**Student Museum Board Spring Activities**

The Student Museum Board (SMB) plans several activities for spring 2015. These include assisting with the Civil Defense in the Old Dominion exhibit in March. Other events planned include the February 2 College Birthday Party. Members of the SMB mark the portraits of our founders with Birthday Balloons around campus – arranged safely near the paintings. They then head to the Settle Hall rotunda to serve birthday cake and lemonade to all takers and hand out birthday ribbons commemorating the election of the first trustees and establishment of the College at the Nathaniel Venable Plantation.

The next event, on February 26, tests students’ knowledge of Hampden-Sydney history at the fourth annual Pub Quiz held in the Tiger Inn.

About thirty students participate each year in answering questions in a round-robin style contest until one is left as our 2015 winner. In keeping with the college history theme, the winner is given a copy of John Brinkley’s *On This Hill* and a gift certificate to the Tiger Inn.

The SMB ends the semester with work on the Hampden-Sydney Student Fine Arts Show. The art show is especially well attended and can feature as many as one hundred works of art, all of which must be arranged and displayed. The value of student help with these exhibits is immeasurable, and the members bring an interest and enjoyment to their work that carry over to our visitors and patrons.

**PERSONALIZED BRICKS**

REMEMBER! You can purchase inscribed memorial bricks to be placed in the Museum’s front walk. They are an ideal way to recognize graduates, loved ones, beloved teachers, or classmates—even (as one of our students did) to propose. To request a brick order form, call the Museum at (434) 223-6334, or download one from [www.hsc.edu/Museum/Personalized-Brick](http://www.hsc.edu/Museum/Personalized-Brick).
A Dedication to Collecting

Dr. C. Wayne Tucker

Alexander C. Graham, Jr. ’72 has been collecting since he was a child. The beginning was modest enough. His first collection was of bottle caps, a promotional effort in which the company stamped the names of states on the caps, which then would be pasted onto a map at the appropriate place. In his effort to collect all of the caps, he would visit stores and ask if he could take the caps from vending machines, thus avoiding having to pay for the drinks.

Graham majored in Classics at Hampden-Sydney, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa. He also was elected to membership in Eta Sigma Phi, the honorary Classics society, and served as vice-president of both the local chapter and the national organization. He was the recipient of the Wilson Memorial Greek Prize and was a Senior Fellow. He was selected for Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities, and a member of Sigma Nu, as well as the Student Assembly, Circle K, and Union Philanthropic Society.

He played varsity baseball and tennis, and in 1971 he was awarded an English-Speaking Union Scholarship to study at Oxford University. He received his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. He moved from bottle caps to coins, first regular about them after going to New York for “Americana Week,” when Sotheby’s, Christie’s, and some other houses hold their fine-arts auctions.

He briefly owned an antique shop in Richmond in the 1980s, but he said, “I found it more interesting to buy than to sell.”

He is largely self-educated in furniture through his library of books on the subject, and now limits his purchases to Queen Anne, Chippendale, and Hepplewhite pieces made between 1750 and 1820. He attends three or four auctions in person and bids by phone twenty or twenty-five times each year.

While some of his furniture is in storage, much of the furniture graces his own home in Richmond, as well as the McIlwaine house in Petersburg, which he restored several years ago. From the McIlwaine family came Hampden-Sydney College President Richard McIlwaine (1883-1904). The Petersburg house may have been built by Erasmus Gill in 1779 and was relocated to its present site in Old Towne Petersburg when it was threatened with demolition because of the widening of Wythe Street. The crew of Steven Spielberg’s Lincoln painted the house when it was used as the exterior of a senator’s home, and one scene was filmed in the interior.

Prior to his restoration of the McIlwaine house, Graham had restored an 1880s house in Petersburg, which he restored several years ago. He is largely self-educated in furniture through his library of books on the subject, and now limits his purchases to Queen Anne, Chippendale, and Hepplewhite pieces made between 1750 and 1820. He attends three or four auctions in person and bids by phone twenty or twenty-five times each year.

