

Global Jackets

The Tireless Dreams of Ghana's
Paul Sekyere-Nyantakyi '93

INSIDE

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI • WROXTON MEMORIES • PUTTING HISTORY TO WORK

FIRST PA GRADUATES

In a historic December ceremony in Blackwell Auditorium, 22 students officially earned their Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies—the first graduate students to complete their degrees at Randolph-Macon College.

"Today, we celebrate the achievements of each individual candidate, and as a College we recognize the importance of such an endeavor: through this program and its first graduates, we multiply our hands. We reach into the future and beyond ourselves, arcing toward the ideal of health equity for all. One patient at a time," remarked Department Chair and Physician Assistant Program Director Erich Grant.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“We are part of a global community. This message is central to our mission to educate mind and character.”

Dear RMC Community,

Recently, I was honored to be invited to the residence of the Japanese Ambassador to the United States. In front of a large and distinguished audience, Ambassador Yamada thoughtfully recognized RMC's remarkable Department of Asian Studies with a special Ambassador's Award, commending our strong commitment to Japanese language education and cultural exchange.

Indeed, it really is an extraordinary bond that ties our college in Ashland, Virginia to a nation more than 6,000 miles across the globe. I had the privilege to see firsthand how our strong tradition of travel and exchange has enriched the College, when, in 2017, Cheryl and I joined Professors Lauren Bell and Jim Doering's travel courses in Japan. It remains one of the highlights of my presidency.

Such **global experiences are a tenet of RMC's curriculum**, and I believe that students benefit deeply from their exposure to other cultures and nations. No matter what part of the world they explore — and no matter the modality — they experience this truism: within the human race, we are vastly different, but we are also the same. We are part of a global community. This message is central to our mission to educate mind and character.

This edition of *Randolph-Macon Today* celebrates the many facets of our global community of Yellow Jackets.

We have included stories about some of our alumni who live abroad and have spread the good name of Randolph-Macon across the globe. At last count, we have alumni in 39 nations. Many of these graduates came to RMC from countries outside the U.S. Others were Americans who chose to live and work overseas. I am sure you will agree that each is a credit to an RMC education.

And I hope you enjoy reflecting on some of our storied history in international education, like the longstanding partnership we have with Wroxton College in England. In fact, two RMC travel courses just returned from exciting J-term experiences at Wroxton, studying nursing and business & accounting.

This issue also includes several articles about some of the mission-enhancing work we are doing much closer to home. **New majors, new buildings, a historic PA graduation**, and some very exciting projects in our classrooms, in collaboration with friends in the Town of Ashland.

Each day on campus, **our dedicated faculty and staff cultivate personal growth through the educational experience we offer students—setting ripples in motion**. While we do not always see how far those ripples travel, this edition is a reminder that they can make an impact around the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Bob Lindgren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "B" and "L".

Bob Lindgren

RANDOLPH-MACON **Today**

THE MISSION OF THE RMC 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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RMC editor reserves the right to edit content.



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Data Science Major to Begin in Fall 2025



Randolph-Macon College will introduce a major and minor in data science starting in the fall of 2025.

Data science offers students a pathway to a rapidly growing career field that combines the tools of mathematics, statistics, and computer science to solve problems across industries. With an emphasis on using data to describe the world, students will use statistical and machine learning models along with programming languages such as Python to create algorithms and predictive models. In addition, they will learn data visualization techniques and explore the ethical dimensions of data.

"This program opens up a new opportunity for RMC students to be well-prepared to succeed and thrive in today's technology-laden, data-driven world—whether they are headed for the job market or graduate school," said Professor Adrian Rice, Chair of the Department of Mathematics. "Students who plan for careers in STEM aren't the only ones who'll need data science skills—demand is increasing in every sector. RMC's Mathematics Department is excited to coordinate this multidimensional program." The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that employment of data scientists will grow 35% within the next decade. Typical entry-level jobs require only a bachelor's degree and feature median pay over \$100,000 per year.

The new curriculum for data science majors and minors will feature a mix of new courses, reimagined courses, and existing courses from the mathematics and computer science programs. Several members of RMC's award-winning mathematics faculty are currently earning Data Science certifications to enhance their expertise in the field. ●

Board of Trustees

Randolph-Macon College President Robert Lindgren and Board of Trustees Chair Sue Schick '84 are pleased to announce the election of three new members to the College's Board of Trustees.



J. Edward Spence '76 graduated from Randolph-Macon with a bachelor's in biology before earning his medical degree from the University of

Virginia. For 27 years, he served as a faculty physician and medical educator at Carolinas Medical Center and Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, N.C., holding several leadership positions.



Allison M. McCabe O'Brien '77 graduated from Randolph-Macon with a bachelor's in psychology with a minor in German. She recently retired

as Vice President for Business Development with Long & Foster Corporate Real Estate Services, where she specialized in corporate relocation. A dedicated alumna of the College, O'Brien previously served on the Board of Trustees from 2009-2021.



Dexter C. Hurt '94 graduated from Randolph-Macon with a bachelor's in computer science. Hurt currently serves as the Director of

Information Systems and Technology at the Greater Richmond Transit Company. As the President of the Society of Alumni, Hurt is an *ex officio* member of the Board of Trustees.



Engineering Program Granted ABET Accreditation

RMC's bachelor's program in engineering earned accreditation this fall by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology.

This sought-after accreditation assures that programs meet standards to produce graduates ready to enter critical technical fields that are leading the way in innovation and emerging technologies, and anticipating the welfare and safety needs of the public.

"ABET accreditation has been the gold standard in engineering programs that we sought when we first developed the major and added it to our curriculum in 2019,"

noted President Robert Lindgren. "The program's smooth path to accreditation is a testament to the visionary work of our Department of Physics, Engineering, and

"The program's smooth path to accreditation is a testament to the visionary work of our Department of Physics, Engineering, and Astrophysics faculty..."

Astrophysics faculty in building and shepherding the program. This major is highly sought after by applicants. And the early successes of our recent graduates make clear that it is both a game changer for our College and for our students." ♦

RMC's Campus Officially Accredited as Arboretum

The oaks, maples, and dozens of other tree species on Randolph-Macon's campus are now officially part of a Level I Arboretum, accredited through ArbNet and part of the Morton Register of Arboreta.

The distinction comes from the work of Jonas Fike '24, who graduated from RMC last spring with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and minors in biology and political science. The idea came to Fike during a plant taxonomy course taught by biology professor Dr. Nick Ruppel, who mentored him through the project.

The duo has now labeled 28 total species (27 trees and one bush) across campus, displaying common and scientific names. Among the trees labeled are fan favorites like a twisted American Sycamore in Mary Branch Circle. ●



Jonas Fike '24 and biology professor Dr. Nick Ruppel affixed labels to unique tree species across campus.





New Residential Village on Center Street On Track for Next Fall



A village of apartment-style residence houses is quickly taking shape on the west side of campus with plans to open at the beginning of the 2025-2026 academic year.

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.

The four-building complex will offer a total of 64 new 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.

The new facility reflects RMC's continued enrollment growth, with 1,643 students on campus during fall 2024. This record enrollment was bolstered by 532 first-year students in the Class of 2028, the largest in the school's history.



Refreshed Master Plan: A Creative Vision for Campus

RMC is working with Baltimore-based design firm Ayers Saint Gross to create a renewed vision for a campus master plan. The original master plan was approved in 2009 and laid out a vision for much of the transformation of the physical campus over the past 15 years. The current 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 space, and academic and administrative workspaces. ●

SEEN & HEARD

A snowy start to the January term made for picture-perfect photo opportunities all over campus.



President Lindgren served as an honorary Yellow Jackets captain, flipping the coin to start the final home game of the fall football season on November 9. In the locker room after the game (a victory!), Coach Arruza presented the former high school quarterback with his own Yellow Jackets jersey with the number "15" to represent Lindgren's role as RMC's 15th president. Lindgren will retire at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year.



More than 430 students, representing 22 different clubs, teams, and organizations, participated in this fall's The Big Event, a day of service in the Ashland community. Together, they completed 38 different projects.

A Christmas Carol made a grand return to the stage at Randolph-Macon, featuring a cast and crew of students alongside alumni and others who had previously been part of the 35-year history of the classic holiday play at Randolph-Macon. Pictured here is Matt Hackman '02 as Scrooge, with Patrick Mattys as Marley. The sold-out performances, under the direction of Professor Emeritus Joe Mattys, were the first at RMC in nine years.



**"Expect the first to-morrow,
when the bell tolls One."**

- Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

Isabelle Casidsid '27 performs Pulitzer Prize-winning composer George Walker's *Lyric for Strings* with the RMC Symphony Orchestra.



Future Yellow Jacket Slater Schools (Class of 2039, presumably!) joined the drumline as one of many new "Buzz Buddies." The Buzz Buddies Kids Club launched this fall, offering activities for young fans to plug into game day fun.



60 volunteers helped support October's Edge Career Center Boot Camp. The career preparation program is powered by alumni and friends of the College, who do mock interviews of the students and participate in networking sessions that help them build their networks and their networking skills.

“Seek the counsel of those who have been there before you... When you do that, you know what happens? That person feels invested in you.”

- Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares



Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares (right) spoke to political science students in Professor Rich Meagher's State and Local Government class during the fall semester. His wide-ranging remarks covered his role within the state government, his background and political career, and advice for students as they start their own professional journeys. He was joined by his Senior Director of Outreach Andrew Teixeira '21, who helped arrange the class visit with his boss for his former professor.



The renovation of the servery area is the final step of a three-step upgrade for Estes Dining Hall.



As part of Dr. Kimberly Cox's Neuroanatomy Biology class, students visited Chickahominy Middle School to teach younger generations about brain anatomy. During the visit, they dissected a sheep brain and explored its structure and functions.



A fierce and delicious competition, Alex Kirkland '27 and her family scored first place in the annual tail gate decoration contest on Homecoming weekend. Pictured: Stephen Previtera, Sherry Previtera, Kayla Rose Previtera '26, Alex Kirkland '27, Danielle Kirkland, Jim Bowler



A combined 47 years of RMC Women's Basketball head coaching experience together at the annual Back to the Hive event. From left to right: Carroll LaHaye, former head coach of 38 years, Billy Wood '71, RMC's first head coach, and Lindsey Burke, RMC's current head coach.



