



RANDOLPH-MACON **Today**
THE MAGAZINE ■ SUMMER 2022

ROAD TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP

INSIDE

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS • COMMENCEMENT 2022 • 50TH REUNION WEEKEND



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear R-MC Community,

As we complete another academic year and welcome another group of graduates into our exceptional network of alumni, I find myself musing on what makes our Yellow Jacket community so special. Clearly there is something in the water here, and it gives us an enormous amount to celebrate.

The pages of this magazine celebrate R-MC champions.

There is so much to share about the exciting road to the NCAA DIII National Championship for our men's basketball team (pages 11 to 17)—a journey that rewarded years of teamwork, character, hard work, and grit from an exceptional group of athletes and coaches.

There is also our first individual national champion in our equestrian program—Caitlyn Giese '24, who brought home that honor from the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's national competition this spring. And in eSports as well. Plus, new inductees into our Athletics Hall of Fame.

But our accomplished athletes are not the only champions we celebrate at R-MC.

Indeed, I have said since I arrived here more than 16 years ago that the special relationship between our students and our faculty and staff—as shown by the way they respect and support each other—is truly remarkable. The bond between them is just so natural and something that our seniors routinely celebrate as the most distinguishing factor about their time spent on campus.

So, I enthusiastically celebrate the community of campus champions that makes R-MC special.

You will likewise read here about several members of our alumni and friends network who have also been champions for others. Their dedication to something bigger and their service to their fellow Yellow Jackets makes us all stronger. With their help, we have built the remarkable buildings, programs, and support services we have today.

The word "champion" is both a noun and a verb. When I think about the spirit of champions that permeates this community, it is clear to me that what defines us is both being a champion and celebrating our champions. Put simply, Yellow Jackets show up for each other, and that helps us build more champions.

Not everyone will wear the Lemon and Black jersey and compete for trophies or championships. But with an indomitable R-MC spirit, we all can wear Lemon and Black with immense pride and be champions for ourselves, our peers, and our great institution.

Maybe that is what's most in the water here.

Best regards,

Bob Lindgren

"...I enthusiastically celebrate the community of campus champions that makes R-MC special."

In our senior spotlights, you will meet some members of the Class of 2022. These students are champions too, with impressive graduate school plans and exciting job prospects. But most significant to me are their comments in which these seniors meaningfully celebrate individual faculty and staff members. The men and women who helped them achieve their particular milestones. Our superb faculty and staff are champions as well!

RANDOLPH-MACON **Today**

THE MISSION OF THE R-MC MAGAZINE IS TO ENGAGE AND CONNECT alumni, parents, and friends to Randolph-Macon College by sharing information about the College and alumni activities and providing opportunities for involvement and support.

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R-MC editor reserves the right to edit content.



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Members from the Classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972 spent three days on and off campus celebrating their induction into the Boydton Society.

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Go behind the scenes of Randolph-Macon's NCAA DIII National Championship-winning men's basketball season following three years of pandemic-disrupted play.

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Big adventures and bright futures lie ahead for Randolph-Macon's Class of 2022! Learn more about some of the College's newest alumni.

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OFF TO A FINE ART



Randolph-Macon's Center for the Performing Arts received its official dedication on Friday, April 29, four years after plans for the 19,000-square-foot performing arts hub began. The celebration took place over the course of the entire weekend and included curated performances by R-MC's musicians, singers, actors, and show choir—a testament to the variety of outlets and opportunities for artistic expression available at Randolph-Macon. The following pages capture just a few of the sights (and sounds) on display during the building's dedication weekend.



CHECK ONE TWO, ONE TWO

The weekend dedication ceremony kicked off with a private event on Friday evening, during which invited guests and donors enjoyed a cocktail hour and special tours of the new performing arts space against a backdrop of live music from R-MC's Jazz Improvisation Lab.



ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Dr. Jim Doering, professor of music and chair of R-MC's Department of Arts, recalled the contributions of professors in the arts who helped build the program and the significance of Blackwell Auditorium in the minds of generations of Yellow Jackets. "But what's now possible, and in ways that were simply not in the past, is that—with the newly constructed spaces—we have transformed this multi-purpose venue into a broader hub for engagement with the performing arts," he said.

A HEART FOR THE ARTS

Together, Maria Wornom Rippe and her late husband, Peter Rippe, generously established the Wornom-Rippe Faculty Development Endowment, were lead donors on the Keeble Observatory, and co-chaired R-MC's Arts Council for many years. Upon Peter's passing, Maria made a pledge to celebrate her husband's lifelong passion for the arts by naming a campus space in his memory, the Center for the Performing Arts' Rippe Lobby.



LIGHTING UP THE STAGE—LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY

As usual, the LUXE Show Choir wowed audiences on Saturday and Sunday with a performance of "A Mother's Love," a compelling story about love, sacrifice, and finding life's purpose on one's own unique journey. "Students feel that they can walk into a building, and right then and there they have an amazing opportunity for growth," said director Adam Pulver about the new building's impact on his group.



Scan the QR code to relive Randolph-Macon performing arts events through the years!



"NOBODY UNDERSTANDS HOW HARD IT IS, BEING A CAPTAIN"

Guests were treated to a scene from "Peter and the Starcatcher," directed by Janet Hayatshahi, assistant professor of theatre arts. The play, which was then performed throughout the week, fills in the backstory for characters like Peter Pan, Mrs. Darling, Tinker Bell, and Hook. The theatrical staging by R-MC's theatre students showcased the new Cobb-Kesler Theater, enhanced with support from Dr. Jackson '59 and Betty Kesler.

"COME BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN"

President Lindgren took the stage in Blackwell Auditorium to stress the importance of philanthropy in helping the College thrive, providing special thanks to all the College's generous donors, without whom the Center for the Performing Arts would not have been possible. He noted the extraordinary contributions of Macon F. Brock, Jr. '64 and his family, Dr. Jackson '59 and Betty Kesler, Maria and Peter Rippe, Sidney '48 and Elizabeth '48 Matthews, Larry Haun '61, and Harold Duke. 🟡



On a Whole New Level

The second and third floors of Duke Hall were added this spring, with the College's most recent building project on track to be completed in fall 2022 as planned. The 45,000-square-foot facility on the western edge of Day Field will support a variety of R-MC's athletic teams and will serve as the home to Randolph-Macon's physician assistant studies program, which will welcome its first cohort in the space in January 2023. New stands will also be completed in time for the start of football season in fall 2022.

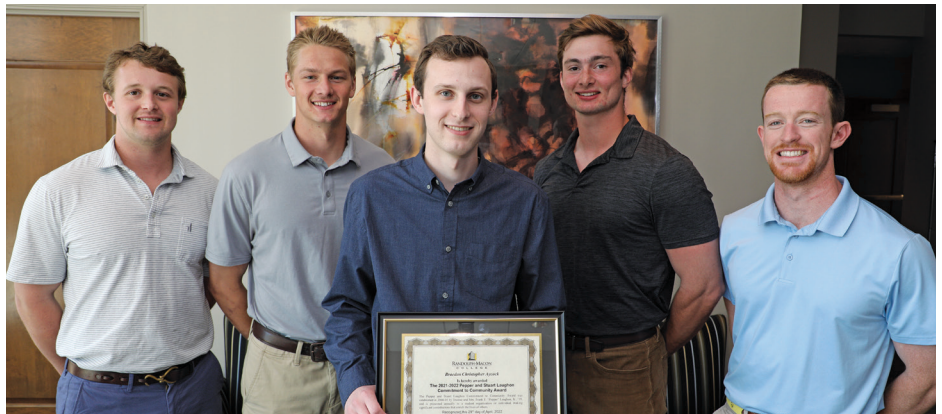


SENIOR RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

The College's annual presentation of The Pepper and Stuart Laughon Commitment to Community Award took place on Friday, April 29 in the Dalton Family Dining Room. This year's winner, Braeden Aycock '22 (biology), was honored for his significant contributions to enriching the community while a student at Randolph-Macon.

The award was established in 2004 by the late Frank E. "Pepper" Laughon, Jr. '59 and his wife, Stuart Bost Laughon, and reflects its namesakes' legacy of championing campus leadership and service. Pepper served on the Board of Trustees, Student Affairs Committee, Athletic Committee, and Greek Alumni Advisory Board. Likewise, Stuart was committed to increasing opportunities for all Yellow Jackets.

A student in the Department of Biology's pre-med program, Aycock is a presidential scholar, a member of the fraternity Phi Kappa Sigma, and belongs to the honor societies Alpha Lambda Delta and Beta Beta Beta. His extensive volunteer experience includes stints with the Virginia State Park Service, Barron



Aycock (center) surrounded by members of the Green Bandana Project: (left to right) Kovie Bowen '22, Derek Marsilio '22, Scott Ruelle '22, and Andrew Tiffey '22.

Animal Surgery, CARITAS, St. James the Less Free Clinic, the Richmond Fire Department, and the Central Virginia Food Bank. He has already secured a summer position with Kings Dominion Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service in Doswell, Virginia, and plans to pursue further training as a physician assistant.

"I hope this award stands as a reminder to us all to rededicate ourselves to community service now and in

the future. Our communities would not be the warm and inviting places they are without the hard work of so many people," Aycock said.