At age eleven, Graham began to collect stamps. His parents passed on to him the stamp albums his grandfather, who ran a grocery store, brought home. He still has a collection of Indian head pennies, but “the rest of the collection was sacrificed to buy other things,” he says.

At the Balle—Alexander C. Graham Jr. ’72

A Tale of Two Loans

Brennan Aust ’17

The Atkinson Museum has recently lent the Smithsonian’s copy of the Draper camera to the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts for display in its exhibit, Old School: Historical Methods in Contemporary Practice. The exhibit features work from Pam Fox, Shaun Irving ‘97, Courtney Johnson, Sally Mann, Jeradline Rogers, and Willie Anne Wright, as well as historical pieces such as the Draper camera.

Draper used the Gregorian reflecting telescope at Hampden-Sydney in his early attempts at successful portrait photography but wrote that the results were unsatisfactory. The Draper camera—now on loan to Longwood University—was built in the winter of 1859 at Hampden-Sydney and was used to successfully photograph the moon as early as March 16, 1840. Through his photographic research, Draper became a pioneer of astrophotography when he successfully captured the first clear view of the moon.

The Atkinson Museum lent its Hampden-Sydney Coat of Arms-Letters Patent to the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. Returned from loan in November, the Coat of Arms was featured in the Folger Library’s exhibit on heraldry. The show, the largest and most comprehensive of its kind ever mounted, featured family trees, books explaining the complexities of heraldry, manuscripts illustrating coats of arms, and documents composed by professional heralds in favor of the regulation of heraldic practice.

The show included the original drafts of William Shakespeare’s family coat of arms among other priceless treasures.
Historical Research and the African-American Community at Hampden-Sydney

Elizabeth Baker

At a young age, I decided I was destined to become the next Indiana Jones. My favorite activity was searching for my first important “archaeological discovery,” and growing up at Hampden-Sydney—a College with an incredibly rich history—allowed me plenty of time and space for exploration. One day, near the College observatory, I was elated to “discover” several dilapidated cabins, a chicken coop, an outhouse, abundant artifact scatters, and even a small, mostly unmarked, cemetery. For the next ten years, I regularly returned to those cabins, examining artifacts and trying to decipher details about their former inhabitants. To my disappointment, no matter how many people I asked, no one on campus seemed to know who had lived there, when, or why they left.

During my second year of graduate school at UNC Greensboro, working toward my Master’s in History and Museum Studies, I was faced with the task of choosing a thesis topic—a task that was all too easy. I set to work analyzing and piecing together census records, news articles, archived photographs, property maps, and more. The product was a general overview of slavery and black history at Hampden-Sydney, focusing on four families and their relationships with the school. After I graduated, the curator of the Atkinson Museum asked if I would continue my research, eventually to culminate in a walking tour and exhibit, and I am grateful. I have spent many years, I regularly returned to those cabins, examining artifacts and trying to decipher details about their former inhabitants. To my disappointment, no matter how many people I asked, no one on campus seemed to know who had lived there, when, or why they left.

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A short number of months after Draper left New York, he had a large fully functional new observatory in operation. The Henry Draper award was created in his name and endowed by his widow. The Henry Draper award was created in his name and endowed by his widow. The Henry Draper award was created in his name and endowed by his widow. The Henry Draper award was created in his name and endowed by his widow.

The College has a strong connection to the field of astrophotography. Besides having an active physics department with a recently renovated observatory, the College has a more than one-hundred-and-seventy-five-year history with astrophotography through the work of John William Draper. Long famed for his work with photography, Draper wrote that he used the College’s telescope in the late 1830s to record images of light. Unfortunately, his process for retaining the images was not perfected until after he read of the Daguerre process. Only a short number of months after Draper left Hampden-Sydney for New York and a professorship there did he successfully begin a series of astrophotographical images of the Moon. Another connection that Hampden-Sydney has to astrophotography is through John home in 1996. A well-known figure on campus, he chopped firewood for neighbors and friends in return for payment or meals.