In December, Randolph-Macon's Department of Asian Studies received the Ambassador's Commendation from the Embassy of Japan in a ceremony at the ambassador's residence. President Lindgren was joined by members of the faculty and staff who teach courses that contribute to the Japanese Studies program. Pictured: Dr. Tim Brown, Dr. David Clarke, Dr. Jim Doering, Dr. Lauren Bell, Ambassador Yamada, President Robert R. Lindgren, Department Chair Dr. Todd Munson, Dr. Cindy Rubenstein, Dr. Yixuan Cai, Dr. Bart Natoli, Kyle MacLauchlan, Mayumi Nakamura

"[The] Ambassador of Japan extends his deepest regards to [the] Randolph-Macon College Department of Asian Studies, in recognition of its distinguished service in contributing to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States."

- Japanese Ambassador to the United States Shigeo Yamada



Today, MDS-Lancet Laboratories provides first-class diagnostic services across Ghana.

Tireless Dreams

Paul Sekyere-Nyantakyi '93 is a very focused man.

It's an appropriate demeanor for somebody who spends their days surrounded by laboratory equipment designed for accurate results. While he now serves as the CEO of MDS-Lancet Laboratories in Ghana's capital city of Accra, his journey to that point required every bit of his focus and resolve.

His parents had no formal education themselves, but they raised eight educated

children; his siblings went on to be teachers, bankers, and engineers. But Paul always wanted to be a doctor.

His mother was often sick when he was a child, and he'd promise her that one day he would become a doctor and take care of her. When both his parents died young—when Paul was just a teenager—his goal was solidified: to prevent others from feeling that pain.

Paul arrived in the United States in the 1980s with an acceptance to a college in Arkansas, expecting his work ethic to guide him through the opportunity to work and go to school. But the financial and logistical reality

of his new life as an immigrant was far different than the dreams and plans he had made. He was unable to even make it to Arkansas, instead staying with a friend and settling in the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C.

"I needed to just accept and adjust to the new environment, which means I started working," Paul recalled.

Often putting in 16 hours a day, he worked any job he could get. He washed dishes at TGI Friday's. He was a porter in an apartment building. He delivered newspapers in the morning. Eventually, he "graduated" to driving a taxi for Alexandria Yellow Cab.

But even through years of grinding, he held on to the goal of pursuing education. A six-month computer programming course led to a job at a health insurance company in Arlington, assisting with patient intake. It would have been easy to settle, having finally secured a quality job. But his original goal had always been on his mind and he started perusing the College Board's handbook of colleges. One school stood out for its ability to be a scientist while remaining a well-rounded student: Randolph-Macon College.

Paul drove to the Randolph-Macon College campus in Ashland, Virginia. He presented his transcripts from the computer school in Arlington, along with the results of his SAT. After undergoing a rigorous admissions committee interview, he was admitted into the Randolph-Macon



Paul Sekyere-Nyantakyi '93 went from driving a cab just to survive, to leading a laboratory that's raising healthcare standards across his native Ghana.

"I always thank Randolph-Macon for the opportunity; they were the ones who believed in me."



Honors program, which promised full tuition coverage if a student maintained at least a 3.5 GPA.

A biology major on a pre-med track, and determined to finish his degree in three years, Paul set out on a challenging path filled with long days in the classroom and lab, taking 18 credit hours per semester and keeping his grades high.

Of course, there was still the question of how to pay for expenses beyond tuition. So, Paul did what he's always done: he got to work. On Friday nights, he would drive back up to D.C. and drive his cab throughout the weekend, working on homework in parking lots while waiting for calls.

He credits the RMC faculty for supporting him through a successful—albeit jam-packed—academic career in Ashland. Professor Wallace Martin was the head of the biology department and

was an advisor and mentor to Paul. He also describes his relationship with Professor Art Conway as "like a father and son." Working with Dr. Conway in his lab, Paul contributed to the publication of an abstract and presented the work at the Virginia Academy of Science. Paul looked to Dr. Serge Schreiner, then a newly minted chemistry professor who'd emigrated from Luxembourg, as a friend and mentor as he navigated the challenges of assimilating to America from another nation.

As he neared graduation, Paul applied to medical schools, although he was careful to limit his search to schools that would waive his application fees. He was accepted to all of them. With his pick of elite schools like Harvard and the University of Virginia, he ultimately attended Johns Hopkins. Later, he completed an internship at Yale Medical School.

At this point, Paul's hard work had paid off. A path to prosperity as a doctor of internal medicine in the United States was laid out before him. But he knew that he couldn't turn his

back on the principles that drove him to become a doctor in the first place, and a trip back to Ghana in 1997 had opened his eyes to a more profound purpose.

"I realized that in the U.S. back then, we were in the era of evidence-based medicine, which means a lot depends on modern diagnostics," Paul explained. "But when I came back to Ghana, the lab was abysmal."



Paul had a special relationship with RMC Campus Store Manager Barclay DuPriest. DuPriest and her husband Rob '69, who had recently lost their son Tad '95, supported Paul like an adopted son throughout his time on campus.

Recognizing a crucial need for accurate and reliable test results in Ghana—and to honor the memory of his parents and the values they instilled in him—Paul created Quest Medical Center (which eventually became Quest Medical Imaging), a modern diagnostic lab located in Accra.

Quest Medical Imaging grew, but Paul would still have to refer patients to facilities outside the country for procedures. In 2008, South African company Lancet Laboratories partnered with Paul to create MDS-Lancet Laboratories and bring truly first-class diagnostics to Ghana.

Previously, there were no facilities in the country capable of a Doppler ultrasound that could detect blood clots and prevent pulmonary embolisms. Patients would often die waiting for a diagnosis and only the wealthy could manage traveling internationally for treatment.

Today, Quest Medical Imaging and MDS-Lancet Laboratories

together process over 4,000 patient samples daily with a dedicated team of more than 400 staff members and state-of-the-art technology. With locations across the country, Paul has led an effort that has completely redefined medical laboratory and radiological services in Ghana.

"I have funny philosophies. I'm here and I'm receiving free air from God. When I don't pay my electricity, they cut it off. But somehow God is not cutting my air off," Paul reflected, emphasizing his motivation for doing this work. "God doesn't need anything from me apart from helping my fellow human being."

He also holds significant gratitude to the people who impacted his life at RMC for the role they played in his journey. He recalls a close and special relationship with a number of other members of the faculty and staff, including those who helped pay for his books during his academic career like history professor James Scanlon and Rob '69 and Barclay

DuPriest, the RMC Campus Store Manager, as well as biology professor Pat Dementi, who often sent him money to help with expenses in medical school.

In 2014, RMC awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree at its Commencement ceremony. "I always thank Randolph-Macon for the opportunity; they were the ones who believed in me," Paul said. "Otherwise, the dream would have been dead."

Never one to be satisfied, Paul has his eyes set on the next project, one that's reminiscent of his time in the labs at RMC: setting up the nation's first central lab for clinical trials. Until then, he continues to honor the promise of the young boy with a sick mother, providing quality medical care to the people of Ghana.

"Every patient I encounter, I look to them through the eyes of taking care of my parents," Paul said. ●



In 2014, Paul was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree at the RMC Commencement ceremony.

GLOBAL Jackets

While Randolph-Macon is a place where students from around the world can come for a global education, it has also helped countless American students springboard into international careers. Get to know just some of RMC's alumni forging their path beyond the United States.

Michael Meade '04

Senior Associate Attorney -
King & Spalding (Tokyo, Japan)



● **What drew you to an international career?** I've always had an interest in traveling abroad and learning about other cultures. But when I was in law school, I read a non-fiction book called *The Oil and the Glory*, which particularly sparked my interest in an international career. The book is about the development of the oil and gas industry in the Caspian Sea region after the fall of the Soviet Union. One of the chapters talks about a group of American lawyers who negotiated oil and gas deals with the newly established government of Azerbaijan. I thought to myself, "that kind of work seems pretty cool."

● **How did Randolph-Macon prepare you for a global life?** RMC offered a great menu of J-term travel courses. I did three J-term travel courses in my four years at RMC. My freshman year, I did the J-term travel course on modern Japanese culture and society, which went to Japan. My sophomore year, I did the J-term travel course on the history of Christianity, which went

to Italy. My senior year, I did a J-term internship in Ireland with the Irish environmental protection agency office in County Kerry, Ireland. I was fortunate to receive an international internship scholarship from RMC for my time in Ireland. RMC also enabled me to take Japanese language classes, which really propelled my interest in Japan and Asia in general.

● **What's your most memorable experience living abroad?** Several years ago, I met my parents in Singapore and we took the Eastern & Oriental Express train trip from Singapore to Bangkok. We stopped at several places in Malaysia and Thailand along the way. The most memorable stop was Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand, which is where American, British and Australian prisoners of war were forced to build the Bridge over the River Kwai by the Japanese military during World War II as part of the Thailand-Burma Railway, and which today has a memorial cemetery for the many POWs who died while in captivity.



Haywood Blakemore '71

Retired Lawyer (Japan, Singapore, France, Qatar)

● **What drew you to an international career?** As a young lawyer, I was given an overseas assignment for a few months and loved it, so I held up my hand whenever my law firm wanted someone to go pretty much anywhere overseas. It led to longer-term postings and before I knew it, I was a dedicated expatriate, ultimately working and living in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East for 40 years.

● **How did Randolph-Macon prepare you for a global life?** The faculty stretched me to think broadly and look beyond the limits of my rather narrow comfort zone. They encouraged my curiosity. I was taught to examine issues and situations far beyond my life's experience as of that time, and that openness proved essential as I later adjusted to life in different cultures.

● **What has living internationally taught you?** Patience, adaptability, and an ability to respect people who dress, speak, worship, think, and act differently than me.

● **What's your most memorable experience living abroad?** The memorable experiences stacked up thick and fast throughout the 40 years I spent in foreign countries, but my first impression

of Jakarta, Indonesia on my first foreign assignment in January 1982 stands out particularly in my mind. I had left my trendy New York apartment and flown from Rome to Bangkok to Jakarta and was frazzled. When I walked out of the rudimentary airport I stepped into a world of new sights, sounds, and smells. I plowed through a thick crowd of sweaty bodies shouting in strange languages and climbed into a battered looking taxi. The car's original back door was missing and was replaced by a piece of plywood strapped to the door frame, with an extra strap so I could hold it closed as we drove. I looked down at my feet and watched through a hole in the floorboard as we sped along the unpaved road. Soon we were passing a river lined with water buffalo and I watched as crowds of near-naked people swam, bathed, washed clothes and dishes in the river. With a quick thought of my New York life, I gazed out of the front windshield and wondered if I was cut out for life in such an undeveloped country. But it was a quick adjustment—it had to be. And once I got over that initial shock, it got easier every day to appreciate that this new life was a rich and exciting opportunity.



