



RICHMOND matters

A Newsletter for the University of Richmond Community
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Carnegie Foundation changes Richmond's classification

IN BRIEF

- University requested change to national liberal arts list
- Richmond expects to be ranked in top 50 on list of 217 colleges and universities

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which administers the official classification system for all U.S. colleges and universities, has moved the University of Richmond to the Baccalaureate Liberal Arts category from the Master's Colleges and Universities I category.

The University requested the change to the new category because it includes primarily undergraduate colleges that award at least half of their baccalaureate degrees in the liberal arts. Many of America's leading small private colleges—Williams, Amherst, Davidson and Washington and Lee—are in the Baccalaureate Liberal Arts category and compete with Richmond for students.

"We requested this change because Richmond compares more closely across a variety of measures to nationally ranked liberal arts colleges than to regionally ranked master's universities," said University President William E. Cooper.

"Like Washington and Lee University and Wesleyan University, we offer a more complex array of schools and programs than most liberal arts colleges. All of our programs emanate from a strong liberal arts core. In terms of our academic reputation, it is vital to benchmark our progress against the top nationally ranked colleges and universities, and the reclassification will assist that effort. Whether we are recruiting students and faculty or seeking resources from foundations, corporations or individuals, the competition is increasingly national in scope, and we need to set our sights accordingly, even as we build an ever strong local and regional base of support."

U.S. News & World Reports annual "America's Best Colleges" issue uses the Carnegie classification system under slightly different names for its popular ranking. The change means that Richmond will appear in the magazine's "National Liberal Arts" category for the first time next fall. University administrators expect Richmond to be ranked among the top 50 schools in this category, which this year included 217 colleges and universities. Richmond has topped the "Master's Universities-South" category for the past 11 years in the *U.S. News* rankings.

"Regardless of our rank in the new category, we feel that we are among our real peers both in the Carnegie classification and on the *U.S. News & World Report* list," said June Aprille, University provost.

"Students often consult this category when they are considering colleges focused primarily on high-quality undergraduate education, and those students will be a good match for Richmond."

The University's Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment was instrumental in negotiating the change with the Carnegie Foundation. Director Steve RiCharde said his office gathered both quantitative data and qualitative information before sending the foundation a detailed, 10-page rationale for the change. In addition to the *U.S. News* rankings, foundations and government agencies often utilize the Carnegie classifications when making decisions about institutional funding.

New office responds to 'targets of opportunity'

IN BRIEF

- Steve RiCharde heads Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment
- Staff compiles reports for external agencies and internal needs

Steve RiCharde had been on the job at Richmond only a few weeks when he received an assignment that would have a lasting affect on the University's future.

The assignment? Find a way to change the University's classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching—and by default—its classification in *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges" annual guide.

The University has held the No. 1 spot in the "Master's Universities-South" category of the magazine's annual guide for 11 years but wanted to move to the "National Liberal Arts" category, which includes Carnegie's Baccalaureate Liberal Arts classification. Colleges and universities in that category are primarily undergraduate colleges with a major emphasis on baccalaureate programs. They award at least half of their baccalaureate degrees in liberal arts fields and include many of America's top small colleges, such as Williams, Amherst, Davidson and Washington and Lee, which compete with Richmond for students. The University's administration has believed for some time that the national category would be a better fit for Richmond, although it would mean giving up its number one spot on the old list.

After gathering both quantitative data and qualitative information, RiCharde sent the Carnegie Foundation a 10-page letter outlining the rationale for the move. The foundation's acceptance and the ultimate change in classification for Richmond was "a real coup for the University and a nice outcome for a new office trying to establish itself," he said.

RiCharde, who has been on the job since June 21, heads the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment. Not all of the office's assignments are as significant as the appeal to Carnegie—some require as little as a half-hour of research—but all respond to "targets of opportunity" at the University, RiCharde said.

RiCharde holds a Ph.D. in educational measurement from the University of Florida and began his career as an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Maryland. He was director of institutional research and professor of psychology at VMI before coming to Richmond.

It was in the mid-1980s, RiCharde said, when then-Gov. Charles Robb imposed a rigorous assessment mandate on public higher education in Virginia. RiCharde served on the SCHEV (State Council of Higher Education for Virginia) committee that developed assessment guidelines, and he has published articles on assessment and consulted with other states on the topic.