As an adult, Edmonia Goldman lived in the Mercy Seat community near Worsham, and raised her own family, including daughter Frances. Goldman also worked at least part-time at Hampden-Sydney as a babysitter for campus families. Frances grew up to marry Willie Scott, a bell ringer and janitor for the College, and for years she ran the well-loved Log Cabin day camp program on campus. Two of her children—Willie, Jr., and Delores—also worked at H-SC, in food service. This family has an incredible legacy and just one example of many whose members have worked at Hampden-Sydney for more than a century.

Visit blogs.hsc.edu/untoldstory or www.facebook.com/thesundaystoryhsc for more stories, and if you have any information to contribute please contact Elizabeth Baker at ebaker@hsc.edu.

Winter Exhibit on Astrophotography

Brennan Aust ’17 and Logan McDonald ’16 are this school year’s student employees and began their terms working on the exhibit The Universe in Color: Robert Gendler Astrophotography. Both gentlemen worked hanging the beautiful images of galaxies and nebulae and mounting labels and text. Brennan also voiced the new audio tour portion of the exhibit, allowing visitors to hear technical aspects as well as the astronomical information on each piece.

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To view more of the contemporary works of Astrophotographer Robert Gendler, many of which were included in the exhibit at the Atkinson Museum, visit his website at http://www.robgendlerastrophotos.com/
At the height of the cold war in the 1950s and '60s, Virginia lay in the proverbial crosshairs of any potential nuclear attack. With the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area to the north, Richmond in the center, and a wide array of strategically important military bases situated throughout the state, any response was of utmost importance, but concentrated around the Hampton Roads region, Virginia provided a wealth of appealing targets for incoming missiles and bombers. Once government planners and average citizens alike began to recognize the threat of nuclear war on the state, they started to raise questions about how to live with the prospect of unimaginable destruction, as well as how, perhaps, to survive it.

In my upcoming exhibit in March, which is the product of my summer honors research, I aim to explain the resulting policies of American postwar civil defense as it pertains to the state of Virginia, while also touching on how it changed over time, the nationwide debates concerning civil defense, the eventual decline in prominence of atomic defense in the state, as well as Hampden-Sydney's unexpected importance to State defense programs via Professor (and later College President) Thomas Gilmer. Gilmer, himself a Hampden-Sydney graduate from the Class of 1923, was a physics professor who taught at the College from 1927 through 1972, except for his stint as College president from 1960 to 1963. He was also instrumental in the design of the science building that today bears his name. He first became active in state level civil defense planning after he began taking summer courses offered by the Atomic Energy Commission at Oak Ridge Laboratories in Tennessee in 1950. In those courses, he became one of only two people in the Commonwealth of Virginia to be certified to train radiological monitoring teams, which were tasked with recording and reporting atmospheric radiation readings following an atomic attack. When a locality requested a radiological monitoring team, the volunteers would be sent to Hampden-Sydney or the University of Virginia, where they would be trained to use the specialized equipment, such as Geiger counters, chamber survey meters, and dosimeters which were issued to monitoring units. It is also likely that some HSC students and faculty were also trained as monitors around that time.

Both federal and state civil defense agencies were technically allowed to commandeer any federal or state-owned facilities during or after a nuclear attack for use as evacuation points for government departments and personnel as well as for emergency hospitals and shelters. While the College would not likely be commandeered by any governmental agencies, the involvement of Dr. Gilmer in civil defense meant that the campus was significantly involved in civil defense, as exhibited by the marked community shelter on campus in the basements of John Audinum and Morton Hall.

If any alumnus or staff member reading this newsletter was involved in civil defense on campus with Dr. Gilmer during this time, or knows someone who was, I would appreciate hearing from you. More memories and personal accounts are always welcome and would be an excellent addition to the exhibit.