



Colonial Williamsburg News

INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS
MAY 18, 2017 Online at \\netapp2\PubRelations\Public\CW_News_Online\cwnews\current.pdf

VOL. 70, NO. 9
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CW mourns the loss of Abby M. O'Neill

By Bill Sullivan
Senior Writer

Colonial Williamsburg mourns the passing of Senior Trustee Abby M. O'Neill, one of the Foundation's most generous supporters and granddaughter of its founding benefactor, John D. Rockefeller Jr.



Abby M. O'Neill

Mrs. O'Neill served the institution as a trustee alongside her husband, Senior Trustee George D. O'Neill, for 28 years beginning in 1966, including nine years she spent as the board's vice chairman. In 1992 she became the first recipient of the Foundation's highest award for service, leadership and stewardship: the Churchill Bell.

Mrs. O'Neill supported numerous Foundation initiatives including the 1986 expansion of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, established from her grandmother's collection; the Abby M. O'Neill Teacher Enrichment Project; construction of the Bruton Heights Educational Center and the restoration of Bassett Hall, her grandparents' local home. Together, she and her husband contributed generously to the Colonial Williamsburg Fund, endowed the directorship of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library and provided major support for the current expansion of the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, which broke ground on April 27.

"Like her grandfather, Abby O'Neill's legacy stands in bricks and mortar, but also in the countless guests, educators and learners who draw knowledge and inspiration from the critical work of Colonial Williamsburg that she so generously supported," said Henry C. Wolf, chairman of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation board. "She was also a remarkably kind and engaging person whom so many Foundation employees and volunteers enjoyed hosting as a guest with her family. We remember her with deep gratitude as we extend heartfelt sympathy to her family and to her many friends."

As a board member, Mrs. O'Neill played an active role in reviewing architectural, interior design and landscaping plans across the Foundation. She was the first woman to become chairman of the board of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, a position she held from 1992 to 1998. She was chairman of the board of her alma mater, Bradford College, a trustee of Teachers College, Columbia University and served for 42 years as a trustee of International House in New York City. She was also a long-serving board member of social service agencies in Oyster Bay and Nassau County, New York, where she and her husband lived. The Community Foundation of Oyster Bay in particular benefited both from her generosity and service as a board member for years.

"Abby O'Neill was an effective, respected and much-loved leader in her extended family and in the organizations she served," said **Colin G. Campbell**, chairman emeritus of Colonial Williamsburg

Please see **O'Neill**, page 4



Photo by Penna Rogers

The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg board broke ground Thursday on the \$40 million expansion.

Art Museums break ground on building expansion

By CW Contributor

Nearly two-and-a-half years after announcing the public phase of a \$40 million capital campaign with its goal met, the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg held a groundbreaking ceremony Friday, April 28, on the site where construction is set to begin on the first large-scale expansion and upgrade to its building. The project, the primary capital priority of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's \$600 million Campaign for History and Citizenship, will significantly enhance the home of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, currently celebrating its 60th anniversary year, and the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.

Mitchell B. Reiss, president and CEO of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, welcomed guests including Art Museums Board members, CWF Trustees, major donors to the Art Museums, as well as several state and local officials. Henry C. Wolf, chairman of the CWF Board of Trustees and vice chairman and CFO-retired of Norfolk Southern Corporation in Norfolk, Virginia, and Sheila Miller, chair of the Art Museums Board, made brief remarks, as did **Ronald L. Hurst**, Colonial Williamsburg's Carlisle H. Humelsine chief curator and vice president for collections, conservation and museums who also served as the master of ceremonies for the groundbreaking.

"The Art Museums' expansion is a fundamental component of our core mission," Wolf said. "It is being completely funded

with dedicated donor funds and not with the Foundation general endowment."

"The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg are treasured institutions in which guests experience both the world's premier collection of American folk art and our nation's early decorative culture," said Reiss. "The critical work that begins today, made possible wholly due to our supporters' foresight and generosity, will allow us to improve the visitor experience, draw more visitors, and more appropriately display our world-class collection."

"For so many, Colonial Williamsburg is a treasure because of its people and its places, and rightly so. It is in its collections, however, that we see and hear the stories of individuals who, against long odds, created a nation based on ideals that still guide the world today," said Miller. "On this project's completion, the Art Museums' doors will open even wider to welcome new generations of guests to experience our shared, enduring story."

Following the remarks, members of the Art Museums Board, each wearing a hard hat with the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg logo on the front and their name on the back, along with donors who contributed \$1 million or more to the expansion campaign, dug into the ground with replica, 18th-century shovels and hoes. Other guests, including staff of the Art Museums and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and general public who attended the ceremony, were invited to participate

and break ground so as to include as many people as possible in this momentous aspect of the project.

