

# MARY BALDWIN

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## Toward Justice

A new coalition seeks to revolutionize diversity, equity, and inclusion at MBU



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# MARY BALDWIN

M A G A Z I N E

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# NEW YEAR, NEW HORIZONS

*Happy New Year to our MBU family, and best wishes from Staunton  
for a healthy and prosperous start to 2022!*



As the page turns on 2021, I feel profoundly grateful for our close-knit community and how we continuously united to meet challenges and seek new opportunities these past months. This *Mary Baldwin Magazine* year-in-review issue chronicles many such stories. Together they exemplify the university's unflagging commitment to its students — and the continued success of our mission to empower them to become agents of meaningful, inclusive change in their workplaces and communities.

Our cover story, for instance, showcases the student-centered work of the recently formed Coalition for Racial and Social Justice. It examines the group's university-wide effort to transform MBU into a pinnacle of diversity, equity, and inclusion principles in action. Another feature celebrates the extraordinary dedication of alumni and donors to our students through philanthropy, and tracks the MBU Empowers Campaign as it enters an exciting new phase.

Much is on the horizon for the university in 2022.

The coalition will continue to amplify its work around DEI. Exciting new partnerships will make an MBU education more accessible and affordable for countless students. Areas of focus include seamless transfers for community college graduates; boosted financial support for low-income high school students; and creating a pipeline for underserved urban communities. We are advancing a new structure for MBU Online, as we acknowledge that delivering our mission to online learners is a high priority.

MBU is also thinking of our alumni. We are rapidly expanding lifelong learning and credentialing programs to help them — and other adult learners — grow their careers and expertise. Planning is underway for the Women's Leadership Symposium and Homecoming. Both will highlight avenues to help alumni experience MBU as their "university for life."

I hope you will follow our progress on these and many more bold endeavors during the year ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Fox".

Pamela R. Fox  
President

# MBU NEWS

## NEWS NOTES

Newsmakers and events  
that captured attention

### Art Is Part of MBU

Mary Baldwin now houses more sculptures by premier artist and longtime supporter Betty Gold than any college or university in the world. Donated by Gold's daughter, Laura Bousquet, "Maasai Warriors" is the sixth piece in MBU's collection, and the first to be installed at the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences. "We are so proud to live daily with these sculptures as they animate and punctuate our campuses," said President Pamela Fox at the dedication.



### Virtual Success

The first virtual Homecoming at MBU featured 13 events over the course of three days, including a nationally recognized keynote speaker, learning power hours, and celebrations for classes in milestone reunion years. Its inspirational theme — "Friendship, Honor, Sorrow, Laughter are the ways by which we learn" — was adapted from a line in "A Hymn for Mary Baldwin." Free and open to all alumni, many lifelong learning sessions were also eligible for professional development credit hours through employers.





## Legacy Planting

Coordinated by area non-profit environmental group Shenandoah Green, The Legacy Tree Project aims to plant 2,745 trees in Staunton — one for every child in the city's schools. MBU's Spencer Center for Civic and Global Engagement sponsored weekend planting sessions throughout the year under the direction of Special Programs Assistant India McCoy '21. "This project is a great opportunity for students to engage in the community and contribute to an important environmental effort at the local level," she said.

## Athletes Make the Grade

A record high 52 Fighting Squirrels were named to the 2020–21 USA South Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference Team. Topping the list were 14 MBU student-athletes — including women's soccer team goalkeeper, Anyka Wilkin '23 (pictured) — who received honors "with distinction" for achieving GPAs of 3.9 or better during both semesters. These high achievers helped the USA South set its own record for most academic honorees in a single year, with 1,755 total student-athletes from 18 member institutions.



## Calligraphy Class

Honors students studying the cultural history of Eve headed downtown last spring to Staunton's Temple House of Israel with professor and university chaplain Katherine Low to study with biblical Hebrew expert Ruth Chodrow. She taught them how to compose letters in the Hebrew alphabet and write both their and Eve's name in the ancient script. The special class experience celebrated Women's History Month in a course that explores both the Garden of Eden story's influence on western culture, and sociohistorical shifts around gender roles and norms.



# *Call to Action*



"There is wide agreement that doctorally prepared advanced practice nurses are essential to solving the physician shortage and increasing access to healthcare"

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# MBU's new doctor of nursing practice degree programs push back against impending U.S. physician shortages

The U.S. healthcare system faces a looming crisis: There aren't enough primary care physicians to meet patients' needs. The Association of American Medical Colleges predicts national shortages of more than 139,000 physicians by 2033. Worse, residents of impoverished rural areas or marginalized urban neighborhoods will feel the brunt of negative impacts.

These communities could suffer about 7,000 preventable deaths annually, said Dr. Sanjay Basu, director of research at Harvard Medical School's Center for Primary Care in Boston, in a 2021 interview with U.S. News & World Report. That would slash average national life expectancy by more than two months.

Mary Baldwin's Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences is pushing back against shortages with new doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree programs. The first class of future family and adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioners began coursework in August 2021, and MBU is launching a nurse anesthesiology program in August 2022.

"There is wide agreement that doctorally prepared advanced practice nurses are essential to solving the physician shortage and increasing access to healthcare," said MBU President Pamela Fox, echoing Basu.

MBU's college of health sciences was founded in 2014 with a goal of increasing access to quality healthcare locally and nationally — particularly within underserved or vulnerable

communities. Fox calls the addition of DNP programming a natural extension of that mission.

There are presently two terminal degrees available to U.S. nurses: The DNP emphasizes practice-based training and research aimed at adapting new discoveries to daily clinical practice. Most graduates pursue careers as nurse practitioners at family practices, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, or other clinical settings. Others go on to become healthcare administrators or executives.

MBU's programs focus on providing advanced interdisciplinary education within a hybridized learning environment. The approach provides unparalleled accessibility and value for degree seekers.

The convenience of online study is balanced by hands-on, in-person training during on-campus clinical intensives. Curriculum is structured to mirror the experience of working in complex healthcare settings, with instruction coming from a diverse group of medical professionals, including doctors, therapists, veteran nurses, and more. Affiliation agreements with more than 600 healthcare systems and hospitals guarantee clinical placements. Special tracks for nurses with a master of science degree in nursing are offered as well.

"We want to ensure access for working nurses without sacrificing the value of in-person, hands-on instruction," says Vice President of



William H. Goodwin Jr. and wife Alice '66 provided a \$5 million transformational donation to MBU's DNP programs.

Health Sciences and Chief Health Officer Deborah Greubel. The goal is to produce exemplary graduates that enter the workplace equipped to make a difference in the communities they serve.

The special nature of the programs inspired William H. Goodwin Jr. and wife Alice '66 to offer a \$5 million transformational gift. The Richmond-based philanthropic power couple have a long history of supporting MBU and healthcare causes in general.

"To be truly impactful, medical breakthroughs in labs must be matched with breakthroughs at the bedside," the Goodwins said in a statement. "This gift represents an exciting investment in the future of healthcare delivery and [will help] to close the gap between research discoveries and their practical application to patient care."



## In Honor of Jane Miller '76

New center, surprise accolade celebrate longtime Trustee and Board Chair

Prospective students and their families now have an incredible first impression of Mary Baldwin University. The newly renovated Jane Miller Welcome Center is located in the historic center of campus, the Administration Building, first constructed in 1844. Radiating across the refreshed space are dozens of large-scale photos, each capturing an inspirational moment along the MBU student journey.

President Pamela R. Fox called the center's recent dedication to alumna, generous supporter, and long-serving Trustee Jane Miller '76 a fitting tribute.

"I believe Jane truly transmits those qualities Mary Julia Baldwin imprinted on our institutional soul," she said. At an October ceremony, Fox

channeled admiration from university leadership and Trustees for Miller's impeccable judgment, unshakeable trustworthiness, and genuine empathy.

Miller came to Mary Baldwin as a national merit scholar at the young age of 16, and found a place where her intellect and compassion took flight. She followed her bachelor's degree in English and history with a juris doctor from the University of Virginia Law School, and went on to a successful career in tax law and investment banking.

Returning to her alma mater thousands of volunteer hours, Miller served as a Trustee for 17 years, including as chair during a critical time in the university's evolution. She retired in April 2020, and the

October dedication was a long-awaited celebration of her devoted service.

Toward the ceremony's end, Fox and the MBU faculty had orchestrated an additional surprise: Miller was to receive the honorary doctorate of humane letters from the university, one of its highest academic honors reserved for exceptional individuals. On cue Interim Provost Tynisha Willingham and Vice President of Student Engagement Ernest Jeffries came into view wearing full academic regalia and helped Miller don her new doctoral robes.

"Thank you, Jane, for being my friend, partner, and guiding mentor," Fox said. Her words echo the sentiment of gratitude felt across the entire university community.







# DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

Senior Jamal Carter '22 partners with Office of Personal and Professional Development to launch his own clothing line



Jamal Carter '22 threw Nell DeVito a look of confusion: Had the director of MBU's Office of Personal and Professional Development really just advised him to start a business?

It was the spring of 2019 and the fashion savvy business major had been raving about designer Malik Jarrett's indie clothing line, EAT. The acronym, explained Carter, stood for Elevate All the Time, and was meant to be aspirational. He loved Jarrett's positive messaging and commitment to funneling proceeds into a nonprofit that helped at-risk Washington, D.C., youths.

Did DeVito think Carter could do something similar in the future?

"She told me not to wait, to do it now," said Carter. But he was just 19 years old: "I knew nothing about running a business, much less [launching] a clothing line."

DeVito chuckled. She'd been working with Carter at the Vantage Point, the university's student-focused

personal and professional development lab, for two years. There Carter held the title of peer career coach and helped facilitate programming around professional profile development. He worked with students to identify marketable skill sets, draft resumes and cover letters, prep for interviews, and more. DeVito knew he'd be successful if he took the leap.

She suggested he take things one step at a time. They started with discussing the brand.

Carter had sketched out an acronym based on a metaphorical interpretation of the word "hungry." HVNGRY stood for Humility, Unfolds, Nonchalant, Gleeful, Relentless, Youngins. Bold, graffiti-style letters slashed across a backdrop of jagged claw marks. Carter envisioned young people internalizing the brand, projecting its identity as it reflected theirs: Donning the emblazoned t-shirts, sweatpants, hooded jackets, backpacks, and hats would be part mantra, part mission statement.





"I want to inspire young individuals to achieve their goals and aspirations in life," said Carter. It's about "understanding you can do anything as long as you keep putting your best foot forward, work hard, and refuse to give up."

"I want to inspire young individuals to achieve their goals and aspirations in life," said Carter. It's about "understanding you can do anything as long as you keep putting your best foot forward, work hard, and refuse to give up."

DeVito was impressed. She advised Carter around business planning, sourcing materials, securing a manufacturer, setting prices, establishing a website and social media presence, and more. She and Vantage Point assistant director, Lindsey Walsh, helped him connect with local entrepreneurs for Q&As.

"Jamal took every resource we gave him and ran with it," said DeVito. "His drive, determination, and willingness to put in the long hours to achieve his dream — it's been so inspiring to witness."

By fall 2019 the first HVNGRY t-shirts were shipping to customers. When MBU students discovered Carter's brand, many became supporters. He parlayed the enthusiasm to

get feedback on how to best expand the line.

"Now you see MBU students wearing HVNGRY attire all the time," said DeVito. In less than two years Carter has "created a growing business that's becoming more and more financially successful by the day."

Better still, he's using the experience to inspire fellow students. Carter is now developing an educational YouTube series centered around talks with regional Black business leaders for the Vantage Point.

"There are a lot of underrepresented Black entrepreneurs that deserve recognition for their hard work," said Carter. And their advice can be invaluable for aspiring young entrepreneurs.

"Starting your own business isn't easy," Carter continued. "There are times where you're gonna struggle, but persevering through those situations will only make you better, stronger, and more successful in the long run."



Two of Mary Baldwin University's signature programs celebrated milestone anniversaries last year: The Program for the Exceptionally Gifted (PEG) turned 35; the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL), 25. Both have won widespread acclaim for helping women achieve excellence in leadership and scholarship.

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS CELEBRATE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

The establishment of VWIL in 1995 created the first all-female U.S. corps of cadets — a distinction it still holds today. The institute has since developed a reputation for its student-centered approach to empowering young women to become successful military or civilian leaders.

The focus on developing core ethical values like honor, courage, truth, and self-discipline is particularly important to me, said Isabelle Ross '21, a VWIL safety officer and business major. Cadets explore their meaning through a rigorous program of co-curricular experiences, service-based volunteerism, intensive exercise, ROTC military training, and more.

Ross said the value-based training has made her a better, more confident person. She's certain her time at VWIL has equipped her to become a successful future business leader.

Commandant of Cadets Teresa Djuric calls such testimonials par for the course. The positive feedback has fostered high

application rates: The 100-student corps now receives more than 900 new applications each year.

"We are deeply proud of this corps of cadets who blend themselves across this university," said Djuric, a retired United States Air Force Brigadier General, at the recent anniversary celebration. "It is a great honor for me to lead and work with these talented, driven young women, and to see them flourish as outstanding citizens and leaders."

About 1,200 cadets have matriculated into VWIL to date, where they pursue a bachelor's degree in a chosen major while earning a special minor in leadership studies. About 75 percent of graduates seek a direct commission into the military after graduation, and many go on to achieve ranks like major or colonel. Others opt for careers in civilian fields like intelligence, foreign service, business, law enforcement, or jurisprudence.

"You are a beacon of inspiration," President Pamela Fox said at the anniversary celebration. "You have my unwavering commitment and admiration."

**"You are a beacon of inspiration," said President Pamela Fox.**  
**"You have my unwavering commitment and admiration."**





President Pamela Fox and students celebrate a \$1 million gift from the Robert Haywood Morrison Foundation endowing the PEG building in honor of President Emerita Cynthia Haldenby Tyson.

**P**EG was founded in 1985 to help exceptionally gifted young girls develop their academic talents in a supportive and challenging environment. The program is one of a handful in the United States that enables students as young as 13 to pursue college degrees.

"Traditional public and private schools are typically very hesitant to let pupils skip grades," said PEG Director Carla Van Devander, an expert in student differentiation and exceptionalities.

Most secondary institutions simply lack the resources for accommodations. And when accelerations are allowed, fears around ostracization typically restrict jumps to one grade level.

"The issue is that some kids are so incredibly gifted, further acceleration becomes a true need," said Van Devander. Being withheld could stunt their growth and lead to negative behaviors like chronic underachievement. "That's the void we're filling with [PEG]."

The program is staffed by educators and support personnel that specialize in working with gifted students.

Its 55 participants come from all across the nation and live together in a private residence hall on campus. They attend college-level classes with like-minded peers and pursue majors and minors in areas of personal interest.

Experts call the environment ideal.

"To fully develop their abilities, gifted students should receive full-time guidance from well-trained teachers who challenge and support them," said Jeff Daneilian, a teacher resource specialist with the National Association for Gifted Children. To truly thrive, they need immersive "classroom interactions with kids that are at similar performance levels."

The remarkable achievements of PEG alumnae prove the point. Virtually all have gone on to earn graduate

*Continued on next page*







Art professor Jim Sconyers engages with a group of PEG students in the studio.  
*Photo from prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

degrees from top schools like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth — for example, Christian Peele '05 became the youngest graduate of the Duke University School of Divinity, helped lead institutional advancement at New York's historic Riverside Church, and is now a White House operations executive. Like Peele, most PEG grads pursue careers in advanced fields ranging from cardiovascular surgery, to consulting with Fortune 500 companies, to conducting research at Ivy League universities, and more.

Meanwhile, they almost unanimously form lifelong friendships with classmates, said Van Devander. "Many of our alumni call that the best part of their experience."

That's because most young learners arrive at MBU having never met a similarly gifted peer. For them, joining a group of highly motivated learners who take joy in academic study is like a dream come true.

"[PEG's] promise is now realized potential," said President Fox, announcing the Robert Haywood Morrison Foundation's \$1 million gift to endow PEG's new residence hall, which bears the name of MBU President Emerita Cynthia H. Tyson, a staunch supporter of the program.

"More than 600 extraordinary young women have now reached their academic and personal potential," continued Fox, alluding to PEG alumni. "Their lives and careers are simply inspiring and remarkable."

## Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Licensure Program Reaches Landmark Anniversary

In 1985 MBU parlayed nearly 150 years of experience preparing superlative educators to launch a program aimed at helping adult professionals switch careers and become teachers. The result was the Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Licensure Program (PBTTL).

"Our primary goal is to help students become compassionate, flexible, and resourceful educators," said Director of Teacher Education Angela Wilson. That mission has recently been expanded to include combatting national teaching shortages in areas like English, history, social science, and mathematics.

"We see this program as supremely beneficial, not only to our PBTTL students, but to schools and school systems that are desperately seeking well-prepared, fully licensed teachers," said Wilson.

Courses are taught by veteran College of Education faculty. They combine theory and practice to create mission-driven learning experiences that prepare would-be educators for jobs. Robust scholarship and financial aid packages, fellowships, and special tuition assistance make the transition more affordable. Online class options and flexibility around mandatory teaching practicums offer convenience for returning learners.

"We're proud to help these students achieve their professional goals by offering an incredible and affordable educational value," said Wilson, adding that, so far, 100 percent of program graduates have obtained employment in their chosen areas of concentration.





LEND fellows, including MBU students Kaylee Nichols OTD '23 (far right) and Paolo Cruz DPT '23 (not pictured), take part in weekly interdisciplinary classes and clinical work alongside UVA students.

## Partnership with the University of Virginia Aids Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

MBU and the University of Virginia (UVA) are partnering to expand healthcare options for individuals living with autism and other developmental disabilities in a region where such services are scarce.

In August, UVA launched Blue Ridge Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND), a \$2.2 million grant-funded program that serves the rural Blue Ridge and Appalachian region of Virginia and bordering states. Through Blue Ridge LEND, students and practicing professionals can access a wide range of training and continuing education opportunities.

