



and



Randolph-Macon
College

College Admissions Workshop Agenda

Friday, February 7, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

- 8:00 AM** **Check-In:** Pick up your name badge and workshop materials.
- 8:30 AM** **Welcome – Mike Carter, PCACAC President**
Overview of the day – Robyn Lady, PCACAC Professional Development Chair
- 8:45 AM** **Session 1: Ethics in Admissions (Robyn Lady, Rebekah LaPlante & Rachel Wyant):** This session will provide an overview of the Statement of Principles of Good Practice (SPGP) of NACAC. Participants will use case studies to generate discussion on how to use the SPGP in different college counseling situations.
- 9:45 AM** **Session 2: The College Essay – Finding your Voice (Jennifer Knox & Alice Robertson):** NACAC research indicates that the essay is the highest ranked non-academic feature of the college application. Help students effectively brainstorm ideas as they prepare to write. Learn the Into, Through and Beyond Method of personal writing as you help students paint a vivid picture in time that reveals important information about them to their audience.
- 11:00 AM** **Break**
- 11:15 AM** **Session 3: Ensure that Your Recs are Not a Wreck (Rebekah LaPlante, Alice Robertson & Rachel Wyant):** Learn how to write more effectively and more efficiently along with what information to include and not to include in your letter. This session will include information regarding the difference between teacher and counselor recommendations.
- 12:15 PM** **Lunch**
- 1:00 PM** **Session 4: Creating a College Going Culture and Using Data in the Process (Jennifer Knox & Robyn Lady):** Taking your college counseling program to the next level requires ongoing critical and comprehensive assessment of your best practices. This session offers strategies to improve those practices through the use of data and resources as well as the strengthening of relationships throughout your community.
- 2:15 PM** **Session 5: Message from RMC and Campus Tour (Anthony Ambrogi, Director of Admissions; David Lesesne, Vice-President for Enrollment; Annie Keith, Sr. Associate Director of Admissions; & Charter Lindley, Sr. Assistant Director of Admissions)**

Please refer to the next two pages for Faculty Bios.

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Faculty Bios

Mike Carter is the Director of College Counseling at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, VA where he also serves as Academic Dean. He is the current President of the Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling. Dr. Carter has held several positions on the PCACAC Executive Board, including Chair of the Inclusion, Access and Success Committee. He chaired the association's mentorship program and has served as an Assembly Delegate to the National Association of College Admission Counseling's annual assembly representing the high school side for our region for the past four years. He is a member of the NACAC Affiliate President's Council and served for two years on the NACAC Government Relations Committee. Previously, he chaired the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) Professional Development/Conference Planning Committee and served on the coordinating committee for the Washington Area Independent School College Fair. A veteran of the United States Army, Dr. Carter received his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University, a Masters from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and doctorate from West Virginia University.

Jennifer Knox has been a high school educator for over twenty years, first as an English teacher, then an Assistant Principal, and now the Director of Student Services. Currently she works at West Springfield High School in Fairfax County, VA. Previously a teacher of the personal statement or college essay, she still gets the biggest kick out of reading college essays and providing feedback to students just for the fun of it. Why? Because the passion students bring to the essay sets the stage for magic through words. (She is also just one of those creatures who ranks well-crafted sentences among the finer things in life.) Jennifer earned her Bachelor's degree from Duke University and her Master's from the University of Virginia.

Robyn A. Lady serves as the Director of Student Services (DSS) at Chantilly High School in Fairfax County, VA where she leads a team of 12 counseling professionals in their daily work with students. She is currently the Professional Development Chair for PCACAC and is Past-President of the DSS Association in Fairfax County, an organization with members from each of the 26 high schools. Previously, she worked as a school counselor at three different Fairfax County Schools (George C. Marshall, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and McLean High School). Passionate about the college admissions process, Ms. Lady works independently as a college consultant with 15-20 seniors each year. She received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from The College of William & Mary in 1990, a Masters of Education from The University of Virginia in 1992 and a certificate in School Counseling Leadership and Administration from George Mason University in 2002.

Rebekah C. LaPlante is the Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Virginia Tech (since 2008) where she oversees the Visitor Experience and Processing Unit, coordinates domicile review and serves as a member of senior staff participating in all facets of the recruitment process. Rebekah attended Radford University where she completed a B.S. in Communication and a M.S. in Corporate and Professional Communication before she began working in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Radford University in 2001. She worked in admissions at Radford for seven years and coordinated the Blue Ridge Mountain Counselors' Tour during that time. She has been an active member of PCACAC over the years, assisting with conference planning efforts and is currently a member of the Professional Development Committee. Rebekah enjoys working with school counselors, prospective high school students and their families and helping them navigate the college admissions process.

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Alice Robertson has served as the Career Center Specialist for Chantilly High School in Fairfax County, VA for the past nine school years. Her position allows her to collaborate with school counselors, students, families and teachers to implement a career/college planning program focused on a definitive plan for all graduating seniors. In August 2012, Alice was recognized as the “Outstanding Career Center Specialist” for 2011-2012 by the Office of School Counseling Services in Fairfax County Public Schools. Alice received her BS in Human Development, Human Services option from Virginia Tech in May 2003 and, shortly after graduation began working as an Admissions Advisor for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions of her alma mater. Focusing primarily on out-of-state recruitment, Alice enjoyed working with students from both public and private schools in MD, PA, NJ, NY and NC and also served as an application reader for two admissions cycles. Alice is currently enrolled as a part-time graduate student and plans to receive her Masters in Counselor Education in May 2015; she plans to remain on the high school side of the desk as a school counselor and continue collaborating with her admissions counseling colleagues.

Rachel Wyant is a 2005 graduate from University of Mary Washington with a Bachelor of Science and has since built a career in college admissions at her alma mater. While serving for the past nine years in the Admissions Office at UMW she has worked primarily as a recruiter, but also serves as liaison for school counselors planning programming and communication. In 2013 she earned a Master of Education degree from the University of Virginia and plans to continue working in education to serve students in the college process.