



BOLDLY BALDWIN

THE MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

VOL. 28 NO. 2

Mary Baldwin University

Board votes yes on name change / p. 24

A Moment to Celebrate

Murphy Deming dedicates new campus and new programs / p. 11

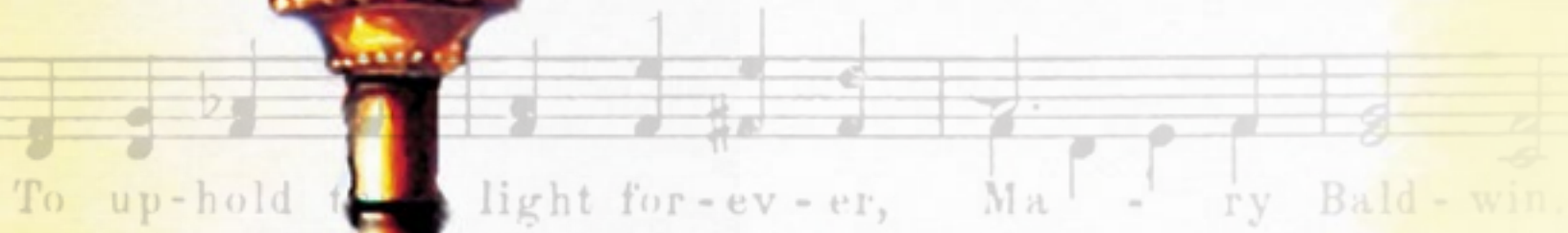


Come home to Mary Baldwin

REUNION 2016

APRIL 21 - 24

WE WELCOME BACK THE CLASSES OF 1966,
1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001,
2006, 2011, AND THE GRAFTON SOCIETY.
SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE CLASSES OF
1946, 1951, 1956, AND 1961.



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Members of the Board of Trustees unanimously vote to change the name of the institution. It's a rare, but not unprecedented move — and an opportunity to honor Mary Baldwin's spirit of innovation.

ON THE COVER

Richmond-based architect Glenn M. Suttentfield captured the shade, shadow, texture, color, rhythm, detail, and form of the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences flagship building in a series of striking photos, including the front cover image, which shows a dramatic skyward view from Luck Terrace.



BOLDLY BALDWIN

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PHOTO BY LINDSEY WALTERS

Leading and Living Our Evolution

Mary Baldwin continues to evolve in productive and exciting ways. We have been on this path for 173 years, ever since a forward-looking minister from New England inspired the congregation of Staunton's First Presbyterian Church to support the establishment of a school dedicated to the education of girls. What Rufus Bailey began, Mary Julia Baldwin continued, and successive generations of courageous, entrepreneurial people have been leading our evolution ever since.

We have embarked on a new stage of our journey — as a distinctive small university — which, starting next fall, will be reflected in our name: Mary Baldwin University. As Jane Harding Miller '76, chair of the MBC Board of Trustees, observes, this name reflects both what we are and who we are: an institution that has come far since its founding in 1842 and that retains, with pride, both the name and the legacy of an educational pioneer whose courage, leadership, and dedication to students still define its character. It is important that our historic core program will officially be Mary Baldwin College for Women, affirming our commitment to the heritage as well as the future of our four-year residential program for women.

Mary Baldwin's entrepreneurial legacy conveys through to our students and is manifest in them as leadership. I see the impressive results in how our alumni live their lives; the difference they make in their communities, professions, and families; and how they approach challenges and opportunities. They do indeed pursue lives of purpose, and they make amazing things happen.

The theme of leadership is foundational in our ongoing dialogue among faculty and staff about what is truly distinctive about Mary Baldwin. It is also one of the most pervasive chords in the thousands of conversations I have had with alumni and students. This past spring, the Mary Baldwin community completed a re-articulation of our mission statement, making overt the centrality of our commitment to leadership development. The final version was the culmination of several years of exchanges among faculty, staff, students, alumni, and board members.

After a formal vote by faculty and staff, it was approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2015:

Mary Baldwin empowers leaders to pursue lives of purpose in a changing world.

As a distinctive small university committed to its rich heritage as an inclusive, women-centered liberal arts college, Mary Baldwin fulfills its mission by providing undergraduate, graduate, and professional education to a diverse population of women and men. It emphasizes high ethical standards and the development of critical, creative, and reflective reasoning as the foundation for fulfilling, engaged, and meaningful lives.

Leadership is an institutional attribute as well. Over the past several years, Mary Baldwin has once again called upon its enduring entrepreneurial spirit to navigate a time of rapid societal change, a shifting higher education landscape, and a challenging economic environment that hit our students' families especially hard. When I addressed other college and university presidents at a meeting of the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia recently, I shared what Mary Baldwin has done and will do to continue to meet the needs of today's students, empowering them to exceed expectations and build fulfilling lives. Mary Baldwin is becoming known as a model of courageous leadership and savvy evolution.

At Mary Baldwin, leadership is communal. It's not only the founders and administrators who clearly assess both reality and possibility, who summon courage to embark on new initiatives, who call upon their deepest reserves of patience and strength and stamina to do what must be done to propel Mary Baldwin into the future. It involves all of us — alumni, faculty, staff, and students.

Both the process of Mary Baldwin's collaborative leadership and the results are being noticed and admired elsewhere in higher education. I thank each of you for your leadership. Together, as a community, we are both leading and living our evolution, and together we are creating a thriving future for Mary Baldwin and new generations of students.

NEWSNOTES



BRIGHT IDEA

Through the SunShot Initiative (made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy), MBC is one of 15 Virginia institutions tapped to participate in planning for the use of solar energy on their campuses.

TAKE UP RESIDENCE

The Virginia Association for College and University Residence Halls held its 2015 conference at MBC in February, bringing together student leaders from schools across Virginia to develop skills and gain program ideas.

LED THE WAY

The walkway beside Cannon Hill, connecting lower campus to upper campus, has a much-improved light level thanks to new lamp posts with energy-efficient LED bulbs.

INNOVATION CONNECTION

A group of MBC interns provided support in April for Innovate Live, three days of presentations, panels, and discussions about ways to support creative start-ups within the Staunton community.

A DECADE OF DISTINCTION

On May 7, Mary Baldwin celebrated its 10th annual Capstone Festival, which gives outstanding students an opportunity to present their scholarly and artistic works to the wider campus and the public.

TITLE THEME

Building on a 10-year tradition of uniting the campus community around a central idea that fosters civic and global engagement, "Moment" and "Identity" were chosen as the 2015–16 and 2016–17 college-wide themes, respectively.

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

During May Term, students in art history, film, and social work courses teamed up with Artist-in-Residence Claudia Bernardi to create a portable mural with youths from the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center.

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A spotlight on the campus guests and special events that enhance living and learning at MBC.



Gift of Rare Books Benefits Shakespeare Program

Elizabeth Lipscomb recalls hauling the centuries-old Ben Jonson folios into her classroom to let her English students at what was then Randolph-Macon Woman's College (R-MWC) touch the rag-paper pages and read the cast lists that include William Shakespeare. In addition to being an unparalleled primary-source learning tool, the volumes were an intimate reminder of Lipscomb's upbringing, as they were passed to her from her father, a former Jonson scholar and longtime Virginia Tech English professor.

This spring, Lipscomb and her husband, Lloyd, donated three rare compilations of works by the popular 17th-century English playwright and poet, valued at just under \$20,000, to Mary Baldwin's Shakespeare and Performance (S&P) program. The texts, housed in the Reigner Room in Grafton Library, include the second folio — two volumes printed in 1640–41 — and a third collection of previously unpublished pieces, all issued after Jonson's death.

Lipscomb's connection to Staunton and MBC extends over several decades. Long before the S&P program was launched, a former Mary Baldwin trustee connected her with a position as an English instructor at MBC while she was working on her doctoral dissertation in 1963. During her brief tenure, she met the new priest at Emmanuel Episcopal Church who would become her husband. Lipscomb went on to teach for nearly three decades at R-MWC in Lynchburg, now Randolph College, but she continued her association with the Staunton community by following the creation of the American Shakespeare Center (ASC); attending performances at the Blackfriars Playhouse; and connecting with Randolph classics professor Amy Cohen, daughter of ASC and S&P co-founder Ralph Cohen.

"I feel great satisfaction knowing that they are where they need to be, near the American Shakespeare Center and Blackfriars Playhouse and in the hands of educators," Lipscomb said of the books. "And I know that my father would be thrilled that students have access to them."

Lipscomb kept her father's copy of Jonson's first folio, published in 1616, in her personal collection. The volumes are significant not only because they chronicle some of Shakespeare's work as an actor, but also because they represent a shift toward considering stage plays as serious literature worthy of the painstaking labor of printing. Many scholars contend that if Jonson had not published his works in folio form — a term that refers to a book that is printed with four pages per sheet and folded once vertically — Shakespeare's friends John Heminges and Henry Condell might not have collected his plays in the famous 1623 folio, Lipscomb said.

The Gutenberg Bible is another well-known example of the folio format.

The S&P program has benefitted from several valuable book donations since its establishment in 2001. Among the gifts are antique Shakespearean texts from the late H. Gordon Smyth — one of Mary Baldwin's most esteemed donors along with his wife, alumna Mary Beth Reed Smyth '47 — more than 500 books from a professor emeritus of English at the University of California, and several volumes previously donated by the Lipscombs.

"These volumes passed through many hands over many years before they reached ours," Director of the MLitt/MFA Program in Shakespeare and Performance Paul Menzer said. "Now that the books are here, they will pass through the hands of every student who takes classes with us. We will honor their gift the best way we know how. We will learn from it."

Grant to Propel Education, Environmental Outreach

Thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Mary Baldwin College will be able to extend its reach into the local community while providing service-learning opportunities for its own students through the new Seeds of Learning program. The initiative is designed to help Staunton City Public Schools investigate food systems and study the relationship among the health of students, local water, and the Chesapeake Bay. Students will problem-solve food supply and waste issues and grow food for their cafeterias in schoolyard gardens. "We expect to have kids digging in the dirt and planting veggies, so it should be a fun learning experience for all," said Associate Professor of Education Tamra Willis, who is leading the three-year project. The NOAA grant will also provide tuition for local teachers who want to take graduate courses in Willis' popular Environment-Based Learning (EBL) program. In recent years, NOAA has provided funding to both EBL and Mary Baldwin's master of arts in teaching program to continue teaching and learning about the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

MBC Builds Sisterhood of Support for Sweet Briar College

The higher education community was stunned by the news that Sweet Briar College (SBC) would close its doors at the end of the summer, but a settlement reached in late June will allow SBC to remain open for the 2015–16 academic year.

For months, Mary Baldwin College prepared for the seeming inevitability that it would remain one of only two all-women colleges in Virginia, reaching out to SBC students who might consider MBC their new home and helping them begin the transfer process. Faculty took one of the first steps by unanimously affirming a teach-out agreement with Sweet Briar, which paved the way for students who wished to continue their undergraduate studies at a women's college.

"From the day of the Sweet Briar announcement, the MBC faculty has been working on creative strategies to serve SBC students," said Catharine O'Connell, vice president for academic affairs and student life and dean of the college. "Most striking of all has been the sincere compassion expressed by our community for everyone at Sweet Briar — students, staff, and faculty. I have been moved by the generosity of our faculty and their immediate desire to reach out to our sister school."

As SBC students and their families toured

the Mary Baldwin campus this spring, support continued to pour in — on social media with #stayfoxyatmbc and #vixenswelcome — and among members of the Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors, who wrote letters to Sweet Briar students, welcoming them to reach out with any questions about MBC.

With the national spotlight on all-female institutions of higher learning, MBC President Pamela Fox penned an op ed for *The Washington Post* on March 6 to challenge the notion that small, women-centered, liberal arts colleges are doomed to fail, pointing to MBC's own record of reinvention that has allowed the institution to thrive for 173 years.

"At first glance, Mary Baldwin — a women's college in a small Virginia city without a large endowment — might seem to fall into the endangered species category," Fox wrote. "MBC has defied all odds because it has evolved in ways that connect enduring heritage with courageous, entrepreneurial spirit to serve new generations of students."

While the long-term future of SBC is still uncertain, Mary Baldwin is pleased that its sister school will remain open and continues to support SBC students, offering full refunds for those who have deposited at MBC, but may decide to return to Sweet Briar for the fall.



Tralen Neal '16

2015–16 Leaders Emerge

Have you met Tralen Neal? If not, there's a good chance you will hear from the rising senior from Raleigh, North Carolina, throughout the next year as she enacts her passion for leadership as Student Government Association (SGA) President for Mary Baldwin College. In February, students voted for a new slate of SGA leaders, including Neal; Jazmine Brooks, vice president; Sharanya Rao, secretary; Molly "Jasyn" Chase, treasurer; MiAngel Hite, Residence Hall Association chair; Jan Edlene Miguel, Judicial Board chair; Rasheeda Bradley, lead advocate; Lillie Parker, Baldwin Program Board chair; Ciara McLaren, Honor Council chair; and Ciara Dacosta-Reyes, Inter-Club Council chair. As president, Neal hopes to promote diversity and leadership among women.

"Hearing the concerns of other students pushed me to run for SGA president," Neal said. "My desire is to represent the students. I want every voice on campus accounted for." After graduation, Neal hopes to attend medical school and eventually become a physician. "Being a leader at MBC is very inspiring. At a women's college, you get the opportunity to see women lead in a way that normally goes unnoticed. I plan to inspire and motivate other young women to become their best selves, and I hope to continue the legacy of women leading the way."



The admissions staff decorated Ham and Jam outside of the Administration Building in pink and green to show their support for Sweet Briar College. Inset: Taylor Frick '17 leads a group of SBC students on a campus tour.

Creativity and Ingenuity: Art Students Reclaim Old SMA Kitchen

For years, the photo and printmaking studio — housed in the basement of Deming Fine Arts Building — has been subject to cramped quarters, darkness, the occasional flood, and other inconveniences. But this spring, Associate Professor of Art Jim Sconyers and his students found a new home, salvaging a forgotten corner of campus and bringing creativity to light.

In January, the studio moved from Deming across the street into the Student Activities Center (SAC), a first-floor space that had, in recent years, been used for storage. It was once the location of the Staunton Military Academy (SMA) kitchen complete with tall ceilings, old terra cotta tile floors, and huge windows with mountain views.

