25 Years



Celebrating a quarter-century of community-based learning and engagement at William & Mary



25 Years

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From the Director

Monica D. Griffin, Ph.D.,Director,
Engaged Scholarship
& the Sharpe Community Scholars



William & Mary SPRING 2004

Sharpe Community Scholars

A newsletter for a new generation of leaders

What's in this issue?

The Sharpe experience

Building a better Williamsburg

Sharpe students connect people to build community

Sharpe Professor of Civic Renewal

Jonathan Atkins teaches about Williamsburg's Latino communities

Wise words for freshmen

Sharpe projects

An in-depth look at projects that make a difference

Life after Sharpe

What is the Sharpe Community Scholars Program?

The program extends the College's community-service tradition by selecting approximately 25 students the opportunity to connect their academic studies with social action. The creative energy, concern for others and initiative that characterize William & Mary undergraduates is key. Students named as scholars live in a common residence hall and select from one of six first-semester courses that are the basis for year-long service-learning projects. With guidance from faculty, community leaders and undergraduate mentors, first-year students plan and carry out these projects designed to assist nonprofit and government agencies.

The Sharpe experience

Sharpie Jessica Foster '07 from the new generation of leaders at W&M

One cold morning this March, Jessica Foster walked briskly along Campus Drive, wearing flip flops and talking on a cell phone. She's hard to reach. But then again, Sharpe Scholar Jessica Foster doesn't sit still for long. She is part of a new generation of leaders at William & Mary, truly at ease with the sometimes hectic demands of academic life and the powerful appeal of community involvement. Like many students, Jessica found her way to the beach for Spring Break—but in addition to basking in the sun's rays, she basked in service activities with Campus Crusade for Christ. It was her break, from school and from Sharpe, after all.

"Sharpe is the reason I came to William & Mary," Jessica exclaimed recently at a lunch to congratulate scholar grant recipients for proposed summer research. She is one of four Sharpe scholars who will continue their work with Sharpe this summer.

"Sharpe was the reason I came to William & Mary."

Indeed, Jessica's wit, elevated spirit and energetic attitude make the effort appear commonplace—service and learning together, of course. Her voicemail attests, "I'm probably out studying, which is a part of life here at the College!" (How lucky the person who managed to reach her that day on the cell phone!)

When asked about Sharpe's impact on her volunteering experiences, Jessica replied, "This year in Sharpe I have gained a new appreciation for volunteering, and it was a view into the local community. I feel that I have an advantage over my peers at the College, the 'non-Sharpies', because I have truly become a member, not just of the College, but of the Williamsburg-James City County community."

The Sharpe Community Scholars Program was inaugurated fall semester 2001. Its impact on the community was felt almost immediately.

And her words are as real as the lilt in her voice as she boasts the highest number of "American Idol" viewers who visit her room in the Sharpe residence hall, Spotswood. "I was in a Hispanic studies course and had the opportunity to go into the community and volunteer in the elementary schools, tutor in people's homes, tutor at the College, lead an adult skills class, and work at Olde Towne Medical Center."

Her level of enthusiasm and excitement is infectious, her energy boundless. Summer plans for Jessica include laying the founda-

continued on page 2

Sharpe's 2001 inception envisioned "A New Generation of Leaders" and foretold a future in which W&M students would engage issues in the world with knowledge, confidence, and ingenuity. This yearbook publication celebrates twenty-five years of first-year Sharpe Community Scholars living together and engaging issues with and within communities and recounts many ways the program sustained its vision grounded in scholarly intention, ethical action, and a spirit of collaboration.

In courses led by faculty, the combination of outreach scholarship and engagement with community remains foundational for shaping Sharpe's continuing mission since its beginning: to support the development of select students through the integration of academic studies, research and community engagement. Equipped with collaborative research skills developed through participation in the wide array of service opportunities with campus and local community partners, Sharpe Scholars sustain engagement beyond their first year in funded summer research that often extends partner relationships. Most recently, scholars engage in multidisciplinary Action Research Internships across communities as far-reaching from Williamsburg to local hometowns across the United States to Beijing, China and West Bengal, India.

Support from W&M alumni groups such as the Hundred Acre Woods (former participants in the class of 1975 Project Plus program) have bolstered our efforts, and excitingly, a "new generation of alumni leaders" among W&M Sharpe alumni continue to offer support and participation in our recent Sharpe Alumni Engagement project to connect current scholars to program alumni.

Happy 25th Birthday to the Sharpe Community Scholars Program, a vision realized! We look forward to many more years of learning from our scholars and racing to keep up with their imaginations, scholarly thinking, and active engagement with communities here and abroad.

