

Feb. 2010

R-MC Presents "An Evening with George Will"

On Thursday, March 4, 2010, R-MC will host "An Evening with George Will" at 7:30 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium, as part of the Arthur McKinley Reynolds Lecture Series.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist will present "The Political Argument Today," which will focus on the Washington political scene and offer a glimpse into what the future holds for public affairs, public policy and American society. This event is open to the public and seating is first-come, first-served.

Will is a columnist for *The Washington Post* and *Newsweek* magazine. His syndicated news column, which has run since 1974, appears in about 400 newspapers throughout the United States and Europe. Will has

(Continued on page 2)

Margaret Atwood to Present Lecture at R-MC

Randolph-Macon College will host author Margaret Atwood on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium, R-MC Center for the Performing Arts. **This event is free and open to the public.**

Atwood is the author of more than 40 books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. Recent publications are *Moral Disorder* (2007), a collection of interconnected short stories, *The Door*, a collection of poetry (2007), and the CBC Massey Lecture Series, published by Anansi as *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth* (2008). 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*.



Photo by George Whiteside

Other books include the 2000 Booker Prize-winning *The Blind Assassin*; *Alias Grace*, which won the Giller Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy; *The Robber Bride*; *Cat's Eye*; *The Handmaid's Tale*; *The Penelopiad*; and *The Tent*. Atwood's appearance at the college is sponsored by R-MC's English Department, the Washington Literary Society and the Merrill Munyan Fund.

Women's Volleyball Wins School's First ODAC Title

Behind 15 kills from Tournament Most Outstanding Player Raena Winton '11, the R-MC women's volleyball team claimed its first ODAC Championship in school history with a 3-1 victory over Roanoke on November 7, 2009.

The win also gave R-MC its first ever spot in the NCAA Division III National Tournament. R-MC finished the year 28-7 overall, which set a new

school record for wins in a season.

For their efforts, R-MC Head Coach Bill Rogers was named ODAC Coach of the Year, Winton was named ODAC Player of the Year and Jessica Sears '13 was named ODAC Rookie of the Year. Jill Kubichan '10 was named First-Team All-ODAC, while her classmate April Hines '10 was a second-team selection.



President Lindgren congratulates the volleyball team.

INSIDE: Your News Faculty & Staff Spotlights and More!

The Buzz: Helping Build Community Through Communication

YOUR NEWS

Amy Armenia (sociology/anthropology) had her research featured in the *New York Times* Economix blog. Armenia's research examines compliance with the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act, which gives workers up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for family responsibilities.

Amy deGraff (modern languages) was given the Outstanding Chapter Officer award by the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). The award recognizes excellence in leadership among its officers.

Bryan Giemza (English) was a featured speaker at the Savannah Irish Festival February 12-14 at the Savannah Civic Center in Savannah, Georgia. Giemza discussed his forthcoming study of Irish writers of the American South.

Gregg Hillmar (drama) was interviewed by isquint.net, an online theatrical blog. Click here to read the interview.

Sarah Huber (biology) is the senior author of an article published in PLoS ONE, a journal for the communication of peer-reviewed scientific and medical research. The article, *Ecoimmunity in Darwin's Finches: Invasive Parasites Trigger Acquired Immunity in the Medium Ground Finch (Geospiza fortis)*, explores the impacts of introduced species on Darwin's finches in the Galápagos Islands.

Tom Inge (humanities) had his article, titled *Our Lives with Charlie Brown*, published in the Commentary section of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on January 24, 2010. Click here to read the article. On February

26, Inge will be a guest speaker at the 21st Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration on the topic of "Humor in the Deep South."

Barry Knisley (biology) and **Michael Fenster** (environmental studies) were interviewed by Maryland Public Television. for its "Outdoors Maryland" show. The segment examines issues related to a federally-endangered species of a tiger beetle, *Cicindela puritana*, that inhabits the bluffs and beaches of the upper Chesapeake Bay. Knisley, Fenster and Christine Ebert '09 studied the habitat parameters that control the distribution and abundance of the puritan beetle.

This issue is timely, given the battle between Maryland's efforts to restore and preserve fresh bluff habitat, and the homeowners that live on the eroding bluff tops who want to armor the bluffs with vegetation and hard structures. The segment airs March 2 and 6.

Gayla Mills (English) had an essay published in the January 6, 2010 issue of *Richmond's Style Weekly*. The essay, titled *Building on Buzz*, can be read by clicking here.

