

Hollins News Flash for June 2005

Campus News

New Undergraduate Major: Environmental Studies

Hollins will add a new major in environmental studies (ES) this fall. The program's core courses will ground students in the study of the environment from scientific, cultural, historical and societal perspectives. Through Hollins' affiliation with the [School for Field Studies \(SFS\)](#) students can spend a semester in another country and engage in field research that addresses the environmental problems and needs of local communities. Another unique facet of the ES program is that Hollins is the first women's college or university to be certified by the Wilderness Education Association to offer a National Standards Program (NSP). The NSP is a three- to five-week course in outdoor leadership, outdoor education, adventure travel, or wilderness expedition.

Commencement 2005

240 students from 33 states and seven countries received undergraduate and graduate degrees during Hollins' 163rd commencement exercises on May 22. [Carol Semple Thompson '70](#), one of America's premier amateur golfers for more than three decades, was the commencement speaker. Thompson was recently named recipient of the 2005 PGA First Lady of Golf Award, which is presented each year to a woman who has made significant contributions to the promotion of the game of golf. During commencement weekend, the portrait of Nora Kizer Bell, Hollins University's tenth president, was unveiled in Botetourt Reading Room. Her portrait was painted by alumna artist Annette Polan '67.

- [Commencement photos](#)

Inauguration of Nancy Oliver Gray: October 14, 2005

The inauguration of [Nancy Oliver Gray](#) as Hollins University's eleventh president will take place Friday, October 14, 2005. [Family Weekend](#) will be held in conjunction with the inauguration events, October 14-16. Festivities for the weekend include: lecture by syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman, inaugural exhibition of the [Eleanor D. Wilson Museum](#) by internationally-known photographer Carrie Mae Weems, lecture and reception with Carrie Mae Weems, and a special dinner for members of *The 1842 Society*. More information will follow.

Funding Updates

Give to the Hollins Fund before June 30

If you haven't given to the 2004-2005 Hollins Fund yet, you only have 6 more days to do so. Hollins' fiscal year ends June 30, so please [give today](#) to support our students, faculty, and beautiful campus. You may [give online](#) via our secure site, call (800) 846-5371, fax (540) 362-6297, or mail your gift to Hollins University, P.O. Box 9629, Roanoke, VA 24020. Gifts postmarked by June 30 will be counted in this fiscal year.

Friends of Athletics

Begun this March, the campaign to support our student athletes has resulted in close to \$9,000 in donations to form the Friends of Athletics. Nearly 70 donors have given either to a particular sport, to all club sports, to all varsity sports (basketball, golf, lacrosse, riding, soccer, swimming, and tennis), or to wherever support is needed most. To join the Friends of Athletics, contact Diane Markert, director of the Hollins Fund, at dmarkert@hollins.edu or (800) 846-5371.

\$150,000 grant for Presser Hall

Fundraising for the final phase of the Presser Hall renovation received a tremendous boost with news of a grant of \$150,000 from the Presser Foundation - the second time the foundation has supported the project.

The funding will assist Hollins in meeting the conditions of a two-for-one challenge grant of \$150,000 from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation in Richmond. The project's second phase will be completed when a total of \$800,000 has been raised.

Beale Garden and Swanannoa Hall

Starting this summer, two significant renovations will begin on campus. In collaboration with the Garden Club of Virginia, Beale Garden will be restored by clearing out overgrowth, adding native plants, and installing new walkways. This historic garden will be renewed with a focus on the original 1930 plan: a park-like lush green space with circular loop walkways.

Thanks to the generosity of Robert and Ruby Priddy of Wichita Falls, Texas, Starkie Hall will be transformed from dorm rooms to a new and updated home for the English and creative writing programs, named Swanannoa Hall. Planned renovations include an English Department lounge, graduate student lounge, seminar rooms, and spacious offices. If you are interested in naming a space within Swannanoa Hall, please contact Jayne Shaw at jshaw@hollins.edu or (800) 846-5371.

Students and Faculty

Faculty Promotions and Emeriti

Judith Cline, music, and Caren Diefenderfer, mathematics, were promoted to Full Professor, effective July 1, 2005. Faculty Emeriti Status was approved for retiring professors James Allen, computer science; Claude Caujolle, French; Thomas Edwards, economics; Bernard Gauci, business and economics; Andre Spies, history; Jane Tumas-Serna, communication studies; and Lanetta Ware, physical education.

