



# The College Reporter

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THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE

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## Meet the First-Years: Introducing Franklin & Marshall's Class of 2023

### Caitlyn Jennings dives head-first into F&M's extra-curricular opportunities

**BY CAITLYN JENNINGS**  
*Class of 2023*

Hello, everyone! My name is Caitlyn Jennings and I'm from Potomac, MD. My intended majors are English and Environmental Science -- for now!

I am beyond excited to join the F&Mily and in particular, Bonchek House! My head is spinning from all the clubs that F&M has to offer. Active Minds, the Outdoors Club, and the Environmental Action Alliance will let me continue pursuing my high school interests, while the Pollinator Club and Knittervention will introduce me to new things! Based on club offerings alone, it's clear that F&M is a place where there is something for everyone.

But, maybe even more compelling than F&M having something for everyone is that I feel that everyone is somebody at F&M -- everyone matters. When I was a freshman in high school, three classmates committed suicide within the span of 2 years. This prompted me to start THRIVE, a club devoted to mental health awareness. In running THRIVE, I found what matters most to me is I want to make life, even just one life, better.

In addition to THRIVE, I tried to

make a positive impact by writing. As an Observations Editor for my school newspaper, I tackled subjects like the need for the discussion of consent in sex education; whether a "zero waste" lifestyle is realistic; and the recent college cheating scandal. These were timely topics and I wanted to get people to think about these issues, but my favorite piece was about "lesser-known holidays." Did you know May is more than AP exams -- it has Star Wars Day, Buy a Musical Instrument Day, and No Socks Day?! Sure this piece was lighthearted and didn't change the world, but it made people laugh when exam stress was at an all-time high. In it's own way, it filled a need.

I want to make a difference at F&M, too. I'm not completely sure how, but I'm confident that the F&Mily will inspire and guide me. In a way, the F&Mily has already done this. After college acceptances came out, I thought it would be helpful if there was some way for us incoming freshmen to connect. There was a Facebook group, but I thought using Group Me would be more efficient. Within a few weeks of creating this new Group Me, half the class of 2023 had joined! We're discussing memes,



Photo courtesy of Caitlyn Jennings

ideas for new clubs, favorite tv shows, regional dialects and terms -- is a water fountain really a "bubbler?!"-- and debating the odds of being run over by a horse and buggy. We're having fun, bonding, and we've already broken off into group chats for the 5 houses on campus!

It's crazy that someone who has a small social media presence ended up

creating a Group Me for us incoming freshmen. One thing I know for sure is that at F&M, anything is possible. I'm excited to continue collaborating and making a difference with my F&Mily!

*First-year Caitlyn Jennings is a contributing writer. Her email is [cjennings@fandm.edu](mailto:cjennings@fandm.edu).*

### Amani Dobson shares passion for theatre, journalism, and the F&M community

**BY AMANI DOBSON**  
*Class of 2023*

Hello fellow Franklin and Marshall students! My name is Amani Dobson. I don't have a nickname sadly, but my baby sister calls me "mon mon"

I am 18 years old and interested in majoring in English with a concentration in creative writing. Writing has always been a passion of mine, especially poetry, but a few years ago my interest also fell towards journalism.

At Franklin and Marshall College, I hope to end up writing for the newspaper because my high school did not have one. It will be a good way to experience what a newspaper environment is like, so when I try to work for one in the future, I will have developed skills throughout my years.

I also love music and performing arts. I was in the ensemble of my high school production of RENT, and I was a featured dancer in our production of In The Heights. Show tunes are some of

my favorites to sing in the shower (mostly Hamilton). I even got to see Wicked on Broadway last fall. We got seats in the second row!

My favorite shows to watch on Netflix are Glee, Gilmore Girls, Gossip Girl, and Friends. I continuously rewatch these shows and they never seem to get old.

I am a bit nervous about coming to a new place and starting fresh, but I feel confident that I can handle the academic rigour and I hope to leave my mark somehow during my four years.

Besides the typical anxious feelings, I am genuinely ecstatic to join different clubs, make new friends, and learn even more than I did in high school!

To sum things up, I am excited to share my passion for the arts, and to work on my writing skills and become a more qualified journalist. I am excited to meet you all!

*First-year Amani Dobson is a contributing writer. Her email is [adobson@fandm.edu](mailto:adobson@fandm.edu).*



Photo courtesy of Amani Dobson

## First-year Daniel Altschuler discusses his intended path at F&M

BY DANIEL ALTSCHULER  
Class of 2023

“Ask what you can do for your country.” This piece – a nod to President John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address – is for you.

I was born in lower Manhattan and raised on the Upper East Side. Though, when I stare at myself in the mirror, I don’t see an Upper East Side native. Rather, when I open my building door and step onto the sidewalk, I am a New Yorker.

