

Hollins News Flash for June 2007

Contents

- **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- **ALUMNAE/I**
- **CAMPUS**
- **FUNDING**
- **STUDENTS/FACULTY**
- **UPCOMING EVENTS**
- **LINKS**
- **QUAD QUOTE**



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Every Gift Counts

Did you know that 98 percent of alumnae say Hollins prepared them well for life? Yet only 37 percent give to Hollins.

If you haven't given to the 2006-2007 Hollins Fund yet, there's still time. Your gift **received by June 30** will help us meet our goal! Every gift counts and is appreciated. Anyone who gives \$1,842 to the current year's Fund or the 2007-2008 Fund will receive an invitation to take part in the 1842 Society Weekend in Charleston, South Carolina (see below).

- [Give online](#)
- Call (800) 846-5371
- Mail to Hollins University, P.O. Box 9629, Roanoke, VA 24020

Hollins has prepared a **special message** which you can view by clicking this link: <http://www.hollins.edu/alumnae/donate/>

Job Opening in the Hollins Development Office

The Hollins development office currently has a [position open for director of the Hollins Fund](#). This opening comes with the promotion of current director Diane Markert to director of planned giving when she returns to Hollins in February after a sabbatical with her husband, Professor Wayne Markert, who will spend five months in Bulgaria as a Senior Fulbright Scholar.

Please let us know if you or someone you know might be qualified for the position by contacting Human Resources: hollinshr@hollins.edu, Hollins University, Dept. HUFUND, P.O. Box 9716, Roanoke, VA 24020.

ALUMNAE/I



[Reunion 2007: New Online Photo Store](#)

Reunion was a rousing success with over 475 attendees. New for Hollins is an [Online Photo Store](#), now featuring photos from Reunion 2007 that you can purchase. (NOTE: All alumnae who attended Reunion will receive a complimentary class photo in the mail this summer.)

A few highlights:

- Largest class in attendance: **1957 with 50 attendees – a close second was the Class of 1997 with 47 attendees.**
- **ADA 100th Anniversary Celebration:** over 90 ADAs returned to Hollins for their 100th anniversary, including sister ADAs Patsy Ryland Jewett '44 and Tina Ryland Royster '46.
- **Holly Mackay '89** presented Hollins with a gift in honor of her mother's 45th reunion – **Susie Marckwald Mackay '62** – to establish the Susie Marckwald Mackay Endowed Fund for Study Abroad.
- **Ted Ellett '32** returned for her 75th Reunion at Hollins! She has missed only one reunion, her 20th, when she was giving birth to her son.
- Award winners: Pat Thomas Bain Award to **Mim Hayllar Farmakis '67**; the Rath Award to **Jennifer Tuttle Arnold '82**; the Distinguished Alumnae Award to **Stella Ferguson Thayer '62** and **Annie Dillard '67** (see below).
- Athletic Hall of Fame inductees: **Jennifer Tuttle Arnold '82**, **Nancy Lee Canby '82**, **Cadence “Sugar” Genereaux '57**, **Alicia Kemnitz '02**, **Loraine Baugher Stuek '72**, and **Jeannette Purrington Twomey '67**.



President Gray, Ted Ellett '32

For more details on reunion, visit the [Reunion web page](#).



Pulitzer Prize for Natasha Trethewey M.A. '91

Creative writing graduate Natasha Trethewey M.A. '91 has been awarded the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for her collection, *Native Guard*. Trethewey, a native of Gulfport, Mississippi, studied at Hollins in 1990 and 1991 and is now an associate professor of English at Emory University in Atlanta. *Native Guard*, published last year by Houghton Mifflin, blends Trethewey's reflections on growing up as the daughter of a biracial couple in the Deep South with largely-forgotten Southern history dating back to the Civil War. *The Washington Post's Book World* said in its review, "Though this is her third book, Trethewey...may have only scratched the surface of her remarkable talent." Trethewey's father, Eric Trethewey, is a poet and professor of English at Hollins.



Jane Gentry Vance '63, professor of English at the University of Kentucky, has been named Kentucky Poet Laureate for the 2007-2008 term. As Poet Laureate, Vance will promote the arts and lead the state in literary endeavors, including Kentucky Writers' Day which is celebrated on April 24 each year, to honor the birth date of Kentucky author Robert Penn Warren, the nation's first Poet Laureate. Vance was formally inducted at a special ceremony and reception in Frankfort at the Capitol in the Rotunda.



