From the President

We pride ourselves at Randolph on our small classes, caring faculty, and a campus-wide commitment to providing the very best liberal arts education. During their four years here, our students have the opportunity to explore different disciplines, discover new passions, and develop skills that will last them a lifetime.

The breadth of courses available to our students ensures they are able to graduate with a strong background in their major of choice, while also providing them with an array of experiences. While all of our disciplines feature interesting courses taught by excellent faculty, we have chosen for this issue of *Randolph* magazine to offer our readers a taste of what is happening in three popular academic areas.

**SCIENCE MATTERS**

Randolph’s science programs allow our students to hone their science and research skills while sharing this love with the broader community. For years, Randolph has placed a special emphasis on making science and science education accessible to people of all ages, whether that’s through our popular Science Day and Science Festival programming or our free Science Saturdays for high school students. Our students are a big part of that community outreach, and that leadership experience adds to their success after graduation.

**BE ECOCENTRIC**

At Randolph, we care about our world—both here inside the Red Brick Wall and beyond. Our aim is to teach our students how their individual efforts add up to big results for our world. Together, we are making a difference as a community. Not only has Randolph been named a Top 50 Green College, Randolph’s efforts have been recognized by several leading organizations, including the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Foundation.

**THE CREATIVE CAMPUS**

At Randolph, being creative is a given. After all, our tagline is Be an Original. Through our writing, dance, art, music, theatre, and other performing arts programs, our students have the chance to express themselves and their passions creatively and imaginatively. In the past few years, we’ve added several new partnerships and programs to help our students gain professional experience. For instance, our new internship program with the National Gallery, London offers students the chance to gain real work experience at an internationally acclaimed museum. And our newest partnership, with Endstation Theatre Company, will provide students with the chance to work alongside nationally known professionals in all aspects of theatre.

As a small, liberal arts institution, we are dedicated to helping our students find and develop their true selves. Coursework, internships, service opportunities, and leadership programs all help Randolph students define who they are and who they want to be. It is through this emphasis on the individual that we are able to support and challenge our students as they prepare to enter the next chapter in their lives. No matter where they end up, Randolph students can be assured they are prepared to live a life more abundant.

*Vita abundantior.*

Bradley W. Bateman
President
To be liberally educated is to be transformed. Schools like Randolph College offer students more than a degree in a specialized field. Liberal arts colleges provide students with the skill set they need to succeed today—and tomorrow.

Recent studies of employers across the nation have shown that the most desirable skills in a new graduate include the ability to communicate clearly, think critically, and work with people who are different than themselves. Not surprisingly, these are also the hallmarks of a liberal arts education.

The breadth of education Randolph offers provides students with exposure to a multitude of ideas and concepts—and the ability to critically examine each.

Our students learn to think for themselves, to value the opinions of others, and to care about the world they live in. They aren’t afraid to challenge themselves or try new things.

This issue of *Randolph* magazine examines three areas of excellence at the College: our science programs, focus on sustainability, and creative atmosphere. In these programs, like in the many other disciplines of the College, students are able to learn from nationally recognized faculty who are committed to teaching and providing experiences that inspire and ignite the passions of their students.

A Randolph education lays the foundation for a life more abundant. After all, there’s no better outcome than that.

It matters across disciplines, whether you are a classics major utilizing Randolph’s 3-D printer to create special masks, or an art major who is taking advantage of your biology courses to create a series of pencil drawings. But for those planning to enter the sciences, a liberal arts degree from Randolph means you are prepared for whatever career you choose—from technology to medicine to chemistry. Randolph students are often engaged in real, hands-on research, often co-publishing the results with their professors. In fact, 100 percent of physics and engineering majors complete at least one internship or research experience by the time they graduate. During the last 10 years, 98 percent of Randolph’s physics and engineering majors had secured employment or graduate school placement by the time they graduated. And Randolph ranks in the top 15 percent nationally in terms of percentage of students who go on to earn a Ph.D.

Whether a student is pursuing pre-medicine, biology, engineering, or any of a number of science-related fields, Randolph’s strong, liberal arts curriculum creates the perfect foundation for a career in the sciences.
For a few weeks this summer, a normally quiet corridor of Main Hall was overtaken by robots, Legos, and groups of excited, chattering children. Part of Randolph’s Tech Cats Coding Camp, the young students could be seen programming their robots on computers in a nearby lab before rushing out to the hallway to watch the creations tackle obstacles.

Sometimes, the robots completed the challenges flawlessly—to the cheers of the campers. When they didn’t, the students returned to the computers, determined to figure out the problem and succeed on the next try.

In just its second year, the Tech Cats Coding Camp is led by Katrin Schenk, a Randolph physics professor. Randolph partnered with the Future Focus Foundation to offer the program, which features two, one-week sessions for students in third through seventh grade and a week specifically geared for students in eighth grade through high school. The program is part of a larger effort at Randolph to make science more accessible and appealing to children in the community. Camps for both age groups are designed to offer students a unique summer camp experience that teaches computer coding and programming, as well as critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

“In today’s job market, computer
programming is one of the most lucrative skills you can have, for sure. It’s also very easy to get a job in that field,” Schenk said. “But besides those things, learning to code is kind of like a backdoor to learning math and critical thinking. Kids have to understand math in order to know how to make their games work, and when they make them in these camps they don’t even realize they’re doing a bunch of math and physics.”

