



JULY 2011

2011 Commencement

Randolph-Macon College celebrated Commencement on May 28, 2011.

Dr. James "Bud" Robertson Jr. '55, noted Civil War historian, delivered the Commencement address. He told graduates to maintain a sense of history, saying "it is from events of the past that we learn how to grapple with obstacles of the present."

Robertson urged the class to do a "better job than we did" and not be deterred by obstacles or failures. "You learn little from victory," he said. "You can learn everything from defeat."

This year's senior speaker, Erin McNeill '11, urged her classmates to strive to be different and to use what they've learned to contribute to our country. "We are all about to start on different paths, but we can take similar action," said McNeill. "Remember

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Annual Fund Reaches Record \$1.24 Million

The R-MC 2010-11 Annual Fund reached a record \$1.24 million due to increased participation and the generous contributions from alumni, parents and friends of the college.

Alumni participation was the highest it has been in 18 years, with 37 percent making a gift. Notably, giving by alumni from the 90's decade reached 32 percent participation, up from 26 percent last year; giving by women reach 33 percent participation, up from 30 percent last year; and the Class of 2011 contributed in record numbers with over 90 percent participating in the senior class gift. This is the highest senior class participation rate in the history of R-MC. The Annual Fund also saw increased giving by parents, faculty and staff. Special thanks goes to Cindy '81 and John '79 Lee, whose generous \$25,000 challenge was met. More than 1,000 gifts were received during the month of June and each was matched with a \$25 gift from the Lees, up to \$25,000.

"We are grateful for the tremendous support we continue to experience," said President Lindgren. "This level of generosity is unique among higher-education fundraising campaigns. The impressive participation rates for giving are incredibly important and help build a secure foundation for the future of Randolph-Macon College."

All donations to the Annual Fund are used for financial aid support for deserving R-MC students. Other gift designations include the Yellow Jacket Club, endowed professorships, renovations to campus facilities, endowed scholarships, academic programs, and construction funds for new athletic facilities. •

John Ahladas Retires

John Ahladas, who served as vice president of administration and finance since 1996, retired on July 1. Ahladas served as a member of the president's cabinet and as administration liaison to the finance, audit, investment and building and grounds committees of the Board of Trustees. In addition, he oversaw the design and construction of major renovations and new facilities.

In 2010 Ahladas was awarded the Samuel Nelson Gray Distinguished Administrator Award, which was established by Virginia Clark Gray in memory of her husband, an alumnus and former trustee. This prize honors the senior administrator selected by the president who has made a distinguished contribution to the college.

Paul Davies, Ahladas' successor, was appointed in 2010, and the two worked together during the transition year. Ahladas will retain his role as treasurer throughout summer 2011. •



John Ahladas

Your News

Kelli Costain (library) was an invited presenter at the May SirsiDynix User Group meeting in Williamsburg. She spoke on the Library's experience setting up BookMyne, an iOS "app" for searching MaconCat.

James Scanlon (history) and *Laurie Preston* (library) wrote a brief history of R-MC, which was published in *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, Vol.17: Education.

Kelly Lambert's (psychology) latest book has received numerous accolades.

Gayla Mills' (English) essay about Japan was published in the March 31 edition of the *Charlottesville Hook*.

Megan Senske (athletics) was recently selected to ODK, the National Leadership Honor Society.

Katie Shaw (arts) was a contributing artist for the "Voyeur" exhibition at Brooklyn Artist's Gym June 25-July 3.

Jack Trammell (disability services) was interviewed for the June issue of *The Eerie Digest*, an online magazine.

Brian Turner (political science) won the Harold Eugene Davis Prize for the best article published in 2009-'10 by a member of the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies. "Paraguay: Muchas novedades y poco cambio/Paraguay 2009: Many Differences and Little Change" was published in *Revista de Ciencia Política* and edited by *Liliana Puppi-Redfern* (Spanish).

Lynda Wright's (library) article, "Macon Memories: An Oral History Project at Randolph-Macon College," was published in *College & Undergraduate Libraries* 18.1. Also, her review of Maria Wornom Rippe's book, *The Tinsley Family of Totomoi, Hanover County, Virginia, 1755-1920*, was published in *Virginia Libraries* 57.1.