MBU augments UVA's focus areas in nursing, psychology, special education, speech-language pathology, and medicine with expertise in occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT).

"The new Blue Ridge LEND partnership brings together the talents of both universities right at the heart of our mission — preparing students to work with professionals in multiple healthcare fields and provide

care here in our community," said Lisa Shoaf, dean of Mary Baldwin's Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences.

MBU professors Pamela Stephenson (OT) and Carolyn Moore (PT), who both share an expertise in working with children in their fields, will join the Blue Ridge LEND faculty and teach as part of the partnership.

The program also opens doors for OT and PT students at MBU in the highly competitive field of pediatric care.

Starting this academic year, select students in their second year of graduate school have the opportunity to train as LEND fellows, taking part in weekly interdisciplinary classes and clinical work alongside UVA students. They will graduate with a specialized LEND certificate after the year-long experience.

The MBU-UVA program joins a national network of 60 LEND programs across the country that receive funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

# New International Designation for Applied Behavior Analysis Program

Mary Baldwin's graduate program in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) has won another major designation: The International Behavior Analysis Organization (IBAO) recently named it a certified premium global content provider.

That's big news for program participants — particularly international students interested in studying online.

"Our goal is to ensure ethical practices, protect consumers, and maintain appropriate educational standards throughout the world," said IBAO co-founder and veteran ABA therapist Michael Mueller. He launched the organization after working with student practitioners in Eastern Europe. "There are many areas around the world where standards around best practices and quality-of-care are [alarmingly subpar]," explained Mueller. That led him to partner with

renowned ABA therapists and educators from more than 20 nations to create a sanctioning institution aimed at affecting global parity.

One such expert was MBU's pioneering director of Autism Studies & ABA, Rachel Potter.

"Collaborating with agencies like the IBAO enables us to impact the field for the benefit of clients, colleagues, and caregivers on a global scale," said Potter. The work also helps reduce obstacles to quality education by bringing more online learning opportunities to international students.

Mueller praised MBU's program as exemplary, citing its mission of "empowering learners and future behavior analysts [by training them to] practice in an ethical, culturally sensitive, and well-informed manner."



The International Behavior Analysis Organization has recognized MBU's Applied Behavior Analysis Program as one of the world's most exemplary.

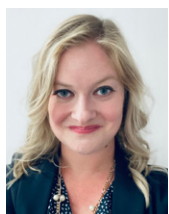


# New Appointments

## MBU announces high-level additions to administrative staff

### MARY COHILL HARVEY

Associate Vice President and Campaign Director, Office of University Advancement



The veteran student-centered fundraising expert comes to her role at MBU with a deep knowledge of campaign positioning, strategy, and planning.

Harvey's executive-level experience includes serving nearly six years as principal gifts analyst and associate director of development for George Washington University — where she helped secure more than \$200 million in philanthropic gifts for the school and closed a billion-dollar campaign. She followed by leading another billion-dollar giving campaign at the University of Maryland.

Harvey left the 40,000-student operation not long after completing Cornell University's Women in Leadership certificate program. She was attracted by MBU's 180-year history of women-centric educational excellence and leadership, and its ongoing work to adapt its mission of empowerment to other marginalized groups.

Researching the success of the ongoing Empowers Campaign revealed "a tight-knit community composed of fiercely loyal alumni and students," said Harvey. She was impressed by the way MBU's high educational standards and student-first philosophy helped create lifelong bonds.

Harvey plans to further enhance transformative learning experiences for students by "building on the culture of philanthropy already present in the MBU community," she said. "My biggest passion is helping donors align their passions with student needs."

### LEARIE C. NURSE

Associate Vice President of Student Engagement



Nurse has spent the past 25 years accumulating a dizzying array of higher education experience. He's served as an

educational program counselor at the State University of New York, an assistant director of residential education at the University of Vermont, an associate dean of students at both Naropa University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology — and the list goes on.

Still, Nurse draws a common thread through his experience: The Barbados native has dedicated himself to social justice and diversity work, and "building environments where all voices matter."

For instance, his doctoral studies in educational leadership and policy centered around researching Caribbean students' access to higher education, differences in social mobility for Black diaspora college students attending mostly white institutions, and race-related diversity and retention efforts in the U.S. higher education system.

"I have a deep interest in supporting students from marginalized identities and helping them to find their sense of belonging in a college environment," said Nurse. If we're serious about helping learners achieve their fullest potential through higher education, we have to create, nurture, and maintain "a supportive, holistic, and caring environment that is inclusive for everyone."

### TYNISHA WILLINGHAM

Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer



Willingham brings a broad surplus of higher education experience to her new role as interim provost and chief academic officer. She's

previously served as an assistant professor of education, department chair, associate academic dean, and, most recently, the dean of MBU's College of Education.

On one hand, members of MBU's executive staff routinely praise Willingham's expertise in trends around higher education and workforce development, and her ability to leverage data to advance academic programs. They also celebrate her understanding of, and appreciation for, MBU's unique community of learners and alumni.

"We're a family that values [engaging in] rich and hard dialogues about pressing issues while also holding space for one another's common humanity," said Willingham. MBU's overarching commitment to fostering a supportive, intellectually rigorous, and inclusive educational environment almost invariably "empowers students to become agents of change."

Willingham said she will work tirelessly to further that mission. Her plans include boosting value around existing student-centered curriculum, creating more holistic programming for learners, and implementing cutting-edge initiatives around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"Tynisha's [promotion] will undoubtedly help position us for an even brighter future and greatly strengthen our student-centered mission," said President Pamela Fox.

IN MEMORY

# REMEMBERING JUDITH GODWIN '52

## Pioneering Contemporary Painter and Abstract Expressionist

Contemporary painter Judith Godwin '52 passed away May 29, 2021, after achieving international significance as a major innovator within the Abstract Expressionism art movement.

The Suffolk native spent two formative years at MBU studying under noted artist-professors like Elizabeth Nottingham and Horace Day. Their tutelage and knowledge of avant garde developments within contemporary art inspired Godwin to enter the fine arts program at what is now Virginia Commonwealth University.

She moved to New York after graduating and achieved acclaim by creating bold, vivid works that emphasized "what is important by painting the image of my feelings on canvas," said Godwin in an interview. Her process was informed by a desire "to accept my feelings honestly, and not [to] falsify."

Painting, for Godwin, was both "an act of freedom and a realization that images generated by the female

experience can be a powerful and creative expression for all humanity."

Her work is now featured in more than 50 leading museum collections around the world — including New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Museum of Modern Art.

Godwin viewed her time at MBU as an artistic turning point, heralding it as a springboard for her future career. She subsequently became a dedicated supporter of the university. She gave faithfully to the annual fund year after year, spent half a decade on the Board



of Trustees, exhibited new paintings at Hunt Gallery, gave frequent guest lectures, offered executive guidance for the art program, and more.

MBU formally acknowledged Godwin's devotion and remarkable accomplishments by awarding her an honorary doctoral degree at its 2003 Commencement ceremony.

"Judith loved the university and went out of her way to maintain a strong connection," said Professor Emeritus of Art Paul Ryan. "Her deep connection with and contributions to Abstract Expressionism — one of the great art movements of the 20th century — is significant and something that MBU can take great pride in."





## TONQUISE "TQ" EVANS '03, DEVOTED ALUMNA AND DIVERSITY LEADER

Evans arrived at MBU inspired: She'd graduated from an Atlanta-based performing arts high school and wanted to bring more diverse stories, voices, and characters to the theatre.

The ambition quickly led her to found the university's first and only African American troupe, the Kuumba Players, which debuted in 2000. The experience fostered a deep involvement with student life. Evans decided to join the Office of Student Engagement and serve as a mentor for younger classmates.

"Tonquise had a gift for finding talent in unexpected places and coaching people to believe in themselves," said MBU Chief Diversity Officer Andrea Cornett-Scott, who served as Evans' academic advisor and, later, professional mentor. "She filled our campus and community with artistry, wonder, and optimism. Her enthusiasm was simply infectious!"

The experiences informed Evans' undergraduate studies in communications. She went on to earn a master's degree

in human resources management with a goal of cultivating talent while achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion in the business world. That dream came to fruition when tech-focused ad management company, Mediavine, named Evans its chief diversity officer in 2018.

A Mediavine post announcing her untimely death from cancer at 40 on April 25, 2021, celebrated Evans as an exemplar of famed diversity advocate Vernā Myers' maxim: "Diversity is about being invited to the party, and inclusion is being asked to dance."

Company employees and MBU classmates agree that Evans had an outsized impact on the lives and organizations she touched.

"Under TQ's effervescent tutelage, our company culture became one of positive affirmation, thoughtful leadership, and hard work balanced with a lot of fun," said a Mediavine spokesperson. "Her efforts continue to ensure that everyone who works here is seen as a person first, and is always asked to dance."

## GINI RIDGE, FORMER DINING SERVICES DIRECTOR

Gini Ridge dedicated decades of gastronomical passion to bettering culinary operations at MBU.

She planned dining hall menus for countless students, executed dinners and banquets for thousands of alumni — and seemed to do it all with an unwavering smile.

Charmice Hardy '08 called Ridge's contributions "an integral part of the [MBU] experience." She recalled classmates often called the dining hall's menu line "just to hear Gini's elaborate and fantastic reading of the day's

fare." Meanwhile, Ridge's kind and approachable demeanor often led to friendships with students.

"For me and [many others] Gini became a welcome source of advice," Hardy said. Better yet, "she was always ready for a good laugh."

Ridge retired from MBU in 2007. She passed away on July 6, 2020, at the age of 87.



"Gini always made the work fun," said Anne Holland, director

of Alumni Engagement Office special projects, recalling the umpteenth events she managed with Ridge. "She always went above and beyond to make meals and dining experiences special. I never met anybody in my life who was so passionate about making food beautiful."

## IN MEMORY

# DR. MARY TUCK ECHOLS, PROFESSOR EMERITA OF ART

Echols was revered among MBU faculty and alumni for her trailblazing efforts to create an official art history program and connected Italian Renaissance study abroad experience. She headed the art department from 1975 until her retirement in 1991.

"Mary [brought us into] the atmosphere of the object and gave us insights that were impossible to understand in the classroom," said Professor Emerita of Art History Sara Nair James '69. Studying and visiting New York museums with Echols in her senior year inspired her to pursue a doctorate in art history from the University of Virginia.

"Mary had this incredible knack for engaging students and drawing out responses," said James. That helped learners build confidence and reach epiphanies about more than art: "Suddenly you realized how much you'd learned; you felt empowered."

James wasn't alone in her admiration. Patricia Piorkowski Hobbs '75 — now a senior curator of art for Washington and Lee University — recalled Echols as a generous mentor and advocate.

"Mary believed in a person's integral goodness and capacity to

succeed, even if you didn't believe in yourself," said Hobbs. She attributes many of her art-related achievements to Echols, "because she was so confident in me as an art historian, museum professional, teacher, and practicing artist."

Echols passed on December 28, 2020. Former students gathered at MBU for a retrospective

exhibition that commemorated her as an inspiring teacher, accomplished artist, community arts leader, and devoted mentor.



# MARGARET H. "PEGGY" HITCHMAN '40, LIFELONG SUPPORTER AND TRUSTEE EMERITA

The university's probable oldest alumna, Margaret "Peggy" Hitchman '40, passed away in her Charleston, WV, home on March 11, 2021, at the age of 101. Her experiences at MBU inspired lifelong support for the university.

"Mom had a great love for Mary Baldwin," said daughter Grace McGrath '70, recalling Hitchman's reminiscences about small class sizes, intellectually rigorous curriculum, professors' personal investiture in students, and more. "You could just feel it when she referred to her time there."

That love led Hitchman and late husband William to send their two daughters to the school. The couple became increasingly active supporters following their graduations.

The Hitchmans did things like endow scholarships to help high-achieving students with financial needs. Major gifts fueled development around the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences, renovations at Miller Chapel, and more.

Eventually Hitchman joined the Board of Trustees. She spent 10 years helping to guide the university through an epochal period of growth that included acquiring the upper campus and creating two signature programs.

Daughter Eve A. Carter '74 said her mother will be remembered for her "giving spirit. [A spirit] that never viewed an abundance of wealth — whether monetary or otherwise — as 'deserved,' but as a responsibility to use ... to help as many people as possible."



# REMEMBERING MARY BETH SMYTH '47

## Leading Business and Professional Studies Benefactor

Beloved educator and philanthropist Mary Beth Smyth '47 passed away July 22, 2021, at the age of 96. She and her late husband, Gordon, were devoted supporters of MBU's quest to empower inclusive leaders through education.

The two met at a local restaurant while Mary was teaching elementary school in Waynesboro. Gordon was starting his career at Dupont Chemical Company, where he went on to become a senior executive vice president. The couple founded an education-based charitable foundation in the late 1980s when Gordon retired.

Their rampant support of MBU led to Gordon's election as a Trustee. His and Mary Beth's expert guidance throughout the 90s and early aughts helped university administrators navigate a period of robust growth and transformation — which included the creation of the Shakespeare and Performance graduate program.

The Smyths were also important financial benefactors. MBU President Pamela Fox said their generous, wide-ranging gifts have significantly enriched campus life and benefited countless students.

Major contributions created programming like The Smyth Leadership Lecture Series, which



Mary Beth Smyth and husband Gordon created a lecture series to bring women leaders like Venus Williams to MBU.

brought live discussions with pioneering women leaders like broadcast journalist Cokie Roberts and former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The Smyth Business Program was established in 1997 to help students connect with and learn from major U.S. business leaders. The couple also gave generously to support local women participating in the Adult Degree Program (now MBU Online).

In 2012 Mary Beth chose to commemorate Gordon's passing by donating \$1 million to endow a faculty chair in business administration. The Smyth chair has since played an instrumental role in helping students learn about "ethical and responsible ways to reduce the impact business

has on the planet, while continuing to innovate products and services to meet the needs of a growing world population," said Dean of MBU's College of Business and Professional Studies Joe Sprangel.

"The Smyths always found a way to contribute to causes that were vital to the particular context of Mary Baldwin at various points in our ongoing evolution," said President Pamela Fox. That included a final bequest that will provide support in several key areas in perpetuity.

Like her personality, Mary Beth's philanthropy was quiet, thoughtful, caring, and generous, continued Fox. She plans to honor Smyth's life by "drawing ongoing strength from the exemplar of her vital spirit."



## IN MEMORY

# DR. ETHEL M. SMEAK '53, ENGLISH PROFESSOR EMERITA AND UNIVERSITY SUPPORTER

English professor emerita Ethel Smeak '53 loved literature passionately — and dedicated much of her life to sharing that love with MBU students. She passed away on September 7 in Fishersville.

"Ethel was an expert in Elizabethan literature and had an incredible knowledge of the poetry, writings, and plays of the period," said Dean and Professor Emeritus of English James Lott. He worked alongside Smeak for more than 30 years and the two became close friends. "It was abundantly clear that Mary Baldwin held a very special place in her heart."

As an instructor Smeak was equal parts demanding and nurturing.

"Ethel loved literature, and she wanted her students to know and love it as well," said Lott. She abhorred sloppy thinking and writing, but her intensity, "fairness and encouragement pushed

students to work hard, expand their minds, and become better scholars and human beings."

And Smeak's pedagogy went beyond the classroom: She viewed students as members of the greater Mary Baldwin community.

"Ethel saw these young women as continuing a legacy of dedication to knowledge and standards of honor," said Lott. Smeak believed wholeheartedly in MBU's transformational approach to learning and its ability to empower students to pursue lives of purpose.

Accordingly, she took on added responsibilities like serving as an editor for the university's magazine, filling a temporary role as dean of students in



1974, and working with the Alumni Association to promote connectivity. Smeak's dedication was recognized with an Emily Wirsing Kelly Leadership Award and an appointment as the Margaret Hunt Hill Distinguished Chair in

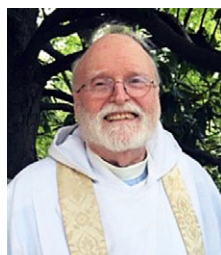
the Humanities in 1990. She retired in 1995, but continued to work tirelessly to support the school.

"Ethel was a pioneer in the women's movement and inspired her students by setting an example of what they could achieve," said MBU President Pamela Fox. "She fought for equal footing in the workplace and attained her goals through unflagging patience, tact, and perseverance. She was truly an amazing woman, and will be deeply missed."

# REV. DR. BEN H. SMITH, FORMER CHAIR OF ENGLISH

Rev. Smith joined Mary Baldwin's English department in 1960 and served as its chairman throughout the 70s. He later felt a religious calling and became an Episcopal priest.

Students adored Smith for his thoughtful, inventive, and personable approach to teaching. For instance, he often enlivened courses on Chaucer, Shakespeare, and



17th century poetry by playing ukulele and singing verses. His love of travel — and belief in its ability to expand young minds — birthed the university's study abroad program at Oxford University.

"Ben was the perfect combination of teacher and preacher," former MBU Dean Emeritus James Lott recalled of his lifelong friend, who passed away on May 7,

2020, at the age of 88. Smith "was always the gentle voice [in the room], encouraging students and leading rather than pushing them."

Lott fondly remembered Smith's lectures: "Like his sermons, they were carefully constructed, always moving to an epiphany: They were a journey with a destination." His expertise, rhetorical prowess, and incredible kindness led "many students [to think of] him as a pastor well before he was formally ordained."





## SOUNDS OF THE SEASON



Hosted by the choral program, the inaugural MBU Holiday Festival displayed a diverse repertoire of holiday selections and featured the Mary Baldwin University Choir, Baldwin Singers, Baldwin Charm, MBU Treble Choir, and MBU Tenor/Bass Ensemble. The MBU Jazz Combo, Saxophone Ensemble, and student vocal soloists also showcased their talents at Staunton's First Presbyterian Church in early December.



