

## Campus News

### Visual Arts Center and Museum "a dream come true"

The art department has just finished its first semester in the new [Richard Wetherill Visual Arts Center](#) and [Eleanor D. Wilson Museum](#). Over 450 alumnae and friends gathered to dedicate the new facility on October 16. Eleanor Delaney "Siddy" Wilson '30 gave approximately \$9.5 million to transform the Fishburn Library into the Richard Wetherill Visual Arts Center and create the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum. At the dedication, Professor Bill White gave a heartfelt account of Siddy's love for Hollins and her devotion to making this outstanding facility become a reality. Wyona Lynch-McWhite, inaugural director of the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum, spoke of the longstanding partnership between Hollins and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and enhanced exhibition opportunities provided by the new museum. The new center features (in addition to the Wilson Museum) large, open painting and drawing studios; classrooms; sculpture, ceramics, papermaking, printmaking, wood- and metal-working studios; outdoor sculpture and ceramics work areas; a rooftop plein aire studio, and facilities for Hollins' growing film and photography program.

### Three New M.F.A. Degrees

For the first time, Hollins will offer master of fine arts (M.F.A.) degree programs in dance, children's literature, and screenwriting beginning in the summer of 2005. The [M.F.A. in dance](#) is the result of a partnership between Hollins and the American Dance Festival (ADF), the country's pre-eminent center for modern dance. Hollins was one of the first universities in the country to offer a master of arts program devoted exclusively to the study and writing of children's literature. Now, graduate students will also have the option of pursuing an [M.F.A. degree in writing for children](#) over a period of three to five summers. The concurrent programs are closely associated with Hollins' nationally-recognized creative writing program, with faculty made up of Hollins writers and professors as well as other leading scholars from the field of children's literature. The [M.F.A. program in screenwriting](#) will complement the M.A. degree in screenwriting and film studies that Hollins has offered since 1999. As with the M.A. program, the M.F.A. program will draw its instructors from the ranks of Hollins' permanent faculty as well as visiting screenwriters, filmmakers and distinguished scholars from other institutions.

### New Tinker Mountain Writer's Workshop

June 12 to 18, 2005, Hollins will offer the first [Tinker Mountain Writer's Workshop](#). With ten one-week courses in poetry, fiction, and non-fiction from which to choose, aspiring writers will love the small classes, discussions, and a hike up Tinker Mountain.

### New Campus Tour Online

Hollins has a brand new [online campus tour](#) - at this page, click on "Campus Tour (requires Flash)." Check it out and share the link with any prospective students you know who may not be able to visit our beautiful campus in person.

## Funding Updates

### \$250,000 for Campus Technology

A \$250,000 grant to improve technology infrastructure at Hollins was included in a spending bill recently passed by the U.S. Congress. The funding will be used to upgrade our campus-wide computer network, which makes computer resources available to every student dormitory room and office on campus. Enhancements will include the replacement of hardware, cabling and switches, a network upgrade, a renovation of the university's server, and improved wiring of the campus computer lab and in-classroom audiovisual equipment. We are grateful to Congressman Bob Goodlatte and Senators John Warner and

George Allen for supporting Hollins' first Federal funding grant.

### **\$150,000 Challenge Grant for Presser Hall**

The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation of Richmond has given Hollins a \$150,000 challenge grant to support the second phase of the renovation of [Presser Hall](#). The project includes reconfigured and updated classroom space, modern acoustical treatment, additional practice areas, and an electronic music laboratory to explore the latest music application for computers. The project's first phase was completed this summer, providing improved climate control and accessibility to Presser Hall.

### **Beale Memorial Garden Tribute to Nora Kizer Bell**

At the fall board meeting, the Hollins Trustees dedicated the gifts made to the Nora Kizer Bell Memorial Fund toward an appropriate tribute within the restored Beale Garden. An integral part of the new campus master plan, the Beale Garden restoration will follow the original landscaping plan and emphasize the use of indigenous plants. This project was important to Nora, and thanks to her efforts, our historic Beale Garden will become a permanent attraction on the Garden Club of Virginia's annual tour.

### **Students and Faculty**

Congratulations to the Hollins students who presented their work at the 2004 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of Undergraduate Scholarship (MARCUS) held at Sweet Briar College on October 30. The Hollins participants were **Zirwat Chowdhury '05, Alia Clark '05, Jessica Frick '05, Vesper Hubbard '07, Erika Langsjoen '06, Heather Latiolais '05, Dorcas Mudzingwa '07, and Amy Torbert '05.**

Two Hollins students participated at the VMI Undergraduate Shakespeare Research Conference: **Catherine Price '05 and Sarah Patterson '05.** Sarah, a double major in religion and English, presented her essay, "Lady Macbeth's Womb, Motherhood and Marginality." She won the prize for the best essay in her session and the prize for the best essay in the conference. Associate Professor of English Marilyn Moriarty also participated in the conference.

