

RANDOLPH-MACON Today

THE MAGAZINE • WINTER 2026



HAIL
TO THE

Queen

Honoring Barclay DuPriest





A SPECTACULAR SHOW

Aaliyah Hartwill '26 and the LUXE Show Choir delivered a powerhouse performance during the LUXE Holiday Spectacular, a beloved annual show since 2019.

"The students of our band, choir, and technical teams—the very heart of this program—work tirelessly for months to perfect and refine their craft, all while pushing beyond the standards set in years past," said Director of Show Choir Adam Pulver.



“Every conversation, every event, every visit beyond our campus has fortified my sense of what makes this place special.”

Dear Yellow Jackets and friends,

Six months! It's hard to believe how quickly that milestone has arrived—and how full those months have been.

Since my earliest days on the job, I've been thankful for the generosity of so many who have leaned in to help me get oriented: faculty and staff who have shared their work and wisdom, students who have welcomed me into their classrooms and traditions, alumni who have reached out with stories and pride, and friends of the College who have been eager to introduce me to this remarkable community.

You will get a fun glimpse of some of those moments in the pages that follow here. They reflect a journey of listening, learning, and a president having one heck of a good time.

Every conversation, every event, every visit beyond our campus has fortified my sense of what makes this place special—a community that is both deeply rooted and confidently forward-looking. This issue of *Randolph-Macon Today* is full of even more stories that reinforce the many ways Randolph-Macon shows up for one another. I am so glad that Barclay DuPriest is at its heart. Her presence, care, and institutional memory have shaped generations of Yellow Jackets, and I am but one who has been touched by her impact. I still can't wrap my head around the campus store without her daily presence, but she promises me she won't be a stranger — thank goodness!

As I look ahead to my inauguration this April, I do so with optimism and excitement. An inauguration is not a celebration of a new president; it is a milestone for a community—a moment to reflect on where we've been, to honor those who have shaped our path, and to affirm our shared hopes for what comes next.

Whether you are able to join us here in Ashland or virtually via livestream, I invite you to be part of welcoming this new chapter in the Randolph-Macon story. I look forward to continuing this journey with you.

And, as always **GO JACKETS!**

With gratitude and anticipation,

Michael E. Hill, Ed.D.
President, Randolph-Macon College

RANDOLPH-MACON Today

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

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RMC editor reserves the right to edit content.



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For over 40 years, Barclay DuPriest has served as the manager of RMC's campus store and the heartbeat of Yellow Jacket pride.

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Artist Jim Sanborn '69 is the man behind one of the world's most famous unsolved codes, a sculpture named "Kryptos" at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Va.

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Madison Alderson '24PA is a member of RMC's first class of Physician Assistant Studies graduates. Now, she's filling a much-needed role in primary care.

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Across 50 years of history, Randolph-Macon Women's Basketball has excelled on the court and built unbreakable bonds and timeless memories.



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WHAT'S NEW @RMC

Randolph-Macon Dedicates New Student Residences as Spotswood Village

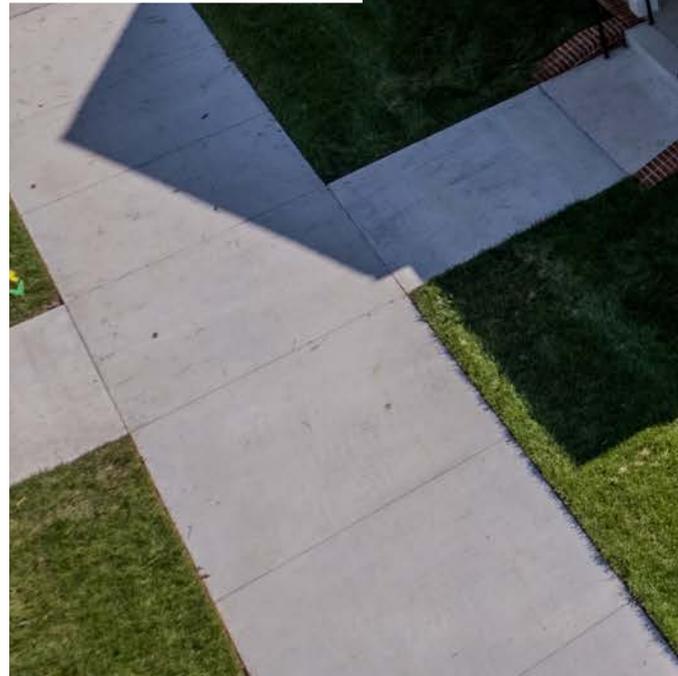
This September, Randolph-Macon College celebrated the official dedication of Spotswood Village, a new community of apartment-style student residences.

"Spotswood Village is another chapter in the larger story of campus transformation that has occurred over the past 25 years and underscores RMC's commitment to providing excellent facilities to our students," remarked RMC President Dr. Michael E. Hill.

The four-building complex was completed in August, adding 64 beds of capacity for a growing institution. Each two-story building has four apartments and features covered porch spaces. The units, which are occupied by upperclassmen, have four single bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and in-unit laundry.

"While Spotswood Village supports our growing student body by providing high-quality living spaces for students, its impact goes far beyond that," said Student Government Association President Ella Swager '26. "These facilities create opportunities for students to develop life skills, strengthen their community, and transition into independent living." The project was made possible in part by the generosity of an anonymous donor.

The new buildings reflect RMC's continued enrollment growth, with more than 1,800 undergraduates enrolled in fall 2025. The new residential buildings—the first constructed at RMC since 2014—increase the College's residential capacity to more than 1,300 and provide an appealing residential option for upperclassmen. ◆



Board of Trustees Chair Sue Schick '84, Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair Earl Johnson '66, President Dr. Michael E. Hill, a friend of the College, Jud Dalton '01, SGA President Ella Swager '26, and Dean of Students Grant Azdell cut the ribbon at the official dedication of Spotswood Village.



Dalton Cottage, generously supported by the Dalton family, is one of four buildings that comprises Spotswood Village.

Presidential @rientation

In his first six months as Randolph-Macon's 16th President, Dr. Michael E. Hill has committed to a crash course in all things RMC. Most importantly, he's met with as many students, alumni, families, faculty, staff, and friends as possible. Along the way (and often with his beloved golden retriever, Wilbur), he's documenting the journey on Instagram at @rmcpres for all Yellow Jackets to follow along.



rmcpres ...

Dr. Michael E. Hill

75 posts 1,558 followers 125 following

Randolph-Macon College's 16th President and @furstpuprnc's Dad.





207 2

rmcpres Heartfelt thanks to the @townofashlandva for this beautiful welcome basket and our visit. Our futures are intertwined, and I celebrate our partnership!

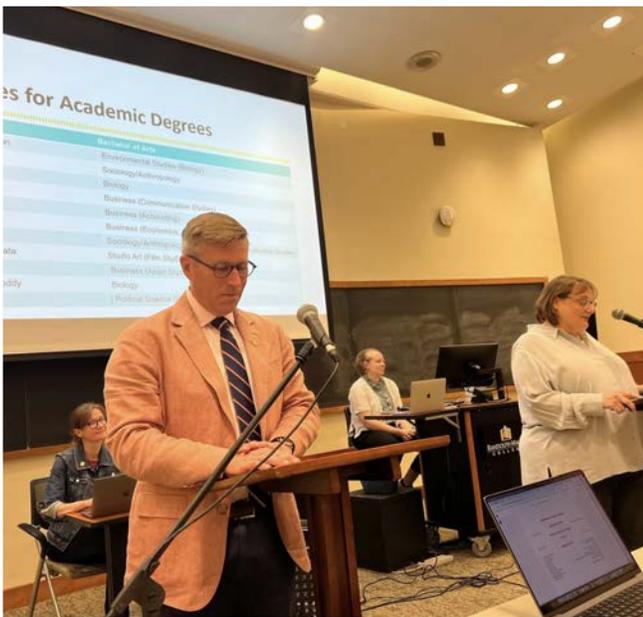
August 19, 2025



108 1 1

rmcpres So good to catch up with the legendary Prof. Scanlon today. His history on @randolphmacon is a must read for a newcomer. Thank you, sir! Many more chats to come.

August 24, 2025



239 3

rmcpres A highlight of today's Faculty meeting was the chance to officially certify 13 degrees for students who completed their studies this summer. Congratulations to the new grads! A wonderful part of my first opportunity to address the stellar RMC faculty.

September 9, 2025



182 2 9 7

Liked by randolphmacon and others

rmcpres Our SGA leadership rocks!! Thanks for joining me at @maconsoccer tonight!

October 8, 2025

Randolph-Macon Ranked Among Best Value and Top 100 Colleges by U.S. News & World Report

Randolph-Macon College earned a No. 68 ranking for Best Value from the *U.S. News & World Report* in its Best Colleges guide for national liberal arts colleges. RMC also climbed into the top 100 for national liberal arts colleges overall, ranking No. 96.

"These national rankings are yet another reflection of the momentum we continue to fuel here at RMC," said Dr. Michael E. Hill, RMC's President. "We have long recognized that there is special value in the high-impact experiences that are so core to who we are. It's important to make that accessible for students of all backgrounds and it's exciting to be recognized for doing just that."

The rankings for Best Value schools are based on a variety of metrics, including the ratio of academic quality to price, the number of students receiving need-based aid, and the total cost of attendance covered by scholarships or grants.

In addition to the national and Best Value lists, RMC also ranks No. 119 for social mobility among national liberal arts colleges.

The College has also been recognized as one of the nation's Best 391 Colleges by *The Princeton Review* and as a College of Distinction, with special distinction for its Business, Education, Engineering, and Nursing programs. ◆



Former Political Prisoner Offers Vision of Hope for Russian Democracy

Vladimir Kara-Murza, a Russian author, historian, opposition politician, and former political prisoner, delivered *Gone Today, Here Tomorrow: The Fight for Democracy* as part of the Paul and Lois Watkins Lecture Series inside Blackwell Auditorium at the Center for the Performing Arts on Nov. 6.

Kara-Murza's lecture detailed his time as a political prisoner in a Siberian penal colony, strongly condemned the authoritarian rule of Russian president Vladimir Putin, and laid out a vision for a democratic and free future for Russia. Kara-Murza's remarks were followed by a Q&A session moderated by Dr. Mine Eren, Professor of Modern Languages and Director of the Film Studies program.

"We see that internal repression and external aggression always come as part of the same parcel," Kara-Murza asserted. "Because a government that does not respect the rights of its own people will not respect the borders of other countries."

Kara-Murza, who was arrested in April of 2022 for publicly denouncing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, shared stories of the harsh conditions of his imprisonment and the whirlwind day he was freed as part of a prisoner exchange. He also painted a picture of hope, pointing to the inevitability of the end of Vladimir Putin's reign.

He argued that lasting change for Russia will hinge on "transitional justice" when that day comes. "It's really all about transparency and accountability," Kara-Murza said. "It is when the archives are opened up, detailing the past crimes of the fallen regime, the people who are committing these crimes are brought to account, the state security structures that are perpetrating these crimes are disbanded, and when the ideologies and practices of the former regime are publicly and unequivocally condemned." ◆

Historian Jelani Cobb Discusses Latest Book, Racial Justice, and MLK's Legacy



Award-winning journalist and author Dr. Jelani Cobb shared the Blackwell Auditorium stage with Randolph-Macon President Michael Hill as part of a week of programming celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cobb's most recent book, *Three or More Is a Riot* (2025), was a key topic of discussion. The first chapter juxtaposes the shooting of Trayvon Martin with the 2008 presidential campaign. Cobb reflected on the continuing thread from that moment through our current political landscape.

