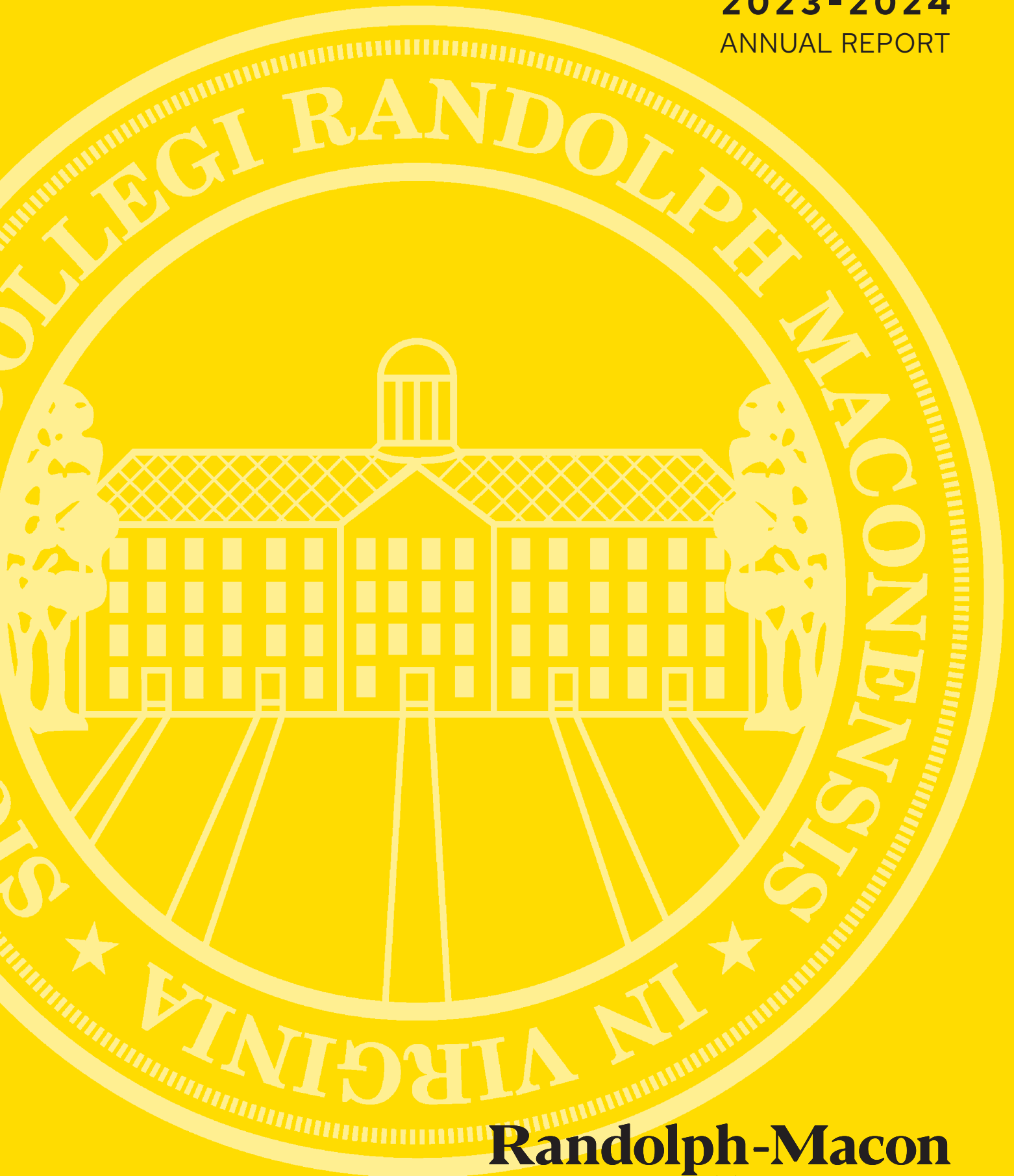


2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



**Randolph-Macon
College**

An aerial photograph of Randolph-Macon College during a football game. The football field is visible with yard lines and the name "RANDOLPH-MACON" on the right end zone. A large crowd of spectators is gathered in the bleachers and on the sidelines. The college buildings, including a large brick building with a central entrance, are visible in the background. Trees with autumn foliage are scattered around the campus. A yellow banner at the top of the image contains the text "A RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION DEVELOPS THE MIND AND CHARACTER OF EACH STUDENT.".

**A RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE LIBERAL ARTS
EDUCATION DEVELOPS THE MIND AND
CHARACTER OF EACH STUDENT.**

ON THE COVER

The yellow cover of this report echoes the cover of the 2006-2007 Annual Report, which chronicled President Lindgren's first year at Randolph-Macon.

INSIDE COVER

RMC Football recorded its 10th straight win in The Game against Hampden-Sydney, part of a banner year for RMC athletics.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS,

At my inauguration nearly 18 years ago, I used as my theme the words our then-Chair of the Board of Trustees, Macon Brock '64, used when he offered me the presidency here: *Now is the time for Randolph-Macon*. This fall, as I enter my final year as president of our beloved College, I return to these words—with, I hope, even more gusto than I expressed then, for I truly believe more than ever in Macon's words:

NOW IS THE TIME FOR RANDOLPH-MACON!

This Annual Report highlights the extraordinary efforts made in 2023–2024 (and even years before), that led to **welcoming the largest enrollment in RMC history**. Our recruitment—aided enormously by your referrals—produced a remarkable class of new students.

Likewise, the tremendous work of our faculty and staff helped enhance the retention of our current students, in the face of challenging times for many of them.

And there's more! Our superb coaches have built **fantastic athletic programs** that brought great pride to our whole community. We had four remarkable postseason runs in 2023–2024. More importantly, our student-athletes continue to make us proud with what they accomplish in the classroom, in the community, and in their post-graduate lives, buoyed by the life lessons they have learned here. (And I have to add that I believe Division III athletes like ours are fast becoming the only *student*-athletes left in the world of intercollegiate competition these days.)

When our 13th president, Dr. Ladell Payne, assumed the presidency here in 1979, he reported to the Board that it was vitally important that RMC balance its budget, *each and every year*. His successor, Dr. Roger Martin, and I (and

INSIDE

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FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued from page 1

the accomplished CFOs we have served with) have also taken that vision to heart. **We just completed Fiscal Year 2024 with our 45th balanced budget in a row!** And please know your generous gifts helped make that happen—and are always stewarded carefully towards serving our primary mission!

Our newer academic programs—engineering, nursing, and our master’s in physician assistant studies—are flourishing. We are especially proud that **our engineering program earned the critically important ABET accreditation** earlier this fall, after applying for that prestigious marker at the first possible moment.

Randolph-Macon has much to celebrate. And that is why I say that timing is everything. I have great confidence that the presidency of Randolph-Macon will be all the more sought after because of these recent successes. That potential outcome gives me great satisfaction as I prepare for my retirement at the end of this academic year.

In the pages of this report, you will meet other remarkable members of our community, including generous donors who—like so many of you—have helped to sustain the College with exceptional support yet again this year. And who are just so representative of the legions of donors who support us! I am especially proud that **we remain nationally ranked for the percentage of our alumni making a gift of any size to the College.** It is another powerful marker that our presidential candidates are bound to value as well.