When the expansion is complete, the new wing of the building will add 60,000 square feet to the Art Museums, offering a 22-percent increase in gallery space. This will enable considerably more of the celebrated collections to be on view. New galleries will be designated for an introduction to the Art Museums; folk art; coins, currency and medals; archaeology; musical instruments; costumes; maps, prints and drawings; toys and dollhouses; tools, weapons and scientific instruments; architectural preservation; paintings; silver and metals; and an additional space for changing exhibitions.

The expansion will also significantly improve public access to the building through a new visitor-friendly entrance on South Nassau Street. This new entrance will replace a circuitous, partly-underground route with a tunnel and multiple stairs through the reconstructed Public Hospital of 1773, which was the first building in North America dedicated to treatment of the mentally ill. Additional improvements will include:

- A new lobby and orientation space overlooking the pastoral site of the John Custis House and Garden, and a grand concourse that will provide access to both museums, which will improve visibility of the complex to guests approaching on foot from the Historic Area.

Please see **Museum expansion**, page 2

CW provides free admission to active duty military, veterans, reservists, retirees and dependents May 26-29

During Memorial Day Weekend, Friday through Monday, May 26-29, Colonial Williamsburg offers free admission tickets to active duty military, reservists, retirees, veterans, national guardsmen and their immediate dependents.

As identification of service, members of the military service can show a Department of Defense photo ID or DD Form 214 or Report of Separation at the Colonial Williamsburg Regional Visitor Center. Direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to this program. If the service member happens to be deployed, dependents may take advantage of the offer, though adults must accompany minor dependents and dependents 10 and over must present a

valid dependent ID.

These weekend-long admission tickets are available at the Visitor Center, the Greenhow Lumber House ticket office, the William Pitt Shop and the Merchants Square ticket window.

In addition to providing complimentary admission tickets to these honored guests, Colonial Williamsburg offers special rates to military personnel and their families at any of its five on-site hotels, the closest lodging to Colonial Williamsburg's Revolutionary City, museums, dining, shopping, golf, children's activities and more.

The Memorial Day Commemorative Program begins at 10 a.m. Monday, May 29 in Colonial Williamsburg's Revolution-

ary City. Colonial Williamsburg's Fifes and Drums lead a procession to three sites – the Governor's Palace, Bruton Parish Church and the south lawn of the Capitol – to honor military veterans who were interred in or near those sites from the American Revolution and the Civil War.

The Memorial Day service begins at the Governor's Palace where graves of Revolutionary War dead are marked with a memorial wreath. The procession advances to Bruton Parish Church and the south lawn of the Capitol to honor those who were interred in or near those sites. Prayers are offered and the militia fire musket salutes at these three sites. The Memorial Day service is free and open to the public.



Fiorina, Montgomery and Shaheen elected CW trustees

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation board of trustees has elected former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, The Optimal Service Group of Wells Fargo Advisors Managing Director Joseph W. Montgomery, and retired Caterpillar, Inc. Group President Gerald L. Shaheen to serve as trustees of the Foundation.

"From its establishment more than nine decades ago, Colonial Williamsburg's success has depended on the stewardship of great leaders with varied backgrounds who share devotion to our mission of education and preservation," said Henry C. Wolf, chair of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation board of trustees and vice chairman and CFO, retired, Norfolk Southern Corp. "Carly, Joe and Gerry bring to the Foundation extraordinary leadership experience that spans manufacturing, technology, finance and public service at the local, national and international levels. We welcome each of them and look forward to the wise counsel they will provide."

At Hewlett-Packard, Fiorina was the first woman to lead a Fortune top-20 company after rising from an entry level position at AT&T to become that company's first female officer. She led AT&T's spin-off of its manufacturing arm at Lucent Technologies, then oversaw Lucent's North American operations. She sought public office in campaigns for U.S. Senate in 2010 and for president of the United States in the 2016 election.

Montgomery is an alumnus of the College of William & Mary who joined his Williamsburg firm's predecessor, Wheat First Securities, in 1975 and is among the nation's

most respected financial advisors. He has regularly been named to top nationwide advisor lists by the Financial Times, Barron's, Worth, Registered Representative and Forbes. His firm specializes in services for high net-worth individuals, institutions and corporations.

With Caterpillar, Shaheen was responsible for the design, development and production of the company's large construction and mining equipment, as well as the company's U.S. operations division. He also oversaw its marketing and sales operations in North America, its components business, and its research and development division. During his 41 years with the company, he held numerous marketing and management positions in the United States and Europe, and at one time held responsibility for business in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the former Soviet Union.

