



# THE CUPOLA

May 2011  
Vol. 6 No. 7

**boldlybaldwin**

NEWS FOR MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

## Former Superior Court Judge Represents Power of 'Firsts' as Commencement Keynote

Judge Shirley Fulton knows that it makes a powerful statement when you are a "first." As the first African-American woman to serve as Superior Court judge in North Carolina, Fulton began to challenge preconceptions and set a precedent for courtroom professionalism when she was appointed in 1989.

When she steps to the microphone as Mary Baldwin College's 169th Commencement speaker on May 22, Fulton will address a graduating class brimming with firsts. Many will be the first in their family to graduate from college. Some are the first to earn a graduate degree. Several were the first to enroll in courses in criminal justice, American studies, or Renaissance studies at MBC. One student in the crowd is the first to develop an undergraduate major in exercise science, and several others are the first to combine disciplines in innovative ways to study exactly what they intended. They are the first class to have heard the phrase "Boldly Baldwin" throughout their time on campus, and they have embraced it and infused it with new meaning.

"Looking back on my life, I never thought it would lead me here," said Fulton, a native of Kingstree, South

### 169<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT

MAY 20-22, 2011 • WEEKEND SCHEDULE INSIDE



*"...there is nothing too big to wish for."*

—THE HON. SHIRLEY FULTON, FORMER NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE AND 2011 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHIRLEY FULTON

Carolina, which was a rural, low-income, segregated town during her childhood. "When I was growing up, lawyers were just not even part of my mindset; my world did not extend that far."

Fulton presided over many high-profile civil and criminal cases, including death penalty hearings, during her 14-year tenure on the Superior Court of North Carolina. From 2004 to 2009, she practiced law with the private firm Tin, Fulton, Walker, and Owen, where she continues to serve as a consulting partner.

Underlying Fulton's professional roles has been a commitment to community development and encouraging leadership potential. Several years ago, she began to envision establishing a law school in her hometown with a student-centered curriculum that would equip graduates with the leadership, management, and interpersonal skills that are necessary for career success. In August 2006, Charlotte School of Law welcomed its inaugural class of students, becoming the only law school in the state's most populous city. Fulton taught community economic development

law and negotiations courses at the school in 2009 and continues to serve as chair of its Board of Directors and Board of Advisors. These days, most of her time is spent working for the Law and Community Foundation, a non-profit organization that she helped found in 2008 to support students engaged in the study of law and encourage community outreach.

For all of her career accomplishments, Fulton considers fighting two bouts with breast cancer her most important work to date. She has been cancer free since 1997, and the illness

(See *COMMENCEMENT*, Page 5)

### SPRING FLING 2011

Dressed in traveling clothes and sampling global cuisine, seniors celebrated the transition from student to alumna known as Spring Fling on April 14 with the theme, "All Around the World."



PHOTO BY WOODS PIERCE

## Retirees Reflect on Service to Residential College, Adult Program

Three faculty members with nearly 80 years of combined experience at Mary Baldwin College say goodbye to their posts this year. Their expertise in history and English has reached students not only in Staunton, but also around the state through work in MBC's regional centers. Their wide-ranging involvement beyond the classroom highlights the dedication of faculty to nurture the whole student. Their plans for retirement are, well, enviable.

(See *RETIREES*, Page 6)

## Adoption, Social Networks, Color Theory Highlight the 2011 Capstone Festival

In the early years of Augusta Female Seminary, Commencement events included oral presentations and contests by members of the graduating class. In 2006, that tradition was revived as the annual Capstone Festival, where seniors — and occasionally other students — are nominated by their professors to showcase their work for the campus community. Thirty-three students will participate in the 2011 Capstone Festival on May 12, and several of them shared details about their projects in “Twitteresque” fashion to intrigue us to learn more at the event.

THE 6TH ANNUAL  
**CAPSTONE**  
FESTIVAL

Thursday, May 12  
1–6 p.m.

Hunt Gallery, Hunt West,  
Nuthouse, and Miller Chapel

### title: Friending Social Networks: Why Businesses Should Log On



**Caroline Bowles '11**  
business administration  
and computer science

**Caroline's passion:** Social networks have become an integral part of our society, and it is interesting to see how businesses have incorporated these sites into their daily routines.

### tweet it

Social networking sites offer businesses and their audiences a superior outlet for interaction on a massive, yet personal, scale.

### title: Cognitive Aspects of Attitudes Toward Adoption



**Kelly Brose '11**  
psychology

**Kelly's passion:** I have always believed in adoption and I consistently see that when a woman faces an unwanted pregnancy, she often ignores adoption as one of her options.

Does knowledge about adoption and abortion predict attitudes about adoption and abortion?

