

**Groundbreaking
John B. Werner Pavilion of the McGraw-Page Library
Randolph-Macon College
President Robert R. Lindgren
December 3, 2011**

Good afternoon and welcome to another great occasion on this rapidly transforming Randolph-Macon Campus. We gather today to break ground for the new John B. Werner Pavilion at McGraw-Page Library, a much needed and much anticipated addition to our facilities.

It will surely enrich the academic life of our students by creating high-tech class-room space and, most significantly, a Reading and Study Room with 24-hour access.

It is amazing to reflect on the changes in our facilities in just one year or so.

Our historic campus now proudly boasts:

Andrews Hall, our new freshman residence hall,
a new tennis center,
Hugh Stephens Field at Estes Park, our new baseball facility
and two renovated academic buildings, Fox and Haley Halls.

And as you know, approved for construction going forward include

a totally new Student Center,
a realigned football/lacrosse field,
and, in the not too distant future we hope, a new science building.

It is indeed an exciting time for this splendid College.

The Werner Pavilion will stand proudly among both our new and existing structures, a tangible symbol of our mission – our reason for being – to “develop the mind and character of our students.” Through gifted teaching, learning through experience, exciting co-curricular opportunities and now state-of-the-art facilities like the one we break ground for today -- *Educating the whole student is our laser focus*. We have always done it well and now, in so many ways, we are *building extraordinary* – and taking what we do best to a whole new level.

This impressive library addition is named for Trustee Emeritus and Honorary Degree Recipient, *Dr. John B. Werner*, class of '53, whose distinguished service to the College includes 20 years as a member of our Board of Trustees. John is one of only 33 elite alumni who have made contributions to R-MC for more than 50 years, and his wise counsel has been invaluable to 5 Randolph-Macon presidents, no more so than for this one.

I cannot say enough about the generosity and dedication of John and Anita Werner.

They have been, and continue to be, stalwart supporters of our mission, and their commitment of time and treasure over decades is a compelling lesson in loyalty. Indeed, they are wonderful mentors and friends to Cheryl and me.

This wonderful new structure, the John B. Werner Pavilion, is but one manifestation of their generous spirit and their belief in unlimited possibilities.

John and Anita, your legacy on our campus is assured, and I can only express our profound gratitude for what you do to invigorate this great College. **So we might show our thanks and affection, please stand.**

I would like to recognize and thank a few of our lead donors who have made this project possible. It is fitting that the Cabell Foundation leads this distinctive group. John Werner worked side-by-side with the Foundation's trustees for 14 years as the group's executive director. Together with the Foundation it is our honor to recognize John in this way. The Foundation is most appropriately represented today by our good friend, Mr. Charles Cabell, who, truth-be-told, inspired this naming opportunity. **Charles, please stand and accept our thanks.**

Joining the Cabell Foundation as generous leadership donors are the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, the Marietta McNeil Morgan and Samuel Tate Morgan, Jr. Foundation, Jackson McBroom – who happens to be the son of our late trustee, June McBroom and the grandson of Donald C. McGraw for whom our library is co-named – and a Williams alumnus who has chosen to support *this* liberal arts college. We thank him.

Other important benefactors include Wayne Tucker, Hardaway Abernathy, Whiting Chisman, Joe Stiles, Don Perry, and the estate of Robert Hawkes. Thank you all. While it sounds like a cliché, it is absolutely true: *without your generous support, we would not be here today.*

And I would like to say an additional word about Bob Hawkes, Class of 1964, who sadly passed away in March 2008. Dr. Hawkes spent his career as a college history teacher, most significantly at George Mason University. When Mike Carter and I visited Bob in his home just a few days before his death, he indicated to me that he wanted his estate gift to the college to be used for something academic...and, more importantly, in an act expressing the highest form of generosity, he asked that his gift honor his good friend, teacher and mentor, George Brown Oliver, which we shall so proudly do in this new facility. Bob's life is but one of the thousands who Dr. Oliver touched during his career at R-MC. Dr. Oliver is with us today from Fredericksburg...**please stand and be recognized.**

I am also personally pleased to announce that when the leaders of our Student Government Association learned we were short of our fundraising goal for this project, our SGA came forth with a generous gift to help close that gap. We are honored to have with us today Robin Porucznik, president of the Senior Class and an English major from Larchmont, New York representing the Student Government Association.

I also wish to recognize several partners in this project. Our internal team is now led by our Vice President Paul Davies and project manager Mark Brabham. And I was with our retired vice president, John Ahladas last evening and he regrets not being here today, but sends his best wishes for us to complete this project on which he also worked so diligently for the past year.

Leading the design of this project is the firm Glave & Holmes represented by Fernando Viego, assisted by Hanover Engineers, represented by Gintaras Gelzinis. And, our contractor is English Construction represented by Robert Lee.

It is essential to note that an important partner in this and our many other projects on campus is the Town of Ashland, whose elected officials and staff members *work hard* to help us *do the best we can* with projects of this magnitude and importance. We are grateful to have with us today Mayor Faye Prichard and Vice Mayor George Spagna...**please stand and be recognized.**

Look around and one message is clear: Randolph-Macon is *on the move* – new majors, new co-curricular programs, new sports, record enrollment and now, new facilities -- all signaling a *renaissance for this proud and historic College*.

What a great time to be a Yellow Jacket!

And with that, it is now my privilege to introduce Don Perry, the chair of our Buildings and Grounds committee and a distinguished and very dedicated member of our Board of Trustees, himself a major donor to this project, in recognition of the time he spent as a student worker in the library during his days on this campus. Don...