"I love the history of it, the old SMA kitchen. It feels so natural to be here," said Sconyers, who put in many hours of his own time to make the move possible and whose resourcefulness saved the college time and money. "The real success story," he continued, "is the response from the students, who have an enhanced outlet for creativity."

Since her sophomore year Brittany James '15 has spent many long hours in what students affectionately referred to as Deming dungeon. "I was able to be the first student who completed her senior thesis in the new photography space, and it truly was a blessing," James said. "I stayed in the lab every night (until security kicked me out) in the months leading up to my show opening, and I didn't mind one second of it. I know it might sound silly, but the new space has three huge windows that allow a huge amount of natural light to come in. If that doesn't make you happy, I don't know what would."

The studio renovation should have a significant impact on the Mary Baldwin College Department of Art and Art History,

which has been a leader in community outreach, promoting experiential education, and attracting visiting artists from around the world. The project — which more than doubles the capacity of photography and printmaking classes — was made possible, in part, by a \$28,500 grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and a donation from Evelyn "Kate" Irby '93.

Where was once an oven now stand reclaimed cabinets, full of art supplies. There is a digital photography island: a new desk and three new computers with updated software and a new printer, that "does everything you want it to do, except make an espresso, which is next," Sconyers joked. The new space also includes a darkroom, etching room, washout booth, critique wall, large worktables, proper exhaust fans, and new HVAC equipment.

"The first real estate that I captured was right here," Sconyers said, standing in a corner of the new studio. "We had no architectural and engineering firm. [Director of Facilities Management] Brent Douglass and I did it. We came up with a plan."

The duo toured printmaking facilities

at other institutions, such as the University of Virginia and Washington and Lee University, which both have new facilities, and Sweet Briar College, which turned an old barn into an art studio. After they decided that the SAC location would make a perfect home for the studio, Douglass and Sconyers decided which materials and equipment should be moved over from Deming and then mapped water lines, electrical outlets, venting, and doorways.

"We had a great time," Sconyers said. "We should start our own firm."

Sconyers' sense of thrift and enterprise is obvious throughout the new studio: the old darkroom sink has been repurposed in the main studio space, the new printer sits atop a cart Sconyers found in the old SMA laundry facility. The two-way door to the darkroom was an eBay find from an old hospital in North Carolina. Enlarger stations were repurposed from Deming, and Sconyers found safelights at a used equipment store in Massachusetts. The art professor even recruited his wife and four daughters to help move equipment and supplies from Deming to SAC so that students could start using the space without delay at the beginning of spring semester. That do-it-yourself mentality is typical among artists, Sconyers said. "It's part of art — hand-eye coordination, being handy. I really admire people who have acquired a level of skill in a particular area."



Right: The old photo and printmaking studio in the basement of Deming meant cramped working conditions for students. *Opposite page:* Associate Professor of Art Jim Sconyers enjoys the wide open space in the new studio.

We really try to emphasize that in studio art," Sconyers said. "It's something people spend a lifetime developing. I tell [students] that the college experience is teaching you how to be a lifelong learner."

Without Sconyers, James said, the new lab would never have come into being. "Many times I came down into the [old studio] and Jim was working on a layout for the new space. Even in the new studio, Jim is there, creating something new to make the space even more perfect for his students. He and MBC have given so much for us to have this new space, and we are truly grateful."



Ida B. Wells Students ‘Adopt’ Local Elementary School

For years, students in the Ida B. Wells Gateway at Mary Baldwin College — named for the 19th-century writer, activist, and suffragist — have worked to support multicultural events on campus and extend a hand to the local community. This year’s effort made a positive difference in the lives of many children at Bessie Weller Elementary School in Staunton.


Members of the gateway “adopted” the local school in 2014–15, hoping

more than that,” said Kristen Goodman ’18, a biology major from Richmond. “Getting to know the students and faculty at Bessie was a great way for me to give back to my community and stand as a role model for the young girls at the elementary school.”

Goodman worked in Doris Rapert’s third-grade classroom as well as with youngsters in the after-school program, forming a special bond while reading together and helping them with homework.

worked with individual students and small groups in her classroom, took care of filing and organizing as needed, and helped to prep materials for activities.

“My students looked forward to the days they would come, and we were sad when their work with us stopped,” Monger said. “My students know that Mary Baldwin is where I went to school, so they really enjoyed getting to know the college students. Some of them



“I went into the project wanting a chance to identify with the new community around me; however, I gained so much more than that.”

to help shrink the achievement gap between white students and students of color by mentoring children in all grades and with various abilities.

Principal Linda Mahler said the outreach made a major difference for her school, as MBC students provided teachers extra pairs of hands, helped prepare classroom materials, and assisted with students. Most importantly, Mahler said, the mentors became positive role models for dozens of youngsters who might not previously have considered going to college.

“I went into the project wanting a chance to identify with the new community around me; however, I gained so much

Sophomore Kausha Parrish from Gloucester volunteered in a kindergarten class with several children who had learning disabilities.

“Regardless of race or disability, everyone in that class was accepted,” Parrish said. “I was so thrilled that I had an opportunity to be placed in a class that gave me more understanding and knowledge about working with people who have a disability. It was truly a wonderful learning experience and has made a huge impact on my life.”

Second-grade teacher Renee Monger ’06 said MBC students NyErica Young, Kaylla Jackson, and Alayah Austin

have said that they would like to go to Mary Baldwin when they get older.”

In addition to the hands-on help in the classroom, the gateway group raised money for Bessie Weller’s Helping Hands Fund, which gives discreet support to children who are in need of meals, field trip dues, clothing, and more. The students organized an offering at this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration to support the Bessie Weller fund.

“It was a wonderful, very enthusiastic, positive event,” Mahler said. “We were overwhelmed at the generosity.”

Students Gain Experience, Boost Local Business

Having 30 years of business experience before he transitioned to academia, Assistant Professor of Business Administration and H. Gordon and Mary Beth Reed Smyth Chair in Business Joseph Sprangel Jr. tends to structure his courses around work done in the "real world." This year, several of his students were able to take his teaching philosophy one step further by teaming up with local business owner and artisan Lisa Jacenich, who was hoping to boost sales and exposure for her handmade textiles, clothing, and accessories shop Artful Gifts in Staunton's wharf district. The symbiotic relationship began in the fall with Sprangel's Sustainability and Strategy in Business Decisions course and continued through the spring semester as some students continued to focus on promoting the shop through social media and helping Jacenich make valuable connections within the local business community. "It's raising my visibility in this community," said Jacenich, who has tracked a modest increase in sales, thanks to the student effort. "It's a wonderful team effort. They've got some great ideas." This spring, students suggested new clothing designs that would appeal to younger customers and assisted in store operations in addition to the more technical aspects of business consulting. Jacenich hopes to continue the partnership with MBC through the Spencer



Above: Briana Roberson takes a break from business consulting to help local artisan Lisa Jacenich make cloth felt from the raw fiber of sheep's wool. Below: Business students (l to r) Tijana Eason, Courtney Hicks, Kambria Johnson, Von Redmand, Briana Roberson, and Joaquinna Sorrell on location for a photo shoot to showcase Jacenich's merchandise.



Center for Civic and Global Engagement, which could facilitate Jacenich's dream of implementing small-scale mechanization of felting in the rural provinces of Mongolia.

Poli Sci Students Go to Washington

Mary Baldwin College students joined more than 100 peers, faculty, and guests in Washington DC over President's Day weekend for the Annual National Student Research Conference for Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. Kenia Castro-Cantu, Kayla Burgess, Allie Ellmauer, and Nichole Kennedy traveled to the conference with Professor of Political Science Laura van Assendelft, who said, "I could not have been more proud of our students, both in terms of their research and how well they represented Mary Baldwin College. It is an honor to work with them." Ellmauer and Kennedy were among



(l to r) Kenia Castro-Cantu, Professor of Political Science Laura van Assendelft, Allie Ellmauer, Nichole Kennedy, and Kayla Burgess.

the 67 students who presented papers at the conference, representing 40 Pi Sigma Alpha chapters. "The conference provided an incredible experience for Mary Baldwin students," van Assendelft said. "They met

some of the best and brightest students in political science from across the country, learned how to present their research at a professional political science conference, and enjoyed socializing and touring DC."

» Find more arts and events
www.mbc.edu/events

ON THE PODIUM

MARY BALDWIN'S FEATURED EVENTS AND GUEST APPEARANCES

MBC'S 2015-16 DOENGES VISITING SCHOLAR

Emily Welty, assistant professor and director of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at Pace University, New York City

On campus September 21-25, 2015,
and during May Term 2016

As the Elizabeth K. Doenges visiting scholar, Emily Welty will visit classes and give a public lecture, focusing on the role of religion in peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Welty describes her keynote address as an opportunity to facilitate a conversation about the relevance and utility of religious traditions on local, national, and international levels:

“Many are familiar with the role that religion, religious traditions, and people of faith have played in fanning the flames of conflict, ignoring social injustice or enabling violent extremism. Indeed, no religious tradition is innocent of serious crimes against human dignity and the integrity of human life. However, religion has also played a powerful role in conflict transformation, reconciliation in the aftermath of violent conflict, and direct nonviolent resistance to injustice.

The main non-governmental organization representative of the International Peace Research Association to the United Nations, Welty has extensive experience working in cross-cultural and politically unstable contexts including Israel/Palestine, Myanmar/Burma, Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland, Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan.

The Doenges Visiting Artist/Scholar Lecture Series was established in 1996 in memory of the late MBC alumna and trustee Elizabeth Kirkpatrick “Liddy” Doenges ’63.



SELECTED 2015 CAMPUS GUESTS

HUNT GALLERY EXHIBITION
Imago Corporis Impressa: New Work by
Jim Sconyers Jr.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPEAKER
Douglas A. Blackmon, author

CARL BROMAN CONCERT
Ariel String Quartet

SMYTH BUSINESS LECTURE
Nileeni Meegama, vice president, AARP

MURPHY DEMING COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES DEDICATION
CEREMONY SPEAKER
The Honorable **Timothy M. Kaine**,
United States senator from Virginia

ATHLETICS GUEST SPEAKER
Claudia Brind-Woody '77, vice president
and managing director, IBM Global
Intellectual Property Licensing

INTERNATIONAL CAFÉ SPEAKER
Janet Ballantyne, career minister in the
Senior Foreign Service

GUEST ARTIST
David Salvage, composer and pianist



A MOMENT TO CELEBRATE

*Mary Baldwin dedicates its health sciences campus and programs
and caps off a successful first year of education and outreach*

BY LIESEL CROSIER



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUTTENFIELD PHOTOGRAPHY, LINDSEY WALTERS, PATRICK SMITH, AND WOODS PIERCE

For a year now, students have burned the midnight oil in study groups inside the atrium, labored over Dr. Bishop's exams in the anatomy lab, and celebrated hard work with flambéed bananas on the balcony at the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences.

On April 17, hundreds gathered at Murphy Deming to pause and fête the remarkable progress Mary Baldwin College has made in only three-and-a-half years since announcing it would launch a new college of health sciences: the community connections formed, interprofessional programs established, the new campus built, and — the beating heart inside the steel, glass, wood, and stone — the people who have made it all possible. "Each one of us is critical to creating an optimal learning opportunity for our students, and each one of us is eager to tell the story of Murphy Deming," said Vice President for Health Sciences Linda Seestedt-Stanford during the dedication ceremony.

Along with her team at MDCHS and other leaders at Mary Baldwin, Seestedt-Stanford has overseen and executed an incredible amount of effort to get Murphy Deming where it is today: developed new curriculums, hired faculty and staff, navigated the rigorous accreditation processes, planned and built a brand-new, 55,000-square-foot facility, sought out and acquired state-of-the-art equipment, and developed numerous local partnerships.

"Our vision evoked emotion, challenged a sense of urgency, and blew a certain trumpet of animated action," said MBC President Pamela Fox at the April event. "The true link between vision and this transformed reality is our collective imagination."

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

From the beginning and every step of the way in its development of MDCHS, Mary Baldwin has been "graced by community support," said Seestedt-Stanford. Blue Ridge Community College offered office space at its Fishersville center while the college was under construction. Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center has opened its doors, allowing students access to specialized equipment and opportunities to observe patient interaction. Western State Hospital offers Murphy Deming students access to a specialized rotation while its clinicians teach and interview prospective students. Clinicians from Augusta Health interviewed candidates and later mentored those students in their clinical labs. Those practitioners often speak in classes and teach specialized courses. The hospital also provided numerous spaces for MDCHS information sessions. Murphy Deming, in turn, has opened its doors to local practitioners for in-service training. These are just a few among hundreds of community partners with which Murphy Deming has worked. And the community connections continue to build.

Physical therapist Jeff Henderson of the Blue Ridge Amputee Clinic kept running into Murphy Deming's PT program director Lisa Shoaf and professor Kai Kennedy at MDCHS in-service trainings, and eventually two of Kennedy's students — Allie Humphrey and



Top and right: Hundreds gather at the April 17 dedication.

Far right: Vice President for Health Sciences Linda Seestedt-Stanford



Carolyn Payne — gave their time to Henderson's all-volunteer clinic at Augusta Health's Lifetime Fitness Center.

"It went really well," Henderson said. "Volunteering this way allows students to learn more about prosthetics and orthotics; it will be great as they develop their program."

Doug Rohr, physical therapist and owner of Bethesda Physical Therapy & Wellness in Staunton, has helped interview prospective Murphy Deming students for the past two years.

"The quality of students is high," Rohr said. As an affiliating clinical site, Rohr's practice gives students valuable experience in dealing with patients. Students are learning evaluation procedures, treatment processes, and home-exercise programs: "everything they'll need to know to get that patient better."

The partnership helps clinicians as well. "What it does for us — it stimulates us to share information at a different level," Rohr said. "We share information with patients, and we share information [with students] from an educational standpoint to teach students what they can share with patients later on. We're just passing it on."

The Murphy Deming team also places a premium on service to the local community. Assisting neighboring practitioners, attending professional symposia, even participating in events like an autism awareness race — all of these opportunities create positive exposure for the school and lead to valuable experience that will serve students now and well into their careers.

"These opportunities are more than just résumé builders for our students," said Martha Modlin, director of enrollment and student services. "Many of them came to Murphy Deming with volunteer experience, and all are deeply committed to making a difference in others' lives. It's something they will carry with them throughout their time as health care practitioners."

Other community connections extend beyond local — and even U.S. — borders as several faculty members serve on committees for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and one professor developed an elective course to analyze health care abroad and share ideas about how rehabilitative services are provided in international clinical settings.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Back in Fishersville, the construction, opening, and continuing expansion of the college of health sciences has spurred growth in the local economy and jump-started public works projects.

