



Office of Admissions
Staunton, VA 24401
1-800-468-2262
admit@mbc.edu

Mary Baldwin College Traditions in a Nutshell

Tradition is a tie that binds generations of Mary Baldwin students, faculty, and staff — even as we continually evolve them with the times. In more than 160 years as a standard-bearer in women's education, Mary Baldwin College has legendary traditions that honor and celebrate our historical sisterhood. Among our favorites are these ...

- **Apple Day.** Started in the 1940s as an activity hosted by the sophomore class in honor of the freshmen, the celebration included a day off from classes and a picnic. In 1942, a walk to the college orchard to pick apples became part of the tradition. Presently, this day is celebrated in October. Classes are cancelled, and everyone enjoys a picnic, a carnival, and various outdoor events that have been planned by the sophomore class. In 2005 the tradition of picking apples returned, after a 30-year hiatus.
- **Charter Day.** Created by students in 1929, the Student Government Association includes all students in the Residential College for Women. In a memorable ceremony at the beginning of each school year, new students recite the Honor Pledge and seal their commitment with their written signature in the presence of upper class students, faculty and administration, and representatives from the board of trustees and alumnae/i association.
- **Christmas Cheer.** Early each December, luminaries light campus pathways and the sound of carols and traditional music spills from neighboring First Presbyterian Church. There are musical offerings by several student music groups — Baldwin Charm (popular tunes), Anointed Voices of Praise (gospel), Madrigals, and the Mary Baldwin Choir. Afterwards, we enjoy a sumptuous holiday meal. We also celebrate Kwanzaa and Las Posadas.
- **Da and Da.** We have a tradition of artistry that plays out at the end of each academic year in front of Deming Fine Arts Center. In form, Da and Da are images of the dignified dog statues, **Ham and Jam**, who guard the front of Administration — the oldest building on campus. Before graduation, senior art students paint Da and Da with bright colors and abstract designs.
- **Exam Week.** New students are surprised that they can choose when to take their exams, and that they are conducted without proctors or supervision. Our honor code makes this possible. There's also a stress-relieving late night breakfast when students wear pajamas and fuzzy slippers to the dining hall.
- **Founders Day.** This convocation, featuring a formal procession of the faculty in full academic regalia, honors our two founders, Rufus Bailey and Mary Julia Baldwin. It occurs near Miss Baldwin's birthday, which is October 4.
- **Junior Dads.** This celebration is in November when juniors invite their families for a special weekend of events. Saturday night includes a formal dinner and dance. The high point of the evening is the presentation of the junior class rings.

Have fun and learn more about traditions at Mary Baldwin College under Quizzes & Polls at:
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ready?