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Letter from the Editor

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From the Editor...

Dear readers,

September 2013 brought the beginning of a new school year, new students to The College of William and Mary, new members to *The William & Mary Educational Review* (WMER), as well as the inaugural event in the WMER and GEA Brown Bag Seminar Series (BBSS): a faculty panel discussion entitled “Advocacy in Education.” At this event, Dr. Hardinge reminded students that “Advocacy is a lifelong process.”

The following articles and manuscripts published in our second issue of *The William & Mary Educational Review* are written and edited by students who wish to take on the challenge of being lifelong educators, counselors, and advocates. We do this by considering the advice, guidance, and experience shared by our professors as well as by exploring our own beliefs, values, experiences, and passions. In the fields of education and counseling we are advocates – for our students, our colleagues, our clients, ourselves – thus, we must see ourselves as advocates every day, so we can take on this work with passion, with intention, and with great energy.

Since September, I have been carrying around my notes from the panel discussion. I keep looking back at them and feeling either completely overwhelmed or absolutely inspired. Dr. Barber, Dr. Charity Hudley, Dr. Eddy, Dr. Grant, and Dr. Rodriguez joined Dr. Hardinge on the panel, and they talked about starting at home, knocking on doors in D.C., arming ourselves with information, valuing the process of policy implementation, building relationships globally and locally, asking critical questions (even if they make people uncomfortable), being up front, bringing more people to the table, being “innovative, engaged, and impactful educators,” banding together, using the skills we have, showing up, and much more. I know our professors engage in this critical work, and so must we, as students, educators, and counselors. During the discussion, Dr. Barber challenged each student present to “see yourself as an advocate.” I want to echo that challenge here and ask you to be inspired by not only our W&M professors, but by your colleagues, peers, clients, and students; the people you meet in passing in every day life and those you hear about who are living a world away. In our roles in the fields of education and counseling, we have a responsibility

to take on the role of advocate and consider how to maximize our impact in ways small and large, close and far.

As you peruse the articles, photographs, and manuscripts that follow, I ask you to read with purpose. What are the areas of need and paths to change in education and counseling identified by William and Mary student authors? Where can you make a difference in these areas? How will you seek out members of your community with similar interests and passions to help you along the way? The pieces in this edition of the WMER will take you from the third floor of the School of Education to Cambodia and China. They will inspire you to consider leadership, families, students, and colleagues; drug testing, financial aid, and peer review. Who do you want to be as an advocate and leader? How can you make the most of your time as a student?

The WMER and BBSS are two venues that I hope will help the W&M School of Education grow as a community by providing places for students and faculty at the School of Education and across campus to consider the answers to the questions I have posed. We must continue to work together on creating spaces for shared experiences, following paths of inquiry, engaging in meaningful dialogue, and finding the spark of inspiration that changes words into actions.

Sincerely,

Kerrigan Mahoney
Editor-in-Chief