### title: The Abolition of the Slave Trade in Great Britain



**Carrie Butler '11**  
history

**Carrie's passion:** Injustice has always been incredibly difficult for me to stomach, and slavery in any form is one of the most unjust institutions in the history of mankind, so I greatly admire those who fought to end slavery.

An evaluation of the fight to end the slave trade in Great Britain as a collaborative effort by the abolitionists in society and in government.

### title: Composing Through Color



**Miranda Hynes '11**  
studio art

**Miranda's passion:** Art, color, design, I believe that these are essential elements in a well-developed life, and I created my pieces not only to experience these elements myself but to share them with others as well.

An experiment in color, chance, and composition where I learned just as much as I created.

### title: Woodbine Farms: Fresh From the Ground Up



**Kara Jenkins '11**  
business for a  
sustainable future

**Kara's passion:** I wanted contribute to the success of my family's farm by analyzing the company and helping set strategic goals for the next five years.

A Virginia farm family is finding creative ways to hold onto its roots and its business using the SOAR approach.

### title: Effect of CpG Oligonucleotide and LL-37 on Prostate Cancer Cell Growth and Invasion



**April Lao '11**  
biology

**April's passion:** CpG and LL-37 were such promising alternatives to chemotherapy but also had been shown to have different (sometimes conflicting) effects on cancer. I think working on something that wasn't completely certain was exciting, since I felt like no matter what my results supported, it would be an interesting finding.

CpG (bacterial DNA) or a combination of CpG and LL-37 should not be used in cancer therapy; it can increase growth and invasion in prostate cancer cells.

### title: From Orphan to 'Other': An Examination of 19th-Century Literary Orphans



**Jennifer Leedom '11**  
English

**Jennifer's passion:** There are many orphan characters in literature; my project proposes a new way of looking at some of these characters, in which they can be used to examine society as a whole.

Characters Pip, Jane, and Heathcliff represent more than orphanhood, they are examples of how literature can expand the scope of human empathy.

### title: The Personal Window of Paula Modersohn-Becker



**Ada Sue Myers '11**  
arts management

**Ada Sue's passion:** Modersohn-Becker's story excites and enlivens me because it provides the opportunity to discuss many unknown aspects of the history of women in European society and to interpret exquisite and progressive art from the beginning of the 20th century.

One woman's life and artistry shows the struggle of evolving social and political expectations of women's roles in turn-of-the-century Europe.



# As Commencement Nears, A Moment for Congratulations

On the evening of April 28, the MBC campus was at its most beautiful for the groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of renovation on the Pearce Science Center. The sky was a deep blue, and the spring blossoms were at peak. The skies cleared following severe storms early Thursday morning. The event was celebratory and symbolic, marking a public recognition of progress and excellence.

As we look forward to our 169th Commencement ceremony on May 22, this time of year always moves me so deeply. We have watched our students become their best selves, transforming before us. At the Pearce groundbreaking, senior biology major April Lao shared her perspective on science research at MBC. Dr. Paul Deeble, chair of the School of Science and associate professor of biology, introduced April and her achievement in winning a first-place poster award from among hundreds of students (mainly graduate) at one of the largest international conferences on biochemistry and molecular biology.

April shared the many benefits she has received from one-on-one research

Find more information on page 7 about the renovation in store for Pearce Science Center and the April 28 groundbreaking event.



with Pearce faculty members, citing that she has developed perseverance, problem solving, and organization beyond her interdisciplinary research, which has far-reaching implications in the areas of biochemistry, cell biology, and cancer research. She acknowledged that her experiences were possible because of the wonderful dedication of her professors.

As we come to the end of this academic year, I congratulate each member of the graduating class of 2011. Whether an adult who has balanced school with work and family, a young woman in the Residential College, a Shakespeare MLitt or MFA candidate, or an aspiring teacher earning a graduate degree, each of you has achieved so much. We look forward to celebrating your next accomplishments. I honor each faculty member who has nurtured intellectual passion and purpose. I thank each staff

member of the college who has assured the total experience of each student.

When I welcomed the class of 2011 to campus in August 2007, with the theme “Many Voices, One Song,” we sensed the anticipation of their aspirations. They have exceeded our expectations.

When alumnae/i and friends of the college ask me what I love most about Mary Baldwin, the answer is an easy one. It is our students and our community. The qualities of integrity, leadership, service, and academic excellence cross the decades and unite us in a common bond.

The 2010–11 academic year has been a pivotal one, marked by dedication and concluded with optimism and promise. Have a wonderful summer.

Dr. Pamela Fox, president

## The Cupola Moves Over for New News Sources

It is a new era in campus news at Mary Baldwin College.