Barry Pfitzner (economics/business) and **Steve Lang** (economics/business) published a paper on NFL betting, titled *The Determinants of Scoring in NFL Games and Beating the Over/Under Line*, in *New York Economic Review*, Volume 40, Fall 2009.

Jack Trammell's (disability services; sociology) book, *Down on the Chickahominy*, has been nominated for the Library of Virginia's 13th annual non-fiction literary award.

(George Will from Page 1)

also published four books on political theory. On television, Will can be seen every Sunday on the ABC Network television program This Week. He became a founding panel member of the program in 1981.

"An Evening with George Will" is the second event sponsored by R-MC's Arthur McKinley Reynolds Lecture Series. Arthur McKinley Reynolds is a retired ophthalmologist who earned a bachelor's degree in physics from R-MC in 1947 and a degree in medicine from VCU School of Medicine. He is a member of the R-MC Presidents and Heritage Societies, serves on the Boydton Society Executive Committee and previously served on the Society of Alumni Board of Directors.



Sunday, February 28

The Richmond Guitar Quartet will perform at 4:00 p.m. in St. Ann's Performing Arts Building. The group combines standard repertoire with new transcriptions, arrangements and compositions by Richmond-based musicians. (804) 752-3798

Tuesday, March 2

Author Jennifer Scanlon presents a lecture based on her book, *Bad Girls Go Everywhere: The Life of Helen Gurley Brown*, at 7 p.m. in the Topping Room (804) 752-7269

Thursday, March 4

R-MC presents "An Evening With George Will" at 7:30 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. (804) 752-7317

Sunday, March 7

The Richmond Symphony Orchestra will perform at 3:00 p.m. in Blackwell Auditorium. **A pre-concert lecture**, hosted by Jim Doering, will take place at 2:00 p.m. in Thomas Branch.

Tuesday, March 9

Author Sarah Hand Meacham presents a lecture based on her book, *Every Home a Distillery*, at 7:30 p.m. in the Topping Room. (804) 752-7269

Through March 19

Flippo Gallery presents **an exhibit by David Dodge Lewis**, professor of fine arts at Hampden-Sydney College. (804) 752-3018



The BUZZ on faculty member Chas. Gowan, Biology/Environmental Studies

Charles “Chas.” Gowan has been in the news a lot lately, but he still makes time for his family and to participate in various extracurricular activities. His wife Kirsten, daughter Kay and son Charles are on his mind every day when he is working in the field, lab and the classroom. His son Charles finished his first semester at William and Mary as a biology major with great success, and Kay recently graduated from George Washington University as an international economics major. While studying abroad in Dubai, she met her now-fiance Nima, and they currently reside in Kuwait with his family.

Before Kay and Charles moved out, Gowan and Kirsten, his wife of 25 years, had a strict rule of having a “family dinner” every night. One of them would cook while the children would share the day’s news. It is apparent that this arrangement has solidified the relationship with their children today, and for that Gowan is grateful, as it has prevented any significant “empty nest syndrome.”

After work and dinner, Gowan tries to enjoy some reading. He is enthusiastic about following developments in science or areas he is not familiar with. Two examples are the Human Genome Project and the “string theory” in physics – genetic research that wasn’t readily available when he was in school. He also enjoys sharing his interest in fishing with others, and continuing to study the patterns of trout behavior and researching how they think. This past summer he went to the original site of some of his graduate work, and to see how things have progressed since he was there was “eye-opening and inspirational,” according to Gowan.

As director of FYE, Gowan is enthusiastic to see how the program continues to develop over the years. “I hope to firm up the footing with the program and continue to see it produce outstanding students and interesting studies,” he says.

He also looks forward to seeing how his continuing Mechumps Creek restoration project moves forward over



Chas. Gowan

the next 10 years, as it is now in its sixth year of research and development. Thanks to grant funding, Gowan has seen considerable growth in the project during the past three years.

“Hopefully the Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. will break ground on their share of the project this spring,” he says.

Whitney Jones '11

The BUZZ on staff member Sarah Hamby, Campus Center

Sarah Hamby is the manager of the Campus Center, and in 2010 she also took on the position of Student Life Operations Manager. “There are many more challenges now,” Hamby says, “but I’m happy about it.”