"That was the first piece I ever wrote for *The New Yorker*," Cobb said. "[My editor] said 'this is interesting, why don't you keep following the story to see where it goes?' I feel like I spent 13 years doing that, there were so many things that were connected. What happened with Trayvon Martin was this inception point."

Further, Cobb argued that we should remember King not as a mythologized figure, but as a human striving and working for change.

"This idea of King being the all-knowing sage who is the fountain of wisdom and all these other things, I think that we're better off without it," Cobb said. "We're better engaging with him as the brilliant, talented, fallible, insecure human being that all of us are." 🟡





If you stroll through Brock Commons, especially during a big event on campus, there's a good chance you'll find Barclay DuPriest holding court at the threshold of the campus store. If Randolph-Macon were a monarchy, she would be its undisputed queen. She welcomes first-time guests and old friends with the same enthusiasm—and with a Yellow Jacket pride bolder than anything you can buy on her shelves.

HAIL TO THE Queen

"Barclay is the heartbeat of RMC," explained Gabe LaPlante '19, who has witnessed this phenomenon for nearly a decade working in the campus store. "People just gravitate toward her. Maybe it's the unsolicited advice that somehow always ends up being exactly what they needed. She listens without judgment, gives guidance without ego, and leads without needing the spotlight. Whatever that thing is, it's magnetic. You can't label it, but you definitely feel it."

Barclay DuPriest began her journey at Randolph-Macon in 1985. It's a story she gleefully retells about securing a job at her husband Rob '69's alma mater. How she snuck away from her job as a middle school math teacher at Hanover Academy during a break to come speak with retiring bookstore manager Kathryn Stephens. How she wanted her sons to be eligible for the free tuition benefit afforded to employees of the College. In her interview, she covered for her lack of retail experience with ideas she had gleaned by driving to Farmville to visit the campus bookstores there, and she fudged her admiration for a book of

management advice she'd noticed on the desk of Mr. Ball, her future boss.

She secured the position, of course, and set about the work of becoming an institutional fixture.

During her first summer as manager, Barclay found a box of discarded photos from the yearbook and taped them up all over the store. Those photos would become a signature of her office decor, but never again did they feature unfamiliar faces. Gradually, Barclay came to know each of those students, and generations more.

Her legendary ability to recall names, faces, and details has baffled and amazed decades of Yellow Jackets, who often cite Barclay DuPriest as the embodiment of the connected experience that is so core to Randolph-Macon's essence. Graham Rashkind '96 recalled getting to know Barclay after years of quick visits to the store with his father and grandfather, who served on the Board of Trustees. "I thought Barclay had this special thing for you," he told his dad. "And then I realized it was everyone! If you were interested in



Barclay, in the doorway to her office adorned with photos of students



Barclay, at the 2023 Phi Mu Celebration of LIOB (Love in our Bond) with (L to R) Kate Murray Kelly '91, Raynor Hutchinson-Dahlquist '91, Jeanine Reese Wright '91, Missy Bacon Lee '91, Mary Gaffney Carey '91, Kim Saul Bowne '91, Dana Goff Christians '91

having a relationship with her, you had one. It wasn't a matter of if she had enough time. She always had time."

Though Barclay was a 38-year-old mother of two when she first arrived at RMC, she put up few barriers with her young new friends. "I considered myself to be one of their contemporaries because I was having so much fun!" she explained.

She judged contests. She arranged skits for major events. She attended parties and admits to more than a few antics that can't be shared in print!

For each of her four decades, she and her husband Rob have been fixtures at athletic events, performances, lectures, and more. As her relationships deepened, so too did the depth of her engagements. In the late '80s and '90s, she served as advisor to the Phi Mu sorority, with a bond so deep that the women got special permission from the central Phi Mu office to make her an official member. "She is one of us," explained Phi Mu Raynor Hutchinson-Dahlquist '92. "Whenever we're with Barclay, we have a glass of pink champagne, and just love all over her."

Retail, the Barclay Way

Barclay ran the campus store the same way she built relationships—by paying attention. She admits to feeling overwhelmed by parts of her job in the beginning. "There were nights when I thought, oh boy, I have bitten off more than I can chew," she said.

Still, she quickly observed that the store needed to be open during more hours when students were available to shop. She heard them when they clamored for name brand items. "They wanted those Champion sweatshirts!" she recalls. "I ordered 144, and they sold out, so I ordered more." She set up



Barclay and Rob DuPriest '69



Barclay with Dexter Hurt '94

a tent at football games to expand sales, and added products like used textbooks, music, and popular books inside the Brown Campus Center. In Year One, she turned a record profit.

Her husband Rob sometimes joined her on trips to conferences, where she learned about running a campus bookstore. Over time, she grew to be a leader in the National Association of College Bookstores, where she led sessions and wrote articles about integrating the bookstore with campus life. She used her voice to enhance awareness about Randolph-Macon. "I enjoyed representing the College," she remembered, with a twinkle in her eye. "And I didn't feel guilty if I exaggerated a little!"

Loss and its Aftermath

As Barclay had hoped, her youngest son, Tad, enrolled at RMC in 1991 and joined the RMC football team. He was a student, an athlete, and quickly became part of the fabric of campus life.

In July 1992, her boss came to her office with a state trooper. Tad had been killed in a wreck in Richmond.

The porous boundaries between Barclay's personal life and professional one melted away. This was a campuswide tragedy, deeply felt. "I can't say how much this college just rallied behind me," Barclay reflected. "Everybody just really looked out for us."

Teammates, coaches, faculty, staff, and students surrounded the DuPriests with care—quiet presence, practical help, and enduring remembrance. The College retired Tad's football jersey, an honor that acknowledged not only his promise as a player, but the place he held in the community.

Dexter Hurt '94, who played football with Tad, remembers a mutual support system. "We were all there for her as much as her for us," he remembered. When Hurt later received the Tad DuPriest Award, an MVP award selected by teammates, the honor was both a recognition and a continuation of that shared grief.



Tad DuPriest leaves the field after his final football game for Randolph-Macon, the 1991 edition of "The Game."

A Buoy in a Storm

"Despite the tragedy in her own life," Hutchinson-Dahlquist observed, "she's turned that into love. Just absolute love." Barclay—always in tune with students—had a way of noticing when someone needed that love. She probed. She listened. Then, often, she acted.

For some, the storm was academic or emotional—poor grades, heartbreak, the weight of expectations. For others, it was painfully practical. When money was tight for Dexter Hurt, Barclay wouldn't hear of him deferring his books. Instead, she

opened a tab in the bookstore and told him to take what he needed. "I don't even remember if she told me what the cost was," Hurt said later. "Thinking back, I don't know if she really charged me for all those books."

When Hutchinson-Dahlquist faced a financial crisis that put her enrollment in doubt, Barclay jumped in. "I didn't know if I could stay," she recalled. "Barclay worked the phones. Wow—what an advocate."

Sometimes, the connection ran even deeper. In 1992, a young student from Ghana, Paul Sekyere-Nyantakyi '93,



Barclay with Paul Sekyere-Nyantakyi '93

HELP US ESTABLISH BARCLAY'S FINISH LINE FUND

To honor Barclay and Rob's generous spirits and Barclay's life's work, Randolph-Macon alumni, parents, employees, and friends will establish an emergency fund for students facing unexpected financial challenges that threaten their ability to complete their studies.

Help us honor our beloved Barclay with your participation.



In 2009, a scholarship was created in honor of the DuPriests, and they have relished the opportunity to both add to its funding and connect with the students it supports.

knocked on Barclay's door with a simple, devastating introduction: "My name is Paul Nyantakyi. I understand you've lost your son. I have lost my mom in Africa, in Ghana. I wonder if I might be your son and you might be my mom."

Nyantakyi, who drove a cab on weekends to support himself, became part of the DuPriests' family. They supported him through his time at Randolph-Macon

and beyond, as he went on to medical school at Johns Hopkins.

To Barclay, these moments were not exceptions. They were the work.

Love is a Circle

As the years passed, Barclay's deep relationships with students she lovingly calls her "children" ripened new fruit. The children of children enrolled at RMC.

Emma Landis '24, daughter of Lindsay Natale '91 and Barry Landis '88, stopped in the campus store after she had enrolled at the College and was flabbergasted when Barclay recognized her from the family's holiday cards. "I was a little girl in those pictures!" Emma marveled. "How could she know that she was me?"

Barclay's deep connections with alumni and parents afforded her a special role that she relishes: asking for donations on behalf of the College.

"She's a natural-born fundraiser," reflected Interim Vice President for College Advancement Rick Golembeski '96. "When her name pops up in your inbox or on your phone, you know what the ask is going to be, and you say yes because you love her, trust her, and believe in Randolph-Macon just like she does."

More than a few Barclay admirers have mused on what Randolph-Macon will be without the woman so many see as its heartbeat in its employ. "I have been asking myself one question ever since I heard Barclay was retiring," admitted President Michael Hill, who counts himself among those fervent admirers. "And that's 'how in the world does RMC make any sense without Barclay in her chair?!' But then I stopped to think about how her abiding love for all Yellow Jackets is a standard to which we all aspire. And I know she'll keep her promise to never truly leave us. So we plan to send her off in style and keep the chair handy for whenever she visits! Because it's not the paycheck that makes her who she is, it's the love that she will continue to share, and for that I'm beyond grateful."

The Queen herself promises to keep working the phones, tell anyone who will listen to come to RMC, and to visit campus often. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else," she said—just as she has, in one way or another, for more than 40 years. ●



Macon Day March 5

In the digital age, Barclay often starred in videos and social media posts for Macon Day and other fundraising initiatives. Seen here in a 2015 spoof on *Leave it to Beaver*.

Everyone has a Barclay story

WE ASKED, AND BOY, DID YOU DELIVER! BELOW ARE EXCERPTS OF JUST A FEW OF THE HUNDREDS OF MEMORIES AND WELL-WISHES OUR COMMUNITY HAS SHARED.

Amanda Edmiston Damron '95 >> *Barclay has been a beacon of light for the students at RMC. I came in the Fall of 1992. I was 800 miles from home and she made me feel loved and like I had known her forever. She called me "Mandie from Memphis". She is deserving of every honor and accolade. Her legacy lives on in all of us Alumni who have had the gift of being loved by her.*

Jodi Turner Smith, '94, Nate Smith '95 (Barclay's 'boyfriend'), **Noah Smith, '22,**

Caroline Smith, '26 >> *The Smith family cannot imagine the bookstore without Barclay in her office or directing traffic from the entrance of the store during special events. Barclay's care for our students, faculty, and staff has shaped the lives of countless Yellow Jackets.*

Kim Phillippe Bennett '94 >> *Barclay you were there for my years at Macon and when I returned with my son for HIS four years you recognized me right away and spent time asking about me and my life. You helped this mom when I left a piece of my heart there. It gave me comfort in knowing he would also know the experience of being a Yellow Jacket with you there.*

Dean Browell '98 and Addison Browell '26 >> *In the fall of 1994 I'd set foot in the bookstore, not to get books or CDs (for once), but to say hi to my best friend Alec Vitarius who worked there. He was chatting and laughing with Barclay DuPriest and introduced me. When Alec passed unexpectedly before we could graduate together, Barclay would become a wonderful friend, shoulder to lean on, and biggest fan in the front row of all my plays in Old Chapel. Little did I know that more than thirty years later I'd be back at the bookstore with my daughter Addison, a senior at RMC, laughing and smiling with Barclay with her as Addy's biggest fan (her little brother and sister not far behind). Some of my closest friends have Barclay stories—some out loud and some private. She represents the best of RMC's family: unfailing wisdom, optimism, and love—no matter what the world throws at us. I am so thankful that she has shared her heart with generations of our family and the Browells are proud to love her right back.*

Shirley Husz >> *You are MORE than one in a million! For those of us that are parents of Yellow Jackets current, and past, YOU have filled our hearts with a never ending love.*

