



OCT. 2010



## R-MC Receives Award for Environmental Excellence

Representatives from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) presented a plaque to the college honoring R-MC's acceptance into the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP) at the E2 level (Environmental Excellence) on September 9, 2010. R-MC is only the second academic institution in Virginia to have its entire campus in the DEQ's E2 program.

First-Year Experience (FYE) instructors Reber Dunkel and Brian Moores, who teach "It's Not Easy Being Green: Environmental Stewardship Initiatives on Campus," hosted the award presentation. Students in their 2008-2009 FYE course, "Gauging Randolph-Macon's Ecological Footprint," prepared a draft of an E2 application as part of their research assignment and recommended the college follow through as their top priority to the President's Cabinet at the end of the semester.

R-MC President Robert R. Lindgren accepted the E2 award. "This is an important effort for Randolph-Macon College as we work to reduce our carbon footprint," he said. "R-MC is committed to doing our part to increase awareness about environmental conservation for our students, faculty and staff."



[www.VirginiaGreenTravel.org](http://www.VirginiaGreenTravel.org)

## R-MC Tennis Complex Opens

R-MC's new tennis complex opened on October 9, 2010 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Ashland Mayor Faye Pritchard, R-MC President Robert Lindgren and Athletics Director Jeff Burns were on hand to welcome the community.

"We are extremely happy to open this facility, and we designed it to provide a new home for the R-MC men's and women's tennis teams and also to be enjoyed by the community," said

Lindgren. The complex includes ten playing courts with four courts lighted at night, stadium seating, a restroom facility, a gazebo and benches. For a slide show of the celebration, which included tennis clinics for children of all ages, click here.



INSIDE: Your News Faculty & Staff Spotlights and More!

*The Buzz: Helping Build Community Through Communication*

# YOUR NEWS

**Robert Baerent** (German) was presented with a Faculty Certificate of Appreciation at the Society of Alumni Luncheon on September 25, 2010. The award was presented by **Whitney Forstner '98**, president of R-MC's Society of Alumni. Baerent retired in 2009.

**David Brat** (economics/business) wrote a commentary that was published in the September 12, 2010 edition of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Click here to read the commentary.

**John Camp** (classics) was invited to present a lecture at the Embassy of Greece in Washington, D.C. Camp presented "The Archaeology of Democracy: Excavations in the Athenian Agora" on September 23, 2010.

**Art Conway** (biology) was presented with a Faculty Certificate of Appreciation at the Society of Alumni Luncheon on September 25, 2010. The award was presented by **Whitney Forstner '98**, president of R-MC's Society of Alumni. Conway retired in 2009.

**Chas. Gowan** (biology) presented a paper at the International Congress on the Biology of Fish in Barcelona, Spain. The Congress, sponsored by the American Fisheries Society, was held at the Campus of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona July 5-9, 2010. Gowan presented an invited paper titled *Demographic responses of trout populations two decades after habitat manipulation in five Colorado streams*. **Shannon White '10** also attended the conference.

**Michael Fischbach** (history) was invited by Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, to participate in a meeting on the Palestinian refugee problem. The meeting took place September 28 and 29 in Switzerland. The technical workshop brought together fifteen refugee

experts and representatives of various international organizations.

**Mark Malvasi** (history) wrote a commentary about LeBron James that was published in the July 18, 2010 edition of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Click here to read the commentary.

**Gayla Mills** (English) had her essay, "Being Whole: A Life Cut Short," published in the August 26, 2010 edition of the *Charlottesville Hook*. Click here to read the essay.

**Robert Resnick** (psychology) was a presenter and chaired a symposium at the 27th International Conference on Applied Psychology in Melbourne, Australia July 11-16, 2010. He also recently gave a lecture at the University of Tasmania in Hobart, Australia.

**Adrian Rice** (mathematics) received the Trevor Evans Award from the Mathematical Association of America at their annual MathFest summer meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Rice was recognized for his article titled *Gaussian Guesswork (or Why 1.19814023473559220744... is Such a Beautiful Number)*.

**Paul Davies** (associate vice president of administration and finance) was interviewed on September 16 for a *Richmond Times-Dispatch* story about the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia healthcare consortium. Davies is the chairman of the consortium's board of directors.