Madison Brown '24

Graduate Student - University of Salamanca (Spain)

● **What has your experience been like?** It is the most challenging and most rewarding experience I have had in my life so far, and I'm sure it will continue to color the rest of my life. Salamanca is a gorgeous city with a vibrant community of students and other migrants, and I have learned just as much about the world outside of the classroom as I have in it.

● **How did Randolph-Macon prepare you for a global life?** The political science faculty gave me the instruction I needed both to excel in the master's program and to interact more competently with people from different parts of the world. Dr. Bell, in particular, took an interest in me and personally helped me turn my dream of studying abroad into a reality, and I could not be more thankful to her for it. After I got into the university at the beginning of my senior year, the Spanish faculty also took me under their wing, even though I wasn't in their program, to help me learn Spanish and share their experiences living abroad.

● **What has living internationally taught you?** I have learned to trust in myself and my ability to figure out difficult situations and problems. Moving abroad is an amazing experience, but also an

extremely difficult logistical and emotional challenge because you have to relearn almost everything about day-to-day living without any support. Navigating the world in a second language can also be really draining at first. After pulling through the beginning of the semester, I found that I had become a much more calm and self-assured person than I was before.

● **What's your most memorable experience living abroad?** I go to school with 17 other incredible people from all over the world, and have been fortunate enough to get along great with every one of them. Making friendships with them has been by far the most rewarding part of moving abroad. My favorite memories so far have been going into the city with my classmates after school to have a drink and talk about politics.

Mark Stroh '94

Senior Advisor
U.S. State Department

● **What drew you to an international career?** I always dreamed of having a career that allowed me to travel, to learn and experience new things, and not do the same thing every day. But I never imagined I could find a career that might send me to do that overseas until I came to Randolph-Macon. Dr. Bruce Unger told me that you could apply to serve overseas at U.S. embassies on behalf of the United States, and encouraged me to apply to take the Foreign Service Officer application test.

● **What does your career look like today?** At the moment, I'm based in Washington, D.C., serving as a senior advisor on our Ukraine desk, working on strategies to help Ukraine rebuild, and grow its economy while creating new opportunities in Ukraine's economic recovery for the U.S. private sector. But overseas, I've led U.S. diplomatic teams in places like Syria, Pakistan, Ukraine, and Iraq, working on counter-terrorism, regional security, human rights, and economic development.

● **How did Randolph-Macon prepare you for a global life?** Randolph-Macon and such professors as Ray Berry, Dr. Howard Davis and Dr. Unger in political science, Dr. James Scanlon and Dr. Mark Malvasi in history, and Dr. Evie Terrono in art history fostered my intellectual curiosity and pushed me to go outside my comfort zone and try new things. The open, accessible learning environment at Randolph-Macon taught me to question assumptions, explore new ideas, to not be afraid to fail, and embrace change. As I reflect on my more than 20 years with the U.S. Department of State, I think these qualities and the lessons I learned at Randolph-Macon created the foundation for a life of service overseas.



● **What's your most memorable experience living abroad?** This is a tough one! In Syria in 2017-2018, I led a team of civilians working with the U.S. military and local partners to provide humanitarian and stabilization assistance in areas recently liberated from ISIS. It was incredibly rewarding to help these traumatized communities recover and make sure that ISIS could never return and reconstitute. On a personal note, during my time in Kyiv, Ukraine, in 2023, I was able to run a solo marathon through the city, joined at various stages by some of my colleagues from the Embassy. I've learned serving in high-stress environments that trying to find a work-life balance is key, and my run through the city (at a sub-four hour pace!) on a gorgeous spring day was a great way to do that. 🟡

WROXTON Memories



"I was so fortunate to spend time at Wroxton College during May Term 1984. The RMC Concert Choir toured England, Scotland, and Wales for three weeks, performing in both small, local churches and gigantic cathedrals. It was a transformative experience for me, and staying at Wroxton was one of the highlights."

- Rhonda Toussaint '85, Executive Director of Alumni Relations

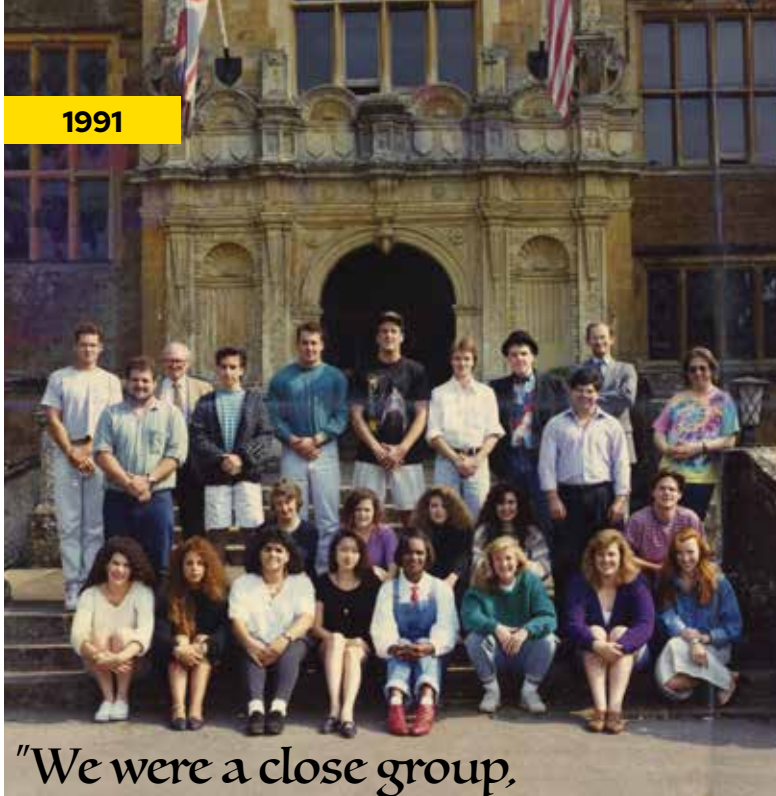


Situated at the idyllic Wroxton Abbey, a 56-acre estate with a modernized 17th-century country mansion, Fairleigh Dickinson's Wroxton College has had a special relationship with Randolph-Macon for decades. The historic setting in Oxfordshire, England provides a picture-perfect immersive study abroad experience, boasting knowledgeable British faculty, a wide range of courses, and geographic proximity to points in both England and Europe at large.

RMC's relationship dates back to Robert Lambeth '71, who was the first RMC student to study abroad at Wroxton on his own initiative. Lambeth spent the spring semester of his junior year there in 1970, and expanded his political science education on a campaign for local MP Neil Marten in the House of Commons. "It had a major influence on my life," he reflected on his semester abroad. In fact, Lambeth famously put the word "Wroxton" on the lips of his fellow students by adopting a pet monkey (yes, a monkey!) named Wroxton who lived with him in the Phi Delta Theta house.

Later students would know Wroxton for the partnership between RMC and Wroxton, which began to blossom in the 1980s after beloved music professor Buster Ward took a choir group on a tour of England that included a stop at Wroxton. He worked with Dr. Nicholas Baldwin, the Dean of Wroxton College, to make the excursions across the Atlantic a permanent fixture and since then, groups of RMC students have regularly spent semesters abroad there. The relationship continues today, with numerous travel courses visiting as part of their trips to England.

The following pages feature photos and memories from Wroxton alumni across eras.



1991

"We were a close group,

so the smiles, good humor, and camaraderie in the photo were not at all inconsistent for our whole time there. Sure, we were all taken with the magic that is studying at Wroxton, but in my memory that feeling was there from the beginning and was pervasive until the end.

We were young and enthused and certainly engaged by the sublime mixture of studying and learning and living and sharing and seeing all Wroxton had to offer. I would hope that anyone that spends a semester abroad anywhere would have a similar feeling, but, given my experience at Wroxton, I don't know that it could be any better."

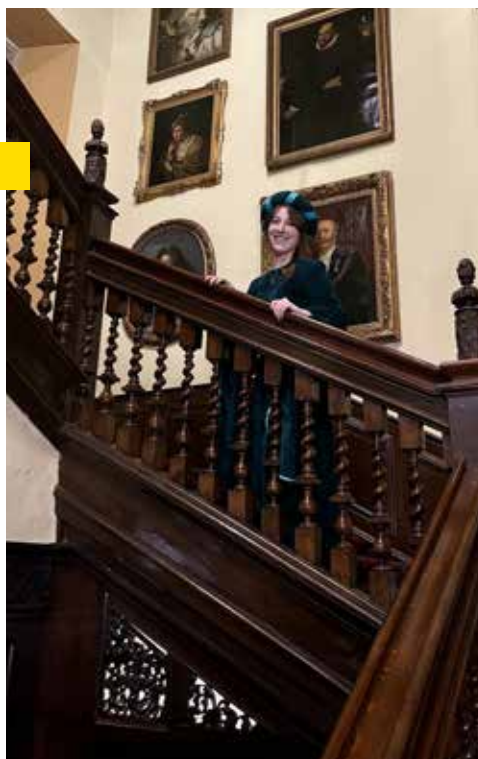
- Jeremy Witt '92

2024

"My experience

at Wroxton was extremely eye-opening, as I was able to take classes for my sociology major and journalism minor. This gave me a different perspective from my classes at RMC, as I was able to learn trends in British social policy as well as British media, which gave me a wider worldview. I was also given the opportunity to meet influential British figures such as former Members of Parliament and journalists through several panel sessions during the semester."

- Meredith Gray '26



1997

"I don't remember all the details,

but one day we woke up and I think we were surprised to see that it had snowed and it actually was starting to stick. It was wet snow, perfect for snowballs.

After lunch, we were on our way back to the Abbey from the cafeteria and an ad hoc snowball fight broke out. Also when we finished classes for the day we had another big snowball war on our walk to The North Arms (the pub just off the property)."

- Barnaby Keller '98



"It is hard to believe that I went to England on a January term over 12 years ago. This trip was extremely memorable not only by the people who attended, but also the professors and experience.

Dean Baldwin, through his connections, granted us a unique opportunity to get a personal tour of the Palace of Westminster. We learned all about the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and even got the chance of a lifetime to sit down with a few of them and learn about their policies.

