



Finding home: A lifelong journey of connection with Ray and Sue Warner

For Ray Warner '63, P '91 and Sue Roache Warner '64, P '91, William & Mary is more than their alma mater. It's the place they found each other and laid the foundation for a life of connection and generosity. As charter members of the Honorable Robert Boyle Legacy Society, their deep ties to the university are rooted in friends, community and a belief in the power of this place to transform lives.

Ray, the first in his family to attend college, chose William & Mary at the urging of a neighbor whose son had studied here. "I had no idea how to go about getting in," he recalled. "But I decided — I'm going to William & Mary."

Sue was a military daughter who had attended 13 schools by the time she reached Williamsburg. She fell in love

Continued inside.

What are
"digital assets,"
and should I
include them in
my estate plans?

Digital assets include everything from online photo archives and social media accounts to website domains, NFTs and cryptocurrency. Almost everyone today has online accounts where personal information is stored. To protect your digital information and properly distribute these assets at the end of your lifetime, provide your executor or trustee with a list of your digital assets. Discuss with your attorney the best way for your executor or trustee to access these assets at the end of your lifetime.

The Warner's story continued from cover.

“

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”

with William & Mary on a childhood visit: “I decided then and there, as a seventh grader, that it was my first choice,” she said. Sue was waitlisted but learned she was first on the list, and, thankfully, she was eventually admitted.

Ray and Sue met at William & Mary after he noticed her across Duke of Gloucester Street during her freshman year, and they went on a blind date. Over the next four years, they fell in love and were married in the Wren Chapel just two days after Sue's graduation. The Warners embarked on a life together that would take them across the country and back again, always anchored by their affection for and relationships through their alma mater — first through friendships, then tailgates and football games, and eventually by serving on boards and class gift committees. Their commitment to giving began early.

“We wanted to participate in the fundraising, even if it was just a small gift,” said Sue.

Their decision to make a legacy commitment came, in part, from their deepening involvement with William & Mary friends who were doing the same, as well as a desire to support future generations.

“We hadn't amassed great wealth,” Ray explained. “But we realized we could designate a percentage of our net worth. If our net worth ended up being zero, our legacy commitment would place no burden on our family. But if it grew, so would our gift.”

The Warners have designated their commitment to support merit-based scholarships for students with

financial need. Though neither received a scholarship themselves, they came to understand just how vital financial aid is for students.

“We've met many scholarship students and mentored some along the way,” said Sue. “There's such a strong need, and the stories we've heard are incredibly powerful.”

For those considering what they can do to give back, the Warners offer clear advice: give consistently and stay involved.

“The more you're engaged, the more you understand what needs to be celebrated and what needs help,” said Ray. Sue added, “It's not just monetary, it's about life enrichment. The more you give, the more you receive in return.”

Reflecting on their lifelong connection to William & Mary, Sue offered a simple but profound sentiment: “This is home. Putting it simply, this is where my heart beats best.” Ray agreed: “William & Mary changed me forever. It broadened my perspective, taught me leadership and gave me the greatest gift — Sue.”

The Warners are helping ensure that others can find their own life-changing opportunities at William & Mary. “We met here, fell in love here, married here,” said Ray. “Our life's journey began at William & Mary. Giving back is part of the journey.”