**Debra Rodman** (anthropology; women's studies) participated in a panel discussion on September 30, 2010 at the Library of Virginia. "Nuestra Tierra, Nuestro Hogar: Latinos in Virginia," which explored Hispanic immigration to the commonwealth, was presented in conjunction with the library's *The Land We Live In* exhibition.

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RMC

October 20-23

**Beyond Therapy (drama presentation)** will be performed in Cobb Theatre at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 for the general public, and free to R-MC faculty, staff and students. Box Office: (804) 752-7316.

October 22-24

**Homecoming Weekend** will include a variety of great events! For more information, contact the Alumni Office at (804) 752-7218 or visit [www.rmc.edu](http://www.rmc.edu).

Tuesday, October 26

R-MC kicks off a five-part women's history series, "Edgy Women," with a new look at the Salem Witch Trials. "**The Girls Who Cried Witch: Discovering Why Salem Happened**" will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Topping Room in Old Chapel. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Anne Throckmorton at (804) 752-7269.

Through October 29

**The R-MC Studio Arts Faculty Exhibition** takes place in Flippo Gallery, Pace-Armistead Hall. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, contact Katie Shaw at (804) 752-3018.

Sunday, November 7

**The Richmond Symphony Orchestra** will perform in Blackwell Auditorium at 3:00 p.m. under the direction of new Music Director and Conductor Steven Smith. For ticket information, call the RSO Box Office at (804) 788-1212. A **free pre-concert lecture**, facilitated by Professor of Music James Doering, will take place at 2:00 p.m. in Thomas Branch.

## The BUZZ on faculty member Eve Torrence, Mathematics

Although Mathematics Professor Eve Torrence grew up in suburban Maryland, she did not neglect the options that nearby D.C. offered. She was a frequent visitor to D.C., often visiting museums and attending major events such as presidential inaugurations.

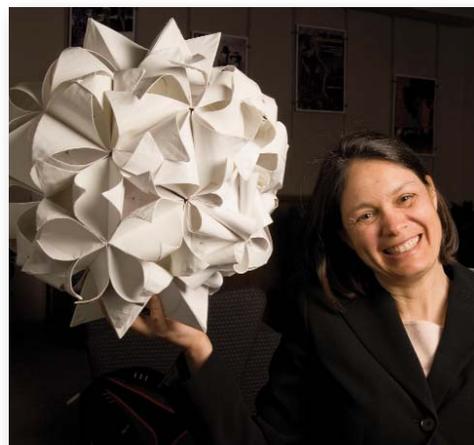
Torrence and her husband Bruce joined the faculty in 1994. One of her favorite traditions is graduation. “One of the best parts of teaching at a small college is getting to know the students and seeing them grow over four years. I am always proud to see them graduate and feel lucky to share in their joy,” she says.

Although the Torrences have written two editions of *The Student's Introduction to Mathematica: A Handbook for Precalculus, Calculus, and Linear Algebra*, Torrence says, “We have promised our two teenagers that we will not write another book until they are both in college.”

Torrence’s beautiful origami and mathematical art have been on display in the McGraw-Page Library and other locations on campus. This art form reflects the abstract field of geometry, in which Torrence earned her Ph.D. “My first exposure to origami was at a mathematics conference,” she says. “I took a course and then started teaching an honors course on Mathematical Origami.”

During her 2009 sabbatical, Torrence learned even more teachable concepts of origami and sculpture. She is currently working on a book about geometry for Dover Publications that will involve cutting and assembling the pages into complex shapes. “These shapes are difficult to understand without models, and models are difficult to make from scratch,” she says. “The shapes are not well-known even by mathematicians.” She hopes that the book will “make these geometric ideas more well-known.”

The Torrences live close to campus. “I really like Ashland; we don’t often



*Eve Torrence*

find a need to go anywhere else,” she says. This semester, Torrence is team-teaching the FYE course “Secrets: the History of Mathematical Codes in War and Peace” with Mathias Bergmann (history). She is also planning another project to display in the library. She does not want to spoil the surprise, but hints that it will be made of business cards.

.....Whitney Jones '11

## The BUZZ on staff member Becky Caldera, Advancement

Becky Caldera, from Caroline County (also known as Frog Level), joined the staff in 2005. Thanks to her background in database and communications management, she quickly found her niche in the Rhodeen House. “I enjoy being here, have met some great people, and have great coworkers,” she says. One of the advantages of being a member of the R-MC community is the opportunity to take two courses per semester. “Just for fun, I’ve been thinking about taking a drama or voice class,” she says. “I would also like to look into the computer science program.”