Warmly,

Monica D. Griffin

As we celebrate the 25 years W&M's Sharpe Community Scholars program, we reflect on the vision of its founders Robert and Jane Sharpe: to give first-year scholars the opportunity to connect community engagement to academic study and develop the intellectual skills and disposition to make a meaningful difference in the places they live and work. Their 2001 endowment of the Sharpe Professorship of Civic Renewal and Entrepreneurship set the stage to support a legacy of innovative faculty leadership and generations of scholars engaged in courses that integrated public service of various kinds.

From service-learning to outreach projects to community-based research, Sharpe Scholars learned in varied forms how to effectively engage communities through mutual collaboration and scholarship. Generations of scholars sustained deliberate and reciprocal relationships with and within communities to meaningfully influence the world around them during their time at William & Mary. Many Sharpe alumni have continued in public service careers as teachers, civil servants, foreign service officers, non-profit leaders, and professionals in medicine, law, and public policy, and more.

We look forward to the next 25 years in Sharpe, particularly in learning with and from our scholars, faculty, and communities how to cultivate the academic and community relationships needed to meaningfully address our world's emerging issues.

About Our Founders



Robert Sharpe Sr. believed that everyone has the capacity and obligation to contribute to the public good. To his many friends and colleagues, he often cited his mother's belief that we should "give a dime for every dollar" we have.

A former member of the William & Mary Endowment Association, Sharpe's commitment to public service was the driving force behind his life's work. Before his sudden death in 2000, Bob Sharpe, was a recognized expert in philanthropy, and he set the wheels in motion to see his life's work fulfilled. The Sharpe Community Scholars Program and Sharpe Professorship of Civic Renewal are named for Sharpe and his wife, Jane A. Sharpe, of Memphis, Tennessee.

Through the vision and generosity of Bob and Jane Sharpe, first-year students selected as Sharpe Community Scholars have opportunities to connect community engagement to academic study and develop the intellectual skills and disposition to make a meaningful difference in the places where they live and work.

The Sharpe Community Scholars Program would also like to thank the individual donors who make single and recurring gifts, including Sharpe alumni, professors, families, and other friends of the program.

Sharpe Community Scholars History

"Our belief was that the Sharpe Program would not only inspire its participants to service while in college but also in their lives after graduation. One only has to review the public service accomplishments, some world-wide in scope and impact, of Sharpe Scholars over the past 25 years to see what a great gift the Sharpe Program has been and continues to be." ~ Sam Sadler

Founding visionaries Robert Sharpe, Sr. and Jane A. Sharpe aimed to bridge college and community in productive and meaningful ways when they collaborated with then Dean of Arts & Sciences P. Geoffrey Feiss and Vice President Sam Sadler to establish the Sharpe Professor of Civic Renewal and Social Entrepreneurship $1M endowment. Since 2003 the Sharpe Professorship has supported 9 W&M faculty across disciplines in extending the scholarship of the institution, through teaching, research, and public service, toward building capacity and benefit to the local community.

Sharpe began with faculty leadership. A single Economics 101 course taught by Professor Clyde Haulman in 2001 placed 60 students with 15 community partnership sites across the Williamsburg-James City County region to engage (then-called) service-learning projects. Sharpe's first director Heather Woodcock-Ayres coordinated students in completing a range of volunteer, community outreach, and consultative research activities, while also taking courses together and living in the same residence, Spotswood Hall.

By 2004, the program had grown to invite 5 faculty to teach freshman seminar courses with the intentional design to integrate both writing and discussion skills with community engagement and learning, under the leadership of then Dean of Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies, and Director of the Charles Center, Joel Schwartz (Government). The inaugural Sharpe Professor in 2003, Jonathan Arries (Hispanic Studies), advanced engagement and outreach scholarship to the Eastern Shore of Virginia and in Nicaragua.

Sharpe's innovations and spirit are captured in a 25-year timeline in this Yearbook. The value of faculty involvement cannot be overstated in the program's capacity to sustain scholarly development of students committed to participatory engagement with the world, putting to use skills across disciplines in community action and research. When COVID19 "shut down" community in 2020, Sharpe's ability to adapt to online engagement with students owes (in large part) to the brilliant adaptations of a team of faculty rapidly changing engagement with community partners. Now 25 years from its beginning, Sharpe sustains a robust enrollment and increasing number of community partners. Our vision is that the program continues to sustain community-based opportunities for undergraduate research right at the start of students' time with William & Mary. We hope that the program inspires their development not only into public engagement careers but also into lives enriched by engagement with community!

