

September 21-23, 2022

Page 1 of 2



Richard Bland College
of WILLIAM & MARY

REPORT OF THE RBC FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE
September 2022

Dr. David S. McCarthy

W&M Board of Visitors, RBC Faculty Representative

*“Learning is a daily experience and a lifetime mission. I truly believe in the saying
‘We work to become, not to acquire.’”*—Bill Russell

Inclusive Excellence Update

Since the Racial Justice & Equity Task Force at Richard Bland College submitted their 179-page final report on July 30, 2021, the campus community has embraced the report’s conclusion that there is a “need for specific and targeted student support not only in academics, but also in terms of their social needs, as indicative of five years of data of incident reports filed on campus” (p. 128). Faculty and staff now receive monthly training sessions on the iPondr@work Learning and Development Platform. Ms. Lashrecse Aird, Chief of Staff to President Sydow, has been named the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and the faculty look forward to supporting her efforts to implement the Task Force’s recommendations.

Faculty Development Week (August 22-26)

Dr. Tiffany Birdsong, the Chief Academic Officer, and the academic department chairs greeted new faculty on the morning of August 22 and provided a comprehensive orientation. After this event, Dr. Birdsong and the chairs held their first workgroup of the academic year.

The following day, Dr. John Eigenauer, Professor of Philosophy at Taft College in California, led a two-hour workshop on critical thinking, introducing the concept of argument mapping. Dr. Eigenauer is an expert on critical thinking, and he recently published an article in the *International Journal of Education Reform*. Faculty and staff gathered in the Ernst Auditorium at 2:00PM for President Sydow’s State of the College Address.

Shortly after the department meetings on Wednesday morning, Dr. Ritamarie Hensley of Simmons University presented an engaging workshop on Instructional Design. Dr. Hensley highlighted the importance of community building, accessibility, and linking assignments to

September 21-23, 2022

Page 2 of 2

course objectives. The faculty also received updates from Academic Success, and the day concluded with a Campus Safety Forum.

On Thursday, Dr. Eigenauer offered a second critical thinking workshop. Dr. Dan Franke and Dr. Jena Zarling facilitated an important discussion on the challenges that faculty confront during the ongoing pandemic, and faculty committees held their first meetings.

New Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Damien Westfield, the Head Men's Soccer Coach at Richard Bland College since 2018, is now Associate Professor of Communication and Leadership Studies. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska in 2010, and he has published articles in the *International Journal of Sport Studies*. As Dr. Westfield explains, his scholarship "examines leadership and communication in professional sporting organizations." This semester he will be teaching two sections of Public Speaking and three sections of Communications 102.

Dr. Tamara M. B. Williams, Associate Professor of Psychology, joins the faculty after fourteen years at Hampton University where she was the Director of Liberal Studies. Dr. Williams received her Master's and Psy.D. from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She has published *The Science of Psychology: An Introduction* (2017), and she specializes in "working with children, families, alternative education, day treatment programs, community mental health, special education and incarcerated felons." Dr. Williams also co-hosts "Sunday Brunch" on WHOV 88.1; she is currently offering Psychology 201 (three sections) and Psychology 202.

Faculty Accolades

Congratulations to Dr. Thom Addington, the newly appointed chair of the Languages & Humanities Department, for successfully defending his dissertation ["Surveying the Bloodlines: Space, Place, and Affect in the Caribbean Literary Confrontation with the U.S. South, 1994-2013"] at Howard University in July! His project analyzes Afro-Caribbean novels about migration. "Through their respective representations," observes Dr. Addington, "these novels deconstruct received praxes/ways of knowing that impede the recognition of historico-cultural relation(s) between the two locales, particularly for people of African descent therein. These novels of migration supplant these received praxes by theorizing the recognition of such relational links . . . as a process of *emplacement*."

Dr. Katie Bjorkman, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, served as the local coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference on Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education (RUME) that Richard Bland College hosted on June 11. Dr. Bjorkman reports that "in the morning researchers and graduate students shared their work and ideas for future work in the field, and after lunch, we brainstormed opportunities for collaboration on future research and grants."