Whitney Jones Allen '07 (@worthystyle) >> *Every time I stepped onto campus, seeing you at the bookstore—first in the old student center in 2003 and then in the new—felt like coming home. Your positivity, wisdom, and kindness have meant more to me than you know.*

Ed Lilly '64 >> *Barclay invariably knew the name of everyone who walked into the Bookstore and those she saw around the campus, but also an amazing array of facts about everyone. She has been an absolute gift to RMC, and is much loved by all!*

John Smith '93 >> *Barclay will always be RMC's Football biggest cheerleader. It doesn't matter how many years go by, she will never forget a face. She is loved by everyone.*

Carter Lyons '04 >> *We love you, Barclay! No one will fill your shoes because they are yours and yours alone. We can't thank you enough for loving all of us so incredibly well. You are forever our favorite Queen Bee!*

Charlie Crittenden '99 >> *She helped me graduate by tutoring me to the bitter end! Brian Lansing '99 (@bclansing) and I were her first "book store committee" because she wanted us to have something else on our resume.*

Jenny Day '03 >> *When I was moving onto campus for my freshman year in Fall of 1999, I met Barclay for the first time. During that encounter she also met my twin sister (also an incoming freshman), my mom, and my dad. During our conversation my dad asked her something. I can't remember what, but it was something financial that embarrassed me and my sister...but Barclay thought it was hilarious. From that moment on she would ask about "Harry" any time we saw her. After we graduated, whenever we visited her in the campus store she would always ask us about Harry before she checked on how we were. Last spring, during the strawberry festival, my dad and Barclay saw each other for the first time in 20+ years and it was such a great reunion! I just love that one moment 26 years ago bonded them for life. I also have to acknowledge how in awe I am that Barclay knows every student past and present, and not just by name, but what they are studying or what they are doing with their life. It's incredible. Thank you, Barclay, for your love and support throughout the years. I will so miss walking into the campus store to your joyful cry "it's my Day girls."*

Randy Geldreich '97 >> *For so many of us, a stop at the campus store was never just about books or gear. It was about seeing Barclay, catching up for a moment, and feeling at home. Thank you, Barclay, for your kindness, your constancy, and the countless quiet ways you shaped our memories of Randolph-Macon. You will be deeply missed, but the impact you made on all of us will not fade.*

Amy Powell Johnson >> *I hope you will sit in the stands at the football games with me & help me ring my cowbells! I will always have an extra with your name on it! Our family has only had the pleasure of knowing you for 2 years, but you felt like instant family!*

Barclay's

Favorite Things

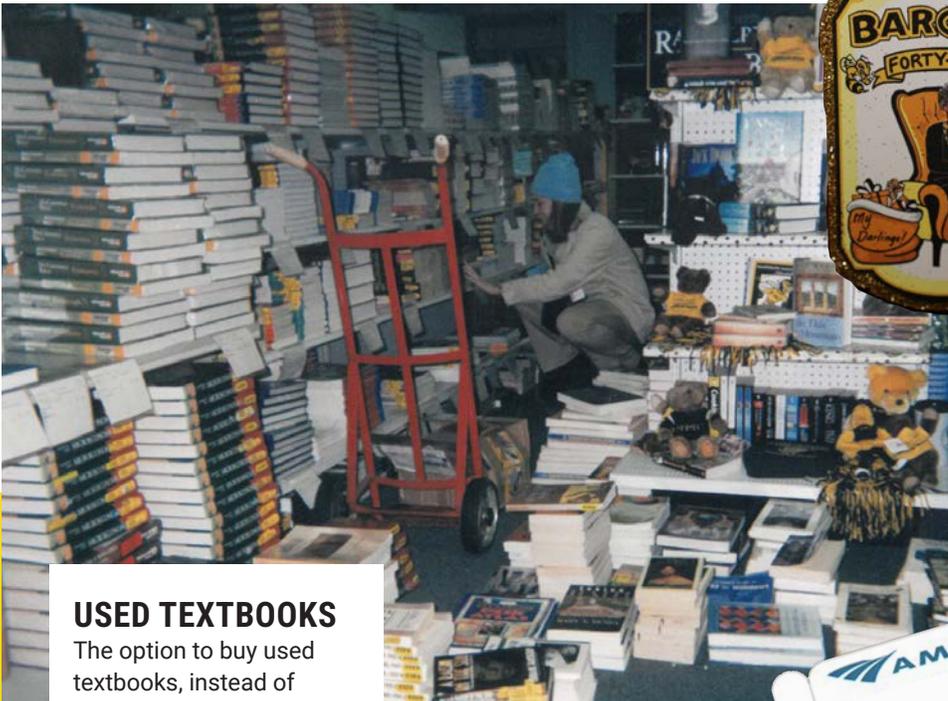
NATIONAL CHAMPION SHIRTS

Barclay loves the Yellow Jackets and celebrating their successes. This shirt was designed by the winning team's seniors.



ORNAMENTS

A special holiday decoration to celebrate the reign of our queen.



AMTRAK TICKETS

For a time, the store even sold train tickets.



USED TEXTBOOKS

The option to buy used textbooks, instead of exclusively new ones, was a popular cost-saving measure for students.

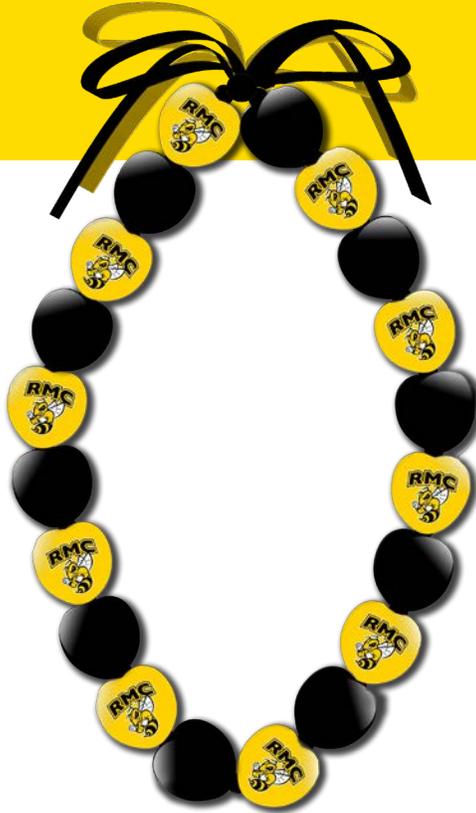
CLASS RINGS

Barclay has been a champion for class rings at RMC.



KUKUI NECKLACE

A crucial piece of an iconic Barclay fit.



TO HELL WITH HAMPDEN-SYDNEY PINS

Barclay sporting the ever-popular but since-retired "To Hell with Hampden-Sydney" pin.



CHAMPION SWEATSHIRTS

Modeled by Jeff '87 and Shelley Burns '87 and Hugh Stephens '41, one of Barclay's first additions to the campus store inventory was Champion brand sweatshirts. The highly sought-after item flew off the shelves.



GINGHAM DRESS

Barclay loves meeting (and outfitting) the children of her "kids."



Q&A

For much of his career, Dr. Steven D. Lang, the Edward W. Seese Professor of Economics, has applied both macro- and microeconomic principles to a subject popular among generations of students: sports. His class Economics of Sports (and others, throughout his tenure) have explored some of the hot button issues in the world of sports through an economic lens. We asked him to do the same here for our readers.

Q: *Sports can be a great vehicle to explore complex economic concepts. What are some that you discuss in your Economics of Sports course?*

The first is monopoly and antitrust, and what you're talking about there is the monopoly power of pro sports leagues. Secondly, we get to dig into public finance. There, we're talking about the economics of stadium subsidies, but also the economics of the taxes that are imposed to pay for those subsidies. The third one is player salaries and player unions, and that's labor economics. As my students can attest, we do a lot of graphical analysis.

Q: *The construction of new stadiums is a source of great public debate. How should teams and municipalities go about funding these projects?*

Beginning in the 1950s, cities were paying for facilities 100%. This era was commonly known as the civic infrastructure period and municipalities chose to build these facilities to keep their teams from relocating. The benefits are generally expressed in terms of jobs created, income raised, and tax revenues. But they overestimate the benefits and they underestimate the costs.

There's something called the local substitution effect. If you take your family

to a ball game and buy four tickets, a couple of Cokes, a couple of hot dogs, a ball cap, you might drop a couple hundred bucks. That's money that would have been spent by those folks on entertainment at another place in time in the city, so you're just moving that around. It is not new spending.

Thinking of the benefits in terms of income tax revenues is probably the wrong way to look at it. But there are some social benefits of having a team. They generate civic pride and all kinds of things that are associated with that. To the extent that local or state politicians think that's important, it might make sense to provide some subsidies.

By the 1990s, we'd evolved into what some sports economists call the private public partnership era, and that's more the norm now. It's a combination of public funding, funding by the team, and maybe funding by corporate sponsors in the form of naming rights.

Q: *We often think of professional athletes as high earners, but that wasn't always the case. What are some factors that impact their wages?*

Monopsony is a case where you have a single buyer of something. In pro sports, even with free agency, teams have some monopsony power. But the players with unions have monopoly power, so you get to explore the interplay between that.

Think of a factory town. A factory town can offer lower-than-competitive wages to workers in that factory because it's the only game in town. This explains why pro athletes, for years, weren't paid their market value.

Baseball, in the late 1800s, but continuing with the other three major leagues, adopted the "reserve clause," and this became a standard thing in player contracts in all major leagues. The reserve clause gave the team that signed the player initially the rights to that player forever. When the player's contract expired, their rights were still owned by the team, who had the right to just continue the contract and pick the salary.

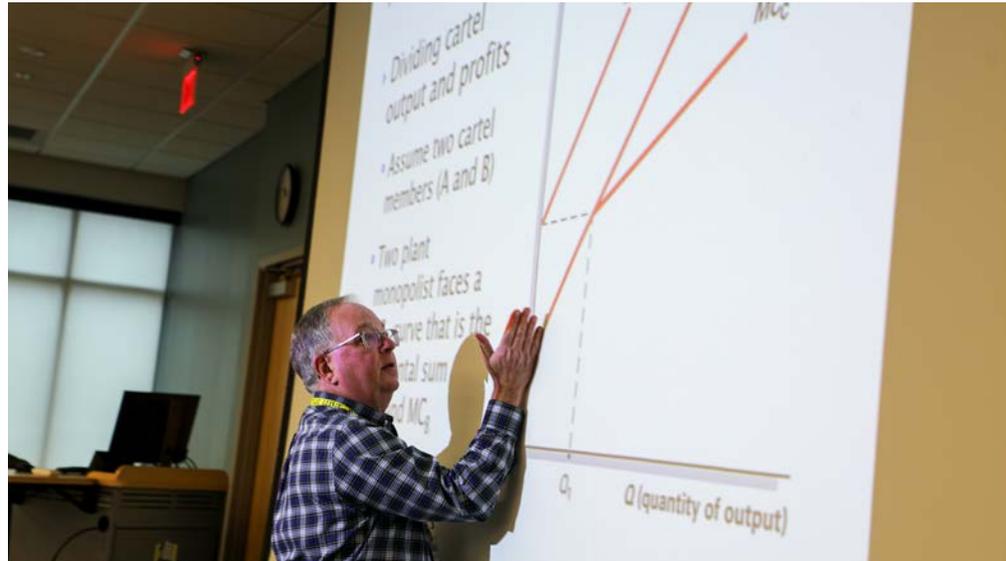
Q: *How has that dynamic changed over time?*

Eventually, with the advent of players unions, players were able to negotiate the end of the reserve clause. But for years players were underpaid. Even into the 70s, players had jobs in the offseason. I mean, imagine LeBron James selling insurance in the offseason! That's the kind of stuff they did. Jackie Robinson sold appliances in the offseason, and he was one of the highest paid players in MLB in the 50s. Johnny Unitas, one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time, installed flooring. That gives you a sense of how depressed the wages were, relative to market value.

