

Dec. 2009

Asian Studies Receives Grant

Randolph-Macon College's Asian Studies Program has received funding to host an Asian Studies Fellow for the 2010-'11 academic year.

Tom Porter, chair of the Asian Studies Program, says that a search committee is being formed and that the Fellow will teach two courses in Japanese (one in the fall and one in the spring) and two upper-level courses to be determined by the new hire's expertise.

Funding was provided to the college by ASIANetwork, a consortium of over 170 North American colleges, which strives to "strengthen the role of Asian Studies within the framework of a liberal arts education to help prepare succeeding generations of undergraduates for a world in which Asian societies play prominent roles in an ever more interdependent

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A Christmas Carol Celebrates 20 years at R-MC

R-MC's drama department kicked off its 20th year of Communication Studies Professor Marilyn Mattys' adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, on December 4, 2009. The production was directed by Joe Mattys, drama professor and director of the R-MC Arts Department.

"The first performance, in 1990, was staged in Old Chapel. The set was simply black flats and floors with simple costumes. We only had a small troupe of actors who played numerous parts," says Joe Mattys. "Since then, the script has evolved slightly, adding characters here and there and simplifying others and the sets and costumes have become more beautifully designed. Yet, the story remains faithful and maintains the spirit and tone of the original," he says.



Matt Hackman '02 starred as Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*.

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2010 J-term Bloggers Will Share Their Stories

In January 2010, 184 R-MC students will travel to 19 destinations as part of the college's popular travel-study program: Italy, France, Belgium, Ecuador, Ghana, Australia, China, Ethiopia, England, the Czech Republic, Romania, Japan, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, London, Paris and Berlin. In addition, many students will take on-campus courses or participate in internships.

Students from several travel courses, as well as students taking internships or on-campus courses are sending blog entries back to R-MC. The blogs—or virtual "diaries"—enable students to share their adventures with the R-MC community and beyond.

Visitors to the R-MC Web site can read blog entries, known as *J-term Diaries*, beginning in early January. Stay tuned for more information!



INSIDE: Your News Faculty & Staff Spotlights Department Spotlight and More!

The Buzz: Helping Build Community Through Communication

YOUR NEWS

Tom Badley (political science) and seven students enrolled in R-MC's International Law course traveled to the nation's capitol in October to participate in the DC National Model United Nations. Over the course of three days, the R-MC delegation practiced diplomacy, engaged in negotiations and confronted some of the countless problems facing the world today.

Tom Inge (humanities) has edited and written an introduction for a new book, titled *My Life with Charlie Brown*, which will be published in April 2010. With the approval and cooperation of the Schulz family, Inge draws on the cartoonist's entire archives, papers, and correspondence to allow Schulz' full voice to speak his mind.

Gayla Mills (English) had an essay published in the December 2009 issue of *Skirt!* magazine, a national publica-

tion that focuses on essays. Mills' essay, titled *Finding the Right Key*, appears online at <http://skirt.com/essays/finding-right-key>

Jerry Ross (religious studies) contributed two essays to a recently-published book, *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora* (Fortress Press 2010). Ross contributed "The Deuteronomistic History" and "Zechariah" to the book.

Jack Trammell (disability services) is the author of *Down on the Chickahominy: The Life and Times of a Vanishing Virginia River* (The History Press, October 2009). Trammell also recently won first place for fiction in the Virginia Writer's Club Blue Ridge Holiday Contest, for the story *The Christmas Convict*. Part of the award is publication in a literary anthology slated for 2010.



Saturday, January 23

Jeremy McEntire presents an evening of flute music. Pianist **Charles Hulin** joins him in a sampling of repertoire from the Baroque through today, including a new piece by Richmond composer **Allan Blank**. **The concert takes place at 7:00 p.m. in St. Ann's Performing Arts Building.** McEntire teaches applied flute in R-MC's Department of Arts. (804) 752-3798

Sunday, January 24

The **Richmond Symphony** performs the third installment of its Metro Collection series. Piazzolla's *Las Cuatro Estaciones Portenas* is inspired by Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. **The concert takes place at 3:00 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium, R-MC Center for the Performing Arts. Jim Doering will lead a pre-concert discussion with a member of the symphony at 2:00 p.m. in Thomas Branch. For tickets to the concert, call (804) 788-1212**

Friday, January 15

A celebration to honor **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** will take place at **12:00 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium, R-MC Center for the Performing Arts.** Richmond mayor **Dwight Jones** is the keynote speaker and R-MC's **Ujima** choir will perform. (804) 752-3712

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world."

