

JUNE 2012

Commencement 2012

R-MC celebrated Commencement on May 26. Yvonne W. Brandon '76, superintendent of Richmond Public Schools, delivered a heartfelt commencement address, and senior speaker Greg Moffitt gave an inspiring speech.

President Robert Lindgren conferred honorary degrees to Everette G. "Buddy" Allen Jr. '62 (Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree) and Daphne Maxwell Reid (Honorary Doctor of Arts Degree). In addition, Professors Thomas Porter (history) and Wallace Martin (biology) received the Bruce M. Unger Award for Retiring Faculty. One of the highlights of the ceremony took place when Kristin Beale '12, with the aid of a walker, collected her diploma. Beale, paralyzed since a 2006 jet-ski accident, was all smiles, and the crowd was too.

Click here for a slideshow of Commencement photos. •

Summer Family Fun Fest

A good time was had by all at the first annual Summer Family Fun Fest. Faculty, staff and their families gathered on a picture-perfect evening on campus for food and fun. Participants enjoyed face-painting, balloon animals, a moon bounce, a photo booth, badminton, kickball, ladder ball, and bocce ball. Cabinet members, clad in aprons and chef's hats, cheerfully served hot dogs and hamburgers, and ice cream and door prizes rounded out the evening.

Click on Family Fun Fest for a slideshow of photos from the event. •



INSIDE: Your News • Spotlights • More!

The Buzz: Helping Build Community Through Communication

YOUR NEWS

Gayla Mills (English) published "Becoming Human" in *The Truth About the Fact*, an international literary journal, in spring 2012, with "Brick by Brick" forthcoming in *Greenwoman* in July. Click here to read more.

Melanie Gubbels Bupp (biology) received a Jeffress Memorial Trust Research Grant for her research project titled *Do Foxo transcription factors protect T cells from reactive oxygen species?* In addition, she was selected to give a talk at the American Association of Immunologists conference, which took place in May in Boston.

Rodney Bardwell (student life) recently received the Southeastern Association of Housing Officers Service Award.

Jeff Burns '87 (athletics) has been named to the ODAC Executive Committee and to the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball National Selection Committee.

Brent Hoard (marketing) had a paper recently published. *Multimedia Production Competencies and Skills of Instructional Design and Technology Professionals: An Analysis of Recent Job Postings* was published in the *Journal of Educational Technology Systems*. This is Hoard's second paper to be published.

Alphine Jefferson (history) was the Master of Ceremonies at the third-annual Juneteenth Celebration at R-MC, which was held on June 10. Jefferson, the president of the Hanover

County Black Heritage Society, Inc., also attended the June 16 Mid-Atlantic Coming to the Table Retreat, held on the campus of Shalom House Retreat Center in Montpelier, Virginia.

Kelly Lambert (psychology) recently had several of her articles published. Click here to read more.

Grace Lim-Fong (biology) gave a presentation at the June 16 American Society for Microbiology Conference for Undergraduate Educators in San Mateo, California. The talk highlighted what she teaches in her Microbiology course. She also gave a "Young Investigators Oral Presentation" at the General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in San Francisco. This talk highlighted her lab research, and Lim-Fong was the only speaker from a small college in her session.

JP McCollum (marketing) was recently accepted into the IT Project Management program at Purdue University. He will pursue his degree via online courses.

Kevin Proffitt (athletics) was named the Hugh Stephens Coach of the Year. The award is voted on by the coaches in R-MC's athletics department.

Bruce Torrence (mathematics) had two articles that he co-authored selected to appear in "The Best Writing on Mathematics 2012," published by Princeton Univ. Press. This annual anthology, now in its third year, will be released in the fall.

Joseph Moser (German) attended the Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar for Faculty at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. June 4-15 on the topic of "The Gendered Experience in the Holocaust." The seminar will help Moser develop an honors course on the same topic, which he will teach in fall 2012. In addition, he recently published *2,001 Most Useful German Words* (Dover Publications, 2012). **Bob Resnick** (psychology) was lead author in a *Journal of Clinical Psychology* article titled *Pre-doctoral Training for Prescriptive Authority: A Training Option*. He was also a symposium presenter in Istanbul, Turkey on treatments that hurt, harm and sometimes kill children and teens, and he was recently inducted into the Virginia Psychological Foundation Hall of Fame.

Ellen Stack (advancement) earned her Master of Liberal Arts from the University of Richmond on May 5 and was accepted into the Golden Key International Honour Society.

Evie Terrono (art history) was awarded a Mednick Fellowship for her project titled "'Great Generals and Christian Soldiers: Art and Politics in Laura Gardin Fraser's Monument of Lee and Jackson.'"

Jack Trammell (disability services) is the author of *The Richmond Slave Trade: The Economic Backbone of The Old Dominion*. Trammell held a reading and book-signing on campus on April 19. In addition, he read his poem "Wall Street" at R-MC's recent Juneteenth celebration.

Richard Meagher (political science) was part of a June 6 panel at the 2012 Policy History Conference. Meagher presented "Death and Taxes: Tax Policy and the Conservative Coalition," as part of his research on the alliance between economic and social conservatives in the United States.



The BUZZ on Alana Davis, Registrar's Office

"I began working at R-MC in 2003 after relocating from Savannah, Georgia," says Registrar Alana Davis. "Once I started here, I realized it was where I wanted to stay because of the community environment. I enjoy being able to interact with a mix of faculty, staff and students."

Prior to becoming registrar, Davis worked in the admissions department, where she served as assistant director. She was named assistant registrar several years later, and in 2008 she was named registrar.

"I found that the part of my admissions job that I enjoyed the most was the part that involved my work with the registrar's office," she says.