Former English Professor Passes Away

Julia Randall Sawyer, who taught English at Hollins from 1962-1973, died May 22 at her home in Vermont. She was 81. The Baltimore native wrote under the name "Julia Randall" and authored several acclaimed books of poetry. She received two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships and the Shelley Award of the Poetry Society of America. "My eleven years at HC have been among the most rewarding of my 50," Sawyer wrote when she left Hollins in 1973. Sawyer donated her literary manuscripts to the Wyndham Robertson Library in 2001.

Dr. Lawrence Becker, a Fellow of Hollins University, chair of the English department, and a polio survivor, was among those taking part in the Ninth International Conference on Post-Polio Health and Ventilator Assisted Living June 2-4 in St. Louis. Becker is vice president of the Board of Directors of Post-Polio Health International. He was stricken with polio in 1952 at the age of 13 and spent more than two years in an iron lung in a Nebraska hospital. Currently, Becker's philosophical research focuses on problems of medical rehabilitation and health; he serves on advisory committees at the National Institutes of Health and writes about health and justice for the disabled. At the conference in St. Louis, he chaired sessions given by medical and legal professionals on problems faced by long-term ventilator users like himself.

Rick Trethewey, professor of English, has an essay, "Homeplaces," accepted for publication by *The Sewanee Review*. Recently, he and the students in his graduate poetry tutorial - Jessica Rapisarda, Meredith Reynolds, Hank Hudepohl, and Mike Schad - judged the regional PEN Women's Poetry Competition.

Daniel Murphy, associate professor of Spanish, presented a paper entitled "The Feminine Enigma in Ruben Dario" at the Eleventh Annual Carolina Conference on Romance Literatures at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. This paper explored the sense of the feminine in the work of the renowned

Nicaraguan poet, Ruben Dario.

Jake Mahaffy, assistant professor of film, has been invited to attend a week of intensive script development at the Sundance Institute in Utah. The program offers 10 to 12 emerging artists (chosen from nearly 1,000 submissions) the opportunity to work intensively on their feature film scripts with the support of established screenwriters. Past Sundance Institute projects have included Kimberly Peirce's *Boys Don't Cry* and *Reservoir Dogs* by Quentin Tarantino.

Under the guidance of **Bansi Kalra**, professor of chemistry, **Vesper Hubbard '07** and **Dorcas Mudzingwa '07** presented a poster titled "Kinetics of Thermal Isomerization of and HX Elimination from Hydrochloro-fluoro-Ethanes and Propanes" at the 229th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, held in San Diego March 13-17. The poster resulted from their summer 2004 research work.

Cathryn Hankla '80, professor of English, has been awarded a fellowship at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts this summer. Her collaboration with Susan Loy, "Practicing Peace," is now available through Susan Loy's [Literary Calligraphy Web site](#).

Congratulations to the 2005 Hollins University Distinguished Service Awards recipients who were recognized at our community picnic in May: Randy DeHart (Buildings), Erika Peterson Shelburne '90 (Development & Alumnae Relations), and Lanetta Ware (Athletics and Physical Education). The Distinguished Service Awards recognize "meritorious or superior contributions made by current or former employees of Hollins University."

Changes

Dr. Michael Sitton, Professor of Music, has accepted the position of Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Eastern New Mexico University beginning in July. He has served Hollins as chair of the faculty, acting vice president for academic affairs, and associate provost.

Evelyn Bradshaw '88 has announced her retirement and will be leaving Hollins on June 30 after 25 years of distinguished service. Celia McCormick will return as the director of the Horizon program. She will bring her proven recruiting expertise, prior experience working with adult students, and passion for the program to this position.

Since Celia will be providing the leadership to the Horizon program, Rebecca Eckstein will now serve as dean of admissions and financial aid. Rebecca has worked closely with the admissions office for 12 years and has a keen understanding of the admissions process. She has played a key role in recruiting, planning, training, and working with schools, prospects, and parents. Financial aid has played an increasingly important role in the admissions process over recent years.