RiCharde's staff includes Angela Detlev, who leads the assessment area; Jennifer Naquin, who has responsibility for databases and reports; and Susan Heckel, the administrative assistant. Together they provide necessary and required information to external agencies, such as IPEDS (Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System), SCHEV and SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). They also write internal reports and conduct data-based research on a variety of topics, primarily for the president's and provost's offices. When the University was considering whether to adopt a significant tuition increase, for instance, RiCharde provided benchmarking studies of how peer colleges budget their planning dollars.

In the area of planning, the office helps monitor progress on the strategic plan. RiCharde also helps departments learn how to develop strategic plans and provides a standard planning model.

With a SACS self-study on the horizon, the assessment area is becoming active. "We will help all departments come up with solid plans and assessment tools" for the once-a-decade self-study, he explained. Already he has met with the school deans to set the effort in motion.

The office also has written a University profile and will be responsible for developing a fact book that the staff will update annually. A database of faculty expertise and accomplishments also is on RiCharde's "to do" list.

When the office's Web page is completed, it will be a repository of most of the data and facts the staff has collected.

RiCharde also serves on the Common Ground Action Committee to help develop ways to evaluate the diversity climate and ethos of the University.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events

Dec. 8

James MacGregor Burns Lectureship in Leadership Studies and Biography

7:30 p.m., Jepson Alumni Center

Biographer and historian Robert Dallek will give the first lecture in this new lectureship named for one of the founding faculty members of the Jepson School of Leadership Studies. Author of biographies of LBJ, FDR, JFK and next, Nixon, he will discuss "Leadership Lessons from the Lives and Times of Presidents." He will analyze the presidency and argue that the elements of compelling leadership have remained largely unchanged throughout history. A book signing will follow. Tickets are free but must be reserved by calling ext. 8980.

Meetings and Deadlines

Dec. 6 (date change)

Institutional Review Board

12:45 p.m., Dean's Conference Room

Boatwright Administrative Wing, Room 4

Please remember that research involving human subjects may not begin before approval is received. Though some applications can be processed quickly through expedited review, others must be considered by the entire committee at the next scheduled meeting. To avoid delay, please submit your application to the IRB well in advance—at least two to three weeks—of the planned starting date for your research. Applications are available online at oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/grad_a&s/forms/index.html.

Around Campus

Angel Tree gift requests from University families

The holiday season is approaching quickly, and UR Santa has received requests from a large number of University families who need help. This special time of year is one of giving thanks and sharing all of the blessings that we have received throughout the year. UR Santa has created an "angel tree" in Human Resource Services, located in Weinstein Hall 112, with the names and requests of all the children who need your help. If you are too busy to shop, don't worry. UR Santa will be happy to shop for you. UR Santa also will accept monetary

contributions (please make checks payable to UR Santa) to purchase gifts for the angels left on the tree and food for each of the families. Remember that each angel represents the child of one of your co-workers. Angels are available now. Won't you please stop by and take an angel from the tree so that these children may have a joyous holiday season? For additional information, please call ext. 8538. Remember to bring your UNWRAPPED gift to Human Resource Services by Dec. 10.

Continuing exhibitions in University Museums

On view at the Lora Robins Gallery of Design from Nature through July 10, 2005, is "Cheers! Drinking Glasses from the Permanent Collection," with an additional display, "American Goblets from the Permanent Collection," in the Booker Hall of Music lobby, Modlin Center for the Arts.

Also at the Lora Robins Gallery is "Fancy Rockingham Pottery: The Modeller and Ceramics in 19th Century America" through Feb. 27, 2005.

The Joel and Lila Harnett Print Study Center has on view through Dec. 5 "*In Praise of Folly* by Desiderius Erasmus: Wood Engravings by Fritz Eichenberg."

On view in Marsh Art Gallery through Dec. 12 is "New Math: Contemporary Art and the Mathematical Instinct," presenting works of more than 40 contemporary artists whose diverse works are constructed from, refer to or illustrate mathematical concepts and principles.

Also on view through Dec. 5 in Marsh Art Gallery is "From 'The Asphalt Jungle': Prints and Drawings by Dawn Latane." On view until Dec. 12 is "Martha MacLeish: Wall Constructions."

University Communications publishes *Richmond Matters* every two weeks during the academic year.

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Dec. 6 is the deadline for submitting news and announcements for the Dec. 15 issue. Send information to rmatters@richmond.edu.



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