Aycock selected the R-MC chapter of the Green Bandana Project, a student-led organization focused on raising mental health awareness and suicide prevention, to receive this year's monetary prize. Several of the group's leaders, pictured here, accompanied Aycock to the award ceremony to accept the prize. ◆

Paying It Forward

THIS PAST YEAR, \$2.75 MILLION IN ENDOWED FUNDS WERE AWARDED TO RANDOLPH-MACON STUDENTS TO HELP PAY FOR COLLEGE.

R-MC celebrated its 346 endowed scholarships and their recipients during the annual Scholarship Luncheon on March 13. During the gathering, President Lindgren shared a reflection passed along to him by Hardaway Abernathy '39, who established the Abernathy-Eason Scholarship in 1983. On Abernathy's first day at Randolph-Macon, he attended a class taught by respected mathematics professor and dean T. McNider Simpson, Jr., Class of 1901. That day, Simpson entered the classroom, went to the blackboard, and, without saying a word, wrote on

the board: "If I can see clearly now, it is because I am standing on the shoulders of giants."

These words stayed with Abernathy for a lifetime, and he in turn lived by them. Today's students stand on the shoulders

of their scholarship donors, individuals who invest in our students and give them the greatest gift of all: opportunity.

Of note, since the last Scholarship Luncheon in 2019, 17 new scholarships have been created. 🟡

Recipients of the James M. and Mary Dudding Vaughn Memorial Scholarship, established by John Vaughan '66, gather for lunch and conversation. Mr. Vaughan passed away in 2019, but members of his family and former recipients of the scholarship continue to support the scholarship. Many previous Vaughn Scholars alumni have found a way to financially support the scholarship as a way to "pay it forward" and continue a legacy of lifting others up.



BROADWAY STAR SHINES DURING PAUL AND LOIS WATKINS LECTURE

The 2022 Paul and Lois Watkins Lecture featured stage and TV star Bryan Terrell Clark, best known for his role as George Washington in Broadway's "Hamilton." His relaxed and intimate lecture on the stage of the recently renovated Blackwell Auditorium painted a wide-ranging portrait of his life. He rapped lyrics from the famous play, sang gospel, and shared life lessons about his race, sexuality, and career journey. Clark's time on campus also included two workshops with theatre students and the LUXE Show Choir.

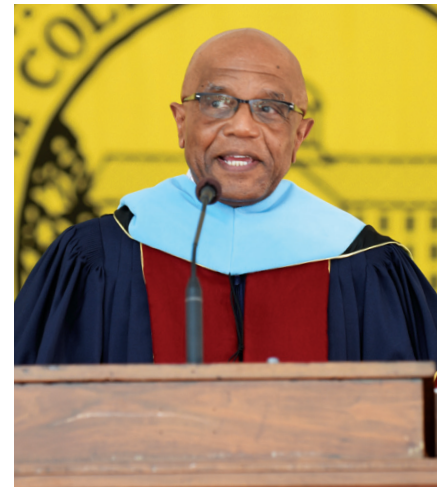


2022 COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION

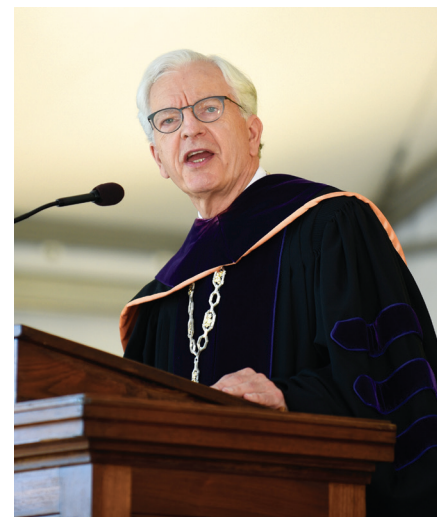
ON SUNDAY, MAY 22, RANDOLPH-MACON JOINED TOGETHER AT BROWN FOUNTAIN PLAZA TO CELEBRATE THE 338 MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022 DURING THE COLLEGE'S ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY. THE GRADUATING YELLOW JACKETS VENTURE OFF INTO EXCITING PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL JOURNEYS AFTER OFFICIALLY JOINING THE RANKS OF RANDOLPH-MACON'S PASSIONATE ALUMNI COMMUNITY.



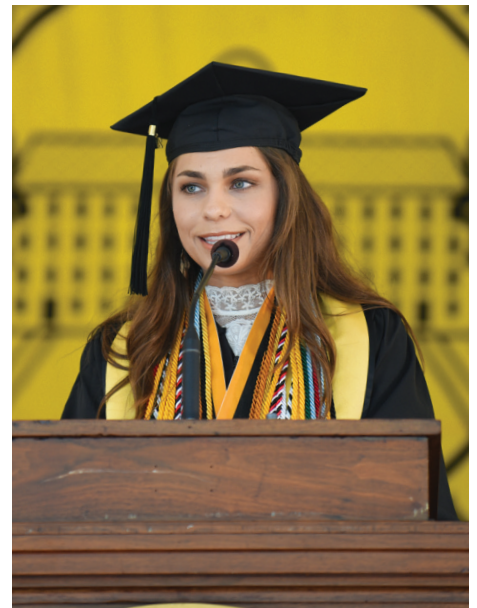
Crutcher was awarded an honorary Doctor of Education degree during the ceremony. Two other esteemed friends of the College earned honorary degrees from Randolph-Macon. Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D., received an honorary Doctor of Science degree, and Ralph R. Crosby, Jr., received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.



Ronald A. Crutcher, D.M.A, president emeritus of the University of Richmond, served as Commencement speaker. He encouraged students to reframe challenges as opportunities for personal improvement, then urged them to approach conflict with compassion: "Draw on your Randolph-Macon education and strive to be active and empathetic listeners who seek first to understand and then to be understood—listeners committed to engaging meaningfully with diverse viewpoints, even when opposing or humiliating viewpoints knock you off balance. Stay on the ascending path."



President Lindgren charged graduates with making a positive difference in an increasingly complex world: "I ask you not to lower your voice. Help lower the temperature and the rhetoric that is driving people apart. Be that person, be that champion."



Senior speaker Jami-Reese Darling '22 (political science) praised her classmates' diverse skill sets that she believes spawn in part from navigating pandemic-era adversities: "We are leaving here knowing more about ourselves and about how we respond when times get tough. We know the importance of leaning on our friends. We know, perhaps above all, that the struggles we have faced have strengthened us."



The Class of 2022 raised \$4,714 from 86% of their class for the senior class gift.

Students

Senior Spotlights

BIG ADVENTURES AND BRIGHT FUTURES LIE AHEAD FOR RANDOLPH-MACON'S CLASS OF 2022! THOUGH OUR SENIORS HAVE LEFT CAMPUS, THEY WILL ALWAYS HAVE A HOME TO RETURN TO IN THE HIVE. GET TO KNOW SOME OF OUR NEWEST ALUMNI IN THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW.

BEKAH POLEN

Major/s: Physics

Hometown: Woodbridge, VA

Future Plans: Attending Duke University to begin my doctorate in observational astrophysics.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Dr. George Spagna, who encouraged me to stay in astrophysics even when I thought I should quit.

Favorite R-MC Memory: Opening the Keeble Observatory for a lunar eclipse in the middle of the night during a meteor shower!



NIKIA LEE

Major/s: Arts Management and Music

Hometown: Buckingham, VA

Future Plans: Performing at Kings Dominion as a singer and dancer. I will also be a princess performer for Magic & Merriment, where I will perform as a Disney princess at various events.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Dr. Jim Doering has always pushed me and motivated me. I am so glad I made him my advisor because he could see my talents and always believed in me. Dr. LaToria Tookes is another professor that was always willing to help and guide me when I needed it. She left such a positive impact on me my freshman and sophomore years here.

Favorite R-MC Memory: Joining the LUXE Show Choir. This amazing team has helped me grow as a performer, and I have met wonderful people while being a part of it.

EDUARDO MORENO

Major/s: Psychology

Hometown: Barcelona, Venezuela

Future Plans: Pursuing a master's in music therapy and counseling at Drexel University.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Dr. Susan Parker and Dr. Cedar Riener have been a big part of my time at R-MC. Their willingness to help me, a student who transferred during the pandemic, was amazing, and I am incredibly thankful for their advice about my classes and their guidance about possible next steps after graduation.

Favorite R-MC Memory: Participating in an internship that gave me the opportunity to witness how music therapy is done at a professional level opened up many possibilities for me, and it provided a tremendous amount of knowledge that complemented the lessons I learned at Randolph-Macon.





ANA LEAL

Major/s: Chemistry

Hometown: Cachoeiro de Itapemirim, Brazil

Future Plans: Pursuing my doctorate in chemistry at Northwestern University.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Dr. Serge Schreiner. He has been instrumental in my life and career. I will never forget my very first chemistry class freshman year. I stayed after class to introduce myself, and after talking for a little bit, he offered me a research position in his lab. Four years later, I am still in his lab.

Favorite R-MC Memory: Studying abroad in London my freshman year. I was able to participate in a research group meeting at the University of Cambridge. This was the first time I was exposed to the amazing world of chemical research, and the trip sparked in me a desire to become a research scientist.



