

SPECIAL EDITION Winter 2019

# Virginia Wesleyan

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN  
ESPORTS



## Game On!

Collegiate esports  
comes to Wesleyan

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

| CAMPUS UPDATES

| CAPITAL PROJECTS



**W**elcome to this special edition of *Virginia Wesleyan University Magazine!*

Every winter in these pages, we review highlights from the past year, offer updates on new and existing programs, and give special thanks to those who support the University. We have a lot to share this time!

In our cover story, we announce the addition of our newest competitive sport—esports. A phenomenon that is exciting campuses everywhere, esports is video gaming at its most spectacular, with teams competing via sophisticated technology and virtual reality. Our Marlin Esports Arena is located in the Batten Student Center and for those of us who remember the TV series “Star Trek,” it’s a space-age wonderland.

Esports is one element of major technological upgrades on our campus. In recognition of the leadership of Board of Trustees Chair John Malbon, we dedicated the Malbon Center for Technology in October. Earlier that month, we welcomed Trustee Eric Nyman ’94, president of Hasbro North America, as our Founders Day speaker.

New Trustees Mavis McKenley ’11 and Doug Wilson ’86 are welcomed to the Board in this issue, and we recap a unique cross-generational climate change conference hosted at the Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center.

How is Virginia Wesleyan keeping college affordable? Read about our third consecutive tuition freeze and other strategies to benefit current and prospective students.

Of special interest to our entire campus community and many guests are the plans, described on the next page, for a comprehensive remodeling of Boyd Dining Center and the area known traditionally as the Marlin Grille. Marlin fans will also enjoy coverage of our 2019 volleyball ODAC champs—a first in program history.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank the many alumni, friends, faculty and staff, parents, students, and organizations who contribute financially to Virginia Wesleyan University. Higher education today is a highly competitive industry, and private support is critical to recruiting students through scholarships and serving them well with quality technology, programs, and facilities.

Your gifts are essential to our student-centered living and learning environment and honoring our liberal arts mission.

We thank you!

Sincerely,

Scott D. Miller, Ph.D.  
President of the University



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## NEW DINING EXPERIENCE COMING SOON TO VIRGINIA WESLEYAN

A brand new dining experience is coming to Virginia Wesleyan University next fall, with a complete redesign of Boyd Dining Center, updates to the Marlin Grille, and the addition of a convenience store on the menu.

“On college campuses, dining facilities have come to serve as a ‘Third Place’ for students,” said VWU President Scott D. Miller. “A concept first presented by sociologist Ray Oldenberg, ‘Third Place’ focuses on the importance of welcoming space that cultivates essential social experiences... typically areas separate from where you sleep and work. Recognizing the impact and importance of this philosophy, we are pleased that this new project will support the development and well-being of our students.”

Improvements to Boyd Dining Center will feature modernized and contemporary seating with service areas intended to enhance the campus community’s dining experience. The project is scheduled to get underway this summer with expected completion in fall 2020.

The Marlin Grille, located in the Jane P. Batten Student Center, will undergo updates even sooner. Improvements are expected in January 2020 and will include a fully updated appearance and in-demand dining options.

Finally, plans are in motion to add a convenience store within the Batten Student Center.

“This will meet the needs of many on campus,” said Dr. Miller, “especially students—our number-one priority.”

## Tuition Frozen for Third Straight Year

Full-time students will pay the same rate of tuition in 2020-21 as they have the past two years, thanks to another freeze on tuition approved by the Virginia Wesleyan University Board of Trustees.

“Affordability continues to be in the forefront of our planning,” said President Scott Miller, “and tuition freezes are just one of many actions we are employing to help our students and their families benefit from the lifelong value of a world-class education.”

Additional measures adopted to financially support students include establishment of the Batten Honors College; creation of the *Opus* student work program; widened access to early- and dual-enrollment programs; and more affordable January Term and Summer Sessions. VWU offers competitive financial aid packages and assists students in identifying other sources of aid as well, with 98 percent of students receiving financial assistance.



“Affordability will continue to be in the forefront of our planning.”

—VWU PRESIDENT SCOTT D. MILLER



# GAME ON

## COLLEGIATE ESPORTS COMES TO VIRGINIA WESLEYAN

“Game of Thrones”-like battle refrains sounded on 17 powerhouse PCs in October 2019 as the Virginia Wesleyan community explored the University’s new Marlin Esports Arena in the Jane P. Batten Student Center. The open house gave guests a glimpse at what’s to come when the program presses “play” in January 2020.

