

# MARY BALDWIN

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M A G A Z I N E

VOL. 32 NO. 1 / SUMMER 2020

## Now More Than Ever

MBU's latest fundraising endeavor draws upon  
its historic mission of perseverance to  
help propel students into lives of purpose

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Dear readers:

Planning for anything during the COVID-19 pandemic — from big events to a mundane trip to the grocery store — has proven challenging. For the MBU news team, the global crisis hit while we were creating the spring/summer issue of the *Mary Baldwin Magazine*. Our delivery mode and content strategy, typically mapped out months in advance, were upended.

For the first time ever, the *Mary Baldwin Magazine* will be available in a digital format only. The quick shift has allowed us to save the university significant printing and mailing costs — funds that can now help address the immediate financial impacts of COVID-19 — and to develop timely content that informs, inspires, and connects the MBU Family.

The coronavirus pandemic has altered the landscape of our lives in so many ways, casting uncertainty and great hardship. For us, the Mary Baldwin University storytellers, we are continually uplifted by our MBU Family — alumni, employees, and students — who have responded to this crisis with compassion, tenacity, and a desire to educate and to learn. We are grateful to each and every one of you for your efforts.

Liesel Crosier, editor

# NOW MORE THAN EVER

*"Mary Baldwin has survived wars and crises in the past and has each time, emerged several laps ahead of the place they found her."*



The world is changed. And while many times throughout its history, Mary Baldwin has faced hardship, uncertainty, and forces beyond its control, these are unprecedented times. We stand in the face of a global coronavirus pandemic and widespread civil unrest unlike anything else we have seen in our lifetimes.

Having read and reread the volumes of Mary Baldwin University's rich history over the years, this passage from Mary Watters' *History of Mary Baldwin, 1842–1942*, emerged to me — resonating deeply. It speaks to the spirit of our great school at its core.

2020 has become another inflection point in our long history, and one that will continue to shape and define us — underscoring our resilience, courage, and fortitude to drive forward in our mission of empowering generations of students to become the inclusive leaders our ever-changing world needs.

The challenges we must overcome now are not unique to our community. Regardless of their size or wealth, colleges and universities across the country face similar changes and pressures brought on by recent events. Yet as we try to make sense of what is happening and create a way forward for our students and university, we find the inspiration right within our own unique history and mission — and our approach to solving these challenges will reflect this.

The pages of this digital magazine speak to the heart of the Mary Baldwin spirit. The stories show how faculty, staff, students, and alumni have risen to recent challenges with a determination to help others and continue their own paths of fulfillment. We explore our most recent fundraising effort that focuses on the bedrock of the Mary Baldwin mission, critical now more than ever.

As we face the pandemic and take action to lead solutions for social justice here locally, we look ahead to opportunities before us — to the exciting plans underway to support and enhance our academic offerings, to strengthen alumni engagement, and to prepare to welcome our students back to campus this fall. I express my deep and humble gratitude to each and every member of our community — faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, and friends.

One hundred seventy-eight years bring challenges, but Mary Baldwin University has emerged stronger after each. This is who we are. This is our legacy.

*Pamela Fox*

Pamela R. Fox  
President

# MBU NEWS

## NEWS NOTES

Newsmakers and events  
that captured attention



### All-Time Greatest

The leading scorer in MBU sports history, Jessica Carter '08, returned to campus in January for a ceremony honoring her contributions to the basketball program and the university. Amassing 1,943 points in her four-year career as a Fighting Squirrel, Carter earned first team All-USA South honors as a senior and was named to the USA South 50th Anniversary Team in 2014.



### Seal of Approval

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation has given MBU the first-ever designation of a Social Impact Campus, recognizing the university's strong commitment to community service and social entrepreneurship. Pictured left, the MBU Social Work Club serving Thanksgiving dinner at Staunton's Valley Mission. Mary Baldwin has a long-standing relationship with the Sullivan Foundation, having awarded the Algernon Sydney Sullivan award to a senior student and a member of the MBU community since 1933. Additional facets of the partnership include awarding an annual Sullivan Scholarship, student participation in the foundation's yearly Ignite Retreat, and faculty and staff being named Sullivan Faculty Fellows.





## Taking the Field

MBU baseball debuted its first-ever season of club competition early this spring, starting with a doubleheader at Eastern Mennonite University. When at home, the Fighting Squirrels take the field at John Moxie Stadium in Staunton, where the local



inter-collegiate team, the Staunton Braves, plays during the summer months. Though MBU baseball's inaugural season was cut short by social distancing measures adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic, they look forward

to playing their first official NCAA DIII varsity season in 2021.



## Congrats, 2020

MBU marked its 178th Commencement with a virtual ceremony on May 24, featuring recorded remarks, slides honoring each graduate, shout-outs to award recipients, and social media highlights. The week before, MBU also mailed celebratory boxes with graduation gifts to each member of 2020. "The COVID-19 pandemic does not define you as a class or as individuals," said President Pamela Fox in her video message. "You are now Mary Baldwin graduates. You embody the values of our founders: the centrality of women's education, the breadth and depth of critical thinking ... an obligation to society and service, and a holistic approach to a life well lived."



## New Technology Opens Doors

The Information Technology (IT) department donated much-needed equipment to the Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry (WARM), which provides housing to local families and individuals in need. WARM guests are using the new technology to look for jobs, stay in contact with loved ones, or apply online for services like Medicaid and the state's rapid rehousing program. "If they don't have the ability to put in an application, all of those resources are closed to them," said Lee Reid, IT managing director (pictured at far left). "This was a meaningful way for us to apply our technology from MBU to help a couple hundred people in the community."



# COVID-19 Pandemic Brings Extraordinary Efforts to Unprecedented Times

BY LEIGHTON CARRUTH AND BILLY COFFEY



Grafton Library  
will be **CLOSED**  
until further notice  
We apologize for any inconvenience.  
**MB MARY BALDWIN**  
**UNIVERSITY**





The COVID-19 pandemic caused students to return home where they completed the spring semester online (above). Clockwise from bottom right corner: Mail Coordinator Matthew Crum assisted Jennifer Hunt, assistant professor in the physician assistant program, with mailing supplies to graduate students so they could continue their coursework, as did Associate Professor of Art Jim Sconyers for his photography students, including Kaiden Scanlon '23.

As the first blooms and blossoms signaled winter's departure from Mary Baldwin's hills, the abnormality of spring 2020 became even more apparent. Springtime is known for its smells and sights and celebrations rather than its quietness, but this year it was overwhelmingly quiet on the MBU campus as the university cancelled events and suspended in-seat classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I do not take this decision lightly and have made it with the health and safety of the entire MBU family in mind, which includes your own loved ones," said President Pamela Fox in an email sent to MBU students and parents on March 11, which conveyed the university's directive that students return home. "I understand the impact this will have on each of you, and I want to pledge the full support of the MBU administration, faculty, and staff."

Classes paused on March 13, while professors — with the help of the information technology department — undertook the Herculean task of shifting their curriculum to an online format. They completed the transition by March 18 when courses resumed remotely, and online teaching and learning continued through the remainder of spring semester and May Term.

"Mary Baldwin faculty are an exceptional academic community," said Provost Ty Buckman. "They encounter obstacles and challenges like taking an entire residential curriculum online with five days' notice with steely resolve and good humor. It still amazes me when I see this quality in our community."

To facilitate social distancing, conference rooms were traded for living rooms as meetings shifted from in-person to virtual. Faculty and staff who could, worked from home. The

admissions office, business office, and student accounts closed to foot traffic, as did Grafton Library and the Center for Student Success. Staff answered questions and managed MBU business through email and telephone. Key academic support areas continued to offer services remotely to students as they finished out the semester. On campus, the facilities and grounds team continued to carry out essential work with protective measures in place, making sure everything would be ready for the return of students, faculty, staff, and alumni when it is again safe.

Adjusting university life to confront the coronavirus pandemic is still unfolding, yet the Mary Baldwin community has responded to this pandemic with the same purpose and determination with which it has faced other generationally defining moments of its past.

Nowhere has that effort been better



Students video chatting from home replaced campus social life (above), and the admissions visit day experience was reinvented online and through the mail (right) for high school students interested in attending MBU.



displayed than in President Fox's directive that "no student's path to a degree will be denied or delayed." New challenges afford new opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to work together for creative solutions to unforeseen and often daily obstacles.

Associate Professor of Art Jim Sconyers, for example, enabled students in his two courses on silkscreen and photography, respectively, to keep making art from home. He assembled and shipped packages of supplies to his 17 printmaking and photography students across the United States and as far away as Japan and South Korea, and he planned, filmed, and edited new instructional videos to post on YouTube for them to follow.

"I have been missing all the hands-on activities and carefully planned lessons my professors had planned on assigning," said first-year student photography student Kaiden Scanlon, "but Professor Sconyers has found a way to extend the fun hands-on work we did in every class period to my

home environment."

Physician assistant (PA) graduate students in the classes of 2021 and 2022 at MBU's Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences also faced the problem of how to continue their lab studies remotely, so PA faculty and staff members, assisted by MBU Mail Coordinator Matthew Crum, pitched in to pack and send the supplies they needed to stay on track with their training and coursework at home.

In addition to supporting students through their spring semester coursework, a group of more than a dozen MBU faculty took the initiative to use the world's current circumstances as a learning opportunity. They developed a new general education course for May Term named We're in This Together: Living and Learning the Pandemic in Community that helps students respond to the pandemic across different scholarly disciplines and track its effect on their own and others' lives.

"Creating this course seems to speak to MBU's mission and the desire

to assure that a Mary Baldwin education provides students with meaningful tools for understanding the world around them," said Martha Walker, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

MBU also found creative ways to reach out virtually to prospective students and alumni after stay-at-home orders went into effect.

Undergraduate admissions visit days for high school students were transformed into a virtual format complete with a campus tour, an online scavenger hunt, and opportunities for interaction with current students and faculty during live streams. Select accepted students also received specialized boxes in the mail with an invitation to participate in a virtual visit day, along with MBU swag like a T-shirt and sunglasses, so that they and their families could feel what it's like to be a part of the MBU family even from a distance.

"One mom said that the reason her daughter deposited is because of the virtual visit box," said Carly Fagan,





First-year student Defne "Dede" Kahraman (left) made masks during breaks from her online coursework, donating them to hospitals in the Dallas area.

With generosity of time and effort — asking “what can I do?” and “how can I help?” — the MBU family reacts to hardship during the current coronavirus crisis. Small actions and gestures of kindness grow ever more powerful, and the combined efforts of Mary Baldwin students, alumni, faculty, and staff create a beacon of promise through the difficulty of these times.

MBU admissions counselor. “She said the fact that we went out of our way to send her daughter a package shows how much the university cares about their students, and makes them as parents comfortable to send their daughter to an out-of-state school.”

In the wake of the decision to cancel Homecoming Weekend and Reunion activities that were planned for early April, the Office of Alumni Engagement has rolled out several ways for alumni to engage virtually with each other and the university, including online social hours and a virtual connections webinar series that shares the expertise of alumni and members of the MBU community (see feature article on pages 20-23 for more).

A foundational sense of perseverance and determination has enabled the MBU community to endure and guide its students through periods of war, sickness, and social turmoil during its nearly 180-year history. Through the darkened times of the past as well as the current coronavirus

pandemic, the MBU family has found uplifting spirit in helping others and supporting the greater good.

“I think the project that means the most to all of us is the preparation of the Tullidge dormitory for the Valley Mission in order to give those who are less fortunate a safe and comfortable place to stay while the virus is in our area,” said Dustin Smith, grounds supervisor on MBU’s facilities management team.

MBU housed approximately 30 of the Valley Mission’s family and senior clients in Tullidge Residence Hall to create much needed space for implementing social distancing guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. The arrangement was facilitated with support from the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge.

“In times of crisis, it is essential that we band together to care for every valued member of our tight-knit community. Mary Baldwin is committed during this pandemic to providing shelter and opportunity for

the Valley Mission’s clients, and we are proud to be a part of this creative solution to a community challenge,” said President Fox.

The university also volunteered to share its inventory of antibacterial hand soap and hand sanitizer with local healthcare first-responders and delivered glasses, gloves, and gowns from the Pearce Science Center to Augusta Health.

Along with these efforts to protect local healthcare professionals, Defne “Dede” Kahraman and many other MBU community members across the country are devoting time to making masks, helping protect their communities and address the critical shortage of personal protective equipment in medical settings. A first-year at MBU and goalkeeper for the women’s soccer team, Kahraman is donating the masks to the Methodist Health System hospitals in Dallas as well as Texas oncology.

“It was something that we as a family could do to contribute to the



For faculty and staff, those who could work from home traded offices for living rooms, and every day became Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.



growing crisis without having to leave the house," said Kahraman, who is originally from Isparta, Turkey. "I'm hoping this can get other people motivated to help however they can while being safe."

As of mid-April, the mother-daughter team of alumna Linda Newsom '80 and Patricia Fogle, who is 84 years old, made more than 75 masks from two layers of cotton fabric that they sourced from their homes. Fogle's masks have gone to the on-site nursing home and rehabilitation center at her retirement community in Pennsylvania, while Newsom has donated masks to her local hospital and has made them for family and friends in need.

As long as her supplies of elastic last, Newsom plans to make more, as does her classmate Katie Pierson Colden '80 and Amy Warren '71, a retired teacher and host of the local Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Alumni Chapter book club.

"I do believe Mary Baldwin instilled in all of us a desire to make the world a better place in any way we can," Newsom said. "While I don't see sewing as an impressive skill, it is one that allows me to help others in this time of need."

With generosity of time and effort — asking "what can I do?" and "how can I help?" — the MBU family reacts to hardship during the current coronavirus crisis. Small actions and gestures of kindness grow ever more powerful, and the combined efforts of Mary Baldwin students, alumni, faculty, and staff create a beacon of promise through the difficulty of these times. When the pandemic wanes, the Mary Baldwin community will be found even more united in compassion, resilience, and inventiveness in its passing.

**Written April 30, 2020.**  
**Due to the fast-changing nature of the pandemic, please visit [marybaldwin.edu](http://marybaldwin.edu) for the latest news and updates.**







Springtime at Mary Baldwin is known for its celebrations rather than its quietness, but campus was abnormally quiet this year as events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "In the six years that I have been a part of the MBU family, I have never seen campus so empty," said Dustin Smith, grounds supervisor, who is one of the essential workers at MBU during the pandemic. "My team and I continue to work hard every day to make the grounds a beautiful place to be, but now we only see the occasional Staunton residents. With no Commencement, alumni events, Staunton Military Academy reunion, or prospective student visit days, there are not many times that we can showcase our care of campus, and that is disappointing. **We look forward to when our MBU family can come back.**"





All set for the Junior Dads and Family ball: Paula Krosky '92 (left) and daughter Rachel '21 (right), who is the first legacy student in MBU's Program for the Exceptionally Gifted.



# Must Run in the Family

## PEG program gets its first legacy student

BY KELLEY FREUND

Growing up, Paula Krosky '92 and her family moved around. A lot. By the time she was 14, Paula had lived in nine different places, and during that time, she was exposed to many types of schools, but only one of those schools Paula had attended demonstrated the creativity to keep her engaged.

The push to try something new came after Paula had taken some courses with the Duke Talent Identification Program, and her local school district had no way to give her credit or placement for those classes.

"I had completed Algebra 2, but my age suggested I should be in Pre-Algebra," she said. "And there was no other option. The schools couldn't accommodate who I was or what I was looking for."

That's when she discovered Mary Baldwin's Program for the Exceptionally Gifted (PEG). PEG is MBU's residential boarding school-like program that gives women as young as 13 the opportunity to earn a four-year college degree. Students live in a fully supervised residence hall with their fellow PEG students, but they still have access to all the university's offerings, like clubs, athletics, study abroad, and service learning.

The program began thanks to a grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Foundation and accepted its charter class of 11 students in 1985. Today, PEG has 20–30 incoming students each year. Across the country, there are just 12 schools with a dedicated program for early-entrance college students. MBU has the only residential all-female program, and PEG is the only program that accepts students as young as 13, whereas most schools wait until students are 16.

PEG will celebrate the start of its 35th year this fall. Christy Baker, who serves as associate director of Early College Student Life, has been around for 20 of those years. During that time, she has seen PEG establish a tradition of inspiring both program members and their families. Younger sisters have joined after their older sisters have gone through the program, as have cousins and friends. PEG even had two brothers who were inspired by their older sister to enter as commuter students. But PEG gained its first legacy student when Paula's daughter Rachel '21 joined the program in 2017.

Paula thought Rachel would take a more traditional education path — the family lived in a neighborhood outside Philadelphia with a quality school district. Rachel knew her mother had gone to college at the age of 14, but she never considered that option herself until the eighth grade, when she was interested in enrolling in AP classes. She had enrolled in summer programs and online classes offered by the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, so she knew she was capable of more independent study. But the school had rules against taking AP classes as a freshman and would not bend.

Rachel decided to read up on PEG, and Paula encouraged Rachel to take the lead in applying.

"I think the girls who do best in these programs are the ones who choose to do it on their own, who embrace the opportunity for themselves," Paula said. "I needed her to want to do it enough that she was going to invest in the application process and commit her energy to making it happen."

Just like her mom, Rachel entered PEG when she was 14.

"Since my mom is an alumna, I have all these bits and pieces of Mary Baldwin history that are fun," Rachel said. "Like, PEG used to be in Bailey Hall and that building was rumored to be haunted."

As for Paula, she enjoys bonding with her daughter over things like the long walk to the Physical Activity Center.

"This has provided one more opportunity for me to connect with a teenager who might otherwise be pulling away," Paula said. "We have those things in common that help me better identify with her at this stage in her life."

One professor spans the gap between Paula's time at MBU and Rachel's. English professor Rick Plant was in his first year as a professor when Paula enrolled in his PEG class. Twenty-nine years later, Rachel took his English course during her freshman year.

While Paula majored in biology and chemistry and played on the volleyball team during her time as a student, Rachel is majoring in history with a minor in anthropology, and she works as a teaching assistant. Her mom earned her graduate degree in medicinal chemistry from the University of Michigan before completing a post-doctorate at Harvard Medical School. Since then, Paula has worked for the National Cancer Institute and a small biotech. She currently works for the pharmaceutical company Merck. Rachel hopes to one day become an archeologist and plans to attend graduate school.

As the PEG staff gets ready to celebrate the program's 35th anniversary, they are looking ahead to the coming decades and how PEG might continue to make a difference.

