous small items rather than one large project, ensuring that at least some creations “will become part of their family legend and lore.”

When asked what sticks with students years later, Bill mused about their creations, their connections, and the lessons he imparts about patience, persistence and crafting traditions. But first, he mentioned hot chocolate.

“We’ve been doing hot chocolate for years,” he reminisced. “Lou would always bring sweets from her office. Some of the best times were in the winter, when the wind was howling and the snow was blowing in through the door. You’re standing with your butt up against the hot stove and it’s five o’clock at night and it’s dark outside.

“And then you’re having a cup of hot chocolate, and it makes everything well.”
Ways to Give Back

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Mary K. Bercaw Edwards serves as associate professor of English and maritime studies faculty at the University of Connecticut. Next year, she will be on sabbatical from UConn while she finishes her book, tentatively entitled *Sailor Talk: Labor, Utterance, and Meaning in the Works of Melville, Conrad, and London*. Mary K spoke at the 11th International Melville Conference in London in June on “Performing the Sailor in Melville’s Works.” She still serves as the demonstration squad foreman at Mystic Seaport and never tires of climbing aloft on the Charles W. Morgan. She feels very blessed to have continued to teach for Williams-Mystic when needed.

**Glenn Gordinier** continues his year-round schedule, for now at least, teaching for Williams-Mystic in the fall and spring, teaching one course per semester at UConn’s Avery Point campus, and co-directing – along with Eric Roorda – the summer-time Munson Institute. His wife Pam is still producing and teaching art in Stonington, as well as in Vero Beach, FL, during the winter season. Whether north or south, when they are together, they regularly feed their addiction to the Argentine Tango. Meanwhile, Glenn’s other addiction continues to corrupt: Glenn took the S’17 class on the 20th Williams-Mystic student surf safari.

Katy Robinson Hall, S’84 finished her 15th year at Williams-Mystic this past spring, joined by her daughter, Bridget, S’17, as the first “faculty-daughter” WM team! Katy continues to practice law and regularly consults with a local environmental non-profit in beach access litigation, coastal zone management and climate change policy initiatives. Katy is excited that with Ronadh Cox’s help, we have broadened our Louisiana field seminar to include environmental justice issues faced by coastal communities striving to protect their culture and heritage while confronting sea level rise. Katy also continues to be amazed (and gratefully fortified) by Policy snacks each Friday!
TIMOTHY PUSACK

Timothy Pusack joined the Williams-Mystic faculty this summer as the new marine ecology professor. Fascinated by the diversity of life and all of its manifestations, he is driven to understand why and how species exist in their particular habitats. He earned his doctorate from Oregon State University studying the ecology of Bahamian reef fishes, particularly the invasive lionfish. As a post-doctoral researcher at the University of South Florida, he coordinated research on oyster reefs around the state and participated in research projects investigating artificial reefs, groupers, lionfish and climate change. Tim is also active in educating the public about marine conservation issues.
Last September, Mystic Seaport opened the first exhibition building to be constructed on the Museum grounds since the 1970s. With the opening of the 14,000-square-foot Thompson Building, the cornerstone of the $15.3 million McGraw Gallery Quadrangle, the project has come to a successful end—within budget and right on schedule.

The building was designed to usher in an Era of Exhibition at Mystic Seaport. It was designed by the Connecticut firm Centerbrook Architects and Planners, whose idea for the building was to evoke the “geometry of the sea,” drawing design cues from the interior of a wooden ship, the undulating sea; and a spiraling nautilus shell.

The building is named after the late Wade Thompson, a Mystic Seaport trustee for 27 years who believed passionately in the need for modern exhibition space and its importance for the future of the Museum.

The primary feature of the building is the Collins Gallery, a 5,000-square-foot exhibition space with soaring ceilings and a flexible layout that provides the caliber of conditions required to curate not only exhibits from the Mystic Seaport collections, but also to permit the borrowing of outstanding art and artifacts from other museums around the world. The inaugural exhibition in the gallery, SeaChange, opened on December 10 and is a dramatic presentation of a range of beautiful and unique objects drawn from the collections of the Museum.

Other elements in the Thompson Building include a visitor’s entrance, a sweeping reception lobby, a ticketing center, and a retail shop. A wraparound deck invites visitors to enjoy the riverside setting and serves as a covered overlook to the quadrangle’s common area, the location for the Museum’s new, popular summer event, Arts on the Quad.

