



# W&L Northern New Jersey Alumni Chapter Newsletter Fall 2012

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Hello Northern New Jersey Alumni, Friends and Parents! We hope you have recovered from Hurricane Sandy in time to enjoy the upcoming holidays.

Contact Kate Muscalino '03  
(kamuscalino@gmail.com or 201-323-5313)  
by December 7 if you would like to participate.

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## January

Semi-Annual Chapter Meeting and  
Law Networking Event  
Wednesday, January 9, 2013  
Law Offices of Porzio, Bromberg & Newman  
Morristown, NJ  
Time TBA

## February

Joint Capital Campaign / Presidents Day Event  
Wednesday, February 20, 2013  
Baltusrol Golf Club  
Time TBA

## April/May

Admitted Students Reception  
Chapter Golf Outing

## June

Semi-Annual Chapter Meeting

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## COME TO AN EVENT AND SAVE THE DATES

Below are just some of the events we are planning for 2012-13. Check your email and mailboxes for additional information about each event, and join our Facebook group ("Washington and Lee University Northern New Jersey Chapter") and be sure to visit the NNJ Chapter's Wordpress blog <http://northernnewjerseywlu.wordpress.com> for the most current information.

## December

**Holiday Service Day with  
Community FoodBank of New Jersey**  
Saturday, December 15  
2 shifts: 9-11 a.m. and 11:30-1:30 p.m.  
31 Evans Terminal in Hillside

## CATCH UP ON RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS

### Mink Conference Win

The Northern New Jersey Chapter has won the Mink Conference/Division II Chapter-of-the-

Year Award for 2011-2012 (see the final standings here: <http://alumnichapterconference2012.wlu.edu/Default.aspx>). Specifically, the Mink Conference is designed to evaluate chapters on their leadership structure, meeting of chapter goals, activity and communication. This is the second year in a row for us and is just further testament to the strength of the W&L network here in Northern New Jersey and the commitment all of you have shown in supporting your fellow alumni and the University.



As was the case last year, the Chapter will receive \$1000 and Tom Lovell '91, Associate

Director of Alumni Affairs, plans to present us with the award at a chapter event this year. In addition, the Chapter was recognized at the Chapter Leadership Conference on campus along with other division winners. Congratulations everyone!

### **Alumni Volunteer Weekend Highlights**

Chapter leaders, alumni board members and class agents came together in Lexington on Oct. 12 to learn what is new at W&L, hearing from University President Kenneth P. Ruscio and other administrative, academic and athletic officials.

That Friday's events ended with a dinner at a farm owned by Jamie Small ('81) where Mink Conference Awards were presented, including our chapter's second consecutive first-place finish in Division II. The Raphine farm's barn

has a collection of guitars and signed lyrics that puts the Hard Rock Café to shame. Among those whose represented are Bob Dylan, John Lennon, Jethro Tull and The Who.

The renovation of the Colonnade is on track and going well. Newcomb and Payne are done and look great. Washington Hall will open late this year.

Ruscio noted that plans for an elevator in Payne Hall were canceled when someone realized that the elevator shaft would have replaced the room where Robert E. Lee took the oath of office.

Dean of Students Sidney Evans said both Graham Lees and Gaines will undergo substantial renovations in the next few years. The Board of Trustees is also considering whether to build new upper class housing on campus and require students to live in university housing for three years.

Ruscio said that in some respects W&L resembles a commuter school with nearly all juniors and seniors living off campus. There is actually less residential space on campus now than there has been in decades. Some administrative offices were moved to the former Baker Hall dorm during the Colonnade renovations.

The president also spoke about the need to either renovate or replace the Warner Center, which was built in the 1970s to accommodate a smaller, all-male student body. One important question is whether to build a separate natatorium. The historic Doremus gym will be retained, regardless of the decision on the Warner Center.

The level of alumni support for W&L is

impressive. For the second year in a row, over 50 percent of alumni gave to W&L, and the Campaign for Washington and Lee is on pace to reach the lofty goal of \$500 million in 2015. When we get there in June of 2015, it will be one of the top two campaigns for any liberal arts college ever. The largest component, \$160 million, is for need-based financial aid.

“Academic innovation is a W&L tradition,” Ruscio told the alumni volunteers. The law school took a risk in changing its curriculum several years ago, one that has paid off as applications and reputation have grown.

Changes in the spring term also were made because faculty felt students in this age of distraction need to learn to focus on one thing.

He also said W&L will be prudent in implementing online courses. Some professors are using video to flip the traditional teaching approach by recording their lectures and then using class time to focus on working on problems and questions in a group. The philosophy is “learn together what we can’t learn alone.”

