

Class of 1968 - Questionnaire Responses

Patty Jenkins Thomas

1. The 2008 me is amazed that I survived-----the high cholesterol foods -----at Mary Baldwin.
2. The most fun I "tricks" on fellow dorm members with my roommate Alice Lacy.
3. Life has taken me: on a fabulous adventure: I've done lots of things ranging from being a wife, mother of 3, teacher, tutor, data processing manager, decorator artist, community and church volunteer, traveler -----and more to come ----- hopefully. I love it all.
4. I am proud of: Aside from raising my 3 children to become professionals, I have developed a tutoring business where I have been instrumental in helping many high school students get into the college of their choice.

Patty Thomas

Cece Davis Stevens

1. 4 years
2. living in Spanish House for 2 years
3. Currently unemployed and heavy-duty job-hunting.
4. And, yes, I'm most proud of my 2 girls--Heather is now 36 & married, Meredith is 32 & married, and Mere will be at MBC for her 10th reunion the same weekend!
I'm really looking forward to the weekend.

Cece

Anne Kinnier Driscoll

1. The 2008 me is amazaed that I survived all the crazy things we did on "date nights" at Mary Baldwin. I always hoped my children would not be so bold (No questions please!).
2. The most fun I had at Mary Baldwin was in the dorms, playing bridge, talking about guys and phone calls (BCWCB---I love it!), and seeing my friends dress up like the Supremes and have concerts!
3. Today I am enjoying every minute of life in so many different ways!!!! Still teaching a little French, mentoring student teachers in all curriculum areas, staying very involved at First Presbyterian, enjoying my adorable grandchildren in Charlotte, traveling and enjoying friendships - new and old - in Richmond and beyond.

4. I am very proud to have had a 33 year career as a French teacher and to have been able to balance family, career, community and friendships. I think the values that I developed during my childhood and during my education have enabled me to enjoy life and learning and have given me great personal rewards. I am so glad that my parents led me to Mary Baldwin College when they said, "Anne, you can choose any college you want, but we'd like it to be in Virginia and to be Presbyterian!"

Susan (Merklas) Kahn

Just realized as I was going through my packet for the reunion that I forgot to answer the questions! This may be too late, but I'll give it a try --

1. The 2008 me is amazed that I survived Orals at Mary Baldwin (barely, as I remember...)
2. The most fun I had at Mary Baldwin was the weekend of skiing at the Homestead over semester break -- the memory of being one of 89 people stuffed into a motel room -- we were trying for some kind of record.
3. Life has taken me many places, for which I'm very grateful. Shortly after getting married, I left for Japan with my new husband for two years while he was in the Navy -- a fabulous experience. We then lived in Boston while he was in business school, then moved to Florida (my home state), first in Naples, but since 1974 in Miami (actually Coral Gables). While we have spent most of our married life here, we have had some wonderful travel -- throughout Europe several times, a safari in Kenya and Tanzania, hiking the Inca Trail in Peru, to New Zealand and Australia and Hawaii, Hong Kong, and numerous trips to South America while my husband was developing a couple of building projects in Argentina and Uruguay.
4. What I'm most proud of -- of course my three children, now 36, 32, and 28. They are all happily married; my two daughters work in my husband's homebuilding/development company, and our son (in the middle) is finishing his residency in radiology at UVA and after his fellowship next year plans to be an interventional radiologist. We have three adorable grandchildren, two boys 5 and 3, and a girl, 2 (and one on the way). I had a "vastly interrupted" career (to raise kids) in marketing, and was most recently a marketing vice president for an international bank and trust company -- I retired three years ago. Kept my hand in writing (started out as a newspaper reporter) and am now writing a monthly humor column for "Miami Today" which won first place last year for humor writing from both the Florida Press Assn. and the National Newspaper Assn. It's called "Life in the Magic City."

Look forward to seeing you at the reunion!

Susan (Merklas) Kahn

Becky Chapman Williams

1. The 2008 me is amazed that I survived 4 years of having exams AFTER Christmas vacation.
2. The most fun I had at Mary Baldwin was Apple Day with friends.

3. Life has taken me to 18+ years of teaching math at Mary Baldwin College and Blue Ridge Community College after raising 3 children and being at home with them for 13 years.

4. I am most proud of my 3 children Elizabeth (33 years old), Joseph (30 years old), and Chapman (26 years old) who are well-adjusted, happy, and successful in their careers and who are best friends. I am also proud of my husband Joe who I will have been married to for 40 years in December 2008! We continue to do things as a family with Elizabeth and her husband Scott, Joseph and his wife Dorinda, and Chapman-especially spending time together at Smith Mountain Lake at our second home.