"In the gifted world, it's always a struggle to reach those underserved populations," said Van Devander. "In the future, I'd like to find a way to do that."

But one thing will not change, and that is the personal relationships participants build with their fellow PEG students.

"A lot of alumnae will comment that this was the best part of their whole experience," Baker said. "Finally, these students have a group who feel the same way about learning, who are motivated and excited to dig deep into the subjects they are studying. For a lot of them, this is the first time that's happened."



# all in

## Expansive collaboration marks theatre production

Sometimes making great art requires the brilliance of a single mind. But most of the time? It's a group effort. Early in the new year, MBU theatre launched a large-scale collaboration around *The Love of the Nightingale* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. A thought-provoking play

that is at times tough to watch, *Nightingale* retells a story from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* about Philomele, who is raped and mutilated by someone she once trusted, and how she is able to transcend an experience that threatened to define her. (See sidebar for more on how MBU theatre is working to tell stories like *Philomele's* responsibly.)

Rising to the challenge of the play, from navigating the plot to creating costumes, were representatives from several departments in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the newest of MBU's academic units formed at the beginning of 2019.

"Around 75 students logged hundreds of hours to bring you this play tonight and, as their director and fellow collaborator, I invite you to celebrate their work, vision, sweat, and brilliance. This is what collaboration looks like at MBU," wrote Doreen Bechtol, assistant professor of Shakespeare and Performance, in her director's note.

Several professors incorporated into their curriculum the experiential and practical work of making *Nightingale*. Under Martha Saunders, assistant professor of art, eight students in her

Drawing II course spent a month designing and building life-size dolls and headdresses for the production as well as creating artwork for the show poster and programs.

"For our visual art students, these projects allow for an experience to move beyond their individual focused studio

practices, to a community effort," said Saunders.

"This collaboration challenged the students to work through ideas both by themselves and with each other."

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theatre Molly Seremet and her theatre production students also contributed by designing and building Greek-inspired masks and dying fabrics for the costumes

that Seremet designed. Film students in Adjunct Assistant Professor of Film Allan Moyé's class created a documentary that chronicled the rehearsal and production process, and they helped put together a short teaser to advertise the play.

"To make a play requires a tremendous commitment of time in order to invest in the physical, emotional, and imaginative labor required to build the world," Bechtol said. "I enjoy a collaborative process because I love working and learning from my colleagues and from students. The process feels more creative and alive when more voices contribute to the process."

From actors to artists to film-makers, here are some selected voices of the students and alumni who came together to create *The Love of the Nightingale* on stage.







**JILLIAN WALKER '22,**  
business major, played three roles —  
a chorus member, Iris, and Aphrodite —  
and worked on publicity.

"Even though it was my first time acting in a couple of years, I had so much support from not only the other actors, but also the director, assistant directors, and everyone on the crew. I'm so glad that these roles are offered to every person interested in theatre without bias, whether they are a senior theatre major or not. It creates a community that allows for true growth and showcases so many students, including me. As long as you have a passion for theatre and performance, you will be welcomed into the community with wide arms."

**FELICIA MAZIARZ '21,**  
studio art and political science double major, helped create  
props and promotional materials.

"The best part of working on *Nightingale* was that it allowed us to make art that would be seen outside our class, and made us work collaboratively. I think the most challenging part was the short timeframe, as we had tight deadlines to create all the pieces."

**LAYLA OPHELIA TEEARS '18,**  
theatre major, was an assistant director.

"*The Love of the Nightingale* was the most collaborative project I've ever had the pleasure to take part in. Our director, Doreen Bechtol, has a special way of pulling an entire community into a room to create art. The division between departments faded as everyone focused wholeheartedly on the show — it had the feeling of an ensemble, where every voice was heard and everyone had a hand in the finished piece."



**ANDREW POLLOCK '22,**  
performing arts — theatre and film major, played Prince Itys and helped film the  
documentary about making the play.

"The most rewarding part of filming for the *Nightingale* project was attempting to find those moments of artistry within the work. It was always gratifying to catch an actor making an artistic decision that would influence other actors, the director, or the play at large. It's kind of like a dissection: you get to see all the nitty-gritty parts that make up the whole in a rehearsal and when you put that to film you get these great stories of actors as people as well as artists."

**WILLOW KEITH '21,**  
performing arts — theatre major, played Philomele.

"The contributions from other art practitioners helped me to see some of the work we were doing in a new light. The powerful and abstract creations of the studio art department reminded me that the work we were doing on *Nightingale* was heightened, a world of myth and legend, rather than the everyday one in which we live. It helped to add scale to our performances. Working with the film department, on the other hand, reinforced the importance of detail. Of the effect of a gesture, a single blink, a breath."





## Staging Gendered Violence

MBU theatre's production of *The Love of the Nightingale* was advertised with a warning — it contained material pertaining to sexual assault, gendered violence, and rape, as well as other forms of violence, including murder.

One of the students grappling with such challenging material and navigating how to best tell her character's story was Willow Keith '21.

"In the role of Philomele, I was given the responsibility of representing countless individuals who have been the target of sexual violence and/or been silenced by the powerful," said Keith. "It was important that I told her story in a way that was respectful and not stereotypical or exaggerated. It is not my place to say if my efforts succeeded or not, but I was helped immensely by Molly Seremet, our intimacy director, as well as the directors and my excellent castmates."

*The Love of the Nightingale* marks the first time the theatre department has formally named someone to facilitate in the role of intimacy director. Faculty

members Seremet and Doreen Bechtol, who directed *Nightingale*, worked to establish a culture of consent in the rehearsal room in order to enact violence responsibly in the play.

How to ethically stage gendered violence — acts against women, men, the transgender community, or those who identify as nonbinary — is a topic of discussion nationally among theatre practitioners, and Seremet, Bechtol, and fellow faculty member Kerry Cooke brought the conversation to the MBU community in a symposium last fall.

The symposium aimed to help MBU's theatre makers keep actors safe from the rehearsal process through performances, *and* serve the story that they are telling. In workshops and talks, attendees thought through how to use violent acts in a production, and how directors can help ensure that there is clear communication between scene partners about the forms of contact that are acceptable.

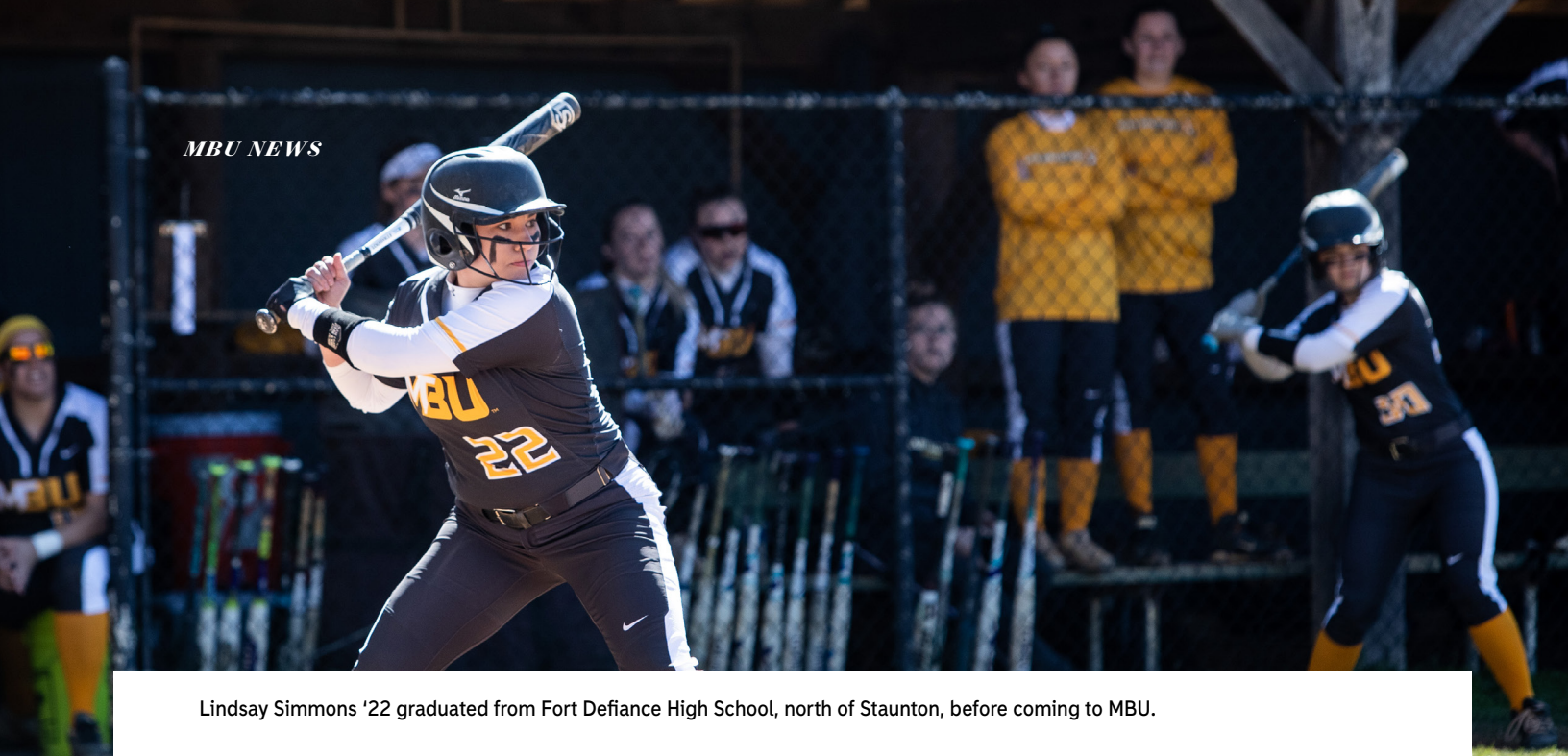


# Local athletes flock to MBU for experiences both on and off the field



Kordelia Hunsberger '23 came to MBU from Riverheads High School in southern Augusta County.





Lindsay Simmons '22 graduated from Fort Defiance High School, north of Staunton, before coming to MBU.

The true value of a thing is often revealed only in its absence. Such was the case for sports everywhere in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the days began to lengthen and warm with the arrival of spring in the Shenandoah Valley, the fields and courts of Mary Baldwin remained empty. Missing were the sounds of balls meeting bats and rackets. Empty stands waited for crowds that would not come as athletes and fans sheltered in their homes to set about the task of pondering a season deemed historic for all the wrong reasons.

Yet not even a shortened sports calendar for the spring of 2020 could deny the continued success of Mary Baldwin athletics across the board. With the inaugural men's baseball team already in place and both men's basketball and women's triathlon slated to begin during the next school year, MBU athletics will comprise a full 16 teams of student-athletes in 2020–21. The growth of all programs is fueled in no small part by an influx of local players. In fact, not only is the university bringing in more local athletes, more local athletes are choosing Mary Baldwin over other competing schools.

"MBU's profile has been greatly enhanced in recent years," said Tom Byrnes, director of athletics. "The transformation to co-ed enrollment, the enhanced focus on student engagement and academic programs, and the continued excellent support from all campus departments have made a real difference in drawing student-athletes. All of these enhancements have helped coaches be more successful recruiting in general, and even more successful in the local region."

Players for Division III schools within the NCAA are known as student-athletes for a reason. Education comes first, sports second. As such, the student-athletes who choose Mary Baldwin do so for far more than the coaches and athletic programs. It's the MBU experience itself — the community, the campus, and the academics — that draws an ever-increasing crop of local talent onto the field and the court as Fighting Squirrels. That was certainly true for these student-athletes who have found a nearby home away from home at Mary Baldwin.



*"The transformation to co-ed enrollment, the enhanced focus on student engagement and academic programs, and the continued excellent support from all campus departments have made a real difference in drawing student-athletes. All of these enhancements have helped coaches be more successful recruiting in general, and even more successful in the local region."*



» **MAGGIE OLSHOVE '22,**  
*women's soccer*

"Playing at a DIII school has allowed me to broaden my horizons and focus on my academics," said Maggie Olshove '22. "Not only can I play a sport, I also have the freedom to be in other clubs on campus."

Homeschooled locally, Olshove also played varsity soccer for nearby Stuart Hall during her four years of high school. What drew her to Mary Baldwin wasn't the opportunity to continue playing the sport she loved, but the opportunity to become a part of something larger than herself. Olshove entered the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL) and found herself on the soccer team as well. Not only is she a team captain, Olshove will also be promoted to sergeant in VWIL next fall. She's loved every minute of both.

"As a student, I've learned that I can handle a lot more than I ever could have imagined," she said. "And I've learned as an athlete that if you push yourself on and off the field and give 100% at everything you do, nothing can stop you from reaching your goals."



» **LINDSAY SIMMONS '22,**  
*softball*

"I love the small atmosphere," said Lindsay Simmons '22 of the culture around MBU athletics. "All of our sports teams support each other."

A graduate of Fort Defiance High School, located north of Staunton, Simmons chose Mary Baldwin because

the university allowed her the opportunity to fulfill two goals: play softball, and continue her education. "I get to play the sport I love and still be able to focus on my classes," she said. "Here, I can have a more personal relationship with both my classmates and my professors."

The crucial link between performance in the classroom and on the field is foremost in Simmons' mind. Getting behind in studies means an end to athletics. As a result, she is committed to keeping the correct order in the words *student-athlete*.

"I am a very determined student," she said. "I'll do whatever needs to be done to complete all my work, and I refuse to procrastinate. As an athlete, I always choose to work hard and be the best I can be."



» **KORDELIA HUNSBERGER '23,**  
*women's soccer*

A graduate of Riverheads High School in southern Augusta County, Kordelia Hunsberger '23 came to Mary Baldwin in large part because of the generous scholarships she was able to receive. What she found was that the friendships she built

alongside her fellow soccer players became even more valuable.

"This is the closest I've ever gotten to a team," she said.

Those friendships and sense of camaraderie extend far beyond the soccer field to include every facet of the Mary Baldwin experience, where young women and men from every background are brought together in one community.

"There is always someone to help," Hunsberger said. "That's what I've discovered as a student. Whether it's a teammate, professor, coach, or another student, you can always ask for help through the struggles. And as an athlete, I've learned that you have to hold yourself accountable in order to get better. You have to find your own motivations."



» **ALEXIS CLARK '22,**  
*softball*

The personal relationships formed at MBU are a driving factor in each of these student-athletes. For Alexis Clark '22, a graduate of Buffalo Gap High School, located ten miles northwest of Staunton, those relationships are what drew her to Mary Baldwin from her first visit day.

"I felt comfortable and accepted the moment I came to campus," she said. "Everyone I met and talked to was so helpful and caring, and I wanted to have that type of atmosphere for my undergraduate college career."

For Clark, the meaningful connections formed with both students and professors define not only the experience of a Division III student-athlete, but Mary Baldwin as a whole. As a result, she's found success both on and off the diamond. Before COVID-19 forced an abrupt end to the softball season, Clark was only one home run away from the MBU school seasonal record. Yet her focus remains on her studies.

"School comes first," she said. "Success in class leads to success on the field. As an athlete, I have learned that the mentality and passion I have for softball should be carried not only into the classroom, but daily life."

The spirit of competition. The discipline to carve both body and mind. The drive to become the very best version of oneself. These are the hallmarks of the MBU student-athlete. And while for now they must train and study away from campus, they will soon take to the court, field, and track once more supported by a Mary Baldwin community that will not waver.

"These positive experiences our student-athletes have are spreading by word of mouth," said Byrnes. "Their former high schools are hearing about it, their coaches and teammates, their friends. That's a great influencing factor as we continue to build a successful all-around program at MBU."

## IN MEMORY

# REMEMBERING SUSAN WARFIELD "SUE" CAPLES '60

Lead donor for the Social Work Program was devoted to MBU

Former Mary Baldwin trustee and Alumni Board president, and lead donor and namesake of MBU's social work program, Susan Warfield "Sue" Caples '60 died on April 18 after a long struggle with dementia. She was 82 years old.

"Sue made a lasting impact on Mary Baldwin through her devoted service on the Alumni Board and the Board of Trustees, and through her and husband Rob's founding and support of the social work program," said MBU President Pamela Fox. "Their generosity set in motion the careers of so many social workers who are dedicated to improving quality of life for individuals and communities, just as Sue did herself. I remember with great fondness the day Sue and I sat in a coffee shop in Williamsburg and began to formulate the vision and the dream for the program that now bears her name."

When Caples learned in 2007 that 148 students had petitioned Mary Baldwin to add a bachelor of social work to the curriculum, she told her husband, Rob, "we have to be a part of this." Passionate about the field, Caples had returned to school after raising her children to earn a master of social work from Fordham University, and practiced as a medical social worker in Connecticut and New York, before retiring with her husband to Williamsburg.

With a generous donation in answer to those students' call, the couple made possible the founding of Mary Baldwin's nationally accredited social work program, and a later gift by the Caples family in



1960 BLUESTOCKING YEARBOOK

2015 endowed it for generations to come under the name of the Susan Warfield Caples Department of Social Work. Their endowment also established a scholarship to support students with demonstrated financial need enrolled in the social work program through the Caples Social Work Fund. It is now one of MBU's most popular undergraduate majors, both on campus and through MBU Online.

"As for my Mary Baldwin experience, it was the perfect school for me," said Sue Caples in 2010, "and I learned more there about myself than I

have learned in any other setting. I owe so much to Mary Baldwin."

She is survived by Rob, her husband of 59 years, and their three sons and families: Scott, his wife, Jen, and children Ridge and Samantha; Tim, his wife, Jill, and children Mac and Elie; and Jeff, his wife, Christina, and children Andrew and Catherine.

Memorial contributions in Sue Caples' honor may be made to the MBU Caples Social Work Fund at [marybaldwin.edu/giving](http://marybaldwin.edu/giving) or the Respite Care Ministry through Williamsburg United Methodist Church.



# REMEMBERING BILL POLLARD

## University archives to be named in his honor

Depending on when they spent their time at Mary Baldwin, members of the university community will remember Bill Pollard as the librarian, the volunteer archivist, or the institutional historian. In any era, Pollard was always regarded as an enthusiastic and immensely helpful gentleman and researcher. He died on March 27 at 97 years old.

"His service, particularly as archivist, was exceptional," said MBU President Pamela Fox. "A gentle, wise, and humble soul, he preserved our history. I was blessed to have known him."

Pollard was library director at Mary Baldwin until his retirement in 1992, and he served as chair of the university's sesquicentennial celebration. He then took on a volunteer position for 20 years as the school's first and only archivist. For this he was named an honorary alumnus of the university.