Road projects given the green light since the MDCHS launch include the construction of a new thoroughfare — Lifecore Drive — a one-mile span that opened this spring connecting Murphy Deming and Augusta Health to the Myers Corner development and the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center off of U.S. 250. The stretch includes the \$13 million Dennis O. Burnett Memorial Bridge, named for the former Augusta County director of eco-

The human anatomy laboratory supports traditional cadaver-based instructional methods with six flat-screen monitors positioned around the room to allow information to be broadcast to students at 12 work stations.





conomic development, who was instrumental in Mary Baldwin's decision to build MDCHS in the health sciences corridor. The road project has also paved the way for easier access to clinics and showcased cooperation between local government, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and real estate developers.

Also slated for completion this summer are \$42 million in improvements to the Exit 91 interchange at Interstate 64, which will accommodate increased vehicular traffic for the growing medical complex nearby. Meanwhile, construction continues on The Apartments at Goose Creek on the hill directly above MDCHS. Developed by Denico Development Co., the housing units are scheduled for completion this summer and will give students another housing option with close proximity to classes.

"The transformational and complementary benefits of Murphy Deming in Fishersville have only just begun," said Augusta County Director of Economic Development Amanda N. Glover. "Murphy Deming is not only an anchor, but also a catalyst for Augusta County's emerging life sciences corridor in Fishersville. We are already seeing the positive results of Murphy Deming's presence, ranging from the direct benefits of new degrees conferred and the educational vibe in the community to the ancillary benefits of more commercial and residential development."

'IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE'

MBC's development of health sciences programs will not only continue to have a ripple effect on the economy, but also will impact thousands of lives, said U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, who spoke at the dedication.

"It's about people. The technology can go as far as the imagination can take it, but if we don't have well-trained professionals, it all counts for nothing," Kaine said. "Well trained, competent, technologically proficient, but compassionate professionals who understand how to interact with patients and deal with the anxieties that all of us feel about our own health and the health of our loved ones: that will always be the key to a working system of health care in any culture at any time and that is what this building is devoted to."

Sarah Laux, from Bellville, Ohio, is committed to the study of occupational therapy after a neurological disorder took away her older sister's ability to hear, see, and walk. At the dedication ceremony, Laux and classmate Julie Kraus thanked those who made her pursuit of an OT degree possible, notably lead donor Bertie Murphy Deming Smith '46.

"Mrs. Smith took the first step to build the school, our faculty took a big step in committing to be part of one of the very few interprofessional programs in the country, and then we, as students, also took a huge step in putting our faith in the few people we met during our application process," Laux said. "Each of us has decided to take a chance on this program."

Top: MBC Trustees and donors react to the news that the MDCHS teaching and instructional wing was named for President Fox. **Below left:** A plaque hangs at the entrance to the wing.





INSTRUCTIONAL WING NAMED FOR PRESIDENT FOX

On the eve of the April dedication ceremony, the MBC Board of Trustees surprised Mary Baldwin President Pamela Fox by proclaiming that the teaching and instructional wing at the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences bears her name.

"There is a person whose contributions to Mary Baldwin are so great that we cannot let this occasion pass without mentioning and honoring them," said Board Chair Jane Harding Miller '76. "From the realization that Mary Baldwin could and should do more to cement its future, to understanding how all the pieces of the institution should come together to create synergy and strength, to creating an overarching strategy and simultaneously managing the minutest details, to sustaining what for anyone else would be a not only punishing but nigh impossible work schedule of continual intensity — our president, Pamela Fox, deserves our praise and our thanks."

In addition to the words "Pamela Fox Teaching and Instructional Wing" above the entrance to the hallway just off the building's main entrance, a plaque nearby includes Fox's photograph and a quotation from her that reads: "We, the community of Mary Baldwin College, throughout our continuous evolution, will never lose sight of our legacy, our core values, and our strengths of perseverance, courageous patience, and innovative tradition that have and will sustain us."

The rest of the plaque reads: "In recognition of her extraordinary vision, exceptional leadership, and deeply personal dedication to Mary Baldwin College — qualities matched by her gracious manner and caring heart — the Board of Trustees names the Teaching and Instructional Wing for Dr. Pamela Fox, ninth president of MBC, who was essential to the establishment of the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences and in positioning the entire institution for a thriving future."

Even before the physical structure had been built. So we took the literal first steps as a charter class, into this building.

"Your generosity serves as an example to pay it forward. Your gift is giving us the opportunity to pursue our dreams and also pay it forward with community involvement and future professional practice. This will allow each of us to touch hundreds of lives during our careers."

Laux and her classmates have reason to be confident about their career prospects. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job growth for most health science occupations is expected to be double, triple, or even quadruple that of the overall job growth rate for the next decade. For many students at Murphy Deming, though, the end game isn't necessarily about landing a job quickly or earning a comfortable salary. It's about finding their passion and helping others.

Earlier this year, students Cortney Halsey and Taylor Delp channeled their interest in juvenile therapy into a children's book *My Smile* which features a character with Moebius Syndrome who lives her life with confidence despite a disorder that prevents her from smiling. The pair saw a parallel to their future careers as therapists — reaching others and enjoying the work along the way.

None of it would be possible without the support of Murphy Deming faculty. "The faculty have illuminated [for us] how to take a challenge to the next step," Halsey said. "And I think that's what sets us apart as a school. Where else can you say 'I've been so supported, now I'm going to publish a children's book?'"

Even more PT and OT students are joining the Murphy Deming family this summer. Thanks to a sponsorship from Augusta Health, MBC will launch its new RN to BSN program in August, helping nurses throughout the region meet increasingly rigorous educational requirements. The Master of Science in Physician Assistant program is planned to start in January. A handful of Mary Baldwin undergraduates have been accepted into Murphy Deming graduate programs through an early admission process, and a new undergraduate major in health sciences has the potential to funnel even more bright MBC students into the PT, OT, and PA programs.

"Regardless of where they are from and what they have done in their young lives, [students] share one thing in common — and that's a passion to become health care providers," Seestedt-Stanford said at the dedication event. "Their academic program is their work; they put in an 80-hour week, minimum, between classes and studies, but they keep smiling because they know what they will achieve one day. And they are proud, really proud, to be part of the charter class at Murphy Deming." ■

Top: Occupational therapy student Sarah Laux offers remarks at the April dedication.
Below: Students fill the new facility on the first day of classes.



WHAT A YEAR

EVENTS TRANSFORM CHARTER CLASS INTO FIRST-YEAR FAMILY

Within their first year, the charter class at MDCHS quickly formed a tight-knit group, working together and playing together. "We definitely grew as a family over the last year," said PT student Julie Kraus. "Not a month went by without some sort of school-sanctioned event, but we all had a blast exploring the area on our own as well — hiking, biking, tubing, and relaxing or celebrating school milestones at local wineries or breweries."

Both OT and PT students also attended regional, state, and national meetings of their respective professional associations, and even hosted chapter meetings in the new health sciences building

"We also made sure we were involved in the community," Kraus said. "Some of us volunteered at a community garden last summer, others volunteered for local events like the Kids Fun Run/Mud Run in Waynesboro, and a group of us led an exercise class for the Go Girls! group at the YMCA in the spring. And as the new class gets settled in, we'll have more classmates to help out and suggest new ways to get involved. Our family is growing."



JUNE 17

First day of classes



JULY 10

Students collaborate in professor Lisa Shoaf's Teaching and Learning course. At the end of the month, students volunteer at a local Parkinson's disease charity event, and help with a community gardening project at Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind.



AUGUST 7

Students and faculty attend a ceremony to dedicate the new Harry A. and Nancy P. Dahl Family Flagpole Plaza. The next day, students surprise anatomy professor Keith Bishop by wearing "Team Bishop" T-shirts to class, marking the end of a challenging first semester.



AUGUST 13

MBC Dining Services and Vice President of Health Sciences Linda Seestedt-Stanford treat students to flambéed bananas and ice cream on the balcony for a sweet break from exams.



SEPTEMBER 16

OT students attend the Fishersville Parkinson's disease Support Group patient education symposium.



OCTOBER 24

Students participate in a local trunk-or-treat event in neighboring Verona, providing fun activities for children to promote healthy activities.



NOVEMBER 6

MDCHS hosts the Blue Ridge District of Virginia Physical Therapy Association meeting.



DECEMBER 5

Students take a break from studies to decorate the tree and share cookies and good cheer.



JANUARY 3

Students on winter break proudly wear MDCHS T-shirts and post photos from their travels on the Facebook page.



MARCH 11

"Welcome to the family!" one student posted to the MDCHS Facebook page, celebrating the birth of Cordelia Quinn Burrows, daughter of Executive Assistant Miriam Burrows.



MARCH 15

OT Program Director Ben Herz and Gladys pose for a photo at Chick-fil-A in Waynesboro, where MDCHS held a "spirit night" to support conference travel and community service projects.



MARCH 18

Student Allie Humphrey volunteers at the all-volunteer amputee swim clinic at Augusta Health's Lifetime Fitness Center. (Photo courtesy of the Waynesboro News-Virginian)

HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENTS MARK FIRST YEAR WITH PINNING CEREMONY



Exactly one year after moving into the new Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences (MDCHS) building in Fishersville, the original faculty members — and several others who have joined the team in intervening months — gathered for a symbolic moment in the journey of the charter class.

"We chose to hold this pinning ceremony at the start of your second year to mark your passing from the first professional year of study and its rigorous foundational and applied sciences to the second year's clinical management sequence," said Vice President for Health Sciences Linda Seestedt-Stanford to the 66 physical therapy and occupational therapy students who comprise the first class at Murphy Deming. "And from what I hear, you are more than ready for this transition."



JANUARY 21

A delegation of PT students, led by program director Lisa Shoaf, lobby the Virginia General Assembly on behalf of a bill that would improve patient access to services.

FEBRUARY 4-7

PT professor Bess Maxwell (far right) meets with the American Physical Therapy Association's aquatic section in Indianapolis.



MARCH 23

Lisa Shoaf, Kai Kennedy, and four PT students attend the annual retreat of the Virginia Physical Therapy Association in Charlottesville.

APRIL 2

OT and PT students show their support by wearing blue on Autism Awareness Day.

APRIL

Students celebrate Occupational Therapy month with cupcakes.

Families, Mary Baldwin faculty and staff, and new first-year Murphy Deming students filled the western wing of Hunt Dining Hall to celebrate the rising second-year students' accomplishments. To represent their educational progression from theory to practice, each student received a small, circular silver pin with the MDCHS logo. Led by program directors Lisa Shoaf (physical therapy) and Ben Herz (occupational therapy), students also recited the national oaths of their respective fields.

Demonstrating the interprofessional nature of studies and relationships at Murphy Deming, PT and OT students were inter-mixed for the ceremony and called forward in alphabetical order to be pinned. OT student Taylor Delp was seated next to her twin sister in the PT program, Tianna. "A year ago, I knew what I want-

ed to pursue, but I couldn't quite see myself as an occupational therapist," said Delp, who traveled from Nebraska to be one of Murphy Deming's first students. "Now I can see that person in my mind, and I'm really looking forward to testing my skills in a clinical setting."

Herz explained that the pinning ceremony is a rite of passage for PT and OT students around the country, and although the beginning and the end of the program are the most common times for the ceremony, it can be conducted at any point.

"This ceremony marks a new level of professionalism. This next year you will find yourselves beginning to think like OTs and PTs," Seestedt-Stanford said.

BRINGING THE VISION TO LIFE

LEADING THE WAY

Although illness prevented Bertie Murphy Deming Smith '46 from attending the April dedication event, she was able to watch the ceremony thanks to a live video link that streamed directly to her home in Louisiana. The high-tech solution was an appropriate one for the donor whose \$15 million gift — the largest in MBC history — made the state-of-the-art college of health sciences possible.

"She really loves this college ... and continues to be committed through all of its changes. She has been intimately involved in making some of those changes happen," said Bebe Heiner, Smith's daughter, who also delivered remarks on her mother's behalf.

"As I look over this awesome building I have watched come about on paper and then in actuality, I'm thrilled to be here, even if only electronically," Smith wrote. "Pamela's vision never faltered. It was followed by action in all areas. I'm proud of all of you that made it happen. And I salute those who took our beloved Mary Baldwin into the future."

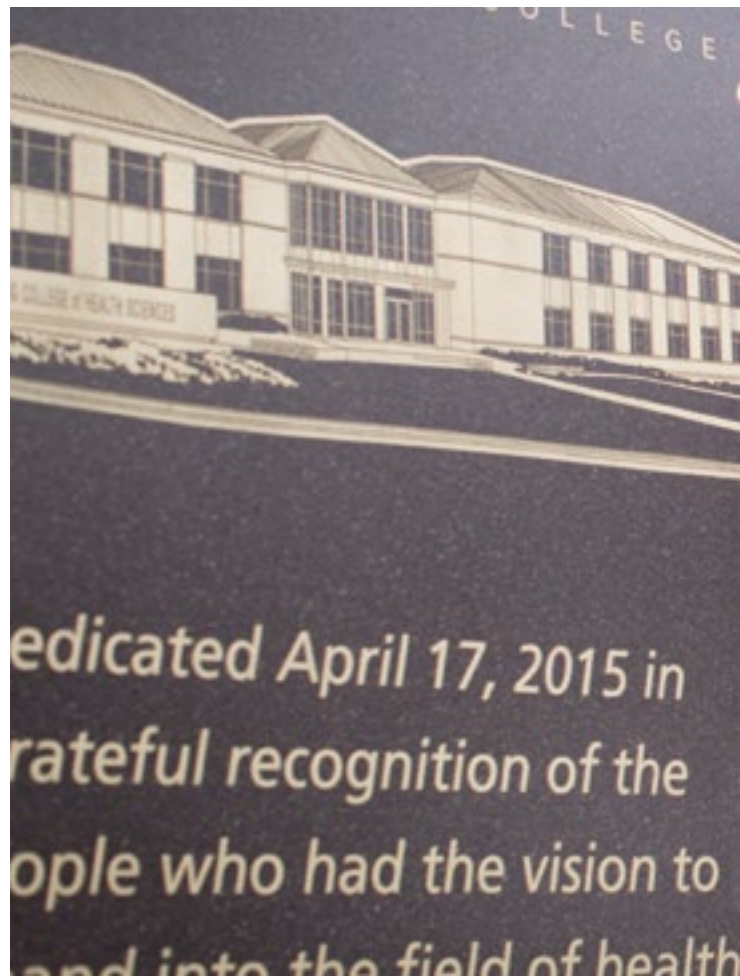
A recognition wall in the entrance lobby of the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences includes the names of key donors and school leaders and a special dedication that reads:

Mrs. Bertie Murphy Deming Smith

Mrs. Smith (MBC '46, Doctor of Humane Letters 1977) has demonstrated unwavering belief in the legacy and future of Mary Baldwin College. Her transformational support created the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences. On behalf of the generations of health care changemakers who will learn here, we honor and thank her.

