

Board of Visitors

September 25-27, 2019

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**Richard Bland College**  
of WILLIAM & MARY

**REPORT OF THE RBC FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE**  
**September 2019**

**Dr. Tiffany Birdsong**

W&M Board of Visitors, RBC Faculty Representative

**Promise Scholars Program Update**

The 2018-19 PTK induction ceremony took place on Saturday, April 13. At the end of the academic year, there were 70 total PTK members. Alden Di Dio was selected as a 2019 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar, which resulted from his membership in PTK. Over 120 students exhibited in the 2019 RBC Expo, which was coordinated by Honors Program students.

In the spring of 2019 Jeremiah Foltz and Catherine Ranases attended the Virginia Collegiate Honors Council (VCHC) 2019 Spring Conference in April at JMU, accompanied by Prof. Celia Brockway. Foltz was voted the 2-Year College Student Representative while Brockway serves as the 2-Year College Faculty Representative.

Thirty-nine students joined the Honors Program as freshmen, including 18 Promise Scholars. Thirty returning students are in the Honors Program, including nine Promise Scholars and four Global Student Success Program students.

**Update on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)**

As we begin the second year of the RBC critical thinking QEP, the focus of our activities will turn from enhancing our assessment practices to instituting concrete pedagogical innovations in the classroom to help foster and develop students' critical thinking skills. This semester, the QEP Steering Committee will identify and recommend outside experts on critical thinking education to guide faculty workshops during our spring professional development sessions. The committee will also pilot a newsletter for faculty and students to keep the campus community informed about our QEP activities and share news and articles about critical thinking best-practices.

**Updates from the Faculty Assembly**

The Faculty Assembly continues to move forward in a positive direction and is enthusiastic about a productive academic year ahead. Since the last meeting of the Board, the Assembly has met twice, with the most recent meeting occurring on August 22, 2019. During August's 2019 the

current Chair, Dr. Tiffany Birdsong, resigned to prioritize her role as Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The existing Vice-Chair Dr. Adam Zucconi assumed the role of Chair and Dr. Timothy Rohrbach was elected Vice-Chair of the Faculty Assembly. The Assembly has made several recommendations to President's Council for discussion and, ultimately, consideration by the President, including a new course proposal aimed at enhancing the transfer process and updates to procedures that impact the faculty. The newly added Online Education Committee will focus on best practices for online education and expanding online course offerings and programs. The Faculty Assembly continues to prioritize the reaffirmation process, with current emphasis being placed on the implementation of the QEP.

## Faculty Publications and Presentations

### Professor Timothy Rohrbach

Dr. Rohrbach published two articles this summer (see below) and attended the Summer Institute on Scientific Teaching at Stony Brook University focused on empowering and inspiring college and university instructors to transform STEM education through evidence-based teaching practices.

Rohrbach TD, Asgharpour A, Maczis MA, Montefusco D, Cowart LA, Bedossa P, Sanyal AJ, Spiegel S. FTY720/Fingolimod Decreases Hepatic Steatosis and Expression of Fatty Acid Synthase in Diet-Induced Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease in Mice. *J Lipid Res.* 2019 May 20; PMID: 31110049.

Maceyka M, Rohrbach T, Milstien S, Spiegel S. Role of Sphingosine Kinase 1 and Sphingosine-1-Phosphate Axis in Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Handb Exp Pharmacol.* 2019 Jul 19;. doi: 10.1007/164\_2019\_217. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 31321542.

### Professor Dan Franke

Dr. Franke attended the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, UK where he presented a well-received paper on heraldry and warfare. At this meeting he also chaired two panels, one on nationalism and history writing in the Middle Ages and one on medieval warfare. Dr. Franke recently became a contributor to the International Medieval Bibliography, one of the premier bibliographic resources for medieval studies and has submitted an article on crusades and military strategy, currently under review for a volume titled *A Military History of the Normans of the South*.

## Faculty Accolades, Honors, and Distinctions

### Professor Tiffany Birdsong

Dr. Birdsong was awarded the Provost's Fellowship in the summer of 2019. During this time she worked with the President, Provost, and designated leadership and staff members to develop a project plan for making improvements to RBC's student employment. Emphasis was placed on utilizing research on best practices for student personnel in order to increase student retention and persistence.