



MAR. 2011



R-MC Announces 2011 Commencement Speaker

R-MC's 2011 Commencement speaker will be noted Civil War historian Dr. James "Bud" Robertson Jr. '55.

Robertson is the recipient of every major award given in the Civil War field. His biography of General "Stonewall" Jackson, *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend* (Macmillan, 1997), won eight national awards and was used as the basis for the mega-movie "Gods and Generals." Robertson served as the chief historical consultant for the film. He has authored or edited more than 20 books, including *Civil War! America Becomes One Nation*, *General A.P. Hill*, and *Soldiers Blue and Gray*.

Robertson is the executive director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. His Civil War Era course attracts 300 students per semester and is the largest of its kind in the nation. He is a charter member of Virginia's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, which was created by the General Assembly of Virginia. Born in Danville, Virginia, Robertson earned a bachelor's degree in history from R-MC and master's and doctoral degrees from Emory University. In 1980, he was awarded the Honorary Degree Doctor of Letters from R-MC. He has also received an honorary degree from Shenandoah University.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Robertson will serve as our speaker during this important time in Virginia's history, the 150th anniversary of the Civil War," said President Lindgren.



James "Bud" Robertson Jr. '55

R-MC Mourns the Loss of Taylor Anderson '08

R-MC was notified by the family of 24-year-old Taylor Anderson '08 that her body has been found in Japan. She had been missing since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Anderson taught English at eight schools in Ishinomaki.

President Lindgren wrote to students, faculty, staff and alumni, "Our worst fears have been realized and I ask you to keep Taylor and her family in your continuous thoughts and

prayers in the days to come. We also extend our sympathies to Taylor's sisters in Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and to her many other friends among our students, faculty, staff and alumni."

On March 16, more than 100 people attended a candlelight vigil for the people of Japan. Included in this service were prayers for Anderson.

Click here for a photo gallery from the vigil.

Right: Taylor Anderson '08



INSIDE: Your News Faculty & Staff Spotlights and More!

YOUR NEWS

Charles Andrews (Asian Studies) and Mayumi Nakamura (office of international education) were interviewed on March 11 by CBS Channel 6 about the recent earthquake in Japan.

Pedro Arruza (athletics) was interviewed in November for an online story by NBC Sports about the football rivalry between R-MC and Hampden-Sydney.

Paul Davies (business office) was interviewed for a Virginia Business magazine story about the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia healthcare consortium.

Maya Erhardt (annual giving) earned her Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) certification in September. CFRE is an exam- and performance-based credential for philanthropic fund raising professionals.

Michael Fischbach (history) was interviewed by the Voice of America about the United States' decision to ease its push for a moratorium on West Bank settlements. He was also invited to speak at an international conference held in Morocco in February. Fischbach spoke about the Palestinian refugees and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Chas. Gowan (environmental studies) was interviewed by the Richmond *Times-Dispatch*, WCVE-FM (NPR) and WWBT-TV12 (NBC) about the restoration of Mechumps Creek.

Tom Inge (humanities) was a presenter at The University of Mary Washington's spring lecture series, "Great Lives: Biographical Approaches to History," in January. Inge was invited to lecture on Charles Schulz. He also published the lead essay in a collection called *Still in Print: The Southern Novel Today*. During the fall, he read papers or chaired panels at meetings of the American/Popular Culture Association

in the South in Savannah, the South Atlantic Modern Language Association in Atlanta, the Festival of Cartoon Art at Ohio State University, and at Purdue University.

Scott London (sociology) had a chapter published in *Domestic Violence and the Law in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa*. The chapter is titled "Constructing Law, Contesting Violence: The Senegalese Family Code and Narratives of Domestic Abuse." London also presented his paper, *Campus Sexual Assault in South Africa: Violence, Gender and Resistance among University Students*, at the African Studies Association meeting in San Francisco.

Barry Pfitzner (economics/business) was interviewed for a political fact-check story in the Richmond *Times-Dispatch* about the Virginia Tea Party Patriot Federation's claim that the Federal Reserve Bank is pushing the nation further into debt.

Debra Rodman (anthropology; women's studies) wrote a review of "The Land We Live in, the Land We Left: Virginia's People," an exhibition at the Library of Virginia. *Retelling Virginia's Migration History* was published in *Southern Spaces*, a peer-reviewed online journal.