FEATURE

# TOWARD JUSTICE

A NEW COALITION OF PROFESSORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND STUDENTS  
SEEKS TO REVOLUTIONIZE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AT MBU



The Coalition for Racial and Social Justice recently appointed new members, including (seated, l-r) Dr. Paul Menzer, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts; Emily Greene, physician assistant faculty member; Rev. Andrea Cornett-Scott, chief diversity officer; Dr. Donovan Branche, business faculty member; (standing, l-r) Dr. Amy Tillerson-Brown, history department chair; Dr. Brenci Patiño, department chair, Latin American and Francophone Studies; Dr. Learie Nurse, associate vice president of student engagement; and (inset) Dr. Johanna Newman, founding director of the Nurse Anesthesiology Program. *Masks were removed right before the photo, and put back on immediately after.*



**M**BU faculty and administrators called an emergency meeting as national protests erupted following the brutal 2020 police murder of George Floyd. The travesty threaded the needle through a long line of disturbing events President Pamela R. Fox said “demonstrate the systemic discrimination that continues to plague our society.”

The urgency of the moment demanded action. The group brainstormed ways to show solidarity with activist groups like the NAACP and Black Lives Matter, and boost support for students returning to campus amid rampant social unrest. They also discussed how to affect meaningful changes for the future.

“As an institution of higher learning, we have a responsibility to stand up against intolerance and speak out against hatred and racism,” said Andrea Cornett-Scott, then associate provost for inclusive excellence. “We must remain unwavering in our commitment to inclusivity — to celebrate humanity in all its wondrous and complex variation, and to foster a community where all may flourish and be treated with respect and compassion.”

Follow-up meetings with the Board of Trustees led to the formation of an official task force in July 2020. Known as the Coalition for Racial and Social Justice, the group was led by Cornett-Scott and history department chair, Amy Tillerson-Brown (an expert in African American history). It included representation from across MBU’s operations.

“We acknowledge that our students will return to campus changed, and that we are changed ... from the cries for reform and justice,” Fox wrote in an announcement. “We seek to immediately identify areas of focus that will foster a more inclusive environment with open avenues for dialogue and for action.”

The coalition convened for the first time in August 2020. Members started by outlining goals for a holistic effort to

engage the greater MBU community in a critical dialogue about race, social justice, inequality, and the legacy of slavery in the United States.

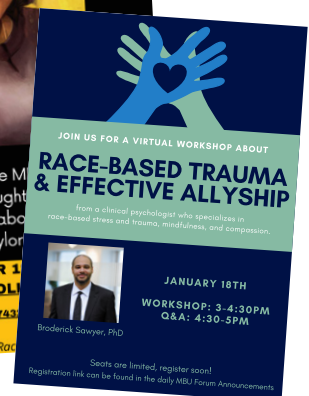
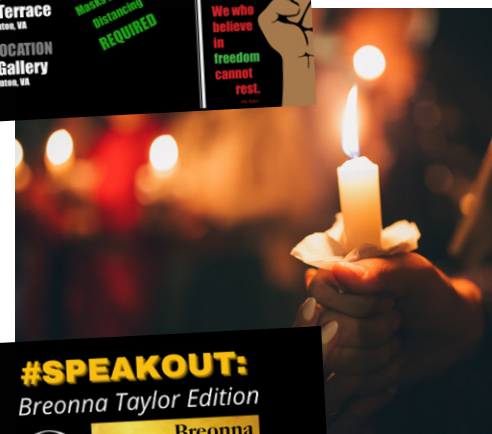
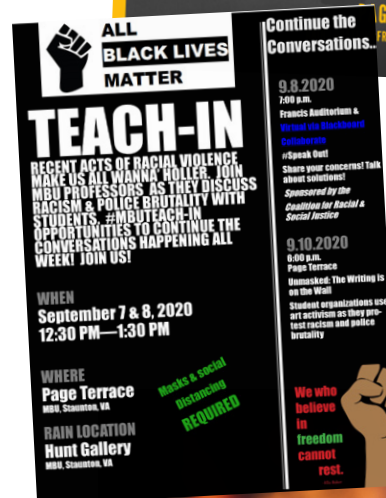
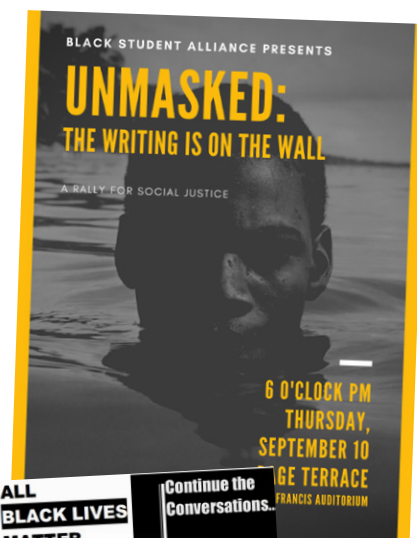
Early meetings made it clear “we read the charge as more than an opportunity to get together and simply *talk* about problems,” said Cornett-Scott. The team was determined to overhaul antiquated processes, and institute new programs and policies that would help “dismantle systemic racism and transform Mary Baldwin into a working example of what a truly inclusive community looks like, and acts like.”

The coalition assessed immediate needs by issuing campus-wide surveys to faculty, staff, and students. High participation rates brought feedback around the racial and social climate heading into the fall semester.

“We found there was an atmosphere of collective anxiety, anger, grief — and a deep need for healing,” said Cornett-Scott. The group addressed the situation by planning more than a dozen special events, which were held throughout the fall, with workshops being extended through the next year.

For instance, a skills-based workshop for faculty and staff offered an overview of current best practices for facilitating discussions around race and racism, and how to be an “ally” for students. Instructors also taught communication strategies for diffusing intense emotions and resolving conflicts that sometimes arise during such conversations. Training was offered for Black men on how to address race-based trauma.

A two-day Black Lives Matter Teach-In featured podium presentations from faculty members and community leaders examining racial injustice in the U.S. These were followed by open forum Q&A sessions, where students were encouraged to share personal stories about racism and how it has negatively impacted their lives. Next came roundtable discussions exploring steps



The coalition helped put on more than a dozen DEI-focused events throughout 2020-21.



Examples of coalition-sponsored events included a Black Lives Matter Teach-In (far left) and vigil for Breonna Taylor (above).

that could be taken to eradicate the pernicious force from American society.

Meanwhile, the coalition was forming subcommittees for campus wide audits. Their goal, said Tillerson-Brown, was to acquire a true understanding of the state of DEI practices at MBU. The information would be used to recommend improvements and create a strategic plan that prioritized implementation according to impact.

More than 50 faculty and staff members contributed to the effort. Most helped with a comprehensive assessment of university programs and divisions using protocols recommended by organizations like the National Association for Diversity Officers in Higher Education, and the International Organization for Standardization. Measures included examining current curriculum, hiring processes, pedagogical approaches, marketing materials, and more, for overt racial bias. They also sought feedback from individual students and student groups.

"[MBU's] mantra of 'we put students first, always' was our guiding principle," said then vice president of student engagement and coalition member, Darren Jones. Accordingly, committees created safe spaces for students identifying as Black, indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC) to share experiences and ideas. To be successful, the effort had to "home in on underrepresented voices, hand them the microphone, and create opportunities to receive ongoing feedback and insight."

Other subcommittees looked at MBU's racial history and its relationship with the greater Staunton area. The former birthed a new class with internship opportunities for research centered around local history and marginalized communities. An interdisciplinary team of professors guided students through the opening phases of reexamining the university's 180-year history through a modern, progressive lens of race, equity, and social justice values.

"This was no token gesture," said Cornett-Scott, of the subcommittees' efforts. The groups spent months conducting research and compiling reports, which were presented to the coalition in spring 2021. "Everyone that participated understands this work is crucial to our mission of empowering students to become agents of positive social change in their lives and careers. To do that, we have to set the bar high [in creating an example]."

By June 2021 the coalition had distilled subcommittee findings into a prioritized list of measures to enhance DEI efforts. At the top was creating a new chief diversity officer position to oversee development of a strategic plan, execute new initiatives, and assess progress using data-backed metrics. The university acted promptly, promoting Cornett-Scott within a month.

She's since been working with coalition members and the Office of Inclusive Excellence to implement additional recommendations. Starting

with a broad range of strategic measures will maximize impacts throughout the MBU community.

For instance, experts have helped rework university marketing and communications guidelines to ensure content meets or exceeds current national standards around inclusivity, bias, gender-neutrality, and more. Services for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students are being rapidly expanded. Better systems for assessing and mitigating issues of discrimination around race and gender are under development. Deans are discussing adding new majors and minors in the area of African American and Latine studies, and programming for DEI certificates and badges. Residual elements of colonial bias are being stripped from curriculum and balanced with content that includes alternative perspectives and voices.

The list goes on.

While acknowledging the work ahead is plentiful and will invariably bring challenges, Cornett-Scott welcomes it as a wonderful opportunity. "This gives us the resources to deeply explore and find new ways to pool our moral, creative, and practical resources to confront hatred, discrimination, and the scourge of racism," she said.

She hopes the coalition's ongoing effort will bring about the final evolution in Mary Baldwin's 25-plus-year push to become an industry-leading beacon of DEI principles in action.



# Students investigate MBU's racial and social justice legacy through new "Local Color" class

Students entering a special, internship-based research class in Oct. 2020 knew they were in for an academic treat: The new course marked the beginning of a comprehensive effort to analyze the history of racial and social justice at Mary Baldwin University.

"The work of dismantling systemic racism and social disparities [in this country] includes turning a critical eye toward our institutions of higher learning," said history department chair Dr. Amy Tillerson-Brown, who specializes in African American, African Diaspora and 20th century U.S. history and also co-chairs MBU's Coalition for Racial and Social Justice. If liberal arts colleges and universities are to be taken seriously as beacons of knowledge, humanistic values, and democratic ideals, they must make an accounting of their legacy around accessibility, labor practices, community relations, curriculum, and more.

The new course, called "Local Color: The Racial Legacies of MBU," aims to do just that. But achieving the goal won't be easy.

"Trying to piece together a local history that focuses on marginalized groups requires a tremendous amount of detective work," said Tillerson-Brown. Students seek to excavate stories that, for a variety of reasons, may have been purposefully distorted, minimized, or excluded from dominant historical narratives.

White-centric historians in the Jim Crow South turned a blind eye to the struggles and accomplishments of African American community members. The voices of first-generation immigrants and working class women were seen as inconsequential, and went undocumented. Stories about family heritage were passed down by word of mouth — and often became obscured by time and geographic displacement.

These and other challenges inspired an unorthodox teaching structure: Instruction was divided among an interdisciplinary team of professors. It included faculty like Virginia segregation expert, Dr. Clayton Brooks; theater and gender studies specialist, Dr. Kerry Cooke; and modern art history guru, Kerry Mills.

"This kind of work starts with looking deeply at historical records and trying to peer between the lines to home in on what's been left out," said Tillerson-Brown. Using multiple lenses helps to better identify holes and track down what should have filled them.

Tillerson-Brown points to the work of food historian and MBU alumna Dr. Leni Sorenson '92 as an example.

Sorenson is famous for her efforts to reconstruct the lives of historic Black cooks of the Colonial period and early 19th century — particularly those at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. To do it,

she pored over records and correspondence left by enslavers. For instance, if Jefferson included anecdotes about a fattened chicken or the perfect white bean soup in a letter, Sorenson would ask who was doing the fattening and gardening. The question guided followup searches for documents like records of births, marriages, housing arrangements, labor assignments, remarks on performance, and so on. Combining the findings with archaeological evidence and historical studies offered a window into the life of an enslaved individual who had previously been omitted from history.

"It's history that puts the focus on the people who cooked the food, not the people it was cooked for," Sorenson told the *New York Times* in 2021.

Tillerson-Brown and company used similar methods to guide students down a rabbit hole of intensive research. The effort began with an exploration of broader historical contexts and social theories. These included slavery and the Confederate South, the democratization of education, the rise of Black colleges, women's and civil rights movements, intersectional feminism, critical race theory, and more.

Students used the information to establish a framework for "situating [Mary Baldwin's] history within these contexts and theories to better understand its foundation and founders, as well as its explicit and implicit agendas across time — whether progressive or problematic," wrote Tillerson-Brown in the course description.

Students began compiling and critically examining mainstream sources like old newspaper articles, official university correspondence, and Mary Watters' 1942 book, *The History of Mary Baldwin College, 1842–1942*. They searched for reliable outsider narratives from sources like 19th and early 20th century Black-owned periodicals, church publications, and historic writings or correspondence from prominent members of the local African American community. They conducted interviews with older alumni to gain perspective about the racial and social climate at MBU throughout the 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s.

While the work is just getting underway, Tillerson-Brown is excited about its promise and value for future students. Co-professors will apply to add "Local Color" to the regular MBU curriculum in the spring of 2022.

On one hand, "this is an opportunity for young scholars to participate in a fascinating and challenging project of significant social value," she said. On the other, the high-level gumshoeing skills it teaches will invariably give them a leg up at graduate schools and in research-based careers.

# MISSION TRANSFORMATION

Rev. Andrea Cornett-Scott has spent 25 years maximizing diversity, equity, and inclusion at MBU. She's now positioned to do even more.

Cornett-Scott's quest to bring greater diversity to MBU began when she was named director of African American Affairs in 1996. She used the position to lay the groundwork for what is now the Office of Inclusive Excellence, and soon became its associate vice president. Her tenure has been characterized by a hands-on, student-centered approach to DEI initiatives — which led to mentor relationships with literally hundreds of students.

Lynnette Daughtry Barrett '02 was a case in point. Cornett-Scott inspired her to pursue a combined career in ministry and college administration.

"Studying and working with [Dr. Cornett-Scott] changed my life," said Barrett, now an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and an executive administration specialist at the University of South Florida's diversity and inclusion office. Cornett-Scott taught her leadership skills and ways to blend critical and strategic thinking with a deep compassion for others. That brought the confidence to "feel comfortable in any room, anywhere, and not hesitate to speak up and make my voice heard."

Cornett-Scott also developed campuswide programming aimed at boosting cross-cultural sharing and exploration. Celebrations were expanded to

include Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Las Posadas, and an Ajani ceremony. Events-packed heritage months brought festivities and learning opportunities around Latine and African American culture. Ten new student clubs and organizations were founded, including Latines Unidos and the Kuumba Players. The former helps Latine students connect with, learn about, and celebrate their heritage. The latter, a student theatre troupe that takes its name from the Swahili word for creativity, specializes in bringing stories from marginalized voices to the stage.

Next came support programs like PERSIST, the Ida B. Wells Living Learning Community, Ubuntu Student Mentoring, Sista Friends Alumni Mentoring, and more. Each offered a unique blend of faculty, peer, and alumni guidance, as well as professional and civic engagement opportunities. Their mission was to empower students of color to achieve success through education and positive community connections.

The above barely scratches the surface of Cornett-Scott's achievements. Fox said her "brilliant, tireless work has been instrumental" in diversifying Mary Baldwin's student body. Over the past 25 years demographics have shifted from all women — most of them affluent and white — to include more than 50% people of color, and





students from an array of age groups and socioeconomic backgrounds. The university has also become a renowned, nurturing safe zone for LGBTQ+ students.

Fox said Cornett-Scott will build on that "exemplary foundation" as CDO. The two will work closely to boost DEI initiatives and resources, and ensure related principles are instilled throughout MBU's operations.

"The goal is to build on and grow the university's existing community of awareness, belonging, and respect," said Cornett-Scott.

She'll start by collaborating with campus partners and the recently formed Coalition for Racial and Social Justice to conduct a comprehensive assessment. The findings will help establish strategies for the path ahead and inform a strategic plan. The latter will include recommendations for initiatives like, say, educational programming or professional development around social justice, anti-bias principles, cultural and ethnic identity, gender neutral language, and more.

Cornett-Scott said she welcomes the challenge. Her life's work has been centered around developing diversity-related programming at MBU and seeking to "empower students to become the kind of inclusive leaders that will go out into the world and help create a brighter, more equitable future for everyone."

She sees her new role as a necessary evolution — and one that brings considerable added firepower to her mission.



Over the past 25 years demographics have shifted from all women — most of them affluent and white — to include more than 50% people of color, and students from an array of age groups and socioeconomic backgrounds.





# PANDEMIC SILVER LININGS

**The #MBUfamily banded together to successfully navigate the pandemic — and picked up some new tricks along the way**



No ifs, ands, or buts about it: The coronavirus pandemic has brought some of the toughest challenges in MBU's 180-year history. Faculty, staff, and students have faced a gauntlet of hurdles including government shutdowns, travel bans, a full-scale pivot to online learning, and more.

"The strength, creativity, and resilience of our community has truly been put to the test," said President Pamela R. Fox. Time and again the #MBUfamily has banded together to keep one another safe, maintain connectivity, and ensure educational experiences continue to meet Mary Baldwin's exemplary standards.

"I cannot stress how inspiring it has been to watch our team and our students rise to the occasion, and continue to overcome this extraordinary challenge," continued Fox. Their vigilance and unwavering perseverance has not only carried MBU successfully through an ongoing global pandemic, "it has left us in a better position than we were before."

Here, we celebrate the ingenuity, dedication, and conscientiousness of the #MBUfamily — and share how their efforts to navigate the pandemic have made the university stronger.



## Greater Accessibility and Support

The pandemic forced students, faculty, and staff to implement virtual options for nearly every facet of the university experience with spitfire rapidity.

The residential campus closed on March 11 and “we’d moved classes fully online within five days,” said Associate Professor and Mathematics Department Chair Dr. John Ong. But faculty didn’t stop there: “We were determined to deliver the same [student-centered, premium-quality instruction] in the online environment that students were used to getting in the physical classroom.”

Interim Provost Tynisha Willingham called the effort herculean.

“The devotion of the Mary Baldwin academic community is just incredible,” she said. Luckily, most faculty members teach online courses regularly. That depth of experience combined with a die-hard dedication to students to “ensure the transition was successful and that no one got left behind.”