Another part of the camp’s appeal to local families is its affordability and schedule. Nathan Bowden said the camp schedule accommodated parents who worked full-time while also providing his son, Zach, an enriching experience. “We found similar camps in cities like Alexandria and Atlanta, but were very pleased when we found the opportunity at Randolph,” said Bowden. “It was a significantly better value than anything else that was available, and it was the only opportunity available locally.”

Carla Fedeler’s daughter, Catherine, participated in the high school camp. “Catherine commented to me that she loved the laid-back atmosphere and the ability to explore and work at her own pace,” said Fedeler. “She worked on her projects for hours at home, and we all loved that she could connect with her brother, who is studying computer science at NC State.”

Schenk hopes to expand the camp program again next year to offer an overnight component for high school students that will allow teens from across the country to participate. “This summer, the high school camp was only about four hours a day, and that is just not enough time,” said Schenk. “But in the coming year, they’re going to be here about eight hours a day for the actual work and get to do extracurricular stuff after that. I feel like we’ll be able to accomplish a lot more in that bigger chunk of time.”

The lessons taught at the camp go far beyond simple computer basics, Schenk added. “Even if these students never become computer programmers, the skills they learn here are going to become more and more pervasive,” she said. “They’re going to be in jobs where they have to code, even if they’re not considered a computer programmer, and I think these skills should be introduced to them as early as possible.”
Legs dangling over the top of the open track, the riders cheered as the train made its way up the steep incline. The longest, floorless rollercoaster in the world at 4,210 feet, the Dominator at Kings Dominion is known for its 148-foot drops and g-forces of 3.8.

For the Randolph College first-years on board, the ride—with its steep hills, loops, and crazy corkscrews—was more than an opportunity for an extreme adrenaline rush. It was a chance to experience physics in action.

The students, all participants in Randolph’s Step Up to Physical Science and Engineering at Randolph (SUPER), traveled with their professor (and rollercoaster expert) Peter Sheldon in August to Kings Dominion in Doswell, Virginia, where they explored the park in groups, collecting data and analyzing the dynamics of numerous rides and exhibits.

It was just one of many trips made by students participating in Randolph’s two-week college transition program, which is their first introduction to the four-year SUPER program.

“The amusement park trip is part of the experiential component of the program that includes field trips to local companies and lab experiences,” said Sheldon, who also heads SUPER. “Kings Dominion is a location that allows us to let loose, but also allows us to really study the concepts that we are learning firsthand. Amusement parks are...
excellent exhibitions of the physics of motion, of forces, rotational motion, of energy conservation, and more in action.”

Randolph’s SUPER program, which provides scholarships to a select number of students, is a four-year program that provides academic services, tutoring, special mentoring opportunities, and career guidance support for students interested in science, math, engineering, and technology. The program is designed to help the students excel in demanding undergraduate courses while preparing them for graduate studies as well as careers as scientists and engineers. As part of SUPER, the college transition program brings students to campus before classes officially start to help them get a leg up on coursework while easing their transition to college. Participants earn three credits for completing the intensive program.

Other trips during the two-week program included a visit to the Institute for Highway Safety’s Vehicle Research Center in Ruckersville, Virginia, where the SUPER students watched live crash tests and saw how scientists use these crash tests to collect data that will later be used to make safer vehicles. They also spent time with professional researchers at the Center for Advanced Engineering and Research in Forest, Virginia, learning about science careers.

**SETTING THE PACE FOR COLLEGE LIFE**

S heldon began the SUPER program in 2010 as a way to better acclimate incoming students interested in math and science with what he describes as a “science boot camp.”

“Basically we try to instill good habits by preparing them for how hard they will have to work and really setting the pace for College life,” Sheldon said.

Thanks to a $600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2013, Randolph was able to expand SUPER to its current model, which includes four years of mentoring, academic services, and career advice.

Besides giving students the tools and resources they need to succeed, one of the additional objectives for SUPER is to help students bond and familiarize themselves with the campus before the rest of the first-year class arrives.
Students in the program love it because of the living-learning community and the camaraderie that forms while going through all this hard work together,” Sheldon said.

“The SUPER students who are the most successful as upperclassmen are those who are still in those groups as they progress. They support each other, study and work together, and often become best friends.”

The program has grown in popularity. The first year, just 10 students participated. This year, more than 50 applied.

“There are so many benefits to the program,” said Geoff Hicks ’17, who plans to major in engineering, “You learn about internship opportunities. You get a lot of extra help and support from the faculty, and it feels great being part of a community of like-minded individuals who can talk and joke about science and understand each other.”

Once students complete the college transition program, they progress to first-year seminars, mentorships, and enhanced study halls and tutoring sessions. Later in their SUPER experience, they create four-year career plans with the help of Randolph’s Career Development Center and are encouraged to complete internships and professional research projects.

During their four years at Randolph, SUPER students are provided with opportunities to shadow professionals in their related field. And beginning this year, first-year students are advised by older students in the program. Student mentors meet with their first-year protégés throughout the academic year for tutoring sessions, and sometimes just to talk about life and school in general.

“We get to know them and help them feel comfortable to come talk to us about their goals, classes, or any other questions they have about what it takes to be successful as a first-year student,” said Noelle Wojciechowski ’17, a student mentor and tutor.

