



Richard Bland College

of WILLIAM & MARY

REPORT OF THE RBC STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE April 2024

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RBC Committee | W&M Board of Visitors, RBC Student Representative

Introduction

I wanted to start by thanking the Board of Visitors for this opportunity to represent Richard Bland College as the 2023-2024 Student Representative. It has been a pleasure to learn about the workings of the William & Mary Board of Visitors, and I am grateful for this opportunity to have grown as a student and as a leader. Although I have not yet received an acceptance letter, I have completed all the requirements for guaranteed admission and look forward to attending the College of William & Mary in the fall.

Spring Semester on Campus

As the end of the spring semester approaches, students' spirits are rising, and the stress of finals is looming on the horizon. The RBC tutoring center has had increased activity in the last few months, indicating students' desire to finish strong in their science and math classes.

As RBC Founders Week approaches, students and faculty are looking forward to events such as Music in the Grove and Spring Fling. Spring Fling is being sponsored by the Office of Residence Life and has a carnival theme. There will be games and food trucks set up behind the library. There will also be a friendly flag football game. This event was intentionally planned to be held on a Monday to maximize participation by both commuters and residential students.

On April 8, Michael Mason, RBC's Student Assembly Secretary, coordinated the safe viewing of the solar eclipse behind RBC's library. Dr. David Morgan, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, allowed students, faculty, and staff to safely view the partial eclipse through a telescope containing highly polarized lenses.

Student Successes

On April 18, high-achieving RBC students will be honored at a special ceremony held on campus. Students will be inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and academic award winners and scholarship recipients will be recognized.

Recently, two RBC students, Michael Mason and Melia Grady, were selected for a Pre-Pharmacy Student Training Program through the Howard University Center of Excellence. Michael Mason and I were also selected as semi-finalists for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which would fund up to \$55,000 per year for up to three years of our remaining undergraduate education.

Residence Life

The Office of Residence Life recently completed its selection of Residential Assistants for next year. One of RBC's Residence Life Coordinators accepted a position at Johns Hopkins University, so a new Residence Life Coordinator has been hired to fill his position.

Events and Excursions

Dr. Eric Miller, Associate Professor of Biology, led the alternative spring break trip to Savannah, Georgia for experiential learning and hands-on biology. Honors and Promise Scholar students took the train to New York City for four days of cultural enrichment and urban exploration.

Transfer Scholars Network (TSN) students visited MIT and Johns Hopkins in February. TSN connects RBC students with top admissions professionals at many of the country's most selective colleges and universities.

Aspiring engineering and computer science students attended the Engineering Open House at the University of Virginia, and a group of psychology and business students attended an event at Virginia Wesleyan University in early April.

RBC Clubs

The RBC Esports Club is a new venture that will soon become a competitive sport. Housed in the new Academic Innovation Center, the Esports facility will have state of the art equipment in a specially designed arena. The esports program aligns with the growing popularity of competitive gaming and will give RBC students an additional opportunity to compete against other colleges.

The Agriculture Club, led by SGA's Public Relations Officer Zack Brooks, recently set up growing boxes around McNeer Hall. They are also planning to acquire greenhouses to plant crops year-round.

The History Club traveled to Colonial Williamsburg. RBC history professors Dr. Daniel Franke and Dr. David McCarthy arranged for Dr. Benjamin Anderson of the Maggie Walker National Historic Site to deliver a history lecture. Dr. Anderson held a second lecture on the RBC campus. Students enjoyed attending and participating in both events.

The History Club has held two events since the last BOV meeting, one on February 18 and one on April 6. On February 18 the club took a tour of the Siege of Petersburg, studying Union and Confederate operations from the Battle of the Weldon Railroad. Students also visited various

sites, including Fort Fisher, White Oak Road, Five Forks, and Fort Gregg. On April 6, the History Club visited Colonial Williamsburg, studying the recreation of Revolutionary War-era Virginia.

RBC Student Assembly

Student Assembly Elections will be held in April. An interest form was recently released, and final decisions will be announced by the end of April. Furthermore, on April 9 the Commuter Representative organized a successful commuter engagement event in the parking lot. Treats and fliers were distributed to commuters to spread awareness of upcoming elections and inform about Student Assembly happenings across campus.

The Student Assembly Public Relations Officer is planning a “Green and White Ball” for the end of the semester. Its theme is "Enchanted," with other details still to be decided.

Athletics

Men’s Baseball is 14-14 overall.

Men’s Basketball ended their season in March with 13-18 overall.

Women’s Basketball also ended their season in March with 16-10 overall.

Women’s Softball is 7-13 overall.