"One of my primary areas of responsibility was with transfer students. I enjoyed the relationship I built with the former registrar, Marilyn Gibbs, as we worked together on transcript evaluations. I also liked the close relationships that I developed with

transfer students. I hated having to let them go after an admissions cycle, and moving to the registrar's office allowed me to interact with students for four years instead of one," she says.

As registrar, Davis is responsible for overseeing the academic records of students and ensuring that the academic regulations for everything from registration to graduation are followed. She is also responsible for overseeing the verification of students' enrollment.

In her spare time, she enjoys being with her sons Ollie, 5, and Jenson, who will soon be 2. She also enjoys reading graphic novels and collecting garden gnomes.

"I really enjoy the *Fables* series, which is a fascinating alternative world of story-book characters," she explains. "It is both engaging and beautifully drawn."

Another favorite is the comic *Curses* by Kevin Huizenga.

"The illustrations are simple, but the stories are realistic and emotional," she says.

Just how does Davis balance her busy life?

"I always try to remember that I'm lucky to have a job that I love and a family that is happy and supportive," she says. •



Alana Davis

The BUZZ on Billie Raines, Financial Aid

"My second-grade teacher told me that I should go to art school," says Billie Raines. "I never deviated from that dream."

Raines, who grew up in South Hill, Virginia, earned a B.A. from VCU and then started a job she thought would last a few months. That job turned into a 30-year career with the City of Richmond. She worked in both Recreation & Parks and Public Works, retiring in 2007.

Thinking R-MC would be the ideal place to start a new career, she took a community relations position in marketing and communications. Raines is currently a financial aid counselor in the financial aid office.

Raines has many interests, including watercolor and encaustic painting, ballroom dancing and collecting mid-century modern items, including "furniture and kitschy little things." This hobby has turned into a small business that she runs with her daughter Edie at Hickory

Creek Antiques in Ashland.

"It started as a creative way to stay connected to my teen-age daughter," says Raines. "We like to stop at little junk shops to see what treasures we can find that we can sell at Hickory Creek." Her true passion, however, is collecting records.

"I've had a record player since I was a teenager," she says. "My records are divided by decade, or by genre: Motown, Vegas, International. The albums that are currently getting the most play time are by Marvin Gaye, Chet Baker, Boz Scaggs and Nat King Cole."

Her favorite place in Richmond is Hollywood Cemetery. "I used to live in Oregon Hill," she says. "My street ended at Hollywood Cemetery and I could slip under the fence and go in at night to explore. It was like having a huge backyard." Her favorite restaurant, also in Oregon Hill, is Mamma Zu's, an eatery

as famous for its surly staff as its delectable fare.

"I don't care that the waitstaff is rude," says Raines. "The food is so good, it's worth the intimidation."

Of R-MC's campus, Raines says, "This is what a real college feels like. It's so beautiful. The football games and the school spirit...it's just such a wonderful place to work." • *-Matthew Guillen '14*



Billie Raines

R-MC Presents 3rd Annual Open-Air Film Festival

The Film Studies Program at R-MC is proud to once again host the popular Open-Air Film Festival. Through collaboration with various programs, departments, and organizations, this film festival aims to showcase the work of film directors from around the world.

The four-week series will include films from four countries. The first film is Gabriele Salvatores' "I'm Not Scared," an Italian film about a young boy who makes a shocking discovery. The remaining three films will be announced in the coming weeks. The event is free and open to the public. Bring your own chair, and popcorn will be provided! Film dates: 9/7 & 9/8 (Italian film), 9/14 & 9/15 (French film), 9/21 & 9/22 (German film), 9/28 & 9/29 (Iranian film). All Friday-night showings will take place in the Copley Courtyard (rain location: Andrews Hall) and all Saturday showings will take place at the Ashland Firehouse Theater. All films have English subtitles. The festival is sponsored by CASE.

For more information, contact Mine Eren at (804) 752-3610. •

The Buzz on Cora Daniel, Physical Plant

Cora Daniel graduated from college on May 13, 2012 from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College's pre-practical nursing program. That itself is worth celebrating. But Daniel's story is remarkable in other ways.

Daniel, a member of R-MC's house-keeping staff, was living in Prince Edward County in 1959 when public schools in that area were suddenly closed and remained closed until 1964 because of Massive Resistance. She was eventually sent to Ashland to continue school, but was unable to complete her education. In 2008, Daniel earned her GED, and the following summer she entered JSRCC.

The McGraw-Page Library staff recently held a celebration party, complete with cake and punch, to honor Daniel's graduation from JSRCC.

"She's my hero," says Head of Reference Laurie Preston. "She faced incredible barriers but worked extremely hard to overcome them."

Daniel is also the recipient of the State of Virginia's Brown Scholarship,

money that was set aside to assist those affected by school closings during Massive Resistance to continue their education. Daniel says that completing her education was the most exciting thing she's ever done.

"I see the world in a whole new way," she says. "And I couldn't have done it without the help of friends like Laurie Preston and my tutor, Professor Ben Burrell." •



Cora Daniel

Welcome

THE R-MC COMMUNITY
WELCOMES:

Felicia Harrison (campus safety), Alfred Akoto (physical plant), Diana Yesbeck (education), Anjana Mudambi (communication studies), Amy Nichols-Belo (sociology), Laurie Massery (Spanish), William Redfern (history), Jessica Gregory (athletics), and Kelly Merrill (provost's office).



Randolph-Macon
College
Ashland, Virginia

The Buzz is published bi-monthly for faculty and staff. Please send news, comments and suggestions to Pam Cox at pamelacox@rmc.edu or Kathryn DiPasqua at kdipasqua@rmc.edu.