Becky

Jeannette Norfleet

Wishing all of you a great reunion weekend, I offer here a few reflections:

Majoring in German at Mary Baldwin led to my attending a summer Goethe Institut course in 1967. This turned out to be just the first of many trips I have made to Germany. My most memorable experience was working for two and a half years at the U.S. Embassy in Bonn in the '70's. A cherished friendship with a German family has lasted nearly forty years.

What am I most proud of? I would use the phrase "happy about" instead. My academic career at MBC was decidedly lackluster, but the education I received proved to be an invaluable foundation. I later went on to study for and earn two master's degrees, and I have acquired what will surely be a lifelong love of learning. When my daughter left for college, I became a graduate student for the second time and received my M.A. in Germanic Languages at the age of 58. My full-time job is as a public school speech therapist, but the work I really love is translating, particularly documents written in old German script.

The biggest challenge I have faced has been the role of single parent, which I stepped into when my children were six and nine. My son now lives in Northern Virginia and works for an insurance company, and my daughter lives near Charlotte and works as a financial planner.

Jeannette Norfleet

Cynthia Knight Wier

1. The 2008 me is amazed that I survived survived *math* at Mary Baldwin.
2. The most fun I had at Mary Baldwin was *living in Gooch House our senior year*. Thirteen of us – plus a cat and a baby alligator for a short while – lived in the house next to the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace.
3. I left MBC after graduation and moved to Richmond where I spent about a year working in the advertising department at Miller & Rhoads downtown. For the next two years I attended graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin and completed a master's in communications. I have lived in Houston since 1972, working in public relations and advertising at Reliant Energy and at Ogilvy & Mather Advertising, and as a freelance writer. In 1974 I married Tom Wier, a C.P.A. and business appraiser. We have two sons – Tom, 29, and Patrick,

26. I spent quite a few years as a volunteer in schools and community, then in 2001 I began working as an events coordinator at St. Luke's United Methodist Church (where I attend church). I 'retired' again in 2006 and love spending time as a docent at the Museum of Fine Arts – touring third and fourth grade kids around the museum – keeping up with my creative writing group, and enjoying some travel.

4. I am most proud of my two sons – Tom and Patrick, 29 and 26. Tom is living in Leipzig, Germany right now, and we had a wonderful trip to visit him last fall. Patrick lives in Houston and is working as a marketing representative for a health care firm. We enjoy activities with our adult children.

Lady Appleby Bird

Susan -

I'm looking forward to seeing you and our other classmates at the reunion. As I haven't been back to MBC in about 30 years, I hope I can recognize and be recognized. Hopefully our name tags will have large type!!

Since it's been such a long time, perhaps I'm best to answer the question re "where has life taken me?". To keep from being too lengthy, I'll start with the last few years:

In 2004 my husband, Tom Jackson, of 31 years died of cancer following a 5-year illness. It was devastating, but fortunately life does go on, and, as luck would have it, 8 months later I met a wonderful man on a blind date. Billy Bird and I married in October 2006 (thus the name "Lady Bird" - still hard for me to believe!). We're having a wonderful time together - the New York hippy and the Southern Belle preppie - acting like we're in our twenties and enjoying life to the fullest. He'll be with me at the reunion and I'm looking forward to showing him around our old haunts.

I have two children and a new stepdaughter and son-in-law. Both of my children are married, happy and living in Nashville, thank God. My daughter, Katherine, is a stay at home mom and has three children (Houston, 8, Lilly, 5, and Addison, 2) - all smart, sweet and beautiful. My son, Andrew Jackson, worked as an assistant to the governor of Tennessee for 5 years before leaving for a career in real estate a few months ago. My stepdaughter and her husband live in LA and have successful careers in retail and security management.

I'm still working after 40 years and have really never wanted to quit until lately. I do plan to retire next year so I can spend more time with Billy and do some serious traveling. I work for Phil Bredesen, the fabulous Governor of Tennessee, as president of the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation. This is certainly the most rewarding work I've ever done. We've taken a program called the Imagination Library, started by Dolly Parton, and taken it statewide. We oversee 92 sponsoring organizations throughout the entire state and offer a free book every month mailed to the homes of registered children under age five. In less

than four years we've enrolled over half the state's under five population (192,000 children) and managed close to 60 partnerships with a full-time staff of four people. Needless to say, I'm very proud of this accomplishment that has included hundreds of volunteers throughout the state with an incredible grassroots involvement. This is a long story so if you're interested in knowing more, please visit our website at www.governorsfoundation.org <<http://www.governorsfoundation.org>>.

I'm looking forward to hearing where life has taken the rest of our class. We plan to arrive in the afternoon of April 4th and will see you then.

Thank you for all of your efforts and those of the committee in putting together this, our Fortieth (yikes!) Reunion.

Warm regards,

Lady

Sharon Knopp Bares

Greetings from Asheville, North Carolina. I am looking forward to the reunion - can't believe it has been 40 years already. Since my parents live in Staunton, I do get a chance to see the campus at least once a year and the changes have been many!