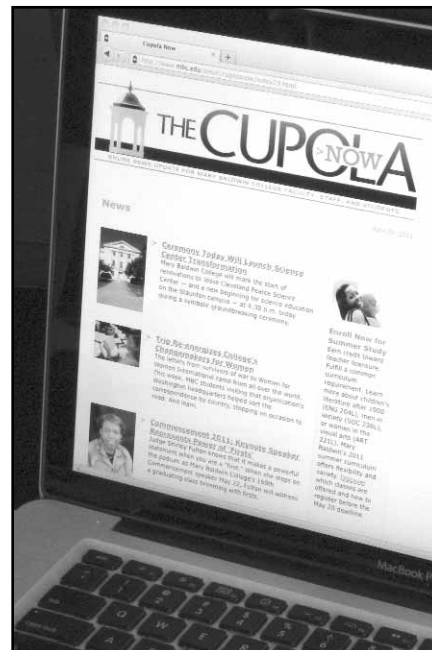
*The Cupola* debuted in September 2005 as a renewed effort to connect faculty, staff, and students, and share their accomplishments. Careful planning and a considerable amount of writing during the previous summer produced a 12-page newspaper that employed the best elements of its predecessor, *Up Hill & Down*, and added depth and breadth of coverage to create a publication relevant to the MBC community. In 2008, in response to off-campus interest, the newspaper expanded to include an alumnae/i section and class notes twice each year, and we began to mail those issues to nearly 18,000 alumnae/i and friends of the college.

After six years in production, this marks the final print issue of the monthly tabloid. It is difficult to say farewell to a publication that holds a respected place in our repertoire of materials, but discontinuation of *The Cupola* will direct resources toward new, more timely vehicles for campus news. Declining readership — evidenced by the numbers of unread papers in pick-up locations around campus — and a recent readership survey indicated that change was

necessary. Thank you to all who responded to the survey, confirming trends in how people receive information at MBC and helping us make crucial decisions in the Office of Communication, Marketing, and Public Affairs.

We are eager to refocus our energy and operating budget on disseminating important news and event information via other methods. The readership survey indicated that the MBC News website ([www.mbc.edu/news](http://www.mbc.edu/news)) has become one of the most popular places for people to look for college and community news, and we will continue to keep content there up-to-date and wide ranging. Web-based news is considerably more convenient for those who take classes online and work throughout the college’s regional centers. We are exploring new ways to provide information and share news in digital and print formats for internal and external audiences.

The Cupola moniker will continue to have a presence in two successful e-mail communications introduced in 2010 that highlight content from MBC News online, *Cupola Now* and *Cupola Connect*. We welcome your comments as we



move in this new direction.

In the inaugural issue of *The Cupola*, President Pamela Fox described the newspaper as a conduit to “unite and enrich our community.” It has undeniably done just that. The next generation of MBC news media will seek to do the same, and will owe its growth to *The Cupola*’s strong foundation.

Dawn Medley, editor

### boldlybaldwin

#### written word

**Anne Allison**, visiting assistant professor of biology, an article, Arf6 Molecule Page, *Nature Signalling Gateway*.

**Daniel Métraux**, professor of Asian studies, 32 articles on medieval Chinese and Japanese history, ABC-CLIO *World History Encyclopedia*.

#### spoken word

**Tiffany Barber**, assistant professor of education, a presentation, “Addressing the Racial Disparity in our Classrooms: The collaborative efforts of a college, a community and a small non-profit,” American Alliance for Theater and Education.

**Bruce Hemp**, adjunct instructor of mathematics, a workshop on building a classroom planetarium, National Science Teachers Association annual convention, San Francisco.

**Melissa Jones**, communication assistant, a keynote speech, “Knitting and other dying arts: why we need to save them,” All-Girls Conference, Booker T. Washington Community Center.

**Roderic Owen**, professor of philosophy, invited speaker on peace, mediation, and reconciliation, Blue Ridge Community College.

**Joe Sprangel**, assistant professor of business administration, a paper presentation, “Using Chemical Management Services to Green the Chemical Supply Chain,” Principles for Responsible Management — Achieving Sustainability Through Innovation conference, Rowan University.

**Tamra Willis**, assistant professor of education MAT, and **Betty Gatewood**, MBC teacher-in-residence, a workshop, “Observe, Document, and Reflect: Making Connections to Nature through Journaling,” and a conference session presentation, “The Intersection of Life and Land,” about Governor’s School buoy project, West Virginia Environmental Education Conference, Canaan Valley Institute.

#### notable achievements

**Jodie Miller**, instructor of mathematics, was appointed to a three-year term on the Mathematical Association of America’s Committee on Graduate Students.