"Colonial Williamsburg is at a pivotal moment as we work to engage new audiences and to ensure our treasured institution's long-term health," said **Mitchell B. Reiss**, president and CEO of Colonial Williamsburg. "With the support of leaders like Carly, Joe and Gerry we can be confident that we will make the right decisions now for the future of the Foundation, its mission and our community."

Fiorina also served as chair of Good360,



Carly Fiorina

the world's largest products philanthropy, as chair of the CIA External Advisory Board and on the Pentagon's Defense Business Board. She has also served on James Madison University's board of visitors and as a trustee of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and of companies including Kellogg's, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Merck, Cisco and Zurich International. Fiorina earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University, her Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland and her Master of Science in management from the MIT Sloan School of Management.

"Our nation is a beacon of freedom and opportunity thanks to men and women who united with common cause so that they and generations that followed could live not as subjects but as citizens," said Fiorina. "Like no other institution, Colonial Williamsburg preserves and shares the sites and stories of America's establishment and ideals, and I'm thrilled to be a part of its critical mission."

Montgomery is a trustee of the Virginia Retirement System, a director of the Virginia Capitol Foundation, a director of the Future of Hampton Roads Inc., a Randolph associate of the Dean's Circle of the William & Mary School of Business and a member of the William & Mary President's



Joseph W. Montgomery

Council. He served on the William & Mary Board of Visitors, the Colonial Williamsburg National Advisory Council, as president of the William & Mary Alumni Association, as vice president of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's board of directors, as a director of the Williamsburg Community Hospital, as a trustee of Hampton Roads Academy and the Greater Williamsburg Community Trust. He is a recipient of the Alumni Medallion from the William & Mary Society of the Alumni and a member of the William & Mary Athletic Hall of Fame and All-time Football Team.

"My devotion to Colonial Williamsburg dates to my time as an undergraduate at William & Mary, and it's been a privilege to serve the Foundation on its National Advisory Council and now as a member of the board," Montgomery said. "Colonial Williamsburg is a treasure for the nation and world, but it is also fundamental to our community and region, and I look forward to supporting the Foundation's pursuit of its critical mission now and for years to come."

Shaheen is a board member and past chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the boards of Ford Motor Company and AGCO Corp. He chairs the OSF Illinois Neurological Insti-



Gerald L. Shaheen

Please see **New trustees**, page 3

AARFAM holds day of festivities June 3 to honor 60th anniversary

By CW Contributor

As part of a yearlong, 60th anniversary celebration, the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum (AARFAM) will hold a day of festivities on Saturday, June 3. Filled with special programs, the day will be highlighted by a talk by famed "Antiques Roadshow" appraiser Ken Farmer.

"For over six decades, Williamsburg has been home to the country's finest collection of American folk art. It is most fitting that we celebrate this milestone anniversary with our many local friends and neighbors as well as visitors from afar," said **Laura Pass Barry**, Juli Grainger curator of paintings, drawings and sculpture.

The schedule of special events, all of which will take place at the museum include:

- "Toys!," a program in which visitors will explore 19th- and early 20th-century toys, dolls and dollhouses from the AARFAM collection on view in the exhibitions "German Toys in America" and "A World Made Small." Following the tour, visitors can drop in and make a toy inspired by the antique toys seen in the exhibits (10:30 a.m. - noon)
- "All Creatures Great and Small: Folk Songs about Animals for Kids and Families," a lively show of folk songs and tunes about the animal kingdom performed on fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar and bass performed by the group Henley Fork (Doug Austin, Brian Forsman, and Lynn and Barry Trott). Visitors can sing along to some old favorites and soon-to-be favorites as well (30 minutes, 11:30 a.m.)
- "Mrs. Rockefeller's Art," a guided tour in which participants will learn about the folk art that Rockefeller loved and collected to display in her Manhattan home. The connections to the modern art she also collected and displayed will be discussed as well (approximately 45 minutes and offered at noon and 2 p.m.)
- "Three Centuries of Folk Music," a musical journey with Henley Fork through folk songs and tunes from the 18th century to the present in celebra-



As part of a yearlong, 60th anniversary celebration, the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum (AARFAM) will hold a day of festivities on Saturday, June 3. (Photo left) "Antiques Roadshow" appraiser Ken Farmer will discuss "Tales from the Road and Folk Art." (Photo right) Henley Fork performs "Three Centuries of Folk Music."

tion of AARFAM's 60th anniversary. Visitors will enjoy some of the tunes that America has sung and played for the past 300 years on fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar and bass (One hour, 3 p.m.)