The student engagement office played a major role as well. Staffers eased anxieties around uncertainty by beefing up mental health programming, working overtime to check in with students, and connecting those in need with counseling. They also partnered with the Office of Alumni Engagement to continue observing milestone events like Commencement, Homecoming, annual lectures, awards banquets for

alumni, and more.

Pulling it off took creativity and immense effort.

“This was tough, technically demanding, time-consuming work,” said Executive Director of Alumni Engagement Adrienne Teague. “But with such high stakes, we were all determined to step up to the plate and rally to get it done.”

Camera operators helped the university’s IT team film and livestream socially distanced events, which themselves had to be restructured for the format. Zoom conferences were optimized to mimic the dynamism and interactivity of in-person lectures, town halls, club meetings, and the like. The list goes on.

Teague says the approach paid off in a big way — and yielded surprising insights about inclusion and participation.

For instance: The tweaks enabled distance learners, parents, and alumni from all across the United States to participate in traditionally on-campus-only celebrations, presentations, ceremonies, and more.

What began as a nightmarish imposition had a silver lining.

“We quickly realized these virtual and hybridized formats had tremendous potential in terms of our ability to engage with MBU family members,” said Teague.

Parents could attend small but significant academic celebrations like, say, a virtual Capstone award ceremony that showcased



The MBU family was determined to celebrate milestone events during the height of the pandemic, like the virtual Commencement ceremony in May 2020.

undergraduate research projects, or a campus-wide Black Lives Matter roundtable where their son was giving a presentation. Aunts and uncles could tune-in for a niece’s soccer match from 1,000 miles away. The offices of Alumni Engagement and University Advancement hosted a slew of virtual events — including a Day to Lead the Way social media blowout that contributed to the most successful Annual Day of Giving ever, the first reunion of Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences alumni, anniversary celebrations for the Virginia Women’s Institute for Leadership and the Program for the Exceptionally Gifted (which together drew around 1,200 participants), and more.

“This is a gamechanger,” said Teague. “This is [a strategy] we can expand and leverage to vastly enhance accessibility and connectivity moving into the future.”

## Expanded Outreach

Admissions officers were busy devising new digital strategies of their own. Travel restrictions varied from state to state; on-campus visitation was severely limited; the success of early vaccine rollouts was hit and miss — all of which made large-scale campus tours and in-person recruiting next to impossible through most of 2020 and early 2021.

But the team wasn't about to let that stop them. Heading into fall 2020 they overhauled strategies and implemented a flurry of initiatives aimed at bringing campus tours and meetings with admissions counselors

to prospective students.

Pulling it off was no mean feat.

The team ramped up digital advertising and revamped strategies to better target rising high school seniors, recent grads, and community college students affected by the pandemic. They doubled down on outreach to partners at high schools, clubs, organizations, and more. Virtual campus tours and related programming were also developed. Traditional large open house events were replaced with smaller, but more frequent online gatherings. Video calls

to check in with individual prospects became standard protocol.

The efforts proved successful: The team managed to grow enrollment to a record-breaking 2,184 across all programs during the most difficult global crisis since World War II.

"And now we have [all these new tools] that we've proven can greatly expand our outreach," said Vice President of Enrollment Management Matt Munsey. That puts MBU in a strong position moving forward, particularly in terms of recruiting for online and hybrid programs.



## Greater Flexibility and Wellbeing for Workers

When offices shut down in March 2020, many MBU staffers and administrators were wary of working from home. But as the months dragged on and new hybrid protocols were adapted, the benefits became apparent.

"Flexible schedules and the ability to work a few days a week from home can have a dramatic impact on work/life balances, particularly for parents," said Brianna Wiest, who writes about economics and millennial trends for *Forbes*.

Less commuting, ironing clothes, and getting ready means more time for yourself. Flexible work hours reduce anxiety around

unexpected issues like children having to be picked up early from school or daycare. Small breaks can be used to prep dinner, vacuum, go for short walks, practice yoga, you name it.

Studies conducted by medical nonprofit Mental Health America found such factors combine "to reduce stress and boost mental wellbeing among the vast majority of office workers," said Wiest. The difference was so glaring that, after six months of imposed working from home, more than 80 percent of Americans said they preferred hybrid models moving forward.

Similar sentiments among MBU staffers brought institutionalization. And university leadership upped the ante: They committed to holding annual virtual town halls, updates at strategic points throughout the year, staff and faculty meetings, and more.

Associate Vice President of Integrated Communications Liesel Crosier called the adaption a win-win.

"On one hand, these things help our employees stay healthier and happier," she said. On the other: "It's a valuable incentive for recruiting new talent, which enhances our ability to compete with other institutions."





Theatre students created an original play that embodies the pandemic epoch: *Unfix the Stars* takes place both literally and imaginatively within a Zoom call.

## More Opportunities to Collaborate

With in-person meetups more difficult to pull off, students and professors piloted an array of new online options.

Student organizations like Latine Unides and the Sociology Club scheduled Zoom meetings with influential alumni and guest speakers. Soccer players shared screens and chatted while watching English Premier League matches. Members of the literary Pen & Paper club held virtual workshops, reading short stories and offering critical feedback in real-time.

Professors Brenci Patiño and Adam Fajardo partnered with former United States Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera to team-teach a class called "Borderless Poetics & Expression for a New Time." Assistant professor of business Donovan Branche created projects grouping students from different class sections to simulate working in a hybrid office environment.

But one of the most distinctive collaborations came from MBU's performing arts program. Theatre professors challenged students to create a play that would embody the pandemic epoch through its story, characters, structure, and presentation.

The result was *Unfix the Stars* — a metafictional production that takes place both literally and imaginatively within a Zoom call. Its plot centered around a group of 2016 high school alumni celebrating their five-year reunion online, just weeks after a former classmate was gunned down in a racially motivated shooting.

In discussing the tragedy and how to react, characters grappled with stay-at-home orders, a raging global pandemic, racial violence, social unrest, and more.

Branche, the business professor, said opportunities like all the above are preparing students for the workplace of tomorrow.

"Technology is rapidly reshaping the way we look at work," she said. Learning to navigate and excel in "a hybrid environment is going to give our students a big leg up moving into the future."



The MBU campus has achieved an overall vaccination rate of 94%.

## Robust COVID-19 Response Yields High Vaccination Rate

In spring 2021 Mary Baldwin became one of the first universities in Virginia to announce vaccine mandates for students and employees.

"The decision was not made lightly, nor was it popular in all circles," said Vice President of Health Sciences and Chief Health Officer Deborah Greubel. But approaching the second semester of the new academic year, "I am certain it was the right choice."

That's because MBU's campus wide vaccination rate of 94 percent is among the highest in the state. (A campaign to further boost that number was underway as of the time of writing.) Paired with indoor masking, the high rate enables faculty and staff to deliver a rich educational experience for students in the safest possible environment.

"We know that as a campus, community, and nation, we are not out of the woods when it comes to this pandemic," said Greubel. "But by working together in continued adherence to the best and most reputable scientific guidelines available, we believe students will continue to have the opportunity to spend their time learning where they are most successful: in the classroom."



“Words cannot express our gratitude to the thousands of alumni and donors who fueled success for the MBU Empowers Campaign. With each and every gift, our MBU family has risen to the challenge of our times and provided extraordinary philanthropic support for our students. With each and every gift, they have advanced our campaign with energy and momentum to where we are today.”

— Pamela R. Fox, university president



# PEOPLE POWER



## How the university's greatest resource is fueling the MBU Empowers Campaign

**B**eginning in 2017, a group of committed donors stepped forward at an important moment in the university's ongoing evolution. Known as Impact Investors, they showed a profound belief in the future of Mary Baldwin at a critical time in its history with gifts of \$25,000 or more, and successfully built the foundation for the current MBU Empowers Campaign.

From these beginnings four years ago until the present day, the campaign has shown how MBU's strength lies in its people. Students discovering their voice; faculty and staff working to create impactful university experiences; alumni making a difference in their

communities — all attest to the empowerment that is an essential characteristic of the Mary Baldwin community.

As time and conditions have evolved so too has the campaign, moving from early phases in 2017 to a repositioned launch in spring 2020. That now historic moment — as the global pandemic was taking hold — proved yet again the dedication of the Mary Baldwin family. From those original Impact Investors to the devoted members of MBU's Kiracofe Society (who make provisions for the university in their estate plans), all the university's donors continued to affirm the transcendent power of a Mary Baldwin education.

Supporters see, or have often

experienced firsthand, how MBU's unique programs, people-first ethos, and personalized support combine into a springboard that launches students into lives of purpose and professional success. And they want to invest in that process, a vital one for national and global prospects.

"Words cannot express our gratitude to the thousands of alumni and donors who fueled success for the MBU Empowers Campaign," said Pamela R. Fox, university president. "With each and every gift, our MBU family has risen to the challenge of our times and provided extraordinary philanthropic support for our students. With each and every gift, they have advanced our campaign with energy and momentum to where we are today."

## With Profound Gratitude to Donors

MBU Empowers could not have achieved its current momentum without the following philanthropists. Each individual shares in the vision of a singular and strong Mary Baldwin, positioned for success for many years to come. Behind each gift there is a person with a commitment to empowering MBU students to become inclusive leaders pursuing meaningful change in society.

## Top Donors to the MBU Empowers Campaign

MBU is grateful to all of the university's supporters and recognizes the following donors who have given \$25,000 or more to the MBU Empowers Campaign since July 1, 2017. *Includes new gifts and commitments, including planned gifts, as of Nov. 23, 2021.*

### \$1 MILLION AND HIGHER

Betty Gold  
Mary A. "Alice" '66 and William Goodwin  
Paula Stephens Lambert '65  
Gabrielle Gelzer "Gabby" McCree '83  
Robert Haywood Morrison Foundation  
Daniel H. Neely  
Bertie Murphy Deming Smith '46  
Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation

### \$500,000 – \$1 MILLION

Nancy Draper '51  
Margaret A. Joyner '46  
Rea Charitable Trust

### \$250,000 – \$500,000

Claire E. "Yum" Arnold '69  
John and Ann Bowles  
Georgeanne '68 and Booth Chapman  
Angela I. Corley '67  
Crescent Development Goose Creek  
Margaret Wren de St. Aubin '81  
Mabel M. "Molly" Held '76  
Anna Kate Hipp '63  
Mary McDermott  
Jane Harding Miller '76  
Jane Van Dragt '51  
Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges  
Louis S. Waldrop  
Margaret C. Woodson Foundation  
Peter J. Worth

### \$100,000 – \$250,000

Nancy Ambler '75  
Annabel E. Barber '81  
Beverly "Bev" Bates '64  
Ann Britt '58  
Campbell Family Foundation  
Peggy Carr '67  
Bertie Deming "Bebe" Heiner and the Heiner Family Fund  
Margaret H. Hitchman '40  
Caroline R. Hunt '43  
Jessie Ball duPont Fund  
Peter B. Johnson  
Gail M. King '69  
Mildred "Mickey" and Charles H. Shuford  
Donna Dearman Smith '70  
Wren Foundation, Inc.

### \$50,000 – \$100,000

Nancy M. Evans '71  
John R. Jacoway  
Gail McMichael Lane '65  
McMichael Family Foundation  
The Peachtree House Foundation  
Katherine L. Smallwood '75  
Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation  
Mary E. Swope '66  
Margaret Teague '58  
Betty L. Timberlake '45  
A. Jane Townes '69

### \$25,000 – \$50,000

Maria Cerminara Acar '82  
Amber Bracegirdle  
Betty V. Brandon '43  
Elizabeth A. Briggs '86  
Elia Buck '50  
Nell Carvell '63  
Patsy E. "Eloise" Chandler '77  
Fannie R. Cooke 1900  
Anne M. Cooper  
Helen Forster '83  
Pamela R. Fox  
Elizabeth "Betsy" Boggs Freund '76  
Charles A. Heiner  
Virginia Linscott '47  
George A. Luscombe  
Suzanne B. Maxson '75  
Margaret E. "Lyn" McDermid '95  
Dorris McNeal '41  
Robyn McNeil  
M. Mark Midland  
Emily E. Oehler '93  
Susan O'Gara '62  
M. Elizabeth Preddy '67  
Barbara J. Roberts '73  
Sue V. Rosser  
Loretta W. Tabb Farrar '83  
Cynthia H. Tyson  
Kevin Walsh  
Kellie A. Warner '90  
Watson W. Wise Foundation  
Marian S. "Sue" Whitlock '67



## Impact Investors

The following donors were devoted early investors in the Invest for Impact Campaign, which evolved into the MBU Empowers Campaign. Their foresight and belief in the university paved the way for the campaign's current progress.

Maria Cerminara Acar '82	Bertie Deming "Bebe" Heiner and the	Jane Harding Miller '76
Claire E. "Yum" Arnold '69	Heiner Family Fund	Rea Charitable Trust
Annabel E. Barber '81	Anna Kate Hipp '63 and W. Hayne Hipp	Mickey Shuford and Charles H.
Beverly "Bev" Bates '64	Peter B. Johnson	Shuford Sr.
Ann and John B. Bowles	Suzanne B. Maxson '75	Katherine L. Smallwood '75
Betty V. Brandon '43	Gabrielle Gelzer "Gabby" McCree '83	Bertie Murphy Deming Smith '46
Margaret Wren de St. Aubin '81	and Donald McCree III	Donna Dearman Smith '70
Elizabeth "Betsy" Boggs Freund '76	Mary McDermott	Kellie Ann Warner '90
Betty Gold	Robyn McNeil and Kevin Walsh	Peter J. Worth

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## Kiracofe Society

The Kiracofe Society is named in honor of faithful alumna Charlene Kiracofe '25, who made annual gifts throughout her lifetime and committed to remembering Mary Baldwin in her will. When she died in 1987, the Kiracofe Society was established to recognize those who honor Mary Baldwin through a provision in their estate plan.

Nancy Ambler '75	Suzanne T. Burch '61	Nancy Mayer Dunbar '60
Carole L. Anderson	Margaret Anderson Carr '67	Mary Ellen Killinger Durham '66
Laurel Catching Anderson '71	Georgeanne '68 and Booth Chapman	Laura LaGrow Durland '83
Kathleen Beck Andes '98	Vonceil LeGrand Chapman '44	Angelina Painter Eschauzier '68
George Ann Brown Bahan '47	Cynthia Ryan Childers '83	Leigh Yates Farmer '74
Emily L. Baker '58	Michele Shalow Clements '86	Susan Train Fearon '69
Margaret Troutman Balanowski '84	Lucile Jones Clyde '77	Margaret Rose Fiester '81
Mary A. Barton	Mary Jane Conger '73	Margaret Robertson Fohl '68
Beverly Estes Bates '64	Mary Wray Conner '81	Nancy Brockenbrough Foulks '66
Sarah Warren Baynes '64	Clare C. Conzett	Susanne Eve Fowlkes, Jr. '64
Martha Barnett Beal '53	Anne S. Cooke '67	Betty Gold
Addie Stanley Beckner '76	Abigail Robinson Coppock '69	Sarah Yeatts Gormley '89
Julia Johnston Belton '49	Mary Gould Coulbourn '63	Jonathan E. Grace '97
Julia Carrington Bemis '64	Virginia Alexander Crane '66	Jean C. Grainger '70
Charlotte Jackson Berry '51	Margaret Weaver Crosson '67	Judith Payne Grey '65
Sara Armstrong Bingley '60	Jane Reid Cunningham '59	Emma Martin Halpert '65
Susan O'Donnell Black '92	Fred G. Currey	Frances Koblegard H Marcus, Sr. '50
Anne Ponder Boyd '61	Edward W. Daniel '89	Jane H Marcus '79
MacKay Morris Boyer '87	Linda McAllister Dawe '69	Victoria Goodwin Hardy '80
Louise M. Boylan '71	Margaret Wren de St. Aubin '81	Mabel Fetterman Held '76
Claudia L. Brind-Woody '77	Mary Kerr Denny '64	Florence Wimberly Hellinger '52
Ann Cooke Britt '58	Sally H. Dorsey '64	Sarah Head Hendricks '64
Eleanore Eckel Brough '65	Katherine Early Dougherty '65	Anna Kate Hipp '63
Sally Livingston Brown '63	Laura Clausen Drum '56	

**"Being connected to our students and their remarkable stories is so impactful and meaningful to me. Nothing is more satisfying than empowering their development and supporting our university's evolving mission."**

— Gabrielle McCree '83, Board of Trustees chair, Impact Investor, and member of the 1895 Lifetime Giving Society

William R. and Margaret Herscher Hitchman '40\*  
Dorothy M. Holian '89  
Mary Hamilton Hollingshead '61  
Zoe Kerbey Holmes '70  
Susan Baughman Homar '74  
Christy Howell '93  
Emily W. Hundley '47\*  
Jeanne Jackson '72  
Cynthia Betts Johnson '49  
Anne McCormack Jones '83  
Elisabeth L. Jones '69  
Jo Avery Jones '65  
Margaret Pollard Joyner '46  
Wendy Kane '71  
Bonnie Kennedy Kant '74  
Nancy R. Kapp '64  
Alison M. Kaufmann '07  
Carroll Blair Keiger '76  
Margaret Query Keller '55  
Sheila J. Kendrick '84  
Gail Apperson Kilman '66  
Gail McLennan King '69  
Martha Philpott King '80  
Ivy Koster '68  
Paula Stephens Lambert '65  
Patricia Larson Lane '77  
Rogene Elkins Laserna '72  
Frances Lawrence '77  
Roberta Wilson Lea '66  
Dana Leckie '76  
Nancy Bartley Leonard '60  
Judith Easterly Lockridge '81  
Van Lear Logan '68  
James D. Lott  
Carey Goodwin Louthan '66

