

September 15, 2021

Friends,

Approximately four years ago, Rex Wooldridge and I began the initiative which led to the formation of The Generals Redoubt. At that time, we felt pretty lonely. Not only did we not know who shared our viewpoint at Washington and Lee, but we were unaware of any other alumni groups across the country which partook in our vision of preserving the history, values, and traditions of their respective institutions.

Indeed, The Generals Redoubt has proven to be a model for similar college and university groups which have developed in the last several years. An example of this is the **Jefferson Council at the University of Virginia** (thejeffersoncouncil.com) with whom we are in almost continuous contact. Other groups include **The Spirit of V.M.I.** (<https://www.thespiritofvmi.org>) , **Davidsonians for Free Speech** (<https://davidson.forthought.org>) , **Bucknell Open Discourse Coalition** (<https://www.opendiscoursecoalition.org>) and **Princetonians for Free Speech** (<https://princetoniansforfreespeech.com>) , among others. We are in touch with a number of these groups which consist not only of alumni but of other friends of these colleges and universities. We are exploring establishing regional and even national ties with such groups.

In addition, we have learned of a number of existing regional and national groups dedicated to intellectual diversity and freedom of speech on campuses which are increasingly becoming more ideologically monolithic. We are affiliated with some of these groups, such as **The Martin Center for Academic Renewal** in Chapel Hill, North Carolina (<https://www.jamesgmartin.center>) , and are exploring affiliations with others. Some of these other groups include:

- **The Heterodox Academy** <https://heterodoxacademy.org/>
- **The National Association of Scholars** www.nas.org
- **The Academic Freedom Alliance** <https://academicfreedom.org/>
- **Minding the Campus** <https://mindingthecampus.org>
- **Speech First** <https://speechfirst.org>

- **American Council of Trustees and Alumni** <https://www.goacta.org/>

In addition to providing links to these groups in this letter, we will be adding a permanent section on our website providing links to such groups under "News and More". We will add links to other groups as we learn of them. There is strength in numbers, and it is comforting to know that we are not the only university group which is concerned about the ideological direction of many colleges and universities across the country.

Other News

- One of the more exciting pieces of news at Washington and Lee is the formation of an active parent group which shares the goals and objectives of The Generals Redoubt. This group is headed by Judith Conlon, the parent of a 2016 graduate, and includes both current and former parents. Among other things, this group, along with a number of students, is working on a petition to be submitted to the Board this fall regarding allowing students the option of having portraits of George Washington and Robert E. Lee on student diplomas. In a recent communication, the Board of Trustees indicated that they considered this option, but decided against it. Once again, the Board has not provided any rationale for this decision. If you are interested in learning more about the petition or supporting it, please contact Judith at fourconlons@comcast.net .
- There are a number of active student groups who share our dedication to preserving the history and traditions of Washington and Lee. These include The Spectator newspaper, The College Republicans, The Federalist Society (in the law school), and Students for Historical Preservation, a new group which was formed during the last academic year. Students are exploring the formation of additional groups this year.
- Our parent and student groups will be hosting an event at the Lexington Golf and Country Club on Parents' Weekend. The event will take place on Saturday, October 2nd from 4:00 to 6:00, and all parents and students are invited. If you would like more information or would like to make a reservation, please contact Judith Conlon at fourconlons@comcast.net .

- Finally, we are pleased to announce that we are rapidly approaching 11,000 followers on our email list. Not all of those on our email list agree with everything which we produce, but the vast majority of them are in general agreement with our goals and objectives. The growth of this list of followers over the last 2-3 years has been truly phenomenal, and is an indication of the degree of passion shared by many alumni, parents, students, and other friends of W&L regarding recent developments on campus.

Sincerely,
Neely Young, Editor, The Generals Redoubt