

Traditions at Randolph College
Founded as Randolph-Macon Woman's College

The Honor Code: No tradition stands taller than the Honor Code, which requires students to abide by the highest standards of honesty and integrity. The system is so strong that the College grants Randolph students the privilege of scheduling their own non-proctored final exams.

Daisy Chain: Has been a colorful graduation event since the early 1900s. During Saturday of Commencement Weekend, sophomores carry the long daisy chain, which they make earlier in the day, across front campus on their shoulders to the steps of Martin, where they transfer the daisy chain from their shoulders to those of the seniors, their sister class. More recently, this tradition has been moved to the Friday of Commencement Weekend.

Engagement Tower: Located at the south end of Mary's Garden, this is a tradition as old as the structure itself. Legend says anyone who steps into the tower before she or he is engaged will never marry.

Even Day or Odd Day: Is one of the oldest traditions at the Randolph College. Students awake to find that the First-Year Class has decorated the campus in a theme the class has selected. The highlight of this annual spring event is the Odd-Even water balloon fight in Bell Quad.

Founders' Day: Is a day set aside in March to honor founder and first president William Waugh Smith. The celebration includes a late-afternoon ceremony on the front campus, a special Founders' Day dinner and displays about R-MWC history.

George Morgan Jones Monument: An early supporter of the College, the General Jones Monument is in front of Moore Hall. Years ago, students would walk below the monument on the walkway, while professors would walk behind the statue as a sign of prestige.

Holiday Dinners: Held the week before fall semester exams, with students donning winter finery and enjoying a scrumptious dinner. The evening concludes with a visit from the Clauses and everyone standing on their chairs to sing carols.

Mary's Garden: Is the small formal garden located between Moore Hall and Lipscomb Library and was planted in 1950 as a tribute to Mary Stokes '22. Any student who crosses the garden, rather than walk on its brick path, chances to prove rumors true that violator will not graduate from the College, will never marry, and will see Mary's ghost...

Poetry Tree: A spring tradition that can be recognized as soon as stepping foot on front campus, the Tree stands at the bottom of the West Curlies adorned with poetry written by students.

Pumpkin Parade: Once known as the Halloween Lantern Parade, this is one of the most favored traditions on campus. Halloween dinner was once a party, senior's attended in their robes, other students came in sheets, and Jack-O-Lanterns lit the darkened dining hall. In the early 1900's, seniors started the tradition of Pumpkin Parade when they seized the candle-lit pumpkins and paraded into the night. Today sophomores carve pumpkins and present them to

seniors. Dressed in their graduation robes, the seniors proceed across the front campus to the steps of Moore Hall, luminarias marking the location of the original Crush Path. The sophomores, dressed in white and holding candles, wait to serenade the seniors when they arrive on the steps of Moore. Today this tradition also includes a gift exchange between sister classes and sophomores decorating their senior's door (or door of the senior's choice).

Ring Week: A highly anticipated November tradition. Historically, several days before Ring Night, Conway Bell rings to honor the juniors and mark the start of Ring Week. During Ring Week, first-year students leave small presents for their juniors, and juniors carefully count the number of tolls of Conway each night. For when the bell rings exactly as many times as the year they will graduate, Ring Night begins. Highlights of Ring Night include a special Junior Dinner, scavenger hunts creatively designed for juniors by their first-years, and a Ring Reveal. Today this tradition also includes a gift exchange between sister classes and first-years decorating their junior's door (or door of the junior's choice).

Senior Dinner Dance: A highlight of the final year for many Randolph College students, better known as SDD. This weekend takes place in the spring semester and includes a casino night, candlelight dinner and formal dance, and a cookout in the Dell.

Senior Reception: Held in the first week of the spring semester, this event offers an opportunity for seniors and the faculty to celebrate "the beginning of the end."

Serenades: Occasions when sister classes serenade each other with class songs. There are serenades after Convocation and Founders' Day, and serenades are the heart of Pumpkin Parade and Daisy Chain.

Skeller Sings: Held several times each year as the Eta and Gamma spirit groups make the Student Center a battleground for the Odd-Even rivalry as they lead Odds and Evens in a lively exchange of class songs.

Stomps: A tradition carried on by the Eta and Gamma spirit groups. The first-year class traditionally begins Even Day or Odd Day with a rousing early-morning stomp.

Senior Regalia: Seniors attend certain formal events such as opening convocation and pumpkin parade wearing funny hats and black graduation robes which are personally decorated with buttons, patches, pockets, etc. Hats range from the simple and relevant to big and outrageous as students try to outdo their classmates. Randolph seniors receive their graduation robes the first day of classes in the fall of their senior year and immediately begin to personalize their regalia. Seniors wear their embellished regalia with pride for various processions, including Opening Convocation, Pumpkin Parade, Founders' Day, and Daisy Chain. In the residence halls, seniors have historically displayed their robes, buttons and hats on hooks outside their doors so that all passersby are aware of their senior status.

Buttons: Throughout a student's career at the College, buttons are collected to eventually display on senior robes. Buttons are produced to commemorate or promote various events, clubs, or programs and are handed out to participants. Every collection is unique and represents that student's personal journey.

The Greek Play: Founded in 1909, the biennial performance of a traditional Greek drama in the College's outdoor amphitheater is a much anticipated event. No other college in the country does this.

Class Banners: Every class at Randolph has an official banner which, as part of the Even/Odd class rivalry tradition, is colored according to class year – black for Evens (2018 and 2020), yellow for Odds (2019 and 2021). Displayed at various events throughout the year, banners are “retired” when the class graduates and put on permanent display in Main Hall.

Holiday on Main Street: To celebrate the last day of classes of the fall semester, the college administrative staff decorates their offices and invites everyone in for tasty treats, fun games and giveaways.

The Sunflower: The sunflower has been the cherished college flower for more than 100 years. In 1901, when R-MWC students dubbed their yearbook *Helianthus*, they did so because the sunflower “...is an emblem of what is good and noble; this flower rears itself in majesty and dignity, (and) reflects the sunshine, strength, and independence of our student body.” Today both the College and students still reflect that same goodness, strength, and independence.