Caldera has had an interest in singing for years and participates in a church choir. She says, “About 10 years ago, I finally came out of my shell and started singing at our small-town variety shows. My brother and I sing occasionally with a group at fund-raising events and various Ruritan functions.”

In her spare time, Caldera enjoys nightly walks with her sisters, gardening,

creating new dishes with her home-grown vegetables, and helping with community events. She and her husband Rob enjoy “taking Saturday shopping trips, hunting for bargains, and taking a yearly family vacation at Nags Head and occasional trips to Florida to walk Marco Island’s vast Tiger Tail Beach.”

Caldera cherishes time with her family. “I have a brother, three sisters, a sister-in-law, two brothers-in-law, 11 nieces and nephews, and five great nieces and nephews (with one on the way),” she says. She also has an additional 30-plus aunts, uncles, and cousins living in close proximity. “I’m not exaggerating when I say my family is huge!” she says.

On Sundays everyone goes to Caldera’s mother’s home for dinner. “We sit around and chit chat about what’s going on,” she says. “All my life, Sunday has been the day to be with family.” She says her family “is incredibly supportive and has contributed so much to my well-being.”

Two recent additions to her family are Daizy and Maizy, adopted kittens. “We lost our cat of 17 years and missed having a pet around,” she says. We had a hard time going to the shelters, because we wanted to take them all home!”

.....Whitney Jones '11



*Becky Caldera*

## College Welcomes Asian Studies Fellow

Randolph-Macon College welcomes Luce/ASIANetwork Fellow in Asian Studies, Professor Charles Andrews, who will teach several courses at the college during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Andrews, who will teach Intermediate Japanese and The Culture of Japan, is a 2008 graduate of Indiana University with a Ph.D. in Japanese and specialization in Japanese History. He has been teaching part-time at DePauw University since 2003 and he has lived in Japan on several occasions as a high school exchange student, English teacher, and as a research fellow at Tenri and Senshu Universities. His research interest is in the communications and education practices in Tokugawa and Early Meiji Japan.

"I am honored to be at Randolph-Macon College this year," says Andrews. "I can tell that this is a vibrant campus with a genuine sense of community. I'm looking forward to continuing my research on Japanese history here and joining that to the broader topics we will discuss in the classroom."

Funding for Andrews' fellowship was made possible through the Henry Luce Foundation, which seeks to bring important ideas to the center of American life, strengthen international understanding, and foster innovation and leadership in academic, policy, religious and art communities. Funding is administered by ASIANetwork, a consortium of over 170 North American colleges. In April 2010, R-MC faculty approved a new major in Asian Studies.

## Jeff Burns Named New Athletics Director

Jeff Burns '87 has been promoted to the position of Director of Athletics. Burns joined the R-MC Athletics administration ranks in 1997.

"I want to thank President Lindgren and Provost Franz for giving me the opportunity to lead an athletic department at a college that has meant so much to me over the course of the last three decades," said Burns. "It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of R-MC coaching and administrative legends like Hugh Stephens, Ted Keller, Helmut Werner, Hal Nunnally, and Carroll LaHaye, individuals who have provided outstanding and very long-term leadership and commitment to our athletic program."

*Jeff Burns '87*



## Welcome to R-MC!

Maryanne Dalla Valle  
(student life)

Bob Hicks (annual giving)

Paul Davies (business office)

Katie Harding (admissions)

Amanda Hiltunen (admissions)

Bailey Price (annual giving)

Jane Dungan (alumni)

Jay McGhee (chemistry)

Charles Andrews (Asian studies)

Caleb Strepka (chemistry)

Miranda Braithwaite

(modern languages)

Alexandra Garcia

(modern languages)

Sandra Goehring

(religious studies)

Pelin Kadercan (history)

Anh Nguyen (psychology)

Miguel Rivera-Taupier

(modern languages)

Christine Stanley (arts; music)

Wakaba Tasaka (Asian studies)

Monique Sample (student life)

C.K. Calhoun (athletics)

Maya Erhardt (annual giving)

David Schwoebel (arts; music)



Randolph-Macon  
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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](mailto:pamelacox@rmc.edu).**