Sharpe Timeline

2001

Sharpe enrolls its first cohort in Econ 101 with Professor Clyde Haulman. Scholars lived together in Spotswood Hall. Community-based partnership coordination was led by then-director, Heather Woodcock Ayres, Ed.D., under the co-leadership of Sam Sadler, Vice President of Student Affairs and Joel Schwartz, Director of the Charles Center and Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies.

2002

Professor Clyde Haulman receives the Thomas Jefferson Award for outstanding teaching, leadership, research and service. Sharpe summer grants awarded students $400/week for 5 weeks of community-based research.

2003

Professor Jonathan Arries is appointed the first Sharpe Professor of Civic Renewal, adding HISP150: Hispanic Studies in the Latino Community to Sharpe's expanded curriculum, including classes in Economics, Government (civic engagement), Sociology (environmental studies), and Interdisciplinary Studies (literacy and social change).

2004

Monica D. Griffin, Ph.D., becomes Director of the Sharpe Community Scholars under the administrative structure of the Charles Center

2005

Sharpe's first cohort of scholars graduates; Project Plus, W&M Class of '75 "100 Acre Wood" group establishes pledge donations to support the Sharpe Program and joins students in summer outreach in Williamsburg local communities.; Prof. Jonathan Arries sponsors W&M's CPALs organization with Sharpe Scholars, for Adult Learners of English.

2006

Sharpe pilots the Community Scholars House, a special interest house for upper level students in then Pleasants Hall, with an emphasis on integrating civic and service involvement with academic coursework.

2007

Sharpe scholars enrolled in Professor Dennis Taylor's "Public Commons Project" course constructs William & Mary's first biodiesel fuel plant.

2008

Sharpe scholars enrolled in Professor Heather Huyck's Maggie Walker course discover original documents in Richmond's St. Luke Building, form partnership with the National Park Service to create a digital archive. Professor Drew Stelljes publishes *Service-Learning and Community Engagement: Cognitive Developmental Long-term Social Concern.*

2009

Sharpe pilots a Community Studies Minor led by faculty across disciplines; merges programmatically with then-Office of Student Volunteer Services to form the Office of Community Engagement and Scholarship (OCES), co-located in Blow Hall under co-directorship with Drew Stelljes who also taught in Sharpe; and, Dr. Anne Charity Hudley becomes the first Professor of Community Studies, teaching CMST250: African American English.

2010

W&M staff member Karen Schwartz wins President's Award for Service for her founding work of the Buddy Art program, which provides art programs for students with special needs. President Reveley draws on testimonies of Sharpe Scholars as volunteer "buddies" to support and present the recognition. A corollary program, Buddy Ball (a WJCC little league baseball program) - developed and led by Joel Schwartz - was popular among Sharpe Scholars and still thrives in the community today.

2011

Sharpe Scholar Will Morris '11 receives the James Monroe Prize in Civic Leadership for his efforts with the Phoenix Project and Alpha Phi Alpha.

2012

Benming "Benny" Zhang '16 matriculates as a Sharpe Scholar. In 2016, Benny became the youngest person ever to be elected to Williamsburg City Council, the second William & Mary student and the first-ever Asian-American to do so.

2013

Sharpe Scholar Taylor Nelson '13 receives the James Monroe Prize in Civic Leadership for her work with the Lackey Clinic and the School Health Initiative Project.

2014

Sharpe Scholar Laura Godwin '14 receives the James Monroe Prize in Civic Leadership for her work with the Phoenix Project and the Williamsburg Community Chapel.

2015

Sharpe Scholar Thomeka Watkins '19, '20 (from Prof. Taylor's "Living with the Environment" course) becomes 1 of 5 founding executives of the W&M's Food Recovery Network, building a network of donors and offices to redistribute leftover food to underserved persons facing food scarcity. Sharpe Scholars support and co-host with W&M's Ebony Expressions a Thanksgiving meal in the Sadler Center for dozens of William & Mary custodial staff members.

2016

Sharpe Scholar Hallie Westlund '16 receives the James Monroe Prize in Civic Leadership for her efforts with Lafayette Kids, the UNC Poverty Center, Williamsburg Head Start, and other community-based education initiatives. Scholar Jia Jia Chen '18 receives President's Award for Service for her work with W&M's chapter of Food Recovery Network.

2017

Professor of Community Studies Anne Charity Hudley co-authors *The Indispensable Guide to Undergraduate Research: Success in and Beyond College* (2017) with Dr. Cheryl Dickter and Dr. Hannah Franz. The book features many insights and experiences from Dr. Hudley's teaching and conducting research with Sharpe Scholars.