Dr. Showalter and Dr. Lowry were the two best teachers a young student could have asked to travel the world with. From their personability and kindness to their worldly views, they were able to open our thoughts on the economics and political understandings of the world.

This was also a special class of students as well. We all got along extremely well and operated as a unit from beginning to end. I still have friendships that have lasted to this day, even being members of my bridal party, because of this trip."

- Madeline Lai '15



RMC's presence at Wroxton continues today, including business students making the iconic trip to Stonehenge as part of travel courses taught by Dr. Ed Showalter '84 and Dr. Cathy Staples.



J-Term 2025

ACROSS THE MAP



RMC students spent January Term across the globe, often combining two courses together.

- » Chemistry of Winemaking (Australia and New Zealand) - Dr. Serge Schreiner & Dr. April Mattei '10
- » Roman Life + The Rise of the Ancient City (Italy and Greece) - Dr. Nadhira Hill '16 & Dr. Thomas Rose
- » Comparative Legislatures + Film Music in Japan (Japan) - Dr. Lauren Bell & Dr. Jim Doering
- » International Accounting + The Industrial Revolution (England) - Dr. Ed Showalter '84 & Dr. Cathy Staples
- » Walking in the Footsteps of Florence Nightingale + A World Before Handwashing (England) - Dr. Cindy Rubenstein & Dr. Laura Vasel

Putting History to Work



Q&A

In teaching courses like “Public History” and “Oral History,” Assistant Professor of History Dr. Donelle Boose guides her students through the way interpretations of history can interact with and impact the world around us.



Q: *What does the term “public history” mean?*

Public history is a sub-discipline of the larger academic discipline of history. It uses the methodology that a traditional historian would use: studying primary sources to reveal truthful narratives about the past. But you put a strong emphasis on collaboration with the public. It’s not just experts doing their thing behind the walls of academia and then presenting it to people. We do history with the rest of the world.

Q: *What sort of work does public history produce?*

Public history has two major expressions. There’s the academic expression—for example, that would be like scholars analyzing historical

exhibits, monuments, or movies and making written arguments about what effect they’re having in the world. Then, there’s the practice of public history. People who are not formally trained historians, like archivists, museum curators, and folks in historic preservation. As historians, we’re working with all of these people who are in the practice of doing history out in the world. We historians work alongside them to make history narratives tangible, relevant, and accessible to everyday people.

Q: *Why are those collaborations important?*

I think it’s really important because people engage with the past no matter what, whether historians are collaborating with them or not. People are going to research their family

history and tell stories about it, or write historical fiction, or create video games based on historical ideas. The past is being used in the present moment in all kinds of ways. When we share insights with the public of how we can use a particular method to come up with good interpretations, I think that's a mutual benefit, both for the folks who are interested in doing history for themselves, and for us as historians who are really invested in an honest telling of the past.

Q: What impact does an honest telling of the past have on a society?

I think what public history does is give us space to look at all of the aspects of our society, so that we can sit with it and say "Is this really how we want to be? Is this society actually matching what we imagine ourselves to be?" It pushes us to question, and I think that's the start of something positive.

Q: You also teach a course on "Oral History." How do public history and oral history intersect with each other?

The insights that folks got from doing oral history helped to contribute to the establishment of public history as a formal sub-discipline of history. It's from oral history that historians have started to understand

the importance of this concept of shared authority. Historians are authorities on the past by way of their training, but they aren't the only authorities. Everyday people are also authorities, especially when we're talking about oral histories, because they're sharing their memories. This process is a collaborative process of trying to understand the past. The two things—oral and public history—they work together, and they develop insights to sharpen each other.

Q: How do your students get involved in this kind of work?

I have a relationship with the Hanover County Black Heritage Society and the Town of Ashland, and they were already engaged in a public history project. They're in plans to make a park and a walking trail through the historic Berkleytown community. So the students must do oral histories with those community members to help them achieve their goal of adding personal and group memories to the park's historical narratives. 🟡



To read more about the Public History students' work recording oral histories of Berkleytown residents, scan the QR code.

Faculty Members Honored with Endowed Professorships

This October, Dr. James M. Doering, Professor of Music, was installed as the Shelton H. Short III Professor in the Liberal Arts and Dr. Mathias Bergmann, Professor of History, was installed as the Isaac Newton Vaughan Professor in History.

Doering's research interests include film music, the American orchestra, and music and government. His work has been published in a wide array of scholarly journals and featured at the National Gallery of Art. His book, *The Great Orchestrator*, a biography of the powerful American music manager Arthur Judson, was selected by the Association for Recorded Sound Collections as a 2014 finalist for Best Historical Research in Classical Music.

"There's nothing more exciting and inspiring than being around 18-to-22-year-olds when they get curious about an idea and pursue it," Doering said in his remarks. He also spoke about the role that the arts, and specifically music, play in that central curiosity, noting "each semester,



Endowed Professorships, continued

we put multiple dates on the calendar when we invite the public to experience what our students have learned. The performances become powerful points of reflection for all involved."

The Shelton H. Short III Professorship in the Liberal Arts was established in 2010 through the Shelton H. Short, Jr. Trust and honors a lifetime commitment to forests, wildlife, historic preservation, humanitarianism, and higher education.

Bergmann's research focuses on ethnohistories of Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest, settler colonialism in the West, and federal Indian policy. He has published on Native American cultural geography in 19th-century Oregon and Washington as well as the centrality of the Chinookans and Kalapuyans to life in frontier Oregon.

The Isaac Newton Vaughan Professorship in History was the first endowed professorship at Randolph-Macon and is traditionally awarded to the senior professor of American History. It was established by Emma Lee Vaughan in memory of her husband, who was a superintendent of the Sunday School at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church and a benefactor to the College.

Bergmann recounted the establishment of the Vaughan Professorship as key for the creation of the history department at Randolph-Macon in the early 20th century. "The significance of history in higher education, and society in general, remains the same as back then, if not more important than ever," Bergmann said. "It's heartening to see and to be able to participate in this commemoration of both history and the humanities in the liberal arts." 🟡

SPOTLIGHTS



Randolph-Macon College's Environmental Studies program, led by Professor **Chas. Gowan**, is partnering with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and ecological restoration firm Davey Mitigation to conduct biological monitoring of the South Anna River related to the removal of an obsolete dam north of Ashland, Virginia. Gowan's research over more than a decade, which frequently included students, helped lead to the dam's removal. Together with Associate Professor of Biology **Stephanie Coster**, he and his students will continue to be involved in the unique private/public/academic collaboration, documenting water levels and the presence of various fish species below and above the dam.



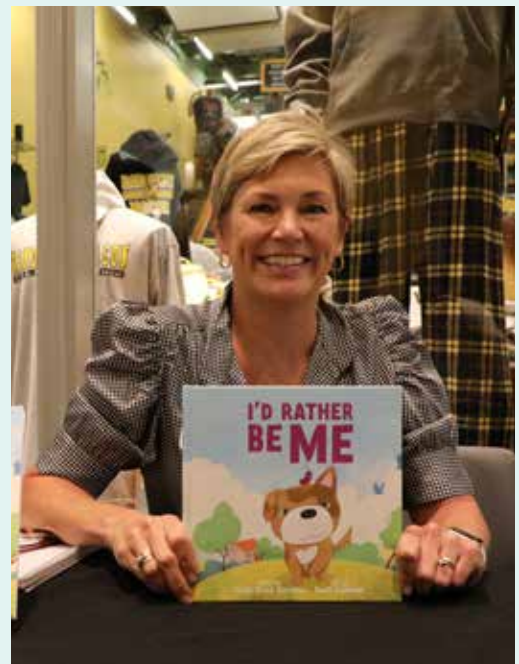
Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing **Ashley Wiley** has been appointed to the Maternal Health Data Task Force by Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin. Wiley, who works as a women's health nurse practitioner as well as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, was selected due to her expertise on the mental health aspect of prenatal and maternal care. The task force seeks to improve research methods and gather data surrounding pregnant and postpartum women.



Jacob Langley '25 joined **Gowan** in the South Anna River, monitoring water levels as part of his Schapiro Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) in summer 2024. Their monitoring project helped facilitate the removal of the Ashland Mill Dam later in the fall.



Professor of Political Science **Rich Meagher** has launched *RVA's Got Issues*, a biweekly podcast on VPM that delves into the politics and hot-button issues of the Greater Richmond area.



Emily Harrison, who serves as Assistant to the President and the Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees, has published a children's book, *I'd Rather Be Me*, which was recently honored with the Purple Dragonfly Book Award and as a Mom's Choice Awards Gold Recipient. This debut story follows Hank the pup and details pressures to change who he is to fit in. (Spoiler alert: he rejects them!)

A Place Called Ilda

Dennis Howard '72's place in Randolph-Macon history is itself historic; he was the first Black graduate who completed all four years at RMC.

The following excerpt introduces another chapter of Howard's life—a quest he took on long after graduation. These efforts would eventually entangle Howard in years of negotiation with the Virginia Department of Transportation and other government agencies, as he fought to preserve his ancestors' remains in a small cemetery in a long-forgotten community at the crossroads of a busy Northern Virginia intersection.

Howard's "senior casual" picture from the 1972 yearbook.



Howard reveals a memorial marker for his ancestors' remains, the result of a years-long effort.



Photo courtesy of Gerald Martineau/The Washington Post

The true story of the late Dennis Howard '72's quest to document and preserve his family's compelling story is now featured in a book about his ancestral home by author Tom Shoop.

“

[In 1964], a fourteen-year-old African American student named Dennis Howard took his place in a social studies class taught by Mrs. Lois Bouilly at Stratford Junior High School in Arlington, Virginia. Stratford had been the first secondary school in the state to desegregate after the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*. But that didn't mean it moved swiftly. Virtually no schools in Virginia did.

Howard was one of only a handful of Black students at Stratford, and the only one in Mrs. Bouilly's class. She was a proper, conservative woman in her sixties who favored A-line flowered dresses. She was an experienced teacher with a firm idea of how her subject should be taught, and she wasn't about to deviate from her lesson plan to suit the new reality of an integrated student body.

The teacher took her place at the head of the class and announced an assignment, one that she had long required of the white students she was accustomed



Howard (back row, second from left) was the President of the Student Government Association.



