



June 2009

Commencement 2009

Randolph-Macon College celebrated its 179th commencement ceremony Saturday, May 30, 2009. This year's commencement speaker was the Honorable Dr. Thomas R. Morris, Virginia Secretary of Education. Morris spoke of the importance of the three S's that contribute to a successful life: self-education, self-evaluation and self-awareness. He ended his speech by juggling three basketballs, illustrating to the 201 graduates the need to juggle life's responsibilities. "Let me explain up front this doesn't always work, and that's the way life is," he said, prompting the audience to erupt into laughter and applause.

The senior speaker was Joel Bolton, a psychology major who plans on attending graduate school in South Africa.



Secretary Thomas K. Morris



Visit <http://www.rmc.edu/current-students/commencement/2009Commencement/galleries.aspx> for photos and a video.



Joel Bolton '09

College Adopts Master Plan

The Randolph-Macon College Board of Trustees recently adopted a new Campus Master Plan. "The planning process was a very thorough, collaborative effort," said R-MC President Robert R. Lindgren. "It involved our trustees, faculty, staff, students, Town leaders and citizens of Ashland and Hanover County."

The plan will take the college into the next 20 to 30 years by suggesting the best use of land and facilities and how to best integrate the college with the Ashland community.

R-MC's history of utilizing classic architecture and open pedestrian vistas played an important part in the plan's development. The plan incorporates the design and use of existing facilities and infrastructure where possible.

The college worked closely on this project with Ayers Saint Gross, an architectural and planning firm located in Baltimore, Maryland. The firm has extensive experience in working with college campuses and communities throughout the country. The Master Plan provides an informative and insightful glimpse into how the campus might change over the next several decades. Ranny Robertson, R-MC's project manager, spoke to faculty and staff in April 2009 during a Roundtable discussion. Robertson's presentation helped illuminate the details of the Master Plan.

For more information on the Master Plan, visit <http://www.rmc.edu/News/09-04-03-MasterPlan.aspx>.

Send your suggestions and feedback about *The Buzz* to: the_buzz@rmc.edu.

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The Buzz: Helping Build Community Through Communication

Retirees Lauded

President Robert R. Lindgren and members of the Randolph-Macon Community honored retirees during a reception held Friday, April 17, 2009.

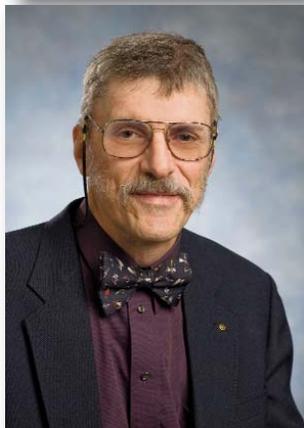
Robert Baerent joined the faculty at Randolph-Macon College in 1972. During his tenure at the college he twice received the Walter W. Craigie Teaching Endowment, and in 1978 he received the Thomas Branch Teaching Award. In 1988 Baerent received the Samuel Nelson Gray Distinguished Professor Award. "This is our chance to congratulate Robert sincerely on a wonderfully successful career that has spanned 37 years," said Provost William Johnston.

Arthur F. Conway joined the faculty at Randolph-Macon College in 1979. In 1982, 1989 and 1991 he was awarded the Thomas Branch Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 1994 he was awarded the Samuel Nelson Gray Distinguished Professor award, and in 1989 Conway was awarded the Chenery Research Professorship. "Dr. Conway's selfless service is characterized by his good will and cheerfulness, from which our Honors students feel a tangible sense of support and care," said Johnston.

Bruce King joined the faculty at Randolph-Macon College in 1975. King served on the committee on activities and special events, the scholarship and financial aid committee and for eight years on the teacher certification committee. In 1988 and 1994 King received the Chenery Research Professorship. He also received a Rashkind Family Foundation Grant and twice received grants from the Walter W. Craigie Teaching Endowment. "Dr. King, we're proud of your work and feel blessed to have had you alongside us over these three decades at R-MC. Congratulations to you for such a marvelous career," said Johnston.

Edmonia Iverson retired after 24 years of service to R-MC as a communications officer in the Campus Safety office. Iverson was a solid fixture at Randolph-Macon College and is known for her dedication to her faith, family and the success of R-MC.