Farewell

A fond farewell to *Nathan Bell* (intern), *Kim Cressy* (OIE), *Elaine duPlessis* (president's office), *Catherine Fransson* (psychology), *Amanda Hiltunen* (admissions), *Megan Hodge* (library), *William Johnston* (mathematics), *Gabe Kachuba* (admissions), *Tori Hart*, *Joshua Merkel*, *Andrew Stelzer*, *Patrick Toohy* (athletics), and *Deborah White* (office of institutional research).•



Friday, September 16-
Sunday, September 18

Family Weekend. Contact Ellen Stack at (804) 752-3238 for more information.

Sunday, September 25

The Richmond Symphony Orchestra and the Richmond Chamber Chorus present "Mendelssohn's Italian" at 3:00 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium. For tickets, visit the RSO Web site: www.richmondsymphony.com. A **pre-concert lecture** will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Thomas Branch Atrium. The lecture, which will be hosted by Music Professor Jim Doering, is free and open to the public.

Friday, October 13-Sunday,
October 16

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. Call the Alumni Office at (804) 752-7218 for more information. Come out and show your school spirit!•

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to carry on the inquisitiveness from childhood and never stop asking why. Demand the best solutions for social problems from your government and expect to contribute your wisdom in achieving those goals."•



All smiles: Commencement 2011

The BUZZ on Chirashree Bhattacharya (Mathematics)

Chirashree Bhattacharya (mathematics) grew up in the small industrial town of Ranchi in northeast India. There, she completed her schooling and undergraduate education before coming to the United States to study at the University of Virginia.

She was soon drawn to Randolph-Macon College. “A few visits won me over,” she says. “The vibrant yet peaceful campus, the small-town feel of the surrounding areas, and the fantastic people in the mathematics department,” all influenced her decision to come to R-MC.

With two small children (a four-year-old son and a seven-year-old daughter), Bhattacharya doesn’t find herself with much free time, but does manage to squeeze in some music practice every day. “I have enjoyed singing for as long as I can remember,” she says. “I usually sing Indian Classical music, but I enjoy listening to a wide collection of styles including Western and World music.”

She also enjoys spending time with her family, flying kites at Deep Run Park or fishing in Swift Creek. “We usually catch and release,” she says. “We’ve caught several respectable-size bass and a pike at Swift Creek.”

Bhattacharya has always been fascinated with mathematics. “When I was in high school, my small group of friends delighted in posing the hardest possible calculus questions to each other,” she says “By the end of our first year, I knew how to solve every calculus problem in every book in the library! Some of my best memories from college are of experiencing together with my friends the joys and frequent frustrations of doing mathematics.”

Bhattacharya will be traveling to several conferences in the coming year. She will attend the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts as well as the Mathematical Association of America Section Meeting at Christopher Newport University, where she will be presenting



Chirashree Bhattacharya

her research.

“My research is in the general area of combinatorial design theory - the kind of mathematics that is behind Sudoku, for example,” she says “Specifically I am working on finding certain special subsets (called difference sets) within finite groups.”•

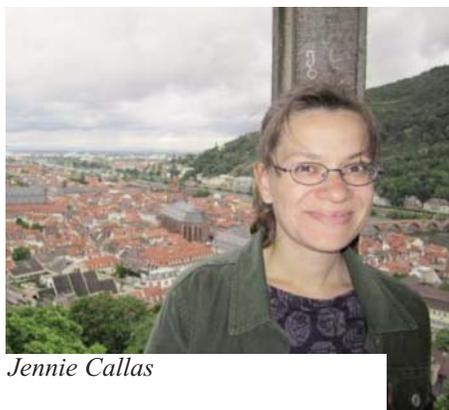
.....Matthew Guillen '14

The BUZZ on Jennie Callas (McGraw-Page Library)

It’s not surprising that Jennie Callas lists “reading” as one of her favorite hobbies. As Instruction Librarian, Callas is surrounded each day by thousands of books.

“I read a lot of young adult fiction, but also historical fiction, literary fiction, romances, and nonfiction, especially about history, food, and language.”

The Bel Air, Maryland native joined the R-MC faculty in 2005 and says the job came at just the right time.



Jennie Callas

“I attended McDaniel College, a liberal arts school a lot like R-MC,” she says. “During my senior year I worked as a writing tutor, and until then I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do when I ‘grew up.’”