Bertie Murphy arrived at Mary Baldwin in 1942 at age 16, coming all the way from El Dorado, Arkansas, following in her sister Polly's (Caroline Murphy Keller '42) footsteps. When President Samuel R. Spencer, Jr. urged her to join the Board of Trustees in 1963 at a critical point in the college's history, she embarked upon 35 years of Trustee service, led the New Dimensions Campaign, and with her sister established MBC's first endowed professorship in honor of their mother. For over half a century, Mrs. Smith has been a visionary advocate whose leadership and philanthropy have, over and over, nourished MBC's mission and turned aspirations into reality.

The current stature of Mary Baldwin is measured by Mrs. Smith's dedication and wisdom. She is our inspirational role model, manifest through her entrepreneurial spirit, community achievements, and abiding commitment to her family and ours.





MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE

A major priority of the Ever Ahead Campaign, funding for MDCHS has come from scores of donors, totaling \$18.3 million so far. In addition to fueling the establishment and future growth of Murphy Deming, philanthropists have also helped provide physical spaces within the health sciences building, supporting students and educators with teaching and learning spaces:

CHARLOTTE JACKSON BERRY EXAM ROOM

Charlotte Jackson Berry '51

BRENDA L. BRYANT MEMORIAL LOFT

Anne Humphrey Sanders '67 and
Wellford L. Sanders Jr.
Fetterman Charitable Lead Trust
Molly Fetterman Held '76

H.C. STUART COCHRAN CONFERENCE ROOM

H.C. Stuart and Emily Cochran
Lee Stuart Cochran

HARRY A. AND NANCY PAYNE DAHL AND FAMILY FLAGPOLE PLAZA

DAHL FAMILY CONFERENCE ROOM

Debbie Dahl Caldwell
Allen and Cary Dahl
Harry A. and Nancy Payne Dahl '56

GREENBAUM EXAM ROOM

Elisabeth Truett Greenbaum '78
and Erik Greenbaum

MISS BONNIE HOHN, MBC FACULTY EXAM ROOM

Dee Dee Maxwell

CAROLINE MURPHY KELLER NORTH TERRACE

Caroline Murphy Keller '42

LUCK TERRACE

Cynthia Luck Haw '79
True and Charlie Luck
Luck Stone Corporation

MEDICAL FACILITIES OF AMERICA CAFÉ

Medical Facilities of America

MUFF AND JOHN NOLDE MEETING ROOM

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Nolde Jr.

JAN SAXMAN 2011 MEMORIAL RAIN GARDEN

Bill Saxman

MARY LYNN MILLER AND JAMIL SOPHER RESEARCH LABORATORY

Mary Lynn Miller Sopher '68 and Jamil Sopher

WREN FAMILY BALCONY

Margaret Wren de St. Aubin '81
and Denis R. de St. Aubin
Wren Foundation, Inc.





Above: A new bronze bell is situated next to the Administration Building, a gift from the Class of 2015. Opposite: A preliminary rendition of the Mary Baldwin University Seal.

MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees Votes Yes on Name Change for 2016

BY LIESEL CROSIER

May 15, 2015: On the Friday before Commencement, members of the Class of 2015 gather on the steps of the Mary Baldwin College Administration Building with green and white streamers, pennants, pearls, ribbon, and tulle. It is time to decorate the statues of Ham and Jam with their class colors, a practice that has become the unofficial start of graduation weekend in recent years. That same afternoon the students also unveil their class gift — a newly cast bell — proud to leave the institution with another new tradition: ringing the bell after receiving their diplomas.

Caught up in the pre-Commencement excitement is graduating senior Kathleen Hurlock, an English major from Hampton.

Tradition means something to Hurlock; like many of her classmates and hundreds of alumni, she signed the honor code on Charter Day, gleaned fruit on Apple Day, and presented her senior thesis at Capstone. Hurlock is also part of the nearly 70 percent of students in support of the decision to become Mary Baldwin University in fall 2016. To her, the move makes sense for the institution.

"This school has so much to offer. It is a university. We have all the opportunities of a university. It will attract more students and show them how much we have to offer," says Hurlock. "I'm really positive. I think it's the right thing to do."

For so many who love Mary Baldwin and respect its traditions, the transition from college to university is a practical way forward, a continuation of the

POINTS OF EVOLUTION

175 Years



1842

Augusta County was an agricultural community of 4,000 when Rufus Bailey founded Augusta Female Seminary (AFS). He became the first principal, championing the idea that women should be educated as well as men, and Mary Julia Baldwin was among the first students.



1863

Mary Baldwin and Agnes McClung became joint principals of AFS. Rescuing the school from financial distress, they grew the student body from a low of six students at the beginning of the Civil War to 80 students, including 22 boarders, in just their first term.

1895

Name changed to Mary Baldwin Seminary to honor the principal of 33 years and all that she had done to enrich the school: when she died in 1897, the school had five buildings, a farm, 250 students, respected faculty, and financial stability. She also gave nearly all of her estate to the seminary.

1923



Name changed to Mary Baldwin College, a nearly 10-year-long movement originating with the newly formed alumnae association. Established in 1894, the group fueled the momentum to set college-level standards for the institution, and it set out to increase the endowment to support the process.

1961-70

Major construction projects transformed main campus, with the additions of Hunt Dining Hall, Woodson Residence Hall, Spencer Residence Hall, Pearce Science Center, and Grafton Library.

evolution of the institution, and another moment to celebrate.

RARE, BUT NOT UNPRECEDENTED

Like Hurlock, Nellie Hotchkiss McCollough supported an institutional name change. In 1895 after the Board of Trustees successfully sought to change the school's name from Augusta Female Seminary to Mary Baldwin Seminary, alumna McCollough feared other alumnae would not understand the reason for the name change, writing, "The name only is changed, for the bell still rings for Chapel services, the view from Hill Top is as beautiful as ever."

For years leading up to that first name change, the institution was increasingly known as "Miss Baldwin's School," according to historian Patricia Menk's *To Live in Time*. The seminary's reputation was strong thanks to Mary Julia Baldwin (1829-97) who owned much of the land that comprised campus, ran the school

— from purchasing lab equipment to deciding curricula — and secured its future. In 1923, when baccalaureate degrees were first granted, the name was changed again to Mary Baldwin College.

"This is a rare moment in Mary Baldwin's history, but not unprecedented. Our institutional tradition is to change our name to reflect major stages in our evolution," Board of Trustees Chairwoman Jane Harding Miller '76 wrote to the MBC community in April. Today, Mary Baldwin serves students with two campuses and regional centers throughout the state. The college awards doctoral, master's, and bachelor's degrees. "We have evolved in significant and exciting ways that meet student needs and create a thriving future for our very special institution. This is indeed the right moment to become Mary Baldwin University."

As was the case in 1923, the institutional name change follows an expansion of educational offerings and reflects MBC's existing status. Since 2001, the Carnegie Foundation for the

Advancement of Teaching — generally acknowledged as the authority on the classification of higher education in the U.S. — has classified MBC as a master's level university, based on the number of graduate degrees awarded each year. Master's degrees have been offered since 1992. Now, with the opening of the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences, offering professional doctoral degrees on a branch campus, MBC is even more operating as a small university.

Dean Emeritus of the College and Professor Emeritus of English James D. Lott witnessed much of the institutional expansion during his tenure at Mary Baldwin from 1964 to 2001 and as a trustee since his retirement.

"When I came here there was one program, and that was Mary Baldwin College. It was undergraduate women's education. It was residential, and there was not much focus on career preparation. In the mid-70s, we started thinking about how the liberal arts can prepare you for careers, and that was the start. It was a recognition that what

1976

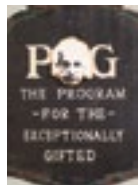
The Board of Trustees approved purchase of Staunton Military Academy property, more than doubling the size of campus.

1977

Adult Degree Program founded. Initially designed to help provide higher education options for alumnae who had not yet earned their degrees, it soon expanded to include all women and eventually men.

1985

Program for the Exceptionally Gifted founded. Funded by a major



grant from the Jesse Ball duPont Fund, the program allows young girls of exceptional academic ability to pursue a college degree.

1992

Master of Arts in Teaching program founded. The first graduate degree program at the college built upon its already strong legacy of educating teachers.



1995

Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership founded. The only all-female corps of cadets in the nation emphasizes training for leadership roles in the military, public service, and the private sector.



2001

MLitt/MFA in Shakespeare and Performance founded. In partnership with the American Shakespeare Center and Blackfriars Playhouse, the college added the first terminal degree program to its academic offerings.

2007



The Samuel R. Jr. and Ava Spencer Center for Civic and Global Engagement opened, reaffirming the college's commitment to both local and worldwide community outreach.

2016

AUGUST 31, 2016

The new name, Mary Baldwin University, takes effect on this date, while the name of the campus-based program for women will become Mary Baldwin College for Women.

2014

Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences founded. The new college established the first doctoral degrees to be offered at Mary Baldwin and expanded onto a branch campus in Fishersville with a state-of-the-art, 55,000-square-foot building.

was once considered cutting-edge education for women was no longer filling the needs of students in the 70s, then 80s, and beyond," Lott says, referencing the addition of critical programs for adult learners, gifted young scholars, women seeking leadership opportunities, and graduate students. "Without saying that we're becoming a university, we made decisions that moved us in that direction."

"Today we are, indisputably, a small university," Miller wrote in her letter to the community. "This category includes institutions that are more complex than traditional four-year liberal arts colleges and offer a wider range of programs, but also remain small and personal with a focus on teaching."

Miller's colleague on the Board Sarah A. Flanagan underscores the importance of marketplace evolution and praises Mary Baldwin for understanding the critical role small universities play in the higher education landscape.

"The institutions of higher educa-

tion that will thrive tomorrow are the ones that are reinventing themselves today," says Flanagan, vice president for government relations and policy development at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. "So much is changing in American higher education because the way we learn and communicate is changing more rapidly than at any point in human history. It is exciting to see Mary Baldwin embracing change while staying true to her mission. Small universities are uniquely positioned to embrace new programming while staying personal — the perfect combination of everything Mary Baldwin has always been about and where she needs to be in the future."

Decisions are made with a deep understanding and respect for the school's history and character, or as President Pamela Fox likes to say, the Mary Baldwin DNA. So for the institution's leadership, it is unimaginable that Mary Baldwin will become a large, impersonal institution. "A commitment to leadership, an entrepreneurial spirit,

and a gift for seeing possibilities in every student — that is what makes Mary Baldwin special and what we must remember as we move toward the future," Fox says. "It is why parents invest their children's futures here, why so many alumni return to campus for Reunion, why donors give generously to our upkeep and future growth, why faculty invest their time, why we can all be proud of where we're headed."

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

For Fox, much of the last year has been dedicated to sharing plans for Mary Baldwin's future with alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and students. Since Trustees formally endorsed the college's most recent strategic plan in July 2014, Fox has taken the time to ensure that all constituents have had an opportunity to read and ask questions about it. For many, the details were not new, because *Mary Baldwin 2020* was developed from the ground up, with input from hundreds within the college



"The name only is changed, for the bell still rings for Chapel services, the view from Hill Top is as beautiful as ever."

NELLIE HOTCHKISS MCCOLLOUGH,
Augusta Female Seminary alumna

community. For the last year, college stakeholders have heard from the president's office about the plan, whether by mail or personal visits, events, or through the live webinar broadcast from the President's House on campus in January.

Adopting a new name was not mandated in the strategic plan, but the blueprint does call for the institution "to be recognized as a distinctive small university, committed to academic excellence and united through a constellation of communities that empowers a broad range of learners to exceed expectations and pursue lives of purpose." More specifically, *Mary Baldwin 2020* calls for an all-institution mindset that embraces the distinctive small university identity.

"It's a real moment of celebration

for this institution, a recognition of all that has been accomplished over the years that has allowed Mary Baldwin College to remain competitive in the landscape of higher education," says Gabrielle Gelzer "Gabby" McCree '83. "We continue to value our tradition of excellence and personalized teaching but look ahead strategically to meet the needs of current students. These students need their minds to be nourished and desire to develop themselves into well-rounded individuals, but they absolutely must be equipped with specific skills that allow them to be successful, productive, and ever flexible.

"Just as this new generation is innovative, so must universities be innovative, all the while ensuring that they are affordable and accessible. Our move to university status

only confirms that Mary Baldwin is fully describing what we already are: a small, creative university of excellence on the move."

Recognizing that need to innovate is worth honoring, too, Lott says.

"I think we are celebrating the success of a Mary Baldwin that recognized it needed to expand and look for new opportunities. And holding onto what was best about the institution and really emphasizing that."

'IT'S WHO WE ARE'

Understanding what Mary Baldwin was, is, and will be has been Crista Cabe's anchor while navigating the feasibility of an institutional name change. With 27 years of institutional memory at her disposal, the vice pres-

THE 'MARY' MATTERS

PRESERVING AN IMPORTANT LEGACY AND RETAINING BRAND RECOGNITION were two important factors in the decision to keep the name Mary in the name of the institution. All three phases of research into the question of institutional name change revealed that keeping the name Mary Baldwin was vital.

Evidence from the quantitative surveys and focus group discussions indicated that the name "Baldwin University" would not readily be perceived as the same institution that had been Mary Baldwin College, causing the school to lose its familiar public identity. Dean Emeritus of the College James D. Lott likened dropping the Mary from the name to trying to introduce a whole new institution.

"A change to Baldwin University would not acknowledge the history of the college and the commitment of the college to the education of women, historically. Baldwin University sounds like a new institution," he said. "I think what we're trying to emphasize in the renaming is that this is the institution of 1842 that has grown throughout the years and managed to be cutting edge while maintaining its commitment to tradition."

