



SEPTEMBER 2009



Richmond Symphony Conductor
Erin Freeman

Check out the exciting lineup
of cultural arts events that
R-MC has to offer by visiting
www.rmc.edu

R-MC: Richmond Symphony's "Other Home"

The Richmond Symphony Orchestra has launched a four-part Metro Collection Concert Series at Randolph-Macon College. R-MC, the "other home of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra," will offer special pricing for the performances, and subscription prices are available at greater savings.

The first concert will take place on **Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.** in Blackwell Auditorium, R-MC Center for the Performing Arts. Guest conductor Alastair Willis will conduct an afternoon of music highlighted by Concertmaster Karen Johnson's solo in Mozart's lyrical Violin Concerto No. 2 in D. Major.

Future dates for Metro Collection Series concerts:

November 8, 2009

Weber Concerto for Clarinet No. 1

Weber's expressive Clarinet Concerto No. 1 showcases the virtuosity of Thomas P. Bryan Jr. Soloist, Ralph Skiano. Arthur Fagen, former music director of the Dortmund Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany, will conduct as one of the final candidates in Richmond Symphony's music director search.

January 24, 2010

The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

See—and hear—the musicians of the Richmond Symphony perform "conductor-less." The third installment of the Metro Collection takes you to Buenos Aires, where listeners experience the four seasons through a tango suite. Piazzolla's Las Cuatro Estaciones Portenas is inspired by Vivaldi's The Four Seasons.

Continued on page 4

R-MC Professors Receive National Science Foundation Grants

Traci Stevens, Ph.D., (biology) and **Brian Sutton, Ph.D.**, (math) have received grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Stevens received a five-year award of \$880,000 for her project, *CAREER: Investigating Abl kinase signaling pathways that regulate actin dynamics during development*. Sutton was awarded a grant of \$107,951 to support his research project, titled *Stable and efficient computation of the CS decomposition*.



Traci Stevens



Brian Sutton

INSIDE: Your News • Faculty & Staff Spotlights • Department Spotlight and More!

The Buzz: Helping Build Community Through Communication

Your News

John Camp II (classics) has been named the Niarchos Professor of Classics at the college. The Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation is an international philanthropic organization that supports charitable activities. Camp was recently interviewed by Richmond NPR station WCVE.

Bryan Gienza (English) won first prize in the Blue Ridge Writers Contest for his poem "Indígena."

Chas. Gowan (environmental studies) was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grant, which will be matched with an additional \$100,000 by the Town of Ashland, will be used to support the restoration of Mechumps Creek in Ashland.

Tom Inge (humanities) was interviewed by an arts and entertainment reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, for a story he wrote on the comic strip

Prince Valiant. The story appeared on August 23, 2009. An exhibition that Inge curated, "Mark Twain in the Comics," opened in August 2009 at the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College, New York. Some of Inge's comic books are featured in the Edgar Allan Poe exhibition at the Virginia State Library and a similar exhibition at the Boston Public Library.

Scott London (sociology) and *Nicole Anderson '08* co-authored *South Africa's Newest 'Jews': The Moemedi Pentecostal Church and the Construction of Jewish Identity*, which was published in the August, 2009 edition of *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*. The article is based on anthropological fieldwork that Andersen conducted in South Africa for her 2007 SURF project, which London supervised.

Record Enrollment for 2009

Randolph-Macon College announces its highest overall enrollment ever, with 1246 students kicking off the 2009 academic year! In addition, the College produced the largest freshmen applicant pool in R-MC's history. 362 freshmen enrolled and 33 transfer students enrolled, with 79% ranking in the top 50% of their high school class and an average GPA of 3.3.

"This is exciting news for us and a tremendous way to begin a new academic year," said R-MC President Robert Lindgren. "This underscores that our message about the value and affordability of Randolph-Macon's nationally-recognized liberal arts education is being heard."

This is the fourth consecutive year that R-MC received a record number of applications, which also resulted in the largest entering freshmen classes in R-MC history. The 2009 applicant pool rose to a record breaking 4,308 prospective students. The freshmen class represents 14 states, the District of Columbia and four foreign nations with 20% representing an ethnic minority group.

Randolph-Macon offers an excellent series of First-Year Experience programs for the upcoming academic year, 21 Study/Travel Courses in January Term 2010, national and international internships and a wide range of research projects through its Schapiro Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program.

"Our exceptional faculty and academic programs continue to gain national and international recognition," said Lindgren, "and we are thrilled to witness this incredible interest in Randolph-Macon College."