Smith

Four Distinguished Alumnae Awards

Hollins has presented the Distinguished Alumnae Award to bestselling novelist **Lee Smith '67**, editor and publisher **Shannon Ravenel '60**, attorney and Thoroughbred racing enthusiast **Stella Ferguson Thayer '62**, and writer **Annie Dillard '67**.

Smith has published 11 novels and three collections of short stories over the past 40 years. Her 2001 novel *The Last Girls*, based on a Mississippi River journey she took with other Hollins students, was a *New York Times* bestseller. *On Agate Hill*, her latest book, spans life in the South from Reconstruction through the Roaring Twenties and has received wide acclaim.



Ravenel

Ravenel has been called "the patron saint of Southern literature" due to her mentorship of talented Southern writers. She inaugurated the *New Stories from the South* series and went on to co-found Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, where she nurtured young writers who could not otherwise get a foot in the publishing door. In 2001, she started her own Algonquin imprint, Shannon Ravenel Books.



Thayer

Thayer is a prominent attorney, civic leader, and philanthropist. She is also a lifelong Thoroughbred horse enthusiast who has brought her expertise to bear as President of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, New York, and as co-owner of Tampa Bay Downs racetrack. She served as a Hollins Trustee for six years and has many relatives who are also alumnae.



Dillard

(Photo by Phyllis Rose)

Dillard has said "I attribute everything I learned about writing to Hollins." As a student she began writing what would become her Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. She received her M.A. at Hollins as well, and taught in the English department. She is professor emeritus of Wesleyan University and has served as scholar-in-residence at Western Washington University. Her newest work, *The Maytrees*, is a short novel of lifelong love in marriage, set on Cape Cod.

The Distinguished Alumnae Award honors individual alumnae who have brought distinction to themselves and to Hollins through broad and inspiring personal or career achievements; local, national or international volunteer service; or significant contributions to society. To nominate an exemplary

alumna for a Distinguished Alumnae Award, print out the [nomination form](#) (PDF) and return to Alumnae Relations.

► Read [Alumnae Accomplishments here](#).

CAMPUS

Enrollment is Up for 2007-2008

Hollins is anticipating a significant increase in new student enrollment for the 2007-2008 academic year. As of June 21, we have 210 new first-year undergraduate students coming this fall, compared to 187 at this time last year. In addition, we are expecting about 40 transfer students to enroll for the year and 18 students for Horizon (the program for adult women returning to college), compared to just six Horizon students enrolled in June 2006.



President Nancy Gray says the boost in new student enrollment has been helped by the number of new and continuing initiatives that complement the university's 27 undergraduate major programs, including new seminars geared specifically to first-year students that are experiential and cross-disciplinary, and a new Certificate in Leadership Studies.

Commencement

The bright blue sky above Front Quadrangle heralded exciting news at the 165th commencement ceremony on May 20. Hollins has received a \$2 million gift from the family of **Sandra Frazier '94**, a member of the Board of Trustees, to support the history department through an endowed academic chair and endowments for student/faculty research and faculty salaries. Also at the ceremony, Hollins conferred 178 bachelor's and 68 master's degrees and presented the Hollins Medal to **Kay Massey Weatherspoon '54** "for distinction, service to Hollins University and to woman's life and education in general."



- [Commencement news](#)
- [Slideshow of photos](#)
- [Photos](#)

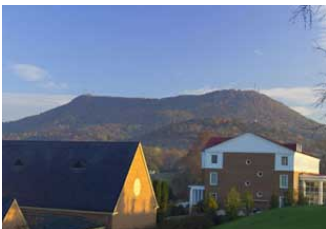
The 2007 Honors Convocation address by **Dr. Renee Godard**, associate professor of [biology](#) and director of Hollins' [Environmental Studies Program](#), discussed baboons washing potatoes. Read it here:

http://www.hollins.edu/campuslife/traditions/godard_honors.pdf

FUNDING

\$5 Million Challenge Announcement

Last November Hollins received a \$5 million challenge gift from an anonymous donor requiring a dollar-for-dollar match in cash or pledges by June 30 of this year. We are extremely grateful to this generous donor, and all the donors who have surprised us with their incredible generosity in response to the challenge.



We invite you to join us on July 12, 2007, for a campus-wide celebration as we announce by how much we have **SURPASSED** the \$5 million challenge grant goal. We don't know yet how far over the goal we will go because gifts are still coming in and the clock runs until midnight, June 30. Please join us July 12 at 11:45 a.m. on the steps of East Building on the Front Quadrangle for this history-making, record-breaking announcement. A community-wide picnic lunch will follow.