Some felt dropping Mary would be sexist, and would imply that founding women cannot be as important, relevant, or appealing to students as the men whose names have been taken by other Virginia universities. Some respondents liked the idea of tying the Mary Baldwin of 2020 directly to a real historical figure.

"Mary Julia was a strong leader, and we have been so fortunate to maintain strong and visionary leadership in the principals and presidents that have followed her," said Alison Kaufmann '07, "I also think that it is the right thing to do to preserve and honor our women's history by maintaining Mary Baldwin College for Women."



Members of the Class of 2014 pose by their class gift — a new sign at the entrance near North Coalter and East Frederick streets.

ident for communication, marketing, and public affairs was tasked with gathering opinions and exploring the pros and cons of a name change. She presented her findings to the Trustees in October, prompting a preliminary board endorsement in February and a final vote on May 11 that unanimously endorsed the adoption of the name Mary Baldwin University and designated Mary Baldwin College for Women as the official name of the campus-based program for women, now called the Residential College for Women (RCW).

"Mary Baldwin is so distinctive in its programmatic offerings and structure that we knew we could not rely solely on the experiences of other institutions for guidance," Cabe says. "For much of the research, we looked inward, at our history, our programs, and our people. In the end, that really made the difference. We found that the name Mary Baldwin University not only honors how far we've come as an institution, but also honors Mary Julia Baldwin's legacy and acknowledges that the historic women's college is the foundation and heart of our identity. It's who we are."

Cabe launched an 18-month research project in July 2013. In addition to reviewing existing research, reading case studies, and interviewing administrators at other institutions that had changed their names, she conducted three phases of original research: gathering information through more than a dozen focus groups representing the various segments of the MBC community as well as external audiences; surveying students in the RCW, students in the Adult Degree Program (ADP), and RCW alumnae; and finally, polling a random sample of alumni of all programs. In the end, Cabe determined that a name change would provide an accurate description of the institution as defined by rankings organizations, the higher education community, and the general public and also simplify Mary Baldwin's own institutional organization. For years, the community has perceived Mary Baldwin College as both the historic women's college and the institutional umbrella that encompasses the main components of the institution: RCW, ADP, College of Education, Shakespeare and Performance, and Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences. Changing

BRAND NEW

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAD DECIDED to adopt the name Mary Baldwin University, the time is right to begin the process of rebranding. With the goal of promoting an all-institution mindset, the strategic plan called for — among other initiatives — the rebranding of the entire organization within a small university structure. That process of examining the institution's values, culture, and competitive advantage and developing a new marketing strategy is well underway, with support from Chicago-based marketing and communications firm Lipman Hearne. But, according to Lipman Hearne's president and chief executive officer, Mary Baldwin already had a head start on the process because of the research conducted by MBC's Crista Cabe in the Office of Communication, Marketing, and Public Affairs.

"Crista's team did a very thorough and well-designed series of research projects with key college stakeholders: students, alumni, faculty, and staff, exploring not only the possible name change itself, but also other aspects of the brand," says Rob Moore. "This research became the basis of an informed discussion with those same stakeholder groups, a dialogic process by which emerging views about the college's name and identity could be addressed in such a way as to bring people forward in their understanding of the institution's brand, its market position, and its strategic direction."

And although the name change was not necessary for rebranding to take place, there are advantages to be reaped in light of the decision, Cabe says, noting that aligning the name of the institution with its mission and scope of offerings allows Mary Baldwin to create a stronger comprehensive brand and position its component programs for success.

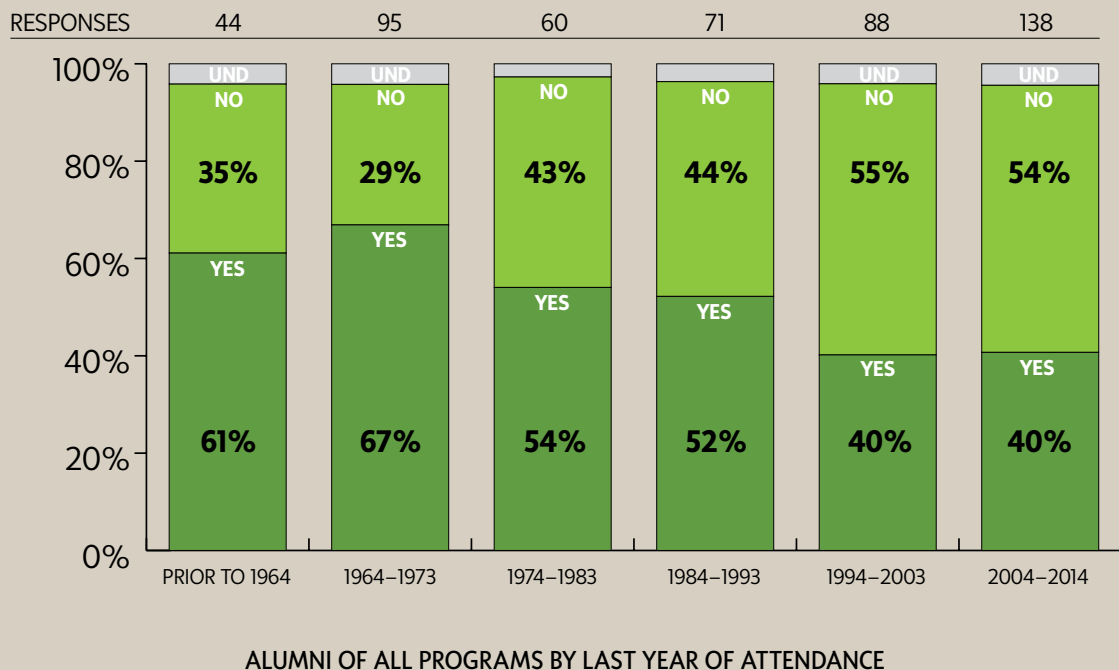
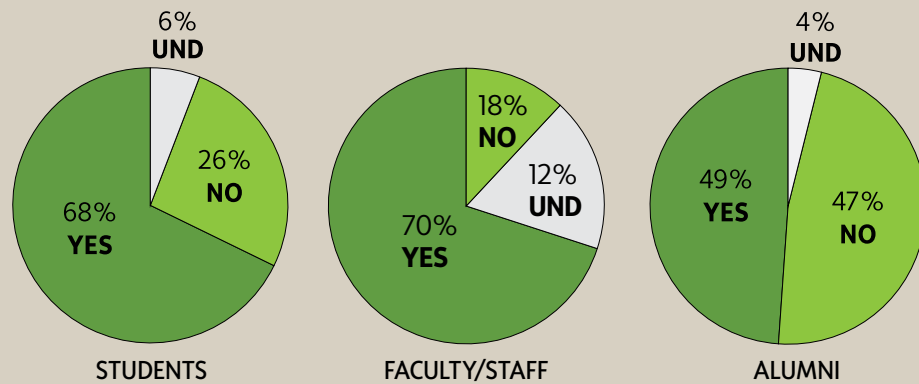
"Rebranding will help us better articulate who we are, and develop that necessary vocabulary we'll need as we move forward," Cabe says.



PHOTO BY WOODS PIERCE

A Part of the Discussion

CULMINATING THE 18-MONTH EFFORT TO RESEARCH THE QUESTION of institutional name change, MBC polled students, alumni, faculty, and staff in January to gauge support for changing the institution's name to Mary Baldwin University in 2016–17. The results, shown in the pie charts below, show strong support among faculty, staff, and students and only slightly more alumni voting yes than no on university. Older alums were more likely to support becoming Mary Baldwin University, with support generally decreasing among younger classes. As shown in the bar graph below, most enthusiastic of the change were alumnae from class years between 1964 and 1973, with 67 percent in favor of university.



the name of the overall organization to "university," Cabe concluded, clarifies the relationship of each component to the institution as a whole.

"Again, one of the takeaways from all of this work was discovering how 'university' already describes who we are," Cabe says. "Inclusivity is so central to who we are, and becoming Mary Baldwin University signals to all students in all programs that they are a core part of this institution."

Becoming Mary Baldwin University, the research indicates, could help strengthen market position over time for several reasons. For many prospective students, Mary Baldwin would be more appealing as a university because the name indicates a broader range of opportunities than might be expected at a college. It would create a distinction between the historic college for women and the coeducational adult and graduate programs within the university structure while aligning the institution with others that provide one or more professional programs, four-year campus-based degrees, and graduate offerings. It will likely help prospective international students understand that the school grants bachelor's degrees, unlike "colleges" overseas, where the term is generally used for trade schools, preparatory schools, or an academic unit within a university. Finally, the fact of the name change itself conveys a sense of forward momentum, of an institution that is doing exciting things.

"The adoption of the Mary Baldwin University name will help clarify the nature of the institution as the 'holding company' for colleges with distinct and important missions, as well as a number of other service entities — such as the Adult Degree Program — which are more properly part of a small, responsive university structure," says Robert Moore, president and chief executive officer of Lipman Hearne, a marketing and communications firm focused on the non-profit and government sector. "And the name change itself — as a matter of institutional definition — provides a newsworthy hook for talking about the evolving nature of the institution;

BIG ANNIVERSARY, BIG WORD

THE TERM, "QUARTO SEPTCENNIAL" ISN'T USED VERY OFTEN in casual conversation, but it is becoming more and more familiar at Mary Baldwin as the institution approaches its 175th anniversary in 2017. Like the word, the occasion is a significant one, and the timing is right to celebrate. The transition to Mary Baldwin University will officially take place on August 31, 2016, kicking off a yearlong observance of the institution's 175th year in 2016–17.

its strategic choices as it anticipates and responds to the changing nature of the audiences it serves; the changing environment for higher education in the commonwealth and in the nation, and Mary Baldwin's position in that educational landscape; and other critical issues."

NOT FOR TIME, BUT FOR ETERNITY

For months, Mary Baldwin alumni across generations have been engaged in the conversation about becoming Mary Baldwin University — weighing in as members of focus groups, in surveys, on social media, in emails, and in countless personal conversations. Regardless of individual opinions, the robust discussion shows that alumni have a deep, personal connection to Mary Baldwin, and care profoundly for its future.

The late Virginia Dickinson Francisco '30 was immensely proud of her Mary Baldwin College education. She started at MBC just a few years after it became a four-year college in 1923 — driving each day from her family's farm just outside of town — and was likely excited and grateful for the opportunity to pursue a college degree so close to home. After graduation, she taught multiple subjects at two local high schools until 1940, when she and her husband bought a farm near Middlebrook. She believed her college education gave her a special perspective on her work and life in those early years on their farm, and she insisted

her own son attend college. At some point, her MBC class ring, extremely worn, had to be cut off her finger.

"I believe my grandmother would be incredibly proud of the university that her little college has become," says Sarah Francisco '97, senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center and a member of the MBC Board of Trustees. As the third generation of MBC women in her family, Sarah Francisco has a powerful long view of the institution's reinvention. Many people associated with Mary Baldwin know Sarah's mother, Virginia Royster "Ginny" Francisco '64, a retired professor of theatre. "Mary Baldwin gave us a superb liberal arts-based education and college experiences that together opened horizons for us in different ways in our own eras," Sarah Francisco says. "I view this transition to Mary Baldwin University as claiming in name what the institution already has become and as another step in the institution's long history of growth and evolution to meet current educational needs, especially for women, in a way that is true to her liberal arts roots and values."

Standing on the steps of the Administration Building, excited about the changes to her alma mater and her own future, Kathleen Hurlock recalls what she will most remember about her time at Mary Baldwin College. "I'll miss the smaller moments with my friends," she says, looking around the crowd of classmates surrounding her, celebrating both a moment in time and the institution's future. ■



CLASSACTS

SECTION EDITOR: AMANDA MINIX,
ADVANCEMENT WRITER

IN THIS SECTION

- Profile: Jessica Gatewood '00
- Why I Give:
Katherine Early "Kay"
Dougherty '65
- Why I Give: Fred Banister
- Why I Volunteer:
Jane Kornegay Eng '83
- Class Columns, including
shares from the online forum
- Submitted photos

MESSAGE FROM THE 2014–16 ALUMNAE/I BOARD PRESIDENT

CHRISTY HAWKINS HOWELL '93

I recently spent a glorious Sunday morning on Page Terrace looking out at the stunning hillside that leads up to Hunt Dining Hall. The scene was full of families, loved ones, and friends of Mary Baldwin College and the very energetic Class of 2015. I haven't been to an MBC Commencement ceremony in ... well, let's just say that it has been a long time, and it was truly moving.

That "Mary Baldwin" aura, memories of my time here, and so many emotions came flooding back. We all love the Mary Baldwin of our class years. We hold in our hearts and minds images that encapsulate our days on campus. However, new traditions are part of what makes Mary Baldwin so exciting and so relevant. This year the senior class gifted the college with a beautiful bell and arch structure nestled behind Academic and began a new ritual in which graduates ring the bell during a reception after receiving their diplomas.

There are a number of programs that have come to fruition since I graduated and, although I was familiar with them by name, I had yet to meet the Mary Baldwin students who comprise these graduate and special-

ized programs. During the Commencement ceremony, I watched men and women of various ages proudly walk across the terrace and accept the degrees for which they worked so hard. MBC's programs are changing lives, and every graduate becomes a thread in the tapestry that creates this institution.

As we transition in name to Mary Baldwin University, we bring together the impressive legacies of Augusta Female Seminary, Mary Baldwin Seminary, and Mary Baldwin College — the cornerstones and building blocks of who we are, and who we will always be. Our leaders have made sure that our future is solid. They have been innovative and forward-thinking while keeping the Mary Baldwin DNA incorporated into every program and classroom.

On behalf of the Mary Baldwin College Alumnae/i Association: Congratulations, Class of 2015. One hundred seventy-three years of legacy and tradition are behind you, cheering you on to your next adventure. We look forward to seeing you at future alumni gatherings; and know that Mary Baldwin will be here, too, waiting to welcome you home.

ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lucia Almendras "Yogi" Carroll '02
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WHY I GIVE

'I believe in Mary Baldwin'

Katherine Early "Kay"

Dougherty '65 attended Mary Baldwin College during a turbulent time in United States history, from the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. to increasing U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. Through all the dissonance, Mary Baldwin was her anchor. It has been 50 years since Dougherty graduated from the "little college on the hill," but her pride and gratitude have not diminished.

"I believe Mary Baldwin is the place that prepared us more than anything else for what we would go on to face in our lives," she said. Honoring the role Mary Baldwin played in shaping her into the woman she is today, she made a bequest that will support an academic scholarship for young women studying mathematics.