Alumnae/i

Hollins Abroad-Paris 50th Reunion: September 24-29

Over 100 alumnae have registered to celebrate the [abroad program](#) begun in 1955 with a return to the "city of lights." Some highlights of the grand fete include: receptions hosted by Wendy Woods Cormier '88, Abby L'Hommedieu Dunham '62, Nancy Merritt Asthalter '64, Leslie Lykes de Galbert '72, and Ann Ismay Vallery-Radot '57 at their homes; private tours of the Picasso Museum, Reid Hall, backstage at La Comedie Francaise, and Victor Hugo's Paris; afternoon tea at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador; trips to Monet's gardens at Giverny, Fontainebleau, the Louvre, and Chartres. Learn more at the [Paris Reunion Web site](#), or contact Alumnae Relations with questions or to reserve your place (800-846-5371 or alumnae@hollins.edu).

Susan Gilbert Harvey '59 is marking the 50th anniversary of the Hollins Abroad program in Paris with the publication of her new book, *Tea With Sister Anna: A Paris Journal*. Harvey, a Rome, Georgia-based artist whose work has been exhibited nationally, launched the book in the Hollins University Book Shop June 3-5 in conjunction with [Reunion weekend](#). *Tea With Sister Anna* is a work of creative nonfiction that interlaces the lives of two women in two centuries: Harvey herself who visited Paris as part of the Hollins Abroad program in 1957, and her great-aunt, who wrote letters from Paris in the 1800s.

[Alumnae Reunion 2005](#)

- [Photo gallery](#)
- [Class Awards](#)
- [Attendees](#)

Click [here](#) for award winners, Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, and more.

Congratulations to...

Mary Garber '38 has been named the first woman ever to receive the Red Smith Award, the Associated Press Sports Editors' (APSE) highest honor. The APSE presents the award each year to the person who has made major contributions to sports journalism. Garber is a pioneer among women sportswriters and began covering sports during World War II. In her 40-year career she worked for the Winston-Salem Journal and won more than 40 writing awards.

Lisa Bower '05 has just been awarded Honorable Mention in poetry in The Intro Journals Project, a national competition for the discovery and publication of the best new works by graduate and undergraduate students currently enrolled in the programs of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. Lisa, who will be entering the MFA program in creative writing at Hollins this fall, was honored over a number of advanced MFA students from the country's top writing programs.

Poppy Paulos '71 presented her documentary, *Unsigned Circles*, on April 29 at Hollins. *Unsigned Circles* explores the fascinating phenomenon of crop circles, which have mystified people around the world for decades. Shot entirely on location in Wiltshire, England, the 48-minute film aired on Australian television during primetime last fall.

Jessica Anderson, who earned her M.A. in children's literature in October, has won the Milkweed Prize for Children's Literature for her first book, *Trudy*, forthcoming from Milkweed Editions in August 2005. A book launch party will be held at Hollins on July 25 to wish Jessica the best of luck with the publication.

Michelle Bradley '03 helped represent the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at the Commission for Human Rights that took place in April at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Bradley was in Switzerland on a six-month internship, finishing her M.P.A. in International Management from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. She contributed to the UN Study on Violence Against Children.

Upcoming Events

[Campus Events Calendar](#)

FiddleFest: July 28-30, 2005

FiddleFest's tradition of top-quality entertainment with concerts, workshops, roundtable discussion groups, and jam sessions with the pros will continue in '05. Held entirely on the Hollins campus, daytime events will be held indoors. Evening concerts from the outdoor main stage at Tinker Beach begin each day at 6:00 p.m. FiddleFest offers all Hollins alumnae/i 50% off the gate price of admission to any of the

events. For a complete list of events, visit the Web site at www.roanokefiddlefest.org or for more information and to order tickets e-mail info@roanokefiddlefest.org or call 1-866-883-9466.

[Art Exhibitions in the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum](#)

[Alumnae Events](#)

New England Alumnae Chapter Summer Barbecue, hosted by Carol Donnelly '62: August 14
San Francisco Alumnae Chapter Summer Party, hosted by Priscilla Morse '72: August 25

[Hollins Alumnae Travel](#)

Hollins Abroad-Paris 50th Reunion, September 24-29

Germany's Legendary Holiday Markets: November 29-December 7

Scotland - Highlands, Islands, and Lowlands: June 25-July 3, 2006

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

Quad Quote

"Luck is best defined as when preparation meets opportunity. So learn to set goals and do a little preparation each day so that you're ready when opportunity comes along. Expect to be happy and expect to be lucky."

- Carol Semple Thompson '70 in her speech to the graduating class of 2005

Links

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