You will also meet **accomplished faculty** who continue to inspire and ably prepare our students to be future ready.

And finally, you will meet some **very special students.** But “special” doesn’t mean they are unusual. They too are representative of all our students whose RMC educational experience benefits mightily from your support and from the hand-cultivation that has made RMC such a unique place for so long.

Yes, indeed: *Now is the time for Randolph-Macon!*

It’s not for resting on our laurels, but rather committing ourselves to becoming even better in the days and years and decades to come. Our future Yellow Jackets deserve nothing less!

Sincerely,



Robert R. Lindgren



3.7

AVERAGE
WEIGHTED GPA

12

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

CLASS OF 2028 STATISTICS



33%

RECRUITED
ATHLETES

20%

FIRST GENERATION
COLLEGE STUDENTS

28%

STUDENTS
OF COLOR

HISTORIC ENROLLMENT

Randolph-Macon recruited the largest classes of both first-year students and transfers in the College's history during the 2023-2024 academic year.

The Class of 2028, made up of 532 first-year students, joined 68 transfers and one exchange student as the newest members of the Yellow Jacket community. Combined with two larger cohorts in the fall of 2023 and 2022, RMC's total enrollment has surpassed 1,600 for the first time.

—continued

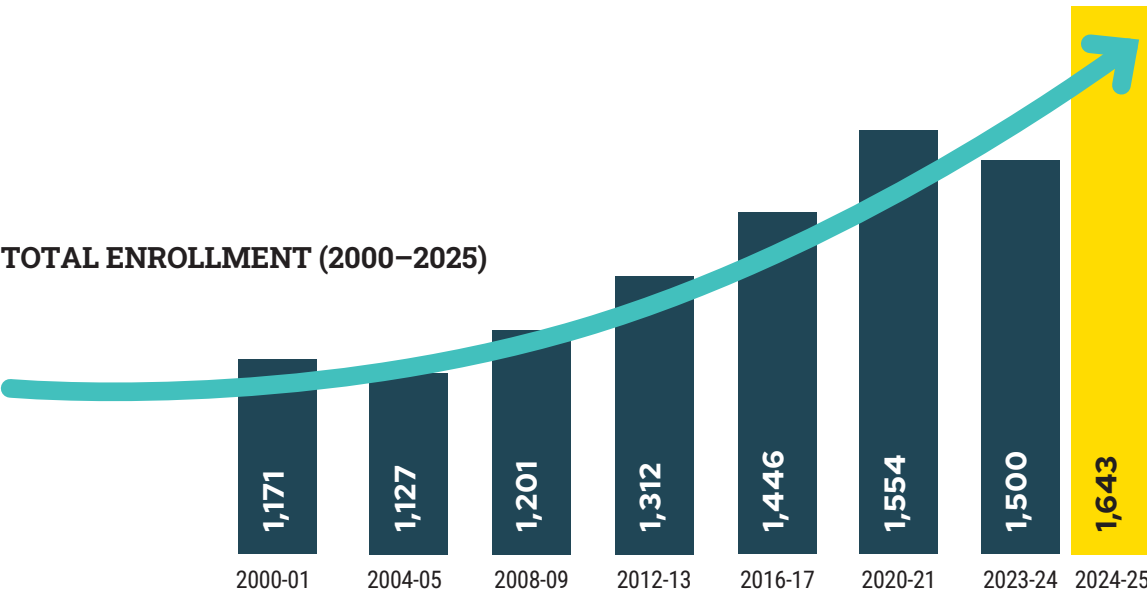


It's better in person! 3,163 prospective students visited campus in 2023-2024 for tours, experience days, scholarship days, and other admissions events.

HISTORIC ENROLLMENT, continued from page 3

RMC's trend of enrollment successes is due in part to the efforts of alumni and friends of the College through the Refer a Yellow Jacket program. A record 496 referrals were made last year, with more than 29% of the incoming Class of 2028 coming from those prospective students!

Despite a smaller class of first-year students who entered the College in Fall 2021 after their recruitment was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Randolph-Macon's total enrollment has continued to rise steadily, punctuated by a record enrollment of 1,643 to begin the 2024-2025 academic year.





NEW RESIDENTIAL VILLAGE PLANNED FOR 2025

Randolph-Macon College has broken ground on a village of apartment-style residence halls, planned to open at the beginning of the 2025-2026 academic year.

The four-building complex will offer a total of 64 beds, with additional new parking spaces. The site, on the west side of the train tracks, is adjacent to the College's business and advancement offices. It is located to the west of Center Street, north of Henry Clay Road, and south of Patrick Street.

The project is made possible by the generosity of an anonymous lead donor along with financing approved by the Board of Trustees in May.

Each two-story building will be made up of four apartments and feature covered porch spaces. The units, which are earmarked for upperclassmen, will have four single bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and in-unit laundry.

This will be the first new residential facility built since the College completed Birdsong Hall in 2014. The residential village was originally planned for construction prior to the pandemic, but postponed due to the uncertainty of the time.

The building was designed by Moseley Architects, with civil engineering from SilverCore Land Development Consultants. Construction will be led by English Construction.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2023-2024 fiscal year was one full of triumphs for the Randolph-Macon College community, on athletic fields, in the classroom, in recruiting the newest crop of Yellow Jackets, and so much more. The College hosted thought leaders and artistic performances, honored faculty members, and prepared its students to forge their unique paths to success.



- » As part of the College's branding process under the theme "Up Close, Future Ready," Randolph-Macon **launched a redesigned website at rmc.edu**, featuring streamlined content and new navigation.

SEPTEMBER



- » The Randolph-Macon Wind Ensemble and the Randolph-Macon Symphony Orchestra, **two new musical ensembles featuring nearly 30 musicians each**, made their debut performances in an evolution for RMC's music program.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER



RMC welcomed two blockbuster lectures to Blackwell Auditorium. In October, the Arthur McKinley Reynolds Speaker Series hosted **veteran journalist Chris Wallace**, while in March the Paul and Lois Watkins Lecture Series hosted **author and exonerated death row inmate Anthony Ray Hinton**.





- » RMC Football completed the **winningest season in program history**, including a run to the semifinals of the NCAA Division III playoffs, a game that was broadcast on ESPN+ from Day Field.



- » The inaugural cohort of PA students embarked on their **first clinical rotations**, providing them hands-on interactions in public health settings like hospitals, emergency rooms, and clinics under the guidance of preceptors.



- » A group of nine juniors and seniors participated in Access C-Suite, a program through the Edge Career Center designed to facilitate **face-to-face interaction with top local executives**, including those from Genworth Financial, Creative Office Environments of Richmond, and Alliant Insurance Services.

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

continued »

» RMC students utilized J-Term to participate in **travel courses across the globe**, including places like Spain, the Netherlands, and Taiwan (pictured).





- » The **Jacobs Radio and Podcast Studio** went on air inside the Neville House, home of the Department of Communication Studies and Stinger Radio. The main studio equipment from Richmond-based station WREJ was donated by Jim Jacobs, the studio's namesake.



- » Friends of RMC Softball gathered to **officially dedicate Carol Estes Park**, the renovated softball stadium that features a new entryway, a press box, and upgraded seating for a capacity of over 500 fans.