“My pride and my self-respect, my dignity, and my family pride—we’re going to do something with this challenge.”

to teaching: trace your family history and bring in a copy of your family crest to share with the class. For Howard, the task would be very difficult, if not impossible. He felt singled out. But he was not the type to back down under such circumstances—and never would be.

“I said, well, this is a setup,” he recalled years later. “I can’t do that.” But then, he said, “I took it as a challenge. I said, ‘This lady’s not going to bring me in and embarrass me in front of all these students. My pride and my self-respect, my dignity, and my family pride—we’re going to do something with this challenge.’”

Howard asked his three living grandparents for help. “I went with pencil and paper in hand, and ... I said, ‘This teacher threw this challenge on me, and, you know, how am I going to handle this?’ And so they gave me what they could give me.”

It turned out to be quite a lot. His grandmother Sarah could trace her family back to about 1800. She believed that Osborne Perry Anderson, who rode with John Brown at Harpers Ferry, was an ancestor. Anderson’s mother was a white Irish abolitionist.

There it was: not the family crest Mrs. Bouilly had sought but something much more interesting and impressive. Howard became obsessed with tracing his family’s history in more detail. It wasn’t easy, but Howard was able to pry one piece of information from his grandfather: that Howard’s great-grandfather was a formerly enslaved blacksmith named Horace Gibson, who had set up shop in Fairfax County and had become a successful businessman and landowner. Now Howard was even more intrigued, and he was off and running on what would turn into a forty-year quest to document his family’s history—and, when he learned how influential his ancestors were, to preserve and protect their legacy.

After attending high school in Arlington, Howard went off to Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. He was one of the first African Americans to attend the school and became the first to graduate in four years. Howard, who stood six feet, five inches tall and weighed about 250 pounds by the time he was a senior, had been recruited to Randolph-Macon to play basketball. He

ended up as the team’s captain his senior year. He scored 941 points during his collegiate basketball career—which still ranks him among the school’s top fifty scorers of all time—even though he was recruited for his defense and rebounding ability.

Howard also served as a leader in Randolph-Macon’s student government association, despite the fact that his political views were at odds with those of many students and professors.

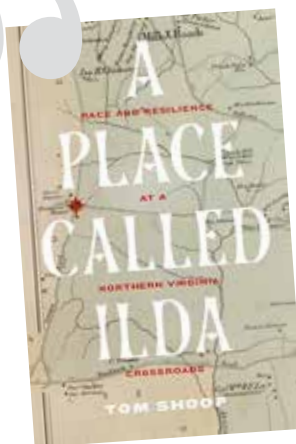
“The college was very conservative at that time—very resistant to change,” he remembered later. “I had a black militant value system. My heroes were H. Rap Brown, Angela Davis, [and] Bobby Seale.” There was, he remembered, “a lot of racial tension. Many times I would have to defend my values by myself.”


Sometimes, attending an overwhelmingly white school had its advantages. Howard recalled that once when he was home on a break from his studies, he got a speeding ticket. “And the judge in Arlington County asked, ‘What do you do?’ And I said, ‘Well, I’m a student.’ And he asked where did I go to school. I said Randolph-Macon.” Howard then made a ripping sound indicating that the judge tore up the ticket.

“And he had to be thinking, ‘How does a Black guy go to Randolph-Macon?’”

Excerpted from *A Place Called ILDA: Race and Resilience at a Northern Virginia Crossroads* by Tom Shoop (Copyright 2024 by the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia Press).

*After the date of this publication’s submission to press, a Black History month event on campus in Ashland featured author Tom Shoop, and others who followed Dennis Howard’s life and story. A follow-up article will be published on rmc.edu/news.





Tetsu Kimura '81 came to Randolph-Macon College to play soccer, and halfway across the globe from his native Japan, found a community of support that launched a successful multinational life and career.



A Global Path

In the courtyard of Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, Tetsu Kimura '81 placed flowers at the final resting place of Ira L. Andrews '59, the beloved Randolph-Macon professor and Dean of Students. While burning traditional Japanese incense, he stood next to Andrews' wife Anne while they prayed with RMC Chaplain Kendra Grimes.

It was a serene and powerful scene, and an important one for Kimura, who, more than 40 years after graduating from Randolph-Macon, was determined to pay his respects to one of the people who provided foundational support as he forged a college career thousands of miles from his native Japan.

Kimura's journey to RMC was winding, and often ran through a soccer field. He was a successful player at the high school level in Japan—including representing his state in a national tournament—but wasn't selected for a higher level. Instead of pursuing college in Japan, he chose a different, more adventurous path.

A family friend lived in Wenatchee, Washington, so Kimura crossed the Pacific and attended American high school for a year, receiving a second high school diploma. From there, he continued east, staying with a distant cousin in Short Pump, Virginia. He took courses at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College during the day and worked at a Jack in the Box at night.

On weekends, he'd play soccer with the German American Sports Club, which is where he entered the radar of Helmut Werner, the legendary RMC soccer coach. The Yellow Jackets played a preseason scrimmage against the German Americans, who had an RMC alumnus on the roster. After seeing him play, Werner offered Kimura a scholarship to RMC.

Kimura was a standout defender for RMC, leading the Yellow Jackets to a 46-14-4 record during his career. He was named an Honorable Mention All-American after the 1979 season and in 2010, was inducted into the RMC Athletics Hall of Fame.

Off the field, Kimura majored in religion, partly inspired by his time in Washington, where his host family were devout Southern Baptists who attended church three times per week. The experience stood in contrast to his upbringing in Japan, where Kimura described religious occasions as being accepted as more secular practices than spiritual pursuits.

At RMC, he took courses taught by B.J. Seymour, the College's first full-time female faculty member, including a J-Term trip to Israel.

"I took it mostly as a cultural comparison study between Japan and the U.S.," Kimura explained. "And it was also my feeling that if I study Judeo-Christianity, I may be able to understand the U.S.'s culture and history better."

Attending a college in a foreign country miles from home can be a daunting challenge. Kimura credits the support of Seymour, Werner, and especially Andrews for helping him navigate it.

"He generally looked after and over me," Kimura recalled of Andrews. "Even though he was not the kind of person who would come to you and say 'how are you doing? Is everything good?' But he was there when I needed, and I think he was there even when I didn't know he was helping me."

Kimura shares a memory of a time when he broke his leg in his final home soccer game; after a weeklong hospital stay, it was Andrews who picked him up and brought him back to campus. During his first year at RMC, Kimura—already operating with English as a second language—struggled with his Spanish class, which filled a language requirement. By the next academic year, that requirement had been dropped for international students. Kimura suspected (but could never confirm) that was the result of Andrews' influence. Regardless, it underscored the support he felt from RMC faculty and staff.

"I was treated very fairly," Kimura reflected. "Everybody has a different background, everybody has strengths and weaknesses. I was able to go through four years with support and understanding from all the faculty, including Coach Werner, Dean Andrews, and B.J. Seymour. Those are three names that I always think about."

Kimura also felt support from his classmates, particularly his soccer teammates, many of whom were also his roommates and fraternity brothers in Theta Chi. When the school closed for holidays, Kimura would spend the breaks with his fraternity brothers' families, making him feel welcome in an otherwise lonely situation and further strengthening those bonds.

"I feel indebted to the larger RMC community for providing me with invaluable opportunities to develop lasting relationships with families who



"I was able to go through four years with support and understanding from all the faculty, including Coach Werner, Dean Andrews, and B.J. Seymour. Those are three names that I always think about."

Tetsu Kimura '81 prays with Anne Andrews and RMC Chaplain Kendra Grimes at the final resting place of beloved professor and Dean of Students Ira. L. Andrews '59.



Helmut Werner



Ira L. Andrews '59



B.J. Seymour

continue to regard me as their 'Japanese son,'" Kimura said. "Recalling those holidays and school breaks spent with different families, and being a member of their everyday life together, I believe that prepared me well for my eventual career in global companies where diversity is the norm."

After a robust Randolph-Macon experience full of intellectual pursuits, athletic success, and the occasional party, Kimura was presented with another crossroads as he looked for employment. Without a visa, he was unable to remain in the U.S., forcing him to return to Japan. At the time, it was uncommon for Japanese nationals to receive American education, making it difficult to get a foot in the door at major Japanese companies with his unorthodox resume.

But soon Kimura found a niche by leveraging his English-language skills, working for ISS, Inc., a language services firm. There, he worked on project assignment contracts across the globe, helping facilitate engineering, procurement, and construction projects undertaken by major Japanese engineering firms, including oil refineries in Nigeria and Iran, and an airport in Burma (now Myanmar).

This was just the beginning of a multinational career. Kimura went on to work in the IT industry for 25 years for companies like IBM, Symantec, and Schneider Electric in their respective Japanese divisions. He rose to the level of senior leadership, overseeing areas as diverse as human resources, sales, legal, operations, and project bid compliance management.

In reflecting on his career, Kimura can identify the foundations of what made him successful from his time at RMC: a broad education, a major that gave him a perspective on different peoples and cultures of the world, and the ability to connect with others, fostered through his involvement on campus.

"In an organization or company, each department or section has to be specialized, but there has to be some management which will put them together in a cohesive and synchronized way, so that we can go in the same direction together," Kimura explained. "Liberal arts prepared me to do that role because even though I don't know the deep skill or knowledge, I will have a taste of everything. The ability to comprehend from a bird's eye view helped me."

Now retired, Kimura returns to the States with some regularity to connect with old friends and pay respects to his mentors. In 2023, he attended a memorial service celebrating the life of Helmut Werner. As part of his trip in 2024, he attended a Theta Chi reunion with dozens of fraternity brothers and professor emeritus Dr. James Scanlon, who served as the organization's advisor. "He spent three hours with us, and I think he had a great time," Kimura said.

Having had the chance to honor Werner the year before, it was also of huge importance for Kimura on his most recent trip to Virginia to visit the final resting places of Werner, Andrews and Seymour, as a grateful alumnus who still feels the impact of their mentorship four decades later.

"Those three people are the only reason I'm here, and I think the only reason I was able to survive in multinational, very competitive, global companies," Kimura reflected on Andrews, Werner, and Seymour. "I cannot say enough about them." 🍷

FALL HIGHLIGHTS



In 2024, RMC Football won its third straight ODAC Championship and triumphed over Hampden-Sydney in The Game for the 11th consecutive year.

