

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A MONTHLY COMMUNIQUE FROM DR. SCOTT D. MILLER
PRESIDENT OF VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

becoming BATTEN UNIVERSITY July 1, 2026



Celebrating Achievement, Embracing Transformation

June 2026

Dear friends,

As we close another remarkable academic year and prepare to enter an exciting new era as Batten University on July 1, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary accomplishments, resilience, and momentum that continue to define our campus community.

Spring Commencement provided a fitting celebration of the Class of 2026 and the many faculty, families, mentors, and friends who supported their journeys. We were honored to welcome keynote speaker Cliff Fleet, retired president and chief executive officer of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, who challenged graduates to embrace lives rooted in leadership, citizenship, and service to others. Alumnus Rev. Brian Boettcher '12 delivered the Baccalaureate Sermon and was presented the Wesley Award for his service and leadership.

The weekend also provided meaningful opportunities to recognize faculty achievement and dedication, celebrate student excellence, and reflect on the enduring values that continue to shape the institution.

The Jane P. Batten Honors College recognized graduating seniors who completed honors requirements during a special Capstone Ceremony, while the Spring Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF), Honors Convocation, and Ryan Environmental Research Symposium showcased the depth of talent, intellectual curiosity, and creativity flourishing across the University. Congratulations to Tyler Noll '26, recipient of the Ryan Environmental Prize for Excellence in Research, and to Megan Setlak '26, this year's President's Leadership Award recipient.

Student success extended far beyond the classroom. Marlins Softball completed one of the most remarkable seasons in program history, earning a third consecutive trip to the NCAA Division III Softball World Series after capturing conference, regional, and super regional championships. The Marlins entered the Elite Eight with a perfect 50-0 record and the No. 1 ranking in the final NCAA regular-season poll, while also achieving a team grade point average of 3.7. Congratulations to our exceptional student-athletes and coaching staff on a season defined by excellence in competition, the classroom, and the community. Additionally, Brandon Elliott '03 was named Marlins Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics while continuing in his role as head coach of the nationally ranked Marlins Softball program.

The University also proudly announced the 2026 inductees into the Marlins Athletic Hall of Fame, recognizing distinguished alumni and supporters whose accomplishments have elevated the tradition and spirit of Marlin athletics.

This spring, we celebrated two retirements and recognized sixteen faculty and staff members for service milestones, honoring the dedication and commitment of those who have helped shape generations of Marlins. The opening of the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art on campus also marked a transformative milestone for the University and the broader Coastal Virginia community.

As summer begins, the momentum across campus continues. Preparations remain underway for the integration of Sentara College of Health Sciences, further expanding opportunities in healthcare education and workforce development as we prepare to become Batten University.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and belief in the mission of this institution. Together, we look ahead with optimism and excitement for all that is yet to come.

Sincerely,



Congratulations to the Class of 2026!
The Next Chapter Begins Today
New graduates cross the stage to receive diplomas during the University's Commencement Ceremony on May 16.
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Students Shine at 2026 Spring Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF)
The culmination of academic experiences and achievements were showcased throughout the day.
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Student Awards Presented at 2026 Spring Honors Convocation
Annual ceremony recognizes students' exemplary academic, leadership and service achievements.
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Tyler Noll Wins 2026 Ryan Environmental Prize for Excellence in Research
Finalists Stephanie Clark, Jasmine Gorney, and Lily Reslink earn awards and support for environmental causes.
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Brandon Elliott Named Marlins Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics
From the Dugout to Department Leadership: Brandon Elliott Takes the Helm of Marlins Athletics.
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2026 Inductees of Marlins Athletic Hall of Fame Announced
Four standout athletes, a national championship team, and a generous benefactor to be honored on October 3.
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Sentara
College of Health Sciences



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