- » The RMC Esports Valorant team **completed an undefeated season in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference** by claiming the national championship with a win over WVU Potomac State.

MARCH



- » **"Secretariat Racing Into History,"** a monument dedicated to the Triple Crown-winning racehorse, was installed at the Reynolds Family Plaza on the southwestern edge of RMC's campus.

APRIL

» Robert R. Lindgren announced his plans to retire as President of Randolph-Macon College at the end of the academic year 2024-2025, concluding nearly **19 years of transformational leadership**. A national search, led by a 15-member Presidential Search Team, is already underway.





- » The **Student Symposium of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work** showcased a wide range of scholarly pursuits and gave 176 students a chance to formally present their work.



- » **Dr. Kristen Klaaren**, Professor of Psychology, was installed as the Macon and Joan Brock Professor in Psychology and **Dr. John Thoburn**, Professor of Chemistry, was installed as the Garnett-Lambert Professor in Chemistry.



- » RMC Baseball made its second appearance at the **NCAA Division III College World Series** after defeating Adrian College in the Ashland Super Regional.

MAY



- » **Rob Young** joined Randolph-Macon as **CFO/Vice President for Administration and Finance**, bringing an extensive record of leadership in higher education finance to the role.
- » **350 graduates from the Class of 2024** walked across the stage at **Commencement**, where Judge Roger L. Gregory served as Commencement speaker.





A YEAR OF PLANNING

FOR 2023 - 2024 AND BEYOND

Randolph-Macon's future is the subject of several simultaneous and interdependent planning processes that commenced during the 2023–2024 academic year. Each will be an important foundation to ensure the College is well-positioned to succeed in an era of change across the higher education landscape.



MASTER PLAN

RMC is working again with Baltimore-based design firm Ayers Saint Gross to update the Campus Master Plan that was approved in 2009. The original plan laid out a vision that influenced much of the transformation of the physical campus over the past 15 years. This process is re-examining elements of the original long-term vision that have not yet been realized and planning for the future.

The wide-ranging effort to refresh the plan considers infrastructure, open space, mobility, parking, and sustainability goals, alongside four core elements of college life: teaching space, residential space, student life and athletics, and academic and administrative workspaces.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In a rapidly changing world, RMC is engaged in an agile form of strategic planning. This iterative process aims to seed the development of initiatives that support an overriding strategic objective: enhancing and communicating RMC's exceptional commitment to students' post-graduate outcomes.

A Strategic Planning Leadership Committee made up of trustees, administrators, and faculty is leading the work, with working groups focused on building initiatives in three areas: Outcomes, Athletics and Activities Planning, and Strategic Visioning.

GROWTH AND TARGETS ASSESSMENT

Related to both the strategic plan and the master plan—and with the College's record enrollment in mind—planning is underway to develop a long-term picture of enrollment targets. This reassessment is an important foundation so that the College can continue to support a uniquely Randolph-Macon experience, which is closely tied to our size and scale.

GIVING UP CLOSE

A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY

While overall giving to Randolph-Macon fell short of the exceptionally strong results of the previous year, it was another year of generous and passionate support from those who love our institution. Our Yellow Jacket Club donors, in particular, had another record-breaking year, rallying around the extraordinary success of our athletic teams. They played a crucial role in helping the College manage the additional expenses associated with hosting and traveling to significant NCAA tournament games in football, men's basketball, softball, and baseball.

The sustained enthusiasm of our alumni and friends is particularly evident as we reflect on the tenure of President Lindgren in the time since he announced his plans for retirement.

A record-breaking comprehensive campaign ended in 2015 with more than \$125 million raised, but the generosity has continued ever since, supporting the construction or renovation of Brock Hall, Payne Hall, the Center for the Performing Arts, Duke Hall, and the renovation of Crenshaw Gymnasium.

We celebrate this year's results as a part of this legacy – **a remarkable \$237 million raised since 2006!**

» 109

NEW ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIPS
\$50K OR MORE

» 14 years

WITH AN AVERAGE OF 30%
ALUMNI PARTICIPATION

» \$110 million

IN 17 NEW AND RENOVATED BUILDINGS

SINCE 2006

» 300%

INCREASE IN ATHLETICS GIVING

» 9

NEW ENDOWED
PROFESSORSHIPS
\$1M OR MORE

» \$60 million

ENDOWMENT GIVING

HIBBIE HAYSLETT '59

Hibbie Hayslett '59 is a man filled with gratitude for the opportunities he was afforded, and the life he has been able to lead. That gratitude is what drives him to pay it forward to the next generation of Randolph-Macon students.

After his parents died at a young age, Hayslett was raised by his grandparents. His grandfather worked as a janitor at Fairfax High School, and during the swing shift from 4 p.m. to midnight, befriended the school's principal, Samuel Coffey, who was a graduate of the RMC Class of 1931.

Hayslett assumed that on his grandfather's modest wages, college was not a possibility. But one day, Coffey pulled him aside and asked, "Do you want to go to college?" Having recognized Hayslett as a good student, Coffey arranged for a scholarship for him at his alma mater, plus a job on campus to help pay for meals.

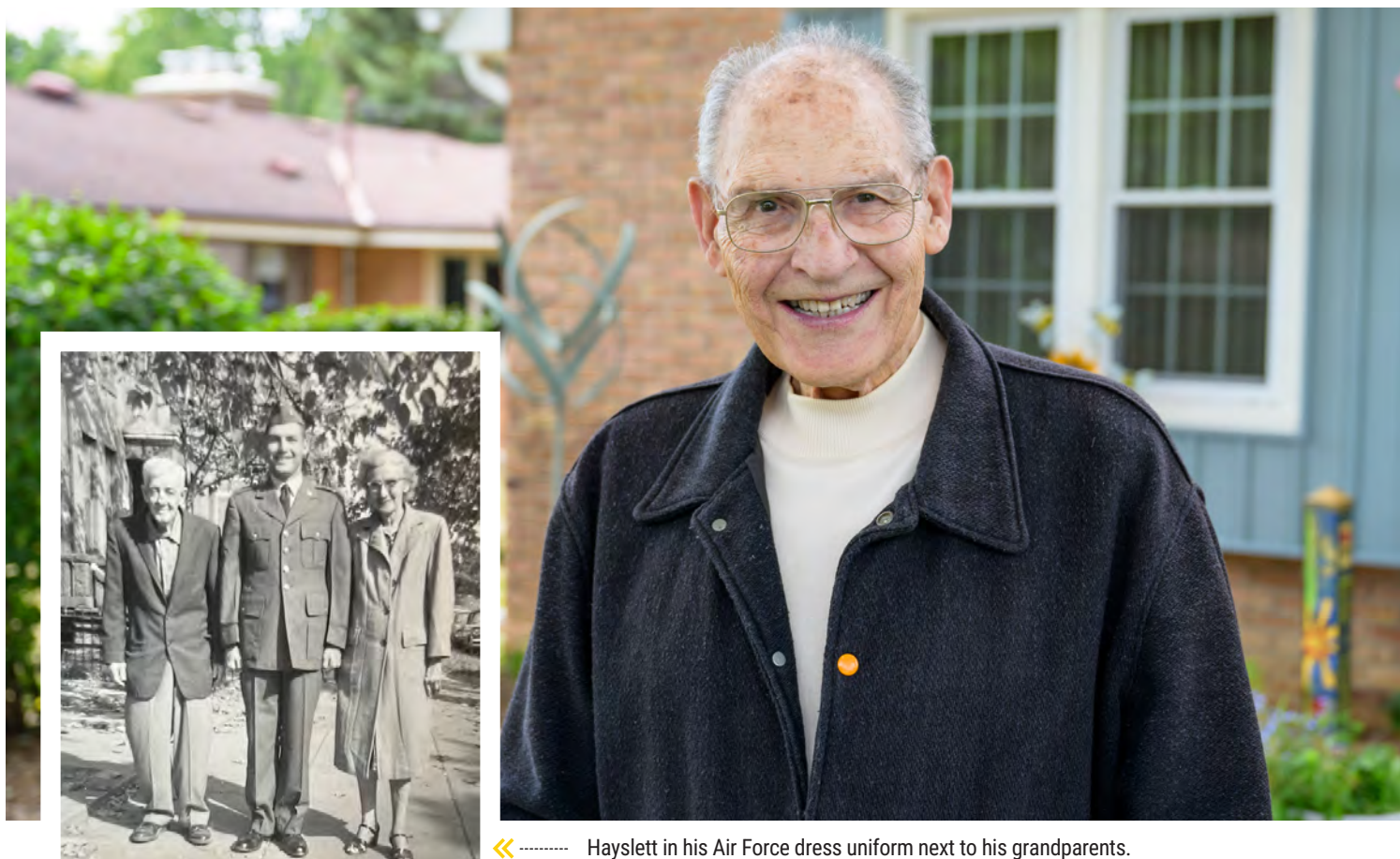
Hayslett played on the football team, joined the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, and majored in Spanish and French. When he finished

