

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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

becoming BATTEN UNIVERSITY July 1, 2026



Progress and Possibility

May 2026

Dear friends,

As the spring academic session continues, April brought together many of the elements that define the University experience: engaged learning, meaningful partnerships, and a strong sense of community. Across campus and throughout the region, our students, faculty, staff, and alumni demonstrated the energy and purpose that continue to move the institution forward. Events such as the inaugural Life Raft Debate further highlighted the creativity and intellectual engagement of our faculty, using humor and insight to explore the enduring value of academic disciplines.

Our campus came together during Earth Week for hands-on programs, service initiatives, and educational experiences focused on sustainability and environmental stewardship. Activities included partnerships with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, campus recycling efforts, and service in our pollinator gardens, all reflecting a shared commitment to responsible leadership and community impact. This work is further affirmed by national recognition from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, which highlighted the Jane P. Batten Honors College as a model for innovative, mission-driven sustainability education.

April also marked a significant milestone with the Grand Opening of the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art on campus, expanding opportunities for student engagement while strengthening connections with the cultural life of the region.

Spring Alumni Weekend provided a vibrant opportunity to welcome Marlins back to campus. Alumni, families, and friends gathered for events including the Marlin Family Picnic, alumni games, Scroll Signing, and student performances, while Admitted Student Day brought prospective students and families to campus, further energizing the weekend.

The Spring 2026 Marlin Business Conference highlighted student leadership and experiential learning, opening with a keynote from iFLY Co-Founder Bob Pizzini and featuring competitions, panels, and professional development sessions that connected students with regional business leaders.

We are also proud to share that the University has once again earned designation as a Military Friendly® School, achieving Gold Status for 2026–2027. This recognition reflects our continued commitment to supporting veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

The month concluded with Marlins Day of Giving, where our Rooted in Impact campaign generated more than \$71,000 in support of scholarships, academic programs, and the student experience. This collective effort reflects the strength and shared commitment of our community.

With Commencement approaching and the academic year drawing to a close, we look forward to celebrating the achievements of our students and the continued progress of the University. Thank you, as always, for your support and engagement.

Sincerely,



Celebrating Earth Week: Marlins Turn Passion into Purpose

From service to creative sustainability, a week of events invites the campus community to connect, learn, and give back to the planet.

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From Classroom to Climate Action: BHC Earns National Recognition for Sustainability Leadership

AASHE acknowledges the University's Outstanding Case Study on the impact of the Batten Honors College.

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Spring Alumni Weekend 2026 Brings Marlins Home Again

The eventful weekend offered a vibrant blend of celebration, tradition, and Marlin pride.

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Spring Marlin Business Conference: Leadership Reimagined

Join the next generation leaders April 13-16 for a week of innovation, insight, and opportunity.

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University Awarded 2026-2027 Military Friendly Schools Designation

The University takes pride in supporting the educational needs of veterans and those in active duty service.

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Inaugural Life Raft Debate Showcases the Value of Academic Disciplines

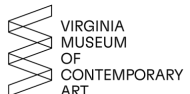
Faculty use wit, wisdom, and a touch of humor to argue what knowledge humanity can't live without.

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