- "Tales from the Road and Folk Art," a talk by Ken Farmer, antiques appraiser, in which he will discuss his experiences on PBS' "Antiques Roadshow" as a folk art expert, how the popular television show got its start and what some of its highlights have been. Throughout the talk, Farmer will discuss what folk art is and how perceptions about it are changing as enthusiasts are collecting at every level (Hennage Auditorium, 5:30 p.m.)

In addition to the special tours, musical performances and talks, visitors will also be able to see the exhibits "We the People: American Folk Portraits"; "A Century of African-American Quilts," which opened in January 2016 and features two quilts add-



Colonial Williamsburg photos

ed to the exhibition earlier this year; "From Forge and Furnace: A Celebration of Early American Iron," which opened last fall; and other folk art works on permanent display in the AARFAM galleries.

All tours, family craft and musical pro-

grams are included in the price of admission to the Art Museums. "Tales from the Road and Folk Art" costs \$5 in addition to the regular admission price.

Employees may present a valid 2017 CW ID to attend the programming.

Museum expansion

Continued from page 1

- Guest services, such as an expanded museum café and store, will move to lobby level where they may be accessed without a ticket and will be bathed in natural light through new, expansive windows overlooking the picturesque Bicentennial Park. Car parking, including that for the mobility challenged, will also be considerably improved. In addition, the Colonial Williamsburg bus stop will move to the museum entry area from its current location near the intersection of South Henry and Francis streets.
- Enhanced programming and activities to engage visitors.
- Space and equipment for efficient operations and exhibition presentations.
- New and upgraded mechanical and climate-control systems.

Samuel Anderson Architects, based in New York City, designed the expansion. The same firm in 2006 designed the space that now houses the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum when it moved from its previous location. It is expected that the expansion construction will take approximately 24 months to complete.



Photo by Darnell Vennie

Chaz Mena and his family — wife Ileana Musa and daughter Bella — attended the garden party at the Governor's Palace during his visit to Colonial Williamsburg.

Actor, scholar Chaz Mena brings Spain's history to life at CW

Actor and scholar Chaz Mena traveled to Colonial Williamsburg to discuss the role Spain and its colonies played during the American Revolution.

His visit was part of the Revolutionaries in Residence program, which hosts provocative thinkers who engage audiences with fresh perspectives that embody the spirit and relevance of the Revolutionary era.

Mena brought military strategist and Governor Bernardo de Gálvez to life as he depicted Gálvez's contributions to the American Revolution. As Spanish governor of Louisiana, Gálvez facilitated delivery of supplies through the many Spanish "front" companies like Gardoqui & Sons, who provided weapons, medicine, ordnance, uniforms and tents to the colonists.

For the April 28 REV TALK at the Kimball Theatre, Mena performed an abridged version of his PBS, one-man show "Yo Solo: Bernardo de Gálvez, On the Stage of the American Revolution." The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

The performance of "Yo Solo: Bernardo de Gálvez, On the Stage of the American Revolution" also can be seen on a video of the same name produced by WSRE in Pensacola, Fla. The video has been viewed in more than 15 states. The U.S. Congress honored Gálvez with an honorary citizenship. Only eight honorary citizenships have been awarded including Winston Churchill and Mother Teresa. More information on Mena can be found at <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/special-events/revolutionaries-in-residence>.

As a scholar and performer with the Florida Humanities Council, Mena also devel-

oped a series of one-person shows depicting key figures in the Sunshine State's history: St. Augustine founder Pedro Menéndez de Avilés; Seminole leader Osceola; and Cuban patriot and poet José Martí.

The Revolutionaries in Residence program is generously sponsored by The Grainger Foundation of Lake Forest, Illinois.

While in Williamsburg, Mena conducted research at the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library about a Havana merchant Juan de Miralles and his secretary, Francisco Rendón. King Charles III, the reigning monarch of Spain, dispatched Miralles to find out if the United States could support Spain in a war against Britain.

Miralles arrived in the colonies in 1778. He spent one month in Williamsburg and Yorktown. "Miralles met several people," he said, "people he used to trade with from Havana for more than a decade. He also met Patrick Henry."

Upon Spain declaring war on Britain in 1779, Spain named Miralles Ambassador Plenipotentiary to the United States.

During his stay in the colonies, Miralles lived in Philadelphia and often visited Gen. George Washington and his troops in Morristown, N.J. He died there of camp fever on April 24, 1780.

