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Up and Away, but not too far . . .

Have you ever wondered what campus looks like in late afternoon from 100 feet in the air? Alumnae and students had the chance to experience that sensation during the kick-off activity of Alumnae Leadership Council this year.

From the grass field behind the Maier Museum, tethered hot air balloon rides made history at Randolph College—students called their friends on cell phones from the balloon basket. Many enthusiastic squeals were heard as photos were snapped.

Bylaw Amendments Passed at Annual Business Meeting

The Alumnae Association held their Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 19th and the alumnae voted in favor of the resolution to change the name of the Association and support amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and the Association Bylaws that revise the Association name and affirm our mission to support Randolph College.

Accepting a friendly amendment from Mary Brewer Guthrow '65 to add "Alumnae" to the revised name, the alumnae voted to support all the amendments as presented. The new name of the Association is **Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae and Randolph College Alumni Association**. The vote was 1973 in favor, 871 opposed. The percentage was 69.4% in favor, 30.6% opposed. A 66.7% favorable vote was required for the motion to carry.

The mission of the Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae and Randolph College Alumni Association is to cultivate an active association of members who are connected to each other, informed, and involved in supporting the life and work of Randolph College. In doing so, the Association shall seek to preserve the elements of Randolph College that derive from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, its tradition of academic excellence, and its motto *Vita Abundantior*, recognizing its historic commitment to the education of women and its influence on women. The Association will work to extend this tradition to all current and future students.

The official publication of the Association is the *Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae and Randolph College Alumni Bulletin*. We will begin using the new name on the Winter 2009 issue.

We look forward to sharing more news from the Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae and Randolph College Alumni Association.

“Students were at every event held this weekend except the Association meeting. I was very impressed with their desire to talk with alumnae, to tell us about themselves and their college goals. I asked lots of questions and found that they value the College for the same things that we did: small classes, relationships with professors, the beauty of the campus, the feeling of being valued. I appreciated the changes I saw, such as finding students having fun on campus on the weekend, and more emphasis on athletics.”

Page Shields '68

LIFE AT THE COLLEGE

In his College Update session, President Klein highlighted the major College initiatives, the state of the endowment, and reiterated the importance of alumnae involvement and giving back.

“As we all know well, the past few years have been difficult for the alumnae and our College. I am pleased that we are seeing a positive turnaround,” he began. “Last year was clearly more positive than the year before, and I fully expect this coming year to show even more progress and good news for Randolph College.”

What type of students are choosing Randolph?

President Klein remarked on the caliber of our students, offering several examples of student diversity and accomplishment.

The first-year students are experienced leaders—students who have received many academic awards including three who won National Merit commendations. One finished high school early and has just returned from six months working on a farm in Ireland. Another plays six musical instruments, served as the musical director for her class in competition, and performed in a production of *Antigone*. Another student with a long track record in student leadership chose to transfer to Randolph to pursue global studies and economics.

There is a first-year basketball player who was named Player of the Year in a very competitive conference, and he did so while achieving a nearly perfect grade point average. Another student-athlete was an All-American softball player who graduated at the top of her class.

He described another student who not only plays the viola, piano, and the organ, but also ice skates and plans to pursue a career in medicine.

Economic Conditions

Last year, the College, like every other institution of higher education, felt the impact financially from the worldwide economic situation. It directly affected our endowment, though it remains strong—in June it stood at \$123 million. It is expected to increase as the market slowly recovers. The economy also indirectly impacted our students and prospective students last year, and we saw a higher number of students than normal choosing to go to less expensive schools closer to their homes.

Enrollment and Retention

Increasing our enrollment is the priority on campus. While the number of new students this year is slightly higher than last year, our total enrollment is 500, 136 of those students are male. This number is too low, and much is being done to increase enrollment over the coming years. “Resources are extremely tight yet we recognize the need to invest to make our College more attractive to current and prospective students,” President Klein explained. “We also need you, our alumnae, to play an important role in this major recruitment effort, and one of the major ways you can help is to provide student referrals.”

Major College Initiatives

Initiatives have begun to not only increase enrollment, but to retain current students. An additional staff position, Director of Student Success, has been added to focus on student retention.