"Our sincere thanks goes to Provost Franz for his support of the Asian Studies Program," says Porter. "We're excited at the prospect of enriching the program even further with a visiting Fellow."

Annual Holiday Party a Festive Celebration

Staff and faculty celebrated in style at the college's annual holiday dinner, held on December 3.

For a photo gallery of the event, click here.



The BUZZ on faculty member María Jose Bordera, Modern Languages

When she isn't teaching class, **María Jose Bordera** is either answering e-mail, trying to squeeze in a bite of lunch, meeting with students, faculty and staff, or participating in the many, *many* activities she loves.

Spanish professor Bordera, born and raised in Alicante, Spain, came to Randolph-Macon in September 2004. She attended the University of Alicante, where she earned a B.A. in English in 1995. She then decided to move to the United States.

"I decided to move in search of a better professional future," she says. "I wasn't happy with the teaching prospects in my country." Bordera attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where she earned her master's and doctorate degrees in Hispanic studies, specializing in 20th- and 21st-century Spain.

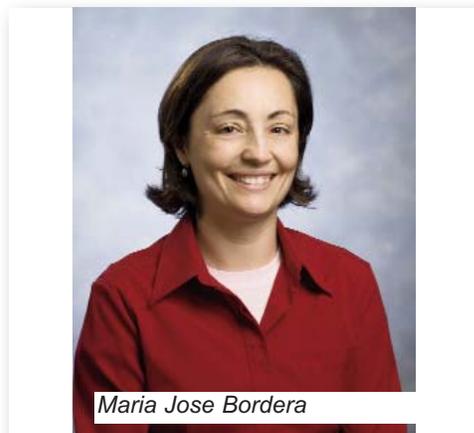
On choosing to teach at Randolph-Macon College, Bordera says, "I really like the atmosphere here. When I was being

interviewed here, I got a sense of the small, family-like environment."

Bordera prefers a smaller college campus. "The relationships are so much closer here," says Bordera, who has developed close-knit relationships with many of her students. "This college setting offers the opportunity for the faculty to get to know the students as individuals, which bigger schools don't really offer," she says.

Outside of the college environment, Bordera enjoys spending time with her husband, Chris, whom she married in the summer of 2008. They run together on a daily basis. "He's faster though," she comments, laughing. They also go to the movies, entertain at their Richmond home, and go to wine tastings, which gives them a chance to explore Virginia wineries, usually with a small group of friends.

Bordera's activities don't stop there: She likes to cook, "although my skills are not that great," she admits. "I like Spanish food, but more so, Indian and Thai food.



María Jose Bordera

And I love Spanish and Latin American desserts."

Bordera enjoys reading Spanish texts and mystery books; her favorites include *Possession* and *The DaVinci Code*. She also listens to pop music, both in English and Spanish; her favorites are Maroon 5 and Five for Fighting.

On top of all of that, she loves gift wrapping. "I'm just good at it!" she says.

The BUZZ on staff member Jack Trammell, Disability Services

Jack Trammell holds three administrative positions and a professorship position at R-MC. He is the director of Disability Support Services, which focuses on making accommodations for those students with specified disabilities and who need assistance. In addition, Trammell is director of the Honors Program and Summer Session, as well as an assistant professor of sociology.



Jack Trammell

Before coming to R-MC, Trammell taught history and special education for nine years in the public school system. When he learned that there was an opening in the Higgins Academic Center at R-MC, Trammell jumped on the opportunity. "I always knew I wanted to go into higher education," he says. "It was as if the stars just aligned perfectly."

Trammell has worked closely with dismantling the stigmas of having a disability. "The world is stacked against those with disabilities," he says.