Rendón was afterwards named Spanish ambassador returning to Havana at the end of hostilities.

Mena also conducted two workshops for actor-interpreters. "I enjoyed all of the programming," he said. "The actor-interpreters have a lot to offer. I wanted to share with them certain techniques that have brought my theater company success."

Save the date for Wellness Day 2017

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Annual Wellness Day is scheduled for Friday, June 9 at the Woodlands Conference Center. A schedule of activities including yoga, a vocal wellness class, financial and identity theft seminars, and a Medicare Q&A will be communicated later this month.

Participate in one of the Wellness Day classes and be entered to win a \$100 gift card. That's right, there's a \$100 gift card up for grabs for each class. Need another reason to participate? You'll also be entered to win the grand prize: a \$250 gift card.

The Wellness Fair is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you're ready to become healthy, active and more knowledgeable

about wellness, stop by the fair to take advantage of the information that our vendors have to offer. From healthcare to financial health and wellness, our vendors are here to help you. Those employees who stop by and meet with some of our vendors will also be eligible to enter a drawing to win a variety of door prizes.

Sentara nurses will also be onsite for free biometric screenings for any interested employees. This is not a requirement for the 2018 Wellness incentive but will allow the Viverra Wellness portal to provide you with more information to help monitor your health.

For more information, contact **Amy Goldschmidt** at 220-7026 with any questions.

Milestone Memories

Brigadier, General and Lee can be spotted in CW's Historic Area

EMPLOYEE NAME: Lee Peters

POSITION: Coachman/interpreter

WHAT I DO: I usually drive the blue carriage with my team of horses, Brigadier and General and on a schedule from 10 a.m. - 4:10 p.m. Then there's an hour-and-a-half break for the horses and me. I also interpret when I give guests rides. I talk to the guests before we get started to see what they're interested in. I tell them what it was like traveling by horse and carriage in the 18th century and talk about the buildings that we pass in the Historic Area.

Some of my other responsibilities include cleaning and grooming and maintaining the harnesses for Brigadier and General. I've probably retired three teams of horses during my 25 years here, and I've been with Brigadier and General for the past eight years.

WHAT POSITIONS HAVE I HELD:

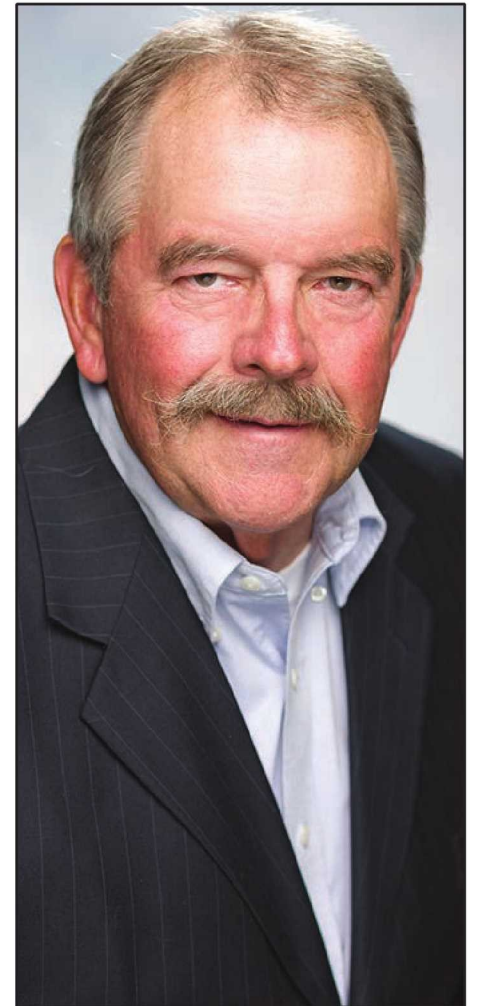
I've been driving a carriage in coach and livestock since May 1991.

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: I had a little driving experience before I came here but this job has given me the opportunity to expand my knowledge of carriage driving, learning the parts of the harnesses and a lot about the health issues of horses in general.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES: I once had King Hussein of Jordan as a passenger during his visit to Colonial Williamsburg, and I found him to be a very nice man. When we finished, he climbed up on the wheel and shook my hand.

I also took part in the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Williamsburg in 2012.

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: As I've gotten older, I've developed an interest in gardening, particularly the "raising" of roses. That's a never-ending learning process. I like landscaping my own land.



Lee Peters

ADVICE FOR NEW EMPLOYEES: I would get a Colonial Williamsburg guidebook and read up about all of the buildings in the Historic Area. (I've pretty much got them all down now.)