In the Pilalas Reception Lobby is a 59-foot mural, “Away,” created by Nikki McClure of Olympia, WA, one of the world’s leading papercut artists.

The building also comes with very high environmental standards. It is heated and cooled by an energy-efficient geothermal system, which circulates liquid through a series of 20 closed-loop wells—each 465-foot deep—that extract needed heat or cooling from the ground depending on the season.

At a gathering to celebrate the opening of the Thompson Building in September, Steve White, president of Mystic Seaport, said: “This stunning building is the manifestation of many years of planning, bold vision, creative programming and effective fundraising.”

An important part of the Thompson Building is the Williams-Mystic classroom that houses all Williams-Mystic humanities classes, located in the Masin Room, a room overlooking the Mystic River. Glenn, Katy and Mary K. all teach their classes in this room at different times.
Just a year after joining the geosciences faculty at Williams College, José Constantine has created a new opportunity in Mystic that he hopes will enable more students to experience the Williams-Mystic program. Inspired by his time on the Williams-Mystic F’16 Louisiana Field Seminar, Constantine has joined forces with renowned musician and musical historian Craig Edwards to design a new Winter Study course called “The Changing Landscape and Musical Geography of the Mississippi River Delta.”

Based in Mystic, the two-week course will examine the geological history of the Mississippi River Delta, as well as the region’s history of human settlement and the musical record of the environmental and socioeconomic challenges faced by local communities. Constantine said that the course should “provide a novel perspective on coastal sustainability” as students examine the role of landscape change in controlling the sustainability of the delta’s various environments, communities and economic infrastructure.

Geared to freshmen and sophomores, the course will be co-taught with Edwards, whom Constantine met during last year’s field seminar and who has formed a series of old-time, Cajun, zydeco and blues bands. Students will learn about the musical geography of the region as a means for understanding the legacy of landscape and socioeconomic changes for the people who call the delta their home. In hopes of mirroring the experiential learning atmosphere they experienced during the field seminar, Constantine and Edwards have arranged for participating students to enjoy two evenings of Cajun, zydeco and blues music.

Constantine called his participation in the Louisiana Field Seminar a transformative experience and the most intensive liberal arts experience he has ever witnessed. “Ever. Transformative. And that’s why I absolutely believe in it,” he said.

He was especially inspired by the stories of the people who call the Gulf Coast home. “It was moving to hear about their lives, their struggles, and their hopes for their children and how the place is more than just their home. It’s almost like a part of their being, a part of their identity,” he said. “For me, that was where that trip was so powerful – seeing the interaction that we had with the different members of those communities. How understanding led to compassion.”

A geomorphologist by training, Constantine studies the processes that shape the Earth’s surface. He asks questions about the meandering rivers that move across the Earth’s surface – what controls how quickly they move, the shape they take on and the features of their floodplains. His work has taken him around the globe, from California to the Amazon Basin and Borneo. And now to Mystic.

“At a minimum, the hope is that the class will get students interested in and curious about a part of the world that maybe they’ve never thought about,” Constantine said, “and maybe inspire some of them to join Williams-Mystic. I wanted to share this experience with folks at Williams because I think that most people at the College don’t fully understand what Williams-Mystic is and don’t seem to appreciate how special a program it is.”

This new class harkens back to the establishment of the Williams-Mystic program, which had its foundation in a Winter Study course offered by History Professor Ben Labaree beginning in 1971.
For 40 years, Williams-Mystic shipmates have lived inside historic homes adjacent to the Mystic Seaport Museum: Carr, Johnston, Kemble, Mallory and Albion.

In the last few years, students have suggested living with a sustainable focus. Now a student-run sustainability council offers tangible suggestions for community living that takes into account energy use, recycling and composting.

The goal is to instill simple and easy practices that become the “normal way of doing things” while living in Williams-Mystic houses—and to create an ethic that deepens our commitment to sustainable living.

Williams-Mystic staff members work with a small group of volunteer student sustainability advisors take the lead on sustainability goals in each of their own houses.

After each semester, students offer additional “easy to implement” suggestions to provide the incoming class with ways to enhance sustainable living practices.

Our goal is to become a model for colleges across the country.

To date, these are some of the Sustainability Council’s living tips.