NATHAN SOTO

Major/s: Theatre

Hometown: McKenney, VA

Future Plans: I plan to go into stage management for theatre, but hopefully I'll go into writing as well.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Gregg Hillmar. He has been so incredibly supportive of me and my aspirations, and he's always willing to turn anything into a teaching moment, which I really appreciate.

Favorite R-MC Memory: Fountain Turn On. Last year was the first time I was able to see it in person, and it was so fun to be able to celebrate it with my friends!



MICHAEL MCINTOSH

Major/s: Psychology

Hometown: California, MD

Future Plans: Attending Springfield College in pursuit of a master's in sport and exercise psychology.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Alana Davis. Whether it was in my academics or personal life, she always pushed me to do my best. I appreciate all the love she has shown me and how she helped me reach my academic potential.

Favorite R-MC Memory: When we [R-MC football] beat Emory & Henry in overtime on Day Field to clinch the ODAC Championship.

EMMA REILLY

Major/s: Political Science and Communication Studies

Hometown: Alexandria, MN

Future Plans: Attending American University to pursue my master's in political communication.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Dr. Elliott Fullmer, Dr. Ruth Beerman, Dr. Joan Conners, and Dr. Debra Rodman all helped me find my passion and my future career. Without their help, I wouldn't be going to graduate school or have even realized that graduate school was for me. They have all made me a better student, and I will take the skills they taught me into my future career. I can't thank them enough!

Favorite R-MC Memory: Homecoming 2021. My friends and I watched in the rain and cheered loudly when we won at the last second. It felt like campus was finally alive again after COVID-19, and it was a great last Homecoming!



CARLY BLY

Major/s: Biology

Hometown: Yorktown, VA

Future Plans: Attending Arizona State University to obtain my master's in forensic psychology!

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Dr. Kim Gerecke. She made a major impact on helping me get into graduate school, and I will always be appreciative of her efforts.

Favorite R-MC Memory: Football game days! My roommates and I would make a lot of yummy food in our apartment and watch the games right through our window in Birdsong! It was really fun just being able to spend time with my best friends while cheering on our school.



WILL HASS

Major/s: Business

Hometown: Charlottesville, VA

Future Plans: Considering graduate school for sports management, but I'm also interested in a career in sports administration.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Dr. Jill Horohoe. She is one of the most caring staff members on campus. She wants to see everyone succeed and does everything to help people. Also, she fully cares about building relationships with her students outside of the classroom and is always the #1 fan in the crowd at her students' events.

Favorite R-MC Memory: The football games against Hampden-Sydney. Being able to see the entire community come together and spend time with old friends was awesome. They give R-MC a big-school feel.



R-MC BASKETBALL

ROAD to the CHAMPIONSHIP



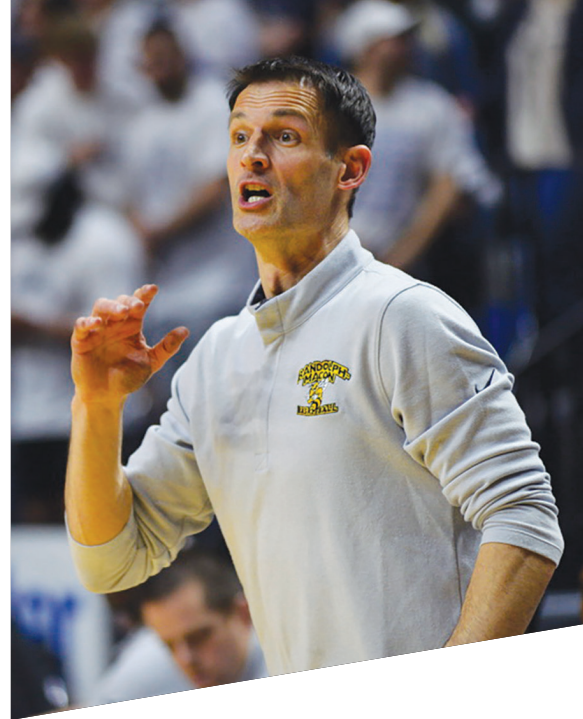
**THE STORY BEHIND
THE YELLOW JACKETS'
HISTORIC NCAA RUN**

PATIENCE Pays Off

AFTER TWO YEARS OF DOMINANT PLAY DESPITE PANDEMIC INTERRUPTIONS, RANDOLPH-MACON'S MEN'S BASKETBALL BROUGHT HOME THE FIRST NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY IN THE COLLEGE'S HISTORY.

By Phil Stanton, Director of Athletic Communications





The past two seasons for the R-MC men's basketball team ended with victories, but there were no trophies or titles to accompany those triumphs. Would the third time finally be the charm?

"We all wanted to win the whole thing, the national championship," junior Miles Mallory '23 said. "We had waited two years to do it."

"I remember talking to the coaches at the beginning of the season as a senior," DaQuan Morris '22 said. "We've been in this situation for the past two seasons. We're the #1 team or one of the top three teams in the nation in Division III. We know what our goal is. We've won ODACs back-to-back. Our next goal is getting past that hump of the Sweet Sixteen."

"Getting Miles and Josh [Talbert] their freshman year elevated our mobility, our athleticism, our talent," senior Buzz Anthony '22 said. "That was when I thought we could compete for a national title every year that we're together. This was an expectation and a pressure. We had that COVID year, the 'What If.' We want to prove that the 'What If' was worthy."

The Yellow Jackets had impressive early-season road wins and overcame a stumble at Christopher Newport University to finish the regular season with a 24-1 overall mark and a perfect 16-0 record in ODAC play. Three wins in Salem, Virginia gave R-MC its third consecutive ODAC title, and the Yellow Jackets would get to host the first four rounds of the NCAA Tournament—so long as those wins continued.

When Frank "Frankie" Straus '87 began taking photographs in college, little did he know his hobby would put him behind the lens at his alma mater's sporting events decades later. A former member of the R-MC football team, Straus has been shooting Yellow Jacket games since 2013, during which time he has snapped tens of thousands of photos while upholding his credo that "every game is an adventure." Straus' keen eye is instrumental in sharing those adventures with YJs near and far, and the men's basketball season would not have been nearly as magical without his being there to capture it along the way.

CAPTURING THE MAGIC





PATIENCE PAYS OFF, CONTINUED

"The home NCAA tournament games are my favorite games," senior Ian Robertson '22 said. "They're the ones I remember most. Playing here in an NCAA tournament game is the best environment you can ask for as a Division III basketball player."

The national championship tournament's first weekend had R-MC rout Mitchell College 99-57, followed by a 67-51 win over Babson College. For the second weekend, the Yellow Jackets beat the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 92-69 and #13 Worcester Polytechnic Institute 76-53 to earn a trip to the Final Four in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The Yellow Jackets entered the NCAA tournament ranked #1 and faced off against #2 Marietta College. In a rematch of a November contest earlier in the season in which R-MC won 82-74, Randolph-Macon once again bested Marietta, this time 81-63, as they advanced to the national championship game.

"Leading up to Marietta was the most focused we've been in practice for a game as long as I've been here," Robertson said.

The Yellow Jackets faced off in the title match against #16 Elmhurst University, who had won the previous nine games

in a row. But they proved no match for Randolph-Macon, who rolled to a 75-45 victory to give R-MC its first NCAA national championship.

"The championship game, the buzzer sounding, all our hard work paid off," Talbert said. "Celebrating with the guys was an amazing feeling."

How would Head Coach Josh Merkel describe the championship season?

"One word to describe it is grateful," Merkel said. "Great gratitude that we got to finish the season, that Buzz and Fundy [David Funderburg] came back for a fifth season, that we stayed healthy, that the community, the alums, and the students supported us the way they did. We were able to overcome the hiccups, COVID and otherwise, along the way and are grateful for our guys and the journey we got to go on."

The team's final record was 33-1. For his excellent play, Anthony amassed a bevy of awards and honors, including the Most Outstanding Player of the 2022 NCAA championship as well as National Player of the Year. Merkel was named National Coach of the Year, and Mallory and Anthony were both named All-Americans. And all joined their teammates as national champions. 🟡

POSTSEASON AWARDS

■ **Buzz Anthony:** NABC DIII All-America First Team, D3hoops.com National Player of the Year, NCAA Championship Most Outstanding Player, D3hoops.com All-Region Player of the Year, NABC All-District Player of the Year, ODAC Player of the Year, VaSID State Player of the Year, VaSID All-State First Team, CoSIDA Academic All-America Third Team, CoSIDA Academic All-District, ODAC All-Tournament Most Valuable Player, All-ODAC First Team

■ **Miles Mallory:** D3hoops.com All-America Second Team, NABC All-District First Team, NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team, VaSID State Defensive Player of the Year, VaSID All-State First Team, D3hoops.com All-Region First Team, ODAC Defensive Player of the Year, ODAC All-Tournament Team, All-ODAC First Team

■ **Josh Talbert:** VaSID All-State First Team, D3hoops.com All-Region Second Team, ODAC All-Tournament Team, All-ODAC Second Team

■ **Josh Merkel:** Glenn Robinson Award, D3hoops.com National Coach of the Year, NABC DIII Coach of the Year, NABC District Coach of the Year, D3hoops.com Region Coach of the Year, Bob Johnson ODAC Coach of the Year

The Family Merkel

A SIGN ON A SHELF AT THE MERKEL HOME IN ASHLAND READS: "WE INTERRUPT THIS MARRIAGE FOR BASKETBALL SEASON."