To further honor Pollard's work and dedication, Fox announced this week that the Mary Baldwin University archives would be named in his memory during a special dedication on Founders Day this fall.

Pollard had a strong track record of learning about key pieces of the institution's history and, in many cases, tracking down artifacts, including the large stained-glass window commemorating Mary Julia Baldwin's achievements now prominently displayed in the Grafton Library.

He found the window in a coal bin in the basement of old Bailey Hall, which was demolished in 2001 to make way for the Program for the Exceptionally Gifted Center.

When Pollard became MBU's archivist, he told MBU news that "literally, things were in attics and closets around campus." Among his other discoveries are a painting of Baldwin's dog Beauty, used as a prop in a theatrical production, and a Mary Baldwin apple crate, left over from the days when the school owned an orchard that inspired Apple Day. He spotted the crate at a nearby apple farm. "I knew what it was," he said. "I had seen the photograph."

He previously shared an office with Patricia H. Menk, the late professor emerita of history and author of *To Live in Time: The Sesquicentennial History of Mary Baldwin College*. Pollard

assisted in the writing of that history as well.

"I often came to him for help running down landmarks in Baldwin's long history," said Lew Askegaard, retired dean of institutional research, who knew Pollard for 35 years. "Alumni and faculty would raise arcane questions about great-great-aunts or the impact of the panic of 1893 on enrollment. I loved to go to

Bill with these. He was generous, curious, and a quiet gift to this great college and community."

University Librarian Carol Creager, like so many at MBU, had trouble calling Pollard anything but "Mr. Pollard."

"He left the archives — his archives — wonderfully organized and usable, with written trails of where and how to best find answers," Creager said. "His distinctive handwriting — I think of it as Pollard-dating — leaves clues about when an item was added or reviewed."

His early type-written letters and notes, sometimes on 3x5 cards, Creager said, are scattered throughout the files and archival boxes and have become historic treasures in themselves.

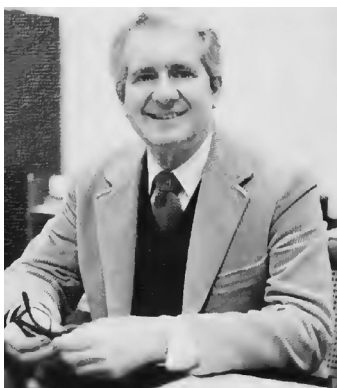
As Pollard would attest, though, Creager said there's still work to be done, and several elusive items still to be discovered.

"Not surprisingly, he was sure there was a photo of Mary Julia out there, somewhere. [There is no known photo of

Baldwin. Her face was disfigured during a childhood illness, and she would not permit portraits or photos to be taken.] We'll keep looking and will work to sustain what he began."

Originally from Farmville, North Carolina, Pollard earned an undergraduate degree in comparative literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree in library science from Florida State University. Before becoming head librarian at Mary Baldwin in 1977, he held similar positions at the College of William and Mary and at what was then its Norfolk branch, now Old Dominion University.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Hatch "Betsy" Pollard, with whom he lived just a short walk from campus, and their three daughters and their husbands, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. His daughter, Elizabeth Pollard Hemeter, is a member of the Mary Baldwin Class of 1973.



1979 *Bluestocking* yearbook



# WE HEAR YOU



## MBU'S NEW INITIATIVES TO BUILD STRONGER CONNECTIONS WITH ALUMNI

Thanks to the thousands who participated in the all-alumni survey last spring, Mary Baldwin University is launching new initiatives to better connect graduates with each other and with the university.

"Our alumni have shared their needs and desires, and now it's our job not only to listen, but also to deliver," said Adrienne Teague, executive director of alumni engagement. "Our biggest goal is to engage as many alumni as possible through meaningful opportunities to connect them with Mary Baldwin and with one another — no matter when you graduated, or what program you were a part of — while providing value-added programs and resources to our 16,600-plus alumni alike. Keeping our community ties strong, whether that happens virtually or in person, is more important than ever right now."

### All-alumni survey sets the tone

As MBU set out to update its strategic plan to look forward to 2025, the university recognized that alumni and their voices needed to be at the center of its future. Partnering with Grenzebach Glier and Associates (GG+A), global philanthropy management consultants, Mary Baldwin asked alumni what they most value and seek from their alma mater, and collected data on themes including the most important points of connection with the university, the top reasons for providing financial support, topics of interest, and communication preferences. All in all, 2,657 alumni (16% of all alumni) completed the online survey in May 2019, sharing their perspectives and opinions with MBU leadership.

Survey data helped inform the new strategic plan update, which, after many months of work, was approved by the Board of Trustees in October. The process of refreshing the strategic plan with an eye toward the university's future reaffirmed the importance of alumni and alumni engagement, and that area emerged as pivotal to the university's path forward to 2025.

Following the guidance of the updated strategic plan and continuing to draw insight from the results of the all-alumni survey, MBU is now pursuing a robust plan of action to enhance

the university's lifelong relationship with its graduates. A multi-phase effort spearheaded by the Office of Alumni Engagement, this plan envisions several areas of opportunity and draws upon industry best practices as well as the foundational guidance of MBU's mission.

"Gleaning insights from the all-alumni survey was one of the first projects I undertook when I started my position at Mary Baldwin last summer," said Charles E. "Chuck" Davis III, vice president of university advancement, "and bringing the results to life in our alumni programming, events, and communications remains one of our top university-wide priorities."

MBU is actively and strategically pursuing the following long- and short-term initiatives, which resulted from all-alumni survey data:

- Build a robust online portal for the alumni community to engage with the university and connect with each other
- Enhance communication with alumni across various channels covering topics of relevance and interest.
- Develop lifelong learning opportunities and support.
- Creatively enhance career services support for alumni of all ages.
- Create more relevant programming on and off campus that speaks to all alumni and their affinity groups.
- Develop platforms for alumni to mentor and engage with students.
- Provide better stewardship and acknowledgement for all of Mary Baldwin's generous donors.

Several of these initiatives are happening now with others on the horizon, all aimed at building stronger connections among alumni, their peers, and the university.

### Bringing alumni together, while apart

Springtime usually brings a slate of MBU's biggest annual celebrations, from Reunion weekend to the Capstone Festival to Commencement. This year was different. As the COVID-19





Alumni celebrating their Reunion years gathered for virtual social hours, including (top, l-r) Scottie Lindsay '70, Amy Facklam née Anthony '05, Elizabeth Jennings "Liz" Shupe '70, Suzanne Maxson "Suzie" Maltz '75, (bottom, l-r) Margaret Bivans "Margie" Fogle '10, Louise Ullom '80, Kamala Payne Chapman '05, and Harriet Marrow Neldon '75.

**"WHILE ACCEPTING THE REALITY OF WHAT IS ... WE CHOSE TO REMEMBER, LAUGH, AND LOOK FORWARD TO DOING THIS AGAIN WITH MORE OF OUR GROUP," SAID ELIZABETH JENNINGS "LIZ" SHUPE '70, WHO HELPED ORGANIZE A VIRTUAL GATHERING TO CELEBRATE HER CLASS'S 50TH REUNION.**

pandemic caused events across the world to be cancelled, MBU asked students to return home and moved all classes online for the remainder of spring semester.

During this time of social distancing, the Office of Alumni Engagement took the opportunity to fast-track several initiatives geared toward enhanced communication, lifelong learning, and relevant, thematic programming. Through these virtual opportunities, alumni could tap into the expertise of their fellow MBU graduates and commemorate milestones with their classmates online.

Take, for example, the virtual social hours planned to help alumni celebrate Reunion from afar.

"The saying 'When life gives you lemons, make lemonade' is quite appropriate for these virtual socials," said Anne Holland '88, director of special projects for Alumni Engagement, who was busy planning Reunion when the coronavirus pandemic hit. "Since we couldn't welcome alumni to Staunton for Reunion, then we brought it to them wherever they are. What matters is that they connected with classmates and friends, remembered old times, old places, valued professors, and maybe even sang their class song."

Members of some classes who are celebrating milestone Reunion years in 2020 — those from 1970, 1975, 1980, 1995, 2005, and 2010 — joined social hours from home at the beginning of April. As familiar faces filled the video-chat screen, memories and laughter eased the feeling of distance from campus and classmates.

"While accepting the reality of what is ... we chose to remember, laugh, and look forward to doing this again with more of our group," said Elizabeth Jennings "Liz" Shupe '70, who helped organize a virtual gathering to celebrate her class's 50th Reunion.

Throughout the month of April, episodes of a new webinar series called Alumni Virtual Connections featured alumni and community members speaking about timely topics like resilience-building, the digital economy, Grafton Library resources for alumni, cooking classic MBU recipes at home, navigating the end of the academic school year at home, and more.

"When the Alumni Engagement Office reached out to me about contributing to the new alumni webinar series, I didn't hesitate to say yes," said Robin von Seldeneck '92, president and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum in Staunton. "This series can keep our Mary Baldwin community connected during this unprecedented time, and I believe that connecting with others can do wonders for our overall health and wellbeing, especially when our physical contact is limited."

Von Seldeneck, in the first episode, spoke about how to face adversity with forward-thinking solutions, and how she's leading the library and museum toward virtual engagement with their audiences.

"It is a great time to reconnect with those we know and love from Mary Baldwin," said Lynn Mulherin '85, commissioner for the Florida Department of Education's Commission for Independent



Episodes of the Alumni Virtual Connections Webinar Series featured speakers (l-r) Robin von Seldeneck '92, Christina Harris '14, Donté Montague '15, Tracy Hiner '12, and Lynn Mulherin '85.

Education, who presented the second installment of the series. "Not only is it a time for nostalgia and memories, it is the time to look forward to the future together, stronger than ever."

Mulherin spoke about Leveraging the Power of Technology in Our Digital Economy, sharing insights gleaned from her 25-year career at the University of Phoenix and from launching her own technology platform, Pearls of Wisdom, for sharing and celebrating milestone moments among loved ones.

"Even though we are working in a virtual sphere, it feels like the alumni are chatting with you right in your living room," said Amy Davenport, associate director of alumni engagement. "The sense of community our virtual engagement programming is fostering is just wonderful."

Additional presenters are Christina Harris '14, MBU instruction and outreach librarian, on newly curated resources for alumni courtesy of Grafton Library, including alumni and faculty/staff authors; Tracy Hiner '12, MBU director of dining services, guiding viewers through making she-crab soup, one of the most popular menu items on campus; and Donté Montague '15, educator with Staunton City Public Schools, providing insight on navigating the end of the academic school year.

Plans are in the works to continue the lifelong learning and career topics as live virtual events on a semi-regular basis throughout the summer months. All past episodes can be found on the "virtual connections" tab at [marybaldwin.edu/alumni](http://marybaldwin.edu/alumni).

### **COMING SOON: a new online portal exclusively for MBU alumni**

A signature part of the alumni initiatives plan is the debut of a brand-new, state-of-the-art online program that will put at an individual's fingertips many facets of MBU's vibrant alumni community. Creating this portal was the No. 1 request from alumni who participated in the survey.

Accessible through an exclusive MBU alumni website, the portal will connect alumni with their peers based on a number of factors including class year, locality, interest, or customizable affinity communities like the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership, the Ida B. Wells Living-Learning Community, or the

Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences.

"Our new community portal will take the paper directory and move it to an online, real-time, searchable directory that will keep alumni connected in and out of their Reunion years and beyond," Teague said.

Alumni will also be able to access a full calendar of events throughout the year, including those gatherings planned for a particular regional network near where they live. And not only will alumni be able to view events, but they can also register online and view guest lists and updates with ease.

With construction now underway, the alumni office plans to launch phase one of the online community in fall 2020. But Teague encourages alumni to get involved in shaping the new program even before it's fully operational.

"We want to invite our alumni to participate in the naming process with us, since we don't think 'Online Community' is a super-interesting name. We've seen other institutions come up with cool nomenclature like 'MyCarolina' or 'VolsConnect,'" Teague said, "and we want to give our alumni the opportunity to tell us what they think this new built-for-alumni platform should be called."

While the online community will launch with much-improved processes for communication and connection, alumni engagement is also planning future phases to include enhanced email communications, information related to career development, opportunities to engage with MBU students, and much more.

"I'm so excited to look back in a year or two and see how we were able to leverage this platform to increase affinity and class interaction, stay connected with our alumni through updated information, and build out a mechanism to capture achievements and then share the good news with our alumni community," Teague said.

### **'Raise your hand. Lend your voice'**

The all-alumni survey remains a powerful tool to guide the Office of Alumni Engagement's work in the coming months, but they also want to continue gathering alumni voices in pursuit of enhanced engagement and program development. So, they're



putting out a call for interested alumni volunteers to "Raise your hand. Lend your voice."

It's an opportunity to help the Alumni Engagement team and the Alumni Association build out a plan in three initial categories:

1. Communications, including the website and community platform
2. Career and professional development, assisting OAE by connecting professional networks and industries to all alumni
3. Regional engagement and how to best bring Mary Baldwin to more alumni in communities across the nation

Interested alumni should stay tuned for more information about getting involved and sharing their ideas, or they can reach out directly to [alumni@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:alumni@marybaldwin.edu).

Building on the all-alumni survey, alumni engagement at MBU aims to provide robust and meaningful opportunities for graduates throughout all stages of their lives. The hope is that there will be vivid connections of the present coupled with every graduate's memories of their time studying at MBU — that no matter where they are located, or what their current interests are, alumni will always find value in their continued relationships with each other, beloved faculty and staff, and the overall university.

**"It is a great time to reconnect with those we know and love from Mary Baldwin. Not only is it a time for nostalgia and memories, it is the time to look forward to the future together, stronger than ever."**

— Lynn Mulherin '85, commissioner for the Florida Department of Education's Commission for Independent Education, who presented an Alumni Virtual Connections webinar

## ***'Alumni engagement is my passion and my calling.'***

Adrienne Teague joins MBU as executive director of alumni engagement



Executive Director of Alumni Engagement Adrienne Teague came to MBU in mid-November after most recently serving as the director of alumni relations at George Mason University. Bringing to campus more than 13 years of experience in higher education and a passion for working with alumni, she has built expertise in board and volunteer management, strategic

planning, data-driven decision making, event planning, and communications engagement.

"The love and affinity that our alumni have for this institution speaks volumes about their experiences and the quality of the education they received while they were students," she said. "The opportunity to come in and build on that history, while preparing for our future alumni needs that support the diversity of Mary Baldwin alumni is both

challenging and thrilling at the same time."

While at Mason, Teague was responsible for creating and managing a comprehensive outreach program that resulted in more alumni responding to the alumni association's efforts and participating in major programs and events. For example, her team achieved exponential increases in first-time attendees at Mason's annual alumni weekend and homecoming programs for three consecutive years.

"Alumni engagement is my passion and my calling," she said. "I have always said that the relationship that a graduate has with his or her alma mater is one of the longest in their lifetime, outside of family, life-long friends, and their faith community, and it should be treated with care."

Earlier in her career, Teague served in both alumni affairs and the chancellor's office at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where she earned a master of public administration in nonprofit management and a bachelor's degree in English.

# ME for Ma

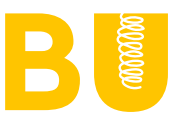
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Ready to launch: Anais Gutierrez '20 earned her bachelor of arts summa cum laude and is commissioning as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force.





vers.

# BU Empowers Campaign focuses on the bedrock of Mary Baldwin's historic mission

ALLY COFFEY

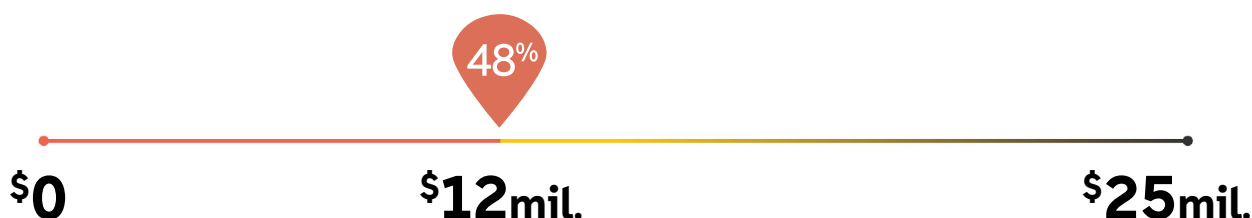
s Gutierrez '20 has spent her years at Mary Baldwin dreaming of the day she would step onto the stage on Page Terrace to receive her diploma in front of her family. Words like COVID-19, pandemic, and quarantine were better suited for a dystopian novel than real life. Yet in May, she and college graduates nationwide experienced the heartbreaking reality of celebrating their college graduations in their own homes via the Internet. Experiencing such a milestone in such an unprecedented way would crush even the strongest spirit. But Gutierrez and the rest of Mary Baldwin's 2020 graduating class possessed something many of their peers did not: a sense of community developed through their university.

"One of the things I love about Mary Baldwin is that every walk of life walks our campus," she said. "I think that's a special and wonderful thing. During COVID-19, the community has really banded together and made it easier to adjust to the situation. In a time when you invest so much in an institution and then suddenly it's taken away from you, having faculty and staff who are encouraging and checking in to make sure everyone's okay shows us that this really is an MBU family." Generations of Mary Baldwin students, that same sense of community — a constant stream of encouragement and support matched with unparalleled dedication to developing the skills to impact the world — transformed their time on campus into a defining moment. Time and again, Mary Baldwin has proven itself more than a university. It is the springboard that launches potential. The heart of the MBU Empowers Campaign, a \$25 million fundraising initiative to support students during this difficult time and beyond, lies at the heart of the university. "The world is changing dramatically with each passing day," said President Pamela Fox. "These are times that lead us to reflect on the people, places, and experiences that shaped us and brought us joy. For a countless number of our alumni, the MBU Empowers Campaign provides an opportunity for exactly that. We want to ensure that today's students receive the same support that so many of our graduates enjoyed to overcome their own personal obstacles during these difficult times."

## FOCUS ON STUDENT SUPPORT

MBU Empowers reflects a realignment and rebranding of the Invest for Impact Campaign in order to focus on student support through the three pillars that most impact students: the Mary Baldwin community, the shared experience of students and alumni, and the campus that is a home for so many. These three areas joined together create a springboard that launches each MBU student over their own obstacles in order to create lives that are not only successful, but empowered.

"For some, it may be counterintuitive to boldly proceed with a fundraising campaign given the challenges the world is still facing," said Chuck Davis, vice president of university advancement. "I would argue the opposite. The economic upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us all to think more carefully about what's important, and it's never been more important to stand as a family in support of our students."