For Danielle Stone ’17, serving as a mentor has been a chance to gain leadership experience while helping other students get the most out of their college career. For instance, with the help of the SUPER program, she was able to secure an internship at BWX Technologies, a Lynchburg-based business specializing in nuclear power. Stone believes her experiences and the professionals she has worked with have helped her determine a future career path.

“Without SUPER, I might not have heard about the internship opportunity at BWXT,” she said. “My experiences there really shaped
Bob Bailey, executive director of the Center for Advanced Engineering and Research, has served as a mentor for three SUPER students.

“I think the main value of a program like this is getting students out of the classroom and seeing the links between the content of the classroom and the real world,” Bailey said. “Our organization has an interest in growing and strengthening the scientific and engineering workforce for this region. I also have a personal interest in strengthening science education, so this is a great opportunity for us to help with that.”

SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

The SUPER experience has already translated into post-college success for its first alumni classes. Pujan Shrestha ’15 was recently hired as a software quality assurance analyst for Adecco staffing and is currently working as a contractor for Google.

“Being in SUPER and serving as a tutor helped me learn how to communicate effectively and with various people,” Shrestha said. “That affected my overall college experience, and it is helping now as well.”

Hart Gillespie ’15, who is currently a first-year graduate student at Penn State University, is another SUPER success story. “My physics and math background from the rigorous SUPER and Randolph programs has prepared me for my studies in meteorology well because I see much of the same material and notation here as I did at Randolph, but in the context of meteorology,” Gillespie said. “For instance, in one of my classes, we spent the first two weeks learning Einstein notation, which I had learned in Topics in Theoretical Physics, but most of my classmates weren’t familiar with it.”

Sheldon often hears similar success stories from his previous students who have entered the job market or graduate school.

“This is a project that means everything to me,” he said. “I’ve put thousands of hours into this, and these students are the closest thing I have to children. I love them, I love interacting with them, and I love seeing them be successful. It’s really gratifying to see the program flourish and continue to be successful.”
“I want to know that I helped make a difference in the world, and that I didn’t just sit by idly watching our resources dwindle away.”
- Jessy Spencer ’18
At Randolph, caring about the environment was a priority long before it became the popular thing to do. Beginning in the 1990s, the College joined a group of other higher education institutions in making an official commitment to environmental sustainability.

Today, Randolph is ranked 46th in the nation for Top Green Colleges by The Princeton Review. Sustainability is a way of life at Randolph. Students can learn and teach sustainable agricultural practices in the Organic Garden, make their own laundry detergent, and engage in campus-wide recycling efforts.

The Sustainability Council leads efforts to encourage the emphasis on sustainability in all aspects of campus, from the dining hall to technology. Renovations and improvements on campus keep energy efficiency at the forefront, and alumnae and alumni frequently return to campus to share how their educational experiences at Randolph have helped them succeed in the environmental science field.

Randolph’s community of students, faculty, and staff care about their environment. Here, sustainability is not a fad. It is a way of life. Be an Original. Be ECOcentric.
Eco-friendly renovation adds modern upgrades to historic building
When Cassie Joe-Louis ’16 moved back into Wright Hall this August, she couldn’t believe her eyes. As a first-year, she fell in love with the historic charm of the 107-year old residence hall and its hardwood floors, high ceilings, and large closets.

She wasn’t sure what to expect when she learned she would be living there again as a senior—after the building had undergone nearly a year of renovations.

“When I heard that it was being opened up again, I really wanted to come back,” Joe-Louis said. “It turned out I even got to live in the same room. I have a lot of good memories, but everything on the hall is also different in such a nice way now.”

**HISTORIC CHARM. MODERN CONVENIENCE.**

The extensive renovation of Wright Hall, which included a new HVAC system, the installation of an elevator and laundry facilities, and a complete update and enhancement of the interior was made possible thanks to the financial support of several alumnae, including Susan Braselton Fant ’84, an emerita trustee, and her husband, Lester “Ruff” Fant, who provided a generous lead gift; Betty Nichols Street ’66, also an emerita trustee, and her husband, who is a current trustee, David Street; and the late Bettie Barker Delaplaine ’52, and her husband, George.

The building’s beautiful hardwood floors were refinished, and the central, open staircase remembered by many alumnae as a favorite spot to sing songs to sister classes, remains. The rooms still feature high ceilings and large closets, but a modern touch is seen in other aspects of the design and furnishings.

“Wright Hall is fancy, but we can still feel the history of the building,” said Sandeep Poudyal ’16, head resident of Wright Hall. “I think improvements like these really impact student life at Randolph. These kind of renovations let us know that the College cares, and it makes us feel comfortable. And that comfort helps us thrive.”

The College designed the renovation to be environmentally friendly, and as such, has applied for
to the U.S. Green Building Council for LEED Silver Certification.

Joe-Louis and her roommate Riya Patel ’16, who were originally neighbors in Wright Hall as first-years, have come to appreciate the conveniences provided by the renovation. For instance, new laundry rooms were added to the first and fourth floors.

“During our first year, we had to go to another dorm to do laundry,” Joe-Louis said. “This year, we’re so glad that it’s right here on our floor, and we don’t have to go anywhere. Overall, it’s just so wonderful, and we’re glad we got to stay here again.”

First-time resident Morgan Osburn ’18 said the best part about the new and improved Wright Hall is the architectural design. Specifically, she appreciates the natural light the large windows provide for her room.