Dougherty majored in math — an uncommon field for women at the time — but she was empowered to take risks and follow her passion. When she and her husband updated their will, it felt natural to support other young women who challenge traditional expectations.

"A bequest says so much about your faith in the institution. Dollars don't just pay for things — they represent a deep confidence in the mission," she said. "I believe in Mary Baldwin, and I am investing in future students who will pursue their dreams."

You can lead the way!



MBC's campaign for the Baldwin Fund is underway, and we invite **you** to participate.

When you make a gift, you open a world of discovery for our students.

www.mbc.edu/BaldwinFund

Alumna Employs Liberal Arts, Science in Winemaking Career

BY DAWN MEDLEY
PHOTOS BY SERA PETRAS

Most scientists don't taste their lab samples, but Jessica Gatewood '00 does just that almost every day. As a winemaker at Barren Ridge Vineyards in Fishersville, Gatewood combines her background in biology, chemistry, and psychology and an appetite for experimentation into a non-traditional scientific career.

She clearly remembers the turning point in her professional life. After earning a BA in biopsychology at Mary Baldwin College and a master's degree in psychology at the University of Richmond, Gatewood spent a few years as a biochemistry and molecular genetics research assistant at the University of Virginia (UVA) and was headed toward her PhD.

"A woman I was working with in the lab said, 'I don't think you're happy doing this,' and she was right," Gatewood said. "I couldn't see where that work was going to take me, but I was open to opportunities."

She took a break from UVA to work as a buyer and manager at River City Cellars in Richmond. While learning about business and production aspects of the winemaking industry, Gatewood earned a certificate in enology — the study and science of winemaking — from Piedmont Virginia Community College and worked as an adjunct psychology professor at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

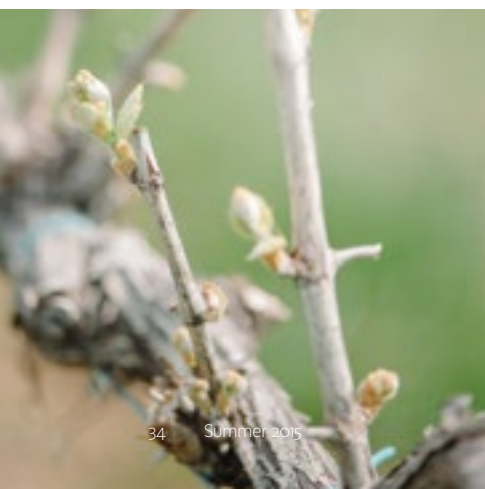
In 2008, she met legendary Italian winemaker Gabriele Rausse at a wine tasting — revered by many as the "go-to expert" for aspiring winemakers in Virginia and beyond. When Rausse started to talk about the need for more people with scientific training in the field, Gatewood really tuned in.

"Since then, it has pretty much been all wine, all the time," she said.

Gatewood assisted with the harvest, the crush, analyzing the must, and bottling during a yearlong internship at Rausse's winery in Charlottesville. For the past six years, her laboratory has also been her livelihood. From harvesting and wine production to customer relations, budgeting, and sales, Gatewood has been immersed in just about every aspect of winemaking and vineyard operations at several sites in Central Virginia.

continued on p. 36

**"BEING A
SCIENTIST
DOES NOT
HAVE TO
MEAN WEARING
A WHITE COAT
AND SAFETY
GLASSES TO
WORK IN A
LAB EVERY DAY."**





FIRST CRUSH

About 24 hours after grapes are harvested — they spend the intervening time in refrigeration to protect the fruit from damage, bacterial growth, and rot — the important step of crushing occurs. In modern winemaking practice, squeezing the grapes to break the skin and release the juice is accomplished mechanically, but Gatewood does admit to a brush with the more romanticized version. While participating in a harvest several years ago, the winery owner summoned her and a few others to a small bin and invited them to crush the grapes the old-fashioned way ... with their feet.

"It was an invigorating and hilarious experience," she said. "I kind of felt like I was in an old movie."





WHY I GIVE

'I wanted to give back to a school that gave so much to my daughter'

Fred Banister discovered Mary Baldwin in the late 1960s when he was a "Rat" at Virginia Military Institute and attended a mixer at the all-women's college in Staunton. What he didn't know then was that decades later, he and his wife, Janie, would take their daughter to MBC for a college visit, beginning a lasting association that has enriched both the college and his family.

"She immediately fell in love with the school," said Banister, vice president-investments at Davenport & Company LLC in Virginia Beach. His daughter, Anne, enrolled in fall 2003, and he served on the Parent Council while she was in college and for three years after Anne graduated, eventually becoming president. "Once I became involved, I felt a little bit of ownership," he said.

The Banisters also started donating to MBC while Anne was a student. "Mary Baldwin was a good match for her. It allowed her to blossom and develop into a confident young woman," Banister said. He and his wife continue to generously support MBC each year.

"I like to give back to an organization that provided that experience," he said. "I know that financially colleges and universities need more than tuition to keep everything going. Donors help make Mary Baldwin the place it is. And giving makes you feel like you're truly part of the family."



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In May 2014, Gatewood was hired as head winemaker at Barren Ridge. She knew that overseeing a vineyard with triple the production of her previous location would be a challenge, but she was ready to expand her knowledge once again.

Although it is intense and stressful, Gatewood loves the annual harvest season — usually August through October. Her favorite part is being in the throes of winemaking. Skirting between tanks to examine the cap of skins and other solids. Extracting samples for chemical analysis. And tasting, tasting, tasting. Gatewood regards the developing wines as living organisms and often refers to them the way parents talk about their children.

"It isn't unusual for me to use terms like 'behavior' and 'personality' or to talk about the hope I have for a certain vintage," she said. "Sometimes your work and persistence pay off, and sometimes they don't, but you always learn from the successes and the missteps."

For stress relief during the harvest, Gatewood recommends "punching down" the cap on tanks for fermenting wines. The process — pushing the layer of grape skins and other solid bits back down into the liquid to keep it moist and inhibit bacterial and mold growth — is sometimes done mechanically, but it can also be done by hand with a long-handled masher. It is a physically demanding job that does wonders for releasing tension, she says.

Gatewood senses a movement toward looking at winemaking as a scientific profession. Her training in biology and chemistry enhances her understanding of what is happening in the tanks, and, often, produces better wine. At the same time, she recognizes the influence of her liberal arts education on the job and in life.

"Having a foundation in music, art, history, and foreign language is an advantage on the job — like when we're buying new barrels for aging wine that usually come from abroad or international distributors — and it generally makes me a more interesting person," she said.



Gatewood credits Mary Baldwin with shaping not only what she knows, but also her thought process and the way she approaches problems. She was encouraged — sometimes relentlessly persuaded — to come up with creative solutions.

"I'm grateful that my education kept me open to the potential that being a scientist does not have to mean wearing a white coat and safety glasses to work in a lab every day," she said. ■

VINEYARD VOCABULARY

appellation: a winegrowing region with officially recognized boundaries; required on wine labels to identify the origin of the grapes used in making the wine

cap: the layer of fruit pulp, skins, and seeds that forms when carbon dioxide produced by yeast rises to the top of the must — bringing the solids with it — during fermentation in the tank

crush: gently squeezing the grapes to break the skins and start the juices flowing

custom crush: making a custom wine for another winery; for example, winery X makes wine using its specific method, but X also makes wine — in a style it chooses — for vineyard Z with vineyard Z's grapes, thereby customizing it

enology (or oenology): the study and science of winemaking

methode champenoise: the process of putting a still wine through secondary fermentation in the bottle so that the carbon dioxide produced is trapped and carbonates the liquid, producing a wine in the style of true champagne (not carbonated wine); a true champagne must be made with grapes from the Champagne region in northeast France

must: the basic ingredients — solids (skins, seeds, stems) and liquid (juice) — from which wine is made; when the must reaches about 8% or 9% alcohol, the liquid is referred to as wine

vineyard: a planting of grapevines

viticulture: science and study of grapes

winery: a winemaking establishment



WHY I VOLUNTEER

'MBC holds a very special place in my life'

Jane Kornegay Eng '83 is among the most passionate and engaged alumnae from Mary Baldwin's Residential College for Women. After graduating from MBC, she worked at the college for a total of 10 years, is in her third term on the Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors, and continues to volunteer for the college in a variety of capacities.

Eng's early volunteer work with Mary Baldwin included serving as a tour guide for the admissions office. "It was a fabulous experience, as it allowed me to meet prospective students and their families, tout the great benefits of MBC, and encourage young women to apply," she said. Another notable experience was making calls to garner support for the annual fund as part of MBC's Phonathon — an effort that taught her how critical unrestricted contributions are to the college.

"Both of these opportunities showed me the essential roles that students and future alumni play in the success of MBC," she said.

Her love for Mary Baldwin inspired her to take on other volunteer roles, such as chairing a career networking committee to give students access to more professional resources and working during Reunion Weekend, the college's largest alumni event.

Each year during Reunion, Eng fills in wherever needed and enjoys the chance to reconnect with her MBC family. "MBC holds a very special place in my life," she said. "Volunteering is a small way for me to say thanks and to repay the college for what it has given and continues to give to me."

CLASSCOLUMNS

ALUMNI IN ALL CLASSES are encouraged to post news on their MBC class pages on the online Class Acts forum www.mbc.edu/class, where class secretaries will lead the forum and periodically request updates. Notes from the class celebrating its 50th Reunion and members of the Grafton Society will continue to be printed in the magazine, as well as selected notes and photos from the online forum.

CONTACT US

If your class has a designated secretary, please continue to submit notes to her when requested. If you have questions about **how to submit updates**, please contact the Office of Alumnae/i and Parent Relations.

- 800-763-7359
- alumnae@mbc.edu
- Mary Baldwin College
Office of Alumnae/i and
Parent Relations
Staunton, VA 24401
- www.mbc.edu/class

GRAFTON SOCIETY

1935

LLOYD CATHER Dickson '71 writes: "When **DONIELLE WEATHERHOLTZ Palmer '04** from Westminster Canterbury contacted me with her request to send photos of my mother, **MARIAN MARTIN Cather**, for inclusion in the alumnae magazine, I was pleased. Marian celebrated her 100th birthday January 25. As you can see from the photo (p.43), we had a family gathering and luncheon with all of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren at Shenandoah Valley Westminster Canterbury in Winchester. Mom enjoyed watching all the generations interact and especially loved spending time with her great-grandchildren. Mom graduated along with her sister **LOUISE MARTIN Rohrer**, who, sadly, is deceased. My cousin **ANNA LLOYD ROHRER Bach '61**, who is deceased, also attended MBC."

1946

The children of **MARJORIE MOORE Council** write: "Mother's health failed suddenly in 2014 and continues to decline. She lives at home and is well cared for but grieving the death of daughter Harriett, who died in November. We 5 remaining

children live in NC where 3 head the business founded by our paternal great-grandfather. Mother has 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren, who all live along the East Coast. Her dear friend **BETTY NEISLER Timberlake '45** lives nearby and among other lifelong friends Mother most recently heard from classmate **BITSY TRIGG Gannon**. She sends best wishes to all classmates."

1951

MARTHA KLINE "MARTY" Chaplin writes: "My granddaughter Jesse married Joey Kasniki in a great ceremony July 19, 2014. Harvey and I now have 2 grandsons working for Google, granddaughter is in 2nd year at William & Mary, and 1 grandson is in his 3rd year at Thomas Jefferson High School. Harvey and I will continue our custom of spending 3 weeks in France. Our daughter and her husband will join us in Penne-les-Fontaines again this year. We are blessed with good health."

1953

ETHEL SMEAK writes: "MBC was a good match for me — I loved my 4 years and, lucky me, my close connection has continued. When I went to Vanderbilt for my graduate

CLASSACTS » from the online forum at www.mbc.edu/class



News from Class of 2012

WHITNEY BROOKS '12 was included in a "Meet the PFF Team" profile in a November issue of *Partnership for the Future*, a specialty publication of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Whitney works as a relationship manager for *Partnership for the Future*.

degrees, Miss Mims gave me invaluable support and guidance. Then Dr. Louis Locke hired me to teach at Madison College (now James Madison University) for 2 years. Most important of all, Mrs. Grafton was responsible for my being hired at MBC in 1965. I retired after 30 years and have remained in Staunton, where I am in close touch with our college." **Barbara LE MARE Loux** writes: "I attended MBC for 2 years and then left for the University of Texas with **PAULA BOEDEKER Clark**. After college I stayed in Austin and flew for Braniff Airways for several years. I met my husband there, a pilot for National Airlines. We

were married and traveled all over the world. I have precious daughter, Lisa Marie, who has been the joy of my life. We left Vero Beach IL after my divorce and moved to Charleston SC where my parents lived. For the next 40 years, Charleston was my home and was a beautiful place to live. I have had a wonderful life and am living next to my daughter in Columbia SC. I still have a full life and good health. I have such good memories of MBC. God bless." **Margaret GARRETT Corsa** writes: "I live in Walnut Creek CA which is about 30 miles east of San Francisco. I have been here (in fact in the same house) for

CLASSACTS » from the online forum at www.mbc.edu/class

■ Mission Trip to Honduras

Three generations of MBC women, **MARGARET RINGROSE Pearson '00**, **DANA FLANDERS '82**, **JASMINE GREINKE '14** and **ASHLEIGH HINSON '14** traveled with Staunton's Trinity Episcopal Church to Copan Ruinas, Honduras, to build churches and community centers. The group also works with a nearby school for children of coffee workers. This was Dana's 16th trip to Copan Ruinas, probably Margaret's 10th, and Ashleigh and Jasmine's first.