Q: Sports leagues, especially in North America, typically have a kind of monopoly within their market, but there's a different way of operating. What is the difference between an open and closed sports league?

The sports leagues in North America are closed. You can't just decide "I'm going to get a team in the NFL." The only two ways you can get one is by buying an existing team, which is very difficult because it has to be approved by a super majority of owners, or the league has to expand, and you have to bid for it and get it. Many times when rival leagues have emerged, the existing league handles that by either buying them out or merging. And there's a long history of that.

For an open league, think of the English Premier League. At the end of the year, the bottom three teams are relegated to a lower league, and three teams are promoted. Theoretically, if you wanted to get a team in the Premier League, you could buy



a lower league team, invest in players and facilities and work your way up through the ranks. It might take time, but it happens.

I try to get students to understand there's a different way to do things, and it's very popular in most of the world. We're sort of unique. I think opening their eyes to that is always a fun thing.

Q: What else do you hope students take from your course?

I hope they see sports differently, and I hope I've opened their mind up to alternative ways of viewing things. But more importantly, I hope they can see how economics is applicable to so many things in our society. ●

Dr. James McLeskey Installed as Maria Wornom Rippe Professor in Engineering

In October, Dr. Jim McLeskey, the director of the College's Engineering program, was installed as the inaugural Maria Wornom Rippe Professor in Engineering.

McLeskey has stewarded the College's ABET-accredited engineering program since its early days, joining the Randolph-Macon faculty in the fall of 2015 as a Professor of Engineering. His prolific scholarship extends to a broad range of mechanical, industrial, and environmental engineering projects. His recent work has focused on solar, wind, and geothermal energy, desalinization, and power generation. In the last ten years, he has mentored more than 25 Randolph-Macon Schapiro Undergraduate Research Fellows and Engineering capstone students to produce their own original scholarship, as well as regularly publishing with undergraduate co-authors.

In 2022, McLeskey was awarded the United Methodist Church Exemplary Teaching Award for his consistent student-centered approach to his classroom teaching. In 2024, he successfully shepherded RMC's Engineering program to ABET accreditation.

"Engineers are expected to know science and then go beyond that and use the science to create new machines. It is not merely tinkering," McLeskey told the assembled guests at the installation



Maria Wornom Rippe, Dr. Jim McLeskey, and President Michael Hill

ceremony. "In many ways, engineering is an outstanding fit for the liberal arts because engineers must understand the needs of society in order to design the devices to improve that society."

Maria Wornom Rippe established the new professorship in engineering in 2025, and was present at the ceremony to witness Dr. McLeskey's installation. A generous benefactor of projects across the arts and sciences, she is a steadfast advocate for RMC's mission and aims to preserve its core identity while ensuring the College's continued relevance in the evolving landscape of higher education. Maria Wornom Rippe's father, Marchant Wornom, graduated as part of RMC's Class of 1933, and she is the niece of distinguished alumni Herman E. Wornom '23, John P. Wornom '27, and Paul H. Wornom '37, and cousin of Charles Wornom '64 and George Warthen '68. ●

SPOTLIGHTS

The Virginia Nurses Foundation (VNF) honored **Cindy Rubenstein**, the founding Director of Nursing at Randolph-Macon, with a Leadership Excellence Award at its annual VNF Gala this November. Rubenstein earned recognition in the Nursing School Dean/Director category, which honors nurse leaders serving in an educational administrative capacity who demonstrate advocacy, vision, and collaboration to improve patient care and the nursing workplace.



Lauren Bell



Erin McDonnell-Jones



Michael Fenster



Theodore Sheckels

Lauren Bell, The James L. Miller Professor of Political Science, has published a new book, *Transatlantic Majoritarianism: How Murder, Migration, and Modernity Transformed Nineteenth Century Legislatures* (Clemson University Press).

The Virginia Academic Library Consortium awarded a grant to **Erin McDonnell-Jones**, Associate Professor of Education, to create new open education resources for future teachers across Virginia. The goal of the program is to reduce costs for students while providing practical, up-to-date content on using technology in the classroom. "This grant will allow us to build what is essentially a multi-unit teaching course on educational technology," McDonnell-Jones explained. "It will be available as an open resource for any pre-service teachers or provisionally licensed teachers in Virginia."

Michael Fenster, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies, was elected to the Geological Society of America (GSA) Fellowship. Members are nominated in recognition of a sustained record of distinguished contributions to the geosciences and the GSA.

Theodore Sheckels, Professor Emeritus of English and Communication Studies, has published a new book, *Debate and Argumentation: The Basics* (Cognella).

Artist Jim Sanborn '69 is the man behind one of the world's most famous unsolved codes, a sculpture named "Kryptos" at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Va.



Kryptographer



Seven days a week, you can find artist Jim Sanborn '69 in a large structure next door to his home on the banks of the Potomac River. The building houses two studios, separated by a wall: one for him and one for his wife Jae Ko, a renowned artist herself. Sanborn has a tall frame—well over six feet—but fits naturally in the large space.

His studio is populated with both the tools to create and the products of a winding and prolific career as a sculptor: an industrial saw, statue replicas, metal crafted into geometric shapes. And at the far end of the studio, a cylinder with text carved into its metal and wrapped around its entire form. When a switch is flipped, light emanates from its center and casts the words onto the surrounding walls.

The engravings are reminiscent of Sanborn's most famous work, *Kryptos*, located in the courtyard of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)'s headquarters



A frame from "Petite Prix," a homemade video of Jim Sanborn '69 (standing) and his friends in a faux race around the roads of Ashland. Sanborn's blue Porsche 356 is to the right.

in Langley, Va. At the home of spymasters and codebreakers, its S-shaped copper sheet contains engravings of four encrypted messages. Since its unveiling in 1990, the puzzle has captivated people both in and outside of the agency seeking to decode its words. Today, three of its four panels have been decoded, but over three decades later, the solution to the final panel, "K4," remains a mystery.

The seeds of a 50-plus-year career as an artist were planted during Sanborn's time as a student at Randolph-Macon College. He came from Washington, D.C., where his father was the Director of Exhibitions at the Library of Congress, inspiring an interest in archaeology and ancient history.

At RMC, as the proud owner of a classic MG TD, then later a Porsche 356, he became friends with other car enthusiasts, often turning the parking lot of the motel dorms into a makeshift garage. Tinkering with tools and machinery laid the foundation for the metalworking of Sanborn's future career. "It was my training ground for learning how to build sculpture," he explained.



Kryptos is located in the courtyard of the Central Intelligence Agency's headquarters in Langley, Va.

During his years on campus, when he double-majored in Sociology and Art History, he attended a lecture by the Director of the American Art Museum. Upon shaking his hand afterwards, the speaker observed that Sanborn's height and big hands were perfect for sculpture.

Sanborn took the advice to heart and started carving wooden sculptures, including a tiki for the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house. As his young artistic career began to bloom, he spent time at Ashland's Cross Mill Gallery, an artist's space operated by Nancy and Jack Witt,

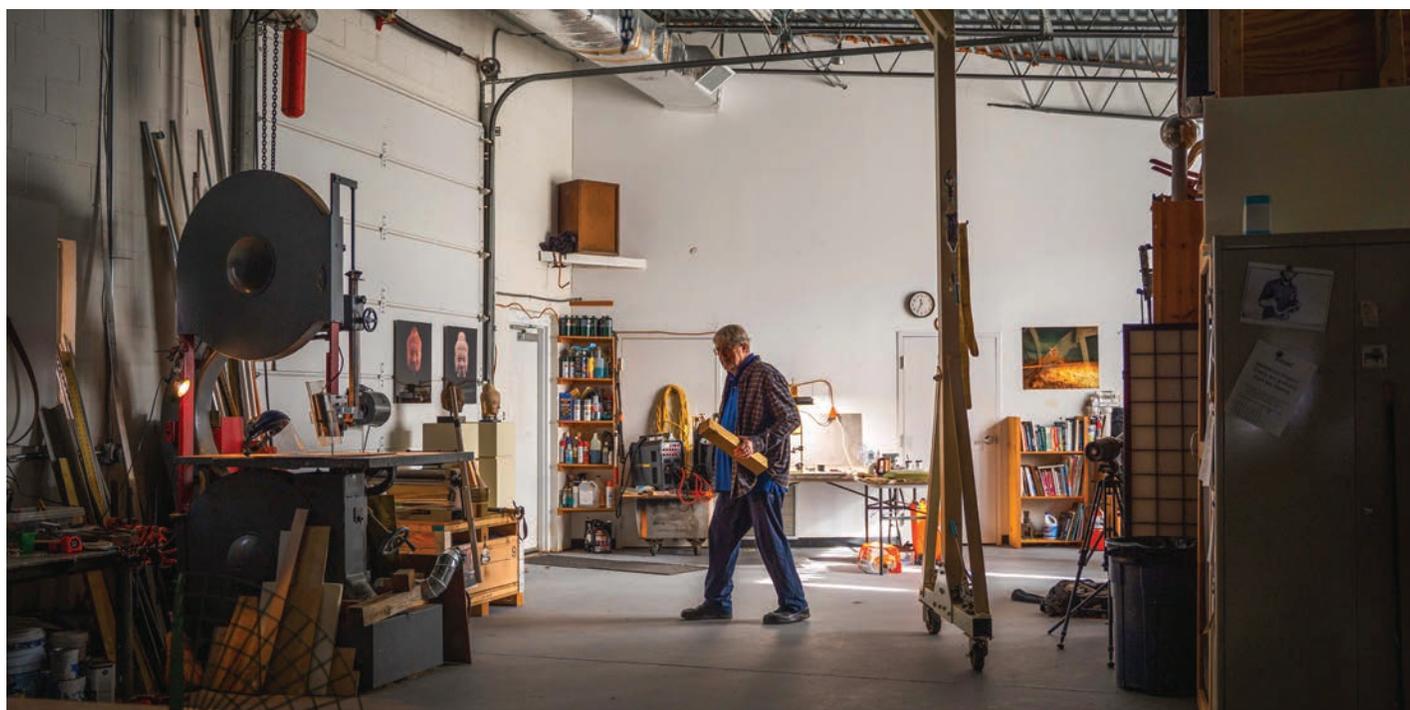
who also taught at the College. There, he saw proof that one could make a living out of art.

Creating *Kryptos*

After graduation, Sanborn spent time making art back at home in Alexandria, Va., then earned a Master of Fine Arts from the Pratt Institute in New York. He taught college art courses and served as the artist-in-residence at Glen Echo Park before earning the commission for a public art installation at CIA headquarters.

Sanborn's work had been exploring themes of the Earth's invisible forces; the commission was awarded to him to highlight the agency's invisible operations and the force of human intelligence. Presciently sensing that this assignment could be a career breakthrough, Sanborn dedicated over two years of work to make his vision come to life.

Inspired by a recent trip to Egypt, and his own love for archaeology, Sanborn wrote the prose for *Kryptos*' message himself. He worked with a retired CIA cryptographer to encode it, meeting in





secret locations and working with pencil and paper—nothing was discussed on the phone or put into a computer.

In 1988, the only way to cut letters out of a piece of copper was by hand or water jet, and Sanborn couldn't afford the expensive services of a water jet company. So, he cut out 2,000 letters with the use of drills, jigsaws, and human hands.

"It took two and a half years of cutting every day in my studio in northeast D.C.," Sanborn recalled. "Each letter had to be drawn on the copper, and you couldn't make any mistakes; you couldn't fix it if you messed up. It was really stressful. I went through nine assistants, 900 jigsaw blades, dozens of jigsaws, and a lot of noise."