Fans who see men's basketball Head Coach Josh Merkel's wife Morgan in the stands with kids in tow would probably disagree. R-MC basketball is decidedly a family affair for the Merkel clan. Their high-tempo home life, which Morgan jokingly calls "the Merkus circus," is inextricably linked with the team.

"There's no balance. There are rhythms," Coach Merkel explains. "There is a rhythm to the season, there's a rhythm to the off-season—to recruiting, to camp."

The young parents made the move to Ashland in 2015 when Josh was appointed head coach. Coach Merkel had previously served as an assistant coach under the Yellow Jacket great Nathan Davis '97. He spent four years as head coach at Salisbury University, his alma mater, before returning to Randolph-Macon—this time with Morgan, a fellow Salisbury alum and employee of the university, who he had met and married while in Maryland. They welcomed Mason in the first season. Maddox arrived in November 2019, and baby Micah followed shortly after in 2021. All three boys were born, inconveniently, on game days. It is Morgan, who encouraged her husband to leave the hospital after baby #2 to coach a game, who notes that the record of the team for those three games is 2-1.

Such is life when you are the head coach. The children are ever-present at practices, games, and special events for the team, with 2-year-old Maddox often in his dad's arms as Coach Merkel cut down the nets or spoke to the press during this successful season.



Six-year-old Mason likes to shoot baskets on the court immediately following a game, and baby Micah was typically strapped to his mom in a baby carrier as she managed it all. Conversely, the Merkels open their home to the players and assistant coaches, who attend cook-outs Morgan calls "ball-be-cue's" and even babysit.

"I want the guys to see a loving husband and dad, and how important my family is as a role model," Coach Merkel says. "I say that humbly, but I think seeing that is good for them."

Morgan is also grateful that they have the chance to see their coach as the husband and father she loves. "I always say there's Josh and there's Coach Merkel," she laughs. "[Coach Merkel] is so locked in—no room for cheekiness, no room



In the Merkel family, basketball is a family affair. Above, Coach Josh Merkel with Maddox, age 2. Far left, Mason, age 6. At left, Morgan Merkel with baby Micah.

for banter ... So it's nice to have them over for ball-b-que so they can meet Josh!"

Morgan has defined her own Randolph-Macon identity as the College's director of subject tutoring and learning support and associate director of the Higgins Academic Center. "I feel really empowered in my role and really valued as an employee," she says. Her work lets her interact with a wide range of students and staff who know her

only for her professional contributions. She says the work also helps deepen connections to the village of Yellow Jackets who make the Merkel family rhythms work.

As a couple, they rely on the fundamentals—division of labor, communication, and a very detailed chart that Morgan tacks to the fridge each week. Humility helps too, like when Maddox vomited on Coach Merkel on the bus ride back to Ashland after winning the national championship. "A quick humbling," he calls it.

"He's really good at shifting back and forth," Morgan says. "He's got to jump back in. You're still Dad. There's no amount of winning that gets you out of that." 🍌

The King and Queen of R-MC Hoops

By Stephanie Suwak Mallory



There's no doubt that star guard Buzz Anthony '22 and his wife Becca '22, captain of the women's team, are royalty among Randolph-Macon College basketball players. But at home, they're just a young married couple learning how to be husband and wife.

The sweethearts met in their freshman year at a January 2018 gathering with their respective teams. They quickly discovered their basketball connection as well as a similarity in how their faith guides them.

After a courtship that included playing intramurals together and working at summer basketball camps, they became an official couple six months after meeting. At a surprise proposal at Poor Farm Park in Ashland, Buzz asked for Becca's hand, and they married in August 2021 in Wilmington, North Carolina. Then, they returned to R-MC to finish what they started in a fifth year on their respective teams.

As a young couple, Buzz and Becca use their years on the hardwood as a springboard to working together in life.

"Basketball has taught us a lot about teamwork in marriage," said Becca. "We're always striving to keep each

other in the loop and want the best for each other. Like basketball, you have to sometimes make a sacrifice to make things work."

The couple also understands that leadership is part of teamwork. "We motivate and support each other in every sense," said Becca. "Sometimes I do the dishes and sometimes Buzz will do them. Whatever needs to be done, one or both of us just steps up."

Buzz, whose given name is Connor, sees teamwork on the court as the ability to adapt and to adjust, just as he does in his personal life.

"Teamwork means taking pride in yourself and your group," said Buzz. "There's a baseline of trust you have with teammates, and I can trust the guys to have my back. Same goes for marriage. For me, teamwork is also part of our lives and faith. I would lay my life down for my family, just as Jesus did for us."

Support for the young couple is widespread throughout the R-MC community, especially alumni who played sports themselves.

"We have worn the same school jersey, and they've just shown me the potential impact that people can have

on each other," Buzz said. "Some alumni have even talked about getting married in college back in the day and how there used to be a married dorm."

As for the future, it's still being written. "I want to be a coach," continues Buzz. "The potential to mold a young person is appealing to me. My parents are coaches, and I knew that's what I wanted to be since 7th grade."

Right now, their plans are to see what comes of Buzz's interest in playing overseas. He cited Spain and Italy as having good basketball teams with a loyal following. That plays into Becca's interest in travel, something she wasn't able to do during R-MC study abroad programs due to basketball commitments.

If Buzz does get picked up to play in a European league, that means that Becca may have to put off her plan of nursing studies for the time being. She mentioned the possibility of teaching English in another country or working on her writing.

Wherever they end up next, one thing is certain: they will work together as teammates. 🟡



SNAG YOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SWAG

Campus Store Manager Barclay DuPriest invited this year's seniors to design apparel commemorating their national title win. Celebrate our Yellow Jackets with your national championship merchandise at the QR code here. All proceeds support R-MC athletics!



Chasing the Trophy

Only twice before has Randolph-Macon's basketball program reached the NCAA Final Four.

■ **1976-1977 Men's Basketball:** Coming off a 23-8 regular season record, Head Coach Hal Nunnally '62 led the Yellow Jackets to the NCAA Division II Championship in Springfield, Massachusetts. The team finished second to University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in the program's first title appearance.

■ **2004-2005 Women's Basketball:** Going 30-2 on the season under Head Coach Carroll LaHaye, including a 20-0 record in their conference, the women's basketball team squared off in the NCAA Division III Championship match against Millikin University, who bested R-MC 70-50 at Virginia Wesleyan University.

A GREAT DAY TO BE A YJ

Governor Glenn Youngkin declares April 5, 2022 Randolph-Macon College Men's Basketball Day

April 5, 2022 was just another Tuesday for most Virginians. For Yellow Jackets, it will forever be known as Randolph-Macon College Men's Basketball Day.

Shortly after R-MC clinched the national title, Governor Glenn Youngkin and First Lady Suzanne Youngkin hosted the championship squad at Virginia's Executive Mansion to celebrate their record-breaking 33-1 season and commemorate the College's first national title. Governor Youngkin, sporting a YJ cap and an R-MC T-shirt beneath his blazer, presented the team with a certificate of recognition declaring April 5, 2022 Randolph-Macon College Men's Basketball Day.



"It is the skill, dedication, and hard work of these fine college athletes that makes this team an inspiration for Virginians as they strengthen the Spirit of the Commonwealth," the certificate reads.

The Youngkins then gifted each team member a hand-signed miniature basketball as a token of their admiration for R-MC's hard work during the 2021-2022 season. For their part, the Yellow Jackets came prepared to return the favor. Senior guard Buzz Anthony '22 presented Virginia's first family with two championship shirts along with a basketball signed by the team.

"You're never going to forget winning the national title," the Governor said. "But you're also never going to

forget the relationships you made on this team. Stay tight. You'll be in each other's weddings, you'll be godparents to each other's children. You'll celebrate the big wins together, and you'll comfort one another through life's big challenges. There's going to be a bond with you guys that will never fade away."

DaQuan Morris '22 found the whole experience to be exhilarating. "We had a day named after us," the senior guard said. "If I had to pick highlights of my life so far, I would say this is definitely among the top three."

Coach Merkel agreed, saying, "Everyone on this team is going to remember today long after this season has passed." 🟡

Faculty & Staff



R-MC Director and Alum Wins National Award for First-Year Advocacy

Annie Keith '01, director of new student orientation and student transition at Randolph-Macon College, was named a 2021 Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate by the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. She received the prestigious honor for her role in developing award-winning transition programming that supports students entering R-MC and sets them up for success in the years to come.

Keith, who was herself a first-generation student at Randolph-Macon, spent more than a decade serving the College community in admissions. Five years ago she moved into her current role as director of new student orientation with a mission to rethink R-MC's approach to supporting students in the early days of college. The award particularly celebrates Keith's leadership in creating the New Student Orientation Captains program, which she launched in 2017.