My foremost passion is the violin. I have played the violin since I was five. I am currently 18, so

do the math. Muscle memory can explain the math. When I pick up the violin, my left hand’s fingers fall down onto the strings naturally. My right hand has its task down pat: keep the bow in between the bridge and fingerboard. Afterward, I select a piece from my mind’s repertoire. My arm receives the message. I start to play J.S. Bach.

Goosebumps pop up every time I think about biology. Why? When I research anatomy and physiology questions online, I discover how the human body – a fine-tuned machine – works. Consequently, the secrets to my life. And your life too.

“Why would you want to be a politician, Dan?” my mom inquires, right after I tell her that I want to be a – can you guess what? – politician. “You don’t even have to be a member of Congress to see how vexing it is to be a politician.” I responded with a reference to Joseph P. Kennedy Sr.: “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” I am signaling to you that I want to be a



Photo courtesy of eBay.com

Government major at Franklin and Marshall College.

While Barney Stinson held his newborn in the hospital during the final episode of *How I Met Your Mother*, Barney whispered to his child, “everything I have, and everything I am, is [for the F&Mily] forever.” I intend to put Franklin and Marshall College first.

My name is Dan Altschuler. I am a first-year student here at

Franklin and Marshall College, residing at New College House. I am the brother of a first-year student at Harvard University, and the son of a doctor and social worker. I approve this message, and I look forward to meeting you on campus.

First-year Daniel Altschuler is a contributing writer. His email is [daltschu@fandm.edu](mailto:daltschu@fandm.edu).



Photo courtesy of Forbes.com



## The College Reporter

Transparency. Accuracy. Credibility.

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NEWSPAPER OF  
FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE



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*The College Reporter* was formed in 1964, as a successor to *The Student Weekly*, which was formed in 1915 by the union of *The F&M Weekly*, founded 1891, and *The College Student*, founded 1881. The crest of *The College Reporter* was designed in 2004 by Kim Cortes '05.

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## Clare Costa discusses PIT, WARE Institute pre-orientation program

BY CLARE COSTA  
Class of 2023

When I first found out about the PIT pre orientation program at F&M I knew I had to be a part of something that served the community in so many wonderful ways. But my expectations were surpassed when I first arrived on campus. As my car pulled in the driveway, we were greeted by so many smiling faces, and I knew that this was going to be a great experience. Fast forward to our first community service project at the humane league. There we got to help out with the daily tasks of cleaning dog kennels, litter boxes, and endless loads of laundry. Even though it was hard labor we still had an amazing time because my group made it so much fun.

My PA’s brought me out of my shell and made me feel welcomed to the PIT and F&M community. Yes, their icebreakers were crazy that’s what made them so fun and effective it really brought everyone out of their shells. I don’t think I have ever bonded with a group of people in that short of a time so quickly. I genuinely love and care for everyone in my group and I am so grateful to PIT

for giving me those friendships. If it wasn’t for PIT I would have never met these wonderful people that made this experience so unforgettable or get to help improve the Lancaster community. Because of how loving and influential my PAs were it makes me want to be a PA next year, I want to help bring people out of their shells like they did for me, and help make our community a better place for everyone who steps on campus.

First-year Clare Costa is a contributing writer. Her email is [cwalston@fandm.edu](mailto:cwalston@fandm.edu)



Photo courtesy of Ally Damante



Photo courtesy of Ally Damante



Photo courtesy of Ally Damante

## Michael Torres’ passion for community service led his to F&M PIT

BY MICHAEL TORRES  
Class of 2023

At a glimpse, PIT is another pre-orientation program - perhaps even just another acronym. Upon participating in it, however, I immediately understood the value of being surrounded by greatness and being put together with people you would not expect to spend time with. I had the pleasure of getting to know such people and realized that the program was not only putting it together in the community of Lancaster. It was creating groups of people that can be stronger together and multiply that strength throughout the campus.

It was the last day of PIT when I was looking up at an almost overwhelming amount of bamboo in a lawn. I was excited to start

cutting at it, process it, and be rid of such an invasive plant so the homeowner can plant their trees. However, dealing with these shoots was more difficult than I expected, and I was wondering if I would be able to make a dent at all.

When a fellow PITER showed me that I was hacking at the strongest part of the bamboo, I was relieved that he was there to help me. As I began to tire from carrying around processed shoots, I was reenergized when a PA started cheering us on. This battle cry against bamboo enabled me to start supporting my fellow PITers and praise them for their hard work. If it were not for the perspectives of my fellow PIT members and PA’s, I would have kept hacking at the spot where bamboo is the strongest.

Even though PIT lasted a few days, the attitude that the program inspires will continue to embed itself in the campus community for the rest of our college careers. As students begin to realize that college is a little harder to hack at than bamboo, the PIT spirit within us will be there to help others find their way and will continue to put it together in the community.

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Photo courtesy of Ally Damante



Photo courtesy of Teri Mueller



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