Make sure the guests you come into contact with walk away happy. Meet and exceed their expectations.

Worstell, Furr complete term on Retirement Committee

Two members of Colonial Williamsburg's Retirement Committee finished their terms of service. **Deborah Worstell** and **Lee Furr** recently completed their two-year term and were presented a certificate for their service on the committee.

The Retirement Committee is comprised of representatives from the Foundation's Finance, Legal and Human Resources

divisions. These individuals are committee members based on the positions that they hold here at Colonial Williamsburg.

Additionally, two employees, one each from the Foundation and the Colonial Williamsburg Company, serve on the committee for a two-year term. If you are interested in serving on the Retirement Committee, please contact **Chris Beitzell** at cbeitzell@cwf.org.

New trustees

Continued from page 2

tute board and serves as a trustee of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Greater Illinois Chapter and Peoria NEXT. He is former chairman of the Bradley University board of trustees and president of its alumni association. He also served as board member of the National Chamber Foundation, Aquila Inc. and National City Corp. Shaheen earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration degrees from Bradley and completed the Tuck Executive Program at Dartmouth College. He has been recognized by Bradley as a Distinguished Alumnus and is a member of its Centurion Society.

"Colonial Williamsburg is a vital institution, and its continued success requires that we maintain our commitment to the past as we look to our future," said Shaheen. "Here, Americans forged ideals that still guide our nation and the world, and Colonial Williamsburg will thrive by telling their stories in new ways to new audiences. I look forward to playing a part, and I thank my fellow board members and the entire Foundation for this opportunity."

The other members of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation board of trustees are Vice Chair Steven L. Miller, chairman

and president, SLM Discovery Ventures; Catharine O'Neill Broderick, former trustee, Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Mark A. Coblitz, senior vice president, retired, Comcast Corp.; Thomas F. Farrell II, chairman, president and CEO, Dominion Resources; Annette Gordon-Reed, Harvard University; Conrad Hall, president and CEO, retired, Dominion Enterprises; Antonia Hernández, president and CEO, California Community Foundation; Jo Ann Jenkins, CEO, AARP; Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, U.S. Supreme Court; Mark J. Kington, managing director, X-10 Capital Management, LLC; John A. Luke Jr., chairman, WestRock Company; Judith A. McHale, president and CEO, Cane Investments, LLC; Leslie A. Miller, principal, Leslie A. Miller Esq., LLC; Cynthia H. Milligan, dean emeritus, University of Nebraska, and president, Wood Stieper Capital Group; Thurston R. Moore, partner, Hunton & Williams; Thomas K. Norment Jr., Virginia state senator and counsel, Kaufman & Canoles; Reiss; Joseph Christopher Simmons, managing partner, retired, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP; Sheldon M. Stone, principal and portfolio manager, Oaktree Capital Management, L.P.; and Y. Ping Sun, university representative, Rice University.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Your Story

Catanese brings to life people, stories of 18th-century city

EMPLOYEE NAME:

David Catanese

POSITION: Actor-interpreter

YEARS OF SERVICE: I have been employed as an actor-interpreter for almost four years, beginning my career here in June 2013.

WHAT I DO: I bring to life an array of historical characters throughout the city of Williamsburg. During my time here, I have portrayed people from the highest of the high (Lord Dunmore) to the lowest of the low (Alexander Hoy), and everything in between. I've been Mr. Robert Prentis, purveyor of the Prentis Store, since I started here, but I've also played officials for the British government (Captain Edward Foy, John Menzies, Captain Henry Collins), men of the Continental Line (Major James McHenry, Lt. Col. George Nicholas, Col. Alexander Scammell, various sergeants and privates), Williamsburg city officials (Undersheriff William Russell, Judge Joseph Prentis), and even laborers and workers throughout the town (Jack Burgess, slave patrollers, prisoners of war).

This current season I am portraying an array of the above characters at the Market House, the James Anderson Blacksmith Shop and Public Armoury, and R. Charlton's Coffeehouse, usually in multiple roles throughout the course of the day. In order to differentiate for guests, I employ various accents, mannerisms and 18th-century deportment to clarify for the guests that I am indeed a different person. Thankfully, the Costume Design Center (CDC) and the Wig Shop have been very helpful in getting me exactly what I need to make each of these characters look different from one another as well. I thank them every chance I get. Including now. Thank you to everyone at CDC and the Wig Shop for everything you do for us!