FOOTBALL

Yellow Jackets Claim Third Straight ODAC Title



Wade Grubbs '25

Randolph-Macon Football won its third straight Old Dominion Athletic Conference championship, continuing a dominant run in the league. The Yellow Jackets have won 25 consecutive ODAC games dating back to the 2021 season, and their 15 total ODAC championships are a conference record.

RMC also won a home game in the NCAA Playoffs for the third straight year, rallying from a 14-0 deficit in the first quarter to beat Washington & Jefferson 38-22 in the second round, powered by 115 rushing yards and two touchdowns from running back Mitchell Johnson '27. The Yellow Jackets' season concluded in the third round with a 35-14 loss at Salisbury.

Part of RMC's ODAC dominance was an 11th straight win over Hampden-Sydney in The Game. The Yellow Jackets' defense held H-SC off the scoreboard for the final three quarters en route to a 27-6 victory. Running back Kwesi Clarke '24 ran for 100 yards and a pair of touchdowns to lead a 231-yard team rushing performance.

RMC had nine players honored on the All-ODAC First Team, including tight end Landon Farriss '26, offensive linemen Myles Bridges '27 and Storm James '24, kicker Kyle Ihle '25, defensive linemen Owen Arruza '24 and Wade Grubbs '25, linebackers Daniel Eliasek '25 and Tony Skinner '24, and defensive back Coleton Payne '24. Additionally, Farris and Grubbs were named to the D3football.com All-Region First Team.



Adam Braithwaite '25

MEN'S SOCCER

Randolph-Macon Men's Soccer recorded its fifth winning season in the last six years, going 9-7-2 overall with a 4-5-1 mark in ODAC play. The Yellow Jackets fell 1-0 in a tightly contested ODAC quarterfinal match at Washington & Lee, who went on to advance to the semifinals of the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Championship. Goalkeeper Adam Braithwaite '25 completed his career with 209 saves, which ranks third in RMC history.



Valentina Ambrogi-Torres '27

FIELD HOCKEY

Randolph-Macon Field Hockey registered a second straight winning season, compiling a 9-8 overall record. The Yellow Jackets posted a 3-5 record in ODAC play and were led offensively by Llana Thach '26, who scored eight goals on the year. Goalkeeper Valentina Ambrogi-Torres '27 ranked second in the conference with a .829 save percentage.



Llana Thach '26



Kylie Wilhelmi '26



Allison Lach '28

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Randolph-Macon Women's Volleyball went 7-5 against ODAC competition in 2024, part of a 12-15 overall record against a schedule with several nationally ranked opponents. The Yellow Jackets fell in the ODAC quarterfinals to Bridgewater. Outside hitter Kylie Wilhelmi '26 led the team with 4.23 kills per set, good for second-best in the conference, and was named to the All-ODAC First Team. Outside hitter Allison Lach '28 was also named ODAC Rookie of the Year after compiling 23 service aces and 3.29 kills per set in conference play.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Randolph-Macon Women's Soccer finished with an 11-5-4 overall record and a 7-3 mark in ODAC play, its best conference record since the 2019 squad won the ODAC championship. The Yellow Jackets defeated Guilford 1-0 at Nunnally Field in the ODAC quarterfinals through a goal from Ariel Farmer '26. Lauren Brokaw '26 led the team with 25 points (nine goals and seven assists), while Ally Spangler '26 scored a team-high 10 goals this season; both forwards were also honored on the All-ODAC First Team.



Ally Spangler '26

“While we support the current operations of the College with annual gifts, we want Randolph-Macon to continue to flourish for generations to come,” Charles said. “Making a gift that will hopefully not be paid for 20-30 years helps to ensure the future of RMC. *That’s important to us.*”



A Planned Gift Bolsters the Future of RMC

Charles '82 and Debbie Moncure '83 know that it's never too early to make a will or think about estate planning. The couple met at Randolph-Macon before going on to successful careers in business and medical writing, respectively, and remain engaged with the College.

The Moncures included RMC in their estate plans to support the mission of the College to develop the mind and character of its students, but by naming Randolph-Macon College as a beneficiary of their retirement account, they also chose a tax-efficient way to use the funds.

GIFT PLANNING SUGGESTIONS

- » **Gift In Will** – Make a bequest to RMC in your will or living trust. You can leave a percentage or set amount of your estate, or you can donate specific assets like real estate.
- » **Retirement Accounts** – Gift the remainder or a percentage of your IRA. These gifts are especially efficient to donate because inherited IRAs come with a significant tax burden for individual heirs.
- » **Other Beneficiary Types** – You can also name Randolph-Macon as a primary or contingent beneficiary of other financial assets, including life insurance policies or brokerage accounts.
- » **Donor Advised Funds** – You may already be using a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) to support Randolph-Macon and other nonprofits on an annual basis; consider naming Randolph-Macon as a beneficiary of the remainder of your DAF account.
- » **Charitable Gift Annuity** – If you're age 65 or older, you can fund a CGA with assets like cash or stock and receive an immediate tax-deduction on a portion of that gift, then receive fixed payments every year for your lifetime.

To learn more about supporting Randolph-Macon with a planned gift, contact Robert Patterson, Executive Director of Planned Giving, at (804) 752-3605 or robertpatterson@rmc.edu.

CLASS NOTES

'64 William A. Harrison III returned to Ashland with his wife Betty in 2015 and purchased a historic house on the tracks. They enjoy attending alumni activities, Richmond Symphony concerts, and rooting for RMC at athletic events.

'66 Paul MacLaughlin was inducted into the Region 19 National Junior College Athletic Hall of Fame, honoring his 26 years of teaching math and coaching baseball at Brookdale Community College in New Jersey. He was previously inducted into the National Junior College Coaches Hall of Fame, the New Jersey Shore Hall of Fame, and the Brookdale Community College Hall of Fame. He compiled a record of 865 wins and 210 losses, and sent 65 players to the Major League Baseball Draft across his successful career, which he says "goes back to **Hugh Stevens '41** at RMC."

'71 Gary Schanbacher's novel-in-stories *The Waterman* was published in October 2024. His previous fiction has won the Colorado Book Award, the High Plains First Book Award, and the SPUR Award from the Western Writers of America.

'73 Randy Nelson was honored in 2023 by a special joint resolution from the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate, recognizing his years of service on the Lynchburg City Council.

'76 Noreen Hester Joslyn and David Joslyn '75 celebrated their 50th anniversary in August 2024. They met new RMC friends while cheering on the RMC Baseball team in the 2024 NCAA Baseball Championship in Eastlake, Ohio in May.

Jim Jump was the recipient of the 2024 John B. Muir Excellence in Media Award presented by the National Association for College Admission Counseling. He writes about the intersection of ethics and college admission for Inside Higher Ed and on his Ethical College Admissions blog.

'77 Anne McCollum Eikenberg is enjoying retirement from full-time work. She is working part-time for Harford Community College as an advisor in their Adult Basic Literacy program for GED and ESL students. She and her husband Paul will be



Eikenberg

married 44 years in February and love traveling and recently traveled to Iceland and Ireland.

'78 Mark Person's family church in Southampton County, Va., established in 1838, celebrated its 186th anniversary in 2024.

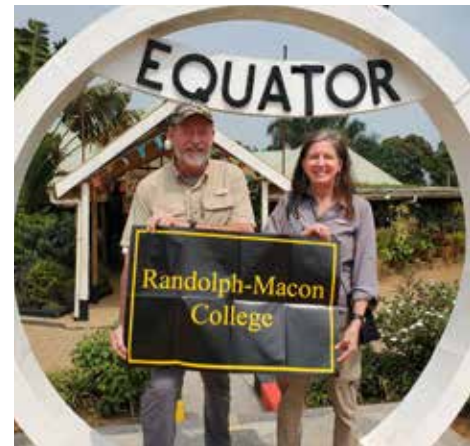


'79 Allen Stott, Chandler Von Schrader '80, and Leigh Smith, friends for 46 years, shared a six-week adventure in Australia and New Zealand in March and April of 2024. The latest of many fun adventures.

'82 Daniel Alcazar, CEO of Mobility Designed, led the company to a successful exit, selling it to Drive DeVilbiss Healthcare.

'83 Cyane Williams is back in Richmond a year after her final chemo and is excited to report that she is cancer-free. She is excited to get back to painting, and is so grateful to so many Yellow Jacket alumni for their support and encouragement during and after her treatments. Her great-niece also graduated from RMC in 2023, is now in vet school, and fulfilling her lifelong dream.

'91 Susan Scott Reeves and her husband **Darren Reeves '87** traveled to the equator in Uganda in August.



Reeves

'82

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Helping Central Virginia neighbors
across 29 counties and 5 cities.



Charles Moncure and **Stan Jones '83** used to meet up regularly for golf, but recently traded their time on the course for time volunteering for Feed More. The duo has taken on a bi-weekly route delivering Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors.

"It's a great way to connect with a friend, while making a meaningful contribution to your community," Moncure said. "Many of our clients don't see another human all day, so it is gratifying to brighten their day."

The friends were inspired by Chris Anderson's book *Infectious Generosity* to celebrate the community organization, and with Meals on Wheels still suffering a post-pandemic shortage of volunteers, encourage others to check out the opportunity to volunteer.

'92

Dale Campbell hooded his son **Hayden '24** at Commencement, recreating a moment he shared with his own father 32 years prior.

'98

Ken Krabitz was awarded 2024 District 11 Athletic Director of the Year from the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association. He is currently the athletic director at Chapelgate Christian Academy in Howard County, Maryland.



Moore

'05

Valerie Jean Minne Moore and **Matthew Stephen Moore** welcomed David George Moore on June 16, 2024. Big brother, Patrick Stephen and big sister, Emma Jean are thrilled about his arrival.



'06

Diana Wright Hudgins completed the Leadership Quest program with Leadership Metro Richmond in June of 2024. She is the Chief Human Resources Officer for Elk Hill and currently serves on the boards of Medical Home Plus and Richmond Area Mothers of Multiples.

'08

Kyndall Drumheller was promoted to Assistant Director of Education at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, VA



(l. to r.) Kim, Suzie, Liz and Sarah

Elizabeth Andrews Noll married Christian Noll in Annapolis, Md., on April 6, 2024. In attendance were RMC alumni **Kim Bowman '08**, **Sarah Witte Wills '09**, **Suzie Zeh Gallagher '09**, and **Andy Wills '09**.

'09

Molly Hyer and her husband Tim Bergeron welcomed their daughter Giselle Ann-Marie in January 2024. Rebecca (2) is thrilled with her new baby sister.