Below are my reflections on the questions sent by the class officers:

1. The 2008 me is amazed that I survived the chemistry classes at MBC. We chemistry majors had classes in that old stinky house the first year and then moved to the basement where ventilation was non-existent, the glassware was ancient and the stock room was a disaster area!
2. The most fun I had at Mary Baldwin were the two bus trips to New York City, sponsored by MBC. The first, in 1965, was a French/Spanish language dept. trip and I have lots of great memories about my first trip to NYC. The second trip, in 1967, was to support the MBC team appearing on the GE College Bowl Show. What a blast!
3. Where has life taken you? After MBC I received by MS in Chemistry at Virginia Tech, where I met my husband, Lee. After getting married in 1972, we moved to Ft. Wayne where we taught chemistry at the Ft. Wayne campus of Purdue University. I went to night school and received my MS in Business Administration; then we decided to return to the South. Lee was a professor of Chemistry at University of North Carolina at Asheville for 28 years and has just retired! I worked as a research chemist in the rubber industry for 9 years and "retired" to do what I really like - storytelling and volunteering. We have lived in Asheville for almost 30 years and love the mountains and the hiking available in this area. Now that Lee has retired we want to do more traveling.
4. Tell us the things you've done of which you are the most proud.
It has been a real joy to me to discover my talents as a speaker and a professional storyteller. The Toastmasters International program helped me to discover this talent and I have been very involved with TM for 17 years. It is a great way to help yourself and help others overcome the fear of public speaking. Adult Literacy is another passion and I spent 14 years as tutor for adults wanting to learn to read and do math; I was a member of the Board of the Buncombe County Literacy Council for 10 years. Now I am a Guardian ad Litem, representing the best interest of children brought before the Court because of abuse or neglect - sometimes painful work, but very

rewarding.

When not volunteering or working at H&R Block as a tax preparer during tax season, I love to dance. Lee and I have enjoyed western square dancing for 28 years - were co-chair of the 2007 National Convention in Charlotte - had 8,000 dancers attend. It was lots of work (4 years of planning), but lots of fun. We also have enjoyed ballroom dancing for over 20 years. Dancing is my chosen form of exercise!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in April!

Sharon Knopp Bares

Catherine Walleigh Carnevale

1. The 2008 me is still amazed that I survived organic chemistry at Mary Baldwin.
2. The most fun I had at MBC was 5am bird walks with Dr. Mehner and Bonnie Hohn.
3. Where has life taken you? I went to veterinary school at U.Penn right after Mary Baldwin and practiced for a few years outside Philadelphia before moving back to my hometown of Washington, D.C. Both my husband and I went to work at the Food and Drug Administration in their Center for Veterinary Medicine. Soon I jumped into the foods policy area in the primarily dealing with pesticides and contaminants in food. At some point I found myself in Geneva negotiating trade agreements on food safety to ensure that U.S. consumers would not find trade obligations trumping U.S. food safety protections. For the past dozen years I've been the Director of International Affairs in FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. I love my job, the people and the travel. Although the enthusiasm hasn't waned, lately I find myself wanting free time for friends and family, going back to school, volunteering for pet causes! I'm retiring June 1 and walk around with a smile on my face.
4. What am I most proud of? Certainly my daughter, Sarah, the 9th grade math teacher is my proudest accomplishment. I'm retiring June 1 after 33 years at FDA so I can spend some time with my accomplishment's accomplishment, Zane, five months old, along with my daughter and son-in-law, Brandon.

Caroline Smith Morton (Sociology) - Strasburg, PA

Like many of us, fortunate to have had a liberal arts education, options were wide open. MBC educated us well for many possibilities, but in my case, nothing specific. As a sociology major, I had images of working as had Margaret Meade, in the villages of New Guinea. Instead, after graduation, I worked for the Red Cross in Vietnam. It was certainly a cultural shock after MBC, but an incredibly rich experience and not too unrelated from my major. Since then one thing led to another and I have grown even more appreciative of my education at MBC. For a few years I worked in the field of education policy related to the needs and problems of rural schools, then went back to school to get a masters at Harvard in policy and administration. I took off for a few years to stay home and enjoy our three children...and returned to painting and drawing, one of my favorite courses at MBC. Since then, Holmes (a pediatrician) and I have been involved with what we call our '4th child', literally 'raising' a non-profit pediatric

clinic in Lancaster County, PA, for children with genetic diseases, most of whom are Amish or Mennonite. So in a way all those sociology courses looking at cultural and community influences came in very handy after all.

My very favorite courses at MBC were religion and philosophy classes taught by Dr. Marjorie Chambers. She taught me how to think critically, to study and develop confidence to grow intellectually. She was such an inspiration and role model. Studio art classes and choir enriched my life as they inspired continued interest in art and music.