**Through the generosity of Impact Investors and other committed friends who previously gave through the Invest for Impact Campaign, MBU Empowers already has a foundation of more than \$12 million toward its goal.**

Every gift to the campaign goes directly to support current and future students as they prepare to confront and overcome obstacles that are both unique and timeless.

Throughout Mary Baldwin's history, its students have been called upon to endure periods of hardship ranging from wars to social strife to economic uncertainty. In every instance, students and the university itself have emerged stronger. The goal of the MBU Empowers Campaign is to ensure that same sense of perseverance continues unabated, giving students the power to define this moment for themselves rather than allowing this moment to define them. That is where Mary Baldwin University excels.

"To me," said Gutierrez, "empowerment is encouraging and supporting someone so much that they feel capable of tackling any adversity they face. If you had to put a face to people empowering people, it would definitely be Mary Baldwin."

"People empowering people" could serve well as the guiding principle behind a campaign designed to unite the entire MBU family under a common goal. Small in scope but focused in its objectives, MBU Empowers inspires giving at every level of the MBU family, regardless of gift size. From faculty, staff, and current students to alumni who consistently give and those who may never have done so, it is a moment to live out one of life's greatest truths: people are stronger when they are together.

Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees Gabby McCree '83 has witnessed this lived out consistently in the lives of MBU students. "As a proud graduate, I have seen firsthand the impact Mary Baldwin has on our students and the next generation," she said. "My commitment to MBU and its evolving future is ever strong. There is no more critical time in our history, so please join me in supporting the MBU Empowers Campaign with your most generous heart."

## STRENGTHEN THE BALDWIN FUND

Central to the MBU Empowers Campaign is the Baldwin Fund, which is Mary Baldwin's annual fund that serves as the lifeblood of the university by allowing leadership to address both opportunities and obstacles as they occur.

Powerful in its flexibility, the Baldwin Fund fulfills the university's student-centered purpose. In normal circumstances, this fund often serves as the starting point for key pathways that allow Mary Baldwin not simply to grow but prosper, such as providing students with experiential learning opportunities outside of the classroom and attracting and retaining exceptional faculty members. Yet it is during unprecedented times such as the COVID-19 crisis when the true power of the Baldwin Fund is unleashed, assisting not only in





In its nearly 180 years, Mary Baldwin has been propelled forward during times of hardship and upheaval by the determination of alumni, students, faculty, and staff.

the transition of the entire campus to online learning, but also in aiding displaced students who could not return home. Most importantly, the Baldwin Fund also helped ensure the university's continued financial health as it weathered a storm impossible to predict.

If the Mary Baldwin community, shared experience, and campus home form the coils of a spring wound beneath the feet of MBU students, the Baldwin Fund creates the tension required to make that spring function. For that reason, MBU encourages donors during the initial phase of the MBU Empowers Campaign, to make a gift, regardless of its size, toward the Baldwin Fund's continued direct support of students and the many lives they impact through their work both in and out of the classroom.

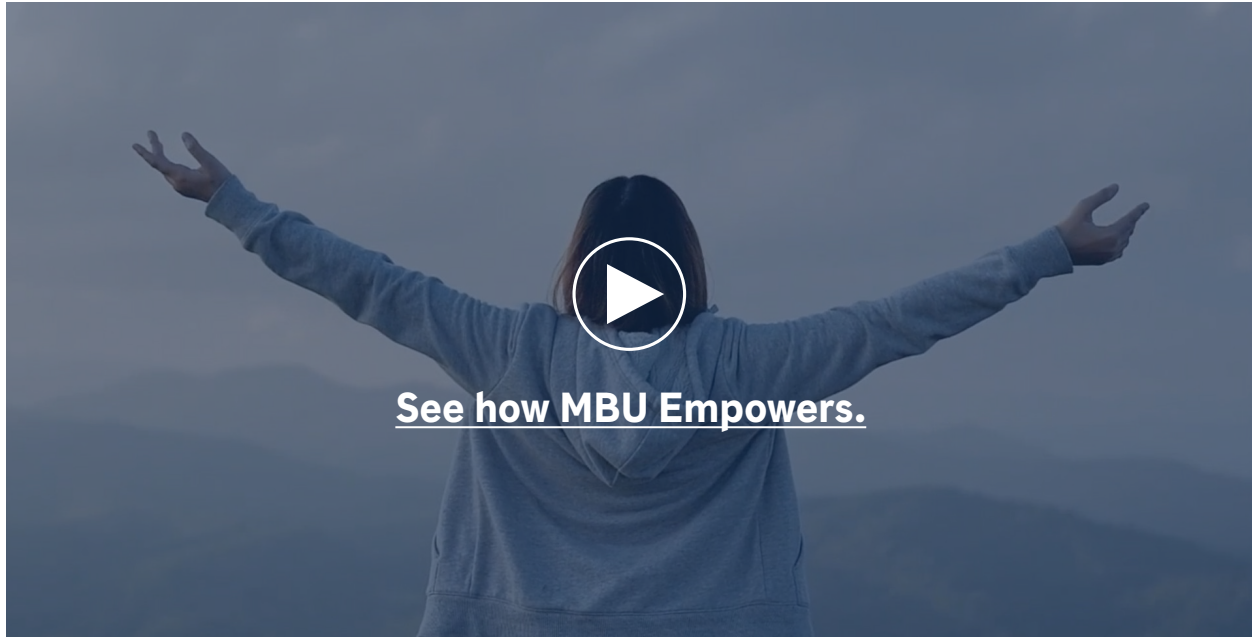
"Being a part of an educational community is a calling," said Dr. Roderic Owen, professor of philosophy and annual donor for more than 40 years. "I have had the pleasure of working in an incredible liberal arts setting with remarkable students and colleagues. (My wife and I) choose to participate in and support programs like MBU Theatre, choral concerts, and the Spencer Center because we recognize the inherent value they add to our community."

## WHY A SPRING?

At the heart of Mary Baldwin's mission lies empowerment — the promise that every student is afforded opportunities and support to help them succeed personally and professionally. Yet for many, empowerment remains an abstract term. What exactly does empowerment look like? How does it precisely function in a student's life?

All of the MBU Empowers materials, from the campaign website to emails and print pieces, display a hand-drawn spring as a symbol of empowerment in action. Representing kinetic potential, the spring is the perfect symbol for the Mary Baldwin experience — the supportive community, stellar academic training, and lifelong friendships that work together to create a springboard that launches students into bright futures.





## CONNECT THE GENERATIONS

For Susan Christ Campbell '69, the current difficulties students face strike home in a special way. As a former first-generation student herself, she is uniquely qualified to appreciate the needs of the young women and men who follow where she has been. "I invest in first-generation students because we can't afford to waste an ounce of their talent due to financial need," she said. "Because they are MBU students and then MBU graduates, I know they will pay forward my investment by the pound. It's what we do."

Indeed, what unites the Mary Baldwin community in this moment and all others is that the obstacles current students face in navigating their way through college, career, and beyond are much the same as those confronted by students decades ago.

"Mary Baldwin's supportive environment encouraged me, a very shy, introverted seventeen-year-old, to come out of my shell and believe that I could accomplish everything to which I set my mind," said Melissa Patrick '78. "Ever since my graduation, I have chosen to be a donor on an annual basis. My love for Mary Baldwin is deeply rooted, imbuing me with a strong emotional attachment to not only the educational institution, but also a sense of place and belonging. I treasure my Mary Baldwin experiences."

Supporting students inside and outside the classroom, MBU Empowers is centered around the three themes that most impact them: their shared experience, MBU community, and campus home.





Patrick's sentiment as a graduate of the Class of '78 rings as true throughout the decades before or since. It is echoed in the definition of empowerment given by Anais Gutierrez '20. Times may change, but the human experience remains constant. That is the Mary Gold thread weaving through the MBU Empowers Campaign — current alumni and friends banding together to aid future alumni and friends.

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE

In line with a strategic vision for a prosperous future, the MBU Empowers Campaign will also broaden its vision as the campaign progresses to include other areas where the university empowers its students to the fullest effect. Importantly, this expanded focus will include investments to adapt campus for a post-pandemic world. Among these are scholarships and grants that afford students opportunities to add momentum to their futures at every stage of their college careers. University leadership will also look to transform the first floor of the iconic Grafton Library into an innovative learning hub serving as a central location for career fairs, seminars, and workshops. The campaign also calls for an expansion of the Physical Activities Center and a renovation of Carpenter Hall, as well as the creation of the Center for Leadership in Kable Hall as a leadership laboratory and home for the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership.

Far from simply raising money, the MBU Empowers Campaign ensures that Mary Baldwin continues to be a springboard for students as they prepare to meet every obstacle and opportunity in their coming years. Each gift, regardless of its size, provides what many students never found until they arrived on campus — an opportunity to believe in themselves, and a means to define every challenge as a reason to rise.



Become part of  
the springboard that  
is Mary Baldwin at  
***mbuempowers.com***

Visit the campaign website at  
***MBUempowers.com***, where you  
can make your gift through a  
streamlined and easy-to-use process.



Go in depth with detailed information  
about campaign priorities. Learn more  
about our committed Impact Investors.



Keep abreast of what's happening  
through the campaign's News tab,  
a hub for inspiring stories of  
empowerment and generosity.



And get inspired by a stirring video that  
captures the spirit of MBU Empowers,  
and of Mary Baldwin itself.

# MBU Empowers is a comprehensive campaign with a \$25 million goal.

A comprehensive campaign bundles your multi-year **annual fund** goals with additional fundraising needs, including **capital** and **endowment** support. It results in a single, integrated multi-year campaign goal and a single, integrated fundraising effort.

## Endowment Support

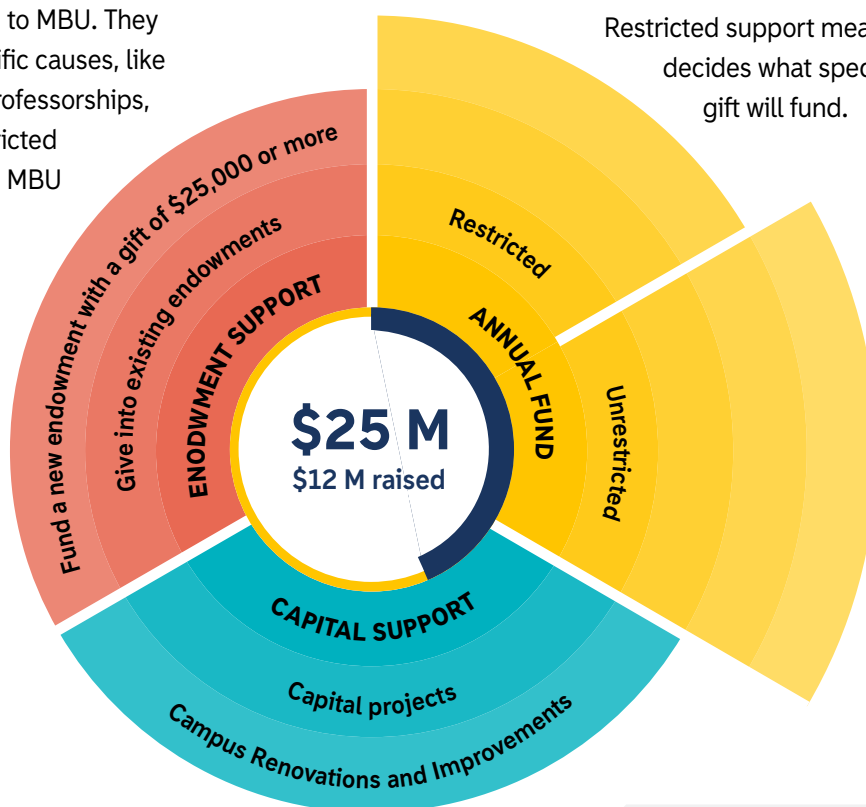
Endowments provide a steady stream of funding to MBU. They can support specific causes, like scholarships or professorships, or provide unrestricted support, enabling MBU to stay nimble.

## Annual Fund

Every year, MBU sets annual fundraising goals that include both restricted and unrestricted support.

Restricted support means that the donor decides what specific purpose the gift will fund.

All unrestricted annual gifts go into the Baldwin Fund. Currently the top fundraising priority, the Baldwin Fund allows MBU to respond to important needs as they arise and seize opportunities.



## Capital Support

New capital projects, renovations, or improvements on MBU's physical plant — these initiatives are set in motion through capital support of MBU. Capital support is non-endowed, although endowments can be created to support ongoing costs associated with capital projects.

All gifts, pledges, and eligible documented planned gifts made to MBU during the campaign (through December 31, 2023) count toward the campaign total.



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from a university  
that cares for its  
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•  
TheMBAatMBU@marybaldwin.edu  
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*Class of 2020!*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Come back to campus for a special celebration  
of your class and all you accomplished at MBU.



More details are coming soon.

♥ Your #MBUfamily

# CLASS COLUMNS

*Alumni in all classes are encouraged to send updates for inclusion in the Mary Baldwin Magazine through class secretaries or directly to the Office of Alumni Engagement: alumni@marybaldwin.edu | 540-887-7007 or 800-763-7359. The deadline for the summer 2020 issue was March 1.*

## 1942

**ELISABETH WHITE "Libby" Willard** writes that she celebrated her 100th birthday in February: "It was a truly happy celebration and the best, I'm sure, any 100-year-old ever had. No one is more surprised than I am to have reached that number. I am still happily on this earth with wonderful memories of Mary Baldwin days."

## 1946

**JOAN MORAN Smith** celebrated her 95th birthday on Feb. 15, with a wonderful party including family and friends. She is well and still keeps in contact with one of her classmates, **MARILYN WEST Price**. She continues to have a busy and active life at home in Farmville NC.

"I am still happily on this earth with wonderful memories of Mary Baldwin days."

— ELISABETH WHITE "LIBBY" WILLARD '42

## 1952

**MARGARET KING Stanley** writes that she celebrated her 90th birthday in Dec. 2019. She had a luncheon in April celebrating the 50th year since she designed all the costumes for the fiesta, "Court of Time and Space." Astronaut John Blaha spoke at this luncheon.

## 1956

*Mary Baldwin University gives thanks to **ELAINE BALDWIN** for all that she has done while serving as the class of 1956 class secretary. We will miss her wonderful class notes and appreciate the time and energy that she has put into making the Class of 1956 notes so special. If you are interested in serving as class secretary, please contact Anne Holland at Mary Baldwin University at aholland@marybaldwin.edu or 540-887-7171.* **NANCY PAYNE Dahl** writes, "I'm looking forward to Reunion this year and I hope that as many of you as can will also be there to celebrate." She keeps up with her 8 grandchildren, which sounds like a full-time job! **SUE**

**BERRY McMurray** recently had a knee replacement and reports that she is healing well. She had a lovely visit from **Lois MORRISON Zeigler** recently. It was really good to hear from **SUSAN ANDES Pittman**, though she wrote with some sad news. **ELLIE REYNOLDS Henderson** died Feb. 15, after years of being house-bound, with round-the-clock care for Lewy body disease with Parkinson's. Susan was in frequent conversation with Ellie's son and knew that her death was imminent; she said that upon her death, the Mayo Clinic had requested her brain to enable research to learn more about the condition. She recalled celebrating Ellie's 80th birthday some years ago, with **SUSIE PRIESTMAN Bryan**. Susan reports that Susie continues to paint and makes a yearly trek from her home in Jacksonville FL to New York City each fall with her daughters. Susan also said, "As a result of Ellie's death, I've been in touch with **SUE DOZIER Grotz**, who with her husband, Art, will be traveling to FL to see **BETTY BOYER Bullock** who recently moved into a facility for seniors." Susan also gave

me a brief rundown on herself: "I've lived in Raleigh NC since 1972. My husband, Bill Pittman, has been deceased for 13 years, but fortunately I have a daughter and 3 sons and 7 grandchildren." Susan transferred from Mary Baldwin to University of North Carolina Chapel Hill after her sophomore year, and said, "I remember with great fondness my 2 years at Mary Baldwin College and always enjoy reading about our classmates." Thanks so much to Susan for bringing us up to date on herself and several classmates. As for me, our family will be gathering in western NC, near Asheville, at the beginning of April – my 2 daughters, 2 granddaughters, and 1 grandson, and 2 great-granddaughters, the youngest of whom, Caroline, was born last Oct. I plan to see **JEANETTE FISHER Reid** and her husband, Judd, during my visit. In May, I will be on hand at California State University Long Beach to witness the graduation of my grandson, Frederick, whom I helped to raise after I moved out here to CA in 2003. Life is still full of blessings!

## 1959

**EMILY O'SHEE Apple '59** writes she is so blessed. Her 2 children and 6 grandchildren live 10 minutes away. She saw Mary Baldwin University when she came with her daughter and 2 of her sons to look at colleges. The middle son picked William and Mary. She has a Shut-In Circle at her Presbyterian Church, and has learned so much from those elderly women. Her husband died in Jan. 2019.



## 1963

Send your class notes to:

**LYNN BUTTS Laidig**

*LaidigL@yahoo.com*

*Mary Baldwin University gives thanks to **NELL ROGERS***

**CARVELL** as she writes her final entry as the Class of 1963 class secretary. We will miss her wonderful class notes and appreciate the time and energy that she has put into making the Class of 1963 notes so special. We also welcome **LYNN BUTTS Laidig** as the new Class of 1963 class secretary. First, a huge thank you to so many who took the time and brain power to respond. We may be old, but we are not DEAD! I am excited and proud of our outstanding classmates who are still actively involved in living. You will love reading how engaged we are in living and how we each face challenges in positive ways. **LYNN BUTTS**

**Laidig**, who is currently reading 2 library books and planning a trip to OK for Easter, travels almost as much as **SALLY LIVINGSTON Brown**. This year Lynn traveled from CO to Concord MA drove up the coast to Bath ME, visiting old shipyards and then on to NH to visit Dartmouth. Returning to Concord, she visited the cemetery where Louisa May Alcott is buried (and where Ms. Alcott's fans stuck pencils into her grave as a tribute). The real highlight of the trip for Lynn was being with her son, Ned, and his family including 2 grandsons. Lynn continues to stay busy at her Presbyterian church in Arvada CO and volunteering at the Arvada Center for the Arts. Her 2 daughters live nearby, which is a gift, but the best of all is a new great-grandson. This is

"I am grateful for the blessings of friends from Mary Baldwin over the years and give thank-you prayers for what each person has brought to my life."