**Roderic Owen**, professor of philosophy, was chosen to serve as contributing editor to *Peace Research Journal*.

#### fine arts

**Sara N. James ‘69**, professor of art, a collaboration with ARTstor to add more than 450 images of Italian architecture and painting and more than 400 images of English art and architecture to its digital library. The new images will join James’ collection of more than 600 images of Italian and English architecture.

(continued on Page 7)



# 169<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT

MAY 22, 2011

10 A.M. PAGE TERRACE/RAIN LOCATION: EXPOLAND, FISHERSVILLE, 10:30 A.M.



## One Path to Change the World After Graduation

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, 37 million Americans live in poverty. After graduating from Mary Baldwin College in 2009, Robyn Stegman got a glimpse of the lives of some of those struggling to make ends meet while serving with Americorps VISTA — which stands for Volunteers in Service to America — in Detroit, Michigan. At the end of her year in that inner city, and another where she continued to work with VISTA as a liaison between MBC's Spencer Center and the communities surrounding Mary Baldwin, Stegman feels like she has made a difference. Now she is encouraging soon-to-be graduates to experience that feeling themselves.

While serving at MBC, Stegman has focused on one significant repercussion of poverty: hunger and food insecurity. "One of my most significant takeaways so far is that hungry people don't always look starved," she said. "In this area, we have concentrated on food quality and the distribution systems as ways to combat diabetes, obesity, and other chronic conditions that are the result of people eating high-calorie, highly processed foods that are cheaper."

Stegman's one-year term in Staunton was secured by Steve Grande, director of civic engagement, who investigated opportunities through a new Virginia branch of the North Carolina-based VISTA program that places volunteers at colleges and universities. The college is looking for a new volunteer to continue to work on area hunger issues when Stegman's tenure is up in September, and MBC graduates can also apply to serve at Virginia Tech — the only other in-state campus with a VISTA position — or at dozens of schools in North Carolina.

MBC's VISTA volunteer in 2011-12 will continue several initiatives led by Stegman and expand on projects that get residents involved in addressing food insecurity. Her leadership this academic year led to successful Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week events, including a new format for the Hunger Banquet; the creation of the Apple Corps to maintain and start new campus and community gardens for produce; and coordination with local grassroots groups such as the Valley Crop Mob and Project GROWS.

During May Term, Stegman is contributing to the course Assisting Local Food Systems, taught by Associate Professor of Health and Studies of Gender and Sexuality Kathy McCleaf. Her summer work includes two more projects under the food insecurity umbrella: coordinating with other colleges via the President's Interfaith Campus Service Challenge and helping students plan Global Youth Service Day with a grant from Youth Serve America.

"During the course of this year, I have learned how much the community is already doing to alleviate this issue. There is a lot of action in the local area, and there is a need for more collaboration," said Stegman, who is looking at graduate programs in community outreach following her two years of VISTA service.

### Serve with VISTA

APPLY ONLINE AT:  
[www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista.asp)

EMAIL YOUR RESUMÉ TO:  
Jonathan Romm, Program Coordinator  
[jromm@elon.edu](mailto:jromm@elon.edu)

## COMMENCEMENT HONORS AND AWARDS

*The following awards will be presented at Commencement, most of which are a surprise to the recipient until they are announced at the ceremony:*

**ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN STUDENT AWARD**  
recognizing unselfish service, noble character, and spiritual qualities — and the accompanying Mary Keith Fitzroy Award.

**ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN NON-STUDENT AWARD**  
recognizing unselfish service, noble character, and spiritual qualities.

**MARTHA STACKHOUSE GRAFTON AWARD**  
to the graduate with the highest cumulative grade point average.

**OUTSTANDING ADULT DEGREE PROGRAM GRADUATE AWARD**

**OUTSTANDING GRADUATE TEACHER EDUCATION AWARD**

**ARIEL AWARD**  
to an MLitt or an MFA student whose generous hard work has made an outstanding contribution to the ideals and goals of the college's graduate program in Shakespeare and Performance and who exhibits the power of collaboration between student and teacher.

# COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND CEREMONIES



## VWIL Commissioning Ceremony

11 a.m. May 21 • Page Terrace (Rain location: Francis Auditorium in Pearce Science Center)

**Speaker: Lt. Melisa Koch Fusick '08, U.S. Air Force**

Five of this year's 16 Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership graduates will accept a commission in the United States armed forces to serve in the Air Force and Army. The commissioning ceremony represents the culmination of four years of academic and physical work as students receive their first salutes as new officers in the armed forces.



## Ajani

12:30–2 p.m. May 21 • Rose Terrace Lawn (Rain location: PAC Dance Studio)

**Speaker: Tiffany Riddick Foreman '05**

This ceremony is considered a rite of passage for select graduating seniors who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to multicultural campus life. Each receives a *kente* stole hand woven in Africa. A special student will be selected to deliver a response to the speaker, and the ceremony will include the presentation of the *Rafiki* ("friend" in Swahili) Award.