Save the Date

OCTOBER 16-19, 2025

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

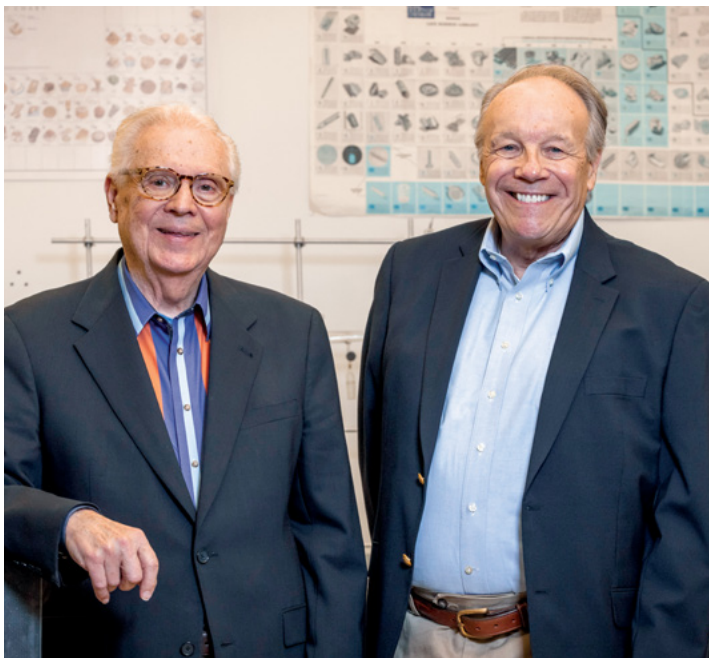
FEBRUARY 6-8, 2026

Charter Day Weekend

APRIL 24-26, 2026

Traditions Weekend

Boyle Legacy Society members are invited to join the 50th Reunion Class of 1976 and the Olde Guard for an exciting weekend of learning, camaraderie and engagement. The Boyle Legacy Society luncheon and program is set for April 24.



An answered knock:

The chance relationship of George Lock and Professor David Thompson

When George Lock '72, M.A. '75 arrived at William & Mary in 1968, he was a bright student from a small, rural high school, not yet prepared for the academic rigor of university.

“I got really good grades in high school without a lot of work,” he recalled. “Then I got to William & Mary and was quite taken aback by what the expectations were — it was a struggle.”

Even through the challenges, Lock persevered, ultimately earning both his undergraduate and master’s degrees in chemistry. But it was a turning point in his senior year — an act of understanding from a professor — that helped him to reach those goals and shaped his career and life. That professor was David Thompson.

“I just knocked on his door and asked him if he would consider taking me on for a senior research project,” Lock said. “I don’t remember why I went to him — I had never had him as a professor, and I certainly wasn’t at the top of the class. But he said yes. That turned out to be critical for the rest of my life.”

Under Thompson’s mentorship, Lock discovered his strength in hands-on work, problem-solving and real-world research. After a then-requisite military obligation, Lock came back to earn his graduate degree with Thompson, now a professor emeritus living in Williamsburg. Thompson helped to continue not only his academic knowledge, but also broadened immensely his perception of independent research in his future profession.

“Most people focus on the top students in the class,” Lock said. “Very few focus on the bottom. But he did. And it affected my whole life — my daughter’s life, my grandchildren’s lives. It trickles down.”

When Lock went to apply for work in research and development, he had no idea that his mentor had written unsolicited letters of recommendation to leading chemical companies across the nation to help him land successfully following graduation. Thanks to that act of kindness from Thompson, Lock went on to a career in research and development that lasted more than three decades.

Now retired and living in rural Pennsylvania, Lock reflects often on that turning point. His planned gift to William & Mary — establishing the Thompson Chemistry Research Endowment — aims to create the same kind of transformative opportunities for future students.

“If that enables other students to be taken under somebody’s wing that cares about them, then that’s great,” he said. “That’s really what it’s all about.”

Lock’s estate planning process prompted him to consider a charitable remainder trust (CRT) for his gift to establish the mentored research fund named for his friend and mentor. CRTs are a giving tool that allows donors to give assets to charity while receiving income for a specific period.

Over the decades, Lock has remained close with his former professor, visiting him regularly during trips to Williamsburg. Even now, more than 50 years later, they still meet for lunch.

Thanks to Lock’s generosity, future William & Mary students will have the chance to be seen, mentored and transformed — and perhaps create lasting bonds.



Boyle Legacy Society New Members*

Jack H. Arbogast Jr. '78	Michael S. Harris '88	Fred C. Simpkins '69, M.B.A. '78
Marshall Dukes Barton J.D. '94	Timothy R. Harvey '79	Marcia Carl Simpkins '75, M.Ed. '77, M.B.A. '78
Thomas M. Barton	Ricky M. Wallace	Paul R. Smiley M.B.A. '80
James V. Black '75	Deborah Allen Hewitt '75, P '15	Karen Fleming Smiley
Janice Wampler Booker '75, P '02	J. Bradley King J.D. '81	Janet C. Stephens P '92
Armistead P. Booker Jr. P '02	Patricia Pugh Manning '75	David G. Stephens P '92
Elizabeth Outland Branner M.B.A. '91	William L. Manning	Jane Koenig Terry '75, P '04
Wade H. Branner	Bonnie L. Powell '87	Roy M. Terry Jr. '75, P '04
S. Douglas Bunch '02, J.D. '06	J. Caesar Velasco III '98	John T. Wells
Michael David Chapman M.S. '85, Ph.D. '92	Adele Robeson	Patsy Wells
M. Andrew Dews '92	Franklin E. Robeson	Richard M. Witten M.B.A. '94
Laura Eubank Harman '94, P '26	Mary Quinn Sale '70, M.Ed. '81	Elizabeth A. Witten
	Hodan C. Seager '18	