Today’s fastest growing global sport and a billion-dollar industry, esports is quickly expanding to college campuses around the country. Leagues and teams face off in competitive, organized video gaming as fans watch from all over the world.

“There’s more viewership for esports right now than any other professional sport in the world besides soccer,” said Dr. Chris Davis, VWU Esports Program Director and Head Coach. “The amount of hours consumed watching esports last year surpassed all the hours of everybody watching Netflix for the entire world—it’s very relevant.”

Virginia Wesleyan is a member of the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) and will compete in “League of Legends,” “Overwatch,” and “Rocket League.” The program will begin as a club sport with plans to expand to varsity and potentially introduce an academic program.

“It opens up pathways for potential majors and courses,” Davis says. “There are lots of jobs right now in the esports

world. It’s not just being a player or a game designer, it’s everything that goes along with it—it’s marketing, it’s business communication, it’s being a story writer.”

Seasoned gamers will find the Marlin Esports Arena impressive, equipped with 17 high-end gaming PCs featuring ASUS Prime Z390-P motherboards, Intel 9th Gen i7 processors, 16GB ADATA Gammix RAM, MSI GeForce RTX 2070 Armor GPUs, and MSI Optix 24-inch gaming monitors. The space also includes a large projection system for audience viewing and game study.

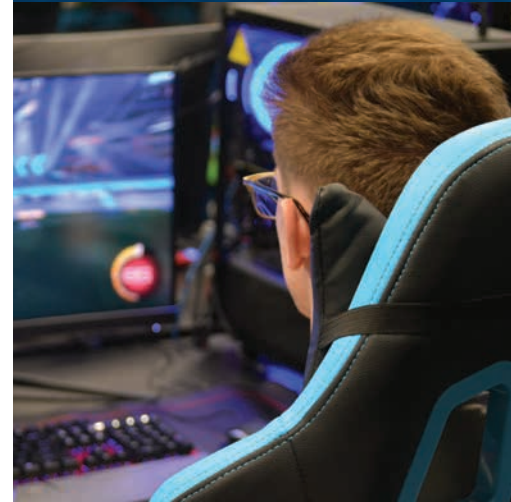
Brandon Kwon, a freshman from Fredericksburg, Virginia, demonstrated his gaming skills during the open house.

“When I heard about esports I thought it was a great opportunity,” says Kwon, who’s played “Rocket League” since he was 14. “It’s definitely one of the emerging industries and highly watched all around the world.”

Kwon says he plays or watches esports on Twitch—a livestreaming platform for gamers—at least two hours each day. He says it’s a good stress reliever from his chemistry and pre-engineering studies and running cross country/track and field.

“It’s a way to decompress at the end of the day and have an outlet...then I can focus my energy toward [academics and athletics] in a more positive way.”

Current and incoming students are invited to play based on interest, and tryouts are held. Interested players should visit [vwu.edu/esports](http://vwu.edu/esports) to complete the interest form or email [esports@vwu.edu](mailto:esports@vwu.edu).



## FACILITIES

The Marlin Esports Arena in the Jane P. Batten Student Center is equipped with 17 high-end gaming PCs featuring ASUS Prime Z390-P motherboards, Intel 9th Gen i7 processors, 16GB ADATA Gammix RAM, MSI GeForce RTX 2070 Armor GPUs, and MSI Optix 24-inch gaming monitors.

## TEAMS

Teams are made up of 3-6 students, depending on the game. Students are invited to play based on interest, and tryouts are held. Interested students should complete the interest form at [vwu.edu/esports](http://vwu.edu/esports).

## GAMES

- League of Legends
- Overwatch
- Rocket League

.....  
Virginia Wesleyan freshman Brandon Kwon will begin competing with the Marlin esports team in January.  
.....

**VWU.EDU/ESPORTS**



## HASBRO PRESIDENT TO VIRGINIA WESLEYAN: *SMILE*

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS ERIC NYMAN '94 SHARES ACRONYM FOR SUCCESS DURING FOUNDERS DAY

Virginia Wesleyan graduate Eric Nyman '94 has one word of advice for college students: SMILE. The president of Hasbro North America and VWU Trustee delivered his message in October 2019 during Founders Day Convocation in the Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center.

"That's right: SMILE," he said. "At minimum, an authentic smile will likely get a smile in return, help you meet people more easily, and likely make you feel a little bit better."