In the Williams School, some professors found they are reviewing the same material in many classes. By recording lectures that cover these subjects, they can focus on core materials of their courses in the classroom.

The alumni board began formal discussions of the long-range planning it will conduct over the next year. It has been 10 years since the board surveyed alumni, so as part of the long-range plan effort, the university will be conducting an all-alumni survey later this year or early next.

The university is changing the name of the Founders Day event to Presidents Day, since neither of the university's namesakes founded

W&L, but both were presidents. The alumni office will provide further reminders on this later in the year.

*Thanks to former chapter President Joe Ciccone for his input to this report. Joe is now the Alumni Board advisor to our chapter.*

### **Octoberfest at Jersey City's Zeppelin Hall**

On October 20, the Washington and Lee Northern New Jersey Chapter celebrated Octoberfest with an event at Zeppelin Hall Biergarten & Restaurant in Jersey City.



Though the weather was a bit on the cool side, those in attendance were able to bask in fall sunshine and meet some new folks all while sampling Zeppelin Hall's brews.

Alumni in attendance included Emory Edwards '84, Chapter Vice President Mike Lavitt '80 and wife, Carol, Chapter Social Chair Kate Muscalino '03, Chapter Law Liaison Suzanne Peters '12L, Chapter President Stephanie Wolfe '99, and Chris Wosleger '10L.

### **Welcome Party and Picnic Lunch**

On July 29, the Washington and Lee Northern New Jersey Chapter welcomed local members of the



Class of 2016. For the eleventh year, Ward ('69) and Hilary Dorer graciously hosted the popular event at their home on Cedar Lake in

Denville. Although rain moved the picnic inside for a while, intermittent sunshine gave guests plenty of opportunities to enjoy the lake view from the picnic tables and boathouse.

Almost 25 alumni, new and current students, family and friends came together to share stories about W&L and life in Lexington. Incoming students exchanged information



about dorms and what to expect when they arrive on campus in September.

Alumni in attendance included Chapter Law Liaison Phil Adelman '03L, Chapter Young Alumni Chair Jason Cimino '11, Ward Dorer '69, Chapter Member-at-Large John Gunkel '89, Chapter Secretary Danielle McDavit '97, Chapter Social Chair Kate Muscalino '03, NNJ Alumni Admissions Program Chair Josh Prell '09, Daniel Sozomenu '01, Robert Uhlman '12, and Chapter President Stephanie Wolfe '99. Present from the Class of 2016 were Sally Curtiss, Hailey Degnan and Danielle Rosenthal. Current W&L students joining us included Chapter Student Liaison Taylor Magrath and Paul Nguyen.

NNJ Alumni Admissions Program Chair Josh Prell '09 said the picnic was a huge success. "Thank you again to Ward and Hilary Dorer for hosting such a great event. On behalf of all of the members of the W&L Alumni Northern NJ Chapter, I would like to wish the first-year students much success as they embark on a great four years in Lexington."

## **FIND OUT THE LATEST ALUMNI ADMISSIONS PROGRAM REPORT**

### **Alumni Admissions Program Starting Another Busy Year**

Alumni from the Northern New Jersey chapter have fielded 12 interview requests so far this fall and attended nine college fairs.

Thanks to these volunteers who have accepted interview requests as of late November: Richard Allen, Jim Clark, Rich Juterbock, Mike Lavitt, Danielle McDavit, Kate Muscalino, Matt Molloy, Joshua Prell, Alex Stiles and Bob Wittpenn.

The number of interview requests seems to be in line with the number from this time last year.

AAP volunteers play an important role in the admissions process by interviewing students who have not been able to visit campus at a time when admissions officers are meeting with students. Often they can't make the trip because of sports and activity schedules. In other cases, parents are not able to make the trip because of their jobs and the needs of other children.

AAP members also present the face of the university at college fairs. Thanks to the alumni listed for making time to represent W&L at these college fairs:

Zac Barbieri at William Paterson University	Sept. 24
Ward Dorer at Seton Hall Preparatory School	Oct. 3
Rich and Lis Juterbock at Ridge H.S.	Oct. 11
Josh Prell at Pascack Valley High School	Oct. 18
Josh Prell at Glen Rock High School	Oct. 24
Zac Barbieri at West Orange High School	Oct. 25
Laura Purcell at Montclair High School	Oct. 25
Jim Clark at Summit High School	Nov. 14
Mike Lavitt at Westfield High School	Nov. 15

Two other fairs that our volunteers planned to attend were canceled after Hurricane Sandy ripped through the state.