2018

Sharpe expands staffing infrastructure to include a programming coordinator in Spotswood Hall to implement best practices in higher education living-learning communities, supported by Sharpe Fellows. Expanded programming includes study hours, informal talks with faculty, and visits to other campus offices and community initiatives.

2019

Co-investigators Monica D. Griffin, Ph.D. (Sharpe) and Shannon White, Ph.D. (Center for Geospatial Analysis) extend a collaborative partnership with James City County's Neighborhood Development office to use participatory, GIS, and interdisciplinary methods to study the historical, geographical, legal, and health dimensions of heirs property in local communities with Sharpe scholars and other upper-level students at W&M.

2020

The COVID-19 pandemic shuts down direct access to communities, compromising partnerships as a central component of experiential learning; Sharpe courses and programming continue virtually, as Sharpe Scholars participate virtually in connection with partners and volunteer Sharpe alumni.

2021

William & Mary re-opens campus amidst development of COVID-19 vaccines. Sharpe returns to in-person instruction, community engagement, and research.

2022

Sharpe continues to expand experiential learning opportunities, including increased workshops with community partners and living-learning programming in Spotswood Hall.

2023

Professor Dennis Taylor, the longest-standing professor in Sharpe, retires after almost 20 years of teaching and research in Sharpe.

2024

Sharpe pilots Action Research Internships, providing students with funding to conduct research projects with community organizations during the summer after their first year. The eight interns in this pilot year conducted community based research as close as Williamsburg and as far as Beijing.

2025

Sharpe moves into new home in Cedar Hall, expanding opportunities for living-learning and community-based programming.

Sharpe is excited to continue providing opportunities for Action Research and community-based learning to first-year students for the 25 years to come.

SHARPE FACULTY

Sharpe Professor for Civic Renewal & Entrepreneurship

The Sharpe Professor of Civic Renewal and Entrepreneurship was established through a generous gift from Jane A. Sharpe and the late Robert F. Sharpe. This professorship supports teaching with Community-based Learning and Research, reinforcing W&M's commitment to innovative teaching and research that integrates community engagement with academic study. This professorship is awarded for a three-year term to a tenured W&M faculty.

2003 - 2005: Jonathan Arries, Hispanic Studies
HISP150: Hispanic Studies and the Latino Community

2005 - 2007: Chris Howard, Government
GOVT150W: Race Inequality

2007-2009: Lynn Pelco, Education

2009 - 2011: Kelly Joyce, Sociology

2011 - 2013: Kelly Whalon, Education
CMST250: Understanding Autism

2013 - 2016: Danielle Dallaire, Psychological Sciences
PSYC150: Families, Law & Psychology

2016-2019: Omiyemi Green, Theatre and Africana Studies
AFST150: Reimagining Communities

2020 - 2024: Caroline Hanley, Sociology
SOCL100: Economic Insecurity - The Virginia Eviction Crisis

2024 - 2027: Amy Quark, Sociology
SOCL100: Populating Early 20th Century Black Williamsburg

Community Studies Professorship (now: Faculty Fellowship)

The Community Studies Faculty Fellowship aims to increase the capacity of Arts & Sciences faculty to teach and mentor students in a substantial community-based research project, with support to sustain a partnership and related activity for the three-year term of the fellowship.

2009-2015: Anne Charity Hundley, Linguistics
CMST250: African American English

2016- 2020: Leisa Meyer, American Studies
HIST/GSWS150: Introduction to LGBTIQ History/Studies

2020-2023: Iyabo Obasanjo, Kinesiology & Public Health
KINE150: Community Health and Research

2023 - 2026: Jay Watkins III, History
HIST150: Southern LGBTQ+ Theatre Research

2026-2029: Jackson Sasser, Government
GOVT150: The Life of the Law

Community Studies

(2009-2016)

In 2009, Sharpe faculty and staff piloted the interdisciplinary Community Studies Minor. This minor encouraged students from across academic disciplines and backgrounds to augment their studies toward developing a capstone or Interdisciplinary Studies Honors thesis focused on a community-based research project.

Supported by the Quality Enhancement Plan (on high impact learning) and the Mellon Foundation, the Community Studies Professorship was initially modeled after the Sharpe Professorship - to teach courses in the program in contexts of mutually reciprocal and productive community partnerships. Dr. Anne Charity Hudley served as the inaugural Professor of Community Studies, launching generations of scholars who actively engaged in studying language variation in education in capacities as focused as working with local teachers in schools to examining educational institutions, cultures, and policy influences on regions across the nation.