■ News from Class of 1958



BARBARA ALLAN HITE who spent many years as an educator and has also written many plays, has lately turned to novel writing. Her third book, set in a fictional Shenandoah Valley city, is due out this fall. It follows Hite's previous works, *Wilderness Child*, which follows the story of an Irish child abandoned on her family's farm during the Great Plague of 1350, and *Letters from Jane*, a thoughtful, engaging tale of life as experienced through an animal's eyes. Hardcover, paperback, and Kindle versions of her books can be found on Amazon.

the last 40 years. My husband died 11 years ago, but 4 of our 5 children and their families live quite near, so with them, plus local commitments, church, and friends, I seem to stay busy. I am not sure I would recognize MBC today — maybe Ham and Jam. Although our class was tiny (27 graduates) the wisdom, memories, and friendships have remained that subtle influence in my life for all this time. What an education and what a bargain." **NELLE MCCANTS Smith** of Beaufort SC writes: "Dear Class of 1953, I wouldn't take anything for

my 2 years at Mary Baldwin. As a freshman, I felt so inadequate coming from a small town and a small public school. It seemed that everyone had attended a "Saint Something" except me. But I made it. While at MBC, I developed self-confidence and made lasting friendships with not only students but some of the faculty, too. It was a special place and happy memories flow over me now. I am so fortunate to be almost 83 and still have great health. I am still working 2 days a week in a gift shop, active on Facebook, playing bridge

once a week, enjoying being in a literary club and trying to stimulate my brain, volunteering (but not as much as I used to do) at church and Historic Beaufort, going to exercise 2 or 3 times a week, where I am the oldest in the class, trying to keep up with my friends, taking a memoir class, hoping to write a book someday, etc. No matter how stressful, I try to begin each day praying, 'This is the day the Lord hath made, rejoice and be glad in it,' for life indeed is a gift from God." A friend writes on behalf of **JANE ALLEN Rowe** in Miami: "I am writing this letter on behalf of Jane Allen Rowe who has Alzheimer's. She was thrilled to get your letter and asked if I would respond. Jane has had a wonderful and varied life. She raised 4 great children and was a stay-at-home mom. She did volunteer work at Vizcaya for many years while raising her son. She also started a career in modeling and modeled for most of the department stores and hotels in Miami. She also modeled for high-end resorts in the Bahamas and Naples as well as for national companies like Levitz furniture and Oldsmobile. A friend of hers who was a vice president of a bank asked her to work for her, which she did. Unfortunately the bank went belly up. I then asked her to be administrative assistant in my insurance business, which she did. In between times, she built up a doll collection of 626 dolls. She had a varied and successful career. Jane is a great mother, a great wife,

and has 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. She worked hard and was dedicated to everything she did. She always had a wonderful personality and humor, which she still has in spite of her Alzheimer's." **WEBER STONER Taylor** writes from Fredericksburg: "I become more and more grateful that little tiny MBC in the 1950s allowed me to have personal relationships with my professors and the staff. All you girls already know I love you, each and every one of you. We were so blessed not to have little communication systems in our hands. There was so much time for uninterrupted thoughts, feelings, and appreciation of God's environment." **JOYCE Gould Bradshaw** writes: "I left MBC, not wisely, in the middle of my 2nd term and did not return. It was not because of the school, but due to my own insecurity. I look back gratefully at the time spent on campus. Some years later, based on much of what I had gained while attending MBC, I earned a bachelor of liberal studies (summa cum laude) from Saint Edward's University in Austin TX." **MARTHA BOOTH Bernhardt** writes from Victoria TX: "When I remember MBC so many things come to mind. One I want to get off my chest. Around Thanksgiving 1951 **JEANNE BELL SHERRILL Boggs** had some of us in her room. She wanted someone to cut her hair. I did not know anything about cutting hair but for some reason they all thought I would do just



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The contributions of Charlene Kiracofe '25 were modest, but faithful, and she created a legacy by committing most of her worldly possessions to Mary Baldwin College. Share her pledge by exploring the ways to include the college in your financial and estate planning.

fine. Poor Jeanne Bell. Later that day we went down to our dinner table. We were at the table sitting and waiting for dinner. When the door opens, Mary Sue, at the top of her voice cried, 'Who cut Jeanne Bell's hair?' We were afraid to say anything. Until now. I am confessing to Mary Sue, 'I, Martha Booth, cut Jeanne Bell's hair.' End of story. Church is still very important. I am not able to do altar guild, but I am now a member of Daughters of the King. Our outreach program helps students, and then there is Meals on Wheels. I am with a group of friends who tries to do Bible study once a week, but we get off on some topic happening in Victoria or the world. Would love to hear about all of you. I see Mary Sue and Milby, and did see Virginia Sykes when my granddaughter was in school in VA. Where is Virginia Sykes now? **JENNIE EVANS Dille** writes: "I am probably the only one without a computer, and I also feel blessed. Kirk and I celebrated 61 years of married bliss this summer. We are in good health and living independently in a retirement complex in Roanoke. I look forward to hearing from others." **EVA POUND Rothschild** writes, "I am still kicking, but not too high. Other than having been a widow for 10 years, I don't wear glasses or hearing aids, nor do I use a walker so I'm holding up pretty well. I live alone — in the same house I've lived in for the past 54 years. When the time comes, my children will have a 'nightmare' emptying this house. Speaking of children, I am blessed with 3 wonderful ones — 2 lawyers and 1 PA. Unfortunately, only 1 lives in Columbus GA near me — the other 2 live in Atlanta. Only 4 grandchildren. My 'exciting existence?' I've become a bridge bum, and other than that, my calendar is filled with doctors' appointments — nothing serious just 'patch, patch, patch.' Best to all the remaining members of the Class of 1953." **JEANNE BELL SHERRILL Boggs** writes from Statesville NC: "Life is busy and

time seems to fly. I am involved with a number of organizations and, of course, my church and several bridge clubs. I serve as parliamentarian in my Fort Dobbs DAR chapter. I love working with the young people. I also belong to the Catawba Valley Chapter, Daughters of the American Colonists. It is a small organization but delightful. My children and 10 grandchildren are full of life, so, as you can well imagine, there are not many dull moments keeping up with the family and its activities. Trust all is well in your little corner of the world. If you see my friend, Charla Borchers Leon, tell her I send greetings. It has been some time since seeing her." **NATALIE JOHNSON McBrien** writes: "Bob and I were married right after my graduation, then began our travels. We started in Norfolk then to Minneapolis, Chicago, Sunnyvale CA, Thousand Oaks CA, Las Vegas, and finally to Vancouver WA. Each section of the United States is different, challenging, and enjoyable, but we really like the Pacific Northwest. We have a view of Mt. Hood near our home along with tall, green trees, or we can go to the Pacific Ocean and get fresh seafood or visit Portland by crossing the Columbia River. I keep busy with decorative painting — once a week I join a teacher and 10 other students in Portland for group art lessons and chatter. Making cards with another group of friends keeps me occupied several times a week. Then about 4 or more times a week I spend an hour swimming and chatting at a nearby indoor gym and pool. (All are well over 55, so no worries over swimsuit bod-ies!) Bob and I have been married 61 years and we are thankful to have good health and companionship. We have been blessed with wonderful family and friends. I was not at Mary Baldwin until the middle of sophomore year so I missed being a green freshman — I do remember Ham & Jam, but don't recognize the campus pictures anymore. Hard to go home again!"

DELIA SPRONG Reid writes from Elgin TX: "Living in such a small town is quite a change from Houston. We are very retired, but keep busy with new friends and church activities. I play bridge, exercise, and visit old friends in Houston. In Elgin there is always barbeque. Mike is fine following knee replacement surgery, but we do not travel much outside of TX." **MARTIE BARNETT Beal** writes: "I have moved to a retirement community in Gastonia NC called Covenant Village. I live in a cottage so if any of you are nearby please come visit. **BETTY CHOATE Matthews '51** and Frank live just up the street. I am lucky enough to have my children close by. My son, Giles, has a small textile plant in Gastonia and my girls, Helen and Lee (Class of 1984), are in Charlotte. I almost got to MBC this May. My grandson graduated from W&L. But time restraints kept us from making the short drive. I spent a night in Roanoke and that brought back lots of great memories. It's not quite like a reunion but I am sure reading all the letters will be the next best thing."

MARY JO SHILLING Shannon writes: "As we grow older we become aware of those things that are really important. I am so thankful I had the opportunity to be part of a group of girls who supported each other and took time to share their hopes and fears with one another. I have pleasant memories of working in the library, helping students locate materials in the stacks, and serving tea and Lorna Doone cookies at our library teas. My senior year I worked in the psych lab, helping Dr. Trice grade papers and coaching general psych students in their dorms after dinner. These sessions usually evolved into tales of my experiences while working summer jobs at Western State Hospital. Since I retired from teaching I have volunteered at church; edited an annual book of Lenten devotionals written by members of the congregation; wrote *Feed My Lambs*, a history of the Presbyterian homes and family services; and wrote a column for a weekly newspaper, *The Roanoke Star*. Health issues for my husband and myself have

CLASSACTS » from the online forum at www.mbc.edu/class



Class of '63 Mini Reunion

Members of the Class of 1963 met at Mountain Lake Lodge in Pembroke for a mini-reunion. Pictured (l to r): **JANET BISH Holmes**, **MARY ROBERTS Judkins**, **HONEY BESSIRE Morris**, Cobbs Nixon (husband of **MINTA MCDIARMID Nixon**), Larry Morris (Honey's husband), and **EMILY DETHLOFF Ryan**.

Update from Emily Hunt '08

EMILY S. HUNT '08 recently accepted a position at the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Hampton VA as assistant commonwealth's attorney, focusing primarily on the prosecution of property crimes and crimes against the person.

CLASSACTS » from the online forum at www.mbc.edu/class



■ Luncheon with NC Triad-Area Alumnae

MARTHA FOWLER '69 writes: "The current group of 15 spans over 50 years of graduation dates from 1953 to 2006. We'd love to have more join us." Front row (l to r): **ALTHEA HALL '93**, **ANITA SAFFELS Lawson '64**, **JANE TUCKER Mitchell '53**, **KIM LAMBE Masich '79**. Back row (l to r): **MARY JANE CONGER '73**, **GINGER TIMBES Ewing '66**, **EMILY TYLER '63**, **BETTY LOU PIGG '64**, and **MARTHA FOWLER '69**.

slowed me down somewhat during the past 2 years, but I continue to volunteer as a receptionist at church and edit the Lent book. God has indeed blessed me. I credit Mary Baldwin with my love for working with people and creative writing." **DIANE BUFFINGTON** writes: "Long ago and far away — so seems MBC. 81 years old and still perkin' and thank the Lord, my mind is still perkin' too. Met my husband in Mexico City. Spent about 8 years there. Divorced and returned to San Antonio in 1961 with 1 child. Spent about 8 years as a legal secretary, then as an oil and gas lease analyst. Now I'm retired and living in a snazzy health center where I am involved in various activities."

JANE LAIRD Hammond writes: "Frank died in 1996, so I have been a widow a long time. For the last 18 years I have spent a lot of time traveling, and particularly have enjoyed the river cruises through Europe. I probably took my last big trip last fall when I spent 3 weeks in Spain, and it was wonderful. However, flying is not fun anymore, and the aches and pains are worse, so I am not planning anything else. I have always been involved with volunteer work — Empty Bowls, Food Pantry, Hospice House, and Salvation Army — but have

tapered off. I am knitting prayer shawls at the church, which is fun. Almost 3 years ago, my children felt I should move closer to some of the family. My 4 children have married and moved away so I moved to Pensacola FL, where 2 of my daughters live. I have a 2-bedroom apartment in an independent living complex, and it is working out very well. I have new friends, play a lot of bridge, participate in water and chair exercise, and eat at fun places. I do have 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 2 great-grands; all of them are outstanding. All in all, at 83, life is good." **MARY SUE SHIELDS Koontz Nelson** writes from Placedo TX: "My life has suddenly rolled to 83 and with all the twists and turns, good, bad, sad, I am loving every single moment. My 3 children did exactly what I'd hoped they'd do — they are successful, caring, loving adults. Living lives of purpose and giving in return. After Henry's untimely death, I remarried another fine rancher, Tom Nelson. He is a superb horseman and is recognized nationally as such. I have been blessed with way too much energy and am involved in everything — even went on a cruise with a group of 35-year-olds and kept up. I have 6 grandchildren everywhere from Paris

to San Antonio. (Granddaughter at Old Miss and a grandson at Wake Forest. Two others are already 'out' in this big world.) Anyway, I could go on and on and on. But I do want to get this to each one of you. May God Bless."

1956

BLANCHE GAMBRILL

Stockbridge writes: "At last, a reply from me that is far too slow. Becoming an octogenarian is a shock, isn't it? But the alternative is worse. Ed and I have lived in Acton MA for 42 years. Ed retired a number of years ago, though he works 2 days a week to keep busy. We have 2 daughters, both of whom live an hour's drive away, so we opted to stay here, rather than move away, despite the winters. We both do volunteer work to have fun."

1960

SHARON HOOKS Knaus '60 writes: "Husband Ron and I

are still walking and talking! Retirement is good, and we're enjoying our 15 (combined) grandchildren, ages 4 to 29. Holidays are a hoot. Hello to all."

1962

FRANCES WENTZ Taber writes:

"My having been asked to represent Dr. Pamela Fox, president of my alma mater, Mary Baldwin College, as a delegate for the inauguration of Dr. Elmira Mangum as the first female president of Florida A&M University has been an honor I shall forever remember." Frances' daughter, Elizabeth Winslow McAuliffe, accompanied her to the inauguration.

1965

In spring 2014, the 1964 MBC Junior Year in Madrid alumnae got together for their 50th reunion, held at classmate **PICKETT CRADDOCK's** B&B, Oak Grove Plantation, near South Boston.

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3



4



7



8



9

1. ANNE HOLLAND '88 celebrated 25 years of employment at Mary Baldwin College on July 1, 2014. Pictured with President Pamela Fox.

2. A group of 31 alumni and family enjoyed an outing to Carter Mountain Orchard, sponsored by the Staunton Alumnae/i Chapter, on October 5, 2014.

3-4. MARIAN MARTIN Cather '35 celebrated her 100th birthday with many family and friends on January 25.

5-6. DAVYNE VERSTANDIG '66 enjoys a visit from her daughter Deva and two grandsons Eric (age 3) and Michael (age 5 months).

7. AMANDA DAVIS-Holloway '02/'06 and her husband, Marcus, welcomed daughter Violet-Hazel Ivory Lynch on April 28, 2014. She was born prematurely, but after much love and care she is doing wonderfully.