Friday-Sunday, October 2-4

Family Weekend events will take place throughout the campus. Guests can participate in a variety of activities including faculty presentations, campus and community tours, athletic events, and receptions. For information, call 804-752-3238.

Saturday, October 3

The Hanover Concert Band, known as the "Musical Ambassadors of Hanover County," will perform at 6:00 p.m. at the **Frank E. Brown Plaza**. The band will be joined by the R-MC Concert Choir. The concert is free and open to the public. For information, call 804-752-3798.

Sunday, October 4

The Richmond Symphony Orchestra will perform at 3:00 p.m. in **Blackwell Auditorium**.

Guest conductor Alastair Willis conducts an evening of music highlighted by Concertmaster Karen Johnson's solo in Mozart's lyrical *Violin Concerto No. 2 in D Major*. For ticket information, call the RSO at 804-788-1212.

Friday, October 9

Fall Break begins after classes and labs. **Classes resume** on Wednesday, October 14.

Friday, October 16-Sunday, October 18

Homecoming Weekend will be filled with a variety of exciting events. For more information call 804-752-7221.

Wednesday, October 28

Critic Noah Berlatsky will present a lecture titled "Bound for Feminism" from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in Room 212 (the Topping Room) in Old Chapel. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The BUZZ on faculty member Lynda Wright, Library

Tucked in the back of the McGraw-Page Library is the Technical Services office. The department handles the purchasing, cataloging and processing of all library materials and makes them accessible via MaconCat, the library's online catalog.

There you can find Assistant Professor and Head of Tech Services **Lynda Wright** hard at work. Wright supervises her efficient staff while also cataloging for Special Collections and R-MC archives. "The Technical Services staff work as a team to keep materials flowing smoothly and quickly," says Wright.

Before joining the faculty at R-MC, Wright spent time in Scotland with her husband, R-MC Adjunct Professor Ross Wright, and before that, she worked at Tidewater Community College. "I love working in small libraries," she comments. "I believe that the library is the heart of the college."

Wright took a roundabout path to get to R-MC. While her husband pursued his Ph.D. in Scotland, she worked in a small bookstore. As they planned their

return to the U.S., she applied for several library positions, including the one at R-MC. Wright's brother-in-law and nephew (Sam Adams '72 and Will Adams '04) are R-MC alumni, so she was familiar with the college. Current library director Ginger Young happened to be in Scotland, and the two met over coffee in Edinburgh. Wright returned to the U.S. a week later and interviewed for the position.

"I attended The University of the South, better known as 'Sewanee,' and I was delighted to be able to work in a similar environment," says Wright. "I strongly believe in the value of a liberal arts education and in the library's central role in supporting it."

Wright is particularly proud of Macon Memories, an oral history project she facilitates, which involves interviewing staff, faculty and alumni and recording their stories. "I have learned so much about the history of R-MC in preparing for and recording these interviews," she says. "It has been one of the most satisfying projects of my career."

Wright enjoys spending time with



Lynda Wright

her husband and three sons—ages 20, 17 and 13—or practicing the five-string banjo. "It's something I've always wanted to do," she admits. Wright's music instructor is building a banjo for her; she is currently borrowing an instrument. "I've been taking lessons for just over a year and I'm learning to play bluegrass music," she says.

Macon Memories interviews are accessible online via MaconCat and are also on CDs available for checkout in the library.

Chris Lambert '10

The BUZZ on staff member Maria Harman, Brock Center

If you've been to the Brock Center or visited the Student Health Center, you've seen **Maria Harman**. A real dynamo, Harman is the student health senior assistant in the Brock. Her duties range from taking students' vitals, drawing blood and sending it off to be tested, to prescribing medications.

Before coming to Randolph-Macon College in 2006, Harman earned her B.A. at Mary Washington College and taught aerobics and worked in a cancer treatment center in Fredericksburg. The road to R-MC was quite smooth. Bill Blackmore,

current Brock Sports and Recreation director, was looking for an aerobics instructor and "that's what originally brought me to Randolph-Macon," Harman remembers. This past semester however, she taught cycling classes, which one student described as "motivating...and exhausting!"

Harman is also busy pursuing a great ambition of hers, continuing her education in health care. Currently, she is nationally-certified in fitness instruction. In addition to evening classes, she works hard to keep up with her busy life, which includes "three daughters, a husband, four dogs, three cats, one bird and a pond fish. Quite the full house!" says Harman.