In addition to character work, I also perform in our scripted scenes. Currently, I appear in "Welcome to Williamsburg" at the Courthouse at the beginning of each day; "What Holds the Future" on the Palace Stage; and "Hated Spy," "Faith, Hope and Love" and "Journey to Redemption," all at the Coffeehouse Stage. I have done many others in past years with many different characters.

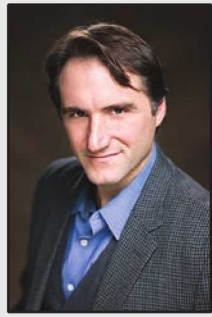
WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MY JOB:

Every day I have the privilege of bringing 18th-century people to life so that their stories can be told and so that our current and future generations may learn from everything that happened here 240 plus years ago. That alone is worth me coming to work day in and day out. Also, I enjoy having my audience close to me where I can relate to our visitors on a more personal level. Actually getting to see the reactions, learning and change on a guest's face makes this job all the better in comparison to stage work I've done in the past. Engaging in personal conversations with our visitors is very important to me.

In addition to the work itself, I love all the people I work with in my unit. Getting to work with a bevy of talented people day in and day out makes the difficult parts of this work much more bearable and makes me enjoy coming to work each day. I always say that you have to like what you do and like the people with whom you do it. Luckily, here I have both of those in abundance.

WHAT I DO TO IMPROVE THE GUEST EXPERIENCE:

I try to interact with as many of our guests as I possibly can, often when they are just standing in line waiting to visit a partic-



David Catanese

ular site, such as the Coffeehouse or the Raleigh Tavern. I want to make our visitors as comfortable as possible during their visit and help them immerse themselves in the 18th century

and in the history of our country. When I am dressed as a Continental soldier, I will often try to visit the Liberty Lounge and talk to the military veterans and their families during their visit there. They always seem grateful to see me when I talk to them about their own military careers and compare them to army life during the War for Independence. I also try to learn guests' names. That way, if I happen to see them later in the day, they seem always pleasantly surprised when I remember them and bring them in on conversations I'm having. In general, I try to take the time to get to know our guests as much as possible so that they feel more comfortable here, enjoy their time with us, and come back again and again, only next time with all their friends.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES:

I befriended a family visiting Colonial Williamsburg from California. We talked at the Market House with other guests coming into and out of the conversation as they chose, and all of it centering on trade and taxation. That family (and I) enjoyed that conversation so much that we hadn't even noticed that an hour had passed. I told them I had to get to an appointment, but would be free to talk to them at the Coffeehouse at 1 p.m. Sure enough, when I began my 1 p.m. shift at the Coffeehouse, the family was there, waiting for me to continue the conversation! So we did, much to the delight of the rest of the guests on the same tour who also joined in on the fun. This isn't the first time something like this has happened, but it is the most recent. I always appreciate opportunities like that as it makes me feel like I'm doing something right.

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

I have been teaching and choreographing stage combat since 2004, and starting in 2014, I got to do those two very things for the first time here at the Foundation. I have since become the primary fight choreographer for our scenes, choreographing and teaching in a variety of styles. Most recently, I choreographed a new show for the Playbooth Stage entitled "The Challenge" that incorporates a bevy of techniques in one, ranging from rapier and dagger swordplay to comically getting hit in the face with grapes, and everything in between.

Also, this year I have started enacting a Highlander prisoner of war at the Armoury, a character that, to my knowledge, has never been presented here before. To create that character I worked closely with people from several different departments to bring the story of the imprisoned Scottish soldiers here in the city to our guests. Without the work we've done, that story would never be told.

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: Just about anything that involves science fiction, fantasy, swords, sorcery or superheroes. If it involves two or more of those, I really like it. Also I like the Pittsburgh Steelers, Boston Red Sox and working out. Oh, and I love disc golf, the best recreational sport ever.

First Step Ahead Challenge winner is announced

The Step Ahead Challenge has been a great start to the 2017 Wellness Revolution. The challenge was taken by 59 employees, and 47 employees conquered the 100,000 step goal in four weeks. Way to go! You've stepped your way to a healthier lifestyle.

Congratulations to **Stacy Masters** for really stepping it up, and walking away with a Dicks Sporting Goods gift card – great job!

Now that we have one challenge under our belts this year, why not keep it going? The Wellness Revolution will be offering two more challenges this year, but we want you to maintain a healthy lifestyle year-round. Sign into www.WellnessRevolution-CW.com and challenge your colleagues to a peer challenge. Whether it's a steps

challenge, or a challenge to drink more water, it's a healthy, competitive way to keep up with your wellness!