Dudley B. Luck  
Mary Moorman Lykowski '84  
Suzanne Maxson '75  
Mary Williams Mathis '62  
Carolyn Clemmer McCulley '64  
Milton McMullan  
Louise Rossett McNamee '70  
Becky Cannaday Merchant '63  
P. William and Lisa Moore  
Pamela Clark Moore '88  
Mary Ellen Navas '69  
Daniel H. Neely  
Valerie Netting  
Jeannette L. Norfleet '68  
Maurice and Ann Reid Strickland Nottingham '56  
Emily E. Oehler '93  
Laura Sadler Olin '71  
Elizabeth S. Owen '49  
Susan Nolan Palmer '67  
Catherine Harrell Pennington '84  
Elizabeth Blanchard Podesta '48  
Anne Poole '51  
Carol Paul Powell '78  
M. Elizabeth Preddy '67  
Margaret Thorn Rawls '69  
Elizabeth Read-Connole '74  
Joanne M. Reich '88  
David W. Richardson  
Aleda Hays Rickelton '69  
Martha Grant Rideout '63  
Barbara Knisely Roberts '73  
Emily Dethloff Ryan '63  
C. Lindsay Ryland '73  
Virginia Moomaw Savage '69  
Gail McAlpin Schweickert '65

Susan Walker Scola '80  
Sherri L. Sharpe '99  
Carolyn Gilmer Shaw '60  
Charles H.\* and Mildred "Mickey" Shuford Sr.  
Donna Polsinelli Sickler '91  
Susan Taylor Sims '81  
Ethel M. Smeak '53\*  
Bertie Murphy Deming Smith '46  
Mary Reed Smyth '47\*  
Patricia Sphar '58  
Dorian Akerman Stiefel '92  
Elizabeth Engle Stoddard '60  
Edith A. Stotler '68  
Rebecca Teaff '99  
Frances Davis TenBrook '63  
Sarah Brush Thalheimer '73  
A. Jane Townes '69  
Vanessa T. Traynham '77  
Carol Vaughn Tucker '86  
Sydney Marshall Turner '69  
Emily T. Tyler '63  
Cynthia H. Tyson  
Ray C. Uttenhove '68  
Ann Lewis Vaughn '69  
Judith L. Wade '69  
Deborah Dull Walker '75  
Jenifer E. Walker '80  
Susan C. Walker '78  
Jennifer E. Webb '91  
Charlotte R. Wenger '83  
Valerie L. Wenger '81  
Mary-Bacon Johnson Williams '71  
Melissa M. Woods '90  
Elizabeth Peyton Wooldridge '68

\* Deceased



# “DONORS

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS”

**"The fact that the foundation directors chose to initiate and give this gift to Mary Baldwin University is recognition of the faculty, staff, and administrators of this special place of teaching and learning."**

— President Emerita Cynthia H. Tyson, member of the 1895 Lifetime Giving Society, in recognition of a \$1 million gift from the Robert Haywood Morrison Foundation made in her honor. The contribution dedicated the Program for the Exceptionally Gifted Center as Cynthia Haldenby Tyson Hall and endowed the building in perpetuity.

**"I thought that creating a scholarship fund at her alma mater was a meaningful way to extend her name after she passed away."**

— Dan Neely, husband of the late Margaret "Molly" Grant Neely '71 and member of the 1992 Lifetime Giving Society. He created an endowed scholarship fund in her memory to support mathematics and STEM majors from Tidewater Virginia.

**"This gift to Mary Baldwin's DNP program represents an exciting investment in the future of healthcare delivery and helping to close the gap between research discoveries and their practical application to patient care. We hope it will inspire others who share our passion for helping people."**

— William H. Goodwin Jr. and Alice Goodwin '66, members of the 1842 Lifetime Giving Society, pledged \$5 million to support the Doctor of Nursing Practice at MBU, the only hybrid DNP of its kind in Virginia. Half of their gift funds a translational research program to connect cutting-edge research with clinical practice, while the other half is allocated to start-up costs for the recently launched program.

**"I am fully committed to Mary Baldwin and what the MBU Empowers campaign is all about: empowering the young people attending Mary Baldwin toward lives of personal and professional success."**

— Maria Cerminara Acar '82, Trustee, Impact Investor, and MBU Empowers Campaign chair

**"This is a way for TQ to continue to shape and influence the lives of the students she cared so much about, at the school she loved so much."**

— Amber Bracegirdle, co-founder and chief brand officer of advertising technology firm Mediavine. The company established the Tonquise "TQ" Evans '03 Endowed Scholarship in memory of their late friend, colleague, and inclusivity expert, in partnership with her husband, Adam. It will support students in the university's Ida B. Wells Living-Learning Community.

**"I encourage everyone to join me in helping to shape our future and give them the same opportunities that were given to us as students."**

— Angie Tran '03, 2021 Day to Lead the Way champion and donor

AT THE  
**CENTER**  
OF IT ALL

**T**he Mary Baldwin experience connects young minds full of potential with alumni and friends who believe passionately in the significance of an MBU education, and want to use philanthropy to create a positive impact.

Every day MBU students are able to seize opportunities made possible through donors' generosity. As they forge their futures as inclusive leaders, they build upon the strong legacy of MBU alumni who have come before them. Here are a few of their stories.

**A Latine literature class during her first year gave Angie Contreras '22 a sense of direction, and of self.**

Angie Contreras '22 arrived at Mary Baldwin as a shy teenager from St. Petersburg, Florida, but that started to change in MBU faculty member Dr. Brenci Patiño's course on Latine literature and culture.

"Before I'd always hated raising my hand in classes," said Contreras, a first-generation college student. But Patiño made her feel so comfortable she became a top participant. She soon found herself bonding with enthusiastic classmates and frequenting Patiño's office to discuss

outlets for her academic curiosity.

The experience proved so inspiring that "it changed the trajectory of my entire life," she said.

Patiño was happy to help. "Angie's intelligence, dedication to her studies, and her impeccable work ethic were evident immediately," she recalled. She understood Contreras' renewed interest in exploring her Latine cultural identity in college — and wanted to nurture the process.

Patiño's literature course introduced Contreras to the work of feminist Chicana scholar Gloria Anzaldúa, who often writes about living between cultures. It moved her so much she decided to use the author's theoretical framework to write an autoethnography.

Patiño encouraged her student to go a step further, and Contreras was able to present her work at Trinity University's international conference on border theory and Anzaldúa's work in San Antonio, Texas. Her presentation was well received, and many scholars requested copies of her work.

"Seeing people from my own ethnicity, my own background, with their third PhD ... it made me realize that I can do whatever I want [professionally], and also be authentic and help my community,"



A Latine literature class during her first year gave Angie Contreras '22 a sense of direction, and of self.





Doctor of physical therapy student  
**Mitchell Crenshaw**  
headed west to help patients regain their mobility — and learned from them in the process.

reflected Contreras.

A travel grant from MBU's College of Arts and Sciences covered the cost of her trip. She also receives the Cynthia H. Tyson Endowment Scholarship and the Marguerite Fulwiler Livy Scholarship from MBU in recognition of her leadership potential, academic ability, desire to serve, and sensitivity to the needs of others.

The experience at the conference inspired Contreras to pursue a degree in political science with a minor in Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Now a senior at MBU, she has found her voice and uses it to empower others, doing everything from running voter registration drives for the Spencer Center for Civic and Global Engagement to facilitating dialogue sessions as president of the Social Justice Club.

"I'm a connector, and I can't wait to keep doing that forever," said

Contreras, who has her sights set on joining AmeriCorps after graduation this May.

**Doctor of physical therapy student Mitchell Crenshaw headed west to help patients regain their mobility — and learned from them in the process.**

This fall, aspiring physical therapist Mitchell Crenshaw DPT '22 piloted the first-ever clinical placement in the Navajo Nation for MBU's Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences.

PT students often choose a specialty in areas like orthopedics or pediatrics for their clinical rotations, but Crenshaw decided to approach things differently: He would learn how to serve members of the tribal community through the Navajo Area Indian Health Service in Kayenta, located in a remote area of

northeastern Arizona.

"At first I was a tad reluctant [about not being in a more urban setting]," said Crenshaw. But talking to his professors helped him realize "what a great opportunity it would be to develop as a PT and learn about a new culture."

Crenshaw's resolve grew after learning about the pandemic's toll upon the Navajo Nation. The tribe had endured some of the highest early per capita infection and death rates in the country. COVID also exacerbated long-standing problems like limited access to services and lack of equitable funding.

"Being here, my interest and passion for caring for underserved communities has really grown," Crenshaw continued. "What speaks to me most is having the opportunity to apply the things I've learned [in my coursework] and hopefully make a positive impact."

Director of Clinical Education Dr. Gail Tarleton established the partnership with Kayenta's health service with exactly that goal in mind.

"As Mitchell provides physical therapy care for patients, he is also gaining knowledge of customs, beliefs, and the social determinants of health specific to the region," Tarleton said. He's experiencing the ways historically marginalized populations struggle with access to quality healthcare, and learning how to best accommodate individual needs.

For example, PTs at the Kayenta clinic know most patients travel long distances across rural landscapes for

appointments. (The Navajo Nation is larger than West Virginia in size.) Accordingly, they book individual sessions, boosting duration to a full hour to give therapists time to connect with patients and thoroughly explain treatments. The approach differs radically from most clinics, where as many as four patients per hour are treated to maximize productivity.

"Here I'm able to work one-on-one with clients, take them through all the interventions, and give them the personalized care that they need," said Crenshaw, who is now considering continued work within the federal health system after graduation this May. "For me, my education has reinforced my belief in the importance of ethics and service in healthcare."

**Alumna JaNell Chavis  
BA '19, MAT '20 uses  
language to build  
community in her classroom,  
and provide equitable  
access to education for the  
youngest learners.**

JaNell Chavis BA '19, Master of Arts in Teaching '20 started her first year as a kindergarten teacher in fall 2020 at the height of the pandemic. During difficult days of masking and distancing, Chavis drew upon the core community-centered values she honed in MBU's education program and the Office of Inclusive Excellence.

Above all she was determined to provide equal opportunities for children to learn and grow in her classroom at Falling Creek Elementary School in Chesterfield County.

"To me, equity means that everyone receives the resources they need, regardless of what they already

have," she said. Her elementary school serves a predominately Hispanic population, and several of her kindergarten students only spoke Spanish at home. Chavis is a fluent speaker and took the time to explain tasks in their native language to ease their anxieties.

"I wanted my students to feel seen and not feel as though they had to hide who they were to fit in or be ashamed of speaking another language," she said.

She's also intentional about giving native English speakers opportunities to experience the Spanish language. She hopes that, in addition to valuable vocabulary and grammar practice, such experiences will help her kindergarteners feel more connected.

MBU Interim Associate Dean and Director of Teacher Education Dr. Pamela Bailey called Chavis' work around inclusion exemplary.

"JaNell is a wonderful example of a teacher who has this growth mindset, believing in her students as

she goes that extra mile to support each one on their learning journey," she said.

Bringing individuals together across different backgrounds was also a key component of Chavis' experiences with the Office of Inclusive Excellence. She especially recalls the seven tenets of Kwanzaa — unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. They still inspire her to this day.

"The Office of Inclusive Excellence taught me how to be proud of who I am and where I come from, and how to encourage the next generation to do the same," said Chavis.

Chavis' efforts didn't go unnoticed: She was named a finalist for the Chesterfield County 2020–21 Beginning Teacher of the Year Award. Though she's happy to be recognized, she says helping young children discover confidence in their abilities is rewarding enough.

"I am their teacher when they're at their youngest and most vulnerable



**Alumna JaNell Chavis  
BA '19, MAT '20**

uses language to build  
community in her classroom,  
and provide equitable  
access to education for the  
youngest learners.



age," said Chavis. She views the charge as sacred. That means "I get to be a part of who they become."

**Richard Coppage '16 has found wide-ranging support along his educational journey and made MBU his university for life.**

As a working adult student, Richard Coppage '16 found Mary Baldwin's then-named Adult Degree Program to be a saving grace. It was designed specifically for non-traditional students looking to earn a degree while balancing other responsibilities. And — unlike at many larger universities — it still provided a personal connection to faculty.

"It was great to have professors who were nurturing," said Coppage. It was obvious they "cared about their students being educated."

He remembered how a busy period at work caused him to fall behind and not contribute to a class discussion. His professor reached out to him and made adjustments to accommodate Coppage's schedule.

"That made such a difference," he said. "It was almost like there was no student left behind, that's how I felt."

When Coppage completed the requirements for his degree in history and historic preservation, he attended the 2016 Commencement at the main campus in Staunton.

"I felt so proud to take that walk [at graduation]," said Coppage. Sitting through the ceremony he thought: "Now that I've got this degree, maybe I should get another one!"

The thought took root over time, and Coppage returned to MBU this past fall as a graduate student in the 100% online master of business administration (MBA)



**Richard Coppage '16** has found wide-ranging support along his educational journey and made MBU his university for life.

program. His goal? To hone his expertise in nonprofit management.

Coppage currently leads the Central Virginia Chapter of the Community Associations Institute (CAI), a Richmond-based nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting managers of homeowner's associations earn their credentials.

Coppage says the curriculum from his first semester of the MBA program has been immediately applicable to his job. For instance, on a recent call with executives from the CAI national office, he pitched communications strategies that could help inform members about continuing education opportunities. The idea impressed his boss.

"It turned into a whole initiative," said Coppage. "And I actually might end up teaching that [continuing education] class."

MBA Program Director Dr. Joanne Tritsch says Coppage's experience spotlights a central goal of the curriculum: MBA professors focus on teaching skills that combine well with earned career experience.

"Our faculty are equal parts teachers, mentors, coaches, and learners," said Tritsch. "As much as we give advice, we learn from our students as we work through applying theory to real-world issues."

Providing lifelong learning opportunities and career support are at the core of MBU's mission to be a university for life. Tritsch says alumni often return to seek an MBA following a promotion, or to forge a new career path. But the biggest draw is almost always that "they want to learn more about leadership and business at the same university that cared so much for them as undergraduates."

## Evolving to meet student needs

As the campaign and university leadership considered the next phase of MBU Empowers this fall, it was clear that the latest evolution needed to be laser focused on meeting student needs that have emerged nation-wide at this particular moment in time.

Out of every 100 students who start a bachelor's degree in this country, only an estimated 35 will graduate and work in a job that requires a bachelor's degree, according to researchers at higher education consulting firm EAB. The remainder either drop out; are still enrolled after six years; leave a four-year college to earn an associate's degree; or graduate but are underemployed. These outcomes have dramatic implications for students' annual earnings and ability to repay their student loans.



The next phase of the MBU Empowers Campaign is laser focused on meeting student needs that have emerged nationwide.

The pandemic and resulting economic uncertainty have only increased the pressure on students and their families, especially those students who are the first in their family to attend college or come from underserved communities.

The experiences of Megan Speth, director of financial aid at MBU, and her team illustrate one facet of the hardships facing young people. During the past two years, they have frequently addressed students' concerns about reduced family income due to job loss. Whether it was a family member contracting COVID and unable to work, the

elimination of a position, or even the closure of a family-owned business, the pandemic struck MBU families without discrimination. In some cases, it was an extended illness or caregiving needs that forced a parent to leave their job. Still others were dealing with major medical bills.

"Our students and their families were facing some incredibly hard, tragic situations. Of course we wanted to support them in any way we could," Speth said. The financial aid office works confidentially with students and families to determine what options are available to them and find the best approach to help them continue funding their degree.

With such examples ever-present in their minds, university leadership took the opportunity to rethink the MBU Empowers Campaign in terms of timing and overall goal. As of October, the campaign had progressed to the \$36.7 million mark (far past the initial goal of \$25 million). The university announced it would continue for an additional two years and pursue a new comprehensive goal of \$50 million to continually enhance MBU's support and opportunities for students.

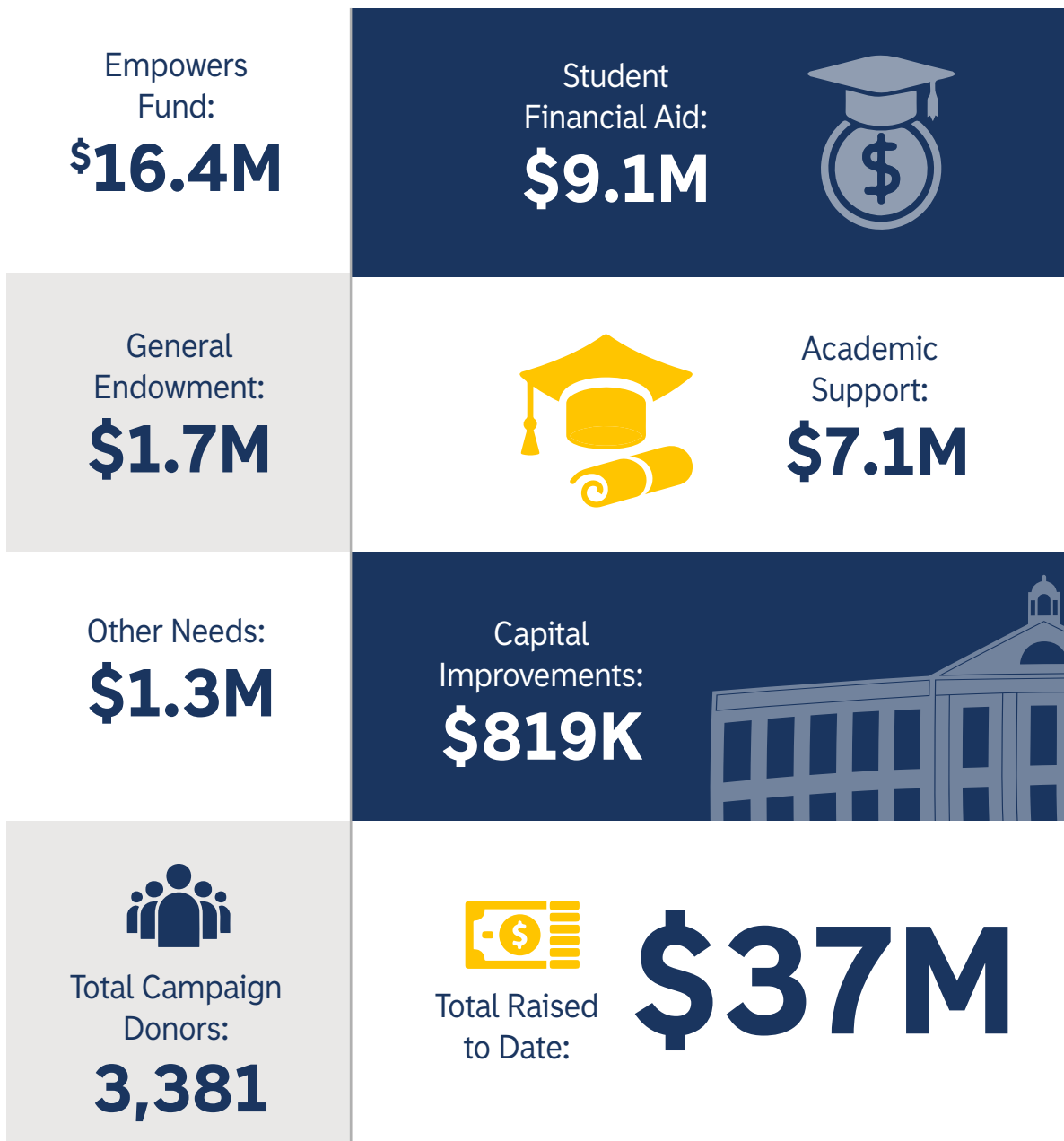
"Thanks to the gifts of many, including the historic commitments of William H. Goodwin Jr. and Alice Goodwin '66 of \$5 million to launch the doctor of nursing practice at MBU's college of health sciences (see page 4 in news section for more) and of Paula Stephens Lambert '65 of \$12.5 million as a legacy gift, we once again had the opportunity to step back, reflect, and move forward boldly," said Charles "Chuck" Davis III, vice president of university advancement. "We knew that the needs of our students, and indeed the world, had changed as the effects of the global pandemic became more clear, and again we took the opportunity to position the campaign for success."





