

## Mary Baldwin College

Mary Baldwin College, founded in 1842 as Augusta Female Seminary, is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as a top tier master's level southern university. The Residential College for Women, with a student to faculty ratio of 10:1, serves about 800 young women who reside on campus. The Adult Degree Program offers the same level of personalized education to men and women seeking bachelor's degrees at five regional centers in Virginia.



Mary Baldwin offers multiple avenues to achievement through extraordinary commitment to personalized education, through innovative offerings like the Quest Interfaith Village, through nationally acclaimed signature programs, through a set of 10 key experiences we call the MBC Advantage, and in many other ways.

MBC also offers co-educational graduate programs in education (Master of Arts in Teaching) and in Shakespeare and Renaissance literature in performance (Master of Letters and Master of Fine Arts), offered in partnership with the American Shakespeare Center.

### **Inclusive Community: A Living Commitment**

Born of the entire Mary Baldwin College community's commitment to diversity, every member of the faculty, staff, and student body have pledged allegiance to inclusive community through this statement:

*We, the community of Mary Baldwin College, strive to celebrate humanity in all its wondrous and complex variation. Because we value diversity, it is our mission to sustain a community where all may flourish. We are safe to embrace our shared experiences and our differences. To this end, we treat all with respect and compassion.*

### **Explore Your Options, Interests, Passions**

The African American and Multicultural Office supports programming of interest to its students. You may opt to join a club or organization that nurtures your current interests and/or explore new ones – you might even join with other students to propose a new club/organization. Here are just a few of the many options you have at Mary Baldwin College (go to [www.mbc.edu/student/student\\_orgs](http://www.mbc.edu/student/student_orgs))

- African Student Collective
- Anointed Voices of Praise
- Black Student Alliance
- Caribbean Student Association
- Greater Things Dance Ministry
- Kuumba Players
- Libations
- Latinas Unidas
- Umoja Chronicles

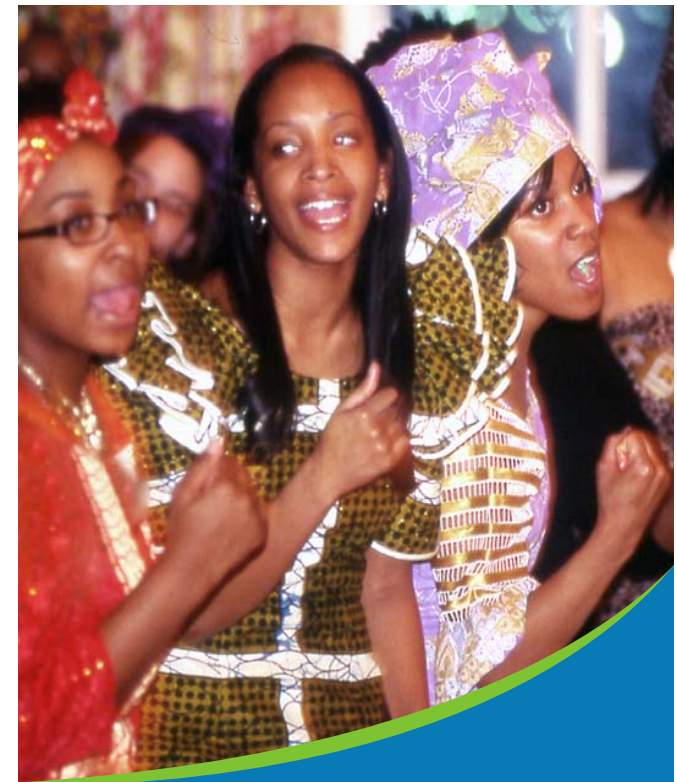
### **For More Information**

Rev. Andrea Cornett-Scott  
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs  
[ascott@mbc.edu](mailto:ascott@mbc.edu)  
540-887-7270

Joanne Harris  
Director of African American  
and Multicultural Affairs  
[jharris@mbc.edu](mailto:jharris@mbc.edu)  
540-887-7131