Hyer

Kellyn Fleming Moody, her husband Ben, and big sister Ruby Mae welcomed Amelia June Moody in June 2023.



Moody

Daniel Rollins received the 2024 Virginia Baseball Coaches Association's Virginia State Coach of the Year Award.

Amanda Hiltunen Scott and husband Keagan welcomed their second child, a little girl, on October 14th. Carson Anne Scott can't wait to visit campus with big brother William.



Scott



'10 **Carter Joyce** married his longtime partner Taylor Rains in an intimate ceremony in Portugal on October 12, 2024. **Brian Bates '10** was an usher and **Kathleen Coulter '10** was a reader.

Gregory Manuel's wife Ekaterini supported him and his toddler Yiangos while he was mobilized by the Air Force Reserve Command. He received a Joint Service Commendation Medal for his work on Capitol Hill and an Air and Space Commendation Medal for his support for Operation Enduring Sentinel. They celebrated their achievement with a trip to his wife's ancestral home in Greece on the island of Icaria for a family wedding.

'11 **Lianne Valenza Recchia** and her husband **Ryan Recchia '13** welcomed their daughter Scottie Claire on May 24, 2024.



Recchia

'12 **Crystal Leibrand Kaczmar** is the Medical Affairs Director at Immunovant.

Chris Mereen is the Director of Athletic Development at the University of Richmond.

Allison Miessler Mereen is a Policy Associate for Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance.

Kurt Sporer and his wife Tiffany welcomed their second daughter on November 18, 2024.



Webb

Brittany Richardson Webb and husband **John Webb '13** proudly welcome their second son, Cameron Scott, born August 30, 2024. He joins big brother Cooper (4) and dog sister Molly.

'13 **Nicole Morton Ryan** was recently promoted to Vice President of Business Enterprise

and Guest Engagement at George Mason's Gunston Hall where she has been employed for ten years.

Rachel Stewart St. Clair and her husband, Scott welcomed identical twin girls on July 18, 2024. Wesley Marie and Polly Evelyn are named in honor of grandparents and great-grandparents.



St. Clair

Nora Lundberg Underdown and her husband Blake welcomed August Grace Underdown on March 17, 2024. The proud grandfather is **Chris Lundberg '79**.



Underdown

'15 **Taylor Edwards Bender** and **Eric Bender '13** welcomed Redding Carl Bender on October 28, 2023.

Alexandra Hric married Chris Arroyo on October 28, 2023, in New Jersey. Their wedding party included **Katie Houlse '15**, **Cole Gayheart '15**, **Ginger Morrisette '15** and **Sarah James Snead '16**.



Bender



Hric



'16 **Tom Buchanan** and **Katie Condyles '19** were married at the Country Club of Virginia on Saturday, Oct. 12 with many RMC alumni in attendance.

Nadhira Hill married Alex Winks on June 8, 2024, in a beautiful ceremony in Richmond, Va. They were celebrated by family, friends, and fellow RMC



(l. to r.) **Christine Sellers Heppner '16**, **Sarah Keith '15**, **Nadhira Hill '16**, **Margaret Rigg '16** and **Kelsey Wooldridge '16**.

and University of Michigan classmates. Nadhira is Assistant Professor and Director of Archaeological Studies at RMC.

Sonny Murphy was selected to be the lead instructor of the Arlington County Fire Department Fire Training Academy in 2023. The most

recent class of recruits graduated in November in time to serve the citizens of Arlington County for the holidays. He is also responsible for testing and evaluating all probationers before they are released as firefighters.



Murphy



Tien



Bunn

Sarena Tien graduated with a Ph.D. in French Literature from Cornell University in May 2024.

'17 Rebecca Reidy Bunn graduated from the New School for Social Research with a Doctorate in Clinical

Psychology and is grateful for the foundation she received at RMC.

Stephanie Clute and her husband Chris Coleman welcomed a baby boy on July 9, 2024.

Sydney Carpenter Noe and her husband **Steven Noe '14** welcomed their baby boy Brady Granger Noe on March 17, 2024.

'18 Emily Agee-Claytor achieved her License in Professional Counseling on November 27, 2024.



Noe



Connor Diskin and his wife **Abigail** were married August 3, 2024, and reside in Arlington, Va. They shared many memories over the years when she visited RMC while he was a student, and they still enjoy the beautiful campus when passing through.



Scarola Shearin

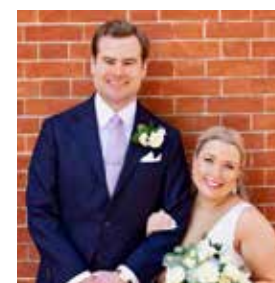
Samantha Scarola and **Jonathan Shearin** started dating their freshman year and were married October 13, 2024. Another Macon love story!



Koch

'19 Mia Koch married her preschool sweetheart, **Donald Albers**, in 2023.

Caroline Kouneski Gordon and **Sean Gordon** were married May 13, 2024. They met their freshman year at RMC.



Kouneski Gordon



Lewan Gyimesi

Victoria Lewan and **Andrew Gyimesi** were married November 2, 2024.



'21 Kendall Griffis and **Isaac Myers '20** were married October 19, 2024. They met at RMC where Kendall played lacrosse and Isaac played soccer.

Kevin Mooney is returning to RMC, taking on the roles of Assistant Baseball Coach and Director of Player Development. Mooney will use his background in motor

preference and athletic movement to help optimize each player's performance, reduce the risk of injury, and improve their physical and mental preparation. He's looking forward to a great season this spring.



Teixeira, AG Jason Miyares, and President Lindgren

Andrew Teixeira is Sr. Director of Outreach for Attorney General Jason Miyares. Miyares spoke at the Naturalization Ceremony in Crenshaw Gym in April 2024 and visited Professor Meagher's class in November 2024.



White

'22 Emma White is the Resident Stage Manager of The Circuit Playhouse in Memphis, Tenn. She was recently recognized for her role as manager of the regional premiere of The Lehman Trilogy by Stefano Massini.

Cully Wilkins completed his Master of Arts in Teaching Latin and Classical Humanities. He is currently a Latin Teacher with Chesterfield County Public Schools.

'23 Isaiah Morton is working as a 4-H agent with Virginia Cooperative

Extension. This position offers a tuition waiver for graduate studies allowing him to work towards a master's in public administration at Virginia Tech. He is grateful to the professors and staff at RMC helping him get to this place in his life. ●

PASSAGES

The Alumni Office is available to assist if you are looking for additional information about any of our alumni and friends listed below (made known to Randolph-Macon between May 5, 2024–January 8, 2025).

Hayes "Todd" Pfitzenmeyer Jr. '51, Coatesville, PA, October 16, 2024

Francis W. Poates '52, Powhatan, VA, December 9, 2024

William Henry Talley III '52, Petersburg, VA, November 15, 2024

William Arthur Hughes '53, Savannah, GA, July 14, 2024

Rev. Dr. Charles Burgess Nunn Jr. '53, Mechanicsville, VA, July 25, 2024

Richard Howell Stilwell Sr. '53, Roanoke, VA, November 16, 2024

Dr. Lewis Donald Tamkin '53, Harrisonburg, VA, December 22, 2024

William Walton Vaughan Jr. '53, Henrico, VA, October 1, 2024, cousin of **Judson T. Vaughan Jr. '56**, nephew of **Ritchie Walton Vaughan* 1903** and nephew of **Boxley Vaughan * 1914**

Patrick Henry Woods '53, Glen Allen, VA, October 22, 2024

Lyman Meade Flinn '56, Richmond, VA, October 29, 2024

James R. Bergdoll '57, Chesapeake, VA, December 12, 2024, brother of **George Bergdoll '65**

Raymond Spencer Forrest '57, Seaford, VA, May 2, 2024

Roy Arthur Rasnake '57, Essington, PA, July 22, 2024

Curtis Lester Sampson '57, Weems, VA, April 21, 2024

William Norwood Cox '58, Carolina Shores, NC, June 20, 2024

Thomas Anthony "Tony" Weiler '58, Ft. Myers, FL, June 13, 2024

CLASS NOTES SUBMISSION

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? Share your news and submit photos of big life events or anything else 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.

John Grafton Cockrell '59, Conway, SC, June 27, 2024

E. Fulton Clark '60, Stuart, VA, July 14, 2024

Albert "John" Ochsner III '61, Lebanon, OH, September 28, 2024

William H. Riggs Jr. '61, Richmond, VA, September 16, 2024

Charles O. Shriner '62, Glen Allen, VA, August 20, 2024, father of **Kim Shriner Fiedler '88**, **Ronnie Shriner '85**, father-in-law of **Scott Fiedler '86** and grandfather of **Caley Shriner '25**

Frank L. Tullis '62, Williamsburg, VA, October 28, 2024

Jesse Jacob "Jake" Barger '63, Bedford, VA, July 19, 2024

Robert Stewart Hopewell '63, Kinston, NC, December 10, 2024

George Christopher Botts '64, Oviedo, FL, October 6, 2023

James Edgar Dalton Jr. '64, Nashville, TN, June 12, 2024

William Gary Crampton '65, Richmond, VA, July 17, 2024, brother of **Thomas Crampton '68**

Leslie Ray French III '65, Mechanicsville, VA, October 10, 2024.