He explained that SMILE is an acronym he created in business school after several conversations with mentors about the importance of having a plan to achieve career happiness and success.

The "S" stands for Strategy, a tactic Nyman credits with helping him narrow down—and eventually land—his dream jobs.

"You are all fortunate to be going to one of America's top universities," he said. "Don't waste it. Have a strategy. Think about what you love to do and what jobs exist doing that. Think about where your talents lie, and identify fields of study you can pursue that align with that."

Following Mentorship (M) and Intellectual Curiosity (I), Nyman came to Love (L).

"We all need to love a little harder right now," he said. "Care about and love the people around you... If you can truly love others, and live the values of inclusivity and respect for all, you will have done your part to make this campus and this city a better place while you are here—and you will be well on your way to finding happiness and making the world a better place when you leave."

He completed his acronym with Engagement (E), but told students if they forget everything else, remember to SMILE.

Following the keynote address, VWU President Scott D. Miller presented Nyman with the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award. As president of Hasbro North America, he is responsible for sales and marketing for the entire U.S. market. He previously served as general manager and senior vice president of marketing at Hasbro, and also worked in brand management roles for Timberland and LEGO. He joined the Virginia Wesleyan University Board of Trustees in 2018.

"We are all very proud of you and the way you represent Virginia Wesleyan," Dr. Miller said. "Thank you for being here and for being such an exemplary role model."



## The Malbon Center for Technology

The naming of The Malbon Center for Technology was announced in October 2019 during the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees. Named in honor of Board Chair John Malbon and his strategic leadership of technology initiatives at VWU, the center has a physical home on campus in Pruden Hall and a virtual presence in all areas of VWU Online.



## Wesleyan Alumni Join Board

Mavis McKenley '11 and Doug Wilson '86, both of Norfolk, have been elected to the Virginia Wesleyan University Board of Trustees. McKenley serves as Vice President and Trust Officer at AMG National Trust Bank, and Wilson is Executive Vice President of LifeNet Health.



## VOLLEYBALL CLINCHES FIRST ODAC CHAMPIONSHIP IN PROGRAM HISTORY

For the first time in program history, the Virginia Wesleyan volleyball team was crowned champions of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference, defeating top-seeded Randolph-Macon 3-1 in November 2019.

The victory earned the Marlins an automatic bid to the NCAA Championship, but the women fell 3-2 in a heartbreaking regional round against No. 22 Juniata. The team finished its historic year at 28-8, setting the program record for wins in a season.



In an effort to help students further understand how climate change is altering the environment and what can be done now to alleviate or adapt to these changes, Virginia Wesleyan University partnered with The Gunn Group in November 2019 to host "Generations Uniting to Address Climate Change." National and local climate change experts and VWU students gathered in the Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center to share their knowledge, experiences, and insights through a combination of panel presentations and question-and-answer periods. Participants, such as Cameron Evans '21 and Chief Operating Officer of the American Security Project Andrew Holland (pictured above), discussed two main queries: "Where are we and how did we get here?" and "What can we do, together?"



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Virginia Wesleyan University completed the fiscal year on June 30, 2019, with operating revenues totaling \$63,147,613, expenses of \$63,144,073, and a net excess of revenues over expenses of \$3,540. Contributed gifts and pledges for 2018-2019 totaled \$8,211,276. Excellence Fund gifts totaled \$1,171,071 and continue to be critical in meeting operating needs and funding annual scholarships, undergraduate research, study-away experiences and faculty development programs.

Virginia Wesleyan University's endowment value is affected by several factors each year, including investment returns, new contributions, and the annual payout for University programs, scholarships and professorships. The endowment generated an investment return of 7.4 percent for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019. It was valued at \$59,960,898, increasing from a market value of \$58,696,815 on June 30, 2018.

# Thank You TO OUR DONORS

**W**ith this edition of Virginia Wesleyan University's Annual Report, we acknowledge the generous financial support of alumni and friends, faculty and staff, students and parents, businesses, foundations, and organizations during the 2018-2019 fiscal year, ending June 30.

On behalf of all who benefit from the leadership investment of our donors, we say thank you as we invite your continued engagement with, and support of, Virginia Wesleyan University.