Another way to keep improving your health is to attend this year's Wellness Day. Colonial Williamsburg employees are invited to Wellness Day on Friday, June 9 at the Woodlands Conference Center. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. meet a variety of vendors to discuss exciting wellness options, and participate in fun, healthy activities scheduled throughout the day. Keep an eye out for more details in e-mails, on bulletin boards and on Foundation Nation.

Contact **Amy Goldschmiedt** at agoldschmiedt@cwf.org or (757) 220-7026 with any questions and to provide feedback.

Library offers monthly orientation tours

The John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library is now offering monthly orientation tours for staff and volunteers. Tours will be held on the third Monday of each month at 9 a.m. and will last approximately one hour. Participants will:

- Receive a guided tour of the Rockefeller Library at Bruton Heights, 313 First St., including a look at our current exhibit.

- Meet library and archives staff.
- Learn about library services including borrowing, research assistance, reference services, etc.
- Learn about library collections including books, manuscripts, databases, photographs and Foundation records.

The next tour will meet in the library lobby on Monday, June 19. If you plan to attend, please notify the library at libref@cwf.org.

Remembering Friends...

Mr. Meredith (Mutt) Cason died April 14 in Lanexa, Va. He worked as a maintenance service worker for the Hospitality division for 21 years. He retired in 1990. He is survived by his mother, a sister and three nephews.

Ms. Frances R. McLaughlin died April 19 in Newport News. She worked in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area, beginning as a hostess in exhibition buildings in 1971. She was a historical interpreter when she retired in 1986. She is survived by two daughters.

Ms. Page Laubach Warden died April 19 in Williamsburg. She came to the Founda-

tion in 1962 as an escort in exhibition buildings. Until her retirement in 1984, she held several positions in the Historic Area and as collections supervisor in archaeology. She is survived by two sons, a daughter, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Ms. Jenny E. Wible died April 24 in Williamsburg. She began her 26 years of service at Colonial Williamsburg as a checker/cashier in hotel services in 1955. She later worked as a front office cashier at several locations including the Motor House and finance. She was assistant supervisor of cashiers in the treasurer's office when she retired in 1985.

O'Neill

Continued from page 1

and retired president and CEO. "She was devoted to Colonial Williamsburg and exceedingly generous. When I was president of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, she was a firm and engaged chairman—a warm and thoughtful colleague. Our partnership was productive, our travels memorable, and our relationship one that I will always treasure. Nancy and I have lost a dear friend."

Mrs. O'Neill was the daughter of Abby Rockefeller Milton Mauze and David M. Milton. Along with her husband, she is survived by her children George D. O'Neill Jr., David O'Neill, Gail Caulkins, Peter M. O'Neill, Wendy O'Neill and Colonial Wil-

liamsburg Trustee Catharine Broderick.

"Colonial Williamsburg is a treasure unique in the world, and one that would not exist without the vision and generosity of Abby O'Neill, her grandfather and the other members of her family who lead and sustain the Foundation to this day," said Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO **Mitchell B. Reiss**. "So much of what we do – from research and educational outreach to the growth of the Art Museums – would not be possible without her support. As we mourn her passing, we honor her commitment to share our nation's enduring story."

Marketplace

FOR SALE: Beautiful gemstone jewelry far below retail and appraised value. Rare and exotic gems-not cut glass crystals. Pendants, rings and more! **CALL FOR INFO AND PHOTOS: (757) 803-9753.**

FOR SALE: Secretary desk (32" x 20" w x 41" h), solid wood construction (maple or cherry). \$125.00 OBO. **CALL:** May Wake at (804) 304-3486.

FOR SALE: 2010 Jeep Wrangler Sport, silver, 26k original miles, garage kept, 6-speed, power window locks, tilt, cruise, air conditioning, appearance package, towing, running boards, soft top, custom tire cover with lock, custom locking lugs, 35x12.5R17LT tires. \$18,000 OBO. Current NADA is \$20,400 and Kelley Blue Book is \$19,691. **TEXT:** 757-532-6237.

FOR RENT: Furnished, two bedroom, 865 sq. ft. apartment- \$950/month. Washer/dryer and utilities (power, water, sewer) included. In Lightfoot area - a quick 10-15 minute drive to CW. **CALL:** (757) 291-1979 or leave message at (757) 565-2054.

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Deadline for Marketplace text is Monday at noon one week prior to publication. Ads must include employee's name and personal telephone number. If you want to run the ad again, please submit the ad in person or through e-mail to progers@cwf.org.

Colonial Williamsburg News is published by the Office of Internal Communications for Colonial Williamsburg employees. Send correspondence to: Colonial Williamsburg News, GBO 132 or e-mail it to progers@cwf.org.

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