

RANDOLPH-MACON **Today**

THE MAGAZINE • SUMMER 2025

*Celebrating the Leadership of
President Robert R. Lindgren*

NOW IS THE TIME



INSIDE

INTRODUCING DR. MICHAEL E. HILL • SUMMER READING • CARD SHARK



An aerial photograph captures a large crowd of people gathered around a circular fountain. The fountain, located on the left side of the frame, has a large, round, golden-colored central structure. Several graduates in black gowns and yellow stoles are seen in the water, some standing and others sitting. The surrounding plaza is paved with red and grey bricks. A large, dense crowd of people, including graduates and spectators, is gathered on the plaza, many looking towards the fountain. The scene is set outdoors, with trees visible in the background. A yellow banner with black text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

FOUNTAIN CELEBRATIONS

A cherished RMC tradition from a birdseye view! Graduates from the Class of 2025 waded into the water at the Frank E. Brown Fountain Plaza for celebrations and pictures with classmates.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"I'm particularly grateful to all of you who went out into the world and honored Randolph-Macon with your words and your deeds."

Dear RMC Community,

One of the features, and I should confess, benefits, of announcing one's retirement in a more public position like RMC President, is that Cheryl and I have been overwhelmed with generous expressions of gratitude, which are heartwarming to be sure.

In response I have realized that the most authentic message I can possibly convey is thank YOU... to all of YOU. Our gratitude is not just for the warm responses to my retirement news. Rather, it is—even more so—in knowing that whatever success RMC may have achieved over recent years has been made possible by the hard work and the boundless generosity of many, *many* good people.

Some of you may know that I enjoy sailing, so I hope you will permit me a metaphor. Well before I arrived, Randolph-Macon was blessed with many inherent strengths—fair winds, if you will. But there have been a lot of people pulling on the oars too.

In my years here, I have been enormously inspired on a daily basis by the devotion of faculty, staff, and coaches who care about students in a way that is, frankly, unusual in higher education, even on campuses like ours. There is profound mutual respect here between RMC students and their faculty—a respect that is consequential.

I also had the benefit and great honor of working alongside tremendous leaders, whether on our Board of Trustees or our leadership team. I have been blessed by alumni and friends who shared their ideas, time, and treasure. And I am particularly grateful to so very many of you who went out into the world and honored Randolph-Macon with your words and your deeds.

All of you who grabbed an oar helped produce enormous progress. You have made a difference for our students. And you are making a difference in the arc of this beloved institution.

In the pages of this magazine, you will get to read some of the big stories from this semester, including an exciting refresh of our master plan, a joyous Commencement ceremony in which I was honored to play a part, and six RMC sports in their respective NCAA playoffs. (I am also told you will read more about my 19+ years as RMC's president. That part, I assume, is filled with hyperbole I was not permitted to proofread!)

Importantly, I hope you will first turn the page to read about our 16th president, Dr. Michael Hill, who will take over this editorial spot as president very soon. He is a remarkable individual who I am confident will lead RMC skillfully to and through our 200th anniversary!

And as Cheryl and I turn the page to a new chapter, we offer our profound thanks and love for your kindness and for all you have done, and most especially, all you will continue to do for this special college we all love. I have been blessed and deeply honored to serve this college, this community, and especially our students. And I fervently hope to still row an oar here and there in the future.

At Commencement—this year and every year—I marvel at the enthusiasm of our students who are leaving Ashland so well-prepared to meet the challenges of their future. I feel sure that Randolph-Macon is similarly well-prepared for its next chapter, most especially with the promise of your continued support.

Go Jackets!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Lindgren". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial "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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content.



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Tim Banazek '94 is the owner of likely the largest collection of sports cards in the world. Now, he wants to share his joy with everybody.



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Get to know some of the Class of 2025 and the exciting futures ahead of them.

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Dr. Michael E. Hill to be Randolph-Macon's 16th President

In March, the Randolph-Macon College Board of Trustees unanimously selected Dr. Michael E. Hill as the College's 16th president. He officially assumes the post on August 1.

Hill just concluded his service as President of Chautauqua Institution, an educational community in western New York dedicated to engaged dialogue and cultural enrichment. He led a transformation of the 150-year-old institution through new partnerships, new funding sources, and a bold new vision that extends its reach nationwide.

"I have been overwhelmed by the welcome from the Randolph-Macon community since the announcement of my appointment," Hill said. "I knew throughout the search process that there was something special about RMC, but these past months have underscored the unique character, strong commitment, and tremendous possibilities for the Yellow Jacket community."

"Michael's extraordinary experience, proven track record, and infectious positive energy fit this moment at Randolph-Macon, when we have so much momentum toward the future," noted Board of Trustees Chair Sue Schick '84. "As we near our bicentennial, I am confident we have found a leader committed to aligning innovations that will help sustain us with a deep commitment to the tradition of a Randolph-Macon education."

Hill emerged from a crowded field during a nationwide search by a presidential search committee made up of trustees, faculty, staff, and students. The committee was particularly impressed by his ability to articulate and execute a transformative strategic vision.

"In his previous roles, he simultaneously broadened the mission of the institution, and enhanced its financial sustainability," explained Dave Meleski '81, who chaired the presidential search committee. "Our committee was continually impressed by his exceptional record of external resource development, innovation and partnerships, and his ability to bring communities together."

Hill was a first-generation graduate of St.

Bonaventure University, a liberal arts college where he was a staff member early in his career. He served on the University's Board of Trustees, culminating his service as the Board's Secretary and co-chair of its most recent presidential search committee. He earned a master's degree in arts and cultural management from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, and a doctorate in education from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. He has lectured frequently on nonprofit management to international audiences, trade organizations, and as a visiting lecturer for Georgetown University. He is a member of the Robert H. Jackson Center Board of Directors and a member of the Leadership Network of the American Enterprise Institute.

Hill previously led the non-profit Youth for Understanding USA and served in senior roles at United Cerebral Palsy, Washington National Cathedral, and The Washington Ballet. He was also a founding faculty member of George Mason University's Master of Arts Management program, where he taught in an adjunct role for more than a decade and was named faculty member of the year in 2011. He and his husband Peter "can't wait" to join the Ashland community as residents this summer. 🍷

RMC Refreshing Master Plan for Campus and Facilities

In April, the Board of Trustees endorsed the 2025 refresh of the Campus Master Plan, which outlines a vision for the next chapter of growth on Randolph-Macon's Ashland campus. The plan updates the 2009 Campus Master Plan, which was a long-range vision that helped inform much of the renovation and construction that has transformed the Randolph-Macon campus over the last 15 years under the leadership of President Robert R. Lindgren. Both the refresh and the original plan were the work of Baltimore-based design firm Ayers Saint Gross, with input from stakeholder group sessions and a steering committee made up of trustees, staff, faculty, alumni, neighbors, and Town of Ashland staff.

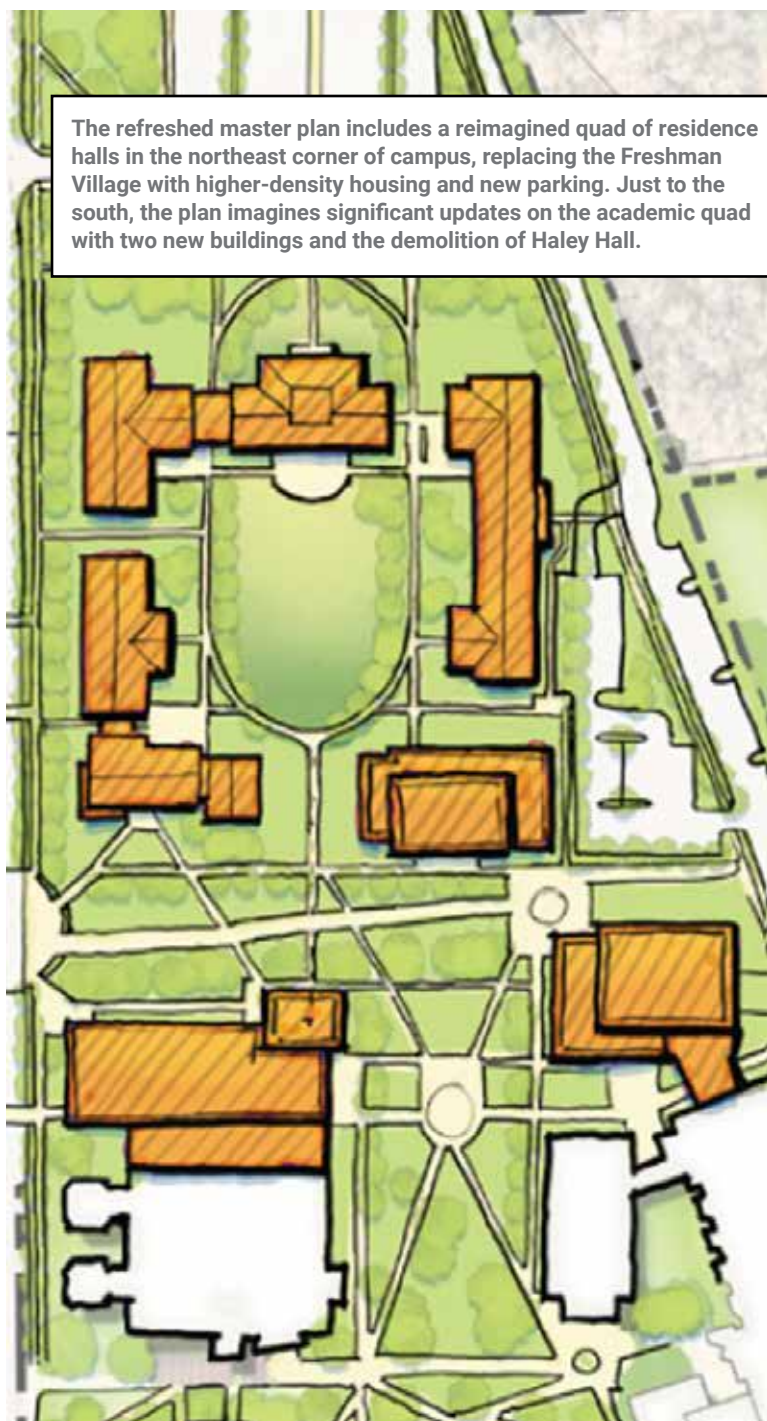
Some of the highlights of the refreshed vision include:

- » New academic buildings in the core of campus
- » New residences in the east quadrant of campus, replacing aging buildings and, in many cases, adding bed space to accommodate anticipated growth
- » An improved gateway to campus on England Street, featuring new buildings, signage and landscaping, and a recommended modified intersection to improve traffic flow
- » Continued development of west campus housing and parking
- » New parking options in the east and west parts of campus and traffic calming measures to improve pedestrian safety

Like its predecessor, the 2025 Campus Master Plan is a vision document that will continue to evolve as the College grows and changes in a highly dynamic higher education environment.

In 2009, the College's Master Plan was incorporated into the Town of Ashland's Comprehensive Plan. The College will also seek counsel from Ashland's Planning Commission and Town Council on this version.

The refreshed master plan includes a reimagined quad of residence halls in the northeast corner of campus, replacing the Freshman Village with higher-density housing and new parking. Just to the south, the plan imagines significant updates on the academic quad with two new buildings and the demolition of Haley Hall.



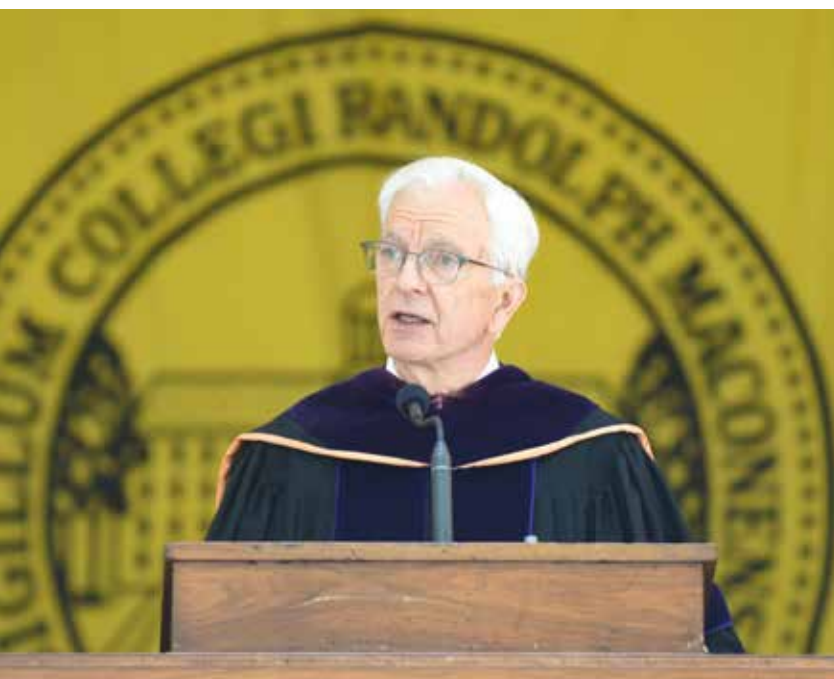
NEW BOARD MEMBER

Randolph-Macon College Board of Trustees Chair Sue Schick '84 and President Robert R. Lindgren welcome the recently elected Yancey S. Jones as the newest member of the College's Board of Trustees.