- Students abide by suggested heating and cooling guidelines.
- Students monitor and collect energy use for each house, each month. We compare the data among houses.
- Each house has a composting system—inside and outside the house. Students learn how to compost in an effective and appropriate manner.
- Williams-Mystic promotes the “Tiny Trash” concept. Each bedroom contains a “tiny” trash can and students are encouraged to recycle and limit trash to the amount of the “tiny” can. Each house also contains a large recycling container.
- Timers are installed to encourage five-minute showers to save water and electricity.
- Students are encouraged to use drying racks rather than a clothes dryer.
F’79
Melissa Waterman writes of her very fond remembrance of Ben Labaree, whose broad smile and broader heart was at the core of her Williams-Mystic experience. She has lived on Penobscot Bay in Maine since 1989.

S’80
Catharine Guiher worked in the Finance Department at Second Stage Theater for 10 years and is now its company manager, which means she now works with theatre artists instead of numbers. She is still a Timeless Torch, dancing at the basketball games at Madison Square Garden. She serves on the Williams-Mystic Alumni Council, volunteers with New Perspectives Theatre Company and the Urban Cat League, and raises money for various charities and political causes.

F’81
Veronica Jeffers works for KIND (Kids in Need of Defense) as the supervising attorney for pro bono programs in Los Angeles, which represents unaccompanied minors, primarily from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, in removal proceedings before immigration courts. She also continues to teach at Southwestern Law School and is co-author of “Immigration & Nationality Law: Problems & Strategies,” a text and teacher’s manual used at law schools around the country.

S’82
Peg Stevenson works for better health care, housing and social policy for the San Francisco city government. She spent a week in Glacier Bay in May kayaking and hiking from a small boat. Williams-Mystic and the Environmental Studies program at Williams remain a core experience in building her personal conservation ethic.

Paul Bierman still teaches geology at the University of Vermont and is watching his kids grow up fast. One more year and he sends the first one to college. He spends little time around boats any more, he reports, but lots of time on snow and watching track and cross country meets.

F’84
Lisa Durkee spent 10 years in ministry serving churches in the United Church of Christ in Massachusetts and previously nearly 15 years teaching English in secondary boarding schools. This fall she will be the chaplain and chair of the Religion and Philosophy Department at Blair Academy in Blairstown, NJ. Making a living working with young people, including coaching again, while still feeling a part of their spiritual development feels like a gift. Her older daughter, Keira, will begin her first year at Connecticut College this summer.

F’85
Jim Jordan moved west after a 29-year stint in New Jersey. His new home is in La Jolla, CA, which some may remember is his hometown. He looks forward to seeing the Pacific Ocean every day and enjoying beautiful Southern California weather.

F’86
K.D. Ellis with 4th graders aboard the gundalow “Piscataqua” on the Piscataqua River in NH, May 2013. (My daughter is in the purple jacket.)

K.D. (Katie) Ellis and Ti are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. They moved back to her hometown of Durham, N.H. in 2001. Their daughters are entering 9th and 11th grades. She was excited to watch a new wooden gundalow “Piscataqua” being built nearby at Strawbery Banke in Portsmouth.

EDITORS NOTE: The executive director of the Gundalow Company which runs “Piscataqua” is Molly (Porteous) Bolster, former WM administrator, and sister-in-law of Peter Bolster F’85.

After graduating from Bowdoin, Rob Hurd took a job teaching and coaching at Tabor Academy, and he never left. As waterfront director, he interacts with the ocean daily, whether working with the school’s nationally ranked sailing program, helping marine science with an oyster farm, or teaching a nautical science class.

S’88
Alex McClennen Dohan reports that son Ben is enjoying his first year at Middlebury and daughter Sarah S’16 just graduated from Middlebury and is heading to Stanford Law School. Alex still works at Massachusetts Audubon’s Drumlin Farm as an environmental educator, while also working with the town of Lexington to get an environmental education center up and running in an old barn.

S’88
Rick Mazzotta is volunteering in an effort to forestall green crab incursions in the waters of Juan de Fuca, Hood Canal and Puget Sound. He seeks information on any as yet unpublished species-specific scientific experimentation that looks to disrupt their reproduction and metabolism without affecting other critters or damaging habitat.

S’91
As director of the Honors Program at The College of New Rochelle, Amy Bass is thrilled to have a string of students spend a life-changing semester at Williams-Mystic. She is finishing up writing her fourth book, “One Goal,” which is due out early next year. It’s the story of the Lewiston Blue Devils, a remarkable championship high school soccer team in Maine composed largely of Somali refugees.