Callas really enjoys working with students one-on-one and leapt at the chance to put her Master’s degree in library science to good use. “I thought that helping students at a reference desk would be similar to the work I did as a writing tutor, and I was right.”

In her spare time, Callas enjoys baking; chocolate is her specialty, but she describes herself as an “equal-opportunity baker.” She also plays the piano. Show tunes and Dmitry Kabalevsky’s compositions are her favorite selections.

Callas vacationed in Germany for two weeks this summer. “This was my third trip there,” she says. “My partner (a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Georgia) was invited to give some talks at two

German universities, and I decided to tag along. I loved the scenery at the Olympic sailing venue in Kiel, and we visited the world’s largest model train layout in Hamburg.”

In 2010 she accompanied a J-term class to Europe. “Most of my interactions with students are fairly fleeting: they ask a question or I see them in class, and after I help them that’s it,” she says. “But this was a fun opportunity to get to know the students.”

Callas looks forward to each May, her favorite time of year at R-MC.

“I love Commencement,” she says. “The setting, under the trees in front of Mary Branch, is so picturesque. I like how the fountain shoots high during the recession, and it doesn’t hurt that the ceremony is only about two hours long!”•

.....Matthew Guillen '14



Bill Franz, David Brat and Bill Blackmore

The BUZZ on Pickleball

-- Submitted by Mike Carter (advancement)

A popular game in the Pacific Northwest has found a home at R-MC. Pickleball, the miniature tennis game, was created in 1965. The game was named after the inventor's dog, Pickles, who would faithfully retrieve errant balls during play. Pickleball has become one of the fastest-growing racquet sports in America and is becoming a popular sport for active senior adults.

Dean Jerry Garris introduced Pickleball to R-MC in 1991. He soon convinced others of its virtues and before long, Ira Andrews, Ned Moore, Mike Carter, Bill Franz, Jon Reinmuth, and Jeff Burns joined him as regular competitors. Pickleball is played on an area similar to the dimensions of a badminton court, with a net that stretches 30 inches from the floor. The game is played using a Whiffle ball batted around with wooden or graphite paddles. The winning team must reach 11 points and services are rotated among team members. The preferred Pickleball venue at R-MC is the Alumni Gym.

The games are fast, furious and fun. Long rallies are common. Trash talk and name-calling abound, and hurling of the paddles is a customary response to defeat. David Brat, who regularly pro-

vides soliloquies on his accomplishments, is often frustrated by the absence of praise for his lackluster shots. Jon Reinmuth prefers the lob shot, while Bill Franz is expert at returning lobs for winners. Recently, a distinct Pickleball terminology emerged which includes such terms as:

"a Reinmuth": a service fault

"a Brat": a mysterious, sudden memory loss as it pertains to game rules

"a Carter": a winner that contacts the net during play

"a Blackmore": illegally crossing the "no volley" line

"a Burns": a winning shot made by hitting an opponent's belly button with the ball

"the dance": a spasmodic, wrenching reaction when fielding an opponent's overhead shot

Pickleball is well suited to players of all levels and abilities. The R-MC Pickleball gang invites faculty and staff to experience the fun and is happy to explain the rules and to demonstrate the game. •

For more information, contact Mike Carter (mcarte@rmc.edu) or Bill Blackmore (wblackmo@rmc.edu).

Congrats!

Congratulations to our new Staff Representative, Annie Keith '01 (admissions) and our new Staff Representative to the Benefits Committee, Barbara Dauberman (business office).•

Welcome

A heartfelt welcome to Gary Wright, Brenda Woody, Linwood Diacont, Justin Stanley (physical plant); Martin Mathurin, John Edmundson, Harold Glasco, Ralph McCulley, Daniel Holt, Diane Pete (campus safety); James McGuckin, Salvatore DeWalt, Timothy Lawrence (athletics); Amanda RZucidlo, Molly Hyer (psychology); Emily Harris (president's office); DeAndre Howard (student life); Justin Haynes (English), Ray Varner (advancement), Paul Sikker (econ/business); Scarlett Dool (library), JP McCollum (marketing and communications), and Avner Halevy (mathematics).•



Randolph-Macon
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The Buzz is published for R-MC faculty and staff. **Submit your news, suggestions and calendar items** to Pam Cox at pamelacox@rmc.edu or Kathryn DiPasqua at kdipasqua@rmc.edu.