his degree, he joined the Air Force and served as an officer for 21 decorated years.

His wife Jerrienne established the Hilbert Hunter Hayslett, Jr. Scholarship to give students the same opportunity he had to attend Randolph-Macon. "I really think that any time you try to offer a hand to somebody, it helps," Hayslett explained.

Hayslett's gratitude was punctuated as a young second lieutenant, when he had the opportunity to take photos in his dress uniform with his grandparents and Coffey, the people who had made his career possible.

"When you do things that literally change someone's life for the better—I mean quantum things, big things—there are no words. You say 'thank you,' and it doesn't even begin to give the appreciation that is due to them," Hayslett said. "But wearing that uniform and being part of Randolph-Macon, those are two things that are indelible with me and give me great satisfaction."



« Hayslett in his Air Force dress uniform next to his grandparents.



RAYNOR HUTCHINSON-DAHLQUIST '92

When she first arrived at Randolph-Macon, Raynor Hutchinson-Dahlquist '92 was one of the few students with her own computer in her dorm room. Little did she know, she was paving the path to a career in cybersecurity, one that would lead her to a role as a Senior Vice President and Market and Cyber Leader for Booz Allen Hamilton.

Growing up in a military family and a close-knit church community in Newport News, Va., Hutchinson-Dahlquist was drawn to Randolph-Macon for its own sense of community. She majored in French, spending a semester in Paris, and created lifelong bonds with her Phi Mu sorority sisters along the way.

Her economics minor and liberal arts education were a strong foundation to complete an MBA at Pepperdine and land a first job at Transamerica. There, she was tasked with putting the company's life insurance offerings "on this thing called the internet," and a career in the digital world was born. As the internet and subsequent cybersecurity threats grew, Hutchinson-Dahlquist turned her focus to

defending against attacks. Now with Booz Allen Hamilton, she works in full-spectrum cyber, protecting the nation from its adversaries.

Hutchinson-Dahlquist has personally felt the impact that support to RMC can have on a student. "At a couple of points in my time at Randolph-Macon, I wasn't sure that I was going to be able to continue my education," she explained. "I had people step in for me, both helping me find part-time work and helping me figure out how I was going to continue to pay for tuition. That was the only way I finished at Randolph-Macon."

Hutchinson-Dahlquist's giving to the College is multifaceted, including support for the Annual Fund, the general scholarship fund, study abroad, the Yellow Jacket Club, and more. Ultimately, she hopes her philanthropy ensures that today's students have the same opportunities she had.

"My heart is with the kids who want to be there and just can't because of something that's happened," she said. "I hope that giving there has helped."

CLIFTON BAILEY '62

From infrastructure to manufacturing, engineering impacts nearly every aspect of daily life. Making Randolph-Macon a place where students can prepare for this crucial field is why Clifton Bailey '62 is proud to support RMC's engineering program.

Bailey graduated RMC with a Bachelor of Science in Physics and put his degree to good use in a successful career that included stops at the Food and Drug Administration, the Naval Medical Research Institute, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Health Care Financing Administration. He has provided significant support to the sciences at RMC, including upgrades in Copley and the R. Clifton Bailey '62 Endowed Fund for Engineering—the first gift to support the rapidly growing program.

That program recently celebrated an important milestone: accreditation from ABET, the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology.

Bailey values that RMC Engineering stays true to the College's liberal arts foundation, preparing students who are leaders, communicators, and scientists. He knows firsthand that successful engineers think critically. "An engineer has to go beyond the textbook—that has the easy problems," Bailey said. "It's not just about plugging in the numbers. It's about extending knowledge to solve real problems."



Bailey speaks with Dr. James T. McLeskey, RMC's Head of Engineering Programs



CHARLEITA M. RICHARDSON '00

Charleita M. Richardson '00 found starting college was an adjustment for her—a fact she attributes, in part, to being a student of color who felt out of place at times in her early days. But she credits the support of the Randolph-Macon faculty and staff for guiding her through the transition. “It was that family environment that allowed me to adjust,” Richardson explained. From there, she got involved on campus as much as she could, allowing her leadership skills to develop and shine.

Today, her support of the College aims to lift up other students like she was.

“Because I know Randolph-Macon gave so much to me, I believe it’s important that I give back to the school to support other students who are like me, who were that first-generation student coming on campus, that student from a single-parent household, trying to figure it out,” Richardson said.

Richardson views her time at RMC as foundational to her professional success, which has been focused on quality educational experiences

through the non-profit sector. An accounting major, she was the first Black woman ever to serve as the senior class speaker at Commencement. She has led three non-profits, each focused on college access and children, and was awarded Randolph-Macon’s Non-Profit Executive of the Year Award in 2022. Now Richardson is returning to her hometown Richmond this fall to become the President and CEO of Cristo Rey Richmond High School.

She is looking forward to being closer to RMC’s Ashland campus, where Richardson has been involved in the Multicultural Alumni Association, on the Racial Equity and Opportunity Commission, and as a member of the Society of Alumni Board. Her financial support of RMC is both short-term and looks to the future. In addition to annual gifts, she is a member of RMC’s Heritage Society, which honors those who include the College in their estate plans. Her planned gift ensures that her support for Randolph-Macon’s students will continue long-term.

“For me, it’s about leaving a legacy,” Richardson said. “In the end, I want to leave this world better than when I came in.”

FACULTY AWARDS

Members of the College's talented and dedicated faculty were honored with Randolph-Macon's most distinguished honors.



