

# Black, Van Collection

Van Black Collection  
circa 1971-1977, 2015



WILLIAM  
& MARY

CHARTERED 1693

## Title Statement

Black, Van CollectionGuide to the Van Black Collection UA 5.178

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-15 13:20:57 -0400.

**Language Usage:** The collection description/finding aid is written in English

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

UA 5.178

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/9260

**Unit Date**

circa 1971-1977, 2015

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

This collection includes color slides and a quilt which offer insight into student life at the College of William and Mary during the mid-1970s.

**Creator**

Black, James Van I., 1953-

**Extent**

2.75 Linear Feet

**Repository**

Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access:**

Collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia, § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

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**Processing Information:**

Accessioned and minimally described by Steven Bookman, University Archives Specialist, in February 2015. Fully processed by Kim Sims, University Archivist, March 2015, updated in April 2016.

**Preferred Citation:**

Van Black Collection, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

## Biographical / Historical

### Biographical Information

### Administrative History:

### Biographical Information:

Van Black was a student at the College of William and Mary from 1971-1975 and was a President's Aid.

### Administrative History:

Van Black graduated from William and Mary in 1975. He was a member of the Flat Hat Club Society, editor of the "Green and Gold," senior class president, area coordinator (resident assistant), and orientation aide. He served on Interhall and Honor Council and won the Sullivan Award in 1975. Black was also a Presidential Aide to President Thomas Graves.

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains color slides of the William and Mary campus, student life, sports, and other activities during the mid-1970s and a quilt.

Most of the slides were created by Bill Leonard and Scott Takane, both 1978 graduates of William and Mary. They depict life in the residence halls of the Bryan Complex, Old Dominion Hall, and Monroe Hall and include images of the buildings, student activities, and dorm life. The quilt was given to Van Black by female

residents of the Stith Hall, where Black served as an area coordinator (resident assistant). The squares are symbolic to the women who made them and pertain to something specific about the either the university or the Bryan Complex, such as a square of the Crim Dell and squares representing the insects that invaded the Bryan Complex. There is a document which lists each square and the names of the women who created them. Additionally, there is a handwritten note to Black from President Thomas Ashley Graves, Jr., acknowledging the quilt.

Also included in the collection are three paintings commissioned by Black to commemorate 5 years of the Staying Connected: Together Serving Others initiative.

## Related Materials:

Oral History, conducted 2015 July (contact Special Collections Research Center for more information)

## Keywords

Buildings and Grounds

College of William and Mary--History--20th century

College of William and Mary--Students

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Box 1

**Unit ID** id262077

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492267

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

### **Color Slides of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (commercially produced), circa 1971-1975**

**Unit ID** id262078

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492272

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

### **Color Slides, circa 1971 July**

**Unit ID** id262079

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492273

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

### **Color Slides, circa 1976 Sept.-Nov.**

**Unit ID** id262080

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492274

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

### **Color Slides, 1976 Nov.-1977 March**

**Unit ID** id262081

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492275

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

### **Color Slides, 1977 March-April**

**Unit ID** id262082

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492276

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

**Color Slides, 1977 April**

**Unit ID** id262083

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492277

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

**Thomas Graves Letter, 1976 and List of Women Who Made the Quilt, undated**

**Unit ID** id262084

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492278

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 7 (Folder)

**Flat Hat clippings, 1974-1975**

**Unit ID** id292119

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492279

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 8 (Folder)

**Photograph: Van Black receiving Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award from President Thomas Graves, Commencement, 1975**

**Unit ID** id292121

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492280

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 9 (Folder)

**Letter to Rising Seniors (written by Black in response to Flat Hat editorial), 1974**

**Unit ID** id292123

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492281

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 10 (Folder)

**Staying Connected Flyers and Programs, 2011, 2015**

**Unit ID** id292125

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492282

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 11 (Folder)

**College of William and Mary Commencement Program (includes ticket), 1975**

**Unit ID** id292127

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492283

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 12 (Folder)

**Box 2**

**Unit ID** id262085

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492268

**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)

**Quilt, circa 1975-1976**

**Unit ID** id292115

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492284

**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)

### **William & Mary Class of 1975 35th reunion t-shirt**

**Unit ID** id292117

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492285

**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)

### **Wren on the Record by Kelsea Hull**

**Unit ID** id303678

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492269

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Painting)

**Extent** 37.25" (height) x 24.875" (width) x .5" (depth)

#### **Artist's Statement**

Music can transcend and connect generations, just as the William & Mary Class of 1975 Staying Connected initiative has brought together William & Mary students and alumni for the past 5 years. I symbolize the relationships Staying Connected has fostered between alumni and students by painting on records. The focal point of the painting is the Wren Building, William & Mary's most iconic landmark, with the 1693 weather vane clearly visible, representing William & Mary places not only on tradition, but on the shared experiences of attending the College.

The weather vane points directly to Pink Floyd's Wish You Were Here record in the upper left corner. Released in 1975, its placement in the composition represents the passage of time since the Class of '75's graduation. Taylor Swift's 1989 record, placed in the bottom right corner, represents music well known by my Class of 2015 classmates, many of whom partnered with the Class of '75 in many initiatives. I hope to draw the eye down from the top of the piece to the bottom, again representing the passage of time and the relationships Staying Connected has nurtured through its work.

The trees not only add color and frame the Wren Building, but also serve to represent "connection" as the leaves intertwine with each other and link the branches. - Kelsea Hull, Class of 2015, B.S. Psychology; Fredricksburg, Virginia

### **A Reflection of Wisdom by Yuming Cao**

**Unit ID** id303680

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492270

**Mixed Materials** 2 (Painting)

**Physical Description** Watercolor

#### **Artist's Statement**

### **Connecting to Serve, by Emily Anderson**

**Unit ID** id303682

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/492271

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Painting)

**Physical Description** Acrylic, aged sheet-music, ink, and papermache on cotton canvas

**Extent** 30" (height) x 24" (width) x 1.5" (depth)

#### **Artist's Statement**

I illustrate the empowerment of students and the engagement of Veterans as part of the Staying Connected: Together Serving Others initiative. The middle of the painting features the Alumni House - all alumni reaching out to current students, with the crest highlighting their strong connection to the campus community. The banners at the top reflect the connection between students and alumni as they both seek to support the Veteran community. The three featured sections along the bottom represent music, writing, and stand-up comedy programs offered to Veterans through the students' William & Mary Center for Veterans Engagement. The camouflage backdrop serves to depict the overarching themes of the military connection in the community. - Emily Anderson, Class of 2015, Masters of Education