S’92
Bill Mowitt has been working and sailing for NOAA for the past 17 years as a member of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. He was last stationed as the commanding officer of the NOAA ship “Pisces,” covering the waters of the Atlantic from Galveston to the Bay of Fundy. This has allowed him to see Tim Lupin S’92 in New Orleans and the S’92 Mystic Crew sail out of Rhode Island last fall. He is now deputy director for ocean exploration at NOAA.

For the past seven years, Sarah Cahill has been the director of education at Mystic Seaport and has been active with the Williams-Mystic Alumni Council. She feels lucky to interact with Williams-Mystic students, faculty and staff on a regular basis. Her son Theo is now 10 and in fifth grade. Her partner Sally McGee works for the Nature Conservancy.
**F’92**

For the twelfth year, Maria Bernier hosted a concert by Don Sineti in her yard in Westerly, RI, to raise money for Williams-Mystic scholarships. She works for the Connecticut State Library, helping libraries get high-speed internet connections and helping librarians learn new job skills.

**Aviva Grasso** and husband Glenn celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. Last year, Glenn launched a historical consulting business specializing in maritime history, and Aviva remains a public health bureaucrat. They’re raising a city kid who enjoys the view of boats on the Hudson River from his bedroom window.

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**F’94**

Ann Gaffney is finishing her 20th year teaching middle school and is moving on to educational administration, where she hopes to help even more young people grow to love learning about themselves and their world. Her children are growing up, now ages 16 and 7.

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**S’95**

Sarah Carr is enjoying urban life on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., with husband Yousef and three young boys. She has found a wonderful professional niche coordinating a network of coastal and marine conservation and management practitioners, EBM Tools Network, and editing a professional newsletter on managing marine ecosystems, working with Williams-Mystic alum John Davis F’90 on both projects.

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**F’95**

Clare McEllan comes to educators’ weekend every year at the Seaport, and this year was extra special as her 8-year-old got to make something in the wood carving shop.

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**S’96**

After a brief stint working with land animals as a veterinarian, Jardayna Werlin Laurent is doing her best to return to the sea. She is surfing in all sorts of weather near Boston and has become active with Surfrider Foundation’s Massachusetts chapter on ocean plastics issues and advocacy for a statewide plastic bag ban.

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**S’97**

Catherine Riihimaki recently visited Williams-Mystic as part of a National Science Foundation-funded project to study reformed teaching practices. She is the associate director for science education at the Princeton University Council on Science and Technology.

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**F’97**

Jennifer Zilinski is married with two children and working as a small animal veterinarian on Cape Cod.

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**F’98**

Cipperly Good presented at the North American Society for Oceanic History in May with the illustrious Tom Legg, the former postdoc in maritime history. Her topic was “Maine in the Coolie Trade.”

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**F’99**

Ariel Diaz moved to New York City about a year ago, has a 5-month old baby girl, and is starting his third tech startup, Blissfully.com.

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**S’00**

Julia Rosenfield and her husband Tom DePalma are living outside of Washington, D.C. where Julia, a licensed clinical social worker, maintains a private psychotherapy practice.

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**S’03**

Anne Jurkowski Johnson captains a small science communications business in Carrboro, NC, and steers her family of four through winds fair and foul. This year she spent a lot of time scrubbing crayon off couches and railing against elected officials, but is incredibly grateful for life’s many gifts.

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**F’03**

Jaye Starr was blessed with a daughter, Zulayha, in the fall of 2015. Born with Down syndrome, Zuzu is now thriving with the support of a small fleet of fantastic doctors and therapists. Jaye is finding that sailing through stormy waters with WM was fantastic preparation for parenthood. She is involved in local and national interfaith work, community organizing, training in hospital chaplaincy, and she is making the most of stay-at-home-motherhood.

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**Erin Flannery Keith** is a Clean Water Act attorney in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Water in Washington, D.C. In August 2015, she got a one-day authorization from Massachusetts to officiate F’03 classmate Macy Radloff’s marriage to Jordan Vance. Classmates Emily Welch and Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild also joined the celebration.

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**S’04**

Sarah Parks works at the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, DE, where she manages a research project and online database documenting furniture made in Boston. She helps small museums and historical societies learn more about their collections.

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**Ellie Schmidt** became a bit of a wanderer after graduating from Williams with a geosciences degree. She taught earth and ocean science to 9th graders, and now she is in her fifth year of a doctorate in clinical psychology.
Colin Duncan recently finished work as manager of the Skokomish Tribe's Salmon/Steelhead Restoration Program in Washington State and has begun looking for the next adventure.