Installing the piece inside the courtyard also proved challenging, "like building a ship in a bottle," Sanborn described. The encrypted copper was just one part of the whole installation, and dozens of tons of stone had to be moved through the building's doors on dollies and gantries, with

the help of assistants who all had to get security clearances to enter the CIA building.

Cracking the Code

When Sanborn took the commission, he consciously assumed the responsibility

that many in the CIA do: keeping a secret for his whole life. Even then, he expected the code to be broken in five years, ten years tops.

James Gillogly, a California computer scientist, solved K1, K2, and K3 in 1999. (Both the CIA and the National Security



Sanborn in his Maryland studio

Agency (NSA) later claimed they had solved the cypher years earlier but didn't publish the results to uphold the secret.) K4, however, has continued to elude both professional and amateur cryptographers. The sculpture has gained a cult following and earned references in popular culture, from TV shows to Dan Brown novels.

For a while, Sanborn's wife Jae would field phone calls from potential codebreakers with a simple set of questions that helped her know immediately if they had solved it or not. (They hadn't). After tiring of the phone constantly ringing, Jim set up a website to field the guesses, but with thousands of people around the world taking their shot, that too became unmanageable. Eventually, Sanborn started charging \$50 to review and reply to potential solutions, weeding out the entries to only the most serious codebreakers. Even that only whittled the steady stream down to around a dozen answers per week.

From Antiquity to Atom Bombs

While *Kryptos* is the work that Sanborn is most famous for, it's far from the only notable one. His art has been displayed in museums near and far, including the Corcoran Museum of Art, Atlanta's High Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn Museum, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and many more. Sanborn describes the financial life of a sculptor as "feast and famine," and credits his public art projects, which are also numerous (including a wave pool outside the Silver Spring, Md., office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), for helping to fund his passion projects.

"Most of what I've done is not very saleable," Sanborn said. "It requires a certain level of intelligence to understand what I'm up to."

Sanborn's works are as thought-provoking as they are wide-ranging. In the 90s, he worked on *Analog Projections*, using hand-built equipment to project light across massive stretches of the American West (imagine miles-long rock formations) and capturing the effects in stunning photographs.



His travels inspired *Atomic Time*, a recreation of the lab at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where the Manhattan Project created the first atomic bombs.

He spent years in southeast Asia following forgers to learn how to create ethical replicas of Cambodian statues.

Most recently, he's been playing around with Euclidean geometry, crafting three-dimensional sculptures of two-dimensional drawings, with their shadows completing the form.

Passing on a Secret

In August of 2025, Sanborn wrote an open letter to the community of *Kryptos* enthusiasts. It read, in part, "I decided several years ago that the best way to maintain the continuity of K4 stewardship after my passing is to have the plain text, the secret of K4, sold at auction to the highest bidder. This auction will in fact take place in November of this year, which will coincide with my 80th birthday and the 35th anniversary of my building *Kryptos*."

Just two months prior to the auction, scrambled plain text included in a parcel of documents donated to the Smithsonian

Archives was discovered by journalists. But the secret remained intact, and in November, the *Kryptos* files successfully sold at auction for just shy of one million dollars. The anonymous buyer has pledged to maintain stewardship of the K4 secret code, ensuring that *Kryptos'* legacy as the world's favorite unsolved code lives on.

Sanborn jokes that distaste for math led him down the path of art, a field in which he could still explore subjects that caught his interest without a proficiency in numbers or algorithms.

"I couldn't be a physicist, I couldn't be an astronomer, I couldn't necessarily even be an archaeologist, because it all involved some form of mathematics," Sanborn said. "I just sort of went around the system."

Whenever he worked on a project, he poured himself into research of that subject, often traveling the world to do so. Ultimately, his dedication and craft led him to reflect a version of those things he thought unattainable: a nuclear physicist, an archaeologist, and even one of the world's most famous cryptographers. ●

By 8 a.m., Madison Alderson '24PA is ready to jump into action.

Her day as a physician assistant at Chickahominy Family Physicians follows a steady, purposeful rhythm. She sees nine patients in the morning and nine more in the afternoon, with a small midday window—an hour and a half to two hours—for updating charts, following up with patients, and completing behind-the-scenes administrative work that keeps patient care moving forward. Typically, patients are booked in 10-minute blocks, though more comprehensive appointments may be required for things such as physicals or follow-up visits after a hospital discharge.

As a PA in a primary care practice, Alderson must be prepared to treat a wide range of conditions, from chronic high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes to acute illnesses like COVID-19, flu, and strep. She is also equipped to support patients managing mental health conditions like anxiety and depression. “Seeing patients for pretty much everything,” she says, is part of the job.

44% of Virginia neighborhoods lack sufficient access to primary care physicians, according to a recent study by researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University. The problem is most acute in rural communities. Addressing these gaps is central to the stated mission of the RMC PA program, says Professor Erich Grant, chair and PA program director. “As our graduates move into practice, we are hopeful that more and more will seek to bridge these gaps. This approach has been the foundation of the PA profession since the beginning.”

Every appointment for Alderson starts the same way: a knock, an introduction, and a conversation that helps create a space for honesty between patient and provider. For Alderson, taking a holistic approach to care is essential. A visit may be scheduled for a three-month follow-up, but if other concerns arise, she wants to address them. Though her days might be tightly scheduled, her priority remains providing high-quality care and building safe patient-provider relationships. It’s fast-paced, demanding work, but for Alderson, it’s exactly where she wants to be.

“I always had an interest in medicine because I got to see it as a patient very closely for many years,” Alderson said.

As a teenager, she underwent a series of knee surgeries, giving her an up-close look at the impact compassionate, competent clinicians can make. “[The way] my providers at that time handled me, and how they helped me work through those problems... it was pretty transformative,” Alderson said, noting that they not only helped her knee heal but also supported her as she grappled with the end of her dream of becoming a college soccer player.

Inspired by her experience as a patient, Alderson decided to pursue a medical career, starting at West Virginia University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology in 2020. Shortly after graduating, Alderson and her husband, Ben, and their golden retriever, Macy, moved to the greater Richmond area, where she took a job as a medical assistant for Dr. Patricia Burkwall, a

Hanover native who first made her aware of the burgeoning PA program at RMC.

After researching the program and visiting the College’s PA facilities inside Duke Hall, Alderson submitted an application, landed an interview, and received her long-awaited acceptance letter, beginning a two-year journey as a member of the inaugural class of PA graduate students at Randolph-Macon.

“It was so terrifying,” Alderson said of her first day as a PA graduate student. “It was a whole life shift again. You were going to have to make sacrifices to be able to get to that career,” she recalled thinking.

With the encouragement of her professors, Alderson gradually became more comfortable with her routine and increasingly confident in her abilities. As her confidence grew, so did her clarity about what she wanted from her career. While she initially landed a job in urgent care, the pull toward primary care practice proved undeniable.

“In family medicine, you really get to see a patient’s progress,” Alderson said. “In other specialties, you’re going to help the patients, and those specialties are all needed, but you’re not going to be able to see full circle moments and really

PRIMARY

be that patient’s source of comfort in the healthcare field,” she added. For Alderson, the opportunity to build long-term relationships and provide continuity of care ultimately led her to choose family medicine.

One year into practicing family medicine, Alderson says the past 12 months have been some of the most rewarding of her life. “I’ve come so far,” she said. “Just thinking back to entering the first day of PA school, and how little I knew, to being able to confidently diagnose and treat patients on the spot.”

This confidence, she says, is in large part thanks to Randolph-Macon’s emphasis on evidence-based, individualized patient care, an approach that trained her to rely on clinical data, trusted research, and established best practices when making treatment decisions.

“Looking back, I’m very happy with how they shaped me into being the physician assistant and the person I am,” she said.

Alderson hopes to have that same impact on future PAs. In fact, she recently helped establish a preceptor partnership between her practice and the College, with the first student set to begin a clinical rotation this spring. The goal, she says, is to create a safe space to educate, encourage, and mentor prospective physician assistants so they can feel fully prepared once they start practicing. ◆

PURPOSE

The Power of

THE FIVE



Across 50 years of history, Randolph-Macon Women's Basketball has excelled on the court and built unbreakable bonds and timeless memories.

The 1975-76 squad was the first RMC Women's Basketball team in school history, playing a provisional schedule in makeshift uniforms.

The 2024-2025 campaign was a record-breaking one for Randolph-Macon Women's Basketball—an impressive feat for a program with 50 years of history. On March 8, the Yellow Jackets defeated Elizabethtown inside Crenshaw Gymnasium to advance to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Division III Tournament. The game also marked RMC's 28th consecutive victory, extending a record for the longest win streak in school history.

Amid a program-record 28-game win streak, RMC Women's Basketball won the 2025 ODAC Championship.

In the afterglow of the big win, Head Coach Lindsey Burke-Eberhart noticed that Marisa Ziegler '25 and her family were overcome with emotion.

"They were all upset because they knew it was going to be their last time in Crenshaw as a family," Burke-Eberhart said, noting that Ziegler was part of a senior class that went undefeated at home during their senior year. "It's so



special in such a short time window of their lives, and it was their whole family that was invested in it."

The moment encapsulated what has made RMC Women's Basketball an exceptional program for half a century: a group of closely connected women making lifelong friendships and memories, in addition to success on the court.

Pioneering Beginnings

A successful program, one with 11 Old Dominion Athletic Conference championships and 13 NCAA Tournament appearances, was not made overnight. In fact, a women's athletic team of any kind at Randolph-Macon was only possible after the College enrolled its first class of female residential students in the fall of 1971, breaking from over a century as an exclusively men's college.



The 1976-77 squad was the first intercollegiate women's basketball team at RMC.

Allison McCabe O'Brien '77 and Nancy Simpkins Brashear '77 had become fast friends as some of the first women on campus, bonding over their experience playing high school basketball in Northern Virginia and Tennessee, respectively. Both women were student assistants in the Admissions office where they worked with Billy Wood '71. Wood had been a standout baseball player for RMC, and the girls knew he coached boys' high school basketball.

"We need to get a women's basketball program going here, what do you think it would take?" O'Brien posed to Wood in the office one day. Wood had played baseball under Head Coach Hugh Stephens, who also served as RMC's Athletic Director at the time.

Leaning on that relationship, Wood secured Stephens' blessing to start a women's basketball team, on the condition that they find enough players.

O'Brien and Brashear hit the pavement to recruit teammates, knocking on dorm room doors and eventually collecting around a dozen women to field the inaugural RMC Women's Basketball squad in 1975-76. They had a roster, but the path to being a competitive team was a longer one.

That first year, the team practiced late at night, only after the men's team was done in Crenshaw. They provided their own make-shift uniforms and drove themselves to road games. "I think I crammed eight girls into my Volkswagen," O'Brien said.

The 1975-76 schedule was provisional, with the Yellow Jackets playing club teams, high school teams, church teams—really anybody that agreed to play them! The game itself was



Allison McCabe O'Brien '77

different from the six-on-six variation that many of the girls had played in high school, where guards were prohibited from crossing half court or shooting the ball.

"Early on, someone at Randolph-Macon—someone who should have known better—told us that we couldn't expect girls to be serious enough to come to practice on a regular basis," recalled Jim Jump '76, who served as an assistant coach from 1976-78 and later joined the faculty in the Philosophy department. "The basketball players proved that wrong from the very beginning."



Cindy Crabill Szadokierski '81 was the program's first 1,000-point scorer.

In 1976-77, RMC Women's Basketball went from being a club team to an intercollegiate team. The idea was to play a junior varsity schedule, but no other college had a JV team, so RMC faced a slate of varsity opponents. Despite being a fledgling squad, RMC went 5-5. "We loved being the first women's team on this campus," O'Brien said. "We worked our tails off because we were bound and determined to prove everybody wrong and to prove to them that women had the right to have programs here, just like the men did."