“They make the rooms feel huge and airy, especially when light reflects off of the hardwood floors,” she said. “I feel that the atmosphere created by these open walls and split halls makes the students feel more relaxed and at ease in Wright. There is an overwhelming sense of security created by the interior design of the building.”

**ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

Wright Hall is one of several buildings renovated recently by the College. The second phase of renovations to Cheatham Dining Hall was completed this summer. And last year, the College opened its Grosvenor Apartments after purchasing and renovating two buildings located just across Rivermont Avenue. Other major recent renovations have included the Student Center and Michels Plaza. Thanks to an anonymous gift from an alumna, the College also completed $2 million in infrastructure improvements during the past few months.

Randolph celebrated the completion of Wright Hall at a dedication in October.

“Before we closed it down for renovation, Wright Hall was already considered by many as the top place to live on campus,” President Bradley W. Bateman told the gathered group. “If it wasn’t before, it certainly will be now.”

The support of many generous alumnae has allowed the College to focus its attention on enhancing the campus experience for students, Bateman added. “It’s important in today’s world that we be able to offer attractive living spaces for students,” he said. “Wright Hall, for instance, is one of our central residence hall spaces. The students, alumnae, and alumni love it. Everyone has been really enthusiastic about the changes we were able to make.”

Poudyal has seen firsthand the impact recent renovations like Wright Hall have had on students. “Randolph has a beautiful campus,” he said. “I fell in love with it the first time I set foot on it, and I know that’s the case for many other students. With renovations like these, it’s safe to say that the campus is becoming more and more beautiful.”
"I think improvements like these really impact student life at Randolph. These kind of renovations let us know that the College cares."

- Sandeep Poudyal ’16, Wright Hall Head Resident
Being “green” at Randolph is all about making a series of seemingly small actions add up to big results. Whether it’s local food sourcing in the Dining Hall or at presidential events, an extensive push to recycle on campus, or the pursuit of sustainable renovation practices, the Randolph community is making a difference in the world—and being recognized nationally for its effort.

For students like Jessy Spencer ’18, helping Randolph become more sustainable is a big part of everyday life. When she’s not pulling weeds and planting vegetables in the College’s Organic Garden or volunteering at the Red Door Café organic coffee shop, she’s distributing bottles of laundry detergent she makes from natural ingredients or encouraging others to recycle.

“Sustainability is important to me because I want to be able to pass the Earth down to the next generation with a clean conscience,” Spencer said. “I want to know that I helped make a difference in the world, and that I didn’t just sit by idly watching our resources dwindle away. I think it should be important to everyone because we live here, this is our home. And just as you keep your own household clean, you should keep the Earth clean.”

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

The collected efforts of students, faculty, and staff have paid off with several high-profile awards and recognitions, including a ranking of 46th in the nation for Top Green Colleges for 2015 by the Princeton Review. The College was also one of just seven schools in the nation to earn a Gold Level Student Actions Award from Purposeful Networks this year. One of the reasons Randolph won the Gold Award was for its strong showing in an eight-week Recyclemania competition, which takes place annually among schools across the country.

More recently, the College was the only higher education institution in Virginia featured in the National Wildlife Federation’s recent publication, The Campus Wild: How College and University Green Landscapes Provide Havens for Wildlife and “Lands-On” Experiences for Students. The publication recognized Randolph’s Organic Garden and the experiences it
provides to students. In addition, the Sierra Club named Randolph one of its 2015 Cool Schools. Randolph was just one of two schools in Virginia to earn the honor for sustainability efforts.

At Randolph, sustainability is not limited to the great outdoors. Many professors have incorporated concepts of sustainability into the classroom. John Abell, the Carl Stern Chair of Economics, is having his students read environmentalist Bill McKibben's book, *Deep Economy*, which focuses on sustainability. In his Intermediate Macroeconomics course, he introduces students to ecological economics and the work of Herman Daly, author of *Beyond Growth*.

“I’ve come to know that it is not necessary to have some flagship building on campus that is certified as LEED Platinum or beyond, or to have installed solar panels on every building that sends this unmistakable message that ‘our campus is really green’ to, in fact, be a green campus,” Abell said. “A lot of the day-to-day actions add up, like recycling, turning off the lights, or getting students off campus to explore sustainability efforts in the community.”

**A LONG-TIME COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY**

The commitment to sustainability is not new at Randolph. In the early 1990s, then Randolph-Macon Woman's College President Linda Lorimer was among the first college presidents in the United States to sign the Talloires Declaration sponsored by University Leaders for a Sustainable Future. In 2006, Randolph was the first institution in Virginia to sign the American College and University President's Climate Commitment. And the Board of Trustees endorsed a long-term sustainability plan in 2010.

In recent years, a surge in student, faculty, and staff interest has led the College to make many enhancements to its efforts to be environmentally sustainable. Many faculty and staff, including College President Bradley W. Bateman, commute to campus via bike when possible. Students often take advantage of the on-campus bike share program; others volunteer with local organizations such as Lynchburg Grows, an urban farm focused on sustainable food production.
“Without the accepting and helpful community of Randolph, student initiatives would go nowhere.”