# BY THE NUMBERS

The MBU Empowers Campaign is a comprehensive fundraising campaign with a \$50 million goal. All gifts to MBU in the course of this multi-year effort will count toward the MBU Empowers Campaign, resulting in a single, integrated fundraising initiative. This includes gifts to the Empowers Fund, which directly supports students at Mary Baldwin and is the top giving priority.



\*Amounts as of 12/02/2021

# Lead gift from Paula Stephens Lambert '65 opens next phase for MBU Empowers Campaign



**Watch more at**  
***[mbu.family/EmpowersPL](https://mbu.family/EmpowersPL)***

See Paula Stephens Lambert '65 speak about the inspiration behind her gift, and what Mary Baldwin has meant to her life and career.



With an eye to student benefit, Paula Lambert's \$12.5 million transformational legacy gift was as generous as it was strategic: A significant portion of the funds are dedicated to unrestricted support, enabling Mary Baldwin to pursue exciting new opportunities and nimbly address needs as they arise. It also serves as the lead gift for the next phase of the campaign, jump-starting the push toward the new \$50 million goal.

"I am very honored and humbled tonight to announce this gift from Paula Lambert, one of the most significant in the history of Mary Baldwin," said President Pamela Fox at a campaign dinner for donors and the Board of Trustees in October. "Her entrepreneurial spirit is a guiding light for the entire university, and her generosity enables Mary Baldwin to continue to move forward with foresight and bold innovation."

Lambert, who lives in Dallas, founded award-winning artisan cheese manufacturer, the Mozzarella Company. She has achieved notable culinary honors over the years, including being listed among the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food and Beverage in America.

"I'm just thrilled that a gift like this can make such a difference," she said.

It was over fresh mozzarella in Lambert's company kitchen —



President Fox announced the transformational gift at an October campaign event.

with Lambert wearing her favorite red chef's coat and signature red glasses — that she and Fox first met in 2004. During the visit Lambert shared that her path to success began at Mary Baldwin. She raved about professors feeding her love of culture, language, travel, and adventure.

"I loved being in Virginia, and on that beautiful campus," said Lambert. "When I was there, there was a great faculty, and I just enjoyed it so much."

The time proved pivotal: The small women's college environment launched her confidence and instilled a desire to explore the world.

After graduation Lambert went to live in Perugia, Italy, where she studied Italian language and art history. Experiencing Umbrian food culture inspired her to try to introduce handmade Old World cheeses to the United States on a commercial scale. Her factory became a huge success and now produces more than 40 varieties of artisan cheeses.

Her friendship with Fox deepened over the years during presidential luncheons hosted

by the late Caroline Hunt '43. Lambert began hosting the annual events at her Dallas home after Hunt passed away.

"The most important thing about Mary Baldwin is this series of fantastic presidents that we've had over the years — Cynthia Tyson and Pamela Fox," said Lambert. "They have led the college so deftly and so magnificently, and I'm proud of where it is now."

In 2015, Lambert decided to pay forward the love of travel she'd discovered at MBU: She created a study abroad fund to give students the opportunity to experience life-changing trips like the one that launched her successful career. It has since provided stipends for immersive cultural experiences in countries like India, Germany, and Japan.

Ensuring that these opportunities continue across the years, a portion of Lambert's gift also endows in perpetuity this study abroad scholarship

"I want students to go and have experiences like I did and live abroad, learn a new way of thinking, and meet new people," she said. "I think it will make the world better."

# Student success to transcend the here and now

At the core of MBU's approach to fundraising is direct support of students and the unique programs that help them thrive both at college and beyond.

And this tenet defines the next phase of the campaign, as the university aims to reach its \$50 million goal by June 2023. Over the next year and a half, MBU Empowers strives to connect donors at all levels to the transformative experiences that positively impact students across the university.

"The MBU Empowers campaign provides a forward-looking jumpstart to student success, enabling them to transcend challenges and positively position their future careers and lives," said Fox. "Many of the opportunities the campaign supports can only be found at MBU, and combine in a myriad of ways to help our students develop as inclusive leaders prepared to create positive change."

For example, the university has recently launched a new initiative that will make college nearly tuition free for incoming students with the greatest financial need.

Starting in the fall of 2022, MBU's Pell+ Promise grant will award an additional \$3,000 a year to all new full-time residential students who qualify for the federal Pell Grant. Pell eligibility is based on family income, and the grant usually applies for families that make less than \$60,000 annually.

Mary Baldwin Vice President for Enrollment Management Matt Munsey calls that incredibly important. He cites findings from the Journal of Health and Social Behavior that show low-income first-generation students are about 70 percent less likely to pursue a college degree than their non-first-generation counterparts, and 60 percent less likely to earn a degree after matriculation.

"We see this as the latest evolution in our ongoing commitment to make earning a college degree more accessible and affordable for everyone," said Munsey.

The campaign is uniquely positioned to offer donors the opportunity to help fund Pell+ Promise grants and many other MBU scholarships. The university channels more than

\$16 million in financial aid to students every year, opening the doors to an MBU education to those who may not otherwise be able to afford the costs of tuition, room, board, and other educational needs.

Once students arrive at MBU, they connect to opportunities to build their futures immediately, many of them also supported by the university's generous donors through both unrestricted and designated gifts.

For example, the MBU 101 course equips all first years with skills, knowledge, and resources needed for collegiate learning, while one-on-one advising from faculty helps them explore major options. Unique identity- and purpose-based communities — the Office of Inclusive Excellence, the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership, and MBU student governance, to name a few — yield mentorship from upperclass students and leadership development.

The Vantage Point, MBU's Office of Personal and Professional Development, kicks in early in a student's career to provide internships, experiential learning, career preparation, and networking, as well as insight into personal strengths and passions. Along with many MBU offices, its services are available to students across the university, in undergraduate, graduate, and online programs. And resources like these keep flowing across a student's college years and beyond, through lifelong learning opportunities with the Office of Alumni Engagement.

The MBU Empowers Campaign directly underwrites these key student-centered initiatives and hallmarks of an MBU education, allowing donors to make an impact in the ways that are most meaningful to them.

As a result, students are equipped to be critical creative thinkers, compassionate changemakers, champions of gender equity and cultural inclusivity, and citizens who will impact the world around them. Their journey illustrates the return on education that is forged when individual potential meets a community devoted to empowerment and support.





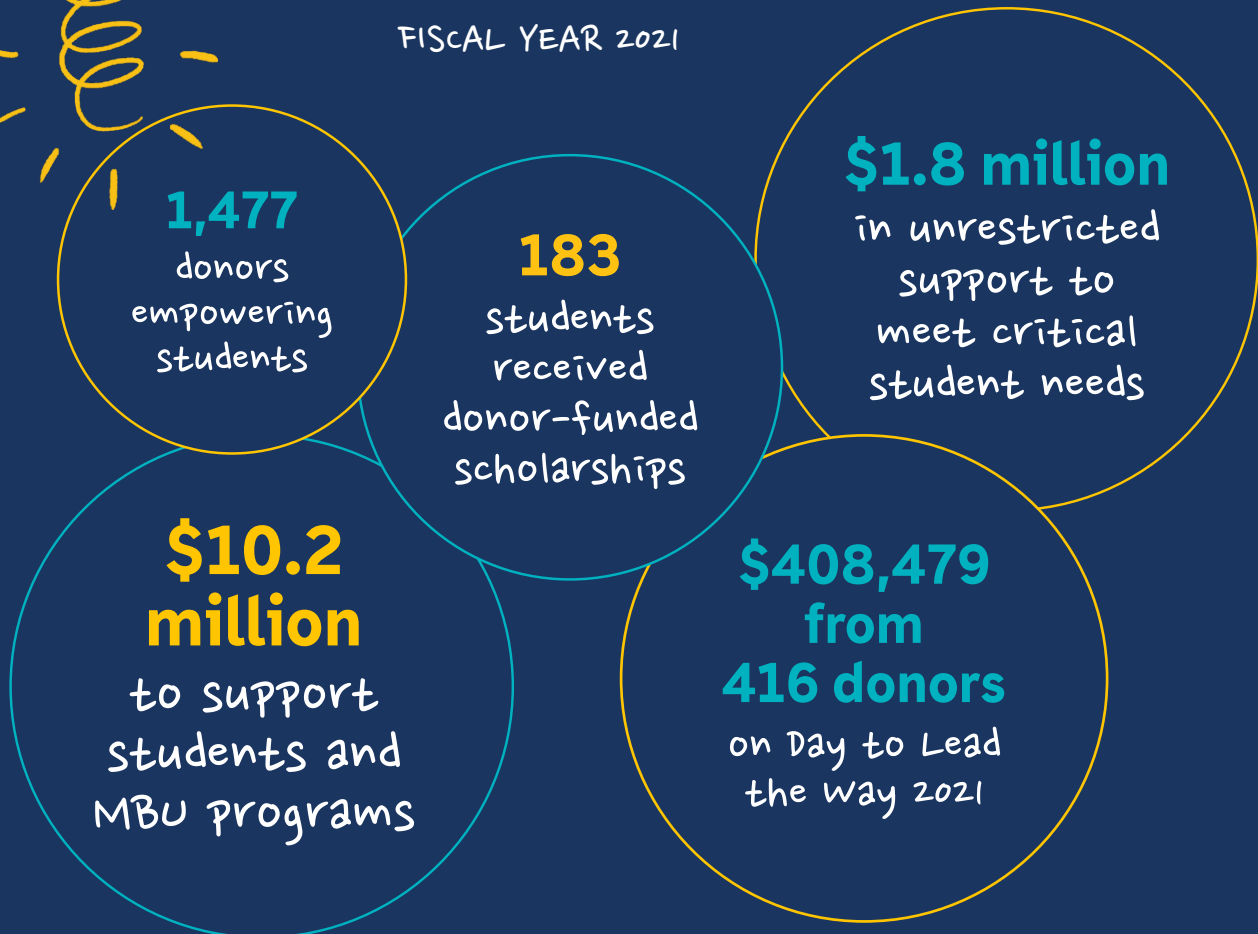
# Crossing the Finish Line

Thanks to the contributions of committed alumni and friends, MBU Empowers is moving forward with a \$50 million goal through June 2023. The campaign is a comprehensive fundraising effort, and all gifts, pledges, and eligible documented planned gifts made to MBU during this time period count toward the total. *Amounts below are as of 12/02/2021*



## Points of Pride:

FISCAL YEAR 2021



# CLASS COLUMNS

The following alumni updates cover the period since the last Mary Baldwin Magazine was published in summer 2020. With a refreshed format, this edition's class notes are organized first by category, then by decade. We hope the streamlined reading experience will most effectively celebrate all of our alumni news and accomplishments!

**Do you have a class note to share?**

Reach out to the Office of Alumni Engagement at [alumni@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:alumni@marybaldwin.edu) or 540-887-7007.

## MILESTONES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

### 1950s

#### MARY SUE SHIELDS

**Nelson '53** sends greetings from her 154-year-old ranch that she manages with her husband, Tom. Mary Sue turned 90 on Halloween this year.

#### BETTY BOYER Bullock

**'56** has taken a number of continuing education courses through her assisted living facility, but has most recently completed an online class at Harvard University: Ancient Masterpieces of World Literature.

#### BETTYE ANN HURT

**Ingram '56** and husband John celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. The two live in the home they've shared together for 57 years, located in the town where they both grew up. The couple loves to travel, and are in good health.

#### LEE MARTIN Frazer

**'56** celebrated 65 years of marriage to husband, Nimrod. The couple remain well, and share five children and nine grandchildren.

### 1960s

#### MARY ROBERTS Judkins

**'63** celebrated her 80th birthday on May 20 with nieces and some friends. Mary lives in Warrenton with her dachshund, Waylon, who turned 16 in Oct.

#### SUSAN THOMPSON

**Timmons '64** has completed a commissioned portrait/landscape painting and is working on paintings for a Nov. exhibition at the Lynchburg Art Club that will include two local artists.

### 1980s

#### DR. LISA PETTY '80

has retired from her practice as a chiropractor and moved to Jacksonville, FL, with her mom.

#### TRUDY MARTIN Rauch '80

announced her retirement from the nonprofit she

founded in 2012, ABBA List, where she served the homeless population of Chesapeake. Trudy and husband Doug have since moved to Crossville, TN.

#### LIBBY MILLER '88

celebrates working for the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Education for 28 years. She's currently serving as a teacher support specialist and program manager for federal programs serving Title I, Title II Part A, and Title IV Part A to area private schools. Libby also owns a local coffee shop and eatery named Friendship Coffee Company on Wilmington Island. She was named the Small Business Assistance Corporation Micro Entrepreneur of 2019. The business will be featured on season two of Amazon Prime's *Beyond the Check* in summer 2021.

### 1990s

#### KRISTAN DAWSON LaFon

**'95** entered her 26th year of teaching. She currently teaches high school biology

at St. George's Episcopal School in Griffin, GA.

### 2010s

#### DR. AUTUMN BUSSUVANNO '10

graduated with her doctor of psychology from Regent University on May 8. She began her post-doctoral fellowship with the Indian Health Board of Minneapolis in August.

**CAIT HENCK '12** recently purchased a house (an old converted church) in Bristol, England.

#### HELENA BILLINGTON

**Hey '12** received her MEd in Montessori integrative learning in May 2021.

#### JESS HAMLET MFA '16

received her PhD in English literature from the University of Alabama's Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies. She accepted the position of assistant professor of English at Alvernia University in Reading, PA, this past fall.



# SAVE THE DATE | JUNE 3-4

## Homecoming 2022

*A hybrid in-person/virtual experience*

There is something for all Mary Baldwin alumni at Homecoming!

With special programming for:

- Class of 1972's 50th Reunion
- Grafton Society (Classes of 1972 and prior)
- Reunion classes ending in a 2 or 7
- Office of Inclusive Excellence's 25th Anniversary

Schedule and registration available in spring at:

[alumni.marybaldwin.edu/Homecoming](https://alumni.marybaldwin.edu/Homecoming)



**JANELL CHAVIS '19, MAT '20** was named one of 10 finalists for the 2020–21 Beginning Teacher of the Year Award for Chesterfield Co. Schools.

## BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES

**MARY MARGARET BEALE Black '56** and husband Frank welcomed their first great-granddaughter, Ruth Elizabeth, of North Carolina.

**CATHY ROSS '72** announces the birth of her first grandchild.

**JENNIFER "JENNA" SMITH Dull '97** married John Michael Dull on September 12, 2020. The two honeymooned in Ocracoke, NC, and reside in Staunton.

**NERISSA DAVIS Stewart '06** and Christopher of Eastvale, CA, welcomed baby Harrison O'Neal Stewart on July 24.

## CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

**1970s**  
**KATHLEEN O'NEILL Frazier '78** has been elevated by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) to its prestigious college of fellows — AIA's highest membership honor — for her exceptional work and contributions to architecture and society.

**1980s**  
**GRACE "CHANDLER" CURD Wheeling '83** serves as a registered nurse at

Centra Lynchburg General Hospital.

**HELEN DOUGLAS Dow '84** was promoted to chief financial and administrative officer at Goodwill of Central and Coastal Virginia.

**SARA RHODENIZER Meradith '85** has taken the position of hematology oncology specialist at Incyte in Omaha, NE.

**1990s**  
**ANGELA PERRI '91** has been appointed chief Medicare officer at UPMC Health Plan in the greater Pittsburgh area. She is also an adjunct professor for the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health teaching healthcare, insurance, and finance for its graduate program.

**KIMBERLY PETERSON Skelly '95** has been named president and executive director of the Martha Jefferson Hospital Foundation, Charlottesville.

**MICHELLE RADLOFF Lubbe '95** was promoted to M&A finance director at The Dow Chemical Company.

**JANE RAPIER Spence '98** has been named the director of stewardship and donor relations at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School in Alexandria.

**JANITZA "JANI" RIVERA '99** has been named an executive business coach, speaker, and trainer with the John Maxwell Team.

## 2000s

**KARLA MACKEY '01** has been named an associate at Booz Allen Hamilton, an information technology consulting company based in Washington, D.C.