In Memoriam*

William C. Allison IV '53, P '86	Philip F. Herrick Jr. '63	Sybil Schwartz Shainwald '48, LL.D. '19, G '20
Henretta Trent Band '54	James E. Herring '68, P '92	Harold C. Thaxton Jr. '62
Kermit A. Buntrock M.B.A. '94	Louise Lambert Kale HON '09	Frederick W. Toepke '73
Lois E. Byrd	Lauren F. Kardatzke '60, M.Ed. '61	James R. Tompkins '68
Michael E. Campana '70	Kenneth H. Lownes HON '12	William J. Tropf III '68
F. Blaise Curcio '60	Aubrey L. Mason '72	Harrison R. Tyler '49
Edward L. Delaney	Julie Bleick Moat '56	David D. Wakefield '52
Virginia Davis Faulconer '45, P '78	Pamela Murray	Mary Lewis Ward '54
Janet Axford Foster '49	Kenneth M. Ogren '72, M.B.A. '79, P '91	Christopher E. Wittmann '80
John O. Gette '63	Mary Przypyszny Pennington '82, M.Ed. '84	Franklin L. Wright Jr. '67
Nina W. Guy	Gwendolyn Batten Perkins '51, P '78, P '82	William H. Young III '62
Pehr G. Gyllenhammar	Mark C. Pugh '77	Anne Morris Zepkin '64
Richard C. Hagan '65	Christine Coggins Rowland '67, P '93, P '98, G '27	
Carol Achenbach Hardy '49		
Bruce E. Hathaway '56, P '08		
William J. Hausman '71		

*June 13, 2024 – July 3, 2025

WILLIAM & MARY

In Memory of William “Bill” H. Young III *Former Chair of the Honorable Robert Boyle Legacy Society*

William “Bill” H. Young III '62 served with distinction as co-chair of the Honorable Robert Boyle Legacy Society from 2007 to 2017, with his wife Nancy Kent Young '62, providing heartfelt leadership and a clear vision for advancing William & Mary's future. A devoted alumnus, Bill embodied the values of loyalty, generosity and quiet service. His leadership helped foster a sense of connection among Boyle Society members and deepened their shared commitment to the university's long-term strength.

Bill was a professor of English, American Studies and popular culture at Lynchburg College from 1964 to 2000. He also enjoyed woodworking and sports, playing tennis and running track in high school before enjoying squash and racquetball later in life. A gifted educator and scholar, Bill brought intellectual curiosity and a deep appreciation for tradition to his volunteer work. Under his guidance, the Boyle Society grew in membership with Bill often

serving as a thoughtful ambassador for legacy giving and the enduring power of education.

Bill's service to William & Mary reflected a lifelong affection for the university where he met his beloved wife, Nancy. Bill and Nancy married just after their graduation and they shared countless common interests including jazz, dancing, bridge and spending quiet moments together. Bill's legacy will live on for all time coming in the society he helped to lead and throughout the Alma Mater of the Nation.



Your Support Makes a Difference

From the entire gift planning team, and on behalf of our current and future William & Mary community, thank you for your incredible commitment. Your leadership and vision for William & Mary have the power to transform the future of our beloved university.



Amanda Ciarkowski, Maguire Curran, Kirsten Kellogg '91, Rachel Drazdowski, Karen Youshock, and Jennifer Cleveland

To learn more about legacy giving, visit giving.wm.edu/giftplanning or contact us:

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BOYLE LEGACY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Annual Boyle Legacy Society Luncheon | Traditions Weekend — April 2025

Boyle Legacy Society members gathered in the W&M Alumni House to celebrate the annual society gathering with a cocktail reception featuring student performances by the W&M Flute Ensemble and a luncheon program highlighting the opportunities available to students through the university’s centers and institutes. Attendees enjoyed a luncheon panel discussion with students and faculty from the Charles Center and the Center for Geospatial Analysis.

Your legacy for all time coming.

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THE HONORABLE
ROBERT BOYLE
LEGACY SOCIETY