- Jessy Spencer ’18

Students learn about sustainability-related clubs and organizations at the Involvement Fair, which was held this fall.
Dining Services staff members often work with students to implement environmentally friendly practices, including the decision to eliminate trays, as well as a student-created program that utilizes reusable and ultimately recyclable to-go containers. And Bateman and his partner, Cyndi Lee, have made a commitment to feature locally grown food options at events at the President’s House, while also working to reduce and eliminate waste by recycling or composting most leftover items.

Sustainability is a long-time passion for Bateman, who has made it a priority for his administration. He said students benefit from seeing College staff and faculty making environmentally friendly choices.

“The majority of big schools have it, and some of them have accumulated millions of dollars that their students can use for sustainable projects,” Spencer said. “The point of it is to try and get things done on the campus sustainability plan, like getting water bottle fountain stations, solar panels, and permeable pavement. If students tell us they really care about these things, we can make them happen.”

According to Randolph’s Sustainability Coordinator Ludovic Lemaitre ’11, the funding could pay for projects like additional recycling bins around campus, prizes in energy-saving competitions between residence halls, or even a kayak share program.

“The hope is that each project will impact students directly,” he said. “I think we’ll see a lot of good come from this, and it’s not just about the money. It will give students the tools they need to make a difference through their involvement and give them a greater sense of ownership in the projects.”

Students are also planning to merge many of the existing environmentally focused student organizations under the umbrella of the Environmental Club. The hope is that a collective effort from student groups like the Organic Garden, the Red Door Café, and others will produce even greater results on campus.

“Without the accepting and helpful community of Randolph, student initiatives would go nowhere,” Spencer added. “It’s nice to know that people can learn from these ideas as well. And honestly, I feel like the student body has become much better at recycling and turning off lights just within the past year.”

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

Many students, like Spencer, are setting their own example. She recently spearheaded the implementation of a “green fee” to fund and encourage even more ways to help the environment. Student Government decided, beginning this fall, to set aside a portion of the fees it collects from students to fund student-proposed campus sustainability projects. To propose a project, students fill out formal applications that go to the Sustainability Council for review. From there, proposals go on to Student Government for final approval.
The average size of a typical new American house last year was 2,600 feet. Compare that to the 983-square-foot average in the 1950s.

Movie rooms, large kitchens, and other amenities have become part of the culture of the American housing market. However, a new movement that takes downsizing to the extreme has been gaining ground in recent years—and catching the interest of Randolph students.

Hagay Haut ’16 and Sara Woodward ’16 are taking a closer look at tiny houses—homes that range from 100-400 square feet—and hoping to share the benefits with the broader community.

“Tiny houses themselves require fewer resources to build, but they also discourage accumulation of material possessions,” Woodward said. “I am tired of seeing huge, cookie-cutter mansions spring up with so much space that people feel the need to fill with unnecessary stuff. I would love to see more communities of small, simple homes that utilize space and materials efficiently.”

The tiny house movement is credited as gaining momentum in 1997, when architect Sarah Susanka published *The Not So Big House*. The book details ideas for using space effectively and efficiently. More recently, this alternative housing practice has become popular thanks to television shows about tiny houses on networks like HGTV.

Tiny houses come in many shapes and sizes and can be stationary or mobile. The structures use innovative designs to make the most of available space, and many use solar, wind, or other renewable sources for energy.

After completing a semester project for an Energy and Society class, Haut and Woodward were so interested in tiny houses that they decided to expand their research. They worked with Karin Warren, the Herzog Family Chair of Environmental Studies, and Ludovic Lemaitre ’11, Randolph’s sustainability coordinator, on a Summer Research Project aimed at discovering what it would take to build a tiny house in Lynchburg. A local high school student, Spencer Cohen, also joined the summer team. The Randolph students created a design for a house that was less than 200 square feet. They then investigated different building methods and materials, finally deciding on natural building materials like cob—a hardened mixture of clay and straw—in place of traditional brick and cement.

A big part of their research involved figuring out what steps were needed to build a tiny house in the city. Though the concept and the construction process seemed simple enough, getting their plans approved to meet Lynchburg building codes
proved to be a challenge. For instance, the city’s code does not yet have specific guidelines for the straw bale method of construction, which means extra steps would have to be taken for documentation and approval.

“That was the biggest surprise for me,” said Haut. “I thought our work would be a lot more focused on the house itself. And we did get to focus on it quite a bit, but there were a lot of other steps involved that we didn’t expect.”

Lemaitre and other alumni were some of the project’s biggest supporters. Adam Eller ’13, an environmental specialist for the Department of Environmental Quality, helped Haut and Woodward take soil samples and create straw bale and cob.

The students hope their project allows them to educate the broader community about this alternative housing movement. In October, the duo presented their findings at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Conference in Minneapolis, and at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference for Undergraduate Scholarship, hosted by Randolph. Haut is also completing a special internship as a “tiny house developer” for the College this semester.

They are continuing their research and hoping to generate even more interest in the tiny houses among the student body and community.

“Oh, obviously I am attracted to the potential for simplicity with tiny houses, but I think their biggest advantage is financial,” Woodward said. “A tiny house would cost a fraction of the price of a larger home, both because it requires fewer resources to build and because it provides a better opportunity to use low-cost, local and natural materials.”

The group also hopes their work will help the City of Lynchburg learn more about the possibilities this type of architecture could offer the region.