Tucker Slosburg lives in Seattle with his wife. He runs a marketing consulting firm and spends his free time camping, skiing and sailing.

Jane McCamant is about to begin her fifth year in a doctoral program in sociology at the University of Chicago, where she is writing a dissertation on moral education in American Roman Catholic schools between 1950 and 1980. She’ll take a short break from that work to teach maritime studies during a Sea Semester in the fall of 2017.

F'04
April Dery married landlubber Rouleau Dery in June 2014. They are excited to announce the birth of twins, Madigan and Archer, who made their way into the world on January 9, 2017.

S’05
Daniel Dykes continues to work as an attorney in the International Corporate and Trusts & Estates departments of the firm Curtis, Mallet-Prevost in New York City. He recently revisited many of the sites of the Pacific Northwest Field Seminar and enjoyed it immensely.

F’05
Abby Minor considers herself a poet, albeit one who drives a vegetable delivery truck. She lives with one feminist man and two feminist cats in rural central Pennsylvania, where they host artists-in-residence, teach insouciant after-school art classes for kids and run around the valleys and creeks.

Hilary Palevsky is a postdoctoral scholar at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, having returned to New England after a six-year stint in Seattle, where she completed her Ph.D. in oceanography. After finishing her postdoc, she will join her partner Ada Lerner F’08 in teaching at Wellesley College.

S’06
Teka England is working as the professional draper in the University of Oklahoma’s costume shop, after brief stops in Idaho and Indiana. She spends her time on any form of textile art she can get her hands on, hanging out with the Society for Creative Anachronism, and plotting an eventual return to a coastal town.

Since graduating from Bryn Mar, Liz Berilla Kavanaugh completed two additional degrees – M.S. in library and information science at Drexel University in 2011 and M.S. in health care informatics at Misericordia University in 2016. She and Matthew Kavanaugh were married in September 2015 by fellow S’06 Caitlin Cotter.

Caitlin Cotter was ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry in 2015 and is serving a congregation in Santa Barbara, CA, where she lives with her spouse, Ashir, and cocker spaniel Galahad.

F’06
Susan Schnur defended her Ph.D. at Oregon State University in ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences and is a geological editor at the Washington State Geological Survey in Olympia.

F’07
Erin Weber is still working at the New England Aquarium training the seals and sea lions, but she is on temporary loan to the sea turtle rescue department reconnecting with the reptiles that helped begin her career at the aquarium. She lives in Marblehead, MA with her fiancé James and their dog and two cats.

Susan Raich finished her Ph.D. at Cambridge on “The Sea in the Anglo-Norman Realm” and is now on the history faculty there.

Sunmi Yang finished her M.D. in Australia and is doing a residency in Virginia.

Austin Yim finished his M.Div. at Yale and is headed back to the Midwest to start law school at the University of Chicago.

Sarah Ellis graduated with her M.B.A. from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business last fall and is working in Chicago with Ventas, a real estate investment trust focused on healthcare. She is recently engaged to Matthew Cluck.

Philip Kiley is completing his second year working for Electric Boat and is excited about upcoming projects related to the new Columbia class ballistic missile submarine. This summer he also completes his ninth year of service in the Coast Guard Reserve.

Elizabeth Foretek recently passed her 1600-ton Ocean's Master's license and is hiking the Appalachian trail and headed back to work with SEA in the fall.

After spending a few years working on environmental consulting in the desert, Kim Elson went back to school last fall and is working toward a master’s of marine science in the geological oceanography lab at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in Moss Landing, CA.

F’08
After several years working on urban parks in D.C., Abby Martin is in the middle of a dual M.B.A. and Master of Environmental Management program at Yale.

After defending her Ph.D. last spring, Ada Lerner will be an assistant professor of computer science at Wellesley College beginning this fall. She and partner Hilary Palevsky F'05 are moving to Boston.

F’10
Whitney McClees is finishing her M.S. in marine ecology at Portland State University. Her research focuses on the mechanisms that limit the spread of non-native sessile marine invertebrates from artificial structures to natural habitat.

Matthew Van Winkle earned his M.D. from Eastern Virginia Medical School and started a residency training in psychiatry at the University of Maryland/Sheppard Pratt Psychiatry Residency Program in Baltimore in July. He found his way back onto the “Corwith Cramer” as a researcher last spring in a partnership with SEA faculty to evaluate the sleep deprivation-related cognitive effects of the age-old Swedish watch system.