8. THERESA CASH Lewis '99 and husband Cliff welcomed their son Landon Clifton on August 22, 2014.

9. TIERRA JOHNSON '05 married Andrew Huckle on September 13, 2014.

CLASSACTS » see more photos at www.mbc.edu/class

ARRIVALS

THERESA CASH Lewis '99 and Cliff: a son, Landon Clifton, August 22, 2014
KRISTINA SPRAGUE Wolf '05 and Eric: a son, Peyton Oscar, November 19, 2014
NERISSA DAVIS-Stewart '06 and Chris: a son, Kingston Leeam, February 3, 2015
JACQUI HADLEY Hull '10 and Matthew: a son, Ronin Christopher, March 26, 2014

MARRIAGES

ELIZABETH MORGAN '95 and Steven Burleson, June 14, 2014
TIERRA JOHNSON '05 and Andrew Huckle, September 13, 2014
JACQUI HADLEY '10 and Matthew Hull, February 14, 2014
ALEXANDRA P. GALLAGHER '13 TO **SAMANTHA J. MCNAIR** '13, October 29, 2014

DEATHS

CHARLOTTE HOY "BEVERLY" Howarth '35, February 16, 2015
DOROTHY WARNER Smith '36, June 25, 2014
MARGIE PHIPPS Shick '39, January 15, 2015
VIRGINIA HAYES Forrest '40, January 28, 2015

DALE PETERS Bryant '41, January 26, 2015
ELIZABETH KULL "BETTY" Drumheller '41, December 11, 2014
CAMILLE ANDERSON Jensen '41, December 18, 2014
THERESSA MASON Axford '42, November 27, 2014
ANNE HAYES Brewer Davis '42, January 9, 2015
JEAN AYRES Kenerly '42, December 9, 2014
JANE CRAIG Morrison '42, November 22, 2014
MARGARET MCDONALD White '42, August 9, 2014
CAROLINE MURPHY "POLLY" Winter '42, September 27, 2014
BEATRICE WARE Evans '43, February 16, 2015
VIRGINIA E. HUGHES '43, September 19, 2013
CHARLOTTE CRAUN Bishop '44, October 11, 2014
MARY ANGELINE MISH "POLLY ANN" Bundy '44, September 4, 2014
GRACE DRYDEN Venable '44, September 6, 2014
ELSIE WATERS Ellington '46, January 3, 2013
MARY MATHEWS Bryan '47, September 4, 2014
ELEANOR ARMISTEAD Knipp '47, January 28, 2015

PAULA RUPE DENNARD '48, February 6, 2015
CHARLOTTE HANGER Dixon '48, October 25, 2014
HELINE CORTEZ Harrison '48, June 2, 2015
KATHERINE POTTS Wellford '49, December 24, 2014
HELEN BECKELHEIMER Baugh '50, December 25, 2014
MARIAN MCKENZIE Langford '50, February 12, 2015
BETSY SOWELL Sims '50, January 14, 2015
MARGARET HULSEY Buck '52, January 8, 2015
LUCY BRAMMER Harder '52, August 22, 2014
BERTHA BARINOWSKI "BABS" Hutchinson '52, August 16, 2014
JACQUELYN JOHNSON Maddox '52, September 14, 2014
ANN FAIRFAX LEE Harrison '53, December 16, 2014
ANN TAYLOR Hanak '53, December 1, 2013
HELEN HATCH Means '55, December 18, 2014
NANCY BUSTON Downs '56, October 5, 2014
VIRGINIA HOFER Duvall '59, November 21, 2014
ANNA KATHERINE "KAY" BOBO '61, August 25, 2014

AUDREY GIFFORD Eggleston '62, January 31, 2015
LYNN FRIERSON Kennedy '62, September 8, 2014
SELMA DOVE Krones '64, February 20, 2015
SHARON AREHART Burlingame '67, November 25, 2012
CECELIA DAVIS "CECE" Stevens '68, September 11, 2014
MARY HUNTER LEACH '77, October 23, 2014
DIANE B. BABRAL '78, February 21, 2015
ELIZABETH CORRIGAN Desportes Velimirovic '78, December 7, 2014
CHRISTINE KERSHNER Dinsmore '85, January 27, 2013
CORA "BEA" FUNK '85, January 4, 2013
DARLENE RHEA Hudnall '87, August 14, 2014
BARBARA COLEMAN HUBBARD '92, April 13, 2014
BARBARA CHAMBERLAIN Felbush '96, December 2, 2014
DEMETRA GLOVER Keita '02, December 5, 2014
BETTY B. YOUNG '04, November 19, 2014
SUSAN KORNRUMPF Crick, ADP Student, February 1, 2015

OUR CONDOLENCES

to members of the MBC community who lost loved ones

JULIE MAYS CANNELL '70 on the passing of her husband, H. Scott Cannell, August 21, 2014.
SUSAN JENNINGS Denson '62 on the passing of her husband, Stephen L. Denson, December 15, 2014. He was also the brother-in-law of **LIZ JENNINGS Shupe** '70.
REBEKAH CONN Foster '93 on the passing of her father, the Rev. Dr. George M. Conn Jr., October 4, 2014.
MARJORIE MOORE Council '46 on the passing of her daughter Harriett Wilkes Council, November 19, 2014. She was also the sister of **SUSAN COUNCIL** '68.
KAY LESSLEY Linnane '58 on the passing of her husband, James P. Linnane Jr., January 9, 2015.
 The family of **Joanne Paskins Ingalls**, Board of Trustees member 2007–11, who passed away September 1, 2014.
 The family of **Harry Warden Simmons**, custodian 1973–89, who passed away September 1, 2014.
ALESANDRA DOMBROSKI '02, on the passing of her mother, **SANDRA LENNON** Price '66, June 29, 2014.
CARTER MOFFETT Douglass '72, on the passing of her mother, **MARGARET CHURCHMAN MOFFETT** '47, May 24, 2014.
 To the family of **Eleanor D. Patrick**, wife of Professor Emeritus of Chemistry James B. Patrick, and mother of **PAM PATRICK** '71, the late **PENNY PATRICK Biskey** '72, and **MELISSA PATRICK** '78.



IN MEMORY

DIANE BABRAL
 1953–2015

The local higher education community suffered a loss this year

with the sudden passing of Diane Babral, a beloved nursing instructor at James Madison University and the first graduate of Mary Baldwin's Adult Degree Program (ADP). Babral's story of how she decided to return to school at 23 was featured in the cover story on ADP for the summer 2014 *Boldly Baldwin*. She passed away February 21 after complications from cancer treatment. "I loved learning," Babral told *Boldly Baldwin* last year. "I had the respect of the professors, my advisor, and fellow students." That respect lasted long into her career as she built a reputation as a caring and selfless mentor and colleague.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

One in 166.

When my oldest son, Eric, was born in summer 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported autism's prevalence as one in 166. By 12 months of age, I became concerned. It wasn't that Eric wasn't talking — it was that he wasn't communicating at all. After months of evaluations, intensive speech therapy, and play-based interventions, I sought out a formal autism assessment, and by 21 months, Eric was diagnosed with "autistic disorder." Today, the CDC reports that one in 68 children (8-year-olds, specifically) carry a diagnosis that fall on the autism spectrum.

Mary Baldwin's College of Education has responded to the increasing prevalence of autism by preparing confident practitioners to serve these children. In 2009, MBC obtained approval to offer a comprehensive certificate program in Autism Spectrum Disorders, recognized by the Virginia Autism Council and the Virginia Department of Education. This program continues to thrive. In 2012, in collaboration with the psychology department, we began to offer coursework in applied behavior analysis, leading toward board certification and marketable skills in a field with rapidly increasing demand. Both of these programs are now options for master of education study.

My passion for this professional field cannot be severed from my role as mom to one amazing child on the spectrum, and his patient and gentle neurotypical brother. In 2011, I learned about a travel agency that provided support at sea for families cruising with children who have autism and other developmental disabilities. After all the terrifying thoughts of my child jumping overboard, going on a hunger strike, getting sea sick, and causing challenges getting through security at the airport, I booked my first family voyage with Autism on the Seas.

Autism on the Seas not only provided my family with the support and security I needed to have a safe and enjoyable vacation, but also, and more importantly, the staff and other families in our group became a network of support for me. We had a wonderful time, and the experience prompted several subsequent voyages, and a desire to become professionally connected with the organization.

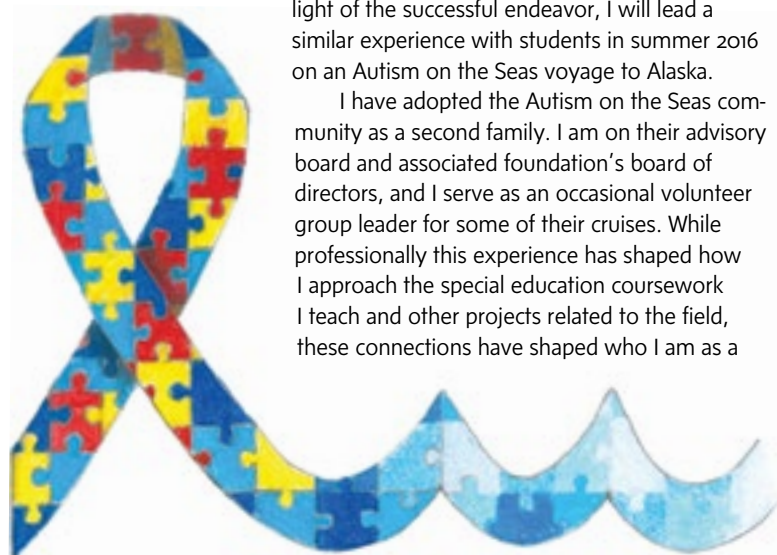
During May Term 2014, I took two enthusiastic students on an Autism on the Seas group cruise to the Caribbean,

where they earned credit for a course about characteristics of autism and served as junior staff with the Autism on the Seas team. It is not the content of their coursework that made the experience valuable, but rather the opportunity to interact with and support families in a way that taught these students empathy. No in-classroom experience can comparably prepare a future teacher for understanding parent and sibling dynamics, the grief that some families are still going through, or the importance of friendships and connections among them.

The experience was, as the students described, life changing in how they will approach their future work with children

who have special needs and their families. In light of the successful endeavor, I will lead a similar experience with students in summer 2016 on an Autism on the Seas voyage to Alaska.

I have adopted the Autism on the Seas community as a second family. I am on their advisory board and associated foundation's board of directors, and I serve as an occasional volunteer group leader for some of their cruises. While professionally this experience has shaped how I approach the special education coursework I teach and other projects related to the field, these connections have shaped who I am as a



person, and how relationships with others impact my leadership style and my approach to embracing all kinds of diversity.

I feel privileged to be part of a community here at Mary Baldwin College that also values and honors diversity in all its variations. This institution has not only made a commitment to prepare educators who will serve diverse populations of students, but also has acknowledged "neurodiversity" as an area of particular programmatic need. We've developed growing programs in related fields, and MBC has also supported students with autism spectrum disorders who are completing their college degrees. One in 68 does not feel so lonely after all, embraced in the community and commitments of Mary Baldwin College.



RACHEL POTTER is a passionate advocate for public education, and she enjoys examining how MBC effectively shapes the next generation of inquiry-minded practitioners. As dean of the College of Education; Virginia Board of Medicine-certified behavior analyst; and mother of two boys, ages 9 and 10; she is particularly interested in preparing students to work with diverse populations of varying experiences, abilities, and passions.

"SAY YES TO A
VISION UNSEEN,
EVEN WHILE
STANDING IN
THE FEAR OF
THE UNKNOWN."

— CHRISTIAN PEELE '05



WAKING UP TO THE WORLD

Mary Baldwin's 173rd Commencement exercises celebrated 360 students who earned undergraduate and graduate degrees on May 17. Keynote speaker Christian Peele '05 — an alum of MBC's Program for the Exceptionally Gifted (PEG) who now oversees development activities at one of New York City's premier churches — encouraged graduates to keep their "eyes wide open" and "to say yes to a vision unseen,

even while standing in the fear of the unknown." At 16, another PEG graduate Jennifer Jin was the youngest member of the Class of 2015 to earn her diploma, while the oldest was Adult Degree Program student Sally Beachy, 69. James D. Lott, dean emeritus and professor emeritus of English, was awarded one of the college's highest honors, the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, which recognizes unselfish service,

noble character, and spiritual qualities. Graduating senior Bethany Zaiman also received the award. To commemorate their time at MBC, the senior class gave a 14-inch, 44-pound bronze bell inscribed with a line from *A Hymn for Mary Baldwin*: "To these halls where wisdom reckons." New graduates were invited to ring the bell at the post-Commencement reception, starting a new campus tradition.



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2015



Commencement Award Recipients

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Student Award:

Bethany Zaiman

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Non-Student Award:

Jim Lott, dean emeritus & professor emeritus of English

Martha Stackhouse Grafton Award (highest GPA):

Sophia Stone

Adult Degree Program Outstanding Student:

Shawna Mills Franklin

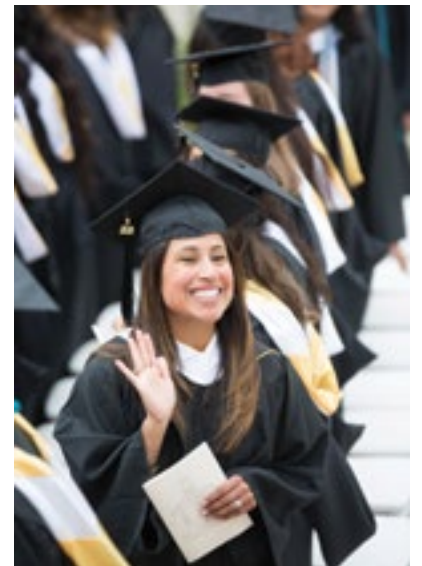
MLitt/MFA Ariel Award for

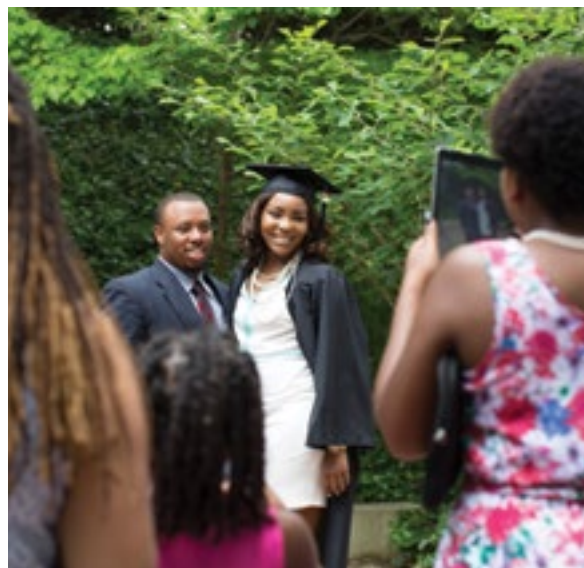
Outstanding Program Service and Leadership:

Marshall B Garrett

Graduate Teacher Education Outstanding Student:

Mariah Dittrich







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