During the minor's brief tenure, faculty across disciplines developed and taught over 25 courses listed or cross-listed under Community Studies (visible to the right), enrolling over 1300 students engaged in courses, issues and partnerships, both locally and globally.

While changes in institutional infrastructure and funding effectively ended course offerings for credit in the minor, its legacy remains through Arts & Sciences continuing support for the Community Studies Faculty Fellowship and the robust working relationship between Sharpe and the Civic & Community Engagement office.

- CMST100: The College and the Community - Dr. Monica Griffin (2010-2019)
- CMST150: Civic Engagement in Higher Education - Dr. Drew Stelljes (2014)
- CMST150: Disability in Society - Dr. Sharon DeFur (2014)
- CMST150: Living with the Environment - Dr. Dennis Taylor (2014-2016)
- CMST150: Activism & Cultural Arts - Dr. Monica Griffin (2015)
- CMST150: Communities & Nieghborhoods, Dr. David Aday (2015-2016)
- CMST150: Holocaust in Representation, Dr. Jennifer Taylor (2016)
- CMST150: Culture, Identity, & Social Change, Dr. Monica Griffin (2016)
- CMST250: African American English - Dr. Anne Charity Hudley (2009-2016)
- CMST250: Understanding Autism - Dr. Kelly Whalon (2011)
- CMST250: Communities & Social Inequality - Dr. Jamel Donnor (2012)
- CMST250: Perspectives on Virginia Indian History - Dr. Lisa Heuvel (2012)
- CMST250: African American Nature Writers - Dr. Jacqueline McLendon (2013-2014)
- CMST250: Ill Fares the Land - Dr. Dennis Taylor (2013-2014)
- CMST250: Literacy and Social Change - Dr. Monica Griffin (2013)
- CMST250: Language Attitudes - Dr. Anne Charity Hudley (2014-2016)
- CMST250: States of Poverty & Nature - Dr. Dennis Taylor (2015-2016)
- CMST350: Critical Engagement in Context - Dr. David Aday, Dr. Danielle Dallaire, Dr. Monica Griffin (2010-2015)
- CMST350: Service Learning in Developmental Psychology - Dr. Danielle Dallaire (2013-2016)
- CMST351: Community-Based Research Methods - Dr. David Aday, Dr. Anne Charity Hudley (2010-2016)
- CMST351: Research Approaches in Public Health Development - Dr. David Aday (2015-2016)
- CMST450: Community Health in the Dominican Republic - Dr. David Aday (2013-2016)
- CMST450: Community Health in Nicaragua - Dr. David Aday (2013-2016)
- CMST450: Memorializing the Enslaved of W&M - Dr. Jody Allen (2015)
- CMST450: Books that Launched Movements - Dr. Suzanne Raitt (2016)
- CMST450: Sustaining Social Movements - Dr. Suzanne Raitt (2016)
- CMST450: Citizenship - Dr. William Fisher (2019)

Amy Quark, Sociology

Sharpe Professor of Civic Renewal & Entrepreneurship

SOCL100: Populating Early 20th Century Black Williamsburg



Jay Watkins III, History

W&M Community Studies Faculty Fellow

HIST150: Southern LGBTQ+ Theatre Research



Dorothy Ibes, Environment & Sustainability

ENSP100: Mapping for Community Nature Rx



Margaret Saha, Biology

BIOL100: From Knowledge to Discovery



2025-2026 Sharpe Faculty

Sharpe supports faculty with funding to fulfill community-based teaching and research goals in the program. In the 2025-2026 academic year, Sharpe faculty and students explored interdisciplinary avenues of community-based research theories and methods. Sharpe courses involved and inspired collaborative partnerships with communities, locally and internationally. Sharpe Scholars created maps to better understand how Williamsburg, James City County, and York County communities use public parks; worked on a collaborative documentary investigating the displacement of Black Williamsburg residents; connected with LGBTQ+ community theatre initiatives in Richmond, VA; and joined networks of science educators and researchers across the globe to study phage bacteria and its impact on the future of public health. Sharpe faculty are committed scholars at the forefront of their fields—Sharpe is so thankful for their sustaining role in the program!