Jones, who was born and raised in Ashland, Va., is the founder and former CEO of The Supply Room Companies, Inc. He transformed Meade & Co. from a small family business on the railroad tracks to the second largest independent office solutions dealer in the United States. ●



2025 Commencement Celebration



President Robert R. Lindgren, RMC's 15th president, served as the 2025 Commencement speaker, commemorating his retirement and nearly two decades of transformational leadership of the College. In his remarks, Lindgren focused on life lessons for the graduates, illustrating themes of cultivating relationships, gratitude, life-long learning, and resilience. "As you strive to get better, you will find out that what is ahead of you is unlikely to be a straight road," Lindgren said. "So, it will be how you respond to change, confront challenges, and seize opportunities, that will surely determine the arc of your success."

The Randolph-Macon College community came together to celebrate the 297 graduates of the Class of 2025 during Commencement ceremonies at Brown Fountain Plaza on Sunday, May 25. In true RMC fashion, the graduates earned bachelor's degrees in more than 55 majors, including 60 students who earned double or triple majors.



Wade Grubbs '25 signs the chapter register as part of the initiation of new members into the Zeta Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the oldest academic honor society in the United States.



Senior speaker **Elizabeth "EJ" Jones '25** graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in French. She encouraged her classmates to cherish the relationships and connections made during their time on campus. "Our connections, while they may look different after today, will continue to grow and strengthen as we transition into the role of alumni," Jones said. "We all will carry the memories and friendships made here with us for the rest of our lives."



RMC conferred four honorary degrees to eminent friends of the College. **Carroll M. LaHaye** received an Honorary Doctor of Education degree, celebrating her remarkable 38-year career as an educator and basketball coach. **Dr. Ray E. Martin**, the former CEO of Schnabel Engineering Associates, received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree. **Benjamin S. Schapiro '64**, the Chairman and CEO of QuestMark Partners, received an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. **Dr. Samuel E. Vichness '69** received an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree, recognizing decades of service to RMC as a Trustee and his life of service to young people.



Michael Jin-Ho Kim '25 prepares for the big day.



Anna Snoddy '25 is hooded by her brother, continuing an RMC Commencement tradition.

SEEN & HEARD



"The surest path to your next opportunity is doing a good job at your current opportunity."

- John C. Asbury, CEO of Atlantic Union Bankshares Corporation

Access C-Suite, a program facilitated by the Edge Career Center, continues to provide ambitious upperclassmen with face-to-face opportunities to network with and learn from local executives.



Study partners can come in all shapes and sizes! Students like Peyton Cooper '25 made new friends at the Common Activities Board's pop-up petting zoo.



Dahmon Harmon '28 arranges polarized filters in Professor Rachele Dominguez's Quantum Computing course, taught during the spring semester as part of the celebration of 100 years of quantum mechanics.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

The newest members of Randolph-Macon's alumni community have big plans and exciting futures ahead of them. Get to know some of the Class of 2025.

JAKE RAUGH

Majors: Physics and Engineering Physics

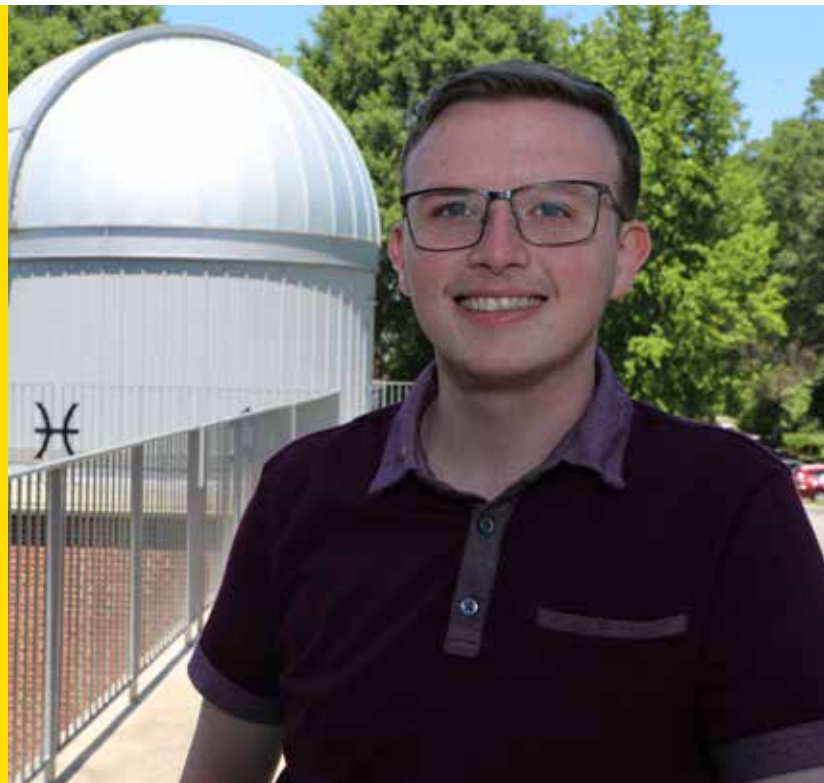
Minors: Astrophysics and Mathematics

Hometown: Chesterfield, Va.

Future Plans: After graduation, I will be working at Virginia Space Flight Academy's Space Adventure Camp in Wallops Island, Va., as the Aerospace and Rocketry Instructor. After that, I plan to work for a few years before going back to school to get my Ph.D. in theoretical physics.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Dr. Rachele Dominguez. She has guided me through these past few years and helped me grow as a scientist and a professional. She has also helped me make sense of and navigate the changing world of STEM and academia, providing support and confidence for my future.

Favorite RMC Memory: Attending the men's basketball NCAA playoff games my freshman year. The crowd was electric, and it was amazing watching our team win on a national level on our home court. Watching the live stream of the championship game was also amazing. I was so happy to be an RMC student and to be able to celebrate with the team.



MAUREEN POE

Majors: Asian Studies and Spanish

Minor: English

Hometown: Mechanicsville, Va.

Future plans: I will be going to Spain for a year to participate in the North American Language and Culture Assistants Program, then I plan to pursue a career in Translation Project Management.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Professor Patricia Reagan! During my freshman year we met to discuss my interest in the translation industry and the conversation inspired me to continue down that path. I later began working at her company as a Translation Project Manager and realized that was the job I wanted to pursue long-term. Her guidance and mentorship have helped me both academically and professionally and helped prepare me for my future after RMC.

Favorite RMC Memory: While I have many, one of my favorite memories was my first weekend as an International Assistant for the Office of International Education during my sophomore year. I did not know it at the time, but the people I met then would become some of my closest friends (despite living oceans apart). That experience encouraged me to be an IA during my junior and senior years, an experience that not only shaped my college experience but also my character and view of the world.



ISABELLA MCNULTY

Majors: Chemistry, with an emphasis in Biochemistry, and Hispanic Studies

Minor: Biology

Hometown: Midlothian, Va.

Future Plans: I intend to work in the healthcare field with plans to attend medical school.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: This is a challenging question, as I have been inspired by so many professors and staff members alike. However, I truly appreciate Dr. Serge Schreiner's investment in my education and encouragement to pursue many opportunities outside of chemistry. He supports each of my endeavors and offers full commitment to expanding my knowledge and experiences in every area.

Favorite RMC Memory: Spending the summers on campus for SURF is my favorite RMC memory. During this time, I enjoyed the Ashland community and its summer events, spent quality time with my closest friends who also stayed on campus, and enjoyed preparing for the field hockey season with my teammates and other athletes.



MYLES BLUE

Majors: Theatre and Arts Management with a Film concentration

Hometown: Bealeton, Va.

Future Plans: Developing as a writer and storyteller.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Professor Gregg Hillmar and Dr. Jan Powell were an important part of my time here at RMC, being a source of learning new things in the field of theatre and coaching me through my majors and classes. If I needed advice on what to do or needed a good laugh after a long day, they would always be able to provide that and more, and I feel like I couldn't have gotten to where I am in my academic life without them.

Favorite RMC Memory: Being the Assistant Director of *Love of Labyrinths*. The majority of the spring term was dedicated to putting on the play with a group of amazing people, friends, and teachers alike. In the end, it was an amazing success and I think back on the long nights it took to get everything done right, and I loved every second of it.





ALESSIA INGARGIOLA

Major: Biology

Minor: Spanish

Hometown: Prince George, Va.

Future Plans: After graduation, I will be taking a gap year to complete my dental school prerequisites at VCU before applying to dental programs.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Dr. Kristina Soric has had such a meaningful impact on my time at RMC. I've taken nearly every one of my Spanish classes with her. Her guidance has played a huge role in my growth over the past four years, especially in my Spanish. Her kindness, patience, and constant encouragement have helped build my confidence and have inspired me to use Spanish beyond the classroom in many different ways.

Favorite RMC Memory: My first year working Welcome Weekend as a Captain! It was exciting to know I was helping create the magic that all first-year students got to experience. Each Welcome Week after that only got better and more meaningful. Being a Captain is something I'll forever be grateful for as it gave me a chance to grow, lead, and be a part of something really special.

VINCENT PAYNE

Major: Business with a Management concentration

Minor: Political Science

Hometown: Frederick, Md.

Future Plans: Working in operations or project management, with the goal of helping others and becoming a great leader in the business world.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Mr. Phil Stanton inspires me because of his tireless work behind the scenes for RMC Athletics and his long-standing dedication to the school and its sports programs. He brings a positive attitude to everything he does, always has a smile, and consistently goes above and beyond to ensure things run smoothly. His commitment and behind-the-scenes impact is truly inspiring.

Favorite RMC Memory: Winning the 2022 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball National Championship my freshman year.



KAIT PRIEST

Major: Religious Studies

Minor: Spanish

Hometown: Stafford, Va.

Future Plans: Attending Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C. for my Master of Divinity with the goal of becoming an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: My academic advisor, Dr. Sandra Goehring. She was one of my first professors here at RMC and was one of the first teachers I've ever had who cared for me as a person as well as a student. Her support has helped me to continue pursuing my career goals. I have always felt encouraged by Dr. Goehring and I know that as I leave RMC and attend graduate school, she will continue to be a source of support and inspiration, pushing me on and providing encouragement.

Favorite RMC Memory: I find it hard to just choose one favorite memory, but my more cherished memories have all come from the relationships I've formed during my time at RMC. I've made lifelong friendships and have created relationships that have shaped me as the person I am today. I'll keep these relationships for years after my time here. Such relationships have come from groups like the Pre-Ministerial Program led by Chaplain Kendra Grimes and my jobs in the College's library and at Duncan Memorial UMC.



JADE SMIGIELSKI

Major: English

Minors: Writing and Japanese Studies

Hometown: Virginia Beach, Va.

Future Plans: After graduation, I will be working in Japan teaching English as an assistant language teacher, and I will continue to work with the creation and production of literature and the visual arts.

Most Inspiring Yellow Jacket: Each and every faculty and staff member at RMC has been unbelievably warm and encouraging, but I would like to give particular thanks to the English and Asian studies departments, whose professors have given me such tremendous support academically, professionally, and personally.

Favorite RMC Memory: Working with *The Stylus* and Washington Literary Society, seeing the membership grow from a few dedicated people to a large, enthusiastic group, watching the staff and contributors develop their confidence and creativity as writers and as individuals.

NOW IS THE TIME

We celebrate the remarkable Lindgren Era,
as President Robert R. Lindgren
prepares to retire in July.

by Beth Campbell



When then-Board of Trustees Chairman Macon Brock '64 called Bob Lindgren in 2005 to officially offer him the presidency of Randolph-Macon, he used a phrase that Lindgren would later say "reverberated" in its resonance: ***Now is the time for Randolph-Macon.***

Those words were many things: A recognition of an opportunity. A call to action for the new president. A demarcation of a promising new era.

Lindgren, who had served 11 record-breaking years at The Johns Hopkins Institution as its Chief Development Officer, was a non-traditional choice for the presidency of a small liberal arts college. He brought experience from two much larger and more well-known institutions—the University of Florida and Johns Hopkins—where he had distinguished himself as an expert in resource development and earned a reputation as a man on track to lead a college.

"I went to see my friend [Johns Hopkins President] Bill Brody. I sat down with him and asked how do we find

a good president," explained then-Trustee Ben Schapiro '64, who was serving on RMC's search committee. "He said, go meet Bob Lindgren. I will introduce you because he wants to be a college president."