— BITTY DAVIS TENBROOK '63

the first "great" I have heard of from our group. Lynn loves keeping up with her Mary Baldwin friends through email and reunions and visits.

**SUSANNA CLARK "SUZIE" Knapp** and her husband are also big travelers of what she calls us, "the elder class." In the past year they have traveled to the Mediterranean, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, and in the USA. She comments that flying is the "pits" unless you can go first class, so they are giving it a break. Suzie commented on the current tenor in our country with concern, but wants us to remember that in our day the Civil Rights Bill was yet to be written and Joseph McCarthy was still a close memory. Her good news is that their oldest grandson just graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with a degree in aeronautical engineering with several awards and honors. He begins flight training in July. She signed, "I like to consider his education my tax dollars at work." Good Job! **MACON CLEMENT Riddle** writes of the continuing changes in her life. She included a photo of **MARGIE WOODSON Nea** with her daughters and granddaughter — a beautiful photo. Macon feels overwhelmed by this bittersweet time. After losing her husband, Hill, she decided it was time to sell their home. She will move into a residential

community the first week of March. She has been cleaning and sorting — she said as she was sorting books, she thought, "do I keep my MBC scrapbook?" I know many of you have asked yourselves the same question. I usually make my decision by asking, 'what will my children do with it?' You and I know the answer to that question. Love to Macon as she, like many of you, begins a new phase in her journey.

**BITTY DAVIS TenBrook** has a similar story. Her exciting news — after 22 years of their daughter living far away from them in Pensacola FL, Bitty and her husband are moving to be near her and her family. They will be living in a fabulous retirement community only 1 mile away. Their son-in-law is a professor at the University of West Florida where Bitty and her husband can take courses — free tuition and no "blue books." She says their "northern" sons will be able to visit often and maintain homes in MA where she and her husband can go during the hot summers in FL. On a final note, she expresses her gratitude for the blessings of friends from Mary Baldwin over the years and gives thank you prayers for what each person has brought to her life. Oh, and one more thing: Once they move, she will no longer have to cook or clean house. Hooray. **ANN DIAL McMillan** meets regularly with **BETSY**

**BRANTLEY Grisham, FAYE BAKER Clark, and ANN KING.**

They have annual birthday lunches. This year, they saw **MACON CLEMENT Riddle** when she came to Birmingham for the Southern Garden Historical Society meeting. Ann also sends word that Faye's granddaughter is getting married this summer and although Ann King will not write, she takes 2 luxury trips a year. This year she has already been on a cruise through the Panama Canal. Ann and her husband, George, took a trip to New York with friends and loved eating good food and seeing Broadway plays including *Hamilton* and *Tina* and visiting the new MOMA. What fun. She closed on a sad note for Betsy, reporting that she lost both a brother and a sister last year. Please keep Betsy and her family in your prayers. Congratulations to **SALLY DUPREE Barnett** on receiving the Service to Community Award during the Mary Baldwin Reunion Weekend last year. Well deserved, Sally! She returned to the campus to receive the award and was thrilled to be joined by **BECKY CANNADY Merchant, CAROLYN HALDEMAN Hawkins, JUDY LIPES Garst, and SHEARER TROXELL Luck** who all came to support and celebrate with her. Sally says she is in good health, and still active in her church and community. She

has a lot to be thankful for — and says about the photo she sent, "Don't tell me gray hair is not gorgeous!" **CARPIE GOULD COULBOURN** sent the wonderful news that she and her husband, Tom, are fine. It has been almost 5 years since Tom's brain aneurysm ruptured, and he is doing well. He works out regularly, and they are spending the winter in Stuart FL. Last summer **JUDY THOMPSON Hatcher** and her husband, Pete, visited with them at Virginia Beach. It was wonderful. Carpie and Tom hope to see **MACON CLEMENT Riddle** when they go to New Orleans in April. Carpie's joy in life shone through in her comments about how many wonderful Mary Baldwin people are in the Richmond area. Some she sees regularly — and always thinks, "what a great college we attended!" **JANET BISH Holmes** wrote of a struggle some of us may face sooner than later. Her husband, Gordon, fell and broke his hip in Dec. and so they are housebound. He has home therapy, but they are looking for a house in a senior community near their son who lives only an hour away. Not much "newsy" to report, she

"Many wonderful Mary Baldwin people are in the Richmond area, and some I see regularly. I always think, 'what a great college we attended!'"

— CARPIE GOULD COULBOURN '63

said, we are just surviving. We certainly wish her an easy move to their new home and that being near their son will make life easier. **SUE JORDAN Rodarte**, asks first for us to make a note of her new email: *sue.jordan.rodarte@gmail.com*. Sue is semi-retired (how do you do that?) from a wonderful real estate career. She still enjoys working, but is delighted to have time to walk her dog and play bridge. She has recently taken up duplicate bridge. Impressive. She also enjoys the San Antonio Symphony, theater, and art museums. She wanted us to know that her brother, Bill Jordan (W&L class of '62) died 2 years ago. It was a devastating loss. She said some of our friends may have known him. On a happier note, Sue loves spending time with her neighbor and very close friend **LINDA WYATT Duncan** for whom she is grateful. Sue's only child, Bettina, lives with her husband in Barcelona. So, what's a mother to do? She spends every Christmas with them in Spain. That sounds like a great idea to me. **SALLY LIVINGSTON Brown** sent a text from her phone in the Denver airport. She and Lee were on their way to Telluride and Vail for a Feb. ski vacation. Other trips planned for this year are to Bend OR and HI with friends who are celebrating their 80th birthdays. Then, at the end of August, they will travel with other friends to Scotland. I love reading this — if you are in a recent graduating class, look at the wonders that may lie ahead. Sally also is planning a spring trip with **CAROLYN HALDEMAN Hawkins**, **TERRI GEGGIE Fridley**, and **JERRI BETH PALMER**. She also has

"Does anyone remember playing field hockey our freshman year? It nearly put me in the infirmary! People in AR had never heard of field hockey."

— NELL ROGERS CARVELL '63

the joy of seeing **MARGIE WOODSON Nea** often — they belong to a group that meets weekly at "the river." As Sally closes, "all in all, right now, life is good, and we are grateful." What a wonderful note. **ANNA KATE REID Hipp** reports that she and her husband, Hayne, have begun to understand that life is passing quickly so they did as much as they could in the past year. They took their "last" ski trip to Vail CO in Jan. They went to Paris with their 2 daughters and 2 granddaughters in April, hiked the Cotswolds with a group in June, and went to Seattle with 5 grandchildren in August. Anna Kate and Hayne went to a cooking school with some friends in Bordeaux in Sept. and somehow managed trips to Pawley's Island SC in the summer and winter. She did give up flying, but only after she was able to log the time necessary to get a "tiny pin and certificate" for flying 50 years (our own Amelia Earhart). **KEENE ROADMAN Martin** has lived in San Antonio TX for many years, but still misses VA. She lost her husband, Howard, to cancer almost 5 years ago, but is determined to continue living an active life with community involvement, including participation in the Assistance League of San Antonio and PEO Sisterhood. Keene has 6 grandchildren. The oldest grandson graduated from the

University of Miami in June and is now pursuing a yachtmaster course in southern England. (Does anyone need a boat captain?) His sister is a freshman at Barnard College, Columbia University, and is pre-med at this point. The other 4 children are in high school and elementary school in Boston and Houston, respectively. She toured Yellowstone Park in August and will take a trip in May to Mackinac Island MI for the Tulip Festival. "WHEW! Now it is time for chocolate," she writes. She is looking forward to hearing news of our classmates. **SHEARER TROXELL Luck** writes of a whirlwind life keeping up with grandchildren. When she wrote, she and her husband, Jack, had just returned home from going to see a 13-year-old granddaughter play basketball; her 16-year-old sister was waiting for spring to play field hockey. (Does anyone remember playing field hockey our freshman year? It nearly put me, Nell, in the infirmary! People in AR had never heard of field hockey.) Shearer and Jack have 2 local grandsons — 1 who at 16 plays basketball and travel volleyball. The other is 13 and plays in the band. They attend his concerts and provide other transportation. Their daughter remarried last Jan. and with the blended families, they now have 2



more teenage boys. The other grandchildren are in college and working on graduate degrees from NC to OR. Shearer says she and Jack stay busy volunteering, but she keeps in touch with **BECKY CANNADY Merchant** in Lexington and **LYNN BUTTS Laidig** in CO. They hope to have another girls' trip soon. In closing Shearer says, "as we age, we fondly remember our formative college days and the energy and good health we enjoyed. Now it is blood pressure meds and CPAP machines and walking shorter distances each year. Oh, for the endurance we once had! Thanks for getting us all to contribute in this way. Hopefully we'll all give financially, too." (Well said.) I was able to reach **MARGIE WOODSON Nea** at St. Simons Island GA where she and her husband, Andy, are spending Feb. near their daughter. Margie enjoys seeing **SALLY LIVINGSTON Brown** and **MARTHA SINGLETARY Marks**. She said that at Christmas-time every year, Mary Baldwin hosts a lovely party at the Jefferson Hotel where many Mary Baldwin friends gather. **CARPIE GOULD COULBOURN** always attends along with many friends from the Class of '64. Margie and Andy have 5 grandchildren, 3 in college, and 2 still in high school. Andy

"When I think of our class, it was remarkable, and our bond with one another is deep."

— MARGIE WOODSON NEA '63

may say he retired 12 years ago, but he still goes to the office every day to do pro-bono work. Margie has retired from the photography-traveling to developing countries as she did for many years, "but I still have the love of photography in my heart. I love photographing on the beach every day. As you have heard by now, we lost our precious friend and classmate **JO BRENT Robertson**. When I think of our class, it was remarkable, and our bond with one another is deep." And, lastly, a quick update from your loyal, aging secretary, **NELL ROGERS Carvell**. Jim and I are welcoming this stage of life with mixed emotions. We are both amazed to still be here — our parents died much younger, and while we LOVE being here, it is a surprise. For Jim's 80th birthday last year, we joined a group from Southern Methodist University for a trip to celebrate the 75th anniversary of D-Day. It was the best trip we have ever taken. There were 18 students (age 19–21), 4 veterans (this trip was led by a former Army ranger), and a few sponsors. The students were fabulous — smart, serious, playful, respectful, and fun. Being in the historic areas and on the beaches was moving. If this is our last "big" trip — we will go out on a HIGH. We both stay busy with volunteer work. I teach Bible study, fold origami to raise money for water wells ([www.paperforwater.org](http://www.paperforwater.org)), and together we lead and nurture a Sunday school class of young adults. In addition, Jim plays guitar in 2 nursing homes (memory care units) and delivers Meals on Wheels. We spend

"As we age, we fondly remember our formative college days and the energy and good health we enjoyed. Now it is blood pressure meds and CPAP machines and walking shorter distances each year. Oh, for the endurance we once had!"

— SHEARER TROXELL LUCK '63

3 days a week at our lake house where it is quiet and peaceful, and we can take all of the naps our hearts desire. I stay in touch with several Mary Baldwin classmates: **ANNA KATE REID Hipp**, **MACON CLEMENT Riddle**, **ANN DIAL McMillan** (and the Birmingham crew), **RANDI NYMAN Halsell '65**, and **PAULA STEVENS Lambert '65**. Of course, these notes would not happen without YOU. Thank you to each one who answered. If you have enjoyed reading about your classmates, but you did NOT respond to my request — do it next time. **LYNN BUTTS Laidig** has graciously offered to take over as class secretary. After 6 years, it is time for a change and Lynn graciously stepped up. Please respond to her as beautifully as you have done to me. I do love each one of you and feel grateful for you and for all that you and Mary Baldwin did to enrich my life — it has been beyond my imagination. We should all be filled with gratitude. I am!

## 1965

Send your class notes to: **ANN MEBANE Levine**  
2294 Echo Hills Circle NE  
Atlanta GA 30345  
Home: 404-248-1055; cell:  
404-441-7888  
[alevinewv@comcast.net](mailto:alevinewv@comcast.net)  
Facebook page: Mary Baldwin 1965

I always love hearing from you with your news of family, travels, and connections with classmates. If you didn't send me any news, please speak up when you hear from me next time. We still have lots of good news, though. Be sure to look at the back of the current magazine to see the photos that were big enough (in file size) to print in the magazine. Plans are actively underway for our mini-reunion in May in Mathews County, near the Chesapeake. **MARY WHITTLE Chapman** is the host and chief planner. She writes, "There are about 22 people, give or take, coming to the mini-reunion May 13–15. On Wednesday, the first evening, we will gather here at my house for dinner ... then Thursday, weather permitting, there will be an opportunity for boat ride for those interested. On Thursday evening we will have wine and cheese at the Art Speaks Gallery, which will have its annual juried art show open for viewing. Following that we will have dinner together at a local restaurant. Lots of opportunity to visit and relax, to enjoy the views, indulge in front porch rocking, and/or just to wander around the quaint village of Mathews." Mary is making the arrangements for our lodging at local inns. **KAY EARLY Dougherty** has been the chief communicator for this gathering of our clan, and is

assisting Mary in the planning. I am scheduled to attend, and hope to see YOU there. Kay and her twin, **JUNE EARLY Fraim**, and their husbands, Tom Fraim and David Dougherty, traveled to Vietnam and Cambodia in Jan. June states they had wonderful and fascinating history lessons throughout their trip, and she sent me a great photo of the 4 of them in Hue, Vietnam. Kay and David also stopped off in Seoul, South Korea, on their way home to visit old friends. Another traveler who reports in is **RANDI NYMAN Halsell**. She and her husband, Ed, have really been getting around. Randi writes, "With Ed turning 83 shortly and my needing a knee replacement or 2, we have doubled up on our bucket list this year. We spend summers in the Vail Valley as we can no longer stand the Texas heat, but we left early in August this year to visit Sweden to see my 3 remaining cousins on my mother's side. We had a lovely time with all 3 in Stockholm eating a 'mini' smorgasbord and comparing ancestor notes." They also visited Oslo, Norway, before coming home. Next, in Oct., she reports they "went with 7 buddies to Morocco for a 2-week tour. After eating at Rick's Cafe

and traveling by mini-bus across the upper and middle Atlas Mountains, we crossed the plains into the Sahara Desert where we rode camels to our desert tents. Finally, we crossed into Marrakech which was definitely the highlight of our trip. Always stay at La Mamounia, Churchill's favorite ... fabulous." Then, after short trips to FL, the Hill Country TX, and Newport Beach CA (for Christmas), they flew to Hong Kong for a Seabourn cruise to southeast Asia and Singapore. "We had done most of these stops and countries before. Fortunately, we ended in glorious Singapore, which is a wonderful place full of grand and surprising architecture and gardens. Shortly, we are leaving for Rome, Italy, to visit our eldest granddaughter who is spending her spring semester for her junior year at Bucknell University. We are showing her the sights and going to Florence for a couple of days. We are excited." Whew, Randi, you 2 have a lot of energy. I am so envious. The members of the MBC Junior Year Abroad in Madrid (1963-64) got together Oct. 15-17, 2019, at **SARA JANE BEABOUT Hartman's** country home in Hudson NY for 1 of their mini-reunions.

She says that there were 9 of them there: 5 from Mary Baldwin and 4 from other colleges that participated in the program. In addition to Sara, other classmates included **MEREDITH CARTER Patterson, MEREDITH ROBERTSON Heinecke, ADELE JEFFORDS Pope, and PICKETT CRADDOCK**.

Sara says 5 stayed at her house, the rest in Hudson. Everyone came to Sara and husband Skip's house for a catered paella dinner the first night, with restaurant dinners the other 2 nights. Sara says nobody wanted her to organize any sightseeing, so it was very relaxing with lots of visiting, reminiscing, and stories. So much fun, she exclaims. She also reports that "it was a perfect time of the year since the foliage was peak and colors were so good this year." **JAN HADRELL Connors** writes that she traveled to Richmond in Dec. and attended the big holiday party that was hosted by the Richmond alumni in the lovely Jefferson Hotel. She says she was the guest of **NANCY JACKSON Miller, GARY FLAKE, and GWEN McNAUGHT '66**. Jan also reports that she had a biking trip in January in the FL Keys from Key Largo down to Key West. Jan says she lived in FL for 33 years, but had never made it to the Keys before. I thoroughly enjoyed following her journey on her Facebook posts. Quite an ambitious undertaking, I'd say. **PAULA STEPHENS Lambert** says that she saw lots of Mary Baldwin alums last fall when President Pamela Fox visited Dallas. The event was at her house and there were 20 to 30 there to hear Dr. Fox. Paula reports

that she has been traveling a lot and having a great time. She recently returned from a cruise to New Zealand and Australia and now is planning 2 trips to Tuscany and 1 to Puglia. This summer Chef Stephan Pyles and Paula have a Mediterranean cruise from Rome to Barcelona, and in autumn they have a trip to Morocco. She writes, "I am still working at Mozzarella Company, am in my 38th year, and still loving every moment." Here in Atlanta, we also had a lovely evening reception with President Pamela Fox and MBU's new Vice President for University Advancement Charles E. "Chuck" Davis III. The Nov. event was held at the handsome Piedmont Driving Club and was very well attended. I went with **JUDY BRYANT Skinner**, and we met **MARY GILLESPIE Amos** and her husband, Tony. It was a lovely event, and it was great to hear about impressive new MBU initiatives. **FAITH NEUSCHEL Burke**, who with her husband lived in Costa Rica since retirement, writes "we are in Atlanta now and happily settled in. I have been very active at St. Philip's Cathedral, and it's so convenient living right across the street. We still go back to Costa Rica for the winter months and love having our friends from CR here for a visit." **EMY MARTIN Halpert** reports that she went to Sanibel Island FL in Jan. and enjoyed playing indoor pickleball — a fun sport, she says. She took lots of walks on the beach, and went to a nice yoga studio there. She says it was a "perfect vacation." She also writes, "I was sad to see that Gwen Walsh had

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"I was sad to see that Gwen Walsh had died. She was an inspiration to those of us who did modern dance ... Mrs. Walsh said to us: 'There will always be someone worse than you and always someone better than you. Just do your best.'"

— EMY MARTIN HALPERT '65



"Staunton gets better and better. I've seen no reason to leave. Those of you who haven't visited in a while won't recognize it. Y'all come!"