SHARPE COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

Sharpe's First Cohort

Class of 2005











Sharpe Living-Learning: Then & Now



Spotswood Hall

2001-2002 cohort

60 first-year Sharpe Scholars

15 community partnerships

1 first-year seminar

Service-Learning approach

Community panels programming

Fellows support to outreach



Cedar Hall

25th Year Cohort

65 first-year Sharpe Scholars

16 community partnerships

4 first-year seminars

Participatory Action Research approach

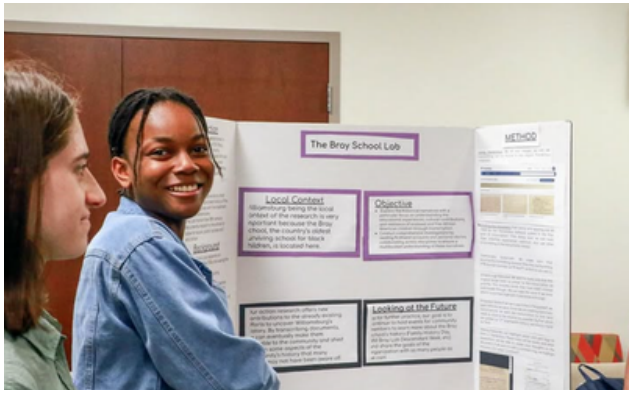
Campus and Community Workshops

Fellows as Peer Mentors

Sharpe Today: By the Numbers



Sharpe Scholars practice ecotherapy methods with Professor Dorothy Ibes (2025)



Sharpe Scholar Angel Bradley ‘27 listens to a fellow scholar present on Action Research at the Engaged Scholarship Symposium (2024)

540+

Hours of faculty-led instruction outside of the classroom since 2021

2900+

Hours of community engagement in Action Research Pathways since 2021

1900+

Hours in community workshops since 2021

1600+

Hours in peer mentor meetings since 2021

21

Sharpe research interns since 2021

50

Sharpe Scholars applying for summer research grants since 2021

22

Unique community partnerships since 2021

How To Apply to Sharpe Today!

Early in Sharpe's history, applications looked similar to the one pictured to the right. Mailed to the homes of every incoming student, these application flyers gauged student interest in public service experiences and aspirations. In recent years, applications have expanded to an online process, detailed below. Though the format and some questions have changed, Sharpe's commitment to selecting students with demonstrated interests and orientations towards engaged action and community-based learning remains the same. See below for more information about Sharpe's current selection process and timeline.



William & Mary

Sharpe Community Scholars Program

2005 – 2006

2005- 2006 Application

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Social Security Number: _____ Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Current Mailing Address: _____
Street address

_____
City State Zip code

Home Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Secondary School: _____

Secondary School Address: _____

Is community service a graduation requirement at your high school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

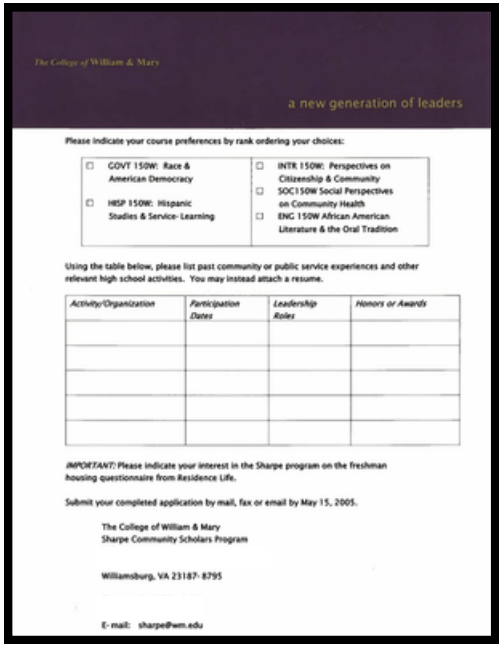
Using a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions, keeping each of your responses to 300 words or less.

1) What aspects of the Sharpe Community Scholars Program are most interesting to you? Why?

2) What have been your most meaningful community and public service experiences during high school? Why were these meaningful to you? What community service and/or leadership experiences do you hope to build on through your participation in the Sharpe Program?

3) Students have the opportunity to pick one of several Sharpe-affiliated courses. Which of the courses listed below is most interesting to you and why? (As service projects depend on the classes they are partnered with, we must know in which of the courses students are most likely to enroll.)

For more information about these courses, please review the course descriptions posted on our Web site at www.wm.edu/sharpe or call



The College of William & Mary

a new generation of leaders

Please indicate your course preferences by rank ordering your choices:

☐ GOVT 150W: Race & American Democracy	☐ INTR 150W: Perspectives on Citizenship & Community
☐ HISP 150W: Hispanic Studies & Service- Learning	☐ SOCI 150W Social Perspectives on Community Health
	☐ ENG 150W African American Literature & the Oral Tradition

Using the table below, please list past community or public service experiences and other relevant high school activities. You may instead attach a resume.