Schapiro says, and many others felt, they were very lucky to have found him. Once appointed at Randolph-Macon, Lindgren assumed the mantle of an institution with 176 storied years and took seriously those prescient words from Macon Brock. *Now is the time.*

The average college president serves just four years in the job, and, of course, no one could have known that President Lindgren would serve nearly two full decades at Randolph-Macon. But, from the beginning, he approached the work in a way that foreshadowed its becoming a legacy. He took time to learn RMC's history and rhythms. He built deep connections with faculty and staff, alumni, and friends of the College. Together with the Board of Trustees, he imagined transformative change that would take decades to unfold.

"THE STUDENT'S PRESIDENT"

Lindgren and his young family moved to Ashland from Baltimore in fall 2006 and quickly began acclimating to small college life. From the start, he says he saw the close bonds between faculty and students as a tremendous asset of the institution.

He too began to build close bonds with students, opening the doors of the historic President's House to meet with athletic teams and student groups. Vice President for

President Lindgren with children Jim, Greg, Andrea, and his wife Cheryl Lindgren at his inauguration, October 27, 2006



» 2006

On October 27, Robert R. Lindgren inaugurated as Randolph-Macon's 15th President



» 2008

Establishment of the Macon and Joan Brock Professorship in Psychology, Dorothy and Muscoe Garnett Professorship in Mathematics, and the Garnett-Lambert Professorship in Chemistry—the first of eight total professorships established during President Lindgren's tenure



Dedication of Janet Harvey Trivette '78 Alumni Walkway, a red brick road that winds through campus, containing the names of every RMC alumni back to the late 1950s



Journalist Tim Russert speaks at Commencement.

» 2009

Board approves comprehensive Campus Master Plan, outlining a long-term vision for academic, residential, and athletic enhancements

Board approves strategic plan, "Now is The Time: Expanding Our Tradition of Excellence," focusing on improving facilities, expanding educational experiences, enhancing student outcomes, and institutional growth

Advancement Diane Lowder, whom he hired to the Cabinet in 2007, recalled touring campus before she joined his team at Randolph-Macon. "I was so struck by how he called basically every student who passed by name," she remembered.

Those early events in the President's House evolved to become "Freshmen Desserts" with which Lindgren created an opportunity for every single new Randolph-Macon student to meet the president. Andrew Lamb '24 noted the impression his visit to the President's House made on him. "I was deeply moved by the fact that you took time to pray with us and share a meal. But what truly stayed with me was when you sat down afterward and spoke with me about my future plans. In that moment, you made me feel seen and welcomed—not just as a student, but as a person with a future worth investing in," Lamb wrote to President Lindgren in 2025.

A VISION FOR TRANSFORMATION

A significant part of Lindgren's vision for the College was growth, and, first things first, he saw the need to improve



President and Mrs. Lindgren took pride in hosting student groups in their home, like their annual Freshman Desserts.



Macon Brock '64, Joan Brock, then-Chairman of the Board of Trustees Alan Rashkind '69, Garrett White '14, alongside Lindgren at the ribbon cutting for Brock Commons in 2013

facilities. A master plan, approved in 2009, outlined a vision for reinvigorating the campus with renovations and new buildings—all fashioned around the ideas of accommodating a larger enrollment. The master plan's ambitious goals were reiterated and enhanced by a collaborative strategic planning process that involved faculty, staff, trustees, and others in creating a vision document called "Now is the Time," published in 2009. The strategic plan layered in a vision for growth of the academic program and a focus on student outcomes that eventually led to the Edge Career Center.

These long-term visions led to new residence halls—first Andrews Hall and later Birdsong Hall—and the reinvigoration of the campus core by replacing the old Brown Campus Center with Brock Commons. Some of the most significant changes reorganized the athletic fields, including moving Smith Street and turning the football field from its east/west orientation at the southern end of campus to create Day Field for football and lacrosse and Hugh Stephens Field at Estes Park for baseball.

—continued on page 20

» 2010

Asian Studies major added

Equestrian Program established, including club, Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA), and Eventing teams

Dedication of Samuel Banks Tennis Facility



» 2011

Communications Studies major added

Dedication of the Hugh Stephens Baseball Field at Estes Park



Building Extraordinary capital campaign launches at the historic Jefferson Hotel in Richmond. The campaign goal was \$100 million to fund facilities, endowments, and support student initiatives.

Opening of Andrews Hall, a 108-bed, suite-style first-year residence hall that borders the football field

A FIRST FAMILY AFFAIR



The Lindgrens—both human and dog—have been vital members of the Yellow Jacket community. Ever-present especially is Cheryl Lindgren, who has been hostess, confidante, fan, and friend.

Many have marveled at President Lindgren's ability to be so present—at performances, athletic events, research exhibitions, alumni events and so much more. But really, it wasn't just President Lindgren, but Cheryl Lindgren who was "all-in" for RMC. In reflecting on their journey together, President Lindgren particularly remembers the way she opened their home—especially in the early years of his presidency—for events, balancing her life as mother to their three children and her role as first lady.



In April, Cheryl Lindgren was presented with an Honorary Alumna Award, making official a status she has long held. "According to her diplomas, Cheryl Lindgren is a Florida Gator," Executive Director of Alumni Relations Rhonda Toussaint '85 explained to the crowd at a "Toast to the Lindgrens" event. "But we know there isn't a more loyal Randolph-Macon Yellow Jacket in the Center of the Universe, or anywhere else for that matter."

» 2012

Archaeology major added

Dedication of Day Field, a 2,500-seat football/lacrosse stadium

Lindgren awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Florida

Dedication of John Werner Pavilion at McGraw-Page Library

Athletics introduces a Women's Golf team



» 2013

First EDGE Boot Camp launches, helping sophomore students prepare for career search

Dedication of Brock Commons, replacing the Brown Campus Center, to serve as a central hub for student engagement



Randolph-Macon hosts news anchor Katie Couric as its Commencement speaker





President and Mrs. Lindgren joined students for a January term travel course taught by Professors Jim Doering and Lauren Bell. They paid tribute to the memory of Taylor Anderson '08 and met Japanese officials and partners.

"She was all-in for the kids, but also hosting and always taking care of everyone's special needs. She has been a generous and willing partner in all that I have accomplished."

— PRESIDENT LINDGREN, OF CHERYL

GOLDEN GIRLS

The Lindgrens are partial to golden retrievers, and so were we! Their three golden retrievers have each been beloved on campus.



When the Lindgrens arrived in Ashland, Andrea and Greg Lindgren were in grade school, and older brother Jim was in high school. Brittany was the beloved first dog.



Golden Retriever Lucy was the next member of the Yellow Jacket pup club.



From the moment pup Callie joined the family in 2015, she was embraced by students at events on campus.

» 2014

Behavioral Science major added

Opening of Birdsong Hall, providing modern housing options for upperclassmen



Lindgren moderates debate between Dave Brat (R) and Jack Trammell (D), as the professors compete to represent Virginia's 7th District in Congress

» 2015

Conclusion of the *Building Extraordinary* campaign, with \$125 million raised. Lindgren said, "This campaign is one of the most significant events in Randolph-Macon's history."



» 2016

Launched Refer a Yellow Jacket

Since assuming the presidency in 2006, President Lindgren's visionary leadership has left an enduring impact on nearly every facet of the institution:

- » **ENROLLMENT GROWTH:** Increased from <1,200 students in 2006 to >1,600 in 2024
- » **ACADEMIC EXPANSION:** Oversaw the development of 15 new academic majors and programs
- » **ENDOWMENT GROWTH:** More than doubled the College's endowment, from \$107 million in 2006 to more than \$233 million projected in 2025
- » **FUNDRAISING AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT:** Raised more than \$250M and saw RMC in top 1% for alumni participation in annual giving for 10 years

"Truly successful visionary leaders are rare, but Bob Lindgren demonstrated how to be such a leader from the very start," explained former Board Chair Alan Rashkind '69. "He was in love with the RMC people, community, and location on his arrival, but he recognized that the College campus suffered from a tired look. It was no small thing to revitalize it, but he did it, all without jeopardizing any of the charm of our beloved campus nestled beneath those oaks and maples."

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Just as he'd engaged students, Lindgren also made connecting with alumni a major priority. He visited Yellow Jackets around the country and shared his vision and the early progress. Many alumni who had not been engaged found new reasons to rediscover Randolph-Macon. "It had

been 30 years since I had been back to Randolph-Macon. Why was the President calling me?," laughed current board member Mary Lynn Reed '80, who found herself being drawn in.

The College began a major fundraising campaign, quietly at first, and then publicly. The President and the Office of Advancement made participation in giving a major goal, emphasizing that every gift mattered, no matter the size. Something was happening, and alumni wanted to be a part.

With lead donors Macon and Joan Brock at the forefront, the College set a goal to raise \$100 million. By the time the campaign was over in 2015, they had blown past that goal with \$125 million committed. The campaign capstone was a new science building, with state-of-the-art lab equipment, called Macon F. Brock, Jr. Hall.

VENTURES

Even after the official end of the campaign, the work of transformation continued. The James L.



President Lindgren, explaining his vision for the master plan to Dr. Richard Robins '58 and Goree Robins at the kickoff event for the *Building Extraordinary* campaign.

» 2017



Dedication of Brock Hall science building, made possible through a generous lead gift from Macon F. Brock, Jr. '64 and his wife, Joan

Creation of the Brock Venture Fund, to "yield specific capacity-building results for the College's enrollment efforts," which enabled the creation of new majors and programs



» 2018

Purchase of Equestrian Center, a 75-acre facility featuring indoor and outdoor arenas

RMC Baseball makes its first appearance at the College World Series

Athletics introduces a Men's Volleyball team

» 2019

Nursing, Cybersecurity, Criminology, Black Studies and Engineering majors added to curriculum

Esports, Orchestra (with support from the Mellon Foundation), and Show Choir launch new programs

Miller Professor of Political Science and Dean of Academic Affairs Lauren Bell describes an evolving vision. “He was almost single-mindedly focused on articulating a vision, meeting that vision, and then refining it and meeting it again,” Bell said.

In 2017, Lindgren and Macon Brock developed the idea of an incubator, like one might find in business. Brock would help to establish the \$35 million Brock Venture Fund, with which he charged the College to select and invest in new ventures that would help to continue enrollment growth. With the Brock Venture Fund, RMC invested in show choir, orchestra, nursing, engineering, criminology, and more.

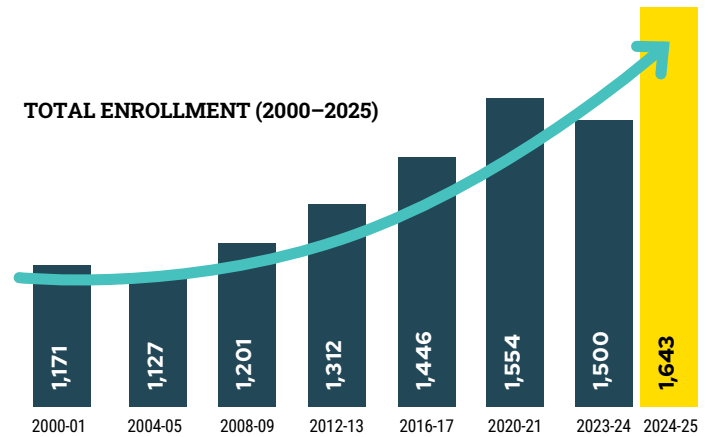
Enrollment grew significantly and steadily from fewer than 1,200 students in 2006 to just under 1,650 in 2025.

In the midst of change came challenges. In particular, current Board of Trustees Chair Sue Schick '84 remembers the hard choices and scary realities of the pandemic. “Bob and I had just completed a planning session in January 2020, my first as the new Board Chair. Those plans went totally out the window in March 2020,” she said. “It could have brought us down but he kept his focus on supporting our community. We were making very fast decisions, but he felt like a sure hand at a really difficult time.”



President Lindgren with the family of a prospective student

TOTAL ENROLLMENT (2000–2025)



THE MOMENT OF CONNECTION

Those who were part of the 2005 presidential search committee that hired President Lindgren recall a telling moment that occurred during their first round of candidate interviews. As the committee introduced themselves to the would-be president, one-by-one, it became clear that he already knew who they were. He had researched each member of the committee in advance and referenced their role or their background as they went around the room. “No one else did that,” remembered Dean Lauren Bell, who served on the committee. “We knew from the time that the interview started that he had taken the time to do his due diligence, not just about what the college was about, but about who we were as people.”

That personal engagement is a thruline of his presidency. Each holiday season, he writes personal notes to approximately 1,200 faculty, staff, and friends. He personally interviews each prospective faculty member. Each winter, he calls recipients of scholarships to congratulate them on their admission and encourage them to join the Yellow Jacket community.