— SARA "SALLY" JAMES '69

died. She was an inspiration to those of us who did modern dance. One of my favorite memories comes from the year we went to the Virginia Museum for the state-wide dance gathering, totally out of our league. We performed in front of José Limon, who was one of the most famous modern dancers of the time. Mrs. Walsh said to us: 'There will always be someone worse than you and always someone better than you. Just do your best.' Great motto for just about everything." Thanks, Emy, for that great memory. On a sad note, I am sorry to report that we lost one of our classmates, **SARA LOU ZACHRY Yarbrough**, in Oct. 2019. Due to illness, Sara Lou had been homebound for a number of years. I had been Facebook friends with Sara Lou thanks to her connection with my cousin who had lived in the same hometown, West Point GA quite a few years ago. I learned of this death through a Facebook posting. Our condolences are sent to her family.

## 1967

Send your class notes to:

**KATHY RICE KNOWLES**

507 Valleyshire Road  
Durham NC 27707

[krk67@icloud.com](mailto:krk67@icloud.com)

**CAROLYN WOOD** Stuber

writes she worked as an adviser at the Savannah College of Art and Design. She has 3

children. She enjoys traveling. Her next trip is to Russia.

## 1969

Send your class notes to:

**ANGIER "ANGIE" BROCK**

PO Box 398

Yorktown VA 23690-0398

[abrock@vcu.edu](mailto:abrock@vcu.edu)

My emailed appeal for news at the end of Jan. found **JUDY**

**GALLOWAY** in Palm Beach FL,

visiting **SHERI MILLER**

**Stephenson** and **JUDY WEST**

**Kidd** vacationing in Key West

FL. **JUDY WEST Kidd** wrote,

"Walking to a restaurant last

night, we passed by Pepe's,

and I heard, 'Judy!' It was

**JUDY BARNETT Dutterer**,

who has a house there. She

said **MOLLY HUTCHINSON**

**Priddy** and her husband,

Vernon, were expected to

arrive the next week. You can't

get away from all the Judys in

the class of '69." Earlier in

January, **JANIE CARTER**

**Vaughan** and her husband,

David, transplanted daffodil

"The 'Mary Baldwin' daffodils had been growing close to other named daffodils, so only when they bloom in April will we know which ones are 'MB' herself."

— JANIE CARTER VAUGHAN '69

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OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

"You can't get away from all the Judys in the Class of '69."

— JUDY WEST KIDD '69

"We laughed and laughed and laughed, pulled out all my old annuals, and laughed more as we reminisced."

— MALOU THORNE RAWLS '69

bulbs called "Mary Baldwin" that her uncle, the late **William C. Pannill**, native of Martinsville and former president of the American Daffodil Society, had hybridized while he was on the MBU Board. The bulbs were in bloom in the front yard of the Alumnae House on North Coalter Street during the 2019 Reunion Weekend. **JUDI BRANTLEY Toran** helped Janie locate and mark them. Over the summer, David and Janie dug them up and divided them, and then, in early January, replanted them. In Janie's words, "They had been growing close to other named daffodils, so only when they bloom in April will we know which ones are 'MB' herself." **MALOU THORNE Rawls** writes, "**ANNE DAVIS Spittler**, **JANIE CARTER Vaughan**, **MOLLY HUTCHINSON Priddy**, and **JUDY BARNETT Dutterer** had lunch at my house last summer and we laughed and laughed and laughed, pulled out all my old annuals, and laughed more as we reminisced until 4:30 p.m.

When my husband came home early from work, he said, 'You're still here?' It was a blast." **CAROL ALSPAUGH Denton** writes, "I have just returned from Peru with friends where we climbed Machu Picchu and had a fascinating trip to this wonderful country. I was happy to attend an MBU gathering in Dallas before the holidays and visit with Dr. Pamela Fox and catch up on campus news. I recently reconnected with **GINGER HOLMES Brown '70** after running into her at our gym and learning that we live very near each other. I am very happy to be back in Dallas after 15 years in Austin and to be near my 2 adult children and my 2 precious grandchildren, Jack, 5, and Caroline, 4. Life is pretty terrific." **SARA "SALLY" JAMES** writes, "I'm enjoying my retirement job in the educational travel division of the Smithsonian and National Trust (USA). I go on their trips as the education person, giving a certain number of lectures (depending on the length of the trip), enhancing the talks from the local guides, answering questions, and trying to see that the guests enjoy themselves. I've been to Italy 5 times so far, Sicily, and Britain. Last summer one of my sons, **Clark Laster**, and I took his 2 children (6 and 10) on a road trip to the upper Midwest. His lovely wife, **ERIN TANNER Laster '05**, stayed home — not her thing. Our farthest overnight spot was Custer State Park SD. Gorgeous scenery. We visited about 40 national parks or monuments. I keep my hand in my career by attending conferences, presenting papers, and occasionally

publishing something. I'm senior warden at Trinity (4th woman in 250+ years), and I'm on a couple of local boards, including the Beverly Street Studio School. Staunton gets better and better. I've seen no reason to leave. Those of you who haven't visited in a while won't recognize it. Y'all come!" **BEKAH KENNEDY Caruso** writes, "Son Paul and wife Meaghan welcomed a baby girl on Nov. 14. Big brother (3) is doing well with his little sister and at his Spanish immersion preschool. Bill and I spent a day in late Jan. in Hot Springs National Park AR, exploring the restored bath house/visitor center, soaking in the thermal pools, and hiking on the trails on what locals call the 'mountain' behind the row of spas. This was at the conclusion of his annual church educators' conference in Little Rock where we spent an afternoon at the Clinton Library. We stayed all 3 of our nights at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, the resort of all Presbyterian conference centers." **MARY ELLEN NAVAS** writes, "During the last half of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, I've retreated from the social and political world that I had chosen as my work and my world for the past 2 decades. I've needed to replenish my vitality so I've gone to nature to do that. Cause or effect isn't

as clear as the theme of nature and trees in particular. The thinking part of my retreat included 2 books, *The Overstory*, by Richard Powers and *The Wild Trees*, by Richard Preston. Inspiring and instructive in revealing the profound wisdom embedded in trees, these stories have humbled me. And importantly I find I am refreshed as I feel my place among the natural life around me. My husband, Bob Archibald, and I took a fall trip to ME where we spent time in Acadia National Park and the Coastal ME Botanical Gardens, luxuriating in a part of the country new to both of us. This is where I feel the healthiest and the most alive. I am grateful for our health and the many blessings that allow us to take time to simply be, and I am certain we will need our energies in 2020 as we rejoin the work of the social and political world. Onward, Squirrel Sisters!" **SUSAN CHRIST CAMPBELL** writes, "Reunion 2019 was GR-R-R-R-EAT! I'm still enjoying my wonderful memories. So good to see all of you. I'm not retired yet, but look forward to camping and paddling seasons with my 18' travel trailer and bright yellow kayak. The Payson United Methodist Church Grace Notes Handbell Choir, which I direct, is celebrating 25 years with handbells in 2020. We are doing a major concert in April

"Reunion 2019 was GR-R-R-R-EAT! I'm still enjoying my wonderful memories. So good to see all of you."

— SUSAN CHRIST CAMPBELL '69



"I'm in a neo-nerd phase reading genetics ... Surprisingly, I can understand a good deal of what I'm reading way out of my field. Credit a fine liberal arts education for that."

— JANE TOWNES '69

with a great playlist. We have amazing ringers, bells, equipment, and TALENT for a rural church. Playing in our community concert/jazz band is a joy, and I'm honored to play jazz with practically-professional fellow musicians. I also volunteer at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park, where I engage with a wide variety of guests. I'm starting a children's storytime, reading Southwest books, including *Don't Call Me Pig!* If you live in the Southwest you know that javelina (singular and plural) are NOT pigs. The Natural Bridge herd appears, as if on cue, at 4 p.m. Javelina can be nasty (probably because people call them pigs) so I direct visitors to safe locations for 'photo ops.'" **JANE**

**TOWNES** writes, "I'm in a neo-nerd phase reading genetics and trying to get family members to pay attention to me when I tell them what I think they need to know. Surprisingly, I can understand a good deal of what I'm reading way out of my field. Credit a fine liberal arts education for that. Even without science courses beyond Biology 101 and 102 and Dr. Humphrey's genes for sweet peas' colors, I can understand this stuff. I recommend *The Gene: An intimate History* by Siddhartha Mukherjee and *She Has Her Mother's Laugh: The Powers, Perversions and Potential of*

*Heredity* by Carl Zimmer. Of the 2, *The Gene* has more technical/clinical info that I skipped over or saved to look up later. *She Has Her Mother's Laugh* is an easier read, more narrative in style. It's fun in the middle of 500 pages to find someone you sort of know, Francis Collins, whose dad was my freshman advisor at MBU until he realized I wasn't going near the theater program. I also read a genetic analysis across Britain that was more complicated but explained why I have Scandinavian DNA. If you have Irish ancestors, odds are you too have some Vikings in there. These readings, combined with 23andME genetic testing years ago when that first became available, have provided some very useful and otherwise unknowable personal and family medical information. I've become a proselytizer for genetic testing. For my micro preemie great niece, it prevented her neonatal doctors from going down numerous wrong paths. Do it for fun and curiosity; do it for helpful and necessary information." **SYDNEY**

**MARSHALL TURNER** writes, "I retired from 45 years of event planning in Boston and moved to Winter Park FL to be near my grandchildren, Astilbe, 3 and Phinneas, 2. Needless to say, I get lots of exercise with them. I am



To all healthcare professionals  
in the #MBUfamily

THANK  
YOU

for everything you do  
every day on the front lines

restarting a business I ran a few years ago, The One Day Decorators. I hope classmates will come visit; this is where the sun shines."

## 1971

**Send your class notes to:**  
**MELISSA WIMBISH Ferrell**

511 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd, Apt. 7  
Richmond VA 23220  
804-389-6822  
mwferrell3@gmail.com

If you did not receive an email from me, it is because MBU either has an outdated address or no address. Please update your email address with the alumni office, or email/text/call me, and I'll get it to them. **BONNIE BRACKETT Weaver** retired from Episcopal Charities as program and grant director at the end of 2018. After 2 foot surgeries, she and Adams moved to an apartment and then to their new home in their home city, West Palm Beach FL. Bonnie's Havanese puppy arrived a short time ago. Bonnie continues volunteer work: leading a local feeding program, working with a low income housing organization, and with an organization that supports teens who have aged out of foster care. Adams is semi-retired from his law practice, but she writes you would not know it. Their daughter Kate lives in Auburn AL with her husband and 2

"I am thankful for a wonderful education and life experience at MBC(U)."

— BONNIE BRACKETT WEAVER '71

red-headed daughters, Annie, 7, and Maggie, 5. Their daughter Kristine teaches middle school and finds it very challenging. Bonnie writes that she has new respect for the work of teachers and their minimal pay. She is thankful for a wonderful education and life experience at MBC(U).

### LAUREL CATCHING "LOLLY"

**Anderson** writes about getting together with '71 alums in Flat Rock NC for a mini-reunion (see **NANCY MORSE Evans'** note below). Lolly writes that **BRENDA NICHOL Goings** organized a perfect visit. They toured Carol Sanders' home, including the goat farm founded by Mrs. Sanders; saw a charming play *Sylvia* about a dog channeled by actress Keri Saran; shopped, ate wonderful food, and worked an MBU puzzle (well, Bonnie did). They had a great time. In Oklahoma City she is working on a project sponsored by VOW/ Visionary Oklahoma Women, an organization she founded 10 years ago along with her mother, who is now 94 1/2. The project is bringing Parks Duffey to Oklahoma City to create a painting called "Visions of Oklahoma City," featuring the city's art/cultural/ sport attractions, and then they will have notecards and puzzles made (he did a painting, prints, and notecards of Mary Baldwin College in 1993). Lolly looks forward to our 50th Reunion next spring, 2021. She can't believe she's this old. She writes, "For 50 years I've wanted to be thinner and richer — some things never change!" One thing that did happen was her marriage to a wonderful man, Mike Anderson. They happily live at Lake Aluma and celebrated

## "More than ever, I treasure the friends I've made through Mary Baldwin."

— LAUREL CATCHING "LOLLY" ANDERSON '71

their 17th wedding anniversary in February. She says, "More than ever, I treasure the friends I've made through Mary Baldwin." **NANCY MORSE**

**Evans** got together in NC for a mini reunion with **BABS Page**, **JANE BARTLETT Trotman**, **BONNIE BRACKETT Weaver**, **BRENDA NICHOL Goings**, and **LOLLY CATCHING**

**Anderson**. They had a great time visiting, rehashing old times, and making new memories. When Dr. Fox was in Houston for a conference last Dec., Butch (her significant other) and she had a lovely dinner with Dr. Fox during which they heard about some things going on at the university and about the new program for nurse practitioners at Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences. Very exciting. **KAE ENGLISH Roberts** writes that she moved from Charlotte to Winston Salem, NC, about 2 years ago, a year after she retired from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. She lives in a converted textile factory with a loft-type setting on the edge of Old Salem. She walks across the small "town" often. Her daughter and son-in-law live in Winston Salem with their 2 daughters, ages 8 and 4. She frequently helps with carpooling them to gymnastics, swimming, and anything else that comes along. Her son married last fall and lives in Scottsdale AZ with

his bride, a native of Phoenix. She notes that Brian is quickly becoming accustomed to the desert climate. **ELIZABETH FORE Keatinge** writes that she and Dan continue to enjoy retirement filled with volunteer activities, cultural events, friends, and travel. In 2019, they spent a week in an apartment in Paris, followed by an art-filled week in southern France with a British-based group that specializes in art and music tours. Their big 2020 trip will be to Vietnam and Cambodia. They make regular trips to VA and Portland OR to visit their families. Unfortunately, as they live in a canyon in LA with rugged brush-filled hills, they experienced one actual evacuation and one close call during the bad 2019 fires. That leads them to contemplate where they might go for their final move. For now, she writes, life is good. **CLARA MACKENZIE Smiley** married Steve (University of Virginia '71) 44 years ago. Their son, Taylor, and his family live in Dallas and their daughter, Caroline, and her family are in Ft. Worth TX so they see a lot of their 4 grandchildren. Clara worked as a reference librarian for McKinsey and Co in NYC and Dallas for 25-plus years. In retirement, they spend the summer in Linville NC at Grandfather Golf and Country Club, which is a much better choice than Dallas, she writes. Otherwise, she's involved in their Episcopal church, plays lots of mahjong, tries to stay fit, travels, and, of course, babysits. Her daughter-in-law, Jenny, just launched a new business called Honey+Hank. Clara helped her at the recent Atlanta Market where Jenny's



products were well received, so they are excited for her. Her designs and patterns for pillows, tea towels, and scarves use discreet shapes of states. **SUE NEWMAN Landa** writes that though she graduated in the 3-year program in 1970, she is a member of the class of '71. She and Scott (University of Virginia '71) are celebrating 49 years of marriage. They have 3 married children, 2 of whom are University of Virginia grads, and 5 grandchildren. Sue is a volunteer with Canine Companions for Independence, and is raising her 16th dog for people with disabilities. She responded to her husband's dare and began running at age 63. She completed a half marathon in 2012; since then she's completed 47 half marathons and marathons, including the Boston Marathon. In April 2019, she, **MARY JOHNSTON "CHEEKY" Bahe**, and **LAURIE O'BRIAN Merke** met for dinner; it was like old times at Mary Baldwin College! **SUSAN NORTON Minor's** big news is that she and Rob are back in the Shenandoah Valley, after moving to Lexington from Nashville in Oct. 2019. Now, instead of commuting back and forth from Staunton to Lexington to visit Rob at Washington and Lee University, she commutes from Lexington for car service, shopping, dining, and entertainment. Sue writes that they enjoy their new home and living in Lexington. **KIT O'BANNON Llewellyn** writes that after 41 wonderful years as college counselor and Spanish teacher at St. Francis School, she retired and has thoroughly enjoyed time with her sons, Tyler and Austin, who

## "I'm impressed with our school, and how it has adjusted to the challenging times."

— MARCHANT STARR REUTLINGER '71

reside in Louisville KY, and cook with Kit and John on Sunday evenings — such fun. Tyler attended culinary school; Austin is an attorney and practices with his dad. She and John love road trips, especially their annual visits to the national parks. Recently, they experienced the wonders and kind people of New Zealand and Australia. She is a "bionic woman" — new hip and new shoulder — still playing tennis and enjoying the outdoors. **ANN ALLEN Czermer**, her son Mark (Kit's godson), and her husband, Fred, met Kit and her sister for a grand visit and lunch in Lexington KY. "Until our 2021 reunion," she writes. **ELLEN PORTER Holtman** has been married to Roger for 47 years. They have traveled some since retirement, including a trip through Italy with their 2 daughters, and on a river cruise on the Seine. Their most frequent destination is San Francisco CA where they have 2 absolutely perfect granddaughters, Sara and Ellie. Ellen is grateful for the continuing friendship of her freshman roommate and Salem neighbor, **EMMA PAINE Carter**, and enjoys getting together with **EMMA DAVIS Napier** several times a year. She gardens for bees and butterflies, and is active in Master Gardeners and the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society, a chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. For our 50th Reunion, she suggests a formal tea on the porch like

those held by Miss Elizabeth Parker during our time at Mary Baldwin College. **EDITH SCHNEIDER Howes'** latest news is that she and Arthur are traveling again — they go to Croatia at the end of April/May. Many other trips are in the planning stages (Panama Canal, islands of Northwestern Africa, and Greece) as Arthur got the all-clear signal from the heart surgeon, and he's keen to travel again. Her son Frederick is now 45, with a 3-year-old and 6-year-old. Her daughter Melissa's son, Charly, is now over 6'2" at age 14. She hopes he won't be as tall as her baby brother, Freddy, who is 6'8." Her granddaughter, Lauren, is a "normal French size" at 10 years old. 3 years ago, she organized what they fondly named the WAMI group (Women and Men's Institute). There are now almost 100 members. She plans outings (they are all "seniors" and English-speakers); members sign up for visits/activities they are interested in, including visits to historical places, activities such as making Christmas wreaths, other crafts, visiting factories, attending concerts, cooking lessons, patchwork and quilting, and going on wine trips. Many of their members are distinguished people who have shared information on their careers and lend their talents to the group. **MARCHANT STARR Reutlinger** writes that she and Barton drive by Mary Baldwin

College on their way to Charlottesville almost every year. She's impressed with our school, and how it has adjusted to the challenging times. She and Barton still live in Louisville KY, and now spend half the year in FL, MI, and traveling (Barton has retired). **MELISSA WIMBISH Ferrell** is delighted to hear from so many classmates for Class Columns. She can hardly wait to see them in spring 2021, and encourages classmates to "pencil" in April, as that's when it will be. Melissa enjoys life in Richmond. Her 2 daughters live on either side of the U.S. — Long Island NY and Ellensburg WA. Each of them has young children, a boy and girl each. There's a lot of traveling involved, and well worth it. A special trip lies ahead this year — Egypt in March. Melissa saw **LUPY PARDUE, CRICKET FREY Morris, BARBIE PHIPPS Such '72** and **PATTI HUGHES '73** at the wonderful alumni holiday party at The Jefferson Hotel.