S’09
Beginning in August, Andrei Baiu will be attending San Francisco State University’s Department of Geography and the Environment as a master’s student in geography, resource management and environmental planning.

F’09
Caroline Crowell is happy to announce that in August, she married her college sweetheart, Geoff Toy. Maggie Stack came to Ohio to celebrate with them. She lives in Atlanta and works at the Georgia Archives.
S’11

Alexandra Stevens will graduate this summer with a master’s degree in marine science from Stony Brook University’s School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. Her research focuses on the effects of climate change on shellfish in local waters, specifically the interactive effects of thermal stress, acidification, and hypoxia on growth and survival of juvenile bivalves.

Glenn Watkins is living in D.C. working on water policy issues at the National Wildlife Federation, living Marine Policy class in real life. She reunited with one of her fellow S’12 shipmates, Harley Bartles, last fall and relived memories from the “Cramer” when she made it to the Dry Tortugas with her family and Tat Udomrittiraj S’12.

Britty Buonocore and her fiancé have opened a bakery in Hamilton, NY., where they sell bagels, great coffee, pastries and a variety of local products.

Stephanie Trott recently earned her M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She plans to return to the Northeast in pursuit of a career in publishing.

S’12

After a brief trip around the national parks of Utah with fellow S’12 shipmate Zoe Grueskin, including a stop at Arches to visit Caiti Campbell, Helen Song is back in Brooklyn working for the Fort Greene Park Conservancy.

After graduation, Alex Sherman served as a college access advisor in his hometown in southeastern Ohio, where he tried to guide as many high school seniors as he could down a path towards Williams-Mystic. He earned a master’s degree in speech language pathology at the University of Kentucky last spring, then relocated to Cleveland.

Meg O’Connor defended her master’s thesis at Louisiana State University in geology. Her adviser was Sam Bentley F’82.

Anna Hopkins is the full-time camp director at Friends Camp, a Quaker non-profit camp in Maine that is hosting an artist residency this fall that includes fellow F’12 alum Bea Denham. She loves hiking and exploring beaches with her partner Jamie and border collie Seven in Santa Barbara, CA, and Cape Elizabeth, ME.

Nicholas Kraus is living in D.C. with his girlfriend and dog and working for Booz Allen Hamilton on its defense energy team. He helps the Air Force Office of Energy Assurance procure resilient energy solutions during the week and takes full advantage of the green space in D.C. and the surrounding area on the weekends.

Shelly Larsen has semi-permanently dropped anchor in Bellingham, WA, where she recently accepted a position with the Lynden Fire Department as its first full time female firefighter/EMT. When she’s not at work, she’s usually in the mountains, on the water, or somewhere in between.

S’13

Molly Pickel is an intern at the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in Silver Spring, MD, doing work related to conservation projects in sanctuaries.

Sophie Schleicher is living back home in Colorado and studying western water policy and management. To get her maritime fix, she has a weekly-updated YouTube channel where she sings sea songs: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVqv-L8t_jSrQY3zf1TMW5g

Lani Willmar is working as an admission officer for Brown University in Providence, RI.

F’12

Gabri Serrato Marks is a graduate student in the joint WHOI/MIT program in oceanography and recently organized a conference for women in marine science in Woods Hole, which included post-doctoral associate Hilary Palevsky F’05 and invited speaker Lisa Gilbert S’96.

Autumn Brunelle works as a natural resources environmental education specialist for the Parks and Recreation Department in Bloomington, IN, where she teaches children and adults about the importance of natural resources through community programs and events. She is also a member of a group researching how climate change is affecting maple syrup production.

S’14

Nellie Barner is a proud resident of the Netherlands, now half-way through the two-year interdisciplinary Research Masters in Historical, Literary and Cultural Studies at Radboud University in Nijmegen. The program has taken her all over the Netherlands, to Italy, Belgium and soon to the UK to conduct research on medieval ritual magic.

After an exciting year traveling and studying sharks in South Africa, Europe, and Bimini Island, Alex McInturf is in graduate school at the University of California at Davis studying sharks. She also spent a good part of the summer of 2016 in Mystic writing educational materials for the Mystic Seaport for Educators website.