The College is being strategic about marketing and name recognition—and is making Web site improvements including search engine optimization and advertising on social networking sites.

A generous gift from **Mary Michels Scovanner '77** funded several improvements to campus spaces in the past year—permanent lights in the Dell, a facelift to the Smith Banquet Hall bar area, and upgrades to the second floor of the Student Center.

Our new field and track is open and is used for sports practices, for day and evening games, and for fun events like our first chariot race challenge between dorms.

Our sustainable living theme this year includes academic elements, guest speakers, and events for the students, alumnae, and the community. Read more about sustainable living at:
www.randolphcollege.edu/x16458.xml

SPOTLIGHT ON ACADEMICS

... excerpts from a report on academics given by Associate Dean of the College Paula Wallace at Alumnae Leadership Council



Two Alumnae Achievement Award recipients were recognized at a ceremony and dinner on Saturday, September 19, 2009

Mary Martin Davis Bowen '57
Meg Green Maguire '65

Learn more about the honored alumnae in the next *Bulletin* or online at www.randolphcollege.edu/alumnae

Student Accolades

- Representing Finland, our student-led Model United Nations team continued its winning streak in 2009 by garnering two major awards at the National Model UN's annual conference: Outstanding Position Papers, and honorable mention for Delegation Performance.
- Team Randolph made it to the semi-finals of the Ethics Bowl sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges.
- Nearly 30 students presented the results of their research, scholarship, and creative work to the faculty, staff, and community at large at the second annual Symposium of Artists and Scholars held in April.

Grants To The College

- The Mellon Foundation awarded a grant of \$50,000 to explore Experiential Learning. Over the coming year, faculty members across the curriculum, as well as colleagues from nearby institutions, will engage in discussions about the many models of experiential learning.
- Professor Peggy Schimmoeller in Education, Peter Sheldon in Physics, and Tatiana Toteva in Physics and Environmental Studies received a \$120,000 grant from the State Council of Higher Education. We will offer a summer science institute for 60 local elementary and middle school teachers on ways to use exploratory methods to attract more students to science at an early age.

Two Faculty Named to Endowed Chairs

- Professor Beth Schwartz, who has co-authored a book entitled *Optimizing Teaching and Learning: Practicing Pedagogical Research* is the Catherine E. and William E. Thoresen Chair in Social Science
- Professor Susan Stevens, who last year received a grant from the Mednick Foundation for her project, "A Christian Underground Burial Chamber in Ancient Leptiminus," that involved an excavation this past summer in Lamta, Tunisia, was named as the Catherine E. and William E. Thoresen Chair in Humanities.

Faculty Searches

A search has begun to fill four new faculty positions starting in the 2010-11 academic year: one each in Theatre, Communication Studies, Art, and Business.

More academic news can be found at web.randolphcollege.edu/newsevents
You may also subscribe to news feeds and alerts on any number of topics: college news, athletics, student scholarship, and faculty scholarship at web.randolphcollege.edu/rss/

The student panel [at Alumnae Leadership Council] was electrifying. Three females and one male student introduced themselves, told us about their experiences as students, and answered a myriad of questions. They were articulate, energetic, enthusiastic, and entertaining. They made it quite obvious that student life at Randolph College is awesome.

Martha Mills Dixon '60

Join us for Randolph Day November 14, 2009



Bring a prospective student to campus on November 14, 2009 and participate in a day of activities with your prospective student.

Register online at:

www.randolphcollege.edu/x11699.xml

Profile of the Class of 2013

“The first-year class is strong academically, with SAT scores between 1028 and 1238, and grade point averages between 3.2 and 3.7,” remarked John White, vice president for Enrollment and dean of Admissions. “The class of 2013 come from stronger secondary schools and from more independent schools than the recent past: 28% were in the top 10% of their class, 60% were in the top 25%, and 88% were in the top 50%.”

Our new students hail from 22 states, Puerto Rico, and 10 countries with Virginia representing 56% of the first-year class. The states with the most representation following Virginia include North Carolina, Maryland, Texas, and Pennsylvania.



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