## 1972

Send your class notes to:

**JILL BUTLER Pendleton**

[jpend719@gmail.com](mailto:jpend719@gmail.com)

**TERRY KOOGLER**

**Southerington** retired from Mary Baldwin in June after 42 years of teaching theatre. Terry shared, "I miss the students and working on the productions, but am now free to do a lot of traveling and to get involved in the many other theatres in and around Staunton. I'll remain the official liaison between the university and the Oak Grove summer theatre which has such long ties with Mary Baldwin University, and am now the

"I think back fondly to classes and conversations with Dr. Smeak and Dr. Lott and all they did to help me love English literature."

— CATHY ROSS '72

president of the Board of Directors for the Grove. It's hard to believe it's been 6 years since we lost Frank, but the kids are all doing well, and, cliché though it may be, I have my health. I'm looking forward to Reunion and seeing former students, and hope to see many at our 50th in a few years." **JEANNE JACKSON** writes, "I began a consulting company this year assisting nonprofits with fundraising. It's fun and leaves plenty of time for yoga, hiking, 2 adorable grandsons, and trips to Copenhagen and Berlin last summer. Loved seeing **HARRIET STONEBURNER Bell**, **JILL WHITE Cook**, and **DEE JONES McElroy** last summer in Blue Ridge Mountains." **ROWENA LLOYD Turco** writes, "The big news on our side is that after over 40 years, we are leaving Paris at the end of Feb. to settle in Nimes, in the South of France. Jean-Pierre has been working there and commuting back and forth to Paris for 15 years, so we already know Nimes well and have friends there. Classmates traveling in the area are welcome to visit us." **LOVELACE COOK** writes, "I still live in Fairhope, AL, and decided not to sell my home in 2017. For the past 3 years, I've worked as an intermittent public affairs specialist with

the United States Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Assistance. I report to my duty station within 24–48 hours of a phone call. I can't predict how long I'll be deployed but I'm glad to be of service to communities in need following disasters. I continue to work on my writing craft and, while I'm slow on revisions, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel with a novel I'm rewriting about travels in India and South East Asia from 2013–16. I have a soft launch date in a few weeks for a podcast — Bollywood & Books — about books I discovered while traveling through India. It's all part of a plan for complementary vehicles that address how important it is for us to keep learning, growing, and doing. I just turned 70 (a fact that still stuns me since my head thinks I'm 17) and, as long as I have good health, I intend to keep stretching outside my comfort zone."

**CATHY ROSS** writes, "I continue to be an associate professor of English at University of Texas at Tyler. Love my teaching job. I think back fondly to classes and conversations with Dr. Smeak and Dr. Lott and all they did to help me love English literature. While I carry a full teaching load at University of Texas at Tyler, this year and next, and I am also president of the University of Texas system Academy of Distinguished Teachers. The academy is a group of 25 faculty from among the many thousands of teaching faculty at the 8 University of Texas system branches who have been honored as the "Regents' Outstanding Teaching Fellows." We are not merely an

honorific group, though; we work actively to promote excellence and innovation in undergraduate education. We just hosted our first annual college teaching conference to excellent reviews. We have also published a book on teaching (hardback and ebook); a second volume with new essays is at press and will be out this April. We also have an electronic blog on university teaching; we have published op-eds on higher education in state and national newspapers; and we speak at teaching conferences around the nation. I have completed my own book, *"And we will teach them how," Educating the English Romantics*, which is a study of how writers such as Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Byron were educated at their great public schools and at Oxford and Cambridge. I had the pleasure of researching the book over 3 springs and summers in England, where I visited the students and faculty at Eton, Winchester, Rugby, and Westminster schools and at St. John's and Trinity Colleges, Cambridge, and Christ Church, Balliol, and Magdalen Colleges, Oxford. (My junior year at Mary Baldwin, I went on the Oxford Summer Program and had tutorial sessions at Magdalen. What goes around comes around.) Peer reviews of my manuscript are good, and I hope it will be published in the coming year with a major press, which is showing active interest. I can honestly say that the love of learning and intelligent discourse that I gained at Mary Baldwin continue to inform my daily and professional life."

**MARILYN MUHLEMAN**

**Rausch** writes, "Art and I have

moved to the Northern Neck of VA on the great Wicomico River. Love retirement. It is everything that is said and more. I see **LEAH WALLER Golden** and **LESLIE Reed**. Son, Kent, is in NYC and hoping he will 'put a ring on it' soon. Absolutely love her. Life is good." **MARIANNE DEALE Bach** writes, "Tom and I have lived in Winston-Salem NC, for the past 34 years after a short interlude in the DC area with IBM. I 'retired' from Wachovia when our children were born and have never regretted throwing myself into loads of volunteer jobs, whether in schools, church, or other community activities. I currently run a financial assistance and food pantry non-profit from our church and also deliver Meals on Wheels to the elderly several times a month. I love playing tennis twice a week and, of course, am rarely without a book in my hand. Tom retired from IBM and stays busy with Habitat for Humanity and golf. We've been so fortunate to be able to travel a lot — friends laugh that when someone asks 'does anyone want to go...' and my hand is the first one up before they even mention the destination. I love to learn about the culture everywhere, which makes following the news so much more interesting. We have a son and his family in Charlotte NC with 3 grandchildren and daughter and family in Greenville SC with one grandson — ages 6, 4, 2 and 6 weeks. We love visiting all of them just about any time. Our second son is in Seattle — a little harder to get to — but a beautiful place to visit in the summer. He works for the Seattle Seahawks on the





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business side, but still earned a Super Bowl ring several years ago when the team won (his doesn't have all the big diamonds and other bling the players have). He's one of the few North Carolinians who cheer for them against our home team." **BETH**

**VERLANDER Webb** writes, "EVE BREMERMAN Collard was in New Orleans LA for a family event, and we caught up by walking in Audubon Park and having a great lunch."

**OLIVIA WATSON Neill** writes, "My husband, John, and I have lived in Jackson MS about 8 years now. Our older son, Bob, lives in Colombia, South America, where he runs a mining company. He is married to Ali, a Colombian. Our younger son, Jack, lives in Greenville SC where he has a 2-year fellowship in vascular surgery. He is married to Audrey and they have Sophie who is 2. Sophie is our only grandchild so far. Now that John has retired, we travel a whole lot. We have been to Colombia about 12 times. We went 3 times in 2018 as that was the year Bob and Ali were married there. We have recently been to Ireland and England on a church trip and Patagonia before that. We have been to Canada each summer for the past 25 years. My husband and our boys went to Keewaydin Canoe Camp, and we kept returning each summer after they grew up as we had so many fun grown-up friends there, like **CAROL DELANO JACKSON Haigh '73** and her husband, Chip. After camp, we usually drive across Canada to NYC and then down the east coast visiting friends. I taught at the University of Arkansas (art and art history) before our

marriage and was so busy being mom and dad when John was so busy with his medical practice. Now I am in many clubs and enjoy them. I just came in right before dinner tonight after singing/performing with a group in a nursing home. I did it for 8 years when I was an active in the Jackson Junior League. Then I went sustainer. We started up again for 'only 1 time' (about 8 years ago). We enjoyed it so much that we have been performing weekly since then. We dress up like chorus girls and sing Broadway songs this season. I am someone who can neither sing nor dance but they let me stay on as I am fairly reliable, can make props and generally have good costumes. I would love to hear all that my Mary Baldwin College friends are doing almost (!) 50 years later."

**LESLIE THOMPSON Stiefler** and her husband, Gary, are currently in New Zealand on a biking and hiking trip with Road Scholar. The beautiful scenery and friendly people have made it a great trip. And we're grateful that we are still healthy and able to do these activities at our advanced age. **SALLY VIA Matthews** writes, "Retirement is as advertised — time to read, travel, and, yes, lots of time to help with our 6 grands (the BEST). We are in the midst of a significant remodel project for our home (first in 20 plus years). Larkin is coordinating it; his 30 plus years as a contractor were all new construction, so redo is 'an experience.' Glad we moved to temporary quarters in a nearby apartment and hope to be back home mid-March. Had a great visit with **SUSAN ELLETT Shumate** last fall while we were

in Richmond. Looking forward to another trip soon." **LIBBY DARWIN Grobmyer**, chaplain for the Palliative Care Department at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, has been named co-president of the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy. She received the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Helen May Compassionate Care Award and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Eli Award for Compassionate Care. Last May, Libby's son Mark married Dr. Melanie Pickett. They live in Austin TX where he is an attorney specializing in commercial real estate and she practices dermatology. In Jan. Libby and Mark welcomed grandchild number 5, George Armistead Grobmyer.

**BLANCHE WYSOR Anderson** writes, "I have enjoyed traveling to FL and Tybee Island GA again in Oct. and Nov. My husband, David, and I love Tybee. This year, we are traveling to Chicago (Zonta International Convention), Gatlinburg TN, Jensen Beach FL, and Tybee Island for 7 weeks. I am still active in my church which moved to a new space on the street level of the affordable housing building on the land that originally was owned by the church. I continue to volunteer with Zonta and Project PEACE. I enjoyed a visit with **CONNIE ATKINS Lewallan** last fall and **JAN TRIPLETT** when she came east for **ELIZABETH GOAD Oliver's** mother's funeral just a few weeks ago. I will be at Mary Baldwin for the alumni Reunion in April." **DONA CONNOLLY Mastin** writes, "I retired from my position of over 25 years as a reference librarian at Greene

County Public Library in OH last March. I enjoyed a memorable trip to France in May with my sister. I am active in a local garden club, my book discussion group, and am in my 26th year as a volunteer at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. My son and his family (3 boys: 7, 5, and 2) left their home in San Francisco CA and moved back to the Dayton OH area. My daughter and her family (1 son, 6, and 1 daughter, 2) also live in the area now, so we enjoy being only about 1/2 hour away from either family. My husband and I are in good health, and feel so fortunate to be able to have our family close by. Greetings to the members of the Class of 1972."

## 1974

Send your class notes to:  
**KATY COLVILLE Reid**  
*katyreid@doublejenterprises.com*

## 1975

Send your class notes to:  
**MARGARET STONEBURNER Baker**  
*mbakermom@hotmail.com*

## 1980

Send your class notes to:  
**LAURA REED Bivans**  
19 Turkey Foot Ct  
Darnestown MD 20878-3645  
**LAURA REED Bivans** writes, "Well, we survived the first year without Rex, still hurts and still have a lot to do, but we're getting there. I am retiring this July 1 to help my folks and sister-in-law. Dave and I have set up some big plans: we're going on a Safari in Sept. Can't wait. I've always wanted to do this. We will finish the

trip in Paris for 4 days. Dave has never been. What a way to kick off retirement. **MARGIE BIVANS Fogle '10** and Nick are enjoying married bliss. Thomas is driving for Nuemiller this winter and next summer at the least in 'his new' truck. His boss bought a semi for him to use, and he is having a ball. We were all together for the holidays, and it was so nice. Margie and I will both be at the Reunion catching up with old friends. Enjoy the spring, and I'll let you know how the Reunion was if you aren't there." **ALISE LEARNED Mahr** wrote, "Thank you for keeping our 'We're the Class of 1980' ladies, connected. Bill and I have celebrated 36 years of many adventures. Bill just got re-elected as our town clerk and tax collector. This came after working for IBM for over 42 years. I am the program manager for custody and visitation mediation at the Center for Dispute Settlement in Steuben County. Our daughter, Amanda, and husband Rik live and work in Germany in the entertainment field. Our daughter, Maggie, works for Cornell Cooperative Extension doing marketing and promotions. Bill and I are in the process of fostering to adopt our 3rd pug, thus making us 'The Mahr Family Home for Wayward Pugs.' Go Squirrels!" **PAGE WOOLDRIDGE Marchetti** writes, "Thanks for collecting this information for the Class of '80. You do a great job. I retired from the Federal Reserve Bank after a long, wonderful career and within a few short months in 2019 and 2020, both of our daughters were married. We now have added 2 wonderful sons-in-law

to our family, and the weddings were great fun with lots of dancing and shenanigans going on. Chuck and I took time off and relaxed in FL for the winter watching the boats go by in the Intracoastal Waterway, and we are now waiting to see what the next chapter of our lives brings us." **TRUDY MARTIN Rauch** writes that she completed her professional career at Eastern Virginia Medical School as director of graduate medical education in 2011. The past 10 plus years have been focused on nonprofit community development. This year, 2020, marks the 10-year anniversary of the resource website, ABBA List, she founded. It lists free resources for people in need in the 7-city area of Hampton Roads. 2012 marked the 501(c)3 public charity status for the nonprofit of the same name. She was blessed to also start the second program (in 2013) CAST-Chesapeake Area Shelter Team, providing emergency winter shelter for the homeless with local churches teamed together 5 months each year. The third program started (in 2017) is Burfoot House: Program for Homeless Women. Women stay 4 to 9 months typically to get better jobs, save, attend classes to achieve housing and self-sufficiency. She is blessed to have teams of wonderful people now running each of the programs. I still serve on the ABBA List board of directors and write the grants, help with fundraising, volunteer recruitment, etc. between enjoying much travel with Doug, her husband, who retired last year. Last year, we traveled 3 months camping across the U.S., Canada, and Alaska, took

a river cruise through Germany, and this year traveled to Kauai and Maui HI and hometown New Orleans. **LAURA PETERS Wilson** says, "2019 was really busy for us. Our daughter, Caroline, blessed our family with twin granddaughters last spring. Reagan Laura and Emerson Irene Solt arrived on April 26; needless to say Pat and I are overjoyed. I've stayed pretty busy traveling back and forth from Memphis TN to Columbus to spend time with them. Pat continues to work for Medtronic and finally has cut down on his travel. Our son, Patrick, is doing well with his growing landscaping business here in Memphis. We celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary in Oct. so we're looking forward to taking some time off together to celebrate. I hope all is well with you and your families. If anyone is passing through Memphis please give us a call." **LOUISE HEMPHILL Ullon** shares that she and Brian will both be at the Reunion. **MELANIE BARBER** writes, "It is great to hear from you. I founded my law firm, The Prius Lawyer, specializing in healthcare, estate planning, and litigation law. I enjoy traveling, volunteering, and spending time with my family and friends."

## 1981

**LIZA NASH Taylor** is looking forward to the release of her debut historical novel, coming out in August from Blackstone Publishing. Set in 1924 in Keswick, New York City, and Paris, it is described as "A sweeping Jazz Age tale of regret, ambition, and redemption inspired by true events, including the Great Moonshine Conspiracy Trial of 1935 and Josephine

Baker's 1925 Paris debut in *Le Revue Nègre*." Plus, the main character has recently been expelled from Mary Baldwin! Liza recently met classmates **MARY CATHERINE MITCHELL Amos**, **NITA ANN KNIGHT Klein**, **EVA DILLARD**, and **ANN POTTER** at the Savannah Book Festival and will catch up with **BRENDA HAGG** at the Association of Writers and Publishers conference in March in San Antonio.

## 1983

Facebook page: Mary Baldwin College Class of '83

## 1984

Facebook page: Mary Baldwin College Class of 1984

## 1986

Facebook page: Mary Baldwin College Class of 1986

## 1987

Facebook page: MBC Class of 1987

## 1988

Send your class notes to: **SUSAN "CEA CEA" MUSSER**  
P. O. Box 2405  
Griffin GA 30224  
478-244-2300  
[sistersquirrel1988@gmail.com](mailto:sistersquirrel1988@gmail.com)  
Facebook page: Mary Baldwin College Class of 1988

## 1991

**MERRY LYNN WYATT** writes that her most recent notes worthy of print are: "(a) my marriage to Randolph E. Moore from New York on Feb. 11, 2011. Many describe him as the man with the 'golden



voice.' Indeed, he won me by using that gift while comforting me regarding (b) the deeply sad loss of my only granddaughter, Clara Elizabeth Forrest, on Nov. 14, 2006 from heart failure, then only 12 years old. (c) I wrote a poetry book in honor of Clara, entitled *The Loves of Pocahontas* (via Xlibris). Clara was fascinated with the story of Pocahontas, and we had planned to attend the 400th commemoration together at Jamestown in 2007. Clara's best friend, Sidney, wore the Indian costume I had made for Clara, complete with a cockleshell necklace and papoose carrier for her doll. (d) I happily gained a new 8-year old grandson Gary Michael in the year 2000, adopted by my older daughter to make their home complete with biological grandson Samuel Robert, then 6 years old. **HOLLY EGER West** writes that her daughter, Georden West (Hollins '15), received the student academy award in the experimental film division. Holly and her husband, David West (VMI '91), are very proud and happy to share this information with the Mary Baldwin community.

## 1992

Send your class notes to:  
**MELISSA L. KELLEY**  
*melissaloukelley@gmail.com*  
Facebook page: MBC Class of '92

## 1995

Send your class notes to:  
**SELENE GORMAN-Rose**  
*selene\_gorman@hotmail.com*  
Facebook page: Mary Baldwin College Class of 1995

"I look forward to future adventures, both personal and professional, and credit my experience in VWIL for my success thus far."

— JENNIFER KUKLA '04

## 1996

Facebook pages: MBC Class of '96

## 1998

Send your class notes to:  
**JENNIFER FLOYD**  
*jaf9d@virginia.edu*  
Facebook page: Mary Baldwin College of 1998

## 1999

Send your class notes to:  
**DENISE HAYES**  
*cdenisehayes@gmail.com*  
Facebook page: Mary Baldwin College Class of 1999  
**MORGAN ALBERTS Smith**  
'99 watched her godson Peter Nelson practice his fencing. Peter is the oldest child of **GETTYS KOBIAASHVILI Nelson** '00.

## 2000

**GETTYS KOBIAASHVILI Nelson** writes that former Mary Baldwin College roommates and theatre alumni **ERIN BERNACHE Albert's** '99 and big sister **MORGAN ALBERTS Smith** '99 spent the afternoon together at Gettys' new home in Leesburg. Gettys' and Erin's daughters (2 future Mary Baldwin University roommates) had fun getting to know one another.