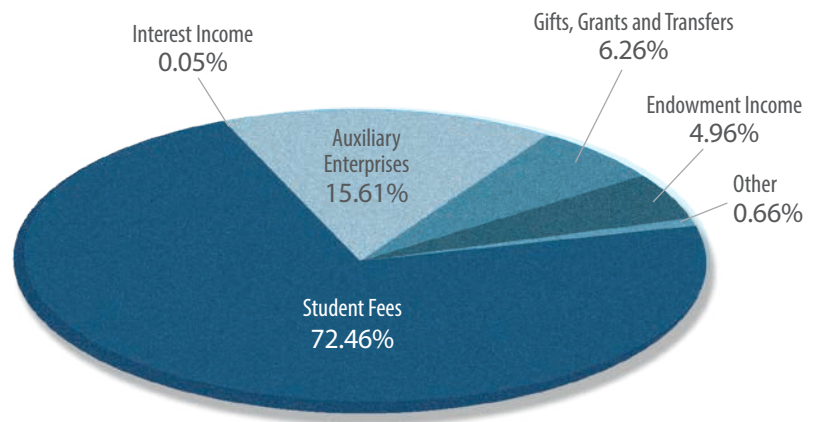


## OPERATING STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2019

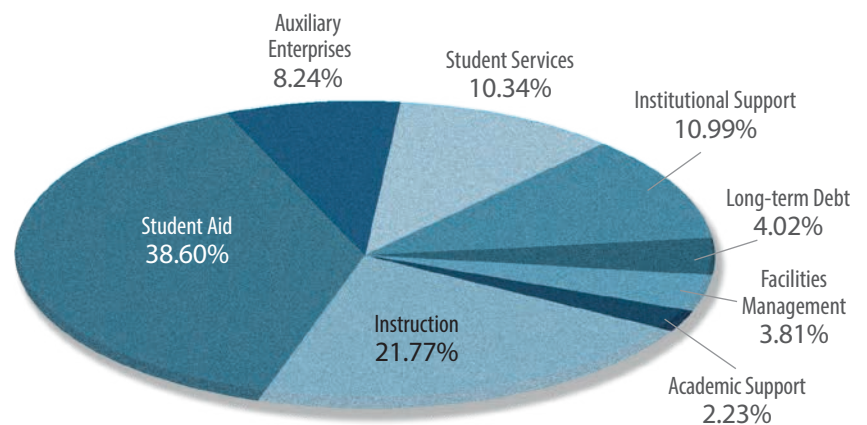
### REVENUES AND TRANSFERS

Student Fees	\$ 45,754,175
Auxiliary Enterprises	9,859,450
Gifts, Grants and Transfers	3,951,977
Endowment Income	3,133,328
Interest Income	29,344
Other	419,339
	<b>\$ 63,147,613</b>



### EXPENDITURES

Instruction	\$ 13,745,346
Student Aid	24,372,168
Institutional Support	6,938,939
Student Services	6,534,872
Auxiliary Enterprises	5,201,775
Long-term Debt	2,536,534
Operation and Maintenance of Facilities Management	2,407,815
Academic Support	1,406,624
	<b>\$ 63,144,073</b>



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# 2019-2020

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The Board of Trustees is the governing body of Virginia Wesleyan University. It supports the University's mission, is responsible for securing adequate financial resources for the operation of the University, and establishes long-range goals and institutional policies.

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## ALUMNI COUNCIL

Virginia Wesleyan University has nearly 10,000 alumni in Coastal Virginia and throughout the United States and abroad. And, as Wesleyan grows, so does its alumni family. The principal purpose of the Alumni Council is to strengthen the bond between VWU graduates and Virginia Wesleyan University—its students, faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees. We value the Alumni Council's role in advocating for VWU and offering support for the enrollment and advancement programs of a growing, dynamic institution.

### 2019-2020 ALUMNI COUNCIL

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The Parents Council serves as an important forum for the exchange of information concerning the various activities and programs of the University.

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“ Studying abroad allows you to gain extraordinary, unexplainable experiences. You learn another language, meet different types of people, and build upon your interpersonal skills and confidence. If I have learned anything, I learned that you have to just go for it. ”  
MONIQUE AYERS '20



YOUR GIFT  
MAKES A  
DIFFERENCE

*Thank You!*



“ I was so afraid in high school, but the experiences and specific training and opportunities that the University offers have helped me focus. I feel more secure in my career choices. ”  
SERENA SMITH '21

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A gift to The Excellence Fund does so much more than show your support. It helps Virginia Wesleyan students today become who they want to be tomorrow.

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