“While this type of construction material and building size might not fit everyone’s lifestyle, it should be of help to citizens who are interested in tiny houses, and we might be able to help speed the process of building straw bale or other kinds of tiny houses in the city,” Lemaitre said.

Warren described the Summer Research project as one of the most collaborative and hands-on she has supervised. “I think this project exemplifies the things that we try to do really well at Randolph,” Warren said. “It provided unique research and outreach opportunities, and I love the fact that the community is excited about it. Plus, it was fun.”
“At Randolph, being creative is a given. After all, our tagline is Be an Original.”
- Bradley W. Bateman, President
There's no shortage of inspiration at Randolph College. Look around at the rolling green lawns of front campus, the rich, red brick of the historic Main Hall, or the unique, shaded Mabel K. Whiteside Greek Theatre in the Dell. Students are encouraged to develop their original self through creative endeavors, like dance, theatre, musical performance, creative writing, or art.

An emphasis is placed on providing students with outlets and venues for their creativity. Randolph’s partnership with the National Gallery, London is the only one of its kind among educational institutions in the United States, and offers Randolph students special internship opportunities in London. Students also have access to theatre professionals involved with Randolph’s theatre-in-residence, Endstation Theatre Company.

From the long-running Greek Play, the Maier Museum of Art, the Symposium of Artists and Scholars, and the many theatrical performances held each year to the Annual Dance Concert, Hail, Muse! Etc., and even the Poetry Tree, there are plenty of ways for students to share their art.

At Randolph, students, faculty, and staff are able to experience The Creative Campus—an environment that values and encourages the creative talents of the individuals who call it home.
When Elisabeth Price ’16 learned she was one of just two Randolph students selected for a unique internship at the National Gallery, London this summer, she was convinced the experience would cement her desire to work for a prestigious art museum.

After all, she’d known since she was a sophomore taking her first art history class that she was destined to work as a museum registrar.

But after spending eight weeks traveling and working closely with people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds, Price began to consider careers that might allow her to merge her newfound love of travel and culture with her passion for art.

“Being in London and working at the National Gallery helped me realize that although being a registrar would still be an amazing career opportunity, there are other things that I would like to explore regarding museum studies and art history,” Price said.

After talking with a friend who worked for the U.S. Department of State, Price decided to look at careers in cultural heritage and preservation for the government agency. “Working at the State Department would be a perfect mix of my interests of travel and art history,” she added.
Price’s experience with the internship is a perfect example of why Randolph professors and administrators encourage students to engage in these types of opportunities. In this case, Price and Seisha Scott ’16 were the first participants in the new internship (or work placement as it is called in London) program, which was established as part of Randolph’s unique academic partnership with the National Gallery, London. The first year of this competitive internship program was funded by Becky Jarvis ’65.

“This one-of-a-kind opportunity for our students is just another benefit of the unique partnership Randolph College holds with the National Gallery,” said Bradley W. Bateman, Randolph’s president. “This internship program not only provides our students with potentially life-changing work experience, it opens a new world to them.”

During their summer at the National Gallery, the two students split time working in various departments. Price primarily worked in the Registrar’s Department, but also spent time organizing exhibitions and creating digital archives of old files.

Like Price, Scott went into the internship with a clear career path in mind. Several previous internships locally had spurred an interest in event planning. The experience with the National Gallery, London gave Scott the opportunity to expand her knowledge to development and fundraising. Now, she plans to pursue a graduate degree in project management.

“It’s amazing to say that I was the first person to obtain and fulfill a profound and prestigious internship such as this,” Scott said. “This shows that Randolph College’s liberal arts education allows students to pursue any interests they desire. I’m a business major with an explorative interest in non-profit organizations. I wanted to challenge myself by diving into a field I’m not familiar with. I have an interest in graphic design and multimedia art, but I’ve never explored the traditional arts. This internship gave me a new appreciation for art as a business major.”

Both students felt compelled to make sure the National Gallery, London saw how seriously they took this opportunity. “It’s a huge institution, and so much important stuff was put on my back,” Price said. “At first I was really stressed out, but quickly I realized I could do it, and started being able to adapt to this new kind of situation, learning and changing my ways to fit into another culture. It also helped me become more willing to ask questions and let people help me, which is definitely one of my weaknesses.”

CULTURAL SHIFTS

Cultural differences between social and work life in London also offered the students the chance to gain a new perspective.

Price remembers trying to get used to how much tea her coworkers drank. “We had to learn to drink tea every morning. And every time I would take a cup of tea, the person who gave it to me would say, ‘Have a biscuit.’ So I would eat like five cookies a day and by the end of the day would be shaking from all the

(Left to right) Seisha Scott ’16 and Elisabeth Price ’16 were selected as the first recipients of Randolph’s new internship program at the National Gallery, London.
caffeine and sugar,” she remembered, laughing.

The trip was Scott’s first time traveling outside the United States. She plans to pursue a career in the non-profit sector, and said adapting to work in such an unfamiliar setting helped her become more versatile.

“Working with people from a different culture meant I had to be open-minded and listen well,” Scott said. “I think most people take those skills for granted, but I know they’ll be essential for whatever job I get in life. I know I want to travel more. I learned how to be organized, be independent, and use critical thinking skills while living on my own. I want to make a difference beyond the borders of the United States.”

REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE

For the most part, Price and Scott worked independently. Sir Nicholas Penny, who retired as director of the National Gallery, London in August, worked to initiate the partnership with Randolph in 2014, and oversaw museum operations during the students’ work placement.

“We didn’t think it would be terribly hard work supervising the students, but we thought that it would be us doing the work and helping them,” said Penny. “But in fact, they both did a lot for the Gallery. So we are benefiting and are pleased with that part of the partnership as well.”

Penny said Price and Scott’s extensive experience at the Gallery should help them in their respective careers after graduation, and he added that the Gallery is excited to welcome more students to the program next year. “The benefit for the students is quite big because if you’re interested in registrar work and in a relatively small place like Lynchburg, you’re going to have very limited opportunities to experience international loan procedures and transporting works of art internationally,” Penny said. “Elisabeth now has had that kind of experience and would be better qualified for a career in that kind of work. And in the development office, Seisha got some experience that I’m sure some people would be quite surprised to see on her credentials when applying for future jobs.”

ALUMNAE CONNECTIONS

Outside of work, Price and Scott immersed themselves in the European culture. They used their National Gallery, London passes to access other art museums across the United Kingdom and one weekend took a mini-vacation to Paris. Scott said one of the most memorable social occasions was when a group of College alumnae, members of the Board of Trustees, and Randolph’s president visited the National
Seisha Scott ‘16 works alongside Sir Nicholas Penny, former director of the National Gallery, London, during her internship this summer.

Gallery during a special trip to London.

“It was nice for the people at Randolph to actually see what we did on a daily basis and experience what we had felt on a daily basis at the National Gallery,” said Scott. “Going out of their way to visit made us feel like they really cared about us and it was much more than just an average internship.”

Carl Girelli, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College, believes the new program not only gives students the experience of a lifetime, but also strengthens Randolph’s curriculum.

“Whenever a student takes an internship, we want them to be thinking about how their coursework is contributing to their ability to perform well, and what coursework would’ve allowed them to get more out of the internship so that the experience can inform their curricular decisions,” Girelli said. “This internship gave Seisha and Elisabeth a very enriching experience. I think it added a lot that they were able to have a reunion with alumnae who were able to meet them at the National Gallery. It was quite an emotional and special event, and I’m happy the students were able to take part in it.”

Scott and Price say they will look back on their experiences with the National Gallery with pride. “This experience will be one of my greatest accomplishments,” Scott said. I’ve learned to live in a new culture, adapt to new work environments and strengthen my skills in my intended field. It gives me confidence that Randolph College has prepared me for the next chapter of my life.”
Students in Andrea Campbell’s Venice and the Renaissance art class got an unusual opportunity this year—a visit by one of the world’s most esteemed scholars of Renaissance era painting and sculpture.

Sir Nicholas Penny, former director of the National Gallery, London, gave a special lecture to her class during his trip to campus this fall.

“It was nothing short of thrilling to have Nicholas Penny in our classroom,” said Campbell, an art history professor. “Bringing in accomplished professionals like him not only broadens students’ knowledge of their discipline, but these visitors bring a different view of what it is like to practice in that field. This widens students’ understanding of what they can do with their major after they graduate and can guide them toward making plans for their careers.”

Penny’s visit was part of Randolph’s partnership with the National Gallery, London. The collaboration brings high-level staff members from the Gallery to Lynchburg and provides Randolph students with unique internship opportunities at the London museum.

“Sir Nicholas’s commitment to our students is quite extraordinary,” Campbell added. “The partnership he crafted with President Bateman prioritizes students and the learning that can be achieved by the agreement. To have someone of his stature take an interest in their education and careers should make our students feel that they matter and give them confidence that the choices they make are important and that they can achieve whatever goals they set for themselves.”

Penny is the second National Gallery, London staff member to visit Randolph. (Ashok Roy, director of collections, came to campus last year.) In addition to serving as director of the National Gallery, London from 2008 until his retirement this August, Penny has written a multitude of books, articles,
catalogs, and critical reviews, and previously served as the senior curator for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The Queen of England recognized his services to the arts this year by including him in her birthday honors list with the award of a knighthood.

In his highly anticipated public lecture at Randolph, “The Natural Arch and the Concealed Mask,” Penny pointed out the use of grottoes, marble patterns, natural arches, and the combination of various types and shades of rocks in various pieces of art.

During his time at Randolph, Penny met with students, faculty, and staff and spoke with two classes. He was also able to tour the campus, including Randolph’s art collection at the Maier Museum of Art, as well as the Lynchburg area.

“I’m very impressed by Randolph College’s focus on the arts,” he said. “It’s an unusual thing for a college to have its own museum. It’s also not common to find a college community with this level of interest in the arts.”

Penny said he was pleased to see the partnership providing benefit to both Randolph and the National Gallery. “This partnership has established a link between the College and the National Gallery, and it has been a great success.”

The Gallery has continued to show its support of Randolph in other ways. This fall, it is lending a number of classical paintings from its collection for the Maier exhibition, *Venetian Visions: Selections from the National Gallery in London*.