Catherine Kagey '25, who comes from a family of Yellow Jackets, remembers seeing President and Mrs. Lindgren each year at the ODAC Basketball Tournament

» 2020



Payne Hall opens, a 30,000-square-foot home for the new Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program

» 2021

Dedication of Nunnally Field

» 2022

Men's Basketball wins RMC's first NCAA Division III national championship, finishing with a 33–1 record

Dedication of new Center for Performing Arts





in Salem. "He would shake my hand and tell me, 'I cannot wait for you to be a Yellow Jacket!'" she said.

Lowder, who has partnered with him on hundreds of visits with alumni and friends of the College, marvels at the depth and authenticity of his preparation. "He wants to know not only that they have three children, but their names, and what schools they are in, and if they are considering Randolph-Macon," she said.

She also commends the tough moments in which he quietly shows up, at the bedside of a student in the hospital or by calling in a favor to refer a sick friend of the College to the very best doctors. She has attended dozens of funerals alongside Lindgren, who believes—thanks to the sage counsel of former trustee Doug Dalton '70—that it's "important that you show up. It's important that you show your respect."

Former Board Chair Alan Rashkind was touched by how deep his attachments are. "Everyone knows that Bob makes it a priority to attend every RMC student event he can possibly attend. But perhaps not everyone knows how sad he can become about "senior day" which means he will very soon have to say goodbye to student-athletes he's cheered on for four years," he said.

In the final game of the 2024 season for RMC football, Coach Arruza invited President Lindgren to join senior day as an honorary captain.

"Believe in the moment of connection," Lowder said. "While it's no longer our tagline, it's an authentic part of his DNA."

TIME MARCHES ON

As the accolades have poured in over Lindgren's final year, many have watched him skillfully deflect the praise that has come his way, sincerely redirecting to remind us of all those with whom he has partnered.

"He gives credit to everyone else," remarked Schick. "And, of course, he is right that so much of what Randolph-Macon has accomplished has been the work of many hands. But it was *his* leadership."

As he looks toward the next chapter in Randolph-Macon's story, Lindgren has recently begun invoking the phrase, "now is the time" in speeches, setting the stage for another exciting new era. It's especially fitting now, because Bob Lindgren is and was a man fascinated by clocks. His collection of timepieces, which has grown during his two decades in Ashland, includes many old antiques that require an expert clockmaker to service them. Complex and intricate, finicky at times, certainly he knows that they tick best with just the right kind of human intervention. 🟡



President Lindgren and Trustee Emerita Dianne Reynolds-Cane, pictured in front of a clock she gifted to him in his office

» 2023



Duke Hall officially opens; First cohort of physician assistants enroll in graduate program

Yellow Jacket Football reaches first-ever NCAA Division III semifinals

» 2024

RMC welcomes over 600 new students, its largest incoming class ever. This milestone pushed total enrollment above 1,600 for the first time in the College's history.



Dedication of Carol Estes Softball Park

President Lindgren announces his plans to retire at the conclusion of the 2024–2025 academic year, marking the end of a transformative era for Randolph-Macon College.

Groundbreaking on a new upperclassmen housing village on the west side of the tracks

» 2025

RMC celebrates commencement for physician assistant program—the first Master's graduates in RMC's modern history.

Data Science major added



Adjunct professor Dr. Kelly Merrill made what felt like a dramatic change to her Interpersonal Communication classroom this fall: banning electronic devices entirely. While unorthodox in a digital age, the move resulted in more engagement and higher student performance.

Q&A

Q: *What inspired you to make this change to ban electronic devices from your classroom?*

I want students to experience these communication concepts firsthand, so they understand the complexity that's going on, and that requires engagement. It requires the students to physically and mentally be in the classroom. Something about the pandemic, it was much easier to scroll and be otherwise focused with online education, and I suspect that students brought that habit into the classroom. Honestly, I know that I have brought that habit into meetings. I grab my phone mindlessly and know that I'm not fully engaged either. So if I'm doing it, I'm sure they're doing it.

I'm the type of person who doesn't like to shame my students. I didn't like the dynamic of me calling people out, so I started a new policy this past fall saying no devices at all. So not just phones, but also laptops and any other kind of device. No screens at all.

Q: *What sort of adjustments did you have to make?*

We've made a pivot to notebooks and pens. Some of them have digital textbooks, so I'm asking them now to read before class and take notes, and we work from the notes for the content of the class. There's research that shows that memory retention improves when we can learn something, and it goes from our brain to our hand—not to type—but to actually write. So, we've exploited that, and I think it's gone really well.

Q: *What was the students' reaction to this change?*

I heard some moans, but I think mostly they were up for the challenge, at least that's what they were letting me know. I present it with my rationale, and I also apologize. I say, "I am so sorry. My inclination is to trust that you know how to learn. My inclination is to trust you as learners. But I think that we are drawn to these online places in a really mindless way that we're not giving much thought to. And I do it too, and I'm going to try to help you through that temptation by just not allowing it as a classroom culture."

Q: *What results did you see in the classroom?*

Student engagement was probably the best I've ever seen. Their level of creativity in their assignments really spiked. The results of their exams were amazing. I've taught this class 11 times now at this institution. It's roughly the same, I do tweak it and update it, but the students in the fall semester got the top one, two,

or three spots in all four exams. Students have never earned as many A-pluses in a semester from me than they did that semester.

Q: *How do you see this experience impacting students' lives?*

I had a number of students tell me how much they appreciated the class, and they seemed to attribute it to the class. I really feel like it was that practice that we had in the classroom. And so, I rephrased it back to them and said, "If you think not being on your devices during class time was such a game-changer, I challenge you to do that in your other classes and hold yourself to that standard to improve your own education, improve your own learning." 🟡

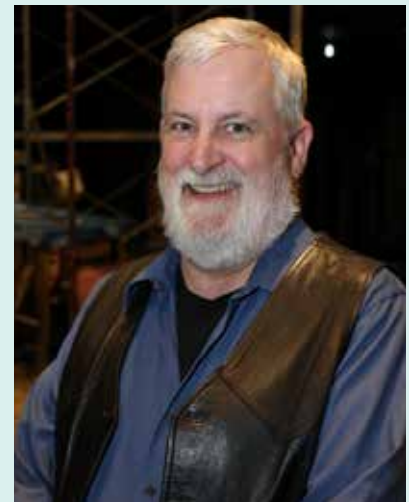
WATCH AND LEARN

Scan the QR code to watch a video exploring the device-free classroom experience at RMC.



SPOTLIGHTS

Adrian Rice, the Dorothy and Muscoe Garnett Professor of Mathematics, received the Catherine Richards Prize from The Institute of Mathematics and its Applications for the best article published in *Mathematics Today* in 2024.

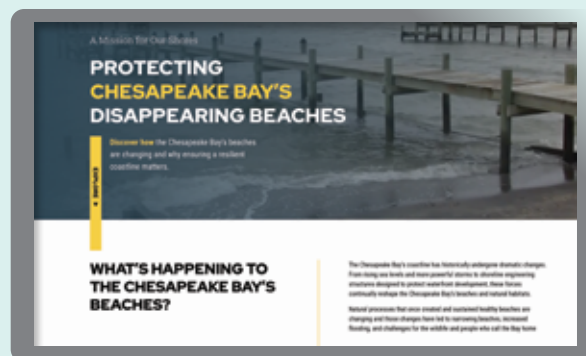


Associate Professor of Theatre **Gregg Hillmar** was honored with the Bruce M. Unger Award in recognition of the contributions of retiring faculty with more than 10 years of service to the College. Hillmar joined the Randolph-Macon faculty in 2002 and has been instrumental for RMC's theatre department both in the classroom and in guiding students through productions on the stage.



Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students **Grant Azdell** was recognized as the Ashland Police Department's Citizen of the Year for outstanding partnership and dedication to campus safety and community collaboration.

Emeritus Professors **Michael Fenster** and **Barry Knisley** have launched a new website aimed at protecting the Chesapeake Bay's disappearing beaches, continuing work from their time at RMC, including collaborations with students and Professor **Chas. Gowan**. Their work can be found at chesapeakebay-beaches.com.



Professor Emeritus of English and Communication Studies **Theodore Sheckels** has published two books: *On Exhibit: A Rhetorical, Political History of Washington, DC* (Ethics Press International) and *The Rhetoric of Public Places* (Cognella), co-authored with Carl T. Hyden and Natalie Bennie.



Lowder to Retire as VP for Advancement

On May 15, 2025, President Robert R. Lindgren announced the decision of Randolph-Macon's long-serving Vice President for Advancement, Diane Lowder, to transition out of her full-time role in September 2025 and retire in September 2026. Vice President Lowder will move to a part-time advisory role this fall and will help facilitate Dr. Michael Hill's early work with donors, alumni, and friends as he becomes Randolph-Macon's 16th president, as well as assist in onboarding her successor.

When she steps down as Vice President, Lowder will conclude nearly 19 years of full-time service to Randolph-Macon and a distinguished 29-year career in higher education philanthropy. She supervised RMC's Office of College Advancement, which includes the offices of Development, Alumni Relations, Events Management, and for much of her tenure, Marketing and Communications. Over her tenure at Randolph-Macon, Lindgren credits Lowder with being "instrumental in virtually every major gift RMC received," while helping total more than \$245M in private support overall. Lowder was also key to planning, staffing, and supporting the College's \$125M *Building Extraordinary* campaign.

"While Diane and I have been discussing her retirement plans for several years, I am deeply grateful that she agreed to continue our wonderful partnership through my retirement, and to assist in the transition for Dr. Hill," said President Robert R. Lindgren. "I cannot overstate the consequential impact she has had on RMC's success for virtually the entirety of my presidency."

Lowder's recruitment of talented individuals throughout the Advancement team helped inspire unprecedented alumni loyalty during her tenure. RMC's annual giving alumni participation rates have placed the College in the top 1% of all colleges and universities in the U.S. over the past 10 years.

"The passion and pride of the College's alumni, friends, and broader community are unparalleled, and it has been deeply rewarding to help channel that generosity and dedication in support of this special place," Lowder commented. "I will truly treasure the many meaningful relationships I have made over the years."

President-elect Hill will have the opportunity to name RMC's next Vice President for Advancement following his assumption of the RMC presidency on August 1.

RMC Professors' Summer Reading List

We asked faculty what's on their to-read list heading into the summer. Their wide-ranging entries spanned scholarly pursuits, nonfiction, fantasy novels, historical fiction, and much more.



La Toria Tookes
Senior Lecturer, Computer Science

■ ***Calamity of Souls* by David Baldacci**

This historical fiction book is uniquely centered around possible events of 1968 in the Richmond area. The story begins with an arrest as a result of two brutal murders. The two lawyers for the accused have to fight the racial discriminations and associated prejudices of the townspeople to prove their clients' innocence.

■ ***Multiculturalism on Campus: Theory, Models, and Practices for Understanding Diversity and Creating Inclusion* by Michael J. Cuyjet**

This book will assist me in my current research to identify ways that transfer students from diverse backgrounds can see themselves as a part of the culture of their college community. Having been marked as an excellent resource for individuals in the quest for inclusion on college campuses, this book will allow me to identify theories and models that may be applicable to my research.



Liz Burmester
Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies

■ ***Great Big Beautiful Life* by Emily Henry**

Emily Henry is one of my favorite authors because her characters feel so grounded and flawed in authentic ways. Very much looking forward to her latest installment.

■ ***What If We Get It Right? Visions of Climate Futures* by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson**

Conversation around climate change can sometimes be anxiety-inducing. This book curates poetry, essays, data, and art to joyfully imagine possible climate futures.

■ ***The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune**

A cozy, heartwarming fantasy about found family? Sign me up.



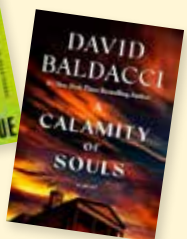
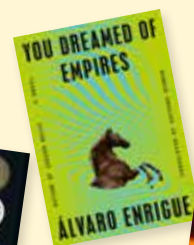
Todd Munson
Professor, Asian Studies

■ ***James* by Percival Everett** (and a re-read of *Huckleberry Finn*) I'm interested in *James* because *Huckleberry Finn* has been on my re-read list (the last time I read it was in 10th grade) since forever, and because the novel comes highly recommended by my colleague Bob Volpicelli.

■ A few other recent novels that have piqued my interest – ***Martyr!* by Kaveh Akbar; *You Dreamed of Empires* by Álvaro Enrigue; *Death of the Author* by Nnedi Okorafor**

■ Backlog of ***New Yorker*** magazines

■ Some old comic books from the 1970s





Tricia Reagan
Professor, Spanish

■ **Anita de Monte Laughs Last**
by Xochitl Gonzalez

Maybe because college students are the people I know best, I love young adult fiction or fiction with college-aged protagonists for the easy reading and real-life struggles. I especially like those written by female Latina writers.