## VWIL Change of Command Review

2 p.m. May 21 • Parade Ground at PAC (Rain location: Physical Activities Center)

**Speaker: Cpt. Lori Mathieu, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Recruiting Command**

The achievements of Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership graduates will be saluted as they pass their sabers to next year's seniors. The event includes a full parade by the world's only all-female cadet corps and the MBC/VWIL Band, which is made up of cadets and non-cadet students.

## Phi Beta Kappa Initiation

5 p.m. May 21 • Francis Auditorium in Pearce Science Center

**Speaker: Kenneth Keller, professor of history**

Mary Baldwin College is one of only a small percentage of colleges to house a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, widely considered the most prestigious of academic honor societies. Students were notified of their selection this spring and will be official members at the ceremony.

### SENIORS:

KATHRYN ALDRICH  
KELLY DAWN BROSE  
C. LOGAN DILL  
PRISCILLA O. LAO  
JENNIFER LEEDOM  
ELISABETH CAROLINE MADDRELL  
VERONICA MALLORY  
MEGAN TRUEHEART PITTS

### JUNIORS:

ANGELA SATYA GUPTA  
KRITTIKA KRISHNAN  
ELENA YEN-VI NGUYEN  
ALEXIS ST. CLAIRE

### HONORARY MEMBER

MARY HILL COLE,  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

"COMMENCEMENT" Cont. from Page 1

and long recovery convinced her to reflect and reprioritize her life.

"Through her life story, she has much to share with our graduates," said David Atchley, vice president for Institutional Advancement at Mary Baldwin. He met Fulton when she was planning the School of Law and he remains connected to her through her foundation.

Fulton's most intensive community development project was the restoration and reopening of Wadsworth Estate in Charlotte's Wesley Heights neighborhood. She moved into the declining area in the 1980s and was instrumental in forming the Wesley Heights Community Association, which she served as president for several years. The group sparked renewed interest in rehabilitating the historic neighborhood,

now one of the city's coveted addresses, and Fulton reopened Wadsworth Estate as a conference and event center in 2001. She has served on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Task Force and as president of the Mecklenburg County Bar among other community leadership positions.

Fulton's leadership in the courts and in the community has been recognized with awards, such as the Association of Women Attorneys Outstanding Judge of the Year, Charlotte Woman of the Year, and the North Carolina Bar Association Citizen Lawyer Award. She earned her undergraduate degree in business administration at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, her JD at Duke University School of Law, and her MBA at McColl School of Business at Queens University.

"My message is that there is nothing too big to wish for," Fulton said. ▲

## COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE 2011

- ▲ Registration and Welcome. 3–5:30pm, May 20, Ham and Jam Pub in William G. Pannill Student Center and 9am–2pm, May 21, Lyda B. Hunt Dining Hall Foyer.

### Friday, May 20

- ▲ Class of 2011 Dinner with Your Adviser. 6pm, Lyda B. Hunt Dining Hall.

### Saturday, May 21

- ▲ Beta Beta Beta Honor Society Reception. 10am, Spencer Center for Civic and Global Engagement.
- ▲ Commissioning Ceremony. 11am, Barbara Kares Page Terrace. Rain location: Francis Auditorium.
- ▲ Champagne Brunch for Graduates and Families, 11am–1pm, Lyda B. Hunt Dining Hall.
- ▲ Class of 2011 Photo. Noon, terrace between Hunt and Wenger. Rain location: Martha S. Grafton Library, Room 501.
- ▲ Ajani Ceremony. 12:30–2pm, Rose Terrace Lawn. Rain location: Dance Studio, Physical Activities Center.
- ▲ Change of Command Review. 2pm, Parade Ground at the Physical Activities Center. Rain location: Physical Activities Center.
- ▲ Reception to Honor PEG Graduates. 3:30–5:30pm, Lyda B. Hunt Dining Hall, West.
- ▲ VWIL Reception. 4–5pm, Student Activities Center, Clubroom.
- ▲ Phi Beta Kappa Initiation and Reception. 5pm, Francis Auditorium in Pearce Science Center.
- ▲ Reception with Live Music at The President's House. 5:30–7pm, President's House lawn. Rain location: Student Activities Center.
- ▲ Contra Dance, 7:30pm, PAC Dance Studio.
- ▲ Commencement Ball. 9pm–midnight, Student Activities Center, Pub, and Tyson Terrace.

