

Apr. 2010

J-term Class Travels to Italy

In January 2010, for the 11th time, R-MC Chaplain Darrell Headrick sat a few feet from the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. At the Papal Audience on January 20, Headrick, Dean Kathryn Hull and 30 R-MC students were introduced to His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. The Pope then greeted and blessed the members of the J-term travel course *The Christian Heritage of Italy*.

Paul Gartlan '11 said, "Being introduced to the Pope and then blessed by him was the most memorable experience of my life. I will never forget it as long as I live."

On a previous Italy class trip, Headrick had met Pope Benedict XVI and engaged him in private conversation a few months before he was

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R-MC Welcomes Former Governor Timothy M. Kaine

Randolph-Macon President Robert R. Lindgren is pleased to announce that the college will host former Governor Timothy M. Kaine on Monday, April 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium in the R-MC Center for the Performing Arts. Governor Kaine will present "Lessons Learned From 16 Years in Elected Office."

Kaine became the 70th Governor of Virginia in 2006—the first Virginia Governor to be inaugurated at the Colonial Capitol in Williamsburg since Thomas Jefferson. He previously served as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor from 2002-2006. Prior to that, he was elected to four terms on Richmond's City Council, including two terms as Richmond's mayor. While mayor, Kaine helped create and implement the law known as Project Exile, which was credited with reducing gun-related violence.



Former Governor Timothy Kaine

To read more, click [here](#).

This event is free and open to the public; however, an admission ticket is required. To register, visit: www.rmc.edu

Tickets will be mailed to guests prior to the event; they will also be offered at the door as available.

Margaret Atwood to Give Reading at R-MC

R-MC will host author Margaret Atwood on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium. A reception and book-signing will follow the reading. **This event is free and open to the public.**

Atwood is the author of more than 40 books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. Her newest novel, *The Year of the Flood* (2009), is, in the author's

words, "the meanwhile" or the "simultaneous" to her 2003 Giller Prize winner, *Oryx and Crake*. Atwood's appearance at Randolph-Macon College is sponsored by R-MC's Department of English, the Women's Studies program and The Washington Literary Society and was paid for by the Merrill Munyan Fund.

Margaret Atwood (photo by George Whiteside)



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Melanie Gubbels Bupp (biology) is the author of a paper titled *T cells require Foxo1 to populate the peripheral lymphoid organs*, which was published in the *European Journal of Immunology* as a featured article in Nov. 2009. In Dec. 2009 and Jan. 2010, she co-authored two papers that were published in the *Journal of Immunology*, titled *Development of murine lupus involves the combined genetic contribution of the SLAM and FcgammaR intervals within the Nba2 autoimmune susceptibility locus* and *Female and male sex hormones differentially regulate expression of Ifi202, an interferon-inducible lupus susceptibility gene within the Nba2 interval*.



Melanie Gubbels Bupp



Tom Inge

Tom Inge's (humanities) essay, titled *Harvey Kurtzman and Modern American Satire*, was published on the Web site for *The Comics Journal*. Click here to read Part I of the essay. Inge was also interviewed at R-MC on March 18 for a documentary about African American cartoonists. Inge's newest book, *Southern Frontier Humor: An Anthology*, is slated for publication in May and *My Life With Charlie Brown*, which Inge edited, will be released later this month.



Jack Trammell

Jack Trammell (disability services; sociology) participated in the March 18 Festival of the Book, held at the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library in Charlottesville, Virginia. Trammell, the author of *Down on the Chickahominy*, participated in a session titled "Making Local History Happen."

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enthroned as Pontiff. On that year's trip R-MC students attended the last weekly Papal Audience that the popular John Paul II gave before his death. Each year, students in the course visit Venice, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Sorrento, the Amalfi coast, Pompeii, Rome and Vatican City. In previous years this course was jointly led with B.J. Seymour and then Ira Andrews. Every other January, Headrick teaches the Italy course and the next January he teaches a service learning course to a developing country such as Brazil or Guatemala. The classes focus on the religion, history, culture and politics of the country. While in the country students are engaged in work projects with indigenous and economically impoverished people. In previous years these courses were jointly taught with Ira Andrews.submitted by Darrell Headrick



Tuesday, April 6

The "Working Girls" series concludes with a lecture by Elizabeth O'Leary, who will present "Lilly Martin Spencer: Images of Women's Work and Working Women" at 6:00 p.m. in the Topping Room. This event is free and open to the public. (804) 752-7269

Thursday, April 8

The Annual J. Earl Moreland Lecture will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Washington-Franklin Room. Fulbright Scholar Dr. Tang Hao will present "Sino-U.S. Relations in Competition and Cooperation." This event is free and open to the public.

April 9 - June 14

The Flippo Gallery will present "Models and Drawings," featuring the work of four artists whose work is created on a large scale. **Public opening reception: April 9 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.** The Gallery is open Mon.-Fri. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (804) 752-3018

Monday, April 12

Former Governor Timothy M. Kaine will present "Lessons Learned From 16 Years in Elected Office" at 7:00 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium. This event is free and open to the public; however, tickets will be issued. Visit www.rmc.edu for information.

Thursday, April 14

Author Margaret Atwood will give a public reading at 7:30 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium. Atwood is the author of more than 40 books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. This event is free and open to the public. (804) 752-7317

The BUZZ on faculty member Ben Huff, Philosophy

With only two instructors in the Philosophy Department, Assistant Professor Benjamin Huff has his work cut out for him. He has taught 14 different classes since he began his career at R-MC in 2006.