■ **Las Buscadoras** by Noé Zavaleta

My research currently centers on disappearances in Mexico and the role of the Madres Buscadoras (mothers who search) for their disappeared loved ones. There are over 100,000 missing people in Mexico and these disappearances/kidnappings are often connected to organized crime, cartels, and sex trafficking rings and are exacerbated by government corruption. I waited several months for this book to be delivered from Mexico, and while I was waiting, Zavaleta was kidnapped and thankfully released in December of 2024.

■ For self-help, I am also planning on finally finishing **The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma** by Bessel van Der Kolk.



Antonio Hunt
Assistant Professor, Music

■ **What We Owe the Future**
by William MacAskill

■ **The Organ Thieves: The Shocking Story of the First Heart Transplant in the Segregated South** by Chip Jones

The Organ Thieves is a story of dignity and injustice. It interests me because it's a human story that resonates with my values in advocacy and historical accountability while honoring overlooked voices. This story took place right here in the state/city where I am currently located and working. There are parallel concepts and experiences I have encountered while navigating modern practices of systemic racism that targets marginalized individuals, groups, cultures, and communities. 🟡



Tim Banazek '94 is the owner of likely the largest collection of sports cards in the world. Now, he wants to share his joy with everybody.





Card Shark

Tim Banazek '94's collection is almost unfathomable. Upon entering a nondescript building off the highway to the southwest of Richmond, visitors step into a showroom and are greeted with a treasure trove of sports memorabilia. Signed baseballs, bats, helmets, jerseys, figurines, plaques, and—in huge volumes, everywhere you look—sports cards.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg. With a look of barely contained glee, Banazek opens a door to reveal the main storage area of the facility, a huge room that is filled wall-to-wall with at least 20 million sports cards.

There are shelves and safes packed with banker's boxes and binders, all containing decades worth of sports history. Some cards remain in their original packaging, completely unopened for 30 or 40 years. It's impossible to move through the space without immediately bumping into something remarkable. A box filled with Michael Jordan cards over here, another one filled with Wayne



A massive storage room houses the majority of Banazek's sports memorabilia collection, including over 20 million sports cards.

Gretzky over there. In protective sheaths, rookie cards for Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron.

Much of the collection (and Banazek's passion) centers on baseball, but it also includes football, basketball, hockey, soccer, NASCAR, and professional wrestling cards. Even beyond sports, there are first-edition cards from Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh!, and Star Wars.

Banazek acquired this massive collection almost entirely from a single source. Through word of mouth, he purchased what is likely the largest collection of sports cards in the world from a seller who wishes to remain anonymous. As a passionate collector, he still can't believe his luck. Now, he's plotting on how best to share his ultimate score with the world.

Youthful Passion

Banazek began his collector's journey early. As an 11-year-old, he and his father made a trip from their native Syracuse, N.Y., to Olympic Stadium in Montreal for the chance to see Pete Rose play against the Expos. Along the way, they stopped at Zellers, a Canadian department store. It was in the Zellers where the impressionable young Banazek got his hands on a card of Hall of Famer Tim Lincecum.

"When you're 11 years old, that has a huge impact," Banazek said. "All of a sudden you're like, 'oh my God, this is my favorite. This is the greatest thing in the world.' And I fell in love with Tim Lincecum. I fell in love with the Expos, and they became my favorite team."

Now, among his enormous collection, Banazek is the owner of an entire stack of Zellers Tim Lincecum cards. They're worth maybe a dollar each, but are priceless to Banazek, who was able to share the nostalgic find with his father before he passed away.

Banazek's hunger for collecting waned as he went to college. After playing two years of junior college baseball, Banazek transferred to Randolph-Macon to pitch for head coach Gregg Waters '78, who he described as a father figure. While at RMC, he earned a B.A. in English, met his wife Talley '92, and formed lifelong bonds.

"My favorite thing about Randolph-Macon is unquestionably Barclay DuPriest," said Banazek. "I was very close with her son that she lost, Tad. When everybody was going home for Easter, I would go over to his house and stay."

After graduation, Banazek worked for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* in distribution and advertising. From there, he went to a magazine called *Tuff Stuff*. In the great irony of his career, the hobby publication focused on trading cards and collectibles. "Do you want to know what's funny? I didn't even really think about collecting," laughed Banazek, who missed out on the opportunity to claim some Kobe Bryant rookie cards in 1996.

In 1999, Banazek started his own company, ISC Sales. He and his business partner started out by selling Pokemon cards and Beanie Babies to convenience stores, then expanded into distributing as-seen-on-TV products to Walgreens. The business and its offerings have grown, along with its customer relationships, turning ISC into a successful venture, and allowing Banazek to fund, as he puts it, "crazy things."

Opportunity Calling

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Banazek started to rekindle his childhood love of collecting sports cards. In 2021, he posted on Facebook about a haul he had just purchased



Banazek's passion for sports cards began with a Tim Raines card (left) from Zellers that he got as an 11-year-old boy in the 80s. Beyond sheer volume, Banazek's collection includes some of the most rare and valuable baseball cards ever made. Below, from left to right: Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Ty Cobb, Satchell Paige, and Joe DiMaggio.



on eBay. The mother of one of his daughter's soccer teammates saw the post and reached out. "You have to come over and see my dad's collection. I really want to sell it."

Banazek agreed to come look at the collection, curious to see what a fellow avid collector had amassed, but with no intention of buying.

"I walked in, and I still remember it to this day, seeing the Ty Cobb cards, the Babe Ruth cards, all these old cards that I dreamed about holding when I was a kid," Banazek recalled. Awestruck by the sheer size of the collection, in addition to the presence of rare and valuable cards, Banazek left the visit still without a purchase on his mind. On the way home, he called one of his best friends, who coaches for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"I said, 'listen, I just saw the coolest thing.' I told him all about it and he goes, 'are you nuts? Buy it, man,'" Banazek recounted.

The wheels in Banazek's head started to turn on the drive, and it hit him once he got home and sat with his existing collection. "I don't want to sound corny, but I literally put my head in my hands, and I started crying," Banazek said. "I can't walk away from this now."

He got a call the next morning: a buyer was flying in from California to look at the collection. If Banazek wanted to buy it, it would have to be that day. In an hour, he had made his decision and became the owner of something his younger self could only have dreamed of.

Banazek had to rent, then eventually buy, an entire building to house the card collection. Moving everything took several truckloads, and he and a friend had to scramble to acquire enough shelves to get everything even somewhat organized. Banazek's business partner Darren Wieder attempted to start

cataloging the cards but gave up after barely making a dent at 80,000 cards. Partly because it's an impossible task, but also because the beauty of this spectacle lies within the unknown. Every day is Christmas morning for Banazek, who constantly gets to dig through untapped treasures.

"It's me having the ability to experience my childhood again," he said.

Sharing the Joy

Banazek (understandably) shies away from putting an estimate on the value of the collection, though it's certainly worth millions of dollars, if not tens of millions. A key difference between him and the previous owner, though, is that he has no intention of letting the collection collect dust in an obscure building. He's coy about his exact future plans before they're finalized, but he wants them to be big, and he wants to invite the world to see.

"I do believe that this was meant to be shared," Banazek said, stressing that he feels this collection is much bigger than himself.

Sitting among the collection, itself a living museum, it's hard not to be overwhelmed by the volume and depth of sports history around you. While it would be easy to focus on the big-ticket items, or the completion of every Topps baseball set for over 60 years, that's not the most important thing Banazek wants people to take away from it.

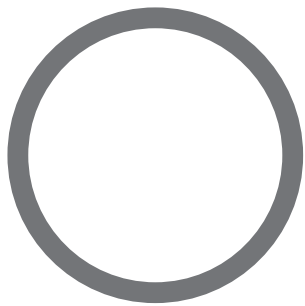
The goal of this venture, what he's dubbed the "Big League Find," is for people to find their own Tim Raines Zellers card. A player with whom they have an emotional connection, something that reminds them why they love the sport, and ultimately, inspires them to start a meaningful collection of their own. 🟡

WOMEN'S GOLF

Jackets

UNDER PAR

Alexis Haller '27, Lilly Hall '28, and Morgan Mussatt '27



On the 18th green of the final round of the 2025 Old Dominion Athletic Conference Women's Golf Championship, Morgan Mussatt '27 had hit a chip shot within eight feet of the hole.

With her stellar play throughout the tournament, finishing the hole in two putts was all that was needed to claim the individual conference title.

Knowing the importance of the moment, Mussatt's father and swing coach, both in attendance, implored RMC Women's Golf Head Coach Bryan Hearn to relay the clinching scenario to her. Hearn approached Mussatt but decided to deliver

a different message in one of the biggest moments in the program's history.

"Pineapple," he said.

"What in the world are you doing right now?" Mussatt laughed.

Random, comical, and nothing to do with golf, Hearn's alternative scoring update was enough to put Mussatt at ease. When she sunk her second putt, she became the first RMC women's golfer

to win medalist honors at the ODAC Championship since Olivia Bowling '16 in 2014.

The paradox of college golf is playing a team game in an individual sport. And as any golfer will tell you, a significant percentage of that sport is mental. In Hearn's fourth season as head coach, based in no small part on good vibes, the Yellow Jackets are stacking excellent individual performances to reach heights previously unseen by the program.

While Mussatt was the individual ODAC champion, RMC finished second as a team, eight strokes behind Washington & Lee. But even that proximity to the Generals, the dominant force in recent ODAC history, was indicative of the progress the team has made. Ranked in the top 15 in the nation for the entire spring, the Yellow Jackets earned an at-large bid

to the NCAA Division III Championships, the first appearance in program history.

RMC finished 20th at the NCAA Tournament, but Mussatt made the cut as an individual, finishing tied for ninth. It was another individual accomplishment for Mussatt, who in 2024 was the only Division III player at the U.S. Women's Amateur Golf Championship. The strength of her game lies in the distance she produces off the tee box and fairway, with Hearn saying that "she uses that length as a superpower."

In contrast is Lilly Hall '28, who doesn't have the same length, but does possess a repeatable swing and unflappable consistency. While she doesn't card a ton of birdies, she doesn't pick up many bogeys either. Her avalanche of pars earned her recognition as both the ODAC Player and Rookie of the Year, a feat not achieved by an RMC player since Bowling.

Bowling, part of the inaugural class of RMC women's golfers during the 2012-13 season, has had a front row seat to the team's growth. In addition to serving as the Head Golf Professional at the Country Club of Virginia, Bowling is an assistant coach for the team, a role she describes as "whatever they need." She's been happy to see the team breaking all her records.

"Records are meant to be broken," Bowling said. "[Lilly]'s doing it, and it's awesome, and she does it with a smile on her face. That's a player that I look at my little girls that I teach every day and say 'hey, this is what you could do if you wanted to.'"

Hall's Rookie of the Year nod was the third in a row for RMC, following Mussatt '27 in 2024 and Elli Flinchum '26 in 2023, all of whom have been low-scoring members of the team. Alexis Haller '27, whose work ethic has impressed Hearn, was ranked inside the top 50 in the nation as an individual this season as well.

So how did he assemble this stellar squad? Hearn describes his strategy for recruiting calls, where he lets prospective players ask whatever they want about the program, then in turn asks them three of "the hardest questions you're going to answer." What kind of food do you



Head Coach Bryan Hearn reads the green with Morgan Mussatt '27.

like? What's your favorite movie? What kind of music do you like? It's partly a psychological examination ("you can tell a lot about a person through movies," he quips), but mostly a way to show that RMC Women's Golf is a culture that cares about you beyond what's on the scorecard.

"One thing I really love that Coach Hearn does, is he doesn't put any pressure on anybody," Mussatt said. "And he always knows how to make me laugh."

Having support from each other as teammates goes a long way both on and off the course.

"I love my teammates, love my coach, and I think that's a big part of the experience, is having those relationships with each other," reflected Hall.

When Hearn first took the job as head coach, he had the 2026 NCAA Championships in Palm Desert, California circled as a goal for the team to make their debut in a national championship tournament. Already ahead of schedule, the future is bright with a young team that continues to get better. In reflecting on this year's performance, Hearn says he hopes to "let it fuel the fire to continue that growth." 🟡

Lilly Hall '28 is the first RMC women's golfer since Olivia Bowling '16 to win both ODAC Player and Rookie of the Year in the same season.





RMC Softball claimed its second NCAA Super Regional title with a walk-off win at Moravian.

SOFTBALL

Randolph-Macon Softball capped another successful season with a remarkable month of May. The Yellow Jackets reached the NCAA Division III National Championship Series for the second time in program history after a string of road wins in the NCAA Tournament. RMC's senior class is graduating with four NCAA Tournament appearances and three trips to the NCAA Super Regionals across their collegiate careers.

After receiving an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, RMC won all three of its games at the Newport News Regional, including back-to-back victories over host Christopher Newport, the second-ranked team in the nation. The Yellow Jackets and Moravian split the first two games of the Bethlehem Super

Regional, setting up a winner-take-all game three. Gracie Ellis '25 threw seven shutout innings from the pitcher's circle, and Jacy Ramos '27 delivered a walk-off sacrifice fly to give RMC a dramatic 1-0 win and punch a ticket to the championship round. There, RMC won three consecutive games to reach the national semifinal, the school's best-ever finish.