### Sunday, May 22

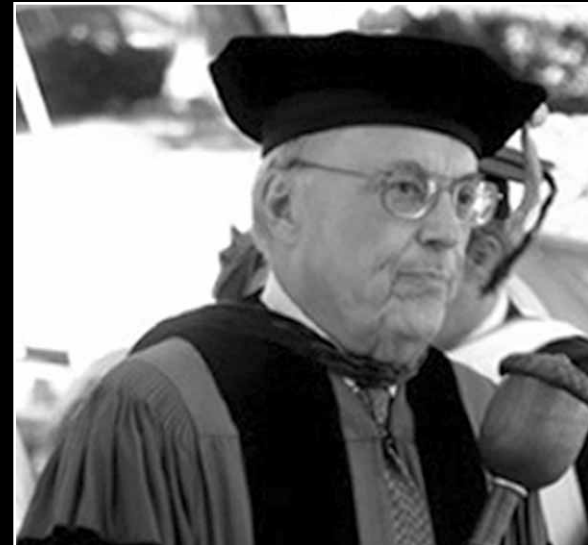
- ▲ Commencement Breakfast. 7:30–8:30am, Hunt Dining Hall, East.
- ▲ Coffee Honoring MLitt/MFA Graduates. 8–9am, Rose Terrace Conference Room.
- ▲ **169th Commencement. 10am, Page Terrace.** Rain Location: 10:30 am, Expoland, Fishersville VA.
- ▲ Class of 2011 Alumnae/i Reception. Immediately following Commencement, Cynthia H. Tyson Terrace.
- ▲ Graduate Teacher Education Luncheon. Immediately following Commencement, First Presbyterian Church.
- ▲ MLitt/MFA Luncheon. Immediately following Commencement, Rose Terrace. Rain location: Masonic Building, 5th Floor, Blue Room.



Ann Alexander, left, with Sally Cannon '71 at Reunion 2011.



Susan Green, right, with Edward Scott.



Kenneth Keller in graduation regalia.

PHOTOS BY WOODS PIERCE

*"RETIREES" Cont. from Page 1*

A recipient of the Emily Wirsing Kelly Award during Reunion 2011 for service and leadership, **Ann Field Alexander '66** had many highlights in her 22-year career at Mary Baldwin. As professor of history at the college's Roanoke regional center, her passion and expertise focused on Appalachian and African-American history. She received the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges Mednick Fellowship for research and advanced study and the William M.E. Rachal Award for the best article in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. She employed MBC's Karl F. and Patricia H. Menk Award for Faculty Support and Development during sabbatical to work on her book, *Race Man*, which chronicles the life of African-American journalist and publisher of *Richmond Planet*, John Mitchell Jr.

**She arrived at MBC:** In fall 1963 as a freshman. I was sort of a pre-PEG (Program for the Exceptionally Gifted) student, as I had just finished my junior year of high school, but I was ready for college. I graduated in 1966 and went to Duke to earn my master's and PhD. I taught in the history department at Virginia Tech for two years after grad school and worked in the library there; then I stayed home with children for about 12 years. I came back to MBC in fall 1989 after seeing an ad in *The Roanoke Times* about an opening in the Roanoke office.

**Her tenure:** I was a member of the history department and an academic advisor with the Adult Degree

Program until I retired in December 2010. I also served as director of the Roanoke Center for about eight years. I served on all sorts of college committees and was an early advocate of online teaching.

**She is most proud of:** The way the Roanoke faculty and staff have served adult students over the decades and made it possible for students in an underserved area to finish college. It was always a great privilege to participate in the lifelong learning of so many adult students

**Ah, retirement:** So far I've done the usual: traveled more, cleaned closets, read more books. I'm very happy to be retired.



**Susan Blair Green**, a member of the English faculty since 1986, credits Mary Baldwin College not only for a lively career teaching the literature she loves, but also with finding love. Over college committee discussions and social gatherings with mutual friends, Green met and married MBC history professor Kenneth Keller. The couple will celebrate retiring together and their wedding anniversary in 2011.

**Her regional reach:** I came as faculty advisor in the Richmond Adult Degree Program (ADP) office, then served in Charlottesville as faculty advisor, regional coordinator, and director. I've served on the ADP review committee, faculty status and evaluation committee, educational policy committee, and I chaired the most recent faculty handbook revision committee.

**Golden opportunities:** I've enjoyed the opportunity to teach the specialty areas in which I was trained — Shakespeare, Milton, Spenser, Tudor Stuart drama, and Chaucer — as well as to develop new areas of interest, including women's literature and American-Indian literature. I was also involved in bringing ADP faculty status to a more equivalent status with Residential College for Women faculty. Not to mention, I had the opportunity to meet and marry my husband and to provide my son with a good college education.