"The programming she has built provides students exactly what they need

to successfully transition to a college life managed on their own—with just the right amount of support necessary (or waiting in the wings as needed)," Randolph-Macon President Robert R. Lindgren said, celebrating Keith's award. "Annie Keith is a visionary first-year transition leader. She's someone our students—and faculty and staff—admire and look to for support."

Breya Robinson '22 (business), a New Student Transition Executive Captain, praised Keith for "her transparency and tenacity." She said Keith has been in her corner ever since she arrived on campus for first-year summer orientation and has continued throughout her training as a Captain.

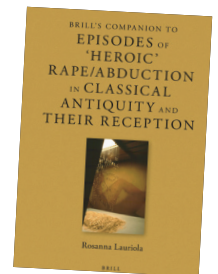
"She is dedicated not only to the work of her office, but to the success of students in all aspects, not just academics," Robinson said. "Words cannot express how grateful I am for her, and I know that without her, my college experience would definitely have been different!" 🍯

Spotlight



Associate Professor Kimberly Borchard (modern languages) published a translation of María Ángeles Pérez López's book of poetry, "Carnalidad del frío," with Nueva York Poetry Press. Pérez López has won numerous literary prizes in Spain, most recently the National Critics' Award for Poetry in 2021.

Adjunct Assistant Professor Rosanna Lauriola (classics) published "Brill's Companion to Episodes of 'Heroic' Rape/Abduction in Classical Antiquity and Their Reception" with Brill Academic Publishers, Inc. The book is an interdisciplinary study of rape in stories from classical mythology and the art that has drawn inspiration from them through the centuries.





Inaugural James L. Miller Professorship Awarded

Dr. Lauren Bell, professor of political science and dean of academic affairs, was named the first James L. Miller Professor of Political Science. The professorship was established in 2018 by the late James L. "Jim" Miller '52 to recognize and promote exemplary teaching and scholarship, and is awarded to an accomplished, senior member of the political science department.

A three-time winner of the Thomas Branch Award for Excellence in Teaching, Bell is a celebrated teacher and valued mentor to her students, including 20 Schapiro Undergraduate Research Fellows. In her administrative roles, she has been a transformational leader for Randolph-Macon in the area of student support, helping to create and oversee the nationally recognized new student orientation program and significantly impacting the College's student retention. In 2017, she was named one of 10 national Outstanding First-Year Advocates by the National Resource Center on The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. Bell is also a

formidable scholar and subject area expert, authoring and co-authoring several books and dozens of articles in addition to her frequent citations in national and international media outlets.

During her acceptance speech, Bell reminded the audience that Miller's intent for his eponymous professorship was to "encourage nonpartisanship and reduce polarization." To that end, Bell praised R-MC's commitment to the liberal arts for laying a foundation for Yellow Jackets to think critically and civically for the rest of their lives.

"Our students cannot help but leave Randolph-Macon with an appreciation for the interconnectedness of knowledge and the benefits that redound from being engaged members of their communities," Bell said. "These important citizenship skills, cultivated not just in the political science department, but across our campus and in everything we do, are needed today more than at any other time in recent history." 🟡



Associate Professor María José Bordera-Amérigo (modern languages) received a Modern Language Association Humanities Innovation Grant for her project, "The Yellow Jackets Bilingual Children's Library." The project allows for her to publish bilingual children's books written and designed by students in her Spanish Academic and Creative Writing class.



Visiting Assistant Professor Savanna Love '10 (education) contributed multiple chapters to a book on teaching during the pandemic, "COVID-19 and the Classroom: How Schools Navigated the Great Disruption," through Lexington Books, a Rowman & Littlefield imprint. The publisher describes the book as a work of social science with a two-fold vision: to present research about the first year of pandemic learning while also serving as a history book documenting the experience of what it was like to teach from March 2020 through the next academic year.

ALUMNI Today

Q&A GET TO KNOW YOUR
ANNUAL FUND CHAIRS



Mark '96 and Liz Soza '96 Stewart open up about their relationship to the College and their roles as co-chairs of Randolph-Macon's Annual Fund.

Why did you choose to remain involved with R-MC after graduating?

As we like to say, why not choose to remain involved with R-MC? For us it was an easy decision. We believe in the College, its leadership and direction, and we want to see R-MC thrive and continue to develop to its potential. As well, we believe in the investment: the students. The best thing about donating is that there is little pressure. You can donate \$5 to \$50,000 or more—all gifts are appreciated.

What's a favorite R-MC-related memory you share as a couple?

During our time, Dave Matthews, the Pat McGee Band, Toad the Wet Sprocket, and Widespread Panic played at R-MC, as well as our favorite local (now national) band, Carbon Leaf. Then there was Boy O Boy (now called Fighting Gravity). It was always a treat to have these bands perform on campus.

Describe your work in your joint roles as Annual Fund chairs.

As national chairs of the Randolph-Macon Annual Fund, we lead the charge to encourage alumni to give back to their alma mater, no matter the gift size. Through letters, text, events, and social media, we promote the importance and impact of giving to R-MC. We receive periodic reports throughout the year

on where the College stands for alumni giving to the Annual Fund and other areas of the College.

How is the Annual Fund different from other forms of giving?

The Randolph-Macon Annual Fund allows the College to direct unrestricted funds to where they are most needed, whether it is for scholarships, financial aid, academic programs, or building and grounds to name a few areas.

How do you make the case for unrestricted giving?

Randolph-Macon cannot possibly plan for all of the exciting possibilities that arise when we put eager students in an environment that allows them to learn, accomplish, and compete. Inevitably, need arises, and the Randolph-Macon Annual Fund allows us to direct important discretionary funds where they are needed, when they are needed. Thousands of small needs add up to a big burden. Thankfully, each year that burden is made light by the many hands that reach out to support it, and the Randolph-Macon Annual Fund does what tuition alone cannot.

What has sustained your family's interest in giving back?

Giving back and supporting higher education has always been a big part of

the Soza family. Witnessing this example from an early age made it a natural choice for us to support R-MC. Even though we live in Atlanta, we still wanted to connect and get to know fellow R-MC alumni. It has been a privilege hosting R-MC events in our home. As well, we love our visits to campus and seeing the constant change and progress. Mark and I continue to talk about the impressive new nursing program and facility. If you haven't seen it, go back for a tour. Giving back both time and money is an investment in a place we deeply care about.

What story or project has inspired you most about the impact of the Annual Fund or giving in general?

The fact that Randolph-Macon continually is ranked in the top 25 in the nation for alumni loyalty is something that makes us proud. It shows the lifelong connection that our alumni have with R-MC and that they appreciate the education they received when they were here.

What's something you wish more people knew about the Annual Fund?

Gifts of any size make a difference! Gifts do not need to be thousands or millions of dollars. Collectively, gifts make a huge impact on the students, faculty, and staff. And alumni gifts help our national participation rankings. 🟡



50th Reunion Weekend

ON MAY 20-22, THE COLLEGE HOSTED ITS LARGEST 50TH REUNION IN R-MC'S HISTORY. MEMBERS FROM THE CLASSES OF 1970, 1971, AND 1972 SPENT THREE DAYS ON AND OFF CAMPUS CATCHING UP WITH CLASSMATES, DINING, DANCING, AND CELEBRATING THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE BOYDTON SOCIETY.



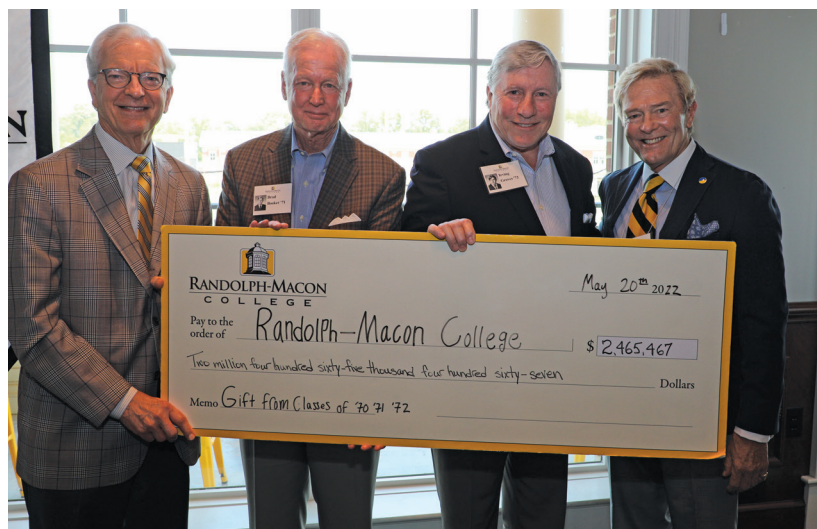
As inductees reach their 50th year, they are inducted into the Boydton Society at the Boydton Society Annual Meeting and Luncheon.



Reunion attendees got out “in the weeds” during a discussion about the ecology of Mechumps Creek with Professor of Biology Dr. Chas. Gowan.



Lit '62 and Mary Maxwell enjoy learning about the chemistry of wine during Jackson Professor of Chemistry Dr. Serge Schreiner’s “Back to Class” faculty presentation.



Brad Booker '71, Irving Groves '72, and Jack Enoch '70—representatives from the 1970, 1971, and 1972 50th Reunion Committees—present a check to President Robert Lindgren for the 50th Reunion gift totaling a remarkable \$2.7 million.