Daughter, Melissa, 17, is a senior at Patrick Henry High School and is currently taking Spanish 215 at R-MC; she plans on attending R-MC full-time next year. Morgan, 15, is a sophomore at Patrick Henry and Elana, 12, is a seventh grader at Liberty Middle. Harman's husband, Mike, is a career firefighter for the City of Richmond and Chief of the Ashland Volunteer Fire Department.



Maria Harman

Weekends are an exciting time for the Harman family. "We spend most weekends at the ball field because Elana plays for a traveling softball team," Harman says. "The two older girls work at King's Dominion. You might recognize Melissa as SpongeBob or Little Bill and Morgan as Scooby-Doo or Patrick." Aside from that, the family loves doing things together, such as eating at Texas Roadhouse or grabbing a Blizzard at Dairy Queen. And in the evenings, "we spend time around the pond feeding our fish or chasing after our dogs and cats!" says Harman.

Little known facts about Harman: Over the summer, she took up a new workout regiment, road cycling. With her trusted cycling bike and a lot of motivation, "I average 30 to 40 miles," she says. With classes back in session, Harman gets in about two rides per week. She also loves to eat ketchup on her mashed potatoes...and she has just taken on a whole new venture and is "slowly learning how to text" on her cell phone.

Chris Lambert '10

RSO continued from Page 1

March 7, 2010

Ravel, Rodrigo and Bizet

Sones en la giralda (Songs in the Giralda) portrays the famous bell tower of the Cathedral of Seville, located in Spain, in two eras. The work evokes popular music, folk song and modern flamenco and features harpist Lynette Wardle.

Associate Conductor Erin R. Freeman conducts.

Bonus –Meet the musicians of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra before each concert at R-MC. 2:00 p.m., Thomas Branch Atrium. Jim Doering will lead a pre-concert discussion with a member of the symphony. The lecture is open and free to the public. To purchase tickets, contact the Richmond Symphony Box office at (804) 788-1212.



Conductor Alastair Willis



The BUZZ on this month's department: English

-- Submitted by Chris Lambert '10

Marisa Cull has been teaching her first Honors course on King Arthur and has brought the National English Honors Society Sigma Tau Delta to the campus. Currently, it's in the petition stage but prospects for this society are looking good. Cull will be advisor for the on-campus chapter.

Jen Cadwallader and her Victorian literature students attended Charles Darwin's 200th birthday anniversary and 150th anniversary for the publication of his famous *On the Origin of Species* on September 19 at the Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C.

Deborah Wesley and **Bryan Giemza** took their FYE students to Shirley Plantation on September 27. Giemza is set to publish his *French Connection in Hemingway's Light of the World* for a spring 2010 release. He also won first prize in the Blue Ridge Writers Contest for his poem "Indígena."

Maria Scott is working on a Shakespeare-based piece spotlighting The Merchant of Venice's Shylock. In concordance with her Shakespeare course and the Washington Literary Society, Scott will be taking students and faculty to see the Richmond Shakespeare Company perform *Much Ado About*

Nothing.

Joan Connors has two pieces coming out this fall spotlighting political cartoons. Her first piece, concerning cartoon depictions of Hilary Clinton's primary election, will be published as a chapter in a larger collection edited by **Ted Sheckels**. Later this fall, Connors will have an article featuring depictions of Clinton and President Obama and focusing on gender/race in these political cartoons.

Gayla Mills attended a writer's retreat this summer at Nimrod Hall in Bath County and is revising some of the essays she wrote there for submission this fall. She will also be attending the James River Writer's Conference this month.

Tom Peyser has an article coming out shortly about the way cosmopolitanism is shown to undermine in the novels of Henry James, and another one coming out about how Walt Whitman's poetry can be seen as a response to the dynamism and dangers of capitalism. Peyser will be teaching "Introduction to Poetry during J-term 2010.

The Washington Literary Society (WLS), the English department's student-run organization, will host Jonathan Myerson, novelist, screenwriter, and critic, who will visit R-MC Oct. 29-30.

R-MC's Career Center

R-MC students can find information about résumé-writing, career-related workshops, internships, graduate school and more in the College's Career Services Office, located in the Career and Counseling Center, in the Birdsong Peaks of Excellence Center in Thomas Branch Hall.

Career Services is dedicated to preparing students for success after graduation by providing personalized programs and services designed to support self-identity and interpersonal growth.

"We want students to feel comfortable coming to us for assistance," says Director of Career Services Cathy Rollman. "We help students define and fine-tune their career goals and assist them as they prepare for life after college."



Cathy Rollman, left, helps students fine-tune their career goals.

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.