Photos: Top (l. to r.): Robert Baerent, Edmonia Iverson; Bottom (l. to r.): Arthur Conway, Bruce King



Staff Elected to Serve

Rebecca Bowles (bookstore) has been elected to serve as staff representative. Bowles will begin her two-year term on September 1, 2009, taking the reigns from current staff rep Alana Davis.

For information on the role of R-MC's staff representative, visit <http://www.rmc.edu/faculty-staff/staffrep.aspx>

Rodney Bardwell (residence life and housing) has been elected to continue serving on the benefits committee. His term expires in 2011. For information on the benefits committee, visit https://secure.rmc.edu/community/faculty_staff_forms/faculty-handbook/chapter6.asp#6110

Four Professors Granted Tenure and/or Promotion

President Lindgren and Provost Johnston recently announced the tenure and/or promotion of six professors.

John Thoburn (chemistry) joined the faculty in 2003 and has been granted tenure.

Denise Bissler (sociology) joined the faculty in 2003 and has been granted tenure and promotion to associate professor.

Todd Munson (Asian studies) joined the faculty in 2003 and has been granted tenure and promotion to associate professor.

Tom Badey (political science) joined the faculty in 1998 and has been granted promotion to full professor.

David Brat joined the faculty in 1996 and has been granted promotion to full professor.

Jenny Bruce (education) joined the faculty in 1999 and has been granted promotion to associate professor.

The BUZZ on faculty member Marisa Cull, English

When she's not teaching, Assistant English Professor Marisa Cull is either reading a book, conducting research or attempting to cross an item off of her ever-growing to-do list.

Cull started teaching at Randolph-Macon shortly after earning her doctorate in Renaissance drama and Shakespeare from Ohio State. Before earning her doctorate, she earned her bachelor's degree in English literature and philosophy at Capital University in Ohio and her master's degree in literature with an emphasis on medieval and Renaissance literature at Ohio State. "I was a student for a long time," she admits, laughing.

Now she's at Randolph-Macon and she's determined to mix things up a bit. "I want to make the classroom experience interesting," says Cull. The first course she taught at R-MC was *Shakespeare and His England*, her specialty. Part of the curriculum involved small groups of her students acting out a short scene from one of the Bard's numerous plays.

"At first it was a lot to take on and I thought it would be a disaster," says R-MC junior Savanna Love. "But it was actually a great experience and it opened my eyes to things I would have never seen from only reading the play."

Cull and her husband Matt, along with their golden retriever, recently moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia. They enjoy exploring their new surroundings, but when college football is in full swing, Cull spends every Saturday glued to her television. "I am a huge college football fan!" she says. Aside from that, Cull chuckles, "I read, obviously."

Cull attended a college very similar to R-MC. "I always wanted to work at a small liberal arts college," she says. "I get to know my students and colleagues well and spend a lot of time with them. We have fun and chat about everything." Cull loves the R-MC atmosphere.

"The people are so warm and welcoming," she says. "The students I've taught are fun, humorous, and great to have in class and everyone I work with is friendly. I love working here."

Cull's passion for teaching truly comes out in her classroom. "I want my students to feel as enthusiastic about the stuff I teach as I do," she says, genuinely excited. "I have believed since I was young that literature can make the world seem big and I want my students to get a sense of that."

Chris Lambert '10



Marisa Cull

The BUZZ on staff member Alice Cameron, Admissions

Alice Cameron handles everything from applications to transcripts to scheduling appointments for prospective students as secretary and receptionist in admissions. Outside of work, she's an antique car fanatic. "Every summer we tour our cars," she says. Cameron and her husband have been all over the U.S. sporting their 1915 Model T and 1930 Model A.

Cameron's greatest passion lies in her relationships with her nieces and nephews, her involvement in youth Sunday school and R-MC basketball. "I am a basketball nut," she says proudly. "I attend most every game, away and home. I have a superstition. If R-MC loses, I never wear the outfit I wore to that game ever again!"

Cameron is retired from Bell Atlantic, after working numerous years on the billing and support staff. She used to travel a great deal and "that's why I retired!" she laughs.

Having trained college interns, Cameron loves working in a collegiate setting. She gets the opportunity to interact closely with prospective students, tour

guides, faculty and staff, and, of course, current R-MC students. "Every day I attend to different people, different situations," says Cameron.