**ERIN TANNER Laster '05** has been promoted to an adult protective services lead worker (family services specialist III) for Middlesex County Department of Social Services.

**CHRISTINA "CHRISTY" RAMON Drennen '06** returns to her interior design practice, Honey & Salt Home, having completed elite-level projects in Santa Fe, Birmingham, AL, and Lake Forest, IL. She is taking on new clients, with hopes to be published in the coming year.

**DR. LEIGH FRAME '06** has been appointed associate director of the George Washington University Resiliency & Well-Being Center in Washington, D.C.

**DR. KATHERINE FENSTERMACHER '07** has been named the executive director for the Johns Hopkins Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Response in the department of emergency medicine.

**CHRISTINA SAYER '04, MLITT '06, MFA '08** is now the director of wish granting at Make-A-Wish East Tennessee, Knoxville.

## 2010s

**DR. LINNEA KUGLITSCH '10** has taken the position of historical programming coordinator at Allaire Village, a nonprofit educational



and historic preservation organization in New Jersey.

**ANA ESPINOZA '11** was recently promoted to chief of staff of Airbus Helicopters, Inc. in Grand Prairie, TX.

**MICHELLE PINKSY '12** accepted a position as UX designer for the Virginia Information Technologies Agency.

**LISA JANE WILSON '14** is now the director of sales and marketing for Harmony Senior Services.

**ARIANE ROBINSON, DPT '17** has been named clinic director of Atlanta's Benchmark Physical Therapy in Chamblee.

**CARTER ANDERSON '18** designed and conducted three interactive workshops for national tutoring company Wyzant's summer hobby workshop series on topics like deductive

reasoning and Sherlock Holmes; cryptography and codebreaking; and escape room strategies.

## 2020s

**MORGAN NEAL Weinstein '20** has joined the West Virginia United Health System orthopaedic surgery unit as a physician assistant.

## NEWS

## 1950s

**JESSIE CARR Haden '54** shared that she and **ELIZABETH "WIDGEE" SWITZER Zirkle '54** had a great visit with her former college roommate, **JOHANNA PAUL Elder '54**.

**BETTY BOYER Bullock '56** shared that "I have spoken to about 20 of our classmates, which is about half. Some I

could not reach, some have passed on, and others are not doing so well mentally or physically. Sadly, I can tell you that we have lost four of our classmates: **BARBARA BLACKWELL Coyner**, **MIMI CARPENTER Benston**, **NORMA HEDRICK Barnes**, and **ANNE SNELL Kopple**. There are a number of '56ers who are still living in their homes of 50-plus years. Others have made the big move to a retirement community in either independent or assisted living. And some are caregivers for their spouses."

**DIANE McCLENNEY Macrae '56** and her husband continue to live on the east coast of Florida, where they've been for 20-plus years. She hopes anyone traveling that way will give her a call so they can get together and share a warm sunshine state hug.



**ELAINE BALDWIN '56** lives in the Bay area of Northern California with her two children who work remotely. Elaine walks, prepares home-cooked meals using organic foods, and has a lot of help caring for the house they share with one cat and five Labrador retrievers. She participates in virtual Zoom meets with an American Association of University Women book group, a meditation group, the local Democratic Club, family, and friends. Elaine's younger daughter, Stephanie, lives in NC with her husband, two daughters, and three great-granddaughters.

**LAURA DRUM Clausen '56** and Charles are living in their home of over 50 years. Their two daughters

and families live nearby; their son lives on the West Coast. Laura taught high school math for 42 years and continues to tutor at assisted living facilities and for church families. She also cooks and bakes goodies for those in need. Her grandson taught at a school in India and plans to do so again after the pandemic. Their daughter is a pediatric doctor who goes to Ethiopia twice a year to help out, and has made 20-plus trips to date.

**POO HUNT Roberts '56** is a very busy lady who owns several acres of land which she subdivides for housing and then develops. She is active in her local garden club and church, as well as keeping up with her four beloved sons. Recently

Poo has found time to drive the elderly for COVID vaccinations. Sadly, her husband, Lucian Roberts, passed away in Oct. 2020.

**SHIRLEY PERKINS Jezierski '56** and Michael are both in good health and living in their home of 55 years. Their grandsons live nearby and often help out. The couple has been keeping busy replacing worn out parts, pruning shrubs, and keeping up with their five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## 1960s

**ANNA KATE REID Hipp '63** writes that she still lives in Greenville, SC, but has joined the growing number of widows in the class. Her

husband, Hayne, died last August of MDS, a cancer of the blood. "We spent six weeks at MD Anderson Cancer Center last summer, and I was allowed to share his room. So what would have been a premature separation evolved into a relatively good time: room service, housekeeping service, and a great view of the Houston skyline. Due to COVID, I could not leave the hospital, but there was a lot to explore within the 10-story building. Life is different now, but it does go on." Anna Kate celebrated her 80th birthday in New York with her sister.

**BECKY CANNADAY Merchant '63** worked hard to keep the Secret Granny Society, a volunteer program she launched five years ago,

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up and running during the pandemic. The program helps adults "adopt" underserved elementary-school children for a year or more and make sure they have school supplies, new shoes, clothes, and gifts for Christmas and birthdays.

**TERRY GEGGIE Fridley '63** lives in a townhome in Lexington with her husband, and their son lives locally. They enjoy many activities at Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee. Terry takes water aerobics at the city pool, and plays duplicate bridge and mahjong. She notes the passing of three class members: **ANNE "BIT" SHADE Drane**, **JACKIE KIGHT Hardage**, and **LANE WRIGHT Cochrane**. She keeps up with **SALLY LIVINGSTON Brown** and **CAROLYN HALDEMAN Hawkins**, her former MBC roommates, and also hears from **JERRI BETH PERCIVAL Palmer**. Terry wishes they could have another class trip together!

**EMY MARTIN Halpert '65** and her husband, Michael,

were fully vaccinated and beginning to emerge from pandemic constraints when Michael popped his quad tendon, resulting in three months of very limited walking. He's since recovered and they spent a happy summer in Vail, CO. Emy is a member of her local Rotary Club and plays pickleball with a fun group of women. Her granddaughter graduated high school in 2021 and came for a lengthy stay.

**JAN JONES Collins '65** has been cross-stitching since the 1970s and says it "keeps me out of mischief!" She started with Christmas ornaments then purchased patterns during her and her husband's many travels. One wall in their apartment is covered with 18 personally sewn and framed travel mementos. Scenes depict tulips and windmills in Holland, an English castle, Stonehenge, a Roman tile, Welsh chapel, Celtic cross, the Sydney opera house, a kangaroo, Norwegian village, and the list goes

on. Jan and her husband, Ralph, live in Tryon Estates in Columbus, NC.

**PICKETT CRADDOCK '65** runs the Oak Grove Bed and Breakfast in Cluster Springs in Halifax County. She and husband Michael Doan now live there year round, after finally giving up their residence near Washington, D.C.

**RANDI NYMAN Halsell '65** and husband Ed were at their second home in Vail, CO, before returning to hot, humid Texas in September. The pair have kept busy enjoying music concerts, walking daily, and hosting Randi's sisters and daughter, Susan. Randi celebrated her 60th high school reunion in Fort Worth.

**ANGIER "ANGIE" BROCK '69** spent the early months of the pandemic watching more than 110 operas from the Metropolitan Opera's free broadcasts and archives, and spending many hours birding. She writes: "With this issue, I am relinquishing my role as our class

secretary. Many heartfelt thanks to each of you who has stayed in touch through this forum. I don't yet know who will pick up the mantle, but whoever it is, I hope you will give her the same generous support and timely responses you have given me. All good wishes to each of you!"

Mary Baldwin University wishes to thank Angie Brock for her years of dedication to the Class of 1969 and her wonderful service as class secretary. We will miss you dearly!

**INGRID STALHEIM Andrews '69** has remained busy in her Southern California home volunteering on nonprofit boards, reading biographies of the founding fathers and mothers, watching Hallmark movies, and working on a knitting project (an Aran afghan for her grandson, Otis, made up of twenty 12-inch squares, each of a different pattern). Grandson Otis celebrated his bar mitzvah last May. Ingrid traveled to see family in Michigan, California, and Salt Lake City.

**JANE TOWNES '69** has missed a lot of long-standing beloved traditions during the pandemic. For the first time in 73 years, she was unable to attend a big horse show in Aug./Sept. She was also remiss about being unable to see her extended family (about 30 or so people) for a 2020 Christmas gathering. "As the most senior person of the group, I hated not keeping the tradition going. It means less to the younger set, 20 to 30-somethings,

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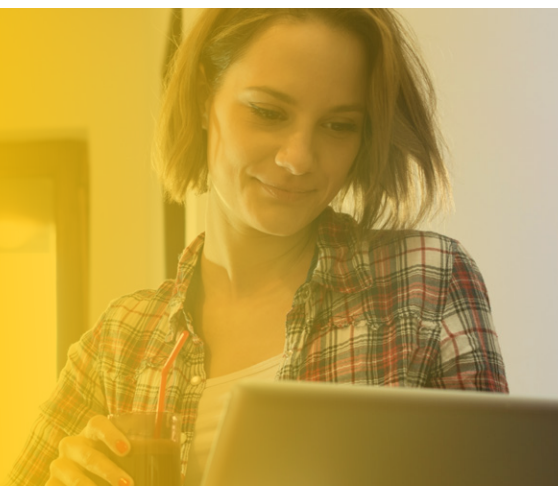
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so I'm afraid the event will die out. If we had gathered the usual cast of characters, there would have been at least six people in the high-risk category for COVID-19, and the crowd would have come from different counties — lots of mixing of the germ pool."

**JUDY BARNETT Dutterer '69** would like to share that the following classmates gathered in May for a three-hour lunch in Richmond: **SUZY HARTLEY Barker, JUDY BARNETT Dutterer, MOLLY HUTCHINSON Priddy, and NEELY GARRETT Axselle.**

**JUDY GALLOWAY '69** is staying busy conducting digital and conventional marketing research, and teaching as an adjunct at New York University. She's also enjoying occasional visits with Mary Baldwin friends. "We graduated 52 years ago, and my MBC

friends are still my most treasured friends."

**LYNN WHITE Cobb '69** helped her grandchildren and daughter in New Jersey during pandemic-imposed virtual school and after-class activities. She created fun adventures for learning about the 50 states and reading Gary Paulsen's five books in his adventure series with grandson Mac, 12. And she created a beginning reading series and interactive doll schoolhouse for her granddaughter Charlie Claire, 7.

**SARA "SALLY" JAMES '69** has loved and missed traveling abroad with her post-retirement Smithsonian Journeys gig, and hopes to get back to it soon. Her daughter, **BROOKS JAMES '98**, got caught in the COVID-19 crosswires and has moved in with Sally, which is going well. Sally is working on a book manuscript. In

June 2021, she traveled with her son Clark Laster and his two children to regional national parks.

**SUSAN CHRIST Campbell '69** has rejoiced in reconvening with the Payson United Methodist Church Grace Notes handbell ringers. She volunteers at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park two days a week, where she uses her customer service and historical skills, and growing geology knowledge, while getting good exercise and fresh air at an amazing natural wonder.

## 1970s

**BARBARA BUTLER Leonard '71** has moved from Northern Virginia to Charlottesville.

**BONNIE BRACKETT Weaver '71** has moved after 38 years in the same home to a new one-story home in West Palm Beach where she

and her husband no longer worry about hurricanes. Their oldest daughter Kate lives in Auburn, AL, with husband Robert and her two daughters, Annie aged 9, and Maggie, 6. Annie plays piano and tennis; Maggie loves her Korean classmates. Bonnie and Robert's youngest daughter, Krissie, teaches 5th grade and hopes to return to school to become a guidance counselor.

**CATHERINE "KIT" O'BANNON Llewellyn '71** traveled with husband John and six friends from Louisville to New Zealand and Australia in 2020. They attended the Australia Open amid threatening fires and soon-to-be issues caused by COVID. Tennis continues to be Kit's passion. Her son, Austin, purchased his first home — which he shares with his brother Tyler, and their dog, Virgie. Kit enjoys pickleball, reading, cooking ethnic dinners with her sons, and organizing closets. She celebrated 38 fun years of marriage to John in December 2020.

**EMMA DAVIS Napier '71** has returned to the states from Australia and is living in Forest. Her daughter is settled in South Australia and has two grown children. Emma's daughter-in-law has remarried since her son's passing four years ago, and is living in Charleston, SC, with Emma's three lovely granddaughters.

**J. J. HILL Doughtie '71** "Can't believe it is our 50th reunion! I retired from Alzheimer's and Dementia Services of Memphis in 2019.

Enjoying retirement even during the pandemic."

**JAN TRIPLETT '71**, PhD started the BSC Global Business Forum in March 2020, a weekly online meeting to bring business owners together to support each other and share their business management expertise. Takeaways included new resources, connections, and management tools. Jan announces with great sadness the death of **POLLY WYSOR Anderson**. "Class members may remember how she opened her house and her heart to those of us who could not get home during Thanksgiving and other breaks. She deserves to be an honorary Baldwin girl. Thanks for all you did, and for giving us such a wonderfully kind and talented classmate in Blanche."

**JANE SHORTELL Nelson '71** celebrates that she, Steve, Karen, and Jenny are fine. Steve is retired and their daughters are working from home.

**KAE ENGLISH Roberts '71** retired from the Charlotte Mecklenburg school system after a 30-plus year career, where she worked as an assistant director of student information. She moved near old-town Winston-Salem where her daughter, Kristin, and son-in-law live (they are Wake Forest grads). She is active in the Moravian church, where she volunteers with their Candle Tea Celebration in early December. She also helps with her two granddaughters.

Her son, a University of Virginia grad, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, where he met his wife of two years.

**KATHERINE DOWNIE '71** and best MBC friend **MARTHA BOOTH Jennison '70** have traveled together with three other friends every year since 1976. Katherine's career has spanned a social worker, school teacher, and now includes teaching art/creativity at a residential center for struggling teenagers. "My beloved, funny, kind, depressed, isolating only child, Thomas Leland Murphy, died by suicide at age 29 in 2013." During this time she stayed with her sister, **HELEN KELSEY DOWNIE Harrison '64** and husband Fred. "Through the hardest times I have always felt the everlasting arms that will not let me fall. I thank God for Dr. and Mrs. Grafton, good friends I made at MBC, and the mandatory church/chapel attendance that enabled me to learn from Welford Hobbie."

**LAUREL "LOLLY" CATCHING Anderson '71** enjoyed celebrating the 50th Reunion of her class virtually in June, and in person in October. The past 18 months have been "fast and slow at the same time: COVID; losing my sister, **CARM CATCHING '76**, and her husband; dealing with my 96-year-old mother's health issues; and handling Carm's estate." Lolly is now focusing on the nonprofit she and her mother founded 13 years ago, Visionary Oklahoma Women, which supports transformative

projects in art, education, and community needs.

**PAMELA SPEARS Womack '71** decided to pursue a calling to teach and coach the Enneagram personality testing method. In May, she completed a 12-week course to become a coach. She and husband Wil are building an apartment for her mother, who is 96. Pam's daughter, Claire, her husband Charles, and their 6-year-old daughter, Eva, live in Brookhaven. Her son, Ben, is in Evansville, IN, with his wife of two years; they are laying the groundwork to plant a church there.

**SUSAN "SU" NORTON Minor '71** and husband Rob moved to Lexington in late 2019, and it is quite the change from their lives in Nashville. She looks forward to meeting more people and traveling after the pandemic.

**HARRIET STONEBURNER Bell '72** sold her house of 43 years in February. She and Frazier are now living in Crozet.

**JILL BUTLER Pendleton '72** has enjoyed gathering class news for several years and staying in touch with so many fellow classmates! "Now it's time to hand over the reins to another classmate. Mary Baldwin collects alumni news twice a year, so it's not a time consuming job."

MBU thanks Jill for her years of dedication to the Class of 1972 and her wonderful service as class secretary. We will miss you!

**OLIVIA WATSON Neill '72** and husband John have one

grandchild, Sophie Neill, age 4, daughter of son Jack and his wife, Audrey (who are expecting a second baby in Feb. 2022). They have just moved to Tupelo, MS, where Jack will start a vascular surgery practice. Son Bob and his wife, Ali, who live in Medellin, Colombia, have a baby boy due in January 2022.

**ROWENA LLOYD Turco '72** is still living in Nîmes and appreciating more and more the calm and good weather in Provence.

**SUSAN MYERS '72** has kept busy during this year with gardening successes — for instance, a *Phytolacca americana* suitable in size for a small Christmas tree, and an over-achiever butterfly bush destined to be Audrey III in the next *Little Shop of Horrors* film. She has kept in good health through an imaginative athletic regimen — hiking, lap swims, and yoga as alternatives to ironing her body parts. Susan serves as the vice president of the local Second Thursday Ladies Music Club, is a content consultant to Romanian cybersecurity designers, and has a "relentless obsession with channeling Moira Rose from *Schitt's Creek*." Susan returned to her Mecca — aka New York City — in June. She also spent a wonderful afternoon at a celebration of life for **CAROLINE Watts** — "both trips down memory lane to cherish."

**KATHERINE "KATY" COLVILLE Reid '74** is enjoying her virtual "Spin" studio. Her husband, Gary,



has set her up a great place to workout and to teach virtual cycling classes.

**PATRICIA "PATTY" LACY '74** and her husband celebrated their anniversary at Gearhart by the Sea in Gearhart, OR, where they toured Ft. Clatsop (where Lewis and Clark wintered from 1805–06). She is loving spending time with her five grandchildren, aged 10, 7, 6, 3, and 2.

**REBECCA BIEN Sullivan '74** has been making some amazing quilts, mainly for the Lutheran World Relief program. She also spends time kayaking and volunteering with the local fire and rescue service.