Trammell has published numerous works and currently writes a military/history column featuring the Civil War for the Washington Times. His latest book, *Down on the Chickahominy*, was released October 2, 2009 by The History Press. The sociological text includes narratives from interviews, photographs and letters that capture the lives of the people who lived on the Chickahominy River in Hanover

County in the 1940s.

He is currently working on "the next great American novel," he says, laughing. The vampire novel, titled *A Shape I Whist*—a quotation from Frankenstein author Mary Shelley—will stem from his J-term course "Monsters in Modernism." Trammell and his students will travel to Romania in January 2010, where Trammell hopes to get the inspiration he needs to complete his novel.

Trammell also enjoys playing basketball. He plays organized games twice a week and was a coach for many years at Patrick Henry and Liberty Middle schools. Two of his seven children, step-daughter Carri Miller and son Alec Trammell, attend Randolph-Macon College.

"All of my kids spend a lot of time here on campus," he says. Trammell and his family live in Louisa County on a farm. "What with seven kids, a farm to run and my writing career," he says, "I stay busy."

Christmas Carol from Page 1



A Christmas Carol celebrated its 20th year of production at R-MC

To view a photo gallery of A Christmas Carol, click here.

The BUZZ on this month's department: The Career Center

-- Submitted by Cathy Rollman, director of Career Services

Director Cathy Rollman and Career Counselor Sarah Burgess work hard to prepare students for success after graduation by providing personalized programs and services designed to support self-identity and interpersonal growth. The staff also works with alumni.

The majority of work completed with students is done so on a one-on-one basis, although students can also take advantage of various workshops offered on topics ranging from resume/cover letter writing, to job searching, to graduate school.

The Career Services staff also does a good deal of outreach programs, including Career Table Talk, which allows staff to meet students in the Campus Center and Estes to talk about career-related topics and answer questions. Classroom presentations to promote services/programs and presentations for fraternities/sororities, clubs/organizations, and athletic teams are also conducted.

Other programs include monthly Career Symposia, which incorporate alumni to talk with students about specific career

fields, Etiquette and Networking Dinners, a Mock Interview Program, various networking programs and on-campus Career Fairs.

The Career Services Web site includes an events calendar as well as other tools to assist with the internship, employment and graduate school process. New this year, students have access to an in-house job database, containing job and internship postings from employers who have specifically expressed interest in recruiting at Randolph-Macon.

Career Services staff work closely with **Ed Showalter, director of the Bassett Internship Program** on paid and volunteer internships for students.

Career Services is located in the Career and Counseling Center, on the first floor of Thomas Branch Hall. The friendly staff is always happy to work with students; and those students who utilize Career Services will have access to a wide range of services, resources and employment opportunities, and will be better prepared for success after graduation.

Service Awards Presented at Holiday Party

Full-time Service Awards for Faculty and Staff were presented at the holiday party.

5 Years

Richard Alonso, Saleema Ansari, Pedro Arruza, Heather Bauby, Mathias Bergmann, Maria Jose Bordera, Claudia Brookman, David Coppola, Scott Culley, Barbara Dauberman, Kathryn DiPasqua, Nora Green, Ray Headrick, Brent Hoard, Daniel Kanach, Denis Kanach, Anthony Maida, Peter McEvoy, Russell Mollet, Susan Parker Thorpe, Debra Rodman, Cathy Rollman, Traci Stevens, Sandrine Teixidor, Anna Winburne

10 Years

Lauren Bell, Hal Breitenberg, Jennifer Bruce, James Doering, Michael Fenster, Pat Glessner, Anne Marie Lauranzon, Diana Lewis, Adrian Rice, Debra Smith, Jerri Trotter, Deonna Woolard

15 Years

Frances Gillend, Kristen Klaaren, Thomas Peyser, Evie Terrono, Eve Torrence

20 Years

Deborah Green, Kelly Lambert

25 Years

Carol Cauthorne, Thomas Inge, Andre Jackson, George Lowry

30 Years

Art Conway, Susan Donavant

35 Years

Stewart Lewis, Thomas Porter



Randolph-Macon
College
Ashland, Virginia

The Buzz is published monthly for the faculty and staff of Randolph-Macon College. Please submit your information, news, suggestions and calendar items via e-mail to Pam Cox at pamelacox@rmc.edu.