Cameron and her husband will be attending the Ocean to Ocean Endurance Run this summer in Seattle, Washington.

"It will celebrate the 1909 Run that the Model T won. There will be 55 cars participating," Cameron says. "It's very exciting."

Chris Lambert '10

Below: Alice Cameron, third from left, with her friends in New York City.



YOUR NEWS

In April 2009, *Laurie Preston* (associate professor and head of reference for the McGraw-Page Library) and her summer 2008 SURF student Kimberly Dutton '11 co-presented at two conferences with papers based on the oral history projects "One Ashland, Many Voices" and "Living Legacies."

Gregg Hillmar's (drama) book, *Light Plot Deconstructed*, was published in May 2009. Hillmar developed proven methodologies for drafting light plots over his more than 15 years of experience using Vectorworks.

Brian Sutton (mathematics) is one of six finalists worldwide for

the Leslie Fox Prize for Numerical Analysis for his recent discovery of an algorithm. He will travel to Britain this summer as an invited speaker at a special symposium where the winner will be announced.

Jack Trammell (disability services) won an honorable mention for his poem, "The Fish Counter at the Hoover Dam," from the Poetry Society of Virginia during its recent Adult Poetry Contest.

Debra Rodman (anthropology and women's studies) and her students were the cover story of the Spanish-language newspaper *El Centro* Richmond. The article, written by Rodman, covered "The Project," a community garden project in which more than 70 students

participated during Macon A Difference Day. *Patricia Reagan* (modern languages) and her advanced Spanish language students assisted with translation on "The Project."

Bruce Torrence (mathematics) was named the first recipient of the Dorothy and Muscoe Garnett Professorship in Mathematics. Torrence was lauded at an installation ceremony on May 15.

John Rabung (computer science) and *Beth Fisher* (classics) recently published the results of their FYC in a peer-reviewed journal. Rabung and Fisher taught "The Beauty of Measure" and "The Measure of Beauty."

Honors Convocation was held on May 15. **Four professors and a staff member received accolades:**

Thomas Porter (history) received the Thomas Branch Teaching Award.

Joe Mattys (drama) received the Samuel Nelson Gray Distinguished Professor Award.

Hal Breitenberg Jr. (religious studies) received the United Methodist Church Exemplary Teacher Award.

Anne Throckmorton (history) received the Thomas Branch Teaching Award.

Brent Hoard (marketing and communications) was the first recipient of the Marilyn J. Gibbs Dedicated Service Award, which will be given annually to a staff member for outstanding service to and support of the mission of the college.

The BUZZ on this month's department: Education

-- Submitted by *Brenda Davis*, chair of the education department

What's new in your department?

Just before the beginning of fall term 2008, faculty, students and staff from the physical plant, provost's office and ITS helped relocate the education department to Mabry House. "It was an exciting time for faculty and students!" says Brenda Davis. The new location will allow for a place for pre-service teachers and education students to come for resource materials and a few education classes will be taught there.

Leslie Roberson has been a member of the education department for more than 10 years and has contributed much to the department. In addition to teaching, she had a major role in the decorating and layout of the teaching space in Mabry House and used contacts in the community to bring resources to the department and its students.

Artwork from Hanover's K-12 students is displayed in Mabry and a reception took place in November 2008 for parents, artists and Hanover art teachers to celebrate the exhibition.

Brenda Davis and Jack Trammell received a special education grant from the Virginia Department of Education in

August 2008. A portion of the grant will be implemented to enhance field placement experiences in the Survey of Exceptional Children course taught by **Jenny Bruce**.

R-MC alumnus Michael Mudd '97, principal at Beaverdam Elementary, was an adjunct professor at R-MC for a fall 2008 course formerly taught by retired R-MC professor **Brenda Gilman**.

The SVEA (Student Virginia Education Association) organized a children's holiday workshop in December 2008 in conjunction with the McGraw-Page Library. They also participated in Macon a Difference Day by planting flowers at Mabry House and setting up an education workroom. The room is stocked with resource materials for education students to use for field work, student teaching or in-class projects.

In January 2009, the education department received national accreditation for its teacher preparation program from TEAC (Teacher Education Accreditation Council). "This was a significant and exciting achievement for R-MC and the department," says Davis.

***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.**