



THE BOEHLY CENTER

FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCE



Raymond A. Mason School of Business WILLIAM & MARY

Monthly Happenings June 2020

Welcome to The Boehly Center Monthly Happenings newsletter!

We are sending monthly newsletters to spotlight accomplishments, Club events, and general Center news.

Executive Director Scoop

The Boehly Center is thrilled to announce the arrival of our new Executive Director, Jad Howell, MAcc '05. Jad joined the Center in his official capacity on Monday, April 27 and has hit the "virtual" ground running. Jad will also serve as a Clinical Lecturer at the W&M Mason School of Business. Please click the link below for a full press release: [Welcome Jad Howell!](#)



Welcome to the team, [Melanie Weast!](#) Melanie joined the Boehly Center team in late January 2020 as the Associate Director for Academic Engagement. Melanie had the privilege of transitioning into her new role alongside Dr. Rita Murphy. Rita retired in January 2020 and Melanie benefited from Rita's knowledge and experience to ensure a smooth role takeover. Prior to working with the Boehly Center, Melanie worked with the One Year Masters programs at Mason, and is very excited to begin working with the outstanding

W&M undergraduate population.



CLUB CORNER

Students, **congratulations** on completing spring semester with resilience and perseverance during unpredictable times! We are proud of you and hope that you take time to decompress and enjoy your summer!



Congratulations to the 2020 Mason School of Business CFA Institute Research Challenge Team in becoming Virginia State Champions for the 9th time in 10 years! We are very proud of your hard work. The team was comprised of a strong group of senior students: Adam O'Connell, Caity Farr, Abraham Haji, Ana Murias, and Tyler Bernier with leadership from Professor Hugh Marble and David Homard, CFA.

Whether your internship didn't work out, you're supplementing your summer job, or you just want to enhance your business knowledge and technical skills, this program is for you! Students who participate in the program will receive access to training platforms, unique special topic education and professional development preparation.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



Research & Policy Seminar Course

In spring 2020, we offered an inaugural course designed for students interested in the intersection of business and policy, and the course was a huge success! This course was led by Professor John Gilmour, Director of W&M Public Policy Program, and accepted 10 Business students and 10 Public Policy students to participate. This course gave students the opportunity to study a timely public policy issue, Social Security Reform. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, students were unable to present their final projects to policy makers and members of Congress in DC; however, students developed a comprehensive website of their findings complete with options, recommendations, and formula adjustments. The website has been created and will be launched at a future date to the public.

The Boehly Center in the News



The Data Feast competition was developed in collaboration with the Mason School's **Boehly Center for Excellence in Finance** and **Eldridge**, a holding company whose co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer, Todd L. Boehly '96, together with his wife, Katie '95, funded the creation of The Boehly Center in 2014. Data Feast gives teams of students (this year, two teams from the online MSBA program and two teams from the residential MSBA program competed) a general business problem to solve using a real dataset and feedback from senior business leaders. Unlike business analytics case competitions at other universities, students are judged on two distinctive proficiencies: business acumen and technical skills.

Several weeks prior to the competition, each four-person team was given real data from **The St. James**, the premier sports, wellness and entertainment complex in Northern Virginia, and an Eldridge business. Students used the venue and event data provided, along with outside research and statistical modeling, to analyze The St. James' member and guest preferences, levels of engagement and spending habits to identify areas of focus to drive decision making.

Read the complete press release **here**.

Picture: St. James co-founders, Craig Dixon '97, J.D. '00 and Kendrick Ashton '98 met while students at W&M (Photo by Adam Ewing).

Thank you, Dr. Rita Murphy!



Dr. Rita Murphy has been the pillar of The Boehly Center since 2014. She has been a wonderful mentor to all who knew her. Rita consistently went above and beyond to promote student success and support faculty initiatives. In February 2020, Rita retired from her position as Associate Director of the Boehly Center.

Alongside inaugural Director Professor Julie Agnew, Rita helped administer several successful initiatives, including the summer study abroad program in Singapore, the annual Women's Leadership Summit and Stock Pitch Competition, the Finance Academy-sponsored Carlyle Case Competition, and several practitioner-led courses, including Hedge Fund Management, Applied Financial Concepts, and Risk Management. Rita oversaw the Alumni Mentor Match Program and other alumni initiatives, and collaborated with Mason's Alumni Engagement team to host an annual networking night in New York. As co-Advisor of the Finance Academy, she coordinated and executed their signature event, *From DoG Street to Wall Street*, each Fall. She managed the Center's Officers' Council, organizing annual meetings for this group in New York each year. During her tenure, the Center team expanded to include an Administrative Coordinator and an Associate Director for Strategic Engagement, allowing her to focus her role on Academic Engagement. Rita retired from the Center in February of 2020.

BOEHLY CENTER WEEKLY EMAIL:

**INTERNSHIPS,
FULL-TIME
POSITIONS, &
WEBINARS**

Each Thursday, the Boehly Center provides updated internship/job opportunities, professional development webinars, and networking events.



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