Hunter Shirey (health and sports medicine) received the Key To Excellence award for trauma management and medical care provided on a head trauma patient. This is a departmental nomination by peers who recognize acts above and beyond the norm.

Jack Trammell (disability support services) served as moderator at the 2011 Virginia Festival of the Book, which was held on March 16 in Charlottesville, VA. He will be the featured poet at the 9th Annual Celebration of Poetry on March 26 in Fredericksburg, VA. The event is sponsored by Riverside Writers.

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R-MC

Monday, March 28

R-MC will host **U.S. House of Representatives Majority Leader Eric Cantor** at 7:30 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public with a required general admission ticket for each attendee. Visit rmc.edu for ticket information.

Wednesday, March 30

Dale Hoak will present "**Anne Boleyn: Queen of Hearts**" at 7:00 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Anne Throckmorton at (804) 752-7269.

Wednesday, April 6

Ermite St. Jacques will present "**Transnational Strategies for Surviving the Economic Crisis among West African Immigrants in Spain**" at 7:00 p.m. in Wash-Frank Hall. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Debra Rodman at (804) 752-3172.

Thursday, April 7

Scott Rigsby, first double-amputee, world-record holder in the marathon and Ironman, will present "**The Unthinkable**" at 7:00 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Hunter Shirey at (804) 752-3041.

Saturday, April 9

The annual **Dance Marathon** will take place in the Brock Center beginning at 8 a.m. For more information, call (804) 752-3712.

Saturday, April 9

R-MC will dedicate the new Hugh Stephens Field at Estes Park at 10:30 a.m. Afterwards, guests are invited to lunch along the first base line as the Yellow Jackets take on Guilford College in a doubleheader starting at noon. To RSVP, please visit www.rmc.edu/events/vp.

The BUZZ on faculty member *Gayla Mills, English*

Gayla Mills, a native of Charlottesville, Virginia, originally had no intention of becoming an English professor. She earned a B.A. in philosophy and an M.A. in medieval history from UVA. “I was attracted to medieval history because it seemed so different from modern life: everything was so raw and close to the earth,” Mills explains.

But she wasn’t fully satisfied teaching history at the University of Dayton and at Richmond’s Open High School. “Increasingly I found writing to be central to everything I was doing and that I was a better writer than researcher,” she says. So Mills went back to grad school and earned her M.A. in writing and rhetoric from VCU.

Unlike many in her department, she focuses on writing rather than literature, and she prefers creative nonfiction. “Some of my essays talk about politics, some focus on nature, others are about Richmond,” she explains. “I try to connect my experiences with more universal

themes, which is what essayists have traditionally done.”

A prolific writer, Mills hopes to have more of her essays published. “When I last looked, I had written 180 essays, of which I thought 70 or so were worth developing further,” she says.

Mills is also a musician. She and her husband play Americana, a mix of country, folk, and bluegrass. Gene and Gayla Mills’ forthcoming CD, *Milk and Honey*, follows their first, *Waiting for Rain*. Both feature original music written by Gene. Usually Mills, who plays the upright bass and sings harmony, polishes her musical skills during the summer, “but we have a few gigs each semester,” she says.

Mills especially enjoys graduation at R-MC. “Students are always a bit surprised once graduation day comes, and they appreciate things they might not have when they were struggling with their work,” she says. She also likes the



Gayla Mills

small class sizes, which allow for “really getting to know students well and being able to see them develop and mature. Sometimes professors wish that would happen more rapidly, but it’s rewarding to look at students as seniors and see how far they’ve come. I didn’t realize how meaningful that would be for me.”

.....Matthew Guillen '14

The BUZZ on staff member *Megan Senske, Athletics*

Megan Senske grew up in Annandale, New Jersey. Her love of travel began when she was a child. “My family went on a lot of fun vacations, including Yellowstone National Park, Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon,” she says.

When she started her college search, Senske traveled to Ashland. “I was inspired to attend R-MC after spending a recruiting weekend here. I stayed with two basketball players, and, as corny as it sounds, I felt like I fit in. I did not get that feeling at any of the other eight schools I visited,” she says. “Coach LaHaye was the best basketball recruiter out of all of the college coaches who were looking at me.”

