

CLASS NOTES

90 Leslie Watkins Grant is an associate dean for academic programs, as well as an associate professor for educational policy, planning and leadership, in the College of William & Mary's School of Education. ■ **Brad Robertson** retired from the police department in Danville, Virginia, as a lieutenant in the patrol division. He is now a criminal justice instructor at Guilford Technical Community College in Jamestown, North Carolina.



Laura Doolan ('92)

San Francisco-based WideOrbit, a software firm specializing in the broadcast and advertising sectors. ■ **Krista Suter** was promoted to senior vice president at Farmers & Merchants Bank in Timberville, Virginia.



Dori Kreiger ('94)

98 Kelly Williamson is president of APCO Worldwide, North America, a global advisory and advocacy firm.



02 Lt. Col. Daniel Maurer was selected to teach law at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Kelly Williamson ('98)

03 Corwyn Garman is director of exhibitions at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, Virginia



Anna Naydonov ('04)

■ **Daniel Gibson-Reinemer** is an assistant professor in the biology department

92 Laura Doolan is the coordinator of the Master of Liberal Arts program at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland.

94 Dori Kreiger is the executive director of the CTIA Wireless Foundation.

95 Amy Long is president of talent development at LeaseAccelerator, a pioneer in the enterprise lease accounting software market.

96 Sean Harrington is a product manager at

at Adams State University in Alamosa, Colorado.

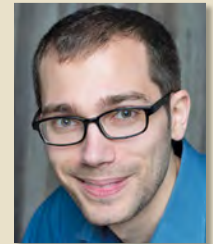
04 Anna Naydonov was promoted to partner at Finnegan, one of the largest

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Alan Linic: From JMU to SNL

BY HANNAH LONG ('19)

In high school, Alan Linic ('11) was voted "Most Likely to Write for *Saturday Night Live*." Now, he's living up to those early expectations.



In September 2018, Linic was called in to audition for the popular sketch comedy show after being seen performing in Chicago with the Second City Touring Company. Within a few weeks, he had a job as an *SNL* writer.

Linic described his first day on the set at *SNL* as "wild," as he was in the presence of actors he had watched on TV for so long.

"You want to write good things for them, make them look good and hopefully have them come to trust and like your material," Linic said. "But at the same time, it's a job and there are expectations, so you don't really have time to geek out all the time. I had to cram that down and just get to work."

At JMU, Linic majored in English with a minor in creative writing. He led an original production at the Studio Theatre, directed a number of student plays and was one of the head writers for the *Early Late Show*, an interview-style talk show that featured comedy skits and musical guests.


Two of Linic's English professors, Marina Favila and Dawn Goode, encouraged him to follow his dreams and do what was best for him.

"It's important to have someone who is willing to support your specific learning style or point of view," Linic said. "There are teachers that you'll remember forever, and those two are definitely among those for me."

Linic had always been interested in writing and performing, but what really helped him get his start was the improvisation team at JMU, New and Improv'd. A former director of the team had spent a semester in Chicago working with a program called Comedy Studies, in which students learn the inner workings of professional sketch shows.

"It was like a semester abroad, but you go to Chicago and study comedy instead of going to Italy and studying architecture," Linic said. "I thought, OK, now that I know these places exist, this is it for me."

After graduation, Linic moved to Chicago and began training with the IO and Second City improvisation programs. After a few years as an understudy, he was asked to perform as a member of one of the Second City residence stages. He stayed with the troupe for four years.

In the future, Linic hopes to continue his career at *SNL* and become a better and stronger writer. "I think at the end of the day, the only thing I know for sure about where I'm at or what I'll be doing is that I constantly find ways to improve." 

Faculty Emeriti Association news

George Kenneth "Ken" Lewis Jr., professor emeritus of integrated science and technology, passed away Nov. 15, 2018.

Charles Jacob Huffman II ('88), professor emeritus of psychology, passed away Jan. 6.

For more information about the faculty emeriti organization, contact **Sherry King**, director of parent and faculty emeriti relations, at kingsf@jmu.edu or by phone at **540-568-8064**.