1842 Society Weekend in Charleston: November 16-18, 2007

Make your 1842 Society gift today! Join President Nancy Oliver Gray and Hollins Trustees for a weekend in this historic and charming South Carolina city. Highlights of the weekend include:

- Cocktail party at the mansion of Richard Jenrette, founding partner of the investment firm Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette.
- Private tour of an 18th century plantation that is not open to the public.
- Walking tours of historic homes, golf, exclusive shopping, and more!

Contact us at rsvp@hollins.edu or (800) 846-5371 for more details.

STUDENTS/FACULTY

Graduating seniors have new accomplishments to look forward to, including:

- Music major **Elizabeth Anne Dister '07** has received a full scholarship from Washington University for a combined master of arts and doctorate program in musicology;
- Art major **Lisa O'Quinn '07** has been accepted into the master of fine arts program in photography at the Savannah College of Art and Design;
- Biology major and SGA vice president **Shawn Whiteman '07**, who spent a semester in Kenya doing conservation research, has been accepted into the University of New Mexico's combined master's and Ph.D. program.



Dister



Kaldas



Anderson

Pauline Kaldas, assistant professor of [English](#), and **T.J. Anderson**, associate professor of [English](#), attended the Radius of Arab American Writers Conference in Dearborn, Michigan. Anderson gave a talk titled "Africa Umbilical: An African American Poet Reads Cairo" on one panel and Kaldas gave a talk titled "Memoir as Collage: A Reading from Letters from Cairo" on another panel. She also gave a poetry reading along with several other poets whose work will appear in the new anthology, *Inclined to Speak: An Anthology of Contemporary Arab American Poetry*.



“Harry Potter and the Witch Hunters: A Social Context for the Attacks on Harry Potter,” an article by **Amanda Cockrell '69**, director of the [M.A. and M.F.A. programs in children’s literature](#), was #3 among the top ten most accessed articles online in the *Journal of American Culture* last year.



Todd Ristau, assistant professor of theatre and director of the [M.F.A. program in playwriting](#), had his romantic comedy “The Third Wish” featured at the 17th Annual Mill Mountain Theatre Norfolk Southern Festival of New Works, April 27 - May 12. One of the hallmarks of Hollins’ new summer M.F.A. program in playwriting is a mutually beneficial creative relationship with Mill Mountain Theatre, one of our region’s most important professional playhouses, offering student readings, productions, experiential learning, and networking opportunities.



For the fourth year in a row, **Klaus Phillips**, professor of [film](#) and [German](#), was selected to nominate ten Hollins students as “Fellows” to participate in the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival in Durham, North Carolina, this April. The following students attended: **Rachel Bandy '10, Candace Barber '10, Samantha Blankenship (Horizon), Michelle Brandenburg '10, Jessica Martin '10, Natalie McKenzie '08, Kara McKinney '07, Amanda Poore '10, Mary Townsend '08, and Leah Twichell '09**. Fellows’ sessions included meetings with Michael Moore, D.A. Pennebaker, and other filmmakers.

- ▶ Read [Student Accomplishments](#) and [Faculty Highlights](#).
- ▶ View [Student Artwork](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Campus Events Calendar](#)

- ▶ **[Horizon Open House](#)**: July 19, 2007, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. For adult women returning to college to earn a bachelor of arts degree. Contact Celia McCormick, director of the [Horizon Program](#), (540) 362-6609 or cmccormick@hollins.edu.



- ▶ **[Art Exhibitions in the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum](#)**
Susan Seydel Cofer’s '64 sensitive and enigmatic organic form drawings will be on display in the Wilson Museum’s Wetherill Wilson Gallery through September 1.

[Alumnae Events](#)

- ▶ [Photos from alumnae events](#)

Reunion 2008 will be held **May 30 – June 1, 2008**, for classes ending in 3 and 8 and the class of 2006.

LINKS

- ▶ [Alumnae Web site](#)
- ▶ [Update your information](#)
- ▶ [Log in to Connect@Hollins](#)
- ▶ [Send your class news](#)
- ▶ [Give a gift online](#)
- ▶ [Send a Hollins E-Card](#)

QUAD QUOTE



“And yet, in the midst of these burdens and responsibilities and joys, we returned to our Hollins home for a rest, to allow Hollins to acknowledge our generosity to her, and Hollins’ generosity to us, for celebrations of what was and is and is to be, to experience communion and sisterhood unlike any other, for opportunities to revive our souls and soul-friendships, to remember who we are and whose we are, to rediscover the straight and lifted dreams we found here, to lift our eyes again to what matters.” – from Hollins Chaplain Jan Fuller’s ’78 Reunion 2007 sermon, “Levavi Oculos: For a Lifetime and More.”

Alumnae and Donor Relations
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