S’15

Kathryn Wheeler graduated from college and will spend a year or two doing some sort of service program (Peace Corps or AmeriCorps). She writes that when her time at Mystic was the best semester she had in college, noting that she misses doing donuts in the vans and making dinner with her house each night.

Mary Offutt finished her first year studying accelerated veterinary medicine at the Royal Veterinary College in London, focusing on marine animal medicine. She is trying to incorporate as much marine-related aspects into her education as possible. She reports that WM played a major role in her decision to attend vet school.

Miaoru Guan started a new role as a project finance analyst for a solar energy company based in New York.

Katie Swoap is working at a youth homeless shelter this summer and will start as an associate at an education firm this fall.

Claire Fahrner has accepted a position as a full-time pastry assistant at a restaurant in Cambridge, MA.

Aislyne Calianos went to Iceland with Meg Ficarra, wrote a policy paper on ballast water management and won first place at an international shipping conference.

Barrett Pritchard is officially a communications major and enjoyed a great time at Sail Boston this summer with F’15 classmates Vitya, Aislinn, Claire and even found Katy Hall S’84 in the crowd!

Anthony Rodriguez-Vargas is starting work in a two-year research assistant position working on molecular genetics in the Marine Biological Lab in Woods Hole, MA.

A year after graduating with a degree in maritime studies, Caitlyn Stewart has landed a position as a technical writer for submarine manuals at Electric Boat.

Lindsey Precht is working for an environmental consulting firm, managing to interact with ocean science, literature, policy and history as she monitors the health of benthic ecological communities in South Florida.
Just the FACTS

429
Total pages of original scientific research by Williams-Mystic students from S’16 and F’16

1
Approximate rise of sea level, in centimeters, at Mystic Seaport from 1977 to 2017

333
Total pounds of snacks consumed on field seminars (S’17 West Coast/Louisiana)

7
Number of states/territories traveled to during Fall and Spring 2016

Meet the Williams-Mystic Research Vessel...

She is a dark blue, Eastern 22, center console powerboat built in 2011. With traditional Downeast lines and a 115-HP Yamaha, 4-cycle outboard motor, she is a spacious platform for student research projects on Fishers Island Sound. The only problem...she has no name.

We need your help! We will be collecting suggestions for her name through mid-October. We will be providing short trips for interested alumni during alumni weekend and she will be available for viewing so that you can get to know her.

Please submit your name suggestions to Tom Van Winkle at tsv1@williams.edu. The top three names will be selected and we will then ask you to vote for a specific name.

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Send your class updates to wmalumni@williams.edu

Lindsey Precht

S’16

Sarah Dohan graduated from Middlebury College in the spring. She is excited to leave the cold behind and head west to attend Stanford Law School this fall.

F’16

Edwin Sanchez is the president-elect of his school’s ocean science club and received his SCUBA certification. He was accepted into the 2017 summer Maryland Sea Grant REU at the Chesapeake Biological Lab and made dean’s list for spring 2017 at Millersville University.

Steven Wang is studying artificial intelligence in hopes of contributing to the AI safety field. He joined the effective altruists club at Berkeley in the spring.

* Passages

Chelsea May Harper F’95 died at her home in Portland, OR on the morning of Saturday May 27, 2017, of complications due to metastatic breast cancer. She was 42 years old.

Chelsea was a loving mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt and friend. In her professional life, Chelsea was an accomplished dance movement therapist, parent educator, and author. She was also active in supporting other young survivors of cancer. Chelsea was a longtime performer of musical theater and dance and member of women’s choruses in Portland. Chelsea grew up in a family of sailors. As a young adult, she was a crew member on tall ship voyages around New England and the Caribbean. Chelsea also helped to guide therapeutic wilderness trips for young people and met her husband while doing that work.

In 2013, Chelsea and fellow cancer survivor Brook Irwin created a successful crowdfunding campaign —The Storybook Project—and published a personalized storybook to help mothers talk with their young children about breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Chelsea nurtured balance and healing within herself and others and worked for justice and equity in Portland and beyond. She was a connector who sought to build bridges, literal and metaphorical, between people given our respective differences and privileges. In memory, please consider building bridges in your own life, or contributing to activities Chelsea supported including the Storybook Project, Sabin Elementary School’s restorative justice program, and the Williams-Mystic program. Details forthcoming at @thestorybookproject.
Williams-Mystic
Maritime Studies Program
75 Greenmanville Ave.
Mystic, CT 06355

REUNION
September 15-17, 2017
Register at wmreunion.org