Samuel L. Nelson Gray Distinguished Professor Award

The College's highest faculty honor, established by the late Virginia Clark Gray Backus in memory of her husband, an alumnus and former trustee of Randolph-Macon College, is bestowed on a faculty member or senior administrator who has made a distinguished contribution to the College.

Dr. Nora Green, Professor of Chemistry, joined the RMC faculty in 2004. She teaches not only in her field of biochemistry, but also medicinal chemistry, organic chemistry, and quantitative chemical analysis. Her research has been supported by two internal RMC grants to support her work, and she has supervised over 20 research students. Green is also well-respected among the faculty for her roles on the Committee on Curriculum in the past and her leadership on the General Education Curriculum more recently.



Dr. Michael Fenster, Professor of Environmental Studies, joined the RMC faculty in 1999, and served as the Director of the Environmental Studies program from 2006–2023 and as the Stephen H. Watts Professor in the Physical Sciences from 2012–2022. Fenster is an accomplished scientist, with a prolific record of research grants and publications in top-tier journals. Demonstrating his commitment as an educator, many of his 47 peer-reviewed papers are co-authored with RMC students. Dr. Fenster has been nominated three times for the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award, once for the Carnegie U.S. Professor of the Year Award, and was honored with the United Methodist Church Exemplary Teacher Award in 2008.

Thomas Branch Award for Excellence in Teaching

The Thomas Branch Award is a student-selected honor presented to faculty members. Its selection is based on the nominations and then votes of the RMC senior class.

Dr. Michael Fischbach, Professor of History, has been a member of the RMC faculty since 1992. He received his third Thomas Branch Award, having previously won the honor in 1995 and 2018. An accomplished and popular teacher, he is known for his student-directed learning and open classroom environment.

"Students remark on their appreciation for his empowering them to grapple critically with current issues," Provost Alisa J. Rosenthal remarked. "They praise the way he challenges student assumptions while still providing a respectful learning environment that promotes free discussion of ideas."

Dr. Jill Horohoe, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, received her second Thomas Branch Award in three years, having previously won the honor in 2022. She joined the RMC faculty in 2020 and swiftly became known for her boundless energy and the ways in which she engages students.

"Students regularly note the positive environment of her classroom, citing in particular her ability to facilitate conversations that enable them to expand our emotions and intellectual capabilities, and to allow us to connect to and understand each other better," Rosenthal remarked.

Dr. La Toria Tookes, Senior Lecturer of Computer Science, received her second Thomas Branch Award, having previously won the honor in 2021. She joined the RMC faculty in 2017 and in addition to her exceptional teaching, is involved in service across campus. In particular, she has been a linchpin in the College's improved support for transfer students.

"Students routinely praise her as organized, compassionate, caring, and responsive," Rosenthal said. "They comment on her evident love for teaching and her talent for making students feel connected and emotionally supported."



The United Methodist Church Exemplary Teacher of the Year Award

The United Methodist Exemplary Teacher Award is awarded to a faculty member who demonstrates excellence in teaching, civility, and concern for students and colleagues; commitment to value-centered education; and service to students, the institution, and the community.

Dr. Mine Eren, Professor of Film Studies and German, teaches a wide range of courses across two different programs, Film Studies and German. In addition to a prolific and broad range, Eren's teaching is innovative, creating courses such as Business German and Diversity in Germany to connect language and culture classes with the interests and needs of students in business and international courses.



NEW ENDOWED FUNDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

We are extremely grateful for the donors who generously created the following endowed funds and scholarships during the 2023–2024 fiscal year.

Endowed Funds

R. Clifton Bailey '62 Endowed Fund for Engineering

Anustup Bhattacharya Endowed Fund for Physics,
Engineering, and Astrophysics

Julianna Heuchan '22 and Brecht Heuchan '24
Endowed Fund for Athletics

Louis and Nan Renjel Endowed Fund for the Edge
Career Center

Women's Lacrosse Endowment

Endowed Scholarships

Malcolm C. '66 and Carole E. Alfriend Scholarship

Robert E. Bentz '68 Scholarship

Roland L. Bowles Scholarship for Applied Mathematics

Roland L. Bowles Scholarship for Engineering

Roland L. Bowles Scholarship for Physics

Timothy Wayne Bullis '93 Scholarship

A. Dean Kesler, Jr., M.D.'62 Endowed Scholarship -
Biology

A. Dean Kesler, Jr., M.D.'62 Endowed Scholarship -
Chemistry

A. Dean Kesler, Jr., M.D.'62 Endowed Scholarship -
Math/Accounting

A. Dean Kesler, Jr., M.D.'62 Endowed Scholarship -
Nursing

A. Dean Kesler, Jr., M.D.'62 Endowed Scholarship -
Physics

Martha Anne and Wallace Martin Scholarship

Phi Delta Theta Scholarship

Edward Deal Tompkins '68 Memorial Scholarship Fund

Rev. David Wade Scholarship

XANDER BIRCHFIELD '25

Xander Birchfield '25, an engineering major and avid pianist, is merging his passions at Randolph-Macon. As a piano teacher himself outside of class (he has online students in four different states), Birchfield is acutely aware of the prohibitive cost of musical instruments.

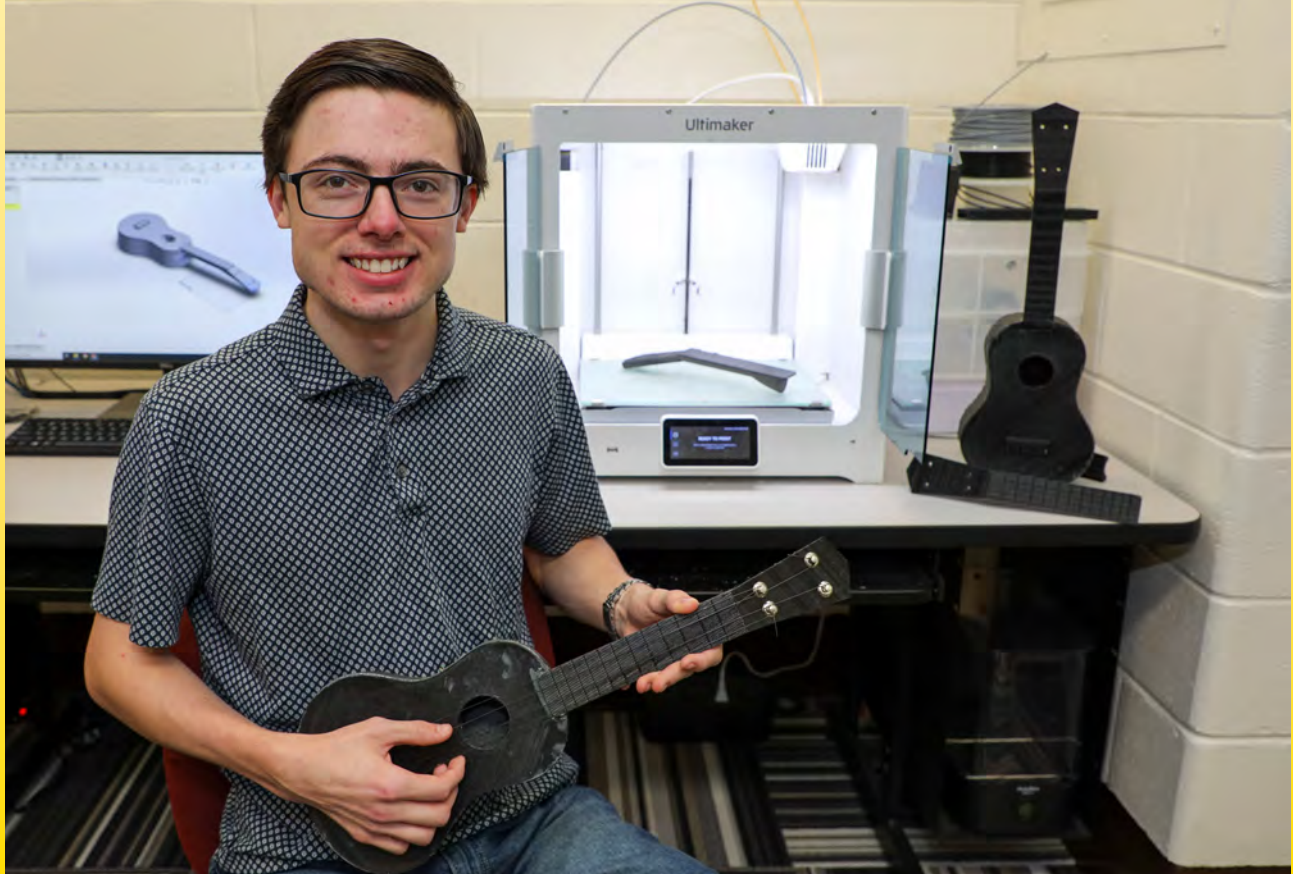
With that cost in mind, he approached engineering professor Zachary Cullingsworth with an idea for guided research: 3D printing a piano frame. While a piano frame was too large to tackle through this research, the duo kept the focus on producing a more cost-effective musical instrument, creating a 3D-printed ukulele.