**Caren Diefenderfer, associate professor of mathematics; Ruth Doan, professor of history; and Tina Salowey, associate professor of classical studies,** had their article, "The Quantitative Reasoning Program at Hollins University," appear in *peerReview* magazine. The article was adapted from their monograph, "Interdisciplinary Quantitative Reasoning, Innovation and Curriculum Development at Hollins University."

**Ed Lynch, associate professor of political science,** recently chaired two panels at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He has also been invited to be a moderator at the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges' Ethics Bowl at Virginia Wesleyan College in February. Michael Gettings, assistant professor of philosophy, is Hollins' faculty coordinator for this year's VFIC Ethics Bowl.

Congratulations to the following students in the M.F.A. program in creative writing for their recent and forthcoming publications: Cortney Bledsoe, poems in *Nimrod* and *Margie*, short story in *Natural Bridge*, and a short play in *Arkansas Literary Forum*; Jillian Meyer, poem in *Phoebe*; Jess Rapisarda, poem in *Potomac Review*; Scott Sanders, short stories in *Hardboiled* and *The Dead Mule*.

### **Alumnae/i**

#### **1984 Mini-Reunion on Campus**

Six members of the class of 1984 returned to Hollins the weekend of October 29 for a mini-reunion. Ann Davant Crehore, Liz Jennings Gephardt, Ann Holden Harris, Tibby Allen McCollum, Judy Ball Morrill, and Cynthia Bird Grogan all gathered on campus and stayed in the [Barbee Guest House](#). If you would like

to visit Hollins again and stay in [Barbee](#), contact Chris Powell at (540) 362-6225 or [cpowell@hollins.edu](mailto:cpowell@hollins.edu).

### **Recent Hollins Grad Earns Prestigious Honor**

Jeilenn Gerlach, an English major who graduated in 2004, has been named one of only four runners-up for the Norton Scholar's Prize. Jeilenn was nominated by Assistant Professor of English Jen Boyle for her essay "Embodied and Disembodied Realities: The Convergence of the Physical and Verbal in Aphra Behn's *Oroonoko*." In addition to the award itself, Jeilenn will receive \$1,000. The Norton Scholar's Prize is one of the most prestigious undergraduate awards in literary studies in the U.S. It is a national competition and winners are typically students at Ivy League institutions.

### **Alumnae Referrals**

*Did you know that if you refer a student to Hollins, that student can receive a \$500 scholarship? It's as simple as that!*

Every year, Hollins encourages referrals from alumnae to boost admissions figures and improve student retention. Statistics show that students referred by a family member or friend who went to Hollins are more likely to enjoy their Hollins experience and stay enrolled. If you have a daughter, niece, or neighbor who might be interested in receiving information about Hollins fill out the [online referral form](#) or contact the Admissions office at (800) 456-9595 or [huadm@hollins.edu](mailto:huadm@hollins.edu). They will explain more about the \$500 scholarship and make sure your contact receives the attention she deserves.

### **Upcoming Events**

[Campus Events Calendar](#)

[Alumnae Events](#)

### **Nature and Adventure Series Returns**

The 26th Nature and Adventure Series, featuring slide presentations and commentary by Lowell Wine, professor emeritus of statistics, returns to Babcock Auditorium in January. Dr. Wine will present the following programs: On Tuesday, January 11 at 7 p.m., the Chihuahuan Desert will be featured. Highlights include views of Big Bend National Park, the El Paso region, White Sands, Painted Desert, Monument Valley, and southwest Chihuahua. On Tuesday, January 18 at 7 p.m., Dr. Wine will focus on the Sonoran Desert and feature photos of Old Tucson, the Papago Indian Reservation, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, the Pinacate region of Mexico, and Death Valley. Admission to both programs is free.

### **[Hollins Alumnae Travel](#)**

**Colonial Williamsburg:** April 29 - May 1, 2005.

**Queen Mary 2:** A Transatlantic Voyage. June 9 -18, 2005.

**Hollins Abroad Paris 50th Reunion,** September 24 - 29, 2005.

**Germany's Legendary Holiday Markets:** November 29 - December 7, 2005.

For more information on these learning vacations, contact Dotty Weaver at (540) 362-6393 or [travel@hollins.edu](mailto:travel@hollins.edu).

### **Exhibits in the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum**

*Regional Spotlight: Beth Lilly*

Through February 26, 2005 in the Florence Wetherill Wilson Gallery.

### Quad Quote

"In September as everyone was arriving and unpacking, I got a call from a good friend of mine who said, 'I'm standing in the Art Castle and it's amazing.' That pretty much sums it up. I hope you all will enjoy the Visual Arts Castle as much as we do."

- Grace Johnston '05, studio art major, at the dedication ceremony of the [Richard Wetherill Visual Arts Center](#) and [Eleanor D. Wilson Museum](#).

### Links

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