Jenn Kohler Del Rossi '96 helped guide RMC to its first ODAC Championship in 1996.



EARLY PIONEERS

Before residential coeducation, RMC enrolled a small number of female non-residential "day students," often daughters of faculty and administrators. For a brief period in the 1930s, there were enough of these day students to field a women's basketball team that competed against local high schools.

A Transformational Leader

Much of the evolution from a rag-tag group of pioneering women to a nationally ranked squad came under the guidance of one legendary leader: Carroll LaHaye spent 38 seasons as the head coach of RMC Women's Basketball, amassing 647 wins across a decorated career.

Recruited by her friend Rachel Anderson, RMC's women's athletics coordinator, LaHaye served as an assistant coach for the Yellow Jackets for two years before assuming head coach responsibilities at the start of the 1982-83 season. As a sign of the times for women's athletics, she was also head coach for women's soccer and women's lacrosse.



Carroll LaHaye served as RMC's head coach for 38 years, winning a record 647 games and 10 ODAC Championships, in addition to forging lifelong bonds with her players.

The Yellow Jackets originally competed in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW), but as the landscape of women's athletics evolved in the early 80s, the NCAA took over governance of women's college basketball. To align with the school's men's teams in the NCAA, RMC Women's Basketball began competing in Division II in 1983, which meant offering scholarships and competing against teams who are mostly now Division I programs.

The growth of women's basketball at Randolph-Macon paralleled the growth of women's sports nationwide following the passing of Title IX in 1972, and the gradual progress in the years to follow.

"We did the best we could with the resources that we had and just kept plugging along, trying to get better and better," recalled LaHaye. "Not only as a team, but also with the resources and things that we could provide for our athletes."



At 30-2, the 2004-05 team still holds the best overall record in program history.



The Yellow Jackets played in front of raucous crowds inside Crenshaw Gymnasium during their run to the 2004-05 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship game.



RMC won the ODAC title in 2019-20, the final season of Head Coach Carroll LaHaye's career.



Megan Silva Schultz '06 earned National Player of the Year honors as a senior, capping off a decorated career.



Scan the QR code to watch a video commemorating 50 years of RMC Women's Basketball.

The team had modest success but also faced significant challenges. LaHaye drove the van to get the team to games, taking time away from normal coaching duties like game planning and evaluation. The team's home locker room still had urinals. On the road, locker rooms often didn't even exist, forcing the team to change in bathrooms.

The program turned a corner in 1990 when the College decided to have all its teams compete at the Division III level without athletic scholarships. LaHaye had spent the better part of a decade advocating for resources for her team alongside Anderson. Now, the athletic department committed to reinvesting the resources from the Division II level

into the women's basketball program at the DIII level.

The team took a charter bus to games, the soccer and lacrosse teams got their own head coaches, and LaHaye was able to hire an assistant coach for basketball. All these factors led to better recruiting and more competitive teams, kicking off an era where the Yellow Jackets were regular contenders in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

"You don't realize, in the long run, how worthwhile those struggles and fights are going to be in making history," LaHaye said.

Championship Pedigree

Randolph-Macon's first ODAC Championship came in 1995-96, led by a veteran roster with five seniors: Sandy Crispin Standley '96, Zandar Smith '96, Liz Crafton Forsberg '96, Katy Parrish '96, and Jenn Kohler Del Rossi '96, the 1996 ODAC Player of the Year. That group was augmented by the freshman twin duo of Allison Beightol McGuire '99 and Aimee Beightol Levy '99, the latter of which was the 1996 ODAC Rookie of the Year.

The Yellow Jackets entered the 1996 ODAC Tournament in Salem, Va., with a 23-1 overall record, the only blemish a home loss to six-time defending conference champion Roanoke College. But RMC got its revenge on the rival Maroons in the title game, winning 84-73 and booking the program's first trip to the NCAA Tournament. The Yellow Jackets hosted every game of their maiden NCAA tourney run, defeating Shenandoah and Millsaps en route to the Sweet 16, where they fell to Bethel.

"I think the 90s would be defined as the growth of the program," Del Rossi reflected. "And then they started to get bigger recruits and more talent, and the program has just taken off from there."

RMC earned at-large bids to the NCAA Tournament in 1998 and 1999 after winning the regular season ODAC title both years. In the early-to-mid 2000s, the Yellow Jackets returned to winning conference titles and reached a new zenith.

“Megan Silva [Schultz '06], Kristen Morgan [Klauder '07], Salem Shaffer [Will '07], they were all point guards in their high school,” LaHaye recalled. That point guard experience meant a team that was exceptional at ballhandling, and the depth meant the Yellow Jackets were difficult to defend.

After losing in the final of the 2004 ODAC Tournament, Schultz and her teammates went to watch the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament in Virginia Beach, where it would be held the following year as well. “We saw that environment and we saw the excitement around it, and very immediately knew, we don't just need to be ODAC champions. We want to go to that national championship,” Schultz said.

The 2004-05 team still holds the best overall record in program history at 30 wins and two losses. After a dominant regular season, the Yellow Jackets breezed through the ODAC tournament, defeating Bridgewater in the final 72-55. RMC earned the right to host its NCAA Tournament games through the Elite Eight, defeating Mary Washington, Trinity, and George Fox before raucous crowds in Crenshaw. “We felt the energy,” Schultz recalled.

In the Final Four, the Yellow Jackets won a hard-fought game against Scranton with five different players scoring in double figures. Ultimately, RMC fell to Millikin in the national championship game, but finishing as national runners-up was a massive accomplishment and still serves as a high-water mark for the program.

On top of playing on great collective teams, Schultz made her mark as an individual player. She earned ODAC Player of the Year honors three times and, as a senior in 2005-06, was named the National Player of the Year after a run to the Elite Eight.

Elite players and championship titles have continued to flow through Ashland in the following years. Molly Ariail '10 was also a three-time ODAC Player of the Year and helped guide RMC to ODAC titles in 2007 and 2009. Silva and Ariail were joined by Kelly Williams '20, a two-time ODAC Champion, as First Team All-Americans.

LaHaye retired after the 2019-20 season, another title-winning year, as the winningest coach in ODAC history, men's or women's. Lindsey Burke-Eberhart took over as just the fifth coach in RMC Women's Basketball history and continued the winning culture. The Yellow Jackets went 4-0 in a COVID-shortened 2020-21 season, and have won at least 17 games every year since, including the record-breaking win streak last season.

A Legacy of Love

When she was coaching RMC Women's Basketball, Carroll LaHaye regularly completed a task that most coaches would



Three coaches, Carroll LaHaye, Billy Wood '71, and Lindsey Burke-Eberhart, account for 47 of the first 50 seasons of RMC Women's Basketball.

happily delegate to a student manager or assistant coach: the laundry.

“I washed their practice uniforms every day, and I washed their game uniforms after

every game,” LaHaye said. “When I took their jersey out of the washer or the dryer, it was an opportunity for me to think about that person and what she meant to me, what she meant to the College, what she meant to our program.”

That level of love and care, between coaches and players, between teammates, and between students and their school, are foundational to the history and culture of RMC Women's Basketball.

“I think it's about competing at a really high level, but also the friendships off the court,” said Del Rossi. “It's about building a community that supports you and feeling the support from all the school, and I think it's about the leadership of the coaches.”

“Friendships certainly go way beyond the four years spent here,” Schultz added. Both she and Del Rossi, and so many more alumnae, regularly receive birthday cards from LaHaye, despite having graduated years ago.

Every year, the Back to the Hive event brings together alumnae from across generations of RMC Women's Basketball to celebrate the remarkable program of which they are all a part.

“I love the fact that we have Back to the Hive and so many women come back each year,” said Allison O'Brien, the pioneering Yellow Jacket and one of three players from that era to become Trustees of the College. “You watch them come back with their spouses and then their children and then their grandchildren, and it's just a big family.”

Because the foundation of the first 50 years of RMC Women's Basketball is so strong, the future of the next 50 years is bright.

“I feel like the future of women's basketball here is truly limitless,” said Burke-Eberhart, the two-time reigning ODAC Coach of the Year. “We've reached a lot of different pinnacles before, but I hope a national championship is next up on the docket.” 🟡

FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Yellow Jackets Win Fourth Consecutive ODAC Title



Daniel Eliasek '26

Randolph-Macon Football continued its dominance of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference, winning the conference championship for a fourth season in a row and a record 16th time in its history. The Yellow Jackets have won 33 straight games against ODAC competition, a streak dating back to 2021.

RMC finished the year with a 9-2 overall record and Top 25 rankings in both the AFCA (No. 21) and d3football.com (No. 22) polls. The Yellow Jackets also made their fourth straight NCAA Division III playoff appearance, falling in the second round to eventual semifinalist John Carroll. In a special Homecoming game that coincided with The Game, RMC defeated Hampden-Sydney for the 12th straight year.

Four rushing touchdowns from quarterback Dante Casciola '26 powered the Yellow Jackets to a 42-14 win over the Tigers.

RMC's defense was stellar throughout 2025, recording at least one interception in every game. The unit was led by linebacker Daniel Eliasek '26, who earned First Team All-American and ODAC Defensive Player of the Year honors.

Offensive lineman Myles Bridges '27 was also named a Third Team All-American by the Associated Press. Eliasek and Bridges were joined on the All-ODAC First Team by running back Mitchell Johnson '26, tight end Landon Farriss '26, defensive lineman Brady Kinloch '26, defensive back Kindin Richardson '26, and offensive lineman Chop Deaver '27. For leading an outstanding team, head coach Pedro Arruza was named ODAC Coach of the Year for the seventh time.



Seven-time ODAC Coach of the Year Pedro Arruza





Myles Bridges '27



Breea Dresler '27



Valentina Ambrogi-Torres '27

FIELD HOCKEY

Randolph-Macon Field Hockey compiled a 12-7 overall record, its most wins in a season since 2010, and reached the ODAC semifinals for the first time since 2013. The Yellow Jackets recorded a program-record nine shutouts, led by goalkeeper Valentina Ambrogi-Torres '27, who also earned ODAC Defensive Player of the Year honors. Ambrogi-Torres registered a career-best .876 save percentage and 155 total saves, the latter of which ranked 16th most in the nation.

Offensively, Breea Dresler '27 led the Yellow Jackets with eight goals on the season. RMC defeated Bridgewater 1-0 in the ODAC quarterfinals behind a shutout from Ambrogi-Torres and a goal from Cali Kujawa '27.



Damien Jackson '27



Grayson Woods '26

MEN'S SOCCER

Randolph-Macon Men's Soccer completed its eighth winning season in 10 years in 2025, compiling an 8-6-4 overall record. The Yellow Jackets fell in the ODAC quarterfinals to Washington & Lee 1-0 in a tightly contested match. RMC notched a signature win over Virginia Wesleyan, who was receiving votes in the top 25 poll, on Oct. 8. Midfielder Grayson Woods '26, RMC's leading scorer, bagged the lone goal of the match.



Ally Spangler '26



Abigail Pesut '26



Caitlin Smith '29 celebrates a point with her teammates.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Randolph-Macon Women's Volleyball faced nine opponents either ranked or receiving votes in the top 25 poll, compiling an overall record of 12-14. The Yellow Jackets made the ODAC quarterfinals, falling to Lynchburg. Mia Goode '29 was an all-around threat for RMC, leading the team with 226 total kills while adding 197 digs, 36 aces, and 17 blocks.