“This exhibition is a fabulous opportunity for our art history and other students to see some authentic Renaissance Era paintings on campus and for the museum to be able to show them to the public,” said Randolph President Bradley W. Bateman. “The most important thing about this partnership is that it makes clear that art remains at the center of what we do here. This partnership has allowed us to do some things that we’ve never been able to do before, so we have benefited in many ways.”
“The partnership allows us to really enhance the visibility of our theatre program and provide exposure for our students to really outstanding theatre.”
- Wesley R. Fugate, Vice President and Chief of Staff

Kelly Malone Dudley ’95 performs in Endstation Theatre’s production of Our Town.
A PERFECT FIT

Partnership with Endstation Theatre brings professional opportunities to Randolph students

Randolph students now have new opportunities to work with professional actors, designers, and stage crews from around the world, thanks to a new partnership between the College and Endstation Theatre Company.

Talks between the College and Endstation began in August 2014, and the partnership was publicly announced this summer. Under the agreement, Endstation will move its summer program to Randolph and serve as the College’s resident theatre company. The partnership also includes special apprenticeships, workshops, networking prospects, and other unique opportunities for students.

Endstation, which was founded in 2007, seeks to strengthen the Central Virginia region through theatrical exploration of its people, landscape, and history. The nonprofit theatre company produces shows ranging from outdoor Shakespeare to indoor musicals and offers a community-centered new works program, educational outreach, and a playwright’s initiative, among other programs.

“As our company has grown, we were looking to expand our audience base and move into Lynchburg, and Randolph seemed like the perfect fit,” said Katie Cassidy, Endstation managing director. “Randolph is an arts-focused school with a great sense of community, and the campus is beautiful. It all really fit into our mission of focusing on what’s great about Central Virginia—and Randolph is one of the things that’s great about Central Virginia.”

After helping initiate the partnership, Randolph Vice President and Chief of Staff Wesley R. Fugate was asked to serve on the Endstation Board of Directors. He has since been elected as president.

“The partnership allows us to really enhance the visibility of our theatre program and provide exposure for our students to really outstanding theatre,” said Fugate. “I’m thrilled that we get to be associated with such high quality artistry.”

Randolph students and the general public will get their first glimpse of the productions Endstation will bring to campus in February 2016, when Endstation will present The Whole Bunch. The play appeals primarily to young audiences and encourages healthy eating habits. It will also be performed at local elementary schools. During the summer, Endstation will also present Much Ado About Nothing in Randolph’s Michels Plaza and Hank Williams: Lost Highway in Thoresen Theatre.

“We’re excited about bringing the Lynchburg community onto our campus and allowing them to experience the beauty of Randolph along with the amazing theatre that Endstation will provide,” Fugate said. “We also hope that the audiences from Endstation will want to come back and see our students in their performances.”
JOHN ABELL  
Professor of Economics  

John Abell was recently named to the Carl Stern Chair of Economics.

BRAD BULLOCK  
Professor of Sociology  


AMY COHEN  
Professor of Classics  

Amy Cohen was recently named to the Catherine Ehrman Thoresen ’23 and William E. Thoresen Chair of Speech and Theatre.

WESLEY R. FUGATE  
Vice President and Chief of Staff  

Wesley Fugate and Ludovic Lemaitre ’11 were featured in Lynchburg Business magazine’s first Top 20 under 40 list, which premiered in the October/November issue of the publication.

DENNIS GOFF  
The Charles A. Dana Professor of Psychology  

Dennis Goff presented a paper, “Pitch of Voice and Type of Pick-up Line Both Affect Desirability,” at The Association for Psychological Science meeting in New York in May.

HEIDI KUNZ  
Professor of English and Assistant Dean of the College  

Heidi Kunz was invited to speak at the 2015 American Literature Association conference in May. She presented the paper, “Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Harding, and Mr. Coolidge.”

KEN PARKS  
Associate Professor of Theatre  

In August, Ken Parks participated in the 20th Annual Theatre of the Oppressed Facilitator Training at the Mandala Center for Change in Port Townsend, WA.

ELIZABETH PERRY-SIZEMORE ’97  
Professor of Economics  

Elizabeth Perry-Sizemore ’97 has been recently named to the Catherine Ehrman Thoresen ’23 and William E. Thoresen Chair of Economics.

JAYMES ANNE ROHRER  
Associate Professor of Romance Languages  

In June, Jaymes Rohrer chaired a panel on Identité nationale, héritages et politique for the Université Paris-Diderot Seminar on Cultural Production in the Nineteenth Century in Paris, France.

THANK YOU FOR COMING HOME!

Randolph Homecoming 2015
Last spring, Gerry Sherayko presented the paper, “Mass Marketed Addiction Weimar Style: The Promotion of Cigarettes to Men and Women in Post-World War I Germany,” at the Popular Culture Association/American Cultural Association conference in New Orleans, LA.

During the summer, he was a fellow at the 20th Annual Holocaust Education Foundation Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization at Northwestern University. In addition, he presented the paper, “The Key to the Prosperity of the World: The Role of Advertising Congresses in Weimar Germany,” at the German Studies Association conference in October in Washington, D.C.

Gordon Steffey has been named to the Lemon Chair in Religion and Philosophy.

Steffey also recently received the Virginia Foundation for Independent College’s H. Hiter Harris, Jr. Memorial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Kenneth St. Charles was recently appointed vice president for institutional advancement. St. Charles brings more than 21 years of development and communication experience to Randolph. His most recent position was at Xavier University, where he has served since 2005.
Rally for Randolph College on DECEMBER 1

#GIVINGTUESDAY
#RANDOLPHCOLLEGE

www.randolphcollege.edu/givingtuesday