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## **KEEP UP WITH NNJ STUDENTS**

### **NNJ Fall Student Athletes**

A big thank you to NNJ Chapter Student Liaison Colton Klein '15 who provided the following update on NNJ student athletes for Fall 2012:

The North Jersey student-athletes have been busy during this fall athletic season for the Generals. Playing Football for the Generals are junior tight end Max Krauss from Ridgewood, sophomore outside linebacker Richard Nelson from New Providence, and freshman inside linebacker/special teams Jake Barr from Upper Saddle River.

Playing Men's Soccer for the Generals are senior Captain Conor Starr from Summit, junior defender Brendan Farley from Basking Ridge, and sophomore Midfielder/Forward Colton Klein from Flanders.

On the Women's side, the Cross Country Team is led by Captain Teresa Soleyn from Lebanon.

Playing Field Hockey for the Lady Generals are junior Taylor Zusi from Summit, and freshman Sally Curtiss, a defender from Morristown.

Playing Women's Soccer is sophomore Emily Scott from Port Murray.

### **A Freshman Perspective, by Maya Applebaum '16**

Going to college is a tough transition for every first-year student. However, at W&L the transition is as smooth as possible, thanks to the amazing pre-orientation trips the upperclassmen organized for us. Hiking 32.5 miles with eight random first-years and four student trip leaders, completely independent of any adults, technology, or sense of time, is an instant friend maker and excellent way to make the beds, showers, and meal plan here feel extraordinarily luxurious.

Upon arriving at school, the upperclassmen continued showing us the ropes, and orientation week taught us all the quirks that make the school so unique. Most memorable of all was senior Steel Burrow's speech emphatically binding us to our school's Honor System.

Advised by my friends and advisers to take about forty or so classes, narrowing it down was a struggle. Eventually I found four interesting classes in subjects I never could take in high school. Although it was a little unnerving that my teachers knew my name before I knew theirs, I thoroughly enjoy the small school environment that enables me to look forward to waking up early each morning...well most mornings. W&L might have taken a little adjusting to, but I cannot see myself as happy anywhere else!

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### **NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Suzanne Peters '12L has joined the NNJ Chapter Board as a co-Law Liaison with Phil Adelman '03L. One of our goals this year is to schedule a law-related event for law school

alumni and undergraduate alumni who are also members of the legal profession, and Suzanne will be working with Phil and Chapter President Stephanie Wolfe to make it happen. Welcome, Suzanne!

### **VOLUNTEER AND SHARE IDEAS**

In particular, we are looking for volunteers to serve as AAP Volunteers.

No experience needed, just a willingness to meet outstanding high school students who are considering W&L. Interviews are always a learning experience for both the alumnus, as you learn about the student, and the applicants as they seek information about the W&L experience. We need volunteers who can interview students and/or attend college fairs in the fall and the spring. We especially need volunteers in Bergen County, which is always one of the biggest sources of applicants. We only have two alumni volunteers there now. If you can help, contact [Mike Lavitt](#) at (732) 266-7239 or [Joshua Prell](#) at 201-638-7039.

We are also looking for volunteers to serve as At Large or Advisory Board Members as well as Event Sponsors. If you are interested in getting involved in any capacity, we would love to have you! Please contact **Chapter President Stephanie Wolfe** at [stephanierwolfe@live.com](mailto:stephanierwolfe@live.com) or 347-426-7080 for additional information about available opportunities. In addition to the great events the Chapter holds annually, we want to increase the number and expand the diversity of events offered. Stay tuned to your email and mailboxes for additional events in the coming months.

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### **CONTRIBUTE TO THE FY2012-2013 DUES DRIVE**

Your dues help the Chapter cover expenses for the events we have planned for the year and offer more affordable pricing per person for those events. They also help the Chapter fund such programs as the Book Award Program and enable Board Members to strengthen the Chapter through a wider variety of events. This year's dues schedule is as follows:

\$25 for Recent Graduates ('07 or later)  
\$50 for Other Graduates ('06 or earlier)  
\$100 for Chapter Sponsor

Enclosed with this newsletter is a dues request form. Please send your form and dues to: Cassie Ritter Hunt, 4 Maxwell Court, Flemington, NJ 08822. You may make checks payable to "The W&L - NNJ Chapter" or pay online at [alumni.wlu.edu/chapterdues](http://alumni.wlu.edu/chapterdues).

### **STAY CONNECTED**

Help us serve you better by keeping your contact information up-to-date. Just go to <https://colonnadeconnections.wlu.edu>. If you are new to Colonnade Connections, simply follow the on-screen instructions for registering.