African American and Multicultural Office  
Mary Baldwin College  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

For information, see also:  
[www.mbc.edu/student/multiculture](http://www.mbc.edu/student/multiculture)



**Ida B. Wells:**  
In Celebration of Cultural Diversity



# IDA B. WELLS

Ida Bell Wells was born to enslaved parents in Holly Springs, Mississippi on July 16, 1862, one of eight children. Her parents died of yellow fever, after which, she became a teacher at the age of 14. She attended Rust College, moved to Memphis and continued studies during summers at Fisk University while still teaching. In 1884, she refused to give up her seat on a train to a white man and was forcibly removed. She sued and won in lower court, but the decision was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court. Wells, a budding crusader of equal rights and justice began to write and in 1889, was able to work full time for *Free Speech and Headlight*. When three friends were lynched, she decried lynching so vehemently she had to move to Chicago.

She became known as a strong voice in the anti-lynching crusade and women's suffrage – she founded the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago for black women. She also founded the first civic organization for African American women, Women's Era Club, later named the Ida B. Wells Club. Wells partnered with Jane Addams to block segregation in Chicago schools. She married a prominent attorney, Ferdinand Barnett, and they had four children. She was one of only two African American women on the Committee of 40 who called for the founding of the NAACP in 1909. A year before she died, in 1931, she was one of the first black women to run for public office.

She has long been revered for her courage and conviction, even as her contributions in American history have been widely overlooked. As her life's work for equal rights and justice honor us, we honor her in naming two programs at Mary Baldwin College after her:

- Ida B. Wells Living Learning Community
- Ida B. Wells Society

## Ida B. Wells Living Learning Community

Designed in 2004 to address the transitional needs of first-year African American students, the Ida B. Wells Living Learning Community is a unique academic and residential program. New students live in community on a culturally diverse floor in a freshman residence hall. Participants are enrolled in a designated section of MBC101, a one-semester orientation course, which offers students tools for succeeding in college, cultural exploration, and leadership development. Additionally, students will be enrolled in Legacy and Traditions: Ida B. Wells Colloquium (two semesters) and a paired English course (one semester). Students will also be engaged in co-curricular programming focused on service learning and the celebration of diversity. Given the residential space available for 20 women, first-year students must apply to be members of the IBW Living Learning Community.

### Ida B. Wells Community Facilitators

The Ida B. Wells Living Learning Community is life-changing. Its success is due in part to the commitment of its facilitators which include faculty, staff, and students of Umoja House (a special interest residence near Spencer Hall for five upper class, Ida B. Wells Society members, who serve as mentors and friends). Their goal is to help each student become her best self.



**Andrea Cornett-Scott**  
Associate Vice President  
for Student Affairs



**Robert Grotjohn**  
Associate Professor  
of English



**Joanne Harris**  
Director of African American  
and Multicultural Office



**Sarah Kennedy**  
Associate Professor  
of English



**Amy Tillerson**  
Assistant Professor of History

## Ida B. Wells Society

Created to recognize achievement by students of color, Ida B. Wells Society membership is earned by demonstrating strong academic performance (3.0 GPA or higher), community service, and full participation in the activities of the Ida B. Wells Living Learning Community. Society members welcome inductees in a ceremony during the annual Kwanzaa Celebration.

The Ida B. Wells Society sponsors community service programming each year including the Black Baby Doll Drive (a self-esteem initiative benefiting area children), Black History Month Oratorical Contest (for area elementary-age children), and the college's Kwanzaa Celebration. First-year students of color are honored by seniors during Kwanzaa in what has become a rite-of-passage. Mary Baldwin's Kwanzaa incorporates traditions of thanksgiving, storytelling, and feasting in a colorful and festive occasion marked by a drumming circle, dancing, and cultural attire. Attended by members of the Mary Baldwin community and citizens of Staunton, new students are welcomed and honored.