They tested several materials and landed on nylon as the most musically sound. "Our last prototype was very close to the sound of a real ukulele," Birchfield explained. Outside of the tuning pegs, the entire instrument was constructed out of nylon. The research is continuing, with Birchfield seeking to strengthen the neck to prevent it from bending and detuning.

The mentorship from a faculty member throughout this process has been invaluable for Birchfield. "That probably made it possible," he said. "I think it's rare at a lot of other universities to just be able to knock on your professor's door and there they are, and they're willing to help as they can."

As a recipient of the Simpson Scholarship and the Shelton and Jean Renner Short Scholarship, Birchfield is grateful for the generous support of RMC donors, especially as it allows him to get fully involved in the College experience. In addition to his research, he plays in the drum line, is a Leadership Fellow, and is a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity.

This summer, Birchfield went from manufacturing nylon ukuleles to serving as a manufacturing intern at Hill Phoenix, Inc., a subsidiary of the Dover Corporation that creates commercial refrigeration systems. With plans to be a mechanical engineer, the experience drew a through line from his undergraduate research to a future career.





TAJRA KARABASIC '24

Every day of Tajra Karabasic '24's RMC experience was a global one. An international student from Bosnia and Herzegovina, she came to RMC and the U.S. to advance her global perspective. And then, throughout her time at RMC, she expanded it: she studied abroad in Italy, completed an internship in Thailand, and was the recipient of a Davis Project for Peace grant.

As a graduate of the United World College (UWC) high school in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Karabasic sought a college in the U.S. partnered with the UWC program. Of the hundreds of options, Randolph-Macon stood out to her for its proximity to Washington, D.C. and New York, and the ability to foster close relationships with peers and faculty at a smaller school.

She hit the ground running during her first year of college, helping to organize a cultural exchange with Le Jardin Academy in Hawaii through a Davis Project for Peace grant. Along with other Randolph-Macon students, Karabasic held workshops with the International Baccalaureate students, teaching them about Bosnian culture and heritage, while in turn learning from the students about Hawaiian culture.

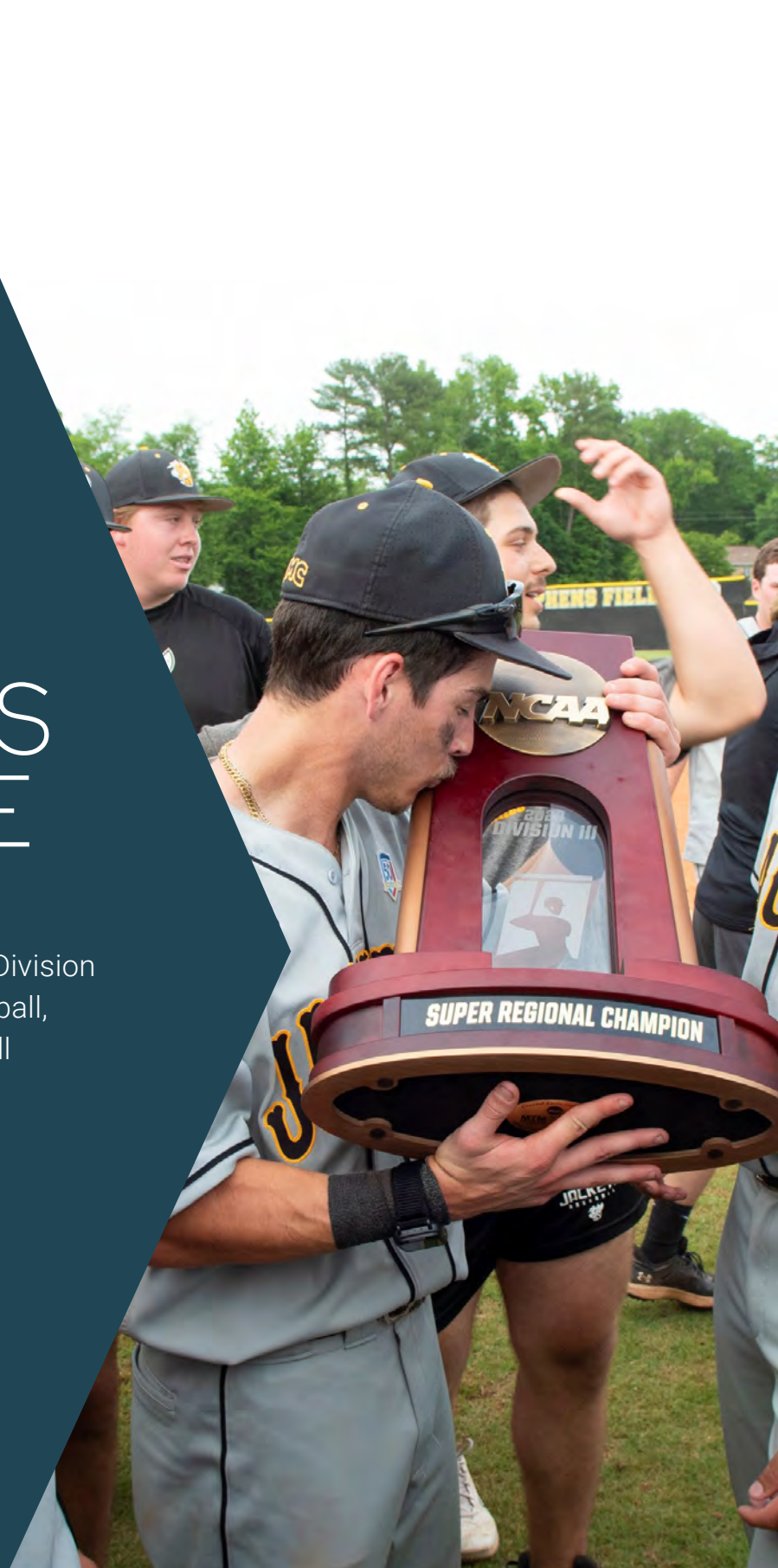
A business and political science double-major, Karabasic spent the fall semester of her junior year studying in Milan, Italy, which she described as "a dream location." While there, she took business and international relations classes and got an up-close look at an international hub of the fashion industry. "It allowed me to see business from a different perspective, through a fashion lens," Karabasic said.