Ellis was named the ODAC Pitcher of the Year for the third consecutive season and became the first player in program history to earn First Team All-American honors from the NFCA. She was joined on the All-ODAC First Team by outfielder Amanda Lanyon '25, who owns several program records for career batting, and catcher Kayla Davis '25.





Naomi Sadler '25 and Amanda Lanyon '25



Kayla Davis '25



Gracie Ellis '25

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Randolph-Macon Women's Basketball won a program-record 28 straight games from Nov. 17 through March 8, claiming its 11th Old Dominion Athletic Conference championship along the way. The Yellow Jackets hosted the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament inside Crenshaw Gymnasium, where they defeated Piedmont 52-31 and Elizabethtown 62-56 to make the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2007. RMC ended its season with a loss in

that round at Gettysburg, but concluded the year with a 29-2 record, the second-most wins in a single season in school history behind only the 2004-05 national runners-up.



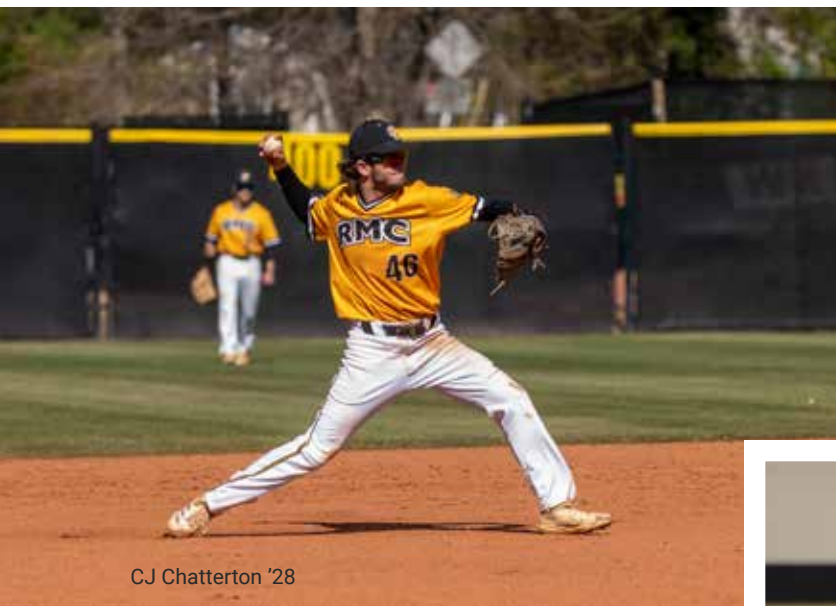
McKenzie Matheny '26



Catherine Kagey '25

Head Coach Lindsey
Burke-Eberhart

Catherine Kagey '25 and McKenzie Matheny '26 were both named WBCA All-American Honorable Mentions, in addition to First Team All-ODAC selections. Kagey averaged a double-double with 12.6 points and 10.1 rebounds per game, while Matheny averaged 12.0 points and 7.3 boards. Head Coach Lindsey Burke-Eberhart earned ODAC Coach of the Year honors for the second straight season.



CJ Chatterton '28

BASEBALL

RMC Baseball hosted an NCAA Regional for the first time, marking the program's third consecutive and ninth total appearance in the NCAA Tournament. The Yellow Jackets finished the season with a 31-17 overall record and a 15-7 mark in ODAC play. Shortstop CJ Chatterton '28 was named the ODAC Rookie of the Year after a prolific year in which he hit .354 with 40 runs and a team-best 20 stolen bases. Pitcher William Wian '26 joined Chatterton on the All-ODAC First Team with a 6-1 record and a 2.91 ERA.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RMC Men's Basketball played in its sixth consecutive NCAA Tournament, defeating Westfield State 82-48 in the first round before falling to Catholic in the second round. The Yellow Jackets claimed the ODAC regular season championship and received an at-large bid to the NCAA tourney. RMC finished the season ranked No. 14 in the country, with a 24-5 overall record.

Head Coach Josh Merkel earned his second consecutive and seventh total ODAC Coach of the Year honor, while guards Keishawn Pulley, Jr. '26 and Jabril Robinson '26 were both named to the All-ODAC First Team.



Jabril Robinson '26

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

RMC was a dominant force in the first season of men's volleyball in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. The Yellow Jackets went undefeated in conference play and claimed the first-ever ODAC Championship. RMC went 22-10, the best record in the program's seven-year history, and made its NCAA Tournament debut by taking Nichols College to four sets in the first round.

Setter Kody Rogan '26 was named the ODAC Offensive Player of the Year after leading the conference in both assists (9.2) and service aces (0.68) per set. He was joined on the All-ODAC First Team by middle blocker Phillip Van Essendelft '26 and outside hitter Ian Wagenhauser '26. Head Coach Christian Taylor was also named ODAC Coach of the Year.



Kody Rogan '26

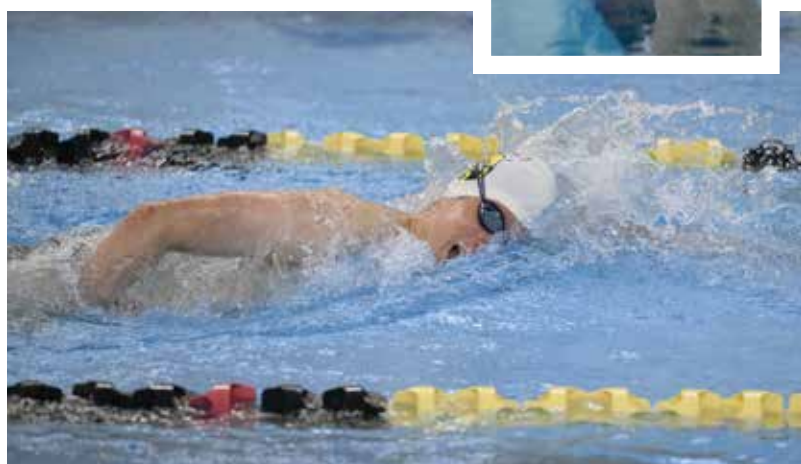


Randolph-Macon won the inaugural ODAC Men's Volleyball Championship.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

RMC Women's Swimming took second place at the 2025 ODAC Championships. Sophia Hanson '25 claimed gold in the 100-yard breaststroke and earned First Team All-ODAC recognition. Head Coach Brent Kintzer was named the ODAC Women's Swimming Coach of the Year. The Yellow Jackets set school records in the 800-yard freestyle, 200-yard freestyle, 400-yard medley, and 200-yard medley relays. Sophie Sullivan '28 also broke the program-best mark in the 50 free.

At right, Sophia Hanson '25



Alex Richardson '26

MEN'S SWIMMING

RMC Men's Swimming placed fifth at the 2025 ODAC Championships. Alex Richardson '26 led the Yellow Jackets with a win in the 200-yard butterfly, earning a First Team All-ODAC nod. RMC set school records in both the 200-yard and 400-yard medley relays, while Elliott Kassab '27 broke school records in the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke.

MEN'S LACROSSE

RMC Men's Lacrosse finished a 12-8 season by advancing to the ODAC semifinals. Defenseman Mike Allen '26 was named the ODAC Defensive Player of the Year, the first in the school's history. Allen was also one of a school-record six players to earn All-American honors, receiving Second Team recognition. Cooper Hauser '25, Avery Tankersley '25, Brodie Kent '26, Will Robertson '27, and Grant Sobel '27 were all Honorable Mention All-Americans.

At right, Mike Allen '26



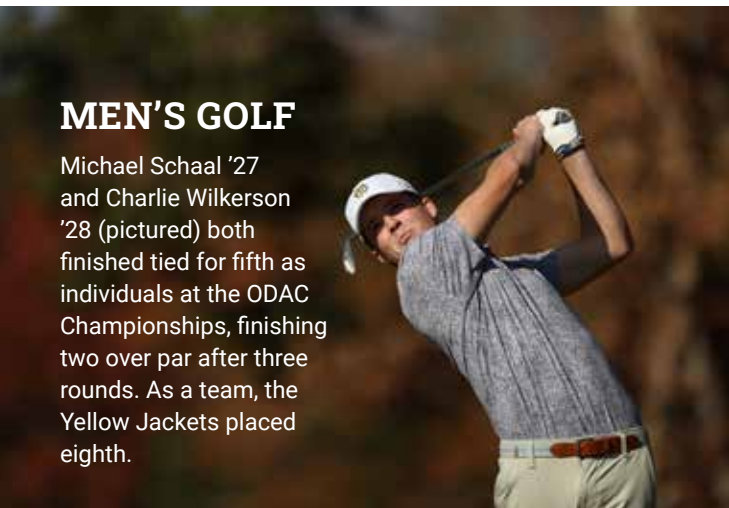
Lilly Fowler '26

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

RMC Women's Lacrosse compiled a 14-5 overall record in 2025, tied for the most wins in a single season in program history. The Yellow Jackets got a marquee win over No. 16 Christopher Newport on Feb. 26, scoring five goals in the final five minutes for a comeback 12-10 victory at Day Field. RMC went 8-2 in ODAC play and advanced to the semifinals of the conference tournament for the third straight year. Midfielder Taylor Mittelstadter '25, attacker Lilly Fowler '26, defender Laila Omar '26, and goalkeeper Gillian Gladden '26 were all named to the All-ODAC First Team.

MEN'S GOLF

Michael Schaal '27 and Charlie Wilkerson '28 (pictured) both finished tied for fifth as individuals at the ODAC Championships, finishing two over par after three rounds. As a team, the Yellow Jackets placed eighth.



Camilla Thurman '26 and Catherine Mowry '26

WOMEN'S TENNIS

RMC Women's Tennis finished with a 9-7 record, its fourth consecutive winning season. The Yellow Jackets earned a berth in the ODAC quarterfinals, falling to Washington & Lee. Camilla Thurman '26 and Catherine Mowry '26 earned First Team All-ODAC honors for their play at the No. 1 doubles position.

EQUESTRIAN

Elizabeth Bechtold '28 won the Individual Novice Flat national championship at the IHSA National Horse Show. This marks the fourth consecutive year that RMC Equestrian has sent a rider to IHSA Nationals, and the program's second national championship.



MEN'S TENNIS

Luis Geyne '25 led RMC Men's Tennis with four wins playing at the No. 5 singles position.



ESPORTS

RMC Esports boasts 22 teams across Varsity and Academy levels in 11 game titles. The program had a successful spring season in Eastern College Athletic Conference competition, including a second place finish for the Rocket League Varsity team, third for Madden Varsity, and fourth for Valorant Varsity, Valorant Academy, and Fortnite Varsity.

'64 **Jayson L. Amster** published a chapbook of poems entitled *AMERICA amerika*.



Baker

'66 **Michael Baker** was recently honored by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) as an honorary member. In response to Russia's 2022 invasion, he leveraged his role on the White Plains Rotary Club board to promote activism, organizing a successful meeting with the Ukrainian Consul General that raised \$5,000 for the UCCA. His efforts have included a virtual exchange between students in White Plains and Ternopil, and a fundraiser that raised \$30,000 for Ukrainian students and local scholarships.

'68 **Duncan B. Howe** received his master's in social work in 2014 and was licensed as a mental health counselor. After practicing in the South Carolina prison system, he recently obtained an Independent Masters Social Work licensure. Since January 2025, he has been practicing as a mental health therapist at LifeStance Health in Cayce, S.C.

'74 **Jack Dranbauer** is grateful for his successful treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital for malignant melanoma, and composed a poem entitled "Macon to Johns Hopkins" chronicling his excellent education at RMC and Johns Hopkins University.

'79 **Rev. Robert Byrd Dawson** recently entered his 41st year of pastoral ministry and is celebrating his 18th year as pastor of Petersburg's historic 208-year-old First Baptist Church.



Dawson

SAVE THE DATE

HOMEcoming + THE GAME =

ONE BIG BASH

November 15, 2025



'79

RMC ALUMNUS COMPLETES BLUE ORIGIN SPACE FLIGHT

Richard Scott '79, an accomplished embryologist and amateur pilot, was one of six crew members on a Blue Origin space flight in February. Scott is among the first few dozen individuals to complete a commercial flight to space, once an experience reserved for NASA astronauts.

Scott has been around aviation his entire life. His father was a test pilot in the Air Force, and Scott himself flies aerobatic planes. "It's a lifetime dream to go up in space," Scott said. "I never thought I would have the chance."

The launch of Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket took place in remote Van Horn, Texas after several days of safety training to master emergency protocols and how to get in and out of the capsule's seats in zero gravity. The flight was brief—just 11 minutes before landing back in Texas—but still "pretty doggone fascinating" for Scott.

