



## **Hollins Receives \$2 Million Gift from Batten Family to Support Leadership Institute**

Roanoke, Va. – Frank Batten, retired chairman and CEO of Landmark Communications, Inc., in Norfolk, and his wife, Jane, have presented Hollins University with a gift of \$2 million to endow the leadership program that bears their family’s name.

Hollins’ Batten Leadership Institute, which the family’s generosity helped to create in 2002, provides rigorous co-curricular programs that focus on students’ personal, interpersonal, and intellectual development. Guided by the philosophy that leadership cannot be separated from the individual, the Institute helps each student develop her potential through personal growth.

“Through their inspiration, support and personal interest, the Battens have contributed vitally since the Batten Leadership Institute’s inception, and it is a great honor for Hollins to receive a gift of this magnitude,” said Katherine Walker, the Institute’s founding director. “The Battens have an impressive history of making transformational gifts to outstanding universities, and this endowment assures that the Institute’s unique approach will continue far into the future. This gift will have a major impact on Hollins women.”

Nancy Gray, president of Hollins, added, “The Battens’ generous gift will allow us to build on the signature program now in place, centered on the philosophy that each woman’s leadership gifts start with developing a strong sense of self, combined with skill development, mentoring and real world leadership projects, both on campus and off. The

Battens are making it possible for Hollins to grow the Institute and create even more opportunities for women to learn to lead.”

The Batten family’s close relationship with Hollins goes back more than 80 years. Frank Batten’s mother, Dorothy Martin, attended Hollins in the early 1920s; his wife, Jane, is a member of the Class of 1958; and their daughter, Dorothy, graduated in 1985. Batten himself served three terms on the Hollins Board of Trustees between 1969 and 1991.

Frank and Jane Batten gave \$2 million to Hollins in 1995 to fund the Batten Scholars program, which celebrates academic achievement by providing scholarship awards up to and including full tuition, and financial aid for individual research and creative projects. In recognition of their support, the Battens were presented the Hollins Medal in 1999, awarded “for distinction, service to Hollins University and to women’s life and education in general.”

In 2003, the Battens presented Hollins with a gift of over \$2.2 million to fund an endowed chair in the history of women and leadership.

Hollins is an independent liberal arts university offering undergraduate education for women, selected graduate programs for men and women, and community outreach initiatives. Founded in 1842 as Virginia’s first chartered women’s college, Hollins features a nationally recognized creative writing program, one of the oldest study abroad programs in the country, and extensive internship opportunities.

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