Rev. Dr. John B. Peters '70 is surprised with the Society of Alumni's Distinguished Alumnus Award, recognizing Peters for the many meaningful contributions he has made to Randolph-Macon College over the years.



Members of Kappa Sigma, the largest college social fraternity in the world, reconnect during the Boydton Society Reunion Weekend.

Athletics

Sophomore Equestrian Named IHSA National Champion



Caitlyn Giese '24 (business) was named the Novice Flat National Champion at the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) Nationals in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on May 5.

"This is the first rider in the R-MC team's 10-year history to advance to nationals," said Head Coach John West. "To take home the win is just incredible! I am so proud of Caitlyn, her ability to ride under this kind of pressure, and all that she has brought to this team."



Rocket League Tops Conference

Randolph-Macon College's Rocket League team earned its first championship win on April 3, clinching the top spot in the Mid-Atlantic eSports Conference in a four-hour, seven-game final match against George Mason University.

Connor Brennan '23 (business), team captain, said, "Losing hurts when you're expected to win like we were last year. But becoming a champion as the underdog? It's a sweet, sweet feeling that we will hold onto forever."

Four to Join Athletic Hall of Fame

FOUR FORMER YELLOW JACKETS MAKE UP THE RANDOLPH-MACON ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2022 AND WILL BE OFFICIALLY INDUCTED ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17.



Ariail

Molly Ariail '10

Ariail, a four-time All-ODAC basketball selection, was named ODAC Freshman of the Year in 2007 and ODAC Player of the Year in 2008, 2009, and 2010. She was All-State and All-Region as a sophomore, All-America Honorable Mention as a junior, and State, All-Region, and All-America as a senior. Ariail is third in program history with 1,845 career points, 16.9 points per game, and 1,005 career rebounds. She is one of three Yellow Jackets with 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds, and is third in program history and sixth in the ODAC with 710 career field goals. She is also fifth in program history with 154 career blocks.

Maggie McDearmon '06

McDearmon was All-ODAC First Team three times and ODAC Player of the Year as a senior volleyball player. A member of the All-State First Team and the VaSID Academic All-State Team, McDearmon had 1,246 career kills, third most in program history and first at the time of her graduation. Her 1,496 career digs, also first at the time of her graduation, are fifth

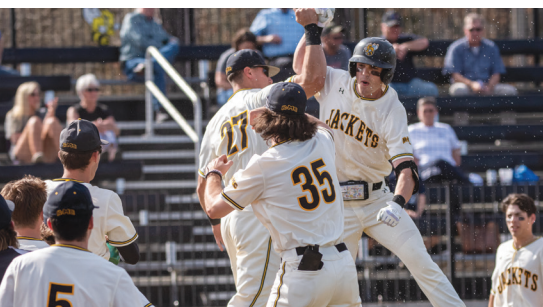
all-time at R-MC, and her 202 career aces are good for third in program history. She also had 241 career blocks, ninth in program history. McDearmon was inducted into the Amherst County Sports Hall of Fame in 2017.

Charlie Pinkard '86

Pinkard was a four-year letterwinner for men's golf and made it to the All-ODAC First Team three times. As a freshman, Pinkard was fifth in the ODAC in scoring. He was medalist at the State Intercollegiate Championship as well as at the Kingsmill Tournament and was fourth in the ODAC in scoring as a sophomore. In 1985, Pinkard was the ODAC individual champion and ODAC Golfer of the Year.

Tom Shaw '85

Shaw, a four-year letterman and three-year football team captain, recorded 270 career tackles with 20 career sacks as a defensive lineman. He was named All-ODAC First Team in his senior year as well as All-State First Team, which he also earned in his junior campaign. He was named All-State Second Team his sophomore year and earned All-ODAC Second Team nods in both his sophomore and junior seasons. During his tenure, the Yellow Jackets won the 1984 ODAC title and earned an at-large bid to the NCAA playoffs, finishing fifth in the final NCAA poll.



SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

SOFTBALL

Softball finished the regular season with a 30-7 overall record and a 13-5 ODAC mark. Their impressive play placed them as high as #6 in the nation, and was good enough to tie for the ODAC regular season crown for the first time in program history. Seeded #2 in the ODAC Championship, the Yellow Jackets fell to the University of Lynchburg 5-4 in extra innings.

BASEBALL

Baseball was 26-10 overall and 14-6 in the ODAC at the conclusion of the regular season. Head Coach Ray Hedrick '97 earned his 400th career victory in the season-opening 13-5 win over University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. The Yellow Jackets earned the #3 seed in the ODAC Tournament. With its strong offense, R-MC rose to as high as #24 in the national polls.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Gracie Ellis: NFCA DIII All-America Third Team, NFCA All-Region VI First Team, ODAC Pitcher of the Year, ODAC Rookie of the Year, All-ODAC First Team, ODAC All-Tournament Team

Naomi Sadler: All-ODAC First Team, ODAC All-Tournament Team

Amanda Lanyon: All-ODAC Second Team, ODAC All-Tournament Team

Rilee Baughan: All-ODAC First Team

Natalie Robinson: CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Myles Webb: All-ODAC First Team

Carter Johnson: All-ODAC First Team, D3baseball.com All-Region Second Team

Hunter Cole: All-ODAC First Team, D3baseball.com All-Region Second Team

Ethan Iannuzzi: All-ODAC Second Team

Matt Myers: All-ODAC Third Team

Drew Ramos: D3baseball.com All-Region Third Team

MEN'S LACROSSE

Men's lacrosse went 11-7 overall and 7-3 in the ODAC. R-MC was the #4 seed in the ODAC Tournament. The Yellow Jackets defeated Hampden-Sydney 14-13 on April 16, R-MC's first win over the Tigers since 2013 and first at home since 2008. Senior Jack Avena broke the program record for goals and points scored in a single season.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Jack Avena: All-ODAC First Team, USILA All-America Honorable Mention

Brandon Smith: All-ODAC First Team, USILA All-America Honorable Mention

Derek Marsilio: All-ODAC Second Team

Scott Ruelle: All-ODAC Second Team, USILA All-America Honorable Mention

Jack Smith: All-ODAC Third Team

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Women's lacrosse went 8-11 overall and an even 4-4 in ODAC play. The Yellow Jackets defeated Bridgewater 21-11 at home in the first round of the ODAC Tournament. Senior McKenzie Hynson finished her career with 187 draw controls, the fifth-highest total in program history.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Rianna Lowery: ODAC Rookie of the Year, All-ODAC Third Team

Lily Henderson: IWLCA All-Chesapeake Region Second Team, All-ODAC First Team

Italia Carnazza: IWLCA All-Chesapeake Region Second Team, All-ODAC First Team

Annie Bartley: All-ODAC Second Team

McKenzie Hynson: All-ODAC Third Team

Rachel Gibson: All-ODAC Third Team



WOMEN'S GOLF

Women's golf finished sixth at the ODAC Championship. Sophomore Emma Bonovitch shot 84 in the third and final round, her best round of the season and the best round for the Yellow Jackets in the tournament. R-MC finished second in the Marlin Invitational to conclude the regular season.

MEN'S GOLF

Junior Nathan Wright aced the 170-yard par 3 12th hole at the Cherokee Run Golf Course during the Discover Dekalb Emory Invite. Wright shot a 67 in Round 3 of the ODAC Tournament, the second-lowest round of the entire tournament, and finished with 217 strokes.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Austin Brooks: All-ODAC Second Team



MEN'S TENNIS

Men's tennis went 6-8 overall and 4-4 in the ODAC. The Yellow Jackets pulled out a thrilling 5-4 home win over Shenandoah University. The Hornets led 2-1 after doubles before R-MC won four of six singles matches. Freshman Braxton Fagan secured the victory at #3 singles. He won the first set 6-2, dropped the second 6-2, then pulled out a 6-4 decision in the third set.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Ryan Aud and Max Doyle: All-ODAC Second Team #2 Doubles

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Women's tennis was 7-6 overall and 5-4 in the ODAC. R-MC had a 5-4 comeback victory over Virginia Wesleyan to conclude the regular season. The Yellow Jackets won two of three doubles matches before the Marlins took three of the first four singles matches to lead 4-3. Sophomore Adele Huffman pulled out a 6-3, 6-4 win at #5 singles to tie the match. Senior Brianne Bock won the deciding match in #6 singles.





WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women's basketball finished 19-7 overall and 16-2 in the ODAC. R-MC earned a share of the ODAC regular season crown for the first time since 2011. R-MC reached the ODAC Championship. Sophomore Catherine Kagey led the Lemon and Black in both scoring and rebounding. Her 8.5 rebounds per game were third in the ODAC, and her nine double-doubles led the ODAC.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Catherine Kagey: VaSID Second Team, All-ODAC First Team

Becca Anthony: All-ODAC Second Team

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Men's volleyball went 19-11 overall and 4-4 in the CVC, setting a program record with 19 victories on the season. Fifth-seeded Randolph-Macon fell to #4 seed Marymount University in the men's volleyball CVC Tournament quarterfinals. Going into the CVC Tournament, the Yellow Jackets averaged 2.184 blocks per set, #7 in the nation and tops in the CVC.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Drew Klein: All CVC Second Team

Kolby Gibson: All-CVC Third Team

Gio DeLuca: All-CVC Third Team, CVC All-Tournament Team

MEN'S SWIMMING

Under the direction of Head Coach Brent Kintzer and Assistant Coach Kelley Hilliker, men's swimming finished fourth out of nine schools at the ODAC Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina. Senior Shane Morison had a pair of top-four finishes as the men placed sixth out of 10 teams at the annual TYR Yellow Jacket Invitational.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Shane Morison: All-ODAC Third Team

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Women's swimming finished second out of 12 teams at the ODAC Championships. Junior Emily Fritz won the 200 Breast, setting a personal best and a program record, and senior Emma Kate Russell set a program record in the 100 Fly.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Emily Fritz: All-ODAC First Team, VaSID All-State First Team

Lacey Kramer: All-ODAC Second Team

Emma Kate Russell: All-ODAC Second Team

Katelyn Vieni: All-ODAC Second Team

Sophia Hanson: All-ODAC Second Team

Kierra Parsons: All-ODAC Second Team

Maggie Cooke: All-ODAC Third Team

Becca Lazerson: All-ODAC Third Team

CG Soper: All-ODAC Third Team

Class Notes



Lochte and Baker

'66 **Barney Lochte** played on R-MC's first men's lacrosse team, organized by Rye Chapman '63, a club team that played its first season in spring 1963. At the end of the season, Chapman presented each player with a beer can "trophy." Barney and classmate and friend **Michael Baker** traveled to campus in February to see the trophy Lochte recently gifted the College. The trophy is now on display in the College's trophy and memorabilia case in the Brock Center. Given how much the program has grown and flourished, the trophy serves as a reminder of the program's humble beginnings.

'67

Dr. James Gray and his wife Lyn have been living and working in Liberia since 2003, where they were Peace Corps volunteers in the mid-1970s. They are currently hibernating



James and Lyn Gray

in their home in Blacksburg, VA, unable to travel back to Liberia due to the pandemic. Looking forward, they plan to spend most of every year in the U.S.

'69

Dr. A. Ronald "Ron" Hendricksen was recently named to the Virginia Board of Dentistry. He also serves on the board of the Free Clinic of Central Virginia and recently retired from his practice after 46 years. R-MC prepared him well for his studies at the Medical College of Virginia School of Dentistry and throughout his professional life.

Dr. Paul Katz, a physician, retired in the summer of 2021 after serving for five years as the president of the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, PA. Prior to that, he was founding dean of Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in Camden, NJ. Before that, he was founding vice dean of the Commonwealth Medical School (now Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine) in Scranton, PA. He and his wife Anne-Marie reside in Isle of Palms, SC.

'73

Michael Goyne lays claim to being a member of the "Class of 1972.5," thanks to being a transfer student. Goyne's youngest daughter, Anna, married this past year. She, her husband Logan, and daughter Rylee live in Lovettsville, VA. His other daughter Caitlyn lives in Hamilton, VA with her children Judie, DeLaney, and Daniel. Both of Goyne's daughters are teachers in Loudoun County, VA. Goyne's son Matthew works as a cost accountant for the Carpenter Company in Richmond, VA. Goyne reports COVID-19 made several runs through his extended family, but thanks to vaccinations, good luck, and the young's immune systems, all came through with flying colors. He continues to work on a book of naval history about the upper James and the Appomattox rivers during the Civil War recording oral histories about people, their skill sets, actions, triumphs, and failures.

'77

Lew Andrew Welge celebrated his birthday in March in Gainesville, FL, where he resides. Welge welcomes his friends from R-MC to connect with him via his easily found website.

'78

After spending half of 2018 and all of 2019 driving through South America with her husband and two dogs (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay), **Lindsey Peake** returned to Atlantic Beach, FL in

January 2020 just as COVID-19 hit. Plans to travel and further explore Europe for three years were put on hold, and they instead bought a Class A motorhome and wandered around the U.S. visiting family. Continuing to work remotely and grow her Falls Church, VA property management and real estate firms, as well as renovating several properties from the 1890's in St. Augustine, FL, has kept her busy. During the pandemic, she and her husband have welcomed four wonderful, healthy, and happy grandchildren. Peake and her husband Benoit most recently traveled to Manchester, NH tackling the extensive renovation of yet another grand old dame. After the renovation is complete, it's certain that they'll be back on the road somewhere in the world.

'79

Allen Fears and his wife Jo recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. They have been in their home in Florida for almost 20 months. They had a chance to visit R-MC's campus in November 2021 and see all the new additions. Now that COVID-19 is not a major problem, they look forward to exploring the Mid-Atlantic region this year! Go Yellow Jackets!



Allen and Jo Fears

'80

Becky Collie was featured in the Richmond Times-Dispatch in late March for her work collecting pollen samples with Allergy Partners of Richmond.

'85

Robert Jay "Bobby Jay" Pitts retired after 31 years with Stanley/Black & Decker as a senior sales rep. He and his wife Lisa live in Stuart, FL. Pitts was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and ran R-MC's intramural athletics from 1983-1985.

'95

Paul Clayman "Clay" Bowles was recently appointed deputy county administrator for community operations in Chesterfield, VA. In this role, he leads the operations of the

departments of general services, information technology, libraries, parks and recreation, and risk management. He also serves as the county's liaison to the elected sheriff and commonwealth's attorney.

'97

Christopher R. Tan was recently appointed president and CEO of the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore.



Bowles

Heather Sample Wilson has been working for the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) since December 2020. She is a foreign affairs expert at MDA and recently moved from the Middle East division to the Europe division as part of the International and Policy Directorate. Prior to arriving at MDA, she worked with the U.S. Air Force on several foreign military sales programs.

'98

Dr. Dean Browell has been named vice president of the board of directors for the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond, VA as it celebrates its centennial.

'05

Dr. Emily Crider Burner now serves as senior director of development for Valley Health Foundations in Winchester, VA; she began this position in January of 2022.

Matthew "Matt" Moore and his wife Valerie Minne Moore, along with their son Patrick, welcomed Emma into their family on November 4, 2021. Photo taken by classmate **Tiffany Gibbs**.



Moore



Hudgins

'06

Diana Wright Hudgins was hired as the chief human resources officer for Elk Hill in December of 2021. Elk Hill provides behavioral health services to youth and families throughout Virginia, offering residential group homes, private day schools, and community services which enable children and families to transform overwhelming challenges into successful futures. For more information, please visit www.elkhill.org.



Lewis

'09 Brooke Lewis and her fiancé Stephen Winn welcomed their son Jace Colton Winn on June 10, 2021.

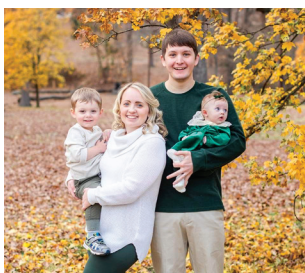
Lauren Soles Templeman married Aaron Templeman on November 12, 2021. The wedding party included R-MC alumni **Madeleine Forrest Ramsey '09** (matron of honor) **Kellyn Fleming Moody '09** (bridesmaid), **Michelle Mertens '08** (bridesmaid), and **Anne West Kesner '09** (officiant and bridesmaid). Other Yellow Jackets in attendance were **Sheridan Skurupey McDonald '19**, **Sean McDonald '19**, **Haley James Poulson '94**, **Katie Harding Reynolds '09**, **B. Jason Barlow '07**, **D. Quinn Ramsey '06**, **Madeleine Ramsey '09**, **Christopher C. Ray '08**, **Kaitlin Long Ray '08**, **Katie Nolan '08**, **Ashly Adams '06**, **Lindsey Baynham Freeman '09**, and **Krista Speicher Sarraf '09**.



Templeman wedding

'13

Samantha Liggan Folkes and her husband Stephen welcomed Luke Alexander in August 2019 and Leia



Folkes family

Elizabeth in August 2021. Luke is such a wonderful big brother to his sister. Their hands are full, but their hearts are even fuller.

'15 Steven Funk completed his second master's degree in early childhood studies and accepted a promotion which brought him back to Virginia in June 2021. Funk is currently working for Amazon Logistics and resides in Spotsylvania, VA with his wife Samantha.



Bennett

'19 Derrion Bennett has been serving in the U.S. Air Force since March 2020 and is currently stationed at Royal Air Force Base Mildenhall in the United Kingdom. He is an aircrew flight equipment technician, maintaining survival and locator equipment and prepositioning that equipment for 17 KC-135 Stratotankers. He is also an honor guardsman, performing flag folds, posting the colors, and participating in firing parties ("21-gun salutes") for funerals and other ceremonies. He is currently pursuing his master of arts in international relations at the University of Oklahoma.

'20 Olivia Cheezum graduated from Bryant and Stratton College's nursing program in December 2021. She recently passed NCLEX, accepted a RN position for HCA Healthcare in Richmond, VA, and will be working in the emergency department. ●

CLASS NOTES SUBMISSION

Share news so your classmates learn about what has been going on in your life since you left R-MC. Do you have a new job, new professional success, or new degree? Have you married, had children, grandchildren? Have you retired? Have you recently reconnected with alumni friends? Do you have an interesting hobby or volunteer role in your community? Submit photos of life events, encounters with classmates, or anything that is noteworthy. We would love to hear from you! Submit your information to: www.rmc.edu/classnotes, email alumni@rmc.edu or call 866-694-4574.