Many of his fellow passengers made sure to take advantage of zero gravity while up in space, but Scott had plenty of experience from his aerobatic flying background. Instead, he was much more focused on taking in the breathtaking views from the capsule.

"I wanted to see the blackness of space, and then the brilliant colors of the Earth. They're extremely bright—almost fluorescent. They're just really intense," said Scott. "I got to see so much of the surface of the Earth and its curve."

Scott was a founding partner and CEO of IVIRMA Global, the world's largest fertility care group, from which he is now retired. He is a prolific medical researcher with hundreds of publications, and serves as an adjunct professor at Yale University and the University of South Carolina.



Pictured (l. to r.):

Dr. Brian Galinat and **Dr. Richard Scott** visited with Dr. Conrad L. Stanitski, former Chair of the Department of Chemistry at his home. Dr. Stanitski's journey took him from Georgia—where he first taught Richard—to RMC, to Franklin & Marshall in Lancaster, Pa., to Little Rock. He now lives in Lancaster with his wife, continuing to give historical lectures to the community and playing in a band.

'81

Phil Emerson, Executive Director Emeritus of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, has been elected to another term as a Trustee of the George Washington Foundation. Phil and his wife Beth reside in Williamsburg, Va.

'92

Scott Stroh has been appointed Executive Director and CEO of The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, Va.

'98

Dean Browell has joined Firehouse Theatre's Board of Directors.

'05

Russell Palatiere has come home to RMC to work in the Advancement office as a Records Processor.



'06

Dr. Dan Hudgins was named a "Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff" for his contributions and leadership of the energetics and munitions business area at Applied Research Associates' Enhanced Leadership Conference in April of 2025. Dan has been with ARA since 2022 and has served in several capacities including Chief Energetics Chemist and Senior Program Manager. Dan

lives on a farm in Goochland with his wife, **Diana Wright Hudgins '06**, and their twin sons.



Reynolds

'09**Katie**

Harding Reynolds recently celebrated six months cancer-free following a diagnosis of triple positive breast cancer in March 2024. She is incredibly grateful for the support from many fellow Yellow Jackets. She

documents her journey on TikTok, @katiekickedcancer.

'10**Tim Nelson**

and his wife Emily welcomed their second Yellow Jacket to the Hive with the birth of their daughter Isla Anne Marie Nelson on October 22, 2024. Isla joins her brother Tripp as the newest Jacket.

The entire Nelson Yellow Jacket family couldn't be happier: Grandfather **Tim "Bumpa" Nelson '82**, Great Uncle **Steve Nelson '83**, Aunt **Laura "La La" Nelson '12**, and Aunt **Maria "Re Re" Nelson '18**.



Nelson



Perry

'11**Jessee Perry** married John

Weakley on October 25, 2024 and their son turned one on October 26, 2024.

'13**Chandler Weston** and his wife

Meagan welcomed Amelia Paige Weston on October 11, 2024.



Weston

'01

MCFATHER MEZZ HONORS ALUMNA'S "WILD AND PRECIOUS LIFE"

The McFather Mezz—made possible through a gift from alumni of RMC's Drama Guild honoring the late Sarah McFather '01—provides a welcoming space on the second floor of the Center for the Performing Arts with comfortable couches, shelves with books and board games, and tables to work on homework.

When McFather passed away tragically from leukemia in the summer of 2023, her friends from her RMC theatre days came together around a plan to name something in her honor.

"We came to campus and saw the 'mezz', and that was the hangout space for students, and it reminded us of the Green Room, where we used to hang out a lot," said Megan Rowe '01, one of several alumni who helped coordinate the gift.

Beyond bearing McFather's name, the spirit of the Mezz is what makes this such a special place. "Sarah was the glue that kept a lot of us together," remarked Katie Swineford '02.

While the friends are happy to provide a space of warmth for students to be themselves, they've also achieved the goal of honoring the legacy of McFather, who they say "loved life and loved fun."

On the plaque commemorating the space is a reference to the Mary Oliver poem "The Summer Day," a fitting tribute to an adventurer who visited all seven continents, and a cherished friend.

The final two lines of the poem read: *Tell me, what is it you plan to do / with your one wild and precious life?*



Aylor

'17 **Charlie Aylor** was awarded the Hanover County Sheriff's Office Officer of the Year.

'18 **Antonia Douglas and Kevin Bachouros '17** tied the knot at Pippin Hill on December 14, 2024. The couple first met during their freshman and sophomore years at RMC, and their relationship grew from there. Surrounded by friends, family, and their RMC community, they celebrated their wedding in the heart of Virginia wine country.



Douglas-Bachouros

Kayla Koslosky is starting graduate school this fall at ODU to pursue a master's degree in library science.

Alex Lightfoot Lutz and Bryan Christopher Lutz welcomed their second child, Thomas Raleigh Lutz, on March 12, 2025. Tom's grandparents, **Sally Lightfoot '91** and **Will S. Lightfoot '88**, and uncle **Will H. Lightfoot '00** are also RMC graduates.



Lutz

'20 **Alexia Wolfe Tuzzolo and Joseph Tuzzolo '18** welcomed their first son, August Tuzzolo, on November 8, 2024.



Tuzzolo

'23 **Austin Dugas** recently earned a master's in sport management at West Virginia University.

Melanie Fleischer received the Hammon Award for demonstrating excellence in the area of preaching and worship.



Fleischer

'26 **Katreen Gaber** is attending pharmacy school at Shenandoah University. 🟡

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.



DuFazio-Firment

'21 **Sarah J. DiFazio and Christopher L. Firment** were married on June 22, 2024 and reside in Richmond. They met at RMC where they both played lacrosse.

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 January 9, 2025–May 2, 2025*).

Dr. William Thomas Stuart, Jr. '50, Richmond, Va., March 23, 2025, cousin of **Thomas David Jones III, '66**, **Thomas David Jones, Jr. '34***, **John Paul Jones '34***, **Robley Jones '42***, and **David Ashon Jones '67***.

Carlton R. Hauer '53, Vero Beach, Fla., January 9, 2025.

Chapman Jones Rodenhizer, Jr. '54, Newport News, Va., December 6, 2024.

Dr. David L. Shores '55, Virginia Beach, Va., March 23, 2025, brother of **Richard J. Shores '62** and father-in-law of **Kathy Richardson Shores '82**.

Claude Ashburn Sandy '56, Midlothian, Va., February 11, 2025.

Frederick A. Arndt '57, Lexington, Va., December 25, 2024.

William Hughes Pollok '58, Carmel, Ind., March 4, 2025.

Byrd Harrison Breeden, Jr. '59, Caldwell, N.J., January 21, 2025, father of **Molly Breeden Connors '85**.

Elton "Cig" Calvin Howerton, Jr. '59, Alexandria, Va., April 19, 2025, father of **Elton "Cal" Calvin Howerton III '82**.

Earl "Wayne" Jackson, Jr. '61, Gloucester, Va., January 17, 2025.

John "Country" Y. Faulconer '62, Orange, Va., February 25, 2025.

Donald Wayne Monk '62, Brevard, N.C., March 12, 2025.

Thomas F. Proctor, Jr. '63, Mechanicsville, Va., November 11, 2024.

Dr. John Colin Capehart '64, Winchester, Va., April 12, 2025.

Clifton C. Shepherd '64, Roanoke, Va., December 2, 2024.

Douglas DuVal Tunstall '64, Richmond, Va., January 29, 2025.

Roger L. Snapp '66, Tucson, Ariz., March 29, 2025.

Robert William Dougherty, Sr. '67, Loganville, Ga., March 15, 2025.

David Edward Yawars '69, Lexington, Va., March 11, 2025.

Ralph Leonard Coffman '71, Mt. Pleasant, Mich., March 22, 2025.

Robert E. Disharoon '71, Naples, Fla., March 20, 2025.



David E. Yawars '69 passed away on March 11, 2025 at the age of 77. A three-year starting kicker on the football team and a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, Yawars earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Randolph-Macon. In addition to a career in hospitality on major campuses around the country, Yawars served on RMC's Board of Trustees from 2008–2020. He was the Vice Chair of the Building Extraordinary Capital Campaign, Chair of the Advancement Committee, and a contributing member of the Executive, Student Affairs, and Buildings and Grounds Committees. He also served the College on the Board of Associates, the Yellow Jacket Club Board of Directors, and the RMC Hall of Fame Committee. Yawars and his wife, Carolyn, demonstrated extraordinary generosity, establishing the David Wetzel Memorial Scholarship in 2007 and contributing significantly to projects across campus, including Brock Hall, Day Field, Duke Hall, and more. He was honored with the College's Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 2010 in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to Randolph-Macon.

Mary Emily Edwards Kitterman passed away on Feb. 15, 2025 at the age of 91. Kitterman taught at Randolph-Macon from 1978–1988, serving as the Chair of the Department of Education and as the Assistant Dean of Students. Kitterman earned both the Samuel Nelson Gray Distinguished Professor Award and the Thomas Branch Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Robert Duncan Bowers '74, Roanoke, Va., December 2, 2024.

Everett Wayne Garnett '76, Locust Grove, Va., January 13, 2025, husband of **Susan Stewart Garnett '79**.

Michael Callahan '77, Glen Allen, Va., May 11, 2025, father of **Brandon Callahan '04** and **Hillary Callahan Wakefield '12**.

Rev. Charles "Mike" Michael Pumphrey '78, Alexandria, Va., February 10, 2025.

David Francis Brash, III '80, Pittsburgh, Pa., April 21, 2025.

Robert Bellis Engle '81, Richmond, Va., March 9, 2024, godfather of **Katherine Emerson '20**.

Russell "Henry" James Childs '92, New York City, N.Y., February 24, 2025.

Scott A. Shifflett '02, Ashburn Va., November 22, 2024.

James Joseph Lentz '04, Ashburn Va., November 22, 2024, cousin of **Earl "Merritt" Lentz '99**, and **Robert Miller Lentz '01**.

Friends and Family

Dr. Martin Keith Deafenbaugh, Annapolis, Md., March 14, 2025, son in law of **Hugh Franklin Stephens '41*** and father of **Dr. Jaime Deafenbaugh Dunn '98**.

Elizabeth Messick Holsinger, Martinsville, Va., January 8, 2025, wife of **Donald R. Holsinger '51***.

Dr. Mary Emily Kitterman, Ashland, Va., February 15, 2025, former employee of the College.

Janet Knorr, Ocala, Fla., March 12, 2025, mother of **Cheryl Lindgren** and mother-in-law of **President Robert Lindgren**.

Thomas "Leitch" Lancaster III, Richmond, Va., January 18, 2025, nephew of **Robert Bolling Lancaster '28***, son of **Thomas L. Lancaster, Jr. '32***, brother-in-law of **Dudley Jackson '44***, brother of **Patricia Custer Jackson '45***, brother of **William Jordan Lancaster '69**, and father of **Thomas L. Lancaster IV '01**.

Susan Bottimore Martin, Virginia Beach, Va., March 3, 2025, wife of **Milton C. Martin, Jr. '67**.

Pamela Kay Acord Murray, Arlington, Va., September 7, 2024, wife of **William Gordon Murray '70**.

Mary Lee Odell, Montpelier, Va., March 15, 2025, former employee of College.

Frederick A. Olds, Glen Allen, Va., January 1, 2025, father of **Shelley Olds Burns '87**, father-in-law of **Jeffrey S. Burns '87**, grandfather of **Madison Brevier Burns Gilliam '19**, **Jenna Sterling Burns Hoy '19**, and **Brendan Lohrbauer Olds '22**.

Wilson "Bill" Lee Throckmorton, Wicomico Church, Va., March 17, 2025, father of **Laura Throckmorton Gauntt '87** and stepfather of **Pamela Short Wray '89**. Other family includes **Lauren Elizabeth Wray Meyer '16**, **Caroline Michelle Wray Gilmore '19**, and **Cathryn Anne Short '26**.

Carolyn Vance Via, Roanoke, Va., December 30, 2024, wife of **Bernard Via '51**.

Betty Ewing York, Richmond, Va., August 7, 2024, wife of **Henry "Ted" E. York '50***. 🟡

FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE FIRST YELLOW JACKET WEEKLY

The Yellow Jacket Weekly

VOL. I. RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE, IN VIRGINIA., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1915. No. 1.

JACKETS WALLOP THE BLUES.

The Lemon and Black pigskin chasers brought joy to the hearts of their loyal supporters last Saturday by crushing the husky eleven of the Richmond Blues at Broad Street Park in Richmond. The final count was 25-7, although there is some doubt as to whether the touchdown of the loser should count.

The score indicates the superiority of the Yellow Jackets only in the slightest degree. The soldiers were outplayed from the very beginning, always remaining on the defensive. A stiff defense it was too in the opening period, for time after time our machine worked its way within striking distance of the White and Blue's goal only to have the soldiers hurl back its desperate attempts for a touchdown. It was just a case of lacking the necessary punch to break through the hampered our team from the start of the season. It was at this critical stage of the fracas that "Doug" Lancaster solved the problem with the aid of his trusty arm and the trained receptacle for the ball provided by Christian, dropping back on a fake kick formation twice he shot the leather into the outstretched arms of Christian, who made a brilliant start of the second pass. Thus we scored our first two touchdowns.