Before her senior year at R-MC, Senske traveled to England and did a summer internship with Harry Rhodes, owner of Tudor Photography. “I stayed at Wroxton College in Banbury and I worked with Harry for four weeks that summer, did a week with the *Banbury Guardian*, the local paper, and did another week with a

Publishing Company in Oxford,” she says. Her internship was related to her journalism minor. “On the weekends, I would travel to different cities throughout England,” she says. “I think traveling is one of the best ways to move outside of your comfort zone and learn more about yourself.”

Since graduation, Senske has worked on campus in the alumni, annual giving and alumni relations offices. “I have really enjoyed working in the athletic development office during the past couple of months,” she says of her newest job. “It is great to work toward helping every team at R-MC become the most competitive and vibrant team it can be.”

Off campus, Senske enjoys playing sports and spending time with family and friends. “I’ve played in almost every sports league in Richmond,” she says. “I enjoy the camaraderie of being on a team, although it was a tough adjustment moving from competitive DIII athletics to recreation leagues.”

Another great passion is running. “It’s the simplest form of working out and is also a great time to reflect,” says Senske, who has been a member of Richmond’s Marathon Training Team for three years. She recently ran in the Richmond Marathon. “It was perfect weather for the marathon,” she says, “and I set a personal record!”



Megan Senske

.....Whitney Jones '11

Departmental News: The Brock Center

Submitted by Bill Blackmore

The Brock Center opened its doors in February 1998. “The Brock” is not only an exercise facility; it has become an integral part of both the social and recreational life of the R-MC community. With an average 400 members using the facility every day, the Brock offers three basketball courts, an indoor track, boxing room, aerobics/dance room, fitness center, sauna, swimming pool, racquetball courts, a squash court, climbing wall, ping pong table, air hockey table and billiards table.

The Intramural Program, housed in the Brock, features 16 individual and team sports available to all R-MC community members. Nearly 70% of the community partakes in intramurals, including flag football, sand volleyball, wallyball, indoor volleyball, basketball, softball and racquetball. The Brock also offers, at no cost, the Brock Rocks program. There are 36 classes offered per week, including a variety of aerobic and anaerobic options: yoga, step aerobics, Pilates, weight training, dance, aikido, cycling and zumba.

Another terrific resource located inside the Brock is the Student Health Center. The Health Center staff—Hunter Shirey and Maria Harman—attend to many students every day and are usually able to resolve health issues on the spot. The Health Center offers physical examinations, immunizations and prescription medication, all in one place.

The Brock also offers students the opportunity to earn a paycheck. The Brock employs 49 students, including federally-funded and college-funded workers, making it the largest student employer on campus.

Student organizations can also use the Brock for on-campus activities. The Senior Class Board uses the Brock boardroom for meetings and the Campus Events Committee uses the Brock gym for concerts. During inclement weather, the Brock is often the site for the Student Activities Fair, a pivotal day for new students to make friends who share their interests.

The Brock Center: fitness and fun in one location.



Service Awards Presented at 2010 Annual Holiday Dinner

5 Years

Rodney Bardwell, Jennifer Berg,
Jim Booker, Christina Brown,
Becky Caldera, John Caldwell,
Jennie Callas, Crystal Carper,
Donna Collier, Jeff Conley, Kim
Cressy, Rick Fitzsimmons, Donna
Flournoy, Grace Lim Fong, Matt Gray,
Ellis Harris, Broaddus Hunt, Alphine
Jefferson, Larita Johnson, Jay Johnson,
Jeff Keeton, Rebecca Michelsen,
Gayla Mills, Laurie Preston, Sandi
Robison, Chris Ryder, Brian Sutton,
Jackie Swain, Lynda Wright

10 Years

Bill Blackmore
Janice Cooper
Tom Dwyer
Vineta Goodall
Moe Kiely
Margaret Ann King
Vanessa Wagner
Barb Wirth
Ginger Young

15 Years

Rebecca Bowles
Caroline Busch
Tom Copley
Elaine du Plessis
Joyce Fields
Charles Herod
Charlotte Parrish
Cathy Staples
Lily Zhang

20 Years

Chris Bryant
Brenda Davis
Wendy Farmer
Amy Goodwin
Dennis Harbin
Brian Martin
Joe Mattys

25 Years

Barclay DuPriest
Donna Turney

30 Years

Lionel Abrams
John Conkright
John Rabung
Ted Sheckels

35 Years

Daniel McCaffrey