PASSAGES

The Alumni Office is available to assist if you are looking for additional information about any of our alumni and friends listed below. **Notice of passages received from January 7, 2022 through May 11, 2022 are included here.**

Ray Byrd '50, Salem, VA, January 30, 2022

Tom Jones '52, Norfolk, VA, January 30, 2022

Robert Lawrence "Larry" Taylor, Jr. '52, Abingdon, VA, June 9, 2020

V. Stephen "Steve" Bradshaw '53, New Market, VA, March 28, 2022

Raymond L. Marchetti '53, Sandston, VA, October 6, 2019

Donald "Don" F. Murray '57, Warrenton, VA, February 10, 2022

Pete Shepherd '58, Baltimore, MD, January 24, 2022

Roger Gregory III '59, New Kent, VA, April 12, 2022

Edward "Ed" B. Owen '60, Henrico, VA, October 8, 2021

John Franklin Koonce, Jr. '61, Richmond, VA, March 25, 2021

Thomas "Tom" G. McMillan '63, Wilmington, NC, January 22, 2022

William S. "Schuyler" Miller '63, Ashland, VA, March 11, 2022

James "Jim" L. Sanderlin '63, Burgess, VA, January 25, 2022

Oscar Eugene "Gene" Cox '64, Richmond, VA, November 9, 2021

Samuel "Sam" Pettaway Johnson III '64, Petersburg, VA, March 3, 2022

Charles P. Marks, Jr. '69, Midlothian, VA, February 18, 2022

Paul Benjamin Davis, Jr. '70, September 21, 2021

Robert "Bob" Neal Stone '73, Salisbury, NC, March 19, 2022

Hallie F. Hepburn '86, Ridgefield, CT, March 27, 2022

Garnet Vincent Catchot '91, Virginia Beach, VA, January 27, 2022

Eric W. Kader '92, Woodbridge, VA, January 29, 2022

Kelly Amos Curtis '98, Ridgecrest, CA, February 3, 2022

Diana C. Futrell '15, Ashland, VA, March 8, 2022

Taylor Nicole Nixon '20, Owings Mills, MD, April 1, 2022

Friends and Family

George N. Arthur, father of **Britt Arthur '06**, passed April 1, 2022

Monica Boehringer, mother of **Megan Mahoney '21**, passed January 4, 2022

Stanley Cheatham, father of **Dionna Cheatham '15**, passed November 18, 2021

Reta "Rickie" Fain, retiree of the College, passed February 1, 2022

Alice Flythe, wife of **James Thomas "Tom" Flythe '65**, passed April 14, 2022

Charlotte Forrester, wife of **Richard "Dick" H. Forrester, Jr. '57*** and mother of **Rachen Sterling '92**, passed February 27, 2022

Meredith Lee "Merelee" Garrison, wife of **David D. Garrison '77**, State College, PA, passed November 16, 2021

Erline Goodwyn, friend of the College and great-grandmother of **Bryan Diehr '21**, passed February 2, 2022

Jean A. Harrison, wife of **Henry H. Harrison III '64***, Prince George, VA, passed March 22, 2022

John Tilghman "Til" Hazel, Jr., friend of the College and father-in-law of Sally Downs Hazel '80, passed March 15, 2022



Ronald David "Buster" Ward, professor emeritus, passed away on April 4, 2022. Ward was a beloved and influential professor of music at Randolph-Macon College from the moment he arrived as assistant professor in 1958 until his retirement in 1999. He earned his bachelor's from the University of Richmond, his master's in composition from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and his doctorate in music history from the Catholic University of America. Ward built a robust music program at Randolph-Macon, establishing an award-winning all-male glee club and introducing classes in music history, music theory, music appreciation, and more. After R-MC became a coeducational institution, Ward established successful, ambitious mixed choirs that engaged students, faculty, and sometimes local singers not affiliated with the College. His programming for special events at the school, especially graduation, were legendary in quality, performed by the region's best musicians and incorporating the beauty and humor of Ward's arrangements. Off campus, Ward was actively involved with local dinner theaters, especially Barksdale Theater and Swift Creek Mill Playhouse, helping them produce musicals that impacted generations of regional performers and musicians. He was principal trombonist at the Richmond Symphony for decades and also played trombone with dance bands. A fine arranger, he prepared and frequently published music for brass quintet, brass choir, sinfonia, and symphony orchestras. Perhaps most of all, Ward was known for helping students and young performers expand their knowledge and love of the arts.



Trustee Emeritus **Donald "Don" E. Perry '62** died May 11, 2022. He graduated from Randolph-Macon with a bachelor's in economics and earned a master's in economics from the University of Virginia. He served as president of Continental Properties Corporation in Virginia Beach, which he founded in 1973. Perry served on the R-MC Board of Trustees for 21 years and as its vice chair for four years. He also served as the national chair of the Randolph-Macon Annual Fund, a member of the Building Extraordinary Campaign Executive Committee, a board member of the Society of Alumni, and as a 1962 Class Agent. In addition to his service, Perry was also very generous with his financial support of the College. In recognition of his tireless service to the College, Perry received the College's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1990.

Lewis T. Hobson, father of **Troy Hobson '89**, passed January 24, 2022

Herb Jacobsen, friend of the College, passed January 11, 2022

Joseph "Joe" Davis Kyle, former employee of the College, passed February 25, 2022

Elizabeth "Betsy" Layman, mother of **Elizabeth "Beth" Layman '88** and **Anne Layman English '92**, passed February 27, 2022

Mark Longaker, son of retiree of the College Jon Longaker* and Lyde Longaker, passed April 6, 2022

Carolyn Lussenhop, friend of **James "Jim" K. Meharg '49**, passed March 30, 2022

Drew M. Martin, father of **Matt Martin '15**, **Mary Martin Norman '19**, **Samantha Martin '22**, and **Noah Martin '24**, passed September 24, 2021

George O'Mara, retiree of the College, passed March 23, 2022

Kenneth G. Pankey, father of **Katherine Pankey Mathis '90**, passed March 4, 2022

Elizabeth "Liz" Anne Schaller, daughter of **Hugh Stephens '41*** and Kathryn Stephens*, passed February 11, 2022

Barbara Pamplin Shell, friend of the College, passed February 22, 2022

Aubrey M. "Bucky" Stanley, friend of the College, passed December 31, 2021

Larry Steele, parent of **Meghan White '03**, passed September 22, 2021

Tucker Freeman Viccellio, wife of **John S. Viccellio '57**, passed on February 11, 2022

Reverend Dr. Raymond Fitzhugh Wrenn, Winchester, VA, friend and honorary Doctor of Divinity recipient from R-MC, passed February 10, 2022

Edward Yaugo, father of **Georgia Yaugo Pinto '97** and **Sally Yaugo Kerner '99**, passed August 21, 2021 🟡

* indicates deceased

GET CONNECTED

Your participation and opinions help the College create programs and sponsor events that are fun, interesting, and educational. We are excited to hear from you and hope you will take advantage of the easy ways we have to keep the connection!

VISIT OUR WEB SITE
www.rmc.edu

SEND E-MAIL
alumnioffice@rmc.edu

CALL US
(804) 752-7218; toll free (866) 694-4574;
fax **(804) 752-4700**

WRITE
Alumni Office, Randolph-Macon College,
P.O. Box 5005, Ashland, VA 23005-5505

FOR MORE WAYS TO CONNECT
visit **www.rmc.edu/get-involved**



#23

Yellow Jackets are ranked twenty-third in the nation for philanthropic engagement! It's a national distinction that showcases the far-reaching loyalty and generosity of our graduates.

It fuels the College's belief that a gift of any size adds up. The foundation to our future is built brick by brick.

Make your annual gift by June 30. Let's build that national reputation today!



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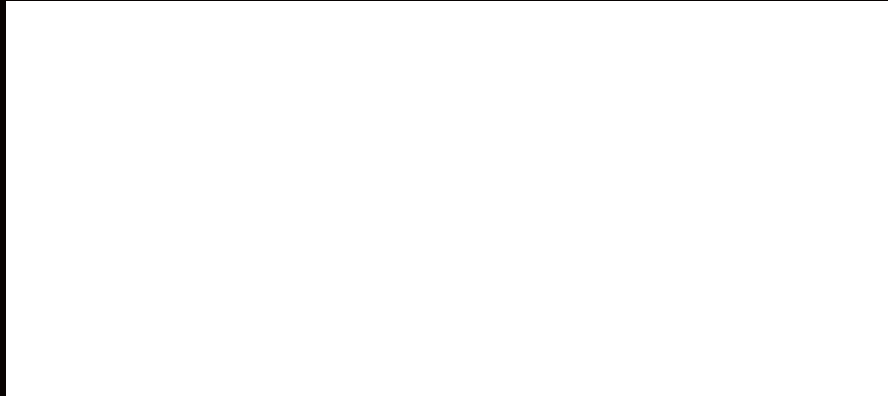


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To see reunion updates and scheduled events:
rmc.edu/reunions