Mia Goode '29

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Randolph-Macon Women's Soccer ended the 2025 season with a 9-8-2 overall record and a 7-3 mark in ODAC play, the second straight year with seven conference wins. The Yellow Jackets made the ODAC quarterfinals, falling to Bridgewater on the road. Forward Ally Spangler '26 led RMC's attack with 12 goals and 11 assists, and ranked first in the ODAC with 35 points.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

A Simple Way to Make an Impact

There are many ways to ensure that your legacy endures. One of the simplest ways is to name the people and institutions you value—including Randolph-Macon College—as beneficiaries on assets such as retirement or investment accounts and life insurance policies. This thoughtful planning option allows you to support those closest to you while also investing in the future of RMC.

Q: Why do alumni and friends choose to include Randolph-Macon as a beneficiary?

Many alumni and friends include Randolph-Macon because of the lasting impact the College has had on their lives. For some, it is a way to express gratitude for a transformative education; for others, it reflects a desire to support future Yellow Jackets while continuing to prioritize family and loved ones.

Q: Which assets can be used to name Randolph-Macon as a beneficiary?

Randolph-Macon can be named as a beneficiary of retirement accounts (such as IRAs or 401(k)s), life insurance policies, donor-advised funds, and particular investment or bank accounts. These designations are made directly with the account provider and can be updated as circumstances change.

Q: Can I name Randolph-Macon as a beneficiary and still support family members?

Yes. Many donors choose to name Randolph-Macon as a beneficiary of a percentage of an asset, while designating a portion to children, grandchildren, or other loved ones. This flexibility allows your plans to reflect both personal commitments and your hopes for future Randolph-Macon students.

Q: Do I need to update my will to include Randolph-Macon as a beneficiary?

In most cases, no. Beneficiary designations are separate from a will and are often among the simplest ways to create a future gift. Because they can be revised at any time, they provide flexibility and peace of mind as circumstances evolve.

Q: How do beneficiary designations support Randolph-Macon students?

Gifts received through beneficiary designations often support scholarships, academic programs, or areas of greatest need. Alumni and friends frequently share that it is meaningful to know their support will help ensure that a Randolph-Macon education remains accessible and impactful for generations to come.

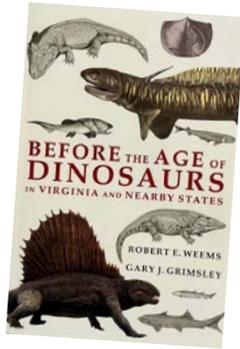
To learn more about supporting Randolph-Macon with a planned gift, contact:

Robert H. Patterson '94
Executive Director of Planned Giving
(804) 752-3605 | robertpatterson@rmc.edu

CLASS NOTES

'68 Dr. Franklin

E. Liebenow, Jr., English Professor Emeritus, Chicago State University, reports that **Dr. Robert E. Weems** has co-authored a much touted book, *Before the Age of Dinosaurs in Virginia and Nearby States* and has another, *The Age of Mammals in Virginia and Nearby States* due out next year.



National Park, and Chobe National Park. They also visited Cape Town, where they saw Nelson Mandela's prison cell on Robben Island and his home in Soweto.



Allen

'71

Eddie "WD" DuPriest had fun acting in *The Naked Gun* (2025) with Liam Neeson, Pamela Anderson, and Danny Huston, playing the role of "Evil Billionaire #1." A wonderful experience!



DuPriest



Classmates, family, and friends gathered on Nov. 20 to dedicate a bench located on the Frank E. Brown Plaza in memory of **Bob Engle**.

'76

Jim Hutchin has taken the next "stair step" down to full retirement, stepping back from some of his university and start-up engagements. With a house in Tasmania, he is trying to spend more time there meeting as many of the local wild trout as possible, and indulging in the exceptional Pinot Noirs.



'85 Members of the Class of 1985 turned out in large numbers to celebrate their 40th Reunion at Homecoming.

'81

David Allen went on a 16-day tour with three siblings and their spouses. They visited South Africa, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. Highlights were game drives at Hluhluwe Game Reserve, Kruger



'89 **Mark Tyler** celebrated Homecoming with fraternity brothers and family and our great win against H-SC.

'93 **Mary Kay Lambert Anderson** retired after 35 years of federal service with the U.S. Navy on March 30. She spent 41 years developing and supporting Navy combat and training systems. She and her husband are looking forward to traveling, spending time with their daughters Ashley and Taylor, and spoiling their two-year-old grandson Damien.

'95 **Jay Bateman** has been hired as the Defensive Coordinator for University of Kentucky Football.

'96 **Jennifer Smith Thompson** was named Teacher of the Year for Armstrong School for the Arts in Hampton, Va.



'97 **Julie Dreisch Saxenmeyer** and a group of friends from the classes of 1997 and 1998 gathered for a weekend in Newport, R.I. in July to jointly celebrate a milestone birthday. Pictured (above): **Jill Dreisch Tamberino '97, Rebekah Trimble Slocum '98, Wendy Lewis Lugo '98, Jaime Deafenbaugh Dunn '98, Regan Parady Curry '98, Cindy Boyle Weinberg '97, Eli Gehl '97, Lynne Gallitz**

Randolph '97, Susan Doyle Westberry '97, Jennifer Fitch Folsom '97, Ellen Nedrow Sullivan '97, Jeannette Pugh Mock '98, Wendy O'Donovan Phillips '98, Julie Dreisch Saxenmeyer '97, Amy Van Norman '97, Dina Abbamondi Ciccone '98, Ashleigh Granruth Killian '97, Jessie Howe Brairton '97, Heather McTavish Doucet '98.

'99 **Randall Schrock** was recalled to active duty and has been deployed to Taipei, Taiwan since June 2. As the senior U.S. Navy Intelligence Officer in Taiwan, he leads a team responsible for the evaluation and training of Taiwan Navy personnel.

'08 **Virginia Seatherton** is the Chair of the Board of Directors for a high school for at-risk youth, the culmination of 13 years of being a writing tutor and mentor, which started her sophomore year of college. She is on the young alumni board of her law school, Wake Forest University, and is both the academic and the wellness advisor for a chapter of her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta. She is also active in providing *pro bono* legal services to clients in North Carolina.



Seatherton

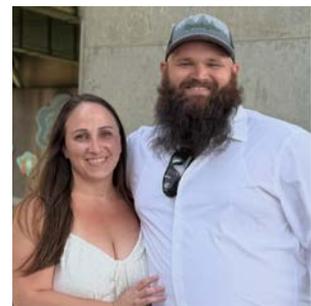


'09 **Rev. Dr. Anne West Kesner** recently earned her Doctor of Ministry degree in Integrative Chaplaincy and Mental Health from Vanderbilt University.

'10 **Ben Rowe** has been named Deputy Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry by Virginia Governor-Elect Abigail Spanberger.

'11 **Kevin Voelkel** was promoted from associate to partner in the environment, lands and resources practice at Bracewell LLP.

'13 **Lauren Wood House** and Daniel House tied the knot on May 2, 2025.



House



MACON CONNECTIONS IN ASIA

This July, Macon Connections went international with events in Tokyo, Japan and Seoul, South Korea. These gatherings were organized in concert with the Office of International Education, with Director Mayumi Nakamura in attendance. The Tokyo event, hosted by **Michael Meade '04**, brought together alumni, current students, friends of the College, and even a prospective student. The guests were also treated to an appearance from Ichiro Fujisaki, the former Japanese ambassador to the United States.

"I was honored to host a Macon Connections event at my home in Tokyo this past July. I was first introduced to Japan through Randolph-Macon, when I began taking Japanese language classes during the fall semester of my freshmen year, followed by a J-term trip to Japan that following January," Meade said. "I treasure my four years at Randolph-Macon, as well as my time in Japan, and so it gave me great joy to be able to help bring together alumni and friends to celebrate Randolph-Macon and its connection to Japan."

In Seoul, **Kristie Throckmorton '24** connected with both past and future exchange students, offering advice and support before their journeys to Ashland in the fall.



"I will never forget the look of relief on the girls' faces when we told them that they would be taken care of and treated like family at RMC," Throckmorton said. "I remember feeling all of the same things that they expressed when I was studying abroad in Korea. The students have just recently returned home to South Korea, and I'm looking forward to meeting up with them soon so we can share our experiences and create a long-lasting friendship that solidifies the bond between countries and the importance of building bridges."



'14 Lindsey Sharman and her wife, Lindsay, welcomed their second daughter, Callie, on July 23. Big sister Maclay is thrilled to have a new baby sister!

'15 Molly Friedel Weeks married Matthew Weeks on Friday June 13, 2025. Her matron of honor was her Alpha Phi Omega Brother **Jasmine Rogers '16**.



'16 George Austin Bain celebrated seven years with the United States Navy as an F/A-18 Weapons System Officer.

Brooke Atkinson Foley and Shane Foley welcomed their second baby on Oct. 2 named Kaulder Clyde Foley. Their daughter Lochlan Foley has fallen into the new role of big sister perfectly and they could not be any more thankful.

Christine Sellers Heppner and her husband William Lynch Heppner welcomed their first child, daughter Margaret "Maisie" Lynn Heppner on January 30, 2025.



Heppner

Rachel Jacobsen and Nick Powell '17 welcomed their daughter Virginia Isabelle in August 2025.

'17 Margaret Dodson-Cordrey was honored by Virginia Association of Fundraising Executives as the 2025 Rising Star, an award made annually to



Dodson-Cordrey

a fundraising professional who exhibits excellent potential and who has demonstrated remarkable talents at an early stage in their fundraising career. She was presented with this award in May 2025. Alumna **Dr. LaChelle Lewis '12** and former staff Alice Lynch and Josh Leidy joined her in the celebration.



'18 **Michael Bly** and **Saunders Riley Bly '19** were married May 31, 2025 in Richmond, Va. They met at RMC homecoming in 2016 and have been together since! Saunders' dad, **Ben Riley '88**, and Michael's sister, **Carly Bly '22**, were among the many fellow Yellow Jackets that came to celebrate the day.

'14

RMC ALUMNUS MENTORS STUDENTS ON PATHWAYS TO BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE CAREERS



When **Ahron Flowers '14** declared a Biology major at Randolph-Macon, he thought he'd go to medical school or become a physician assistant, a common pathway for his peers then and now. But Dr. Grace Lim-Fong, the Stephen H. Watts Professor of Physical Sciences, saw that he had a gift for research, and he quickly became a mainstay in her lab. "She really took me under her wing," Flowers recalled.

That opportunity to conduct undergraduate research fostered a passion in Flowers and has led to an already-blossoming career in biomedical science, as he now serves as the Director of Administration for Penn Medicine's Tara Miller Melanoma Center (TMMC).

When Flowers—a first-generation college student—was honored as a 10 Under 10 Award recipient in 2024,

he felt inspired to give back to RMC. Now, he's doing what Lim-Fong did for him: mentoring RMC students as they explore possible pathways for their careers in the field of biology through an internship with the TMMC.

Addison Browell '26 (daughter of Dean Browell '98) spent five weeks in Philadelphia as the first intern from RMC in summer 2024. In addition to shadowing a wide range of clinicians, Browell had weekly one-on-one meetings with a clinical oncologist to discuss research, sat in on tumor board meetings where multidisciplinary groups of clinicians develop treatment plans for challenging cases, and even observed operating room procedures. Ultimately, the experience helped solidify her future career plans.

"I shadowed so many people who have their Ph.D.—and it's not an M.D. Now, that's what I want to do, is get my Ph.D. in research," Browell, a Biology and Behavioral Neuroscience double major with minors in Psychology and Asian Studies, said.

Penn offers a stipend for students, while RMC covers housing costs in Philadelphia through the Jan Carter Medical Internship Endowed Fund. In the summer of 2025, the program expanded to eight weeks and two students: Kathleen Connor '27, a Biology and Chemistry double major and Ifeoma Edozie '28, a Biology major.