While in Italy, she was already thinking about the next international opportunity. Through a scholarship from the Virginia Kincaid Foundation, she pursued an internship in Thailand the subsequent summer, serving as a management intern for Anglo-Thai Legal in Bangkok. She helped the firm conduct market research and build a social media strategy, all while being immersed in a new culture.

Now that she's walked across the Commencement stage and served as the Class of 2024's Senior Speaker, Karabasic has an eye towards graduate school and a future career in sustainability in business. No matter where she lands, expect her to keep traveling and exploring. "The more cultures you know, the more languages you speak, the richer you are," Karabasic said.

ATHLETICS UP CLOSE

Randolph-Macon was the only NCAA Division III school to win playoff games in football, men's basketball, baseball, and softball during the 2023–2024 academic year.



After winning all three of its games at the Harrisburg Regional, RMC Baseball beat Adrian College in three games in the Super Regional to advance to the program's second NCAA Division III College World Series.

ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS, continued from page 23



On Dec. 2, Kyle Ihle '25 kicked a game-winning field goal in the final minute of play as RMC Football defeated Johns Hopkins 39-36 on the road to advance to the NCAA semifinals for the first time in program history.



RMC Men's Basketball made its fifth straight appearance in the Sweet 16 with wins at home over Baruch College and Saint Joseph (Conn.), powered by 41 points from Keishawn Pulley, Jr. '26 across the two games.

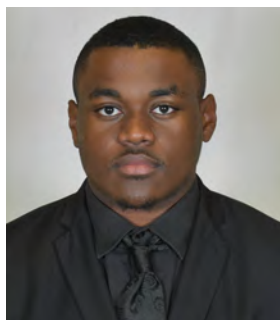


RMC Softball earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, its sixth straight postseason appearance, and advanced to the Regional Final after defeating Eastern and Manhattanville.

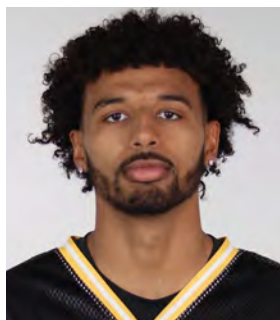
ALL-AMERICANS



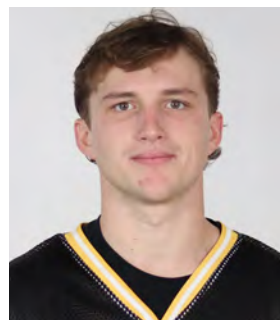
Matt Hale '24
(Football)



Nehemiah Nixon '24
(Football)



Mike Allen '26
(Men's Lacrosse)



Jack Smith '24
(Men's Lacrosse)



Avery Tankersley '25
(Men's Lacrosse)



Morgan Mussatt '27
(Women's Golf)



Gracie Ellis '25
(Softball)



Grace Parker '24
(Women's Volleyball)

RMC MEN'S TEAM RECORDS

OVERALL TOTAL 114-61-3
(.649 winning percentage)

Baseball	33-16 (Final ranking #10) <i>NCAA Division III College World Series, ODAC Regular Season Champions</i>
Basketball	25-5 (Final ranking #7) <i>NCAA Sweet 16, ODAC Regular Season Champions</i>
Football	13-1 (Final ranking #6) <i>NCAA Semifinals, ODAC Champions</i>
Golf	6th at ODAC Championship
Lacrosse	15-5 (Most wins and first ODAC championship game appearance in program history)
Soccer	6-7-3
Swimming	2-5 5th at ODAC Championship
Tennis	2-11
Volleyball	18-11

RMC WOMEN'S TEAM RECORDS

OVERALL TOTAL 116-54-6
(.676 winning percentage)

Basketball	17-9
Field Hockey	11-7
Golf	3rd at ODAC Championship
Lacrosse	14-6
Soccer	6-8-4
Softball	33-7-2 (Final ranking #20) <i>NCAA Regional</i>
Swimming	5-2 4th at ODAC Championship
Tennis	11-5
Volleyball	19-10

SPORTS ACCOLADES

Gold Glove

Grayson Bush '24 (Baseball)

Academic All-Americans (6)

Sam Slevin '25 (Baseball)

Nick Hale '24 (Football)

Jack Smith '24 (Men's Lacrosse)

Ryan Pritchard '24 (Men's Lacrosse)

Emma Bonovitch '24 (Women's Golf)

Mary Kathryn Topping '27 (Women's Golf)

ODAC Players of the Year (3)

Drew Campanale '24 (Football)

Rilee Baughan '24 (Softball)

Grace Parker '24 (Women's Volleyball)

ODAC Rookies of the Year (2)

Sam Smith '27 (Women's Basketball)

Morgan Mussatt '27 (Women's Golf)

ODAC Coach of the Year (5)

Ray Hedrick '97 (Baseball)

Pedro Arruza (Football)

Josh Merkel (Men's Basketball)

JB Sheridan (Men's Lacrosse)

Lindsey Burke (Women's Basketball)



NFL Free Agent Contract

David Wallis '24 (New England Patriots)

U.S. Women's Amateur Golf Championship Qualifier

Morgan Mussatt '27



Academic All-Conference

264 student-athletes

All-Conference (73)

Baseball – 6

Men's Basketball – 3

Football – 16

Men's Lacrosse – 7

Men's Soccer – 2

Men's Swimming – 2

Men's Volleyball – 3

Women's Basketball – 2

Field Hockey – 6

Women's Golf – 2

Women's Lacrosse – 6

Women's Soccer – 3

Softball – 7

Women's Swimming – 5

Women's Volleyball – 3



It was a banner year for RMC Baseball and head coach Ray Hedrick '97. In addition to advancing to the Division III College World Series, Hedrick was named ODAC Coach of the Year, the ABCA Regional Coach of the Year, and set a program record for wins.

GEORGE P. COMPTON AWARD



Top RMC Senior Male
Student-Athlete

JACK SMITH '24
Men's Lacrosse

Smith is the RMC Mens Lacrosse record-holder for career points (289) and is the only player in program history to amass 100 goals, 100 assists, and 100 ground balls in their career. He was honored as an All-American and a First Team All-ODAC selection in both his junior and senior seasons, and in 2024 was named a USILA Scholar All-American.