## 1980s

**LAURA REED Bivans '80** retired in July 2020 to support her parents who have been having health issues. Laura's dad, 88, took a fall and had quadrilateral surgery and emergency hernia surgery within a five-day span. Her mother also fell and shattered her right wrist. Both parents are home and released from care. Laura's daughter, Margie, and her husband have also suffered the loss of a child, who was stillborn at 8 months. Her son, Thomas, is still driving semi trucks and bought a house this year in Fessenden, ND.

**ELIZABETH NEWKIRK '88** moved to Seattle two years ago. She's enjoying the beautiful area and playing lots of tennis.

**ELIZABETH PEABODY Stass '88** splits time between Richmond and

Deltaville, and has been working as an executive with Firstsource/MedAssist for more than five years. Elizabeth is also the current commodore of the Fishing Bay Yacht Club, and enjoys sailboat racing as well as supporting her youngest daughter on the race team. Elizabeth's oldest daughter starts this fall in college as a Division I women's lacrosse player in South Carolina.

**LISA DRESSLER Garst '88** had a great visit with **MEG HARTLEY Buchanan** recently at Meg's home in Chattanooga, TN. Meg and her husband, Eric, are godparents to Lisa and Reid's daughter, Ashby. Also, their dogs are related, and from Brickwood Kennels in Lexington.

**MARGARET MATHIS Lindeman '88** celebrates becoming a grandmother with her youngest daughter, Margaret, giving birth to a baby girl named Everly. Her oldest daughter got married in Nashville, TN, last November. She continues to teach third grade, and is loving it.

**SUSAN "CEA CEA" MUSSER '88** lives in central Georgia, and is an ESL specialist in her school district, where her fluency in French and Spanish help her communicate with students and families. Her eldest son is a seminarian with the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and is studying to become a Catholic priest. Her younger son graduated from college last year with a focus on radio and film, and is getting his foot in the door in the film industry — most

notably having worked with Shaquille O'Neal on a few assignments.

## PUBLICATIONS

**JEANE "BETTE" MURDOCH Joyer '63** published two books in the "beach reading" genre on Amazon — *Secrets of Ashland Lake*, and *Return to Ashland Lake*. She is midway through writing a third book.

**LIZA NASH Taylor '81** published two novels, *Etiquette for Runaways*, and *In All Good Faith*.

**JENNIFER MARSHALL McIlquham '94** published her first novel in November 2020 under the pen name Parker Fairchild. It is a Christmas themed romantic comedy titled *Christmas Cookies on a Cruise Ship*.

**ALISHA "AILI" HEIMBUCH Huber MLITT '06, MFA '10** has published a book, *Cutting Plays for Performance: A Practical and Accessible Guide*, with co-author Toby Malone, PhD.

## SAVE THE DATE

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March 25-26, 2022

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## IN LOVING MEMORY

### 1930s

**RUTH ROSE GALEY Welliver '38**, April 29, 2021

**ESTHER "Brame" PROFFITT Spessard '39**, April 12, 2021

### 1940s

**MARGARET HERSCHER HITCHMAN '40**, March 11, 2021

**NITA RAY Martin '40**, December 7, 2020

**EMMA JANE Hagan '43**, April 15, 2021

**MARGARET VIRGINIA MCMURRAY Hottel '43**, October 26, 2020

**VIRGINIA HEINITSH Anderson '45**, August 15, 2020

**SABINE GOODMAN Andrews '46**, July 18, 2020

**JEAN TRIMBLE Brewer '46**, January 9, 2021

**JOAN MORAN Smith '46**, September 25, 2020

**HARRY LEE Billington '47**, May 10, 2021

**EMILY WALLACE Hundley '47**, January 25, 2021

**ELLEN MCDONALD Minet '47**, June 27, 2021

**MARY BETH REED Smyth '47**, July 22, 2021

**HELEN HICKS MOSELEY Gant '49**, April 14, 2021

**ELLEN FINLEY ANDREWS Hunter '49**, May 20, 2021

**EVELYN SALMON LACY Roberson '49**, March 8, 2021

### 1950s

**JOHANNA WESTLEY Lucas '50**, June 2, 2021

**PATRICIA ROGERS Perkins '50**, March 23, 2021

**MARTHA MCMULLEN Aasen '51**, October 23, 2020

**SUZANNE FLOTO Brown '51**, July 26, 2020

**ELIZABETH ROGERSON Scott '51**, July 24, 2021

**ELIZABETH BLOUNT Brundick '52**, August 16, 2020

**JUDITH WHITNEY Godwin '52**, May 29, 2021

**NANCY MCMILLAN Gray '52**, November 11, 2020

**MAY THORNTON McCavitt '52**, February 26, 2021

**ANNE MORRIS STUART Richardson '52**, February 11, 2021

**NANCY WILEMON Smith '52**, December 2, 2020

**NANCY GRAY Waller '52**, December 8, 2020

**VIRGINIA PATRICIA "PATTI" BURR Zeigler '52**, March 9, 2021

**DOROTHY "JOAN" LAUDERBACH Anderson '53**, June 4, 2021

**GAIL LEAP JOHNSON Beust '53**, July 17, 2021

**JENNIE EVANS Dille '53**, September 30, 2020

**RUTH LEE PARSONS NEILL Johnson '53**, July 10, 2021

**ETHEL M. Smeak '53**, September 7, 2021

**JOAN CRAIG MARTIN Tuckwiller '53**, March 6, 2021

**ANN BROADNAX Blakely '54**, July 29, 2020

**MARIAN HOLLINGSWORTH Cusac '54**, December 5, 2020

**ADELAIDE "ADDIE" MCLAUGHLIN Ours '54**, November 2, 2020

**MARY BRYAN '56**, date unknown

**BARBARA BLACKWELL Coyner '56**, February 10, 2021

**NANCY BROWN Howe '57**, May 8, 2021

**SUSAN WALTON CARPER Lee '57**, March 8, 2021

**JUDITH ROBINSON Mitchell '57**, May 4, 2020

**PATSY Poovey '58**, November 7, 2020

**SANDRA CHRISTMAN Garland '59**, December 2, 2020

### 1960s

**LINDA EARLE Duncan '60**, August 5, 2021

**MARY MCCONCHIE Schultz '60**, July 22, 2020

**PATRICIA "PATSY" BALLOU Trevillian '60**, June 21, 2021

**MARY MARGARET "PEGGY" PENZOLD Fooks '61**, September 9, 2021

**LYNN TERRELL Gafford '61**, November 21, 2020

**SYLVIA CUELLAR Luedtke '61**, July 15, 2020

**KATHERINE SMITH Tinker '61**, April 23, 2021

**KAREN SCHULTZ Bain '62**, July 18, 2021

**MARY KATE FULLER Densmore '62**, June 2, 2021

**KAY BRONSTAD Hughes '62**, September 1, 2020

**SARAH "SALLY" MORTON SWINDELL Rinehart '62**, February 21, 2021

**FRANCES WENTZ TABER '62**, July 23, 2020



**JULIA "LANE" WRIGHT Cochrane '63**, June 22, 2021

**ANNE "BIT" SHADE Drane '63**, June 16, 2021

**ANNE GILLESPIE Clements '65** died suddenly on July 24, 2021. Anne was being treated for colon cancer, but her death was unexpected. She was the wife of Thomas C. Clements, whom she was married to for over 56 years. Her loss is mourned by sister-in-law and former college roommate, **ELIZABETH MATTHEWS Morgan '65**, her children Kelly C. Bruce and William C. Clements, and three grandchildren. Anne was a longtime resident of Bethlehem, PA, and was a dedicated volunteer, serving over 5,000 hours in the Gift Shop of St. Luke's Hospital. She was an avid gardener — and her flowers were the stuff of envy. She and Tom also enjoyed hosting exchange students from around the world in their home.

**JANE CRADDOCK Reisinger '65**, March 29, 2021

**SUSAN SPICKARD Uhlig '65**, March 28, 2020

**DOROTHY DUNCAN JONES Walcott '65**, March 3, 2021

**KATHERINE WEST Burkhart '66**, March 29, 2021

**AVRIL LAUGHLIN Chase '66**, November 12, 2020

**JANE ELLEN VIA Illi '66**, April 25, 2020

**BARBARA HANNA Joyner '67**, July 10, 2020

**MARY CLAIRE LIVERMORE McDermott '67**, February 12, 2021

**M. ELIZABETH PREDDY '67**, December 29, 2020

**SUSAN McKEOWN Waters '67**, May 22, 2021

**LELA BOUDIN Cowardin '68**, March 15, 2021

**MARY BUVINGER Hoffman '68**, September 5, 2020

**EMILY MCGAY '69**, February 18, 2021

**CORRIE SMITH Sargeant '69**, November 22, 2020

## 1970s

**CAROLYN CARLETON Campsey '70**, July 26, 2020

**MARTHA MURPHY Davis '71**, October 22, 2020

**JACKIE LYNN Guadagnoli '71**, March 21, 2021

**MOLLY GRANT Neely '71**, September 8, 2020

**JUNE Traviesas '71**, May 2, 2020

**ELIZABETH WATTS Gore '72**, August 16, 2020

**CAROLINE Watts '72**, November 8, 2020

**PATRICE "PAT" SNODDY Wall '75**, September 24, 2020

**CHESLEY WYNNE Walters '77**, June 27, 2021

## 1980s

**RICHARD Miller '81**, May 10, 2021

**JEAN SHEFFER Coffey '82**, June 22, 2021

**ELIZABETH "SKIP" WILDER Tewksbury '85**, July 13, 2021

**CONSTANCE "CONNIE" MAY Smiley '87**, June 5, 2021

**MARY FYOCK '88**, wife of Michael, passed away on May 18, 2020 due to pancreatic cancer.

**RAYMA FOX Lacks '88**, September 25, 2020

**JENNIFER "JENNY" SIMPSON Raimey '89**, July 9, 2020

**CAROLYN SUE Shatterly '89**, September 13, 2021

## 1990s

**CAROLYN CORRELL Sanford '94**, July 16, 2021

**TONDI Holt '95**, February 28, 2021

**KATHRYN SHIPLETT Knight '96**, June 1, 2021

## 2000s

**DIANE Magnifico '00**, May 14, 2020

**TANIA LYLE Flavin '03**, September 15, 2020

**CAROLINE WALD Colvin '07**, October 1, 2020

**MAEGAN PAULEY Hoy '09**, October 24, 2020

## Faculty/Trustees/Friends

Former adjunct faculty member, **Dr. Charles Aiken Houston Jr.**, December 29, 2020

**VIRGINIA "GINI" DUDLEY Ridge**, former director of dining services, July 6, 2020

Former Trustee and chairman of the Board of Trustees **Charles S. Luck III**, father of **CYNTHIA LUCK HAW '79**, December 1, 2020

Former Trustee **MICHAEL Rapier**, father of **JANE RAPIER Spence '98**, December 6, 2020

Former Trustee **Judge HARRY Wellford**, April 17, 2021

**LISA Zimmer**, mother of **Jennifer Milby '99**, October 7, 2020

**Dr. EARLYNN Miller**, April 19, 2021

Professor Emerita of Art **Dr. MARY TUCK Echols**, December 28, 2020

Our condolences to **MILDRED "MICKEY" Shuford** on the loss of her husband, **Charles Hunt Shuford Sr.**, the father of the late **MARY Shuford '83** and a former Trustee, July 19, 2021

# SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Lavoughnda White MBA '20 wanted to found a company to fight colorism. MBU helped her make that dream a reality.



In 2016 Lavoughnda White MBA '20 was on the way to the Washington D.C. school where she taught second grade when a friendly-seeming young Black man approached her: "I just want to let you know that you're pretty to be dark skinned."

"It took me a second to process the subtext," said White, an African American. Her first response was a burst of expletives. Then she caught her breath. "I looked him in the eye and said: 'Nah, I'm just pretty.'"

The incident stayed with her — and ultimately inspired her to found a social enterprise company that was recently celebrated by *Forbes Magazine* for its efforts to fight colorism.

"I couldn't stop thinking about it," said White, now 33. Her emotions oscillated between anger and confusion: The event embodied an oppressive undercurrent that had plagued her since

childhood. "I kept asking myself, 'Why am I letting this guy's ignorant remark get to me like this?'"

White needed to deconstruct and contextualize her experience, and the feelings it had evoked. She turned to peers in educational online forums for clues. Within days she was devouring magazine features and scholarly articles about the pernicious social phenomenon known as "colorism."

"Colorism refers to discrimination based on skin color within a particular race or ethnic group," said National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) spokesperson Erika Rain Wilhite. In the United States, "it disadvantages people with darker skin by upholding [Eurocentric] standards of beauty that, in turn, afford greater benefits to those with lighter skin."

While colorism is a global issue, its prevalence in the U.S. stems from the

racist legacy of slavery. African Americans are therefore disproportionately affected, and women in particular. Research conducted by organizations like the NCCJ has linked darker skin with increased instances of childhood bullying, higher rates of prosecution, longer prison terms, fewer job prospects, lower salaries, reduced likelihood of marriage — the list goes on.

White called discovering the above infuriating, "but also empowering."

"I realized I'd been subjected to colorism since I was a little girl," she said. "I'd never understood why, [even among Black people], there was this disdain for darker skin. I hadn't been able to put a name to what I was experiencing, much less understand [its sociological origins and psychological effects]."

Probing early memories she recalled things like family members making condescending remarks about



"I knew right away I was in the right place," said Lavoughnda White MBA '20, of MBU. "I'd found where I belonged; I had no doubt the program was going to help me make my business a success."

their darker-skinned peers. Friends wondered why their sisters were being celebrated like princesses for having a lighter complexion. In high school and college, men sometimes told White they didn't find "dark" women attractive. At early jobs she witnessed dark-skinned female peers being reprimanded for raising concerns in an "aggressive tone" that was, in fact, indiscernible from those employed by white coworkers.

Here's how she described the experience of growing up with dark skin to *Forbes Magazine* last March:

*"How do you communicate to people that you hated your skin tone and wanted to bleach your skin to become lighter, just so you could feel beautiful and accepted by society? I didn't! I internalized; I tried to make myself as invisible as possible. I figured if I could remain unseen, then the 'Blacky' jokes would magically skip over me. I subsequently spent years in bondage to other people's ideas of me, and the negative thoughts that I had about my own beauty."*

But now that White was armed with the knowledge and language she needed to understand and protect herself?

"Everything changed," she said.

"For the first time, I could truly see my own beauty, and embrace myself as beautiful. I finally felt safe to love and accept myself."

The catharsis filled White with fiery

inspiration: "No young girl should have to wait until their late-20s to feel that," she said. Colorism has to be dismantled and eradicated ASAP.

White's journey to awareness had primed her to take up the cause.

She started by asking: "What can I do that will have the greatest impact?"

White had earned a BA in communications from the University of Michigan and co-founded a nonprofit called Helping Young People Evolve, which taught children in underserved communities communication skills, conflict resolution, and self expression through dance. In recent years, she'd become intrigued by social enterprise brands like Helpsy, a company that helps consumers reuse and recycle old clothes.

"I started thinking about how apparel has this unique power to be both an outward expression of identity and a message to others," said White. She imagined her assertion, "Nah, I'm just pretty," emblazoned across t-shirts, handbags, hoodies, hats, and more. With the right branding, it could be a rallying call and mission statement rolled into one. Better still, customers would likely be interested in related activism and educational initiatives, which could be funded by profits from sales.

There was just one catch: White knew little about running a business. She decided to pursue an MBA to prepare herself.

Her search began with top-ranking business schools like Stanford, Northwestern, the University of Chicago, and MIT. Then White discovered Mary Baldwin.



White used a semester studying abroad at the University of Cape Town in South Africa to connect with local artisans. Together they created a specialty line of products — including the wagwan duffle bag pictured above.

"I loved how the program was centered around sustainability, environmental responsibility, ethical practices, and social justice," she said.

But there was more: Professors presented themselves not as one-and-done lecturers, but as allies and mentors that were deeply invested in their students' success. Alumni raved about small class sizes, the intensity of student engagement, and MBU's focus on lifelong community — which combined to create an incredible learning experience and career-spanning friendships.

"Everybody I talked to — professors, staff, alumni — they were all so friendly, inviting, and caring," said White. "They went out of their way to find out who I was, and what I was trying to do ... I realized very quickly Mary Baldwin was a special kind of institution."

White enrolled in online classes in

2018 and discovered that, if anything, the university's marketing materials and reviews had been understated.

"I knew right away I was in the right place," she said. "I'd found where I belonged; I had no doubt the program was going to help me make my business a success."


White spent the next two years honing plans for and launching Nah I'm Just Pretty under the expert guidance of professors like Dr. Joanne Tritsch. Along the way she studied business and social entrepreneurship from a global perspective, deconstructed the social impact policies of companies like Ben & Jerry's with an eye toward implementation, and spent a semester studying abroad at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, where she connected with local artisan manufacturers for what has since become a specialty line of products.

By the time White graduated in

2020, Nah I'm Just Pretty had sold its first items of clothing. Within a year buzz around the brand was attracting the attention of major media outlets like *Forbes*. National exposure brought a flood of sales, which White parlayed into virtual workshops and town hall events to educate people about colorism, and give them a forum to share stories about its harmful effects.

Looking to the future, she hopes to pilot a youth outreach program in St. Louis (where she currently lives) to teach Black middle schoolers about colorism. Her goal is to use it as a springboard for national expansion.

"This is about so much more than selling t-shirts," said White, who refers to her customers as the Nah I'm Just Pretty "village." "It's about building an activist community that's capable of affecting a national movement to ensure no child is made to feel less-than simply because of the color of their skin."




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- Empowering centers like the Office of Inclusive Excellence
- Transformative experiences like study abroad, internships, and the annual Capstone Festival

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**Make your gift** and empower our diverse community of learners at all stages of life and career.



# PARTING SHOT



“I’m from Durham, NC, and was looking into physician assistant programs on the East Coast. I happened upon MBU’s and it looked really interesting, so I went ahead and set up a campus visit. Once I got there, I immediately fell in love with the area — the Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah Valley were just stunningly beautiful!”

— Montana Weitzel MSPA '21