**She has learned the most from:** My husband. I've certainly learned a lot of American history as well as gained practical knowledge about academic politics.

**Ah, retirement:** Resting, cleaning house, more choir participation, and then completing quilting projects and doing additional traveling.



Green's husband, **Kenneth Keller**, arrived at Mary Baldwin College in 1981 and rounded out his 30-year tenure in the history department with leadership positions in the esteemed Phi Beta Kappa honor society, service as faculty marshal, and numerous scholarly publications. In 2003, he secured a \$700,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History program to establish the Institute for Decisive Events in American History at MBC. Through the initial grant and extensions, Keller and Associate Professor of History Amy Tillerson held

workshops to teach area educators new techniques for presenting history lessons.

**The rest is history:** Keller earned his AB at Washington University and his master of philosophy and doctorate at Yale University ... all in history. His research focus has long been on the early American republic and German and Scots-Irish immigration to early America.

**Commitment to sharing knowledge:** Among journal articles and presentations too numerous to list, Keller notes the following pieces as career highlights: *Rural Politics and the Collapse of Pennsylvania Federalism*, published by the American Philosophical Society; entries in *The Encyclopedia of Southern History*, *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, and *New Encyclopedia of the American West*; and an essay, "What is Distinctive about the Scots-Irish?" in *Appalachian Frontiers*.

**Membership drive:** In addition to Phi Beta Kappa, Keller is a member of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, the national history honor society Phi Alpha Theta, and Omicron Delta Kappa.

**Scholarly pursuits:** Keller's recent work involves a study of the Valley Turnpike, an examination of the wheat trade on the Upper Potomac, and other publications on the Scots-Irish in Virginia and medicine in the Shenandoah Valley. ▲

## Scientific Evolution: Pearce Renovation Set to Start After Commencement

The dramatic renovation of Pearce Science Center is set to begin in just a few weeks, and local officials, media, and project leaders joined the Mary Baldwin community April 28 to celebrate the building's first major update in 50 years. Planned to coincide with the spring meeting of the college's Board of Trustees, the event included remarks from President Pamela Fox, Associate Professor of Biology Paul Deeble, and senior biology major April Lao; tours of the four-story building; and a reception.

"Research truly took my education at Mary Baldwin to another level," said Lao, who recently earned a first-place award for her research poster at the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology conference, one of the world's largest experimental biology conferences. Lao's research on the binding of a protein named LL-37 and DNA could have important applications for the treatment of prostate cancer and autoimmune diseases.

"Nothing taught me the value of preparation and organization more than the first time that I came into lab unprepared, and nothing taught me perseverance and problem solving better than having things go unexpectedly when my research was on the line," Lao said during the ceremony. Attendees included honored guests U.S. Rep. Bob Goodlatte, Staunton Mayor Lacy King, and chair of the Mary Baldwin College Board of Trustees Lyn McDermid '95.

A \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) provided the funds needed to start Phase I of the Pearce project. The Dominion Foundation, the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, the Margaret C. Woodson Foundation, and several generous donors contributed an additional \$900,000 to the renovation, which will begin shortly after Commencement on May 22. Work on a second-floor classroom and lab used in

Environmental Systems Monitoring studies is projected to be finished when classes begin in fall 2011. The goal is to complete Phase I — which also includes classrooms, offices, and a lab in the first floor Neuroscience and Cellular Signaling suite — by the start of spring semester 2012.

"Research as a mechanism for learning has been deeply embedded in our curriculum for many decades," said Deeble. "The NSF recognized what the Mary Baldwin community has long known — we expect our students to learn by doing, to formalize their curiosity through research and the learning outcomes that are achieved by that process provide the highest impact training experience."

Additional phases of the project to renovate spaces used in Behavioral and Developmental Studies and Supramolecular Chemistry, Molecular Recognition, and Materials Chemistry will be scheduled when funding is secured.

Storm clouds cleared for the groundbreaking ceremony to mark the upcoming start of renovation work at Jesse Cleveland Pearce Science Center April 28. U.S. Rep. Bob Goodlatte (*far right*) was among the honored guests who took part in symbolically digging in (*lower right*). The event also included inspiring remarks by biology major April Lao (*lower left*), who will graduate just before the project begins in June.



PHOTOS BY WOODS PIERCE

**Daniel Métraux**, professor of Asian studies, "Colleges Looking at Study Abroad Programs After Japan Quake," WHSV-TV3, 3/21/11.

**Nancy Krippel**, dean of adult and graduate studies and associate dean of Mary Baldwin college, "Mary Baldwin College dean leaving in July," *The News Leader*, 3/25/11.

**Nancy Krippel**, dean of adult and graduate studies and associate dean of Mary Baldwin college, "Brenau hires Krippel as new provost," *Access North GA*, 3/26/11.