"We meet weekly with them, and to see them light up and say 'I learned something new, and I really enjoyed this part,' that is a good feeling for me," Flowers said.

Grace Klich was featured in *Ripley's Believe it or Not!* for her extensive Pokemon collection.



Katie Adams passed the National Certifying Exam (PANCE) on September 9, 2025. She will be starting her career as a General Surgery PA-C at the University of Connecticut HealthCenter in Farmington, Conn.



Adams



Daniel Noe married Cami Noe on May 30, 2025, pictured with RMC Men's Basketball teammates **Grayson Midulla '19** and **Luke Neeley '19**.



Carr

'22 Edye Carr is the head coach of the varsity girls soccer team at Harrells Christian Academy. The team broke two program records last season ('24-'25) with a 10-game win streak and by advancing to the third round of the state playoffs.

'19 Caroline Sedell Bowen and husband **Sam Bowen '17** welcomed baby girl **Mollie Grace** into the world on March 15, 2025.



Bowen

'23 Charles "Christopher" Kendall and **Katarina "Kat" Ballard Kendall** tied the knot on July 12, 2025, in Virginia Beach, Va. Kat is a first grade teacher at Kersey Creek Elementary School in Hanover County, and Christopher is a multimedia producer for PR firm Kelley + Co. in Richmond, which is run by **Jeff Kelley '04**. Their special day was truly a Yellow Jacket affair! The wedding party included: **Jordan Murphy '22; Hailey Anderson '23, Kaytlin Hawk Parrish '23, Trevor Hockman '23, Dewvaul Tracy IV '23, John Vogt '23, Courtlyn Dranoff '24, Mary Katherine Kendall '24, Carson Conner '25 and Hailey Brown Conner '25**. Many other Yellow Jacket alumni and friends were also in attendance, including: **Charles "C.B." King '64, Laura Young Ruxton '14, Nick Ruxton, Tori Bullis '23, Chloe Cooke '23, Austin Dugas '23, Lanie Hausler '23, Hailey Nurmi '23, Jess Rinehart '23, Alyssa Schreiber '23, and Jamie Meurer '24**. Christopher and Kat currently reside in Glen Allen, Virginia.



Caroline Wray Gilmore and Trip Gilmore welcomed their son, Jack Gilmore, on April 28, 2025.



Melany Slaughter's debut poetry collection, *Until the Cardinals Carry Me Home*, was published on September 26, 2025.

Carter Tyree married Ada Tessmer-Tyree on August 2, 2025 at Ashton Creek Vineyard in Chester, Va., surrounded by friends and family.

'21 Katie Adams graduated from Quinnipiac University with a Master's of Health Science in Physician Assistant Studies and passed the Physician Assistant



Kendall



Lauryn McMeans is teaching English in Japan for Interac, while **Ashton Will** and **Joseph Roark '25** are teaching for the Japanese embassy. The group met up in Osaka, Japan.

Olivia Weitzel, Abigail Alm, and Liz Brown got matching tattoos to symbolize their love for Randolph-Macon.



'25 Abby Dixon thanks the Edge Career Center, as she found a job with the Hanover Chamber of Commerce after graduation. In this job, she gets to work with the businesses and organizations in the Ashland community she grew close to when she was a student. 🟡

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.

PASSAGES

The Alumni Office is available to assist if you are looking for additional information about any of our alumni and friends listed below (*made known to Randolph-Macon between May 3, 2025–January 5, 2026*).

J. Whitson Crowell, Jr. '49, Richmond, Va., December 7, 2025.

Rev. Theodore Jackson Kitchen, Sr. '49, Madison, Va., May 15, 2025, father of **Theodore Jackson Kitchen, Jr. '81**.

James K. Meharg, Jr. '49, Richmond, Va., May 31, 2025, grandfather of Alyssa Meharg '27.

Carson H. Barnes, Jr. '52, New Point, Va., September 18, 2025.

Richard Theodore Burch '52, Radford, Va., July 17, 2025.

Ralph H. Powell '52, Reliance, Va., June 1, 2025.

Russell D. Evett '53, Norfolk, Va., October 23, 2025, uncle of **Edward "Ned" Dougherty Fitch '87**.

Rev. Herschel Jackson Lynch '53, Newport News, Va., July 29, 2025.

Wilton D. Moore, Jr. '53, Glen Allen, Va., December 16, 2025.

Lawrence W. Clavin '54, Scotch Plains, N.J., February 18, 2025.

James R. Darden, Jr. '54, Richmond, Va., June 26, 2025.

Seaton Elliott Smith, Jr. '55, Pensacola, Fla., August 9, 2025.

Rev. William Ernest Amon '56, Warsaw, Va., April 25, 2025.

Carole "Smokey" R. Crouch '56, Mechanicsville, Va., March 9, 2025.

Paul B. Sparrer '57, Newport News, Va., August 28, 2018.

Austin T. Darden, Jr. '58, Suffolk, Va., December 8, 2025, cousin of **Thomas H. Birdsong III '49***.

Gerald E. Fisher '58, Charlottesville, Va., December 1, 2025.

Walter Mitchell Forrester '58, Kilmarnock, Va., May 18, 2025.

Martin Goldstein '58, Greenbrae, Calif., August 27, 2025.

Hilbert H. Hayslett, Jr. '59, Milwaukee, Wis., August 8, 2025.

William Marshall Hughes '59, Crofton, Md., November 21, 2025.

Peter Boothe Pulman, Jr. '59, Chincoteague Island, Va., December 31, 2025.

Maynard Campbell Sandford '59, Newport News, Va., April 30, 2025, father of **Stephen Parker Sanford '82**, father-in-law of **Amy Witcover-Sandford '81**, and grandfather of **Corin Laverty Sandford '15**.

Aubrey Epes Robertson, Jr. '60, Montgomery, Ala., November 4, 2025.

*deceased

Dr. Reuben William Farley '61, Montross, Va., October 31, 2025.

Richard Emory Prince '61, Virginia Beach, Va., March 14, 2022.

Richard W. Mears '62, Flat Rock, N.C., October 11, 2025.

John E. Trueblood '62, Chambersburg, Pa., December 14, 2025.

Buford William Cyphers, Jr. '63, Newport News, Va., June 23, 2025.

Robert Stewart Hopewell '63, Norfolk, Va., December 10, 2024.

James Simpson Mathews '63, Norfolk, Va., November 18, 2025, father of **James Simpson Mathews, Jr. '96**, father-in-law of **Jenelle Sarojini Krishnamoorthy '94**, cousin of **Littleton "Skip" Waller Simpson, Jr. '75**, **John Childs Simpson III '73**, and **Henry Gray Simpson '52**.

Robert D. Pennington '63, Virginia Beach, Va., August 8, 2024.

Howard "Moe" O. Saunders '63, Portsmouth, Va., September 15, 2025.

Paul Cornelius Kincheloe, Jr. '64, Beaufort, S.C., June 28, 2025, father of **Sarah Kincheloe '93**.

Rev. Harry Bingham Spear, III '64, Chesapeake, Va., May 31, 2025, father of **Harry Bingham Spear, IV '92** and father-in-law of **Stacey Alpi Spear '92**.

George H. Bergdoll, Sr. '65, Concord, Va., August 6, 2025, great-uncle of **Jacob Selden '21**.

Neil L. Hoffman '66, Silver Spring, Md., June 30, 2025.

Dr. James Arnold Davis '67, Roanoke, Va., October 7, 2025.

William M. Sprinkle '67, Midlothian, Va., August 2, 2025.

Rev. Dr. Rollin "Chip" Medwin Steele, Jr. '67, Gates Mills, Ohio, April 26, 2025.

Frederick Chancellor Hamilton '68, Richmond, Va., October 12, 2025.

Donald Orr Hawkins, Jr. '68, Suffolk, Va., August 2, 2025.

George R. Johnson '68, Luray, Va., December 1, 2025.



Former RMC Trustee **Dr. James Arnold Davis '67** passed away on October 7, 2025. He graduated from Randolph-Macon with a Bachelor of Arts in History before earning a master's degree in History from Virginia Tech in 1969 and a Ph.D. in College Administration from Florida State University in 1972. Davis served as the President of Shenandoah University from 1982 through 2008, guiding the school through 26 years of major growth and transformation. In addition to shaping Shenandoah's identity, he led the National Association of United Methodist College Presidents and the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia. A proud Yellow Jacket, Davis served on RMC's Board of Trustees from 2008–2014. The College presented him with an honorary degree in 1990 and its Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2008. ●

James Summerfield Johnston '68, North Chesterfield, Va., December 25, 2025.

John "Ozzie" O. Townes '68, Steamboat Springs, Colo., March 31, 2024.

John "Jack" R. Gilliss, Jr. '69, Charles, Va., November 12, 2025.

Mont Meredith Phelps '69, Houston, Texas, November 2, 2025.

Clifford Douglas Green III '70, Amissville, Va., December 2, 2025.

Basil Kustodowicz '70, Deland, Fla., May 2, 2025.

Michael Douglas Rountrey '71, Richmond, Va., November 21, 2025.

George Norris Turman '73, Mechanicsville, Va., June 7, 2025, husband of **Lynne Underwood Turman '76**.

Rudolph Glen Morgan '74, North Chesterfield, Va., July 1, 2025.

Harry William Bodemann, Jr. '75, North Augusta, S.C., September 12, 2025.

Callom Bohannon Jones V '75, Kansas City, Mo., June 5, 2025.

Marsha Phelps Mathis '76, Midlothian, Va., December 10, 2025, granddaughter of **William Richard Phelps, Class of 1908***, daughter of **Moulton "Bill" D. Phelps '41***, and grandmother of **Rebecca Mathis Garber '04**.

James W. Payne '77, Arlington, Va., June 7, 2025.

Stanley Bernard Jones, Jr. '83, Richmond, Va., December 13, 2025.

Michael Scott Weller '83, Wise, Va., October 6, 2024.

Kimberly Gregoire Berry '87, Ashland, Va., September 6, 2025, wife of E. Raymond Berry, sister of **Cher Gregoire '96**, and mother of **Rachel Berry '12**.

Marc Edward Miller '89, Chesterfield, Va., September 13, 2025.

Wali Faulk '94, Franklin Va., May 24, 2025.

David Elliot Meyer '15, Arlington, Va., December 6, 2025, son of **David Lavon Meyer '74** and **Cynthia Collins Meyer '79**, and brother of **Louisa Kimble Meyer '12**.

George Cook Raynor '27, Charlottesville, Va., January 12, 2026, son of **Steven Leigh Raynor '82**.

Friends and Family

Carol Woodard Fisher, Charlottesville, Va., May 23, 2025, wife of **Gerald E. Fisher '58***.

Shirley Stevens Kyle, Williamsburg, Va., December 20, 2025, wife of **Rev. William R. Kyle, Jr. '63*** and mother of **Christopher S. Kyle '94**.

Barbi Lynne Marshall, Leesburg, Va., August 24, 2025, wife of **Thomas C. Marshall II '62**.

Kenneth O. McLennan, Glenview, Ill., March 24, 2025, father of **Laura McLennan Ashley '92**.

Gloria Elaine Morris, Montpelier, Va., November 16, 2025, former employee of the College. ●

*deceased

INSIDE

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A celebration of Barclay DuPriest, the queen of the campus store and Yellow Jacket pride

p. 21

Meet Jim Sanborn '69, the alum behind one of the world's most famous coded artworks

p. 28

The full story of a pioneering half-century of Randolph-Macon Women's Basketball

She has helped dozens of students when times got hard. Now, together, let's build a fund for students facing unexpected financial challenges that threaten their ability to complete their studies.



Be Like Barclay

Honor our beloved Barclay's retirement with your participation.