Activity/Organization	Participation Dates	Leadership Roles	Honors or Awards

IMPORTANT: Please indicate your interest in the Sharpe program on the freshman housing questionnaire from Residence Life.

Submit your completed application by mail, fax or email by May 15, 2005.

The College of William & Mary
Sharpe Community Scholars Program

Williamsburg, VA 23187- 8795

E-mail: sharpe@wm.edu

February → April → May → June

February

Sharpe sends early admissions promotions for students to apply.

April

Sharpe follows up with several media and text messages in calling for applications, including promotions offering admitted students an opportunity to meet at Day for Admitted Students.

May

Incoming students apply to be a Sharpe Community Scholar. See website for deadline. Review and selection process begins.

June

Review process is completed, selected scholars are informed, and Sharpe staff works with University Registration and Residence Life to get students settled in for their first year in Sharpe's courses and living-learning program in the fall!

SHARPE PHOTOS



1



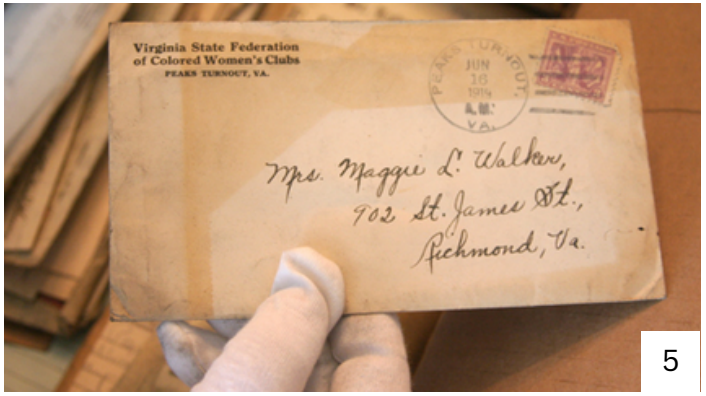
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3



4



5

1. The sign for Spotswood Hall, Sharpe's home from 2001 to 2025
2. Professor Jonathan Arries works with the Sharpe Latino Outreach Service-Learning Project with 100 Acre Wood alumni (2005)
3. Sharpe Scholars join alumni to promote a free dental clinic at Olde Towne Medical Center to residents of the Grove community (2005)
4. The Public Commons Project: Eco-Friendly Landscaping at Warhill High School (2008)
5. A letter addressed to Maggie Walker, uncovered by Sharpe Scholars in Dr. Heather Huyck's class on the St. Luke Bank in Richmond, VA (2008)











6. Sharpe Scholars developing biodiesel for a project led by Prof. Dennis Taylor (2008)
7. Sharpe Scholars collaborate with the Committee on Sustainability to construct green roofs for campus (2009)
8. A Sharpe Scholar interviews a member of the William & Mary custodial staff at Thanksgiving Dinner, in support of Ebony Expression's annual program.
9. Sharpe Scholars (led by Prof. Anne Rasmussen) host conversation, music, tour and meal in partnership with the Hampton Roads Refugee Settlement Center (2018)
10. Professor Dennis Taylor speaks with Sharpe Scholars in the Spotswood Collaboratory (formerly known as "the Blue Room") (2018)



11



12



13



14



15

11. Sharpe Scholar Emma Butler ‘21 presents her work to pledged Sharpe supporters, Mike and Sue Carron, who were “house parents” to 100 Acre Woods members of Project Plus, at the Engaged Scholarship Symposium (2018)
12. Sharpe Scholars and Fellows recruit the next cohort at Day for Admitted Students (2019)
13. Sharpe Scholars and alumni come together in the Spotswood Collaboratory (2022)
14. Sharpe Scholars speak about antibiotic resistance to children visitors at the Beijing Science Center, as part of their Action Research Internship in Beijing (2024)
15. Sharpe Scholars Ye Xiao ‘25 (left) and Kaleea Korunka ‘25 (right) attend the Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference to present their Virginia Eviction Expungement Resource, a project that begin in their Sharpe seminar with Sharpe Professor of Civic Renewal, Dr. Caroline Hanley (2024)



16



17



18



19



20

16. Sharpe Scholars tour the Wren Building and *Hearth* with the Lemon Project, led by Sharpe alumni Sarah E. Thomas, Ph.D., ‘08, ‘18, Associate Director of the Lemon Project (2024)
17. Sharpe Scholars explore sustainable agriculture at Jolly’s Mill Pond (2024)
18. Sharpe Scholar Me’Sharlia Fountain ‘29 completes an Action Research Intership with the Bray School Lab (2025)
19. Sharpe Scholars learn more about local food support at Grove Christian Outreach Center (2025)
20. Sharpe Scholars present their research to community partners at the Engaged Scholarship Symposium in Blow Memorial Hall (2026)