The Jackets used the forward pass effectively in the contest on two other occasions. Scottie nabbed the oval and ambled across for two more tallies; Lancaster registered the fifth one when, after the team had advanced the pigskin to the soldiers' five-yard line by a series of end runs and line smashes, he plucked by the opposing center for 48 yards. Richardson kicked three goals out of five attempts, making the score 23 to 0.

Now for the work. Just as the shades of the October night were drawing their curtains over the historic gridiron with its mass of struggling warriors, Lancaster in an effort to roll the score up to 40 points, essayed another forward pass. The ball drifted through Woodfin's arms and Polly Blanton grabbed it and clipped off ninety-five yards behind splendid interference for the Blues' only touchdown. Of course, the pass was incomplete, one of our players having touched it, but no vigorous protests were made until after Russell had kicked goal, then it was too late for Referee Johns to reverse his decision.

However, we were not discouraged in every department of the game, being the aggressors throughout the entire encounter, not even allowing them the satisfaction of a single first touchdown. Our forwards had no chance to display their defensive ability, but were right on their toes when it came to opening up gaps for our backs. The back field's performance was fifty per cent. better than against the theologians.

Every player put up a creditable game; the work of Scottie and Frankie on ends and Doug at quarter especially deserve mention.

Blues. Position. Randolph-Macon. Cissell left end Christian Hancock left tackle Hopkins Hickerson left guard Martin Garrett center R. C. Scott Bradbury right guard Hudnall Sweeney right tackle Bush Ruskell right end W. R. Scott Blanton quarterback Lancaster Ancarrow left halfback Ingham Rose right halfback Young Word fullback Richardson

Score by quarters: Randolph-Macon 0 13 7 6-23 Blues 0 0 0 7-7 Summary: Score-Randolph-Macon, 33; Blues, 7. Substitutions-Randolph-Macon, Rosebury for Hudnall; Moran for Bush, Waters for Young, Yost for Ingham. Blues-Sterrett for Hancock, Lorraine for Rose, Donald for Hickerson, Glenn Ruskell, Moffet for Donald, Epps for Blanton, Dugan for Word. Touchdowns-Christian 2, W. R. Scott 2, Lancaster, Blanton. Goals from touchdowns-Richardson 2, Ruskell. Officials-Johns, Hampden-Sidney. Referee-Bollins, Hampden-Sidney. Time of periods, 12 minutes.

DANCES AT THE INN

The social whirl began this fall with a number of delightful little Victrola dances on the porch of the hotel which were greatly enjoyed by the students and young people of Ashland.

As soon as it was deemed cool enough, the dancers retreated to the ball-room of the Henry Clay Inn where, on October 5th, a October dance was held which was not quite up to the standard owing to a down-pour of rain during the evening. However, all who did attend thoroughly enjoyed it. Roses were given to each of the girls, and all the boys wore white carnations in the lapsels of their coats. No figures were attempted, the dancers contenting themselves with pigeon waltz, hesitations and one-steps, while the orchestra played in perfect time the latest atmospheric rag.

Those dancing were Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Coley, Misses Virginia Marshall, Nancy Midyette, Mildred Hart, Anna Hart, Sara Hughes, Eliza Cardwell, Julia Gilbert, Katherine Marsh, Agnes Wright, Byrdie Dejamette, Julia Welisger, Lyle Gary, Margaret Gary, Mrs. B. M. Shepherd, and Miss Coley; and Messrs. Belding, Squire, Gravelly, Norfleet, W. R. Scott, Bridgforth, Davis, Galloway, T. D. Christian, F. P. Christian, Young, Coghill, R. B. Lawson, John Lawson, Turner, Smith, Midyette, Vaughn and Byrd.

CHAUTAUQUA RETURNS TO ASHLAND.

The Lyceum Festival, which made its first appearance in Ashland last spring, returned this week, much to the delight of the students and the citizens of Ashland. The festival continued for three days, and during that time fifteen performances were given. On the first day of the first day, Dr. Downey, superintendent of the company and a speaker of great distinction, delivered a lecture entitled "Your Boys and Girls." Anyone who has ever had the good fortune to hear this orator knows how cordially his address was received. He continued his lecture all three days, and those who failed to hear him on this occasion must certainly not forego that pleasure next spring when Dr. Downey comes back again.

The Solree Singers, who held sway the first afternoon and evening, rendered a concert which even the most unmusically inclined would have appreciated. The music, comedy, sketches, and impersonations offered by the Singers proved them to be people of wonderful talent and intellectual ability.

The interpretation which was given by Miss Mary Agnes Doyle of the familiar play, "Peg 'o' My Heart," was enthusiastically received. Those who had seen the play were better able to judge the remarkable ability of Miss Doyle, while those who had not seen the play missed nothing but the stage-setting.

On the second afternoon and first part of the evening, in addition to the lecture continued by Dr. Downey, the College Club entertained a large audience with popular songs, recitations, monologues, and a playlet. It is greatly desired that this jovial club of amusement-makers return with the Lyceum Festival next year. With the musical feature of the evening concluded, an interesting lecture was delivered by Dr. E. A. Turner, former president of Hastings College. Dr. Turner is a well informed speaker with a strikingly attractive personality; he was especially liked by his audience.

The afternoon and evening of the third day were devoted to the Regimental Quartet and R. B. Wellbourne, who demonstrated some of the miracles of science. The motion pictures which closed the evening performance were of exceptional quality and educational value.

The Lyceum Festival was a decided success and deserved a much larger patronage than it received. We wish to extend to the guarantors our thanks for the privilege of attending the Chautauqua, and to assure them of our heartiest wishes for its continued success.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES

The Young Men's Christian Association has gotten a good start. Let us all keep up the spirit and make this a year of progress.

The twilight meetings held on the campus during the first days were, without a doubt, a pleasure to all who were present. They were conducted by the students and we all were greatly helped.

We all know that Tuesday night at 7:10 is the hour for the Y. M. C. A. to meet. It has been thought best by the cabinet to let three students conduct every other meeting. This you are not bound to do, but will be started this month. Every fellow is subject to be called upon and let's not have any refusals. We will need such experience later on. Our program has been very interesting so far. On September 21st Nam-koong gave us a fine talk on his native land; on the 28th Rev. Headley addressed us on Christian Manhood. F. W. Boatwright, president of Richmond College, was with us on October 5th and on October 12th Mr. Ackerly, the State secretary. All of these talks were up to and above the standard. On our schedule we have a list of five snappy speakers.

We are glad to report that the Bible study committee has been to work and that we have a study group in every wing and on every floor. The interest the fellows have shown is great and let's keep it up. This is one thing we all ought to enter into with all the enthusiasm we have. If you are not enrolled then ask somebody about it and you will be taken care of.

The membership of the Y. M. C. A. does not include every man in school. Why not join? There is something we can do for you and something you can do for us. Do not think that because we have a pool room, swimming pool and the like that we cannot give you your money's worth. Join us and try it. We will give you more than your dollar's worth if you will give us a little of your time. Let every man sign up next Tuesday night, October 19th. Dr. Smoot will be with us.

The officers of the Young Men's Christian Association for the present year are: Gilbert W. Bush, president; A. W. Brittingham, 1st vice-president; Dr. F. P. Day, 2d vice-president; H. M. Walters, treasurer, L. W. Riess, secretary.

The committees are: Devotional-J. A. Horner, Bible Study, J. H. H. reports from the other colleges state that the wielders of the racket are hard at work getting in shape for the spring tournament.

TENNIS NOW A MAJOR SPORT.

The tennis tournament pulled off last week attracted only three teams in the doubles. Smith and Gravelly winning out. Result of the play is as follows: Smith and Gravelly won from Swift and Eggleston in four sets, 6-0, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, and 6-1. Smoot and Newman lost to the winner 4-6, 2-6, 6-4, and 6-6. Smoot and Newman won two sets from Swift and Eggleston 7-5, 4-6 and 6-4.

Since tennis has been recognized as a major sport by the E. V. I. A. reports from the other colleges state that the wielders of the racket are hard at work getting in shape for the spring tournament.

A trip down in North Carolina has been arranged for the tennis team. Our players have been hard at work since the tournament here trying to get in good shape for the coming matches and promise to give a good account of themselves against the Tarheels. The schedule: October 22-Trinity at Durham. October 25-Elon College at Elon. October 26-Guilford College at Greensboro.

And while the editor of the Who's Who column is writing up the celebrities in college, we wish to advise him not to overlook one winning number, the President of the Poker Club!

On second thought, it wouldn't be a bad idea to write up the Chief Promoter, too.

SENIORS ELECT OFFICERS FOR YEAR

The Senior Class, holding its annual meeting September 15th, elected the following men to office:

R. B. Marston, President.
J. A. York, Vice-President.
J. O. W. Gravelly, Secretary.
I. M. Groves, Jr., Treasurer.
H. B. Hopkins, Historian.
E. C. Boery, Playwright.
C. L. Estill, Poet.

The election of Valedictorian, Salutatorian and other officers was deferred until a subsequent meeting.

The Class of 1916, which has an enrollment of twenty-two members, has the distinction of being especially well represented in every phase of college activity. Another feature peculiar to this organization is the fact that the majority of the members have been in college either three or five years, though the latter are, of course, working toward A. M. degrees. The three year men who expect to wear cap and gown in June, and who experienced the heat of summer school, are all of a rather unusual type-workers!

While Commencement plans are still rather hazy, the class expects to make Finals this year so interesting that "June, '16" will be synonymous with "a good time," and the graduating exercises will long be remembered by those who have the very good fortune to participate in, and witness them.

R. M. HOLDS VIRGINIA.

On September the 25th we played our initial contest of the 1915 schedule. On that day the Yellow Jackets stacked up against the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

The University beat us 20 to 0, but that is not all of the story by any means. To begin with that score is the smallest that the Yellow Jackets have held Virginia since 1910, when the score was 17 to 0. In that day, however, a touchdown only counted five points, so you see we did as well as the boys back there. Three touchdowns and two goals being scored in each contest.

The trip was a tiresome one and when our boys saw that Red and Blue squad of one hundred and fifteen hefty men pouring down on the gridiron encircled by a huge concrete stand they began to feel fagged out. Coach cheered them up some by telling them that only eleven men could face them at a time and that it would be man against man.

The game opened with Richardson kicking off, and six minutes later Mayer shot across our line for a touchdown. The next time Virginia received but the Lemon and Black braced and stopped the onslaught. Virginia was forced to punt. The ball was in our possession for the first time. Lancaster tore off forty yards around end on the first down, but we soon lost the ball. In the second quarter Carstain Coleman, of the big boys, yelled "Come on, Virginia, let's get out of here," and of course, they proceeded to score after a few moments of play. Possum Young intercepted one of their forward passes later in the game and then we tried a pin, Scottie having a clear field on one but was caught from behind. Virginia scored their last time at the beginning of the third quarter, from then on the Jackets' fought like demons and there was no chance for the Charlottesville giants to get anywhere. The final score was 20-0, since then Virginia has beat Yale 10-0, therefore Yale can only beat Randolph Macon 10-0. Why not?

Score by Periods:
U. Va. 7 6 0-20
R. M. C. 0 0 0-0

JUNIOR CLASS ELECTION.

At the first meeting of the Junior Class the following officers were elected: President, Mr. Frank Christian; vice-president, Mr. Gordon Vincent; secretary, Mr. Jett, and historian, Mr. Dugger.

The inaugural issue of the *Yellow Jacket Weekly* was published on October 22, 1915. It, and the *Yellow Jacket Annual* which was first published in 1899, documents the RMC student experience over time. The four pages of the first YJ issue include articles on sports, college and local events, and student organizations. There are also advertisements for Ashland and Richmond businesses, notes on alumni, and a section entitled "personals," that consists mostly of notes on faculty doings. Advertisements highlight services that have been mostly lost to history such as suit pressing; feed, coal, wood and ice deliveries; and shoe repair. One personal entry about a "motor trip to the Valley of Virginia" notes that the travelers went in a Ford and brought back chestnuts. Reports on a tennis tournament and on football games against the University of Virginia and the Richmond Blues, a local club football team, are included. The Hampden-Sydney football rivalry is also present in this first issue with The Game scheduled for the day following publication. Entitled "Yellow Jackets Confident," the article unfortunately did not predict the outcome as the Jackets lost to the Tigers. Interestingly, another article in the first YJ issue, "Chautauqua Returns to Ashland," details a three-day festival of arts held in Ashland using the word for the adult education movement of the 1900s that also lends its name to the Chautauqua Institution, where RMC's incoming president Dr. Michael Hill recently led. ●



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