## 2001

Send your class notes to:  
**AMBERLEIGH COVELL Powell**  
*amberleighp@icloud.com*  
Facebook page: Mary Baldwin College Class of 2001

## 2002

Send your class notes to:  
**BECKY STRICKLAND Letellier**  
*rebecca.letellier75@gmail.com*  
Facebook page: Mary Baldwin Alumnae/i c/o 2002

## 2003

Send your class notes to:  
**JULIE OXNER**  
*julie.oxner@gmail.com*  
Facebook page: MBC 2003

## 2004

Send your class notes to:  
**SARAH HATFIELD Nichols**  
Facebook pages: MBC Oh-Four! and Mary Baldwin College Class of 2004  
**SARAH HATFIELD Nichols** has relocated to snowy MI with her husband and 2 children, Dorothy and Dashiell. She is still teaching math, now at the high-school level and is also coaching volleyball and has also branched into coaching a high school robotics team. She is looking forward to some travel and warmer weather this summer. **MEGHAN WARD VanCleve** and her family moved to Columbus OH and

she is carrying on her love of all-girls schools by teaching Form V at the Columbus School for Girls, home of the unicorns. **JENNIFER Kukla** and her wife, Veronica, welcomed their first child, Jonathan, in the summer of 2019. Soon thereafter, Kukla returned home to her family from her third combat deployment and was selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Kukla looks forward to future adventures, both personal and professional, and credits her experience in VWIL for her success thus far.

## 2005

Send your class notes to:  
**BETH SOUTHARD**  
*e.southard@uea.ac.uk*  
Facebook page: 2015 Class of 2005 Reunion Group

## 2006

Send your class notes to:  
**HEATHER HAWKS Marks**  
*hawkshl@hotmail.com*  
Facebook page: Mary Baldwin Class of 2006 Alumnae/i

## 2007

Send your class notes to:  
**VIRGINIA HERRERA**  
*vicky85bek@yahoo.com*  
Facebook page: Mary Baldwin College Class of 2007

## 2008

Facebook page: MBC Alumna 2008

## 2009

Facebook pages: MBC Class of 2009 and Class of 2009 (MBC Chapter)

## 2011

Send your class notes to:  
**MEG PITTS Tammelin** and  
**SAMANTHA ENGSTLER**  
**Wilson**  
 marybaldwin2011@gmail.com  
 Facebook page: Mary Baldwin  
 College Class of 2011

## 2012

Send your class notes to:  
**CANDICE BLAZEJAK**  
 7813 Rockbourne Rd  
 Baltimore MD 21222  
 cblazejak2012@gmail.com  
 Facebook page: Mary Baldwin  
 College Class of 2012

## 2013

Facebook page: Mary Baldwin  
 College Class of 2013

## 2014

Facebook page: Mary Baldwin  
 College Class of 2014

## 2015

Facebook page: Mary Baldwin  
 College Class of 2015

## 2016

Facebook page: Mary Baldwin  
 Class of 2016

## 2017

**CASONDRA WELLER**  
**Mortimer** is the clinical director of The Drayer Physical Therapy Institute in Strasburg. Casondra earned a doctor of physical therapy degree in 2017. The clinic offers outpatient orthopedic physical therapy, including pre- and post-operative rehabilitation, manual therapy, sports rehabilitation and injury prevention.

## ARRIVALS

**MEI-LING FYE Guarino '05** and Jaime:  
 a daughter, Stella Darby-Rhys Guarino,  
 January 6, 2020

## MARRIAGES

**SARAH TYNDALL Mann '91**, September 15,  
 2018

## DEATHS

**ANN MATTHEWS Deichsel '46**, January 25,  
 2020  
**ALICE WRIGHT SUMMERS Hale '47**,  
 November 25, 2019  
**HELEN SWORTZEL EARHART '48**,  
 September 14, 2019  
**BARBARA DeWITT Burke '49**, December  
 24, 2019  
**JEAN ROGERS WHIPPLE Dutton '49**,  
 February 18, 2020  
**PATRICIA MACON Lyon '52**, December 25,  
 2019  
**JOAN WHITE Thomas '52**, January 22, 2020  
**ALMA McCUE Miller '54**, December 8, 2019  
**CAROLYN EVANS McCord '56**, January 6,  
 2020  
**MARY COLONNA Robertson '56**, October  
 17, 2019  
**KATHARINE THORINGTON Flythe '57**,  
 January 6, 2020  
**EULALIE BARTLETT Zimmer '57**, September  
 17, 2019  
**MARGARET CLARKE Moring '58**, January  
 23, 2020  
**MARTHA HARMON Davis '61**, January 30,  
 2020  
**JO BRENT MILLER Robertson '63**, January  
 23, 2020  
**LAURA HOLBROOK Hardwick '64**, November  
 5, 2019  
**LINDA AVERY Reaves '65**, August 12, 2019  
**SARA ZACHARY Yarbrough '65**, October 28,  
 2019  
**ANN CALVIN ROGERS-Witte '67**, November  
 12, 2019

**FRANCES HOPE Ford '68**, February 23, 2020  
**ARLENE TAIT Moren '68**, September 13,  
 2019  
**MARY MURRIN Painter '71**, October 6, 2019  
**ANN CHRISTIAN REHMANN Poche '73**,  
 January 16, 2020  
**LOUISE REID Thyson '73**, January 19, 2020  
**CYNTHIA JOHNSTON '75**, January 12, 2020  
**CONSTANCE HESLEP Huffman '79**,  
 November 9, 2019  
**ELIZABETH HART JONES '80**, September  
 16, 2019  
**SUSAN JARRELL Edwards '84**, October 2,  
 2019  
**WAVERLY ADCOCK '06**, December 1, 2019  
**LISA MELTON Chapman**, December 16, 2019  
**MARGO JOLLY Cotton**, October 14, 2019  
**OLIVIA GLOVER Harless**, January 22, 2020  
**DOROTHY SWEAT Grant**, November 22, 2019  
**JEAN McCLELLAND Lee**, December 24,  
 2019  
**SUE ANN ROBINSON MARION**, September  
 20, 2019  
**Dr. J. ELIZABETH PINKSTON**, December 1,  
 2019  
**DOROTHY HOBBY Travis**, November 16, 2019  
**IRMA BLAKE Thompson**, December 26, 2019

## OUR CONDOLENCES

*To members of the Mary Baldwin  
 community who lost loved ones*

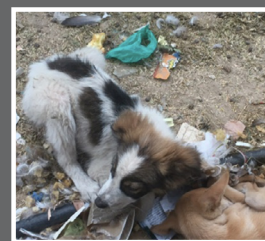
**BETTY JEAN GILMER Young '50** on the  
 passing of her husband, the Rev. Dr. Phillip  
 H. Young  
**ALICE TOLLEY Goodwin '66** on the passing  
 of her son, William Goodwin III  
**CYNTHIA LUCK Haw '79** on the passing of  
 her mother, and Charles Samuel Luck III on  
 the passing of his wife, and former Trustee,  
**TRUE FARR Luck**  
**AMY GALVIN Isola '95** on the passing of her  
 father, John Timothy "Timmy" Lenox



A puppy rescued by Amy Swope '07 from a trash pile in Kuwait (inset) grew up to be a healthy and thriving dog (main). Her nonprofit, World Animal Guardians, helps Americans bring their rescued street animals from foreign countries back to the United States for fostering and adoption.

## VALIANT EFFORTS

Amy Swope '07 helps working dogs find their way home from combat zones



Like members of the Class of 2020, who are homebound due to the coronavirus pandemic, Amy Swope '07 had a graduation day that turned out very differently than she had expected.

At Mary Baldwin, Swope learned "perseverance and professionalism," as she puts it, as an interior design major who mixed creativity with business sense. She especially appreciated her "Women in Business" course with Professor Claire Kent, and the art critiques she experienced in Professor Beth Young's class.

"In Professor Kent's class, I felt like I got the professional armor I needed to take on my first job, and Professor Young taught me how to not give up and keep going

after a tough critique. I learned that the real world will be hard sometimes, especially when you're committing to something you care about."

Alongside her studies, Swope participated in ROTC at Mary Baldwin and served in the Staunton-based unit of the Army National Guard as an E4 specialist. She had grown up in Augusta County, and many of her fellow guard soldiers were friends she knew from high school and from playing on local sports teams.

On the very same week as her Commencement ceremony, her unit was deployed to Baghdad as part of the U.S. troops' surge strategy in the Iraq War.

"It was mayhem. I couldn't even walk

across the stage. My unit gave me the option of staying home, and I said, 'No, I've been with you guys for five years, and you aren't going without me.' Mary Baldwin let my parents get my diploma for me, and I went with my unit."

Earning their college diploma often puts young men and women at a crossroads in their lives. For Swope, her year-long tour of duty in Iraq became a bridge — both to her future career and her future calling.

"I've always been a driven person, but my service focused that part of me into a drive to be what is really important in the world, to be what the world needs. Service in the military peels away all the layers of things that aren't as important in life and lets you



realize where you can really be of service."

Swope served as a chaplain's assistant while deployed, and most of her days were spent in a combat hospital, helping soldiers struggling with times of war. But it was her off-duty hours that led to her next chapter.

"I lived right next to the K9 building in the embassy area of Baghdad. It was kind-of loud, but fun. My chaplain assistant duties were very emotionally draining, so when I was off, I would go help out at the kennel and spend time with the dogs, throwing balls and playing with them."

It was there that she met representatives from contract companies who were recruiting people to do K9 work in locations all around the world. (The Department of Defense contracts with these private companies, which select and train contract working dogs to fulfill different roles in embassies or U.S. Aid locations, often in combat zones. The U.S. Military runs a similar program in which military working dogs are trained specifically for service in the field.) One company was impressed with her dedication to the dogs and offered her the chance to become a contracted K9 handler and trainer.

These contract working dogs are not ordinary, and neither is the work they carry out. Most come out of breeding programs in Europe and are selected for their extreme level of drive and their nerve strength.

"Nerve strength is what it takes for a dog to keep going after a bomb goes off, for example. And drive is their work ethic, when all a dog wants to do is go, go, go. I'm estimating here, but maybe out of 2,000 dogs, 20 might get selected for this work. It's a very specific selection process."

When they're emotionally mature, the dogs start training — a process which can take 6 months to a year to complete — for different jobs including explosives detection, narcotics detection, and searching for buried explosives like mines or unexploded ordnance. There are some dogs who are trained specifically to work off leash searching for improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

In her first position, Swope went to South Africa to train contract working dogs who were then assigned missions around

the world. Trainers expose dogs to a lot of experiences and scenarios to see how they will react.

"It was amazing, because I got to train green dogs and build them up from a basic state to a deployable state. It was the best first experience because I worked with about 200 dogs and got to see so many different things with so many different dogs. It helped me understand behavioral personalities."

When Swope was ready for a change after working for contract companies for eight years, she once again found inspiration in these special dogs. As her years of service came to an end, she also wanted to help those animals who were ready to retire.

Most contract working dogs serve about six years, starting when they're about 2 years old until they're 8 or sometimes 10. The military is required to bring dogs back to the United States, but things can get complicated with contract companies. Nonprofits like Mission K9 Rescue have stepped in to ensure that these dogs are taken care of after their work is done.

Swope has joined those efforts, founding her own nonprofit, World Animal Guardians, that takes in retired working dogs, among other dogs in need of rescue, and helps rehabilitate them so they can reintegrate into society. Working under intense stress and in dangerous environments for years at a time, these dogs need help learning how to settle down from a state of high alert and often deal with issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder and separation anxiety. Swope has taken in about 100 rescue dogs at her kennel business, Blue Ridge Canine Services, where she works to find them new homes with adoptive families when they're ready.

World Animal Guardians, the nonprofit Swope founded, has saved more than 250 dogs total, some of whom go directly to foster homes. It primarily helps Americans who are living and working abroad bring their rescued street animals from foreign countries back to the United States.

"Working for the Department of Defense abroad showed me the vast mistreatment of animals worldwide, and while so many people want to help them, the logistics can be daunting. My boarding

kennel, Blue Ridge Canine Services, boards for many rescue groups such as Mission K9 Rescue and Puppy Rescue Mission — we all have like-minded and similar missions."

The spirit of Swope's calling is especially captured in the story of K9 Koni. She met Koni while working as a kennel master in Kuwait where dogs were tasked to protect American interests in oil wells.

"Koni was a really young malinois, and she just wasn't cut out to do work, because she was too soft-natured. Since she wasn't working and was just hanging around the kennel, I wondered if she could be retired."

It took five years for the contract company to release Koni, thanks to Swope's efforts and those of Mission K9 Rescue. When Koni arrived back in the United States, Mission K9 Rescue surprised Swope and reunited her with Koni, thinking that Swope could help place her in a home through her non-profit. But when Swope sent a picture of Koni from her Kuwaiti days to her parents, they said, "We want that dog, that's our dog," and adopted her.

"I think that was my biggest win, and I still get to see her all the time."

Finding creative solutions to a problem. Approaching business with a sense of purpose and compassion. Refining techniques through practice, training, and experimentation. Although Swope hasn't pursued the career that exactly matched her interior design major after college, the skills she honed at Mary Baldwin have helped improve many lives, both canine and human.

"I didn't end up doing what I thought I would do. I thought I would work in a big design firm somewhere, but life took its own path. Mary Baldwin's contribution was that it set me up for leadership. I ended up founding a nonprofit and a business, and that came out of the atmosphere of the college and what they fostered in me."

And for the members of the Class of 2020 who are entering a world full of great uncertainty after graduation, Swope reminds them to hold true to what they have learned and what they love to do.

"Know that overall college is setting you up with life skills that will help you succeed on any path you choose."

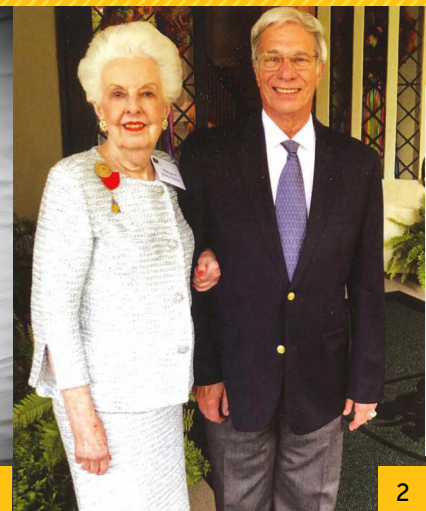


# SHARED!

1. **MEI-LING FYE Guarino '05** and her husband, Jaime, welcomed baby girl Stella Darby-Rhys Guarino on January 6, 2020.
2. **MARGARET KING Stanley '52** with astronaut John Blaha, celebrating the 50th year since she designed the costumes for 1969's *Court of Time and Space*.
3. **MARY ELLEN NAVAS '69** and her husband, Bob Archibald, in Maine in the fall of 2019.
4. **JANIE CARTER Vaughan '69** and David transplanting "Mary Baldwin" daffodils from the Alumnae House on North Coalter to an area near the fire pit. In the background is the Pannill Student Center.
5. (l-r) Tom Fraim, **JUNE EARLY Fraim '65**, **KAY EARLY Dougherty '65**, and David Dougherty in Hue, Vietnam.
6. At the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond for the Mary Baldwin alumni holiday party: (bottom row, l-r) **GARY FLAKE '65** and **NANCY JACKSON Miller '65**; (top row, l-r) **GWEN MCNAUGHT Henderson '66** and **JAN HADDRELL Connors '65**.
7. (l-r) President Pamela Fox, **PAULA STEPHENS Lambert '65**, and **BLAIR LAMBERT Wehrmann '64** at Lambert's house for an alumni event.
8. Spanish reunion at the home of **SARA JANE BEABOUT Hartman '65**: (front row, l-r) Connie Nyhan, **PICKETT Craddock '65**, **MEREDITH CARTER Patterson '65**, Hartman, Cheryl Held, and Rhoda Fantasia; (back row, l-r) George Held, John Nyhan, Skip Hartman, Julie Rawson, **MEREDITH ROBERTSON Heinecke '65**, and **ADELE JEFFORDS Pope '65**.
9. Book cover from the novel *Etiquette for Runaways* (August 2020) written by **LIZA NASH Taylor '81**.
10. **MERRY LYNN WYATT HANKEL Moore '91** with her grandchildren (l-r) Gary Michael Arvik, Samuel Robert Arvik, and Clara Elizabeth Forrest in Williamsburg in 2003.
11. **SARAH TYNDALL Mann '91** celebrates her wedding in Paso Robles, CA, on September 15, 2018 with alumni and friends: (l-r) **SUE MCDOWELL Whitlock '67**, **CATHERINE KAMMER Reidenbach '91**, Mann, **STERLING SHELLEY DeRusso '91**, and **CASBY STAINBACK Stahlman '91**.



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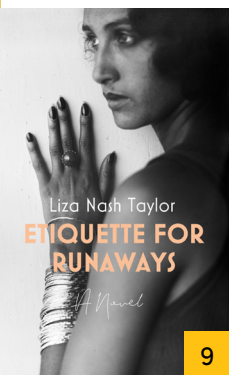


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## CLASS COLUMNS

12. (l-r) **BECKY CANNADY** Merchant '63, **CAROLYN HALDEMAN** Hawkins '63, **JUDY LIPES Garst** '63, and **SHEARER TROXELL Luck** '63 came to support and celebrate **SALLY DUPREE Barnett** '63 (middle) on receiving the Service to Community Award during the 2019 Mary Baldwin Reunion Weekend.
13. (l-r) **BETSY BRANTLEY** Gresham '63, **ANN DIAL McMillan** '63, **FAYE BAKER** Clark '63, and **ANNE King** '63 are pictured at their semi-annual Mary Baldwin College luncheon to celebrate their birthdays.
14. In January, Class of 1969 classmates (l-r) **MARGIE Livingston**, **SUSAN TRAIN Fearon**, and **JUDITH Wade** attended a Van Gogh exhibition in Columbia, SC.
15. **MORGAN ALBERTS** Smith '99 and her godson Peter Nelson, oldest of **GETTYS KOBIASHVILI Nelson's** '00 children, at the Loudoun International Fencing Club.
16. (l-r) **ERIN BERNACHE** Alberts '99, **MORGAN ALBERTS** Smith '99, and **GETTYS KOBIASHVILI Nelson** with Pippa Alberts and Kyra Nelson — old and new roommates.
17. (l-r) **JENNIFER Kukla** '04, wife Veronica, and baby Jonathan.
18. (l-r) **Rev. NOHA KHOURY** Bailey '05 and **LINDSEY LIEBERMAN** '04 had a quick reunion during a layover in Dallas.
19. **JOAN MORAN** Smith '46 celebrated her 95th birthday on February 15.