SUSAN LOCKE DE NAGY AWARD

Top RMC Senior Female
Student-Athlete

GRACE PARKER '24
Women's Volleyball

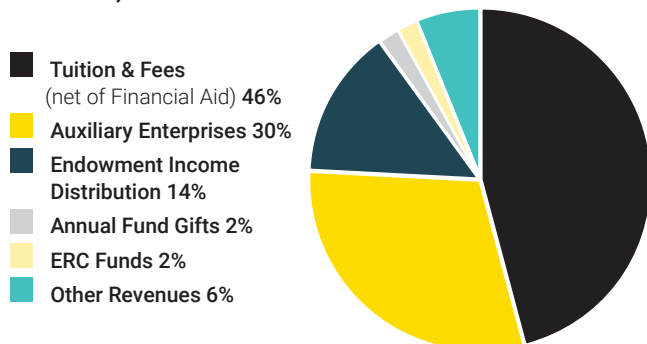
Parker is a three-time Honorable Mention All-American and two-time ODAC Player of the Year. Her 1,851 career kills are both an RMC and ODAC record, and she holds three of the top 10 single-season kill totals in program history. In 2022, when the Yellow Jackets won the ODAC Championship, Parker led all Division III players with 5.36 kills per set.



FINANCIAL REPORT

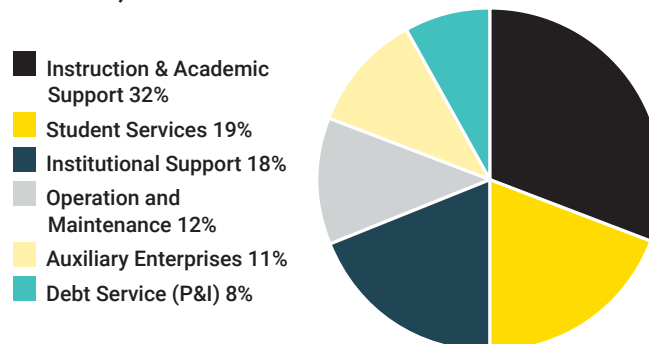
Randolph-Macon's operating revenues exceeded operating expenses for the 45th year in a row. Overall enrollment increased after the two previous years of slight declines. A balanced budget was made possible by a combination of support from our Board of Trustees, alumni, and friends of the College and close management of our departmental budgets.

SOURCES OF CURRENT FUND REVENUES June 30, 2024



OPERATING REVENUE:
\$57.9 MILLION

CURRENT FUND EXPENSE CATEGORIES June 30, 2024



OPERATING EXPENSES:
\$56.7 MILLION

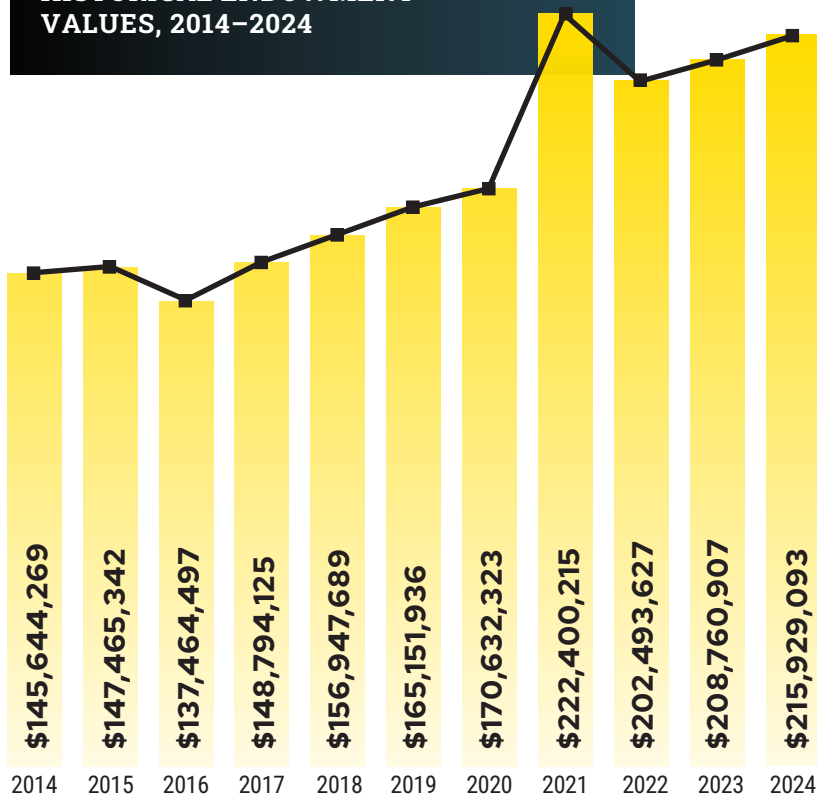
CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- » Construction of three modular residence halls—Maple Hall, Birch Hall, and Oak Hall—completed in time to accommodate increased enrollment for the start of the 2024–2025 academic year
- » Renovation of Estes Dining Hall with increased cooking visibility and a spacious server layout
- » Replacement of HVAC system in Peele Hall
- » Renovation of biology and computer science labs in Copley Science Center
- » Upgrades to residence hall bathrooms and windows, including Mary Branch and Cochrane and Flippo Townhouses
- » Upgrades to furniture in Brock Commons, Fox Hall, and Haley Hall
- » Maintenance of heating systems across campus

RMC'S CONTINUED FINANCIAL STRENGTHS INCLUDE:

- » A Standard and Poor's A Stable rating
- » Annual fund giving of \$1.3 million
- » A trailing five-year return of 7.5% for the College's endowment

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE HISTORICAL ENDOWMENT VALUES, 2014–2024



COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

(as of June 30, 2024)

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David G. Meleski '81

Secretary

Yvonne Wallace Brandon '76

Assistant Secretary

Emily P. Harrison

Erica Glasper Andrews '02

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Macon F. Brock III '95

L. Preston Bryant, Jr. '86

Grace B. Carroll '85

J. Scott Colley '64

William A. Davis, Jr. '78

Kelly K. Domson '89

Malinda E. Dunn '78

Jennifer Fitch Folsom '97

Alice Collins Fruth '01

F. Gillis Green '85

Richard M. Hamrick III '78

Thomas M. Hubbard '75

R. Earl Johnson '66

William B. Kilduff '74

Sabra Klein '92

Robert B. Lambeth, Jr. '71

Robert R. Lindgren

Stephen P. Long '82

T. C. Melton III '97

Thomas L. Millner '76

R. Geoffrey Neville, Jr.

Allison M. O'Brien '77

Annette C. Paul '80

John B. Peters '70

Susan P. Quinn '80

Graham B. Rashkind '96

Mary Lynn Reed '80

Louis E. Renjel, Jr. '95

Michael L. Roberson '87

Linwood A. Staub '84

Cindy Crabill Szadokierski '81

R. Randolph Weis '88

R. Douglas White '80

Katherine G. Whitehead '97

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and Finance*

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*Vice President for Student Affairs
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Management*

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*Vice President for College
Advancement*

Beth S. Campbell

*Vice President for Marketing and
Communications*

Dr. John W. McManus '84

*Executive Assistant to
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Emily P. Harrison

*Assistant Secretary to the
Board of Trustees*

Dr. Melanie Gubbels Bupp

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the Cabinet*

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