Harry L. Price '67, Jefferson, MD, October 6, 2024

Robert Eugene Bentz '68, Peachtree Corners, GA, May 22, 2024

Donald B. Webb '68, Paxton, MA, June 29, 2024

Dr. Charles Michael "Mike" Buchanan '69, Mountain Brook, AL, May 19, 2024



Roxane Gilmore, former First Lady of Virginia and part-time faculty member at Randolph-Macon, passed away on August 7, 2024. From 1982 to 2017, as her public and personal commitments permitted, Professor Gilmore taught a variety of courses in the department of Classics and Archaeology, including Latin language courses, Women in Ancient Literature, Epic Poetry, Roman Britain, and courses in both Greek and Roman history. Even after her husband, Jim, was elected governor of Virginia in 1997, Professor Gilmore continued to teach courses at RMC, albeit under the watchful

eye of a Virginia state trooper who drove her to and from campus each day. Although she taught at the College only part-time, Professor Gilmore was a dedicated instructor who was proactive about identifying students who needed additional assistance, and who supported them to get academic and personal support. She did not let her status as Virginia's First Lady affect her commitment to her students, who praised her competence, kindness, and commitment to them. During the 1999-2000 academic year, Professor Gilmore was inducted as an honorary member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science and international relations honor society, in recognition of her service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

David James Schwemer '71, Glen Allen, VA, February 28, 2024

Jack Brewster '72, Metuchen, NJ, September 13, 2024

J. Burle McGhee III '72, Mechanicsville, VA, August 25, 2024

Clyde Ellsworth "Tripp" Smith III '72, Martinsburg, WV, September 5, 2024

Bruce Wayne Thornton '72, Mocksville, NC, July 2, 2024

Robert Lee Hunter III '74, Charlotte, NC, March 4, 2024

John Mark "Jack" Read '74, Lusby, MD, October 17, 2024

Richard Bernard Hoffmann '75, Norfolk, VA, May 19, 2024

Michael O'Kelly Connelly '79, Mathews, VA, April 15, 2024, husband of **Lydia Connelly '80**

Donald Vaughan Cruickshanks '79, Richmond, VA, December 29, 2024

Paul Michael Shirk '81, Austin, TX, June 22, 2024

Ted Tyler Thomas II '81, Montpelier, VA, August 26, 2024, husband of **Rebecca Hunnicutt Thomas '81** and son of **Charles L. "Brick" Thomas* '53**

Judith Amelia Campbell '82, Alameda, CA, October 28, 2024

Richard Peter Geers '83, husband of **Karen Travers Geers '83** and brother-in-law **Stephen Jon Travers* '85**, Virginia Beach, VA, July 6, 2024

Ronald Louis Maher Jr. '84, Monkton, MD, September 24, 2024

Jay Arthur Smith '85, Santa Rosa, CA, May 31, 2024

John Robert Chappell IV '87, Greer, SC, November 11, 2024

Adrienne Margaret Green '88, Cary, NC, July 21, 2024

Amy Wood Kuriger '92, Houston, TX, September 6, 2024

Catherine Coughlin Abbate '94, Newport, RI, September 17, 2024

Heather Durrenberger Fogg '95, Alexandria, VA, May 25, 2024

Benton Grady Wislinski '08, Columbia, SC, December 27, 2024

Stephanie Wishmyer '10, Harpers Ferry, WV, August 8, 2024

Marcos Ocadiz II '14, Columbia, MD, September 2024

Friends and Family

Dale Brothers Birdsong, Virginia Beach, VA, December 20, 2024, wife of **William M. Birdsong, Jr.* '56**, mother of **William M. "Mac" Birdsong III '82** and **Everett Birdsong '84**

Dr. Jackson L. Blanton, North Palm Beach, FL, January 7, 2024, friend of the College.

Ann Bateman Capers, Wayne, PA, December 20, 2024. Former Parent's Board Member and mother of **Betsy Capers Exley '99** and **Lauren Capers Ryan '02**.

Barbara Dove, Chesterfield, VA, November 7, 2024, wife of **Richard Dove * '56**.

Charles Alan Hudson III, Virginia Beach, VA, June 17, 2024, father of **Claire Hudson Bailey '05**

Vivian Jones, Richmond, VA, September 5, 2024, wife of **Thomas W. Jones Jr.* '59**

William "Bill" Alexander Kirkland Jr., Durham, NC, July 2, 2024, father of **William Alexander "Kirk" Kirkland* III '91**

Linda Holt Lilly, Norfolk, VA, November 21, 2024, wife of **Edward Lewis Lilly '64**

Sarah McLaren, Crozier, VA, December 6, 2024, wife of **Everett McLaren '72**.

Kay Sands Peters, Charlottesville, VA, August 14, 2024, wife of **Rev. John B. Peters '70**

Kathleen Frances Pohlig, Alexandria, MN, October 4, 2023, wife of **Bruce Pohlig '70**

Carole Rayner, Richmond, VA, July 3, 2024, wife of **Robert Rayner '59** and grandmother of **Amanda Rayner Buchanan '08**

Mary Jo Baldwin Reid, Midlothian, VA, December 16, 2023, wife of **Boyce Reid '65**

Virginia Belle Sheppard, Moorestown, NJ, August 16, 2024, mother of **Patty Franz** and mother-in-law of former Professor of Physics and RMC Provost **Dr. William T. Franz**

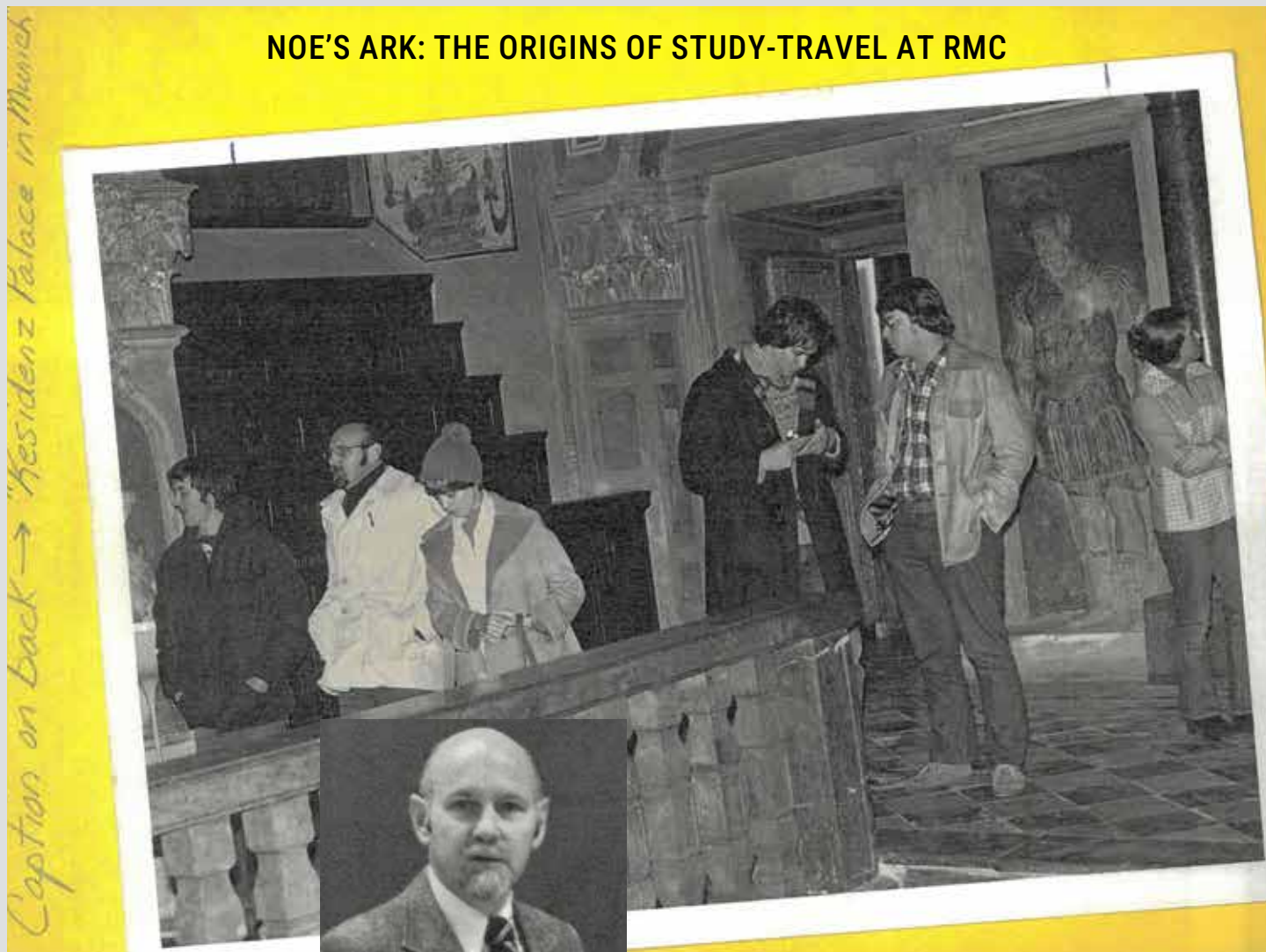
Connie Taylor, Virginia Beach, VA, June 5, 2024, wife of **Charles A. Taylor III '65**

Sarah Weidig, Rockingham, VA, August 12, 2022, wife of **Dr. George L. Weidig Jr.** and mother of **Vaughan Weidig Clark '04**

Jane Halligan Boyd Whisnant, Lynchburg, VA, August 24, 2024, mother of **Christopher Boyd Whisnant * '84** 🟡

FROM THE ARCHIVES

NOE'S ARK: THE ORIGINS OF STUDY-TRAVEL AT RMC



Caption on back → Residenz Palace in Munich

The study-travel program at RMC traces its origin back to the Spring of 1964, when the faculty approved Professor William S. "Bill" Noe's proposal for a two-month study-travel class to Germany over the summer. Professor Noe, whose

33-year teaching career at RMC began in September 1963, was a veteran of study abroad programs himself, having studied in Austria at the University of Vienna and as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. Quoted in a Dec. 1, 1988 Yellow Jacket article on the 25th anniversary of the study-travel class, Professor Noe "found crossing cultural frontiers so exciting and stimulating and broadening that [he] wanted everyone to have the experience."

The first class of nine students were headquartered in Bad Honnef, Germany, from June to August 1964, and traveled extensively to other countries during their time overseas. The second class in the summer of 1965 paid \$1250 to participate,

which included tuition, room, board, books, airfare, and a train pass for unlimited European travel. This group also visited East Germany and was detained for 45 minutes at the infamous Checkpoint Charlie border crossing. Each year featured something different; Professor Noe's 1969 class sailed to Europe instead of flying.

The student trips abroad with Professor Noe were nicknamed "Noe's Ark," a play on both his last name where the final "e" was pronounced and that he was an ordained Episcopal priest. The popularity of these trips was so great that by the 1968-1969 school year, the French, Spanish, and Art departments developed study-travel classes of varying lengths.

Professor Noe directed this "Randolph-Macon College Summer School in Europe" for six years. This program later became the College's Colloquies Abroad Program by the early 1970s with Colloquies appearing in the College catalogs from 1968 through 1981; most were switched to January rather than summer offerings. For a brief period in the 1980s, a May session including travel classes was offered but over time, the courses evolved into our distinctive J-Term study-travel classes, with occasional summer sessions. ●



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Tuesday, March 11, 2025 | 7 p.m.

» RESERVE TICKETS



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free and open to
the public, but
tickets required.

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