At the Center

Whether it has involved teaching, volunteering, community action, community development, civic engagement, or participatory action research, engagement with communities around human needs, interests, and goals has been our standard over the years. Of course, we are proud of our students annually for their efforts, and we are proud of our alumni who continue into careers and vocational callings in service around the globe. We are also immeasurably grateful for the knowledge, imagination, and energy that partner individuals and organizations have committed to mentoring Sharpe Scholars into lives inspired by public service and research. THANK YOU!

2001-2002 Sharpe Projects Organized in Conjunction with "Principles of Economics"

Organization	Project
Williamsburg AIDS network	Assess economic impact of AIDS on local community and assist WAN w/ outreach & peer education
Eastern State Hospital	Evaluate local market for nursing staff with specialized skills /examine recruitment and retention issues from nurses' perspective. Include examination of potential costs and benefits of providing in-house childcare for staff
Planning Dept, City of Williamsburg	Evaluate impact of off-campus student housing on the local area and consider ways to improve community relations / housing conditions / availability of low-income housing and public transportation
Olde Towne Medical Center	Evaluate access to dental clinic services for under and uninsured people in the in Greater Williamsburg area - focus on OTMC-DC staffing issues and coordination of services
Williamsburg City Manager's Office	Conduct needs assessment to evaluate community internet usage / desire for E-Government services/ willingness to pay for on-line services
JCC-Recycling and Beautification Programs (These are two separate projects)	Evaluate current utilization and consider ways to expand business recycling and Clean County Commission neighborhood recycling programs
Rita Welsh Adult Skills Program	Assess supply and demand in local service area for adult skills/ESL services (neighborhood outreach/business outreach)
Child Caring Connections	Evaluate market for substitute childcare teachers and assistants / identify strategies to increase the pool of available providers
Matthew Whaley Elem. School / City of Williamsburg Dept. of Social Services	Establish a resource center and outreach strategy for local childcare providers serving low-income children
WJCC Public Schools-Bright Beginnings Pre-K program	Assess current spending and early-intervention programming sponsored by W-JCC schools
JCC Office of Housing and Community Development	Assess satisfaction w/ home improvements and first time home buyers IDA programs sponsored by OCHD
Community Employment Program / People's Place	Gather information from businesses working collaboratively with the CEP to assess and expand employment opportunities for individuals with histories of mental illness
Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority	Assess and propose ways to enhance employment opportunities for public housing residents
Williamsburg Community Hospital	Gather information to describe emergency room experience for patients and individuals accompanying patients to the hospital
JCC-Adult Services Unit/Division of Social Services*	Gather information to describe the social, financial, and medical needs of elderly and disabled residents living on low or fixed incomes

List of community partners from Sharpe's first cohort



2025-2026 Sharpe organizational community partners
(does not include faculty labs and courses)

Behind the Scenes

With their titles and responsibilities varying over the years - Teaching Assistants, Peer Mentors, Program Assistants, Sharpe Fellows - the consequential impact of students returning after their first year to support the program cannot be overstated. In Sharpe's 25 years, hundreds of these students (a fraction of which are pictured here) have made the program possible through their hard work supporting seminars, driving students to community outings, mentoring first-year students, and modeling cultural humility in community engagement. Once a "Sharpie," always a "Sharpie." Thank you, all!



Sharpe strives to support the development of select students through the integration of academic studies, research and community engagement.

In collaboration with W&M faculty, the Sharpe Program advances community-based research and teaching in courses with integrated, community partnering. The Sharpe Community Scholars Program is also a living-learning community of first-year students interested in community engagement, social justice, and collaborative research.

With funding from donors, Sharpe supports faculty to fulfill community-based teaching and research goals in the program, and offers students summer research grants and opportunities for Action Research Internships, to expand their capacity for community-based research in critical inquiry and social action outside of classes.

Monica D. Griffin
Director
Engaged Scholarship
& Sharpe Community Scholars
mdgrif@wm.edu



SHARPE COMMUNITY SCHOLARS



Maxwell Tippl-Cloe
Program Coordinator
Sharpe Community Scholars
mmcloe@wm.edu

Contact us to Learn More about How To Support Sharpe!



Charles Center for Undergraduate Research
Blow Memorial Hall
262 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185

sharpe@wm.edu
wm.edu/sharpe


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