Before coming to R-MC, Huff was interested in engineering and building space ships. He even worked for a space company for a short time during grad school; however, he gradually shifted his focus to philosophy. "I wanted to pursue the question of what people want out of life," says Huff. He attended graduate school at Notre Dame, where he also earned his Ph.D.

Huff's first impression of R-MC made the long haul from South Bend, Indiana worthwhile. "I was very impressed by the people," he says. "The atmosphere of the community as a whole was pleasant and inviting."

Huff usually gets to the office early to review his notes, look over the texts

his classes are using, and to think about the direction to take class discussions. "I'm always searching for the right way for my students to encounter these texts," Huff says. "It's a difficult task."

In his time at R-MC, Huff has spent a great deal of time pondering the questions of his field, including *Why do we have peaceful, orderly societies in some places and violence and anarchy in others? What do we need to do to make things better?* "I'm very interested in why things are the way they are," he says. "I want to figure out what makes people and societies good. What makes them tick?"

Huff lives in a log cabin in Hanover County in a beautifully wooded area. In the winter, he spends a good deal of time splitting wood and piling up his stock. He enjoys the comfort-filled silence of sitting by the fire.

During the warmer months, usually



Ben Huff

at the start of spring, he enjoys playing Ultimate Frisbee with neighbors and friends. In addition to his love for the outdoors, Huff enjoys trying new foods. "I live to try interesting food," he says. "There's this Ethiopian restaurant in Richmond that I love eating at because of its robust food selection."

Chris Lambert '10

The BUZZ on staff member Brenda Davis, ITS

Brenda Davis joined the Randolph-Macon College community in 2007 and has worked since that time in the technological core of R-MC. She is a PC specialist for the Information Technology Department, which means she assists in the repair and maintenance of PC computers.

She attributes her passion for PCs to her father Burt, who gave her an early start in the computer field. Davis gives her father credit for all of her technological pursuits. He had an enthusiasm for tinker



Brenda Davis

ing at home; as a child, Davis can remember him taking things apart and then putting them back together.

"He had a particular gift for electronics," she says. The family opened up a computer business in Caroline County before the "big box" stores moved in, and Davis worked with her dad for a number of years until its closing in 2000.

Outside of the computer spectrum, Davis enjoys spending time with her husband Chance, who she has been married to for almost 32 years. He currently works in northern Virginia for a construction company.

Davis says she feels particularly blessed that her two daughters, Corinna and Amber, and eight grandchildren, all live nearby. As the weather warms up, she looks forward to getting outside and doing some gardening and possibly investing in a horse for the whole family to enjoy.

In her spare time, she enjoys being with her family – whether it be attending the Tents of Jacob Messianic congregation, singing or reading. The best book she has read recently was *Battlefield of the Mind* by Joyce Meyer.

Davis says she feels grateful to have what she calls "daily inspiration" in her home and work environments. At R-MC, she enjoys helping students and "providing them with good research tools." Working with the disabled students on campus has been particularly inspiring for her. Davis appreciates the example they lead by being so optimistic. She is also grateful for her colleagues.

"I am thankful for the kind faculty and staff at R-MC who clearly enjoy what they do and make it feel like home for me," she says.

Whitney Jones '11

R-MC Welcomes Composer-in-Residence

The Randolph-Macon College Department of Arts is pleased to welcome **Deen Entsminger** as a composer-in-residence for the spring 2010 semester. Entsminger is teaching a course for music majors in composition, and the college has commissioned him to compose an original work for the R-MC Concert Choir. **This new work will be premiered at the Choir's spring concert on May 1, 2010.**

Entsminger is currently on sabbatical from the faculty of Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he has taught in the School of Music since 1988. Entsminger's R-MC residency and the commissioned work for the choir are supported by the Jean and Ladell Payne Fund for Visiting Artists. Dr. Payne was the president of Randolph-Macon College from 1979-1997.

R-MC Choral Alumni Reunion

On Saturday, May 1, 2010, the R-MC Concert Choir, Chamber Singers and Jazz Ensemble will perform Entsminger's commissioned work at their annual concert as they welcome former members of R-MC choral ensembles (including the former R-MC Glee Club) for a reunion. The choir and singers are under the direction of Chris Ryder and the jazz ensemble is directed by Kevin Harding.

The concert will take place at 2:30 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium, R-MC Center for the Performing Arts. This event is free and open to the public.

Alice in Wonderland Takes the Stage at R-MC

The R-MC Drama Department presented William Glennon's adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* March 17-20, 2010. Emily Arnold '10 directed the play as her senior project. "To William Glennon, who adapted Alice's story into the script I chose for this project, *Wonderland* is about imagination and childhood," says Arnold. "This adaptation called for the director, the cast and the audience to embrace the wonders of childhood. The joys of *Wonderland* can be found inside of all of us."

For a slideshow of photos from *Alice in Wonderland*, click here.

Pictured below: The cast of *Alice in Wonderland*



Moreland Lecture to Feature Professor Tang Hao

The annual J. Earl Moreland Lecture on Asia will be held at R-MC on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Washington Room. Professor Tang Hao will present "Sino-U.S. Relations in Competition and Cooperation." This event is free and open to the public.

Tang is currently the Fulbright scholar-in-residence at Randolph-Macon College. He is on leave from South China Normal University in Guangzhou, China, P.R.C., where he is an associate professor in the School of Politics and Administration. He is teaching economics at R-MC during the 2009-10 academic year.



Tang Hao



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.**