**Sophia Stone '14** and MAT student **Holly Breen '10**, "March Madness 5K: Stone, deHart post dominant victories," *The News Leader*, 3/29/11.

**Roderic Owen**, professor of philosophy, "A Lesson in Conflict Resolution," WHSV-TV3, 3/30/11.

**Craig Sheely**, executive director of IBAVI at MBC, and **Nusayba Hammad '13**, "Film, panel discussion to challenge notion of 'us vs. them' between Islam, Western world," *The News Leader*, 3/31/11.

**Stephanie Ferguson**, director of PEG, "Raising an Accidental Prodigy," *The Wall Street Journal*, 3/30/11.

**Pamela Fox**, president, "Piedmont (Ga.) to join USA South," *The Franklin News Post*, 4/11/11.

**Margaret Bivans '10**, admissions counselor, "Investigations on the Internet," *The Torch*, 4/12/11.

**Mary Hill Cole**, professor of history, "MBC professor elected honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa," *Augusta Free Press*, 4/12/11.

**Sophia Stone '14**, "Mary Baldwin students raise red flags for dating violence awareness," *The News Leader*, 4/14/11.

**Bruce Dorries**, associate professor of communication, "The Monster Lurking Below the Lawn," WMRA, 4/15/11.

**Cliona Burke**, international student, "Ireland to call Burke home," *The News Leader*, 4/22/11.

**Amiee Sanford '11** and **Steve Grande**, director of civic engagement, "Mary Baldwin College contest results show increase in recycling," *The News Leader*, 4/27/11.

**Paul Deeble**, associate professor of biology, **Kimberly Parker '11**, and **April Lao '11**, "Renovation at MBC's Pearce Center started," *The News Leader*, 4/28/11.

**Paul Deeble**, associate professor of biology, and **Brent Douglass**, facilities director, "Mary Baldwin Renovating Science Center," WVIR-NBC29, 4/29/11.



## newsnotes

**KRISHNAN STRIVES FOR UNITY,  
UNDERSTANDING AS SGA PRESIDENT**

Junior Krittika Krishnan was sworn in as the 81st president of Mary Baldwin's Student Government Association (SGA) on April 5. As the first international student and the first student in the Program for the Exceptionally Gifted to be elected SGA president, the native of India is focused on encouraging people on campus to find common ground and appreciate each other's differences. The following is an excerpt from her installation ceremony remarks:

*"Each year, a new set of exemplary individuals steps into the role of young women leaders. Few have this opportunity and few realize the responsibility that comes with being a leader. I stand before you today as a representative of our incredible executive committee (EC) — I have had the opportunity to meet with these ladies several times in the last month and I thoroughly enjoy working with them. I am sure that we will grow to become a unified board, soon, helping and guiding each other along the way.*

*Just as we will become a unified group, we wish to unify Mary Baldwin as well. With diverse individuals from different cultures, age groups, and interests, Mary Baldwin is a reflection of the melting pot that is the United States. Not everyone on campus knows everyone else, and we (the new EC) feel that this is extremely important in moving forward as a college. We will put our 10 best feet forward to incorporate this idea of unity into everything that we do."*

**MINDFUL MEAL WEEK REDUCES WASTE**

As it turned out, chips made all the difference in Hunt Dining Hall during Sustainable Meal Week in April. Not the crunchy, salty kind, but color-coded poker chips that helped diners take a few more minutes to decide what to eat before chowing down. The result was a 60 percent reduction in wasted food — a figure that has been topping out at about \$50,000 in recent years — and many positive comments about the gentle reminder to eat more consciously.

A quick recap: Instead of the traditional all-you-care-to-eat format in Hunt, each diner at lunch and dinner April 11-15 was given a pink chip when they entered the dining hall. That chip allowed the person to select one entrée and to sample unlimited food from dessert and periphery stations. If another entrée was desired, the diner asked for a blue chip to deposit after making another selection.

Approximately 2,800 meals were served during the 10 sessions, and 151 blue chips were used, according to Mary VanNortwick, director of dining services. Using measurements of waste before and during Sustainable Meal Week, Tracy Hiner, assistant director of dining services and executive chef, estimated a nine-cent savings per person per meal during the week. While that doesn't sound like much, it adds up quickly over thousands of meals during the course of the year.

The pilot week in April was intended to test the system and garner feedback in preparation for more permanent changes to dining at MBC in fall 2011. VanNortwick is looking for students, faculty, and staff to participate in focus groups May 12 that will explore the results and plans in more detail. Contact her at [mvannort@mbc.edu](mailto:mvannort@mbc.edu) or 887-7167 if you would like to be involved.

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