A typical day for Hamby consists of supervising the students working in the mail room and the Campus Center support staff. “My days are very chaotic,” she says, “but I’m very fortunate to work with great students.”



Sarah Hamby with grandchildren Christopher Lee and Allie

It has been nearly 24 years since she received a call from Brenda Gilman, now a retired R-MC education professor, who informed Hamby that a position was available at the college. “I just knew it would be an excellent opportunity,” says Hamby.

In 2007 Hamby won the VASPA (Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators) Outstanding Professional at a Four-Year Institution award. “It was an honor being recognized for my work, which has brought me much satisfaction through the years,” she says.

When Hamby isn’t on campus she enjoys the simple pleasures of home. “I’m a ferocious reader,” says Hamby. “I have too many favorite books to name them. I particularly enjoy book about anything mystical or paranormal since I have had many such experiences myself.”

She also enjoys traveling. “I travel to Michigan to visit my daughter Michelle,”

Hamby says, “and I visit my son Chris, who lives in Winston-Salem.”

Michelle has two sons, Trent and Blake, and Chris has a son and daughter, Christopher Lee and Allie. “She’s our little princess,” says Hamby. “She is now four; they adopted her from Russia when she was ten months old. I enjoy visiting the grandchildren as much as possible.”

Hamby also finds time to volunteer every year at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens during the Festival of Lights. “I collect tickets at the door, which gives me the opportunity to chat with many interesting people,” she says.

Hamby’s family goes back 11 generations in Hanover, Virginia. “I have lived in the same area all my life,” she says. “My roots run deep in Hanover.”

Chris Lambert '10

Master Plan Construction to Begin

Phase one of Randolph-Macon College's Campus Master Plan is about to begin. Development of the Plan, which was approved in February 2009 by the college's Board of Trustees, was a collaborative process involving faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees and members of the surrounding community.

Priorities for the initial phase of implementing the campus master plan consist of several projects centered on academics, athletics and student life. These include: the addition of wet labs to and renovation of Copley Science Center; an addition to McGraw-Page Library giving students 24/7 access to a new study space; a residence hall for upper-class students bordered on the south end of the football stadium; a new residence hall for freshmen near the Freshman Village; the construction of new tennis courts; the creation of new baseball and practice fields; the construction of a new, centerpiece football stadium with all-season turf; and expanded areas for parking.

The first change that will take place is the relocation of Smith Street. The road, which currently runs between the men's varsity soccer field and the football practice field, will be moved about a block north, allowing for the expansion of athletic amenities. New landscaping is part of the Plan, and trees are scheduled to be planted along the new Smith Street location before May 2010.

Once Smith Street is relocated, in April 2010, the baseball field will be moved to the corner of the college property, where the Kappa Sigma Fraternity house and the old Smith Street previously resided. The move will improve the experience of athletes and fans by de-coupling the football and baseball fields. The football field will be moved to a north-south position. Once additional funds are raised, a new stadium to surround the football field will be built.

Also planned is the relocation of the college's tennis courts. The brand-new courts will still be located on the west side of the railroad tracks, but further south, near the Ashland train station. The new location will also provide local residents with a venue for tennis that will be maintained by the college. The design of the courts was completed in December 2009 and construction is slated to begin in spring 2010. A practice field is planned for the space currently occupied by the existing tennis courts.

To read the entire article on R-MC's Master Plan construction and see the latest renderings, visit <http://www.rmc.edu/Offices/president/Master-Plan.aspx>



Annual Budget Crunchers List Released

Once again, George Spagna and Bill Franz have released their popular R-MC Budget Cruncher list, titled "That's Not Astronomical, It's Governmental." Following is a compilation of their humorous and creative examples to help the general public put the size of the proposed federal budget into perspective.

"When President Barack Obama released his 2011 proposed federal budget of \$3.83 trillion, many commentators immediately branded the number astronomical. With all due respect to political pundits, astronomers (and scientists generally) have much greater control on their numbers, and we suggest that the appropriate name for such vast sums of money is governmental. Besides, some programs at NASA took a big hit, so perhaps this budget is not very astronomical at all.

Nonetheless, the general population finds it difficult to grasp numbers as large as 3.83 trillion, and so, for the 8th consecutive year, we offer our annual analysis of the federal budget, put into terms that the average citizen can understand."

To read the entire article, visit <http://www.rmc.edu/News/10-02-04%20Budget%20Crunchers.aspx>



**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.**